

The Grinder Standard

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

February 2010



We found this in a bunch of old pictures on Jules' camera – she thought she had sent me everything Grinder that she had, but these were new to me!

So here's a long overdue look of the cast of Frankenstein, quite possibly the largest, most technically complex play we've ever done (okay, so Noises Off was pretty close too).

From left to right: Herbert Chamberlain, Sara Dunbar, Rachel Behling, Eric Regimbald, Gavin Baumbach, Brad Rooke, Mike Sutherland, Dean Dunbar, Kenton Kruger and Mathew Segal. The production was directed by Georgie Landry. Oh, the memories...

Open Auditions

The 2010 open auditions are coming up fast. Our auditions will take place on Saturday, March 27th at the Ennotville Library. We're now taking bookings for all time slots and for all shows.

We have over 100 roles up for grabs this summer, with shows that run the gamut from comedy to drama to music. There's classical, contemporary and everything in between, truly something for everyone.

I want these to be our biggest open auditions ever, and I encourage all Grinder members to come on out, and to encourage all their friends to do so as well.

2010 Auditions – Synopsis of Available Roles

Here's a sample of what we're looking for this summer – there are just too many plays to list every role – surely there's a part that will be a fit for you!

Series	Play(Dates)	Roles
Ennotville Library Mainstage	Chaucer Uncensored <i>(May 9th – July 3rd)</i>	<i>Act 1: The Miller's Tale</i> John , the cuckolded husband Alison , his pure young wife Nicholas , a young scholar Absolon , the lusty parish clerk Graves , a blacksmith <i>Act 2: The Reeve's Tale</i> Simkin , a Miller His Wife His grown daughter John , a young scholar Alan , another young scholar <i>(actors may have one role in each act)</i>
	Godiva's Children <i>(May 23rd – July 17th)</i>	Leslie Godiva , a hard-working single mother in her 40's Jerome , Leslie's teenaged son Lola , Leslie's teenaged daughter
	Roughing It <i>(June 6th – July 31st)</i>	Rowan , a 50-something business exec, mom Athena , her nearly grown-up daughter Maeve , her Irish immigrant mother
	Wild Angels <i>(June 20th – August 14th)</i>	Mom – an internet junkie with bills to pay Kid – desperately seeking something better The Boarder – a shy librarian who moonlights as a vigilante The Night – various roles and vices
	The River Rats <i>(July 4th – August 28th)</i>	<i>Character Names TBA</i> There will be three roles available for women over the age of 18.
Belwood	Cymbeline <i>(May 23rd – July 10th)</i>	<i>(Selected Roles)</i> Cymbeline , King of Britain Cloten , son to Queen by former husband Leonatus , a gentlemen, husband to Imogen Belarius , a banished lord Guiderius and Arviragus , sons to Cymbeline, supposed sons of Belarius Philario , Italian, friend to Posthumus Iachimo , Italian, friend to Philario Caius Lucius , General of the Roman Forces Pisanio , servant to Posthumus Cornelius , a physician

		Queen , wife to Cymbeline Imogen , daughter to King by former queen
	Mrs. Warren's Profession (June 13 th – July 31 st)	Praed – “hardly past middle age” Vivie Warren – 22 “sensible, able, educated” Mrs. Kitty Warren – “between 40 and 50” Sir George Crofts – tall, powerful, about 50 Frank Gardner – “not long turned 20” The Rev. Samuel Gardner – over 50
	The 18 Carat Boob (July 4 th – August 21 st)	Daisy Bell – 17, a lively, very feminine girl Alice Bisnette – 18, a quiet, modest girl Cora ~ 48, housekeeper, devoted to Alice Charles ~ 49, chauffeur, Cora’s husband Billy Kerns – 16, boyish, good student Kitty Darling – 16, babyish, spoiled, lisps Bella Sparks – 18, lively, rather boyish Bud – 22, looks younger, an 18 Carat Boob Bisnette – Alice’s Father, 45, businessman Raymond Barkville ~ 34, suave, mysterious Anna ~ 26, a maid, brisk and businesslike Jack Merry ~23, quiet, proud, headstrong
Children’s Series	Too many to mention!	Just come on out and tell us when you’re available, we’ll get you in somewhere!
Mostly Music Lunch	The Heart of Eden (May 9 th – June 26 th)	Eden – A cute, bubbly girl of about 20 with good movement skills who can sing. Mike – A “loveable geek” of about the same age, also needs to move well and sing.
	Hitchin’ at the Junction (May 16 th – July 3 rd)	Bessie Buxomb – the heroine, “a simple girl with plain features,” smarter than she looks. Cyril Snead – the meanest, nastiest, most dastardly villain you’ll ever meet! Archibald Althus Altman – the hero. Stationmaster and county possum wrangler.
	Love Notes (May 23 rd – July 10 th)	<i>Character Names TBA</i> Four roles are available, and all will require excellent mime and movement skills.
	Laughing Out Loud (May 30 th – July 17 th)	3 male or female comedians. I’m looking for clean but funny stand-up comedy. Your own material would be preferable, but we can help fill your 15 minute set if necessary.
	The Girls of Grinder (June 6 th – July 24 th)	Any females of any age with vocal talent are invited to come out and perform one or two songs, and join in group numbers. Please bring your own music on CD to the audition.
	Legends of Elysium	3 Vocalists, any genre – Each vocalist in this show will get a 15 minute solo set, and

	<i>(June 13th – July 31st)</i>	may be asked to do a group number or two. Narrator – connects the sets, could sing too.
	Philemon and Baucis <i>(June 20th – August 7th)</i>	Philemon , a poor husbandman, well past 60 Baucis , his wife, also well past 60 Jove , the King of the Gods Hermes , his son, the Messenger God Prologue and Epilogue
	The Duke of Gordon <i>(June 27th – August 14th)</i>	The Duke of Gordon His Daughters: Elizabeth, Margaret, Jean Captain Ogilvie <i>Many other roles – perfect play for beginners!</i>
	Where Corn Don't Grow <i>(July 4th – August 21st)</i>	<i>Character Names TBA</i> The Father – an old farmer His Grown-up son His Grown-up daughter
	Steppin' Up <i>(July 11th – August 28th)</i>	Anyone of any age with dancing ability is invited to perform, either solo or in groups. Please bring your own music on CD.
After Hours	Muzzle Blast <i>(May 23rd – July 10th)</i>	Julie – Aged about 35. A single mom in a dead-end job, makes poor choices with men. Katherine –16. Julie's reckless, rebelling, daughter who believes she's indestructible. Harold – an angry 20-something who's just been thrown out by his wife.
	Hangin' in the Balance <i>(June 6th – July 24th)</i>	Nadia – A figment of an author's imagination, a much-maligned Muse, the chronicler of terrible tales.
	Lost and Found <i>(June 20th – August 7th)</i>	She , the woman who washes up on the rock looking for her guardian angel He , the man who washes up on the rock looking for his absolution
	Living <i>(July 4th – August 21st)</i>	Vincent , a deeply troubled young man The woman , a mysterious figure that enters his life in a drunken stupor

Auditions Information

Date: Saturday, March 27th

Location: Ennotville Library

Children's Auditions: 9am – 12pm (1 hour sessions in groups, no prep)

Open Reading: 1pm – 5pm (1 hour sessions in groups, no prep)

Specialists: 6pm – 9pm (15 minutes/person, prepare song/monologue)

Late Nights: 9pm – 10pm (15 minutes/person, monologue if desired)

For more information or to book an audition time please call Eric at **519-780-7593** or email grinder@grinderproductions.org. Remember, no previous experience is necessary to audition for Grinder Productions!

Standby, Mackenzie – Chapter 2

Mackenzie awoke to the sound of the vacuum cleaner out in the lobby. She glanced down at her watch: 9:43 am. Reluctantly she willed herself to sit up, but as she opened her eyes the black curtains around her began to spin. She put her hand to her head. Then suddenly she felt her stomach start to do summersaults. Oh no.

A minute or so of throwing up in the backstage washroom later and Mackenzie's head was feeling a bit better, even though the rest of her now felt as if she'd been whipped at the stake. She flushed the toilet, cleaned herself up as best as she could, then gingerly headed out to the auditorium.

Steven and LLG were both laying across several seats in the front row. Like Mackenzie, they had spent the night at the theatre after the strike. By the time the set was down, the props put away, the costumes washed and the lighting returned to the house plot the cast party had long since ended and Frank and the actors had gone to bed, so the Techies (along with Marlene, who had be deputized as an extra hand for the strike) had had a celebration of their own, and Mackenzie had been definitely been out of her league. She remembered Juan's few feeble attempts to join her on the Equity cot, and that he'd been unsuccessful, but not much else. Oh yeah, and now she was a professional stage manager with a show that went into rehearsals tomorrow. It wasn't until Mackenzie got to the lobby that she put two and two together and realized that the vacuum cleaner had to be operated by someone. Sure enough, it was Bret.

Bret. Bret was the bartender and janitor for the theatre, the guy who fixed the drinks and fixed the toilets and was responsible for keeping the building in suitable condition for an audience night after night. He booked the volunteers, bought supplies and never missed a day, even coming in on a Sunday to clean things up before the box office opened on Monday morning. And he was just a two years older than Mackenzie. And handsome. Extremely, handsome. Way too handsome to meet with bed-head, no make-up and smelling like nachos and Peach Schnapps.

"Me oh me oh my, it must have been a party," Bret sang when he saw her.

"Yeah, it was... fun."

"You look like the bottom of Marlene's ashtray. You probably wish I'd turn this vacuum cleaner off, don't you?"

"Would you?!"

Bret turned off the vacuum.

"Thanks."

"You want to come down the street with me for a coffee and a bagel?"

"Uh, sure. Do you mind if I clean up a little bit first?"

Mackenzie just made it into the bathroom before throwing up again. As she swore to herself never to drink again she heard Bret knocking on the door.

"You okay in there?"

"Yeah, I'm fine, I mean, I will be. Just give me a minute."

"Don't worry about the mess. The bathroom is next on my list, and I've cleaned up plenty of puke in my day."

After a long, slow, often unsteady walk down the street Mackenzie was glad when Bret suggested they sit in the coffee shop for a little while. The Sunday morning crowd was mostly church-goers who were on their way to church: people who didn't have the time to stop and chat until after the service, so while there was a line-up the tables themselves were pretty much clear. A bagel with some cream cheese, a cup of coffee and the time to enjoy it was just what Mackenzie needed. And sitting at a table for two across from Bret didn't hurt much either.

"So the word on the street is you're the new Marvin," Bret said as he polished off his bagel.

"Yeah. I think I'm totally nuts."

"You are." They both laughed.

"I don't even know what I should be doing today. I mean rehearsals start tomorrow!"

"I guess Frank didn't give you crash course in professional Stage Management 101?"

"No. Maybe I should ask Steven. I mean he must know something about Stage Managing right?"

"You'd think that, wouldn't you?"

Mackenzie still wasn't fully awake, but something about the way Bret was talking made her suspicious.

"Do you know something about this that I don't?" she asked.

“I know Steven couldn’t stage manage his way out of a paper bag. If you go to him and ask him for some ‘advice’ he’ll spend the rest of the day with you in coffee shops and bars telling stories about shows he’s worked on that he feels have some connection to stage management. The truth is he hasn’t got a clue about that part of the business, and the only reason he made it through last night’s show was because Marvin had left him an amazingly complete prompt book.”

“And how do you know all this?”

“I’ve been around.”

“You’re 21.”

“Listen, do you want some advice you can actually use?”

Mackenzie leaned forward, studying Bret’s face. He suddenly looked more mature than he had a moment ago, and strangely confident.

“Okay, then, Mr. Smarty Pants, what do you think I should do to prepare for this show?”

“Finish your breakfast. Then go back to the theatre, get a copy of the script out of Steven’s Office and make a copy for yourself. Set it up exactly like Marvin’s. Then make lists of all the props, set pieces, costumes, lighting cues, sound cues and special effects that are in the script, and leave a copy of it on Steven’s desk. Take the set design that’s in the shop and make a copy of it, then tape out the floor plan on the stage. Find rehearsal props and furniture and set them up as per the set design, and then set up a table in the auditorium for you and Frank. Assemble your office supplies, set up a table on stage for the read-through and the go home and get some sleep. You’ve got a very busy week ahead of you. Now I’ve got toilets to clean.”

And with that Bret knocked back the last mouthful of his coffee, got up and walked back to the theatre, leaving a stunned Mackenzie to finish her breakfast alone