

GABRIOLA PLAYERS



Winter 2015 newsletter

Director's message

I thought it would be tough to top last year's world premiere of the wonderful [Will Shakespeare The Panto](#). Fortunately, Robin Bailes, its author, came to our rescue with the first panto he wrote (with Jonathan Hales), which, he tells me, remains his most popular.



After four sold out performances of *Robin Hood and His Merry Men*, the verdict appears to be in: **BEST PANTO EVER!** And no surprise, really: a hilarious script, a fabulously talented cast, a fantastic musical score, incredible costumes and a magical set. What more could anyone want? (As for the cast and crew party after the final performance, well, that was the best ever, too.)

A huge thank you to everyone on and off the stage who contributed to making the 2015 panto such a success. There are a few panto images on the following page and even more to be enjoyed by clicking on this [link](#). Thanks once again to Gabriola Bill (Pope) for so beautifully chronicling our mayhem.

There's no peace for the wicked (me), thanks to some "seasonal adjustment". A change has been made to our 2016 season schedule. **What Glorious Times They Had** (Diane Grant's lively and entertaining tribute to the women's suffrage movement in Canada), which was originally scheduled for production in May, is now going to be performed in March. **Auditions** will be held on Tuesday, **January 5** at 7pm at the Rollo Centre. (More information on page 5.)

As always, a special thank you to our season sponsor, **Robert's Place** and all the other [businesses and individuals](#) who are supporting our 2015/16 season. Please let them know you appreciate their support for theatre on Gabriola.

Happy holidays, everyone. See you next year!

Miranda Holmes



The fabulous cast of *Robin Hood and His Merry Men*. Back row, l-r: Herb Metcalf, Jenn Feenan, Nadine Mourao, Roger Carter, Doris McLaughlin, Cec Ashley, Joe DiCara, Nick Squire, Jean Wyenberg, Paul O'Sullivan, Aleksandra Brzozowski, Alex Dewar. Front row: Sam Hooton, B J Godson, Steve Elder, Lesley Hazeldine, Adela Torchia, Esther Moncrieff, Klaus Horky, Madeleine Ani, Ginny Lowes.

Robin Rocking the Hood



"I have a cunning plan."



The moderately merry men.



"Daisy, don't!"



"Are you sure you're in the right panto?"



"King Richard's back?!?"



Girls just wanna have fun.



Men in Tights – They're butch!

Lemon Yellow in Qualicum



B J Godson as Polly and Dave Innell as Henry in Dennis Johnston's play, *Lemon Yellow Laces*

As we mentioned in our Summer 2015 newsletter, following the success of our "all Gabriola" [festival of one-act plays](#), we decided to enter *Lemon Yellow Laces* (written and directed by Dennis Johnston) in the **Vancouver Island One-Act Play Festival** at the Village Theatre in Qualicum Beach in early November.

B J Godson reports: "The cast and crew of *Lemon Yellow Laces* returned from Qualicum with smiling faces and warmed hearts. It was a privilege to be involved in Dennis's poignant play about homelessness and the stigma attached to being a homeless person.

"The festival judges were very impressed with the performance, and gave it the Best Original Script award, as well as Best Set Design and a nomination for Best Actress in a supporting role. Sound effects also got a positive mention from the judges.

"It is an invaluable experience to go from a small island with no professional performance space to a 'real' theatre, with all the bells and whistles. Performing in front of an audience which does not consist largely of friends, neighbours and relatives (as it often does when we perform on Gabriola) is nerve-wracking, challenging and exciting. And, on this occasion, rewarding.

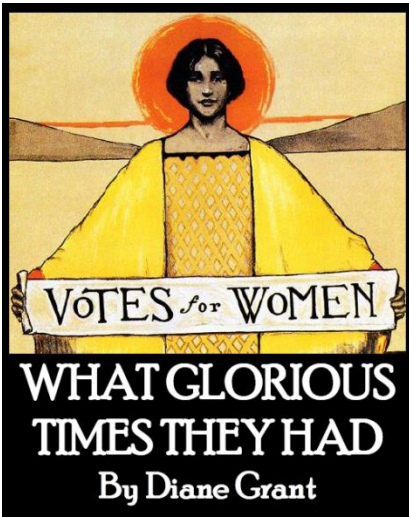
"Gabriola Players was commended for entering a play that was current, thought-provoking, and not the usual 'safe' one act play entry, such as a mystery or light comedy.

"All in all, a positive, bonding experience for the cast and crew, and a proud moment for Gabriola Players."

Congratulations to Dennis – and to B J, who fails to mention that she was the cast member nominated as best supporting actress for her portrayal of Polly.

Well done, all!

Audition call for What Glorious Times They Had



Gabriola Players is delighted to be marking the 100th anniversary of women first gaining the right to vote in Canada with a production of **What Glorious Times They Had**, Diane Grant's lively tribute to Nellie McClung and the determined members of the Political Equality League.

A plot summary and brief description of the roles to be cast is available on our website. To find out more, click [here](#).

Want to help out off stage? Please get in touch with director Miranda Holmes. Send an email to gabriolaplayers@gmail.com.

**Auditions will be held at the Rollo Centre,
7-9pm on Tuesday, January 5.**

Performances: March 11-13, 2015.

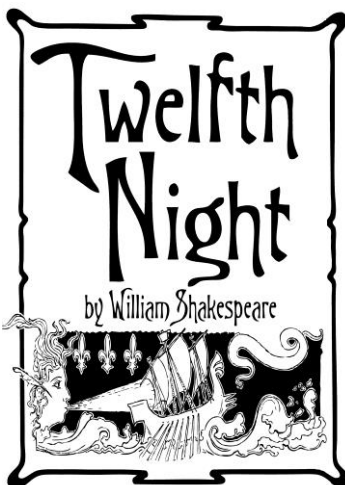
Also in 2016



ONE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL

Although the programme for our always-popular weekend of one-act plays has yet to be finalised, we can guarantee that at least one of them will once again be a new play authored by a Gabriolan writer.

Performances: May 27-29 at the Rollo Centre



TWELFTH NIGHT by William Shakespeare

In the aftermath of a shipwreck, Viola, believing she is now alone in the world, disguises herself as a young man named Cesario. As such, she enters the service of Duke Orsino. The Duke, frustrated in his wooing of Olivia, despatches 'Cesario' as an intermediary. Olivia promptly falls in love with 'Cesario' (who has, in the meantime, fallen in love with the Duke).

Take it away, Shakespeare.

Adapted by Garry Davey

Performances: July 8-10 at 775 Seagirt Road