

# Dartmouth Players

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

## May 2011 Newsletter

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

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Website: [www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca](http://www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca)



By **Ken Ludwig**

Directed by Janet Godsell

A romantic comedy with lots of charm and laughter

June 8 - 25, 2011

Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 pm  
Sunday matinees on June 12 & 19 at 2 PM  
Tickets: \$15/\$12

Call 465-PLAY or visit [dartmouthplayers.ns.ca](http://dartmouthplayers.ns.ca)

In choosing a play for Dartmouth Players' 2010-2011 season, I was attracted to *Be My Baby* for a number of reasons, the chief being that the characters are so very... human. Both John and Maud are highly opinionated individuals determined to have their own way but, at the same time, they are both sensitive and fragile. It takes a baby for them to reassess both themselves and one another, making us laugh and shake our heads as they do so. When asked what inspired his characters in *Be My Baby*, Ken Ludwig replied that he wrote the play as a tribute to his children and what they meant to him, "how having a child in your life is the greatest gift in the world. It changes your life - turns it upside down and makes you look at all your relationships differently."

I am extremely fortunate to work with very talented actors all of whom have performed on stage previously: Phil Reid as the irascible John Campbell and Michele Moore as the uptight Maud Kinch, Vaughn MacDonald as the endearing Scots husband and Melissa Church as his vivacious young wife, and Vince Morash and Theresa Keefe as... well, I won't spoil it; come and find out for yourselves!

*Director Janet Godsell*

## **Be My Baby**

By **Ken Ludwig**

June 8 to 25, 2011

Wednesdays-Saturdays @ 8:00 pm

Sunday Matinees-June 12 & 19 @ 2:00 pm

Box Office opens May 18<sup>th</sup>

### *The Charity Preview Performance of Be My Baby...*

will take place on Monday, June 6 at 8 p.m. Dartmouth Players is not involved with tickets sales for Charity Preview Night. Anyone wishing to attend this performance must purchase tickets directly from the charities involved. 100% of the proceeds are retained by the charities.

On this occasion they are:

**Dartmouth Hospital Auxiliary,**

Contact Pam MacDonald at 462-0363

**Dartmouth Learning Network,** Contact Sunday Miller at 646-3444; [ed@dartmouthlearning.net](mailto:ed@dartmouthlearning.net)

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Charity Preview Night

*Be My Baby* Cast photo

DP 2011-2012 Season

Bio of director, Janet Godsell

A Fond Farewell to *FUNNY MONEY*

Building a Set

Other Theatre

Scholarships

Audience Comments - *FUNNY MONEY*

Prize Winners

## *Be My Baby Cast*



(L to R) back row: Janet Godsell (director), Vaughn MacDonald, Phil Reid, Michele Moore;  
front row: Vince Morash, Theresa Keefe, Melissa Church.

### ***Announcing... the 2011-2012 Dartmouth Players Season!***

#### **1. *Cabaret* – Musical** (November 2011)

Music by John Kander, Lyrics by Fred Ebb and 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!

#### **3. *Inherit the Wind* – Courtroom Drama** (April 2012)

By Jerome Lawrence and Robert Lee

Set 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 1925 "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.

#### **2. *The 39 Steps* – Comic Thriller** (February 2012)

Adapted by Patrick Barlow, from the novel by John Buchan  
From the movie of Alfred Hitchcock, licensed by ITV Global Entertainment 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, and over 150 zany characters (played by a ridiculously talented cast of four)! *The 39 Steps* amounts to an unforgettable evening of pure pleasure.

#### **4. *A Flea in Her Ear* – Farce** (June 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, Lucienne, to help her gain proof. They concoct a scheme - based on a perfumed letter - to trap him at the Hotel Coq d'Or in Montretout. In true Feydeau fashion, the plan misfires. Side-splittingly funny, this play is not to be missed!

## Bio for *Be My Baby's* director, Janet Godsell

Many moons ago amidst a career in wildlife biology, Janet took a series of acting classes at Neptune Theatre which opened the door to an exciting new pursuit. Her debut on stage came in 1993 when she got the role of snooty Lady Sellinger in Dartmouth Player's *Mrs Dot* with all its glorious costumes and witty lines. She went on to perform in numerous plays with Dartmouth Players, Bedford Players, Theatre Arts Guild and The Broken Leg Act taking on such characters as a queen, a bag lady, neurotic wives and naggy mothers, and, on one occasion, the back end of a camel. The joy of theatre is that there is no unworthy role! She then went on to direct numerous plays including, amongst others, *The Mousetrap*, *Deathtrap* and *Prelude to a Kiss* at Dartmouth Players.



Four years ago, Janet took up playwriting. Her submission *Drawing the Line* to King's Shorts 10-Minute Playwriting Festival, King's Theatre, Annapolis Royal in 2008 won two awards. This provided a huge incentive to continue writing and since then she has gone on to win awards at King's Shorts for *Saved* in 2009 and *A Little Secret* in 2010. She was thrilled to have *Drawing the Line* and *A Little Secret* performed brilliantly by Dartmouth Players casts in their *Night of Celebration* in 2010. She has also had three one-act plays performed at Acadia Theatre's Minifest in Wolfville: *The Guest* in 2010 and *Rude Words* and *A Problem with Friends* in 2011.

### A Fond Farewell to *Funny Money*

Well, I finally made it to Bali - joined the others; Slater, Davenport, Vic, Betty, Jean, Henry and Bill. They all got together and bought a sheep farm in Bali. Bali is short on chutney. Bill & Henry are missing it immensely; and well, the rest of us have grown to like it. Davenport is now The Shepherd of Bali caring for a herd of 150 sheep. Henry broke out from a life of accounting and bought bloody Bali! We all bathe in the sun of Bali, with beverages of bourbon and beer, remembering the great run we had at 42 Aylmar Road, listening to the sweet voice of Frank Sinatra.

We had a great run, from first concept, through auditions and rehearsals, to performance and cast party. So many people came together to make it work. It's incredible how fate brought these specific players together to create one heck of a great show. No other art is as collaborative as theatre.

The cast background ranged widely; some with many years on the stage, and for some, acting was a new adventure. We played to packed houses almost every night.

*Funny Money* succeeded because of the director's guidance and the creative determination of his team.

One has to be amazed at the science involved in this art of theatre. A flying vase, a flying radio that slowly expires to the tunes of Frank Sinatra, and finally the cuckoo clock that slowly achieves a comic fate; all skillfully designed and constructed by DP's "MacGyver" Dick Sircom.

Some extracts of comments from the audience: great set, wonderful volunteers, cozy atmosphere, better than Neptune, great acting, laughing so hard my mascara is running, laughing so hard my jaws are sore, funniest play seen in a long time, ridiculous fun, side splitting.

Signed: *The Passer-By*

#### Notice about 2011-2012 DP play subscriptions:

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!
3. You can use the lower door entrance, avoiding stairs and lineups.

See the subscription form in our August Newsletter!

# Building a Set

**A continuing look into the Inner Workings of Dartmouth Players**  
by Angus Duncan

“C’mon Hon. I am taking you to dinner and then we are going to Dartmouth Players.”

“I’m ready. By the way, how do they make those wonderful stages?”

When you come to see a play at Dartmouth Players, you might marvel at the stage, which is so much different from the last play you saw. How does that happen?

After studying the script, the director will have an idea of how the set should look.

He/she will often call upon a set designer, who will also make a detailed study of the script, and propose a design.

Consideration must be given to scene changes, placement of doors, windows, furniture, props, and also the ease of movement of the actors as they enact the play. The designer, or sometimes the director, will construct a 3-D model of the set so that all these issues can be worked out before construction begins. Preliminary decisions will also be made regarding the aesthetics of the show, i.e. what sorts of colours and decoration themes will be used. The producer will call a meeting of the representatives of the crew you see listed in the program. A set design will be agreed

upon and construction will commence.

After every play, the set is dismantled completely, all props will be returned (either to storage or to the place from which we borrowed them), costumes will be returned to the costume room, and a general clean-up of the theatre will take place. The new set is now ready to be built.

Set construction takes place two nights a week and on Saturday mornings by volunteers. Masking tape is laid on the floor to indicate where the walls, doors and any other openings are located. Measuring tapes will be in abundance for this, as this is an important first step.

The walls are erected using flats. Some of the flats are ready-made to take doors or windows. The stage walls are anchored to each other, to the theatre floor and to the walls or ceiling. Screws are used to make these attachments because it is easier to take the set apart after the play without causing damage. This allows the reuse of material, which keeps costs down.

Once the walls are erected, the doors will be attached according to how the director wants them to open, either left or right. The set dressers, in consultation with the lighting designer, decide on the colours and other decorating details for the set. The painters will then paint the walls, floor and any

special background scenes required.

Meanwhile, the props crew will be busy gathering the props, either borrowing, buying or making them. Carpenters will construct the necessary devices to create any required special effects.

During this entire process, the producer will have called any number of production meetings to ensure that things stay on track. Problems will be ironed out and changes made as required. As we get closer to opening night we may see people coming in at all hours to put on finishing touches. By opening night, we end up with a wonderful set, and we can sit back and watch you, our audience, enjoy another great

presentation by Dartmouth Players.

*“And that, Hon, is how the sets are built at Dartmouth Players”*

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. ☺



**Summer Musical Theatre Camps**  
**Momma Mia**

Date: July 4 - 8, 2011  
Time: 9 am – 4 pm Ages: 8 and up

**Disney Duelling divas**

Date : July 11 - 15, 2011  
Time: 9 am – 4 pm Ages: 8 and up

**Grease**

Date: July 18 - 22, 2011  
Time: 9 am – 4 pm Ages: 8 and up

**Hairspritz**

August 8 - 12, 2011  
Time: 9 am – 4 pm Ages: 8 and up

**Advanced Acting Camp**

August 15 - 19, 2011  
Time: 9 am – 4 pm Ages: 10 and up

**Nightmare Before Christmas**

August 22 - 26, 2011  
Time: 9 am – 4 pm Ages: 8 and up

**Full performance on Dartmouth Players stage upon completion of course**  
**All camp are located at Dartmouth Players**

**33 Creighton Ave. Dartmouth**

**Ages 8 and up are welcome**

**Cost of the camps \$150.00**

**For more information please contact**

**Susie Keating**

**462 6704**

**[www.upstagehalifax.ca](http://www.upstagehalifax.ca)**

**Coming to Theatre Arts Guild...**

June 23 - July 9, 2011

**Laundry and Bourbon/Lone Star**

Mix a hot Texas afternoon with bourbon and confidences and you have two funny one-act companion plays. Written by James McLure and directed by Elaine Casey (*Laundry and Bourbon*) and Bill VanGorder (*Lone Star*).

The Theatre Arts Guild

Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Rd.

Jollimore, Halifax

Phone:- 902-477-2663

[www.tagtheatre.com](http://www.tagtheatre.com)

Email: [info@tagtheatre.com](mailto:info@tagtheatre.com)

*Petrie's Halifax Feast Dinner Theatre*



**IMPORTANT NOTE re RESERVATIONS**

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

**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](mailto: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**



# Scholarships

Dartmouth Players continues to support theatre arts education, and has provided theatre training and scholarships to many promising young Nova Scotians to assist them in theatre arts studies.

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

**Scholarship Eligibility** - Graduating students at Prince Andrew High School and Dartmouth High School who are pursuing post-secondary education in the performing arts are eligible to apply.

Students can apply to Student Services at their own school. Applications must be received by **May 30th, 2011**.

Members of Dartmouth Players, furthering their theatre interests through an educational opportunity, are also eligible and encouraged to apply. Dartmouth Players members can submit their applications to:

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

## AUDIENCE COMMENTS

### Funny Money

Judging by the majority of comments received, you found this play very funny, side splitting, hilarious, the best ever, awesome and fabulous to name a few adjectives. Quotes from some of your comments include; one of your best shows; amazing comedy and synergy among actors; superb timing and appreciation of humour; I'm laughing so hard my mascara is running; love the endless talent; as always is of professional quality; bravo; and wonderful acting.

You loved the set, the magnificent special effects and the stage dressing. You said our volunteers were very helpful and friendly and called them a wonderful bunch of people.

We are still getting a lot of complaints about the strong scents that some people are wearing. One suggestion was to have a scent-free area in the theatre; however we want the whole of the theatre to be scent free. One comment asked that we turn scented people away at the door. We realise that churches and other theatres have the same problem, and we continue to advertise that we are a scent-free theatre.

We ask, if you wear a hat to the theatre, that you be cognizant of the people behind you, and ask yourself, or them, if you are blocking their vision.

A few people asked for larger print for the puzzles. Unfortunately, we have just that amount of space on the sheet and we must include all of our sponsors.

For future plays, someone asked for more modern plays, and there was one suggestion for the play 'Simple Folk'. This request will be passed to our Play Reading Committee. We had some comments about our previous play, Boston Marriage, which were passed on to that play's director. We appreciate the fact that you must write your thoughts before the play ends, but we will ensure we have all of the comment cards collected

before the prize draw, so that you may write during intermission.

Keep your comments coming; we love to hear from you.



Here is a direct quote from one comment card, "Great show, lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon. I'll be back."

- Angus Duncan



### PRIZE WINNERS from FUNNY MONEY

**Boston Pizza** – Marjorie Silver, Kate Watson, Patty Payne, Gordon Mclean, Judy MacLeod

**Cora's** – Harold Thompson, Mary Moore, Bev MacPhail

**Dartmouth Community Concert Association** –

Rose Caborn

**Health Basket** – Scott Watson, Stephen Muchleisen, Chantelle Dooley, Elaine Bryant, Marion BeBay

**Ma Belle's** – Scott Watson, Stephen Muchleisen, Chantelle Dooley, Elaine Bryant, Marion BeBay

**Noble Grape** – Pat Fournig, Fran Chisholm, Barb Ross,

Eric Jorden, Robin Saywood, Wilma Brock

**Rocco's** – Lynda Reid, Paul Stevenson, Eva Molcsan

**Smitty's** – Sharon Burbidge, Kathryn Hull, Gail Wheeler,

Dianne West, Kevin Bulley, Kaye MacNeil

**Trendsetter** – Margaret MacInnes, Linda Fiander, Donna McGrath, Theresa Michaud, Patricia Donohoe,

Sarto Cote, Josie Wood,

McKayla Montgomery

**Willow Point Art** – Dan Estabrook, Bud

Weatherup,

Marg Brink

