

May, 2007

“Notes from the Director's Chair” is a monthly newsletter for members and friends of Grinder Productions

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Picasso 1

Grinder Grumblings 2

Hot Flashes 2

Dirty Work 2

Website Update 3

I Ought to be in Pictures 3

Summer Season 3

Tales from the Stage 4

May Flowers

Just when you would think that things are winding down for the season, Grinder is ramping up for a very active spring and summer! We have several shows upcoming in several venues and we'll even be making an appearance at the home show this month. Drop by our booth May 9-11th and say "Hi". You can also buy tickets for our upcoming shows including the summer season at the booth.

Also worth noting, Eric Goudie was nominated for the Chamber of Commerce Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Congratulations to Johannie Scott and Becky Cremesco of The Dragonfly Café on their win.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

Rehearsals are well under way for what promises to be the most fun play of the season at the Fergus Grand Theatre!



Picasso at the Lapin Agile. An over the top comedy written by Steve Martin - yes that Steve Martin, set in 1904 in Paris.

Picasso and Einstein meet at a bar, and then an unexpected visitor arrives!

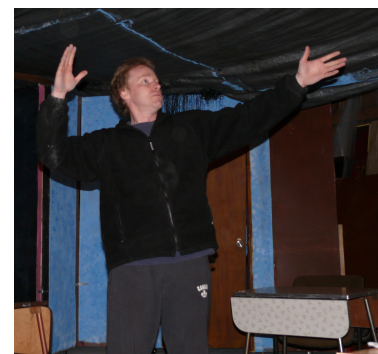
This production features special effects previously unseen in Fergus,

a solid cast of Grinder veterans and some stellar newcomers and even opportunities for audience participation and interaction.



Picasso runs May 17, 18 & 19th at 8pm at the Fergus Grand Theatre.

This is one not to miss!



Grinder's Grumblings

Finally, spring. I'm happy to report that not only are we still coming off the incredible success of Black Coffee this past March, our current production of Picasso at the Lapin Agile is well on its way to surpassing many people's expectations, and our final Fergus Grand production, Dirty Work at the Crossroads, promises to end the season off with a huge bang (and a crash, a thud, a kerplunk and kazoo - when you see the show it will all make sense). If that weren't enough our summer season is getting underway, with rehearsals beginning this week for I Ought to be in Pictures, the Neil Simon classic starting

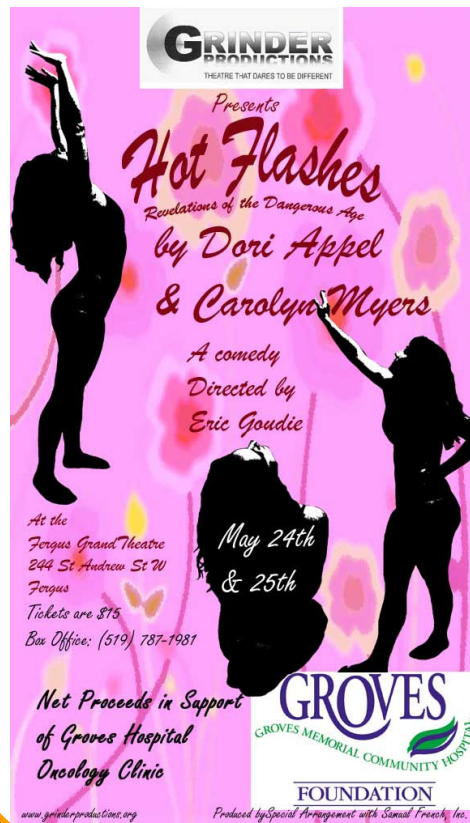
Hot Flashes

This charming, funny and often moving play follows a series of women (and other characters) as they deal with the changes, both emotional and physical, that come

with aging. The play is written as a comedy, and while there are no laughs lacking, it also has the power to make the audience stop and think, perhaps identifying with a character, or just the gravity of the situation. The play is performed in a series of two-actor vignettes and will be undertaken by an entirely female cast, showcasing Grinder's talented female membership.

In addition, Grinder Productions is pleased to announce that the net proceeds from this event will be donated to the new Oncology Clinic at Groves Memorial Hospital. Creative and Executive Director Eric Goudie is thrilled about involving the company in the community, and for such a good cause

The show runs May 24th and 25th at the Fergus Grand Theatre at 8pm. Tickets are \$15 each, and can be reserved by calling the box office at 519-787-1981, or visiting the theatre at 244 St. Andrew St. West in Fergus.



Dirty Work at the Crossroads

June 28, 29 & 30th, bring the whole family to celebrate the end of school with this hilarious melodrama. Ripen up those rotten tomatoes; actually, the throwing of actual fruit is not allowed in the theatre, but the hurling of insults and lobbing of cheers is fully encouraged in this audience participation play. Get ready to boo the villain, cheer the hero and have some fun.

We are still looking for some help on this one too. As this production features a handful of musical numbers, we would love to bring a musical director on board to help us out. This is not a musical, so it's not a huge task. If you are interested in providing us with some musical assistance, please contact us.

Website Update

If you haven't been to www.grinderproductions.org in a while, check it out!

A huge thank you to Geoff Vanderkooy for his extensive help in revamping the Grinder website. It is still a work in progress, so check back frequently over the coming weeks and see the new and improved look and feel.

I Otta Be In Pictures

Herb, a once successful Hollywood scriptwriter, is having a dry run and his confidence is shaken. He takes consolation in his off and on relationship with Steffy, a movie makeup woman. Then suddenly he's confronted with his distant and almost forgotten past when his teenage daughter, Libby, arrives from Brooklyn where Herb had simply up and left wife, daughter and son sixteen years earlier. Libby's extremely confident and articulate and she tells Herb she wants him to get her into "pictures". But actually she's going to try to salvage him and also find a bit of lost love along the way. How they pick up the pieces of a father daughter relationship is a poignant, tender and nevertheless very funny story.

"Terrific . . . sweet, dandy and touching. . . A mature, memorable play that brings joy to the season." N.Y. Post.

CASTING CALL: As of the publication of this newsletter, we are still looking for Steffy! Preferably an actress in her 30's or early 40's. Please call Eric at (519) 780-7893 if you're interested.

Summer Season

We have a very exciting summer season featuring some first time Grinder directors and shows at two venues. Our summer lineup is as follows:

At the Ennotville Public Library:

June 15th-July 7th: I Ought to be in Pictures - A Comedy by Neil Simon, Directed by Denise Gismondi

July 13th-August 4th: Talley's Folly - A Romance by Lanford Wilson, Directed by Arlene Callaghan

August 10th-September 1st: Soccer Moms - A Comedy by Kathleen Clark, Directed by Julie Kennedy

At the Lions Hall in Bellwood:

July 13th & 14th: The Melville Boys - A romantic comedy by Norm Foster, Directed by RD Branton.

August 17th&18th: Noises Off - A farce by Michael Frayn, Directed by Leslie Monteyne

things off at the Ennotville Library. Summer season tickets will be on sale in a matter of days, so get your soon! Looking down the road a bit further, the fall 07-08 season is taking shape as well. This coming season will be especially significant for us, as it will mark 5 years of operations for our company, so look for a year filled with celebration as we put to rest any notion that we're some "fly by night" theatre company.

Enjoy the Summer,
Eric



Eric Goudie
Creative and Executive
Director



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Tickets Tickets Tickets

Tickets for all Grinder shows are currently \$12.00 each.

Groups of 10 or more get \$1.00 off the ticket price. And a special offer only available to members of Grinder Productions: Any member who sells 10 tickets to any Grinder Production event (that they aren't appearing in) receives their own ticket for FREE!

Call 519-787-1981 to order.

Theatre that Dares to be Different

Tales from the Stage

The Power Outage.

So it was the second show and the first one didn't quite go to my plans, meaning I had a few more technical difficulties than I would like. Before the show I went back stage to find an actor is still trying to memorize his lines, a start to a great night. I'm running solo on this show as the only techie, the stage manager, lighting operator and sound operator. I have all my lighting cues set, thanks to Eric, so that was the good part.

As the night begins, things aren't going too badly, I get through the first half and go back stage to make sure everything is A-OK. I promise myself that I won't make another mistake tonight. Part way through the second act, things are going really well, until right in the middle there a HUGE noise, sounds like a truck passing by. We get into the 3rd act with ease, and I don't have a cue for a couple minute, so I decide to give a stretch, I put my arms up, lean back and kick my feet out, right then BLACK OUT! I'm sure everyone must have heard my yells from the booth!

I scramble to find the power cord I knocked out or whatever it was I hit in this tiny space in the dark and it suddenly dawns on me that the emergency lights are on. I was never so happy to see emergency lights! It wasn't my fault!

Nearly half an hour later the lights come back on and we finish up the show.

As told by Shayne Monaghan