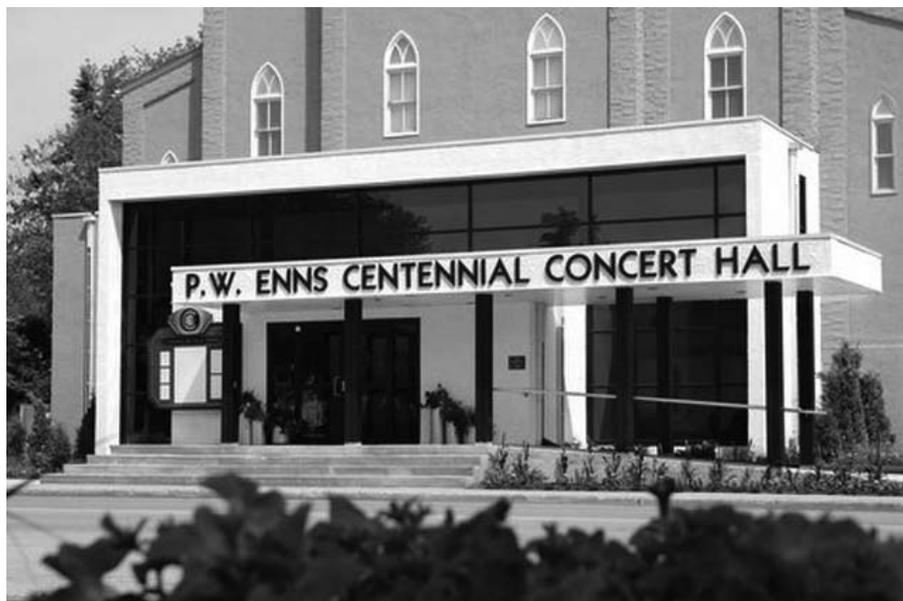


# Curtain Up!

ACT NEWSLETTER  
Spring 2011

## Flatlands Theatre Company Hosts 2011 ACT Fest in Winkler



Flatlands Theatre Company (FTC) is looking forward to hosting the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual ACT Provincial Drama Festival, May 13 - 15, 2011 at the PW Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler. FTC members have been working hard with local communities and businesses to bring a memorable wonderful weekend. Many of you have been to several of the past festivals that have been great and we only hope we can match your high expectations.

Right now we have eight ACT groups registered and almost a hundred people registered to attend. Just like these ACT groups we understand that many of you like ourselves are also working hard at rehearsals, costume and other details getting the performance ready. We are looking forward to seeing what you are bringing.

Like past festivals we have three adjudicators to assist the festival throughout the weekend by non-competitive adjudication and offer you the opportunity to workshop your plays. They are James Forsythe, Phillip Duncan and Scott Plett. All three of these men are professionals working in Manitoba to increase awareness and increase the quality of theatre in different geographical locations through-out the province. Please check out our website and the festival program for more details and biographies for these guys.

There are also some great activities planned for the evenings that we think will finish each day off very well. Thanks to everyone who has already registered. We still have room for more of you to come so please continue to send us your registration. Again if

there are any questions related to the weekend please do not hesitate to email [darren.klassen@gmail.com](mailto:darren.klassen@gmail.com) or call me (204) 770-6060. Look forward to meeting all of you.

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TOP LEFT: Exterior view of P.W. Enns Theatre, Winkler; ; TOP RIGHT: Interior view of stage



## President's Message

In another month I hope to see many of you at ACTFest in Winkler for a celebration of the best community theatre that we can showcase in Manitoba. Every year I am impressed with the calibre of productions that we enjoy at ACTFest. We can all learn so much from the performances and adjudications.

This year we are holding a General Meeting on Sunday to take a vote on the increase of our annual membership fee. Currently your \$100 fee includes third party liability insurance of \$1,000,000 for your group. The Board thinks that this coverage should be increased to \$2,000,000 in order to keep our groups adequately covered in this time of rising prices. The membership fee was last raised in 2004. The Board will speak to you on this subject and looks for feedback on other matters.

Uptake on our Scholarship Fund has been disappointing or at least slow. The Theatre Development Fund, on the other hand, is popular with our groups. It would appear that being able to learn in your own environment is more popular than taking that scarce commodity of time to go absent for education. Do we continue with our Scholarship Fund or do we divert some money to cover more groups with the Theatre Development Fund? An overview of both funds can be found on our website [www.actmanitoba.mb.ca](http://www.actmanitoba.mb.ca) under Theatre Education.

What is the hardest thing that community theatre groups deal with each year? From my own group's point of view we find choosing a play to be very challenging. Often I check our area reps' reports in the newsletter to see what other groups are performing throughout the Province. A selected play needs to tick so many different criteria. We dearly love doing theatre but if our performances don't put people in the seats we cannot afford the production financially. We have to please our audience or they will not "come back for another helping". Our group consists of a certain age group and gender which puts many plays out of the running. In the end we have to choose a play that we want to do. We want to push ourselves a little more each time and above all enjoy ourselves. What do other groups struggle with in the process of production?

Come join us at Winkler! See if you can be inspired to find a new play or learn new techniques. We have at least one "Made in Manitoba" play that I know of. I really hope that we have some groups performing plays from the Manitoba Association of Playwrights who very graciously allowed groups free performing rights for ACTFest. You are guaranteed to enjoy yourself and learn at least one new thing. For the main part you will go home inspired.

*Life is better with a little drama in it.* - Scott Nilsson

Hazel Lamont, P R E S I D E N T

## CANDLEWICK PLAYERS HOSTS STAGE PHYSICALITY WORKSHOP

Close to 30 actors and dancers from Manitou to Winkler took part in a superb workshop opportunity with a renown and accomplished artist and mime, Daniel Julien of Quebec, Saturday (Feb. 11) in Morden. On a Western Canadian tour, Daniel was able to provide a 4-hour workshop for local actors, dancers, and instructors. With an extensive resume in the arts and training with such famous artists such as Marcel Marceau, and Cirque du Soleil, Daniel provided a thorough and often humorous workshop on the base aspects of Mime and Stage Physicality. We look forward to future opportunities with Daniel. The Workshop was made possible by the Act Manitoba Theatre Development Fund.



**SOUTHWEST**

Mecca Productions from Brandon will be presenting *the Wiz* from April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. The beautiful play *Steel Magnolias* will hit the stage June 2, 3, 4 and 5. For more information, please check their website.

7 Ages, also from Brandon, will be performing *The Buddy Holly Story* from April 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. Rumors are that they will also be performing at ACT Fest 2011 in Winkler with the play *Shirley Valentine*.

Tumbleweed Productions of Virden will also be attending ACT Fest 2011. They will present a touching story by Jean Lenox Toddie called *A Little Something for the Ducks*. They are also booked into Gimli summer theatre festival for the August long weekend with a 2008 thriller/comedy titled *Flemming*.

Spotlight on Shilo will also be in attendance at ACT Fest but a performance was not confirmed.

The Outcasts have rooms booked at Winkler and hopefully this means they are returning to ACT Fest with a performance.

Phoenix Players of Virden have written a play titled *The Emperors New Art* and will be presenting it at ACT Fest.

I am very proud to have so many groups from this area attending and/or performing at the annual ACT Fest. Good luck to all and don't forget to have fun!!!

Until next time...

Cathy Tough, ACT SW REP.

**SOUTHEAST**

**Candlewick**

Spring is a busy season with Candlewick Xplor Drama. Students from Manitou and Morden are busy preparing for a number of drama productions for presentation. Manitou's Sr. Xplor Drama students are excited to present *The Pink Panther Strikes Back* at the Manitou Opera House, April 8 & 9 while the Jr. Xplor Drama students to present *The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf*, the following weekend along with the Manitou DanceWorks Recital. Morden Xplor Drama students are subsequently preparing for *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood* and *The Three Crazy Ladies in the House on the Corner* for presentation later in May.

Meanwhile Candlewick Players are preparing for an Easter Presentation of *BookMark* with presentations in Morden and Crystal City during the week leading into Easter. Candlewick Director, Richard J. Klassen, is also busy working with the Steinbach Bible College drama troupe, New Creation, with their spring presentation of *Ben Hur* being presented at the college on April 29 as well as for a tour in southern Ontario during the first 2 weeks of May.

For more information on these productions, check out [www.candlewick.ca](http://www.candlewick.ca). For a listing of the spring recitals with DanceWorks Studio (the Dance side of Candlewick) check out [www.dwstudio.ca](http://www.dwstudio.ca). The studio is pleased to announce their new performance troupe, "Dynamix", which consists of young actor/dancers who present a mixed performance of magic, drama, and dance at various events and locations.

**Flatlands**

This is a pretty busy spring for Flatlands theatre company. We're just putting the finishing touches on our student production of *The Vanishing Goose*. There are 47 students taking part this year. This makes the production a lot of

work. But it is rewarding that so many parents see the value of having their children involved in theatre. Rehearsals are also underway for *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* which we are presenting at the end of April. It's a two person show we plan on bringing to the Winnipeg Fringe Festival as well. And of course we're very excited to be hosting ACT Fest this year. Preparations are moving along and we look forward to seeing you all in Winkler May 13-15th.

**This Issue's Quote of the Day**

*Make them laugh, make them cry, and hack to laughter. What do people go to the theatre for? An emotional exercise. I am a servant of the people. I have never forgotten that.*

Mary Pickford



**NORTH WEST**

**Valley Stage Players**

The Valley Stage Players of Swan River recently entertained two groups of curlers at two big curling events in Swan River. The Players provided about a half hour of after dinner comedy in the form of two skits which were very well received. This type of production served to keep us in closer contact with each other and also served to keep our performing juices flowing between long acting layoffs. As an added bonus, a couple of us were able to test our creative juices by adapting and writing the chosen scripts.

In the next months the VSP will be choosing a play to perform for next fall's major production. Again we will be partnering with the Community foundation to help in their fund raising efforts.

**Theatre Amisk** sponsored the MTC Production, "Wingfield on Ice," at the Watson Arts Centre on Monday, March 7, 2011. The production was very well received by the sold out audience.

Theatre Amisk continues to work with the Dauphin and district Allied Arts Council with the repair and refurbishment of the Watson Arts Centre, which is designated as an Heritage Building. We have assisted with projects in areas such as the old fire hall, auditorium balcony, stage stairwell and new sound system, and are now working on a stage refurbishment project.

Our next production is the Gershwin musical, "Crazy for You", on April 13-16, 2011, which is directed by Yvonne Lillie and produced by John Towle. A cast of 35 actors, singers and dancers and the production crew of approximately 60 are working towards a successful event. Dauphin audiences traditionally support musicals enthusiastically, and tickets are already selling quickly.

**WINNIPEG**

**NewStage Manitoba;**

**R - G PRODUCTIONS**

1. We are about to start rehearsals for *Choosing Home* for the Winnipeg Fringe July 13-24 (yes, we're in, off the waiting list at last!) and at Gimli Summer Festival, weekend of Aug 19-21.

2. We will shortly audition for the first two of three new 30-minute educational plays we have been commissioned to write and perform under the Vulnerable Peoples Act, for Community Living Manitoba. The first of 6 performances of each play will open in mid-June at specially invited sessions and extend into the fall, followed by videotaping for widespread use in DVD format. The plays are titled *Have You Ever Tried Listening?* and *Flying Like Estelle*. The third is still in the writing process and is as yet untitled.

3. Preparation is now gaining speed for a long-range project: we will be producing *The Railway Children* (based on the E Nesbit 1904 novel) at The Gas Station Theatre in Winnipeg. There will be 10 performances from December 28, 2010 to January 4, 2011, with a cast of 21, 11 of which are speaking roles.

For more information: Ron Blicq at [rgroupprod@gmail.com](mailto:rgroupprod@gmail.com).

**Merlyn Productions**

Merlyn Productions is a live theatre production company in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

We present a full season of stage plays at the Ellice Theatre and other local venues each year, and are also offering acting classes for adults this Spring.

**Company History & Mission**

Merlyn Productions is the successor to C.G. Productions, which staged plays under Co-Artistic Directors John Chase and Christopher Gray from 1997 until 1999.

When Mr Gray departed Winnipeg to pursue other avenues in Ottawa, "Merlyn Productions" was born. Under Artistic

Director John Chase, the company remains committed to its mission of staging "quality theatrical entertainment at an affordable ticket price".

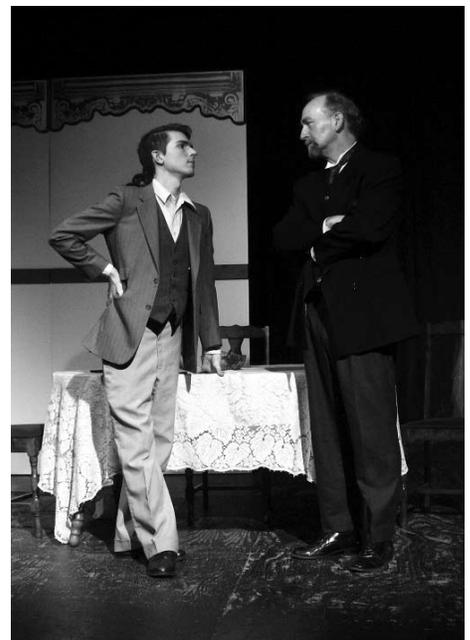
Headlining this issue is our first-ever production at Aqua Books (274 Garry Street), as we re-mount *The Boy Comes Home*, and other works by A. A. Milne in the first annual **Thaw Festival**, March 15 to 19, 2011.

These are just a few of the comments our patrons wrote for the 2010 Season run:

"A most enjoyable evening out ... good story, great cast!";

"I really enjoyed the show ... The play was dark fun.";

"A side to Milne I never realized but am glad to have encountered."



**Lunalibre Theatre**

Lunalibre Theatre is pleased to join ACT. We will be producing a play called *Tea in the Afternoon* for ACTFEST 2011.

**Eesha Peeshka**

EeshkaPeeshka is currently taking a break from performing and is instead concentrating on further development of their directing and stage management skills.

RIGHT: Merlyn Productions, *The Boy Comes Home*

# Gimli Summer Theatre

## 2011 PLAY INFORMATION

### Gimli Theatre Association, Gimli

May 20 - 22

*The Way of All Fish*

by Elaine May

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SYNOPSIS: A power struggle of physical and psychological proportions erupts between a high-flying wealthy New York businesswoman and her ambitious secretary.

*Check Please*

by Jonathon Rand

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SYNOPSIS: A series of blind dates at a restaurant shows us why fix ups are not always in our best interest. I mean really, what could possibly go wrong?

*This is a Play*

by Daniel MacIvor

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SYNOPSIS: Creative processes trip over the sweat, bad wigs and method acting in an "important" new work...about lettuce. This comedy offers insights on what actors might be thinking about while performing.

### NUNA (NOW)

Saturday May 21 - 2pm

*Sargent and Victor*

by Deb Patterson

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SYNOPSIS: Sargent and Victor is a verbatim theatre piece that explores the changing fortunes of this little corner of Winnipeg. Written entirely from interviews with people from the area, you'll see a side of the city you may never have known existed.

### Shoestring Players, Winnipeg

June 24 - 26

*Mary & Martha*

by Veralyn Warkentin

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SYNOPSIS: Set in Winnipeg in the 1950s, the play portrays life in a home for young Mennonite girls and explores a theme of "change" for the home, the girls and their caregivers.

### Tumbleweed Productions, Virden

July 29 - 31

*Flemming. An American Thriller*

by Sam Bobrick.

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SYNOPSIS: A city stock broker gives up his employment to become a private detective. As the case he's working on gets more involved he becomes more ragged and disheveled in his appearance. A bad lot are after him...!

### 7 Ages Productions, Brandon

August 12 - 14

*Shirley Valentine*

by Willy Russell

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SYNOPSIS: A hilarious award winning one-woman play about a Liverpool housewife re-evaluating her life after her children leave home. It begins in her kitchen and ends on a beach in Greece.

### R-G Productions & Merlyn Productions, Winnipeg

August 19 - 21

*Choosing Home*

by Ron Blicq, presented by R-G Productions

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SYNOPSIS: A true story of Wartime England dating around 1945. originally written to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the repatriation of Guernsey's children at the end of the war.

*Suppressed Desires*

by Susan Glaspell, presented by Merlyn Productions

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SYNOPSIS: Neurotically funny Freudian comedy ensues when one man's wife becomes obsessed with psycho-analysis!

### Karoma Productions, Winnipeg

August 26 - 28

*It's All About The Angle*

by Jayson D. Ambrose, Marie Dominique Antoine & Bill Moore

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SYNOPSIS: A comedy about a week in the life of four brothers who live together. Phil is the easy going type and Justin lives to prank his brother Kevin the uptight accountant. Mike is still searching to find himself and their quick witted sarcastic grandmother knows how to keep them all in line.

Plays are scheduled for Friday and Saturday at 8pm, Sunday afternoon at 2:30pm

A-Spire Theatre, 76 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Gimli

\$10 tickets for all shows go on sale at Tergesen's Store in Gimli ONE WEEK ahead of performances.

PLEASE NOTE: Tergesen's will not reserve tickets

You can reserve tickets for any show by phone 204-642-8785

**Got something to say?  
Get in on the next issue!  
Deadline: July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

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Visit us on the world wide web at: [www.actmanitoba.mb.ca](http://www.actmanitoba.mb.ca)

### REGIONS

#### NORTH-EAST

|                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Gimli Theatre Association         | Gimli              |
| Haystack Productions              | Beausejour         |
| Holy Hams (Selkirk United Church) | Selkirk            |
| Pinawa Players                    | Pinawa             |
| Prairie Players                   | Portage la Prairie |
| Thompson Playhouse Inc.           | Thompson           |

#### WINNIPEG

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Eeshka Peeshka              | Winnipeg |
| Lunatics Liberation Theatre | Winnipeg |
| Merlyn Productions          | Winnipeg |
| New Stage Productions       | Winnipeg |
| Relativity Theatre          | Winnipeg |
| R-G Productions             | Winnipeg |
| Shoestring Players          | Winnipeg |
| Winnipeg Mennonite Theatre  | Winnipeg |

#### NORTH-WEST

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Mossey River Drama Club | Fork River |
| Rapid City Drama Club   | Rapid City |
| Theatre 53              | The Pas    |
| Theatre Amisk           | Dauphin    |
| Vagabond Theatre Co.    | Russell    |
| Valley Stage Players    | Swan River |
| Whitemud Comedy Co.     | Neepawa    |

#### SOUTH-EAST

|                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Candlewick Players                 | La Riviere |
| flatlands Theatre Co.              | Winkler    |
| Mariapolis Drama Club              | Mariapolis |
| Tiger Hills Amateur Theatre (THAT) | Holland    |

#### SOUTH-WEST

|                                |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| 7 Ages Productions             | Brandon |
| The Outcasts                   | Brandon |
| Phoenix Players                | Virden  |
| Spotlight on Shilo Theatre Co. | Shilo   |
| Tumbleweed                     | Virden  |
| Mecca Productions              | Brandon |