

# The PROMPTER

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Directors:

**Julia Body, James Bowlby**

**Sherry Bowlby, Cilla Budda**

Prompter Editor:

**Susan MacMillan**

[prompter@shuswaptheatre.com](mailto:prompter@shuswaptheatre.com)

832-4094

Membership Secretary:

**Patrick Benson**

[membership@shuswaptheatre.com](mailto:membership@shuswaptheatre.com)

832-6626



## DEATH & the MAIDEN

Our final production of the year, and O-Zone entry opened on May 4. *Death and the Maiden* runs until May 12. Then director, Arthur Channer, producer Julia Body and the cast of Denise Reimer, Matt Osborne and Peter Blacklock will remount the play to take it to Vernon Powerhouse Theatre, where they will perform at the Festival on Thursday, May 17. We wish them well.



## PARTY TIME

Mark June 23 on your calendar! This is the date set for our **END OF THE SEASON GATHERING**. The details still have to be ironed out - what, where, time etc. As soon as decisions have been made, we will endeavor to get the word out.

Visit us at <http://www.shuswaptheatre.com>

## O-ZONE and THEATRE BC EVENTS

The Okanagan Zone Festival, entitled "A Touch of Class", runs from May 12 - 19 at Powerhouse Theatre in Vernon. It's not too late to purchase tickets. For information on packages or any other aspect of the Festival, visit the website at [www.ozone2007.com/](http://www.ozone2007.com/), send an e-mail to [pwhs@uniserve.com](mailto:pwhs@uniserve.com) or call Nancy Silver at 250-542-6194. As a mini fund raiser, O-Zone is selling black and gold lanyards with the Theatre BC logo, at a cost of \$4. Contact Cilla to purchase or for more information. (832-6805 or at [gardengnome@telus.net](mailto:gardengnome@telus.net).)

Hot on the heels of the Zone Festivals is Mainstage, being held at Sagebrush Theatre in Kamloops, from June 29 - July 7. Early Bird registration is still available until June 15. With the new rotation system, the O-Zone entry will be staged on the opening night, June 29. Because Theatre BC is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year, Mainstage will be a big part of the celebration. As one of the initiatives of the 75th Anniversary Committee, a new award will be instituted this year - The Diamond Award - presented annually to Theatre BC's **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**. Unlike the Hamber Award, which is a lifetime achievement award, the Diamond Award will recognize remarkable work for Theatre BC for the previous year only. It is intended to inspire members to "serve their organization with heart and dedication."

Submissions for the **19th Canadian National Playwriting** competition will be accepted till July 23. For a copy of the "How to Enter" brochure, go to the website at [www.theatrebc.org/playcomp/index.php](http://www.theatrebc.org/playcomp/index.php).

As part of the 75th Anniversary celebration, Theatre Kelowna Society will be hosting Theatre BC's first annual provincial one-act festival, entitled **Actoberfest 2007**, October 12 - 14. Information about this new venture can be found at [www.theatrebc.org/actoberfest/index.php](http://www.theatrebc.org/actoberfest/index.php).



### Theatre Around the Valley

#### **Kelowna Actors Studio**

*Man of La Mancha* May 10 - 27

*Hello Dolly* July 12 - 19

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

*O-Zone Festival* May 12 - 19

#### **Revelstoke Theatre Company**

*Kootenay Zone Festival* May 17 - 21

#### **Runaway Moon Theatre (Grindrod)**

*An Episode of Sparrows* May 23 - June 9

#### **SAS Grade 10 Drama**

*The Sting* May 31 - June 2

#### **Shakespeare Kelowna**

*Much Ado About Nothing* July 18 - Aug. 3

#### **Caravan Farm Theatre**

*The Blue Horse* July 24 - Aug. 26

#### **Sicamous Visual & Performing Arts**

*Alice in Wonderland* Aug. 2 - 5

### Membership

A little plug for assisting the finances of our theatre:

We are really grateful to the 48 members who have decided to receive notification of the current newsletter and membership renewals online. Each one of these members saves Shuswap Theatre \$3.06 per annum in postage alone. If you would like to join this select group please contact me at: [membership@shuswaptheatre.com](mailto:membership@shuswaptheatre.com).

Patrick Benson  
Membership Secretary

## LOOKING BACK

A reading of 'Marion Bridge' by Canadian actor and playwright Daniel MacIvor was staged March 23rd and 24th. Audiences, though small, were warm in their praise. Actors Lois Archer-Duell, Evelyn Birch and Shelley Byers did a wonderful job with their characters. They were also willing to gather all their props and costume pieces. Thank you to Susan MacMillan and Cilla Budda for their help with production and Front-of-House, to Randy Brogden for hanging and manning (literally) the lights, to Mark Levey for helping with the set and to Marion Huysmans for a few swipes of her paint brush. If I missed anyone, thanks to you too.

There is the chance Marion Bridge will make it to our Mainstage in the seasons to come. Any feedback about the show is appreciated!

Submitted by Gayle Heinrich (Director)

## LOOKING FORWARD

Greeting from your intrepid Artistic Committee members - Julia Body, James Bowlby, Gayle Heinrich. We are busy creating an exciting 2007 / 2008 theatre season. Since we haven't passed it by the board, or secured rights to all our selections, we won't tell you the plays you'll see on the Mainstage. Suffice it to say, it will be a wonderful season full of fun, laughter, and some truly dramatic moments. We've secured three fabulous directors - wonderful women worth working with - but are still looking for (new ?) directors to take on short one-act plays for our Second Stage as well as an adventurous soul to tackle our summer season.

Do you have ideas for our stage? Are you the administrative whiz we need for a producer? Please help us out. Contact any of the artistic committee members. See you in the seats!

## LOOKING BACK AND FORWARD!

As part of marking the 30th Anniversary of Shuswap Theatre Society, the Board has decided to work on our archives. Lois Archer-Duell and Susan MacMillan have offered to spearhead this venture. The plan is to put our history on the website, including pictures, program information, festivals attended, awards, and other interesting snippets of our past. Thanks to Agnes Rudeen and others, much of this information is in photo albums at present. However, it is not complete, and we will be calling on members over the next year(s) to dig into their trunks, treasure chests and attics to find memorabilia. We are open to ideas that you may have of how this mammoth task might be accomplished. Please contact Susan, [prompter@shuswaptheatre.com](mailto:prompter@shuswaptheatre.com) or Lois, [lduell@sunwave.net](mailto:lduell@sunwave.net).

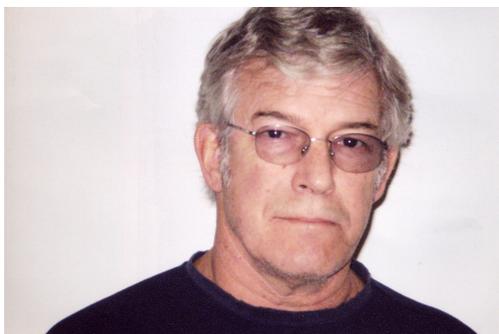
# THE STEVE I KNEW

by  
James Bowlby

Steve became involved with Shuswap Theatre in one of the three one acts we did that first season 1977-78. I was surprised at Steve's memorial to hear that he had been active in school theatre productions in Armstrong, because I remember him being almost shy (believe it or not) as one of the shoemakers in that first production. Unfortunately, the script was bad, the actors were miscast and needless to say the production was not very good. In January, we had auditions for **BEWARE OF THE DOG**, a compilation of short stories by Chekov. I cast Steve as the lead in the longest story, which comprised the second act. He worked extremely hard at picking up as much acting technique as possible, line motivations, building units of action, super objectives, character history. He played the gallant, young man in pursuit of the lady with the dog, as well as the elderly narrator looking at life as death approached. He was able, as he continued to be, to find a walk and a rhythm for these characters that helped create a belief for the audience. The resulting production was a success. The large cast contained many people who were the core of Shuswap Theatre for many years to come: Agnes Rudeen, Bridie Cassidy, Susan MacMillan, Sandi Lightfoot. Voni was the stage manager. We then swung into **FIDDLER ON THE ROOF**, directed by Harry Janzen. I did the lighting from up in the bleachers at Jackson, so I had a great view of Steve being on stage in the chorus, disappearing at the end of a number and suddenly reappearing around the end of the scenery and jumping over a low wall into the orchestra section and joining them to play either the piano or, if I remember correctly, the accordion.

Jumping ahead several years, there are two productions I remember as being star performances for

Steve. Steve WAS Harry Van in **IDIOT'S DELIGHT**. The showman, who was touring Europe with a group of dancer/singers called "Les Blondes," presents his nightly show to the tourists in an alpine hotel in northern Italy. Steve had the charm and the audacity of the character to perfection. The only problem was he made it look so easy. The audiences loved the show and we won many awards at the Zone festival and we were definitely the people's choice. The second production I admired Steve for was **OTHELLO**. He was able to present the bravado of the great military leader and the vulnerability of the man, who



believes his wife is unfaithful. Steve, William Chandler (Iago) and Naomi Gallagher (Desdemona) were all challenged, as was I by this great script. Steve, the teacher, was a wonderful support to Naomi as this young actress worked to create his counterpart. It was a strange production in that audience members stood around after each performance and talked in respectful tones about the performances of the cast.

One of the qualities that Steve had was his awareness of theatre as a team activity and no matter whether it was acting, directing, designing, building, Steve was a part of the team for so many productions. This company approach that is theatre, is what makes us aware of losses – like Steve's. A second quality was his innate ability, that talent for so many aspects of the theatre arts that he possessed and that was seen in the work he did.

What I will personally miss is leaning against the railing out front or at a bar at festival and analyzing what worked and what didn't in the many productions we both saw. Steve's passing for me is the loss of a great collaborator, friend and theatre lover.