

MUDD PRINTS

www.mississippimudds.ca

The official newsletter of the Mississippi Mudds - February 2021

From the Desk of the President - *Jeff Lee*

Hello fellow Mudds, about now we would be celebrating a fantastic opening weekend of a youth play but it will have to wait until next year when we should be back in full swing.

We have come to the decision to officially cancel Mamma Mia as we had planned it. We have asked Tickets Please to offer refunds or accept revenue as donations. We still plan to put on Mamma Mia when we're able however after several attempts to plan a timeline we have found it impossible. Also we've learned that Tickets Please will not be continuing business after the pandemic. Ann Hawthorne has done an excellent job with our ticketing needs for about 3 years and she provided us with some resources that will help with our ticketing in the future.

Stephanie Stephens has been running weekly on-line classes for youth for several weeks now and it's a big hit with the kids.

The board continues to meet regularly and discuss options for virtual entertainment. Keep warm Mudds, Spring is just around the corner.

Youth Online Theatre Club Update - *Stephanie Stephens*

Wednesday nights continue to be improv nights for over thirty Mudds Youth members! We've split into two groups, the first meeting at 6:30 and the second meeting at 7:30. A typical hour includes warm up games like 'Topic Tag' or 'The Alphabet Game', and then we work on improv exercises, such as 'Yes And' and 'Word Smuggling'. In the early group, we have played with tongue twisters and body percussion, and have been introduced to improv. The young actors in both groups have demonstrated

quick-thinking and creativity as they come up with hilarious scenarios and play off of one another's ideas.

"Topic Tag" - The actors are given a topic and they have to name three things as quickly as they can, and then they call on the next person to name three things in the same topic without repeating. They do start to get sillier and sillier as we go.

"The Alphabet Game" - the actors create a dialogue within a scene and they have to begin every sentence with the next letter in the alphabet.

"Yes, And" - to practice accepting the ideas of others, the actors must agree to whatever scenario presented and then build on it. If one player says, let's go to the store! The next must agree (say yes) and then build on it (and while we are there we can buy some shoes). The scenarios get pretty ridiculous!

"Word Smuggling" - each actor is given three words that they have to try and work into their scene. Sometimes it can be easy and other times it takes a lot of creative problem solving -all while staying in character and continuing the scene! These are just some of the many games we've played, and there are many more planned for our final three weeks of this session!

Reminder - Go Fund Me

Thus far the campaign is at \$2605 toward our \$5000 goal. The campaign page can be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/mississippi-mudds-of-carleton-place>



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 March 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 #10 February 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 **Judith Scott**. Her artistry is well-respected in the Carleton Place and surrounding area's theatre scene. Judith and her costume partners masterfully construct and assemble costumes that breathe life into our characters on stage – from artistically imagined Disney creatures to authentic historical clothing... Costumes so great they completely immerse an actor into his or her character and an audience into the fantasy world of the theatre.

Judith is also a wealth of knowledge about the Mudds, our traditions, and our history. It was Judith who inspired this feature for the Muddprints, as she shared how we used to, once upon a time, have a column in a local paper called 'Mudds in Your Eye' and pulled out clippings of some of the original ones. We are so lucky to have this amazing lady part of the Mudds. Interview questions are by Brady and Ivy MacKay.

1. How and when did you learn to make costumes so well?

Thanks for the kind compliment! Growing up in the 50s it was usual for people to make their own clothes. My Mum didn't like sewing herself so encouraged and supported me from my early teens to sew for myself. I learned some basic techniques by trial and error really. I credit my Mum though for giving me unlimited access to her antique Singer hand crank sewing machine, and the confidence to try new things.

A lot of credit for any skill I have with costumes must go to the generous and clever people I have worked with over the years. Thankyou Jennifer Miller, Shirley Dixon, Jane Lee, Sandy Richards, Christy Bindhardt, Louise Link, Jan Hopkins and my most recent partner Ann Price. We “costume team” members have been challenged by visionary directors to attempt extraordinary things. It is amazing how quickly you learn to make and make do.

2. What has been your favourite costume(s) that you've made?

Generally, I think of costumes not so much as individual pieces but more within the context of show and how the Director wants it to look. I was pleased with the costumes the team created for Mudds Youth production of Pirates of Penzance. It is good when you have a story or an era to summon a clear framework within which to build colour and style harmony. But that said I did enjoy making from scratch the 8 Edwardian era police officers and their Sergeant.



Anne of Green Gables was another favourite of mine for the overall look we achieved. That iconic “Anne” dress was another “make it from scratch”. challenge. I want to pay tribute to the huge contribution made by our talented and dedicated hair and makeup colleagues. Working with Stefan Kaleb Jenkins and Dalene Gallo over the last few years has been a joy. They helped create the look for two other individual favourites of mine ... the duo of William Moore and Edmund Morphy played by Patti and Jon Lockhart in CP200. The clothing for these 2 was already in our collection but the wrinkles, whiskers and hair added so much texture.

3. What costume/costume pieces/material do you wish we had in our storage?

I can't really think of anything in particular that I would want us to acquire on spec. It is always exciting to make something from scratch. But I also feel really good about thrift shopping, borrowing from other theatre groups, re-purposing, all in pursuit of the best look we can achieve. We are so lucky to have our dedicated storage space. We can keep our creations in a safe place, and accept donations on spec so that for each new show we have a place to begin.

4. When did you first get interested in the theatre?

I dabbled in theatre a little in my late teens. Actually, I met Tony when we both worked backstage on a production of The Shoemakers Holiday back in 1965. But my first love in terms of performance was always singing. That was my main reason for joining the Mudds. Unless you belonged to a church Mudds was the only game in town back in the 80s.

5. What was your first show with the Mudds?

I joined just as the Mudds was exploring starting up again in 1984 after a hiatus of a few years. They had applied for a Theatre Ontario grant to work with and under the mentorship of a professional group called The Tapestry Singers. But my first real show was their second Remembrance Day show around 1986. I hid with the chorus at the back of the stage. I have been involved since in some capacity in almost every show.

6. What is your favourite memory as a Mudd?

My favourite memories are all connected to the amazing people I have worked with over 35 years. I can't pick just one. Being a part of the Mudds has allowed me to explore so many creative avenues. Being a part of a group that is equally important to Tony has been a priceless gift.

7. What was the biggest 'the show must go on' moment you were part of?

Hmm. I guess we try to blot those moments from our memories. There was that time we nearly destroyed the red velvet curtains after I as ASM on stage left, accidentally set the stage riser in top of the curtain hem. The curtain got stuck and a horrifying ripping sound began. No head sets in those days for the SM in the balcony to alert the curtain puller. The sopranos and altos quickly spotted the problem and hopped off their riser. Not so much the basses and tenors! Those threadbare curtains were duct taped together for a few seasons till the new ones were installed.

8. What is your favourite play/musical of all time?

Well, if we are talking Mudds plays and musicals I have to pick Cinderella. The very first Mudds Panto, in 1989. Mudds Board sent Tony and me on a Directors workshop as we were complete novices. We picked wonderful music and had an enthusiastic team. Mudds embraced the silliness of it all; cross dressing, talking animals, magic and mayhem. And 25 years later they allowed us to reprise with yet another wonderful team. Our Directing swansong.

9. What Mudds traditions would you like to see continue forever?

Traditions can be calcifying. I like that we are not afraid to try new things. We evolve as times, membership and community needs change. I think we have one very important traditional core value of friendship and inclusion. I know it gets tested sometimes. Things don't always run smoothly. But it has seen us through some challenges over the years and I am hoping it is what will get us through this pandemic hiatus.

10. What piece of wisdom would you like to pass on to all the new Mudds members and the Mudds Youth?

Be proud of yourself. It takes courage to get involved with a performance group, no matter what part you play on stage or backstage. Whatever idea or ambition brought you to the Mudds keep yourself open to all the opportunities that come your way as a member. Then, like me, you may be lucky enough to find some life-long friends and colleagues with whom to share some amazing experiences.



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

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| Andy Simpson | Jan-25 |
| Patrick Kelly | Feb-26 |
| Emily Burns | Feb-28 |
| Noah Purdy | Mar-03 |
| Kathleen Fernandes | Mar-04 |
| Emma Andrigo | Mar-05 |
| Jessa Jones | Mar-06 |
| Paul Montsion | Mar-06 |
| Jenn Hughes | Mar-06 |
| Bella Rossetti | Mar-07 |
| Don Lee | Mar-09 |
| Justin Yanosik | Mar-11 |
| Holden Anderson | Mar-12 |
| David Vavasour | Mar-12 |
| Sydney Carson | Mar-14 |
| Tony Stuart | Mar-15 |
| Wendy Jewell | Mar-16 |
| Molly Cooney | Mar-17 |
| Emma Ritchie | Mar-17 |
| Mike McCormick | Mar-19 |
| Peter Brown | Mar-21 |
| Amelia Scott | Mar-21 |
| Liz Szucs | Mar-22 |

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

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