

# The PROMPTER



## MARION BRIDGE

The directors, cast and crew of *Marion Bridge* are busy putting the final touches to our next production. Canadian playwright Daniel MacIvor's play is set in Nova Scotia and is the story of three sisters whose lives have taken different paths. During the course of the play they each in their own way, try to deal with the loneliness of the lives they have chosen, and search for the courage to create a new family from the remnants of the old. This touching drama, infused with humour, is sure to be a crowd pleaser.



The show starts this Friday, March 6 and runs until the 14th. If you don't already have tickets, gather a group of your friends and head down to Wearabouts. Opening night is always a good night to attend, with wonderful edible treats and a bar after the show with a chance to talk to the actors.



### SHUSWAP THEATRE SOCIETY EXECUTIVE

President: **Julia Body**  
 Vice President: **Tracy Stacer**  
 Treasurer: **Marion Huysmans**  
 Secretary: **Ellen Gonella**

Directors:  
**Patrick Allwood**  
**Evelyn Birch**  
**Hollie Friesen**  
**Cathy Lake**  
**Denise Reimer**

Artistic Committee  
**Peter Blacklock, James Bowby,  
Ellen Gonella**  
[ac@shuswaptheatre.com](mailto:ac@shuswaptheatre.com)

Prompter Editor:  
**Susan MacMillan**  
[prompter@shuswaptheatre.com](mailto:prompter@shuswaptheatre.com)  
 250-832-4094  
 Membership Secretary:  
**Patrick Benson**  
[membership@shuswaptheatre.com](mailto:membership@shuswaptheatre.com)  
 250-832-6626

## EMILY

The production team of ***Emily***, our Festival entry and world premiere, is excited to announce that casting has been completed and work is well underway to hit the stage after the upcoming production of *Marion Bridge* has been completed. We have "workshopped" the script and music a number of times and the final drafts of both will be completed this week.

We have some exciting ideas for the show, including the use of multi-media projection of Emily Carr's paintings, a cast which is also crew, and an Opening Night celebration which will begin at the SAGA gallery and then move to the theatre. We are also excited about presenting a work which has never been seen before.

We are looking for people to assist in a number of areas. The show needs someone with experience/interest in multi-media who will be able to create and coordinate the Powerpoint presentations. We are anticipating using two computers and projectors. This person will work closely with our lighting director, Jim Clayton, as a number of the images are being used to enhance scene transitions.

We are also looking for interested people to assist with Publicity, Properties, Costume and all the other myriad details of production. The show runs from May 1 to 9, with the Ozone Festival in Summerland on the following week.

If you are interested in helping us to bring "Emily" to life on our stage, please give Peter (250-675-3004), Marcus (250-938-4366), or Rebecca (250-515-2868) a call.



## BREAKING NEWS

The dream is a new home for Shuswap Theatre and the Building Committee has been authorized to take the first steps:

- to engage T.R. Thorburn of Vernon to produce preliminary sketches and a presentation view of the building for fund raising purposes
- to look for sources of funding
- to list sources of support
- to list organizations who wish to have space or use the facility.

The committee consists of Jake Jacobson, chair, James Bowlby, Cilla Budda, Doug Leatherdale and John MacVicar. In the coming months the committee will bring information to a general meeting, so that questions can be answered and the excitement can build.



In this edition of the *Prompter*, we are highlighting two crew areas.

## Spotlight on SET DECOR and PROPERTIES

Those working in the areas of **Set Decor** and **Properties**, usually called **Props**, start work as soon as a play has been cast. There can sometimes be a crossover in these two departments, but generally speaking a prop is anything an actor picks up or carries on to the stage. Depending on the play, the props needed may be everyday items, which are easily found, or may be unique and more difficult to locate. After reading the play and listing all the props needed, the props manager discusses with the director his or her vision for the show and anything in particular that the director has in mind in the area of props. Then it's down to the business of finding everything. The search usually starts in our own Props Room. The local thrift shops are also great sources of items. Begging and borrowing from friends and neighbours is also acceptable! Usually stand-in props (or *doofers*, as Gayle calls them, as in "it'll doofer now") are provided as soon as rehearsals begin. The props manager sets up areas where the props are kept and sometimes is backstage during the production, helping to distribute the items.



Those in charge of Set Decor take over when the set construction crew has finished. Their job is to bring to life the setting, mood and period established by the set designer. They start by painting the set and "dressing" it. This includes carpeting or other floor coverings, furniture, wall coverings and any items on the set that the actors do not pick up. Again, some of these things may be available at the Theatre, but more often have to be rounded up or even built. It is not unheard of for the set decor crew to have to eat supper on their laps or sit on cushions at home, for the duration of the production while their furniture is being used on stage!

Of course, as in all crew areas, the Set Decor and Props crews must work within the budget set for them by the producer. This often requires a great deal of resourcefulness!

If you think you might like to try your hand in one of these areas, perhaps our next production, *Emily*, would be a good place to start. Call one of the people listed on page two of this newsletter.

## *Introducing our new Public Relations Director*



A warm welcome to Monica Kriese who has come on board as our newest volunteer. As **Public Relations Director**, Monica will be developing and furthering Shuswap Theatre's relationship with the media in the area. She will also manage the flow of information between the area's residents and the Theatre, including productions, special events, fundraising and hopefully aid in increasing support for Shuswap Theatre.

Monica earned a Diploma in Business Administration specializing in Marketing from Okanagan College and then trained in advertising and sales through the Thompson Newspaper Group. She has a home-based business called *Gail-Force Marketing* whose clients include Centenoka Park Mall,

where she has been Marketing and Promotions Director for the past seven years. She is a member of one of the local Lions Clubs, currently holding the positions of secretary/treasurer and Special Events Coordinator. She is also the Parent and Resource Coordinator for the FORCE Society for Kids' Mental Health.

We are delighted that Monica is able to fit Shuswap Theatre into her busy schedule.

### **Theatre Around the Valley**

#### **Grindrod Players**

*Aunt Tillie Goes to Town* Mar. 5 - 7

#### **Kamloops Players**

*Barkerville: The Secret of Yonder Mountain* Apr. 2 - 4

#### **Kelowna Actors Studio**

*Kiss of the Spider Woman* Mar. 26-Apr.19

#### **Powerhouse Theatre, Vernon**

*The Loves of Cassie McGuire* Apr. 22-May 2

#### **SAS Jackson**

*School Days* May 21 - 22

#### **SAS Sullivan**

*Almost Broadway - Musical Revue* Mar. 4 - 6

#### **Sunshine Theatre, Kelowna**

*Mesa* Mar. 17 - 21

#### **Western Canada Theatre, Kamloops**

*The Ecstasy of Rita Joe* Apr. 9 - 18

For information on productions around the province by other Theatre BC groups, see the current Theatre BC newsletter at [www.theatrebc.org/press/newsletr/Winter09.pdf](http://www.theatrebc.org/press/newsletr/Winter09.pdf)

**Shuswap Theatre Society • Box 2432 Salmon Arm BC V1E 4R4 • 250-832-9283**  
[www.shuswaptheatre.com](http://www.shuswaptheatre.com)