

Spotlight

AUGUST 2011



POWERHOUSE THEATRE 2009/10 SEASON

President's Message



Hello All,

What can I say thank you so much to everyone who came to the theatre on the 13th to join in the Hamber celebration. What a surprise! It was great to see so many smiling faces; some I hadn't seen for a long time. A huge thank you to Sherry and her helpers who planned the great event and one I shall remember fondly for many years to come. A posthumous thank you to our dear Penny Thorburn who instigated the original nomination.

A big thank you to Willem who kindly hosted our summer party and to Marnie who helped organise it.

Looks like the upcoming Season is an interesting and fun one, so say "YES" when someone phones to ask for your help.

I hope you've all enjoyed a good summer. Check out the Website for all the details www.powerhousetheatre.net

Sarah

Next Executive Meeting: , Sept. 6, 2011 at 7:00

AGM: Sept. 13, 2011 at 7:30 PM

2010/11 Powerhouse Theatrical Society Executive

President	Sarah McLean
Vice President Theatrical	Dave Sayer
Vice President Technical	Val Heuman
Secretary	John Lomas
Treasurer	Joyce Hodgson
Business	Therese Parent
Membership	Bev Steeves
Communications	Wendy Stevens
Director at Large	Marnie Cullum

Director at Large
Director at Large

Maureen Ruscheinsky Zone Rep

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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2011 Summer Party

- Thanks Willem & Marnie



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2011/ 2012 Season

It's Snowing On Saltspring

by Nicola Cavendish

Directed by: Dave Sayer

Reading – Sept. 15th (Thurs.) 7:00

Auditions – Sept. 18th (Sun.) 1:00

Call Backs – Sept 19th 7:00

Rehearsals start – Mon. Oct 3rd and go Mon.-Wed-Fri. at 7:00
and Sunday at 1:00

Proposed Production meetings – Sundays at 12:00

Family performance – Sunday Dec. 4th at 2:00

Preview – Monday Dec. 5th at 8:00

Run – Dec. 7-11 and 13-18 with matinees Dec. 11 and 18.

Italian American Reconciliation

by John Patrick Shanely

Directed by: Bev Steeves

This sparkling, gritty romantic comedy is set against the backdrop of New York's Little Italy.

Run- February 22 — 25th 8 pm

February 26 2 pm Matinee

February 28 — March 3rd 8 pm

The Woman in Black

by Stephen Mallatratt

Directed by: Matt Brown

Run - April 25 — 28 8 pm

April 29 — 2 pm Matinee

May 1—5 8 pm

The Woman in Black is a 1983 thriller fiction novel by Susan Hill about a menacing spectre that haunts a small English town. It was adapted into a stage play by Stephen Mallatratt.

All productions are in need of crew. If you would like to try your hand at one of the jobs, give Technical Producer, Sherry Moir a call at 250-260-6002

or e-mail at sherrymoir@shaw.ca



In the News



Maureen Ruscheinsky is Dancing with the Stars to raise funds for Hospice House. The contest will take place at 7pm on Friday, September 30th at the Rec Centre. The doors open at 6pm. Mo has tickets to sell at \$40 per person to attend. This price includes one vote. Each vote costs \$5 and if you go to the event, you can vote again there. Should you not be able to go but feel the urgent need to vote for Maureen, here is the website to go to: www.nohs.ca. She also has votes to sell if anyone prefers not to use their credit card online or doesn't have internet access. All the proceeds go to Hospice Society. Whether she wins or not, the cause is a good one! Of course, the more of Maureen's friends that vote for her, the better chance she has of winning, and all votes are appreciated!!



Sarah's Surprise

Almost 80 people from all over the province gathered at the Powerhouse Theatre on August 13th to celebrate Sarah McLean as the 2011 Eric Hamber Award Winner. Thinking that there was going to be a small group gathering to give her a toast, she was absolutely caught off guard when Val Heuman ushered her into the auditorium, ostensibly to view the new carpeting before she joined the little group in the Greenroom, only to be greeted by a sea of familiar, smiling faces of friends and family. Everyone enjoyed seeing previous award recipient, Mary Huggins, present the trophy to Sarah with the assistance of TBC President Glen Miller. The Powerhouse theatre gave Sarah a commemorative framed picture of the trophy to take home. Fellow Hamber Award winners from the Powerhouse, Doug Huggins, George Young, and Lorraine Allum joined Sarah on stage. Everyone enjoyed a delightful reception arranged by Sherry Moir.



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Letter From Peter Loster

Hi Everyone,

I had my most recent C.T. scan on 23rd. Thought the brain tumour has grown a bit, the doctors are pleased with the small amount of growth that has occurred in the last 5 months. I am also back on steroids to help with any swelling and I do, generally feel quite good. My blood work was a little off on the 23rd and I had a little seizer, so instead of starting Chemo round #3 on the 24th, they will check on the 30th and if all is OK it will start then.

You may e-mail me at scarbelly@shaw.ca or phone me at 250-545-3647. I am looking forward to my upcoming trip to Yorkton, Saskatchewan to see family and friends.

Please keep in touch and take care.

Peter Loster

Stage Manager's Workshop

STAGEMANAGERS WORKSHOP

will take place at the Powerhouse Theatre Sept. 10th from 1pm-4pm. Workshop directors Judy Byer and Susan Gibbs.

Stage Managing 101 The workshop will cover the responsibilities of the stage manager, Ideas and tips from our experiences, a short exercise on setting up a stage manager's book, and some personal tips on preparing for festivals.

Susan and Judy have been stage managing for over 50 years between them. They have worked in a variety of theatre settings ranging from school productions on gym floors to professional theatres with wings/towers etc. On occasion, they have taken on the role of sound and light operators and have also been responsible for sets, props and costumes...all these experiences bringing a better understanding of the multi-faceted job of stage managing.

To register for the Zone Stage Managers workshop, please e-mail

Paul Kirkwood Hackett at spence59@telus.net

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Changes to Electrical Qualifications Impact Powerhouse Theatre

Theatre BC's Vice-President of Operations, Randy Poulis, met with members of Actsafe recently at Actsafe's Vancouver office. The meeting discussed the impact of implementation of the provincially mandated Live Performance Electrical Certificate as it pertains to community theatres throughout the province. A backgrounder and results of those discussions is detailed below in the form of a Q & A.

More detailed information on the Live Performance Electrical Certificate and how to obtain the certificate is detailed on Actsafe's website at www.actsafe.ca. As Theatre BC has nothing to do with the implementation or compliance of theatre companies with the LPEC requirements other than advising our members; the Actsafe website and its offices should be considered your first source for information.

What is the Live Performance Electrical Certificate?

The best explanation comes from Actsafe and that is: "In British Columbia, the BC Safety Standards Act Electrical Safety Regulations require workers who handle electrical or audio visual equipment to hold a valid electrical ticket. The LPEC covers work that lighting crews usually perform to cable and maintain a lighting rig or to set up audio-visual or public address systems for live events and performances. It is required for electrical work performed in touring shows and festivals in

Is community theatre being targeted by these regulations?

No any group in the performing arts is being asked to comply. In my conversation with Actsafe when I said there has been pushback and "a shoot the messenger reaction," they said we should have seen pushback from the professional theatre community. In fact, there is no new legislation here, the regulations have always been there just not enforced:



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Electical Qualifications Continued

"The development of this certification was driven by the industry in the acknowledgement that, under the BC Safety Standards Act: Electrical Safety Regulations, individuals are not permitted to perform many of the tasks commonly associated with the set-up and operation of stage lighting and other audio visual systems, unless they hold a valid certificate. There are a significant number of people employed in the live entertainment industry who are not aware of this regulation, and who have been performing this work without a recognized credential." - *Actsafte* The development of the Live Performance Electrical Certificate was to create a certificate that would allow for commonly performed work in theatres, etc., that would otherwise require a minimum of a Limited Entertainment certificate (The LE ticket requires a minimum of two years work experience and 1800 hours of practical experience.)

Why this change?

Following serious injuries suffered by people performing electrical work in non-regulated areas of the province, the BC Safety Authority mandated changes to ensure those handling electrical components meet a minimum standard of electrical knowledge. This standard fills the gap between the LE (Limited Electrical certification which is the minimum standard used in film) and a person coming in off the street to perform electrical work in our theatres.

So, if I want to plug some lighting equipment or audio equipment into a back-stage wall circuit, I require a certificate?

No. Existing electrical outlets that are part of a building's normal wiring have been inspected and are considered safe for anyone to use. In other words, if you are going to run a projector, fog machine or practical through the wall outlet your facility came with, not a problem. If you are going to run it through your stage lighting system's circuitry, this requires someone with the LPEC to oversee the electrical connection .

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Electrical Qualifications Continued

Specifically, what areas of community theatre require a Live Performance Electrical Certificate to perform the work?

Stephen Hinde, Provincial Electrical Safety Manager for the BC Safety Authority, states **"A person holding an LPEC would be able to perform the following work:**

1. Set up temporary, plug in electrical systems used in Performing Arts, trade shows, conventions, touring shows and festivals.
2. Utilize existing fault protected electrical systems.
3. Interconnect plug and cap assemblies and branch circuits.
4. Set up and interconnect XLR, 3, 4, and 5 pin cables, telex cable, coaxial, cat-5 and A/V cable.
5. Service equipment under manufacturer's documented recommendations and instructions.
6. Supervise a maximum of 2 uncertified workers on work within the LPEC scope.

I already have an electrical certificate, do I need LPEC?

No



Electrical Qualifications Continued

How do I get my Live Performance Electrical Certificate?

Obtaining the certificate requires two components to be met. Candidates must show they have 800 hours of practical experience and write an online exam to test their knowledge.

How do I prove I have 800 hours of practical experience?

Someone, or several someones, need to attest to this practical experience (the attestation forms are part of the application kit available at www.actsafe.ca). This can be a school, college or university where you obtained a diploma or degree in which part of your work involved patching electrical and audio systems; or theatre companies you have worked for in the past.

Who can attest to my hours at the community theatre company?

A club president or technical director of the theatre company can attest to these past hours.

What constitutes hours of practical experience?

Any time spent on a hang, focus, board operation, strike and equipment maintenance of lighting and audio equipment represents attestable hours.

If I've spent hours riveted to my lighting or sound board with a stage manager barking in my ear during a performance, that constitutes hours?

Yes



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Electical Qualifications Continued

Where do I get the application kit?

At the Actsafe website - www.actsafe.ca - you will also find there Actsafe's own Q & A; a letter from the BC Safety Authority; and a study kit to help you prepare for the exam.

Is it true that it's cheaper to write the exam if you're a member of Theatre BC?

True. The cost of writing the LPEC exam as of July 31, 2011 is \$50, however, if you include a copy of your current Theatre BC card in your application, Actsafe will reduce the cost to \$25.

how long does a Live Performance Electrical Certificate last?

For life, the certificate does not expire before you do.

Does the person with an LPEC need to be there at all times when work is being done in the theatre?

Yes, when it applies to the "tasks that lighting crews commonly perform as they hang, focus, cable and maintain a lighting rig, as well as the set up of PA systems and audio visual installations used in live entertainment." - *Actsafe*.

Congratulations to Dave Brotsky

The first Powerhouse member to pass the
LPEC certificate test.

