

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

July 2007

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We're on Facebook!
Check-out the group "Fergus Grand Theatre Alumni" and say hello. You could also write a congratulatory note on the wall of this year's lifetime achievement award recipient!

Get your tickets for the shows this summer at the Ennotville Library and Belwood Hall!

But don't call the Fergus Grand Theatre box office...

Our summer box office phone number is 519-780-7593, and you can call any time.

Midsummer Madness...

And you thought I wouldn't have time...

Yes, it's been very busy at Grinder Productions over the past few months. Just check out the Production Reports page, and you'll see that no fewer than six shows have either been completed this month or have gone into production. But, as they say, it's good to be busy, and with so many shows going on I'm happy to report that we are certainly gaining a lot of notice and recognition in the community, which while always a joy to hear for its own sake, is also very important in terms of the larger picture of arts in Centre Wellington.

Now that summer is here things are a bit quieter around the Fergus Grand Theatre, though there are still summer "creative" day camps being run for children aged 8-12. Contact Alan at 519-787-1981 if you know of anyone who's looking for something for the kids to do in late August.

The Fergus Grand Theatre Volunteers remain busy, with even more equipment purchases and some minor backstage renovations to make life easier for everyone, and getting the space in tip-top shape for the fall.

So have fun this summer, and I'll see you at the show.

Eric Goudie

Becky Branton as Loretta "Starr" gets up close and personal with the leftovers in Norm Foster's *The Melville Boys*, running July 13th and 14th at the Belwood Hall. Shane Monaghan as Owen Melville looks on in trademark fashion.



Show Reports

Final Report: Dirty Work at the Crossroads

The hero has been saved! Thanks to everyone who worked on this marvelous little production. From painting sets to scrounging for props to stepping up to the plate when they were needed the most this cast and crew was truly a joy to work with. Extra special thanks to Stacey Ingham who stepped in as a last-minute replacement and stole the show with her amazing portrayal of Fleurette, our favourite French maid.

Progress Report: The Melville Boys

Our first-ever play at the Belwood Hall is almost ready! Rather than me telling you all about it, why don't you simply come on out and see it? It's funny, moving, and a great piece of Canadian theatre.

Progress Report: Talley's Folly

Things are moving along very well for this show too. David Lambie and Kimberley Young are two very accomplished actors, and their performances are ones no discerning theatre-goer should miss— and in a Pulitzer-Prize winning play no less!

Final Report: I Ought to be in Pictures

Our first production of the season at the Ennotville Library closed this past July 7th. The show was a turning point for the company in that we have now added matinees to our performance schedule, giving patrons more options for attending the theatre, and I'm happy to report that we had people come out to this show who wouldn't normally have been able to make it to an evening performance. A huge, huge thanks to Becky Branton and Lynne Morgan-Canning for their hard work and dedication. These two ladies went far above and beyond what I would normally ask of actors in a show, and they made this great play come alive for the audience.

Progress Report: Soccer Moms

The final show in our Ennotville Season is well underway. Looks good so far, and we'll tell you more about it in August.

Progress Report: Noises Off

After more laughter than I've ever heard at a first read-through the second show at the Belwood Hall is now into rehearsal.

The Grinder Awards

And here they are at last!

Listed below are the recipients of this year's Grinder Awards, recognizing individuals and teams within the company who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the various areas of production.

Few of these decisions were easy, and I was more than tempted to declare a tie in a few instances, but I was able to make a decision in the end in every category.

Now unfortunately we don't have the space or the money for an elaborate awards ceremony—at least not this year. For now I hope you will all join me in congratulating these people on their achievements, and perhaps by the time the 2007-2008 Grinder Awards are handed out we'll be able to honour this round and the next round of winners in style.

Best Actor in a Leading Role

Andy Johnston: Inspector Lord/Spider's Web

Best Actor in a Supporting Role

Dean Dunbar: Dr. Carelli/Black Coffee

Best Actress in a Leading Role

Kimberley Young: Marion/Absurd Person Singular

Best Actress in a Supporting Role

Georgie Landry: Miss Peake/Spider's Web

Best Design

Mary Alies: Costumes/Spider's Web

Best Stage Manager

Alyssa Merrick: Spider's Web

Best Assistant Stage Manager

Julie Kennedy: Black Coffee

Best Technician

Mary Alies: Props/Effect of Gamma Rays...

Best Newcomer to Grinder Productions and/or theatre

Henry Wichers: Black Coffee

Best promotional design

Dave Swart: poster/ Picasso...

Best Youth

Sarah Branton: God/Everywoman

Best Artistic Associate

Danielle Deckert: choreography/Everywoman

Best Ensemble

The Effect of Gamma Rays...

Executive Director's Outstanding Achievement and Service Awards

Madison Walsh, for "Talk on Music"

Geoff Vanderkooy, for the website

Judy Faires

Sarah McGoldrick

The Grinder Productions Executive

Lifetime Achievement Award

Sandy Lai



What can I say about this girl? She saved my butt as the first actress in the first show I ever did, and she saved my butt again

the first summer at Ennotville, then pulled off one of the most difficult roles I've ever asked of an actor in All My Sins this past winter. Ever since she first auditioned for me I as a timid frosh at the U of G I knew this girl was going places, and we've been very lucky to have her at Grinder.