

Dartmouth Players
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If you like music, theatre and dance, this is the show for you!

When Lilli Vanessi (Ann Nicholson) meets up with her ex-husband, the actor/director/super-theatre-man Fred Graham (Timothy McFarland) to play Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, some old flames of feeling are ignited between the two. However, the road to romance is ever rocky, and, what with an arrogant lover and a recalcitrant beloved, the resulting temperamental fireworks leave the "crew" of the show frazzled and the "cast" befuddled. The Bard barely gets a chance to shine as Lilli and Fred constantly banter and bicker with each other, giving Cole Porter ample ammunition for some fabulous musical numbers not only for the leads but also for the chorus. Lending their on-again, off-again relationship as a sub-plot, Lois Lane (Shawna Peverill) and Bill Calhoun (Mike Chandler) give a taste of delightfully light musical fare which betrays underlying longings for stability and happiness.

As usual with musicals, the Chorus itself becomes an integral part of the action and plot, singing and dancing its way into the minds and hearts of the audience. Musical Director Pam Lutz and Choreographer Susie Tyner-Keating have worked their magic with a group of dedicated and talented actors who comment here, observe there, express joy over this, and horror at that - all the while weaving their bodies and voices in an energetic blend of movement and sound guaranteed to engage the eye, the ear and the mind.

In *Kiss Me, Kate* there is truly something for everyone - the theatre-goer gets a full-meal deal, including Val Tyner's stunning costumes and Brenda Tydemers' and Richard Sircom's accomplished set design. We are treated to a script of characters which give us a panoramic view of society (even a donkey which doesn't know its ass from its elbow!) and a score which is guaranteed to trigger our laughter, tickle our fancy and treat us to tunes that reflect not just the dissonance and turbulence of life, but also its harmony and resolution.

Gisela O'Brien, Director

Kiss Me, Kate runs June 8 - 25, Wednesdays to Saturdays, 8:00 p.m., and one matinee at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 19 at the Dartmouth Players Theatre, 33 Crichton Avenue. June 8 and 9 are "Five Buck Nights". Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors/students. For reservations, call **465-PLAY** (465-7529) or book on-line at www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca

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Kiss Me, Kate

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Calendar of Events

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Jun 8-25	<i>Kiss Me, Kate</i>
June 19	Matinee for <i>Kiss Me, Kate</i>
June 28	Annual General Meeting
July 3	Producer's Workshop
July 9	Director's Workshop Starts
July 11-15	Youth Summer Program
Aug 15-19	2 nd Youth Summer Program

May/June 2005

Fax: (902) 435-7647

“Behind the Scenes”

We have had reports of some mischievous things happening at the Dartmouth Players theatre over the course of its life. Just to name a few, we have heard of such things as an unmanned washing machine bursting through doors and charging across the stage floor; books magically disappearing from one spot on the stage and ending up in another; a revolving door that would transport people through time; a table that could fall apart at just the right touch. Do you have any idea who might be responsible for this naughtiness? Yes, as a matter of fact, we do, his name is Dick Sircom. Um, what can you tell us about this Dick Sircom character? Gee, when it comes to Dick, where does one begin.....



Dick, who is a retired Electrical Engineer, was one of the founding members of the Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society. He walked through our doors back in 1993 during the production of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, with a desire to try the non-musical stage again. He was put to work on the laundry basket that would have to fit all three of the women in the show, at the same time.

From that first creative endeavor with the Dartmouth Players, Dick has been the brainchild behind many of the ingenious effects our shows have had the pleasure of offering our audience. He is an individual who gets a great deal of satisfaction being a part of a production, and then standing backstage during its run and watching everyone co-operatively working together to create a very real and useful product for the public to enjoy. As a retiree he says, “Being a part of live theatre allows him to stay connected with the world, and people of all ages and interests.”

He thinks it’s fantastic that there are more and more live theatrical offerings being presented in our area. However, something he would like to see, are more shows with “Canadian” content.

No shrinking violet, there have been times when he has ventured out from behind the scenes to create some very memorable characters in such shows as *The Real Inspector Hound*; *Sly Fox*; and his favorite, *A Month of Sundays*. He often refers to the Dartmouth Players as “A Little Gem. One of the best kept secrets in town.” Well, no bloody wonder. With people like Dick Sircom gracing our midst, it can’t help but be a “little gem”.

Ruth Flemming

Congratulations to the Tyners!

The 2005 Merritt Awards were presented at the Alderney Landing Theatre on Monday, March 21. The awards celebrate excellence in Nova Scotian theatre production. While actors, directors, designers, technicians were honoured for their artistic endeavours, Dartmouth Players own Cliff and Valerie Tyner won Volunteer Merritts for their hard work and long involvement in community theatre. Everyone at the Players thank Cliff and Val for their tireless work at the theatre!

The Red Cross bear raffle during the last show raised \$880.00 which was given to the Nova Scotia Red Cross for local disaster relief. The winner was Greg MacMullin of Lower Sackville.

Director’s Workshop

Flo Trillo is offering a comprehensive workshop in directing beginning July 9 at 10 a.m. Three sessions a week for two weeks (Monday eve, Wednesday eve, and Saturday during the day). There will be an intensive study of a particular play, lots of homework, and lots of hands on practise at directing with emphasis on blocking. There may be an opportunity to put what has been learned into practise as Dartmouth Players are considering staging two one acts by new directors as their season opener in September.

Flo Trillo has been a mainstay to community theatre in the Maritimes for many decades. She has written plays including last year’s Canadian award winning *Mildred* which played to sold out houses, *Bottoms Up* and *The Fiftieth* both played at the Liverpool International Theatre Festival. She has directed more plays than she cares to remember. She has also acted, produced and done all forms of back stage work.

This workshop is limited to seven participants. The cost is \$50 for non members, \$40 for members. For further details contact Holly Irving at 829-2429 or better yet hirving@chebucto.ns.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 28, 7:30 p.m.

Dartmouth Players Theatre
33 Crichton Avenue, Dartmouth

You are invited to attend our Annual General Meeting as we wrap-up another great season. Elections for the 2005/2006 Board will be held. All paid, active members of the Players will be contacted, and a full slate of officers nominated. Current members are eligible to vote. Short biographies of those nominated will be available prior to nomination announcements and voting.

President's Message

As some of you know, Don Lawrence, our long-time board member has bought a house in British Columbia and is moving away (grandchildren call loudly). Don has been our technical director for many years. His opinion on the board was always informed, reasonable, and well balanced. Don initiated the acquisition of our new lighting board, the curved curtain track, and the raising of the lighting booth. He wired in the telephones for the upstairs and the box office, installed the door bells, and compiled an extensive library of sound effects and technical notes. We will not forget his ever-present "tidy report". Don was onboard for almost every production to create the sounds needed. He produced *Mousetrap* and his wife Pauline stage managed *The Innocents* and produced *Nightwatch*. Don has painted the theatre, the lighting booth, and all its pipes the blue green they are today. Don will be sorely missed.

We are in the middle of Don's swan-song project - the installation of sixty five permanent lighting boxes to

simplify and organize our lighting system. Dave Chambers is at the helm of this major project (he is also doing the lighting design for and has a role in *Kiss Me, Kate*) with a sea of help - Angus Duncan, Mike, Michael, and Kathleen Robson, Peter, Anne Marie, and Andrew Coll, Alice Vienotte, Nancy McCarthy and Joe O'Brien.

Overlapping this activity, the set is going up for *Kiss Me, Kate*, with Penny Dann doing the set dressing, Dick Sircom doing the design and the construction of some of its major elements with Gordon MacLean building the half wall. Sohail Ansari, Stuart Smith, and Penny Dann are helping with the set painting, Val Tyner always seems to be about with her team of costumers and piles of fabric and patterns, Brent Boudreau is helping everybody and Cliff Tyner as producer is overseeing the whole thing.

I have dropped in on a couple of rehearsals for *Kiss Me, Kate*. Gisela O'Brien (as expected) has this show well in hand. A creative production and I was more than impressed with both the singing and the dancing. *Kiss Me, Kate* will be an outstanding musical comedy.

Over the summer, our Youth Theatre School, Improv and the Story Telling educational projects will continue. Flo Trillo will be teaching another extensive Director's workshop. In order to get a few one-act plays off the ground, I will give a short workshop on the simple and easy job of producing at Dartmouth Players.

The summer will be our chance to finally complete the renovations on the dressing room. You will hear all about these projects at the Annual General Meeting on June 28. This will be your chance to request any new projects and have a direct input to the board. I truly hope to see you there. Many thanks for a wonderful year.

Sincerely, Holly Irving, President

Membership in Dartmouth Players is due on July 1 for the 2005/2006 season. To become a member, fill out the form below, include a cheque for **\$5.00** to cover the membership fee, and send to the address on the flip side of this form.

Name: _____ **Phone: (h)** _____ **w)** _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ **E-mail Address:** _____

Theatre Interests: _____

Want to participate? Yes ___ No ___; If yes, how? Onstage___ Backstage ___ Other___

Do you want to be contacted about auditions, meetings, workshops, etc.? Yes___ No___

If yes, your preference is: Phone _____ or E-mail _____

The Simple Job of Producing at Dartmouth Players

Dartmouth Players have been in existence for over twenty years. Our job descriptions are well defined. This workshop explains the role of the Producer as it exists at Dartmouth Players, how to pass all the hard work along to someone else, and what to do when all is running amok. Workshop is Sunday, July 3 at 1 p.m. Cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. To register, contact Holly Irving at 829-2429 or hiring@chebucto.ns.ca

REMINDER - YOUTH PERFORMING ARTS SUMMER PROGRAM

Calling all music theatre stars-to-be!

If you've ever dreamed of performing onstage, come and join us at Dartmouth Players **July 11 through July 15, 2005** or **August 15 through August 19, 2005** for a week long comprehensive course offering training in: **Dance, Voice, and Drama**, facilitated by three dynamic, highly qualified teachers. Equal emphasis will be placed on training in these three distinct disciplines. Our goal is to produce triple-threat performers who will have the necessary tools to prepare them for the musical stage.

Start fulfilling your dreams today!

Ages 9 and up welcome.

Course Dates: July 11 through July 15
or

August 15 through August 19

Time: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Location: Dartmouth Players Theatre
(33 Crichton Avenue Dartmouth)

Cost: \$130.00 - full 40 hr/week Comprehensive Program

Full Musical Performance with lights, costumes, accompaniment on Dartmouth Players Stage July 15 / August 19

Call Susie at 462-6704 to register.

Space is limited, so call now!

Theatre Notices

Theatre Arts Guild is presenting ***The Hollow***, an Agatha Christie mystery in three acts on July 7-23. Tickets \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students may be reserved by calling the TAG Reservation Line at 477-2663 or on our web site at www.tagtheatre.com

Theatre Arts Guild announces their upcoming production of New Brunswick playwright Norm Foster's funny and poignant ***The Melville Boys*** to be performed at Studio Neptune June 8, 9, 10 and 11 at 8 p.m. and June 11 and 12 at 3 p.m. for 6 performances only. Tickets will be available through Neptune Box Office – 429-7070.

Postscript - Caught in the Net

Well, ***Caught in the Net*** certainly "caught on" with our audiences. Every one of the fifteen public performances, which includes the dress rehearsal for charity and an extra performance, was accompanied with gales of laughter and a standing ovation. A total of 1,600 people attended this crazy but very well acted farce. Farce is a difficult form of theatre to do well but this cast pulled it off with brilliance and I was, and am, extremely proud of them. They stayed in character throughout and never cracked a smile despite the madcap activities surrounding them.

I also want to thank our "creative team" who worked backstage or built and painted the seven-door set or designed, hung and operated the lights and sound, found and delivered all the properties, worked front-of-house, did the publicity and made the reservations for 1600 people wanting to see this show. While we had nine people out on stage under the lights, we also had thirty people quietly, for the most part, doing all of the above. Much of the applause was due to your efforts. Thank you!

Cliff Tyner, Director

Dartmouth Players - Membership

**If you would like to be a member of Dartmouth Players,
complete the membership form, enclose a cheque for \$5.00, and mail both to:**

***Dartmouth Players
23 Wildwood Blvd.
Dartmouth, NS B2W 2L7***

