



Notes From The Director's Chair

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

November 2007

Road Warriors

There's a Sylvia Tyson song, the title of which has long escaped me, but the chorus of which I've never forgotten. I think it sums up, to a tee, the last six months at Grinder Productions:

Travelin' light down a long rocky road
The more I see, the better I know,
That you win some and lose some and let some go
Travelin' light down a long rocky road.

Grinder certainly has been a wild ride in the past six months. In fact, it's been a wild, crazy ride from the start. Someone asked me a little while back if it's all been worth it. I get asked that quite often, and for the longest time I didn't have an answer. Well, I think I've finally figured it out, and the answer is a resounding yes! When I see the smiles on faces that used to be frowns, when I hear how a someone's day brightens when they come to rehearsal, when two people who otherwise would never have crossed paths become friends (even if it's just on Facebook!) I know that yes, it has been worth it.

November Workshop—Monologues

Ah, the monologue. Standing alone onstage, nothing but an actor, and audience, and the magic of theatre. Well, perhaps not magic, but rather the awesome power of a solo performer. Our next workshop will be on November 6th and 8th, from 7pm to 9pm, focusing on the reading, analysis and preparation of a short monologue. Once completed, participants can use their monologues as a part of their regular audition repertoire. The cost is \$50 for the workshop, and interested individuals can register by contacting Eric Goudie, either by phone at 519-780-7593 or via e-mail at grinder@grinderproductions.org.

Final Report—Stage 4 Sampler

Curses! Due to circumstances beyond our control, last month's planned production at Stage 4, *Hangin' in the Balance*, had to be postponed. I'm sure you saw our promotions throughout the month of October for the "Stage 4 Sampler;" three nights of staged readings of some of Grinder Productions' earliest works, as well as the working draft for *Hangin' in the Balance*, that replaced this event. Watch for more information on a production later this season. This little play is very dear to me, and I truly hope to see it onstage soon. In any case, though, many thanks to Julie Kennedy, Rachel Behling and Becky Branton for all stepping in at the last minute to help out with the readings.

Final Report—Frankenstein

This past month Grinder Productions produced the show to end all shows. *Frankenstein* was the largest, most complex, most technically challenging work we've ever taken on, and I'm pleased to report that I received countless accolades on the settings, costumes, and sound as well as the usual compliments on the acting (which was superb in its own right, by the way). Many, many thanks to all those who made this show a reality, but an extra-special thank-you should go out to the people who made the technical aspects of this show a reality, whether it was spending countless hours sewing complicated costumes, scouring back sheds and basements for obscure antiques to use as props, inventing new software to accurately play back sound cues or spending their days at the shop or in the theatre building, painting, and rigging. And a personal thanks to Erin, Amanda, Stevie, Josh, Daniel, Jennifer and Tanya for putting up with the complex scene changes that were required to make my set design function!

Georgie Landry deserves all our congratulations for making her directorial debut in such fine style. Her grace under pressure and faith in the abilities of the company were of great comfort and assistance to me as a producer.

And last, but of course not least, our stage manager, Julie Kennedy, yet again demonstrated why she is one of Grinder's best, rising above challenges far beyond the usual demands of her position, and kept the good ship *Frankenstein* afloat through all the troubled waters. Thanks and congratulations to all!

Audition call:

The Agatha Christie Revival Showcase is looking for fresh talent for its 3rd Annual production of the works of the “Grand Dame” of the Murder-Mystery Genre. This year’s show, ***The Hollow***, is chock-full of off-the-wall characters that will be a challenge and a treat to play. One of them could be played by you!

The Characters:

Sir Henry Angkatell, *a distinguished-looking, elderly man*

Henrietta Angkatell, *a handsome young woman of thirty-three*

Lady Angkatell, *very charming and aristocratic, aged about sixty, completely vague, but with a lot of personality*

Midge Harvey, *a warm-hearted, practical, very nice young woman, of thirty-one*

Gudgeon, *in all respects the perfect butler*

Edward Angkatell, *tall, slightly stooping, 35 to 45, pleasant smile, diffident manner*

Doris, *the maid, slightly half-witted, and terrified of Gudgeon*

John Cristow, *a good-looking man of 38 with a dynamic personality but brusque manner*

Gerda Cristow, *his wife, timid, rather stupid*

Veronica Craye, *a famous Hollywood actress, very beautiful and she knows it*

Inspector Colquhoun, *a thoughtful quiet man with charm & a sense of humour*

Detective Sergeant Penny, *Colquhoun’s plainclothes note-taker and assistant*

Interested? Contact Eric by phone at 519-780-7593 or via e-mail at grinder@girnderproductions.org to book an audition time. You will be asked to prepare a one to two minute contemporary monologue.

Auditions will be held on Saturday, January 12th at the Fergus Grand Theatre, with callbacks the following week, and Rehearsals beginning January 27th.