

Curtain Up!

ACT NEWSLETTER

Summer 2014

ACTFest 2014 A Walk on the Wild Side

ACTFest 2014 was hosted this year by the Pinawa Players of Pinawa.

It was another memorable weekend of great theatre from community groups across Manitoba. With the theme of “Walk on the Wild Side” participants were treated to the beautiful wilderness of Pinawa, a theatre venue transformed into a four seasons’ landscape and lots of fantastic food! The musical talent in Pinawa was showcased throughout the weekend; Satin Dolls at the Friday reception and the Pinawa Stage Band following the banquet. There was a relaxed atmosphere of camaraderie and warm hospitality.

There were 113 ACT members registered for the weekend with an additional 85 attending from the local communities! Theatre is alive and well in Eastern Manitoba! Thirteen member groups including Broken Record Productions, New Stage Manitoba and Shoestring Players all from Winnipeg, Valley Stage Players from Swan River, Tiger Hills Amateur Theatre from Holland, Rapid City Drama Club from Rapid City, Tumbleweed Productions from Virden, Prairie Players from Portage la Prairie, Thompson Playhouse from Thompson, Whitemud Comedy Club from Neepawa, A-Spire Players from Gimli, and Theater Amisk from Dauphin attended. Eight groups presented a variety of plays with great adjudication from the team of James Forsythe from the University of Brandon, Pauline Broderick from the University of Manitoba and Jan Skene, accomplished Winnipeg actor/singer and director.

The Players thank all those who traveled from across the province to participate, for sharing your talents and for celebrating your love of theatre with all of us!

Linda Tait,
ACT FESTIVAL 2014 CHAIR

Following is a list of the plays performed at ACTFest 2014, hosted by the Pinawa Players. The performances and adjudications were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended.

FRIDAY EVENING PERFORMANCE:

Pinawa Players
Blue Murder – Anonymous

SATURDAY MORNING PERFORMANCES:

Broken Record Productions, Winnipeg
Illegal Playwrighting – J. Lazarus
The Pitch – Norm Foster

Thompson Playhouse, Thompson
Tales from Thompson – by the cast

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PERFORMANCES:

Shoestring Players, Winnipeg
A Small Affair – Bob Larbey

New Stage Manitoba, Winnipeg
Hot Air and Cold Tofu – D. Watts

A-Spire Players, Gimli
Private Lives – Noel Coward

SUNDAY MORNING PERFORMANCES:

Valley Stage Players, Swan River
Self Help – Norm Foster

R-G Productions, Winnipeg
The Storyteller – Heather Forgie

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President's Message

Well it has been a long winter – but wow -what a start to summer – a beautiful stay in Pinawa for a successful, entertaining weekend of ACTFest. If only the weather gods would cooperate now we would be most appreciative. lol (laugh out loud) I thoroughly enjoyed the plays, adjudicators,

food, banquet, and last but not least the wildlife (deer) roaming the streets. Pinawa's theme "Walk on the Wild Side" couldn't have been more appropriate for the wildlife we saw each day. A big thank you to Linda and John Tate and their amazing team for such a successful ACTFest weekend.

Although the ACT board generally takes a break over the summer, this summer your ACT board has agreed to meet in August to finalize the planning for another fall ACT workshop, planning for a facilitated strategic, and to explore new options

for future meeting. Your Board is exploring alternative meeting options utilizing new technology to allow for meeting to be more cost effective, while permitting the ability to review documents on line together during editing. If you have anything you feel may be beneficial to our strategic planning discussions, please send them to me directly and I will ensure the Board discusses your suggestions.

I would like to remind everyone to review and apply for both the theatre development fund and the scholarship fund. Your ACT board has budgeted money to support ongoing education for your theatre group or for your members individually. So review the ACT Manitoba website to review the criteria and application forms.

Finally, I would like to end with Kenny Chesny's awesome saying about summer – "it's a smile, it's a kiss, it's a sip of wine ... it's summertime!" Enjoy your summer.

Tammy Barre, PRESIDENT

REGIONAL REPORTS

SOUTH - EAST

Tiger Hills Amateur Theatre (THAT)

The theatre group is looking at forming a seniors' group to practice once a week, and put on skits in the fall. The plan is to start in September. The interest in this group comes mostly from women, lots of interests. It might even lead to performance, but that is not the objective.

Interest in preparing for performance has waned in recent years. This might fill the gap for the time being, and meets needs in the community. Look for reports on how this is proceeding in the fall. At the moment in the life of Tiger Hills sufficient interest is not sufficient to mount a full-scale production, so this might be the answer.

Plans are to make this a great outing for interested seniors. The group will meet plans in the afternoon.

Flatlands Theatre Company

Running fall classes for ages three to grade 12. They run for about six weeks. The classes in the fall are called *Who Wants to be Creative*. On November 6, 7, 8, and 9 they will perform the *Secret Garden*. Cast is in place with run through starting in August preparing for the November performances. There will also be winter classes for ages three to grade twelve starting in the new year and running into April 2015. Students work to writing their own stories in a process called *Race to the Golden Goose*. Winter class performances are scheduled for April 10 and 11.

Candlewick Players

Our spring was busy with a number of performances from our Xplor Drama youth program (which is an after-school theatre program having classes/productions in Manitou and Morden for over 100 youth of various ages):

Shrek: The Musical was presented at the Manitou Opera House in late March (high school students from around our region (Crystal City/Snowflake to Miami/Notre Dame).

Alice in Wonderland was then presented at the Manitou Opera House in early April as our spring drama and dance recital by our elementary school after school program.

The Purloined Letter was presented at the Kenmor Theatre, Morden by our Children's Xplor Drama group in late April.

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz was then presented at the Kenmor in mid-May by our Jr. Xplor Drama group.

The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf was also presented in mid-May at the Kenmor by our Intermediate group.

The Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged) finished off our season at the end of May with 3 great performances.

Currently we are in rehearsals for our summer season:

Joseph: Man of Dreams being presented at the Manitou Opera House July 25 – 27 and Aug 1 – 3.

Plautdietché Live then follows up at the Winkler Harvest Festival (Aug 9 – 10).

Youth Drama and Dance Arts Camp held at the Kenmor Theatre, Morden (Aug 11 – 16).

Chicken Little is our children's arts camp performance being planned for the Morden Corn & Apple Festival.

NORTH - EAST

Gimli's A-Spire Players

The A-Spire Players are gearing up for their performances of Noel Coward's *Private Lives* June 6, 7 and 8 at the A-Spire Theatre having recently performed ACT 1 at ACTFest 2014.

Haystack Productions

Beausejour's drama group performed *The Beverly Hillbillies*, a comedy in 3 acts and dinner theatre at St Paul's United Church May 6 – 10.

The Holy Hams

Selkirk United Church's Holy Hams presented the classic old comedy, *Arsenic and Old Lace* by Joseph Kesselring at the end of March. Just under 800 people attended the four performances held in the Selkirk High School Theatre. Twenty one year old director, Scott Hanson used his keen eye to bring the characters to life against a detailed set suitable to the era, which of course included an window seat! The cast and crew had audiences roaring with laughter which is surprising considering the story line is about two dear old ladies who routinely kill off gentlemen callers.

The Holy Hams now are now on hiatus until January when the search for the title of next production kicks into high gear. We anticipate an April run dependent on the availability of the theatre.

For the website and newsletter from Thompson Playhouse inc

We are having a dinner theatre May 31st. *Murder at the Tony Lou Awards*.

In June we will be holding auditions for our fall production.

NORTH - WEST

Theatre Amisk of Dauphin

Theatre Amisk has had a quiet season this year as our focus has largely been on member skills and development. Theatre Amisk offered Level I and II Acting Classes in 2013 – 14 under the leadership of experienced actor/director Yvonne Lillie. The students showcased their work with their families, friends and members of Theatre Amisk on Sunday, April 13, 2014. The performance was followed by a potluck, which was well attended.

Theatre Amisk continues to work with the Dauphin and District Allied Arts Council with various refurbishment projects at the Watson Arts Centre, which is designated a Heritage Building. We were pleased to make a substantial donation to the purchase and installation of the new theatre curtains.

Theatre Amisk of Dauphin was unable to present a production at ACTFest 2014, but some of our members attended. Theatre Amisk is pleased to announce that ACTFest 2015 will take place in Dauphin.

Whitemud Comedy Company

Two members of Neepawa's Whitemud will present the play *Lost*, by playwright Mary Louise Wilson, at an Elder Abuse Conference being held in Neepawa on June 15th and then a repeat performance at the Manitoba Seniors Games later the same week. A short synopsis of the play; two women of a certain age are going out for lunch or are they already there.

Rapid City Drama Club

Rapid City's drama club had begun preparation for an annual fall production in November 2014. No details at this time.

Valley Stage Players

A production performed by Swan River's Valley Stage Players called *Self-Help* (by Norm Foster) was one of the eight plays enjoyed at the Act Festival. Upcoming plans for the play *Hilda's Yard* also by Norm Foster, will hit the stage in Swan River this fall.

No reports were available from Theatre 54 or Vagabond Theatre Co.

SOUTH - WEST

Tumbleweed Productions

Tumbleweed Productions have been busy during the first half of this year. They performed a sequel to *Charlie's Wake* written by Cathy Tough called *Charlie's Return* on three separate fundraising events. In February they performed for the Maryfield's Lion's Club and the Elkhorn Chamber of Commerce, and in April for the Virden Curling Rink. All three events went very well.

The first weekend of May saw six members attend ACTFest in Pinawa.

Phoenix Players

Phoenix Players performed *Death by Dessert* last fall. They plan to have another production ready for this fall.

Personal Note:

I joined the ACT Board in December 2014 with very little knowledge or idea of what I had agreed to be a part of. In the past several months I have been learning so many things about ACT Manitoba. I first heard of the ACT Board and ACTFest when I attended the director's workshop in October 2014. I learned so much that day, not only as a director but as an actor as well. It also provided an excellent atmosphere to meet and get to know like-minded people outside of my own theatre group.

It has been great to get to know my fellow board members and was delighted to attend ACTFest in Pinawa for the first time and look forward to attending next year in Dauphin. With any luck, I hope my

theatre group will submit a production to be adjudicated, as it really makes you think outside the box and provides possibilities and ideas to no end.

I would like to give my thanks to the Pinawa Players for making my first ACTFest so exciting and memorable. I can only imagine what a tremendous amount of work and dedication that took and you did an amazing job! On a slightly different note, I have fallen in love with your town; the water, the trees, the wildlife, the golf course...I even noticed some snowmobile trail signs just outside of town and have mentioned several times to my husband that a snowmobile trip up to Pinawa in the winter would be great... so I might see you next winter.

During the next couple of years I look forward to learning more about ACT Manitoba, of being a part of such an interesting and worthwhile organization and meeting more people who have the same interest and fascination with theatre as I do. I'm excited to be a part of the next workshop, hopefully this fall, and will do my best to help out as the new Southwest Rep.

Everyone have a great summer and don't forget to wear sunscreen!

WINNIPEG

Shoestring Players.

They are presenting *A Small Affair* by Bob Larbey at Gimli Summer Theatre June 20-22, then at the Fringe Theatre in July (at the Gas Station Theatre). They plan to present Noel Coward's play *Cowardly Custard* as part of the MTC Master Playwright's Festival early in 2015.

NewStage Productions.

They are presenting a program of four short plays (*Hot and Cold Tofu*, *Reading Between the Lies*, *His Next Failed Marriage*, and *Tile Death Do Us Part*), all by Dale Watts, at the Fringe Festival in

July and then again at Gimli Summer Theatre August 15-17.

R-G Productions

They are presenting *The Storyteller* by Heather Forgie, both at the Winnipeg Fringe in July and then at the Saskatoon Fringe in August.

Broken Record Productions

Winnipeg's Broken Record Productions will be performing another Norm Foster comedy, *My Darling Judith* on the last weekend of August. The A-Spire Theatre in Gimli will be full and folks will be laughing in the isles on Friday the 29th, Saturday the 30th and Sunday the 31st.

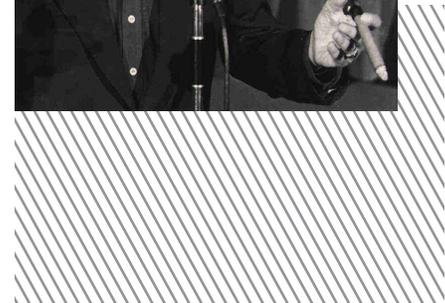
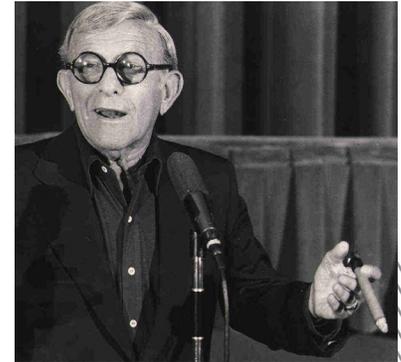
Show times for Friday and Saturday are 8pm and Sunday is a matinee at 2pm. Make the drive and bring a friend. See you in the seats.

All three companies presented plays at ACTFest in Pinawa, May 2014.

This Issue's Quote of the Day

Acting is all about honesty. If you can fake that, you've got it made.

George Burns



Next issue Deadline:
Nov 17th, 2014

Summer 2014

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REGIONS

NORTH-EAST

A-Spire Players	Gimli
Haystack Productions	Beausejour
Holy Hams of Selkirk United Church	Selkirk
Pinawa Players	Pinawa
Thompson Playhouse Inc.	Thompson

WINNIPEG

Broken Record Productions	Winnipeg
NewStage Productions	Winnipeg
R-G Productions	Winnipeg
Shoestring Players	Winnipeg
Winnipeg Mennonite Theatre	Winnipeg

NORTH-WEST

Rapid City Drama Club	Rapid City
Theatre 53	The Pas
Theatre Amisk	Dauphin
3 rd Ave. Vagabond Theatre Co.	Russell/Binscarth
Valley Stage Players	Swan River
Whitemud Comedy Co.	Neepawa

SOUTH-EAST

Candlewick Players	La Riviere
flatlands Theatre Co.	Winkler
Prairie Players	Portage La Prairie
Tiger Hills Amateur Theatre (THAT)	Holland

SOUTH-WEST

7 Ages Productions	Brandon
Phoenix Players	Virden
Tumbleweed Productions	Virden