

The Grinder Standard

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

April 2009



"The Grand Old Gal" – The Grand, back in the 30's?

Past and Present

I've been thinking a lot lately about those two words.

I think about the past, and how we're just one small part of a theatrical tradition in Centre Wellington that dates back well over 100 years, and part of a larger tradition of live performance that dates back millennia.

I think about the present, where we're mired deep in recession, with even Stratford making cuts to its summer season. Thanks to the ongoing strength and support of you, our members and friends, I'm pleased (and relieved) to tell you that our summer season is still safe, and could be our best one ever.

I think about our past, and I feel inspired. I think about our present, and I feel confident. I think about our future, and I feel like the best is still to come.

Come along for the ride...

Playing this month at Grinder

At the Elora Centre for the Arts:

School Shooting

A teen thriller!

Written and
Directed by Eric
Goudie

**April 30th, May 1st,
2nd at 8pm, May
2nd at 8pm**

And coming up next month...

*At the Ennotville
Historical Library:*

Yes, Your Worship And

The Heart of Eden

*A satirical romp and
a romantic musical
comedy*

Written and
Directed by Eric
Goudie

**May 15th and 16th
at 8pm, May 16th
at 2pm**

**Call 519-780-
7593 or talk to
any cast member
for tickets to
either of these
two fabulous
events!**

Are You an Aspiring Playwright?

An important “next step” for the development of Grinder Productions will be to produce shows that are neither licensed works nor products of my own creation. Just as we encourage people to explore their acting, directing and production talents, we can also nurture and develop new playwriting talents too.

If you have written a play, please feel free to send it along to me, and I’ll try to give you some constructive feedback. I’m hoping that eventually there will be enough of us writers to form a “playwright’s circle” where we can share our work and improve it in a knowledgeable, supportive environment. Down the road we can workshop scripts, give them staged readings, and eventually even production.

Our 2009 Summer Season

At the Ennotville Library: Our 5th season will be filled with history, a salute to the theatrical pioneers who have made it possible to do what we do. What better place to do it than in a building that was built with the hearts and hands of the pioneers in our community!

Dulcitus—A Farce

By Hroswitha of Gandersheim, the world’s first female dramatist

June 11th—June 27th

The Birth of Merlin—A Comedy

By William Rowley, or is it a lost play of Shakespeare?

July 2nd—July 18th

Commedia! - A Comedy

A scripted revival of a scenario from this hilarious Italian genre, adapted by Eric Goudie

July 23rd—August 8th

Vaudeville - A Variety Show

Join us for this throw-back to the show-stopping comedians of yesteryear!

August 13th—August 29th

At the Belwood Hall: We’re dressing up for our 3rd season in Belwood, with three plays about dresses.

5 Women Wearing the Same Dress

A comedy by Alan Ball

July 16th, 17th and 18th

Our Girls

A cross-dressing Farce by Conrad Seiler

July 30th, 31st, August 1st

Dress Code

A new play by Eric Goudie

August 20th, 21st and 22nd

All shows, dates and venues subject to change.

Call for Talent

Please call 519-780-7593 or e-mail grinder@grinderproductions.org if you are interested in any of the following opportunities:

Actress – The Heart of Eden: We're having a lot of difficulty finding a girl for this role! If you're a female between the ages of 16 and 21 and you have a decent singing voice then Jules, Brendan, and I would love to have you join us for this show. Please understand that this role will involve a bit more than your standard Grinder commitment. As it is the first show in our "Hopeless Romantics" series in addition to the trial production on May 15th and 16th we'll also be remounting this show for touring throughout the summer and beyond, wherever and whenever we can find an audience.

Directors and Assistant Directors for the Summer Season: With seven shows coming up this summer (see our line-up on page 3) I can't possibly direct them all, so I've enlisted the help of a small pool of "artistic associates" who will help me this summer by each directing one project. This small pool of directors needs to grow! If you are interested in directing in general, or if one of the shows listed above is of particular interest to you I'd like to talk with you further. As I've said before, handing out directing assignments is an Artistic Director's equivalent to giving the bride away, so I'm going to need to be fairly confident in your abilities before I entrust you with a show. That being said, there will be opportunities to work as Assistant Directors on shows this summer, where you can learn more about the art of directing before flying solo.

Contract Sales Staff: Make money with Grinder Productions! We are looking for one or more people to sell tickets for our shows. This is strictly a contract position, and you will earn a \$1 commission on every ticket you sell, (based on final house counts). We are seeking individuals who enjoy a challenge, have excellent people skills, and are willing and able to think outside the box to sell tickets to a wide variety of audiences with little or no advertising budget. A positive attitude and "can-do" spirit is a must! *Resume required.*

Temporary Production Manager: I'm going to be a little busy between June 1st and June 20th this year... so in order to keep things running smoothly I'd like to hire someone to do the technical aspects of my job for a three-week period. Prior knowledge of theatre production is a must, including familiarity with production schedules, technical stagecraft and box office management. Duties will vary greatly depending on the shows, and ensuring every show has what it needs to rehearse and perform is a top priority. You will also be responsible for processing ticket orders and managing the company's online box office services. *Resume required.*