

MUDD PRINTS

www.mississippimudds.ca

The official newsletter of the Mississippi Mudds - January 2021



From the Desk of the President - Jeff Lee

Happy New Year fellow Mudds! So much has happened in the world since our last edition. Major changes south of the boarder have taken off a weight and introduced hope of better times ahead for everyone.

We are still pursuing government relief but have run into some red tape that we're sifting through. We have started a **Go Fund Me** campaign to ensure we have the financial resources to see us through to when we can perform and generate revenue again. Thus far the campaign is nearly 50% toward our \$5000 goal. The campaign page can be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/mississippi-mudds-of-carleton-place>

Huge thanks go out to Stephanie Stephens who quickly put together an on-line youth drama instruction class that premiered Wednesday (Jan. 20) night and was well received by the children and their parents. More classes are planned for the future and will also feature special guest instructors. Other ideas continue to be discussed so stay tuned for more exciting and unique offerings.

Thanks to Judith Scott who continues to manufacture and sell masks for the Mudds and the proceeds have been of great help in paying the bills.

Thanks again to Stephanie for funds brought in from the sale of Mudds apparel and a quick look on Facebook shows a number of members sporting their new clothes.

The resumption of activities still remains uncertain. We are at the mercy of the vaccine rollout and projections of when various stages will happen can vary from source to source.

The hope is that we can resume rehearsals in or shortly after September and hit the stage for Christmas season 2021, this should become clearer in the coming weeks and months.

Thank you to our membership and our community for generous donations, we wouldn't be able to survive without them. Again Happy New Year and we have high hopes for the year ahead.

Youth Online Theatre Club - Stephanie Stephens

On Wednesday, January 20th, the very first ever MUDDS Youth Online Theatre Club met via Zoom! This is a completely remote endeavour presented to the community by Stephanie Stephens (drama teacher for 20 years), Bobby Martin (Youth Volunteer), and Brady MacKay (Youth Volunteer). AND Laurel Tye, musical director extraordinaire, will be joining us and throwing a little musical sparkle to the occasional meeting!

We had so many kids register for the eight-week course that we've had to split it up into two different sessions! We played a bunch of fun drama games that had us laughing and acting and being silly.

Covid has been so difficult to deal with, and on top of everything else, it took away our choirs, our plays, our drama clubs, our bands, and our musical theatre – something that hit our theatre-kids because they look forward to the Mudds Jr productions every year. But the MUDDS Youth Online Theatre Club is a great way to learn about drama, mime, scene-building, and musical theatre, even if we have to do it online from our living

rooms! Plus the kids get to be social, something incredibly important for mental wellness. It's great to make new friends right in the middle of a pandemic!

The kids that attended the first club meeting on Wednesday night put forth their best effort and best smiles and did an amazing job.

Since we have split the group up into two, there are a few spots left if you know someone who would like to join for the duration of this session. (We are going to March 10th, the week before March Break.)

There is no charge for participating in the club. If you can, you may make a donation to the Mudds of any amount. A link to the Mudds's Paypal account is located on our website at: www.mississippimudds.ca

From the Treble Maker - Laurel Tye

Exercises to keep one's voice in good condition are necessary for budding young voices, and for more experienced voices. The clip here are a few good basic exercises from Dr. Roger Hale, which everyone can do alone or with one's bubble people.

The relaxation exercises at the beginning work for singing, acting, or for breaks from one's computer when working at home. The singing exercises in this clip may go a bit high for some of you so either drop the octave or rest until the next exercise.

I particularly like the manner in which Dr. Hale teaches proper vowel sounds telling his students to put their hands in certain positions on their faces. Very helpful. The final exercise the students sing in harmony is lovely which you will enjoy I'm sure.

This is the link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tnJW-8a26OA>

And of course there is always our favourite; lah bay dah may nee poh too lah bay dah may nee poh too lah.

Please exercise your voice every day if not with exercises, then with a favourite song and raise your voice!

As Dolores from Sister Act would say;

First rule of singin'
Get the rafters ringin'
Toss everything in
Dig down deep inside
When you've got a song worth hearin'
There's one thing to do
Just keep your fear from interferin'
And let that sucker burst through

Raise your voice!
Lift it up to heaven!
Raise your voice!
Come on, don't be shy!
If you feel it, why conceal it?
Let your soul rejoice!

Social Media - Stefan Kaleb

Huge thank you everyone who shares, likes and comments on the Mudds social media posts. By doing so it helps us reach a larger audience and see our fundraisers, clubs and general info become a success!

Make sure to follow:
Facebook - The Mississippi Mudds - Public Page
Instagram- @themississippimuddscp

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 February 20, I would love to hear from you. It doesn't have to be long, just of interest to Mudds members and fans.



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 **Meredith Millman**. Meredith is the director of Mama Mia! – the show that sold out in under three days! She proved she was a master creative problem solver when the cast transitioned to online rehearsals last winter – a new and weird concept to us at the time! (Not anymore!) Although things are on pause right now, members of our community are holding on tight to their tickets and just waiting with bated breath for things to start opening up again so we can finally get to see Meredith's Mama Mia! The interview this month was done by Jack and Dot Lockhart.

1. How old were you when you started acting? Officially or unofficially?

Ha! I got involved in theatre during grade school and I was fortunate enough to attend Canterbury for my high school with a specialization in theatre arts. When I was a kid, the Mudds didn't have a group for youth. In fact, you had to be 18 or older to be a part of the group. That started to change when I was 15 or 16(?). The Mudds were putting on the production of Oh Susanna! and they needed some teenagers to be involved: Myself, Robin Carboni and Chris Cottrell.

2. What was your first show?

With the Mudds it was Oh Susanna! In grade school it was "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" - although that show never went to the stage. And you know what? I don't remember why the show was never put on stage.

3. What was your favourite show that you directed and/or acted in?

That is a hard one. I have been truly blessed with some of the productions I have been a part of. That I have acted in - Noises Off. That I have directed? That one is harder. My last production in New Brunswick - The Addams Family is one. For me, this one was about the partnership of the music, choreography, staging and the technical lighting design. Every show you direct takes a special place in your heart and mind. It takes that place because you see how being in a show proves to people they can do more than they think. You watch people of different talents come together to bring a story to life. And then you see your audiences.. watch them get transported, entertained and wow'd.

4. How long have you been in the Mudds?

Since I was 15. Let's leave it at that. LOL

5. Who is your favourite superhero? And why?

Wonder Woman. This may be a little bit of a history lesson for some - apologies. Comic books are often a reflection of what is going on in the society. It's no mistake that the X-men are people who are viewed differently by society - they were inspired by the Civil Rights movement. In the 1950s the comic book industry was the subject of a series of hearings by the US Senate. They thought that comic books were a threat to the values and emotional development of American youth. Women during WWII took many roles in the workforce that were traditionally held by men. When men returned from the war they asked to go back to traditional roles. So Wonder Woman changed. She opened a clothing store she abandoned her superpowers to live only as Diana Prince and get married, And then along came Gloria Steinem. She contacted DC comics, and asked them "What happened to Wonder Woman?" With the rising popularity of feminism, Steinem and Ms. magazine republished a collection of WW comics and she regained her superhero powers in 1973. And in 1974, we got the television series with Linda Carter. So why is she my favourite? She is a piece of history. She represents what brave women can do. That we all can make change and lead with the power of our example.

6. If there was a superhero in the Mudds who would it be? And why?

I don't think there is just one in the Mudds. Each of us has the power with our love of the arts to impact another. Laurel used to always tell a story before some of those double matinee performances when we were all tired and needing to find our energy for that second show.. you never know who is in the audience. You never know much of a difference this one show can make in someone else's day. That is the superpower of the Mudds. To our audiences and each other.

7. What's the thing you enjoy the most about the Mudds?

The friends I have made and the stories we tell together.

8. If you could play any character in any play who would it be?

Can I give more than one? I would love to play Miss Hannigan (Annie), Fagin (Oliver) Blanche Du Bois (Street Car named Desire) and well.. let's face it.. Wonder Woman



9. What inspired you to direct Mama Mia?

This one has been on my list for a while. I wanted to do a show that would push people, challenge them, and showcase the amazing talents that are in our community. Plus, it's freaking fun!

10. What was the best cast party that you've been to?

It involved about 6 people piling into a backseat of a tiny car. Let's just leave it there.

Bonus: How is Shawn doing?

Wonderful as always

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

Andy Simpson	Jan-25
Sarah Parent	Jan-25
Brianna Dever	Jan-25
Doris Ohlmann	Jan-26
Abi Potter	Jan-27
Shelley Sammon	Jan-28
Hayley Fortier	Jan-29
Ben Buttrum	Jan-29
Brian McManus	Feb-01
Tara Robinson	Feb-01
Rosita Kruz-Doyle	Feb-02
Joy Affleck	Feb-02
Adeline Bouvier	Feb-01
Connor Lyon	Feb-06
Kirra Martin	Feb-06
Mika Wilson	Feb-07
Julia Martin	Feb-08
Kaleb McCarty	Feb-09
Laura Bains	Feb-10
Levi Albert	Feb-12
Xander Sonnenburg	Feb-12
Izzy Hart	Feb-14
Robert Horne	Feb-15
Amber Humby	Feb-15
Natalya Lunan-George	Feb-16
Brooklyn Kentfield	Feb-17
Jessica Faris	Feb-17
Charlie Rickert	Feb-17
Mark Piper	Feb-19
Clifford Glas	Feb-19
Kris Riendeau	Feb-19
Reese Sonnenburg	Feb-22

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

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