

# GABRIOLA PLAYERS



**Summer 2018 Newsletter**

# Remembering Nancy

A bright light went out on our island late last year with the death of the remarkable **Nancy Jenner**. She was greatly loved by all at Gabriola Players – and by everyone else who knew her. **BJ Godson** shares some memories of their friendship...

I first became a huge fan of Nancy Jenner in 2005 when we worked together in a wonderful play called **7 Stories**, the first production of the newly-formed Gabriola Players. I was a newbie actor and she was a newbie stage manager, often seen crawling around on her hands and knees with the omnipresent head lamp clamped to her forehead. We started giggling together then and we never stopped. (Either on or off stage Nancy had a role in almost every play we've done since.)

The real fun began when we were cast as the duo Snatch and Grab in the 2008 panto **Rumpelstiltskin**. There was so much silliness and giggling that we once had to be separated in the green room. (Of course that just made us giggle even more.) The laughter continued with **The Pied Piper and the Tail of the Rat King** (by now we refused to be separated) and the following year in **Aladdin**.

By far our 'closest encounters' were during **The Christmas Caper** in 2013. Nancy, as Old Man Winter (pictured on the cover of the newsletter), had the audience in the palms of her hands every time she stepped on stage. As Twinkie the Elf, I had the wonderful experience of being on stage with her frequently – the absolute highlight of which was our singing and dancing a "winterized" adaptation of "Swinging on a Star".

Nancy wasn't all slapstick on stage, as everyone knew who saw her as Clara in **Jenny's House of Joy** and as Adelaide in **What Glorious Times They Had**. That said, I know I speak for many when I say it was her genius in comedic roles which made us all her forever fans.

It hurts my heart to think I will never be blessed with being on the stage with her again.

Nancy....you are so missed by all of us. The pantos will never be the same!. As I said at your celebration of life "the world would be a far better place with more Nancy Jenners in it!"

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## Director's message

2017/18 was another wonderful season for Gabriola Players. From our whacky, out-of-this world panto **May the Farce Be with You** (see next page to be reminded of the fun) to the wit of our **One-Act Play Festival** (page 4) to the stitch-in-your-side hilarity of **Psychopathia Sexualis** (page 5 ) it was a rollercoaster of laughs.

Although there's been some gardening and other outdoor activities (when we could breathe the air), we haven't been twiddling our thumbs the past couple of months. We've been planning the season to come.

We sought and were fortunate enough to receive permission to launch our 2018/19 season with four staged readings of **Forget About Tomorrow**, a play by Jill Daum (with music by John Mann) which premiered at the Belfry Theatre earlier this year. Performance dates and more information about this deeply moving play can be found on page 8.

This year's panto, by our own Lesley Hazeldine, will be **Pirates of Nursery Rhyme Island**. Auditions will be held in the coming week. Lesley and co-director Jenn Feenan encourage everyone – including absolute beginners – to come along and get involved in the fun. (**Audition notice** on page7.)

2019 will bring our full-length production in March and our One-Act Play Festival in May. (Have a one-act play you'd like us to read? Get it to us before the end of November for consideration. Details on page 9.) And we are very pleased to announce that the Bard will be back in the garden next July. Garry Davey is still mulling over which comedy to choose.

Our thanks to **Derek Kilbourn** for allowing us to use his November 2013 front page picture of Nancy Jenner as Old Man Winter and to **Bill Pope** for all the other photos in the newsletter.

## The farce was definitely with us



The cast of **May the Farce Be With You**. Back row, left to right: Joe DiCara , Lesley Hazeldine, Donna Deacon, Jenn Feenan, Nadine Mourao, Jean Wyenberg, BJ Godson, Marshall Mangan, Sara Costa, Susan Yates, Lu Hanford and Miranda Holmes. Front row: Peter Joyce, Jasmine Ginn and Thor Zupanec. Photo © Bill Pope. To see more of Bill's fabulous images from the 2017 panto, click [here](#).

It really was a case of "and now for something completely different" with the 2017 Gabriola Players panto, **May The Farce Be With You** by Andrew Yates. **Ginny Lowes** found and directed this whacky cross between Jack and the Beanstalk and Star Wars. And what a wonderful job she did transforming the script into an out of this world, fun-for-the-whole-family production.

Ginny has been an integral part of Gabriola Players and a panto stalwart for many years. Sadly for us and our audiences (but very happily for her), Ginny has decided to embark on a new adventure, relocating to another beautiful part of the country, the Niagara peninsula.

Ginny has her serious side (as witnessed in her moving performance in *The Laramie Project* in 2016), but there is no doubt the farce is with her. The community theatre groups of southern Ontario will be as thrilled to meet her as we are sad to see her go.

**HAPPY TRAILS, GINNY!**



After multiple appearances as the pantomime villain, Ginny finally got to play the Dame in 2016. In true fashion, she milked it for all it was worth!

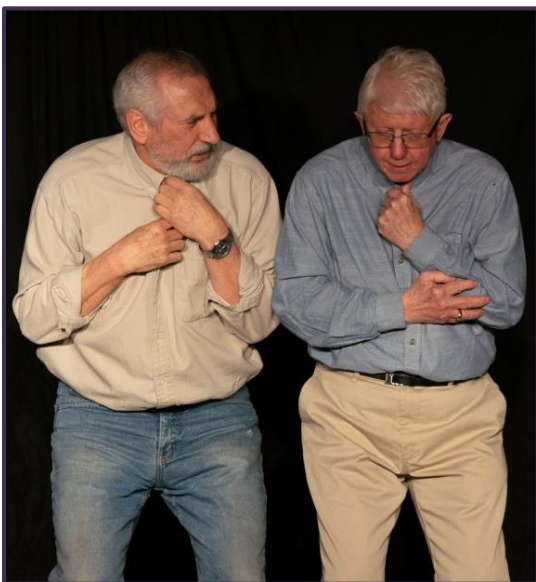
# One-Act News

Our ever-popular One-Act Play Festival was once again a huge hit with Gabriola audiences. There were sold out performances for this year's plays.



For the second year in a row, our own **Lesley Hazeldine** delighted audiences with a warm, witty one-act play written about life on our wonderful island. Following *The Family Visit* in 2017, Lesley came right back with this year's delightful ***Living in Paradise***, directed by **Jenn Feenan** and starring Lesley and **Charlie Cheffins** as a couple who begin their doey-eyed life on Gabriola, loving everything about island living (including the does), only to find themselves ten years later moaning about exactly the same things.

Not only did the play wow audiences on Gabriola, but director and cast were invited to do it all again on Galliano in May. The play, to which anyone living on a ferry-dependent Gulf Island can relate, was as warmly received by audiences on Galliano as the cast and crew were by their hosts. There is now talk of the Galliano theatre group bringing one of their productions to Gabriola next year. Watch this space.



The second offering in this year's festival was Alan Arkin's somewhat surreal play ***Virtual Reality***, directed by **Donna Deacon**.

The bumbling and frequently profane efforts of Lefty (**Joe DiCara**) and DeRecha (**Dave Innell**) to prepare for an unspecified "job" had audiences scratching their heads whilst doubling over with laughter.

## **In other one-act news...**

Audiences who saw the 2017 Festival may not be surprised to learn that ***An Unhelpful Complication*** by **Miranda Holmes** was a finalist in the 2018 Canadian National Playwriting competition. According to one judge, the main challenge with the play was its length. To be staged professionally it should be nearly twice as long. The judge, encouraging a rewrite, continued: "Audiences would certainly, I believe, be very happy to spend more time with these two characters." Time to get writing, Miranda?

And, In full length news, Lesley got busy after last year's panto and wrote one of her own, which will be staged this November. Auditions for ***Pirates of Nursery Rhyme Island*** will be held soon. (See page 7 for details.)

# Psychopathia Sexualis

When Dave Innell came to the board and announced that he'd found a play called **Psychopathia Sexualis** that he thought Gabriola Players should do in 2018, well you can imagine the reaction. But then we read it and we had to agree that John Patrick Shanley's play about love, friendship and one man's peculiar attachment to a pair of argyle socks was very funny indeed. Although to be honest, no one involved realised quite how funny it was until opening night when the Rollo Centre was filled with wave after wave of howling laughter. One audience member loved it so much she came to multiple performances!

In case you were unlucky and missed it, here's the plot.



Ellie (Miranda Holmes), who can read him like a book, knows her husband Howard (Paul O'Sullivan) is keeping a secret. It doesn't take her long to worm it out of him.

It seems their friend Arthur (Charlie Cheffins), who is about to marry Texas belle Lucille, is a sock fetishist. Said socks have been stolen by his evil shrink, Dr. Block. Arthur has begged Howard (who thinks he knows a thing or two about psychiatry) to see Block and get the socks back. Without them he is no longer a man and cannot marry Lucille.



Far from retrieving the socks and beating the psychiatrist at his own game, Dr. Block (Garry Davey) succeeds in destroying Howard's self esteem.

Ellie decides Lucille (Donna Deacon) has a right to know about all this before she ties the knot with Arthur. She manages to persuade her friend this fetish thing isn't the end of the world. As long as they can get the socks back, Lucille's marriage to Arthur can be filled with many more "experiences".



Lucille, taking the bull by the horns, knocks the psychiatrist's block off. (No surprise that Donna Deacon and partner Garry Davey chewed up the scenery in this scene.)

Socks and honour restored, it's time for the wedding.



## 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? You can check by sending an email to [gabriolaplayers@gmail.com](mailto:gabriolaplayers@gmail.com).

## **Panto 2018 Auditions!**

# *Pirates of Nursery Rhyme Island*



*By Lesley Hazeldine*

**Auditions for the 2018 panto will be held at the  
ROLLO CENTRE on**

**Sunday, August 26 at 2pm and Thursday, August 30 at 7pm**

**There are 13 roles to be cast – an eclectic mix of whacky Nursery Rhyme personalities and roguish Pirates. Lots of opportunity to let your hair down, kick up your boots and explore your swashbuckling skills.**

**Whether you be a seasoned performer or a first timer...**

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

**To find out more about the roles to be cast, click [here](#).**

**Not ready to perform on stage?**

**There are plenty of other ways to get involved in our fun-for-all-the-family extravaganza!  
Send an email to [gabriolaplayers@gmail.com](mailto:gabriolaplayers@gmail.com) to find out how you can get in on the fun.**

**Coming in September**

# **FORGET ABOUT TOMORROW**



**By Jill Daum**

(Play by Jill Daum with songs by John Mann, performed with permission of the Belfry Theatre)

Gabriola Players has been honoured to receive special permission from playwright **Jill Daum** to launch our 2018/19 season with four staged readings of her deeply moving play ***Forget About Tomorrow***.

Daum, the wife of Spirit of the West singer John Mann, knows from tragic personal experience the devastating impact a diagnosis of Alzheimer's can have on a family. This is the subject her play tackles with pathos and with humour.

**ROLLO CENTRE**  
**Thursday to Saturday, September 20, 21 & 22 at 7pm**  
**Sunday, September 23 at 2pm**



## Do you have a story to tell?



One of the most popular productions in our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season was the annual one-act play festival, which in 2015 featured three new one-act plays written by Gabriolans. 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 we had one. Last year we had two. This spring we had another one.

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 **2019 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 2018**. Scripts can be sent electronically to [gabriolaplayers@gmail.com](mailto:gabriolaplayers@gmail.com) (please use "OAP Submit" as the subject) or posted to: Gabriola Players, PO Box 374, Gabriola Island V0R 1X0

## Dates for your diary

### AUGUST 2018

- 26 AUDITIONS for Pirates of Nursery Rhyme Island. Rollo 2pm
- 30 AUDITIONS for Pirates of Nursery Rhyme Island. Rollo 7pm

### SEPTEMBER 2018

- 20-22 FORGET ABOUT TOMORROW Rollo 7pm
- 23 FORGET ABOUT TOMORROW matinee Rollo 2pm
- 25 REHEARSALS for Panto begin
- 30 GABRIOLA PLAYERS AGM The Roxy 1pm

### NOVEMBER 2018

- 23&24 PIRATES OF NURSERY RHYME ISLAND Community Hall 7pm
- 24&25 PIRATES OF NURSERY RHYME ISLAND Community Hall 2pm

### DECEMBER 2018

- 6 AUDITIONS for the spring full production Rollo 7pm

### JANUARY 2019

- 8 REHEARSALS for Full Production begin

### MARCH 2019

- 14-16 FULL PRODUCTION performances Rollo 7pm
- FULL PRODUCTION matinee Rollo 2pm
- AUDITIONS for One-Act Play Festival Rollo 2pm
- REHEARSALS for One-Act Plays begin Rollo 7pm

### MAY 2019

- 23-25 ONE-ACT FESTIVAL Rollo 7p
- 26 ONE-ACT FESTIVAL matinee Rollo 2pm
- 28 AUDITIONS for Bard in the Garden Rollo 7pm
- 30 REHEARSALS for Bard in the Garden begin Rollo 7pm

### JULY 2019

- 5&6 BARD IN THE GARDEN Commons 7pm
- 7 BARD IN THE GARDEN matinee Commons 2pm