

MUDDPRINTS

www.mississippimudds.ca

The official newsletter of the Mississippi Mudds - May 2020



Thinking of all of you - Stay safe.

From the Desk of the President - Jeff Lee

We remain in uncertain times and unfortunately cannot make plans going forward. We have contingency plans forming for the coming season based on the latest information. The board has decided to postpone the Annual General Meeting until such a time that we're able to have a gathering of that sort. Federal and Provincial laws call for us as a not-for-profit corporation to hold our AGM no later than 15 months after the previous meeting. We will keep you all posted as things become more certain.

The board has done a thorough review of the constitution and when we meet the changes we propose will be put to a vote.

Members of the board have joined with other local community theatre representatives to share ideas and discuss options for live performances in and around these times. The group tentatively called Dramatically Different was organized the Kris Riendeau of the Humm. The group had an initial meeting on May 7 and the next meeting is May 21. One of the more exciting things to come out was Perth Studio theatre took an existing cast and put on a radio show over Zoom for the board of directors and a small group of members. We will keep you up to date on developments in this group.

Mudds in the Time of COVID-10 - Karen Lapointe - Show Development Director

With the unknown looming over our heads for what seems like forever since we had to self-isolate, social-distance and not be able to

do the things we love to do in our spare time, Meredith and Shawn Millman utilizing Zoom, hosted a read-through of Unnecessary Farce by Paul Slade Smith. The play itself was extremely funny and even funnier were one or 2 of the actors, especially Ben Buttrum who did a fairly decent Scottish accent and gradually over the reading added more and more costume, starting with a red-haired wig and tartan beret until he was completely unrecognizable, kitted out completely in tartan with props and everything. From my husband Rej's perspective, all he could hear was me (I had head-phones on) making several questionable noises and trying to sound beguiling. He was on his computer on the opposite side to me and every now and then I would catch him slowly lifting his head and raising an eyebrow at me!

As the evening progressed the laughter and the fun of the play itself (and seeing/kinda meeting some members I have not yet been acquainted with), everyone was relaxed and having a blast. I know Meredith has at least one more script to read and I for one am hoping that someone decides to propose it as a show - Clue. There are other readings available; I have a couple that are home-written by a local gentleman, which deserve a reading; if for nothing else than a chance for some of us to do what we love best - act and socialise with our fellow Muddites.

There are other things we can do as a community theatre group and I'm currently researching some stuff that while we may not get to show our audiences, might help

us to stay connected and keep our passion for the theatre alight in a time where we can feel lonely, stressed and above all apart from the friends and family that is the Mississippi MUDDS.

I hope you all are starting to enjoy the warmer, longer days as we head towards summer and above all, stay safe and well my friends.

Laughter, cheers and tears... - *Meredith Millman*

Two cops. Three crooks. Eight doors. Go. In a cheap motel room, an embezzling mayor is supposed to meet with his female accountant, while in the room next-door, two undercover cops wait to catch the meeting on videotape. I mean what could possibly go wrong?

For those of you who have never attended a play-reading before, it's an opportunity to bring the words to life. To lift them off the page and see what a play -sounds- like versus when you read it in your head. Recently a group of play loving folks got together, virtually of course, to read "An Unnecessary Farce". We turned on our cameras, poured a beverage, and enjoyed a couple of comical hours together.

From Ben Buttrum's fabulous Scottish hitman to Patti Lockhart's fumbling newbie cop, we were all well entertained.

And we shall do it again! As reduced contact extends, plans will be put into place to read more together. If you'd like to join us feel free to send Meredith Millman a FB message or an email to meredith_link@hotmail.com. You don't need to read, you can come and listen and enjoy the free theatre.

Oh and if you are in the mood to watch a good farce, watch the fabulous cast of "A play that goes wrong" as they do their Royal Variety Performance from 2015.
<https://youtu.be/DOWO4gq-whg>

Mudds Trivia Answers - *Laurel Tye*

1. What was the title of the first Mudds show?
Letters from the Attic
2. Who is Mother Mudd?

Jan Ferguson

3. In what show(s) was (were) there a real animal?

Good News

4. In what venues have Mudds shows been performed, other than the town hall.

Legion, Grand Hotel, CP High School gym, Canoe Club, Civitan Club

5. Name a show where a cast member wore roller skates.

Nonsense

6. Name all the Mudds members who have played the Dame in Pantos.

Jim MacGregor - Robert Horne - Brian McManus - Laurie Dickson - Mark Piper

7. What was the title of the first Mudds Jr show?

Percival the Pig

8. Name three Mudds presidents.

Jeff Lee, Stu West, Catherine Hutton - Tony Scott - Meredith Millman - Robert Horne - John Minter

9. What award(s) have been given to the Mudds?

Awards - Best Producer (Anne Thompson) Set Design (Jeff Lee, Shawn Millman), Best Music (CP Parade)

- 10 Name one play the Mudds have performed.

Noises Off

11. Name one Murder Mystery the Mudds have performed.

Café Noir

12. Name three writers of original Mudds shows.

Jan Ferguson, Tony Scott, Mark Piper, Chris Jones, Marcel Farley, Jean Bright, James Peckett, Ginette Jones, Janice Sacks

13. Name the show performed by Mudds Underground.

Assassins

14. Who wore a clothes line as part of his/her costume?

Jim MacGregor as The Widow Twanky in Aladdin (the panto) written by Tony Scott

15. What was the name of the Cole Porter show?

Moonlight Over Manhattan

16. In what show were angels part of the cast?

Halfway to Heaven

17. Who played Walter Cronkite in The Ed Sullivan Show?

Bob Stacey

18. In what show was there a wand that bended on command.

Pinocchio (panto) The Blue Fairy's wand

19. Which Mudds show was the longest?

Romeo and Juliet

20. Who played the character of the Phantom?

Jim MacGregor

Intro to Our New Feature - Mudds In Your Eye - Judith Scott

In the mid to late 1980s we had a regular column in the Carleton Place Canadian and we used it to report on all things relating to the group, from workshops to shows. A subset of the column was what we called Mudds In Your Eye.

Each would start with something like the following intro... Here is another in the series which profiles members of the Mississippi Mudds, written especially for the readers of the Carleton Place Canadian.

I don't know how many we did over the years but I have quite a number in my box cut from the newspapers. Here is an excerpt from the one Sylvia Giles wrote on Louise Link.

Meet Louise Link, Manager of International Pension Plans for the Treasury Board in Ottawa. Louise had the distinction of playing long haired, long bearded Hairless Joe in last spring's production of L'il Abner, a performance she considers her silliest and warmest. Perhaps this observation best describes Louise – a woman who loves to have fun and exudes warmth and dedication to the Mudds.

The article describes how Louise inherited talent for and love of music from her father, a career army officer and part time conductor for the Ottawa Philharmonic. Sylvia wrote of Louise's academic background in Political Science as well as her musical background in piano and clarinet as a student and her involvement with church choir, as organist, singer and junior choir director. But mostly the article tells of the roles Louise had already

tackled and the time she had already dedicated to running the Mudds. Through Sylvia's article Louise put in a strong pitch for the Mudds: *A dedicated and hard working group that contributes to the growth of the community.*



Sad News

Audrey was a long time member of the Mississippi Mudds.

STATHAM, Audrey
(née Rego)

Passed away peacefully at New Orchard Lodge on Monday, April 20, 2020 at age 79. Survived by loving companion David Hillsdon and loving mother of Maria, Brian, and Robert. Grandmother of Leah, Josh, Molly, Chloé, Charlotte, Cameron and Zoe. Dear sister of Esmee, Camille, Pauline, Alex and Patrick. Predeceased by her daughter Lisa, parents William Rego and Angela Rego (née Dove), brothers Romeo and Ramon and sister Beverly. Audrey was a quiet, gentle woman who loved music, dancing and laughing. She was a member of the Mississippi Mudds and performed in several productions until illness forced her to stop. A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date.

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 June 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 #1 May, 2020 (written by **Stephanie Stephens**)



Here is the first in a series which profiles members of the Mississippi Mudds, written especially for the readers of the Muddprints!

The spotlight is on Amber Humbly, a Mudds Jr. At fourteen, Amber is a six-year veteran of the Mississippi Mudds. I remember the first time I saw her on the stage, in “Wizard of Oz”. Toto was teeny tiny and cute and cuddly – but then all of a sudden, she started to sing and it almost knocked us all out of our seats! She was so little, but she had the biggest voice! It left quite the impression on me. Here we are, six years later, and the same little girl that starred as Toto, just finished one of the most successful Mudds runs as Princess Anna in Disney’s Frozen jr, with six sold out shows and an entire community, much like Kristoff and Olaf, in helpless adoration of Amber Humbly.

What Mudds shows have you been a part of? What parts have you played?

I have participated in seven Mississippi Mudds shows since 2014. Some of my favourite roles I’ve gotten to play were: Flounder in The Little Mermaid, Toto in Wizard of Oz, and of course Anna in Frozen! 2.

Please tell me about your very first show – how old were you, when was it, what do you remember most? What inspired you to audition for that first show?

The first Mudds show I was a part of was ‘The Wizard of Oz’. The year was 2014; I was eight years old and very nervous to audition. I remember going home thinking I failed but ended up getting a call saying I was casted as Toto. One of the biggest memories I have of that show was Laurel Tye teaching me a lot about music and singing. I was in awe of her. I also remember how kind Kate Cooney was to me and her teaching me my way around the stage. She always knew how to make everyone smile. I also remember the great times I had with Molly Cooney and “the boys,” (Callum Leroy, Justin Beiglee and Matthew Abele.) I was inspired to audition after seeing Annie two years before- I couldn’t wait to audition after that.

What do you like to do outside of theatre?

Theatre is practically my life, haha. I Sing, dance, act, and repeat. However, I still like to play soccer in the summertime, spend time with friends and family, and love to read and write! I love going to school to learn new things and form strong relationships with my peers and teachers. Of course I spend time singing more than just theatre too- I love me some country tunes!

Recently you've started an online birthday greeting from Anna (Frozen) initiative for children in the community during this time of social distancing and cancelled birthday parties. Can you tell me more about that?

I've been doing online birthday greetings for any children who need a little magic in their lives right now. I came up with the idea after I was speaking to Olivia Scott (A.K.A Elsa,) about doing birthday parties earlier in the year. I realized that since the little ones couldn't have a princess in person- they could have the next best thing! I contacted the fabulous costume crew, (Judith Scott, Ann Price and Stefan Kaleb) and worked out getting the costume and wig. Ever since then I've been doing quite a few birthday greetings. They're usually about a minute long and feature a bit of the song "For the First Time in Forever!"

What is your dream role?

There are so many roles I would love to portray someday. My all-time favourite is Jenna Hunterson in the musical, 'Waitress', though! There is so much depth and warmth in Jenna's character and I love singing her songs. I was so lucky to have seen the tour cast in January- it was spectacular. I could go on about 'Waitress' all day long!

If you aren't onstage, what backstage or production role would we most likely see you be a part of?

Although, I'd love to give Mark and Jeff a hand with lights and tech- I'm a bit clumsy and probably can't be trusted with expensive equipment. I love working on the more artsy side of things! Dalene Gallo is a huge inspiration of mine and she has taught me so much about makeup over the years. I also love helping out with the sets, especially painting backgrounds. It would be awesome to be the dance captain some time too! This year, I've been taking contemporary jazz, hip hop, and technique classes and would love to choreograph some dances! Over quarantine I've been brushing up my skills on both makeup and painting. It's always great to see what it's like on both sides of the production. The amount of work everyone puts in behind the scenes is truly incredible.

Are you going to pursue a career in the theatre?

It would be a dream come true to pursue a career in theatre. A huge dream of mine is to be on Broadway someday- I have to one, haha! Maybe one day I'll now I'm still young, I am going more about the world before I

If you know a child who from Princess Anna, please through the email address:



keep on working hard for that take theatre in university but for to grow as a person and learn make that decision.

would like a birthday greeting contact Amber and her mom amberh7@icloud.com

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

Kayla Mills	Apr-24
Kali Latham	May-23
Justin Beiglee	May-24
Kate Osborne	May-25
Cathy Boynton	May-26
Kelly Young	May-28
Jessica Kinnari	May-28
Douglas Campbell	May-28
Bobby Martin	May-28
Kenny Martin	May-28
Daniel MacDonald	May-28
Lesley Moll	May-30
Katherine Dever	May-30
Kyle Booth	Jun-01
Frank Martens	Jun-02
Julia Harvie	Jun-02
Maleeka Thaker	Jun-02
Lise Corbett	Jun-04
Jacob Jones	Jun-04
Michele Eno	Jun-05
Elizabeth Brumm	Jun-06
Esme Purdy	Jun-08

Jack Lockhart	Jun-11
Sherrie Humby	Jun-11
Scott Lee	Jun-15
Meredith Millman	Jun-16
Abigail Terry Shaver	Jun-16
Perry Santry	Jun-17
Nora Ziai	Jun-17
Olivia Scott	Jun-17
Ronald Whyte	Jun-17
Aiden Letemplier	Jun-18
Pat Sargent	Jun-18
Wendy Giles	Jun-19
William Moore-Crispin	Jun-20
Kathy Cosham	Jun-20
Amy Bourne	Jun-21
Matthew Abele	Jun-21
Daisy Bright-McKee	Jun-22

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

The next issue of Muddprints will be published on June 22. The deadline for articles is June 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 (2020)

ALL DATES ARE CURRENTLY ON HOLD