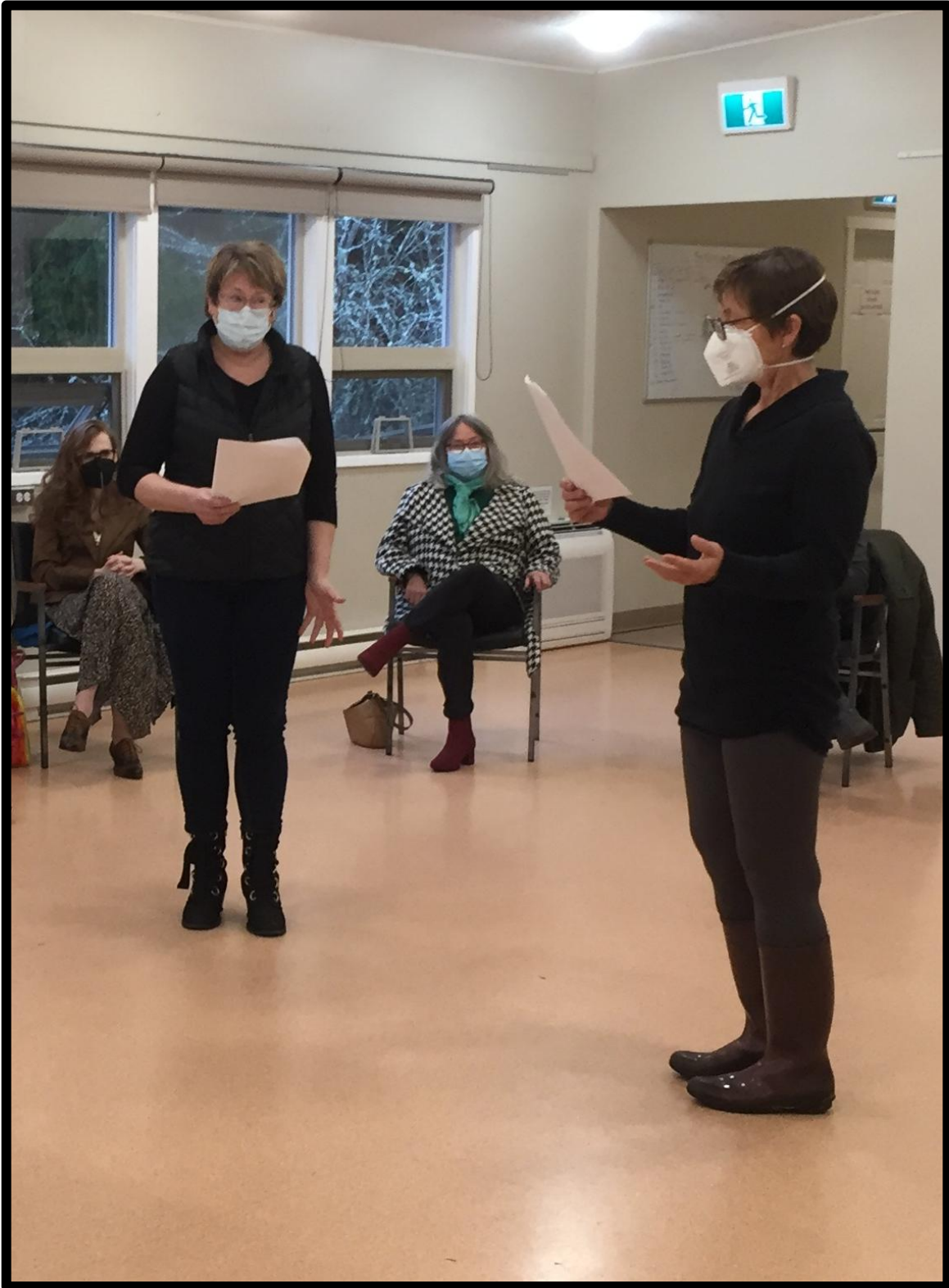


GABRIOLA PLAYERS



Spring 2023 newsletter

A note from the directors

Our thanks to everyone who came out to our open auditions in January. It was great to see some new faces. By the time the two hours were up, our full production and all three of the one-act plays in this year's festival had been cast.

Another thank you, this one to **Garry Davey** for the *Playing with Shakespeare* workshop he ran for us in January and February. Everyone came away with a greatly enhanced appreciation of the Bard's writing and, as one participant said, "It was a delight and a privilege to work with such a great group of people!" Plus, there was a surprise outcome. (See page 4 to find out what.)

Opening night for our spring production is coming up soon: **2 Across** by Jerry Mayer, described by the *New York Times* as "a lovely battle of the sexes throwback." Director **Jean Wyenberg**, who fell in love with the play when she first read it, is confident audiences will also love "the often hilarious interplay between these two characters". More details about the play and how to buy tickets on the following page.

The line-up has been finalised for the always popular **One-Act Play Festival** at the end of June. Once again it will include new works by Gabriola writers. (More information on page 5.)

We are once again accepting applications for the [Don Whitton Memorial Bursary](#). Please help us spread the word to any student who is pursuing theatre arts studies. (More details on page 6.)

And, as always, a shout out to season sponsor **Tina & Guy** of Royal LePage and all the other island [businesses and organisations](#) which are supporting us this season.

You can support us, too, if you are not already a member of Gabriola Players. Regular or sustaining memberships help a lot towards the overhead costs that ticket sales simply do not cover. To find out how to become a member, see page 6.



Wendy Phillips and Tammy Pfeiffer audition for the roles they will play in *Honour Among Thieves* by Elliott Hayes.

2 Across (10,10)



Ray Appel and Judy Evaski rehearsing 2 Across. Photo: Bill Pope.

Answer: Absolutely delightful.

He'd already had an impressive career in television, writing for many popular series, including *M*A*S*H*, *The Bob Newhart Show*, *All in the Family* and *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, before **Jerry Mayer** discovered his true love: writing for the theatre.

In **2 Across** Mayer introduces us to Janet and Josh, two strangers who board a San Francisco BART train at 4:30am. They're alone in the car. Both are married. Both are doing the *New York Times* crossword puzzle. She is an organised, sensible psychologist. He is a free-spirited, unemployed ad exec. She's a crossword pro. He always quits. When he tosses his puzzle away, she snaps, "Crosswords are a metaphor for life. Those who finish, succeed, those who don't, fail." Now he vows to finish. After all, he's a natural competitor and she happens to be very attractive.

Thus begins what reviewers have described as their "witty", "romantic", "poignant" and "wonderfully entertaining" ride. By the time their journey ends it's obvious each of them has been changed for the better.

The actors have been thoroughly enjoying rehearsals. According to **Ray Appel**: "One of the most enjoyable aspects of playing Josh is the challenge of bringing depth to a character who is both funny and insecure. Understanding Josh's personality, motivations, and insecurities has allowed me to try to create a nuanced portrayal of him who has some very odd notions about relationships."

Judy Evaski, who is making her first appearance with Gabriola Players, says of her character: "Janet relies on structure to keep her personal life afloat. Her impatience with people who she thinks don't try hard enough is challenged by Josh, who gradually wins her over not just by sharing his vulnerability, but also with the power of laughter."

Tickets now available.

Rollo Centre

March 30 to April 1 at 7pm, April 2 at 2pm.

Tickets \$20 available online at gabriolaplayers.ca

Please note that for the safety of all, audience members will be required to wear masks.

Shakespeare workshop



Our thanks to Garry Davey, who for eight weeks this winter shared his love of the Bard during his "Playing with Shakespeare" workshop.

As one participant put it: "Garry's passion for and depth of knowledge about Shakespeare, acting, voice, and teaching all of the above was both impressive and very effective. His ability to critique in a completely positive and encouraging way kept us relaxed, open to and trusting of the others, so that we were performing more and more like a real troupe with every passing week."

Another commented: "Garry's absolute love of Shakespeare is both inspiring and infectious. Thank you for sharing!"

And another: "After studying and teaching Shakespeare as literature for years, I found this workshop gave me a whole new appreciation for Shakespeare as a performing art. Garry created a trust in the group that gave us courage to push our boundaries. I'm going to miss our weekly sessions, and the terrific people in them."

And: "Garry's guidance and positive encouragement allowed us to challenge ourselves and truly appreciate Shakespeare's magic."

But wait, there might be more!

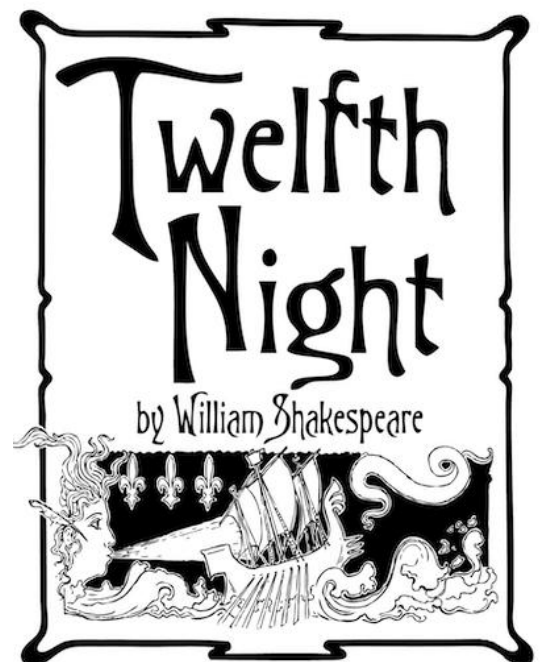
The play Garry chose for participants to read each week was a personal favourite, *Twelfth Night*.

It was a reminder to those workshop members who'd been involved in the Gabriola Players staged reading (directed by Garry in 2016) just how entertaining this play is. So much so that many people thought we should do it again.

Garry, in theory, agrees.

Assuming we can find 13 people who are prepared to spend time rehearsing in August and early September, we hope to launch our 2023/24 season with a staged reading of this wonderfully funny play.

If you are interested in taking part, send an email to gabriolaplayers@gmail.com and we will make sure you know when auditions will be held.



Coming in June



Honour Among Thieves*

Written by Elliott Hayes and directed by Donna Deacon

Honour Among Thieves is a taut one-act play that begins with two women stranded on a dirt road and ends with a surprise. This play redefines what a monster truly is with engaging dialogue and dark humour. A deceptively low key comedy thriller.

Ruby Red Lipstick

Written and directed by Anne M. Holmes

In this short play Violet, a widow for many years, has just one wish left: to get her dead husband to admit he was wrong.

The Trouble with Trees

Written and directed by Dave Innell

Susan and Tom may have an opportunity of a lifetime. Will they get what they want in the end or will the trees get in the way?

Rollo Centre

Thursday to Saturday, June 22 to 24 at 7pm

Sunday, June 25 at 2pm

* Produced by special arrangement with PLAYWRIGHTS GUILD of CANADA

Don Whitton Memorial Bursary



BURSARY FOR THEATRE STUDENTS

Gabriola Players is once again offering a **\$1000 bursary** to an island student pursuing post-secondary education or training in the field of theatre arts and crafts.

For more information about the Don Whitton Memorial Bursary and how to apply, go to gabriolaplayers.ca/bursary

Applications must be received before August 31.

GABRIOLA PLAYERS

If you know a student who is heading off to study some aspect of theatre arts in the autumn, please make sure they know about this bursary set up in honour of **Don Whitton**, one of the founding members of Gabriola Players. If there is more than one successful applicant, the bursary amount will be divided equally.

Are you a member of Gabriola Players?

You don't have to be a member in order to enjoy our productions, but we'd sure be happy if you considered becoming one. Membership fees help a lot towards the overhead costs that ticket sales simply do not cover.

The cost of an annual membership is still \$15 for an individual or \$25 for a family (two adults and two children). To purchase or renew a membership, click [here](#).

We have recently added a **Sustainer** category for people who feel they are able to contribute more. Your monthly donation of \$5 or \$10 (or more) will include a free membership and provide you with a tax receipt. To set up a monthly donation – which would help us in many ways, including improving storage facilities for our costumes and sets – please click [here](#).

Another new thing: The board of Gabriola Players has taken the decision to switch all ticket sales, memberships and other donations from PayPal to the registered charity **Canada Helps**. We still pay a small fee on every transaction, but the [fees](#) paid to Canada Helps fund the work the organisation does to support charities across the country.