

# The Grinder Standard

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

**August 2008**



- "His name was Samster..."

Well here we are at the half-way point of the summer. All too soon those annoying "back to school" commercials will start up on TV, and people will in-explicably start to long for the "quiet, dull life, punctuated by ceremony" (to quote Barney in ***The Middle Ages***) that frames their existence every year from September to June. Personally, I'd say enjoy it while it lasts – summer in this country is all too short as it is, and we'll be griping about frozen pipes and endless snow days all too soon.

With that cold, gloomy picture on the horizon you might think that the Labour Day weekend will bring about the end of the good times for another year. I say no way! We've got you covered this fall at Grinder. From the 4<sup>th</sup> of September right up to the holiday season there's plenty of shows coming up you're sure to enjoy. Read on and find out all about it!

## **Playing this month at Grinder**

*At the Ennotville Summer Theatre:*

### **First Kisses**

*A Romantic Comedy*

By Jay D. Hanagan

Directed by

Stacey Ingham

**July 24<sup>th</sup> – August 9<sup>th</sup>**

### **Same Time, Next Year**

*A Romantic Comedy*

By Bernard Slade

Directed by

Arlene Callaghan

**July 14<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>**

*At the Belwood Summer Theatre:*

### **The Middle Ages**

*A Comedy*

By AR Gurney

Directed by

Julie Kennedy

**July 31<sup>st</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

### **Brighton Beach Memoirs**

*A Comedy*

By Neil Simon

Directed by

Eric Goudie

**August 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Call 519-780-7593  
for tickets, or visit  
our online box office  
– [click here!](#)**

## The Naked Theatre

I've been doing a lot of thinking lately about the creative process and how it is evolving, both in my own mind and in the world at large. In the past it seemed that the artisans were among the most prepped to absorb change - in fact they were many times the vanguards of it. This time I'm not so sure.

The Naked Theatre is a new project I am undertaking. No, I'm not about to start producing nudist theatre (see the anthology *Theatre au Naturel* for that), rather I am going to start searching for new approaches to doing what we do in the theatre, be it writing, directing, acting, producing, whatever. I'm interested in stripping away existing pre-conceptions, re-examining the "tried and true" methods of doing things, and understanding the causality of creative and financial success or failure in today's theatre. My ultimate goal is not just to uncover some of our discontents. What I want (and need) both as a creative artisan and a pragmatic entrepreneur, is a clear, clean, beautiful new model for doing what we do, one that is "naked" of prejudices, free of the ill-fitting garments of the past (though perhaps not ready to discard those garments entirely) and most importantly completely unashamed of being seen as she truly is. See the blog for all my latest musings on this topic - your thoughts are welcomed!

## Summer Check-in

*Here's a brief synopsis of where we're at with all our shows this summer:*

**Farmer's Daughters:** This show closed on June 30<sup>th</sup> to rave reviews. Congratulations ladies!

**The Belle of Amherst:** For three short weeks the library was transformed like never before. Sara Dunbar's inspired performance had audiences leaping to their feet.

**Relatively Speaking:** The glasses stayed up! This show brought theatre back to Belwood for another summer, and attracted some true farce aficionados.

**First Kisses:** Now playing at the library. The pre-show box office for this show has been the largest so far this summer. Watch out - it could be our sleeper hit, so get out to it while you still can.

**The Middle Ages:** Opens this weekend at the Belwood Hall for just 4 performances, so this is your one and only chance this century to see the head of Grinder Productions onstage, wearing a towel, making a complete fool out of himself.

**Same Time, Next Year:** Two of Grinder's veterans, Dean Dunbar and Rachel Behling, star in this comedy classic, directed by Arlene Callaghan, who directed last summer's Ennotville hit, *Talley's Folly*. See photo below.

**Brighton Beach Memoirs:** The last show in the Belwood season features lots of laughs, a great story, and Neil Simon's trademark touch for making hilarity out of the honesty of human emotion.

## Grinder's Grumblings

Tired of waiting for the newsletter to find out about what's going on at Grinder? Then check out "Grinder's Grumblings," the official Grinder Productions blog, for daily updates on what's happening onstage, offstage and in the theatre world at large.

There are quite a few people out there who don't know just what a blog is, or how they can go about finding ours or anyone else's (there are literally millions of blogs out there). Quite simply, a blog is a type of website where the content is updated on a regular basis.

Think of it as an online diary that anyone can read, and leave comments on what is written. To get our blog, just go to the website at [www.grinderproductions.org](http://www.grinderproductions.org) and click on Grinder's Grumblings for the link. Every weekday, I'll have some new thoughts about life at Grinder – read it, make some comments, tell me what you think!

## Looking Ahead – What's on this fall at Grinder

*At the Fergus Grand Theatre:*

### **Rowan and Martin's Laugh-in**

*The official stage version of the classic TV show*

**September 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**

This laugh-a-minute revue will take you back to the spirit of the 60's with some of the best-loved characters and gags from the "sock-it-to-me" world; Dan, Dick, the Judge the Dumb Blonde and others.

### **The Innocents**

*A Halloween Thriller by William Archibald, based on The Turn of the Screw By Henry James*

**October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**

A young governess arrives at an English country house to teach its two young children, both of whom have led a "neglected" childhood, and both have been led astray by two unseemly house servants, The servants are now dead, but their hold on the children has remained, and their ghosts continue to haunt and corrupt the children, with ever more dangerous consequences.

### **Hans Brinker or, The Silver Skates**

*Adapted by Tom Taggart, from the book of the same name by Mary Maples Dodge*

**December 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>**

Bring the entire family out for this famous children's story about a poor Dutch household, a skating race, and how one family's determination to do what is right turned into a Christmas miracle.

*At the Elora Centre for the Arts:*

### **'Art'**

*A serio-comedy by Yasmina Reza*

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>**

Part of the "Sensational Elora Festival"

### **A Bench in the Sun**

*A comedy by Ron Clark*

**October 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**

Watch for more details in our September Newsletter

### **Sally and Marsha**

*A comedy by Sybille Pearson*

**December 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**

Watch for more details in our September Newsletter

*All programming, dates and venues subject to change.*



*Rachel Behling and Dean Dunbar star in **Same Time, Next Year**. This classic romantic comedy opens August 14<sup>th</sup> at the Library. Catch this great play in 2008 – there's a sequel, called **Same Time, Another Year** that we just might bring to the stage in 2009!*