

# GABRIOLA PLAYERS



**Winter 2019 Newsletter**

# Director's message

A big thank you to everyone who came out to help make **Ali Baba** such a success. After opening night one gentleman in the audience approached director Miranda Holmes and told her he'd been going to the theatre for decades and could honestly say one particular scene was the funniest thing he'd ever seen in his life. In case you missed the show – or just want to laugh at the scene again – click [here](#) to see it.

Our thanks also to Bill Pope for his production photos, some of which you can see on the following pages. To see more, click [here](#).

There were more than 20 cast members involved in *Ali Baba* and at least twice as many people involved behind the scenes, each and every one of them playing an important role in the production. They're having a well-deserved rest now, hopefully after giving themselves a big pat on the back. Bravo, one and all!

We won't be resting for long. Mark your calendars, because on January 5 we will be holding **open auditions** for actors interested in taking part in our 2020 productions. (See page 5 for more details.) Soon afterwards we will be starting rehearsals for our One-Act Play Festival (a second round of auditions for which will be held on January 9), to be performed in March. To find out which one-acts we'll be doing and what else is coming in our 2019/2020 season, see page 6.

As always, a big shout out to **Robert's Place**, which has once again taken on the role of our season sponsor (what a treat it was to have Robert himself involved in *Ali Baba*!) and to all the [local businesses](#) who support us by taking ads in our programs. We couldn't do what we do without them. Please let them know you appreciate their support of community theatre.

And finally, we'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours all the very best for the holiday season and the coming year. See you in 2020!



The cast of *Ali Baba*, back row, left to right: Lawrence Spero, Jeff Malmgren, Jenn Feenan, Steve Compton, Joe DiCara, Marshall Mangan, Ray Appel, Adrienne Muscat, Jasmine Ginn, Dave Hallam, Mitch Levine, Ed Deeks (really), Steve Elder, Judith Plant, Robert Stutzman. Front row, left to right: Jean Wyenberg, Tom Radcliffe, Hilary Farmer, Wendy Philips, Donna Deacon, BJ Godson and Paul O'Sullivan,



# Panto 2019



This year's panto was the fourth written by Robin Bailes and directed by Miranda Holmes, a collaboration which began with Gabriola Players staging the world premiere of *Will Shakespeare The Panto* in 2014.

In a letter sent before opening night, Robin Bailes said: "When I started writing I could never have guessed that an island I had never heard of would adopt me as their pantomime writer of choice. I could never have guessed that I might, in some small way, affect the lives of people on the other side of the planet. But it works both ways. I've never been to Gabriola Island, but I feel part of your community now, and I can't tell you how much it means to me that you've enjoyed the shows enough to keep on doing them. I guess we're on the same wavelength." Judging by the audience reaction to *Ali Baba*, he's right!



Open sausages! Mr Pink (Paul O'Sullivan), Mr Happy (BJ Godson), Miss Scarlett (Jean Wyenberg) and Mr Blue (Tom Radcliffe).



"Take off those glasses!" Donna Deacon as Mustapha

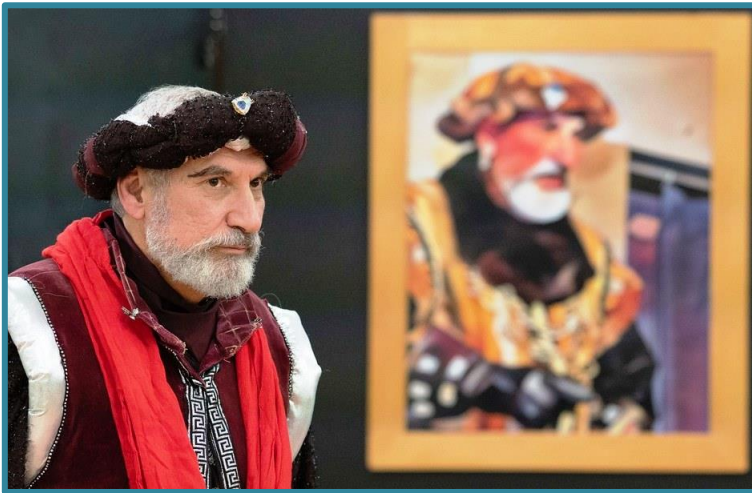


Princess Jelli Behbi (Jasmine Ginn) and her father, the Sultan (Marshall Mangan)



In the bag. Adrienne Muscat as Margiana.





Born to be bad. Joe DiCara proved himself once again to be the best panto villain ever!



Special guest appearance by a dead parrot.



The legs that stole the show: Ray "Elvis" Appel as Ali Baba, with Wendy Phillips as Fatima, Donna Deacon and monster sax player Ed Deeks. Photo: Lesley Appel



Robbed by the Desert Wolf and down to their royal undercrackers – the King of England (Lawrence Spero), Emperor of France (Jenn Feenan), Czar of Russia (Jeff Malmgren) and Caliph of Kabul (Steve Compton)



Nobody expected the Spanish Inquisition. (Or did they?) Thanks to Steve Elder, Mitch Levine and Dave Hallam for their return. And how wonderful to have season sponsor Robert Stutzman in the show!

# Open auditions

Last January Gabriola Players held its first ever open auditions. The attendance was awesome. The result was a fair number of new faces in all our 2019 productions, including Adrienne Muscat, Tamara Gorski, Ed Deeks, Tom Radcliffe, Ray Appel, Janina Stajic and Jeff Malmgren.

The experiment was such a success that we're doing it again.

We invite you to get involved in a theatrical production as part of your 2020 vision. Why not come to the open auditions being held at the Rollo on Sunday, January 5 and show us what you've got? This is your chance to bring some comedy, drama, farce and perhaps a bit of Shakespeare into your life.

Don't miss out! All ages and genders very welcome!



## Thank you!

Our thanks to **Brenda Joy** for organising our play assessment reading at the Roxy on October 28. *Life On Mars*, one of the plays read, will be part of our One-Act Play Festival in March. There will be another assessment reading next spring. If you have a play you'd like us to consider for the next reading, please send an email to [gabriolaplayers@gmail.com](mailto:gabriolaplayers@gmail.com).



Our thanks also to **Tom Radcliffe** for the **Introduction to Theatrical Improvisation** workshop he ran for Gabriola Players members on December 8.

Everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. There was a general consensus that this introduction had whetted the appetites of the participants, all of whom said they'd like to do more.

Now we just need to figure out when that might be.

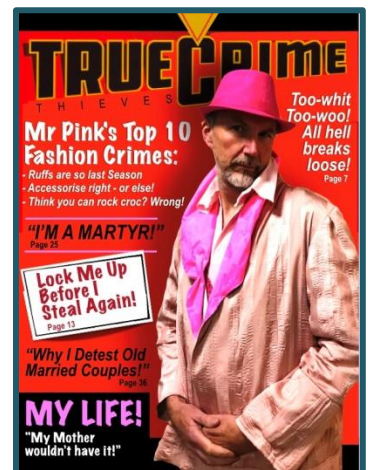
Our newest board member, the multitalented **Ray Appel**, who played Ali Baba, created a series of spoof magazine covers which we posted on Facebook to help promote the panto.

Not surprisingly his creations earned a lot of Likes.

In case you missed the covers, we've loaded them all on our website.

Click [here](#) to see them for the first time – or to enjoy them all again.

Thanks, Ray!





# Coming in 2020

## March



Our always-popular one-act play festival will feature three works:

***Life on Mars***, written by Elliott Hayes and directed by Donna Deacon,

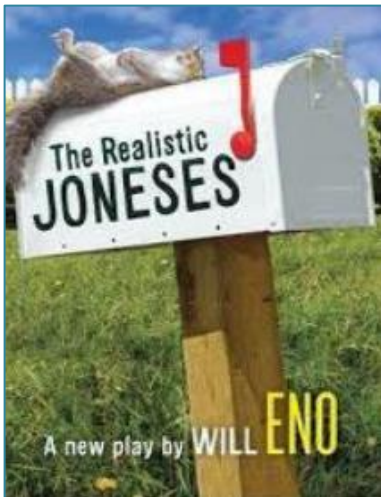
***Mimi and Me***, written by Kitty Dubin and directed by Jean Wyenberg, and

***The Way to a Man's Heart***, written by David Weir and directed by Jenn Feenan.

**Auditions:** January 5 from 2 to 4pm and January 9 from 7 to 9pm at the Rollo Centre

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

## 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.

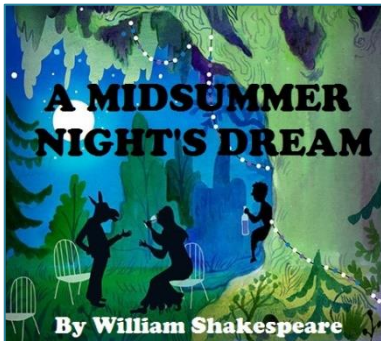
According to the *New York Times*: "Plays as funny and moving, as wonderful and weird as **The Realistic Joneses**, by Will Eno, do not appear often on Broadway. Or ever, really."

Directed by Miranda Holmes.

**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 Centre.

## July



Back by popular demand. Audiences wanted an encore of our first Bard in the Garden, so we've asked Garry Davey to bring back one of William Shakespeare's most beloved comedies.

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.

## 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).