

MUDD PRINTS

www.mississippimudds.ca

The official newsletter of the Mississippi Mudds - January 2022

The Mississippi Mudds Mission Statement: *To provide a safe, accepting and inclusive environment for all people to explore and participate in theatrical endeavours while providing quality entertainment within our community.*

From the Desk of the President - **Sandra Dunlop**

Your Board of Directors met last week and are still looking for ways to raise money. We have applied for two grants and there is another one we might be eligible for. At the same time we are looking for businesses and individuals to help us out. Please read the two articles that are included in this newsletter.

We are still hoping, beyond hope, that Mamma Mia is still an option for the spring, but it will depend on a lot of issues. The MUDDS Singers Youth Choir is supposed to start, with auditions on February 19. There will be a flash email to the youth if we are able to start. It will depend on whether the needed venues will be open. Proper protocol will be followed with masks and double vaccinations being the minimum requirements.

If you have any fund raising ideas we are here to listen. Once again, a couple of ideas are being looked into, but any additional input would be welcome.

At this time I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their dedication and hard work during these difficult times. Also, thanks to Judith Scott and Jan Ferguson for stepping up and helping us as well.

50th Anniversary Sponsors - We Are Looking for You - **Judith Scott**

Are you or do you know a business owner?
Please pass along this message for a fantastic

opportunity to be a part of our Golden Anniversary Year!

These past 2 years have been so very challenging for all of us, but now hope is rising that we can soon resume many of the joyful things that we had to put on hold. We can't wait to make our historic Town Hall auditorium ring once again with Music, Dance, and Drama on Stage.

With that in mind we wanted you to know that we have good things coming up. We are soon to celebrate our Golden anniversary. 50 years of bringing live theatre to this community. We have a solid season shaping up that we are confident will bring good ticket sales. Two block buster family shows are already chosen. Elf for Dec 2022 and Sound Of Music for April 2023. And a new Mudds Youth production for February 2023 is still to be chosen.

Becoming a sponsor would guarantee a spot for an advertisement in each show program during the upcoming Golden anniversary season. We know that our volunteers and our audiences will return keener than ever, guaranteeing program ads will be seen by many. In addition, in the hopes that we are able to proceed with shows this spring, we would then include promotions for your business at our Mamma Mia and MUDDS Youth Singers shows.

We have openings for all levels of sponsorship. All sponsors will be acknowledged on our lobby sign and on our website. These are the levels available.



Gold at \$500 gives you a full-page program ad and 4 complimentary tickets to be used during the 2022/23 season at your choice of show, as well as your logo on our show poster.

Silver at \$250 gives you a half page program ad and 2 Complimentary tickets to be used during the 2022/23 season at your choice of show.

Bronze at \$100 gives you a one third page program ad during 2022/23 season.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for our 50th anniversary season, please email: secretary@mississippimudds.ca.

Announcing GOLDEN Anniversary Logo Competition - Judith Scott

Planning for celebration of the Mudds GOLDEN anniversary season is underway. We need you to get busy. We want to engage the attention of the whole community.

How would you like to design a logo to help us celebrate?

We would love to have lots of entries from any age, from 8 years to 108 years, and any level of artistic or graphic skill.

A special Facebook and Website page will be set up to honour everyone's submission.

Build on the logo we already have or start from scratch! Don't be shy.

It will all be GOLDEN

Deadline for submission June 1st 2022.

Send your submissions to Judith.
gjudithscott@gmail.com

Would You Be a MUDDS Covid Angel? - Laurel Tye

We have been keenly aware of how the pandemic has affected our beloved Mudds. We long to be back in the Town Hall rehearsing, performing, socializing and enjoying the magical Spirit of the Mudds. While we wait for that time to return, we have had expenses without the influx of funds from putting on shows. We're doing everything we can to bridge the time between no shows, to the happy celebration of our 50th Anniversary. You can help. We are asking folk for donations of any amount to see us through. You can become a *Mudds Covid Angel* and have your name printed in our very next program and included in Muddprints. No donation is too small. Please help. You have our heartfelt thanks. Your donation can be sent by e-transfer for pcbear@rogers.com

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.



MUDD'S *in Your Eye*

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

This month the spotlight is on our Mother Mudd, Jan Ferguson. This wonderful woman changed lives. In 1972, when she created the Muds (yes, one d), she created something that would support people for years to come. She would give some a safe space. Give some something to cultivate creative output. Create friendships. Cure shyness. Teach skills. Give confidence. Show some they belong. Allow some to shine. Develop pride. Help some survive.

This upcoming season will mark the golden anniversary of the Mississippi Mudds.

Questions by Mudds Youth member, Bobby Martin.

- 1. What has it been like to see the Mississippi Mudds grow into what it's become today?**
Beyond my wildest imagination! The only thing I realized in those early days was that people gathering together to sing created a bond of friendship that was found nowhere else. There were no auditions then. If you had the courage to join up, we would find a place for you. No one was turned away.
- 2. If there was anything you could add to the Mudds, what would it be? Money is no object.**
Well, if money is no object, the sky's the limit! We would have a building of our own that would house costumes, sets, building space and rehearsal space. And I suppose the ultimate dream is for Carleton Place to have its own Theatre. My heart is in the Town Hall and that will never change. The ghosts of past members fill that space with life and love, but, as you are aware, our productions suffer from lack of space and the capacity for enhanced sets, lighting, special effects and backstage space. I am constantly amazed by the miracles created by our directors and set designers' imaginations!
- 3. What do you think is the biggest difference between the Mudds and other small town theatre companies?**
Our unfaltering caring for each other! 'Leave your ego at the door' is a slogan that I truly believe in. In our 'company', it's okay to have a task, position or part that is more necessary to the production than someone else's, but it is never okay to feel you are better or more entitled than any other member. You know the song; "Love, love will keep us together". That is us!



4. How long have you been acting/involved with theatre?
Well, those are two questions really. I think I've been acting most of my younger years, until I finally matured. (got old!) I was very shy, coming from a tiny village, feeling not pretty enough, not smart enough, not dressed nice enough, especially when I hit high school! I pretended a lot, to fool people into accepting me!

My first theatre involvement happened as a nursing student in a mental hospital when our class wanted to put on some entertainment for our patients. A fellow student and I wrote a series of skits, etc. and got everyone involved. Actually, I never gave myself a part! The next involvement was when I was living in Ottawa, working as an OR nurse and a friend got me to accompany her to an Orpheus audition. We both got accepted for the chorus! Talk about nerves! It was a beautiful period operetta based on the life and music of Edvard Grieg, called "Song of Norway". Talk about small town girl in the big city! That was in 1964.

And the next is history – creating the Mississippi Muds (it had only one 'd' in the beginning) in 1972.

5. What was your first show and what was your part?

The first show was 'Songs from the Attic', performed, I think, during Winter Carnival, 1973. It was kind of a vaudeville revue, just song after song, based on items hanging in the attic. I don't remember all the songs I did, but I do remember being Snow White for a couple of numbers.

6. What are your pre-show routines? Do you have any advice to get rid of the pre-show jitters?

Pre-show routines? Not sure, I was usually making sure that everything was ready for the show to start. I then just take a few big, slow breaths, close my eyes, and tell myself that the audience is going to be so happy to see me! (Meanwhile forgetting everything I'm supposed to say!) As for the pre-show jitters, if you concentrate on the mind of the character you are, you will forget about jittery 'you', keeping in mind that the audience will be thrilled to see and hear that 'character'!

7. Next season is our 50th anniversary, what would you like the HUGE Mudds membership know about the last fifty years?

All I want them to be aware of is how grateful the MUDDS and Carleton Place is that they played a role in creating such a wonderful legacy for our town .

8. To get the Mudds started, you probably had to do some bartering and juggling and finagling to get space and resources. Have any funny stories about this?

Interestingly enough, I don't remember anything being 'funny'. Weird maybe, scary maybe, but most people just kind of laughed at me. One timid moment was going into a garage where men sat around all day gossiping and trying to convince them to take a flyer and come out and sing! I reminded myself of some 'temperance' lady trying to convert the gents!

9. What was the funniest thing that ever happened to you or someone in a show you were in?

Oh, I could write a book on the 'funnies'! They usually involve me embarrassing myself! I think it was the third or maybe fourth show we had written called 'UP AND AWAY'. I was in a beautiful balloon, and I was to reach down and pull up this beautiful 'Easter bonnet' because the balloon was headed to the Easter Parade. Well, there was 'no' hat down there, and I spent the next couple minutes describing the beautiful hat that my husband (Al Barna) must have crushed or thrown away by mistake and how he was going to have to buy me another! (Improv at its best!) The prop folks forgot to put the hat in the balloon!

10. What would you like to see for the next 50 years of the Mudds?

SURVIVE ! We have been sorely tested many times over the last fifty years and survived and thrived! Just appreciate what we have accomplished, and nourish and maintain our roots and our 'family tree' will flourish for the next 50 years!

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! :-)

Cheri Swackhammer	Jan 24
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.
