

# GABRIOLA PLAYERS



**Winter 2018 newsletter**

## Director's message

Another sensational new season is well underway.

In September we were privileged to perform four staged readings of Jill Daum's incredibly moving play **Forget About Tomorrow**. We warned people to bring hankies and those who did were grateful. It's safe to say there wasn't a dry eye in the house at the end of each show. (For more about the production – and its surprise ending – see page 3.)

Last month we had an all Gabriola production with our 2018 panto, **Pirates of Nursery Rhyme Island**, written and directed by our own **Lesley Hazeldine**. For only the second time since we introduced pantos to Gabriola, we offered the full tradition: the pantomime dame (Mary) was played by a man (Alex Dewar), proving beyond doubt that there is nothing like a dame. Several audience members told Captain Budgie that "he" was the best pirate ever. (Take that, Johnny Depp.) Our thanks to **Bill Pope** for the cover photo and the help with reliving the memories on page 4.

With the holidays fast approaching, why not make an early New Year's resolution? **Make 2019 the year you stop just thinking about getting on (or back on) the stage**. Feel overwhelmed? Don't. Four of the actors in the recent panto had never been on stage before and you wouldn't have guessed, would you? None of them could remember the last time they'd had so much fun.

Gabriola Players will be holding **open auditions** for our 2019 productions on Sunday, **January 6** from 2pm to 4pm at the Rollo Centre. Come out and show us what you've got. There's more information about the auditions and an acting workshop we will be offering in January on page 5.

Next up is our ever popular **One-Act Play Festival** in March, this year with some very special guests. And Shakespeare fans should note that the **Bard in the Garden** will be back in **July**. For more information, see page 6.

A huge thank you to **Robert's Place** for once again sponsoring our season and to all the local businesses that advertise in our programmes. We couldn't do what we do without them. Please let them know you appreciate their support for community theatre.



Cast of **Pirates of Nursery Rhyme Island**, left to right: Donna Deacon, BJ Godson, Wendy Phillips, Alex Dewar, Phil Ashbee, Thor Zupanec, Trish Gray, Jade Evoy, Marshall Mangan, Margaret Litt, Steve Compton, Miranda Holmes and Peter Dzierzawa.



# Forget About Tomorrow



The cast of *Forget About Tomorrow*, left to right: Dave Innell, Miranda Holmes, Garry Davey, Donna Deacon, Nadine Mourao and Roger Carter. Photo © Richard Pullano.

As playwright Jill Daum first began working on her new play, *Forget About Tomorrow*, she and her husband, Spirit of the West singer John Mann, had yet to go public with his diagnosis of early onset Alzheimer's.

When director Jean Wyenberg heard about the play from friends who'd seen its premiere at the Belfry in Victoria, she knew she wanted to bring it to Gabriola. She made contact with Daum and the Belfry. They were reluctant to give permission to a small community theatre group to stage a full production of the new play. When she asked about staged readings, both the writer and the theatre gave their blessing and what a blessing that was for Gabriola audiences.

As the play opens, the central character Jane (played flawlessly by Donna Deacon) thinks her toughest challenge is coping with her increasingly forgetful husband Tom (Garry Davey) and her recently emptied nest. She soon learns there is a far greater challenge ahead. Following Tom's diagnosis of Alzheimer's, Jill takes comfort and distraction from wherever it is offered. But her love for Tom draws her back to him, to face whatever may come together.

There was a surprise ending after the performances were over. Donna and Garry astonished and delighted the cast and other invited friends by getting married at the wrap party.



The couple, who've been together for eleven years, have appeared on stage together twice this year. Apparently it was the sight of Donna in her *Psychopathia Sexualis* wedding dress that prompted Garry's proposal. (That's not actually true, but it makes a good story.)

What is true is that, having decided to tie the knot, they decided there was no one they wanted to share their day with than their Gabriola Players family. (How either of them got through the matinee performance just before their wedding is anyone's guess!)

**CONGRATULATIONS, GARRY AND DONNA!**



# Pirates of Nursery Rhyme Island



As Lesley Hazeldine's whimsical panto begins, the biggest mysteries on Nursery Rhyme Island are whether Jack Spratt will ever lose any weight and how many more helpings of curds and whey it will take before Little Miss Muffet explodes. When a pirate ship is spotted on the horizon, the only person who is happy is Mary, who'd like to trade in her lamb for a big, burly pirate.

Unfortunately for Mary, Captain Jack Budgie and his motley crew are only interested in one thing: treasure. Would the good



folk of Nursery Rhyme Island be able to fend off these vicious villains? Yes! With a luvly bunch of coconuts they did. All's well that ends with a high kicking dance!

Our thanks to everyone who came out to see the show and to all the people behind the scenes who never get to take a bow – the sound and lighting crews, the wardrobe wizards, the makeup mavens, the props priestess, the talented set painters, the curtain pullers, stage constructors and all the front of house volunteers. And, of course, Jenny!

And a big brava to Lesley for her delightful script and her infectiously enthusiastic direction!

## 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).

## Calling all actors!



Experienced or not, if you've ever had a desire to be on stage, we want to get to know you!

Gabriola Players is holding **Open Auditions** for our upcoming productions, an exciting line-up of comedy, drama, Shakespeare and our ever popular Panto.

Feel overwhelmed at the thought of performing on stage? Don't be. As previously mentioned, four of the actors in *Pirates of Nursery Rhyme Island* had never been on stage before and you wouldn't have guessed, would you? None of them could remember the last time they'd had so much fun.

And if the thought of Shakespeare makes you shiver, it shouldn't. None of the actors involved in our first al fresco reading, *Midsummer Night's Dream* had ever performed Shakespeare before, but we all had **so** much fun, we can't wait to get going again. (Don't worry, there is always room for more!)

The auditions will be held at the Rollo Centre on **Sunday January 6** from 2pm to 4pm.

All ages and genders are encouraged to attend. You can choose to do a cold read from one of our scripts or bring your own prepared monologue. (If you'd also like to wow us with a song, please bring your own music.)

## ACTing Workshop

Gabriola Players is pleased to announce that our friend Garry Davey will be offering a workshop, **Acting 101: Basic Scene Work and Rehearsal Technique** at the Rollo Centre on Tuesday and Thursday, **January 8 and 10** from 7pm to 9:30 pm in January.

"Over the course of two evenings, we'll go over some key elements of exploring and rehearsing a short scene," explains Garry. "We'll review basic stagecraft and talk about such things as situation vs. character, goals vs. obstacles, and actions vs. attitude. The focus will be working with a partner while exploring basic scene-building and rehearsal techniques that will help develop confidence and comfort on stage. We will work through each scene on the Tuesday, then participants will be able to work at home, reviewing and rehearsing independently. During the Thursday evening session we will rework each scene, and address whatever questions arise."

**Sign up early!!** Maximum of eight participants, although auditors are welcome. To register, send an email to [gabriolaplayers@gmail.com](mailto:gabriolaplayers@gmail.com) with the subject line Acting 101. The workshop will be held at the Rollo Centre. Participants should bring a pencil, pen and notebook, wear comfortable clothing and arrive early so the workshop can start on time. Participation is free for members of Gabriola Players, \$25 for non-members.



## Coming in 2019

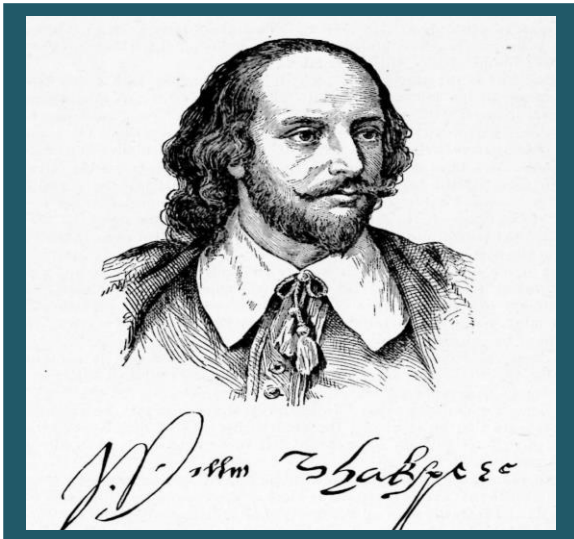


### One-Act Plays

There's going to be a special treat at the 2019 One-Act Play Festival. The **Galliano** theatre group (who last year invited us to perform at their one-acts weekend) will be sharing the stage with Gabriola Players, joining us for three out of four of the shows staged during the one-act festival with **My Narrator** by Norm Foster. Gabriola Players will be performing **Whisking Eggs** by Jackie Lines.

**Whisking Eggs** and **My Narrator** at the Rollo Centre on Friday **March 15** at 7pm, Saturday, **March 16** at 2pm and 7pm.

**Whisking Eggs** and **Living in Paradise** by Lesley Hazeldine (performed on both Gabriola and Galliano last year) at the Rollo Centre on Sunday, **March 17** at 2pm.



### Bard in the Garden

Yes, the Bard will be back in the garden next summer.

Once again **Garry Davey** will be putting us through our paces to prepare us for three al fresco staged readings of one of Shakespeare's wonderful plays. (Feeling spoilt for choice, Garry has yet to inform us which particular play will delight Gabriola audiences.)

Workshop **auditions** will be held at the end of May.

Performances in the Commons Garden on Friday and Saturday **July 5 & 6** at **6pm** and Sunday **July 7** at **2pm**.

As always – bring a blanket and a picnic and enjoy!

## Don Whitton Memorial Bursary



Don Whitton was a member of Gabriola Players from its inception. He was involved in numerous productions before he passed away in 2010. In his memory, Gabriola Players offers an annual bursary of \$500 to a Gabriolan who is registering or has registered to study some aspect of **Theatre Arts** at a British Columbia university, college or recognized training centre.

The focus of study can be acting, directing, stage management or any related technical skill, such as lighting, sound or set design. Applicants must be a minimum of ten years old. There is no upper age limit. The Bursary may or may not be awarded in any given year, depending on whether or not there are applicants who meet the qualifying criteria.

If you – or someone you know – might be interested in applying for the 2019 bursary, click [here](#) for more information.