

GABRIOLA PLAYERS



Winter 2017 newsletter

Director's message

For the third year in a row we're being told: Best panto ever! As Miranda Holmes, director of *The Return of Robin Hood*, put it: "It was great to get the band back together." It was also great to see some new faces amongst the familiar ones in this year's show.

Here is just one of the enthusiastic comments we received from audience members:

"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. How are you ever going to improve on this? Congratulations to all involved, particularly the director. No one expected the Spanish Inquisition!"

As always, thanks to Bill Pope for capturing the fun. Some of his panto pics can be seen on the next page. To enjoy more images, click [here](#).

Auditions have been held and rehearsals will soon begin for our next production, the **2017 One-Act Play Festival**, which this year will feature not one, but two new plays written by Gabriolans. (See page 4 for more information.)

Once again we would like to thank our season sponsor – for the fourth year! – [Robert's Place and all our season advertisers](#). We really couldn't do what we do without them. Please let them know you appreciated their support of community theatre on Gabriola.

WISHING YOU AND YOURS ALL THE BEST FOR THE COMING YEAR. We hope that one of your New Year's resolutions will be to attend and enjoy as many Gabriola Players' productions as possible!



The fabulous cast of *The Return of Robin Hood*. Back row, left to right: Alex Dewar, Dave Hallam, Aleksandra Brozowski, Peter Jones, Steve Elder, Mitch Levine, Marshall Mangan, Jean Wyenberg, Paul O'Sullivan, Roger Carter, Jenn Feenan, Margaret Litt, Donna Deacon. Front row: Trish Gray, Ginny Lowes, B J Godson, Thor Zupanec, Sam Hooton, Kit Pepper, Luisa Handford, Peter Joyes.

Panto 2016

It was double the fun in November with *The Return of Robin Hood*, our tenth panto at the Community Hall.



Not one, but two villains to boo.



Not one



but two pairs of lovers to cheer.



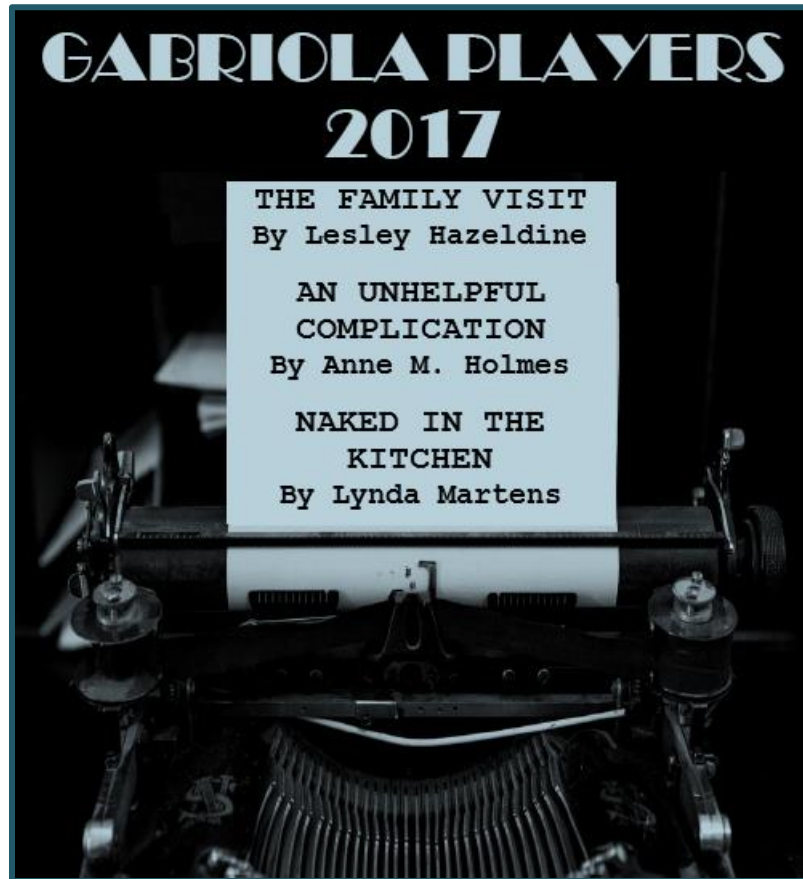
Two kids to be found by Daisy and the ditzzy dame, who ended up with both Bert and Ernie.



Yes, the jury's in: Robin (and Will)) definitely rocked the hood again. Well done, to all involved!



2017 One-Act Play Festival



Once again there's something for everyone in the Gabriola Players **Festival of One-Act Plays**, which this year includes the premieres of two new plays.

The Family Visit, written by Gabriola's own Lesley Hazeldine, is based on a true story of a family visit. A Gabriola couple, Carol and George, are anticipating a visit from their children. Their daughter and her husband are bringing their newborn son to visit for the first time. Carol is very excited and can hardly wait to cuddle her little grandson. Things don't go quite as Carol had imagined with some hilarious and poignant moments. Lesley herself plays Carol, Nick Squires plays George, Michelle Young plays Sylvia, their daughter, and Alex Dewar is their son-in-law. BJ Godson plays Phyllis, the busybody neighbour who worms her way into the family visit.

An Unhelpful Complication is a mystery written by Gabriola playwright Anne M. Holmes. (Yes, that's the writing name of our own Miranda Holmes, who also wrote the popular 2015 one-act play *That's Nice*.) Set in a council flat in south London in the 1990s, it features Charlie Cheffins as Sir Ambrose Carrick, a recently appointed Tory cabinet minister and Miranda as Maggie McArthur, a war correspondent for the Guardian. Both have secrets in the past, but will all be revealed? You will have to come and find out! Directed by Dave Innell.

Naked in the Kitchen has won awards for its realistic characters and natural dialogue. Written by Ontario playwright Lynda Martens in 2008, it features empty-nesters Beth and Charlie, who are facing the beginning of a new reality in their lives, now that their son Tyler has gone off to university. Somehow the renewed intimacy that Beth is hoping for isn't happening. Old trauma and some deep seated pains come to the surface as Charlie struggles with a secret he's been keeping. Directed by Donna Deacon who also plays Beth, with Paul O'Sullivan as Charlie.

Growing up with Sam



One of the things we've really enjoyed over the past few years has been watching young Sam Hooton growing up.

Sam was 11 when he appeared in his first panto, *Aladdin* (pictured left with Nadine Mourao, Lesley Hazeldine and Ginny Lowes).

In 2013 he appeared in *Short Pants and Tall Tales*.



Things got a bit more dramatic for Sam in 2014, when he appeared as a young trial witness in our production of *Inherit The Wind*. He also earned special praise from [The Flying Shingle](#) for his performance as Billy in *On Golden Pond*.



Being by nature a bit of a clown, it was no surprise he was up for a return to the panto later that year, appearing in *Will Shakespeare The Panto* as Guildenstern to Ginny Lowes' Rosencrantz (pictured above, left). Thanks to Doctor Who, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern were back in *Robin Hood and His Merry Men* in 2015. As you can see from the picture, right, there was a bit of a growth spurt between the two shows, forcing the wardrobe crew to add an extra row of patches to his costume.



There was another growth spurt before Sam's appearance as Jack in this year's panto, *The Return of Robin Hood*. You can tell how shocked co-star Ginny Lowes was by his nearing-six foot height by the look in her eyes in the photo, left.

He hasn't just been growing in inches. We've also been watching his talent grow.

Like Gabriola audiences, we can't wait to see his next performance.

COMING IN 2017

MARCH 2017 – ONE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL



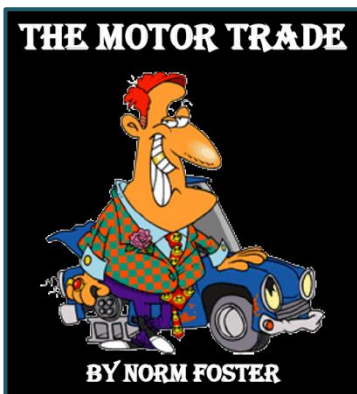
The 2017 One-Act Play Festival will include two new plays written by Gabriolans. ***The Family Visit***, is a lovely domestic comedy written by Lesley Hazeldine, which will be directed by Jenn Feenan.

An Unhelpful Complication by Anne M. Holmes (author of our popular 2015 play ***That's Nice***) will be directed by Dave Innell.

The third play will be ***Naked in the Kitchen*** by Lynda Martens, directed by Donna Deacon.

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.

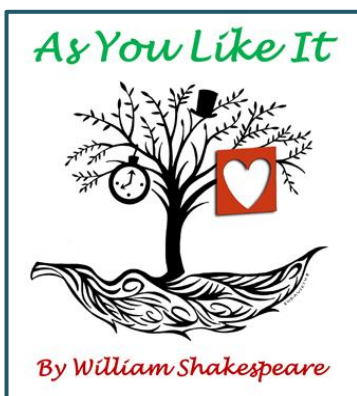
It's Saturday morning at Dorval Motors. There's a blizzard outside. Phil's wife has just left him. He is being audited by Revenue Canada. His longtime business partner Dan wants out. And it's not even noon yet.

Vintage Norm Foster.

Auditions: March 21

Performances at the Rollo: May 26, 27 and 28

JULY 2017 – BARD IN THE GARDEN



As You Like It in twenty words or less: Rosalind, fleeing persecution in her uncle's court, finds safety and love in the Forest of Arden.

Of course, as always with a Shakespeare comedy, there's a lot more to it than that!

This year the Bard will be moving from the Bay to the Garden, with four al fresco staged readings at the Commons. As always, bring a picnic and enjoy!

Auditions: June 4

Performances at the Commons 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) 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.