



Notes From The Director's Chair

The monthly newsletter for members, media partners, patrons and friends of Grinder Productions
December 2007

Inside this month's slightly festive (but not too festive!) issue...

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A Few Random Musings in Place of a Fireside Chat

We thought about doing a Grinder Productions Christmas party this year—we really did. Someone even offered to host it. Alas, we're still a bit too busy just trying to get through the next tech week. By the time we get to May and the nominations for the Grinder Awards are announced though...

In any case, you've probably noticed a few changes in the programming this December. It was with great sadness that we had to abandon ***Gifts of the Magi***, but we have replaced it with a show called ***Holiday Cheer!*** a show that will be just as special in its own way. I've also decided to swap one of the shows in the Stage 4 season. Instead of producing ***School Shooting*** in the March time slot I think I'll take a third and final stab at ***Hangin' in the Balance***. It's a show that just won't let go of me, and all it awaits is the right actress to bring it to life.

You'll also notice that I've included information on the Agatha Christie auditions as well. Please get in touch with me to book a time soon.

And oh yeah, check out page five for a preliminary list of the shows next summer in Ennotville and Belwood—I've been working on that in my spare time.

Happy Holidays,

Eric

Progress Report—Holiday Cheer!

Well, it looks like we finally have a Christmas Show!

This is going to be the variety show to end all variety shows. I want EVERYONE in the company who can possibly come out and give us a hand with this show to do so. Bring your friends, family, co-workers and absolutely anyone else you can think of and help us celebrate the holiday season. We don't do "family-oriented" shows as often as we maybe could, so this is a great opportunity to put yourself out there and see what you can do. No sincere performer will be refused for this event, and your participation, either onstage or, just as importantly, in the audience, will help ensure the continued growth and vitality of Grinder Productions, and put us on a firm footing as we move ahead into another very exciting, very busy season in 2008. Call 519-780-7593 or e-mail grinder@grinderproductions.org if you are interested in participating in this event. To order tickets call the Fergus Grand Theatre box office at 519-787-1981.

Progress Report—Eleemosynary

While things have been going crazy with regards to the Fergus Grand Theatre season this past month, at Stage 4 five of Grinder's best female talents have been quietly working on a little gem of a play called Eleemosynary. Area community theatre fixture Bronwyn Allen-Hill is making her long-awaited Grinder debut as Dorothea, the "eccentric," while Grinder veteran Julie Kennedy plays her woe-begotten daughter, Artie. Newcomer Tracy Lapham is a delight as Echo, Artie's brainy daughter. With Arlene Callaghan back in the director's chair after this past summer's smash-hit Talley's Folly and stage manager Linda Scott keeping everything on track I can tell you personally from sitting in on the rehearsals that this is going to be, as Jules says, AMAZING! Visit the Elora centre for the Arts for tickets to this event.

Santa Claus Parades

Thanks to everyone who has helped out to bring to life our floats in this year's Santa Claus Parades in Fergus and Elora. While there are too many people to thank individually, I do have to point out the exceptional work that was done by Rachel Behling and Julie Kennedy, who took on the task of organizing our participation. Thanks for taking one thing off my plate!

Improv Workshop at ECA

When you come to see Eleemosynary at the Elora Centre for the Arts this December 7th and 8th (and you are coming, right?) pick up a copy of their winter brochure for information on winter workshops at the Centre, including one I'll be teaching—a great course for anyone looking to get into the wonderful world of improv!

December Workshop

Continuing with our “development of the actor” theme in the workshops this year the December offering is all about scene study. Due to lacklustre responses to previous workshops in this category, I'm not going to pinpoint a specific date, rather I'm going to leave it open. If you're interested, let me know, and we'll set something up to suit our mutual schedules. We'll need at least 4 people for this workshop. Cost is \$50.

Audition Call—Agatha Christie

January will be here long before you know it—book yourself an audition time now!

The auditions will take place on Saturday, January 12th at the Fergus Grand Theatre. Call 519-780-7593 or e-mail grinder@grinderproductions.org to book an audition time. Participants will be asked to prepare a 1 to 2 minute contemporary monologue (comedic or dramatic). I'm including below some links to websites that have lots of monologues you can download and use for free. I've also included the character descriptions for this particular play on page 4 of this newsletter.

Monologue Source Websites:

www.monologuearchive.com

www.whysanity.net/monos

www.ispgroupinc.com/monologues

www.demoening.homestead.com

www.notmyshoes.net

Open Auditions

I've been getting a lot of questions about other auditions that may be coming up, and I want you all to know that yes, they are coming! While the exact dates, times and locations are still to be finalized I can tell you that we will be holding auditions to cast the remaining shows in the Fergus Grand and Stage 4 seasons, the summer shows in Ennotville and Belwood, as well as our annual “open auditions” to bring new faces into the company. Watch for the January and February newsletters for more information.

Audition call:

The Agatha Christie Revival Showcase is looking for fresh talent for its 3rd Annual production of the works of the “Grand Dame” of the Murder-Mystery Genre. This year’s show, ***The Hollow***, is chock-full of off-the-wall characters that will be a challenge and a treat to play. One of them could be played by you!

The Characters:

Sir Henry Angkatell, *a distinguished-looking, elderly man*

Henrietta Angkatell, *a handsome young woman of thirty-three*

Lady Angkatell, *very charming and aristocratic, aged about sixty, completely vague, but with a lot of personality*

Midge Harvey, *a warm-hearted, practical, very nice young woman, of thirty-one*

Gudgeon, *in all respects the perfect butler*

Edward Angkatell, *tall, slightly stooping, 35 to 45, pleasant smile, diffident manner*

Doris, *the maid, slightly half-witted, and terrified of Gudgeon*

John Cristow, *a good-looking man of 38 with a dynamic personality but brusque manner*

Gerda Cristow, *his wife, timid, rather stupid*

Veronica Craye, *a famous Hollywood actress, very beautiful and she knows it*

Inspector Colquhoun, *a thoughtful quiet man with charm & a sense of humour*

Detective Sergeant Penny, *Colquhoun’s plainclothes note-taker and assistant*

Interested? Contact Eric by phone at 519-780-7593 or via e-mail at grinder@girnderproductions.org to book an audition time. You will be asked to prepare a one to two minute contemporary monologue.

Auditions will be held on Saturday, January 12th at the Fergus Grand Theatre, with callbacks the following week, and Rehearsals beginning January 27th.

Summer 2008!

It's here!

Grinder Productions is pleased to announce the shows that will mark our return to the Ennotville Library and Belwood Hall in 2008. These seven shows are sure to delight both actors and audiences alike with their blend of laughs and tenderness. Take a moment to see what's in store!

At the Ennotville Library...

The Belle of Amherst, by William Luce

June 12th—28th

Same Time, Next Year, by Bernard Slade

July 3rd - 19th

First Kisses, by Jay D. Hanagan

July 24th—August 19th

Sally and Marsha, by Sybille Pearson

August 14th - August 30th

At the Belwood Hall...

Relatively Speaking, by Alan Ayckbourn

July 10th - 12th

The Middle Ages, by A.R. Gurney

July 31st - August 2nd

Brighton Beach Memoirs, by Neil Simon

August 21st - 23rd

Please keep in mind that this is a very, very preliminary line-up, and is subject to change based on royalties conflicts or other issues. Watch for more information about these shows, including when you'll get the chance to audition for them, in upcoming issues of this newsletter.