

GABRIOLA PLAYERS



Summer 2022 newsletter

A note from the directors

Thanks to everyone who came out for our first live on stage performance since Covid shut us down halfway through our 2020 One-Act Play Festival.

The 2022 One-Act Play Festival had something for everyone. And, as you can see from just some of the comments we received (below), audiences loved it. A special shout out to the **Gabriola Weavers and Spinners** for the "forest" in *Miracle at Elder Cedar*. As always, our thanks to Bill Pope for the photos on the next page. To see more, click [here](#).

If you were unable to attend one of the performances and would like to **see the show online**, it will soon be available to view for \$15. Check our website: gabriolaplayers.ca.

Our members again featured prominently at Cultivate this year. **Joe DiCara** gave us a very funny and deeply moving portrayal as the cantankerous Ken in *Grow Up Grandad*, which also featured excellent performances by Joelle Baird and Chloe Sauer. Then Scott Rivers and Ray Appel popped up as eccentric cigarette salesmen in the middle of *Sandpiper Serenade*. (More on page 4.)

We are currently accepting applications for the **Don Whifton Memoria Bursary** of \$1000, which was established to support a Gabriola student enrolled in post-secondary education in some aspect of theatre arts. More information about the bursary and how to apply can be found on page 5.

We are very pleased indeed to say we will be holding **auditions** for two productions in the coming weeks. In September we will be performing two staged readings of Will Eno's delightful play **The Realistic Jones**. Auditions will be held at the Rollo Centre on August 14. Then, on September 6 and 8, we will be holding auditions for this year's panto, **Cinderella** by Robin Bailes. (Yes, we are determined there will be a panto this year!) For more information about the auditions and the safety protocols involved, see page 6.

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Rollo Centre on Sunday, September 18 at 1pm.. All members are welcome to attend. New memberships can be purchased at the door. (\$15 for individual membership/\$25 for family membership.)

And finally, a big thank you to our season sponsors **Tina & Guy** and to the **Gabriola Arts Council** for their ongoing support.



One-Act Play Festival 2022

Despite limited capacity for safety reasons, we had very appreciative audiences for all four performances of this year's One-Act Play Festival. And it was a pleasure to once again showcase works by local playwrights.

Miracle at Elder Cedar, written by Wendy Philipps and directed by BJ Godson, went down a treat with its themes of sibling rivalry and self-discovery, not to mention its dusting of forest magic.



Jenn Feenan, Wendy Phillipps and Helen Shilladay taking well deserved bows.

The live performance of ***A Divine Comedy***, written and directed by Anne M. Holmes, which was part of our virtual one-act play festival in 2021, also proved a hit. One audience member commented that this "top notch" play "deserves a much wider audience" and it seems this might happen. A professional theatre company on the east coast is considering performing it next year.



The cast of *A Divine Comedy*: Catherine Andersen, Neil Shillady, Tom Radcliffe, Donna Deacon,

Kerry Woodrow, Joe DiCara and Dave Innell, with "the director and the playwright".

And then, of course, there was ***Working from Hideout***. The play by New Yorker Jack Karp was written to be performed on Zoom. We received his permission for director Jean Wyenberg to adapt it for a live performance, then she changed her mind, deciding it really was better as a short film. Kudos to our cover boys, Scott Rivers and Ray Appel, for their side-splittingly funny performances as Bruce Wayne and Clark Kent. And there was a lovely response from Karp when he viewed the film: "It looks great. You did a terrific job. Thanks so much for sharing and thank everyone involved."

The show was filmed and has now been edited. Everyone who purchased a ticket will be sent the link. If you weren't able to come to a performance and would like to view the festival online, you can do so for \$15 by going to our website, gabriolaplayers.ca.



Whilst still in rehearsals and about to perform in *A Divine Comedy*, Joe DiCara began rehearsals for **Grow Up Grandad**, Gordon Steel's touching and funny play. Directed by Frank Moher, this show was considered by many to be the highlight of the theatrical productions at Cultivate 2022.

The play was certainly a stretch for Joe, previously best known on Gabriola as one of the truly great pantomime villains. He definitely rose to the challenge.

Here's what he had to say after the performances: "What a tremendous experience it was to be part of the most excellent cast of *Grow Up Grandad*. I was delighted to work with two tremendous fellow actors Joelle Baird and Chloe Sauer, who brought such playful enthusiasm and authentic emotions to their various characters.

"It was wonderful to hear how many folks enjoyed and were moved by the magical power of theatre. So much terrific feedback including a friend who remarked on how 'the range from humour to irascibility to poignancy' of Grandad Ken came through. Another even remarked they'd like to see it again if they could. What more could one want to hear!"

Good news for the person who wished they could see the play again – and for everyone who missed it at Cultivate. There will be encore performances of *Grow Up Grandad* at the Phoenix Theatre on August 27 and 28. Tickets now available at growupgrandad.eventbrite.com.



Joe wasn't the only board member to put in an appearance at Cultivate this year.

No sooner had Scott Rivers and Ray Appel packed away their superhero personas from *Working from Hideout* than they were rehearsing as two of the over the top actors promoting cigarettes during the "commercial break" in the middle of Bill Miner's new play, **Radio Werx presents Sandpiper Serenade**.

We can't wait to see what our members do next year!

Don Whitton Memorial Bursary

Gabriola Players is once again inviting applications for the Don Whitton Memorial Bursary from island residents who are pursuing post-secondary education in some aspect of theatre arts. The field of study does not have to focus on acting, directing or playwriting, but could be set design, lighting, sound, costumes – anything theatre-related.

Don was a member of Gabriola Players from the beginning. He appeared in numerous productions before he passed away in 2010, and was the guiding spirit behind our improvisation workshops. The bursary, established the year after his death, is our way of honouring this fine man.

Despite reduced pandemic revenues – and thanks to the generosity of the Whitton family and others – we are again able to offer a \$1000 bursary. (If there is more than one successful applicant, the bursary will be divided equally.)



Luisa Handford receiving her first bursary cheque from Sue Whitton.

Luisa Handford, who was twice awarded the bursary during her theatre studies at Capilano University, has said, “The funds were a huge help, as was the support Gabriola Players has offered me in pursuing my dream.” (To find out more about Luisa’s studies, read our Autumn 2021 [newsletter](#).)

If you know any Gabriola student who fits the criteria, please make them aware of the bursary.

More information about the bursary and how to apply can be found at gabriolaplayers.ca/bursary.

Applications must be received no later than August 31.

**If there is a successful applicant, a cheque will be presented at our
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
at the Rollo Centre on
Sunday, September 18 at noon.
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME**

Auditions!

The Realistic Joneses

AUDITIONS

Calling all good actors with bad memories!

Gabriola Players will be presenting a staged reading of a brilliant play called **The Realistic Joneses** by Will Eno on Sept 16 and 17.
(Staged reading means script in hand with a minimal set and a bit of moving around)

We are looking for:

2 men and 2 women
One couple upper middle age (we are not really specific) and the other couple younger.

Auditions will be held at the **ROLLO CENTRE**
Sunday, August 14th from 2-4pm

Everyone is welcome!

Please note that everyone attending will need to wear a mask when not performing.

Any questions please contact Jean Wyenberg jeanwye@shaw.ca

Our 2022/23 season will kick off in September with staged readings of Will Eno's delightful play [The Realistic Joneses](#). We will be holding auditions for the four roles on Sunday, **August 14** at the Rollo Centre from 2pm to 4pm. For more information about the play, the characters or the performance, contact director Jean Wyenberg.

Cinderella!

Unless the pandemic gods are exceedingly cruel, we are determined there will be a panto this year: **Cinderella** by Gabriola's favourite panto writer Robin Bailes, once again directed (and adapted specifically for Gabriola) by Miranda Holmes.

Auditions for *Cinderella* will be held at the Rollo Centre on **September 6 and 8** from 7pm to 9pm.

Keep an eye on our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page next month for details about the roles to be cast.



SAFETY FIRST!

Much as we might wish the pandemic was in the rear view mirror, it is not, so we have adopted a number of safety protocols to protect cast, crew and audiences for our productions. Chief amongst these is a requirement that **all cast and crew members must wear N95 masks for all rehearsals** and that audience members must also be masked during performances.