

The Yodler

Eastern Ontario Drama League Newsletter
Editor, [Sandra Tobin](#)

Volume 6 Issue 3



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

APRIL 2019

Another Full Length Festival is wrapped! Thanks to Laurie Reesor for her dedication to ensure the success of Festival 2018-19, and to Marilyn Robinson and her committee for their work on the Awards Brunch - Thank You!

Festivals are Important

Remind your members and upcoming directors that both the full-length and one-act festivals are an option for them. As Annette Procnier states in her book *Do You See What I See - How to Adjudicate Theatre Festivals*, "Adjudication can offer a tremendous learning experience for audiences and performers. It can help to enlighten everyone about different types of theatre and it should challenge everyone to improve." Over the past two years I have participated in evaluating potential adjudicators trained by Theatre Ontario to join the ranks of their province-wide talent bank. As a result, Michael Clipperton will adjudicate our 2020-21 Full Length Festival; we are also thrilled that Annette Procnier is on board for our One Act Festival, November 8-10, hosted by Studio Theatre Productions, Perth. Carolee Mason will adjudicate the 2019-20 FLF. We are fortunate indeed that these skilled and accomplished adjudicators are on board. A "standing ovation" to adjudicator Carey Nicholson for her valuable contribution to this year's FLF!

You are all amazingly talented and enthusiastic thespians and crew who should be extremely proud of all you bring to your communities! I encourage you to come to me with any ideas you may have - my door is always open!

Respectfully

Lisa Leroux, President



Lisa Leroux presents the
Leslie M. Frost Award
for Best Production to
Domino Theatre's
Penny Nash
for
Outside Mullingar



GROUP PHOTO OF FESTIVAL 2019 WINNERS

1ST ROW: Adam McGowan, Linda Hamstra, Cindy Beaton, Penny Nash, Ian Malcolm, David L. Smith
2ND ROW: Lynn Fennell, Roxanne McKenzie, Kristen White, Steve Foote, Elisha Miler, Dan Youmelle, Geoff Johnson, Erastus Burley, Christopher Spears, Gayle Fraser

MESSAGE FROM MARILYN ROBINSON CHAIR FULL LENGTH PLAY FESTIVAL AWARDS CEREMONY

I thank all who served as chairs on committees for the FLF Awards Ceremony: Gail Campbell, Linda Conway, Beth McMaster, Sheryl Capeling, John Robinson, Barb Hiland, Pat Maitland, Will Pialagitis and Amy Willshaw. Thanks as well to all who helped these committees with their tasks.

THEATRE ONTARIO

FESTIVALS

The 2019 Theatre Ontario Festival is co-hosted by The Curtain Club, Theatre Ontario and the Association of Community Theatres - Central Ontario.

Performances will be held May 15 - 18 at The Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Our adjudicator is Carolee Mason.

May 15, 8PM: Late Company by Jordan Tannahill
The Bloor West Village Players (Toronto) - ACT-CO

May 16, 8PM: This is How We Got Here by Keith Barker
Gore Bay Theatre - QUONTA

May 17, 8PM: Outside Mulligar by John P Shanley
Domino Theatre - EODL

May 18, 8PM: Girls Like That by Evan Placey
Theatre Sarnia - WODL

Sault Theatre Workshop has been chosen by QUONTA as host Theatre for the Theatre Ontario Festival in 2020

SUMMER THEATRE INTENSIVE

Summer Theatre Intensive will be held at Queen's University, Kingston Aug 4 -9, and will include courses, accommodations and meals on campus at historic Queen's, featuring:

- Fundamentals of Acting - Rosanna Saracino
- Devised Theatre for Intersectional Artists - Sabah Haque
- Playing with Commedia Dell'Arte - Catriona Leger
- Directions on Directing: An introductory Look at Directing - Andrew Lamb
- Digging into Directing - Leslie Wade
- Exploring the Art of Adaptation - Rosamund Small
- Music Direction for Community and Regional Theatre - Scott White

2019 MICHAEL SPENCE AWARD

Presented annually for contribution to Community Theatre in a region, is this year given to Chantal Forde and Tim Cadeny, members of the BurlOak Theatre Group since 2012.

[Theatre Ontario Website click here](#)

FULL LENGTH PLAY FESTIVAL ADJUDICATION



Our festival adjudicator, **Carey Nicholson**, is Artistic Director and General Manager at Theatre 3x60. She has been involved with community and professional theatre companies throughout Ontario and is a past executive director of the Scugog Council for the Arts.

The following remarks are taken from her address to festival participants at the Awards Brunch:

It has been my pleasure to participate in this year's travelling festival where I have had the privilege to meet and become acquainted with a whole new community of dedicated and passionate individuals and organizations.

You are all to be commended for choosing work that entertains, challenges either your company, your audience or both, and for executing your productions with integrity, creativity and resourcefulness, whether in a church hall or a well appointed auditorium. The heart of theatre is in the text and characters, and the magic of theatre is in the interaction between performers and the audience.

I have been struck by the openness of each cast and crew in the detailed adjudications and have thoroughly enjoyed the engaged conversations and insights on process and craft that we have had together. I was also struck by the number of patrons who chose to stay after the performances each night. This is an educational festival and our audiences are our final scene partners. I believe we should welcome them into a glimpse of our process.

All these experiences are enough for a very successful festival, but there is one task left. The variety of scripts, cast sizes and make-up, and overall quality of work has added to the potential permutations of recognition. Where I have arrived is at my desire to give recognition and encouragement in appreciation for the hard work, and many risks and brave choices that have gone into each production by each and every member of each company.

And please consider yourselves to all be recipients of my personal award for Best Eastern Ontario Road Trip and Theatre Festival in 2018-19.

Carey Nicholson

Full Length Festival Adjudicator, 2018-19

EODL AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

1. CITY OF PEMBROKE TROPHY: Adjudicator Award

This award recognizes the important moments that come in a final scene of a performance, that either brings us to a place of resolution or propel us forward into future contemplation.

The Glass Menagerie ~ Prince Edward Community Theatre

2. ARMAGH SIFTON-PRICE AWARD: Adjudicator Award

This award recognizes the ability of a member of a production team (artist or production) to successfully wear multiple hats to meet the specific needs of their production.

Jennie Dagenais as director and last minute lead Brooke in Dilemmas with Dinner, Vagabond Theatre

3. ARNOLD CONNERTY AWARD: Adjudicator Award

This award recognizes the successful first-time collaboration of two artists to create a very satisfying theatre experience on all levels from design to performance.

Erastus Burley & Tim Russell, RED, Creative Force

4. PETERBOROUGH THEATRE GUILD AWARD: Set Design

For integration of functionality, atmosphere and ability to contribute to time, place and mood, combined with a touch of true theatre magic through a surprising scene change,

David L. Smith, Outside Mulling, Domino Theatre

5. JOHN L. WALLEY AWARD: Best Costuming

For costumes that refuted time and place and the characters as they are remembered,

Delores Wallace, Bea Howse, Cheryl Singer and Cast, The Glass Menagerie, Prince Edward Community Theatre

6. DEEP RIVER PLAYERS AWARD: Best Visual Presentation

For reflecting the surreal sense and alienation of waiting contained in the play, taking risks with materials and lighting choices, and the well thought out design and use of a multipurpose set piece,

Graham Price, Jeanne Gauthier and Carolyn Borer, Marvin's Room, Ottawa Little Theatre

7. THERESE MAY MEMORIAL AWARD: Outstanding Student

In a show that challenged most of its characters to present the many realities, fears and tribulations of adulthood, this award recognizes the ability of a young actor to make his own strong contribution to the work on stage

Jacob Segreto as Charlie, Marvin's Room, Ottawa Little Theatre

8. PETERBOROUGH THEATRE GUILD AWARD: Best Use of Speech

For the death-bed confession that revealed the unseen soul of a man touched by power and gift of love,

David Hurley as Tony Reilly, Outside Mullingar, Domino Theatre

9. BRENDA AND CHRIS WORSNOP AWARD: Outstanding Ensemble

For a cast that supported each other and the Director's vision, to deliver a committed and thought provoking production that challenged both performers and audience,

The cast of Time Stands Still, Peterborough Theatre Guild

10. RON HAZELGROVE AWARD: Best Cameo Performance

In a season of plays that featured strong leads and ensemble work,

Linda Hamstra as the Nurse in the scene 3 to 4 transition, Outside Mullingar, Domino Theatre

11. MARGARET WHITE AWARD: For Acting Excellence

12. BANCROFT THEATRE GUILD AWARD: For Acting Excellence

For creating a character that was consistently offbeat and quirky, yet totally committed to upholding the Hippocratic

13. LEONARD BEAULNE MEMORIAL TROPHY: Best Actress in a Major Role

For creating a character that conveyed both the frustrations and fears in her situation and the innate generous spirit of her character,

Cindy Beaton as Bessie, Marvin's Room, Ottawa Little Theatre

14. LEONARD BEAULNE MEMORIAL TROPHY: Best Actor in a Major Role

For a performance that was authentic, endearing and human, yet totally capable of taking flight at any moment,

Geoff Johnson as Anthony Reilly, Outside Mulligar, Domino Theatre

15. TRENTONIAN AND TRI-COUNTY AWARD: Best Director

For direction and vision of a production that was in tune with and sensitive to delicate balance of life's comic and tragic moments, filled with characters encouraged to live beneath and beyond their lines,

Shaun Toohey, Marvin's Room, Ottawa Little Theatre

16. LESLIE M. FROST AWARD: Best Production

For delivering a sure footed production guided by trust and love, that is as rich, evocative and magical as the characters and the world it creates,

Penny Nash and James Gow, producers, Outside Mulling, Domino Theatre

HISTORY

ARCHIVIST REPORT, [BARB KOBALAK](#)

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DEEP RIVER PLAYERS

"In late 1946 a group of people, encouraged by Jill and John Stewart, started meeting to read plays. Inevitably some of them, led by Peter Stewart (no relation) soon began to think of staging. Two one-act plays were presented in early 1947, and, at much the same time, a public reading of *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Wilde) was given. A meeting was held in the room behind the old post office (now Ritters), a constitution was drawn up and the Deep River Players was formed." (*From the Deep River Players archive book*)

The Players home for most of their first four decades was Hill House on Ridge Road. It took a few years to acquire their beloved landmark:

"Until 1953, the Players had no real "home". Rehearsals were held wherever and whenever space could be found...the Community Centre, Staff Hotel, the old Yacht Club, even member's homes. Sets were build anywhere available, even I believe in one of the townsite labs. Costumes and props were stored (and frequently lost) in people's basements.

During the war, a small POW camp was built along the top of what is now Hill Park. In 1953 the first road to the village dump (top of Laurier) was still lined with barrack huts, empty of Germans, but crowded with junk behind their cracked windows and flapping tarpaper. In one spasm section of a hut the Players stored flats among the Woodworking Club's tools.

Early in the year AECL decided to destroy the camp. Dick Fowler negotiated to save one barrack for club activities....so Hill House was handed over, one wing to the Woodworking Club, one to the Scouts and the other to the Deep River Players and the Choral Society."

For further information about the Deep River Players please click on this link: [Deep River Players](#)

GROUP REPORTS

WESTERN SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

OLD CHURCH THEATRE

[Link to website OCT](#)

Peter Paylor

The OCT held its fourth Sharpen the Acts workshop on March 10. Four original one-act plays were read, followed by 30 minutes of audience feed-back. The playwrights stayed behind for one-on-one feedback from Llana Lucas, a professional dramaturge. The playwrights have revised their scripts and auditions held for performances July 12 13, 14:

“The Consultants”, Peter Paylor; “The Jam Jar”, Peter Coy; “Transplant” Mihal Zada; “Roadside Distraction”, Richard Lummiss

Creative FORCE

Erastus Burley

Creative FORCE recently had to move from our Walton Street location in Port Hope. Our March production of “Orphans” was cancelled due to this unforeseen issue. We are searching for a new location for future performances.

Creative FORCE recently worked closely with the Northumberland Players to restate “RED” by John Logan. It was a successful collaboration.

PETERBOROUGH THEATRE GUILD

[Link to PTG](#)

Chris Lee

Updates have been made to the lobby bar, bringing in new products and promoting local companies, to improve revenue;

A burst pipe in the lobby flooded a large area. A quick response from the cleanup crew restored the damaged areas;

City of Peterborough has designated our building a Heritage Building, removing potential future demolition; The Guild’s 2019/20 season is almost finalized; Two productions left this season: “Spamalot” (Showplace Performance Centre), May, and “The Marvellous Wonderettes”, July.

NORTHUMBERLAND PLAYERS

[Link to NP](#)

Leslee Argue

Four new board members were given their portfolios for the next 2 years; the Players’ focus will be recruiting and rewarding volunteers and members, and reviewing our policies and governance in general.

It was decided that all board members must get a police check, as do all volunteers working with vulnerable sector.

Our staging of the musical “The Drowsy Chaperone” was a huge success, 2330 patrons attended! For months some of the cast studied tap, which was incorporated into the choreography. A workshop for set painting was integrated with the painting of the musical set. Not only did the entire set get painted in one day, new skills in technique were learned that can be applied to future shows. This same approach was used for hair and has resulted in several new hair design volunteers.

Upcoming Show: “The Drowning Girls”, by Beth Graham, Charlie Tomlinson and Daniela Vlakalic, May 24 - June 9

PRINCE EDWARD COMMUNITY THEATRE

[Link to PECT](#)

Bonnie Saveall

Production dates have been secured for our 12th season at Mt. Tabor Playhouse in Milford. Stay tuned for productions in October 2019, March and May 2020.

We regret to announce the passing of veteran actor and season subscriber Wilma McCagg of Wellington this past January. She will be missed.

May 18, 19, 24, 25, 26 we present “Death by Design: A Comedy with Songs and Murder” by Rob Urbinati, directed by Philip Knox. Check our website for performance times as some of these are afternoon performances.

EASTERN SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

BROCKVILLE THEATRE GUILD

[Link to BTG](#)

Judy Quick

We are in the process of reviewing our by-laws and complimentary policies. All new policies and by-law amendments will be reviewed externally and a written opinion will be presented to members at the next AGM. The City of Brockville is undertaking improvements to the ground floor of the Brockville Arts Centre. They are currently installing A/C units with more improvements to follow. The BTG is introducing a new award: The Dr. Jack Carroll Student Scholarship Award will join The Stan Pierce Student Scholarship Award and The Marjorie Alexander Award, presented to graduating students. The board is now seeking suggestions and directors for the 2019-20 season. Any main-stage or dinner theatre proposals are welcome.

RURAL ROOT THEATRE

[Link to RRT](#)

Helen Weeden

New Box Office Director is implementing several changes while working with TIX, such as displaying different seating levels on the master seating plan. Trying to move more sales to on-line fulfilment.

We have installed a new permanent marquee at the Constance and Buckham's Bay Community Association centre that we can use year-round to promote shows, audition etc.

Upcoming productions: October: "12 Angry Men" by Reginald Rose, adapted by Shamala Sergal

DUNDAS COUNTY PLAYERS

JP Leduc

DCP performs mostly at the Winchester Old Town Hall and "lives" and rehearses on the 2nd floor of the Old Town Hall. We had offered to the Township of North Dundas to

DOMINO THEATRE

[Link to DT](#)

D. T. McNichol

Domino is having a mixed season, with two of four plays attracting less than anticipated attendance. The most recent production had sellout audiences in its 2nd and 4th weeks.

Our 2019/20 season has been announced, details on our website.

We are proceeding with a renovation/improvement to our green room, focusing on the dressing and make-up areas, and storage space for costumes, street clothes and personal belongings.

Jumping upon a chance opportunity, the cast of our next production, "An Ideal Husband" by Oscar Wilde, will have a workshop with Jacob James during one of their rehearsals.

Up coming shows - visit our website

THE KEMPTVILLE PLAYERS

Paul Rochon

Our spring production finished a successful run on May 5. "The Day They Kidnapped the Pope", by Jaoa Bethencourt included two actors from our youth division.

Are there any EODL groups with a library of murder mysteries? KPI is interested in acquiring them or hearing from you.

Email me at this link [Paul Rochon](#)

THEATRE NIGHT IN MERRICKVILLE

[Link to TNIM](#)

Maureen Overy

TNIM completed the renovation of our Green Room in the Merrickville Community Centre. A storage area was built and a wall between us and the rest of the centre was soundproofed. This renovation was partially funded by a project grant from EODL. Thank You!

TNIM will participate in Merrickville's May Tulip Festival with a reprise of the Play "Time Flies" by David Ives, May 18 & 19 at Blockhouse Park. Free admission

Bronwen McKnight will direct "Rideau Café" for 4 performances Nov 28 - Dec 1, 2019. This is a musical love story based during the building of the Rideau Canal. It is done as a series of vignettes.

VAGABOND THEATRE OF CORNWALL

[Link to VT](#)

Dan Youmelle

We are still looking for a permanent home!
We are still pondering what to do in the fall, but will have a play to submit to the One Act Play Festival.

Our sympathies to Bruce Baker, a member of our executive, whose wife has passed away. RIP.

NORTHERN SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

OTTAWA LITTLE THEATRE

[Link to OLT](#)

Val Brogan

The OLT continues to make changes to return the theatre to the basics of amateurism and volunteerism, and re-build the true spirit of community theatre. A properties team is being created to clean-up and cull the department.

We are proud of our success with "Act of Grace" by John Muggleton, at the EODL One-Act Play Festival in November. Thank you to the host/organizers/friends at Domino theatre for being so welcoming and helpful

Upcoming productions: "Mending Fences" by Norm Foster May 29-Jun15; "Unnecessary Farce" by Paul Slade Smith July 3-20

STUDIO THEATRE PERTH

[Link to STP](#)

Norma Cummings

Last spring we received an Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant for new lighting which is now being installed.

We are looking forward to hosting the 2019 EODL One-Act Play Festival, November 8,9 and 10. A full committee has been struck to oversee the plans. Visiting groups will enjoy our improved lighting!

Upcoming productions: "The Ladies Foursome" by Norm Foster May 30 - Jun 8; "Salt Water Moon" by David French Aug 8-25; and "Ed's Garage" by Dan Needles Sep 19-26. Further details on our website.

KANATA THEATRE

[Link to KT](#)

Barbara Kobolak

Please note the link to KT has the new web address, which is changing from .com to .ca.

As a continuation of publicizing the various elements of Kanata Theatre, we are showcasing our 'hoop skirts' from two period plays. In May we hope to have our youth theatre coordinator display some of the unusual props created for youth productions.

Our Membership and Training Director is aiming to put together workshops in directing and in movement.

Kanata Theatre was nominated for 5 Capital Theatre Awards for its 2018-19 season. At the awards ceremony Dec 3, 2018, KT received community theatre awards for design, acting and directing.

Upcoming productions:

"Nonsense" by Dan Goggin, May 14-18 & 21-25

"The Dragonslayers" by Bruce Colville and Angela Peterson, Jun 7-9

KT'S 2019-20 season of 6 shows can be found by clicking the link to our website.

WORDS OF WISDOM FOR ACTORS

BE A GENEROUS ACTOR TO EVERYONE, NOT JUST YOUR FELLOW ACTORS BUT TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE CAST, CREW, FRONT OF HOUSE.....EVERY PERSON INVOLVED.