

MUDD PRINTS

www.mississippimudds.ca

**The official newsletter of the Mississippi Mudds -
September 2021**



From the Desk of the President - *Sandra Dunlop*

Picnic in the Park was so much fun. It was great to connect with people again. There were about 20 people in attendance. Photos have been shared on Facebook. Thanks to Tracy Ahern for making it happen.

The Board of Directors is continuing our membership drive. To date we have 38 current members for the 2021/2022 season. We are looking at having a General Meeting in the new year to review the bylaws and constitution. In order to have input on these issues you will need to be a current member. You can e-transfer your membership dues (\$30) to pcbear@rogers.com. You can certainly also write a cheque and mail it to me at 133 Antrim Street, CP, K7C 1A6. Your dues will also help with our storage room that is our biggest monthly cost. With no show funds coming in we really need funds for this. I think we can cover October through December, but it will be getting tight in the new year.

If anyone has fund raising ideas we would certainly be open to hearing from you - it needs to be Covid friendly.

My thanks to the board as we update all the documents related to the Mississippi Mudds. We are aiming for a 2 month turnaround and all documents will be shared with the membership when they are complete.

Stay safe everyone.

MUDDS KARAOKE IN THE PARK - It's time to SING! - *Laurel Tye*

After our successful picnic get-together a suggestion from Catherine Clark was presented. Why not assemble again and sing a few familiar songs just for fun? So, weather permitting, we invite you to gather in the same place where we held our picnic (Riverside Park close to the boat launch).

The date: **Sunday, October 3.**

The time: 2:00.

Bring: A chair and blanket (chilly) and a device on which to find the lyrics to the songs. Mark Tye has collected a few good accompaniments for popular singalong songs which he will play through his magic battery run speaker. It will be a kind of Mudds Karaoke. If you have suggestions for songs you'd like included please send them to Laurel Tye sogr8fl@sympatico.ca.

We must ask that those attending be double vaccinated. We will socially distance but masks are not mandatory. Bylaw has been made aware and has given us an enthusiastic thumbs up.

See you there!!

Attention All Youth Talent!!! - *Stephanie Stephens*

The Mississippi Mudds will be hosting an ONLINE COFFEEHOUSE on Saturday, **October 16** at 7pm!

A coffeehouse is a special type of talent show with no auditions! It's just an informal gathering of people who want to share their talent! It can be anything!!! A monologue! A scene with a friend! A song! Singing! Playing an instrument! A magic trick! Juggling! Reciting 100 digits of pi!

It will be taking place online via zoom.

We are asking \$5 to participate in the coffeehouse and to watch the other performers. All money raised goes to help The Mississippi Mudds pay for expenses while we wait for the okay to start putting on shows again!

To register your act, email muddsclubbs@gmail.com

Show Development News - "Kaz" Karen Lapointe

Hi everyone,

As you all know, we are slowly starting to make our way back to more normal routines and we have all been missing our MUDDS activities for longer than we anticipated.

A while ago, myself and Stefan Kaleb made plans to create some kind of "How To" platform to show any of our members or future members what being a director, producer, stage manager, sound person, musical director and other behind the scenes positions entails when representing the MUDDS. I am excited to

announce that very soon we will be bringing some live Zoom "webinars" to the comfort of your living room; starting from the position of director and each week or bi-weekly, we will showcase other roles. These events will be live to enable question time, but recorded for our archives and for anyone who has prior commitments and unable to join the live talks. Within the next couple of weeks I will announce the first date and we look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me at kazli63@gmail.com

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 October 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 #16 September 2021 (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 Peter Meyer, a member of the Mudds who gives true definition to the term 'stage presence'! No matter the size of the role Peter has in a production, he leaves a lasting impression on the audience with his characterizations, perfect delivery of lines, and talent! Off stage, he is charming, kind, and welcoming to everyone. Having a backstage conversation with Peter is truly one of the highlights of being in any show!

1. How long have you been acting?

I got into acting back in high school. Our school took on the ambitious project of presenting "Amadeus".

2. How long have you been a member of The Mississippi Mudds?

I got involved with the Mudds with their 2015 Christmas panto "Cinderella".

3. What parts have been the most fun to play?

Different parts for different reasons:

With Cinderella, I played one of the ugly step-sisters, and this was an opportunity to take absurdity to the extreme. I am still grateful to Judith and the costuming team for managing to put me in a hat and heels that make me look almost 7 feet tall.

With "Mary Poppins" and "Peter Pan", I had a number of minor roles along with being the chorus. It was really fun to create very distinct characters for each of these parts. I had people come up to me afterwards and not realize that I had played those characters on stage.

"We Will Rock You" had me play Buddy, a Willie Nelson/Neil Young/Jerry Garcia like character. I quickly found his voice, but the real challenge and joy was perfecting him, along with the comedic timing. We all put in so much time and effort that everyone went well beyond what they thought themselves capable of. It was absolute magic!



4. What show would you like The Mudds to do and if we did it, which part would you want to have?

It may be a while before we are all able to be together again, and when we do, we should find a really good pantomime, get all the kids back, assemble the most outrageous costumes and put on the most silly, fun & absurd show we can to celebrate theatre and community.

5. Do you have any auditioning advice for young performers?

Attitude! Go in to have fun, smile, engage and show the production team that you can connect with an audience. The rest, after that, is just hard work.

6. Do you have any tricks to help memorize lots of lines?

I've tried a number of things.

- Pre-record the lines around your lines, leave a gap and have your line repeated back.
- Get someone to read the other characters for you and coach.
- Get together with your fellow cast and work outside of rehearsals on the lines. I think this really can help build trust and enable you to know each other's characters so well that you can catch each other if something goes way off the rails during a scene.

7. **What is the funniest and unexpected thing that has ever happened onstage during a show you were in?**
Perhaps not the funniest, but the most wonderful unexpected thing was a show I did with my daughter, who was six at the time. We were out front on a side stage. On the main stage, a lead character sang a lullaby. My daughter began singing with her too. When it ended, you could have heard a pin drop.
8. **What do you do to prepare for going on stage? Do you have any preshow rituals?**
I have 4 things:
- stretch - Acting is physical
 - sweep the stage - Part of it has to do with avoiding any slips on loose sand and if you have a physical role, not rolling in something that might cut.
 - walk through my prop and costume presets - are all things where I will need them for the show.
 - in more recent years, five minutes before every show, I stand behind the curtain, and listen to the audience.
9. **How do you develop the quirks and nuances of your characters to make them special?**
Work and repetition. Each time you run lines, run a scene and even run a show, it allows you to find those little things that enrich the character and their relationships with their counter-parts.
10. **If you received a super amount of money and could only use it to buy (donate) something for the Mudds, what would you buy?**
A rehearsal hall, with room for storage, a workplace for prop, set and costume development. The money would also need to cover property taxes and keep the light on.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY wishes go to members past and present who are celebrating their birthdays between September 23 and October 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! :-)

Mary Capper	Sep-23
Laurel Tye	Sep-24
Cameron Maclaren	Sep-24
Grace Gilbert	Sep-24
Daniel Scott	Sep-25
Elaine Condie-Grimsey	Sep-25
Roxanne Broer	Sep-26
Laurie Dickson	Sep-27
Carolyn Lawrence	Sep-27
Ivy MacKay	Sep-28
Joshua Gaines	Oct-01
Stevie Silver	Oct-04
Stu West	Oct-05
Kim Balazsi	Oct-06
Aidan Taylor-Meyer	Oct-06
Amber Berndt	Oct-07
Satinka Schilling	Oct-07
Nora Paterson	Oct-08

Ann Price	Oct-08
Lindsay Rewi	Oct-09
Eddie Thompson	Oct-09
Eden Kentfield	Oct-11
Maddy Martin	Oct-14
Lynda O'Connor	Oct-14
Andrew McDougall	Oct-15
Emma Huibers	Oct-17
Lucy Maclaren	Oct-17
Colleen Robillard	Oct-18
Courtney Mason	Oct-18
Janice Bowie	Oct-20
Peter Meyer	Oct-20
Julie Hunter	Oct-20
Terry Kirkpatrick	Oct-22
Nicola Kelly	Oct-22

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

The next issue of Muddprints will be published on October 22. The deadline for articles is October 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 (2021)

October 3 Karaoke in the Park

October 16 Coffeehouse