

GABRIOLA PLAYERS



Summer 2019 newsletter

Director's message

Another great season has come to an end, launched last September with Jill Daum's poignant and deeply personal play [Forget About Tomorrow](#). In November we staged the world premiere of Lesley Hazeldine's delightful pantomime [Pirates of Nursery Rhyme Island](#). Our [One-Act Play Festival](#) in March once again proved a hit with audiences, featuring Jackie Lines' farcical *Whisking Eggs* and performances of Norm Foster's *My Narrator* by our special guests, Galiano Players.

Foster's work was back on stage in May with our sold out run of his charming comedy *Old Love*. (See page 3 for more.)

Earlier this month the season ended with *Love's Labour's Lost*. We managed to get the Bard in the Garden at the Commons for a chilly opening night, before rain drove us indoors. Happily our audience followed us to the Rollo to enjoy this Shakespeare comedy. (See page 4.) Once again we'd like to offer a **huge** thank you to Garry Davey for his inspiring guidance, turning a ragtag band of actors into a Shakespearean troupe. We loved every minute of it – and so did the audience!

For us one of the major highlights of our 2018/19 season was the number of new actors who've joined the family. In January we held our first open auditions and the turnout was amazing. Half the actors in *Whisking Eggs* and *Old Love* were brand new to Gabriola audiences. And we'll be doing it again next January.

Our 2019/2020 season will launch on Sunday, September 1st with **Special Delivery**, a performance at this year's Cultivate Festival. To find out more – and perhaps get involved! – see page 6.

Some August dates for your diary:

Auditions will be held for this year's panto, **Ali Baba** by Robin Bailes, will be held at the Rollo on Sunday, **August 18** from 2pm to 4pm.

August 31 is the deadline to receive applications for the **Don Whitton Memorial Bursary** and for Gabriola playwrights to submit work for consideration in our coming season.

As always we would like to express our gratitude to **Robert's Place**, our season sponsor, and to the many island businesses who advertise in our programs. We really couldn't do what we do without their support. Thank you!

Another thank you to Bill Pope for our cover photo and most of the newsletter images. You are a star, sir.



Cast of *Love's Labour's Lost*. Back row, left to right: Jeff Malmgren, Laurence Lee, Donna Deacon, Jenny Newton, Lawrence Spiro, Marshall Mangan, Linda Holmes, Peter Dzierzawa and Dave Innell. Front row: Tom Radcliffe, Tessa Spero, Michelle Young, Hillary Farmer, Ed Deeks, Susan Yates, Miranda Holmes, Garry Davey and Peter Jones.

Old Love



The cast of *Old Love*. Photo © Bill Pope. To see more of Bill's production photos, click [here](#).

In her programme notes, Donna Deacon, director of *Old Love* made a confession: she is in love with Canadian playwright Norm Foster. As Donna explains, Foster's plays are incredibly popular "because he cares about people, his dialogue is funny, warm, wise and deeply compassionate and his characters are true to their hearts."

This is certainly true of *Old Love*, in which divorced Bud (Tom Radcliffe) is having a hard time convincing recently-widowed Molly (Lesley Hazeldine) of this. Bud's been infatuated with Molly since the first time he met her decades earlier – when he was still married to Kitty (Margaret Litt) and she was married to his boss Arthur (Dave Innell). While Molly's son, Arthur Jr (Ray Appel) thinks she's entitled to some happiness, daughter-in-law Kendra (Janina Stajic) thinks "old love" is disgusting. Happily, as those who attended our sold out performances in May know, love triumphs.

We'd like to thank Ray for producing our first ever "trailer". If you missed it, click [here](#).

Ray was one of three new (to Gabriola Players) actors who appeared in *Old Love*, along with Tom and Janina. They formed a fantastic ensemble with three more familiar faces – Lesley, Margaret and Dave. The play turned out to be Margaret's final performance with Gabriola Players. She and husband Walter have now moved off island and on to pastures new. Although we will miss her a lot, we wish them all the very, very best in the future.



Eagle-eyed audience members may have recognised another familiar "face" in *Old Love*. This was the third appearance for the Loveseat, pictured left in its debut in *The Housekeeper* at the 2012 theatre festival and, right, in another Norm Foster play, *Jenny's House of Joy* in 2015. According to Loveseat, it was very excited to be to be back on stage in *Old Love*. Or so owner Miranda Holmes says.



Love's Labour's Lost

To paraphrase Robbie Burns and quote Shakespeare, the best laid schemes o' kings an' friends gang aff a-gley – especially when “this whimpered, whining, purblind, wayward boy, Dan Cupid” gets in the way.

In one of Shakespeare's earliest comedies, Ferdinand, King of Navarre, and his lords, Biron, Dumain and Longaville have vowed to devote three years to scholarly pursuits, forsaking earthly comforts and pleasures – particularly the company of women.

There's just one problem, as Biron, the least enthusiastic votary, delights in pointing out. (Rumour has it that Shakespeare wrote the role of the witty and rather verbose Biron for himself. Easy to believe.)



The Princess of France is due to visit with her ladies, Rosaline, Maria and Katherine, and her lords, Boyet and Mercade.

Obviously the women cannot be banished – or their visit ignored. The monastic life will have to be postponed.

Or, as it turns out, abandoned after each nobleman falls under the spell of one of the noblewomen.



Adding to the confusion – and merriment – a page, a comely wench, a tharborough (look it up), a rather lazy and extremely crafty commoner, a Spanish coxcomb, the local parson and schoolmaster and another page.

We'd like to thank everyone who bundled up for the unseasonably cold opening night at the Commons and followed us into the Rollo on Saturday and Sunday after the heavens opened.

Not only were you wonderful audiences (which indeed you were), but you also helped us raise more than \$800 for People for a Healthy Community, who will be using the money to fund the food bank.

Seeking Gabriola Playwrights!

Since our tenth anniversary season – which featured three new plays by Gabriola playwrights in our One-Act Play Festival – we have sought to include one new play written by a Gabriolan in every season.

Over the summer Gabriola Players will be considering material for our 2019/2020 season, so, if you've written a play, we'd like to hear from you!

We are happy to consider full length or one-act plays. One-acts should be no more than one hour long and no shorter than 20 minutes.

Not sure your play is ready to be staged, but you could really benefit from hearing it read by actors? That's fine. If we possibly can we'd love to help you out with an assessment reading. Plays need to be heard.

If you have written a play you would like to have considered for a future production – or simply a reading – please send an electronic copy of the script to gabriolaplayers@gmail.com.



Scripts should be received by Gabriola Players on or before August 31st.

One-act fun facts

One of the plays in our tenth anniversary season – *Lemon Yellow Laces* by first-time playwright Dennis Johnston – won the award for Best Original Script at the 2015 Vancouver Island One-Act Play Festival. And *An Unhelpful Complication*, which premiered at our 2017 One-Act Play Festival, was a finalist in the 2018 Canadian National Playwriting Competition.

Theatre Arts Bursary



Gabriola Players is currently accepting applications for the **DON WHITTON MEMORIAL BURSARY**.

Don Whitton was a member and guiding spirit of Gabriola Players from its inception until his death in 2010. In his memory, Gabriola Players offers an annual bursary to a Gabriolan who is registered to study some aspect of Theatre Arts at a Canadian university, college or recognized training centre

The Bursary is awarded to a Gabriolan student who is registered to study some aspect of Theatre Arts at a Canadian 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, set design, costumes or make-up.

Gabriola Players is pleased to announce that in 2019 there are **TWO** bursaries available of \$1000 each.

For information about the application process, go to gabriolaplayers.ca/bursary.

Applications must be received by Gabriola Players no later than 31 August 2019.

2019/2020 Season

September

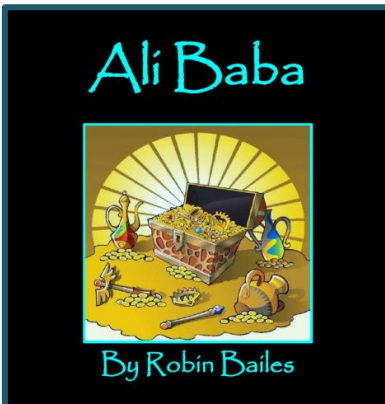


Gabriola Players will be taking part in this year's Cultivate Festival. **Special Delivery** will prove – in case there was any doubt – that it's not just **what** you say that matters, but **how** you say it.

Interested in taking part? See box below.

Join us for a fun hour at the Goat Barn on Sunday, September 1st at 1pm.

November



They're back! The playwriting and directing duo of **Robin Bailes** and **Miranda Holmes**, who brought you *Will Shakespeare The Panto*, *Robin Hood* and *The Return of Robin Hood*.

In **Ali Baba** you can expect the same combination of mirth and mayhem.

Auditions: Sunday, August 18, 2-4pm at the Rollo Centre

Performances: Friday, Saturday & Sunday, November 29 & 30 and December 1 at the Community Hall.

March



Although the programme for our ever-popular **One-Act Play Festival** has yet to be finalised, we very much hope at least one of the plays will once again be a new play authored by a Gabriolan writer. (See page 5 for details about submitting scripts.)

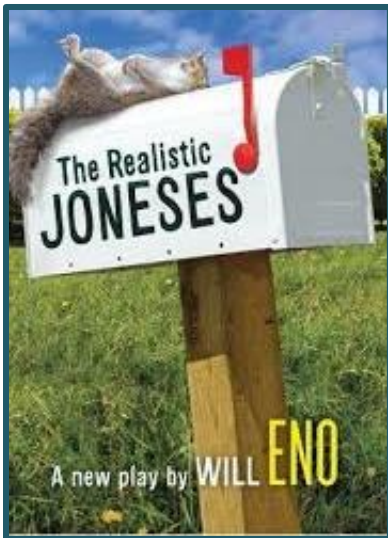
Auditions: Sunday, January 5 from 2-4pm at the Rollo Centre

Performances: Thursday-Saturday, March 12-14 at 7pm and Sunday, March 15 at 2pm at the Rollo Centre.

SPECIAL DELIVERY at Cultivate

Calling all actors who would like to take part in *Special Delivery*, the Gabriola Players production at this year's Cultivate Festival. One short scene will be performed, delivered three different ways, demonstrating the many meanings the written word can have. We are looking for up to six actors – men and women of all ages. There will be a short scene to memorise and six rehearsals in late August, (Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7pm to 9pm at the Rollo) prior to our performance in the Goat Barn on Sunday, September 1 from 1pm to 2pm. At the show we will be calling out to our audience for their input for our final scene rendition. Can we rise to the challenge and do it their way? (Of course we can!) It will be fun, challenging and a terrific way to promote our theatrical group. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Lesley Hazeldine at lhazeldine@hotmail.com or by phone 250-797-5535. Look forward to hearing from you!

May



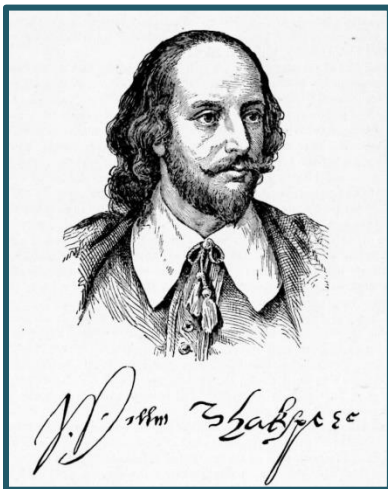
Will Eno's absurdist suburban play introduces us to two sets of Joneses: Bob and Jennifer and their new neighbours, John and Pony. As their relationships begin to irrevocably intertwine, the Joneses must choose between their idyllic fantasies and their imperfect realities.

According to the *New York Times*: "Plays as funny and moving, as wonderful and weird as *The Realistic Joneses*, by Will Eno, do not appear often on Broadway. Or ever, really." - *The New York Times*

Auditions: Sunday, February 23 and March 1 from 4 to 6pm at the Rollo Centre

Performances: Thursday-Saturday, May 21-23 at 7pm and Sunday, May 24 at 2pm at the Rollo.

July



As we go to press, Garry Davey is still recovering from *Love's Labour's Lost*, but we are assured **Bard in the Garden** will return next year.

You'll just have to wait a little while to find out which of Shakespeare's comedies will be tackled.

Why not make 2020 the year you get involved?

Auditions: Tuesday, June 2, 7-9pm at the Rollo Centre

Performances: Friday & Saturday, July 10 & 11 at 6pm and Sunday, July 12 at 2pm at the Commons.

DID YOU KNOW?

Gabriola Players is a registered charity (83520 3753 RR0001).
We are happy to provide tax receipts for donations of \$25 or more.
(Sorry, we can't provide tax receipts for membership fees.)

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? You can check by sending an email to gabriolaplayers@gmail.com.