

The Grinder Standard

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

November 2008



*Dear members,
partners and friends:*

We need your help.

These past few months at Grinder have been very, very difficult. Despite the best efforts of everyone involved, after a whirlwind summer we have once again lost our momentum in the fall. It is simply impossible to play to single-digit houses and still break even.

We can't get Grinder Productions through

the winter without some real revenue, and it will have to come quickly, or our holiday programming may be in jeopardy, and we can't risk falling into the same trap as last year, trying to use summer revenue to pay off winter debts. We need sustainability 12 months a year!

Please take a moment to read over this newsletter, which contains all the things we're going to be doing to try and get this company through until Christmas, and if there's any way, however small, that you can help us keep Grinder operating it would be greatly appreciated.

Over the past few months many of you have told me how much you have enjoyed working on shows at Grinder Productions. Overwhelmingly, you have told me that you believe that we have something going here, something special, and many of you have told me that you see great things ahead for this company.

I believe it too. Now, together, is the time when we must make it happen.

Eric

Poverty Anonymous

Somewhat ironically, we are a company in financial distress that has a play coming up about being in financial distress. This show is a presentation of several individual stories, none of them true but all of them plausible, by people who are at a “poverty anonymous” meeting, where the format is similar to any other “anonymous” meeting. June, the plucky, determined moderator, is steadfast in her belief that poverty is a crime, and that only through showing these poor, unfortunate souls the errors of their ways can she make them productive, prosperous members of society once again. Little does she realize, however, that just maybe the “criminals” that have come out to this particular meeting have a thing or two to show her...

This is a light-hearted, very satirical look at how the rich and poor get along. I’ve at a ringside seat to this for several years now to this subtle farce, so I thought it would be interesting to bring it to the stage.

But, we need your help...

We need actors for this event! No rehearsals (I’ll e-mail you your script and you just memorize your bit) – just show up on December 4th, 5th and 6th at the Elora Centre for the Arts, and bring as many friends as you can possibly find.

To become involved please e-mail grinder@grinderproductions.org.

Hans Brinker

Those of you who have been around Grinder for a while may be familiar with the “Christmas curse.” Every year since the company’s inception we have chosen to bring our patrons some holiday programming. But every year Fate has gotten in the way. Let’s not let that happen again this year!

Hans Brinker, or the Silver Skates, is the stage adaptation of the classic Dutch children’s Christmas story. It has all the excitement and high drama you would expect of any Christmas story, with a moral heart and beautiful story woven in. It is the perfect holiday entertainment for the entire family, and with our children’s price of \$5 remaining intact it’s still an economical choice in these difficult times. The show will go up December 18th, 19th and 20th at the Fergus Grand Theatre.

We are still looking for a few boys ages 13 to 16 to help us out with this show. If you or anyone you know of would fill the bill, please have them get in touch with us at grinder@grinderproductions.org.

But most importantly, come out and see the play! When we say we need your support, this is the single best way you can give it – by being one of those much coveted “bums in seats.” Nothing will help us more! Call the Fergus Grand Box Office at 519-787-1981 and get your tickets today!

**Santa Claus
Parades in Fergus
and Elora:**

Once again, we're going to be entering floats in the Fergus and Elora Santa Claus Parades this year. There are cash prizes for the best floats!

If there is anyone out there who has the time, expertise or shiny new pick-up truck that we will need to make our parade experience happen this year it would really take a huge something off of our to-do list! Please drop us an e-mail if you can help out. Even if you're only available to walk with the float and hand out flyers that would be a big help!

Elora Parade:
November 29th,
6pm

Fergus Parade:
December 6th,
1:30pm

The Grinder Card

(you've likely seen this before, but here it is again!)

I'd like to introduce you to something new here at Grinder, a way for us to thank our most loyal, supportive patrons. It's called the Grinder Card.

The Grinder Card works just like a season ticket, but instead of being tied to a specific venue or series of shows it is tied only to you. Your \$100 card is good for ten admissions to any Grinder show, in any venue, at any time. You only come to the shows you want, when you want, where you want. Come alone and use one admission, or bring a date and use two, it's up to you.

The Grinder Card. It's fast, easy and even makes a great gift. Get yours by calling 519-780-7593, via e-mail at grinder@grinderproductions.org, or better yet, just see me at a show and I'll sell you one on the spot!

Gift Certificates

(these aren't new at all – we've always had them!)

Yes, Grinder Productions does Gift Certificates. These are available starting for as low as \$30 each, and are good for any single adult tickets for any show in any venue. They are perfect for the "summer theatre" lover on your list, who might not want to venture out to a show in the wintertime but who would love to come to one of our shows in Ennotville or Belwood. Gift certificates are the perfect gift for those "hard to shop for" people, and those who seem to have everything.

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Comment: The Other 99%



Yes, there are days when I feel as inevitably doomed as that young sprout. So much of what we do here at Grinder depends on the whims of others – and our success quite often means someone else’s failure. I can’t tell you how many people I’ve seen join the community of live theatre to fill a void that exists somewhere else in their lives. Divorcees and widowers, neglected children, lonely seniors – these are just some of the people who come to Grinder Productions. Of course, we have many healthy, happy well-adjusted people and families here too – that’s part of the attraction for some, I expect. But regardless of how we’ve all arrived at this turning point in the journey of this company one thing remains fundamentally clear to me – we are only as successful as the people who make us what we are.

I’m speaking of the other 99%. The members of Grinder who aren’t you, or your family, or your spouse, or your best friend. The people you may have seen out at a show, or even worked with, but don’t really know.

I’d encourage you all to reach out to the other 99% in these difficult times at Grinder, and work with them to bring the company back to a solid financial footing. Please be patient – they may not always agree with you – but only by working together can grow strong once again.