

Thistle Theatre

P.O. Box 333, Embro, ON N0J 1J0
www.thistletheatre.ca

July 2011
Issue



Minifest takes over Tillsonburg!

Featuring the play:

The Waiting Room

by Johnny Bobesich

Hilarity was at its peak in the town of Tillsonburg, as five different theatre groups, and Minifest junkies, descended upon the Otter Valley Playhouse for Minifest weekend. One 40 minute play and 5 different versions - incredible!

Participating this year were Binbrook, LCP, Elmira, Kent and Embro.

Thistle Theatre celebrated the directorial debut of Ann Parker, and what an incredible job she did! We can't wait to see her work in the future. The adjudicator, Mr. Al Lee commented on how her scenes flowed one to the another, and how they were so well-balanced. In every scene, you knew exactly where the attention should be focused. And there were so many nice "portraits" on the stage as well.

The cast consisted of:

- Cathy Siddall, (newcomer) whose Carol Burnett-style adaptation of a maintenance lady almost stole the show
- Garry Atkinson, (newcomer) whose challenge was to go from a frantic, nervous, first time father who races around the stage at break-neck speed to swooning into the arms of other actors
- Hayley Matheson, a very talented young teen who previously commanded the stage at CAST productions
- and 4 veterans - Sue Garner, Harold Arbuckle, Dave Parker, and John Hazeleger (who are also gifted directors!)

Groups are awarded "Minnies", which are awards handed out in the spirit of fun. Embro received: **The Precision Teamwork** award, **Carol Burnett** award to Cathy Siddall, **Tony Soprano** award to Ann Parker for "keeping the business in the family", **Ladies Man** award to Sue Garner, and the **Energizer Bunny** award to Garry Atkinson.

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Dramarama 2011



Greta Fairhead

With a Bachelor of Education, and a Bachelor of Arts with Distinction from the University of Western, along with an extensive background in theatre, Greta was a perfect fit as Artistic Director for Dramarama 2011.

Camp 1



In the scorching heat, campers were treated to a Water Day - lots of fun getting wet! In the picture on the right, campers rehearse the play they created themselves, called "Stranded".

Camp 2



Campers rehearse dance moves for their play called "Evil Smurfarama 2012". Part of the wind-down at the end of the day involves celebrating the accomplishments of the other campers, telling jokes, and re-creating a thunderstorm effect.

Upcoming Productions

That Summer

by David French.

Production dates are November 17, 18, 19, 20 (matinee), 24, 25, 26, 2011.

*Set on a tranquil beach, at a summer resort in Southern Ontario, the drama, **That Summer**, by David French is an emotional, bittersweet story narrated by a woman looking back at her past. The present time is 1990 and the period of time she is remembering is the summer of 1958.*

Directed by: Laura Jean McCann

Produced by: Sue Langlois

Cast includes (in order of appearance):

Tracy Hiuser..... Narrator / Margaret
Mathea Harris Caitlin
Mary Loggan Margaret
Margaret Walton Daisy
Troy Douma Jack
Adam VanWinden Paul
Joan Veldman Mrs. Crump

Performances will start at 8:00pm at the Embro Town Hall.

Matinees begin at 2:00pm

Tickets will go on sale at McKay's Food Market - 519-475-4148
in September - \$18.00/person or \$15/members

Thistle Theatre will also be doing a spring show in 2012.

Salt Water Moon

by David French.

Production dates to be announced.

David French was one of the major playwrights in modern Canadian theatre. He passed away in December 2010. As a tribute, Thistle Theatre is producing two of his shows in their 2011-2012 season. You may remember a third French play that graced our stage 12 years ago... called "1949".



Software Files Tech Support

Dear Sirs:

Last year I upgraded from Community Theater 5.0 to Small Professional Theater 1.0 and noticed some weird stuff happening. It installed a program called Stagemanager 4.0 and whenever a rehearsal file is opened, this program severely limits access to munchies, praise, and practical joke applications that operated flawlessly under Community Theater 5.0.

In addition, Stage Manager 1.0 uninstalls many other programs such as Hamming 2.0, Smoking in Costume 7.5, Coming and Going at will 5.6, Unlimited Comps 8.3 and Borrowing Theater's Equipment 2.3, and it installs new, undesirable programs such as Schedule 3.1, Discipline 1.3, Expectations 5.0, and Accountability 2.4!! Also, DivaFit 4.1 no longer runs at all, and invariably crashes the system! Under no circumstances will it run Whining 14.1. I've even tried running Attitude 5.3 to fix Stage Manager 1.0, but found it to have limited effectiveness. Can you help please ?!!!!

Signed, Frustrated

Dear Frustrated:

This is a very common problem many actors complain about, but is mostly due to a primary misconception. Community Theater 5.0 is an ENTERTAINMENT package for actors, while Small Professional Theater 1.0 is a PERFORMANCE OPERATING SYSTEM. It is impossible to uninstall, delete, or purge the Stage Manager files from the system. I would suggest you read the entire section of the owners manual regarding General Director Faults (GDFs) as it explains how Stage Manager 1.0 will take on ALL responsibility for ALL faults and problems, regardless of root cause, and will somehow solve EVERYTHING. To activate this great feature enter the command C:\DIRECTOR\SCATTERED DREAMER-SENSITIVE ARTIST\CAN'T FUNCTION WITHOUT YOU .

Stage Manager 1.0 flawlessly supports the applications Organize 12.3 and Miracles 7.8.

TECH TIP! Avoid excessive use of this feature. Overuse can create additional and more serious GDFs, and ultimately you may have to give a C:\APOLOGIZE\RAISE\PERSONAL DAY command before the system will return to normal operations. Overuse can also cause Stage Manager 1.0 to default to Grumpy Silence 2.5, which is a very bad program that can create Dysfunctional Acting files that clog all rehearsal and performance programs and are very hard to delete.

After several years of use, Stage Manager 1.0 will become familiar and you will find many valuable embedded features such as Fixes Broken Things 2.1 and Ensemble Loyalty 4.2.

I hope these notes have helped. We here at Tech Support wish you the best of luck in coming years.
Tech Support

Don't forget to regularly check out our website

www.thistletheatre.ca

for all updates!

Workshop

So You Want to Be A Pirate?

Presented by Shrew'd Business and Palace Theatre

SWORD PLAY WORKSHOP
Saturday, August 13, 4-7pm
Sunday, August 14, 10-3pm

An 8-hour workshop of intensive "fighting" for the stage. Hand to hand, sword fighting, knife and all forms of sea and land combat.

Sign up before August 1st - \$75.00
After August 1st - \$85.00

Call the Palace Theatre Box Office at 519-432-1029.

CALL SOON TO REGISTER AS THERE ARE A LIMITED NUMBER OF SPACES AVAILABLE.

Thistle Theatre Membership Application

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please indicate
which year you are
paying for:

Current year

Next year

Other _____

**use back of form if necessary

****Please note: Membership runs from Jan.-Dec. and is due by the Annual Meeting in February.
Mail payment of \$ 10 per membership to: Box 333, Embro, ON N0J 1J0
or give to any Thistle Theatre board member. Application form must accompany payment.**