

Curtain Up!

ACT NEWSLETTER

Winter 2012

New Members on the Board

At the Annual General Meeting on October 21, 2012 3 positions were available for election for the Board. Two new regional representatives were elected to the Board. Ron Blicq of RG Productions in Winnipeg will now represent the Winnipeg region and Clem Jones of Theatre 53, The Pas, will represent the NE region. We hope that they will bring fresh, new ideas to the table. Maureen Taggart remains on the Board until she has finished her work on a new mentoring program. David Johnston continues to deal with insurance details and grant applications. There were no takers for the Treasurer's position so Caren Dundas agreed to remain in charge of finances.

This was the first time for many years that we have not had to "persuade" people to commit to sitting on the Board. This gives the remaining Board members a sense that there is some awareness out there!

Also at an open forum after the AGM discussion took place about the modernization of the website. The format of the website has been the same for many years now. John Tait, our webmaster, presented some new ideas and these have now been put into commission. If you are reading this newsletter you should have noticed some changes on the site already. Please take time to wander through the site and familiarize yourself with the new look. You will now enter the home page immediately and be able to click on different topics on the menu on the left hand side. We think that it will be easier to make your way through the site.

We thank John for his patience in coping with our requests. Also for the hours that he has put in to accomplish a very smart and modern appearance for our website. The usual photographs of past productions have

gone from the entrance to the site. Groups have not been forth coming with new images. It was felt that no photograph was better than the same repeating, out-dated photographs. We think that you will like the new look.

ACTFest 2013

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will be hosted by:

Prairie Players of Portage la Prairie
April 26-28, 2013

at The William Glesby Centre,
Portage la Prairie



Watch for registration details on the website or notification in your e-mail if you are on John Tait's communication list.

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President's Message

My first AGM has come and gone with "Thanks" to everyone who makes the effort to attend. We set-up an open discussion session at the tail-end of the meeting a few years ago and I like how it brings all of us closer together. We share the same ups and downs, struggles and solutions regardless of where we live in this

province. Our AGM is held in Portage and with the Prairie Players hosting ACTFest 2013, we got an inside peek into their plans. You won't want to miss it April 26th - 28th so make your plans and reservations, the info will be on the website very soon. John Tait, our webmaster, has taken on the task of revamping our website to make it easier to navigate and refresh the look. This will be an ongoing process so be sure to check out the changes. Fall productions are a mainstay for most of our groups and good luck to all of them. If you have the time, support as many groups as you can by being a part of the audience. Check our website for productions close to you. Our next board meeting is January 16th, 2013 and if you have any questions or ideas please contact your rep and they can bring it forward.

Until next time, Happy Holidays to everyone and the best in the New Year...
Cathy T.



ABOVE: flatlands Theatre

REGIONAL REPORTS

SOUTHWEST

7 Ages Productions

7 Ages is mounting its own community production, Mel Brooks' *The Producers*. This hilarious musical will play from January 24-26 at 7:30 and January 27 at 3:00, all shows at the WMCA.

On February 9, 2013, 7 Ages is partnering with the Daly House Museum to present a museum fundraiser at the Lorne Watson Recital Hall, BU School of Music. The evening includes *Paper Wheat* and Wayne and Shuster's *Rinse the Blood Off My Toga*. Show starts at 8:00 with refreshments and talkback to follow. All proceeds go to the Museum.

On March 8 and 9, 2013 the comedy continues with *Forbidden Broadway* (greatest hits), a show that cleverly parodies some of Broadway's iconic musical numbers. Both shows are at 8:00 at the WMCA.

The Outcasts

Unfortunately the Outcasts are taking this year off from a play production.

Tumbleweed Productions

Tumbleweed did *The Wizard of Oz* on November 29 - Dec. 1st, 2012

SOUTH-EAST

Prairie Players of Portage La Prairie

Prairie Players will be presenting *A Christmas Carol* adapted for stage and directed by our President, Christopher Kitchen, in November. This will be the largest cast we have ever worked with and includes a number of families. This annual dinner theatre event is our largest fundraiser of the year and has always been a huge success. This year is without exception as we have sold out both Friday and Saturday performances before the cast was into the groove of things. No spring production will be held this year

as Prairie Players is proud to be hosting ACTFest 2013. We looking forward to having everyone "take a tumble through the looking glass" with us next year. Don't forget to scratch it in on your calendars and plan to come out.

Candlewick Players Of La Riviere

Candlewick's Jr. Xplor Theatre Players had a busy fall as the Morden group, in association with DanceWorks, presented *Cinderella* at the Morden Kenmor theatre on Nov 9th and 10th. The performances included over 65 performers as they presented the classic tale through drama and dance.

The Manitou Xplor Theatre group then went on to perform *Diary of Anne Frank* at the Manitou Opera House on November 15 and 16.

Candlewick Players, our adult group, is busy with it's Christmas Dinner Theatre presentation of *Pirates of the Dead Horse Creek* which was mounted at Timber's

Restaurant, Morden (Nov 29 - Dec 2) and then again in Winkler from Dec 6 to 9.

We look forward to the new year with a number of events and workshops including hosting Daniel Julien (professional mime/clown) from Quebec early in February. Candlewick Players are also in the middle of planning yet another annual Valentine's Theatre presentation set for the Manitou Opera House on Feb 14 - 16 and at the Morden Kenmor Theatre the following weekend. Auditions are open for anyone interested in the Valentine's event or for next summer's musical also being presented at the Opera House. For more information on these events, visit www.candlewick.ca or call us at 204-242-3160.

Tiger Hills Amateur Theatre

At the end of August, 2012, our president, Stephanie Clark left the area to pursue her studies at the University of Victoria, British Columbia. Consequently, nothing was in place for a fall production and so we are on hiatus at present. We plan to discuss the future of THAT at our next AGM to be held in Feb., 2013 and are hoping to get a short play ready for the ACT Festival.

flatlands Theatre Company of Winkler

Flatlands Theatre Company presented Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* to rave reviews November 1-4 at the P. W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall. The cast and crew of 50 came together in re-creating turn of the century America ... minus all the scenery! The challenge of pantomiming was taken on and everyone thrived with the opportunity to 'show' the audience the town of Grovers Corners.

FTC will be present *A Little Dickens' Christmas Carol* December 1st at Buhler Hall in Gretna. Eight aspiring young actors have written their own version of this classic and portray the many characters of Scrooge's life and dreams.

FTC begins their classes again at the beginning of January and the students

will be working together to write and perform *The Princess and the Pea* and *the Prince Who had to Pee* April 5 & 6 at the P. W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall. This is a highlight of the season for our students ages three to grade twelve and it is a joy to see what they come up with every year!

NORTH - WEST

Theatre Amisk

Theatre Amisk has a busy season planned. We presented a Christmas Program of songs and readings, *A Christmas Pudding* on December 7-8, 2012. Our production of the musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, will take place April 3-6, 2013. Our members have been very active helpers in the painting (after a renovation) and decorating (before Christmas event season) of the Watson Arts Centre. As well, some of our members will be participating in the January 26, 2013 Selo Ukraina fundraiser, the Perogy Supper Miracle.

Theatre 53

Theatre 53 started off with a busy year with our AGM in May. We hosted a play called the *Cross Roads of the Pas*, a play written by the Sam Waller museum staff. We had two productions of the play, once in August, for our centennial homecoming and again in September for culture days, with a large attendance. In October, we partnered with the library for a Halloween event, which we also did last year and this was a perfect venue for our new members. We are currently reading scripts to choose a feature play for May 2013.

Rapid City Drama Club

Café Murder and *You Can't Be too Careful* are the titles of the two plays put on this year by the Rapid City Drama Club on the 22nd 23rd and 24th of November, each a dinner Theatre Murder Mystery. We sold 80 tickets per night, which gives everyone a good view point. Next year is

the 20th Anniversary of the Drama Club, and a new and different production is already in the planning stages.

Vagabond Theatre

Vagabond Theatre Co. recently got together for a board meeting to come up with ideas for an upcoming production. This spring may bring a new twist on hamlet to the stage. A group member has written a play from Ophelia's viewpoint, the female version. Sounds like a great undertaking.

Valley Stage Players

The Valley Stage Players presented the production *Squabbles*, by Marshall Karp, which was held at the Veterans Community hall in Swan River, November 23-25, 2012. Like the two previous years, we partnered with the foundation of the Swan Valley. The first night of our production was a dinner theatre fundraiser for the Foundation, the Saturday evening & Sunday matinee were our productions.

Whitemud Comedy Co.

Our group was asked to provide entertainment in October, for a local community organization which had the 1940's as the theme. *Radio theatre* fit the bill. On November 25th we held the annual reading of the Dicken's *Christmas Carol* for Neepawa. In 2013 we hope to expand on the *Radio theatre* production and make it our spring play.

NORTH - EAST

Haystack Productions

Haystack Productions, in Beausejour, is pleased to present *The Real Life and Adventures of Santa Claus* Have you ever wondered just where Santa Claus came from? L. Frank Baum knew. The same man who created *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* lets us in on his secret; the story of Saint Nicholas as told to him by Necile, the nymph who found Claus and raised him as her own in the world of Knooks, Faeries,

Ryls and, yes, even the dreaded Awgwas. “Beware the Awgwas,” Necile warns Claus. “they hide under beds to frighten human children!” And so Claus decides he must leave the world of the Immortals and live among the humans, making toys to make children happy. He gets help from Jack Frost, who shows him the Frost Gale which allows Claus and his sleigh to fly, and from two runaway Knooks, Lem and Barlo, who want to hear the children laugh. This delightful tale answers once and for all how Santa Claus made the first toy, why he climbs down chimneys and, most of all, how he learned to laugh that great “Ho, ho, ho.” We presented 4 evening shows from Wednesday, December 5th - Saturday December 8th, with an afternoon matinee on the 8th.

A-Spire Players (Gimli)

A-Spire Players of Gimli appointed Tony Ducharme as Chairman at their recent AGM. A-Spire are spending November and December planning their 2013 productions. In mid-January they will have a “Winter Cheer” fancy dinner together. Thereafter they will plunge into rehearsals.

WINNIPEG

Shoestring Players have built up a solid following over the past five years by signing people up when they attend a production and keeping in touch with them afterwards. Concurrently, choosing plays of substance and portraying them competently has ensured that Shoestring’s productions are seen as good value for the price of admission.

However, because we are in Winnipeg we face huge competition for people’s entertainment dollars and consequently have to place emphasis on marketing, particularly by putting ourselves forward in local festivals. Although we have performed in every master playwright festival since its inception, we regrettably have had to decline taking part in a Sondheim musical for the 2013 festival. Instead, we staged *Bedtime Stories* by

Norm Foster, which opened December 6 at the Forrest Nickerson Theatre.

Success has become a two-edged sword, in that we have accumulated a wide range of people (mostly actors) who want to be involved with the company. One strategy has been to select plays with large casts, but we are also trying to be more diversified. We have chosen to present *Quilters* at ActFest, Gimli and in Winnipeg this year. We also are endeavouring to develop a script bank, which now includes locally written *Closure*.

Shoestring Players needs a home! Currently we rehearse at a church and have props and set materials scattered all over the city, in rented space and people’s house and garages. Our long-term dream is to have a theatre of our own.

NewStage Manitoba have nothing specifically planned for the upcoming year, although we do hope to get into the Fringe and then carry the same play to Gimli, as we have done for the past five years.

R-G Productions have just completed videotaping three Round Table Theatre educational plays for Community Living Manitoba and are planning to be in the Fringe (the Fringe “draw” granting that wish, of course), and to take a new play to Gimli, as NewStage does. We also will focus on Manitoba-authored plays.

This Issue’s Quote of the Day

Acting is the most minor of gifts and not a very high-class way to earn a living. After all, Shirley Temple could do it at the age of four.

Katherine Hepburn



ABOVE: flatlands Theatre

**Make a scene;
Get in on the next issue!
Deadline: June 17th, 2013**

Winter 2012

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Visit us on the world wide web at: www.actmanitoba.mb.ca

REGIONS

NORTH-EAST

A-Spire Players	Gimli
Haystack Productions	Beausejour
Pinawa Players	Pinawa
Thompson Playhouse Inc.	Thompson

WINNIPEG

Merlyn Productions	Winnipeg
New Stage 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
Vagabond Theatre Co.	Russell
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	Virden

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