

GABRIOLA PLAYERS



Spring 2020 Newsletter

Director's message

Rather like the Spanish Inquisition, nobody expected the Spanish influenza (or its 21st century equivalent) when we were planning our 2019/20 season.

As opening night for this year's **One-Act Play Festival** approached we were closely monitoring the Ministry of Health advisories which guided our decision to proceed with the first two performances – offering refunds to anyone who'd purchased tickets in advance but decided they'd prefer to stay home in the face of increasing fears.

In response to rapidly growing concerns about the need to observe "social distancing" and with a very heavy heart, we decided to cancel the final two performances.

Kudos to the three directors, six actors and the dedicated crew who worked so hard to put together such a wonderful production.

We would like to thank everyone who came out and enjoyed the first two sold-out shows. We are also **extremely** grateful to the many, many people with tickets for Saturday and Sunday who have so kindly offered the cost of their tickets as donations to help us keep afloat in these troubling times.

It will come as no surprise to learn that we have also taken the decision to cancel plans for our performance of Will Eno's **The Realistic Joneses** in May. This is au revoir, rather than goodbye. The play will be mounted instead in May 2021.

These are tough, worrying and uncertain times for our community and for the wider world. The responsible measures we are all taking to isolate ourselves and protect the vulnerable will inevitably have far reaching consequences for local businesses, including those whose support of Gabriola Players and other arts events on the island make what we do possible. Let's all support those businesses as much as we can in the coming weeks and months.

Stay safe.

We'll see you when all the world is once again a stage.



One-Act Play Festival 2020

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved this year's (sadly curtailed) One-Act Play Festival. The show was a huge hit with audiences at the Thursday and Friday evening performances. If you weren't one of those lucky people, here's what you missed.



Scott Rivers (right) made his debut with Gabriola Players this month, appearing with Joe DiCara in *Life on Mars*, written by Canadian playwright Elliott Hayes and directed by Donna Deacon. The two played short order cooks who relax with a beer and contemplate the universe while watching the lunar eclipse at the back of the diner after their shift. Frank and Mike ponder some of life's big questions. Such as: "Where would you go if you left here?" Or: "Are we alone...or are there other beings way out there?" And: "Is Steven Spielberg a Communist?" No one knows where Frank went when he left.



When a perky young volunteer turns up in 90-year-old Mimi's room at the care home and asks her what she would like to do that day, Mimi's response is unequivocal: "Die." Not the best start. There is a huge difference in their ages and their backgrounds. Tindy (Nadine Mourao) grew up in a strict Catholic family. As for Mimi (Catherine Andersen), well, let's just say she'd led a very interesting life. Still, despite their differences, over the course of an afternoon the two women find common ground and form a bond. *Mimi and Me* by Kitty Dubin was directed by Jean Wyenberg, who knew as soon as she read the script who the perfect Tindy and Mimi would be. Luckily they agreed – much to the delight of Thursday and Friday night's audiences. Brava!



In *The Way to a Man's Heart*, written by David Weir and directed by Jenn Feenan. Andrew (Charlie Cheffins) has a problem. Shortly before their acrimonious breakup, Andrew gave Ellie (Lesley Hazeldine) a lottery ticket. It won. He thinks the winnings should be split evenly. She disagrees. So he's surprised when she invites him to come to the home they once shared to discuss the matter over dinner. Little does he suspect that it's going to be the most expensive meal he's ever had in his life.

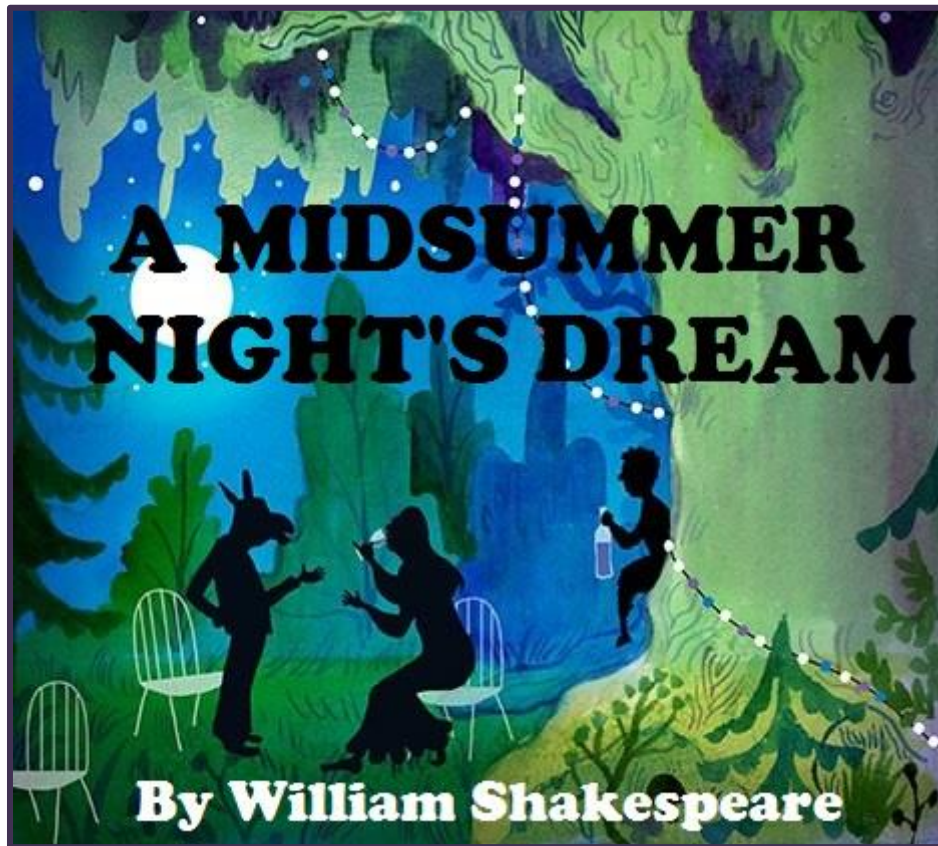
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Still to come in 2020?



We may have postponed *The Realistic Joneses* until next year, but we haven't yet given up on the possibility of offering up *A Midsummer Night's Dream* some evening this summer. The July performance dates are clearly up in the air, so stay in touch.

If we're really lucky – this year or next – audiences might be treated to encore performances by Lawrence Spero and Dave Innell as Pyramus and Thisbe. Lord, what fools these mortals be!

