

# The Bugle

ECHO PLAYERS NEWSLETTER—WINTER 2008



**THE CHRISTMAS EDITION—YEAH!!**

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL



**So Much Fun To Be Had—So Little Time!! READ ON**

**ECHO PLAYERS PRESENTS:**

GRACIOUSLY SPONSORED BY: **GARY'S Bistro** 

OFFICIAL MEDIA SPONSOR: **The News & The News Daily**

# Aladdin

*A Magical Christmas Pantomime*

Written By: *Norman Robbins*      Directed By: *Auril Stephenson*



**TICKETS** **250.752.3522**  
Available at the Theatre Box Office:  
TUES - SAT ----- 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
SHOW NIGHTS --- 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
MATINEES ----- NOON - 2:00 pm

**PERFORMANCES**

- SHOW NIGHTS — 7:30 pm (Sharp)
- MATINEE — 2:00 pm (Sharp)
- SPECIAL — 9:00 pm (Sharp)

THE VILLAGE THEATRE  
110 W. 2nd Avenue,  
Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 2S8

**SCHEDULE + PRICES**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				18	19	20
21	22	23			26	27
28	29	30	31			

ADULTS — \$ 10      STUDENTS — \$ 10  
SENIORS (+65) - \$ 15      CHILDREN (-12) - \$ 5

**We still love Panto!** And this panto has it all; magic lamps, evil wizards, mystical genies, fantastic sets, glittering costumes, superb singing, dazzling dancing, comedy, slapstick and bags and bags of fun for all of the family!



ECHO Player's gifted director, Avril Stephenson, and choreographer Mary Ann Kennedy have put together a fine cast Len Mustard will bend the gender this year to become Widow Twankey, a role Len, who is an experienced dame, revels in.

Kids' mate Wishee-Washee is ECHO Players comic Scott Murray. Aladdin will be played by Dani McLane. Princess Balroubador is beautiful Sarah Sabo. Her confidant, So-shy is Chiaki Yagi. Jerry Sauder is the Genie of the Lamp, and Scott Beam is the Vizier. Milking the boos as big, bad Abanazar is James Matthews. Justine Morrison is the Slave of the Ring. ECHO favourite, Geoff Jenkins is the Emperor.

Ticket prices range from \$18 - \$5

**Many performances tend to sell out quickly and early booking is advised.**

SUE MURGULY



**New Years Eve**  
special performance.

Drinks 6:00 Dinner 7:00 at the Memorial  
Golf Course - \$25

Performance - 9:00 – Ticket price + \$5

**READ ON FOR MORE INFO ON THIS  
EXCITING EVENING**



NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER AND SHOW

Hi Everyone:

I hope you had a good 2008. It was a busy year for the Social Committee—and we are not finished yet!

Our next BIG EVENT is our ANNUL NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER AND SHOW

Tickets have been on sale for sometime now and are selling fast—so if you do not want to be disappointed you should call the Box Office a.s.a.p. 250-752-3522.

The following is the Menu for dinner

- SALADS
  - CAESAR, SPINACH, BEAN
  - CHEESE PLATTER & PICKLES
  - ROLLS & BUTTER
  
- MAIN COURSE:
  - ROAST BEEF WITH YORKSHIRE
  - BAKED HALIBUT
  - SEASON VEGETABLES,
  - ROAST POTATOES, GRAVY
  
  - DESSERT, AND FRESH FRUIT
  - COFFEE OR TEA

LIQUOR AVAILABLE EXTRA

WINE	Red or White		
	Glass	\$3.75	Half Litre \$10.00      Litre \$20.00
BEER	Glass	\$2.75	Mug \$4.75      Bottle \$4.50

It is being held at Memorial Golf Club starting with drinks at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m.

Cost for dinner only is \$25.00 per person.

SHOW is at 9:00 p.m. FOLLOWED AT MIDNIGHT WITH CHAMPAGNE AND FINGER FOOD AND PARTY FAVOROURS. Tickets for show only are also on sale but are selling fast so don't delay.

Looking forward to seeing you all again this New Year and wishing you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR

Your Social Chairperson

Margaret Jenkins



## DON'T FORGET OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY !!



**ECHO** is holding its first (annual?) Christmas party and Carol Sing for members.

It will be held **Friday December 12th at the Village Theatre.**

For further information call Leslie at 250-752-1980 or e-mail her at [lesleym-cvey@shaw.ca](mailto:lesleym-cvey@shaw.ca)

## DON'T FORGET THE MARDI GRAS!!

The Mardi Gras Costume Ball is coming!!!

Get your tickets now for \$40.00 per person.

Tickets will be \$45.00 per person in 2009.

Mark Feb.28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 on your calendar and come and join in the fun. There will be a silent auction, prizes, delectable buffet delights, dancing, live music, New Orleans jazz and rock and roll..

DON'T MISS OUT. Get your tickets now.

Available at the Village Theatre Box Office.



PHEW! TOO MUCH FUN FOR  
ME—I'M OUTTA HERE BEFORE  
SOMEONE EATS ME!



## WEDNESDAY MORNINGS AT THE VILLAGE THEATRE—SCRIPT LIBRARY

Just a reminder that the script library is open every **Wednesday Morning 10:00 a.m. till Noon**

And we now have over 900 titles in the Full Length Play collections and 200 in the One-Act Plays.

Wednesday morning is also a good time just to drop in if you have things to drop off or pick up from the Box Office—we will put the coffee on if you like-or just stop by for a chat, find out what is going on—or even lend a hand with set painting! Lesley.





## AUDITION NOTICE

### NOT NOW DARLING

By Ray Cooney

DIRECTED BY

Mary Ann Kennedy

DATES & TIME

MONDAY & TUESDAY, FEB 2ND & 3RD, 2009 , 7:00 P.M.

PLACE

St. Mark's Anglican Church Hall, Qualicum Beach

CAST REQUIREMENTS

5 Males: 30's—60+

6 Females: 30's—60+



There will be a wine and cheese read-through for the *selected cast* on Sunday Feb 8, 7:00 p.m.

#### WHAT IS THEATRE CONNECTION?

There are numerous community theatre groups on the Island and many people do not know that they exist or what shows are being put on.

All Community Theatre Groups on the Island (North, South and Central) were given the opportunity of advertising their auditions, shows, workshops, volunteer requests and other theatre related items. Each group forwards their notices to Theatre Connection and in turn, Theatre Connection forwards these notices to numerous lists. Each notice has a **contact name and phone number if you should have any further questions** about that specific notice.

Please let me know if you wish to be part of this network or for further information, by emailing

[theatreconnection@shaw.ca](mailto:theatreconnection@shaw.ca) giving your full name and email address. You can choose to receive the following messages.

- a) All Notices (auditions, shows, workshops, prop/costume requests, volunteers, etc., stage comedy and some auditions for actors in film).
- b) Show Notices Only
- c) Audition Notices Only

There is NO COST involved and your email addresses will not be given out to any other parties.

Diane LeBlanc

A little sincerity is a dangerous thing, and a great deal of it is absolutely fatal.

-Oscar Wilde

## A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING EDITORS:

As many of you already know, we sold our house on Park Ridge Place in late September. We have now found our new resting place in Victoria - a townhouse in James Bay about which we are very excited. It's close to Fisherman's Wharf and Ogden Point, lots of great restaurants, the Harbour etc., etc. Although we take possession of the new place in mid-December we will be continuing to "house sit" at Park Ridge Place for the llenseers of Calgary - a really fun pair currently dancing up a storm in Arizona, western style - so we'll be around here until the end of April. We are however very gratified that Wendy Punter has already stepped up with alacrity and enthusiasm to take over the Bugle (it's the Alberta way!)

We have been associated with ECHO for but a short time. It has been an eventful, mostly enjoyable, but always interesting experience for each of us on many different levels. Robin has enjoyed his participation on the Board of Directors - such an involved and enthusiastic group - he hopes to have contributed something productive - he has learned much from you all. Treading the boards was also a great experience (you may have seen him as the wicked Deputy Sheriff / Devil in "Puss in Boots" and as Doctor / Porter in "I Never Sang" - memorable experiences both! Robin also extends his thanks to the appropriate Directors, Producers and Actors who allowed him to learn more about Theatre Photography (Mary Ann Kennedy, Alistair McVey, Don Harper, Sue Murguly, Diane LeBlanc, Arlene Blundell, Maurice and Avril Stephenson).

As for me, Mary, I also enjoyed treading the boards as Major Margaret in "Puss in Boots" and I thank everyone involved who made the experience both fun and memorable. Sadly, I won't get to work with Mary Ann or Avril- I would really have loved to have that opportunity. We will, of course, be here to see Aladdin and the rest of this season's shows and if you promise to keep us on your Theatre Connection list, Diane, we'll be making the trip for next seasons offerings.

Now, as usual the last word goes to Robin ... "You haven't heard the last of us yet!" We will be following ECHO's affairs and exploits for a long time.

**Mary Anderson-Black & Robin Black**



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## SOME THEATRE HUMOUR

(it doesn't apply to us, of course)

### ACTORS

People who stand between the audience and the set designer's art, blocking the view.

### BLOCKING

The art of moving actors on the stage in such a manner as not to collide with the walls, the furniture or each other. Similar to playing chess, except that the pawns want to argue with you.

### DARK SPOT

An area of the stage which the lighting designer has inexplicably forgotten to light, and which has a magnetic attraction for the first-time actor. The dark spot is never evident before opening night.

### DRESS REHEARSAL

Rehearsal that becomes a whole new ball game as actors attempt to manoeuvre among the 49 objects that the set dressers added at 7:00pm that evening.

### ALISTAIR MCVEY



EDITOR: In the last edition I asked if anyone had a “war” story to tell; no one has come forward yet, so to start us off I will tell one of my favourites:

It was our first play, “Weekend Comedy” by Jeanne and Sam Bobrick. We had started the theatre group in June 2000, had little money in the bank, and had coped with several setbacks. But here we were and the curtain was going up on the dress rehearsal, for which we had an audience by invite, the local seniors. The play is a comedy situated around a holiday cabin, miles from anywhere, which ends up being double booked by two couples, one young and the other middle-aged. It is the Memorial Day long weekend, so both couples are looking forward to a weekend away, with nothing to do but eat and have sex! I had directed the cast of four – two of which were complete rookies. However, I knew that if stage fright didn’t freeze them out completely, they were up to the challenge – rehearsals had been promising and fun.

The first scene of the first act was going well. Mike, in his brown polyester pants, was a natural comedic actor. Hard to believe he had never been involved with theatre all of his forty-odd years – up until this past year. He had insisted on wearing polyester, because - in the play he is bemoaning ruining his favourite pants while hunting for firewood. His stage wife, Peggy played by Janice, in exasperation says “Frank, you’ve had those pants for ten years. Do yourself a favour, throw them in the fireplace and don’t look back.” Frank says, “Are you crazy? They’re POLYESTER. The fumes would kill us!”

However, Mike didn’t personally own a pair of polyester pants, but he did own a Dry Cleaners. As luck would have it, he just happened to have a pair of polyester pants - been hanging there for years – never claimed by the owner. Mike had been losing weight and the pants were a tad tight, but he was able to do up the zip and fasten the button.

As the scene progressed he was to push his wife to the floor, bending over her in the process and then collapse on top of her to proceed kissing her etc. – well you get the picture. As he did, we all heard this strange noise, and then the people at the front started to titter. I was at the back of the hall. I couldn’t see what had happened and can’t say what the noise sounded like from where I stood! However, Mike continued with his lines and so did Janice, but his next move revealed what had happened – he stood up and with his back to the audience, walked around the sofa, as blocked, and we were presented with a gaping hole in his trousers through which his patterned boxer shorts showed brilliantly! His pants had split from front to back! By now the audience and volunteer helpers were in hysterics. But both Mike and Janice kept straight faces and continued, without losing a beat, to the end of the scene. What a stage debut! And that is why we have dress rehearsals!

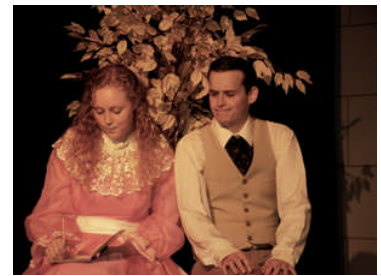
WENDY PUNTER

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## OBITUARY

Many of you will have known Sonia Birch-Jones and her contributions to the artistic life of our community. Sonia died peacefully on Thursday, November 27th at home, and our condolences go to her family. Sonia's obituary appears in the Victoria Times-Colonist and to read more about her incredibly active and varied life you can go on line at <http://www.legacy.com/can-victoria/Obituaries.asp?age=Lifestory&PersonId=120761995>

## A FEW "EARNEST" MOMENTS!!



**POOPED!!**

More photos like this can be found at Echo players website:

<http://www.echoplayers.com/webpages/reviewsphotogallery.html>

This is not a hyperlink—couldn't get it to work, I am afraid you will have to write it down! ED.

### EDITOR'S COMMENT:

I saw this play on opening night, and then again on the last Saturday. The set was beautiful, the costumes absolutely amazing and the actor's were wonderful. All were really good, but I have to give special mention to the two young men; I didn't realize they were only in their teens. What a challenge for them and the Director; the accent, the affectations of men, in that class at that point in time, really well done.

**NB:** Has anybody spotted the deliberate mistake that is somewhere in this newsletter? If you think you know what it is e-mail me at: [wendy@wendonco.com](mailto:wendy@wendonco.com)

**BITS AND PIECES....****REPORT FROM THE CO-PRODUCER:**

The Importance of Being Earnest was a fantastic show to be a part of. We had an awesome cast and crew - Director (Arlene Blundell), Stage Manager (Gloria Grant), Set Designer and Construction Manager (Werner Koch), Costume Manager (Celia Wesselman), Set Dressing Manager (Lyn Strand), just to name a few. Thank you so much to all of them (over 50 members) for helping to make "The Importance of Being Earnest" a very successful run. The first week was a bit slow but after word of mouth and a raving review we exceeded our expectations. Audience reactions were fabulous as they seemed to have nothing but good things to say about the performances, costumes, sets and even the set turners got the applause. Thank you as well to those of you that came out to help clean up and strike the set.

**Diane LeBlanc**

**Co-Producer**

***ALL MY SONS***

ECHO Players presents the American classic *All My Sons*, directed by Gilles Leduc, at the Village Theatre February 5 to 21, 2009. Gilles, an experienced actor and director and former ECHO Board member, has assembled a strong cast:

Joe Keller..... Gerry Fraser  
 Kate Keller..... Vicki Barta  
 Chris Keller..... Tristan Brimble  
 Ann Deever..... Melanie Peake  
 George Deever..... Thane Werdal  
 Dr. Jim Bayliss..... Andrew Brown  
 Sue Bayliss..... Susan Evans  
 Frank Lubey..... Rick Lee  
 Lydia Lubey..... Kelly Barnum

Rehearsals are well under way and the first production meeting has been held. George Murguly is the set designer, while Gilles will handle lighting and sound design. Costumes will be coordinated by Diana Naylor and props by Sharon Klassen. Margaret Jenkins and Annie Fraser are Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager respectively.

Written by Arthur Miller, truly a giant among playwrights, *All My Sons* is based on a true story involving an industrialist who had sold faulty parts to the U.S. military during World War II. The play deals with several themes – moral responsibility, family loyalty, and the American Dream. It has elements which relate to the current meltdown in the financial system.

*All My Sons* was awarded the Tony Award for Best Play in 1947 and won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, beating Eugene O'Neill's *The Iceman Cometh*.

**THEATRE CLEANUP DAY!**

Saturday January 10th we are inviting anyone interested to come and give a hand with a major theatre clean-up. From Noon to 5:00 pm we will be working at the theatre and finishing up with a pot-luck supper in the Green Room. Everyone is welcome, and please contact the following people to let them know you can give a hand: To help sorting props - call Mary Ann at 250-951-9853; to help cleaning and repairing lighting instruments call Alistair McVey at 250-752-1980; to help with costumes, call Celia at 250-954-1092; for other jobs around the theatre call Werner at 250- 954-0079. Let's get a head start on Spring Cleaning and have a good turn-out !

**PLEA FOR ASSISTANCE:**

If you are able to assist with FOH duties, in the canteen or as an usher, during our Panto which runs from Dec 18 to 31st, please contact Mike or Pat Bull on 250-752-3946 or e-mail: mikejbull@shaw.ca. We will be glad to hear from you.

Mike Bull  
FOH Coordinator



Over the river, and through the wood,  
To Grandmother's house we go;  
The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh  
through the white and drifted snow.

Over the river, and through the wood -  
Oh, how the wind does blow!  
It stings the toes and bites the nose  
As over the ground we go.

Over the river, and through the wood,  
To have a first-rate play.  
Hear the bells ring, "Ting-a-ling-ding",  
Hurrah for Christmas Day!

Over the river, and through the wood  
Trot fast, my dapple-gray!  
Spring over the ground like a hunting-hound,  
For this is Christmas Day.

Over the river, and through the wood -  
And straight through the barnyard gate,  
We seem to go extremely slow,  
It is so hard to wait!

Over the river, and through the wood -  
Now Grandmother's cap I spy!  
Hurrah for the fun! Is the pudding done?  
Hurrah for the mincemeat pie!



**A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE**