

MUDDPRINTS

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The official newsletter of the Mississippi Mudds - May 2016



State of the Mudds - Jeff Lee, President

Thank you all for another successful Mudds season in 2015/16 it was an exciting and unique year.

We started with the Shakespeare classic Romeo and Juliette put on by the youth. Mark Piper adapted this play where the plot has students preparing to put on Romeo and Juliette. This format gave the cast great opportunities for comedy and action. The combat, choreographed by Adam Pelletier, was impressive in this show. This show presented unique challenges to both the actors and stage crew and was very well received.

Next up was The People Vs. Mona. This show was a great deal of fun for both audience and cast. It featured many outstanding and memorable characters and catchy music. This show also had the distinction of having the band on stage as part of the setting. The dinner theatre shows were particularly successful and popular and provided a great evening of entertainment. Sadly this show was the last for Peter Brown in the Mudds at least for a time.

Beauty and the Beast Jr. was the youth winter offering this year. This show had great opportunities and challenges for costumes, makeup, choreography, music and staging. All departments delivered in spades and was very well attended and received by our audience. Often audience members were at a loss for words trying to describe how touching this show's ending was and how much they enjoyed the entire show. This was the last show for some of our more seasoned youth as they move on with their lives and we hope they'll be back as adults.

Our final show this year was Peter Pan directed by yours truly. I had the privilege of directing an extremely knowledgeable and enthusiastic cast and working with a dedicated production team to bring this classic story to life. This show was unique in that it integrated the youths and adults in numbers not seen in recent memory. This show featured a large and impressive band led by Adam Reid as well as magnificent performances by Mudds veterans and newcomers alike. I am very grateful for the opportunity to work with such a gifted group of people.

While everyone works hard on our shows I think most will agree that the producers have the toughest job in the Mudds. A special thanks to Wendy Jewel, Tony Scott, Linda Baiglee, Alina Jacques, Francine Crampton, Barb Dickson and Karen Lapointe for their heroic efforts in handling the business side of the shows.

Every season there is hundreds and hundreds of hours spent in preparation for each show. We are fortunate to have so many people talented in costume design, props, painting, building and make-up. Without these people we would never hit the stage so I wish to thank all those behind the scenes who really make our shows possible. Also the tech side led by Mark Tye deserves a nod for countless hours of setup and adjustment for lights, sound and communications.

I'd also like to thank Sandra Dunlop for maintaining our email list and for putting together our newsletter Muddsprints every month like clockwork.

We had some sad developments this season as well. Long time Mudds member Richard

Church passed away in August of 2015. Richard brought great comedy, acting and singing to our stage for years and he'll be missed. More recently we lost Jim MacGregor who was a dear friend to many people in the Mudds and an iconic Mudds actor for many years. We were all shocked at the suddenness of Jim's passing. Jim's celebration of life was so well attended that it was standing room only, a testament to a life well lived and a man much loved.

We have another exciting season ahead of us next year, the board has made selection for the season as follows. The perennial Shakespeare offering this year is King Lear followed by the Christmas time show Mary Poppins, our youth will be doing Aladdin and our spring show is HMS Pinafore. Next season we'll be launching a slightly different brand for the Mudds, not a change to our brand but an addition called The Mudds Underground. Under this brand we'll put on more edgy and esoteric plays and our inaugural offering in June next year will be Assassins, a dark musical comedy featuring various historical figures who assassinated presidents of the United States. There's also some fledgling plans to hold a murder mystery in the winter of 2017.

I wish to thank the board this year for working so hard to keep the business under control. Again many board members were very active in the Mudds season as well as board responsibilities so a big thank you to Linda Baiglee, Lesley Moll, Mark Piper, Barb Dickson, Jan (Mother Mudd) Ferguson, Karen Lapointe and Kate Cooney. Also I wish to express my gratitude to Louise Link for handling the Mudds books this season.

Our annual general meeting is scheduled for June 15th in the lower meeting room of Carleton Place Arena at 7pm. The board will provide updates to the membership on the season and the financial status of the group. The nomination committee will be contacting the members before the AGM should anyone wish to run for a position on the 2016/17 board.

Again, thank you to the entire membership for another successful season of MUsic Drama and Dancing on Stage.

Mary Poppins - Fall Adult Production - Joanne Samler, Producer

Announcing that auditions will be held for Mary Poppins on Saturday, June 18 at the Ottawa Business Centre (formally Curves), 74 Bridge Street in Carleton Place.

Parking is beside the building (Tomahawk Technologies) or at the back of the building (off Victoria Street).

Joanne Samler, Producer for Mary Poppins is looking after booking your audition time. Please note there are only afternoon time slots left. Auditions and costume measuring should only take 15-20 minutes.

She can be reached at jsx4@rogers.com or at 613-250-2803. She has an audition package that she can send to you so you will know the requirements for the audition. She will also be able to answer any questions or concerns you might have.

Looking forward to seeing you at the auditions.

Summer Barbeque - Linda Beiglee, Board of Directors

Come one, Come all! to the Mudds Annual Summer B B Q - Good Time to be had by everyone. Families welcome. **Provided by Mudds:** Burgers & Hot Dogs, plates, pop, condiments. **When:** Sat. Jul. 23, 2pm on. **Where:** Home of Karen & Rej Lapointe - off Scotch Corners Road, "By The Lake". Specific directions will be advertised nearer the time of the BBQ. **What to Bring:** Chairs, Byob, Pot luck for Ord'heurves, Salads and Desserts. There will be boat rides and tube rides all afternoon.

PLEASE LET KAREN KNOW DIRECTLY if you are attending and what food you plan on bringing at kazli63@gmail.com - by July18 so we will know how much food to prepare.

Speaking of which, may we have a volunteer or two to do the cooking on the bbq? Thank you! Looking forward to seeing you.

**Annual General Meeting - Lesley Moll,
Secretary**

The AGM is the 15th of June at 7pm at the Carleton Place arena. It is hoped that all can attend. The minutes from last years AGM are attached to this issue of Muddprints.

**Description of Characters and Line Counts
for Mary Poppins - Sandra Dunlop, Director**

MARY POPPINS (156 lines) - is Jane and Michael Banks's new nanny. She is extraordinary and strange, neat and tidy, delightfully vain yet very particular, and sometimes a little frightening, but always exciting. She is practically perfect in every way and always means what she says.

BERT (70 lines) - the narrator of the story, is a good friend to Mary Poppins. An everyman, Bert has many occupations, including hurdy-gurdy player, sidewalk artist, and chimney sweep. Bert watches over the children as well as the goings on in Cherry Tree Lane. He has charm, speaks with a Cockney accent, and is a song-and-dance-man.

GEORGE BANKS (116 lines) - father to Jane and Michael Banks, is a banker to the very fiber of his being. Demanding "precision and order" in his household, he is a pipe-and-slippers man who doesn't have much to do with his children and believes that he had the perfect upbringing by his nanny, the cruel Miss Andrew. His emotion armor, however, conceals a sensitive soul.

WINNIFRED BANKS (101 lines) - is George's wife and Jane and Michael's mother. A former actress, she is a loving and distracted homemaker who is busy trying to live up to her husband's desire to only associate with "the best people" as well as be a model wife and mother. She suffers from conflicting feelings that she's not up to the job of "being Mrs. Banks," yet she is and more. She has a great warmth and simplicity to her tone.

JANE BANKS (135 lines) - the high-spirited daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Banks, is bright and precocious but can be willful and include to snobbishness. Both she and Michael

misbehave in order to get the attention of their parents.

MICHAEL BANKS (119 lines) - is a cute and cheeky son of Mr. And Mrs. Banks. Excitable and naughty, he adores his father and tries to be like him. Both he and Jane misbehave in order to get the attention of their parents.

MRS. BRILL (37 lines) - is the housekeeper and cook for the Banks family. Overworked and harassed, she's always complaining that the house is understaffed. Her intimidating exterior is a cover for the warmth underneath. Mrs. Brill doesn't have a high opinion of nannies in general and Mary Poppins in particular.

ROBERTSON AY (17 lines) - is the houseboy to the Banks family. Lazy, sleepy, and grumbling, he never gets things right and believes himself to be useless. He doesn't do a lot of singing, but his "spoonful" solo can be a fun surprise.

MISS ANDREW (18 lines) - is George's overbearing and scary nanny. With her bottle of nasty-tasting brimstone and treacle to keep naughty children in line, she is a bully who only knows one way of doing things - her way.

ADMIRAL BLOOM (6 lines) - is a retired Royal Navy man and neighbor of the Banks family. A physically large man with a loud and booming voice, he speaks in Navy jargon and has a soft spot for his neighbor, Miss Lark. Admiral Bloom could double as the Bank Chairman (14 lines).

PARK KEEPER (8 lines) - uniformed and officious, he makes sure no one breaks park regulations. His life is defined by rules, but he secretly hankers after his childhood.

BANK CHAIRMAN (14 lines) - the head of the bank where Mr. Banks is employed, is an Edwardian stuffed-shirt. He can speak/sing his lyrics if necessary.

VON HUSSLER (5 lines) - a businessman seeking a loan from the bank for a shady business. He speaks with the German accent.

JOHN NORTHBROOK (8 lines) - is an honest businessman seeking a loan to build a factory

for his community. He speaks with an accent from Northern England.

BIRD WOMAN (1 line) - is covered in a patchwork of old shawls, and her pockets are stuffed with bags of crumbs for the birds. She tries to sell her crumbs to passersby, who ignore her as if she doesn't exist. Sings "Feed the Birds." There can be a gruff, folksy quality to her voice that reflects the hardness of her life.

MRS. CORRY (10 lines) - owns a magical gingerbread shop. She is a mysterious woman of great age who speaks with a Caribbean accent (or any accent that would make her seem exotic).

KATIE NANNA (3 lines) - is Jane and Michael's nanny at the beginning of the show. Overwhelmed and upset, she has absolutely had her fill of the Banks children.

POLICEMAN (5 lines) - is a neighborhood fixture who is respected by and observant of households on his beat.

MISS LARK (6 lines) - is the haughty next-door neighbor of the Banks family who treats her dog, Willoughby, as if he were her child.

VALENTINE (3 lines) - is a stuffed boy doll belonging to Jane.

TEDDY BEAR, MR. PUNCH and DOLL - toys belonging to Jane and Michael.

ENSEMBLE: Londoners, park goers, toys

CHIMNEY SWEEPS - dancers - can also double as Londoners, park goers, toys.

There can be some doubling up of characters in this production. For example: Miss Andrew/Bird Woman; Mrs. Corry/Katie Nanny; Park Keeper/Von Hussler; Policeman/John Northbrook. We can take a look at various scenarios.

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

The next issue of Muddprints will be published on June 22. The deadline for articles is June 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 (2016)

June 15 (Wed)	Annual General Meeting	Arena
June 18 (Sat)	Mary Poppins - Auditions	Ottawa Business Centre
July 23 (Sat)	Mudds BBQ	At the Lake