

Curtain Up!

ACT NEWSLETTER

Winter 2013

Pinawa Players Host ACTFest 2014

Pinawa players are thrilled to be hosting the 36th annual ACTFest, May 2, 3, & 4, 2014.

Pinawa hosted this event in 1991, 1998 and 2005. In 2014, the Players will be proudly celebrating 50 years of providing theatre to our Eastman audiences. Hosting ACTFest will be a part of our celebrations and we hope you plan to attend!

ACTFest is a fun filled theatre weekend packed with play performances from amateur theatre groups throughout Manitoba. It is an opportunity for groups to come together and share their theatre art

and friendships. Performances will begin Friday evening with a short production from the Pinawa Players and run all day Saturday and till noon on Sunday. The spirit of the festival is relaxed and non-competitive with adjudication and workshops by three theatre professionals.

The Players have a hard working committee in full swing. We have a great adjudication team on board, and a Friday evening reception planned with a saxophone quartet, wine and lots of snack food. Our Saturday evening banquet will also feature live music with our talented Pinawa Stage Band. The ACTFest website will be up and running in

December to provide details about accommodation bookings and guidelines for registering both plays and participants. As well, watch for your official ACTFest invitation coming soon by mail to the ACT Group Contacts. We will also email all our ACT Members who have provided their email address when the Festival Website is up and running.

We encourage all members of ACT to attend ACTFest, it is always a great theatre learning experience and networking opportunity. Whether you bring a play or not, a weekend in Pinawa is always memorable.

Linda Tait,
ACT FESTIVAL 2014 CHAIR

Director's Workshop

The ACT Board tried something new this year by setting up a Director's workshop. This was open to members & non-members alike. We were fortunate to acquire the services of James Forsythe, a theatre professional & teacher from Brandon University. James has been a popular adjudicator to our Provincial festival and we are pleased to note that ACTFest 2014 in Pinawa have secured his expertise yet again.

James took the 19 participant's through the "director's journey" from start to finish of a production. It was very informative. James had chosen two plays, a comedy & a drama, to help us practise our new skills. *The Odd Couple* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* proved to be quite a challenge. His sense of humor is always a welcome addition.

The ACT Board is hoping to make this a yearly event. They would like to try a different community and another aspect of theatre. If your group have any suggestions or would like to host this board organized event, please contact any board member.

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President's Message

Well another AGM has come and gone, and ACT Manitoba is going to have another busy, fun packed, year. The board underwent a few changes at the AGM in and we have a new face joining the team. I would like to welcome Richard Baschuk as our board member. He will be joining us as a regional rep. As of today we haven't defined which areas our reps will represent so don't be surprised if someone new calls you for an update on the activities of your theatre group.

My name is Tammy Barre and I am the incoming ACT president. I have big shoes to fill following Cathy Tough and Hazel Lamont's presidency terms. We say good bye to Hazel as past president this year. Unfortunately she is returning to "civilian" life. We will miss her perspectives, insight, hard work, creative approach, and consultative support on various projects. We also say good bye to Maureen Taggart and David Johnson. Both were members of the board for quite a few years. Maureen researched background information on the proposed Mentorship program, and David recently worked to procure our present insurance package. He worked to demystify our insurance policy and worked in consultation with the board to ensure our policy is comprehensive while being cost effective. He has highlighted some of the nuances of this policy for you in this newsletter. Thank you. You will both be missed.

We are not all new to the team. Cathy Tough remains on the board as past president, so we can tap into her years of experience and expertise. Caren Dundas remains on as treasurer, keeping us on budget, and Cathy McGrath has stepped into the secretarial role, keeping us organized and up to date with minutes and documents. Both Cathy and Caren have been with the board for a number of years and bring historical perspectives along with their passion for ACT Manitoba's visions, goals and projects.

Genny Carrier and Ron Blicq round out the team. Both have experience as areas reps, bringing fresh perspectives and creative ideas to the organization. With the experience and "new blood" on the board we have the perfect combination for success. However, if you are counting, you will have noticed that we are still in need of area reps and a Vice President. We have had interest expressed for both positions, but we are still considering volunteers from the membership. It is fun, rewarding work, and it is vital to any board to continue to have new, fresh ideas and interpretations. Contact Cathy Tough or myself if you are interested in being part of this dynamic team.

Finally, a quick thank you to Cathy Tough and her team Caren and David for planning and organizing the director's workshop held in Brandon in October. The workshop was well attended and feedback has been quite positive. Given the success of this workshop and based on the positive feedback the board will consider hosting future workshops so send us your ideas or requests.

The board is here to support the members so if you have any beefs or bouquets please don't hesitate to call any board member. As President, I look forward to hearing from you and meeting you in the next few years.

Tammy Barre, PRESIDENT

Scholarship & Theatre Development Funds

The ACT board has continued to supply funds to both the Scholarship & Theatre Development funds. The Scholarship program is geared towards individuals who are interested in working on specific areas of their theatre growth. The Theatre Development program targets groups who may want to bring in a theatre professional who will assist them on their current production. Our ACT programs are set up for all members of the Association to access these funds. The applications for both of these programs can be found on our ACT website.

SOUTH-EAST

Tiger Hills Amateur Theatre

The Tiger Hills Amateur Theatre (THAT) was in full swing for a fall production, but, unfortunately, due to health reasons, one of the actresses had to drop out. Upon evaluating the situation, they decided to continue with the production in the spring. Rehearsals will resume in February with the play, *Murder of the Rerun* by Fred Carmichael, to be on stage March 7, 8 & 9, 2014.

THAT will be represented at the ACT Festival in Pinawa next spring. At this point in time, we are not sure if we will be entering a play.

Candlewick Players

Candlewick is very active, with their entire season already laid out.

The Elves and the Shoemaker

A children's drama/dance production presented by DanceWorks and Candlewick. November 8 - 7 PM
November 9 - 3 PM
Morden Kenmor Theatre
Contact: 204-822-9981

The Curious Savage

Presented by the Morden Sr. Xplor Drama (Candlewick) in conjunction with the Morden Alliance Church. November 28 Dessert Theatre
November 29 & 30 Dinner Theatre
Morden Alliance Church
Contact: 204-822-4060

The Unmentionables

A new 1920's comedy-farce presented by Candlewick Players. They are an odd family living in the sticks south of Morden, and their connections with the Chicago mob boss, Al Cohone, are suspect. Will the indefatigable Elliot Mess be able to foil their plans?

Christmas Interactive Dinner Theatre available dates:
November 30 & December 1,
Timbers, Morden (\$45-3 course meal)

December 5-7

Winkler EMM Church (\$35-3 course meal)
For info/reservations: 1-204-825-8406 / richard@candlewick.ca

It's a White Christmas?

A Musical Drama by Borderline & Candlewick Sr. Xplor Drama Players. A Fundraiser for the Manitou Opera House. December 13-15, Manitou Opera House

Valentine's Dinner Theatre Auditions by request in November Theatre Only February 7 & 8

Kenmor Theatre, Morden February 14 & 15
Dinner Theatre, Manitou Opera House

West Side Story

Candlewick & Prairie Spirit School Division Spring Musical March 21-23, Manitou Opera House

For information on these or other upcoming productions check out: www.candlewick.ca

flatlands theatre company – Winkler

Flatlands' show is running next weekend. *Nothing Beats a One Act*. They are doing 3 one act plays. They are also running their student classes and production starting in January. They are performing an Agatha Christie show - *A Murder is Announced in May*.

Prairie Players

Prairie Players presents *Rumors* by Neil Simon. Play is on Wednesday and Thursday, November 13 and 14, at 8pm. Reserved seats are \$13.00 each. Dinner Theatre performances are Friday and Saturday, November 15 and 16. Tickets are \$45.00 each. Chicken and Ribs meal by Bill's Sticky Fingers. Cocktails 6pm, dinner 7pm, play 8pm. Deadline for dinner theatre tickets is November 12th.

Cast includes: Stephanie Kauffman, Wayne Loepky, Peggy Tidsbury, Christopher Kitchen, Kevin Hamm, Vicki Hooke, Robert Smith, Danica Turcotte, Larry Lepla and Theresa Bergen. Director - Terry Tully, Producer - Rosa Albanese Rawlings, Stage Manager - Rita Carignan

NORTH-WEST

Rapid City Drama Club – Rapid city

The Most Unusual Court Case is the feature production for the 20th Anniversary celebration for the Rapid City Drama Club. It was presented November 21, 22, 23, 2013 at the Legion. It was written by a local playwright – Gladys Simpson. Cast and crew involve about 15 members. Thursday evening was a presentation of the play to the community and Friday and Saturday were Dinner Theatre evenings

Whitemud Comedy Co. – Neepawa

The Annual reading of *The Christmas Carol* was presented to Neepawa by the Whitemud Comedy Company on November 24, 2013 at the Viscount Cultural Center. On November 29 & 30 they played tribute to classic radio dramas, *Sam Spade and the Green Hornet* with two evenings of dinner theatre, titled *See You on the Radio*.

Theatre Amisk – Dauphin

Theatre Amisk has embarked on a new project. This fall, we offered a series of theatre skills (Beginner – Acting) classes and were very pleased at the turnout for the 16 session specified, which are being taught by Yvonne Lillie. A *Friends and Family Night* is being planned to highlight the students' progress.

Theatre Amisk continues to work with the Dauphin and District Allied Arts Council with the stage refurbishment project at the Watson Arts Centre, which is designated a Heritage Building. We were particularly pleased to help fund the new stage curtains, proscenium drape, teasers and window curtains for the Auditorium.

Valley Stage Players – Swan River

The Valley Stage Players have had a very busy fall. It has been a period of transition for us as our long-time director and president Caren Dundas has moved to Winnipeg and we have been adjusting to new people in key positions.

What is exciting is that we have a good number of new people interested in becoming part of our theatre group. The number of people interested in acting is very encouraging, in particular.

We are very excited to have Rachel Puchailo join our group as director. She is very busy in rehearsals preparing for our fall production. She also attended the ACT director's workshop held in Brandon on October 26. She said, "I loved it. The instructor was amazing and I have learnt things that I am applying to this play and it is already making a difference!"

Right now our major efforts are channeled into our fall production. This year we're doing Norm Foster's *Office Hours*. It will be presented on Friday, November 22 as a fund raiser dinner theatre for the Community Foundation of Swan Valley and our own presentations will be held on November 23 and 24. All performances will be held at the Veterans' Community Hall in Swan River. We have six new actors debuting with our group in this production along with four veterans.

Theatre 53 – The Pas

Theatre 53 is currently rehearsing for Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*. The play is co-directed by Andrew Legeny and Kristy Dyck who are both teachers in the community of The Pas, MB. Andrew is an Elementary Music Teacher and Kristy is the High School Drama Teacher. The auditions were a smashing success! Who knew our little community in the North had so many talented singers! It has been many years since Theatre 53 has put on a musical and we are very excited to have the opportunity to bring this production to our patrons. The production will go up at the end of May in 2014.

WINNIPEG

This report covers production plans for Winnipeg Group Members. The following Groups responded to my call for information.

NewStage Manitoba

NewStage Manitoba will seek to enter two short comedic plays at ACTFest in Pinawa, May 2-4. We will then prepare four short comedies as a single entry in the Winnipeg Fringe in July (assuming we are successful in being accepted), and perform them again in August as part of the A-Spire Players Summer Program in Gimli.

Broken Record Productions

We are in rehearsal with Neil Simon's *The Good Doctor*, which we are scheduled to perform for RMTTC's 2014 Checkhov Fest. We have also been rehearsing pieces using improv, and will give a feature of some of the improvs as a fundraiser for Churchill Park United Church on Saturday November 2.

Shoestring Players

Shoestring players will once again contribute to RMTTC's Master Playwright Festival, January 22 to February 9. As the chosen playwright this coming year is Anton Chekhov, we have chosen to present Nagle Jackson's *The Quick Change Room*, which features the comings and goings of a Russian Theatre Company as it prepares to present Chekhov's *The Three Sisters*. Shoestring will give seven performances of the play at PTE's Colin Jackson Studio.

Our next production features *A Small Affair*, a comedy by English playwright Bob Larbey. Coincidentally, it also centres around a theatre group in rehearsal. Our plan is to present the play at ACTFest in May.

R-G Productions

Heather Forgie is doing the final edit of a script tentatively titled *The Storyteller*, which centres on the seemingly risky marriage of Scheherazade. It will have a

two-actor cast, with a third actor dancing between the scenes. The play will be performed for the first time at ACTFest in Pinawa, then at the Fringe (if R-G Productions is successful in winning a place), and finally at the Gimli Summer Festival in August.

Regretfully, no reports were received from the two other Winnipeg area companies.

Ron Blicq, WINNIPEG AREA REPRESENTATIVE
204 488 7060

NORTH - EAST

No report submitted.

SOUTH - WEST

No report submitted.

Things You Should Know About ACT's Insurance Coverage

As you are probably aware, throughout the last year the ACT Board has been analyzing our insurance portfolio in terms of both coverage for our members and bang for the buck. We found, for example, that we were paying for insurance coverage that, when push came to shove, our members groups would not be allowed to access. By eliminating the insurance coverage portions that were of no use to our members, we were able to both put together an insurance policy that was specifically geared to our unique structure as an organization and save insurance premium dollars in the process.

ACT's insurance coverage is now through Guild Insurance Brokers of Brandon, MB. I have highlighted below the coverage portions of our new policy as they pertain to ACT member groups. It is worthwhile to note that, in the thirty plus years that ACT MB has been in existence, there has never been a claim made against our insurance policy by either the ACT Board or a member group. The ACT Board, however, was unanimous in agreeing that ACT needed to carry General Liability insurance. You buy insurance and, although you hope that you never need it, it is there if the need arises.

When looking at insurance, we must keep in mind that insurance companies will never make an all-encompassing blanket coverage statement unless ALL specifics are known. That is how insurance works. Once all of the details are known, the insurance carrier will make a final decision. I strongly recommend that, in the event of a potential insurance claim, you contact either myself or any member of the ACT Board and we will assist and, if appropriate, put you in touch with the proper insurance professional.

That being said, there are set parameters that will give a strong indication as to whether a potential claim will be covered. Falling outside of these general parameters will definitely make a successful claim more difficult and could easily prove unsuccessful.

The following are the insurance realities under which we live:

- A member group must be in good standing with ACT MB, be pursuing sanctioned activities under the ACT MB umbrella and be following the mandate and goals of ACT MB in order to have any claim on the insurance ACT MB carries.
- ACT has Third Party General Liability coverage to a maximum of \$3 Million.
- This \$3 Million limit covers General Liability, Bodily Injury and Property Damage.
- The deductible per claim is \$1,000.00.

- General Liability coverage encompasses damages to a non-rented portion of a venue or personal injury to a non-group member such as an audience member. If ACT MB is listed in the suit, ACT's policy could act as a secondary source of general liability coverage to top up the group's own insurance coverage limit.
- The above coverage ONLY covers 3rd party losses. Group members have NO coverage under this policy. (Note: To cover individual group members for bodily injury, etc. would have raised our premiums to the point of being unattainable.)
- Tenant's Liability: There is no Tenant's Liability coverage available to member groups through ACT MB's insurance policy. The member group who signs a rental agreement is responsible for any and all damages to the venue. ACT MB's Tenant's Insurance is not (nor, previously unbeknownst to ACT, was it ever) transferrable to individual groups' rental agreements as ACT MB did not sign the lease.
- We no longer carry Miscellaneous Equipment Floater coverage as part of ACT MB's insurance package. Only ACT MB's property would be covered by such an insurance rider and it is not transferable to the member groups. (This was another area where, at one time, coverage for the member groups may have been attainable but, when the insurance industry revamped their coverages, our carrier did not inform the ACT Board of the changes.)

CONCLUSION:

Insurance, for most, is a confusing industry. Our insurance needs are doubly confusing because of the unique entity that we are. Most organizations sign their own leases and own their own property. ACT Manitoba does neither. ACT is, rather, a loose umbrella organization that tries to assist its members attain common goals while being an organization without property or the need to sign rental agreements. These, however, are the exact premises that Property Floaters, General Liability Insurance and Tenants' Liability insurance policies cover. Because ACT's name is not on the lease and does not have any property, certain aspects of this insurance cannot be transferred to the member groups. General Liability, however, is usually the liability of greatest concern and this component of ACT MB's insurance coverage could be available to members dealing with Tenants' Liability or General Liability claims. Groups, however, should be protected by their own Property and Liability policies if their assets and activities warrant.

David Johnson

ACT INSURANCE

Next issue Deadline:
May 15th, 2014

Winter 2013

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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
Holy Hams of Selkirk United Church	Selkirk
Pinawa Players	Pinawa
Thompson Playhouse Inc.	Thompson

WINNIPEG

Broken Record Productions	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