

Dartmouth Players

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

August 2011 Newsletter

Dartmouth Players, 33 Crichton Avenue, Dartmouth, N.S.

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Announcing our 2011-2012 Season!

DARTMOUTH PLAYERS THEATRE is thrilled to announce a stellar lineup of theatrical entertainment for the upcoming season!

CABARET – Musical

November 9-26, 2011

(Music by John Kander, lyrics by Fred Ebb, book by Joe Masteroff)

A Broadway blockbuster and major motion picture, CABARET captures the essence of the seedier side of Berlin in the early 1930s during the rise of Nazism. In the exciting world of burlesque at the underground Kit Kat Club, young English performer Sally Bowles falls for Cliff Bradshaw, a fledgling American writer in Berlin to see the world. With brilliant and memorable music, comedy and pathos, CABARET is sure to leave you humming!

THE 39 STEPS – Comic Thriller

February 1-18, 2012

(Adapted by P. Barlow, from the novel by J. Buchan; from the movie of Alfred Hitchcock, licensed by ITV Global Ent.; and an original concept by Nobby Dimon and Simon Corble)

Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of Monty Python and you have THE 39 STEPS, a fast-paced whodunit for anyone who loves the magic of theatre! This recent Broadway hit is packed with nonstop laughs, over 150 zany characters (played by a ridiculously talented cast of 4), and some good old-fashioned romance! A riotous blend of virtuoso performances and wildly inventive stagecraft, THE 39 STEPS amounts to an unforgettable evening of pure pleasure!

INHERIT THE WIND –

Courtroom Drama

April 11-28, 2012

(By Jerome Lawrence and Robert Lee)

In rural America “not long ago”, science teacher Bertram Cates is arrested for teaching Darwin’s theories. Famous lawyer Henry

Drummond defends, and fundamentalist politician Matthew Brady prosecutes Cates, in a very thinly disguised rendition of the “Scopes Monkey Trial”. One of the most acclaimed American dramas of the 20th century, INHERIT THE WIND explores fundamentalism versus freedom of thought, and features a stunningly climactic courtroom scene.

A FLEA IN HER EAR – Farce

June 6-23, 2012

(By Georges Feydeau, translated by John Mortimer)

The best-known work of renowned comic playwright, Georges Feydeau, this farce examines both marriage and bourgeoisie lifestyle. Raymonde suspects her husband, Victor Emmanuel, of infidelity and she turns to her best friend to help her gain proof. They concoct a scheme – based on a perfumed letter – to trip him up at a hotel in Montretout. In true Feydeau fashion the plan misfires; the plot is complicated by confused identities, revolving beds, a great many doors and the fact that the blockhead hotel porter is the exact double of Victor Emmanuel. Side-splittingly funny, this play is not to be missed!

The best way to be sure you don’t miss any of these fantastic shows is to become a DARTMOUTH PLAYERS subscriber. Save money AND skip box office lineups! Subscriptions are available NOW on our website, www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca OR fill out the enclosed form and return it to us with your payment.

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DARTMOUTH PLAYERS
Pre-Season Opener
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!



Kicking off the 2011-2012 Season in style, Dartmouth Players will again present a delightful mixture of Drama, Comedy, Music, Dance and Song - a crowd-pleasing showcase of some of The Players' best talent. It will be a glimpse of the past and a tantalizing peek at the future. This fabulous show starts on Wednesday, September 14th at 8:00 PM and runs every evening at 8:00 PM until the final show on Saturday, September 17th. All tickets only \$10.00.

It's a great way to kick off a new year of theatre!!!!

The box office will open on Sept. 3
Go to www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca or call 465-PLAY to book your seats.

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.

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. Other parking is available at the church and school parking lots. Also, please keep in mind that the theatre is a scent-free space. Thank you for your cooperation.

Dartmouth Players and Playwrights
Atlantic Resource Centre presents
"The PARC Playwrights' Series"

Over the past few months, members of the Dartmouth Players board have been meeting with members of the Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre board, to plan a series of unique play readings.

In this new and exciting undertaking, Dartmouth Players and PARC are working together to create opportunities for local community theatre audiences to experience the work of regional playwrights. A series of scheduled readings is being planned to take place on selected evenings, between regularly scheduled shows. The first of this series will be held on Saturday, October 15th at 8pm. An interesting and high quality regional play will be chosen for a staged reading (probably on stools). Actors will be drawn from the Dartmouth Players' pool and the readings will likely be directed by the playwrights themselves.

The actors and playwrights will remain on the stage after the reading to take questions and chat with audience members. These wonderful evenings will be intimate, entertaining and interactive. Please check the website periodically for details and for info on ticket sales. Book early and be sure not to miss this wonderful evening! We will post more details as they become available. The folks at DP are so excited to offer their patrons this unique theatrical opportunity!

-Roy Ellis, Board Member of PARC

Important Note re Reservations:

We wish to remind everyone that even though you may have an advance ticket (either by subscription or pre-purchase) you **MUST** still reserve a seat through our website (www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca) or hotline (465-PLAY).

Also if you want to make a change to your reservation, you can only do so by phone. Please do not send any reservation requests by email, as the email address is not monitored by our box office staff. Also **PLEASE** be sure to call and cancel unwanted reservations. We would like to have 24 hours notice of seat cancellations.

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

70 Slayter Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2A3

or e-mail: ejordan@eastlink.ca

Please let us know if you would prefer an e-mail link to our online colour version of the newsletter.

Editor: Ruth Sperl

A Message from our President

"When they play the overture they start to close the show." These are the opening lines of an old Roger Whittaker song. Those words seem to encapsulate our Dartmouth Players season – it went by so quickly!

We started in September with a variety show that was very well received. There were performances from many who have trod our boards in the past and who will, we hope, be back for more. Another variety show is coming this September.

Our season last year was a thoughtful and interesting mix of theatrical experiences, from the musical fantasy of *The Fantasticks* to the madcap comedy of *Funny Money*, the thought-provoking and witty *Boston Marriage* and the charming, wonderful *Be My Baby*. All had audiences on their feet. It was a great collection of theatre, which explored the complexities of human relationships from many different vantage points.

All these plays required a great deal of work by a large number of people and on behalf of the Board of Dartmouth Players I would like to thank all our volunteers, who worked so hard and long to provide a quality theatre experience for our patrons.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite our patrons and friends to "get in on the act". Volunteers are always welcome at the theatre. Give us a call or send an email if you would like to get involved in Dartmouth's community theatre, Dartmouth Players.

We are looking forward to entertaining you during our 2011-2012 season. See you at the theatre!

-Eric Jordan



BE MY BABY - Director's Note

Oh my goodness, how time flies! Our baby, Miranda, has just gone off to college, taking a major in theatre studies and a minor in project management. She, like the rest of us, came to realize the importance of a coordinated effort. BE MY BABY, which I'm extremely proud to say was a wonderful show, owed its success to all the bits and pieces coming together just like magic: glorious acting, elegant transitions between the 30 scenes, lighting and sound cues right on the mark, gorgeous costumes, dressers getting actors in and out of costumes in the blink of an eye, stage managers and backstage crew on top of every detail, front-of-house dealing with large audiences night after night.... It was like a huge jigsaw that came together perfectly. And so many wonderful comments from members of the audience! No director could ask for more. I thank everyone involved in the show and am delighted that BE MY BABY found a place in the hearts of our terrific audiences.

-Janet Godsell, Director

AUDIENCE COMMENTS from "BE MY BABY"

From the comments received for this play, almost all of you tremendously enjoyed the presentation, including the acting, the set and the choice of music.

Once again, many of our audience members have been bothered by the strong scent of perfume. This continues to be a source of irritation for patrons and theatre volunteers. We strongly suggest that if you are going out into a crowd you refrain from wearing perfume as it may well spoil someone else's enjoyment of the play and affect people with environmental allergies.

A question arose about an earlier start time in the evening. Although desirable, this is not feasible. Our cast and crew have day jobs. Generally, all cast and crew must arrive at the theatre at least by 7 o'clock, with many of them arriving even earlier. We have crew members who come to the theatre 90 minutes before curtain to get the theatre ready for the audience.

Some people are offended by language in a play. Playwrights create their works using particular language to get a point across, to suit various situations, and to reflect the personality traits of their characters, not to be offensive or vulgar. Copyright laws do not allow us to change the wording in a play.

Here is a direct quote from one of the comment cards: "The best place to be on a rainy night is with the Dartmouth Players – oops, it's not raining!"



PRIZE WINNERS from Be My Baby

Boston Pizza: Janet McNairn, Donna Tipert, Norma Linney, Norma Jordan, Donne Dill, Paul Hanlon, Glenna Paynter Parsons, Mary Burt

Health Basket: Jill Hogg, Gloria Lyonnais, Minnie Hendsbee, Mary Harris, Dianne Berthelot

Ma Belle's: Bob Daniels, Elaine Jensen, Tamara Matheson, John McCarthy

Noble Grape: Vicki Myers, Catherine Cable, June Theubieth, Colleen Estabrooks, Ian Merrithew

Rocco's: Herman Varma, Kathryn Reno Horne, Bob Feindel

Smitty's: Donna Nicholson, Judy Boone, Patricia Lawrence, Lynn MacFayden, Bill Middleton, Max Montgomery, Mary Main

Trendsetter: M. S. Stanley, Linda Ivany, Cheryl Petrie, Angela Harris, Cherie Butler, Bonnie Feindel

Willow Point Art: Tammy Young, Cathy Finnemore, Frona Roddis, Bev Morash

BEHIND THE SCENES -

Costuming

A Look at the Inner Workings of our Costume Designer & our Creative Team

"C'mon Hon. I'm taking you out to dinner and then we're going to Dartmouth Players"

"I'm ready! By the way, how do you suppose they get all those wonderful costumes?"

When a play is selected for Dartmouth Players, the Creative Team goes into action. The costume designer is part of that team.

The costume designer studies the script to glean as much information from it as possible. She needs to determine the location and time period of the play. She takes note of such details as the ages, economic status, and personality traits of the characters. Once auditions are held, and the director has cast the show, the costume designer will meet the actors, take their measurements, and begin the job of designing various outfits for the actors to wear. The director may sometimes contribute ideas for the costumes. The set designer may also be consulted to determine if there will be a design or colour theme, which should be carried through in the costume choices. If a large number of costumes are needed, the costume designer will ask one or more people to join her on a costuming team.



The costume room on the third floor of the theatre holds a great variety of dresses, suits, uniforms, hats, wigs, accessories, and materials. The costumers will go through the collection and choose any article which may be used in the show. Most costume pieces must be adjusted to fit the actors properly. Some pieces will be given a makeover, which will turn an everyday ho-hum item into a dramatic statement. Usually a character will require more than one

costume, as changes in time and situation within the play call for different outfits. In some plays an actor could have eight or ten complete changes.

Once the theatre's existing resources have been exhausted, the costume designer may make several shopping trips to Value Village, Frenchy's or the Salvation Army, searching for pieces which may be used, or again, altered to suit. Certain specialty items might be borrowed from other theatres in the area. If necessary, some costumes will be made. The designer will go through the process of selecting the appropriate patterns, fabrics, and accents to make the costume just right for the character and the situation in the play. Our costumers work meticulously on every play, and relish each challenge presented. Whether the call is for historical authenticity or whimsical creativity, they realize that quality costumes are critical to the overall production value of the show.

All costumes must be ready well before opening night. As rehearsals go on, the set begins to take shape, props are gathered, and the actors may start wearing parts of their costumes, until everything is ready for dress rehearsals. Sewing and alterations continue until finally, all is ready for the big night. However, the work may not stop on opening night. Some actors require quick changes or costumes during the play, and if so, they are usually helped by the costume people backstage. You may see an actor depart the stage, only to return seconds later in a different outfit. That is due to the meticulous work done by the costume people, and by the miracle of Velcro, a great boon to theatres everywhere.

We are very proud of the creative, colourful and authentic costumes created by our costumers, and have received many positive remarks on them from you, our audience.

"And that, Hon, is how they get those wonderful costumes!"

Upstage Studios

The Wicked Wiz of Oz

Is an amalgamation of both **WICKED** and **THE WIZARD OF OZ**, with the best of both brought together to create a Fantastic, Bold and Extravagant Musical !!

Scenes from Kansas,
Munchkinland,
Emerald city and Oz !

Fun Characters like Dorothy, Tin Woodsman, the Cowardly Lion, Scarecrow, Glinda, Elphaba, The Wizard, and the Citizens Of Oz !
Songs like: Over the Rainbow, Follow the Yellow Brick Road, One Short Day in the Emerald City, Popular, and Defying Gravity

This Musical will be the Biggest and the most Extravagant Musical we have ever attempted with the students of Upstage Studios, from costumes, to sets, to the musical and dance numbers, this year is going to be so exciting!

Due to the magnitude of this show our term will run from September until the final performance in April

Payment for the program will be divided in two

Sept. 17 - 13 WEEK PROGRAM - \$240.00

January 7 - 16 WEEK PROGRAM \$290.00

Commitment must be for the full program September – April

To register go to

www.upstagehalifax.ca



Petrie's Halifax Feast Dinner Theatre

