

# GABRIOLA PLAYERS



**Summer 2016 newsletter**

## Director's message

What a wonderful 2015/16 season we've had. An absolutely perfect season launch with [\*An Almost Perfect Thing\*](#). A rollicking panto, [\*Robin Hood and His Merry Men\*](#), which many have said was our best panto ever. A fascinating – and musical! – commemoration of the centenary of women's suffrage in Canada with [\*What Glorious Times They Had\*](#).

Since the last [newsletter](#), we've staged our annual One-Act Play Festival, which proved as popular as ever. There really was something for everyone this year: pathos, bathos and occasional hints of chaos. Once again, our thanks to Bill Pope for his photographs, some of which can be seen on the following two pages. More images can be viewed on Bill's [Flickr site](#).

There was, by the way, some happy synchronicity in this year's festival: the role of Nick in *Legends of the Ferry* was played by [David Cosbey](#), the University of Victoria theatre student who last year won the Don Whitton Memorial Bursary. (We will be accepting [applications](#) for the 2016 Bursary until August 31.)

There was good news and bad news connected to our second [Bard by the Bay](#) offering. When Thor and other pesky weather gods intervened, we took the decision: better a dry wit than a wet field. *Twelfth Night* transferred to the Rollo Centre and the good news is a marvellous time was had by all. The cast had a blast and so did the audience. To see some of the great portrait shots taken by Bill Pope at our technical rehearsal, click [here](#). (I'm particularly fond of Malvolio's [rictus grin](#).)

Once again, Gabriola Players would like to offer a **HUGE** thank you to Garry Davey for guiding and inspiring us all. Audiences are clamouring for more Shakespeare next year and we're thrilled to say Garry's ready to go again. So it will indeed be once more on to the beach, dear friends.

It may seem as if it's only been five minutes since the 2015/16 season ended, but work is already well underway on our 2016/17 season. We will be holding auditions for our season opener, *The Laramie Project*, at the Rollo Centre on Tuesday, July 26 at 7pm. Auditions for this year's panto (brace yourselves!), *The Return of Robin Hood*, will be held at the Rollo on Tuesday, August 23. (For more information, go to page 6.) To find out what will be on offer in 2017 – and enter a draw to win opening night tickets for all five shows – come and visit our table at the Theatre Festival on Sunday, August 21.

I cannot write my final message of the 2015/16 season without offering another **HUGE** thank you, this one to **Robert's Place** for sponsoring our season for the third year in a row. Thanks also to all the local businesses and organisations which took season ads in our programmes. Their support is invaluable to us. We really couldn't do what we do without them.

*Miranda Holmes*



Twelfth Night cast, from left to right: Christine McKim, Jean Wyenberg, Peter Dzierzawa, Joe DiCara, Donna Deacon, Lawrence Spero, Catherine Andersen, Susan Yates, Marshall Mangan, Miranda Holmes, Peter Jones, Garry Davey (standing in for Dave Innell) and Jenny Newton.



# ONE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL 2016

## Heart in the Ground



Christine McKim and Dean Clark were given a well-deserved standing ovation for their heartbreaking performances as a couple dealing with the death of their child in Douglas Hill's play **Heart in the Ground**.

Gabriola Players will be entering the play in the Vancouver Island one-act play competition in Qualicum in early November.

## A Visit from Miss Prothero

It wasn't easy to tear Charlie Cheffins away from the sound board and onto the stage, but director Dave Innell managed to tempt him with this biting Alan Bennett comedy.

According to Charlie he couldn't have done it without Dave, fellow actor Miranda Holmes, Millie the budgie and the inspiration provided by Jenn Feenan's hat.

Despite the applause and the plaudits (and apparently having scripts thrust at him by Gabriolan playwrights every time he steps into Village Foods), Charlie swears it nearly killed him and he will *never* do it again.

Famous last words, Charlie.





# Legends of the Ferry



Audiences adored the onboard comedy and drama in Gabriolan Janet Vickers' play *Legends of the Ferry*.

Above: Nick Squire and Doris McLaughlin as the mystery visitors. Steve O'Neill and Peter Dzierzawa as friends Paul and Frank.

Left: Catherine Andersen and Jenn Feenan touchingly portrayed a mother and daughter.

Below: David Cosbey as Nick and Susan Yates as Harmony. Michelle Young and Lesley Hazeldine as sisters Frances and Dolly.





# GABRIOLA PLAYERS ON CANADA DAY



Members of Gabriola Players were out in force on Canada Day. Cast members from our spring production of *What Glorious Times They Had* (l-r Joe DiCara as Premier Roblin, Margaret Litt as Nellie McClung, Donna Deacon as Francis Beynon, Joyce Ashley as Lillian Beynon-Thomas and Jean Wyenberg as E. Cora Hind) reunited to perform a scene from the play.

We received the following thanks from the Museum Board: "A 'big' thank-you to all the cast. A wonderful vignette, well preformed and a great 'nod' to an important part of our history. Thanks for being such an asset to our community at large and to being at very important part of Canada Day at the Museum."

Our pleasure! Looking forward to Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday next year.



Later in the day two of those "Men In Tights" (Lesley Hazeldine and BJ Godson) from ***Robin Hood and His Merry Men*** could be seen high kicking a can-can in the village as part of the Gabriola Arts Council celebrations.

## Come and see us at the Theatre Festival

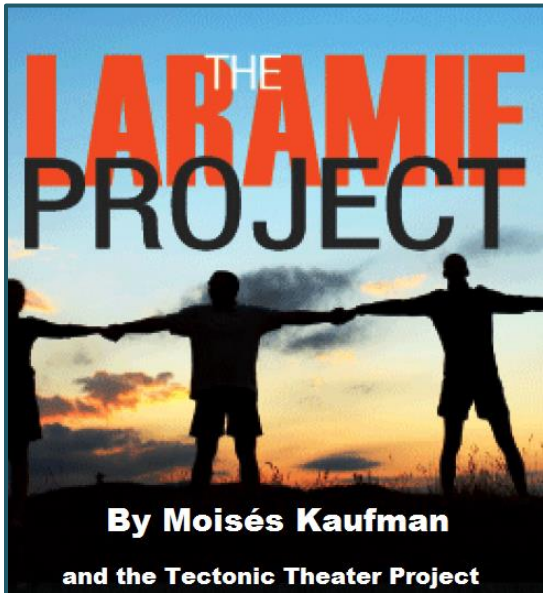
Gabriola Players will be back in the village on Sunday, August 21 with a table at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Theatre Festival.

Come and say hello. While you're renewing your membership, you can also enter our draw to win a pair of tickets for opening night of one of our five 2016/17 productions. The winning raffle tickets will be drawn at our Annual General Meeting on Sunday, September 10.

For more information about Gabriola Players membership fees – and benefits – go to page 7.

# AUDITIONS!

We may have only just completed our 2015/16 season, but Gabriola Players is already gearing up for 2016/17. Auditions have been scheduled for our first two shows, so mark your calendars!



We are pleased to announce that the first production in our new season will be four staged readings of ***The Laramie Project***.

On 12 October 1998 university student Matthew Shepard was beaten, tortured and left to die near Laramie, Wyoming. Shepard was gay and his vicious murder shocked the nation. Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project travelled to Laramie to talk to the residents. This award-winning, deeply moving play is the result of those conversations.

Staged readings are a wonderful, worry-free opportunity for people who dread attempting to memorize lines to get involved in the theatrical experience. All are welcome to audition for this powerful production.

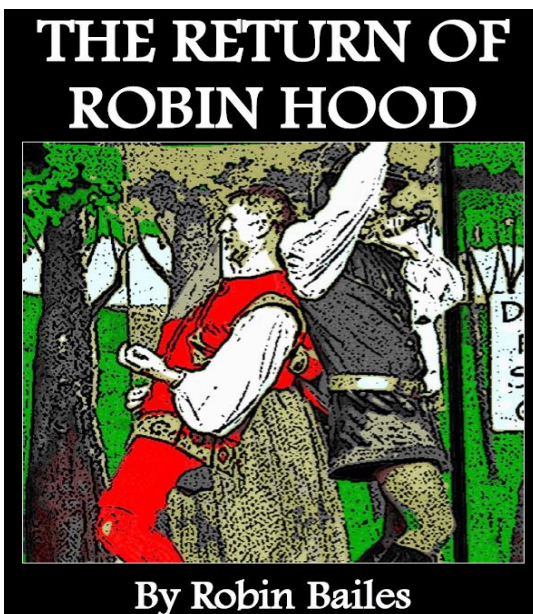
The play requires a large cast of actors (10+), each of whom will read multiple roles. **Performances will be at the Rollo Centre on September 8 and 9 at 7pm and September 9 and 10 at 2pm.**

## AUDITIONS – THE LARAMIE PROJECT

**Tuesday July 26 at 7pm**

**ROLLO CENTRE**

## And then for something completely different (not)



This year marks the completion of a great trilogy. First playwright Robin Bailes and director Miranda Holmes brought Gabriola the world premiere of ***Will Shakespeare The Panto***. Last year they gave us ***Robin Hood and His Merry Men***. And now they are bringing us ***The Return of Robin Hood***.

The Sheriff of Nottingham has been banished. The Merry Men are enjoying their retired status. And Robin has been enjoying several years of "domestic bliss" with Marian. But what's this? A new villain – with an even more villainous mother? Time for Robin to come out of retirement! (No matter how much Marian may object.)

## AUDITIONS – THE RETURN OF ROBIN HOOD

**Tuesday, August 23 at 7pm**

**ROLLO CENTRE**

**Performances at the Community Hall on November 25, 26 and 27.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** We don't want people who might like to be involved in both shows to be torn, so rehearsals for this year's panto will not begin until after the performances of ***The Laramie Project*** in September.



# COMING IN 2017

## MARCH 2017 – ONE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL



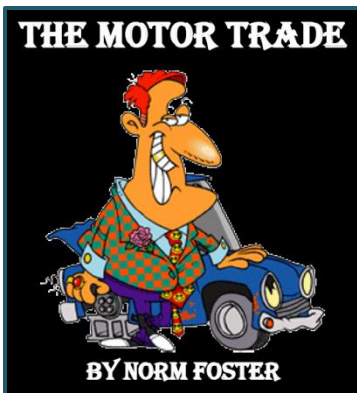
Although the programme for our popular festival of one-act plays has yet to be finalised, we are happy to announce that once again the show will include a new one-act play written by a Gabriolan.

Our 2017 offering will be Lesley Hazeldine's lovely play *The Family Visit*.

**Auditions: December 6 at 7pm at the Rollo Centre**

**Performances at the Rollo Centre: March 10, 11 and 12**

## MAY 2017 – THE MOTOR TRADE



They're the guys we love to hate: the used car salesmen.

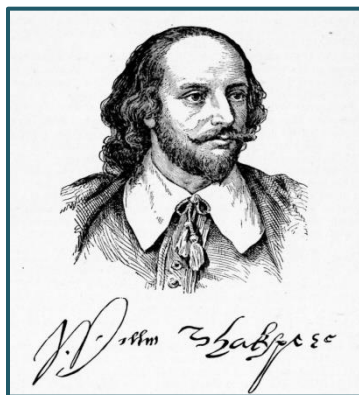
It's Saturday morning at Dorval Motors. There's a blizzard outside. Phil's wife has just left him. He is being audited by Revenue Canada. His longtime business partner Dan wants out. And it's not even noon yet.

Vintage Norm Foster.

**Auditions: March 21**

**Performances at the Rollo: May 26, 27 and 28**

## JULY 2017 – BARD ON THE BAY



As we seem to like Shakespeare so much, Garry's thinking perhaps *As You Like It*. Or maybe it should be *Much Ado About Nothing*? Or possibly (what with the apparent return of Juneuary as a summer month on Gabriola) *The Winter's Tale*? Or...?

Watch this space. Better yet, check our website for an announcement coming soon.

**Auditions: June 13**

**Performances on July 7, 8 and 9.**

## Are you a member of GABRIOLA PLAYERS?

You don't have to be a member of Gabriola Players to enjoy our productions, but we'd love it if you decided to become one! Your \$15 membership can begin whenever you want and lasts a year. Members receive a \$15 discount on any workshops offered by Gabriola Players and – as a small token of our appreciation – a free beverage at all performances. You can become a member – or renew your membership – on our website ([gabriolaplayers.ca](http://gabriolaplayers.ca)) or send a cheque to Gabriola Players, PO Box 374, Gabriola V0R 1X0. Not sure if your membership has lapsed? To check, send an email to Ginny Lowes at [gabriolaplayers@gmail.com](mailto:gabriolaplayers@gmail.com).