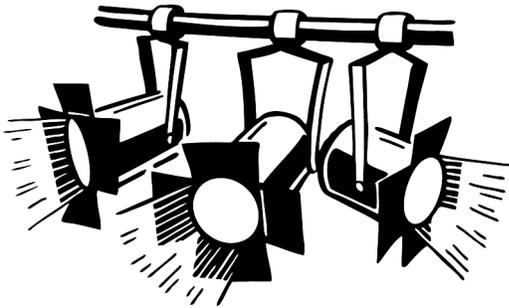


# CURTAIN UP!

The Newsletter of the Association of Community Theatres of Manitoba

Winter 2018



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! May 2018 bring peace, health and happiness to you and your family with new adventures and lasting memories.

In October 2017, Board President David Johnson, Secretary Karen Martin and Regional Rep Cathy McGrath said farewell as their terms on the board came to an end. We thanked them for their time, commitment and dedication to the board and to ACT. Their presence on the board will be missed. Fortunately, David Johnson will continue to be a familiar face and voice with the board in his role as Past President. The board welcomed new members Anthony Ducharme as Vice President and Katherine McLennan, Myrna Tiede and Alice Young as Regional Representatives. However, the Secretary position has remained vacant. If interested in the position, please contact myself or any board member for further information. (*Ed. Note: The position has since been filled! Hooray!*)

The board is thrilled to announce that ACTFest is back! Virden's Phoenix Players will host the weekend event that the membership has come to enjoy year after year. ACTFest 2018 will be held at the Auditorium Theatre in Virden, Manitoba, May 11-13 and we have Past President David Johnson and our host, the Phoenix Players to thank for this. The theme this year is "*Take the Show on the Road.*" An apropos theme for bringing ACTFest back to our members.

As a member, are you familiar with the great benefits ACT has to offer? One is ACTFest, a weekend of theatre, networking, learning, and having fun, but that's not the only benefit. ACT offers a Scholarship Fund and a Theatre Development Fund for those looking to upgrade or learn a



new skill or have a need to engage an advisor to facilitate with problems encountered during rehearsals such as blocking, projection and lighting. There is also a professional resource list of actors, directors, voice/dialect coaches, physical movement, stage managers, and lighting designers available. These are just a few of the benefits of being an ACT member. For more information about the benefits of being a member, contact a board member or visit the ACT website <http://www.actmanitoba.mb.ca>.

We are grateful that the ACT website is maintained and kept up to date by our Webmaster John Tait and our newsletter and social media by Rrain Prior. Visit our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/actmanitoba](http://www.facebook.com/actmanitoba) and give it a like.

Lastly, the Board thanks you, the membership for your ongoing support. You are the soul of ACT. Without you, we would not exist. If there is something you would like ACT to offer, let us know. We are here for you. Now, without further adieu, let's "*Take the Show on the Road.*"

With regards,

Judy Arnason  
President

## ACTFest 2018

### Take the Show on the Road!

hosted by the Phoenix Players

May 11-13, 2018  
Auditorium Theatre  
Virden, MB

Registration is now open! Visit  
[actmanfestival.weebly.com](http://actmanfestival.weebly.com)  
for more information and to register.



Visit ACT's Facebook page and contribute your groups's activities! [facebook.com/actmanitoba/](http://facebook.com/actmanitoba/)

# REGIONAL MEMBER REPORTS



## NORTHWEST

### Rapid City Drama Club

No report submitted.

### Vagabond Theatre Company

Vagabond Theatre Company will perform a play written and directed by a member of their group, Kevin Deane. They are also rehearsing *The Ladies Foursome* by Norm Foster to be performed in April, 2018. A portion will also be performed at ACTFest in May 2018. Betty Senger took part in the Winnipeg Fringe Festival in July 2017 performing Grace, and will do so again at the Regina Fringe Festival in July, 2018.

### Whitemud Comedy Company

Whitemud Comedy Company performed its annual reading of *A Christmas Carol* in December, and is now preparing to produce *The Dixie Swim Club* this spring. They hope to bring a short piece to ACTFest this year.



### Alan Ball's The M Word Players

## NORTHEAST

As part of Gimli's 4th annual Nuit Blanche on September 30th, the A-Spire Players put on two showings of Alan Ball's *The M Word* about two ambitious executives who decide they are "good" for each other and so proceed to negotiate a future together. As they

get caught up in the corporate lifestyle, they realize the negative impact and so....

Since then the main focus of the Players has been its new Sketch Comedy night and training. The weekly program replaces our previous Improv Comedy program and serves two functions: as an on-going program for any member to attend, and as a training ground for new members interested in theatre.

We are currently preparing for our 4th annual A-Spire Follies to be held in February. "The Follies" are the perfect opportunity to involve all of our members in the merriment of skits and music performances in a Vaudevillian style. It also acts as the perfect test bed and graduation for all our newer members in the Sketch Comedy program.

### Haystack Productions

Haystack Productions presented *The Wizard of Oz* from December 6-9 at St. Paul's United Church. Over thirty incredibly talented actors and creative geniuses came together to create a land full of munchkins and flying monkeys, a wicked witch and of course, lions and tigers and bears. Oh my!

### Holy Hams

Last season, the Holy Hams presented *The Beverly Hillbillies* with all four performances sold out, translating into over 1000 happy and entertained audience members. We are fortunate to be able to utilize the high school theatre which seats approximately 255 people depending on site lines of the play presented. The theatre has graduated seating which means every seat in the house is a good one. Each show was kicked off with live banjo music and vocals performing the Ballad of Jed Clampett and the evening ended in the

school cafeteria with luscious desserts and coffee.

The Holy Hams are looking for a director for the coming season. Show dates are April 18, 20, 21, 22 (matinee). Interested? Contact [chris@selkirkunitedchurch.ca](mailto:chris@selkirkunitedchurch.ca). Don't let the church part scare you! Give us a call.

### Pinawa Players

Pinawa Players had a very successful dinner theatre in the fall of 2017. They performed *Sadie Flynn Comes to Big Oak* by Norm Foster, and directed by Judith Simpson. They held their annual carol sing in the mall. Carmel corn and cider was enjoyed by the listeners. Their spring production is *Calendar Girls*, a play adapted by Tim Firth.



## SOUTHWEST

### 7 Ages

7 Ages Productions of Brandon staged *Twelve Angry Jurors* by Reginald Rose on November 17th and 18th, 2017 at the Lorne Watson Recital Hall. They also hosted Ron Beattie on December 19th. Ron Beattie is well known for his one-man performances of popular plays. In this case he performed *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens.

### Assiniboine Theatre Company

Assiniboine Theatre Company has held auditions for *Zastrozzi: The Master of Discipline* by George F. Walker. The company will perform this play on May 3, 4 and 5 at the Westridge Community Centre in Brandon.

## Phoenix Players

Phoenix Players have begun rehearsals of the play *Arlene's Beauty World* by Michael Soetaert. This play will be performed in April, 2018 in Virden. Phoenix Players will be hosting ACT-Fest 2018 in May.



## SOUTHEAST

### flatlands theatre company

Flatlands theatre company hosted a Master Makeup Workshop on Sunday February 18. Topics included Tools of the Trade, Contouring and Shaping of the Face, Aging Your Actor, Special Effects for Stage. Chris Hadley of Post Mortem Productions and his associates came out for a fantastic learning experience.

### Prairie Players

Prairie Players has continued to stay busy with a fall and spring production

each year. This year we performed a classic Christmas play—*Miracle on 34th St.*—as a radio program on November 29–December 2. It's the second time we've performed a radio program on stage, and everyone seems to have enjoyed it. We had two play nights, then two dinner theatre performances.

After the Christmas holidays it was back to auditions and rehearsals as we prepare for a spring production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* at the end of April. Anyone who enjoys Shakespeare is welcome to come and check out how we do this comedy.



## WINNIPEG

### Broken Record Productions

We are presenting *Italian American Reconciliation* by John Patrick Shan-

ley in the Master Playwright Festival in February. We are looking forward to performing this folktale comedy, Feb 14–17 at the Dramatic Arts Centre at 585 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg. We will be at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival if we are successful in the lottery.

### R-G Productions

We performed *The Savannah Sipping Society* at the A-Spire Theatre in Gimli in August and *Psychopathia Sexualis* at Shanley Fest on February 8–11 at the Forest Nickerson Theatre. We have also signed on to perform at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival next summer (choice of play yet to be determined).

### Shoestring Players

We performed *The Moon and Other Plays* at the Forrest Nickerson Theatre from February 1–6 as part of the Shanley Fest in Winnipeg.

## ACT BOARD 2018-19

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