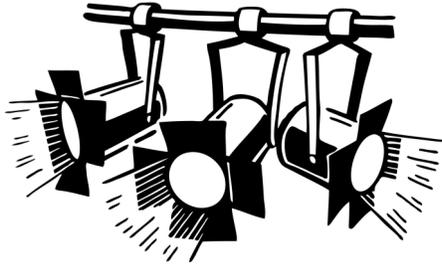


CURTAIN UP!

The Newsletter of the Association of Community Theatres of Manitoba

Winter 2019



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Members of ACT,

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and is ready to embrace the New Year with profuse energy and spirit.

Since our last newsletter, the Board held its AGM in October in Portage la Prairie. Long time Board members Ron Blicq and Caren Dundas and Scott Cameron who joined the Board more recently and is currently interim Treasurer, moved on to other ventures after completing their terms. The Board thanked them for their time, work and contributions over the years and wished them all the best in their future endeavours. The Board welcomed new member Rhonda Kennedy Rogers of Shoestring Players to the position of Regional Representative. If you are interested in joining this dynamic Board, please contact myself or any other Board member for information.

2019 is off to a great start. We have Prairie Players hosting ACTFest 2019 in Portage la Prairie from April 26 – 28 and if the caliber of performances at ACTFest 2019 is anything like last year's, you will not want to miss it. Only member companies can participate at ACTFest; the best show in town. So, don't delay renewing your membership. Now is the time to get on board and be a part of ACT.

It's a New Year. Did you make a new year's resolutions? Was it to take a course or workshop that would benefit your stage work as an actor i.e. voice work, improv, clown work, Shakespeare or movement, or for those who prefer to be off stage, perhaps a course to assist in stage management or directing? If you



answered yes, then visit our website <http://www.actmanitoba.mb.ca> or contact any Board member for information on the Theatre Development Fund and Scholarship Fund. The Funds are there for you.

ACT MB maintains a website at www.actmanitoba.mb.ca and Facebook page at www.facebook.com/actmanitoba for its members and we encourage you to visit both often. Have a show coming up? Let us know. We can help spread the word. We are here for you.

On behalf of the ACT MB Board of Directors, we wish you and your families a New Year filled with peace, health and happiness and an abundance of theatre to soothe the soul.

Warm regards,

Judy Arnason
President

ACTFest 2019

The 40th ACT Provincial Drama Festival
will be hosted by Portage's Prairie Players

April 26-28, 2019
William Glesby Theatre
Portage la Prairie, Manitoba

Prepare to celebrate the theme of...

Mary Poppins
practically perfect in every way

Watch the ACT website and Facebook
for more information and to register.



Visit ACT's Facebook page and contribute your groups's activities! facebook.com/actmanitoba/

MEMBER REPORTS

3rd Ave. Vagabond Theatre Co.

Russell/Binscarth

No report submitted.

7 Ages Productions

Brandon

No report submitted.

A-Spire Players Inc.

Gimli

No report submitted.

Assiniboine Theatre Company

Brandon

No report submitted.

Broken Record

Winnipeg

Broken Record is on a hiatus this winter but hopes to begin rehearsals in the spring for a Fringe show (fingers cruised for the draw!)

flatlands theatre company

Winkler

No report submitted.

Haystack Productions

Beausejour

Haystack Productions in Beausejour just wrapped a fantastically successful run of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." 30 actors, ranging in age from 12-19, had a blast presenting Roald Dahl's classic tale. We ran to full houses from Nov. 26-Dec. 1 and enthralled the audiences with the stories of Augustus, Veruca, Violet, Mike and Charlie. Willy Wonka, played by Jacob Brannen, did a superb job in leading this ensemble cast. A group of Oompah Lompahs made us laugh and giggle.

On another note, Haystack Productions in conjunction with St. Paul's United have launched a fundraising campaign to build a storage and creative space. We are putting up a shop behind the church where we can store

flats and stages and design and create sets. We estimate the cost of the project at \$32,000 and thus far have raised about \$10,000. If you are interested in helping financially with the project please contact alice.young@live.ca.

Holy Hams (Selkirk United Church)

Selkirk

No report submitted.

Pinawa Players

Pinawa

No report submitted.

Phoenix Players

Virden

No report submitted.

Prairie Players

Portage la Prairie

Prairie Players is facing a milestone year as we approach 2019! Lots of things are happening that I, as the President, am very excited about. We have been trying to reach stretch ourselves a bit, and besides our two yearly productions, help in community events when asked. As a result, several of our members participated in the national "Culture Days" the last weekend in September. We answered questions, had costumes, and gave tours of our theatre to the general public. We have also been asked to participate in the "Yule Tide" day in December at our local museum. Again, several members will be putting on a story narration/acting of "A Christmas Carol" that afternoon, as well as a couple Christmas readings.

We just finished our fall production of MASH. In keeping with the theme, we did all 4 shows in a coffee house style to make it feel like the audience was in the mess tent with the actors. We had a good turnout, and positive feedback.

As for our milestone year -- Prairie

Players is celebrating its 50th year! We decided to host ACTFest as part of this celebration. Then we discovered we have a triple milestone. Besides 50 years of acting, ACTfest is having its 40th year, and The William Glesby Center partnership with Prairie Players will be in its 20th year! How exciting is that?! So we decided that we want something big, something spectacular -- something supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

So MARY POPPINS has been chosen both as the theme for ACTFest in April 2019 followed by the production in November. After all she was 'practically perfect in every way', so we hope to follow her example! We hope everyone can join us and help us celebrate these special moments in our history!

R-G Productions

Winnipeg

No report submitted.

Rapid City Drama Club

Rapid City

No report submitted.

Real Live Entertainment

Steinbach

No report submitted.

Shoestring Players

Winnipeg

On Dec 18 we performed two staged readings for the Women's Canadian Club at their annual holiday luncheon, held in the Pan Am Room of the Winnipeg Convention Centre. The plays are "Countdown" by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by Maureen Taggart, and "The Dear Departed" by Stanley Houghton, directed by Katherine McLennan.

We are participating in the RMTC Ibsenfest, performing "The Pillars of Society" by Henrik Ibsen from Jan. 31 to Feb. 5 at the Forrest Nickerson Thea-

tre, Deaf Centre Manitoba, 285 Pembina Hwy. The directors are Karl Eckstrand and Mike Seccombe.

In February we will begin rehearsals for “Closure” by Ron Blicq, directed by Katherine McLennan. The first act will be presented at ACTFest, Portage La Prairie (April 26, 27, 28). The complete 2-act production will be performed at the Forrest Nickerson Theatre June 12-16, and at the A-Spire Theatre in Gimli, July 5, 6, & 7.

We also hope to perform in the Winnipeg Fringe Festival.

Whitemud Comedy Company

Neepawa

Changing it up from our traditional holiday performance of A Christmas Carol, this year WCC put on two nights of It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play to enthusiastic audiences at Neepawa's Roxy Theatre in December. Next up, the company is looking at the possibility of another full-length production in 2019.

ACT IS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS TO FILL THE POSITIONS OF TREASURER AND REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE (2)

Both positions are critically important to the future and well-being of the Association.

The Regional Representatives are responsible in maintaining a link between the ACT Board and Member Groups

Should you be interested or know of any member interested in serving on the Board or want more information please contact either of the following:

Alice Young at alice.young@live.ca
or Judy Arnason at 204-981-9152

Remember that Curtain Up! welcomes contributions from all ACT members. If you have a story to tell, we want to share it!

ACT BOARD

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