

GABRIOLA PLAYERS



Spring 2019 newsletter

Director's message

What an extraordinary start to the new year we had. In January we held open auditions which added 18 previously unknown (to us) talented actors to our already talented pool of thespians. Many were new to the island and keen to get involved in community theatre. And we were very happy to welcome them aboard!

If you were fortunate enough to see this year's one-act play festival, you will have met two of our newcomers: **Adrienne Muscat** and **Tamara Gorski**, who appear on the cover and who played Linda and Doreen in **Whisking Eggs**, written by Jackie Lines and directed by **Jean Wyenberg**. The festival also included special guests from Galiano. For more on that and future plans, see page 3.

There will also be three new faces in our next production, **Old Love**, written by Norm Foster and directed by **Donna Deacon**. The show will introduce audiences to **Tom Radcliffe**, **Ray Appel** and **Janina Stajic**. This warm-hearted comedy tells the story of Bud, who's been in love with the same woman for many, many years. Unfortunately for Bud, the woman in question is not his wife – she's his boss's wife. But maybe it's not too late? Performances will be at the Rollo Centre Thursday to Saturday May 23 to 25 at 7pm and Sunday May 26 at 2pm.

We are extremely pleased to say **Bard in the Garden** will soon be back. **Garry Davey** will once again be putting us through our paces, leading to three staged readings at the Commons of Shakespeare's much-loved comedy, **Love's Labour's Lost**. Performances will be on Friday and Saturday July 5 and 6 at 6pm, and Sunday, July 7 at 2pm. (As always, 50% of net profits will be donated to People for a Healthy Community. **Auditions** will be held at the Rollo Centre on Tuesday, **May 28** from 7pm to 9pm.

And finally, Gabriola Players was honoured to learn that we had been selected by the Gabriola Arts Council to receive the 2019 ARTY Award in recognition of our contribution to the arts on our beloved island. Last Saturday, founding member Jean Wyenberg accepted the award on our behalf. For more information about the nominations, see page 5.

Members of the Gabriola Players board, after accepting the 2019 ARTY Award. From left to right: Donna Deacon, Joe DiCara, Brenda Joy, honorary member Jenn Feenan (she did introduce Gabriola to pantos, after all), Charlie Cheffins, Jean Wyenberg, Tom Radcliffe, Miranda Holmes and Marshall Mangan. Photo: Bill Pope.



One-Act Play Festival 2019

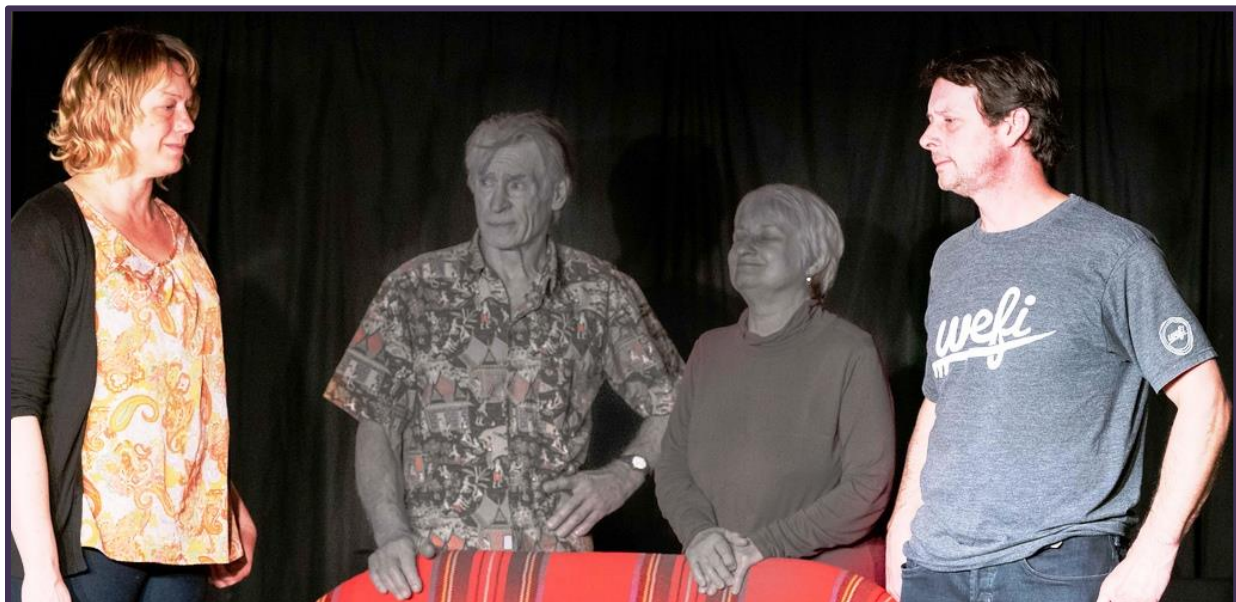
The 2019 One-Act Play Festival was a huge success, with many audience members telling us it was the best show ever.



The cast of *Whisking Eggs*, from left to right: Wendy Phillips, Miranda Holmes, Adrienne Muscat and Tamara Gorski. Photo: Marshall Mangan.

There were four performances of *Whisking Eggs*, an outrageous comedy by British playwright **Jackie Lines**. Director **Jean Wyenberg**, who discovered this little gem, says: "Seeing Jackie Lines' funny and charming characters brought to life by these marvellous actors was an absolute delight. How do we get to be so lucky on our little island? Being 'mad as a box of frogs' doesn't hurt! I'm so glad audiences enjoyed the craziness of *Whisking Eggs* as much as we enjoyed bringing it to you."

Three of the four shows included *My Narrator*, a whimsical comedy written by **Norm Foster** and performed by members of **Galiano Players**.



The cast of *My Narrator*, from left to right: Robin Paterson, Dave Parent, Christina Stechishin and Pat Van Holderbrooke. Photo: Bill Pope

The play was directed by **Sonia Baker**, a longtime Gabriola resident and member of Gabriola Players before her move to Galiano several years ago.

This was the second year of show swaps between the two islands. As Sonia explains: "Last year I wanted to direct a play in the spring. I chose a one-act and asked if Gabriola Players would like to come over to join us and perform their own one-act play. It turned out to be very successful evening, creating new theatre connections between our two islands.

"This year we were thrilled to be invited to join Gabriola's one-act festival. It was so lovely to be back! I hope that next year Gabriola Players will come to us again – and perhaps Pender and Mayne islands for a Gulf Islands one-act festive experience."

Now, wouldn't that be great?

Sadly, our Galiano friends were unable to stay for the entire weekend, so the Sunday matinee performance of *Whisking Eggs* was paired with an encore performance of Lesley Hazeldine's delightful comedy about Gulf Island life, ***Living in Paradise***.

The play, directed by **Jenn Feenan**, was first performed at last year's festival, before Jenn, Lesley and Charlie Cheffins took it to Galiano.



Meanwhile, backstage...



During the performances of *Whisking Eggs* last month there was almost as much going on offstage as on.

Driving that action was creative genius **Dar Yuile**, who provided costumes for the four actors.

Whether it was the mad attire of Lady Cartington-Smythe or the transformative outfits of Linda the librarian and Marjorie the vicar's wife, Dar's costumes really were the fifth star of the play.

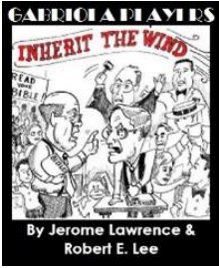
If you've marvelled at the costumes in our recent pantos, you've also been admiring Dar's work.

We are so fortunate to have such a talent on our team.

Fun fact about the three directors involved in this year's one-act festival: Sonia Baker's last appearance on stage with Gabriola Players was with Jean Wyenberg in the 2011 panto *The Pied Piper and the Tail of the Rat King*, directed by Jenn Feenan.



ARTY Award



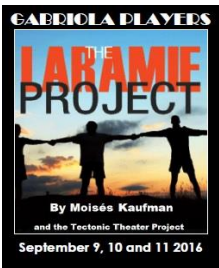
In early April we were thrilled to receive a message from the Gabriola Arts Council informing us that we were to be the recipients of the 2019 Arty Award. We had been nominated by two individuals and GAC shared some of their comments:

*"Since 2004, Gabriola Players has worked hard to present to the community thought-provoking, topical, comical, and historical plays, from **The Vagina Monologues** to **Inherit the Wind**, and even Shakespeare. Critical praise has been given for the risks they've taken by staging readings of **The Laramie Project**, a play about tolerance and gender equality, and **Forget About Tomorrow**, about the scourge of Alzheimer's disease, written by B.C. writer Jill Daum. Many of the productions have featured Canadian playwrights, and in the last few years, Gabriola writers have been creating entertaining and evocative new plays, including Miranda Holmes' one act play, **An Unhelpful Complication**, which was a finalist in Theatre BC's National Playwriting Competition, and last year's delightful pantomime **Pirates of Nursery Rhyme Island** by Lesley Hazeldine.*

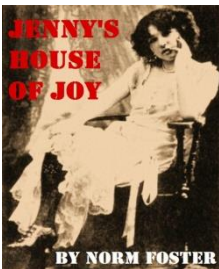


By Eve Ensler
ROLLO CENTRE
September 19 at 7pm
September 20 at 2pm & 7pm

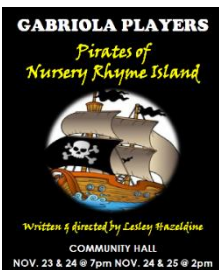
"Members of the group have contributed their art to painting sets and designing lights and soundscapes, glorious costumes for historical dramas and western farces, and members continue to strive to improve their efforts by studying with professional actors, directors, and technicians.



*"Always cognizant of their role in contributing to the community, the group has created the **Don Whiffon Memorial Bursary** which has been awarded several times to a Gabriola student pursuing a career in the performing arts, and the group has mandated that 50 percent of the proceeds from *The Summer Shakespeare Project* be donated to People for a Healthy Community. Recently general auditions were held and more than 25 people turned out, including many people who are new to Gabriola and eager to join in the creativity. Gabriola Players has been an integral and important contributor to the vibrancy of life on our island."*



Wow! Thank you very much. The other individual who nominated us said:



*"The variety of shows they present is clearly designed to appeal to a wide audience, from hard-hitting, emotional shows like **The Laramie Project** and **The Vagina Monologues**; to rollicking entertainment like **Living in Paradise** and the pantos; to classics from the likes of Norm Foster, Alan Bennett and Will Shakespeare himself.*

"Entirely volunteer run by a dedicated group of actors and a hardworking tech and backstage crew, and deeply supported by the community, Gabriola Players deserve the Arty Award in recognition of all they bring to the stage, and everything they offer to Gabriola Island theatre lovers."

As You Like It



Since the 2004 production of *The Vagina Monologues* which launched Gabriola Players, we have striven to both entertain audiences and to make them think. It means a great deal to us to have our efforts recognised by the Arts Council and the community.


THANK YOU!

Out in the community



On February 28, members of Gabriola Players performed the radio play *Our Miss Brooks Friday the 13th* at the senior's luncheon at the Rollo Centre. The play was well received and the cast did a fabulous job. The performers were: **Steve O'Neill, Victoria Szabo, Tom Radcliffe, Susan Yates, Ed Deeks, BJ Godson, Steve Compton and Joe DiCara**. By the way, Susan Yates, who played Miss Brooks, once taught at Brooks Elementary. How's that for casting?

Still to come in 2019



OLD LOVE
By Norm Foster

Directed by Donna Deacon
ROLLO CENTRE
Thursday-Saturday May 23-25
at 7pm
Sunday May 26 at 2pm

BARD IN THE GARDEN



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
**LOVE'S
LABOUR'S
LOST**

Bring a blanket or chair and a picnic to
THE COMMONS
Friday & Saturday JULY 5 & 6 at 6pm,
Sunday JULY 7 at 2pm