

GABRIOLA PLAYERS

2004-2014

Summer 2014 newsletter



In August 2004, nine brave women bared (almost) everything to bring *The Vagina Monologues* by Eve Ensler to Gabriola.

The production led to the formation of Gabriola Players which, in the intervening 10 years, has staged 40 plays.

Welcome to our 10th anniversary!

Message from our President

Last autumn I was persuaded – along with a number of other Gabriolan men – to attempt to overcome my horror of acting. After a number of workshops with Garry Davey, we were encouraged to audition for *Inherit the Wind*. Considering the number of male roles in the play, it is probably not surprising that director Miranda Holmes cast us all. And we all had a blast.

Those of you who were fortunate enough to attend one of our sold-out performances know that the play was something special. (I'm still terrified by Reverend Brown whenever I see him. Poor Victor will be a long time living that down.)



I had so much fun I was able to convince my equally stage-shy wife Tessa to give it a go. She appeared with me (and Alex Dewar) in the one-act play *Variations on the Death of Trotsky*. (If you were confused by the play, imagine how we felt.)

The Gabriola Players 2013/14 season was extraordinary. Who would have guessed when the indomitable Dandelion convinced nine far-from-stage-shy women to perform *The Vagina Monologues* 10 years ago that we'd be where we are today?

A huge number of people have helped us with our success over the years, more than would fit in this entire newsletter – the many members who've worked on and off the stage to make our productions happen and the audiences who've embraced us and allowed us to continue expanding our horizons.

As we kick off our 10th anniversary season, I would like to acknowledge two of those people: **Mark Smith** and **Anne Drozd**, who've recently resigned as our President and Treasurer in order to pursue new interests. Mark, as you will know, has been a Gabriola Players stalwart for many years, both appearing in and directing many productions. Anne got our financial ducks in a row – for which we are incredibly grateful – and also turned out to be a fine director. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their amazing devotion to and vision for Gabriola Players.

Although we will miss them on the board, we aren't losing them completely. Both Anne and Mark will be involved in a number of the exciting productions we have lined up for our 2014/15 season. See the following two pages for full details.

Lawrence Spero

Cover photo: cast of the 2004 production of *The Vagina Monologues*. Left to right: Carolyn Davey, Cindy O'Dell, Ellen Clancy, Dale Stark, Jennifer Langley, Robin Kelley, Carolyn Avery-Moore, Jean Wyenberg, Krysta Reed

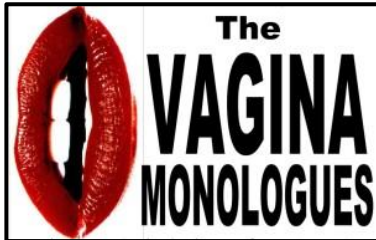
TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The Gabriola Players membership year runs from September 1 to August 31, so it's time to renew. You can do this on-line at gabriolaplayers.ca starting August 18 or visit our table at the Theatre Festival on Sunday, August 17, where you can find out more about our exciting new season. Your membership can also be renewed at our AGM at the Rollo Centre on Sunday, September 21 from 2-4pm. Please stay on for our special 10th anniversary preview and celebration. (Yes, there will be bubbly!) NEW for 2014: Family memberships for \$25 (two adults + up to two children).

Gabriola Players 10th Anniversary Season

SEPTEMBER 2014

In 2004, nine brave Gabriola women gave it their all in a performance of *The Vagina Monologues* by Eve Ensler. Out of this venture, Gabriola Players was born. It only seemed right to launch our 10th anniversary season with a Readers Theatre reprisal of this sad, smart and sassy play.



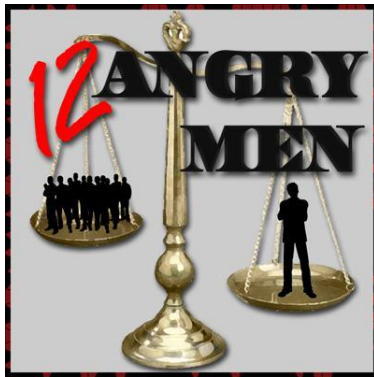
Directed by Jean Wyenberg

Friday, September 19 at 7pm Saturday, September 20 at 2pm and 7pm.

The Rollo Centre

Mature themes and strong language.

OCTOBER 2014



The women have had their turn. Now it's time for the men with a Readers Theatre production of *Twelve Angry Men* by Reginald Rose Directed by Anne Drozd

Friday, October 24 at 7pm. Saturday, October 25 at 2pm and 7pm.

The Rollo Centre

Mature themes.

NOVEMBER 2014

GABRIOLA PLAYERS
Presents

WILL SHAKESPEARE
THE PANTO
By **Robin Bailes**



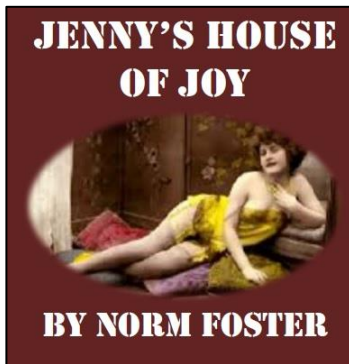
Yes, it's panto time! In a departure from our usual fairy tale-themed holiday show, this year we will be presenting *Will Shakespeare The Panto* by Robin Bailes. Directed by Miranda Holmes.

Don't worry, all the familiar elements are there: a villain to boo, a hero to cheer, a damsel in distress to be saved. Is this show fun for all the family? Oh, yes it is!

At the Community Hall on Friday, November 28 at 7pm. Saturday, November 29 at 2pm and 7pm. Sunday, November 30 at 2pm.

Suitable for all ages.

MARCH 2015



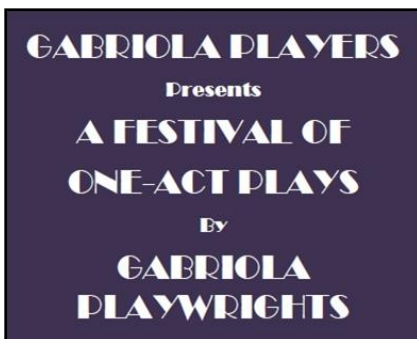
Set in a whorehouse in Baxter Springs, Kansas in 1871, Norm Foster's *Jenny's House of Joy* has been described by reviewers as "funny, touching and ripe with comic surprises."

**Friday, March 13 at 7pm. Saturday March 14 at 2pm and 7pm.
Sunday, March 15 at 2pm**

Rollo Centre

Mature themes.

MAY 2015



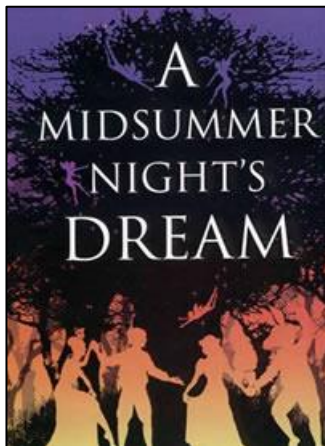
As a special highlight of our 10th anniversary season, the 2015 Festival of One-Act Plays will feature works by Gabriola Playwrights.

**Friday May 22 at 7pm. Saturday May 23 at 2pm and 7pm.
Sunday May 24 at 2pm.**

Rollo Centre

Mature themes.

JUNE 2015



With the success of last July's alfresco performance of *On Golden Pond*, a new season feature was born. What else could we possibly stage outdoors in June?

Readers Theatre production of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (adapted by Bob Gonzalez).

Friday and Saturday, June 26 and 27 at 6pm. Sunday, June 28 at 2pm.

Venue to be confirmed.

Suitable for all ages.

Auditions – All Welcome!

Auditions for our first three productions are coming up fast. All are welcome to try out for parts (or to get involved backstage). *Vagina Monologues* auditions on Thursday, August 21 at 7pm. *Twelve Angry Men* auditions on Thursday, August 28 at 7pm. Auditions for *Will Shakespeare – The Panto* on Sunday, September 7 at 2pm and Thursday, September 11 (singers only) at 7pm. All auditions take place at the Rollo Centre.

One-Act Play Festival



One-Act Play Festival cast. Back row, left to right: Joyce Ashley and Madeleine Ani (*The Way of All Fish*), Lawrence Spero, Tessa Spero and Alex Dewar (*Variations on the Death of Trotsky*). Seated: Donna Deacon and Catherine Andersen (*Theatrical Digs*). Photo © Chris Bowers

Kudos all round to the directors and cast of this year's **One-Act Play Festival**. As [The Flying Shingle reported](#), "Gabriola Players once again single-handedly reduced the Gabriola Boredom Quotient" over two weekends in May.

On Golden Pond



Something new from Gabriola Players in July: an al fresco Readers Theatre staging of *On Golden Pond*. The [well-reviewed](#) production featured (l-r) BJ Godson as Ethel, Dave Inell as Charlie, Mark Smith as Norman, as well as Dean Clark, Sam Hooton and Adrienne Vance.

Audiences were so impressed they immediately wanted to know if we planned to do an outdoor performance again. This answer is yes! And no surprise what we've decided to perform next June.

Time to get more involved with Gabriola Players?

If you love community theatre, why not make this the year you get involved in one of our productions? Can you build or decorate a set? Can you make a costume, find props? How about trying your hand at producing or stage managing a play? There are dozens of volunteer opportunities that don't involve standing on a stage. To find out more, check out the [Who Does What](#) section of our website.

Or maybe this is the year you want to try acting. [Readers Theatre](#) helps break the ice and there are often small (and therefore less frightening) roles in many productions.

Audition dates for all 2014/15 productions are included in the season calendar* below. Why not print it out and stick it on your fridge so you don't miss anything?

AUGUST 2014		
17 Visit our table at the Theatre Festival 9:30am-3pm	21 AUDITIONS for <i>Vagina Monologues</i> 7pm Rollo Centre	28 AUDITIONS for <i>Twelve Angry Men</i> 7pm Rollo Centre
SEPTEMBER 2014		
7 Panto AUDITIONS 2pm Rollo Centre	11 Panto AUDITIONS (singers) 7pm Rollo Centre	19 <i>Vagina Monologues</i> 7pm Rollo Centre
20 <i>Vagina Monologues</i> 2pm & 7pm Rollo Centre	21 Gabriola Players AGM 2pm 10 th anniversary celebration 4pm Rollo Centre	
OCTOBER 2014		
24 <i>Twelve Angry Men</i> 7pm Rollo Centre	25 <i>Twelve Angry Men</i> 2pm & 7pm Rollo Centre	
NOVEMBER 2014		
28 <i>Will Shakespeare The Panto</i> 7pm Community Hall	29 <i>Will Shakespeare The Panto</i> 2pm & 7pm Community Hall	30 <i>Will Shakespeare The Panto</i> 2pm Community Hall
JANUARY 2015		
6 AUDITIONS for <i>Jenny's House of Joy</i> 7pm Rollo Centre		
MARCH 2015		
13 <i>Jenny's House of Joy</i> 7pm Rollo Centre	14 <i>Jenny's House of Joy</i> 2pm & 7pm Rollo Centre	15 <i>Jenny's House of Joy</i> 2pm Rollo Centre
19 AUDITIONS for One-Act Play Festival 7pm Rollo Centre		
MAY 2015		
22 One-Act Play Festival 7pm Rollo Centre	23 One-Act Play Festival 2pm & 7pm Rollo Centre	24 One-Act Play Festival 2pm Rollo Centre
31 Shakespeare workshop 10-6pm Rollo Centre Cost: To be confirmed	<i>If you are interested in taking part in our Shakespeare reading, we encourage participation in this workshop</i>	
JUNE 2015		
2 AUDITIONS for <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> 7pm Rollo Centre	26 <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> 6pm Venue TBC	27 <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> 6pm Venue TBC
28 <i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> 2pm Venue TBC		

* New events may be added and current dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances. Check gabriolapalyers.ca or Like us on Facebook for the most current information.