

# The Grinder Standard

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

**July 2008**



- "Yes, I know what it's for!"

Ah, the summer theatre season. Nothing like the rush and agony of seven shows in production at once, each with their own victories and disasters. Sometimes I wonder how I manage to avoid going crazy – and then I do.

But for all the trials, for all the pain, sleepless nights and endless days spent trying to feed the voracious monster that is the accounts payables I still find the pendulum inevitably swings back the other way, that there is immense joy in the business of live theatre, that time and time again it proves to be more than worth the effort.

Our latest show, ***Farmer's Daughters***, has proven this to me once again, and has helped me find a confidence, a passion, for what we do here at Grinder that had gotten lost over the long, cold winter. The next few months promise to be good ones – I hope to see you at the theatre.

## **Playing this month at Grinder**

*At the Ennotville Summer Theatre:*

### **The Belle of Amherst**

*A Biographical Portrait of Emily Dickinson*

By William Luce

Directed by

Rachel Behling

**July 3<sup>rd</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>**

### **First Kisses**

*A Romantic Comedy*

By Jay D. Hanagan

Directed by

Stacey Ingham

**July 24<sup>th</sup> – August 9<sup>th</sup>**

*At the Belwood Summer Theatre:*

### **Relatively Speaking**

*A British Farce*

By Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by

RD Branton

**July 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>**

### **The Middle Ages**

*A Comedy*

By AR Gurney

Directed by

Julie Kennedy

**July 31<sup>st</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Call 519-780-7593  
for tickets, or visit  
our online box office  
– [click here!](#)**

## **Production Values – A Primer**

If you've done a fair amount of backstage work in theatre you've likely heard of the term "Production Values," but if not I'll give you a quick, rather subjective definition.

Production Values refer to the level of quality of the technical elements of a show: lighting, sound, special effects, set construction, painting, props, furniture, décor, costumes, stage management and the overall operation of the show – basically everything except the acting.

For example, if a show calls for a door that has to open and shut, one would obviously expect to have a door that opens and shuts. But how easily does that door open and shut? If opened, will it stay open? If shut, will it stay shut? Will it open when it is supposed to open? Does it drag on the floor or catch on the ceiling? Is it the right size and style for the period of the play? And what about the handles and hinges? Do they match the period? And assuming that all these questions have been answered, and the door works perfectly, will it do so every single time in every single performance with actors doing every conceivable thing to it?

One of my goals this summer at Grinder has been to improve upon our production values. Not that we haven't had some great production values in the past, it's just that we're at the point now where we should be consistently doing better. I know we can do it, I know our audiences deserve it, and I know it will make our shows even better.

## **Let's Hear it for the Fergus Grand Theatre Volunteers!**

Grinder Productions will be returning this September to the Fergus Grand Theatre, and we'll be able to put on much better shows than we could have even just a couple of years ago thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Fergus Grand Theatre Volunteers. Here now is a partial list of the items they have either purchased, constructed or had donated by other groups for benefit of everyone who uses the theatre:

- 10 Front-of-House wash lights
- 5 Front-of-House-specials
- 2 Monitor speakers
- 3 vocal microphones
- 3 overhead microphones
- A sound gear rack
- 3 backstage storage bins
- Sound Computer
- Follow Spot
- New Lighting Board Monitor
- New Lighting Board Table
- Booth Storage Cabinet
- New rigging supplies
- Fog machine
- Lobby tables and chairs
- Lobby wicker furniture
- Concession fridge
- Concession microwave
- Backstage fridge

And many more items. In the coming months more equipment will be added to this inventory. Thanks to Paul, Judy, Don and Sarah – keep up the great work!

## Theatre News:

The Elora Community Theatre continues preparations for ***You're Lucky if You're Killed*** – a play about WW1 by Dr. Norman Craig. Grinder Productions is pleased to be involved in this show with ECT and other community partners. We'll have more information in later newsletters about this show, but if you want to be involved please feel free to contact the director, Bronwyn Allen-Hill, at 519-846-9612.

## Looking Ahead

We are just now starting the all-too-brief Canadian summer, so I don't know that I want to ruin the buzz of warm days and lazy nights spent around campfires by talking too much about the fall, but nonetheless I would like to give you a taste of what's in store at Grinder when the leaves turn.

First and foremost, we'll be returning to the Fergus Grand Theatre the first week of September, with a production of Rowan and Martin's ***Laugh-in***, an authorized take-off on the hit TV show, featuring some of its best-loved gags and characters.

Also, we're booked into the Elora Centre for the Arts October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> for ***Art***, a play about a white painting and how much it may or may not be worth. This show will be our contribution to the "*Sensational Elora*" festival going on at that time.

Of course, it's all subject to change. And of course that's just the tip of the iceberg. I'll have much more to tell you in our August Newsletter.

*Just when you thought those glasses were gone forever...*



Relatively Speaking – July 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> at 8pm – Belwood Hall