

# The Grinder Standard

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

**December 2008**

## **Happy Holidays from Grinder Productions!**

This final month of 2008 is a busy time for our little theatre company. We've got two shows hitting the stage, another two going into rehearsals, audition announcements for the new year, and a brand new division – Hopeless Romantics.

We have come a long way in 2008. Just a year ago we were a company on life support, with no working capital, limited resources and zero audiences. With the opening of ***Farmer's Daughters*** this past June at the Ennotville Library Grinder Productions got back on its feet, and produced another successful summer season. We have continued to operate into the fall, and with our Holiday production of ***Hans Brinker*** now well into rehearsals it seems that we may have finally kicked the "Christmas curse" that has plagued the company since its beginnings.

However, this is not to say that we don't still face some significant challenges, most importantly at the box office. We mounting economic uncertainty and what looks like a cold, hard winter setting in, it's essential that keep getting enough bums in seats to pay the bills. We, the members of Grinder, all have a role to play in this. Please, talk about the company with your friends and family this festive season. But most of all, don't forget to keep coming out to see the shows – your support is our greatest asset of all.

Happy Holidays,

Eric

## **Playing this month at Grinder**

*At the Elora Centre  
for the Arts:*

**Poverty  
Anonymous**  
*A Satirical Diversion*  
**December 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>,  
6<sup>th</sup> at 8pm,  
December 6<sup>th</sup> at  
2pm**

**Admission by  
donation at the  
door!**

*At the Fergus Grand  
Theatre:*

**Hans Brinker, or  
The Silver Skates**  
*A Dutch Christmas  
classic*  
By Tom Taggart,  
adapted from the  
story by Mary  
Maples Dodge  
Directed by Julie  
Kennedy  
**December 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>  
and 20<sup>th</sup> at 8pm,  
December 20<sup>th</sup> at  
2pm**

**Call 519-787-  
1981 for tickets,  
or get them at  
the door!**

## **The Grinder Card – A Great Gift Idea for the Theatre Lover on Your List!**

The Grinder Card is a perfect gift for that hard-to-buy-for person on your list, and for anyone who simply loves live theatre. It works just like a season ticket, but instead of being tied to a specific venue or series of shows it is tied only to the person holding the card. The \$100 card is good for ten admissions to any Grinder show, in any venue, at any time.

You only come to the shows you want, when you want, where you want. Come alone and use one admission, or bring a date and use two, it's up to you.

The Grinder Card. It's fast, easy and it never expires. Available by phone at 519-780-7593 or via e-mail at [grinder@grinderproductions.org](mailto:grinder@grinderproductions.org).

### **Other Gift Ideas from Grinder Productions**

**Gift Certificates** – Yes, we still do gift certificates! Available for a pair of tickets (or more) to a show, event or season these start as low as \$30. Available by phone at 519-780-7593 or via e-mail at [grinder@grinderproductions.org](mailto:grinder@grinderproductions.org).

**Scripts and Books** – Grinder maintains an account at [lulu.com](http://lulu.com), the online publishing service, where you can purchase digital and bound copies of the original plays we've produced at Grinder Productions over the years. Plays such as *Home Farm*, *Muzzle Blast* and *All My Sins Remembered* are available at very reasonable prices. Also available is *Tech Theatre 101*, a comprehensive guide to managing the technical side of theatre production – a valuable resource for anyone jumping into the whirlpool of producing, stage managing or production management. Visit [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) to see our store.

**Acting Lessons** – Starting in January, Eric will be pleased to offer one-on-one acting lessons to anyone who is interested, either on a “one-time” basis, or as part of a multi-week program. Lessons can be tailored to anyone ages 8 through adult, and students will have plenty of opportunities to tailor lessons to their particular needs, be it preparing an audition piece, building characters, voice, movement, scene study, or simply learning more about the craft of acting. All lessons will be \$30 per hour, and will be held in the warmth and comfort of Eric's new digs, with both daytime, afterschool and evening timeslots available. This is a perfect gift for an active youngster, a shy teen, or an adult or senior who “needs to get out more.” Call 519-780-7593 or e-mail [grinder@grinderproductions.org](mailto:grinder@grinderproductions.org) to for more information or to book.

**Now Playing:**

## **Poverty Anonymous**

*A satirical diversion...*

**A live audio broadcast from the studio on the sunny side of the street!**

**December 4th, 5th and 6th at 8pm, December 6th at 2pm**

**Elora Centre for the Arts**

**75 Melville Street, Elora**

**Admission by donation**

**Call 519-780-7593 for more information**



[www.grinderproductions.org](http://www.grinderproductions.org)

### **Hans Brinker**

Rehearsals are now well underway for our Christmas special. I encourage everyone in Grinder to come out and see this great show. Bring your family, bring your friends, bring everyone you know!

Call the Grand Theatre box office at 519-787-1981 for tickets.

### **Coming Soon:**

#### **A Midsummer Night's Dream**

Grinder Productions breaks into the world of William Shakespeare this January with this, his "happiest comedy." Almost everyone is familiar with the confused young lovers of Athens, the workmen who decide to become amateur thespians to entertain the Duke, and the Fairies who take delight in watching the mortals' antics. But for those who don't know the story the play is still the perfect introduction to Shakespeare's work.

Rehearsals are just about to get underway, so stay tuned!

**Note:** More programming is just now getting finalized for early in 2009 – watch the blog (<http://grindersgrumbling.blogspot.com>) for the latest news, or get a full picture of our winter season in the January newsletter.

**Don't Forget – Improv  
Course at the ECA  
Starts January 19<sup>th</sup>!**

**Info:**

Ages 16 & up  
Mondays evenings,  
January 19 – March 9  
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
\$60 Member / \$75  
Non-member

**Description:**

An eight week course that can change your life! You don't have to be funny to take part in this group, nor do you need to have experience in acting. A willingness to think outside of the box would be a great asset! You will enjoy 8 weeks of theatre games, team building exercises and trust exercises, as well as, situational and improvised games and activities, all within a relaxed and supportive environment. Please wear comfortable clothing & shoes – we'll be getting dirty!

**Instructors:** Eric Goudie, Jennifer Merry

**To Register:**

ELORA CENTRE FOR  
THE ARTS  
75 Melville Street, Box  
478, Elora, ON, N0B 1S0  
519-846-9698  
Fax: 519-846-0996  
programming@eloracentr  
eforthearts.ca

**Introducing The Hopeless Romantics**



The world's greatest fiance and I were sitting in a park one day, watching the geese searching the grass for bread crumbs, and young lovers searching their bottoms for goose droppings picked up while sitting on the grass. Somehow we got onto the topic of weddings. While we both agreed that by and large weddings are lovely affairs, we also thought that unless you're the bride and groom (or at least a member of the wedding party) the day can be a bit long and boring. This is especially true if you don't know many of the people there, and everyone can be caught wondering what to do during that "dead time" between the service and the reception, when you may have two to four hours to kill in a strange place far from home.

So I said, "If I ever get married, I think that I'll have have a short play after the service, to entertain my guests while the pictures are being taken."

To which the world's greatest fiance replied: "That's a wonderful idea! I bet lots of couples would love to have a play performed at their wedding."

And thus, the idea for Hopeless Romantics was born. Starting in January we're going to be auditioning actors for this semi-professional arm of Grinder Productions, with the hope of having three touring shows ready to go by the summer. The first wedding is already booked...

## **Audition Information**

As promised, January will bring another round of Open Auditions for the company. The next newsletter will have more comprehensive information on times and places (we're still trying to confirm venue availability), but nonetheless I would like to toss out the information to you here and now so that you can begin to think about taking the plunge with us in 2009.

These auditions are divided into several different categories, based on age, past experience with Grinder Productions, and the sort of shows you are interested in auditioning for.

**General Auditions** – These are open to newcomers to Grinder Productions of any age who have not auditioned for us before, or worked with us on a show. We will audition in age-divided groups of about ten people at a time, and these will be “cold-read” auditions – ie you will be given a monologue or partnered with someone else for a short scene and asked to deliver it (the auditions will be more games-based than reading-based for the younger ages). We'll also play some theatre games to break the ice, and maybe an improvisation or two, so don't worry if you don't read well – there's plenty of chances to show us what you can do! You will be auditioning for shows in the Fergus, Elora, Ennotville and Belwood 2009 – 2010 seasons.

**Members Auditions** – If you have auditioned for us before, or have been in a show with us then you can skip the open auditions and head straight to the members' auditions. Again, we'll be doing cold reads but anyone who wishes to do so can also bring a prepared piece, or bring a friend and present a short prepared scene. You will be auditioning for shows in the Fergus, Elora, Ennotville and Belwood 2009 – 2010 seasons.

**Hopeless Romantics Auditions** – For those of you looking for a greater challenge we will also be auditioning actors for the Hopeless Romantics touring shows. Now this is semi-professional work, you will be paid a small honourarium for each performance, so we're going to expect more effort than at a typical Grinder audition. Participants must be at least 16 years of age, and have ready a 1-to-2 minute prepared monologue, preferably comedic and contemporary in nature. Musical theatre actors will be given the chance to sing and/or dance, so please bring any audition music on CD.

For all auditions, it is paramount for us to know your availability. The more clearly we understand when you are available the better the chances of us being able to find a way to get you involved.

More information to follow January, but anyone with specific questions can call Eric at 519-780-7593 or e-mail [grinder@grinderproductions.org](mailto:grinder@grinderproductions.org).