

# The Grinder Standard

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

January 2009

Happy New Year!

At Grinder Productions, many, many things are happening.

First and foremost, I have a programming change to tell you about. Our production of William Shakespeare's ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***, originally scheduled for January 22nd - 24th at the Elora Centre for the Arts, will now take place March 14th - 16th. In its place will be a production of ***The Cyclops***, a "Satyr play" by Euripides. An ancient form of Greek drama, the Satyr play was written as comic relief to come at the end of the trilogy of tragic plays that made up a day of Athenian playgoing. There are only two surviving extant Satyr plays (though we know there were many more), and this one seems to be the better preserved of the two. I've been wanting to bring a small sampling of ancient Greek theatre to Centre Wellington for some time now, and I think that this production will be an excellent opportunity to do just that. And where am I going to find a chorus of Satyrs? Read on...

Also coming up at the end of January will be the ***Beat the Winter Blahs Comedy and Variety Cavalcade***. This is something new that we're trying, as a way to offer our patrons some light entertainment in the heart of a cold winter. This will be similar to our ***Future Stars*** variety shows for kids, but open to everyone, and with a greater focus on making audiences laugh. Performers will be randomly assigned to one of the four performance nights, and will prepare material on their own or in conjunction with someone else. All ages and talents are welcome, and no experience or special skills will be required. So how do you get involved in this production? Read on...

And, as previously announced, Hopeless Romantics, our Wedding Entertainment Division, is now open for business. This semi-professional touring arm of the company will begin rehearsals in February for its inaugural productions. Do you want to be a part of it? Then read on...

...to here! On Saturday, January 17th, Grinder Productions will be conducting its **Biggest Auditions Ever.**

We will be looking for:

**Children**, ages 8 through 12

**Teenagers**, ages 13 to 18

**Adults**, ages 19 and up

There are so many roles that we have to fill in upcoming productions that I will **guarantee** everyone who comes out to the auditions at least one offer of a role onstage with Grinder Productions between now and June of this year. The chorus of Satyrs will have many, many small parts, perfect for people who have never been onstage before. Winter Blahs will require an almost infinite number of performers, each with a very small job to do, and again, this will serve as an excellent introduction to the stage. On top of that we have over 60 onstage roles to cast for shows at the Fergus Grand Theatre and the Elora Centre for the Arts in the next six months. That doesn't even begin to count our summer operations.

Auditions are open to both current members of Grinder Productions and to newcomers, so please tell all your friends, co-workers and family members about this opportunity. Auditions at Grinder only come around once a year, so now is the time to introduce yourself to us and show us what you can do.

Newcomers to Grinder Productions will be handled in the open auditions (see time slots below). These auditions will be very relaxed and informal. 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. 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!

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.

**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 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.

Everyone who auditions will be asked to fill out an audition form (and

pose for a quick mug shot so we can remember what you look like!). 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, so make sure you give us as much information as you can about your availability.

**Time Slots** – *All auditions to be held on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

**Open Auditions** (*for newcomers to the company*):

Children: 9am - 9:45am  
10am - 10:45am

Teens: 12pm - 12:45pm  
1pm - 1:45pm

Adults: 3pm - 3:45pm  
4pm - 4:45pm

**Members Auditions** (*for those who have worked with Grinder before*):

Children: 11am - 11:45am

Teens: 2pm - 2:45pm

Adults: 5pm - 5:45pm

**Hopeless Romantics Auditions:**

Adults 16+: 6pm - 6:45pm  
7pm - 7:45pm  
8pm - 8:45pm (if necessary)  
9pm - 9:45pm (if necessary)

The Open auditions and Members Auditions will consist of groups of ten participants auditioning together for 45 minutes. The Hopeless Romantics Auditions will consist of four 15 minute time slots per hour, with one auditioner per time slot. A running chart of the remaining available audition spaces will be posted daily on the Grinder Productions company blog, Grinder's Grumblings, available at <http://grindersgrumblings.blogspot.com>.

As always, EVERYONE is welcome at these auditions. No experience is necessary to be a part of Grinder Productions, no special skills are required. To reserve your audition time please call Eric Goudie at 519-780-7593, or e-mail [grinder@grinderproductions.org](mailto:grinder@grinderproductions.org).

## Introducing The Hopeless Romantics



The world's greatest fiancée 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 a short play after the service, to entertain my guests while the pictures are being taken."

To which the world's greatest fiancée 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...

## Dating Disasters

Have you been dumped?

Sure you have. It was likely an embarrassing, painful experience at the time, right? But now, when you think about it, it seems kind of silly.

Grinder Productions wants to hear your worst "dating disaster" stories. It could be a first date that went horribly wrong, an ill-considered birthday gift (seriously guys – she doesn't want power tools!), or any other event in a past relationship that is too outrageous to believe.

Send us a written submission of 500 words or less describing your disaster. We're not going to check your facts here, so as long as you leave the names out of it, feel free to expand, exaggerate and get creative – we want your story to be funny and entertaining – not necessarily true!

Send your submissions to [grinder@grinderproductions.org](mailto:grinder@grinderproductions.org). Ten finalists will be chosen from the submissions, and asked to read their stories live onstage in February, where the audience will vote for the "dating disaster of the year."

And you thought your ex was good for nothing...

**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, NOB 1S0  
519-846-9698  
Fax: 519-846-0996  
programming@eloracentref  
orthearths.ca

**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, after school and evening timeslots available.

Call 519-780-7593 or e-mail  
[grinder@grinderproductions.org](mailto:grinder@grinderproductions.org) to for more  
information or to book.

*"Ah, the memories..."*



*Soccer Moms, Ennotville Summer 2007  
Cast and Crew from left to right:  
Sonia Ingriselli, Julie Kennedy,  
Brenda Caughell-Wasyluk, Rachel Behling*