

MUDD PRINTS

www.mississippimudds.ca

The official newsletter of the Mississippi Mudds - April/May 2021

Save the date: June 28 at 7pm - Annual General Meeting (it will be virtual) - more details to follow.

From the Desk of the President - Jeff Lee

Thank you to all who supported the Mudds on-line auction, this effort helped the Mudds to continue our tradition of granting a bursary to students of CPHS and Notre Dame High Schools who are pursuing continuing education in the performing arts. The trying times made it look like we might have to suspend this tradition as we've had no revenue. While planning a fund raiser to "keep the lights on" some board members stepped up with great ideas to transform that fund raiser into something to keep the bursaries alive. After much discussion the board decided on a virtual auction to support our youth. Stefan Kaleb took the lead on this extremely successful event and deserves a great deal of credit for a meticulously organized event that achieved its goal and more.

Stephanie Stephens is now in a second season of sessions to teach youth about theatre, The Mudds Club. This program has proven very successful with students and parents pleased with the opportunity and content.

We'll soon be electing a new board and all members will be contacted by the nomination committee to let you know that all positions are up for election. I will not be running as President and other board members will be able to let the nomination committee know their intentions to run. Louise Link has served as the Mudds book keeper for many years but wishes to retire from the position this year. Louise has served the board extremely well, she preferred not to be a board member and served in tandem with three other members of the board who held the title of treasurer over the years. We'll be seeking a nominee to take on the role of Treasurer with

the abilities to take on her mantle with a transition period that she has offered to be sure all financial data is properly conveyed.

The board has decided the AGM will be a virtual, on-line event this year. The AGM will be held on June 28th at 7PM. Details will be sent out soon about registering for the event.

We are still in contact with MTI, the rights broker for Mamma Mia. We still have the rights and we can still put it on. The board and production team will keep abreast of the situation and production will begin as circumstances allow.

Again, thank you all for your support during this time of massive uncertainty and the Mudds Magic will return!

Youth Online Theatre Club - Update - Stephanie Stephens

We are half-way through our second session of 'Mudds Clubbs', our youth online theatre group. Our 6:30 group is for the younger members, and our 7:30 group is for our older members. We continue to play various improv games, such as '3-Word Sentences' and 'Idioms', meanwhile the older group is working on producing a short one-act musical called: "Alice in Zoomland". Alice accidentally falls into her iPad and meets an assortment of crazy characters as she explores Zoomland and finds a way back home, although the evil Queenie puts her on trial for not sanitizing her hands before she enters Zoomland! It's a play written by Zillah Dimmock. Best of all,



though, the students get some time to hang out and have fun with like-minded kids their own age.

3-Word Sentences: The group offers the pair performing a scenario and they can only use sentences that have 3 words each in order to communicate. It's a fast-action, quick-thinking game that requires lots of problem solving! It gets pretty funny as sometimes we either end up talking like Yoda or cavemen! The point is to introduce the conflict, develop the scene, and then find a resolution, all in 3-word sentences! It's harder than you think!

Idioms: Performers are given a random idiom (a common saying that makes little sense by the actual words, such as "I see the light" or "It's raining cats and dogs"), and they have to quickly explain the backstory of how it came to be. It can be a solo improv or students can work together to develop a scene for the origin story!

"Boost Our Youth" Facebook Auction - Stefan Kaleb

WOW! THANK YOU everyone for making this a huge success. Your donations, purchases and contributions blew our initial fundraising goal off the stage.

With your help we raised \$2622.

With this success, this year's Bursary amounts will not have to be lowered due to the pandemic. 1 graduate from Carleton Place High School and 1 graduate from Notre Dame Catholic High School pursuing post-secondary in the performing arts field will now be one step closer to their dreams.

Show Development - Call to Action (The Show Must Go On...)

I need your help.....Scratch that.....The theatre..... nope. Scratch that too.

The Mississippi MUDDS needs your help.

The good news is that our city and province officials are turning their attention towards how we open up again. While our eyes must continue to be on the ball of stopping the spread of this piece of (*insert your own interpretive word here*) virus, it looks like we've made enough progress to at least start thinking about how we start our theatre productions once again.

Once again THANK YOU THANK YOU
THANK YOU for "BOOSTING OUR YOUTH!"

MUDDS X STATIC Jewelry Fundraiser - Stefan Kaleb

In late 2020 Static Salon held a jewelry fundraiser. Thanks to all the purchases our current total donated to the Mudds is \$290. Jewellery is still for sale online at www.staticsalon.ca and all proceeds from the sale of the jewellery go to the Mississippi Mudds.

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

So . . . what can we, as a community theatre do to bring our buzz back to Carleton Place? We have a few shows sitting on the sidelines waiting for the big thumbs up to start putting those shows back into audition mode and rehearsals; even if we have to start with distanced (on-line) modes of activity we can and will do this, but we are really short on shows and limited on producers, artistic and musical directors as well as musicians and those folk who make the magic happen behind the scenes, such as stage management, set design, set build, costumes, lighting, sound, make-up, hair, choreography, props etc.... Production teams are just as important as the shows – we can't have a show without a team and vice versa. *"And so with the light at the end of the tunnel approaching, start off on the right foot and select a story that is all prepared for you..."* **Alan Jay Lerner**

Ultimately, I would like to put together a list of people who are interested in producing, directing etc. which can be shared on line and with production teams for current and future use. Myself, along with Stefan, are going to organize some webinars for each of the positions we are so low on. These will be recorded for anyone who is unable to attend and a link will be shared upon request.

We would love to see your ideas come to fruition and as anyone who has ever directed or produced a show for the MUDDS will tell you, there is a great satisfaction in working with a well organized and informed team in preparation and execution. New people, such as directors, will have help and mentorship along the way and we have discovered that a team of 2 producers works really well and the hope is to find people wanting to explore these avenues knowing they have full support. So dust off your thinking caps grab your virtual whiteboard and scribble down ideas; here are a few to get you started:

1. Murder Mystery
2. Disney Jr.
3. Family friendly shows
4. One Act Plays
5. Youth Theatre (to fill the space where Shakespeare left off)
6. Home written plays/comedies/musicals
7. MUDDS Underground (for the more edgier/darker shows or shows that might be considered to have a more genre-specific audience)

Now you have a show in mind you would like – have you ever thought about producing or directing it? Do you know anyone who might be interested in doing so or in any of the production team positions who is not currently involved with the MUDDS? Then one or possibly a few of these webinars are going to be of interest to you.

How about our younger people? Are there any out there of around 15 and up who would like to explore another side to being involved in the theatre? These webinars are for you too! I could carry on with an abundance of quotes to rally and rouse us all like Princess Aurora from a sleep of pandemic proportions. While not 100 years, we have faced the curse and are looking out our proverbial windows as the rainbow of hope starts to appear; hesitantly at first, yet determined in nature to do what comes naturally and shine again...

"One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain."—**Bob Marley**

"A good director creates an environment, which gives the actor the encouragement to fly."—**Kevin Bacon.**

Look out for the webinars on our website, social media and emails.



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 Howard Sonnenburg. Howard is a musician for the Mississippi Mudds, including playing the bass for 'We Will Rock You'. That rockin' bass line at the start of 'Another One Bites the Dust'? This was the man behind it. We were so lucky that Xander and Reese brought with them their whole family when they joined the Mudds! Always approachable and fun to talk to, and super talented, Howard is sincerely an asset to our theatre group!

Interview questions by Bronwyn Rusk.

1. **What inspired you to start playing bass and where did you draw your inspiration from?**

I started out playing guitar, but there were a lot of guitar players around already. I moved into keyboards and bass because it seemed bands always needed those. My inspiration comes from a variety of musical styles - if it's got a good bass line, I like it!

2. **Who are some of your favourite musicians?**

So many, but The Beatles, Yes, Gowan, and Howard Jones were all big influences on me in my youth.

3. **How did you get involved with the Mississippi Mudds?**

My kids, Xander and Reese had been in "The Little Mermaid". During the summer BBQ, Kaz came up to me and said "I hear you're a musician, I need musicians for my production of 'We Will Rock You'" - that was my first show with the Mudds.

4. **What are some of your favourite songs to play?**

On Bass, "Another one Bites the Dust"(Queen), "Soak Up the Sun" (Sheryl Crow), and "Africa" (Toto), plus pretty much any Jazz standard. On keyboards, anything by Journey (yes, I CAN play "Don't Stop Believing), "No One is To Blame" (Howard Jones) and "New York State of Mind"(Billy Joel)

5. **What emotions do you feel while you play?**

If the show is going well, I feel joy, and happiness. If not, then unbridled panic

6. **Can you play any other instruments?**

I also play keyboards, as well as guitar. I played Trombone early in my teens and 20's but I haven't touched on in a long time.

7. **How long have you been playing for?**

I took my first guitar lessons at age 6 so music for over 45 years. Bass for about 25 or so.

8. **Do you have any pre-show rituals that you do and how long does it take you to prepare for a show?**

I like to have a few minutes before a show, just to sit quietly and prepare myself mentally. Other than that, I enjoy all the various rituals we have at the Mudds. "Load, Fire" is always fun. How long it takes me to prepare for a show depends on the show itself. For "We Will Rock You" I spent three or four months learning the songs. For "CP200+" I learned everything in a couple of weeks.



9. **Do you have any interests other than music?**

I'm also a filmmaker and video editor. And I like to fly fish.

10. **Do you have any goals you would like to achieve?**

Musically, I'd love to be able to play in a production of "Hamilton" or "The Greatest Showman".

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! :-)

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 (2021)

June 28 - 7:00pm - Annual General Meeting