

# GABRIOLA PLAYERS



Spring 2022 newsletter

## A note from the directors

Four of our board members may have appeared in live productions at Cultivate last summer, but for most of us it had been two years since we'd last set foot on a stage when we appeared at the Gabriola Arts Council fundraiser in March. It was a brief appearance, but, man, it felt good. And it was a great way to express our gratitude to GAC for everything it's done to keep the performing arts going last year.

We're looking forward to getting back on stage next month for our first live show – the 2022 One-Act Play Festival – since the pandemic shut us down halfway through the 2020 festival.

There are three delightful plays on offer: **Miracle at Elder Cedar** by Wendy Phillips, **Working from Hideout** by Jack Karp and an expanded version of **A Divine Comedy** by Anne M. Holmes. (More info about the plays on the following page.) The 2022 Festival will be performed at the Rollo Centre on June 9, 10 and 11 at 7pm and June 12 at 2pm. Tickets are \$20 and are now available online [here](#).

Mandates may have been lifted, but Covid is still very much a concern, as we were reminded to our cost when one cast member, unaware that he had been infected, came to a rehearsal and infected three others. Since then all actors have been masked during rehearsals and will continue to be until opening night. To safeguard all cast, crew and audience members, seating will be limited for the four performances and **all audience members will be required to show proof of vaccination and wear masks whilst inside the building.**

We're sorry to say that a decision has been taken not to proceed with **Bard in the Garden** at the Commons in July. The performances may be outdoors, but most rehearsals would not be. Even with masks on, we feel large cast rehearsals indoors is simply too risky. Also, as past participants know, one of the joys of doing Shakespeare with Garry Davey is text exploration and the one-on-one work he does with cast members, which he feels would not be possible under the present circumstances. We very much hope *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will come true next year.

After that? Well, who knows? We still haven't given up on a pantomime this year: **Cinderella** by Gabriola's favourite wacky panto writer Robin Bailes. The Community Hall is booked for performances the first weekend in December. Hopefully by early September, when auditions should be held, the situation will seem more propitious. Fingers crossed.

A big thank you to season sponsor **Tina & Guy** of Royal Lepage and to the **Gabriola Arts Council** and **Scott's Painting Services** for the advertising revenue they've provided this season and to all of you who've supported us during these troubled times by watching our online shows or making a donation.

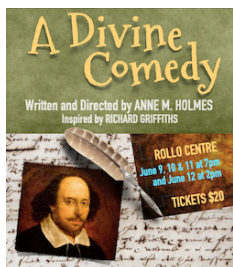
Looking forward to seeing you at the Rollo next month!



Members of Gabriola Players performing at the Gabriola Arts Council Carry On fundraiser in March.

# One-Act Play Festival 2022

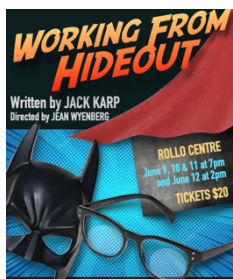
It's been more than two years since the pandemic shut Gabriola Players down halfway through the 2020 One-Act Play Festival, but next month we will finally be back *live*. After four online shows, we are raring to play together on a stage again.



After last spring's online "first read through" of **A Divine Comedy**, everyone agreed it was a shame we hadn't been able to do the play live. Playwright Anne M. Holmes went back to the keyboard to create an expanded version of the play, which is now as much about the actors playing the roles as it is about the "play within the play". Expect a great deal of backbiting humour from this group of theatricals before and after the read through. Says Holmes, who is once again directing: "You can't beat live theatre. From the very first rehearsal, watching this wonderful group of actors interacting with one another on stage has been an absolute joy."



**Miracle at Elder Cedar** is the second play written for Gabriola Players by Governor General award winning author Wendy Phillips. As she describes it: "The word makeover takes on a whole new meaning when Ginny moves in to help her sister recover from surgery. Gwyneth is an online science sensation who works from her Gulf Island studio, and she knows exactly how to fix her underachieving younger sister, whether or not Ginny wants to be fixed. Can Ginny live down her past mistakes? And who is that mysterious woman in the woods? This is a play about sibling rivalry, self-discovery and everyday miracles." The play, directed by BJ Godson, features Wendy as Ginny, Helen Shilladay as Gwyneth and Jenn Feenan as that mysterious woman.



When New York playwright Jack Karp submitted his charming, funny short play, **Working from Hideout** to us for consideration, we loved the concept. As director Jean Wyenberg explains: "We all now know what it is like to work from home, isolate, live by a different set of rules. We've been doing it for the past two years. But what if you are a superhero? And you have been told you have to do your job from home? Well, that wasn't in the job description and some superheroes adapt to the new reality better than others." The play features Scott Rivers and Ray Appel.

## Safety first

We take the safety of cast, crew and audience members very seriously indeed. For that reason actors are rehearsing with masks on and will continue to do so until opening night.



**And for that reason there will be limited seating at each performance. All audience members will be required to show proof of vaccination and to wear masks whilst indoors.**

There will be four performances of the 2022 One-Act Play Festival: Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 9, 10 and 11 at 7pm, and Sunday, June 12 at 2pm. Tickets are \$20 and are now available online [here](#).

## Let there be light!



Gabriola Players has long wanted to reduce its environmental footprint by replacing its existing stage lights with LED lighting. Doing so would decrease the amount of energy required to light a show by 90%. In fact, in February 2020, with some money in the bank and a full season planned, we went ahead with an order. Then came Covid, lockdowns and uncertain financial prospects which forced us to cancel the order.

Early this year we found out that the BC Arts Council was accepting submissions for grants to cover 75% of the cost of infrastructure purchases. We applied and were successful.

Board member **Scott Rivers** quickly went into action and set up a fundraiser on the Canada Helps website which, within five days, raised the outstanding 25% of the purchase price. Our thanks to the BC Arts Council, Scott and the generous people who contributed to his fundraiser.

We can't wait to use our new LED lights for next month's One-Act Play Festival!

## Get involved!

If you think it might be fun to get involved in a Gabriola Players production, you'd be right. Stage fright? No worries, there are *many* backstage roles to fill – particularly with the panto when offstage volunteers usually outnumber the large cast by at least three to one.



That's when wardrobe wizards help make magic like this.



And set painters transport us to Sherwood Forest and beyond.

Good project management skills? You're a natural producer. Dab hand with a needle, a paint brush or make-up? We'd like to hear from you. We're always on the lookout for people willing to do set changes, prompt, find props or work front of house on tickets or concessions.

We're a friendly, welcoming group and we'd love to get you involved. To find out more about volunteer opportunities, send an email to [gabriolaplayers@gmail.com](mailto:gabriolaplayers@gmail.com).

## Become a member

And, if you're not already a member of Gabriola Players, please consider becoming one. Annual membership fees (\$15 for individuals, \$25 for families) are a great help in covering overhead costs such as insurance and storage. Members receive a discount on all workshops we offer and are the first to hear about auditions and other opportunities to get involved.

You can join online at [gabriolaplayers.ca](http://gabriolaplayers.ca) or e-transfer to [gabriolaplayers@gmail.com](mailto:gabriolaplayers@gmail.com) or by sending a cheque to Gabriola Players, Box PO Box 374, Gabriola, BC V0R 1X0.