



# YODLER

Editor Sandra Tobin  
SEPTEMBER 2018

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thank you Peterborough Theatre Guild and Marilyn Robinson for hosting our September meeting! We welcomed our guest speaker Pat Maitland to our gathering. She gave us some great tips for marketing and promoting our theatres within our communities and on social media. Thank you Pat!

Thank you to our EODL executive for supporting the changes in agenda format for upcoming meetings. Brenda, Liz, Lorraine, Florence, Laurie and I communicated via e-mail off throughout the summer – not only on the new agenda format, but also on AGM reporting format and issues which arose with our One Act Festival waiting list. All responded quickly to issues and contributed helpful suggestions whenever asked.

***Now that Group Reports are presented at the beginning of the meeting, we hope to encourage groups to invite interested individual members to come and hear what's going on in Eastern Ontario. All non-voting members are welcome to stay for the entire meeting, but the "10 minute intermission" would allow them to leave if they so choose. Our survey indicated that some groups are having trouble encouraging new members and younger members to join their organization – funny that we are discussing a similar issue!***

Well, we are obviously doing something right – this is the first time in at least 3 years that we have had a WAITING LIST for our One Act Festival! It's unfortunate for the two groups who are waiting "in the wings", but it's gratifying to know that our members are keen to participate in our festivals! Next year, our Festival Liaison may need to re-institute the "Xpress post" approach to entries – especially when the deadline fast approaches.

(One of the groups on our wait list suggested that it would have been helpful to have Festival information readily available on our website. Although the invitation to enter is sent to each group representative, it's possible that the information doesn't get to the right people in a timely fashion. If entry forms were accessible on-line, perhaps it would alleviate disappointment. )

As you may know, one of the tasks of the President of EODL is to hire upcoming adjudicators. Theatre Ontario has a wonderful adjudicator training program. Individuals participate in a course, work with a mentor and then proceed to a "trial adjudication". The President's job is to attend these trial adjudications whenever possible. I attended two such trial adjudications last year and will attend four more this year! It provides EODL with a solid base from which to choose their adjudicators. We are pleased to already have

several adjudicators in place for upcoming festivals, and look forward to hiring for the future – hopefully from new and enthusiastic trainees! Check our website ([www.eodl.org](http://www.eodl.org)) for a biography of the adjudicators. A full list and schedule is included at the end of this issue.

\*\*\*

Further to the SURVEY conducted in June, I had an easy time creating this my 2nd EODL Survey on Survey Monkey – it was comprised of only ONE question: **“We are considering inviting a guest speaker to our September meeting and would like your input! Do you have a topic that your theatre group would like to have discussed? Please elaborate.”** Of 55 requests sent, we received 15 responses. That means 27% of our members took the time to respond. Nine group reps responded within the first few days while 6 others responded after I sent out a “reminder” a few weeks later! Here are some of the suggestions:

1. I think retaining subscribers is an ongoing problem for most groups. Has any group found a solution? Is there an expert on the subject? Or are subscribers a thing of the past.
2. How to attract younger men to the stage!
3. How to encourage members of our group to become Directors of a play.
4. Ideas how to get new members in our individual groups.
5. Insurance protection for members and the corporation.
6. Fundraising ideas.
7. Either how to best market your theatre or someone to speak to liability insurance for Board members. Both are items we wrestle with constantly.
8. We have a 5 play season. Each play has a separate team - very little interaction or make that No interaction between teams, except set moves . At the end of each show the cast and crew disperse. Very few stick around. The community theatre is held together by a skeleton crew. A real issue for us is this: Continuity- How do we

keep us together as a community theatre after each show closes.

9. Board Succession Planning - how to find new and younger members to take on some roles of responsibility on the Board of Directors.
10. Grant writing Sponsorships Community support.
11. Managing budgets is always interested – but I think the challenges of engaging volunteers – especially for the mgmt./ admin roles might be of interest.

A final thank you to Liz Schell who will be stepping up on the opening night of the One Act Festival at Domino to represent EODL and thank everyone for attending. She will also announce – and hopefully introduce – our student scholarship winners Kyra Taylor and Connor Williamson. Thank you, Liz! See you in Kingston!  
Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Leroux  
President

## **EODL ONE ACT PLAY FESTIVAL**

**WHERE: DOMINO THEATRE,  
52 Church St, Kingston**

**WHEN: November 9,10,11, 2018**

**STAY: AMBASSADOR HOTEL/Free Parking  
613-548-3605  
Festival Rate \$109.00**

**AWARDS BRUNCH: November 11, 12:00  
(After Remembrance Observations)  
Ambassador Hotel, \$30**

**TICKETS: Bob Baird ~ [rbaird@cogeco.ca](mailto:rbaird@cogeco.ca)  
613-546-3415**

**DETAILS AT THE END OF THIS ISSUE**

## GROUP REPORTS

### Northumberland Players

- A new lighting grid and curtains installed in Firehall Theatre thanks to Small-Project grant
- Town of Cobourg undertaking major renovations on the heritage designated Firehall Theatre building ~, roof repairs, window replacement
- Over 70 kids attended summer camp ~ an intensive program with 3 professional instructors
- Annual BBQ success! Nearly 100 attended
- Upcoming Season: 23,000 brochures delivered by post from Brighton to Port Hope
- \*\*Two workshops: *Hair Styles and Techniques* and *Scenic Painting Techniques* now being run for NP, future workshops will be open to EODL members space permitting
- Season ready to go with 11 shows plus a co-production with Creative Force Theatre in Port Hope, **RED**. Thank you to the Town of Cobourg for their support this year mounting 3 plays that are part of the Armistice 18 Commemoration

#### 2018 shows with Opening Dates

- \* **Mary's Wedding** - Sept 21 Firehall Theatre
  - \* **Last Day, Last Hour: Canada's Great War on Trial** - Oct 19, Victoria Hall Courtroom
  - \***Stars on Her Shoulders** - Oct 18, Victoria Hall Concert Hall, **Play Reading**
  - **Sexy Laundry** - Oct 19, Best Western Inn and Convention Centre, Cobourg, **Dinner Theatre**
  - **Miracle on 34th Street** - Nov 30, Firehall Theatre
  - **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** - Dec 12, Victoria Hall Concert Hall
- \* Part of the Town of Cobourg's Armistice 18 Commemoration

### DOMINO THEATRE

#### Special Notes

The Planning for the One Act Festival is well underway. This year the Ambassador Hotel is our Festival Hotel and they have an EODL rate of \$109 per room. This is a great hotel within 5 minutes of Domino Theatre.

#### Upcoming Productions

The Mouse House by Robert Ainsworth, Oct 18 - Nov 2

### VAGABOND THEATRE

#### Special Notes

- A Stage Managers workshop was held on September 29 at the A.N.A.F Unit 342 for a cost of \$30
- We have two One Act Play trophies, they have been engraved

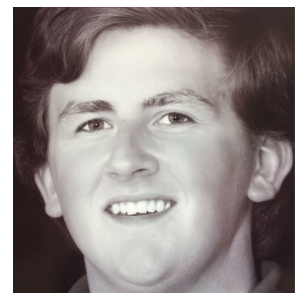


**KYRA TAYLOR**  
**PATRICIA BEHARRIELL CM**  
**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**  
**2018**

#### ABOUT PATRICIA BEHARRIELL CM

Order of Canada recipient, Pat stage managed and/or produced nearly 50 Domino Theatre productions, was a board member at DT for 46 years and President for 6 years. The Patricia Beharriell Scholarship, inaugurated in 2007, is given to a senior student who shows talent, potential and willingness to proceed in some area of non-performing aspect of theatrical training. Kyra is this years recipient. She is currently

**EODL**  
**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**  
**2018**  
**CONNOR WILLIAMSON**



#### THANK YOU FROM CONNOR

For the past 5 years, I have performed in 26 different shows in my high school, and surrounding Theatre companies. I have also been involved in several drama class talent shows, improv nights, and charity benefits. I attended Perth and District Collegiate Institute and I now attend York University for Theatre. I thank my family for their continued support, as well as my friends from P.D.C.I. I also thank my colleagues at Full Circle and Studio Theatre, and the Classic theatre Festival. Thank you all so much!



## KEMPTVILLE PLAYERS

### Special Notes

- Fall Production of **Lafferty's Wake** has been cast and is in rehearsal

## KANATA THEATRE

### Special Notes

- "Vision" Workshop was held in the summer with an external facilitator. Objective was multi-fold: determine and prioritize goals; secure long-term, mid-term and short term planning objectives; develop strategies and tactics for goal attainment

## THEATRE ONTARIO

### Adjudicator Hiring

The pilot project of issuing a Call for Expressions of Interest for Festival 2019 resulted in three responses making the shortlist.

### Theatre Ontario Festival Guidelines

Revisions to the appendices are being made, including formatting and practices v a v Host Theatre involvement in Festival as the Regional Representative.

### Festivals

- 2019 Festival
  - ACT-Co is hosting region 2019
  - The Curtain Club, Richmond Hill, will host, performances to take place at the Richmond Hill Performing Centre for the Arts
- 2020 Festival
  - Sault Theatre Workshop has been chosen by QUONTA as host theatre, venue TBA

### Theatre Ontario

- Bruce Pitkin resigned a Executive Director, effective July 6
- New hire target date is Oct 1; Mary Jane Boon is interim ED until that time; Vera Held, Treasurer will chair meetings in the interim;
- A search committee has been struck with Bruce Pitkin advising
- Executive Committee includes Carri Johnson, Vera Held, Ron Dodson, Farzeen Foda and Mary Jane Boon, ex-officio as the Interim ED
- Summer Theatre Intensive was ongoing as of this submission, and seemed to be going well

## OVERHEARD IN THE AUDIENCE

- ♣[At **Cats**] "I'm confused, I didn't think it would actually be about, well, cats"
- ♣ [At **Man and Superman**] "Well that was much better than Cats"
- ♣[At **Blood Brothers** interval] "Something tells me that this isn't going to have a happy ending"
- ♣[At **Spamalot**] "Oh I didn't realize it was supposed to be a comedy"
- ♣[At **Chicago**] "What's it about?"  
"I don't know but I think it's set in New York"
- ♣[At **Jesus Christ Superstar**] "Well, I didn't expect it to end like that"
- ♣[At **Waiting for Godot**] "He won't come, you know - his name's not in the programme"
- ♣"I'd like one of the \$15 seats, but can I have it at the front?"
- ♣"Did Patrick Swayze get the photos I sent?"  
"I don't know. He's not in **Dirty Dancing**, he's in **Guys and Dolls**"  
"I know, but I sent him some pictures. Did he get them?" "Not if you sent them here. This is **Dirty Dancing**. He's in '**Guys and Dolls**'"  
"I sent them to stage door"  
"If you sent them to **our** stage door then no, he didn't get them"

## A VERY SPECIAL THANK-YOU



Margaret Shearman has stepped down from the EODL board after editing the Yodler for many years. Her first hand experience in community theatre and her warm connection with the member groups of the EODL gave her a unique perspective that was evident in every Yodler issue.

And so an era passes and here I am. I have much to learn, and big boots to fill. Thank you Margaret, we are looking forward to your continued presence at future EODL board meetings.

*Sandra Tobin*

# BEST PRACTICES

Here's an idea for your theatre company from The Northumberland Players

For about 4 years now, a group of NP members has been doing what they call "Outreach" programs. They have two activities each year.

The first is a Christmas performance of a script of A Christmas Carol that had been written by NP members. This script had been used in the NP Firehall Theatre in a ticketed performance, but then they found another use and another audience for it.

They took it as a *reading* to local retirement residences. They had a cast of oldsters and youngsters each reading multiple parts, except for the Narrator, who moves things along, and Scrooge, who's in almost every scene. There was also an à Capella choral quartet who provided musical interludes of traditional carols. They visited four or five of Cobourg and Port Hope's retirement residences for an afternoon or evening performance of about an hour.

The performance space and lighting was whatever was available. They used some very basic costume pieces and props to signal the multiple characters and situations. They rehearsed for less than ten hours before going on the road, and they got very enthusiastic receptions from their audiences. There was no budget, and no income. It was done for free. In 2017 the same group started a summer-time activity along the same lines. They rehearsed a reading of a royalty-free one act play and took it to the same venues, on the same terms and with the same appreciative results.

There are several benefits of this program. First, NP gets a low-intensity program that clearly shows its commitment to the community, and that is beneficial to its charitable status. Then there is the fact that it 'employs' a number of people who, for a number of reasons, otherwise don't get to take part in NP's regular season productions. But most importantly, it brings enjoyment to an audience that, if not entirely shut in, has difficulty attending cultural performances of any kind.

The group this summer was invited to perform in a nearby town outside Northumberland County, and could not fit the invitation into their schedule. This gave them the idea of spreading the news to other theatre groups in EODL and even beyond, on the chance that some of those groups might grab it and run, or respond with their own stories of their own outreach projects.

## AS PROMISED: MEDIUM TERM ADJUDICATOR SCHEDULE PLAYBILL ONE ACT FESTIVAL

### ADJUDICATOR SCHEDULE

| EODL FESTIVAL        | DATES                    | HOST GROUP     | ADJUDICATOR      |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| One Act Festival     | Nov 9 - 11, 2018         | Domino Theatre | Jenn Sellers     |
| Full Length Festival | Oct 1 2018 - Mar 31 2019 | Travelling     | Carey Nicholson  |
| One Act Festival     | TBA                      | TBA            | Annette Procnier |
| Full Length Festival | Oct 1 2019 - Mar 31 2020 | Travelling     | Carolee Mason    |

**One-Act  
Play Festival  
Nov. 9-11**

**SESSION 1: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 7:30 P.M.**

**TBA**

**presented by Domino Theatre, Kingston**

**Virtual Reality**

**by Alan Arkin | directed by Jane Stott**

**presented by Studio Theatre Productions, Perth**

**The Man in 2B**

**by Peter Paylor | directed by Lisa Morris**

**presented by Old Church Theatre, Trenton**

**\*\*\***

**SESSION 2: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2:00 P.M.**

**Chamber Music**

**by Arthur Kopit | directed by Amy Willshaw**

**presented by Peterborough Theatre Guild**

**Rideau Interlude**

**by Margaret Shearman | directed by Helen Steenburg**

**presented by Theatre Night in Merrickville**

**TBA**

**presented by Rural Root Theatre, Constance Bay**

**\*\*\***

**SESSION 3: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 7:30 P.M.**

**Theft of the Venetian Nude With the  
Spider Monkey in the Foreground**

**by Mat Kelly and Vic Bakker | directed by Daniel  
Youmelle**

**WELL THAT'S IT FOR THIS MONTH!**

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the One Act Play Festival at Domino Theatre in Kingston in November. If you have any feedback on September's Yodler please let me know! [sandra.tobin@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.tobin@gmail.com). If there is something you would like to see in future issues, let your EODL representative know. Your section chairs are: Eastern region ~ Paul Rochon, [aprochon@cogeco.ca](mailto:aprochon@cogeco.ca); Central region ~ Pat Gray, [campat.gray@live.com](mailto:campat.gray@live.com); Northern region ~ Dorothy Beak [dorothy.beak@gmail.com](mailto:dorothy.beak@gmail.com).  
*Sandra Tobin*