

GABRIOLA PLAYERS

ALL THE WEB'S A STAGE

DON'T
PAN(DEM)IC!

Summer 2020 newsletter

Director's message

The first thing you need to know is that next month live theatre will be back on Gabriola! Okay, there won't actually be a theatre, but on September 17, 18 and 19 at 7pm there will be live performances of two new pandemic-themed pieces written by local playwrights **TJ Radcliffe** and **Ray Appel**. That's right. Nothing pre-recorded. *All and Nothing* and *Syd's Cosmic Slump* will be performed absolutely live! For more information, see page 3.

The second thing we want to do is offer some thanks.

Our first thank you is to board member and techno wiz **Ray Appel**, who made it possible for us to offer you a chance during lock down to enjoy a second viewing of some of the one-act plays by other Gabriolan playwrights which we've performed in past seasons. And to share happy memories of other performances. In case you missed these, see page 4 for your chance to watch them now.

We'd also like to thank [Tamara Gorski](#) for donating the profits from her online Green Room screening to Gabriola Players. Her generosity allowed us to make a donation in support of People for a Healthy Community's food programs.

We'd like to thank our members for their past (and future) support. We will be waiving renewals until 2021. And we'd like to thank season sponsor Robert's Place and all the other island businesses who've helped us do what we do. It's our turn to offer them as much support as we can and we hope you will, too.

And finally, some sad pantomime news.

Since **Jenn Feenan** first introduced this great British seasonal entertainment to island audiences in 2007, the Gabriola Players panto has been a firm fixture in the calendar – the official launch of the holiday season, loved by children of all ages.

The decision to not attempt to mount a pantomime this year was taken with a very heavy heart. It was also, sadly, inevitable. We very much hope to be back with an even better show for you in 2021.

In the meantime, if you really need a bit of panto in your life, we've added *Snow Flake and the Five Gnomes*, a short rhyming pantomime (which was part of our 2013 show Short Pants & Tall Tales) to YouTube. Click [here](#) to enjoy.



Live theatre next month!

Theatres may be closed around the globe, but that isn't going to stop us performing. To paraphrase *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*, Don't Pan(dem)ic!

If rumour is to be believed (and let's say it is), William Shakespeare put his time to good use when London – and all its theatres – went into lock down in 1606 due to an outbreak of the plague. It is rumoured that during this period he wrote *King Lear* and possibly (depending on which rumour you believe) *Macbeth* and *Antony and Cleopatra* to boot.



At least two Gabriolans – **Ray Appel** and **Tom Radcliffe** – have also been inspired to write plays in lock down. (Click [here](#) to find out what they have to say for themselves – and their plays.)

On September 17, 18 and 19 and 7pm we will be performing these plays live on Zoom. Tickets (or perhaps more accurately “the right to view in the comfort of your own home”) are \$10 and can soon be purchased on our [website](#).

In Tom's short play, *All and Nothing*, Alan and Emma, a couple who moved from Toronto to the gulf islands last year (and are weathering the pandemic with sailing and walks in the woods), catch up with friends from the city. Daisy, a healthcare worker, is currently in quarantine in a hotel, whilst Chris has watched his plans to open a massage therapy practice go up in socially distanced smoke.

In Ray's one-act play, *Syd's Cosmic Slump*, comedian Syd has been offered a great opportunity – the chance to perform a stand-up routine as part of a nationally televised variety show. Problem is, Syd can't think of anything funny to say, what with a pandemic raging and his father Max isolated in his care home. Chilled Uncle Larry advises going with the flow, but the flow's dried up.

DON'T PAN(DEM)IC!

**When: Thursday, Friday & Saturday,
September 17, 18 & 19 at 7pm**

Where: Your livingroom, bedroom or kitchen

Dress code: Casual (pyjamas fine)

Beverage options: Whatever's in your fridge

Gabriola Players on YouTube

Thanks to the genius of board member Ray Appel, Gabriola Players now has its own YouTube [channel](#).

As you may know, for some weeks now we've been doing a sort of Throwback Thursday to showcase past productions.


These are all available on YouTube, including filmed performances of a number of our original one-act plays.

- [Lemon Yellow Laces](#) by Dennis Johnstone, performed in 2015 and winner of the Best Original Script Award at the 2015 Qualicum One-Act Play competition.
- [The Family Visit](#) by Lesley Hazeldine, performed in 2016.
- [An Unhelpful Complication](#) by Anne M. Holmes, performed by Gabriola Players in 2017 and a finalist in the 2018 Canadian National Playwriting Competition.
- [Living in Paradise](#), also by Lesley Hazeldine, performed on Gabriola and Galiano Islands in 2018.

In addition, Ray has compiled some wonderful slide shows from photos by Bill Pope commemorating a number of past productions, such as *Inherit the Wind* and *Will Shakespeare the Panto* in 2014, *Jenny's House of Joy* in 2015, *What Glorious Times They Had* in 2016, and *Psychopathia Sexualis* in 2018.

Check them out and enjoy the memories.

More to come!

<p>THE FAMILY VISIT BY LESLEY HAZELDINE DIRECTED BY JENN FEENAN</p>	<p>AN UNHELPFUL COMPLICATION</p>  <p>By Anne M. Holmes Directed by Dave Innell</p> <p>Cast CHARLIE CHEFFINS Sir Ambrose Carrick MIRANDA HOLMES Maggie MacArthur</p> <p>Time: Summer 1992 Place: A council flat in Peckham, south London</p>	<p>LEMON YELLOW LACES</p> <p>Written and directed by Dennis Johnstone Adapted from a story by Sharon McInnes</p> <p>CAST Joyce Ashley BJ Godson Dave Innell Nick Squire</p>
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As we were saying...

... before we were so rudely interrupted.

It is impossible to even guess at the moment when live performances in theatres will once again be possible. Is the spring of 2021 simply wildly wishful thinking? Perhaps, but we **are** thinking. And what we're thinking is this.

Audience members who saw one of the first two performances of our One-Act Play Festival in March were very enthusiastic about the three plays. Those who had tickets for the final two, pandemic-cancelled performances were very disappointed indeed.

So, with fingers crossed and everything very much on the back burner for now, we are **hoping** that next spring we **might** be able to bring the show back.

We'll keep you posted.



No renewal reminders for now

Are you a member of Gabriola Players who is wondering when your membership is up for renewal? The answer is: Not until 2021. The Board has agreed to waive all membership fees during these uncertain times.

If you feel you are able to support us by renewing your membership this year, you can do so on our website, gabriolaplayers.ca. Otherwise, we'll be in touch next year.

Thanks to our sponsors



It's been a challenging few months for businesses on the island – whether they were completely closed during the lock down or they've been struggling to keep their employees and customers safe whilst offering essential services. We genuinely could not do what we do without local businesses like Robert's Place (our season sponsor for several years now) and the others who've taken season ads in our programs. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank them all again for their past support and offer them ours as we all continue to adjust to pandemic times.

The collage features the following logos and text:

- Nesters Market** (Nesters Market logo)
- Robert's Place** (Robert's Place logo with tagline: Crafting • Good • Food, breakfast • lunch • dinner)
- Surf Lodge and Pub** (surf lodge logo)
- The Haven** (the haven logo)
- Robert's Place SEASON SPONSOR** (text in a blue box)
- North Road Sports** (North Road Sports logo)
- Arbutus Home Building Centre** (ah logo)
- Gabriola Fitness Centre** (GC logo)
- Mid Island Co-op** (CO-OP logo)
- New Society Publishers** (New Society Publishers logo)
- Gabriola Arts Council** (gabriola arts council logo)
- Page's Resort and Marina** (PAGE'S RESORT GROUP logo)
- Coastal Community Credit Union** (COASTAL COMMUNITY logo)
- ...and YOU!** (text with a mask icon)
- We couldn't do what we do without you!** (text)
- GABRIOLA PLAYERS** (text)