

Spotlight

JULY, 2010



POWERHOUSE THEATRE 2009/10 SEASON

President's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful Okanagan summer. I also hope that you are starting to think ahead to the 2010/2011 Season at Powerhouse, and giving some serious thought to how you, as a Powerhouse member will get involved.

Powerhouse has the reputation as one of the best community theatre companies in the province, and we are all indeed privileged to be a part of it. However, we didn't get this reputation by merely saying "Yes I'm a member of Powerhouse!" We *all* need to do our part, and become involved, even in a small way in *every* production. Don't wait to be asked - as soon as you know who the producers are, contact one of them and say "What can I do to help?"

Your enthusiasm, commitment and energy is what will make each and every show a great one.

Dave Brotsky has consented to bring us his expertise and conduct a Lighting Design Workshop. He is one of the most sought after designers in the province, and we are fortunate to have him as a member of our company. Sign up, learn from the best, and experience how the magic of light brings every production to life.

Randy Jones, another Powerhouse member, who we are delighted to call our own is also committed to doing a workshop on Sound in early September. Learn how to design sound from the ground up by this creative and talented Sound Designer.

You will see by the plays we have slated for this upcoming season that there is something for everyone, so I urge you to get involved.

Sarah

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS: August 17 at 7:00

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: August 26 at 7:30 pm

2009/10 Powerhouse Theatrical Society Executive

President
Vice President Theatrical
Vice President Technical
Secretary
Treasurer
Business
Membership
Communications
Director at Large
Director at Large
Zone Rep

Sarah McLean
Willem Roell
Bev Steeves
Joyce Hodgson
Therese Parent
Geoff White

Marnie Cullum
Janet Walmsley
Sarah McLean

Powerhouse Executive meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. All are welcome.

E-mail the Executive at:
executive@powerhousetheatre.net



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Summer Party



Don't forget the Summer BBQ Party at Val's House on August 7th at 4 PM.

The Pool is open so bring your bathing suits, an appy, salad or dessert to share and whatever you plan to drink. Hamburgers and Hot dogs will be provided by the theatre.

Please e-mail Val at heuman@shaw.ca or call her at 250-308-4830 if you are coming so we get enough meat. Thanks... See you there.

Lighting Workshop

Lighting Workshop by Dave Brotsky

Anyone who is a member of Powerhouse and interested in participating in a comprehensive Lighting Workshop in September, please register **NOW** by contacting Sarah at 250-542-7027 or s_mclean@shaw.ca



In order to get the most out of this workshop and go on to light a show with a fair degree of confidence the same people would need to commit to ALL the sessions – a total of 28 hours.

The proposed dates and times are: Between SEPT 13 and 26

For example SEPT 16,17,18,19 OR SEPT 20,22,25,26....

Thurs Eve - 6:30-10 ; Fri Eve - 6:30-10; Sat 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM; Sun 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

New Arrival

Born on the 18th of July, at 5:40 am, in Woodingdean, Near Brighton, E Sussex, UK, to Wendy Klein's daughter Phillipa and son in law Sanjive Sen a baby girl Priya, 7lb 6 oz. Proud grandparents are Wendy and Alain Klein.



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Needed



A WELCOME WITH OPEN ARMS PLEASE

- Accommodation is needed for Jeff Hyslop, (Director of the fall production) from Nov 8th - Dec 8th, preferably free or minimum rent. Access to a kitchen would be welcomed.
- Please e-mail Sarah at s_mclean@shaw.ca if you have space.

Great News

Sharon Leveque had her appointment with her chemo oncologist July 14th and her scans indicated everything is clear! We are all absolutely thrilled, needless to say. Sharon wishes to thank everyone for your support and caring during the last 18 months. Both Eugene and Sharon are so very, very grateful. Her radiation oncologist will still continue to do internal exams for another few months.



Applause



-A standing ovation for Matt Brown and his team of actors, Jerry Graham, Alex Judd, Robyn Shanks and Starling Taylor who hacked down the jungle of weeds at the side of the theatre. It looks so good; many thanks!



- Let's have a round of applause to a couple of really great guys, Brian Jenkins and Alain Klein who put up the railing in the stairwell of the Costume bank. Joan Sasges and the general

public are so grateful.



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Reflections

Some Reflections on *The Monument* by the Director, Jo Jones.

We took a story about a man and a woman, and let their tale unfold on the simplest of abstract sets – a few risers brought together in random groupings, representing by turns a prison, an open field, a forest, a burial site It could have been anywhere in the world, but I chose a location in Bosnia in 1994.

A play about war and ethnic blood feuds, *The Monument* roils with rage, grief and brutality. It's a story of rape and murder, horrifying in its detail, violent in its action and language. Although confronting us with unbearable pain and suffering, it is both intelligent and emotionally powerful – and its conclusion does offer the possibility of redemption and reconciliation.

Why would I want to direct such a play? For many reasons. The Powerhouse has already produced works such as Euripides's *The Trojan Women*, and Ariel Dorfman's *Widows* – both plays about genocide - and I believe we have a duty to engage our members and our audiences from time to time with disturbing intellectual and emotional issues. Besides this, I am deeply interested in the human motivations that permit genocide to occur – over and over again.

I had to argue long, hard and persuasively before the Artistic Committee (Scotty and Monty) agreed to allow this play to be added to the schedule, as a fourth production outside our regular season. Casting was easy – Brennan fell into the role of the young punk soldier Stetko, and developed an award-winning performance, and Debra was the quintessential earth mother with that strong stage presence that I needed. They delved long and deep into their respective roles, and produced real Powerhouse performances in contributing to the award for Best Production in Salmon Arm.

Eugene designed a fabulous set (another award winner), and, as always, I thoroughly enjoyed batting ideas back and forth with him during the design process. Willem agreed to stage manage, with Mitch as his assistant in the wings, and a fine construction crew was assembled, headed by Eugene, and including Norm Jaques, Dale Popthecary, Bob Spearman, Brian Jenkins and Reg Scott. Our Techies were a great bunch of guys and gals:- Melissa Lockhart on properties; Marnie Cullum on costumes; The Lomases (Vanessa on lighting design, and John and Peter helping with the hang); Betty Morrison operating the lighting cues; Val, Edwin Swannack and Ken Beall working on the sound. Thank you all.

Our Admin people were equally diligent. Administrative Produce Joyce Hodgson quickly got all her ducks in a row. Ducklings included: Carol Marks on publicity; Trish Niehaus doing her first program; Sarah McLean producing our awesome poster; Matt Brown producing glorious pictures for a foyer display that Dawn Tyndall put together in a thoughtful and provoking way. Joan Karstensen took care of finding staff for the house; Ron Heuman tackled the bar set-up (again!); Mo Ruscheinsky coordinated our preview, and

Debra Butler took care of goodies for opening and closing nights.

Again, my thanks.



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Our run was foreshortened because of an accident to Brennan during the final week of rehearsals, so we were reduced to four performances before going to Festival. Once in Salmon Arm, many of us spent the whole week there, and enjoyed listening to and learning from (a much-mellowed) Andrew McIlroy as he gave his morning two-hour critique of every show. And the rest is history After taking some days off upon our return to Vernon, we began re-rehearsing early in June. But a series of totally unforeseen mishaps began to occur - trips to hospital emergency rooms, missed rehearsals, missed buses, Debra's six-day stay in hospital for a series of tests (during which she began in Emergency, then moved to Out-Patients, thence to the third floor east rehabilitation area, and finally to a cubby hole in an adjacent corridor, which could at least be curtained off!). And on the day that Deb was due to leave the hospital, with two rehearsals remaining before our trip to Mainstage, we received the devastating news of the tragic and untimely death of Brennan's younger brother. (You know how much we love and admire you, Bren – hang in there friend.) So our entry into the Festival was cancelled, the set taken down, the props and costumes put away – everything is now ready for the next show.

I have no regrets that our journey has ended here and now. We did well, and we did good. Well – because we won the Okanagan Zone against stiff competition from six other clubs. Good – because we dared to lay before the public a play about the horror of civil war and the destruction it brings, and we invited audiences to think about it.

It will be a long, long time, I think, before the Powerhouse again mounts a play of such a raw violence and cruelty. But the reaction of our audiences made it all worth while for me. To sit in the auditorium in total silence, such that you could have heard a pin drop, was unforgettable for me, and a huge compliment to the actors. And then to watch our patrons leave the auditorium ; either in dead silence, or with tears streaming down their faces – justified the vision I had been nurturing for so many months. They got it!!

But I cannot close without thanking the one person who shared that vision all the way through, and who has been working with me on this task since before the play was approved for the season-ender. And that is Val Heuman. Her calmness in the face of potential calamity was soothing, her willingness to have a go at things she had never done before is an example to us all, and her organizational and personal skills are unmatched.

Thank you so much, m'deah.



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2010/ 2011 Season

FALL SHOW: December 8—19

GREASE

Book, Music and Lyrics by

Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

Presented by Special Permission of Samuel French, Inc.

**Directed by Jeff Hyslop * (the Phantom in
'Phantom of the Opera')**

*Appears with Permission of Canadian Actors' Equity

Tech Producer: Sherry Moir Admin Producer: Debra Bob

While hip Danny Zuko and wholesome Sandy Dumbrowski resolve the problems of their mutual attraction in this 1950's rock musical, the gang sings and dances its way through such nostalgic scenes as the pajama party, the prom, the burger palace and the drive in movie.

This is *the* night that the whole family can enjoy, bring the grandparents and the grandchildren for a special pre Christmas treat.

Producers - Sherry Moir and Debra Bob.

Contact sherrymoir@shaw.ca or debbobca@yahoo.ca
if you want to work on the show.

Set Design - Doug Huggins

WINTER SHOW: February 15—26

LEND ME A TENOR

By Ken Ludwig

Presented by Special Permission of Samuel French, Inc.

Directed by John Lomas

Winner of 3 Tony Awards, 'Lend Me a Tenor' is set in September 1934.

Saunders, the general manager of the Cleveland Grand Opera Company, is primed to welcome world famous Tito Morelli, Il Stupendo, the greatest tenor of his generation. He is to appear for one night only as Otello but arrives late and, through a hilarious series of mishaps, is given a double dose of tranquilizers and passes out. His pulse is so low that Saunders and his assistant Max believe he's dead. In a frantic attempt to salvage the evening, Saunders persuades Max to get into Morelli's Otello costume and fool the audience into thinking he's Il Stupendo. Max succeeds admirably, but Morelli comes to and gets into his other costume ready to perform. What follows is a chain-reaction of mistaken identity, plot twists, double entendres, innuendoes, and constant entrances and exits through many doors. A sensation on Broadway and in London's West End, this madcap screwball comedy is guaranteed to leave audiences teary-eyed with laughter.



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2010/ 2011 Season Continued

SPRING SHOW: April 20—April 30

RABBIT HOLE

By David Lindsay-Abaire

Presented with Special Permission by Dramatists Play Service Inc.

Directed by Debra Bob

Winner of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for drama, *'Rabbit Hole'* is a beautifully crafted work of great sensitivity which shifts perfectly from hilarity to grief.

Becca & Howie Corbett have everything a family could want, until an accident turns their world upside down. This is a story that recognizes that the memory of past losses cannot be fully erased; moving forward always requires looking back.

This play is not to be missed as it offers an intimate look into a family, poignant and relatable; it has something special and real to offer the audience.

OUR FIRST EVER ONE ACT FESTIVAL!

This year the Powerhouse Theatre is proud to present a One Act Festival during the week June 6 – 11, 2011. Dates and participating plays will be announced in the *'Rabbit Hole'*

Program.



JOB JAR

Still needed done:

1. Fix the club room vacuum

2. Install new drawers in the Costume bank

Garage Sale



GARAGE SALE! SUNDAY AUGUST 22

Powerhouse is having a garage sale! We plan on getting rid of costumes and items that we no longer need, and now's your chance to clean out your garage, tidy up your basement, and then bring all your 'stuff' that you no longer want to the theatre.

P.S. Help is needed to organize and man this event, please call Sarah 250-542-7027 or s_mclean@shaw.ca

