

The PROMPTER

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The Fantasticks

A lot of people around town can be heard humming, "TRY TO REMEMBER ..." The set of The Fantasticks may have been struck, but the memories will linger for a while yet.



Opening Night was a true gala event, with a clown, juggler and a full house.

Thank you to Julia Body, director, Jim Johnston, musical director, Cilla Budda, producer and the whole cast and crew for a FANTASTIC opening to our 30th season.

OUR WEBSITE

Have you checked out Shuswap Theatre's website recently? Tracy Stacer, our webmistress is adding to it regularly, and has great plans for its further development.

Since its announcement in the September newsletter, a number of people have contacted me to say they will access each newsletter on the website and so will not be requiring a mailing. These people will also receive an electronic reminder when it is time to renew their membership. It would save us time and money if more of our members made this request. Instead of a newsletter in the mail, you would receive an email each time a newsletter is published. That way, you would not only be able to view and download it in colour, you would also be reading it a few days before those receiving it by snail mail! If this is for you, simply email me at prompter@shuswaptheatre.com. Meanwhile, check out our site at <http://www.shuswaptheatre.com/> and send your feedback, suggestions or information to tracy@shuswaptheatre.com.

A PANTOMIME, YOU SAY?

Somewhere in the mists of early England there developed a tradition of a "dumb show" or mime at the winter equinox. This tradition stole some characters from Commedia Del'arte, like the sweet lovers, Columбина and , the trickster–Arlequino (Harlequin) and the old fools – Pantalone and Argante. The mutation continued. Plots were borrowed from children's stories, the principal boy was played by a girl so the dads had pretty legs to look at! The dame, a lead female in the show was played by a man. Popular songs were thrown in. A few political jokes were sprinkled into the script as well as some local names.



In the last three years, both HARRY AND THE THREE PIGS, and NO TIME FOR CHRISTMAS, had elements of this genre. This year, PUSS IN BOOTS, is a British script and will have all of the elements.

Director, James Bowlby, is delighted to announce that Puss in Boots has been cast. Arthur Channer is the Dame, Nora the cook; Dickie Motherwell will play the part of Queen Erica; Celeste Chute is Harry the Hero; Gayle Heinrich is Puss; Lisa Body

will be the Princess Lill, and John Schreiber will play Igor the Ogre.

A few of the crew positions have been filled but James is looking for more help. Laurie Shea is the musical director, Sherry Bowlby will be the Stage Manager but will not be available in December, so needs an assistant who can take over. Terry Greenhough will design the set and Marion Huysmans and friends will execute it. John McVicar and Mark Levy are in charge of set construction, Diane McCannel will do the lighting design, Vera Schreiber, the foyer, Tracy Stacer will be in charge of Front of House and Lisa Bennett is the poster and program designer. Students from the Shuswap School of Ballet, under the direction of Diana Wright, will play the parts of the Mice.

If you can help in the areas of Producer, Stage Manager, Costumes, Lighting Operator, Sound, or Props please call James at 832-8383. Rehearsals start next week, with the play running from December 8 - 17. Also, if anyone has any political jokes that would fit with the script, please let James know.



BACKSTAGE BASH

Our annual Open House was a huge success, thanks to the planning and hard work of Evelyn Birch, Marion Huysmans and Tracy Stacer. The sneak preview of the upcoming season was done in an extremely professional and entertaining manner - many thanks to Ron Langridge and Patrick Ryley from EZ Rock. There were many new faces. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make this such a warm, welcoming and memorable evening.

MEETINGS

At the AGM in September, it was decided that Shuswap Theatre Society Meetings would be conducted like most other boards - only elected officers will have voting rights. However, all members are welcome and, in fact, encouraged to attend meetings and to be a part of the discussion about the Theatre. The next meeting is on November 21 at 7:30PM in the Green Room. Please join us.

MEMBERSHIP

Shuswap Theatre membership is really a bargain. The amount has not increased for at least twenty years. (Now if only we could say the same for the cost of the family vehicle!) Welcome to a number of new members who have joined us during the past few months and many thanks to all those people who have recently renewed. Some have decided to pay for two years, which is always an option.

You might be interested to know that there is one category of membership that receive an automatic renewal. These are the people you have been awarded LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS for their outstanding contribution, over the years, to our Theatre. Our lifetime members are:

Philip & Leslie Gibbs	Stephen & Sandy Heal
Ralph & Norma Owens	Jane and Lyle Petch
Jake Jacobsen	Glory Kinoshta
Anne Marsh (former Theatre B.C. President)	

Theatre Around the Valley

Quaaout Lodge

Nunsense - Dinner Theatre
November 3 - 26

Powerhouse Theatre, Vernon

It Runs in the Family
November 15 - 25

Theatre Kelowna Society

Anne of Green Gables
November 25 - December 3

Western Canada Theatre

Alice - A Wonderland
November 30 - December 9

Caravan Farm Theatre

East O' the Sun West O' the Moon
December 12 - 31

Getting Involved

One of the perks of being a member of Shuswap Theatre is that you can choose your level of involvement. Some people volunteer for positions that make them feel the theatre is their second home! Others prefer to do smaller tasks, like a night or two on Front of House, sewing or altering a costume, helping to paint a set ... There's something for everyone. Please email Tracy (tracy@shuswaptheatre.com) to find out how you can help in a production or with a task that needs to be done around the building.



SHAKESPEARE FOR ACTORS

Aileen Gentles will lead this exciting workshop on January 13 and 14, 2007. In Aileen's words,

"Shakespeare has been studied for dramatic form and literature, poetry, philosophy, history, even sociology. But his plays were written to be performed. They are working scripts. They belong not to academics, but to actors.

"How do you approach tackling a role in a Shakespeare play? Each actor will have a go at a speech, a scene, and crowd work. Attention will be paid to movement, voice, verse speaking, style, and building a speech or scene from the script to the stage.

"At the end of the workshop, actors will perform for their colleagues and anyone else they would like to invite."

The cost for this workshop is \$50. If you are interested, please call the Theatre and leave a message (832-9283) or email workshops@shuswaptheatre.com and leave your contact information.

LOOKING BACK

In its almost thirty years, Shuswap Theatre has had two main homes, but we have actually mounted productions in a number of different venues in our community over the years.

It all began in March of 1977, when James Bowlby, then the drama teacher at JL Jackson School and Jack Alouf, Recreation Director for Salmon Arm, decided to advertise in the paper, inviting people interested in live theatre to come to a meeting. Much to their surprise, twenty-four people turned out, and that Fall, three one-act plays were performed in what was then the Youth Centre - now the Salmon Arm Folk Music Society building. In the Spring of 1978 BEWARE OF THE DOG, a play of vignettes, by Chekov, and directed by James, was presented in JL Jackson gym. The success of this challenging play was the impetus to mount a musical. Harry Janzen was the director of FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, also performed in Jackson gym, in June of that year, with a cast of over forty.

By now we knew that we needed our own home, even a rented one. James, Voni Grindler and others, had seen theatre groups die because they did not have a permanent place to perform. In the Fall of 1978, after many, many hours of work, we moved into the building next to Tappen Co-op, which had previously been a supper club. The area was very small - almost a theatre-in-the-round. The first play, COME BLOW YOUR HORN, directed by Voni Grindler, almost didn't open. The day before Opening Night, the Fire Marshall informed us that the furnace was not safe and we would not be allowed to have an audience in the building! Mike Grindler and a crew worked through the

night, (Hallowe'en) ripping out the furnace and pouring a fast-setting concrete pad. (We got special permission for the show to open if the furnace was disconnected.) The new furnace was installed a few days after the play opened!

Tappen was our home for just over two years, with six(?) plays being performed there. A musical was out of the question in that building, but in November of 1979, GODSPELL, directed by Harry Janzen and Rich Thorne was performed in the church at Five Corners, which was then the Crossroads Free Methodist Church. By 1980 the reputation of Shuswap Theatre had grown to the point that it was time to move to a larger space - one that was ours. Lois Higgins and others worked tirelessly fundraising, so that the dream could be realized. The Shuswap Radiator building on Hudson Street had been empty for some time but many of us had great difficulty imagining how it could ever be a theatre. Thankfully the vision of people like James, Lois, Voni and Jake Jacobsen was stronger than the doubts of others and the purchase was finalized in the Fall of 1980.

While the building was in the throes of renovation, Steve Heal arranged for his play, OUR TOWN, to be performed in the United Church. The first play in our new theatre was WAIT UNTIL DARK, directed by Voni Grindler. Immediately afterwards, Shuswap Theatre hosted its first O-Zone Festival in our new home.

Now the growing desire of directors to be able to mount more challenging productions, together with the cracks in our present building make a new home a future possibility.

AND LOOKING FORWARD ...

Since the Salmar Association is replacing the seats in the Classic Theatre, they are donating the existing seats to us. All we have to do is help remove them. This will happen on Sunday, November 12, starting at 9:30AM. Jeff and Tracy Stacer have donated the use of their van and the chairs will be stored in a container in the parking lot of the Salmar Grand until we are ready to install them. We need people with socket wrenches and knee pads. If you can't make it at 9:30, come as soon as you can. Please contact Cilla for further details. (832-6805 or 517-0037)