

MUDD PRINTS

www.mississippimudds.ca

The official newsletter of the Mississippi Mudds - December 2020



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL - Please stay safe

The following poem was written by Jan Ferguson (our precious Mother Mudd) a couple of years ago and she is sharing it here for all of you.

JEALOUS OF JESUS

So, here is the story of Jesus (and me!) And just how I felt He had cheated on me!
I was born in a bed, He lay snug in a manger! Both of us born with our lives in some danger!
I had Doc's racing 'round, helping me to survive, while Jesus slept soundly, as Shepherds arrived !
3 Kings also came, who with gifts did abound, while I had 3 brothers, who just hung around!
With Frankincense, Myrrh and some Gold as His treasures, Love, Wisdom and Strength, my bro's
gave in full measure!

And His Angels sang joyfully, filling the night, while my Angels of mercy were Nurses in white!
But, we both had a Mom and a Dad filled with love, For their new, little infant, sent down from above!
God spoke to Mary and Joseph, 'tis true, but, he answered the prayers of my Mom and Dad too!
Now, we still celebrate Him on each Christmas Day , and I always enjoy it, I really must say!
BUT, just two days later, it should just be MY time, For feasting and family and praises sublime!...
But, all that is left is cold turkey, some pie, A tree, shedding needles and folks heaving a sigh!
And a box in used wrap, placed in back of the tree, That none touched, 'cause it read

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME !!

I now understand just how lucky are we, To cherish the 'Birth' days for Jesus (and me!)
I'm still getting gifts and folks making a fuss, And what does He get? I guess His gift is US!
So, dress up, sing carols, wrap gifts 'neath the tree, and for His gift, you just be, the 'BEST YOU
CAN BE!'

I'm jealous no more, goodness, how could I be....I've lived 79 years, but, He.....33 !!

So....**MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to my Birthday BUDDY !!

From the Desk of the President - *Jeff Lee*

We've almost made it to the end of 2020 and none too soon for most of us. It has been a challenging year for everyone and we have more ahead in 2021 as we slowly return to normal. We had an enormous success this year with Frozen Jr. and some wonderful hype for

Mamma Mia. While it was a victim of 2020 Mamma Mia is still on the slate and we'll look to put it on as soon as we're able.

We've had victories in getting donations, grants and relief on our expenses and are in better position to weather the storm. We are

presently applying for government relief that will help us out further.

I would like to thank Tony Scott for another victory in bringing together Mudds on-line for readings of a Beauty and the Beast pantomime and other similar or unique ideas are very much welcome in the future.

The current state of affairs means that many will be unable to spend Christmas with their loved ones, it is sad but necessary for the well being of all. The age in which we live affords us virtual alternatives that help bring some joy and I am personally grateful for that.

I want to thank the board and membership for dedication and perseverance during a historically horrific time; there are so many stories of people helping each other through and being there for one another and it really does lessen the blow.

On behalf of the board I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a well deserved happy new year.

Details on the Federal Program - Sherrie Seward

The Federal government has released details on a new rent relief program that the Board will be submitting an application towards the cost of our rental storage facility. The program targets Canadian businesses, non-profit organizations, or charities who have seen a drop in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program covers part of commercial rent or property expenses, starting on September 27, 2020, until June 2021. This subsidy will provide payments directly to qualifying renters and property owners, without requiring the participation of landlords. We will provide an update once we learn (fingers crossed) if we are approved after our application is reviewed.

Beauty and the Beast Play Reading - Tony Scott gtonyscott@gmail.com

So on Sunday December 6 the Mudds held a Webex Panto play reading, attended by over 20 members. It was great! Well, okay there were a few technical glitches, but they were soon

overcome, and we all enjoyed once again (over)acting with our fellow members and friends. Some of us dressed up, and some chose different backdrops for their images, which all helped to make the event a special occasion.

Many thanks to Meredith for her Webex expertise, and many thanks to everyone who showed up to enjoy a fun couple of hours on a Covid Sunday. Oh, and I mustn't forget to thank the Panto writer, Ben Crocker, over in England, he helped me choose the most suitable Panto from his extensive repertoire.

Monthly Workshops - Sherrie Seward

What will 2021 bring? While we remain hopeful that Santa's big bag of vaccines is going to allow us to start planning for new shows, and even more importantly, see our sold out production of Mamma Mia make it to the finish line, the Board is collaborating and discussing ways for Mudds members to participate in monthly theatre workshops. We have a volunteer who has offered to lead this initiative, and we will reconvene in the new year for further planning. This idea may require the help and expertise of some of our Mudds members, but stay tuned for more information.

Social Media - Stefan Kaleb

Don't be shy! Our Mississippi Mudds Members Facebook page is a great place to share your talents, information, and just connect with each other in general. We welcome you all to post and participate on this page, and we love to see and hear from you virtually. While we don't know exactly when we will see each other again in person, it is a great way for us to all keep in touch in the meantime.

We wanna see you in rocking your Muddswear! Send photos of you and your family during Christmas rocking your Muddswear and we will feature you on our social media accounts.

We're also still always accepting TBT and FBF photos for our social media. Submit a photo of your favourite show along with some info about the photo like what show, who's in the photo and a favourite memory from the show.

Message your photos to our Mudds Instagram, Facebook Or Stefan@staticsalon.ca to be featured.

Wishing you all a Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Mudds Jewellery Fundraiser - Stefan Kaleb

We would like to thank everyone who has purchased jewellery from the Static Salon Mississippi Mudds Fundraiser. Static Salon donates all proceeds from the sale of the jewellery to the Mississippi Mudds. It's not too late to get a present for someone special or yourself for Christmas.

Jewellery is only \$5-\$10 (with a value of \$15-\$60) and can be purchased instore (56 Victoria Street Carleton Place) or online www.staticsalon.ca All orders placed for pick

up or local delivery before 12/24/2020 at noon will be ready in time for Christmas

So far we have raised \$370!

From the Editor - Sandra Dunlop, Editor

Please - if you have a change in any of your information (address, telephone number and especially email address) please make sure that you get that information to Sandra Dunlop at 613-599-7221 or pcbear@rogers.com. This will make sure that you continue to receive the Mudds newsletter and any other pertinent information that is sent out.

Know that I welcome articles monthly, be it from members, former members and people involved in current productions. The deadline for the next edition of Muddprints is January+ 20. I would love to hear from you. It doesn't have to be long, just of interest to Mudds members and fans.

Mudds in Your Eye #8 December 2020 (coordinated by Stephanie Stephens)



Here is another in a series which profiles members of the Mississippi Mudds, written especially for the readers of the Muddprints!

The spotlight is on **Laurel Tye**, whose musical direction and sincere enthusiasm for musical theatre has led to hundreds of kids shining on our stage in our Mudds' youth productions, and whose 'sparkle' has many Mudds adult performers feel a youthful excitement for music and the stage. Each show, Laurel takes us on a memorable musical journey with the sprinkle of a little fairy dust. Interview questions by **Bobby Martin**.



1. When did you first become involved with musicals?

In 1979, I joined the Windsor Light Opera Association. I was in Fiddler on the Roof, and had a lead in Pirates of Penzance.

2. What made you want to help in the MUDDs?

An acquaintance invited me in January, 1992. I was coming in from Orleans and didn't think it would be permanent until I met the people involved. Everyone was so friendly and fun to be around. There was as much fun offstage as on. As I've said before, there is a magic to the Mudds and I have fallen happily under its spell. And I'm still driving in from Orleans.

3. What was your favourite show to direct the music for?

I think my favourite show will always be the next one. I've had the privilege of being MD for over 50 shows so it would be difficult to pick out a favourite. Each one was very special in its own way. The best part was working with a wonderful cast and crew, and with good directors. "Humbug" is probably nearer to my heart since I had so much invested in it as the artistic director.

4. Do you have a favourite memory of a performance?

Once again, I have many wonderful memories. Some are hilarious. I think of Jim MacGregor and how he could milk an audience during a scene in a panto. Then there were lovely moments such as Judith Scott singing so beautifully in our Les Mis medley. Peter Brown's arrangements of songs made for many amazing moments. Jan Ferguson's ad libs and surprise variations in her songs were a delight. Recently I was having lunch with friends and kept them entertained with stories from my memories of the Mudds. They warm my heart.

5. What was the first show you were musical director for?

I believe it was called, A Stocking Full of Jazz, 1992. The show was being performed in the old gym of CPHS on the old stage. Jan Ferguson and Jim MacGregor directed this. The opening scene called for the cast to come on stage while singing, and to pick a scarf or hat out of the box at the front of the stage. As the music went on, the cast began realizing they were running out of time so they started grabbing scarves and hats willy-nilly trying to get something before the song finished. This was hilarious!! Good thing it was only a dress rehearsal!

6. What show would you like to do in the future?

I feel fortunate to do any show for the Mudds, but if I were to choose, I'd like to do one with a chorus.

7. What is your favourite part about working with the kids productions?

The kids, the kids, the kids!

8. What is your favourite part about working with adults?

My favourite part working with adults is that we can perform more challenging music. I like working with a chorus and helping them to sing well together. I remember tackling Bohemian Rhapsody in Halfway to Heaven. It was tricky and we had to have a couple of women sing

tenor. Another challenging piece was In Flanders Fields. I was proud of the chorus learning these difficult pieces.

9. What do you do to prepare for a new show.

I meet with the Director and accompanist and I discuss how the songs will be performed. I listen to the music from beginning to end. I highlight tricky sections that will need more attention. I find warm-ups to help develop the voice and to improve the mechanics of singing such as breathing exercises to help with proper projection, and articulation exercises. Fostering confidence in the cast is part of my job too so I look for ways in which they can count on my support. I participate in the audition process to help choose the right voice for the right role. There have been times when I've helped Directors who are not knowledgeable about music to understand what is needed.

10a. How do feel once a show is over?

I'm always vulnerable after a show because the door to my heart is wide open. After the run of a show, I usually feel proud, drained, and a little sad.

10b. How do you pick/cheer yourself up after a show?

I go over the show in my mind and talk about the highlights with my husband. He's usually doing the sound so we review things from different perspectives. This is always fun. Having a recap of a show is something I recommend people do with each other. I remind myself that there has to be an ending in order for there to be a beginning. But I think it's ok for folk to feel a little down after the run of a show. It means you've given it everything you've got and made many people happy. After a rest and maybe even a little cry, get back at it again and if you can't be in another show, be in the audience which is the next best thing. There's nothing like being a member of the Mudds onstage or off. They're simply the best.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY wishes go to members past and present who are celebrating their birthdays between December 23 and January 22. We know this is not a time that we can go out and party with our friends, but we hope you find something awesome to do! :-)

Paul Hui Yu Wang	Dec-25
Clark Bains	Dec-26
Keira Uriarte	Dec-26
Holley Edgerton	Dec-27
Jan Ferguson	Dec-27
Tori Rodgers	Dec-30
Christy Bindhardt	Dec-31
Grace MacDonald-Lee	Jan-03
Jersey Hack	Jan-07
Sylvia Giles	Jan-09
Claire Campbell	Jan-09
Victoria Bourne	Jan-09
Chris Barlow	Jan-09
Sheila Csikany	Jan-12
Caitlin Doyle	Jan-13
Abbie Giles	Jan-15
Sierra Mathew	Jan-21

Watch this space for more birthday celebrations next month :-) Karen Lapointe, Membership

The next issue of Muddprints will be published on January 22. The deadline for articles is January 20.

If you wish to be removed from the Muddprints mailing list please send an email to pcbear@rogers.com - please make sure you give me your full name in the email.

Mudds Calendar (2020)