

Elora Community Theatre

MARCH 2019



The Dining Room

Nominations from the WODL Adjudication:

BEST PRODUCTION

BEST ENSEMBLE

BEST DIRECTION

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POSTSCRIPT

AND JUST LIKE THAT IT IS OVER!.....The Dining Room, Elora Community Theatre's ode to that particular area of domestic life , drew more than 700 local theatre goers to its recent performances despite severe weather conditions! In the Western Ontario Drama League competition this year ,featuring 20 plays, ECT garnered three nominations for its excellent work: Best Production, Best Ensemble, and Best Director!

The set is disassembled, the costumes hung up, the props back in storage or in the homes of donors, and the cast dispersed and maybe even working on other plays. If you saw the Dining Room you may see some of these actors again in your theatrical travels and remember their role in this special play with a pleasant sense of nostalgia. Four months of hard work are over.....But the work of Elora Community Theatre continues as it has for 46 years! The next play SHORTHANDED, a hockey story you are sure to love , opens May 3.



~Submitted by Bryan Hayter

See more on facebook

Photo Bill Longshaw



From the director:



(Excerpt from last letter to cast and crew)

*I really don't think I have ever worked with such a **dedicated cast and crew..every single member**. From the very beginning of the rehearsal schedule, now over four month ago (!), I have been impressed with your commitment, punctuality and dependability.*

*You made good use of your **talents and creative thinking** through all the rehearsals making them a joy for me as we discussed scenes, motivations, etc. I know I expected a lot from you and you did not disappoint. When we had our first read through, my **goals for The Dining Room** were for us to **work hard and do the best show possible and to have a good time**, enjoying and respecting each other as team members.*

*I think that the best indicator of the success of our show is **our audiences** and how much they enjoyed the production. In addition, since we were entered in WODL (Western Ontario Drama League) with **over 20 other shows** in the running, I think you can be proud of our results in that domain as well. Our nomination for **best production of a play** in Western Ontario is one of the best credits we could receive as it includes **everyone in our cast and crew** who contributed to our combined success. Also our nomination for **best ensemble** indicates in no small way our success in **working together** to create what our audiences saw on stage which wouldn't have been possible without our amazing stage management team, producers, tech team and set, costumes and props team. And of course, none of this tremendous effort would be worth much without our audiences which our publicity team helped recruit and once audiences arrived at the Fergus Grand Theatre, they had a very well prepared programme waiting for them to enjoy while they waited for the show to begin. Our third nomination was for **best director**...I say "our" because it's a **cast and crew like you** that make the director look good. Thank you for the many ways you **have done that!** You have made it all worthwhile!*

At the end of our run last Sunday, Eric Goudie, the Fergus Grand Theatre manager, told me unofficially we entertained over 730 audience members, which he felt was outstanding for this time of year and weather conditions etc. Thanks to your frugality whether in crew or cast, our expenses were very low, the main ones being the cost of the royalties and scripts and theatre rental. Any profit will help us continue to pay our workshop and theatre rentals and cost of monthly utilities at the workshop and also go towards our next show. Thanks to you for your memberships too which also help out in this domain and do let me know if you are not receiving a newsletter every month. I think Suzanne has it worked out now but I'm sure she would want to hear from you if you are left out.



Thanks to Bill Longshaw for the wonderful photography!

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**50/50 DRAW RESULTS FROM THE DINING ROOM**  
Organized by Maggie Parent- Results to be announced...



audience

And a few final comments still being received about *The Dining Room*:

\*"There is much to be said for what we miss by not congregating around the dining room table. Congratulations on a successful play. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience."

\*\*"Congratulations! You and your cast and crew did a phenomenal job! All I overheard from the other theatre goers was overwhelmingly positive. A lot of laughter mixed with really touching moments."

\*"The organization of so many characters and so many roles was impressive. Obviously, the members of the cast and crew were dedicated to working together to create an outstanding performance."

\* "We enjoyed and were amused by the characters you brought to life. We were in the third row so you probably heard our laughter."

\*"You could not hear our reaction to your more serious moments but we were equally impressed."

\* "We brought our friends to the show and they too shared so many positive comments and reactions to *The Dining Room*".

\*"I have been meaning to tell you how much I enjoyed *The Dining Room*... I was impressed with character after character emerging skillfully from the actors. Well done!!!"

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## HOT OFF THE PRESS

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Official Results Just In: 736 people attended performances of *The Dining Room* bringing in **\$7064.60**

**SPRING SURPRISE!!!!**

**ECT presents Wonderland**



Elora Community Theatre is proud to announce that they are adding on another play to this 2018-2019 season for youth only!



### **ATTENTION: KIDS!!**

The show is a fun musical called "Wonderland!" (Book by James DeVita, Music & Lyrics by Bill Francoeur) that will be performed at the Fergus Grand Theatre June 21-23rd for 4 performances only. Rehearsals will be at ECT rehearsal space, Highway # 86 and Katherine Street, West Montrose. Rehearsals will start Thursday, April 11th.

**Wonderland!** is an unabashedly silly adaptation of Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass*. With hip-hopping music, it is an upbeat, coming-of-age story that audiences of all ages will adore! You'll recognize some of your favorite familiar characters of *Alice's Wonderland* along with meeting dozens of new ones: a baseball team,

a gospel group called The Responsibilities, a train conductor, star-struck tourists, plastic light-saber wielding knights and much more. We invite anyone in **grades 4-10** to sign up for auditions which will be held Monday, **April 1st, 2019** and **Thursday April 4th, 2019** from 6:30-9:30pm. Auditions (and rehearsals) will be held at the Elora Community Theatre Workshop, 1010 Rivers Edge Drive, West Montrose. (Corner of Highway 86 and Katherine Street) Please prepare one song (preferably a musical theatre piece, but others are acceptable too!) and be prepared to do a cold read. Please email Deb Stanson at [debstanson@gmail.com](mailto:debstanson@gmail.com) to book your audition **NOW!**



## WESTERN ONTARIO DRAMA FESTIVAL 2019

Western Ontario Drama League

Our Waterloo-Wellington WODL Representative:

Bev Dietrich

What is WODL?

The Western Ontario Drama League was established by D. Park Jamieson in 1932 to unite community theatre groups in Western Ontario. It covers an area from Burlington west to Sarnia and from Welland north to Tobermory. It is comprised of 30 theatre companies from across the South-Western Ontario region.

For up to date information on Festival 2019, visit [www.wodlfestival.ca](http://www.wodlfestival.ca), or follow on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

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Luncheon Report from **Deb Dalziel**:

*Board Members of ECT were pleased to offer lunch for the competing communities participating in the annual WODL this past week in Guelph. It was a special treat to have Morgana, Deb's Granddaughter join in the fun!*

The *Guelp* Little Theatre and *Elmira Theatre Company* hosted *WODL* and recruited local community theatre groups to assist with meal planning and hosting the week's schedule.

Healthy options served up with a smile from *ECT* were chili, lasagna, salad and veggies finished off with hand rolled ice cream and homemade sweet treats.

Good luck to all those competing and a special thanks to *Guelp* for hosting this marvelous event. A special thanks to everyone who helped with *WODL* at *Guelp* Little Theatre, what an amazing undertaking—no small feat for sure! by *Deb Dalziel*



Spotlight on Sharing



2019 WODL

Theatre Festival





Big thanks to those ECT board members **Deb Dalziel, Deb Stanson, Maggie Parent, Nancy Baker, Suzanne Trivers, Julie Wheeler Bryant** who prepared and provided the food for over 30 people including cast and crew from Theatre Sarnia who were setting up for their show that night . Also thanks to ECT member **Jim Monaghan** for his generous food contributions and prep help from other non-board members: **Morgana** and **Gary Bryant**.



## WESTERN ONTARIO DRAMA FESTIVAL 2019



WODL FESTIVAL 2019 hosted by Guelph Little Theatre and Elmira Theatre Company was a great success. I hope you had a chance to see some of the shows...a big thank you to Elmira's Chris Grose and Guelph's Ken Cameron for their leadership and the many many volunteers who helped make this week work so well.. A huge number of volunteer hours are needed behind the scenes and it's easy to forget that when we sit back and enjoy the show. So once again, sincere thanks and appreciation for all the people involved!



Many ECT members helped out..Andy Wasylycia and Deb Deckert with workshops every afternoon, David Tanner with Sound, Jayne Simpson co-stage manager, Ken Menzies adjudicator host, Gord Grose mementos, John Fielding fundraising/sponsorships, Bev Dietrich opening reception, Chris Grose volunteer coordinator...Many more of our ECT members could be seen helping behind the scenes including Jim Monaghan, Dianne Thompson and others.

For more information about festival and awards, please visit [www.facebook.com/WODLFestival201](http://www.facebook.com/WODLFestival201) and the WODL website.

**SHORT HANDED**

by Michael Grant  
Directed by Jim Monaghan  
& Kimberley Young

**MAY 3 – 5 & MAY 10 – 12, 2019**  
Friday 8:00 pm,  
Saturday 2:00 pm & 8:00 pm,  
Sunday 2:00 pm  
**FERGUS GRAND THEATRE**

In *Shorthanded*, a comedy about lost dreams and second chances, eight hockey players band together for game seven of the old-timer's hockey championship. The middle-aged men are looking for a shot at redemption, and to reverse the curse of a game-seven loss they incurred as Junior B players that has left the town without a hockey title ever since.

*Winner of Playwrights Guild of Canada's  
new comedy award 2012!*



Report from directors Jim Monaghan and Kimberley Young.....



If you haven't heard yet this hilarious play goes on the Fergus Grand Theatre stage the first two weekends in May. Come out and watch this funny and touching play about a small town local men's hockey team....you will laugh hard and cry!!

Also every seat purchased gives you one entry into a draw for some nice prizes including the Grand prize of a pair of tickets for a 2019-2020 regular season Toronto Maple Leaf game valued over \$400. Hope to see you there in May when the puck drops!

**Come out and support our theatre version of the Elora Rocks on stage the first two weekends in May. It is a hilarious and touching award winning play written by Elmira's Mike Grant about a local Men's Senior team looking for redemption while maintaining a lifelong friendship for one another.**



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**Shakespeare in the Park**

**Merchant of Venice**

6th season!

ECT Shakespeare in the Park 2019!

**Auditions!**

**MERCHANT OF VENICE**

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Deb Stanson and David Tanner

To be performed July 5-7 and July 12-14 at Bissell Park, [Elora](#)

**AUDITION DATES**

**Tuesday, April 23 and Thursday, April 25 7:00 pm**

ECT Workshop 1010 Rivers Edge Drive, West Montrose, (corner of Highway 86 and Katherine Street)

**Preparation 2 minute Shakespearean monologue of choice and a cold read from the script.**

No appointment necessary

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



## WEBSITE WOES

As most of our members and supporters will have noticed, we are having some issues with our website. Please know that we are working on finding a more simple to use alternative. We have been very lucky to have received volunteer hours from some key individuals for the design of our current website and for adding and sending the newsletter on a regular basis. We greatly appreciate this help (Nat, Adrian, Laura)

Unfortunately, most of our members who need to add information to the website are not tech savvy. We need a solution that is simple and ready made - a few clicks to keep it going and up to date. That's what we are looking for at the moment. If you have any suggestions, we are open to hearing your thoughts.

As part of our work to improve our electronic communication with you, our members and supporters, we have moved to a new email sending platform called Cyberimpact. This is a Canadian provider that follows Canadian anti-spam laws and stores all of our information on Canadian servers. We want to make sure that we protect the personal information that you share with us.

We have heard your concerns about our current electronic communications and we ask that you bear with us as we address the issue. Always a challenge when we are all volunteers.

Take care, Suzanne Trivers  
[suzannetrivers@gmail.com](mailto:suzannetrivers@gmail.com)

## Missed an ECT Newsletter?

Contact me [jwheelerb@cogeco.ca](mailto:jwheelerb@cogeco.ca) or Suzanne [suzannetrivers@gmail.com](mailto:suzannetrivers@gmail.com).  
You can also check our website [eloracommunitytheatre.com](http://eloracommunitytheatre.com) to access any past newsletters.





The Elora Community Theatre is pleased to announce that it will be co-hosting the Spring Rain Saturday May 4, 2019 park portion of the Spring Rain Weekend - in Belwood, Ontario.

Spring Rain Weekend is a weekend celebration of all things Irish. 2019 will be its 5th year! And it draws a 500+ person audience from such far flung places as Sudbury to Ottawa, to Montreal, to Kingstons, to Windsor and Sarnia and Niagara Falls and even further from Springfield Ill, Dayton Ohio, Rochester Michigan and Buffalo, New York. And of course also from places nearby i.e. Fergus, Elora, Belwood, Orangeville, KW, Hamilton, Barrie, etc.

We are looking for someone who would be interested - on behalf of the Elora Community Theatre group - to select, audition, rehearse, direct and run a short one act play to be performed 3 times throughout the day in the park in Belwood on Sat May 5th, 2019 (ie 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 2 pm - or some such times as this). Pass the hat / busking style of revenue collection.

Only mandate for the play is that it has to be written by someone who is Irish, or be about an Irish or Irish-Canadian theme.

Deb Stanson has some production suggestions for the potential director to consider .. but ultimately the decision of the play selection and the direction is the responsibility of the director - whomever that will be.

If you would be interested - please contact Deb Stanson

([debstanson@gmail.com](mailto:debstanson@gmail.com)) and/or Marilyn Abraham ([mmhjir@hotmail.com](mailto:mmhjir@hotmail.com))



**6th annual Shakespeare in the Park!**

Merchant of Venice directed by Deb Stanson and David Tanner (performances in July)  
Romeo and Juliet directed by Sammy Beynon (performances in August)



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AUDITIONS FOR **CHICAGO...** CONTACT DEVA NEELY AT  
[risingstarperformanceacademy@gmail.com](mailto:risingstarperformanceacademy@gmail.com)

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ELMIRA THEATRE COMPANY presents The Ladies Foursome April 26-May 11,  
Call 1-800-265-8977 [www.elmiratheatre.com](http://www.elmiratheatre.com)

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GUELPH LITTLETHEATRE presents Romeo and Juliet April 4-14, Call 519- 821-0  
270 [www.guelphlittletheatre.com](http://www.guelphlittletheatre.com)

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**ELORA ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS:**

1. Sunday, March 24th 2 p.m. Elora Library Art Talk- Phil Dietrich 'Putting Art in Its Place'

2. Sunday, March 31st 2 p.m. Wellington County Museum- Venturi Winds: A Teddy Bears' Picnic - Bring the Kids!

3. Thursday, April 11th 7 - 9 p.m. Elora Arts Council Open House at Highland Rugby Club, Fergus

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PUPPETS ELORA opening of A Peak Behind the Curtain at the Wellington County Museum & Archives. Jan 19, 2 pm. Exhibition continues to March 31st

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CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY PLAYERS present: **PRIDE AND PREJUDICE** by Jane Austin Directed by Deb Stanson Set in England during the approximate time of the early 1800s, five daughters of the Bennet family must be married off! Was ever a mother as put upon as Mrs. Bennet?

Jane falls deeply in love with the wealthy Mr. Bingley, and it looks as if a romance is possible between Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy. But Mr. Darcy is a very proud young man and he is shocked by mama's vulgar matchmaking! He not only leaves for London, but also manages to take Mr. Bingley with him. Jane is heartbroken. Finally, Mr. Darcy returns to propose to Elizabeth. She promptly refuses and berates him for taking Mr. Bingley away and hurting Jane. The attraction between Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy eventually triumphs over the pride of one and the prejudice of the other. **CAMBRIDGE ARTS THEATRE March 29, 30, April 5, 6, 7 (Matinee) 12, and 13, 2019 evening Shows: 8pm Matinee:2pm Tickets online [www.cambridgecommunityplayers.com](http://www.cambridgecommunityplayers.com)**

**Note: Several of ECT's members are involved in this production!**

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**Call for Actors and Members of the Creative Team, and Production Crew for Waterloo Production of Shaw's *Pygmalion***

Since 2012, a fluid group of individuals have staged annually at Christ Lutheran Church, Waterloo, morally challenging plays that deal with aspects of social justice. Previous shows were *Antigone* by Sophocles, *Merry Wives of Windsor* by Shakespeare, *Don Juan in Hell* by G. B. Shaw, *An Enemy of the People* by Ibsen, an adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* by Dickens, and in 2018 a double-bill of *The Trojan Women* by Euripides and *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes. The next production is the original version of Shaw's comedy *Pygmalion*. The performance dates are 21-23 November 2019. Thus far, Richard Walsh of Waterloo adapts and directs the plays and sometimes acts in them. He is a retired professor of psychology at Laurier and former political candidate. In previous decades he acted in local community theatre and in local university productions. He also has directed two shows each for Kitchener-Waterloo Little Theatre, Laurier, and Elora Community Theatre. Richard stresses psychological character-development, text-interpretation, language, and strong ensemble acting, and employs the entire performance-space, which facilitates close proximity to the audience. **Synopsis of *Pygmalion*:** Written during an era when the cracks in British imperialism, the class system, and patriarchal domination began to expand, Shaw's 1912 play exposes the exploitive professional relationship between two wealthy, older bachelors and a poor young woman in London. Henry Higgins and Colonel Pickering, linguists flush with scientific zeal, subject Eliza Doolittle, a street-vendor of flowers, to an intense and sometimes abusive tutorial in "the King's English" and decorum. But just as *Pygmalion* in the Greek myth did, Henry falls in love with the object of his creation. Nevertheless, Eliza finds her inner strengths, rebels against Henry's manipulations, and abandons the "gentlemen's" experiment. However, irritated by Shaw's unhappy ending for the patriarchy, contemporary actors and audiences insisted on Henry and Eliza becoming romantic partners. Eventually, Shaw capitulated and later versions of the play inspired the sentimentalized musical and film "My Fair Lady." But our production of *Pygmalion* follows the original plot, retaining the comedy's incisive, and still very apt, social critique. On the other hand, the playwright's legendary verbosity has been somewhat diminished. **Auditions** will occur on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm and on April 27<sup>th</sup> @ 2 pm by appointment only. For more information and an appointment, email [rwalsh@wlu.ca](mailto:rwalsh@wlu.ca) or text him 519-897-3630. Rehearsals occur on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons, beginning Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm. Flexible rehearsal commitments are possible, depending on the role assigned. Again, the performance dates are 21-23 November. **Location:** Christ Church Waterloo, 445 Anndale Rd., corner of Davenport & Lexington Rd. The primary entrance is off the parking lot at the northwest corner of the church. Auditions, rehearsals, and performances occur in the open-concept sanctuary, straight ahead. (N.B. This is a progressive congregation where the pastor and church council support our productions.)

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

Julie Wheeler Bryant

[jwheelerb@cogeco.ca](mailto:jwheelerb@cogeco.ca)





*Welcome to the first day of spring (apparently)! Enjoy!  
"Talk" to you in April! Julie*

*Thanks, as always, to Adrian and Laura Baker, who make sure you receive this newsletter, whether it be spring, summer, fall or winter and who faithfully get it posted on our ECT website every month. Because of this, you can always check back and see former ECT Newsletters.*





