

GABRIOLA PLAYERS



Summer 2017 Newsletter

Director's message

It's been another great season for Gabriola Players, beginning in September with our staged reading of the deeply moving and still sadly all too relevant play **The Laramie Project**. One audience member wrote to thank us for the production, saying *"I very much enjoyed the play today. It was so moving. Such a powerful story. It was done so well. It truly brought me back to 1998 and all of the feelings I had watching via news this horrific act of violence. Bravo everyone involved. And thank you."*

Audiences howled with laughter in November with **The Return of Robin Hood**. According to one audience member: *"I've been watching pantos for many years now, and I gotta tell ya, this one was fabulous. I can't begin to tell you how much I laughed. Acting, script, costumes, drop, timing; all were over the top. Congratulations to all involved. No one expected the Spanish Inquisition!"* (See page 5 to find out about the 2017 panto.)

March brought sold out performances of our popular One-Act Play Festival, this year featuring two new plays by Gabriolans. (We are actively **seeking submissions** of new one-act plays for our 2018 festival. More details on page 7.)

In May Gabriolans were introduced to Phil and Dan, the used car salesmen of Norm Foster's **The Motor Trade**.

All rounded off last month with our third foray into the wonderful world of Shakespeare with performance of **As You Like It**. Another HUGE thank you to Garry Davey for once again putting the cast (all of whom had a blast) through their paces.

And, as always, a HUGE thank you to **Robert's Place**, our season sponsor for the fourth year, and all the local businesses whose support allows us to do what we do. We will be one of the many Gabriola arts groups thanking Robert when he is honoured at the opening of next weekend's theatre festival. Hope to see you there.



The cast of *As You Like It*, left to right: Peter Jones, Laurence Lee, Miranda Holmes, Marshall Mangan, Roger Carter, Garry Davey, Peter Dzierzawa, Jean Wyenberg, Donna Deacon, Lu Handford and Jenny Newton.

The Motor Trade



The Motor Trade cast, left to right: Dave Innell, Heather O'Sullivan, Donna Deacon and Peter ter Weeme.

Audiences laughed and groaned in May when Gabriola Players staged Norm Foster's play **The Motor Trade**.

The play was directed by **Jean Wyenberg**, who has been involved in a number of Foster plays over the years. "Who can resist a Norm Foster play?" she asks. "He writes beautiful pieces about everymen (and women) to whom we can all relate in one way or another. *The Motor Trade* is a treasure that delves into the characters of two men who've known each other and worked together for many years, but who, on this one day, come to realize that much of their relationship is based on a fragile web of lies. My thanks to Mr. Foster for creating such great characters and to the wonderful cast who brought them to life."

Backatcha from **Donna Deacon**, who says: "I want to thank Jean for her excellent steering. And my thanks to our stage manager Jenny Newton and the great cast and crew for making *The Motor Trade* such a smooth and delightful ride."

It was **Dave Innell** who brought the play to the attention of the Gabriola Players board. Says Dave: "I first became aware of *Motor Trade* when I did an excerpt from the play at an acting workshop a few years ago. I really loved the play and in particular the character of Dan. I suggested *Motor Trade* for the 2016/17 season, hoping I could get the part of Dan. Well, dreams sometimes do come true, and, along with Peter, Donna and Heather, I got to bring this Norm Foster gem to life."

For **Peter ter Weeme**, auditioning for the play was a no brainer. He says: "When I heard Gabriola Players were going to stage *Motor Trade*, a play about two used car salesmen, I knew I wanted to be in it. Little did I know that the role of Phil would be so perfectly suited to me. I loved Phil's unbridled personality and that underneath all that bluster there's a vulnerable, insecure guy who just wants love and attention."

The play marked a theatrical debut for **Heather O'Sullivan**, who comments: "Locals are probably more accustomed to seeing me on the political stage, but I was delighted to dip my toe in theatrical waters with this play. While my character Darlene might have traded in husband Phil for a Dodge dealer, I wouldn't trade the experience of working with this amazing cast and crew for anything!"

All the Commons is a stage

In retrospect, it seems sheer folly, the decision taken in 2014 to include an al fresco staged reading of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as the finale of the Gabriola Players 10th Anniversary Season. How on earth did then artistic director Miranda Holmes think we could pull this off? Well, it turns out that if you bill it, he will come. The "he" in this case was the multi-talented Garry Davey, who enthusiastically offered to be our guide into the wonderful world of Shakespeare.

Not only can Garry play the harmonica and juggle at the same time (as our cover photo proves), but he can inspire Shakespearean newbies. And he did just that, first with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, then last year with *Twelfth Night* and once again this year with *As You Like It*, which was performed in the gardens of the Commons in July. Both cast and audience members liked it very much.



Just how much fun did the cast have? Jenny Newton's face says it all.

As Miranda, who's appeared in all three Shakespeare productions says, "It's hard to believe that every year has been even more fun for the cast than the year before, but it has. Garry totally rocks."

Another Bard stalwart, Donna Deacon (pictured right with newbie Lu Handford) was similarly enthusiastic. "This was truly a recipe for inspired theatre: take one of Shakespeare's best comedies, add generous helpings of passion, betrayal, music and love; mix in a soupcon of seasoned actors, sprinkle with a dash of exciting new talent, and voila! My thanks to Garry for sharing his enthusiasm and wisdom in the creation of this delightful dish!"



Barely able to contain his enthusiasm about the experience – and showing off just a bit – Peter Jones (who's developing a nice little line in killjoy roles) comments: "Love's labours were not lost but rather very productive and enjoyed by all – actors and audience alike. The play's the thing! O wonderful, wonderful, and most wonderful! And yet again wonderful, and after that, out of all whooping."

Our thanks to Bill Pope for the photos on this page. To see the rest of his *As You Like It* album, click [here](#).

As with previous Bard productions, *As You Like It* was also a fundraiser for **People For A Healthy Community**, who received a cheque for \$690. As Brenda Fowler explains, with much of PHC's revenue coming in the form of project-related grants (which do not cover salaries or overhead), no-strings-attached donations such as this are particularly welcome,

MAY THE FARCE BE WITH YOU



By Andrew Yates
Directed by Ginny Lowes

Out of this world panto in November!

AUDITIONS!

ROLLO CENTRE

Thursday, September 21
at 7pm

PERFORMANCES

COMMUNITY HALL

November 24 & 25 at 7pm
November 25 & 26 at 2pm

Not ready to perform on stage? There are plenty of other ways to get involved in our annual fun-for-all-the-family extravaganza! See next page.

Get involved!

Would you like to get more actively involved in Gabriola Players, but not necessarily in an acting role? There are lots of important behind-the-scenes jobs to be done. We are particularly in need of technical help at the moment. We will provide all the training you need, so please consider helping out in one of these areas.

Let there be light! And sound!



If you think you might be interested in creating and running the lights or sound effects, then we are looking for you. We would like interested people to shadow our current creative technical crew in upcoming productions to learn the craft.

We are willing to provide the training.

All we ask from you is a commitment to be part of our team for future productions.

Costumers wanted!



No surprise to learn these extraordinary costumes don't create themselves. We are looking for people who just love to create fanciful, fabulous clothes to get involved in our upcoming plays – especially our annual panto where there is no limit to your imagination!

If you are interested in any of these roles, please contact us at gabriolaplayers@gmail.com

Do you have a story to tell?

One of the most popular productions in our 10th Anniversary Season was the annual one-act play festival, which in 2015 featured three new one-act plays written by Gabriolans: *Eyes of the Blue Dog* by Mark Smith, *Lemon Yellow Laces* by Dennis Johnston and *That's Nice* by Anne M. Holmes.

Since then we have tried to ensure that at least one of the plays in the festival was a new play written by a Gabriolan playwright. In 2016 that play was *Legends of the Ferry* by Janet Vickers. This spring there were two new plays: *An Unhelpful Complication* by Anne M. Holmes and *The Family Visit* by Lesley Hazeldine. This is a tradition we very much want to keep alive.

Do you have a story to tell? If so, we are inviting you to submit your script for possible inclusion in our **2018 One-Act Play Festival**.

Plays should be no less than twenty minutes and no more than an hour in length.

The deadline for submissions is **30 November 2017**. Scripts can be sent electronically to gabriolaplayers@gmail.com (please use "OAP Submit" as the subject) or posted to: Gabriola Players, PO Box 374, Gabriola Island V0R 1X0.



See you at the Theatre Festival!



As always, Gabriola Players will have a table at the street fair during the Theatre Festival.

We will be there on **Sunday, 20 August** from **10am to 4pm**.

Drop by to renew your membership, find out more about what we will be doing in the coming months or just to have a chin wag.

We look forward to seeing you!

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) or send a cheque to Gabriola Players, PO Box 374, Gabriola V0R 1X0. Not sure if your membership has lapsed? You can check by sending an email to Lesley Hazeldine at gabriolaplayers@gmail.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

Gabriola Players is a registered charity (83520 3753 RR0001).
We are happy to provide tax receipts for donations of \$25 or more.