

# The PROMPTER



## HEARTBREAK HOUSE

HEARTBREAK HOUSE is shaping up to be a great comedy. The actors are extremely dedicated to getting it right! The play, originally called THE HOUSE IN THE CLOUDS, was an experiment in Modernism by George Bernard Shaw and so relies on character and interaction. The focus is partly on Ellie Dunn, (Desiree Roy) a visitor in the house of crazy Captain Shotover (Peter Molnar). Ellie has been invited by Hesione Hushabye (Julia Body) who is determined to keep her from being married to Mangan, the CEO of a large company (Randy Brogden). Ellie learns she has fallen in love with Hector Hushabye, (Kenneth Fraser),



her friend's husband, who she thought a romantic adventurer. The visitors keep arriving, the CEO, Ellie's father, Mazzine Dunn (Peter Buxton-Carr), the Captain's daughter - Lady Utterword (Elaine Holmes) and finally the Burglar - Billy Dunn (Thom Wescott). Excitement is created by the attempted robbery and the first bombs of World War I. Aileen Brand, as the old governess, Nurse Guinness, Jade St. Onge as Randall Utterwood and the two sailors, Vitaliy Demens and Shane Gerner round out the cast.

Make sure you tell your friends that we are doing another great comedy; it doesn't help to tell them after!

### News from Shuswap Theatre's Building Committee

The Building Committee has been making progress in their effort to secure a location for the construction of our new theatre building. Currently we are talking with the local School District about the possibility of using part of the old J.L. Jackson site.

The committee has also been in contact with other organizations that may want to be a part of the new facility. The Association for Community Living and the Okanagan College have expressed interest. We are currently talking to them to see how a partnership would be beneficial to all parties.

It has been a slow process, but we are proceeding with caution and are taking the time to explore all possibilities and educate ourselves in the nuances of creating a new theatre facility.

Jake Jacobson  
Chair, Building Committee

## **Your Board Charts New Directions**

The members of your Board of Directors have been working steadily and quietly on your behalf to help the company become all that it can be. Here are some of their recent initiatives:

### **Developing Policy**

Policy is not a very exciting topic, but good policy, well communicated, makes any organization run more effectively. It helps for everyone to know what their job is, what they are trying to achieve and who is responsible for what. Sometimes a board will develop good policies but if they are buried in the minutes they are soon forgotten and may as well not exist. So we are working on getting both new and existing policies organized, numbered and in a policy manual which will be easily accessible. We will also be posting all of them on our website so you can find them at any time. You might be surprised at how helpful that can be.

### **Developing Our Volunteers**

For the past couple of years we have offered an online questionnaire for those who would like to take a volunteer position with the theatre. Kim MacMillan, our Coordinator of Volunteers, has kept all of that information in a database and made it available to the producers of each show. But it's still not always easy for newcomers to get "in", as it's tempting to go with the old standby's that we know and love. But new blood is important so now Sheila Dunbar is taking on the task of contacting and working with new people to help them get involved, receive mentoring, if necessary, and making them feel welcome. Please do your part to recognize and welcome people you haven't seen before.

### **New Website**

We have received a \$1,000 grant from the Shuswap Community Foundation for the design and development of a new website and a revamped theatre logo to go with it. We expect to have this up and running soon. The new site will give us much greater ability to add and revise content ourselves on an ongoing basis. Did I mention that all our policies will be on there, too?

### **Communicating with Our Audience**

Along with other community theatre groups, we are finding that the traditional ways of communicating with current and potential audience members are not working as well as they once did. So we have been seeking better quality information with an eye to a more interactive approach, especially for younger people, by using the website. During *Wrong for Each Other* we asked audience members to complete a brief questionnaire. We also have begun keeping better records of what kinds of tickets we sell each night (adult, student, comps, etc.). We hope soon to have a functioning email list of audience members so we can keep them informed of what is happening.

There is more to report, but we'll save it for another issue. Stay tuned.

## IT'S FESTIVAL TIME AGAIN!

There are two wonderful opportunities in the next few months to take in some great theatre. Firstly, the **Okanagan Zone Festival** takes place in Kelowna from May 23 to 28. The lineup is as follows, with an 7:30 PM curtain time each evening:

May 23 - Theatre Kelowna Society  
May 25 - Powerhouse Theatre, Vernon  
May 27 - Kamloops Players

May 24 - Bumbershoot Theatre, Kelowna  
May 26 - Shuswap Theatre  
May 28 - Banquet, Awards and Dance

For complete information about the Festival, go to Theatre Kelowna Society's website:

<http://www.theatrekelowna.org/ozone.html>

From each Zone Festival in the province, one play is chosen to go **Mainstage**. This year, the Theatre BC provincial festival takes place in Kamloops from July 1 - 9. Information about the Festival can be found on the Theatre BC website at: <http://www.tbcmainstage.ca/>.



## Attending Drama Festivals

Shuswap Theatre has long been a member of Theatre BC whose job it is to support and promote community theatre throughout the province. One of the main ways they do that is to offer a Drama Festival in each of the ten zones each year, followed by a provincial festival, called *Mainstage* which features the winning plays from each zone. We are extremely lucky that *Mainstage* is now held each year in Kamloops. Since my retirement and subsequent re-involvement with the theatre, I have noticed that our own members are under-represented at both festivals. So I would like to point out the benefits of festival attendance.



**Entertainment:** Each company tries hard to send its very best work to festival. So you're likely to be treated to some excellent theatre.

**Learning:** A prime benefit is that you can learn a great deal about how to do theatre well. The adjudicator offers a *coffee critique*, which is really a short workshop the morning after each performance. It is amazing to watch how a skilled professional can bring out the best in an amateur performer. This learning benefits our entire company by building depth of knowledge. *Mainstage* offers even more workshops, readings, etc. with which to improve your skill and knowledge.

**Hanging Out:** Attending festivals allows you to rub shoulders with others who have a passion for theatre. Just hanging out during breaks and meals leads to new learnings and developing friendships.

I would encourage our members to go, not just for our own festival show, but to stick around for some or all of the other performances. It will inspire you and it will build our company. Carpooling is encouraged - watch for more information on our Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/Shuswaptheatre>

Kim MacMillan

## **Theatre Around the Valley**

### **Bumbershoot Children's Theatre (Kelowna)**

*Giggle Giggle Quack* May 12-14

### **Caravan Farm Theatre (Armstrong)**

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* July 19-Aug. 21

### **Kamloops Players**

*Faulty Towers* May 12-14

### **Kelowna Actors Studio**

*Into the Woods* May 26-June 19

### **Shakespeare Kelowna**

*Merry Wives of Windsor* July (no date yet)

### **Theatre Kelowna**

*The Sins of the Mother*

*The Duck Variations* May 12-21

### **Salmon Arm Secondary Theatre**

*The World We Live In* May 31-June 3

*June Dance Show* June 13-15

## **Youth Theatre**

Youth Theatre has ended for the year finishing the season with a small production called 'The SuperMarket' in front of friends and family on April 7. Two of the Youth Theatre students, Vitality Demens and Shane Gerner will be performing as sailors in Heartbreak House. Break a leg kids! A big thank you to James Bowlby, Sherry Bowlby and Karen Abel for all their hard work and time spent on the Youth Theatre program. And a special thank you to the Mandella Project at the Downtown Activity Centre for their co-sponsorship and support of this year's Youth Theatre program.

The Board of Shuswap Theatre Society would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Director Kim MacMillan, Producer Susan MacMillan and the stellar cast and crew of ***Wrong For Each Other***. The run was fabulous and enjoyed by many – including a good number who had never seen a production at Shuswap Theatre. It's teams and productions like this that truly demonstrate the wonderful talent and abilities of the members and volunteers of Shuswap Theatre and help to sustain live theatre as an integral part of the Arts Community in the Shuswap. Thank you for a job very well done!



## **ORGANIZATION & DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Shuswap Theatre is comprised of many volunteers who take on many different roles to bring great live theatre to the Shuswap. If you would like to help out in a certain area or have a question for a certain aspect of the theatre, please contact the Department head (on the next page) and we're certain you'll be welcomed with arms wide open. If there isn't an email address for that person, feel free to email [inquiry@shuswaptheatre.com](mailto:inquiry@shuswaptheatre.com) or leave a message at the theatre 250-832-9283. If you haven't already done this, please visit our website and on the 'contact' page complete the volunteer questionnaire in the 'interested in getting involved' section.

## SHUSWAP THEATRE CONTACT LIST

|                       |                  |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>President</b>      | Monica Kriese    | monicak@sunwave.net          |
| <b>Vice-President</b> | Kim MacMillan    | volunteer@shuswaptheatre.com |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | Denise Green     | dagreen2001@yahoo.com        |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | Pamela Dettwiler | pamela.dettwiler@gmail.com   |
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| <b>Director</b>       | Sheila Dunbar    | anewday@telus.net            |
| <b>Director</b>       | Judith Skelhorne | mowich1@telus.net            |
| <b>Director</b>       | James Bowlby     | jwbowlby@telus.net           |

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|------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
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| <b>Artistic Committee</b>          | Julia Body        | djbody@sunwave.net                |
| (incl. workshops & education)      | James Bowlby      | jwbowlby@telus.net                |
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| <b>Building Renovations</b>        | Jake Jacobson     | jake@simfx.com                    |
| <b>Building Rentals</b>            | Cilla Budda       | gardengnome@telus.net             |
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| <b>Membership</b>                  | Patrick Benson    | membership@shuswaptheatre.com     |
| <b>Office - machines/files</b>     | Monica Kriese     | monicak@sunwave.net               |
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|                                    | Cilla Budda       | gardengnome@telus.net             |
| <b>Public Relations/Marketing</b>  | Monica Kriese     | monicak@sunwave.net               |
| <b>Scene Shop</b>                  | John McVicar      |                                   |
| <b>Technical</b>                   | Jake Jacobson     | jake@simfx.com                    |
| <b>Ticket co-ordinator</b>         | Karen Sansom      | seasonstickets@shuswaptheatre.com |
| <b>Volunteer Coordinator</b>       | Kim MacMillan     | volunteer@shuswaptheatre.com      |
| <b>Volunteer Development</b>       | Sheila Dunbar     | anewday@telus.net                 |
| <b>Website Committee Chair</b>     | Monica Kriese     | monicak@sunwave.net               |
| <b>Members:</b>                    | Susan MacMillan   | prompter@shuswaptheatre.com       |
|                                    | Kim MacMillan     | volunteer@shuswaptheatre.com      |
|                                    | Tracy Stacer      |                                   |
| <b>Youth Theatre</b>               | James Bowlby      | jwbowlby@telus.net                |

# SHUSWAP THEATRE CALENDAR

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>May 2</b>       | LAUGHING GAS Improv Practice 7:15PM at the Theatre   |
| <b>May 5</b>       | <i>Heartbreak House</i> Preview at 8:00PM - tickets \$9  |
| <b>May 6 - 14</b>  | <i>Heartbreak House</i> 8:00PM, Sunday matinee 1:30PM, no show Monday, 2 for 1 Tuesday, May 10 |
| <b>May 16</b>      | LAUGHING GAS Improv Practice 7:15PM at the Theatre   |
| <b>May 17</b>      | Board Meeting 6:30PM (note time and date change)   |
| <b>May 22 - 28</b> | O-Zone Drama Festival in Kelowna   |
| <b>May 26</b>      | <i>Heartbreak House</i> at the O-Zone Drama Festival   |
| <b>May 23-28</b>   | King's Christian School production at the Theatre  |
| <b>May 30</b>      | LAUGHING GAS Improv 7:15PM - extra practice at the Theatre                                     |
| <b>June 3-4</b>    | Shuswap School of Ballet production at the Theatre   |
| <b>June 6</b>      | LAUGHING GAS Improv Practice 7:15PM at the Theatre   |
| <b>June 11</b>     | LAUGHING GAS Improv Night 7:30PM - doors open 6:30PM   |
| <b>June 14</b>     | Board Meeting 7:00PM   |
| <b>June 22</b>     | 'For the Birds' Acoustic Avenue Music Concert Series 7:00PM (doors open 6:00PM)                |
| <b>July 1-9</b>    | Mainstage Festival in Kamloops   |



## IMPROV

Shuswap Theatre's Improv group finally has a name! 'Laughing Gas Improv' and you'll have more than a gas at their next performance on Saturday, June 11, 7:30pm at Shuswap Theatre (Happy Hour before the show). Cheapest 'gas' price in town - just \$5/person. (Watch for details on how you can win a Season's subscription to our 2011/2012 Season by digitally designing a logo for 'Laughing Gas Improv'.)



Shuswap Theatre Society ♦ Box 2432 Salmon Arm BC V1E 4R4 ♦ 250-832-9283

[www.shuswaptheatre.com](http://www.shuswaptheatre.com)