

Dartmouth Players
33 Crichton Avenue, Dartmouth
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November/December 2004

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Aloha! I am honored that Dartmouth Players has chosen my submission, *Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii* by Allan Stratton, as the first major production of the season. This play represents my directorial debut and is a true farce that I promise will keep you in stitches throughout the evening. The play takes place in a well-to-do household in 1981 Toronto and showcases the antics of Vivien Bliss, a high energy Harlequin Romance writer, who has difficulty separating fiction from her manic reality. She uses the improbably complex "true-life" interrelationships between the other 6 characters to create her latest novel featuring her usual heroine, Nurse Jane.

I am privileged to work with some of Dartmouth Players' most experienced and gifted actors in the development of this exciting project. Joining Tamara Perlmutter as Vivien are Lorraine Cantwell as the lady of the house Doris, David Ridley as her husband Edgar, Ian MacDermid as a surprise houseguest Bill, and Ruth Flemming as Vivien's editor Betty. Talented newcomers Alice Woodbury (Peggy) and Branwell Beck (Peter) round out this cast of zany characters.

"The best Producer ever," Angus Duncan, has welded together an equally experienced and able crew and they are diligently working towards getting this ship of fools afloat. Thanks for your great help so far!

Bryn Rowlands, Director

Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii runs November 10 to 27, Wednesdays to Saturdays, 8:00 p.m., and one matinee at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 21 at the Dartmouth Players Theatre, 33 Crichton Avenue. November 10 and 11 are "Five Buck Nights". Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors/students. For reservations, book on-line at www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca or call 465-PLAY (465-7529).

Audition Notice for *Night Watch*

Read Through – Sunday November 7, 6:00 pm
Auditions, Monday & Tuesday, Nov 8 & 9, 7-9:00 pm

Auditions are to be held for the murder mystery/thriller ***Night Watch*** by Lucille Fletcher and directed by Robin Saywood. A straight read of the whole play is scheduled for Sunday, November 7 at 6:00 p.m. General invitation. Auditions will be run on Monday and Tuesday evenings, November 8-9 from 7-9:00 p.m. No prepared pieces are required. There are 9 characters in this play – 4 women and 5 men – ranging in age from 30 up. For further information, contact Robin Saywood at 457-7279.

Subscribe Now!
Be Eligible to WIN/WIN
(see inside)

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Calendar of Events

| <u>Date(s)</u> | <u>Activity</u> |
|-----------------|--|
| Nov 10-27 | Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii |
| Nov 21 | Matinee – Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii |
| Nov 7 | Read Through – Night Watch |
| Nov 8-9 | Auditions – Night Watch |
| Jan 19 - Feb 5 | Night Watch |
| Jan 30 | Matinee – Night Watch |
| Mar 30 - Apr 16 | Caught in the Net |
| Apr 10 | Matinee – Caught in the Net |
| Jun 8-225 | Kiss Me, Kate |
| Jun 19 | Matinee – Kiss Me, Kate |
| June 28 | General Meeting |

Bright and Shiny Broadway Revue

For the first time on Dartmouth Players Stage! Eighteen talented youth performers, ages 9 to 17 from the Youth Performing Arts Program, will dazzle and amaze you. From staging a play about life as a teen and performing skits to singing and dancing to your many favorite show pieces from *Puttin' on the Ritz* to Chicago's *All That Jazz*. Musical Accompaniment by Ralph Urquhart. Dates for performances are Saturday, December 4 and Sunday, December 5 at 8:00 p.m.

Book Early - Tickets are VERY limited (remember all the parents and families will be going too!). Tickets: Parents, Seniors and Children \$8.00; Adults \$10.00. For reservations, call **465-PLAY** (465-7529) or book on-line at www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca

What's NEXT Season About?

It's not too early to think about next year's season. The Playreading Committee is ready to start evaluating scripts submitted by directors. Deadline is April 30 and those submitting potential plays will be advised of the final selection by the end of May. Submissions may be made to any of the committee members: Ruth Flemming (404-2029); Theresa Keefe (435-4250); or, Flo Trillo (454-6721). Indicate any ideas you might have regarding staging and what time of year you would prefer. If you're not interested in directing, but know of a play which might suit the Dartmouth Players, or someone you'd like to see direct, let the committee hear about it.

Flo Trillo
Chairperson, Playreading Committee

One Act Play Festival - The Play Reading Committee will be accepting submissions for our entry into the Theatre Nova Scotia One Act Play Festival. This Festival takes place at UCCB Boardmore Playhouse during May (16-18). Presentations are limited to a 60 minute running time, and can be a one act play, or a stand alone section from a longer play. Please contact any of the Committee members as mentioned above.

"Behind the Scenes"

Listen – can you hear it? It's the sound of a saw. Where is it coming from? It's coming from "Brent's Room". Brent's Room? – What's that and Who is Brent?

Brent Boudreau first came to the Dartmouth Players back in 1993 during our production of *Lettice and Lovage*. He is one of those behind the scenes people who the audience only sees through the many wonderful sets he helps to create and build.



At any given time you can find Brent in a back room of the theatre working away on building set pieces, or coming up with some creative solution to a particular problem that we may have. Because Brent has pretty much taken over this back room, and transformed it from a janitor's closet into a well-organized workspace, it is now lovingly referred to by all of us at the theatre as "Brent's Room".

During the 11 years that he has been a part of the Dartmouth Players and the many shows that he has been a part of, his favorites include *Oh What a Lovely War*, *Little Shop of Horrors*; and *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*.

Brent was born in Sydney, Nova Scotia – yes bye, he is a good old Cape Bretoner – and he comes with all the wonderful traits Cape Bretoners possess. Besides his parents, he has two brothers and a sister whose lives he is very much an important part of.

Outside of the theatre, Brent's other interests include cooking (he's really, really good too); playing golf; taking trips (mostly to play golf); music; reading; making gadgets; and, fixing things around the house. And if you want to know where the best buys in town are, just ask Brent. During the day Brent works with Maxim Analytics as an Environmental Technologist.

The value Brent brings to the Dartmouth Players is immeasurable – not just in all that he does for the theatre, but more importantly, in who he is as a person. We cannot imagine our little theatre without him, or, his wonderfully witty sense of humor that he shares with us when he takes a break from the table saw or the hammer!

Ruth Flemming

Gift Certificates

Christmas...Birthday...Just Because!
Give the gift of Live Theatre to that
special person in your life!
Dartmouth Players offers
gift certificates for both subscriptions
or individual plays.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Subscriptions: | <u>4 Plays</u> | <u>3 Plays</u> |
| Adults | \$44.00 | \$33.00 |
| Senior/Students | \$36.00 | \$27.00 |

Single Play Tickets: Adults - \$12.00
Senior/Students - \$10.00

Deadline for 4 plays is **November 6, 2004**
Deadline for 3 plays is **January 7, 2005**

Simply contact Cliff Tyner at 434-1078
or ctyner@ns.sympatico.ca

DRESS REHEARSALS FOR CHARITY

Dartmouth Players has one "Dress Rehearsals for Charity" performance still available. If your group is interested in this fundraising evening, it must meet the following criteria:

- do "charitable work" benefiting our local community;
- be either a Revenue Canada (CCRA) Registered Charity or be a branch of a parent organization that is a CCRA Registered Charity.

A sheet with further details is available if your group is interested. Contact Joyce Dagnall at 435-5878 or ax507@chebucto.ns.ca with the details concerning your group.

THEATRE...at your doorstep!

Check out the latest **THEATRE...at your doorstep!** pamphlet enclosed with our newsletter. See what is happening in community theatre for 2004/2005. Dartmouth Players thank Joann Perrott, Regional Circulation Sales Manager for Eastern Canada, and

for their continued sponsorship, support, and pamphlet distribution.

WIN Subscription for Two or A Night at *Turtle Grove B&B*

Subscribe to the Dartmouth Players' 2004/2005 season by **November 6** and again this year, your name will be entered in a draw to win a FREE subscription for two to our current season
or
a one-night stay at *Turtle Grove Bed & Breakfast*.
(www.turtlegrove.com)

Complete the subscription form included in this newsletter and return the form and your cheque to:
**Dartmouth Players, 23 Wildwood Boulevard,
Dartmouth, NS B2W 2L7**

Subscriptions must be received by **November 6** to qualify for the draw. Everyone who has already subscribed to our new season is also eligible to win.

Three locations to pre-purchase
your tickets...

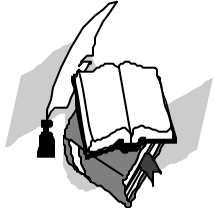
Fisher's Stationary - 122 Portland Street
The Attic Owl Book Store - 200 Portland Street
Studio One - Corner of Queen St. and Victoria Road

Editor's Corrections

In our last newsletter, it was incorrectly noted that John Cunningham received the first Honorary Membership to Dartmouth Players. In past years, Honorary Lifetime Memberships were given to Marg and John Poulton, Clare Authers, and John Savage for their invaluable contribution to the Dartmouth Players.

Corrected e-mail addressed for the following:

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Holly Irving | hirving@chebucto.ns.ca |
| Don Lawrence | dlawrenc@chebucto.ns.ca |
| Rose Pearle | rosepearle@hotmail.com |



Scholarships to Players' Members

Clare Authers Memorial Scholarships have been awarded to four Dartmouth Players' members to continue theatre related training. Geoff Ball will be taking singing instruction through Sing! Voice Studio (\$300), Jerry Garragan will be taking a youth drama class (\$90), Sonya Kristiansen will be attending The School for Film and Television, and, Ruth Anne Flemming will be attending The Jazz Dance Centre (\$150). Congratulations to all winners!

Theatre Notices

All Saints Bedford Players presents **The Murder Room** by Jack Sharkey. This hilarious farce is a spoof on all the murder mysteries you've ever seen. Think Agatha Christie meets Monty Python with a dash of Carol Burnett. *The Murder Room* runs Thursdays to Saturdays from November 4 – 20. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students (except November 6). A Dinner and Theatre night will be held Saturday, November 6. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$23 for seniors and students. Reservations are recommended – 832-3300. All Saints Bedford Players perform at All Saints Anglican Church, 1608 Bedford Highway.

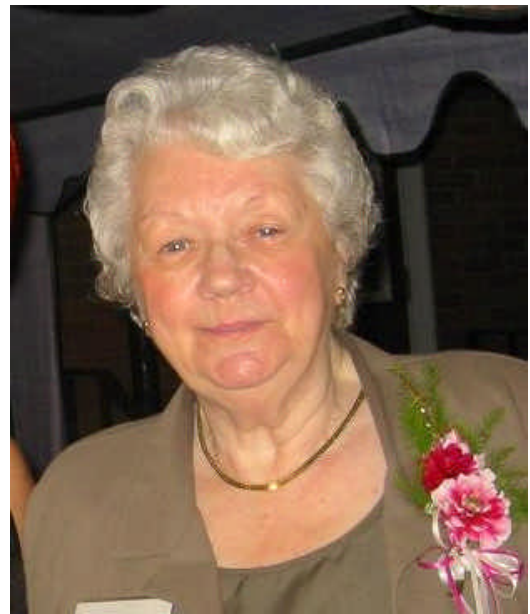
The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Nova Scotia will be presenting **Rumpelstiltskin**, an original musical comedy suitable for families on Saturday, November 20 at 2:00 and 7:00 pm at the Meinertzhagen Theatre of the Tower Road campus of Halifax Grammar School, 945 Tower Road. An original musical comedy based on the classic tale of the Brothers Grimm and music from Gilbert and Sullivan musicals, tickets are \$15 adults, \$10 seniors/students, and \$5 for children 12 and under. For information, and tickets, call 429-1287. Tickets will also be available at Wozzles Children's Bookstore (423-7626) in November.

Theatre Arts Guild presents **Red Riding's in the Hood: A Not So Traditional Pantomime** December 2-18. This classic tale is adapted by Lorne Abramson and Cheryl Theriault. Two acts for all ages, this annual sell-out pantomime involves wolves, cheesecake, love, and a happy ending! Performances are at the Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Road, off Purcells Cove Road just past the Frog Pond. Tickets: \$12 Adults, \$10 students/seniors. Reservations are necessary – 477-2663

Award Winning Play *MILDRED*

Author/Director

Flo Trillo was born in British Columbia almost 80 years ago, came to Nova Scotia as a child, and by the age of six was already acting in church plays. In 1943, she moved to Ontario with her parents, and lived there until 1968 when she moved back to Nova Scotia and joined the Drama group that would become Dartmouth Players. Over the past 36 years, Flo has been involved in every aspect of theatre - working backstage, acting, producing, directing, she has done it all. When asked how many plays she has directed, and in how many she has performed, she declared them far too numerous to recall.



Flo Trillo

Flo has been professionally trained as a Director and in 1993 received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cultural Federation of Nova Scotia for her work in Community Theatre. The last play in which Flo appeared on-stage was *The Shadow Box* in 1999. The last full length play she directed was *The Cemetery Club* in the spring of 2002 - which was supposed to be her "swan song". However, in 2003 she returned to direct the one-act season opener, *Daddy's Home*. And fortunately for all, Flo returned to Dartmouth Players once again to direct **Mildred**, a true labor of love for her.

Never one to sit still, Flo also serves as Treasurer on the Board of The Crichton Community Center Society, which oversees the building in which the theatre is housed. Flo Trillo, an incomparable lady who continues to touch the hearts of everyone she meets.

Frances Taggart

President's Award

For the past 65 years, the Ottawa Little Theatre (OLT) has sponsored an Annual National Playwriting Competition for Original One-Act Plays open to both professional and amateur writers. The First Prize, \$1000 cash and a personalized Silver Medal from Birk's Jewellers, is awarded to the most outstanding play submitted to the Competition each year. The medal is specially designed and donated annually by Henry Birks and Sons of Canada Ltd. and is retained by each recipient.

While Flo Trillo has written about 15 plays, 3 have placed in the top 4 of this competition including Honorable Mention for *Wagging Their Tails Behind Them* (1968); *Knight of the Day* (1970), and *Among His Peers* (1977). In 2003, Flo won first prize, the President's Award, for her original work, ***Mildred***, a play that was first conceived in her creative mind 10 years ago.

Although she had already received the cash part of the award, Flo had never received her medal. The OLT was contacted mid July to see if the medal could be ready for presentation on September 9. Finally at the end of August, I had the Birks Silver Metal in hand and was honored to present it to Flo at the Premiere Performance of ***Mildred***.

Joyce Dagnall

Reception and World Premiere

On September 9, 2004, Dartmouth Players presented the World Premiere of the award winning one-act play, ***Mildred***, written and directed by Flo Trillo.

Patrons and guests were greeted by the sounds of a traditional Nova Scotia Bagpiper who piped them along the red carpet and into the theatre. A reception featuring wine, cheese, fruit and other delectable bites was held before the presentation of the Play. As theatre goes mingled and chatted it was not unusual to hear glowing comments about Dartmouth Players, even to the extent of favourable comparisons to Neptune Theatre.

Invited to their seats by the ringing of a bell, the audience then was treated to a formal introduction of the playwright by Frances Taggart who gave a brief review of Flo's theatre background and presented her with a bouquet of red roses. Following this, Joyce Dagnall presented Flo with the Birk's Silver Medal on behalf of the Ottawa Little Theatre.

After a few brief words from Flo, the lights went down and the premiere performance of ***Mildred*** began. At the conclusion, the audience gave a standing ovation and thunderous applause for the presentation. Coffee and sweets were served as the audience was able to meet and chat with Flo Trillo and the cast and crew of this wonderful Play. It was a memorable evening - for everyone involved, and for those fortunate enough to be in the audience.

Frances Taggart

Premiere Coordinator Thanks All

I would like to express sincere thanks to all who helped with the World Premiere of ***Mildred*** on September 9. From a "hare-brained" scheme born in my head to its triumphant conclusion (thankfully) it was an experience of a lifetime.

Joyce Dagnall was a real godsend. She not only helped in the overall planning of this Premiere and was a sounding board when I became overwhelmed, but also doggedly kept in contact with the Ottawa Little Theatre until she had Flo's medal on hand for presentation. Mary Fraser - thank you for coming up with an honest-to-goodness red carpet; Clarke Wiseman - thank you for decreasing your usual cost for piping so that we could afford you; Val Tyner - thank you for coordinating the food and beverages as well as carrying out your usual front-of-house tasks; Penny Dann - thank you for preparing the floral centerpieces, Flo's corsage and presentation bouquet (all were beautiful); Angus Duncan - thank you for picking up and installing the awning, laying the red carpet, taking up the red carpet, and all the other tasks I wasn't even aware of you doing. Thank you also to the waiters who made sure everyone had lots of refreshments, to the people who moved furniture, cleaned carpets, dusted and polished to make the setting appropriate for such an auspicious occasion.

While many of Dartmouth Players members have enjoyed working with Flo over the past number of years, this was my first experience working with her. As her Stage Manager, chauffeur, gopher, messenger, et al, it was an experience I shall never forget, nor one I expect ever to be equalled. Thank you, Flo!

Frances Taggart

Postscript

WOW! ***Mildred!*** What a season opener! Sold out performances on five out of six evenings! Standing ovations for every show! A delightful opening night red carpet reception complete with a piper! Excellent performances from the cast and crew! What more can I say except thank you Flo for a brilliant script and direction and thank you cast and crew for a job exceedingly well done! I also want to thank our reservations and front of house staff for handling the huge waiting list that developed for this show. We disappointed a few but we were also able to seat many due to last minute cancellations. Our audience total was 740 people over the six nights of the run, an average of 123 per night.

Cliff Tyner, Producer

Editor's note: At the Dartmouth Players October Board meeting, a motion was made and unanimously carried that Flo Trillo be included in the very special group of people the Players refer to as "Honorary Lifetime Members". Congratulations, Flo!