

The Grinder Standard

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

May 2009

From the Fergus-Elora News Express Website: [Centre Wellington presents awards of excellence](#)

Yes, I won the big green pasta bowl... this is a condensed version of my thank-you remarks. I made sure to press the point that it's the members of Grinder, not any one individual, who have made it so successful. Thank-you everyone.

Grinder Productions produces over 20 shows every year, in four venues throughout Centre Wellington: The Fergus Grand Theatre, The Ennotville Library, The Belwood Hall and the Elora Centre for the Arts, so obviously, we're still a very small company.

I've been doing some research on the economic impact of live theatre in communities such as ours. The numbers vary, but on average the conservative consensus seems to be that for every dollar that is spent on a theatre ticket at least another 5 dollars are spent in the community, whether or dining, accommodations, or other pre and post show activities. Every single dollar. That means that even at our lowest ticket price of \$10 another \$50 in economic activity is being generated every time we sell a ticket. Given our median ticket price and the number of patrons who come to our shows that translates into over \$100,000 of positive economic spin-offs from Grinder Productions events every year. And we're just getting started.

But obviously it's not just about dollars and cents. It's the members of Grinder Productions who truly form the heart and soul of our company, in partnership with our audience.

Polish theatre director Jerry Grotowski once said "all you really need for theatre to happen is an actor and an audience." Well believe me, Grinder Productions has some actors, all of them eager to greet all of you, with open arms.

Playing this month at Grinder

At the Elora Centre for the Arts:

School Shooting *A teen thriller!*

Written and Directed by Eric Goudie
April 30th, May 1st, 2nd at 8pm, May 2nd at 8pm

At the Ennotville Historical Library:

Yes, Your Worship *And* **The Heart of Eden**

A satirical romp and a romantic musical comedy

Written and Directed by Eric Goudie
May 15th and 16th at 8pm, May 16th at 2pm

Call 519-780-7593 or talk to any cast member for tickets to either of these two fabulous events!

Ennotville Summer Theatre kicks off 2009 Season with the rollicking farce *Dulcitus*

What is *Dulcitus*?

Dulcitus is a boisterous little farce, written by the world's first known woman playwright, the abbess Hroswitha of Gandersheim, in or around 960AD. It concerns the fate of three Christian martyrs at the hands of a comically inept Roman prefect named Dulcitus.

Besides being remarkable as the first female dramatist that we know of, Hroswitha's work is also remarkable in that it provides a very rare glimpse into the world of Medieval Drama - after the fall of the Roman Empire but before the start of the Renaissance. She wrote in Latin, and admittedly copies the styles and conventions of the Roman playwright Terrence, in whose works she saw the talent but lamented the waywardness, and sought to use his accessible format to promote her Christian ideals. Unwittingly or not, Hroswitha also seems to have been a very early feminist, with her work portraying women characters as both strong and intelligent, in contrast with the often weak and stereotypical depictions of Roman comedies.

In *Dulcitus* we have, quite probably, the only one of her seven plays that seems to be designed with audience laughter in mind. Indeed, there are a lot of very funny situations, and plenty of slapstick humour, especially when Dulcitus, blind with passion, lusts after the pots in the kitchen as if they were the martyrs. In the end the Christians meet their deaths, but even in that there is comedy, for while they have been saved Dulcitus has not, and is doomed to continue his own bungling for a little while more.

The show opens on Thursday, June 11th at the historic Ennotville Library, and runs Thursdays, Fridays and at Saturdays at 8pm with 2pm Saturday matinees until June 27th. Tickets are \$15 each, and are available by calling 519-780-7593 or online at www.grinderproductions.org.

Grinder Card:

The Grinder Card - Your Way to Save this Summer
Over the past two days I've announced our summer line-ups for the Ennotville and Belwood Summer Seasons. Now I'd like to tell you about our best "subscription" package ever - The Grinder Card.

I've talked about The Grinder Card before, but in case you missed it this the easiest and most economical way for you to experience our shows this summer and beyond.

Each card is worth \$100, and it is good for ten admissions to a show (plus an 11th one on us!). You can come to as few or as many shows as you like in our summer season, and you can either come alone, with your partner, or bring your friends. Your card will simply be punched for each person admitted into the show. You can come to the same show twice, or only come to the shows you want to see. Best of all, it's good for any public performance in the season, so you don't have to pick your dates in advance. The Grinder Card doesn't expire, either - if you haven't used all your admissions by the end of the summer the card will still be good for shows in the fall and winter seasons in any one of our venues - you can even save it and use it again next summer.

You can't get a more flexible summer theatre subscription than that. Cards are on sale now. Reserve yours by emailing grinder@grinderproductions.org or by calling 519-780-7593, or simply see Eric at any one of the shows between now and June 11th!

Our Summer Line-up in Brief

At the Ennotville Library: Our 5th season will be filled with history, a salute to the theatrical pioneers who have made it possible to do what we do. What better place to do it than in a building that was built with the hearts and hands of the pioneers in our community!

Dulcitus—A Farce

By Hroswitha of Gandersheim, the world's first female dramatist

June 11th—June 27th

The Birth of Merlin—A Comedy

By William Rowley, or is it a lost play of Shakespeare?

July 2nd—July 18th

Commedia! - A Comedy

A scripted revival of a scenario from this hilarious Italian genre, adapted by Eric Goudie

July 23rd—August 8th

Vaudeville - A Variety Show

Join us for this throw-back to the show-stopping comedians of yesteryear!

August 13th—August 29th

At the Belwood Hall: We're dressing up for our 3rd season in Belwood, with three plays about dresses.

5 Women Wearing the Same Dress

**A comedy by Alan Ball*

July 16th, 17th and 18th

Our Girls

**A cross-dressing Farce by Conrad Seiler*

July 30th, 31st, August 1st

Dress Code

A new play by Eric Goudie

August 20th, 21st and 22nd

*All shows, dates and venues subject to change.
Produced by Special Arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Employment with Grinder Productions

No, seriously! We are still looking for people for these paid positions with the company! Pass the info along to all your un-employed friends and family.

Contract Sales Staff: Make money with Grinder Productions! We are looking for one or more people to sell tickets for our shows. This is strictly a contract position, and you will earn a \$1 commission on every ticket you sell, (based on final house counts). We are seeking individuals who enjoy a challenge, have excellent people skills, and are willing and able to think outside the box to sell tickets to a wide variety of audiences with little or no advertising budget. A positive attitude and “can-do” spirit is a must! *Resume required.*

Temporary Production Manager: I’m going to be a little busy between June 1st and June 20th this year... so in order to keep things running smoothly I’d like to hire someone to do the technical aspects of my job for a three-week period. Prior knowledge of theatre production is a must, including familiarity with production schedules, technical stagecraft and box office management. Duties will vary greatly depending on the shows, and ensuring every show has what it needs to rehearse and perform is a top priority. You will also be responsible for processing ticket orders and managing the company’s online box office services. *Resume required.*

The Grinder Awards

Yes, it’s that time of year again! I’m pleased to announce the nominees for this year’s Grinder Awards. The shows that formed the body of work that was eligible for this year’s awards were:

Farmer's Daughters, Belle of Amherst, First Kisses, Same Time, Next Year, Relatively Speaking, The Middle Ages, Brighton Beach Memoirs, Rowan and Martin’s Laugh-in, Art, A Bench in the Sun, The Innocents, Poverty Anonymous, Hans Brinker, The Cyclops, Beat the Winter Blahs, Midsummer Night's Dream, Winter 1-Acts

Winners will be announced in the June Newsletter. Congratulations to all the nominees!

Best Actor in a Leading Role

Dean Dunbar - *Same Time*
 Brendan Linwood - *Dream*
 David Lamble - *A Bench in the Sun*
 Geoff Vanderkooy - *Relatively Sp.*

Best Actress in a Leading Role

Rachel Behling - *Same Time*
 Mary Alies - *A Bench in the Sun*
 Nancy Baker - *Hans Brinker*
 Zoe Dunbar - *Farmer's Daughters*
 Rachel Jones - *Dark Lady*

Best Actor - Supporting Role

Thomas McDevitt - *Brighton Beach*
 Andy Stimpson - *Hans Brinker*
 Peter Schofield - *Winter Blahs*
 Cory Sanders - *Art*

Best Actress - Supporting Role

Tracy Leighton - *Brighton Beach*
 Kimberley Young - *Laugh-in*
 Carole Kennedy - *Dream*
 Alison Schultz - *Dream*
 Kyra McEllistrum - *The Innocents*

Best Design (any discipline)

Sara Dunbar - *The Belle of Amherst*
 Stacey Ingham, Dave Ingham - *FK*
 Andy Robillard - *Same Time*
 Nancy Reaume - *Same Time*
 Ruth Ann Andrew - *Hans Brinker*

Best Stage Manager

Sara De Jong - *Same Time*
 Sara De Jong - *Laugh-in*
 Pam Monaghan - *Belle of Amherst*
 Ashley Goldsmith - *Hans Brinker*

Best Technician (any discipline)

Dave Ingham - Set Construction
 - *First Kisses*
 Nancy Reaume - Costumes
 - *Same Time, Next Year*
 Tracy Woodhouse - Painting
 - *Relatively Speaking*

Best newcomer, Grinder/theatre

J-P Soucy - *Brighton Beach Memoirs*
 Jon Gatten - *Hans Brinker*
 Sue Kennedy - *The Innocents*
 Rachel Jones - *Dream*
 Antonia Stevens - *Hans Brinker*

Best Youth (18 and under)

Morgan Dunbar - *The Innocents*
 Bailey Geissler - *Brighton Beach*
 Evan Moores - *Hans Brinker*
 Nathaniel Andrew - *Hans Brinker*
 Anders Gatten - *Hans Brinker*

Best Director

Rachel Behling - *Belle of Amherst*
 Arlene Callaghan - *Same Time*
 Stacy Ingham - *First Kisses*
 Brendan Linwood - *Constant Lover*

Best Ensemble

Farmer's Daughters
 Laugh-in
 A Bench in the Sun
 Art
 A Midsummer Night's Dream

Executive Director's Outstanding Service and Achievement Awards

- ▶ Michael Black, for a last-minute performance - *Dream*
- ▶ Alun Morgan, for a last-second performance - *The Middle Ages*
- ▶ The cast of *Art*, for persevering through the growing pains of a new business partnership
- ▶ Evan Moores, Darian Loukes, Jon Gatten, Andy Stimpson, Bailey Geissler, for stepping in when others chose to step out - *Hans Brinker*

Lifetime Achievement Award

-To be announced

Grinder's Angels Club Inductee

-To be announced