

MUDDPRINTS

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The official newsletter of the Mississippi Mudds - October 2017

If you haven't got your tickets for Twelfth Night, there is still time. There is a matinee today at 2:00pm and next weekend Friday, October 27 and Saturday October 28 at 7:30pm.

Tickets for Anne of Green Gables are available at The Chamber of Commerce, Carleton Place Visitor Centre, 170 Bridge Street, 613-257-1976. Open Monday to Friday 9 to 5 and Weekends 10 to 4

Twelfth Night - Mark Piper - Director

For the past eight years, the Mississippi Mudds Youth Theatre has done an annual production of a Shakespearean play with teenage actors, modelled on the productions at the Stratford Festival (in the round, with minimal set, but with professional quality costumes, lighting, sound, and stagecraft) at the end of October: past productions have included Macbeth, Much Ado About Nothing, Hamlet, Othello, Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet and, most recently, King Lear.

And for the past eight years, I've been their director.

This October, we're doing Twelfth Night, the rapid fire romantic comedy about the misadventures of twins Viola and Sebastian, who are separated in a shipwreck. Viola disguises herself as a boy named Cesario, goes to work for Duke Orsino and promptly falls in love with him. Orsino, who in turn is in love with the Countess Olivia, sends Cesario to Olivia's house, to convince Olivia to marry him. Upon meeting Viola, however, Countess Olivia falls in love with Cesario, thinking she is a man. And all of this is mocked by the servants, especially Feste, the wise Fool, the smartest character on stage.

For me, it's an honour to be doing it again — leading yet another group of gifted teenagers working in rehearsal for four solid months to present Shakespeare — one of the greatest challenges in the theatre for adults, let alone for young actors.

So why do we do it? It's a good question and it doesn't have a simple answer. After all, doing Shakespeare is a lot of work: for the director, for the cast and for the crew.

First off, there's the intimidation factor; who the heck are we out here in Carleton Place, to even attempt something that the greatest actors in the world approach with caution? The temptation, in the face of all that history, is to blow it off and treat it as a lark — and this company of talented young people has to resist that temptation and maintain their original respect for the material and for the greatest playwright in history.

Then there's the difficulty in performance — doing Shakespeare is intense, with no breaks for a light-hearted song and dance number. As a performer, as a tech crew, you are working hard, all the time. You have to maintain the world of the play throughout every second of the performance, which can be exhausting.

Finally, there's the challenge of drawing an audience into the theatre. Because for most people, Shakespeare is an occasional thing, and its reputation is that it's only for the hoity-toity crowd. Shakespeare is thought to be serious and challenging for an audience, not fun and to put an audience in the seats, the publicity people have to work hard just to get over that (untrue) prejudice.

So, as I said, I'm the director for the eighth consecutive year. Why do I do this? More to the point, how do we do this? How do we keep the fire going, year after year and keep the excitement and the quality up?

First, it's about the tradition. When we walk into the theatre, we are picking up a baton that has been passed down through the history of performance — in addition to Shakespeare himself, all the participants in all the productions in all the theatres in all the world that have come before us. You can feel the ghosts in the theatre, watching you as you approach the stage.

Second, there's the excitement of the challenge. Both for the young actors and for the backstage crew who support them, it's in performing that the actors learn the answer to the questions that intrigue them the most: "What is it that makes a good actor, how do I learn it?" For the crew it's: "How do we set the mood, and carry it off?" And for me as a director, the challenge is to honour Shakespeare's text and to achieve my objectives by making the actors' choices and the crew's support, fit into a production that engages and entertains the audience. Every rehearsal I have to remember the ultimate goal that I am pursuing.

Third, the unexpected. As a director of teenagers doing Shakespeare I have been spoiled over and over, by serendipity — being surprised by something new all the time and never being bored.

Fourth, the audience: When we're lucky, the audience, aware of the challenges we face, shows its appreciation for the way we have brought our passion and our commitment into the theatre, to put on a show that is the very best we can do. Or, as my performers say, "feeling the love."

And that's the best reason of all to do anything.

Twelfth Night is Shakespeare's classic comedy about the tangled webs of gender identity and social class. This performance of the play, in late October, by the Mudds Youth Theatre — the oldest and most well-known Shakespearean group in the area — is not to be missed.

The Mississippi Mudds Youth Theatre production of Twelfth Night runs at the Carleton Place Town Hall Theatre, 175 Bridge Street, with evening performances (7:30 p.m.) on Friday, Oct. 20, Saturday, Oct. 21, Friday, Oct. 27, Saturday, Oct. 28, and a matinee performance at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 22. All tickets are priced at \$10, and are available at the Carleton Place Chamber of Commerce, 196 Bridge Street (613-257-1976) or at the door.

How Can I Help? - Stu West, President

Ten years ago, my daughter walked through the doors of Town Hall to attend her first audition for a Mississippi Mudds show. She didn't have any theatrical experience, but did have a ton of confidence, and had decided that this was something she wanted to try. After the audition she told my wife and I, "These are my people!" So began a ten year involvement with the Mudds - for me - because once she was involved, I wanted to help support her on her theatrical endeavors any way that I could, also with virtually no theatrical experience. Now, she has gone away to university, studying Theatre Arts, and I am still involved with the Mudds, serving as President for the current year. From asking the simple question, "How can I help?" I have had many different experiences over the past ten years, from helping to construct sets, to being a 'Stage Manager', to being on the Mudds Board of Directors as President.

Hearing the words "How can I help?" is probably the sweetest sound a Producer, or Director, can hear. There are so many skills needed to put on a successful show, and the more help there is, the easier the job becomes for everybody. I had no idea about

how many different tasks go into putting on a great show, but once I became involved, I soon learned that it takes a full team, lots of planning, lots of work, and lots of fun, to produce a wonderful product that our community can get behind and enjoy. One of the nice things about being involved with a Mudds show team is that there is lots of help available for all aspects of show production.

In addition to selecting a talented cast of actors, here is a short list of the types of jobs that need to be done to put on a successful production:- Producer, Director, Stage Manager (and backstage crew), Musical Director (sometimes a live orchestra or combo), Set Designer (builders, painters), Costume Designer (seamstresses/seamster), Lighting Designer and Operator, Sound Operator, Make-Up and Hair Designers, Prop Manager, Front of House Manager, and Marketing and Publicity Personnel. While you may not feel ready to take the lead for one of these positions, helping out in some way may prepare you for a bigger job later on. The Mudds are fortunate to have a wealth of experience in all of these areas, and people who are willing to share their knowledge with those who are just starting out. Every show requires a team made up of veterans and rookies.

If reading this has tempted you, even in the slightest, to become involved with a Mudds, or your child's, production, there is more information available in 'The Producer's Guide' which can be found on the Mudds website in the 'Members' section. I encourage you to take the first small step and make someone's day with four little words – "How can I help?"

Next month – "How Do I Go About Proposing a Show for the Mudds?"

AND SPEAKING OF HELP

Spot Operators Needed - Joanne Samler, Producer, Anne of Green Gables

Anne of Green Gables - The Musical has only two spots left to fill on the production team. We are looking for two spot operators who can attend rehearsals in November and be at all shows. Show dates are Friday, November 24 -

7:30, Saturday, November 25 - 2:00, Sunday, November 26 - 2:00, Friday, December 1 - 7:30, Saturday, December 2 - 2:00 and Sunday, December 3 - 2:00. If you can help us out please contact Joanne Samler at jsx4@rogers.com. Thanks so much.

Anne of Green Gables Update - Patti and Jon Lockhart - Co-Directors

The magic that is Anne of Green Gables is quickly coming to life as this tremendously talented cast and crew are giving it their all at every rehearsal. Anne of Green Gables is perhaps the most famous of all Canadian novels. It has been a cherished book to people of all ages across the world for over a century. This musical version of "Anne" is in the Guinness book of world records for being the longest running annual musical ever. It will touch your heart and delight your soul in a way that no other musical can. It is quintessentially Canadian. Perhaps you grew up reading the book. Maybe you grew up singing along with the Charlottetown festival's soundtrack on that long ride to PEI for summer vacation. Maybe you have been waiting for a chance to share a truly special Canadian memory with a loved one. This is your chance! The Mudds production of Anne of Green Gables The musical will be a fantastically memorable way for you, your family and friends to cap off Canada's sesquicentennial celebrations! Our cast and crew invite you and everyone you know to come and experience Anne. As Ms Stacy says "with imagination and determination", we know that as a team, The MUDDS will make this show a sell out success. Get your tickets now before they are gone!

Little Mermaid - the Voyage So Far - Karen Lapointe - Co-Director

Mermaid rehearsals are now fully submerged and the cast are getting into the "swim" of things nicely (sorry for the bad puns!). Laurel, our glittery music director, is in extra Under The Sea sparkle mode and tells us the kids are in top form and already sounding great. Greta, our fun-loving choreographer is, as usual, bringing laughter and camaraderie to each rehearsal and will soon

be starting work on some cool dance routines. Our lovely producers, Linda and Sherrie, are busy making sure this production stays on track. I think Ann Price, our awesome costume lead, is currently drowning in a sea of fabric, but we know when she does catch some air, we will be seeing some fantastic creations. Dalene Gallo, make-up lead extraordinaire, is busy designing some eye (and face!) popping ideas. We are looking forward to our next production meeting to see how magical the stage is going to look under Kate Martin's wonderfully artistic flair and enhanced by our talented Cathy Boynton's props. As for me, I'm having a great time working as co-director with Molly; helping shape this show into a production that Kate is going to be proud of. So mark your calendars for February 2018 when we will finally dive into the depths of the deep blue sea to catch a glimpse into the lives of Ariel and her friends.

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 November 20. I would love to hear from you. It doesn't have to be long, just of interest to Mudds members and fans.

Happy Birthday wishes go to members past and present who are celebrating their birthdays between October 22 and November 21: We hope you have a lovely day :-)

Dorothy Lockhart	October 23rd
Nadia Taylor-Meyer	October 26th
Kaitlyn Rossignol-Mines	October 28th
Tony Scott	October 29th
Kim Curran	October 29th
Leah West	November 1st
Sarah White	November 6th
Kayley Kennedy	November 7th
Patti Lockhart	November 9th
Chris Jones	November 10th
Abigail Moore-Crispin	November 12th
Xena Santry	November 13th
Lorne Whitlock	November 14th
Mark Tye	November 16th
Adam Pelletier	November 17th
Hannah Hayball	November 19th
Abigael Gray	November 19 th

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

The next issue of Muddprints will be published on November 22. The deadline for articles is November 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 (2017)

Oct 22 (Sun)	1:00pm-4:00pm	AofGG Rehearsal	CPHS
Oct 22 (Sun)	2:00pm	Twelfth Night Show	Town Hall
Oct 23 (Mon)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	SMC*
Oct 25 (Wed)	7:00pm-10:00pm	AofGG Rehearsal	TBD
Oct 27 (Fri)	7:30pm	Twelfth Night Show	Town Hall
Oct 28 (Sun)	9:00am-1:00pm	AofGG Set Load In	Town Hall
Oct 28 (Sat)	7:30pm	Twelfth Night Show	Town Hall
Oct 29 (Sun)	9:00am-1:00pm	AofGG Set Build	Town Hall
Oct 29 (Sun)	1:00pm-4:00pm	AofGG Rehearsal	Town Hall
Oct 30 (Mon)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	SMC*
Nov 1 (Wed)	7:00pm-10:00pm	AofGG Rehearsal	Town Hall
Nov 2 (Thur)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	SMC*
Nov 4 (Sat)	9:00am-4:00pm	AofGG Set Build	Town Hall
Nov 5 (Sun)	9:00am-1:00pm	AofGG Set Build	Town Hall
Nov 5 (Sun)	1:00pm-4:00pm	AofGG Rehearsal	Town Hall
Nov 6 (Mon)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	SMC*
Nov 8 (Wed)	7:00pm-10:00pm	AofGG Cue-to-Cue/Technical	Town Hall
Nov 9 (Thur)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	SMC*
Nov 12 (Sun)	1:00pm-4:00pm	AofGG Dress (No Make-Up)	Town Hall
Nov 13 (Mon)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	SMC*
Nov 15 (Wed)	7:00pm-10:00pm	AofGG Rehearsal	Town Hall
Nov 16 (Thur)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	SMC*
Nov 19 (Sun)	1:00pm-4:00pm	AofGG Full Dress with Audience	Town Hall
Nov 20 (Mon)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	SMC*
Nov 22 (Wed)	7:00pm-10:00pm	AofGG Rehearsal	Town Hall
Nov 23 (Thur)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	SMC*
Nov 24 (Fri)	6:00pm-11:00pm	AofGG Full Evening Show	Town Hall
Nov 25 (Sat)	12:00pm-5:00pm	AofGG Full Matinee Show	Town Hall
Nov 26 (Sun)	12:00pm-5:00pm	AofGG Full Matinee Show	Town Hall
Nov 27 (Mon)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	SMC*
Nov 29 (Wed)	7:00pm-10:00pm	AofGG Rehearsal	Town Hall
Nov 30 (Thur)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	SMC*
Dec 1 (Fri)	6:00pm-11:00pm	AofGG Full Evening Show	Town Hall
Dec 2 (Sat)	12:00pm-5:00pm	AofGG Full Matinee Show	Town Hall
Dec 3 (Sun)	12:00pm-5:00pm	AofGG Full Matinee Show	Town Hall
Dec 4 (Mon)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	SMC*
Dec 7 (Thur)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	SMC*
Dec 11 (Mon)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	SMC*
Dec 14 (Thur)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	SMC*
Dec 18 (Mon)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	SMC*
Jan 8 (Mon)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	Town Hall
Jan 11 (Thur)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	Town Hall
Jan 15 (Mon)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	Town Hall
Jan 18 (Thur)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	Town Hall
Jan 22 (Mon)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	Town Hall
Jan 25 (Thur)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	Town Hall
Jan 27 (Sat)	9:00am-4:00pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Set Build	Town Hall
Jan 28 (Sun)	9:00am-4:00pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Set Build	Town Hall

Jan 29 (Mon)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	Town Hall
Feb 1 (Thur)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	Town Hall
Feb 3 (Sat)	9:00am-4:00pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Set Build	Town Hall
Feb 4 (Sun)	9:00am-4:00pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Set Build	Town Hall
Feb 5 (Mon)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	Town Hall
Feb 8 (Thur)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	Town Hall
Feb 10 (Sat)	10:00am-4:00pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Cue to Cue	Town Hall
		Cast needed 12:00pm-4:00pm	
Feb 12 (Mon)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	Town Hall
Feb 15 (Thur)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Dress Rehearsal	Town Hall
Feb 22 (Thur)	6:30pm-8:30pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Rehearsal	Town Hall
Feb 23 (Fri)	5:00pm-9:00pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Show	Town Hall
Feb 24 (Sat)	12:00pm-4:00pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Show	Town Hall
Feb 25 (Sun)	12:00pm-4:00pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Show	Town Hall
Mar 1 (Thur)	5:00pm-9:00pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Show	Town Hall
Mar 2 (Fri)	5:00pm-9:00pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Show	Town Hall
Mar 3 (Sat)	12:00pm-4:00pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Show	Town Hall
Mar 4 (Sun)	12:00pm-7:00pm	Little Mermaid Jr. Show, Tear Down and Cast Party	Town Hall

*St. Mary's Church