



Notes From The Director's Chair

The monthly newsletter for members, media partners, patrons and friends of Grinder Productions

August 2007

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Get your tickets for
the shows this
summer at the
Ennotville Library
and Belwood Hall!

But don't call the
Fergus Grand Theatre
box office...

Our summer box
office phone number
is 519-780-7593, and
you can call any time.

The Dog Days of Summer

July has been a very busy month at Grinder Productions, as has become the norm around here, and August will likely be the same, with no fewer than five productions that currently have the attention of our members. Much of that work will be on productions slated to open in our Fall-Winter-Spring seasons at the Fergus Grand Theatre and Elora Centre for the Arts. I've included our season line-ups for both venues in this newsletter, as well as our workshop series. Please feel free to post this information in your home, place of work, or anywhere else people are likely to see it. Our 5th anniversary season is going to be the biggest we've ever undertaken, and I hope you'll join us for what promises to be a very exciting season in two fabulous venues.

Eric

Tech Theatre 101 Now on Sale:

I was told one time that if you don't toot your own horn someone else will toot it for you, but they'll play their own tune, so here's my one and only shameless act of self-promotion this month. *Tech Theatre 101*, my comprehensive manual for getting shows from page to stage, is now on sale at Lulu.com. Now this is self-publishing at its finest (no upfront costs) so it's not like anyone other than me has actually *said* this book is a must-read for anyone in charge of putting on a play, but it does give you the first few pages as a sample, and perhaps you can judge for yourself. Personally, I think any community theatre producer, director, stage manager, production manager or board member would find this book of great interest, perhaps even kill for it, because, in addition to the practical "how-to" of organizing a production this volume is also packed with years of tips, tricks and lessons I learned the hard way, lessons which have saved me many a headache and sleepless nights. Just go to Lulu.com come and search "Tech Theatre 101" and you'll find it, available in hardcopy or as an ebook.

Show Reports

Final Report: The Melville Boys

Six weeks of high drama made for magic this past Friday the 13th, as the Belwood summer theatre debuted to a crowd positively buzzing with joy over the return of live theatre to the Belwood Lions Hall after an absence of several decades. There was much glowing praise for Tracy Woodhouse's beautifully designed lake-side cabin, as there was for virtually every other aspect of the production. Director RD Branton has clearly established himself as one of Grinder Productions Artistic Associates, and we all certainly hope The Melville Boys is only the first of many trips to the director's chair.

Progress Report: Talley's Folly

The Ennotville Summer Theatre's 2nd production has taken shows at the library to a whole new level. Kimberley Young proves once again why she is one of the most sought-after actresses on the local community theatre, with her portrayal of Sally Talley. Her character is complex, often subtle, and runs an emotional gamut over the course of the play, yet she never falters. As compelling as her performance is, though, this show has also been an excellent showcase of the dramatic talents of David Lamble. Though already well-known and loved for his musical abilities (which do get a chance to cameo, if you were wondering) Lamble's total command of the stage as Matt Friedman has been a very pleasant surprise to many a patron at this show. Director Arlene Callaghan, blessed with such wonderful talent, has been able to craft a show that is a joy to watch and has truly captured the "buzz" that always comes with a summer theatre hit.

Progress Report: Noises Off

The second show at the Belwood Hall is by far the largest, most complex show we are producing this summer. Thanks to a cast of veterans and one of Grinder's best stage managers of all time Alyssa Merrick the show is pulling together nicely (though not without a few pitfalls—just like in the play itself!). Many thanks to all who are on board for this one. All that's left now is for you, our members, to come on out and see this great piece of theatre.

Progress Report: Soccer Moms

The final show of the Ennotville Summer Theatre opens this Friday, August 10th. Due to my incredibly hectic schedule details on the progress of this show are a little sketchy, but director Julie Kennedy assures me this hilarious little piece of theatre is going to really make some waves, and finish off our summer season in style.

Progress Report: Future Stars 2

There is one more event that is currently in production at Grinder. Future Stars 2, our second annual showcase of youth talent, is currently looking for acts. Please see the next page for more information about how to get involved with this show. Producer Sara Dunbar will be looking to fill not only a Saturday evening show, but additional shows Saturday afternoon and Thursday and Friday evenings if we have sufficient numbers, so don't be shy! We want to get as many young people out as we can for this kick-off to our Fall-Winter-Spring season at the Fergus Grand Theatre.

Calling all Kids and Teens of Grinder:

This is your personal invitation to join us as a Talented Performer

in

Future Stars 2

A Showcase of local youth talent

Saturday, September 8th, 2007 7 pm

at the Fergus Grand Theatre

Future Stars 2 is an evening of local youth talent, presented by Grinder Productions, and is a chance for performers under 18 years of age to show off their abilities. So, whether you're a singer, a dancer, an actor, juggler, magician, musician, whatever - we want you and your talent on the Fergus Grand Theatre Stage.

**Don't have a talent and still want to be involved?
Contact us anyways, and we'll get you on board!**

To book in your act, please contact Sara at

519-843-5007 - dunbar65@hotmail.com

We will begin scheduling acts by August 10th, so please call or e-mail

ASAP so you can be assured a spot on the playbill

Sara Dunbar, Producer

Eric Goudie, Executive Director



**Our 5th
ANNIVERSARY SEASON**

at the

Fergus Grand Theatre

September 7, 8

Future Stars II

Join us for our 2nd annual showcase of up-and-coming talents, featuring a wide range of exciting young local performers.

October 25, 26, 27

Frankenstein

Shelley's masterpiece comes alive in this lavish adaptation, filled with horror and humanity. While loaded with all the action, thrills and stunning special effects audiences have come to expect from this story the moral questions of the original are left intact, resulting in a rich, compelling portrayal of "The Creature," and his "Creator."

Not intended for the young, the squeamish, or the faint of heart.

December 13, 14, 15

The Gifts of the Magi

True holiday spirit comes alive in this New York Christmas tale, based on the short stories of O Henry, with its simple moving, timeless message about the spirit of giving.

Jan 31—February 1, 2

At My Heart's Core

Who said history was boring? Canada's master satirist Robertson Davies gives us his own take on the rebellion of 1837, with Susan Moodie, Catherine Parr Trail and Mrs. Frances Stewart stuck in a cabin waiting for their husbands to come home from battle. Throw in a baby, her 16 year old mother and a drunken father beating on the door and you've got a hilariously Canadian cure for the winter blahs.

March 27, 29, 29

The Hollow

The Agatha Christie Revival Showcase is back for a 3rd installment with another classic whodunit, this time with more twists and turns than ever before.

May 8, 9, 10

The Diary of Anne Frank

As compelling on the stage as it is in print, this story of incredible courage is as important now as it was over sixty years ago. An honest, tasteful, no-nonsense adaptation of the diary.

June 26, 27, 28

Caught in the Villain's Web

The end-of-school special is back with another chance cheer on the hapless hero, boo the dastardly villain, and help the sweet innocent young heroine save the day. Audience participation is encouraged!

CALL FOR TICKETS: 519-787-1981



presents

STAGE 4

**At the
Elora Centre
for the Arts**

Stage 4 is the Elora division of Grinder Productions, Centre Wellington's largest live theatre company. You may have seen our summer shows at the Ennotville Library or the Belwood Hall, or taken in one of our many productions at the Fergus Grand Theatre.

At each of these venues we offer you, our patrons, a unique theatrical experience, and Stage 4 at the Elora Centre for the Arts will be no exception. It is upon this stage that we will present shows we wouldn't normally consider in our other venues, such as new plays, plays that may contain coarse language or other discretionary content, or plays that will be of interest to those who don't enjoy "traditional" theatre experiences.

Hangin' in the Balance *October 19th, 20th*

A writer and his muse have come to an impasse; each believes the other one is lying. What's to be done? In a perilous move the writer calls the muses' bluff—what if, just for once, it were *she* who played out the story, instead of merely suggesting it? Can she actually tell her own story without being destroyed, or worse—critiqued?

Warning: *May contain coarse language and scenes of partial nudity.*

Eleemosynary *December 7th, 8th*

Echo is a brilliantly gifted child, destroying all who dare get between her and her dream—winning the national spelling bee. If she does both Dorothea, her Grandmother (who raised her from birth) and Artie, her estranged mother, will be forced to come together if only for a couple of hours. But Dorothea is a confirmed "eccentric," and Artie is the opposite of everything Dorothea ever hoped she would be, so perhaps it will take more than spelling for Echo to see her dream come true.

The Blue Room *January 25th, 26th*

A unique "tour de force" of the modern theatre, this play is a daisy-chain of ten sexual encounters by individuals pulled from the cross-sections of our world, a world gone mad with the perturbations of lust, sin, hedonism, regret, folly and, hopefully, finally, self-redemption.

Warning: *May contain coarse language and scenes of partial nudity.*

School Shooting *March 14th, 15th*

An honest, unflinching portrayal of high school life before Columbine, where one girl and one boy find each other quite by accident, forced to sit through a lockdown together, cut off from their means to escape into fantasy and as the day progresses they wrench out each other's secrets.

Warning: *May contain coarse language and scenes of violence.*

Endgame *May 2nd, 3rd*

This play is one of the finest examples of the dramatic movement known as "Theatre of the Absurd," where things like time, space, reality, existence itself are called into question, and humankind's insignificance in a meaningless universe is laid bare. Packed with wry humour and surprisingly accessible, this classic is a must-see for the discerning theatergoer.

Call 519-780-7593 for tickets



2007—2008 Workshops in Acting and Theatre

Introduction to Acting

September 18th—Kids and Teens

September 20th—Adults

This “get your feet wet” course is designed with the beginner in mind, but will also be of interest to seasoned actors looking to brush up on their skills. A practical overview of what is commonly expected of an actor working on a play.

Improvisation

October 11th—Kids and Teens

October 13th—Adults

Using theatre games, exercises and a whole lot of imagination, this fast-paced course will open participants up to the exciting world of improv performance.

Monologues and Auditions

November 6th and 8th

For experienced actors looking to get something to “sink their teeth into” this in-depth workshop will help to prepare strong, crisp audition pieces, and make actors utterly comfortable being alone onstage.

Scene Study

December 4th and 6th

A continuation workshop these intensive sessions are applied to a series of two-person scenes. Participants will be expected to prepare scenes with a partner outside of class time.

Directing a play

January 8th, 10th, 15th, 17th

A required course for any future directors at Grinder Productions without previous directing experience, this four-part course will cover the process a director goes through in the preparation of a script for production, from pre-rehearsal work, to casting, to conducting rehearsals all the way to opening night.

Stage Management

February 5th and 7th

Stage Management is one of the most frustrating jobs in the theatre if you don't know what you're doing. Let a well-seasoned veteran show you how it's done, from the prep work that goes on before rehearsals ever start all the way to tying up the loose ends after the final performance.

Production Management

March 28th and 30th

A practical, no-nonsense approach to one of the least understood jobs in the theatre. Production managers are the ones responsible for making sure every technical aspect of a production comes to life, on time, on design and most of all on budget.

Scenic Painting

April 8th and 10th

Join us for this fun, sometimes messy look at the various ways of painting a set, from “faux finishing” to making things look older, newer or just plain different.

All courses are \$50 each.

Instructors to be announced soon.

**Call 519-780-7593 or e-mail
grinder@grinderproductions.org
and sign-up today!**