

The PROMPTER



As always, our Christmas show provided something for everyone. Director, James Bowlby, once again gathered a large cast and crew to entertain us with a hilarious pantomime, this year *The Wonderful World of Mother Goose*. This show may have set a record for the number of bad puns (fully appreciated by this



reviewer) packed into two hours. Warring fairies enacted the classic battle between good and evil. Adults were entertained by risqué witticisms that went right over the heads of younger audience members. Add in a bevy of ballet dancers and you have a mix that was just right for the occasion. Many thanks to

James and the cast and crew for brightening the holiday season with this romp.



SHUSWAP THEATRE SOCIETY EXECUTIVE

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

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DINNER WITH FRIENDS

Our winter production, *Dinner With Friends*, is about to get underway. Gayle Heinrich will be assisted by Evelyn Birch in directing this drama. The play, though dealing with the serious themes of marriage breakup, friendship, trust and truth, is also funny. The playwright, Donald Margulies calls his Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "a rueful comedy." As the title suggests, much of the action centres on food and drink - its preparation and enjoyment.

Co-producers, Susan MacMillan and Cathy Lake, are looking for crew in most areas. Please contact Susan (250-832-4094 or prompter@shuswaptheatre.com) if you would like to be part of this production.

Auditions for *Dinner with Friends* take place at the Theatre on Wednesday, January 7 and Thursday, January 8, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, with callbacks on Sunday, January 11 from 3:00 to 4:00 PM, if necessary. The cast consists of two males and two females in their 30s and 40s. Rehearsals begin on January 18, with the show running from March 6 to 14. There are monologues posted on the website to download and bring with you to auditions: <<http://www.shuswaptheatre.com/>>. Please contact Gayle at 250-832-2175 for more information.



Volunteer Coordinator

Kyla Oshanek is filling an important role in our group. As Volunteer Coordinator, she is compiling a database of our members and the areas in which they have indicated they would like to be involved. This information will be invaluable for producers in crewing a production. Over the course of the next year, current members will have the opportunity to indicate their areas of interest. We are also in the process of updating our Handbook, which contains job descriptions for each position. It is hoped that these will eventually be available on our website, so that you can view the requirements in each area.

Artistic Committee

Although not always in the limelight, the Artistic Committee is an essential part of every theatre group. It is this committee that selects the plays presented each year, taking into account such things as a balanced season, enjoyment of the audience and the strengths and needs of the membership. This group sets the dates for the entire season and chooses directors for each production, assisting and supporting each director however possible. The Artistic Committee also organizes workshops, play readings and other events to educate and stimulate the company.

Our Artistic Committee is appointed by the executive and this year is comprised of Peter Blacklock, James Bowlby and Gayle Heinrich. Input from members is always welcome. If you see a play at another theatre or read a script that you think might be a good one for Shuswap Theatre to produce, please contact one of the members of the committee, or email them at ac@shuswaptheatre.com.

Combining the Arts in Salmon Arm

Along with new colours and new lighting in the foyer and Green Room, theatre goers have also been enjoying the chance to view some wonderful local artwork before the shows and during intermissions. As part of the 'new look', guest artists have been invited to display their work in our lobby, with each production featuring a new artist.

Shylo Ljunggren was our featured artist during *Outlaw*, and she will be returning in May for the final show, *Emily*, with a series of paintings reminiscent of the work of Emily Carr (the subject of the play). Currently on view at the theatre is the work of Justin Maas, whose paintings will be on display until the end of our next production, *Dinner With Friends*, which will run from March 6-14th.

All of the work is for sale, and the artists have agreed to donate a commission to the theatre if any of their pieces sell as a result of being seen in our space. It's been exciting for both the Shuswap Theatre and the artists ... they enjoy the opportunity to show their work in a new venue to a potential new audience, and we get to enjoy a variety of art throughout our season!

Theatre Around the Valley

Asparagus Theatre

Red Hot Mamas Feb. 12 - 21

Kelowna Actors Studio

Lost in Yonkers Feb. 5 - Mar. 1

Powerhouse Theatre, Vernon

The Taming of the Shrew Feb. 11 - 20

SAS Jackson

"Crazy Love" Revue Jan. 14 - 16

Shakespeare Kelowna Theatre Society

Shakespeare and Love Jan. 21 - 24

Sunshine Theatre, Kelowna

Jake's Gift Jan. 13 - 17

Antoine Feval Feb. 11 - 14

Western Canada Theatre, Kamloops

Mesa Jan 29 - Feb. 7

The Man Who Shot Chance Delaney Feb. 26-Mar. 7

For information on productions around the province by other Theatre BC groups, see the current Theatre BC newsletter at <http://www.theatrebc.org/press/newsletr/fall08.pdf>

Birthday Fun

For her 11th Birthday, Sarah Bennett chose to celebrate the day by putting on a play with her friends at the Shuswap Theatre. Party guests spent the day creating the script (with the help of a 'volunteer' director) while Mom



Lisa created an original program for the production. (Lisa has designed many posters and programs for Shuswap Theatre.) Costumes were chosen, props were prepared, and scripts were typed, then everyone headed to the Shuswap Theatre for a few quick rehearsals before opening the doors to family and friends.

Along with the birthday girl herself, the cast of this murder mystery included friends Danielle Adams, Morgan Carson, Victoria Schipfel, and Briana Staal. Another friend, Ken Kosowick, acted as the official videographer, catching behind-the-scenes action and filming the entire show. Many, many cast photos were taken after the show, followed by cake and ice cream for actors and audience. All in all, the day (and the play) was a huge success! The 'volunteer' director is rumored to be recovering nicely!

Rental inquiries can be forwarded to the attention of Cilla Budda at the Shuswap Theatre (250-832-9283).

Shuswap Youth Theatre



A new session of the popular SYTCO will begin on Thursday, January 8 at the Theatre. These weekly classes run from 3:45 to 5:15 PM, and new members aged 10 to 17 are welcome. The program will continue with acting training and will review what was covered in the Fall. As before, participants need to be members of Shuswap Theatre. For more information, contact James at 250-832-8383 or at ac@shuswaptheatre.com.

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<http://www.shuswaptheatre.com/>