

The Grinder Standard

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

March 2010

Open Auditions on World Theatre Day at the Ennotville Library

Saturday, March 27th is World Theatre Day, a day to celebrate, promote, defend and enjoy live performance across the globe. Grinder Productions is pleased to participate in World Theatre Day by holding open auditions for its 2010 season.

“Celebrating World Theatre Day with an open call for actors couldn’t be more appropriate for us,” says Eric Goudie, Grinder’s Creative and Executive Co-Director. “This day is about inclusiveness, it’s about entertainment and it’s about giving a voice to people and stories that must be heard. That’s exactly what we hope to accomplish in our upcoming season.”

The auditions will be open to everyone, regardless of age or gender. As is always the case with Grinder Productions no previous acting experience is necessary.

There are 32 unique events coming up this season. In addition to five plays at the Ennotville Library and 3 plays at the Belwood Hall the company has added a children’s series, a lunchtime “mostly music” segment and four “after hours” productions on selected weekends. As such the chances of landing a role this summer for anyone who comes out to audition are excellent.

Children’s auditions will be held in the morning, with kids up to the age of 12 being auditioned in small groups with creative games, storytelling and other activities.

Adults will audition in the afternoon in a relaxed, informal group atmosphere involving a few simple theatre exercises and some “cold readings” from various plays.

Later in the day there will be individual time slots for more experienced performers who wish to deliver a prepared audition piece, as well as anyone wishing to sing and/or dance for their audition (or show off a specialized skill). The day will conclude with after-hours auditions for anyone interested in those particular shows.

In addition to acting talent the company is also looking for directors, designers, stage managers and production personnel to help in various capacities, so even people who aren’t interested in acting but who want to get involved in the fun and excitement of live theatre are invited to come out. Once again, no previous experience is necessary.

Anyone who has auditioned for or performed with the company in the past is encouraged to do so again, so they can be seen by the new directors who have come on board for the 2010 season.

For more information or to book your audition time please call Eric at 519-780-7593 or e-mail grinder@grinderproductions.org.

Grinder Summer Theatre Camps for Kids!

That's right, we've got theatre camps!

After many years of waiting for all the chips to fall into the right places 2010 is the year we're finally able to offer day camps for kids ages 8 to 12 at the Ennotville Summer Theatre.

Kids, I designed these camps with you in mind. We want to teach you a few things about theatre of course, but we also want to make sure you have a lot of fun. I remember from when I was back in theatre camp that the best part of it all was getting to perform onstage in an actual show. So that's why at the end of every week you'll get to use what you've learned by putting on a show, written by and starring your class and you!

Our camps this summer are designed with Moms and Dads in mind too. Our instructor will have a valid Police Check and first aid certification, our daily rehearsal venue at the Ennotville Library is a historical treasure nestled in a quiet corner of our community, and for four weeks of instruction we hope you'll find the course fee of just \$200 to be quite reasonable as well.

Camps will be offered in both July and August, Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm. They are open to kids ages 8 to 12. The camp dates are:

July 5th—July 30th

August 2nd—August 27th

Please call 519-780-7593 or e-mail kids@grinderproductions.org to book a space for your child. The fee for the course is \$200 per child. Please make checks payable to Grinder Productions. Full payment is due no later than the first day of classes.

Important Info for Parents:

Classes begin at 9am and end at 4pm—please ensure your child is dropped off and picked up on time!

Please send lunch with your child every day. There are no places to buy lunch in Ennotville.

Please make sure your child wears comfortable clothing suitable for rigorous group activity and that it's okay to get dirty.

We will have shows every Friday at 3pm—please come if you are free!

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 |

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| | | 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 |

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| | <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 |

Accommodations Needed

We need your help! We have a staff member we would like to bring on board this summer who needs a place to stay that is within biking distance of the Ennotville Library and our rehearsal spaces.

Would you or someone you know be willing to open your home to a mature, responsible young woman between May and August of this year? Like most other theatres, we can't afford to pay you in anything but free tickets to the entire season (and of course our utter thanks). Please call 519-780-7593 or email grinder@grinderproductions.org for more info!

Standby, Mackenzie – Chapter 3

The first day of rehearsals dawned sunny and clear, another beautiful summer's day in Sheridan's Falls. Last summer it would have been the kind of day Mackenzie would have called up Bethany, her best friend, to see if she wanted to head down to the lake for a swim and some boy watching.

Sadly though Bethany's boy watching days were over, as she'd just moved away after school had ended in June to start a new life with her new boyfriend in a big new city. Mackenzie's boy watching would have to be put on hold for a while too now, and as she walked downtown to the big old stone theatre something told her that she wouldn't be spending much time enjoying the fabulous weather this particular summer.

The theatre was a buzz with the energy of a new play coming to life. Trudy was sitting in the box office, taking phone orders while typing an email and stuffing brochures into envelopes for her latest mailing, furiously gnawing away on her lips as she fretted about whether or not the box office was looking clean enough to welcome customers when the box office opened. Marlene was standing in front of the theatre smoking a cigarette and tapping out a message on her Blackberry when Mackenzie arrived.

"Are you all ready for the big day, kiddo?"

"I think so."

"You'd better be. We've got a problem. One of the actors is lost. Frank's not gonna be happy with you."

"Me? What did I do?"

"Didn't you call the actors and give them directions?"

"Nobody told me I was supposed to do that."

"You're just supposed to know enough. It's called common sense. Nothing we can do about it now. I suppose you forgot to get some timbits too."

"Timbits?"

"Tell Bret to go for them."

And with that Marlene pitched her cigarette butt to the sidewalk and went back inside, muttering something about rookies. Mackenzie quickly followed after her.

The actual read-through wasn't too bad. Mackenzie met the actors, and neither one of them seemed very shocked that she was their stage manager. The one actor who had gotten lost quickly found his way and was there on time, so there were no delays in getting started, and Frank was generally happy. As the actors read the play they brought it to life, and what had been a dull and dreary play about a couple of country hicks became a warm, lively, touching experience.

After lunch it was time to start blocking the play. Frank came up on stage just before they started, and for the first time seemed to notice the set design taped out on the floor, and the props table that was set up with a bunch of props with big "R's" written on them.

"This will do," he grumbled demurely. That was about as close to a compliment as you could get from Frank.

As an assistant stage manager Mackenzie had taken blocking notes before, and she had learned to reset props in between scenes. But she'd never done both at once before, and she'd never done it this much. It took a few angry glares from Frank the first few times before she got on to automatically getting up to reset the props every time they stopped. In the first two hours of rehearsal they had only blocked the first five or ten minutes of the play, but already Mackenzie was feeling exhausted, and her blocking notes looked like the aftermath of a war zone. Thankfully, one of the actors suggested that perhaps it was time for a break.

"Capital idea," said Frank. "Mack, go see if there are some timbits left in the lobby. But when you get back I want to go over something with you."

What Frank wanted to go over with her was scheduling. Again, it was another one of those things that she was just magically supposed to know, but apparently the theatre could get into real trouble with the actor's union if there weren't enough breaks scheduled. In fact there were rules about how long a work day could be, how much time there had to be for lunch, even that the actors had to be provided with a water cooler! Frank shoved a dog-eared book into her hands.

"This is your bible," he said. "From now on make sure we're doing everything by the book."

Mackenzie looked at the black and silver-covered spiral-bound book. It was entitled The Canadian Theatre Agreement. Before she had a chance to look it over Frank called the actors back to the stage and the rehearsal continued. After a few more hours of mind-numbingly repetitive rehearsal Frank summed up the mood in the room.

"Well, stick a fork in me and turn me over, because I'm done."

The actors giggled, and everyone was thankful that this first long day of rehearsals had come to an end. Frank invited the actors out for a drink, and though they both had a lot of memorizing to do they decided that yes, they had time for a quick one. Before he left Frank pulled Mackenzie aside for a quick confab.

"Tomorrow you're going to have us working by the book, right?"

"Yes."

"Now these rehearsal props, these are great and all, and they were fine for today, but I want you to get Steven and Juan off their lazy butts and get us some show-quality props for tomorrow. We've only got six days to pull this puppy together and I don't want to be working with stand-ins any longer than I have to."

"But weren't Steven and Juan in the shop all day building the set?"

"No. They probably spent a couple of hours on set building and then decided to make an early day of it and hit the bar. If you can't find them you'll have to get us the show props yourself."

And with that Frank and the actors left.