

Audience involvement in pantomime scored big with all ages

Everybody who saw *Little Red Riding Hood* loved it. Shelburne audiences are beginning to understand what British panto is all about and enjoying it. That was especially true of one little boy who was so involved with the plot that he got up onto the stage to show everybody where the big bad wolf had gone.

This year's TSC pantomime was moved to the end of November because of all the cancellations created by bad weather and closed roads last year, in what had become our regular spot, at the end of January. Unfortunately at the time the play-reading committee selected that weekend, we had no means of knowing that another musical production would be presented the following weekend. The confusion among potential ticket purchasers did not favour us and some re-thinking must be done as we plan for next season.

A report and picture above the fold on the front page – well, the entire 'above the fold' except for the ads! – of the Shelburne Free Press was a great compliment to the hard work of the cast and crew. And, of course that cast



and crew must be congratulated on yet another well-received pantomime.

We had several newcomers in the cast this year. Ashley Duncan, a very popular Lucy or Little-Red-Riding-Hood-for-short and Kathleen Peeters (new to the pantomime, but not to TSC – she was an inmate of *Jenny's House of Joy* last Spring – as Woody made a dynamic principal girl and boy. Veterans, Jo Hubbard and John Rowe kept the audience rolling in the aisles as the dame and the buffoon, respectively and another newcomer, Paul Welch, captured the imagination, of more than the one little boy, as Wolfgang Wolfe. Wolf assistants/turncoats in the form of two skunks, Jeanette Massicote and Debbie Tait created an appropriate aroma as recorded by Free Press photography. Brenda Stewart and Larry Creasey were the concerned parents of the eventual bride and groom, each winning their own love



interest in time for the Finalé.

This year's chorus was exceptional. Kim Peeters, Don Black and three more newbies, Bonnie Black, Teresa Duncan and Josh Oatman, under Kim's choral direction, created the glue that binds a pantomime together. And, it goes without saying, nothing could have worked so well without the 'orchestra' – musical director, Gerry McNalty, percussionist, Bob Bagnall and guitarist, Michel Malcoux.

Jane Turnbull managed the cast, properties and complex set, created by Bev Nicholas, Paul Welch, Josh Oatman and Jean Jardine Miller.



November General Meeting cancelled

The November General Meeting was cancelled when it became apparent that quorum requirements might not be met due to half the members, making up the small nucleus that regularly attends General Meetings, having previous engagements. The meeting had been postponed due to so many members being busy with the pantomime during November this year, and had been called for December 9th instead.

The cancellation draws attention to the lack of interest that the General Meetings have for members, other than the six to eight people who do attend, and brings forward the question of whether these meetings are really necessary. Consequently, at the Annual General Meeting in February, there will be a motion to change the Constitution to allow General Meetings to be called as required.

June production

It's not too early to start thinking about our June production of *What the Heart Wants*. This is a collection of three one act plays, translated and adapted by Canadian playwright David Nicholson, set in the same hotel garden and featuring three different couples and their problems. The idea is to have each play produced separately with either a new director paired with experienced actors or new actors paired with an experienced director. Anybody wanting to take the plunge and try directing, or anybody who would like to learn or brush up on their acting skills, should contact Jean – jeanmiller@designandcopy.ca – for a digital script.

NOTICES

Anyone with suggestions for plays to produce during the 2015-2016 season, please contact one of the Play Reading Committee (Bev Nicholas, Jo Hubbard, Jane Turnbull, Amanda Philip, Jean Miller) or email info@tiplingstagecompany.com.

Anyone interested in managing community events, please contact one of the Executive Board (Jean Miller, Sharon Creasey, Amanda Philip) or email info@tiplingstagecompany.com. It is important that we should be represented at the parades and fairs in the community. Except for the Easter Egg Hunt, which was organized but had to be abandoned due to lack of participants, nobody came forward to organize participation in such events during 2014. We cannot expect to residents to know who we are and what we do if we bury our heads in the sand between productions.

Front of house personnel will be needed for the production of *But Why Bump Off Barnaby* in March.

Auditions for our next production

Auditions for *But Why Bump Off Barnaby* by Rick Abbot take place at 2:00 pm on January 4th, 2015 at Grace Tipling Hall, Shelburne. Call-backs January 8th.

Four men and six women are required:

- Medkins, a butler - any age.
- Magnolia, a maid - 20-40
- Orion Leduc, baronet - 65+
- Barnaby Folcey, Orion's nephew - 35-45
- Lady Barbara Fenwick, Orion's sister-in-law - 65+
- Rosalind Barstow, fortune-hunter - 35-45
- Cleo Barton, Hollywood actress - 35-45
- Jeff Barnett, police reporter - 25-35
- Miss Barnsdale, ex-governess - 65+
- Dora Dunstock, Orion's grand-niece - 20-30

The age ranges have been broadened a little from the original script to provide opportunities for a greater number of prospective auditionees. Medkins, Orion, Lady Barbara and Miss Barnsdale should be British or able to do an upper class British accent, Cleo and Jeff are Americans, Barnaby and Dora are British expats living in America so would sound mid-Atlantic but Canadian accents will pass, and Magnolia and Rosalind can be any nationality.

SYNOPSIS: When Barnaby Folcey is murdered at a family gathering at Marlgate Manor, it transpires that he had a motive to murder everybody else but no one had a reason to want him dead. While dying, he scrawls the letters "b- a-r," which can implicate everyone. While the bizarre group frantically tries to unmask the murderer, people vanish, poison is found in the sherry and the police take forever to arrive. Meanwhile, there's a secret treasure to be found, a mystifying limerick to decode and all sorts of doom to be avoided before the killer is finally unmasked and destroyed using one of the funniest methods ever seen on a stage.

Director - Jean Jardine Miller.

Rehearsals - Sundays 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm and Thursdays 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm January 8th to March 19th.

Tech week - March 22nd and 24th to 26th (preview)

Performances - March 27th and 28th at 8:00 pm and March 28th and 29th at 2:00 pm.

Please email info@tiplingstagecompany.com to register.

Plan to attend the AGM on SUNDAY, February 15th, 2015

LUNCH12:30 pm
MEETING1:00-2:00 pm

Articles for the March issue of *From the Greenroom* should be submitted by February 28th, 2015 as Word files or included in an email message and sent to info@tiplingstagecompany.com