

The Grinder Standard

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

May 2008

Director's Message

Ah, the summer season.

There's nothing like the fun, sun, pain and panic that come with having seven shows on the go at one time. These are the days we live for!

Seriously, though, the summer is coming along nicely. As of this writing there were three shows in rehearsal, with the other four getting ready to begin. As you will see in my lament below, we're still short a few people – the usual suspects, as some of you may begrudgingly agree. All in all, though, it's nothing we haven't tackled before, and I'm quite confident that through the help and support of our members, Grinder Productions will overcome this and other minor challenges, and continue on its journey back to sustainability, a major player on the Centre Wellington theatre scene.

If you haven't gotten your season's tickets yet, what's stopping you! Get them today, and tell all your friends they won't have to worry about high gas prices this summer because all the entertainment they need will be in their own back yard, and at a price that is far lower than anyone else in the regional summer theatre market.

Eric

The online Box Office is here!

Grinder Productions now has a truly professional box office experience to offer our patrons. We are now able to process ticket orders on the internet, in addition to taking orders by phone through our box office at 519-780-7593. You can purchase tickets at www.ticketleap.com, or visit the Grinder website. There's even a link to buy tickets off of the Grinder page on Facebook, and of course, there's a button included in the sidebar on the blog. Tickets are also available in person at the door prior to any show, but why wait and be disappointed? You never know when the word is going to get out about one of these great shows and they start selling out!

Progress Reports

Farmer's Daughters: Farmer's Daughters is almost here! Check out the pictures on Facebook on the Farmer's Daughters event page, and you've probably started noticing some of our posters and flyers around town. Please get your tickets now! I'd like to see a full house on opening night. That's just 50 patrons at the library - well within reach, and it would be so nice to see. And in case you were wondering, I still haven't made my bet with The Cat Whisperer, so if you don't want me to be the guy who comes to fix your plumbing (and trust me, you don't) then I need all the help I can get to reach the goal of 100 subscriptions or equivalent by June 12th.

I can't tell you how hard these three women have worked, putting up with my last-minute re-writes and partially completed sets that keep changing, and this show is going to be something special, an experience, and I would love to have you there to see it.

The Belle of Amherst: As some of you may already be aware, The Belle of Amherst is a biographical portrait of the great American poetess Emily Dickinson. Reclusive, eccentric, some would even say crazy, very few of her poems were published during her lifetime, and it was only after she died and the bulk of her poems were discovered that her true genius came to light.

Belle of Amherst (con'd): The action of the play is set when Emily is 53 years old. We have only one photograph of Emily, and that is from age 17, so it is merely conjecture as to what she looked like at that time in her life. Indeed, by age 53 it had been many, many years since she had even ventured outside her father's house.

This play was first made famous by Julia Harris, who performed the role on Broadway and in London. As a one-woman show it demands not only a very fine actress, but an engagement with the audience, and I feel that the intimate, nostalgic atmosphere of the Ennotville Library will be perfect for bringing this play to life.

Reading the script, I found this to be a remarkably accessible play - it's not dowdy intellectualism, and Emily is a character with so many facets that it's impossible not to be intrigued, amused or inspired by her words. The playwright has incorporated as much of Dickinson's poetry as he can into the story, resulting in a blend of poetry and dialogue that is very engaging.

This production will break new ground in Ennotville, with a "cabaret-style" seating arrangement, with tea and treats to enjoy during the performance. It will be like Emily herself has invited you over, and you are sitting in her living room as she regales you with the story of her life.

The Grinder Awards

The results are in. Congrats to all the nominees and winners. Winners are in bold under each of the categories.

Best Actor in a Leading Role

David Lamble – Matt Friedman – TF
Shane Monaghan – Owen Melville – MB
Eric Regimbald – Victor Frankenstein - FR
David Lamble – Matt Friedman – TF

Best Actor in a Supporting Role

Mike Sutherland – Henry Clerval – FR
Dean Dunbar – DeLacey – FR
Kenton Kruger – Lionel Mueller – FR
Dean Dunbar – DeLacey – FR

Best Actress in a Leading Role

Rachel Lehman - Nellie Lovelace - DW
Kimberley Young – Sally Talley - TF
Rachel Behling - Justine Moritz - Fr
Kimberley Young – Sally Talley - TF

Best Actress in a Supporting Role

Georgie Landry - Ida Rhinegold - DW
Mary Alies - Widow Lovelace - DW
Alyssa Wright - Doris - The Hollow
Alyssa Wright - Doris - The Hollow

Best Design (any discipline)

RD Branton - Sound - MB
Tracy and Ray Woodhouse - Set - MB
Sara Dunbar - Costumes - FR
Tracy & Ray Woodhouse - Set - MB

Best Stage Manager

Alyssa Merrick - Noises Off
Julie Kennedy - Frankenstein
Judy Faires - The Hollow
Alyssa Merrick - Noises Off

Best ASM or Backstage Crew

Erin Ingham - Crew - Fr
Stacey Ingham - ASM - DW
Rachel Behling - ASM - The Hollow
Rachel Behling - ASM - The Hollow

Best Technician (any discipline)

Andy Robillard - Props - TF
Sara Dunbar - Costumes - Fr
Dani Danyluk - Make-up - Fr

Sara Dunbar - Costumes - Fr

Best Newcomer to Grinder and/or theatre (any discipline)

Jennifer Prine - Midge - The Hollow
Sonia Ingriselli - Nancy - SM
Jim Pritchard - Gudgeon - The Hollow
Jennifer Prine - Midge - The Hollow

Best promoter, promotional event or promotional design

Sarah McGoldrick - The Hollow
Jim Pritchard – The Hollow
Tie! – You were both great!

Best youth (18 and under)

Evan Supple - FS2 - Dance
Gavin Baumbach - William - FR
Brendan Linwood - Penny - The Hollow
Gavin Baumbach - William - FR

Best Director

RD Branton – The Melville Boys
Georgie Landry – Frankenstein
Arlene Callaghan – Talley's Folly
RD Branton – The Melville Boys

Best Ensemble

Dirty Work at the Crossroads
The Melville Boys
Talley's Folly
The Melville Boys

Executive Director's Outstanding Achievement and Service Awards

(all previously announced)

Stacey Ingham

Becky Branton

Lynne Morgan-Canning

Danielle I. Szlawieniec-Haw

Jason Macrobbie

Lifetime Achievement Award

Julie Kennedy (because now I can't give her any other awards without people talking!)

Grinder's Angels

Judy Faires, for her never-ending support, advice and berating, even to the point of ultimatums. Free tickets to you forever.