



63 Gore Street E Perth Ontario,
Overlooking the Cay Basin

The Studio Theatre *Newsletter December 2011*



Live Theatre,
Music & Events

It's been a busy November at the *Studio Theatre* and we have accomplished so much in a short space of time. Time to tell you what's happened, what's new and what's coming up so here's the scoop.

Studio Theatre Hosts a Great Festival

If you have been following our news, you will know that the Studio Theatre hosted the **Eastern Ontario Drama League One Act Play Festival** on November 11-13, 2011. The festival attracted over 200 visitors to Perth over the weekend to stay, dine and shop at local establishments. The plays and the awards ceremony were very well attended and the festival well supported by local businesses, for which we can't thank them enough!

This is an adjudicated festival and 12 awards were given to individuals and companies for their performances and for many aspects of their productions. Of those 12 awards, Studio Theatre Productions was nominated for 7 awards and won 3 – no mean feat for our little theatre company. To have such talent in our midst is such a gift!

Our congratulations to the following for their outstanding performances:

Danielle MacDonald – Winner, Mae Carmichael Award for Acting (Female) for ***Mail Order Annie***

Lucas Tennant and Laurie Reesor– Winner, Peterborough Theatre Guild Adjudicator's Award for Ensemble Acting for ***The Christmas Tree***

Mail Order Annie – Winner, Peterborough Examiner Award for Best Visual Production

Lucas Tennant – Nominee, Belleville Theatre Guild Award for Acting (Male) for ***The Christmas Tree***

Paul Roach – Nominee, Pauline Grant Award for Acting (Male) for ***Mail Order Annie***

Joan Sonnenburg – Nominee, Academy Theatre Foundation Award for Best Director for ***Mail Order Annie***

Mail Order Annie – Nominee, Ottawa Little Theatre Award for Best Production

Please see our website for a full list of the winners. Congratulations to everyone!

How We Got the Theatre Ready

One of the challenges for a small community theatre of hosting a festival of this magnitude is that all the visiting companies expect a certain level of equipment in our theatre, usually found only in larger venues. So, the Studio Theatre leapt to the challenge and found the money in the budget to build or buy what we needed.

First up, we changed over the structure of our theatre curtains and our master carpenter, Reiner Silberhorn, built a new curtain-hanging system to replace the old pipes and chains we have used since the theatre was built. Now the curtains can be repositioned quickly without having to resort to ladders and long sticks! This was essential for the festival as 9 different plays all required a different formation of curtains.

Next, we needed more our curtains, which are essential for a festival such as this where sets are simple and curtains often stand in for walls or define spaces. With that in mind, we purchased more “legs”, the curtains that come out from the wings of the stage, where actors can make their entrances and we can mask the stuff you as the audience are not supposed to see. These were installed on the new hanging system and worked beautifully.

Then we had to make sure that the Stage Managers from each company and the stage and technical crew could communicate with each other. To do that, we had to replace our woefully inadequate system with one we could count on. We purchased and installed a new ClearCom communication system, sort of a high-tech walkie-talkie, with stations in both wings of the stage and in the technical booth at the back of the theatre. Now everyone could talk to each other during the performances and make sure nobody missed a cue! It worked beautifully and will enhance our own productions as well.

One of the other challenges with hosting 3 plays and their companies at once(!) was space. Any of you who have been to our little theatre will know that every square inch is in use. Since we had none of our own, we had to borrow it. Mark Lee let us use the offices of Avonlee Development, adjacent to the theatre, for an extra dressing room and office for the adjudicator to work in privacy. Thanks so much Mark!

Why It Worked So Well!

With the infrastructure in place, with the hard work of some dedicated volunteers and our fabulous sponsors, the festival was an unqualified success. Here’s the team that put it all together.

Penny Silberhorn, Chair
Jackie Boyer, Vice Chair, Sponsorship and Fundraising
Grace Main, Secretary
Isabel Joyce, Tickets
Anne & Bruce Neil, Hospitality
Patricia Parry, EODL Liaison/Accommodations
Karen Roberts, Sponsorship
Joan Sonnenburg, Promotion
Earl Sonnenburg, Master of Ceremonies
Liz Theobald, Front of House/ Awards
Roberta Peet & Yogi Sepp, Stage Manager
David Parry, Adjudicator Escort

And of course, we couldn’t have put on this festival without the support of local businesses. Thanks to all of these folks who helped us pull it all together:

Standing Ovation

Lake88.1

Centre Stage

Crain & Schooley

Table Sponsors

Jo’s Clothes, The Bookworm, Hinton Dodge Chrysler, Lake88.1

Special Thanks

to those who have contributed so much to the success of the festival:

Conway’s Men’s Wear - the MC’s tux (Through Collins Formal Wear - Free Catalogue in Store)

Perth BIA - advertising space

Kelly’s Florist – donation of floral arrangements

Mark Lee Avonlea Condominiums - downstairs dressing room space

Code’s Mill Inn on the Park - assistance with the Awards Brunch

Connie Strang, Wayne Williams and David Zimmerly - the donation of art for our fund-raising raffle

Family Pastimes - printing

The First Baptist Church, Perth - dressing room screens

Perth Restaurant - meeting space

Here's what's coming up at the *Studio Theatre*

Studio Theatre Productions

Currently on stage, the bitter-sweet comedy ***A Month of Sundays*** by Bob Larby, Directed by Studio Theatre Productions' veteran director Norma Cummings is playing to rave reviews! It opened **November 24** and plays until **December 4**. It's a very funny British comedy about old friends growing old together. With a fine and talented cast, sensitive direction and great set, this is a must. It will strike a chord with all of us of a certain age!

Following closely on the heels of this wonderful venture, we start into our Christmas season. This year, we give you not one but two wonderful Christmas plays on the same stage, playing the weekend of **December 15-18**.

The first is the Dylan Thomas classic tale ***A Child's Christmas in Wales***. Beautifully told and illustrated with colourful characters and music, this is a story for adults and children alike.

The second play, ***The Christmas Tree*** by Norm Foster, will reprise its appearance as Studio Theatre Productions' entry into the **EODL One Act Play Festival**. It won awards for Best Ensemble cast (Lucas Tennant and Laurie Reesor) and nominations for Best Actor (Lucas Tennant). The story centres on one man and one woman skirmishing over the last tree on the lot, with the inevitable result. It's a hilarious sparring peppered with Norm Foster's deft repartee.

See www.studiotheatreperth.com for more details and ticket information.

The theatre is a spiritual and social X-ray of its time. **Stella Adler**

Studio Theatre Co-Productions

Early in the new year, Studio Theatre will once again join forces with the Stewart Park Festival to present the second **Songs From The Valley**, a concert series featuring some of the Ottawa Valley's finest performers.



Songs from the Valley II



The Claytones **February 25 at 8:00 pm**

The first concert in the series presents the Claytones, featuring Kelly Prescott (daughter of the legendary Tracey Brown and Randall Prescott), Anders Dreup and Adam Puddington. This harmony-rich Ottawa Valley Country /Roots trio developed their musical camaraderie while performing in the successful theatrical production of Grievous Angel – The Story of Gram Parsons.

Lynn Miles **April 7 at 8:00 pm**

Enjoy one of Canada's most accomplished Country/Roots singer-songwriters Lynn Miles. With 7 albums to her credit, Lynn is the winner of multiple Canadian Folk Music Awards, and a 2003 Juno Award for Roots & Traditional Solo Album of the Year. She will be appearing with Keith Glass of Prairie Oyster fame, a 6-time Canadian Country Guitar Picker of the Year. Together, Lynn and Keith will make this an evening of musical brilliance not to be missed.

Arlene Quinn & Guests

May 12 at 8:00 pm

Arlene is a true native daughter of our area, born and raised in rural Lanark County. It has been said that she has the voice of an angel, and the ability to captivate an audience with her vocal stylings and upbeat energy. It's no wonder Arlene has shared stages across North America with some of Country music's most recognized entertainers, including Loretta Lynn, Lorrie Morgan, Blue Rodeo, Murray McLaughlin, Bill Anderson, Faron Young, Moe Bandy, and many more. Our final concert of the series.

Series Passes and tickets to individual shows are on sale now and with Christmas coming, a 3-concert pass is a gift that will make you a star on the home front. The all-inclusive price is just \$70 for the series, or \$25 per concert, available at Tickets Please, 39 Foster St., Perth, 613-485-6434, www.ticketsplease.ca. Tickets are also available at the door but these concerts sell out quickly. For further details visit studiotheatreperth.com.

If music be the food of love, play on. William Shakespeare

For more information on these and other events, please visit our website www.studiotheatreperth.com

This newsletter was written by Penny Silberhorn and edited by Jackie Boyer.
Please send questions or comments to perthstudiotheatre@yahoo.ca