

ECT

MAY 2020
NEWSLETTER

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ECT Board of Directors Announcement!

The Elora Community Theatre playhouse and its *kit and kaboodle* are on the move! At an emergency board meeting of the Elora Community Theatre Executive, it was determined that in the best interest of our organization and membership that a tough decision needed to be made in regards to our financial situation and to prepare for the rough waters still to come.

President Deb Stanson reported to the Board of Directors, although we are currently in a plus situation financially, the COVID-19 Pandemic has played a *sinister* role over the past few months depleting dollars for rent and overhead with no opportunity to recoup expenses. Stanson stated, with no current production or opportunities in the near future to present live theatre; it is best that we look to find shelter elsewhere at hopefully little to no cost. Our organization will be able to maintain a frugal budget and keep our footlights on providing quality readings, virtual performances etc., but some large expenditures must be eliminated. With no need for a rehearsal space at this time, we can minimize our insurance premiums and focus on just storage space for the interim.

ECT is looking for an approximately 2000 square foot storage space for wardrobe, props and chattels available within the next month. The move from our current location in West Montrose is scheduled for early July. The Elora Community Theatre does have charitable status so if anyone has space available, rent can be offered as a tax write off.

If anyone knows of such a location or has a lead on potential space for consideration, please contact Deb Stanson directly at debstanson@gmail.com.

Deb closed the meeting, but reflecting, we are best to have this discussion and act swiftly now. Like so many arts and cultural organizations, this has been a challenging time for all, but we will prevail, we always do!



ECT's Virtual Playhouse – Premiere Performance

Elora Community Theatre presented its very first online play reading last month; Tennessee Williams's "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof". It was hosted by moderator David Tanner and director Anthony Deciantis via Zoom, with 17 talented actors reading for the various roles. The show was also broadcasted to YouTube for everyone's enjoyment with 8 people watching live and over 90 views accumulated over the past couple weeks. This read-through was a "first run", with majority of the actors having never read the script before. It was a wonderful way to show the audience how an acting company gets a show of the ground and how scenes and characters are developed.

As this was our first online reading there were a few kinks and technical difficulties which we are striving to improve for next live stream. Many thanks to everyone behind the screen and on it who helped make this terrific read-through happen. If you missed the reading but want to check out the wonderful southern accents, visit our YouTube channel to watch a recording. **Don't forget to tune in the first Sunday of every month to watch more great performances of our upcoming shows.**

ECT's Virtual Playhouse – Up Next

ECT's Virtual Playhouse is happy to present the play reading of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* next Sunday June 7th!

JUNE 7, 2020 - 7:30PM

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

By: William Shakespeare

Director's: Deb Stanson & David Tanner

For more information email:
debstanson@gmail.com or
dtanner@sentex.net



Tune in to our YouTube channel at 7:30PM to watch the live stream of Shakespeare's most beloved comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It is a fantasy like no other, filled with love, jealousy, and marriage. Use the link below to see how the magical drama of the four bewitched lovers unfold.

ECT's Virtual Playhouse YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoPFZ2sijAEbwS9SIZuY3xw?app=desktop>

ECT's Virtual Playhouse – Upcoming Events

Looking for Actors for Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre!

Directors Deb Stanson & David Tanner are currently casting this classic drama.

Please email either director if interested in reading a part at debstandon@gmail.com or dtanner@sentex.net. Remember, that being selected for the play read does not guarantee you a part in the stage production.



JULY 5, 2020 - 7:30PM

JANE EYRE

By: Charlotte Bronte
Adapted By: Thomas Hoschak

Director's: Deb Stanson & David Tanner

For more information email:
debstanson@gmail.com or
dtanner@sentex.net

AUGUST 2, 2020 - 7:30PM

2 ONE ACT SHOWS!

WHO AM I THIS TIME

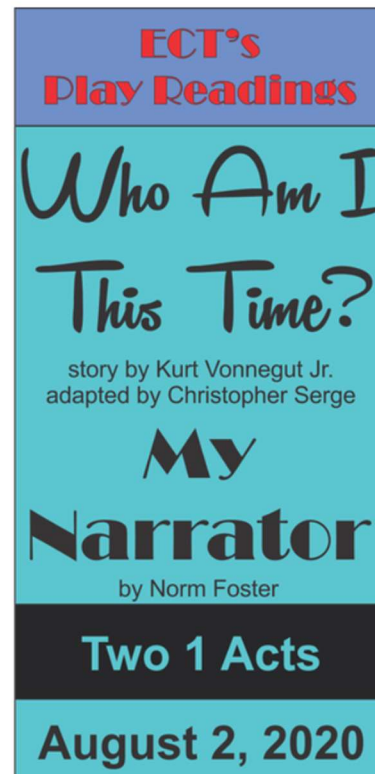
Based on the Story By: Kurt Vonnegut Jr.
Adapted By: Christopher Sergel
Director: John Dibben

For more information email:
john.dibben2525@gmail.com

MY NARRATOR

By: Norm Foster
Director: Jayne Simpson

For more information email:
jayne.youjustneverknow.simpson@gmail.com



Lis Pieper Memorial Award – Paul & Judy Faires

ECT would like to take some time to re-recognize and remember past winners of the Lis Pieper Memoria Award. This exemplary award was set up to honour those who have made outstanding contributions to local theatre in Centre Wellington and have exhibited Pieper's dedication to community theatre. Since their arrival in our town a little over 25 years ago, 2016 award winners Paul and Judy Faires, have become integral moving parts in the machinery of our local theatre community.

Their first involvement began in 1996 with the Not So Grand Players and that relationship still exists to this day. While Paul was most noticeable strutting his stuff on stage, he also produced many of the NSGP plays as well as constructing and assembling sets and making outlandish props, much to the audiences' delight. Judy could be found



upstairs in the booth, manning light and sound as well as stage managing most of the productions. She created many costumes, some glamorous, some humorous, and became an expert at dyeing fabric for use and re-use. Their contribution to the success of more than 20 NSGP plays is enormous and Judy remains as treasurer of the group today.

In 2003, Paul became co-founder with Guy Haskell, of On The Spot Productions, a group specializing initially in murder mysteries and then in stage plays. Paul produced and acted, while Judy stage-managed and continued making costumes. It was this group that provided the theatre with the moving spotlight.

Lis Pieper Memorial Award – Paul & Judy Faires

Back in 1996, Judy became a paid employee of the Theatre on the Grand, working in the box office. These were difficult years for the theatre financially and Judy was told that she could no longer be paid for her services. In true Judy spirit, she said, "If I can't be paid, then I'll do the job as a volunteer." This began an undying commitment by these two people to maintaining the life and integrity of the Fergus Theatre. Over the years, they have painted changerooms and the stage floor (many times), replaced spongy floors, done general spring cleaning, washed and helped place stage lights and assisted in the facelift of the lobby. Judy still works in the box office and serves on occasion as House Manager as well as assisting the theatre administrator.



Both Paul and Judy are members of the Fergus Grand Theatre Volunteers, Judy as secretary, Paul as treasurer. They both organize and keep the concession stocked with supplies and they contribute to the snacks and refreshments for the variety of lobby meetings and gatherings that take place at the theatre. They also

decorate the lobby at special times such as Halloween and Christmas. These two spend so much time at the theatre that I wonder if they have sleeping bags and pillows stashed somewhere on the premises!

I don't know of many people who have worked so tirelessly in the background for so many years and have racked up hundreds of volunteer hours for the good of local theatre as Paul and Judy Faires.

Submitted by Terry Wilson

Monologue of the Month

This month's monologue comes from the classic play *Don Juan* by Molière. It's a comedic speech by the remorseless lothario who ravishes just about every woman who crosses his path.

Don Juan (Male – Adult)

What! Would you have a man tie himself up to the first woman that captures his fancy, renounce the world for her, and never again look at anyone else? That is a fine idea, I must say, to make a virtue of faithfulness, to bury oneself for good and all in one single passion and remain blind ever after to all other beauties that might catch one's eye!

No! Let fools make a virtue of constancy! All beautiful women have a right to our love, and the accident of being the first comer shouldn't rob others of a fair share in our hearts. As for me, beauty delights me wherever I find it and I freely surrender myself to its charms. No matter how far I'm committed – the fact that I am in love with one person shall never make me unjust to the others. I keep an eye for the merits of all of them and render each one the homage, pay each one the tribute that nature enjoins.

Come what may, I cannot refuse love to what I find lovable, and so, when a beautiful face is asking for love, if I had ten thousand hearts I would freely bestow every one of them. After all, there is something inexpressibly charming in falling in love and, surely, the whole pleasure lies in the fact that love isn't lasting. How delightful, how entrancing it is to lay liege with a hundred attentions to a young woman's heart; to see, day by day, how one makes slight advances; to pit one's exaltation, one's sighs and one's tears, against the modest reluctance of a heart unwilling to yield; to surmount, step by step, all the little barriers by which she resists; to overcome her proud scruples and bring her at last to consent.

But once one succeeds, what else remains? What more can one wish for? All that delights one in passion is over and one can only sink into a tame and slumbrous affection – until a new love comes along to awaken desire and offer the charm of new conquests. There is no pleasure to compare with the conquest of beauty, and my ambition is that of all the great conquerors who could never find it in them to set bounds to their ambitions, but must go on for ever from conquest to conquest. Nothing can restrain my impetuous desires. I feel it is in me to love the whole world, and like Alexander still wish for new worlds to conquer.

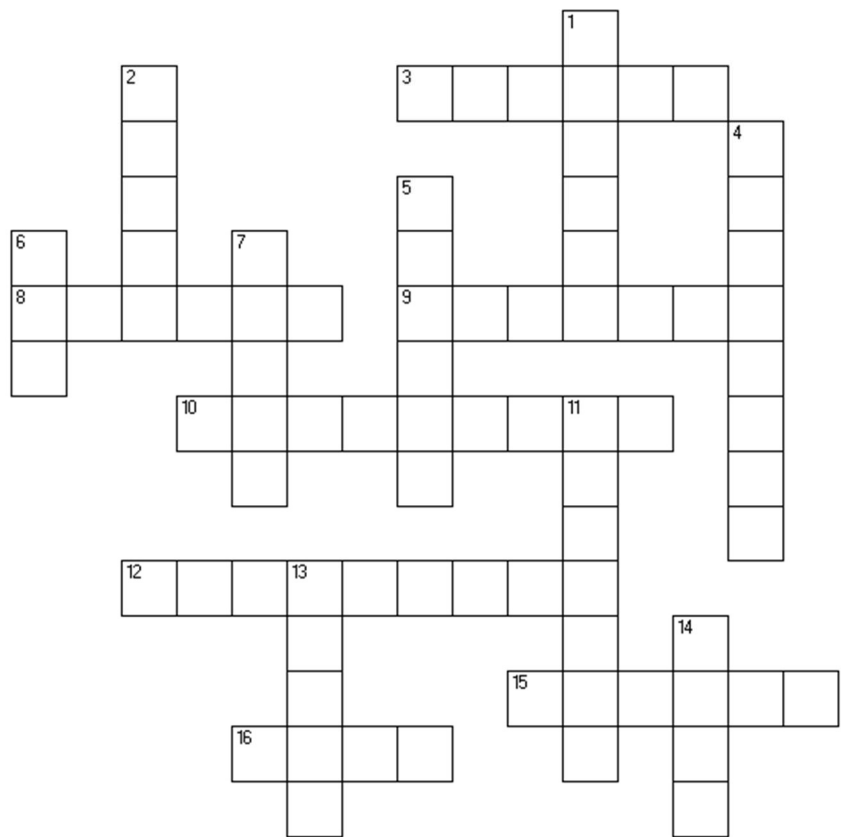
ECT Puzzle Pages

Here are some more fun puzzles to help keep you entertained at during this quarantine! With the **reading of A Midsummer Night's Dream happening on Sunday June 7th at 7:30 PM**, why not reacquaint yourself with the different characters in the beloved comedy by completing our crossword puzzle.

A Midsummer Night's Dream Crossword

Down:

- 1 - She's in love with Lysander and they plan to escape to Athens together
- 2 - He has been chosen to play Thisbe in the play for Theseus's wedding celebration
- 4 - A young noble man of Athens in love with Hermia
- 5 - He plays the Pyramus
- 6 - The tinker chosen to play Pyramus's father in the play
- 7 - The tailor chosen to play Thisbe's mother in the play
- 11 - The duke of Athens
- 13 - Father of Hermia
- 14 - The joiner chosen to play the lion in the craftsmen's play



Across:

- 3 – A young woman of Athens who is in love with Demetrius
- 8 – The king of the fairies
- 9 – The queen of the fairies
- 10 – She is going to marry Theseus
- 12 – A young noble man who used to be in love with Helena, before falling for Hermia
- 15 - A carpenter and the nominal leader of the craftsmen's attempt to put on a play
- 16 - A mischievous fairy who enjoys playing pranks on mortals

ECT Puzzle Pages

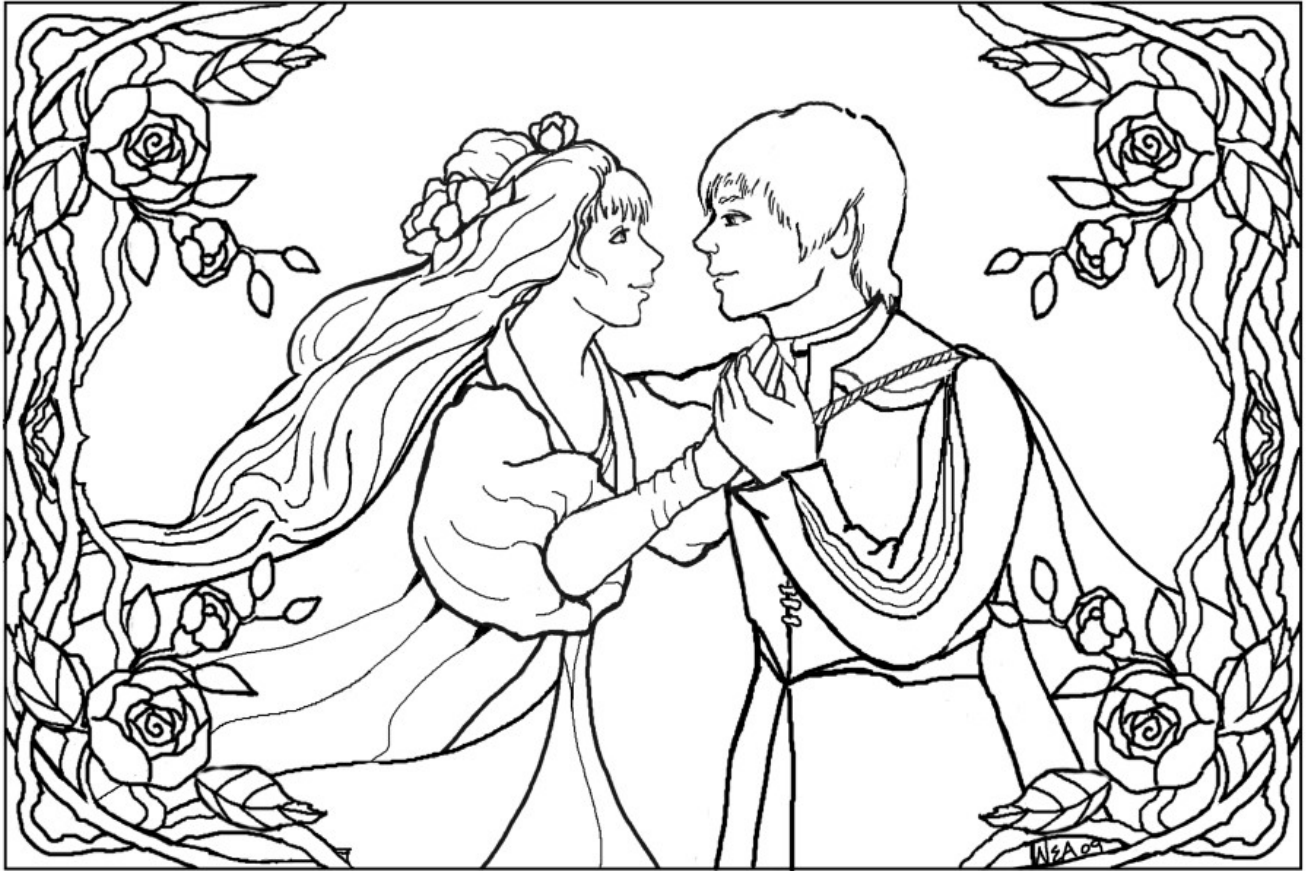
Bottom is a fun character in *A Mid-Summer Nights Dream* who provides comedic relief throughout the play. He is most famously known for getting his head transformed into that of a donkey by the elusive fairy Puck. There are many characters throughout Shakespeare's work that provide the same important comedic role, such as Polonius in *Hamlet* and the Porter in *Macbeth*. They are there to not only dispel the tension, but to heighten the feelings that the audience gets in response to the important, critical, and/or tragic scenes of the play.

Can you spot the five differences in Bottom below?

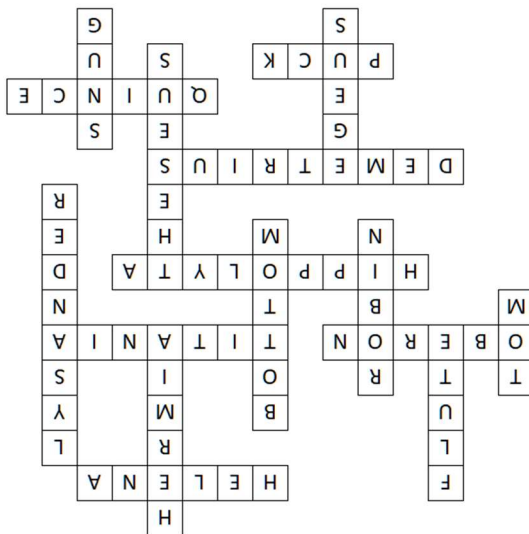


COLOR ME!

www.PheeMcFaddell.com



There, gentle Hermia, may I marry thee.



A Midsummer Night's Dream Crossword

