

# POWERHOUSE THEATRE SPOTLIGHT

MARCH 2007

*Powerhouse Theatre — [www.powerhousetheatre.net](http://www.powerhousetheatre.net)  
2901 35th Avenue Vernon, BC V1T 2S7 542-6194*

Our regular editor Doug Reid is unwell at the moment and unable to do his usual stellar job of producing our newsletter. I haven't figured out how to create a newsletter in e-mail format which is printable for all so here is my somewhat less dramatic offering. Thank you for your forbearance, and remember – if you wish your Spotlight newsletter mailed that is no problem. Just let me know and I will pass on the message. This issue only has pictures on pages 1 and 3 so you can save the ink by not printing those pages.

Sharie Lomas [jslomas@shaw.ca](mailto:jslomas@shaw.ca)

## POWERHOUSE THEATRE TAKES CENTRE STAGE



A big thank you goes out to all the members who participated in presenting Powerhouse Theatre to the city with our Village Green Mall Display during Winter Carnival. Special thanks to the gang that transported and erected the display and then those who returned 11 days later to dismantle it and transport it back to the theatre. We received many very positive comments from the locals and distributed over 100 pamphlets about the theatre and its membership opportunities, as well as the upcoming Okanagan Zone Festival which Powerhouse Theatre is hosting.

## ***FROM THE PRESIDENT***

The first thing you will notice about this Spotlight is that it hasn't come from Doug Reid. Unfortunately Doug is in the hospital and has been there since January 30<sup>th</sup> fighting some kind of infection. As of this writing they have not discovered the source of the problem.

Sharie Lomas has agreed to produce this edition. Thank goodness for people like Sharie who are willing to step up when needed. There are so many people who work hard for our precious theatre, many of them working quietly in the background, often outside the production. People like Lorraine Allum, Helene Clark, Nancy Siver, Betty Harris, Val Heuman, and Geoff White to name a few (see separate article) and few people realize their commitment.

Congratulations to Sarah McLean and the cast and crew of *Trying* for a very successful production. Lots of kudos have been received and every one involved should feel very proud. Now we are on to our final production, *You Can't Take It With You*, which is a large production. Many hands are needed to make this a first class show and hopefully all our members will step up to the plate and contribute in some way.

Before we know it the Okanagan Zone Drama Festival will be here (May 12 – 19), and our theatre will be a hive of activity. It will be a week of great theatre! Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

**Joan Karstensen**

**A MESSAGE FROM JOANNA McCLELLAND GLASS**, Author of our recent play “*Trying*”, directed by Sarah (with an h) McLean. (aka Scotty)

“I'd appreciate if you'd tell Scotty that I'm in receipt of the disk and the photos. I'm delighted to have both. It's such a thrill to me when these smaller companies turn themselves inside out in order to get something of mine on. I hope the whole Vernon theatre community appreciated the efforts of all involved in this production of *TRYING*. Best, Joanna”



**Lost:** white MP3 player during the set construction for “*Trying*”. If you have any information please call Colin Carney at 545-0842

### **THEATRE BC 75th Anniversary Mainstage Festival in Kamloops, June 29- July 7.**

The Early Early-Bird Registration for Mainstage 2007 in Kamloops, June 29-July 7, is now available online at [www.theatrebc.org/M2007/](http://www.theatrebc.org/M2007/). Register before April 15th and save the price of your Final Night Banquet ticket! The play which will represent our Okanagan Zone will be selected at the upcoming Drama Festival to be held at Powerhouse.

If you wish to book your Mainstage 2007 room at the Coast Canadian Inn, see

[www.coasthotels.com/hotels/canada/bc/kamloops/coast\\_canadian/overview.html](http://www.coasthotels.com/hotels/canada/bc/kamloops/coast_canadian/overview.html),

official hotel and accommodation sponsor for Mainstage 2007 (\$99 per night, up to four sharing), booking reference is "CCI-GFC661" under Mainstage 2007. Rooms will be limited, so book early.

## **POWERHOUSE ON PARADE – WINTER CARNIVAL**



Back Row: Joan Karstensen, James Acton, Mitchell Morin, Kendall Rose, Jared Lea. Elcita Young, Bron Johnson. Front Row: Tracy Acton, John Shanks, Janet Walmsley, Robyn Shanks, Sean Bibby, Shyanne Boudreau, Neal Lea.

The Powerhouse Theatre entered a float in the Carnival Parade again this year and thanks to Rocky Mountain Transport, was able to represent three productions on the entry. Characters from “Babes In The Magic Wood”, “It Runs In The Family”, and “Trying” provided lots of color and action; especially since everyone was moving around a lot to keep from freezing. It is because of stout hearted members such as these that our theatre is a “POWERHOUSE” in more than name only. Thanks to all these wonderful people. And Thanks to Val Heuman for all the organization involved.

## **Our next production: “YOU CAN’T TAKE IT WITH YOU”**

**By Moss Hart and George Kaufman, Directed by Monty Hughes**

Opening night is the 25th of April. This play is also entered in the Okanagan Zone Festival which will take place in Powerhouse Theatre this May.

*Martin Vanderhof -- aka Grandpa -- reigns over a delightful madhouse, complete with his wife, children and a collection of folks who came for a visit and never left. All are artists, writers, and inventors, and none of them have let a lack of talent interfere with having a good time. If this isn't enough, into the mix comes a family almost the exact opposite. The Kirbys become involved because of the love interest of their son Tony. He has found the girl of his dreams, if not the family. There appears that nothing good can come of this relationship, especially when a proposed dinner mistakenly brings the family and friends together on the wrong evening.*

*The comedy is over the top but the moral of the story is a serious one: Find in yourself the courage to do with your life what you really want to do.*

### **Cast:**

Debra Bob	Eileen Podanowski
Colin Carney	Rod Neufeld
Bod Chamberlain	Bill Reynolds
Ann Cordingley	Dave Sayer
Dianne Couves	Lisa Talesnick
Kyle Eades	Penny Thorburn
Justine Westby	Craig Woelke

### **Crew:**

Director & Sound Design	Monty Hughes
Technical Producer	Joanne Taylor
Administrative Producer	Joyce Holman
Stage Manager	Lesley McCoy
Lighting Design	Vanessa Lomas
Lighting Operator	Carol Davidson
Set Design	Doug Huggins
Set Construction	Willem Roell, David Roell, Geoff White, Bob Spearman, Norm Jaques, Chris Bayne, Bob Jackson
Set Décor	Sarah McLean, Sherry Moir, Sandra Liedl, Laurie Normandeau
Costumes	Val Heuman, Marnie Cullum
Seamstresses	Pam Phillips, Muriel Bennett
Hair/Makeup	Avanti Studio, Eileen Pelliccia
Props	Dawn Kennedy, Deb Harwood
Special Effects	Liza Judd
Poster Design	Julia Berschley, Pristine Graphics
Programmes	Pauline Kyllonen
House Manager	Ann Cordingley
Preview	Joan Karstensen
Photography	Dave Wallden
Opening/Final Night	Pip Jordan, Lindsay Doroshuk

PREVIEW NIGHT for *You Can't Take It With You* will be Monday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8 pm. If you plan to attend please contact Joan Karstensen at 545-4213 or [jonikar@shaw.ca](mailto:jonikar@shaw.ca) No charge for members, and extra preview tickets may be purchased by members for half the price of a regular ticket, if any are available.



This year, Vernon Powerhouse Theatre is thrilled to be hosting the annual **Okanagan Zone Drama festival, May 12 – 19**. For those of you not familiar with the Festival, you're in for a treat. It's an opportunity for theatre groups from all over the Okanagan to showcase their best work for an audience and an adjudicator. There is a competitive element, because the Best Play will get a chance to compete at the Theatre BC Mainstage Festival in Kamloops this summer. Some folks thrive on the competition; others are there just for the joy of it.

Jeff Hyslop will be the adjudicator for the festival. Most people will remember Jeff Hyslop as the "Phantom" in the Canadian traveling production of "The Phantom of the Opera"- a role he played over 900 times in two and a half years. Jeff has been involved with stage and TV as an actor, singer, dancer, choreographer, and director. He has won three Jessies, one for best director and two for best choreographer, and a Dora Mavor Moor award for best new show, "On Tap." He has also been nominated five times for the ACTRA award for Best Variety Performer.

If you've experienced a theatre festival before, you know how much fun they can be. Audience members get to see a different play every night. Performers and crew get a chance to have their work evaluated by a theatre professional. And everyone gets a chance to meet other theatre fans from neighboring communities. Go to one of the social events and you'll hear snippets of conversations about playwriting, directing, stage craft, favorite play memories and more.

Ours is a vibrant zone, which has attracted a marvelous diversity of artists. Some of my fondest festival memories are conversations with a metal worker who helped reinforce part of a set, and a portrait photographer who was called on to create photos as props in a show. These weren't "theatre people", but they were drawn into participating through the Zone Festival. And they were loving it.

So get yourself a package, see as many shows as you can afford, invite your non-theatre friends, and dive headlong into the experience. You'll be talking about it all summer.

Martin Niedballa

***The Theatre BC Okanagan Zone festival runs May 12-19<sup>th</sup> at Vernon Powerhouse Theatre. Please note, we will be selling our own tickets at the Powerhouse Theatre for the Festival, and not going through Ticketseller. Details of individual tickets and package prices to follow. All seats are rush seating.***

**SUMMARY OF BUILDING MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 25, 2007**

For your interest, here are some of the plans in discussion for our theatre building. Any questions or comments contact Val Heuman, 558-1063 [heuman@shaw.ca](mailto:heuman@shaw.ca)  
 And of course volunteers are always needed to help with the many maintenance jobs throughout the theatre!

ITEM	DETAILS
1.	Ask Cory Care of Care Systems to create an optimum heating/ cooling design for the theatre with a replacement of the existing units in the plan and a full quote attached. Consideration should be given to making the system more efficient and operate more quietly. Venting of the hot air that becomes trapped in the upper part of the main stairwell should also be considered.
2.	Contact Elroy Steiner for a quote to excavate the North East section of the back compound to expand the costume bank and to build a main floor and second floor expansion to create more space for back stage storage and an upper room off the east catwalk to the north.
3.	Nosing on the stairs on each side of the auditorium steps as well as on the steps to the Greenroom.
4.	Illumination of the raised entrances to the upper seating rows.
5.	Painting of the Upper Dressing Room and bathrooms is needed prior to hosting the O-Zone Festival this spring.
6.	Painting of the Green Room beams, the black walls and the strip above the north wall seats in the bar area is needed before festival.
7.	Refinishing the Green Room floor was considered but it was decided that we could scrub the floor and lay a very large area rug in over the floor using the carpet that was donated by David Willis.
8.	The wooden letters for the front marquee need to be painted white and have magnetic strips attached to the back of them.
9.	A Recycle Bin will be located inside a storage unit beside the garbage bin and arrangements will be made to have Venture Training pick up the material accumulated on a regular basis.
10.	A revamping of the storage areas in the Scene Shop is necessary so that better use can be made of the space we have as well as to facilitate the use of the space by work crews doing set construction.
11.	The new stucco on the front of the building has been painted

**Powerhouse Theatre Executive**

President	Joan Karstensen	545-4213
Vice President Technical	Val Heuman	558-1063
Vice President Theatrical	Monty Hughes	542-0238
Treasurer	John Lomas	558-5479
Secretary	Arlene Spearman	558-3612
Communications	Martin Neidballa	503-0272
Business Manager/Membership	Garth Wallberg	549-3795
Director at large	Debra Bob	558-5914

**ACCOLADES TO....** When you are involved in a production, the work you do can be seen and appreciated by others. Other jobs that get done around the theatre are not so obvious and few people realize who looks after these tasks. I just want to give credit to a few individuals who work behind the scenes and let them know that their efforts are appreciated.

Lorraine Allum, Betty Harris, Nancy Siver and Geoff White are working on updating past productions on the web site. Did you know that this group is going through forty-four years worth of programs to record the cast and crew of each production? A huge job.

Lorraine Allum, Helene Clark and their Okanagan Zone Committee are busy getting everything done for the drama festival. One of the big concerns this year is money (costs are up, sponsorship is down). Lyisla Demchuk, Lorraine and Helene have been pounding the sidewalk looking for sponsors. Often a thankless job.

Val Heuman is a one-woman show. She put endless hours of preparation (3 months) into the Powerhouse Theatre's display at the mall during Carnival week. As well, she arranged crews to set up and take down the display. At the same time she organized the Powerhouse entry into the Carnival Parade. The morning of the parade fifteen or so members gathered at the theatre to get into costume and eat an Egg McMuffin (provided by Val) before going to the parade site. Besides looking after all this, Val made a costume for herself as she was traveling in a horse drawn carriage as the Woman of The Year. Watching her change into her costume beside the railway tracks is another story! Oh, and one thing more, during this time frame she was doing costumes for Trying as well.

These are only a few of the members who work tirelessly for Powerhouse Theatre that I wanted to pay tribute to in this edition of Spotlight. THANK YOU, ONE AND ALL!

Joan Karstensen

## **THEATRE BC NEWS & INFO**

**ACToberfest - the new provincial One Act Festival.** Theatre BC is proud to announce that as part of our 75th Anniversary celebration, Theatre Kelowna Society will be hosting our first annual provincial one act festival, ACToberfest 2007, this coming October 12th-14th in Kelowna. Do you have a small one act show, monologue, or original script that you have wanted to perform, but it will not fit in with your club's season? Would you like the professional feedback on it that you would get at a Zone Festival or Mainstage? Take a look at the info at [www.theatrebc.org/actoberfest/](http://www.theatrebc.org/actoberfest/) and plan to enter.

**New Play Festival 2007.** Have you considered applying to be an actor/reader for this year's event? There are plenty of roles available for all ages and the registration fees have once again been reduced.. Complete info, including registration, is available at [www.theatrebc.org/NPF/](http://www.theatrebc.org/NPF/). To be considered for a role, send your photo and bio to [npf@theatrebc.org](mailto:npf@theatrebc.org) or mail to the Theatre BC office in Nanaimo.

### **19th Canadian National Playwriting Competition.**

Submissions for the 19th Competition will be accepted from April 15<sup>th</sup> through to Monday, July 23rd, 2007. To receive a copy of the "How To Enter" brochure by email or surface mail, contact Theatre BC or go to the Playwriting Competition website at [www.theatrebc.org/playcomp/index.php](http://www.theatrebc.org/playcomp/index.php)