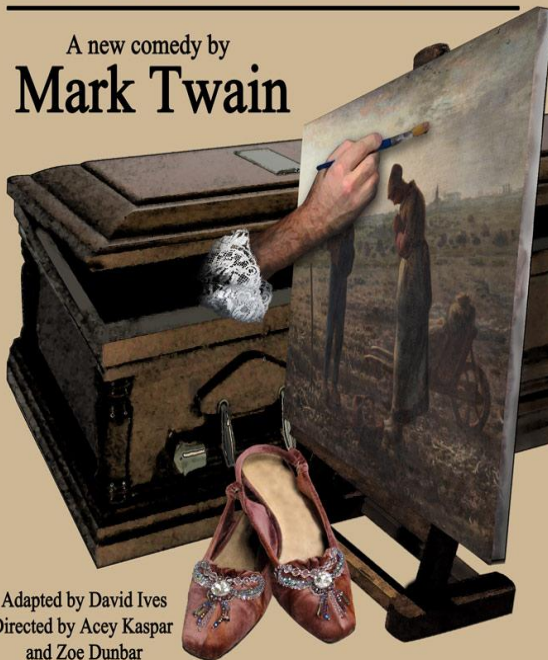


EloraCommunity Theatre

MARCH, 2018

Is He Dead?

A new comedy by
Mark Twain



Adapted by David Ives
Directed by Acey Kaspar
and Zoe Dunbar

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts inc.

May 4-6 & 11-13

Fergus Grand Theatre

Friday: 8:00 p.m. Saturday: 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Sunday: 2:00 p.m.
Tickets available online: www.fergusgrandtheatre.ca or box office: 519-787-1981

**EloraCommunity
Theatre**

Follow us on Facebook or at: www.eloracommunitytheatre.com

**Proudly Announcing Crew and Cast
for ECT's Next Show:**

Zoe Dunbar and Acey Kaspar DIRECTORS

Zoe Clemens STAGE MANAGER

Terri Arora ASM

Nancy Reaume ASM

Sara Dunbar COSTUME DESIGN

Jayne Simpson COSTUME SEWING

Diana Kaspar PROPS/SET DRESS/STAGE MANAGER

Robert Banning SET DESIGNER

Lawrence Lee SET BUILDER

Maggie Parent SET PAINTER

Deb Stanson PRODUCER

Dave Tanner LIGHTING DESIGN

(See next page for cast list)

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**Play Selection Committee*

**Western Ontario Drama League (WODL) As We Know It*

**We Remember*

**Coming Events*

Presenting Cast for: ARE YOU DEAD?

<i>Agamemnon Buckner Chicago</i>	<i>Adrian Baker</i>
<i>Hans von Bismarck (Dutchy)</i>	<i>Robert Free</i>
<i>Papa Leroux</i>	<i>Dave Beynon</i>
<i>Marie Leroux</i>	<i>Laura Hunter</i>
<i>Cecile Leroux/Lefaux</i>	<i>Jackie Sharkey</i>
<i>Jean-Francois Millet/Widow</i>	<i>Matthew Ross</i>
<i>Bastien Andre</i>	<i>Chris Mackay</i>
<i>Madame Bathilde</i>	<i>Connie McTaggart</i>
<i>Madame Caron</i>	<i>Nancy Baker</i>
<i>Phelim O'Shaugnessy</i>	<i>Shaun Purves</i>
<i>Basil Thorpe</i>	<i>William Brezden</i>
<i>Reporter/Claude Riviere</i>	<i>Mahesh Tripunitara</i>
<i>Charlie/Inspector Monnet</i>	<i>William Brezden</i>
<i>The King of France</i>	<i>Cory Saunders</i>
<i>The Sultan of Turkey</i>	<i>Mahesh Tripunitara</i>
<i>The Empress of Russia</i>	<i>Greta Halwachs</i>

Take a Peek Behind The Scenes



We all know that rehearsals go on for several months to prepare for a show but here is a reminder of the work that goes on in our workshop to prepare the set for the show. This work begins as soon as the previous show has been moved to Fergus Grand Theatre. Then the hands on work begins on the set after the previous designing process has been decided on between designers and directing team.

Here to the right you can see some of the supplies that are used for our shows and carefully stored and maintained by our crew of Robert Banning, Lawrence Lee and Maggie Parent. This team spend several days a week creating the set for months before the show. The set is then carefully dismantled for transportation to the Fergus Grand Theatre where it is reassembled for the production and what you will see as an audience member.



To the left you see Robert Banning, ECT's designer and builder, hard at work in the ECT Workshop preparing for the Is He Dead production. The garage door in the distance enables the set to be moved more easily out of the workshop and into the theatre.

(Thanks to Maggie Parent for photos.)

Elora Community Theatre's 2018/2019 Season



First of all a thank you to the **Play Selection Committee Members**: Diana Kaspar, Stacey England, Nancy Baker, Acey Kaspar, Laura Hunter!

As You Like It
By William Shakespeare
Adapted by Laura Hunter
Directed by David Tanner and Deb Stanson

ECT is presenting its 5th season of "Shakespeare in the Park" with the comedy AS YOU LIKE IT. Rosalind, the daughter of Duke Senior (the banished duke), is raised at the court of Duke Frederick (who is younger brother to Duke Senior and took over his dukedom), with her cousin Celia (daughter to Duke Frederick). She falls in love with a young man named Orlando, but before she can even think twice about it, she is banished by Duke Frederick, who threatens death if she comes near the court again. Celia, being Rosalind's best friend, goes with Rosalind (who is disguised as a boy, Ganymede) and Touchstone, the court's fool, to the forest of Arden. Upon their arrival in the forest, they happen upon Orlando and his manservant, who are fleeing the wrath of Orlando's eldest brother. What follows is an elaborate scheme devised by the cross-dressing Rosalind to find out the verity of Orlando's supposed passion for her, and to further capture his heart, through the witty and mischievous facade of Ganymede.

Auditions

Open audition

Please prepare a 2 minute Shakespearean Monologue of your choice

Will also be a cold read from the script

Sunday April 8, 2018 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Monday April 9, 2018 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Call backs Wednesday April 11, 2018 7:00 pm
Elora Community Theatre Workshop
1010 Rivers Edge Drive, West Montrose

Actors Needed:
ORLANDO, youngest son of Rowland de Boys
OLIVER, oldest son of Rowland de Boys
ADAM, a faithful servant
DENNIS, a servant
ROSALIND, daughter of Duke Senior
CELIA, daughter of Duke Frederick
TOUCHSTONE, a fool
DUKE FREDERICK, usurped Duke Senior's position
CHARLES, a wrestler
LE BEAU, a lord
MESSENGER
OFFICER
DUKE SENIOR, exiled by Duke Frederick
JAQUES, a misanthrope
AMIEN, attendant to Duke Senior
CORIN, a farmer
SILVIUS, a shepherd
PHOEBE, a shepherdess
AUDREY, a goat-keeper
FRIAR
HYMEN, god of marriage

Performance Dates
July 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 2018
Bissell Park, Elora

Contact Deb Stanson (519) 496-6481 or David Tanner (519)831-3263 for more information

Anne of Green Gables
By Lucy Maud Montgomery
Adapted by Anita Larsen
Directed by Deb Stanson

With a large cast of children and adults ECT will bring this Canadian classic to the stage! In a refreshing, telling of the story, stern Marilla Cuthbert and her warm-hearted brother Matthew hoped to adopt a boy to work on their farm. But the orphanage sends a young, red haired, be-freckled girl (Anne with an "e") by mistake, and their lives will never be the

same. Follow Anne Shirley as she warms the hearts of the population of Avonlea at the turn of the 20th century. We share her hopes and dreams, her conflicts, her disasters and her fulfillment. The place is Prince Edward Island, the time 1905. What better way to finish the year than to celebrate the 110th birthday of Anne of Green Gables. Bring the family for a special Christmas treat!

Auditions

Open Audition - cold read from the script

No preparation necessary

Please bring head shot or photo to audition

Sunday June 3, 2018 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Monday June 4, 2018 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm

Tuesday June 5 2018 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm

Elora Community Theatre Workshop

1010 Rivers Edge Drive, West Montrose

Actors Needed

8 female children/youth roles ages 7 to 18

8 male children/youth roles ages 7 to 18

5 Adult female roles ages 20 to 70 plus

8 Adult Male roles ages 20 to 70 plus

Rehearsals to start in September

Performance dates

December 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 2018

Fergus Grand Theatre

Contact Deb Stanson (519) 496-6481 for more information

The DINING ROOM by A.R. Gurney

Directed by Julie Wheeler Bryant

Performance Dates: February, 2019

Auditions: Late September, Early October, 2018

The Dining Room serves up fun and memories in this comedy of manners. Look what's on the menu: family values, adultery, vanishing customs, treatment of minimum wage earners, homosexuality, dementia, sex, drugs and the education of women...to name just a few.

If these four walls could talk ...eavesdrop and window peep into 18 different family dining rooms over 80 years, over breakfasts, lunches and dinner and special occasions, good times and bad, proud times and embarrassing. What did people really do in those rooms called the Dining Room? Was it really the good old days? This Pulitzer Prize finalist will reveal some secrets in The Dining Room.

AUDITIONS in Late September, early October

Many roles for **adults** of all ages young and older, must be versatile as **adults** will play young children, teenagers and aging seniors. More than one role for each actor.

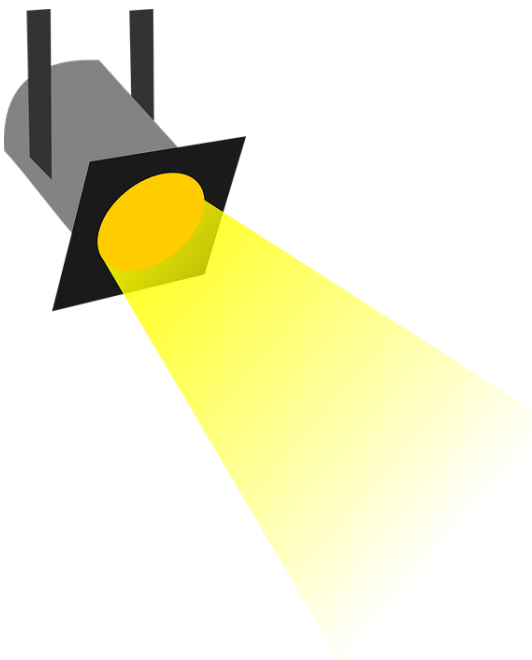
Contact Julie Wheeler Bryant for more information jwheelerb@cogeco.ca

SHORT HANDED

Directed by Kimberley Young and Jim Monaghan

Performance Dates: May, 2018

Auditions: More information to follow



Calling all techies and any that would like to expand their theatre vocabulary. ECT is looking for anyone who would like to learn to operate the lighting and sound systems for our shows as well as get into the nitty gritty of adjusting, designing and programming for shows.

Please contact David Tanner
dtanner@sentex.net and we'll get you started.



Western Ontario Drama League Festival
Congratulations to Our Friends and Neighbours
Elmira Theatre Company!!

As I am writing this newsletter Sunday, news is just starting to come out about the results of the Western Ontario Drama League which occurred last week, a play a night. I do know for sure that Elmira has won for best production On a First Name Basis by Norm Foster and that is the play that will go on to Festival Ontario always held during the long weekend in May. For further details check the WODL website and I will have more details coming up next newsletter.

For those of you confused about the process, ECT's entry A Christmas Carol was entered on an 'out of festival' basis which means we did not choose to be in the running to move the play to festival in Sarnia last week. You will remember we received nominations as listed in the last newsletter and the winner for each was announced at that time. Again to review these results you could probably go to WODL site.

Many of you know about Western Ontario Drama League Big March Break Week (in Sarnia this year) as mentioned in previous ECT's Newsletters. But the following is a look at festival history from ECT's unique experience:



Here is Elora Community Theatre's history with the Western Ontario Drama League a submission by Gary Bryant

ECT has been a member of the Western Ontario Drama League since 1977. Most years from then, ECT has taken advantage of an "In" or "Out of Festival" adjudication. Award nominations and awards to us from the WODL are numerous. Our first adjudication was in 1977. (*Barefoot in the Park* by Neil Simon) when we performed upstairs in the newly opened Elora Mill Inn.

While ECT has never hosted the annual Festival, we have been hosted as participants by the following:

K-W Little Theatre in 1982 when ECT presented David French's *Leaving Home*.

Theatre Kent (Chatham) in 1988.....*Enter a Free Man* (Stoppard)
 Owen Sound Little Theatre 1996 *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* ... Festival Winner
 Theatre Ontario Festival North Bay Theatre in 1996 "Cat" wins Best Production

Sarnia Little Theatre in 1997
 Foster)

The Affections of May (Norm

Theatre Woodstock in 1999
 Theatre Woodstock in 2004
 Theatre Woodstock in 2009
 Theatre Sarnia in 2012
 Theatre Woodstock in 2016

A Streetcar named Desire
Dancing at Lughnasa (Friel)
Anne of Green Gables
Self Help (Norm Foster)
The Drawer Boy

Information on ECT past productions is available from the Wellington County Museum and Archives.

Gary B.



It is believed that Guelph Little Theatre has offered to host WODL Festival again next year 2019, but will need a lot of help from people outside of their group as it is a very labour intensive endeavor. Please consider helping in some way as individuals to help lessen the load for others...There are many areas that need to be looked after such as hospitality, workshops, technical, advertising to name just a few. Many of us will be involved with ECT shows at the time but if you are interested in helping and not involved with cast and crew commitments here, your help would be most welcome I'm sure.. Watch for future newsletters to know who you should contact at GLT....

We Remember:



“Berry, James William, actor, artist, music and movie aficionado, son, brother, uncle and friend passed away on Monday, March 5th, in his 66th year. Son of the late James and the late Florence Berry. Brother to Kathy, Bob, Pam, John and Lesley. Uncle to Chris, Anne-Marie, Mike, Kirsti, Téó and Darwin. Special friend of Antonia, Michael, Christina, Christena and many, many more. If the measure of a life well lived and respected is the number of friends visiting and sending expressions of sorrow and love then James has lived a truly remarkable life. To honour James’ dedication to the arts and community theatre the family encourages donations to Guelph Little Theatre, **Elora Community Theatre** or to a community theatre or arts program in your community. A celebration of James’ life will held later in the spring. Break a leg James.”

ECT thank the Berry Family for considering Elora Community Theatre as a possible donation. He will certainly live on in the

memory of many of us who knew James. *Old Love, Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf*, and the play that Keith Slater wrote called *Funeral Farce* (which not only included James but also Liz Haythornethwaite) are just a few of the plays that James was involved with here. The last time I saw him at the hospice we reminisced about the first play he directed *St. George and the Dragon* written by local playwright Peter Scott. It was a lot of fun and we still remembered so much about it even though it was late 80s.

Since I received the obit above, I will update with the latest message regarding the April Celebration for James.

“The date has been set. Saturday, May 5, 2018, from 10 am to 1 pm at the Guelph Country Club. There will be a buffet breakfast, lots of laughs, some tears and some more laughs. Please circulate among as many of James’s friends as possible. Thank you
From Bob Berry (brother of James)”

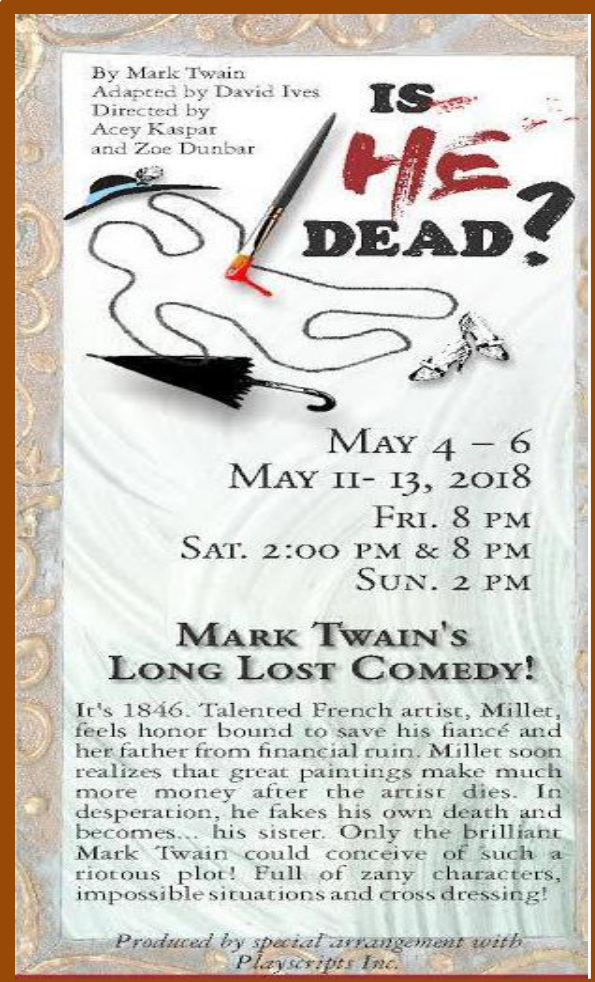
Liz Haythornethwaite is also a name that many of you will remember from past ECT productions. As mentioned above here latest appearance on our stage was *Funeral Farce* written by Keith Slater. She has been a supporter of ECT for many years and we will miss her.

Sandy Macdonald, an adjudicator with WODL and a person some of us have met from past adjudications of our plays such as *Ann of Green Gables*, *Old Love* and *The Drawer Boy*, was an active participant at festivals and in WODL. Our condolences to friends and family.



EVENTS

Mark your Calendar



By Mark Twain
Adapted by David Ives
Directed by
Acey Kaspar
and Zoe Dunbar

**IS
HE
DEAD?**

MAY 4 - 6
MAY 11- 13, 2018
FRI. 8 PM
SAT. 2:00 PM & 8 PM
SUN. 2 PM

**MARK TWAIN'S
LONG LOST COMEDY!**

It's 1846. Talented French artist, Millet, feels honor bound to save his fiancé and her father from financial ruin. Millet soon realizes that great paintings make much more money after the artist dies. In desperation, he fakes his own death and becomes... his sister. Only the brilliant Mark Twain could conceive of such a riotous plot! Full of zany characters, impossible situations and cross dressing!

*Produced by special arrangement with
Playscripts Inc.*

Don't miss our show! Coming soon!



Elmira Theatre Company's next show will be the classic play "12 Angry Men" written by Reginald Rose and made into an award winning movie in 1957 starring Henry Fonda. It is interesting to note that there are no less than seven Elora Community Theatre veterans appearing in the production as "angry jurors". On stage will be John Settle, Robin Bennett, Dan Kelly, Tom Bolton, Gary Siebert and the father and son team of Shayne and Jim Monaghan. Shows will run for three weekends starting April 27th and ending May 13th. For more details please visit the ETC website.

Elora Community Theatre *Is He Dead?* By Mark Twain, adapted by David Ives, directed by Acey Kaspar and Zoe Dunbar, May 4-6, 11-13, 2018 Fridays and Saturday 8pm, Saturday and Sunday 2pm , Tickets: Fergus Grand Theatre 519 787 1981 www.fergusgrandtheatre.ca

Elmira Theatre Company *Twelve Angry Men* by Reginald Rose, directed by Joe Brenner, produced by Bev Dietrich, April 27-May 12, 2018 Thursday-Saturday 8pm, Sundays 2:30pm. Tickets: www.elmiratheatre.com/buy-tickets.html

Guelph Little Theatre *The Ghost Island Light* by Peter Colley directed by Pamela Niesiobedzki-Curtis and Jayne Simpson, April 6-21, 2018 Tickets: 519 821 0270 guelphlittletheatre.com

***The House of Blue Leaves* by John Guare, directed by Trevor Smith Diggins May 25-June 9, 2018. Tickets: 519 821 0270 guelphlittletheatre.com**

Elora Arts Council: Elora en Plein Air (Grand River Painting Festival) May 17 to 20, www.artscouncil.elora.on.ca

From THEATRE ONTARIO: Are you an actor, director, creator or designer craving an opportunity to immerse yourself in your craft? Look no further—Theatre Ontario Summer Theatre Intensive is coming back to Stratford and will take place August 5th to 10th, and August 12th to 17th. After an outstanding 2 weeks last summer at Factory163 we have decided to return for a second year in a row. Sharing the building with artists, photographers, creators, and our friends over at Off The Wall, Stratford Artists' Alliance makes for an electric, creative atmosphere and we can't wait to get back in studio with this year's participants!

This year we are exploring offering classes in:

1. Beginner Directing

2. Dialogue Series – Directors and Designers
3. Beginner Acting – Monologues
4. Advanced Acting – Scene Study
5. Teaching Acting
6. Creators’ Lab
7. Voice Bootcamp
8. Stage Combat

Additional details about course content will be coming soon, so keep an eye out for our instructor announcements!

Theatre Ontario's Summer Theatre Intensive brings together theatre people from all over the province for a week-long rigorous educational experience. For nearly forty years, our courses have earned praise from drama teachers, theatre schools, community and professional theatres, agents, and actors getting started in the business.



(Please email me if you'd like to submit ECT info for future newsletters.)

Julie Wheeler Bryant jwheelerb@cogeco.ca

Thanks as always to Adrian and Laura Baker who make sure you receive this and get it posted on our ECT website.



