

Murder Mistaken kept audiences guessing

Under the direction of Bev Nicholas, a Tipling Stage Company cast presented enthusiastic audiences with a suspenseful evening's entertainment in the production of the 1950s classic crime melodrama by Janet Green.



Michelle White, Jo Hubbard, Josh Oatman & Chris Wright

Josh Oatman had them holding their breath wondering if the attractive, charming and likeable, but ruthlessly ambitious Edward Bare would ultimately succeed in obtaining the wealth he craves. Or, would the suspicious lawyer Philip Mortimer, played with true legal cynicism by Chris Wright, manage to unmask him.

After getting his besotted, much older wife Monica (Jean Jardine Miller) drunk, and leaving her to expire before the hissing, unlit gas fireplace, Edward finds that he has been a little presumptive during Monnie's drunken assertions about her instructions to Philip on re-writing her will... and she has left him with a lot less than needed to live in the style to which he has become accustomed.

Edward's hunt for a replacement brings him to Freda Jeffries, a recently widowed ex-barmaid performed by Michelle White with all the brashness of the stereotypical barmaid of the period. Freda had married the boss, inheriting his wealth on his death and looks to be the wife Edward is looking for. Once married, however, she begins to assert herself and, unfortunately for her new husband, knows how to hang on to the purse strings!

The second act brings another rich prospect literally crashing onto the scene as Charlotte Young runs her Jaguar into the gate post, requiring Edward's administrations of brandy. Will Edward find a way to rid himself of Freda for a more amenable liaison with Charlotte?

2016-2017 line-up

The Play Reading Committee presented their selection of plays for next season to the Executive. Performance dates, plays and directors are listed below:

October 14th to 22nd

No Sex Please, We're British by Anthony Marriott & Alistair Foot, directed by Denis Stephenson.

January 27th to February 4th

On Golden Pond by Ernest Thompson, directed by Bev Nicholas.

May 12th to 14th

Don't Dress for Dinner by Marc Camoletti, directed by Jo Hubbard.

Prospective producers, please contact the relevant director or email info@tiplingstagecompany.com.

Charlotte is not all that she seems, calling for Lori Stringer to switch effectively from well-heeled, horse-riding property-seeker to tough, justice-seeking bereaved sister. Yes, she turns out to be Monnie's younger sister and heir, unmasking Edward and being saved from 'accidental' death herself by the redoubtable Philip.

Jo Hubbard, as sweet and simple Emmie the maid, provided comic relief throughout the show delivering some wonderfully ingenuous one-liners but also drawing empathy when exploited by Edward and alternately disparaged and comforted by Freda. The entire cast was well directed and worked so competently together that many individual audience comments were heard on how believable everybody was as well as how the set successfully took them back to upper-middle class south-east England.



Michelle White, Josh Oatman & Lori Stringer

Volunteer opportunities identified

At a recent meeting of the Tipling Stage Company Executive, it was decided to invite members to consider becoming more involved with the group by participating in functions other than only taking part in our productions. If you would like take responsibility for any of the job descriptions summarized below, please email details of your interest/experience in that particular field to info@tiplingstagecompany.com.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR (1)

Under the direction of the Executive:

- Develop and implement our artistic mission and positioning.
- Direct at least one show per season and acquire/select directors for the other two.
- Research and select shows to present to the Play Selection Committee.
- Work with individual directors of each production to acquire producer, set designer and stage manager, attend auditions and assist with casting.
- Take full responsibility for each production.

SELECTION COMMITTEE (minimum 5)

Evaluate all scripts submitted from would-be directors, members at large and the Artistic Director, ensure that they meet our artistic requirements and can be produced within the limitations of our resources. New participants are needed and should be prepared to serve for a two year term so that we have an ever-changing committee.

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR (1 + subordinates to take charge of the individual areas below)

Meeting a communications strategy defined by the Executive, identify and develop the means to reach existing and potential target markets for our productions by managing/coordinating:

- Development/maintenance and execution of all print and electronic publications, i.e. quarterly newsletters, season brochure, website, mailings to member list and opt-in news mailing list.
- Creation and distribution of media communications (regular news releases), promotion and direct marketing materials to create and maintain awareness of the company, the individual productions and our positioning and brand image.
- Creation, production and placement of print and electronic advertising communications materials including distribution of posters and flyers.
- Co-ordinate PR interviews/photo opportunities.
- Social media posts.
- Ticket sales.

EVENTS COORDINATOR (1)

Identify, organize and manage participation, and invitations to participate, in both local and specific community theatre events to create and maintain recognition and to enhance our image as part of the relative community for example:

- Shelburne street parades.
- Community festivals and fairs.
- ACT-CO Festival entries and Gala.

Donating *Murder Mistaken* concession proceeds



Sharon Morden was unable to make the cake we usually have for our intermission concession during *Murder Mistaken*, due to the cost of having to rent premises for her cake business making small orders impossible. We decided it was our turn to give her a hand. Our concession proceeds were donated to Sharon's Feral Cat Rescue program which has ruled out the use of her own premises for her cake-making business. Jane Turnbull was given a tour of Shelburne's Feral Cat Rescue sanctuary when she presented our donation to Sharon. She also met Sharon's team of volunteers and, of course, the cats.



The mission of the Feral Cat Rescue program is to humanely Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) feral cats that reside in barns and other shelters on town and rural properties. Our donation is enough to cover the cost of surgery and vaccines for two cats.

In addition to spaying and neutering, the program relies on donations for food, litter and the many other expenses involved. There's more information on the program at www.feralcatrescue.ca.

STORIES for the September 2016 Newsletter should be sent to info@tiplingstagecompany.com by August 15th.