

Dartmouth Players

Our Mission: To bring the magic of live theatre to the residents of HRM

October 2010 Newsletter

Dartmouth Players
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Director's Notes

The first thing we all noticed when we started working on this show is that we use the word "fantastic" a lot.....



Rehearsals have started and I have to tell you it's like a dream....
Things are fantastic! Let me tell you about our cast.

Roy comes to us from Capital Health Players and as 'El Gallo' he is fantastic. Tamara comes from Truro, and Justin is a local boy with several G&S shows under his belt. As 'Luisa' and 'Matt', they are fantastic. Cameron and Russ are the fathers. Both come to us from G&S as well, and they are both fantastic. Bryn and Mike have been on our stage together before and together they are fantastic. Rounding out the cast is Sandi, our mute, and she has always been fantastic. Andrew is providing the musical direction and fantastic accompaniment. Holly has given us a fantastic set that is being built by Brent and his fantastic team, and Richard has given us fantastic lighting. Val and Kathleen are fantastic at costuming. All of this under the fantastic management of Denise and with the fantastic leadership of Elaine. We have a fantastic show!

I'm sure when Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt first discussed the idea of this show they had no idea that when it opened on May 3rd, 1960, it would not close for 42 years. I'm sure they had no idea that it would become the longest running musical in the USA and I'm definitely sure they did not know that a little boy from Cape Breton would fulfill a 15 year dream and bring it to the stage at Dartmouth Players. Dreams come true. That is fantastic!

Ian MacDermid, Director, THE FANTASTICKS, 2010

CAST OF THE FANTASTICKS

Following is the cast list for our much anticipated musical, opening on November 10th

Justin Gavel – Matt
Tamara Fifield – Luisa
Roy Ellis – El Gallo
Cameron Jones – Hucklebee
Russell Storer – Bellomy
Mike Durling – Henry
Bryn Rowlands – Mortimer
Sandi Montgomery – The Mute

Directed by Ian MacDermid
Musical Direction by Andrew Coll
Produced by Elaine Marshall

Inside this issue:

The Fantasticks!

Opening on November 10, 2010
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and Justin Gavel
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Dartmouth Players is a **not-for-profit** society and a federally registered **charity**. No one is paid; we are all volunteers with the objective of bringing the magic of live theatre to the residents of HRM.



"The minute I start to talk about acting, I realize that I can't. You know, it's an abstract thing, a little bit mysterious even if you do it for a living" --Christopher Walken

Interested in trying out for a role in " BOSTON MARRIAGE " ?

Dartmouth Players is proud
to present this special play
for 14 performances:
Jan. 26 to Feb. 12, 2011.



Auditions

Boston Marriage is a 1999 play by American playwright David Mamet. The play concerns two women at the turn of the 20th century who are in a "Boston marriage," a relationship between two females that *may* involve both physical and emotional intimacy. After widespread belief that Mamet could only write for men à la *Glengarry Glen Ross*, the playwright released this play, which centers exclusively on women.

Boston Marriage is Mamet's successful imitation of the conversational wit of Restoration comedy that echoes in Oscar Wilde, Noel Coward, Cole Porter, Joe Orton, and others. Witty conversation is the essence of this comedy of manners. The play revolves around a reunion of two very close friends, both "ladies of fashion." They are complemented in this hilarious romp by a young Scottish maid whom they both attempt to verbally abuse and brow beat. As intelligent and witty as these ladies are, they are continually trying to take control over situations that are beyond their control, with humorous results.

Characters:

Anna, a woman of fashion, 40ish, no accent.
Claire, a woman of fashion, 40ish, no accent.
Catherine, a Scottish maid, 20ish.

**Auditions will be held on Monday,
October 25th, 7:00-10:00 pm** upstairs at
Dartmouth Players Theatre, 33 Crichton Ave.,
Dartmouth (near Sullivan's Pond).

If needed, another date will be arranged.
Audition pieces will be taken from the play, or
if you prefer, you may bring your own.
For more information, contact Bryn Rowlands,
your director, at 462-3042 or at:
rowlands@ns.sympatico.ca

Scholarships

Clare Authers was a volunteer with Dartmouth Players for many years. When she passed away, she left a legacy to fund a scholarship program for both students and Dartmouth Players members.

Through the *Clare Authers Memorial Scholarship*, Dartmouth Players annually awards a scholarship to students at each of two local high schools (Dartmouth High and Prince Andrew) and one or more to members of Dartmouth Players.

The winners of this year's high school scholarships, presented at their graduation ceremonies in June, are:

Dartmouth High School - *Peter Kraseman*, who will attend Bishop's University in Sherbrooke, Quebec;

&

Prince Andrew High School - *Makayla Mosher*, who will attend The University of King's College, Halifax.

Congratulations and best wishes to you both!

There is also funding available for members of Dartmouth Players who wish to further their theatre interests through educational opportunities relating to performing arts. Dartmouth Players members can submit their applications to:

Scholarship Coordinator,
c/o Dartmouth Players, 23 Wildwood Blvd.
Dartmouth, NS B2W 2L7.

Candidates will be selected by the Executive.

For more information and applications, see our website www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca or contact the Scholarship Coordinator Theresa Keefe at 435-4250.

Can't wait to see The Fantasticks?



BOX OFFICE OPENS
OCTOBER 20, 2010

SHOWTIMES

Wednesday through Saturday

November 10 – 27

8:00 p.m.

Sunday Matinees

November 14 & November 21

2:00 p.m.

www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca
465-PLAY

"I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being."

-Oscar Wilde

Charity Dress Rehearsal

The Charity Dress Rehearsal for *The Fantasticks* will take place on Monday, November 8th at 8:00 p.m. and will go to benefit the Dartmouth Grannies (The Stephen Lewis Foundation).

For tickets, please contact BJ Kirby at:

murraybj@ns.sympatico.ca

or call her at 434-6054.

INTERVIEW WITH "MATT"

Justin Gavel

-by Denise Monbourquette

Dartmouth Players is very pleased and happy to welcome two new members into the cast of its opening musical, *"The Fantasticks"*. I recently had the pleasure of interviewing both of them in an effort to let all of us get to know them better. Here is my interview with Justin Gavel who is playing the role of Matt:

DP: Justin, first of all, do you come from a musical family?

Justin: Not really (compared to some families I have met along the way). My mother used to sing in choirs when she was younger, and my brother played in school bands through junior high and high school. Music has always been important in our house, though, starting with "C is for Cookie."

DP: Can you tell me a bit about your education in theatre arts, such as where you were educated and some of the roles you may have played in the past?

Justin: It all started with an acting/dancing/singing debut as Perchik in *Fiddler on The Roof* in High School.

After university, I studied voice under Dan Grantham for six years. Since 2002, I've taken part in eight Gilbert and Sullivan spring productions. I acted the lead for about 6 of the shows, including Ralph Rackstraw in *Pinafore*, Nanki-Poo in *Mikado*, Reginald Bunthorne in *Patience*, Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd in *Ruddigore*, Antonio in *The Gondoliers*, and Lord Tolloller in *Lolanthe*. Now, Matt in the *Fantasticks*!

DP: What do you do in the "real world" and what do you hope to be doing 5 or 10 years from now, when your education is complete?

Justin: The funny thing is that everyone thinks I'm still in school! Despite looking younger, I am 33, and have been working as an electrical engineer since 2000. When I was around 27, I was once asked, "What grade are you in?" by some grade 8 students ... my answer was "there aren't any grades going on anymore". I'm hoping in 5 or 10 years to look like I've finally started working!

DP: What do you think of "The Fantasticks" and the role you are playing in it?

Justin: It has been a whirlwind week of hearing about the show, auditioning, and jumping in full force. The show is extremely well written. It has great elements of humour (the two fathers steal the show in my eyes.) It also has a great message. I think anyone watching the show will be thoroughly entertained.

Matt seems like a typical male lead, but has the twist, not to ruin the show, of growing throughout the show, like most of the characters. This presents a nicer challenge than the pure hero who never has a flaw. I'm looking forward to my first show with Dartmouth Players! ❖

DRESS REHEARSAL FOR CHARITY

Dartmouth Players offers local charities the opportunity to fundraise by selling tickets to the dress rehearsal of each show.

These take place on the Monday evening immediately preceding the official Opening Night, which is always a Wednesday.

There are still a few openings this season, so if you are involved in a charity that would be interested in participating, please contact us on our hotline (465-PLAY) or e-mail : info@dartmouthplayers.ns.ca.

INTERVIEW WITH "LUISA"

Tamara Fifield

-by Denise Monbourquette

DP: I posed the same questions to Tamara Fifield who is charmingly playing Luisa. I hope you will come join us for this wonderful production and see and hear how her smiling personality, and amazing voice, lights up our stage and our entire auditorium!

DP: Tamara, do you come from a musical family?

Tamara: Yes, I do. Everyone in my family sings and plays something. There was always music in our house - whether it was from a CD or from one of my family members.

DP: Can you tell me a bit about your education in theatre arts such as where you were educated and some of the roles you may have played?

Tamara: I went to Memorial University for my Bachelor of Music with a concentration in voice, and did a year of additional study at the Masters level and the University of Montreal in Voice Performance. Most of my recent experience has been more in opera than in theatre, but when I was a teenager I was always involved in my school productions. Most recently I played Julie in "Perfect Wedding" by Robin Hawdon with Hubtown.

DP: What do you do in the "real world" and what do you hope to be doing 5 or 10 years from now, when your education is complete?

Tamara: I currently work for Starbucks and for a children's entertainment company called Fairytale Friends that provides princesses for children's parties. I am hoping to go back to school next fall to continue working toward my masters, and eventually pursue a doctoral degree in music so that I can teach at a university.

DP: What do you think of "The Fantasticks" and the role you are playing in it?

Tamara: I really love "The Fantasticks" and think it's wonderful we're going to be able to introduce people to the show. It's such a lovely story and yet so many people, even theatre people, are not familiar with it. For my first step back into theatre in a while I could not have possibly asked for a better character than Luisa. I find her incredibly amusing and endearing, and love the way in which her character develops throughout the show.

*"And now,
let us step out into the night
and pursue that
flighty temptress,
adventure"*

-J.K. Rowling



PARKING NOTICE:

Patrons and volunteers are reminded that during performances, the parking lot in the upper courtyard is reserved for the vehicles of persons who have difficulty with mobility. Patrons and volunteers who do not have mobility difficulties are requested to use the church and school parking areas.

DARTMOUTH PLAYERS SCENT-FREE POLICY

The Dartmouth Players executive wishes to make our building a comfortable place for all who come to the theatre-- whether as volunteers or patrons. To this end, we would like to emphasize that the theatre is a *scent-free space*. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this regard. ☺

*DARTMOUTH PLAYERS regrets that the previously planned presentation of "Shore Leave" has been cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control. "Shore Leave" was to be our **season opener**, (usually a one-act play we present for a short run each September), and as such was not considered part of our regular season. We will be presenting our usual roster of four two-act plays this season, beginning in November with "The Fantasticks".*

Dartmouth Players Tickets

Our reservations department will no longer be making confirmation phone calls to those people who reserve online. Instead, a confirmation e-mail will be sent. Phone calls will still be made to those people who reserve seats by phone.

There are only 2 advance ticket sellers for the 2010 - 2011 season:

Fisher's Stationery

and

Smitty's Restaurant

**A BIG THANK YOU
TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS**



Petrie's Halifax Feast Dinner Theatre



The **Dartmouth Players** Newsletter is published five times a year.

To be added to our mailing list free of charge, please send your name and address to:

Dartmouth Players
23 Wildwood Blvd.
Dartmouth, NS B2W 2L7
or e-mail: ctyner@eastlink.ca

Editor: Ruth Sperl

Please let us know if you would prefer an e-mail link to our colour version only.

"Night of Celebration"



A Great Success!

- by Kathleen Robson

Mid-September was a time of excitement around the theatre, as preparations were underway for a special event, which would bring together many talented Dartmouth Players members and veterans, as well as relative newcomers, in a 3-night celebration of musical and theatrical talent.

The mood was celebratory on the evening of Thursday, September 23rd, as board members, theatre volunteers, their guests, and Dartmouth Players sponsors were treated to a smorgasbord of entertainment including piano music, songs, comedy skits, and two ten-minute plays. What better way to launch the 2010-2011 season than with a showcase of some of Dartmouth Players' favourite and "very own" entertainers? The following two nights were open to the public, and judging by the enthusiastic applause, and by comments heard during intermission and post-show, we have a winning concept!

The show was conceived and produced by one of Dartmouth Players' original founding members, Valerie Tyner, a tireless volunteer well known as a Director, Front of House co-ordinator, and costuming wizard. Most of the performers were drawn from Dartmouth Players' 2009-2010 season, but some of the younger participants came to us from *Upstage Studios*, a Performing Arts School which shares our premises, and which is headed up by Susie Keating.

Special thanks must go to Emily Coll, who provided skillful piano accompaniment to many of the vocal numbers; and to Jane Godsell, the author of the two award-winning ten-minute plays which she contributed to the occasion and also directed. Angus Duncan hosted the evening in fine style, newly attired in period costume as the Dartmouth Players Crier.

"A Night of Celebration" proved to be a tremendous success, such that many audience members and performers alike were heard to wonder aloud whether there might not be a similar event next September?

UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS

Funny Money by Ray Cooney opens in late March 2011. For fans of the rip-roaring, high speed, door-slamming British farce, this one's for you! What happens when Joe-Average-Englishman opens his briefcase and discovers 1.5 million pounds inside?

FUNNY MONEY



Finally in June, you will be treated to a gentler, warm-all-over kind of comedy, **Be My Baby**, by Ken Ludwig. Take one irascible old man and one uptight mature woman, and add one adorable baby. Then watch the fun unfold!



We can't wait to see these outstanding plays come to life on our stage. We know you will be eager to take part too!

**DARTMOUTH PLAYERS 3-PLAY SUBSCRIPTION
MAKES A FABULOUS CHRISTMAS GIFT!**



If you wish to subscribe to the remaining three plays of the Dartmouth Players season, you have three payment options:

1. Pay through the mail by **cheque**
2. Pay through the mail by **credit card**
3. Pay online at www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca by **credit card**.
Click on **Tickets**, then **Season Tickets**.

If choosing option 1 or 2, please fill in the subscription form on the reverse side of this page and mail it, along with your cheque or credit card information, to:

**THE DARTMOUTH PLAYERS,
23 WILDWOOD BLVD.,
DARTMOUTH, NS B2W 2L7**

The **three-play** subscription prices are **\$39.00** for adults and **\$30.00** for seniors and students. The advantages of subscribing are as follows:

1. You save \$2.00 per ticket for every show!
2. You receive your ticket(s) for the upcoming play along with our newsletter in the mail approximately 3 weeks prior to the show opening, which gives you lots of time to book the performance date you desire!

The three plays are:

- January 26 - February 12, 2011
BOSTON MARRIAGE, a witty comedy by David Mamet
- March 30 - April 16, 2011
FUNNY MONEY, an English farce by Ray Cooney
- June 8 - June 25, 2011
BE MY BABY, a gentle comedy by Ken Ludwig

Enjoy the show !
Enjoy the show !

DARTMOUTH PLAYERS
3-PLAY SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

NUMBER OF ADULT SUBSCRIPTIONS

..... at \$39.00 each = \$..... (a)

NUMBER OF SENIOR*/STUDENT# SUBSCRIPTIONS

..... at \$30.00 each = \$ (b)

TOTAL = (a) + (b) = \$ _____

{Subscriptions cannot be accepted after December 15th}

Mail this, along with your cheque to:

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

or, if using VISA or MASTERCARD, please provide credit card details here:

CHECK ONE: VISA MASTERCARD

CARD # _____ EXPIRY DATE _____

NB: Do NOT put your credit card details in any e-mail

* Seniors are 60 and over
Students are enrolled in full time education
^No Post-dated cheques please