

MUDD PRINTS

www.mississippimudds.ca

The official newsletter of the Mississippi Mudds - March 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**

Happy Spring everyone. It's nice to see some warmer temperatures and activities starting up.

Unfortunately our Youth Singers didn't pan out, basically due to lack of participation. Thanks to Laurel Tye for all her efforts in trying to make it happen. It certainly still is a possibility in the future.

The good news is the it is full steam ahead for our fall adult musical of Elf. Please see the article by Stephanie Stephens and note the audition date of **Saturday, June 18, 2022.**

Our 50th Anniversary team is working hard to set activities in place for the coming year. Thanks go to Judith Scott, Laurel Tye, Molly Cooney and Katie Irvine. There is an update in this issue.

Of note is that the Mississippi Mudds under the direction of Meredith Millman will be putting on a Murder Mystery in October. We have been asked by the CP Chamber of Commerce to put this on in conjunction with their fundraising efforts for the Carleton Place District & Memorial Hospital. The Chamber will take the lead for us on all the duties related to this event (venue, catering, publicity, etc.) More news on this coming out soon.

And last, thank you to all of you that have been working behind the scenes for the last two years. It really is appreciated.

Breaking 'The Sounds of Silence'

'Hi' to all of you out there ! Jan Ferguson here and I just want to share a few thoughts with you.

For two years now our stage has been empty, our voices have been silent and all of our talents turned to stone.

I say 'all', but, not quite.....there are 8 out of about 200 members.....'8 ' scratching their heads, chewing their nails, searching for answers and doing everything they can think ofto keep The Mississippi Mudds alive and afloat !

Your BOARD OF DIRECTORS ! Yea, that's who ! Think of the many tiny cogs in the back of a clock. They are responsible for making the hands of time move ever forward accurately. Nobody really thinks of what makes a clock tick any more than so many of our members don't really think just what makes The Mudds tick !

During the last 50 years of Board members, we faced many different and sometimes difficult challenges, but, never, never anything like this Board has had to handle ! (we weren't around for the last pandemic!)

But, here we are...a small, but, strong little light can be seen on the stage, a distant, but, lyrical hum can be heard in the air and plans for celebrating 50 years of Music, Dance and Drama on Stage are being created as we speak !



And this is all thanks to that small, but mighty group of 8 special people and their dedicated Committee members !

So, on behalf of all the Mudds members;

A HEARTFELT 'THANK YOU' AND A WELL DESERVED 'CONGRATULATIONS' TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS !

Xo Mother Mudd

50th Celebration Update - Judith Scott

Planning is underway for this coming summer as our 50th Season gets underway. Huge thanks to Kris and Rob Riendeau who are currently working on a sparkly version of our logo that will be featured during the year on all our handouts. We met with Jennifer Irwin, museum curator to discuss the exhibit she is putting place for the summer. It should be ready to go at the beginning of June. **Saturday June 4th** is the date for the Museum garden party to mark Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. We're working on having some fictional Royals attend. Jen Pfitzer will reprise her Queen of Hearts alongside Xander Sonnenberg, Madi Schaefer and Amber Humby as the Frozen Royal Family. All kinds of other community groups will be on hand for a fun afternoon. Plan to be there! We have reached out to the Farmers Market for the chance to have a Mudds presence there from time to time over the summer. More on that later. We will need a gang of volunteers willing to show up in costume or as themselves to represent Mudds at as many local events and festivals as we can. Willing to be part of the team?

If you know of any events or have ideas for opportunities to let the community know about the Mudds please contact

Laurel Tye sogr8fl@sympatico.ca

Judith Scott gjudithscott@gmail.com

Molly Cooney 15msrc@queensu.ca

Katie Irvine katieirvine76@gmail.com

Elf Auditions Announcement: Save the Date! - Stephanie Stephens, Co-producer

Elf: The Musical is officially in pre-production! Dates are being finalized, rights are being secured, and the team is being assembled. So mark **Saturday, June 18th** on your calendar - that is the day that we will be hosting auditions for our holiday season musical, the Broadway adaptation of the beloved Christmas movie!

Buddy the Elf finds out about his real dad and travels to find him. He ends up in New York City and shares his Christmas spirit with everyone he encounters. There are wonderful characters to bring to life on stage: Buddy, Jovie (his love interest), Buddy's brand new family (Walter, Emily, and Michael)... Plus, a delightful cast of supporting characters and a merry ensemble, which includes Santa and his elves!

Remember, the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear! Come and sing with us!!!

More information on how to register for auditions will be coming soon. Keep an eye on Muddprints and our social media for further updates!

Mudds Shows – We Want Your Proposals - Karen Lapointe, Show Development Officer

As you know, theatrical shows are the top function of our organization; whether it be a family show, full musical production, youth musical or play, murder mystery or an edgy, dark tale suitable for our Underground branch; whatever we decide to put on is a hit with our audiences who come from all over Ottawa, the Valley and beyond; they have missed us and we sure have missed performing for them since the lockdowns began in 2020.

We are heading into clearer, calmer waters as this year progresses, so now is the time we are looking for people who have an idea for a show. It does not matter if you do not want to direct it; all you need is a director

already on board. It does not matter if there is no singing in it and it does not matter if you do not know where to start – that's what I'm here for. What does matter is we have shows to put on for our audiences and we are overjoyed that we do have a few shows already lined up for our up-coming season, but we need more.

Proposals must, at a minimum, include both a director and a producer. Production teams for musicals should also include a music director. To ensure familiarity and compliance with the MUDDS' production processes, we require first time directors to engage an experienced mentor or engage a co-director.

We used to ask for proposals by May of each season; a few years back we changed the policy so that anyone considering a show can send their proposal to the show development officer at any time of the year.

If you are interested to delve deeper or have an idea, please reach out to me at kazli63@gmail.com and I will be more than happy to give you any help or answer any questions you might have – please put me to work – it's what I'm here for J

Your friendly local Show Development Officer

A Note from Our Treasurer - Roxanne Boer

Dear Friends of the Mississippi Mudds:

Thank you for your generous donations to the Mississippi Mudds over the years and certainly the last month!

It is donors like you that provide our community and area the opportunity to give our youth & adults experiences in a wide array of artistic disciplines.

Your generous sponsorship of the Mississippi Mudds will have a direct and positive impact on the future of the Mudds and ensure it survives these trying times.

As a new member to the Mudds' family and as treasurer, I must say I am overwhelmed with the support in the last few months when it seemed inevitable that funds would run out by spring. It does take a village in all areas of life to get through challenges and obstacles. We can do this together and truly cannot wait to sing and dance together again soon!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Proposals for a Youth Camp in 2023 - Cheri Swackhammer, Youth Liaison

As we move forward from Covid 19, we would like to offer more opportunities to build interest, talent and confidence in the youth in our community. The Mississippi MUDDS is looking for proposals to run youth summer camps to be held in the summer of 2023. Initially the proposal should include age range, staff required, length of camp, focus and skills to be developed, plus a proposed budget. For more information please contact Sandra Dunlop 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 April 20, I would love to hear from you. It doesn't have to be long, just of interest to Mudds members and fans.



MUDDDS *in Your Eye*

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

(Questions this month by Mudds member Joanne Samler)

This month the spotlight is on Chris Jones and Sylvia Giles. My introduction to this husband and wife team, long time members, was in my first show with the Mudds – "A MUDDsummer's Ice Cream" in 2005. I was met at the door by a very friendly woman, Sylvia, wearing a sweatshirt that said "LEAVE YOUR EGO AT THE DOOR", and that about summed up their attitude. Chris and Sylvia have done it all with the Mudds and continue to be supportive and involved in all aspects of productions. We are very lucky to have them as an integral part of the Mudds.



1. How did you meet?

Chris: It was a MUDDS thing. Mutual MUDDS friends (Jan Ferguson and Phil O'Grady) determined that the time was right for Chris and Sylvia to finally meet, so an introduction was 'arranged' on Bette LeMaistre's deck in the summer of 2000. The adventure continues.

Sylvia: Yup, through long time friend Jan (Mother MUDD) and Phil O'Grady. "Who is this guy Chris that you two are always talking about?" Was my question....the rest they say is history!!!

2. What made you join the Mudds and when was that?

Chris: Sylvia was actually a MUDDS member long before me. My story; my buddy Phil introduced me to his girl friend (Jan) at a dinner party and she invited me to a Christmas party at the house. I believe it was 1992. The house was packed, there were 2 pianos being played with everything from Broadway tunes to Christmas carols. An announcement was made for the tenors and basses to be downstairs and the sopranos and altos up stairs to rehearse 4 Carols. I was informed that I was a bass. After a brief rehearsal we all gathered in the living room and sang the carols in 4 part harmony. I was blown away! My first show was a little 'throw away' for Louises' alumni at J.Rs , called "Women on Top". I was hooked.

Sylvia: I joined the MUDDS way back in I believe 1978. My older Brother Stephen was a member for a couple of years and they need a few more younger people. Jan Ferguson and

Betty Hanham encouraged me to join. My first show was a home written show called Up And Away - a musical revue from Cities around the world. There was a hot air balloon just off Up stage right that had Jan Ferguson and another member Al Barna flying around the world. This was presented in the CPHS auditorium and those were the days when we would tour. We loaded up the sets, props, and lights and we went on the road for 8 or so weekends. It was great fun. Tiring but fun. When Chris and I met in 2000 we were living in Ottawa, Chris had been a member of the MUDDS for a few years and I re-joined in 2001.

3. **What was your favourite role or production position?**

Chris: I have had many challenging and satisfying roles in MUDDS productions. I think my favourite on stage role has been Mathew in "Anne of Green Gables". Very challenging and close to my heart and with a terrific cast and crew for support.

Sylvia: Like Chris I have had many challenging and satisfying roles, but my most challenging and dear to my heart was the role of Marta from the Canadian play, Waiting For The Parade. Marta was a German woman who had immigrated with her Father to Canada during WW2 and it was a story of her integrating into a small town and finding friendship with four Ladies who were doing their part for the war effort. Each woman had their layers to work through. I took Marta on in full German accent and it took me a couple of months to shed her character from my soul. A very rewarding experience with a wonderful cast and production team. Other roles that were fun and rewarding was Mrs. Lynde from Anne of Green Gables, not just for her character but I got to wear an awesome hat!! Sister Julia...Child of God in Nunsense. Was crazy fun, stuffing a turkey with popcorn on stage with the hilarious dialogue to go with it was super comedic!

4. **What was something embarrassing/funny that happened on stage?**

Chris: Most embarrassing, hmmm, there have been many but probably the most significant was early in my 'career' in the Panto Pinocchio. I was Mister Fire-eater, the puppet master, and was on stage solo early in the show. I entered amid lightning flashes and thunder, broke the 4th wall and introduced myself. I was magnificent, loud and somewhat scary. As I left the stage I realized that I had missed a whole paragraph of my monologue that was to initiate audience participation (critical in a Panto). I was devastated! Lesson learned. You have to stay focussed on your purpose and not get caught up in the theatrics.

Sylvia: There have been many funny little things that have happened over the years and terrifying things too...We were doing a Murder Mystery entitled Cafe Noir at the Curling Club and I was off stage waiting for my cue to enter, but...I was thinking oh I have lots of time here and was just sort of hanging out and then I could hear lines that weren't in the script and thought oh no the guys on stage are lost and then I suddenly realized they were ad-libbing waiting for me to enter...well I flew onto that stage like a bat of hell and delivered my line with such enthusiasm, heart pounding!!!! Lesson learned....be in the character, know the production inside out and pay attention. In Waiting For The Parade I was to eat a sandwich and deliver lines intermitantly...this was a challenge as the sandwich was so dry that it resulted in coughing uncontrollably...not my best moment, but it all worked out because of the amazing support that was on stage with me. Lesson learned, if eating on stage take small bites and ensure its not dry!!!!

5. **What show would you like to take part in, and what part would you like or which position on the production team and why?**

Chris: Coming out of this nightmare pandemic I would like to be any part of any production, although I find that there a fewer parts for which I could audition.

Sylvia: There is not one show or role in particular, but if there is a character in a particular show that is being presented that peaks my interest and or challenges me then I would audition for it.

6. Do you prefer being on the stage or behind the curtain, and why?

Chris and Sylvia: We do enjoy being on stage even though it can be very scary, we find it exhilarating and immensely rewarding.

7. Have you had the chance to play each other's love interest in a play?

Chris and Sylvia: We have had the opportunity to play each others' love interest on a few occasions in comedies and dinner theatre. My favourite was "Fox on the Fairway" which was a total hoot with a great cast, over the top and lots of laughs.

8. What is your favourite: Musical, Comedy (i.e., panto), Drama or Murder Mystery and why?

Chris: Too many favourites to mention, but the thing about the MUDDS has been the variety. Whether it's a choral production, a Panto, dinner theatre, farce or full blown Broadway , there is always something in every show that sticks with me.

Sylvia: Ditto for me, too many, but The Nonsense shows were terrifically fun. The plays and MM's are awesome too.

9. Who learns lines faster?

Chris: Definitely Sylvia learns lines faster, and better.

Sylvia: I don't think I learn them faster, we have different approaches. But it is helpful if we are both in the same production because learning the lines is a little easier and we can work on our characters together.

10. What would you tell younger members of the Mudds on how to succeed in the organization?

Chris and Sylvia: How to succeed in community theatre, hmmm. Throw caution to the wind and join early, do everything in theatre at least once, and do it with enthusiasm and commitment. Everything you learn in community theatre will serve you well for the rest of your life.

"Leave your ego,
Play the music,
Love the people."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY wishes go to members past and present who are celebrating their birthdays between March 23 and April 22.

Angela Rogers	Mar-23
Lydia Charron	Mar-23
Cait Morton	Mar-29
Jon Forbes	Mar-29
Tanner Flinn	Mar-29

Catherine Hutton	Mar-30
Madeleine Jordan	Mar-31
Chloe Maxwell	Apr-02
Helen Gillis	Apr-03
Annie Rickert	Apr-04
Bronwyn Rusk	Apr-06
Katie Irvine	Apr-09
Evelyn Jones	Apr-10
Emilea Kavanagh	Apr-12
Abby Cooke	Apr-12
Mahaila Scott	Apr-12
Sara Faris	Apr-16
Brittany Blair	Apr-17
Louise Link	Apr-19
Trish Smith	Apr-21

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

Calendar - 2022/2023

Saturday, June 4	Museum Garden Party
Saturday, June 18	Auditions for Elf

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