

The Grinder Standard

The monthly newsletter for the Members, Sponsors, Media Partners, Cultural Allies, Patrons and Friends of Grinder Entertainment and its affiliated companies

February 2008

Director's Message

Welcome to The Grinder Standard, the brand new newsletter for all your information about what's happening here at Grinder Productions. I thought it was time to give this publication a new look, and I'm eager to hear any and all feedback on it. As to the content of the newsletter I hope it still meets and even surpasses the informative, easily-digestible newsletters of the past that you have been so gracious in your thoughts and comments upon. We've got a lot of things to tell you about this month, so I'll just say this: Grinder is making its comeback here and now!

Eric

Whatever Happened to Grinder's Grumblings?

As some of you may remember from way, way back (like about two years ago) we used to call this newsletter "Grinder's Grumblings." Actually, that was going to be the name of an entire festival of staged readings of new plays that I was going to do a few years back, but I decided against it as my previous experience with staged readings has shown that it's very hard to get a substantial crowd out to them. But I digress, and the reason I bring up the name "Grinder's Grumblings" is because it is now the name of the Grinder Productions Blog! Why wait for an entire month to find out about all the great things that are going on at Grinder? With updates almost every weekday Grinder's Grumblings gives you the pulse of what's happening in the company. And you can even comment on what has been written, and join in the great Grinder debate! Add us to your RSS feed at <http://grindersgrumblings.blogspot.com>.

Upcoming Grinder Events:

Improv Workshop

Saturday, February 9th

Elora Centre for the Arts

Kids 10-16: 10am-12pm

Adults 17+: 1pm-4pm

Dating Disasters

Friday, February 15th

Elora Centre for the Arts

8pm

Laughing Out Loud

February 22nd and 23rd

Location: TBA

8pm

How to Reach Us

E-mail:

grinder@grinderproductions.org

Telephone:

519-780-7593

Website:

www.grinderproductions.org

Blog:

<http://grindersgrumblings.blogspot.com>

On Facebook:

Search "Eric Goudie" –
Kitchener Network

Final Reports

Resurrection

Well, it's over. In the belief that a humble beginning is worth something, I will call our "Resurrection" weekend at the Elora Centre for the Arts a resounding success. No, we did not get the numbers I was hoping for, and for a time on Saturday night I was feeling very despondent, however that feeling of hopelessness has now passed. I am happy with what I, as a creative person, was able to accomplish, with three projects pulled together with little time, no money and zero creative collaboration. It is very difficult for any creative person in the performance arts to work in isolation, to create a show all alone, but it was an experience that I think I had to go through. It brought back a lot of confidence in my abilities, and it gives me the belief that as time goes by I will be capable of collaborating with people once again on bigger and better things.

Summer's Coming

While not strictly a collaboration, this event did let me work with a couple of Grinder members once again, and I'd like to thank both Rachel Behling and Julie Kennedy for indulging me and offering their time, assistance and infinite patience with me in getting this event off the ground. While we did better at the box office with this one than we did with Resurrection, we still have a very, very long way to go. Please see the article on page 3 of this newsletter for the full line-up of our summer seasons in Ennotville and Belwood that were announced at this event.

Progress Reports

Dating Disasters

This event is an "un-Valentine's Day" gift for everyone who's ever been stood up, dumped, duped or otherwise humiliated in their quest for the perfect match. We are inviting you to tell us (in 500 words or less) your best romantic "Horror Story." It can be about a blind date that went horribly wrong, or an ex's unique, annoying habits, or how you fell for a horrendous pick-up line that turned out to be true. It can be anything, as long as it's disastrous. It doesn't even have to be true! Submit your stories via e-mail to grinder@grinderproductions.org by Monday, February 11th. We'll judge the entries and invite the 10 best to come to the Elora Centre for the Arts on Friday, February 15th to read their story live, and we'll let the audience vote on who deserves the title of King or Queen of Dating Disasters. Who knew that your lousy ex-partner would be able to win you a prize!

Laughing Out Loud

If you've got kids then you may have seen the computer-speak acronym LOL, which means laughing out loud. When I saw that I said to myself, "What a great title for a show!" So I decided to create one. This will be a "variety" show, with short vignettes, maybe a few little songs, whatever else we can come up with that's interesting and unique. Everyone is welcome to participate in this one, so if you've got a "Party Piece:" a song, story, joke or something that you frequently use to entertain dinner guests or the people in the lunch room then we'd love to include it in the show, so feel free to drop me a line and we'll get you on the boards!

Improv Workshop

This event is being hosted and organized by the Elora Centre for the Arts, and it will cover all the aspects of Improvisation in the theatre. We'll do a lot of theatre games, "trust" exercises, and work our way up some situational improv games and activities. Please wear comfortable clothing you don't mind getting dirty! The workshop will be divided into 2 groups, a morning session for kids aged 10 - 16, and an afternoon session for everyone 17+. The cost is \$25 for ECA members and \$35 for non-members. To register please contact the ECA at 519-846-9698.

Summer Season Announcement

It's here, folks. These are the shows we'll be doing this summer at the Enntoville Library and the Belwood Hall!

At the Ennotville Library:

Farmer's Daughters June 12th—28th

The Belle of Amherst July 3rd—19th

First Kisses July 24th—August 9th

Same Time, Next Year Aug 14th—30th

At the Belwood Hall:

Relatively Speaking July 10th—12th

The Middle Ages July 31st—Aug 2nd

Brighton Beach Memoirs Aug 21st—23rd

All shows are subject to change, and availability. Watch for more details coming very soon on the blog, including how you can get a season pass to see all these shows for one low price!

Call for Volunteers: Groups and Tours Research

We need your help! For the past few months a few people at Grinder Productions have been working on a database of bus tour operators, senior's centres, community organizations and pretty much every other large group of people that we might be able to contact about coming by the busload to see one of our shows this summer. We are now at the point where we have a preliminary database, but we need to fill it in, and that's where you can help. We need people who are willing to take a portion of the database and "Google" it: to research the names of the companies we have listed to find out if they still exist, gather some more information about them, including how we can get best get in touch with them (and perhaps, most importantly, whom we should be talking to). By then end of March we would like to send every group in our database the information about the upcoming summer season (and we'll be able to use you to help there too), but right now we need some accurate, up-to-date information about these organizations. Please contact me if you are interested in helping us out with this crucial piece of marketing legwork for the upcoming season.

The Back Page

Okay, I know, I know, I've put this list in the newsletter before, but I think it's a classic. If you're ever in a play and you look out on the audience on opening night and see nothing but row upon row of empty seats, here's why: marketing people can (and do) work very hard to sell a show, but the reason 80% of any given audience in community theatre has chosen to come to the play that night is because either you or one of your fellow cast members has actually went to them and convinced them that they **have** to see **you** onstage in this production. It's as simple as that. People are there to see you, so if you don't tell them (at the very, very least) that you're in a show, then you'll likely be spending the run playing to the crickets.

Just in case you were stuck for people to ask to come and see our play... who on this list haven't you asked yet?

Your family members? Your extended family members? Your step-family members? Your half-family members? Your estranged family members? The people that live at your house and might as well be family members? Your best friend? Your worst enemy? All your friends? All your enemies? Your church congregation? Your students? Your teachers? Your professors? Your doctor? Your dentist? Your hair dresser? The pool boy? The landscaper? The contractor? The house painter? The person that fixes your car? The person that reads your meter? The person you sit next to on the bus? The person who sets up your cable? The person who fixes your computer? The person who rang through your groceries? The people in your car pool? The people where you work? Your boss? Your boss's bosses? The board of directors? Your local member of parliament? Your local municipal councilor? The actors in that other play you're doing? The people in your choir? The people in your service club? The people on your sports team? The people who have kids on your kid's team? The coach of your kid's team? Your neighbours? Your neighbours where you used to live? The cute waitress at the bar? The ugly waitress at the bar? The policeman who pulled you over for the RIDE check? The bagel guy? The people in your professional association? The people in your union? The people on your sales list? The people on your prospective sales list? The people on your e-mail list? Your Facebook Friends? The convenience store clerk who sells you a lottery ticket? The person who puts gas in your car? The people you were in your last play with? Anyone you've ever been in a play with? People you know that are interested in going to plays? Your priest or spiritual adviser? Your roommate? Your boyfriend/girlfriend?