

The Grinder Standard

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

August 2009



- "Pink! Pink! Pink!"

HELD OVER – 5 Women Coming Back to Belwood!

5 Women Wearing the Same Dress, the hit comedy by Alan Ball that took the Belwood Summer Theatre by storm is coming back. Grinder Productions has secured the play for a limited three-show engagement July 30th, 31st and August 1st at the Belwood Lions Hall.

Director Stacey Ingham sums up the meaning and the message behind *5 Women* like this: "This show for women who understand, and men who want to," she says.

Please be advised that this show does contain some coarse language and mature humour that may not be suitable for younger audiences.

5 Women Wearing the Same Dress re-opens on Thursday, July 30th at 8pm at the Belwood Hall, with subsequent performances Friday July 31st at 8pm and Saturday, August 1st at 2pm. Tickets are \$15 each, and are available by calling 519-780-7593, or at the door.

Playing this month at Grinder

At the Belwood Hall:
5 Women Wearing the Same Dress

- HELD OVER

By Alan Ball

Directed by Stacey Ingham

July 30th – August 1st

Dress Code

A futuristic comedic satire

By Eric Goudie

Directed by Becky Branton

August 20th – 22nd

At the Ennotville Library:

Commedia!

A Commedia D'ell Arte

By John Brandt and

the Penny Playhouse

Featuring Eric Goudie

July 23rd – August 8th

Vaudeville

Saluting the performers of yesteryear

Directed by Eric

Goudie

August 13th – 29th

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

Dress Code

The third and final show in our Belwood Summer Theatre season is a Grinder Productions world premiere.

Dress Code is a play set in a totalitarian future, where all forms of personal expression through fashion have been banned, and everyone is forced to wear the same generic, government-approved clothing. A few teenagers form an underground resistance to the Draconian dress laws, staging fashion shows in secret, learning from each other about the clothing of days gone by, and guessing at what uses these strange garments might have had to the people of the early 21st century. Hanging over their every movement is the threat that The Fashion Police, the armed gangs of thugs who brutally enforce the Dress Code, will come barging through the door and arrest them at any minute.

If George Orwell had a sense of humour, this is the play he would write. It's light-hearted and, at least by today's standards, incredibly innocent, but it carries some important messages about tolerance, diversity, and the importance of self-expression. If nothing else, there's plenty to laugh at.

Dress Code runs August 20th to 22nd at the Belwood Hall. Please call 519-780-7593 for tickets, or get them online at www.grinderproductions.org.

Hitchin' at the Junction and The Heart of Eden

Because of the confusion surround when the kids go back to school this September I've decided that summer will last for one more week.

On September 3rd, 4th and 5th at the Ennotville Library we'll be presenting a one-week run of a very special pair of shows. They are called *Hitchin' at the Junction*, and *The Heart of Eden*.

These are two shows that I have wanted to bring to the stage for a long, long time in full-blown productions. *Hitchin' at the Junction* is a "gay-nineties" melodrama-type show, with lots of cheering on the hero and booing the villain. *The Heart of Eden* is a heart-warming romantic musical comedy.

Both of these shows are part of a larger project here at Grinder, a project that I've spoken a bit about before, called *Hopeless Romantics*. These plays will be a part of that new division of our company, and will be available for touring to weddings and other special events, to provide live, light theatrical entertainments to anyone who wants to book them.

Here's to making the summer last as long as we can. See you in September!

Casting Call:

We are still in desperate need of people for our upcoming productions!

Between summer, the economy and a whole host of mysterious factors it seems that people are shying away from getting involved like never before.

Help us stop the bleeding! This is your chance to shine!

At Grinder Productions it never matters whether you're a seasoned veteran or a fresh-faced rookie – all are welcome. But there's never been a better time than now to get involved in a show with us, as there are many, many parts that must be played.

It won't always be this good – take advantage of this excellent chance to show us what you're made of.

Interested? Call 519-780-7593 or e-mail grinder@grinderproductions.org.

Fall Line-up

I'm pleased to introduce our fall line-up of shows here at Grinder Productions. While perhaps not as ambitious as some of our previous seasons, the four projects that we'll be bringing to the stage between now and the New Year are key components in our economic survival and recovery plan.

Hitchin' at the Junction and The Heart of Eden

Two original plays by Eric Goudie

September 3rd, 4th and 5th at the Ennotville Library

Philemon and Baucis

*By Audrey Haggard, based on a passage from Ovid's Metamorphoses, a part of Sensational Elora
Directed by Eric Goudie*

One show only October 6th at the Elora Centre for the Arts

Marriage is Murder

A murder-mystery comedy by Nick Hall

Directed by Eric Goudie

October 15th, 16th and 17th at the Ennotville Library

Grinder and Friends

A Holiday Celebration

Written and Directed by Eric Goudie

December 3rd, 4th and 5th at the Ennotville Library



Sammy says "Don't miss it!"



Grinder's Last Stand

There's one more show that's currently on the go here at Grinder, and that's the one that I'm doing all by myself.

It's called *Commedia*, and it's a solo version of a classic scenario from the Commedia Dell'Arte, an Italian form of improvisational comedy that was common in the 18th and 19th centuries, and is still practiced by companies around the world today.

This play has been in keeping with this summer's themes – people dropping out after committing, being unable to get enough people to do the show, and audiences staying away in droves.

I had never envisioned it as a one person show, and if I had I most certainly would have never chosen myself to play the role – I'm a journeyman actor, at best, and I'd have been much more comfortable with the crème de al crème of Grinder's acting talent in this production.

All the same, here I am.

I stood backstage at the Ennotville Library on opening night, listening to Jules pleading in vain with the two people who had shown up to stay for the performance. The exact same scenario was repeated again on Friday night, and then again on Saturday afternoon. On Saturday evening the two of us simply sat quietly together in the lobby until 8:05 pm.

A stench of desperation hangs over our company right now. I know that. It's polluting our message and deadening our creative power, and all the creative marketing in the world isn't going to get rid of it.

All the same, these are desperate times. We're in the midst of disastrous summer season – by far our worst ever. Our traditional marketing efforts, while in many ways more comprehensive than ever before, simply aren't working.

Members of Grinder Productions, my plea to you is simple, and it is unapologetically desperate – please come and see the play.

The other shows in this season have large casts, well-known material, enthusiastic directors, so they've at least got a fighting chance of breaking even. *Commedia* has no such advantages. Please come and see the play.