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Dartmouth Players
33 Crichton Avenue, Dartmouth
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Dartmouth, NS B2W 2L7



"WALKING HAPPY"

Well, buckle your seats folks for a FUN musical ride through Victorian England. The play is a story of the family of a drunken widower shoe shop owner. (Say that 3 times fast!) Hobson walks happily (and blearily) through the town of Salford in 1890. His eldest daughter Maggie, a very capable shop keeper, is hoping to get married, but her father is reluctant to find his greatest asset a suitor, so she takes matters into her own hands. *Walking Happy* is an unusual love story with a twist. I won't say any more. No, the leading lady does not turn into a man. It's been done...

This is a classical musical with a complex group of characters that embraces the conflicts of the times: class struggles, alcohol-temperance struggles, inter-generational struggles, male-female struggles, family struggles and, of course, money struggles, all viewed with certain amount of tongue planted firmly in the cheek.

The spirited cast and very capable crew have been putting the finishing touches to a show for all to enjoy. Our large and very keen cast varies in age from 11 to 64, and don't we have fun! As always, the backstage folks are up to

the usual challenge of drilling into that dangerous place of the director's mind and trying to mine it and refine it for you, the audience. I wish to thank everyone as profusely as I can. We have some work yet to do but, as always, it will all come together by... **SHOWTIME!**

I don't want to single anyone out for thanks in advance, but I do appreciate the very talented and very busy Cy Giacomini stepping in as musical director after our own Lori Errington broke her leg.

Walking Happy is suitable for all ages. So walk happily to your favourite little theatre June 7-24 and prepare to be entertained as you step back into a different time and place.

You won't regret it.

Bryn Rowlands, Director

"Walking Happy" runs June 7th to June 24th, 2006 - Wednesdays to Saturdays, 8:00 p.m. and one matinee at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 18th, 2006 at the Dartmouth Players Theatre, 33 Crichton Avenue, Dartmouth. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors/students. For reservations, call 465-PLAY (465-7529) or book on-line at www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca

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IT'S A WRAP – "ENSUITE"

May 2006

Our last play, *En Suite*, turned out to be an enjoyable and great experience for everybody. *En Suite* drew a fine line between comedy, tragedy and social issues so the audience saw the play from several different points of view. On top of this, the play came to us from modern day Ireland so the setting and social values were different from the traditional British and American material we are more used to.

En Suite was a real challenge for our set builders who came through in style. The magic moving walls were terrific, as was the wonderful background scenery painting and lighting that allowed us to see it sometimes, then magically disappear.

Our actors took on a real challenge developing strong characters that were so well defined anything could happen and they would react. Some of the tough scenes in *En Suite* required great acting ability and it's true to say that our cast took on the challenge with zeal and succeeded in bring us a very realistic performance.

En Suite used almost the entire stage area plus the floor area right down by the audience where folks in the front row must have really felt they were part of the play. This production will be remembered for it's tough theme, great acting, the lighting and the set.

Nick Jupp - Director

Calendar of Events	
Date(s)	Activity
June 27	Annual General Meeting
July 17-21	Youth Workshop – Grease
August 14-25	Youth Workshop - American Idol



Gift Certificates
 Christmas... Birthday... Just Because!
 Give the gift of Live Theatre to that
special person in your life!
 Dartmouth Players offers

gift certificates for both subscriptions or individual plays.

Subscriptions:	4 Plays	3 Plays
Adults	\$44.00	\$33.00
Senior/Students	\$36.00	\$27.00

Single Play Tickets: Adults - \$12.00
 Senior/Students - \$10.00

Deadline for 4 plays is **November 5, 2006**
 Deadline for 3 plays is **January 8, 2007**

Simply contact Cliff Tyner at 434-1078
 or ctyner@eastlink.ca

DP Wants Your E-mail Address

The Dartmouth Players maintains an e-mail list for their theatre/audience members. This list is used in e-mailing the weekly Theatre Nova Scotia Newsletter "Newslink" and in sending out notices for play and audition notices for our own and other local amateur and professional non-union productions.

If we don't have your e-mail address, you will unfortunately miss out on a lot of opportunities. If you want to be included in our e-mail service, e-mail info@dartmouthplayers.ns.ca and ask to have your e-mail address added to our list, or corrected if you have changed your e-mail address, and we will be happy to do so.

Please note our privacy policy is that we **DO NOT** give your e-mail address or any other information to anyone outside of the Dartmouth Players.

The *Dartmouth Player* is published five times a year. To be added to our mailing list free of charge, send your name and address to:
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www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dartmouth Players is one of the strongest community Theatres in Nova Scotia. With my presidency now nearing an end I will take this chance to give a bit of a swan song and tell of the number of things that the board accomplished over the last two years.

We produced eight main stage plays, plus an original work "Mildred" By Flo Trillo , which is no small task for any community theatre. Two of the plays we did this year were a bit out of our mold, and I am glad to see we rose to their particular challenges.

Our Publicity has gained phenomenal heights of success - our audiences have increased from an average house of 82 % to now close to 98% fill. All advertising is more professional and timely. Our program advertisers are also getting a lot more bang for their buck. One of our advertisers provides us with the use of a van on the numerous occasions it is required.

Our website began taking online reservations and is continually needing updating for our many activities,

Over the first summer we raised the height of the technical booth floor to put it on a level with the audience. We bought two pianos to support the musical side of our theatre. We bought a infrared camera to assist the Stage Manager, particularly during blackouts. We installed mirrors in one of the upstairs rooms - we are performing arts after all and the mirrors are a wonderful learning aid. Our carpentry workshop added a drill press, a band saw, an auto sander, three safety ladders, a biscuit joiner and an radial arm saw.

This past summer we installed the lighting receptacles to give us a more user friendly lighting hang. Dick Sircom single handedly designed and installed the renovations to our previous almost un-useable dressing rooms. We now have the beautiful sinks and a kitchen area. (He also inspired the design for the moving set for En Suite - but that is another story)

We catalogued all our scripts and compendiums to create script library; now housed in the Sircom room.

We offered numerous acting workshops including, lighting, producing, directing, stage management, puppetry, story telling, and the Improvateers offered a major improv program.

For me by far our most successful endeavour was the establishment of the Youth Theatre School under the vision and work of Susie Keating, teaching classes of music, dance and drama for the stage. At the end of each session they performed for their parents. This past session we had seven shows all to sell out houses. One had to be held over to allow all the parents seats. Her adult acting class with excerpts of "Chicago" may actually be used as our Season Opener. I am particularly pleased that Susie has been able to provide some paid employment to some of our long-term super-qualified volunteers. The school would not survive otherwise.

While my presidency has had the reputation of being somewhat of a spendthrift as we implemented the above infrastructure, it should be noted that these two years were by far the blackest on our balance sheet.

THE SURVEY

Our last major endeavour was to survey our membership and cast and crews (the people who do the work) to answer many of our burning questions and give us direction for the upcoming years. The next board will be responsible to listen to the membership. One of their first challenges will be to solve the problem of ever increasing demand of our stage. Hopefully the new board will not simply turn audience and performers and students away; they will find creative solutions.

While our present audience seems to prefer farces and mysteries they were the least popular for cast and crew to participate in for they tend to be the least creative. Canadian Plays, artistically important plays, adult oriented plays, and plays involving children are what has been asked to add to our season.

It looks like both crew and audience are willing to put on summer productions. When asked what could we do to improve our shows most answered more workshops. Paradoxically many of our workshops were not all that well attended despite keeping registration costs down. Workshops that worked best have had a tenacious committed champions getting them up and running. The board should work diligently to find such people.

The main changes asked for in our physical space were for more efficient use of the space we have, getting rid of clutter and maybe dropping the stage height. The wish list for DP was long and extensive. No doubt the new board will be addressing ALL the suggestions one way or another.

Most cast and crew, but not all, felt that their DP involvement was a pleasant one. Many would like to get together at regular informal get togethers. The cast/crew parties are a must but summer BBQ's are also an option. Perhaps reinstate the regular

members meetings after each show or Saturday think tanks and/or coffee at Timmies.

We have a major list of options for our short term goals, some of the suggestions include bringing in professionals for workshops. More thought provoking plays, revamping bylaws, painting the boardwalk yellow , painting lower stage door, more plays for younger actors, participation in Multi cultural Festival, getting the air-conditioning adjusted, summer productions, theatre sports,

Five year goals to make seating more comfortable, welcoming and creating liaisons with other groups, joint productions with professional theatres, starting a traveling theatre. Using other venues or

building a new one. Have a long term planning committee using the ideas above.

The survey was by far more extensive than this. So many wonderful and stimulating ideas. I have given just a peek at some of the highlights. I am hopeful that the next board will take it seriously and use its direction.

Many Thanks for a meaningful two years

Sincerely

Holly Irving

Youth Performing Arts.

A lot of us love the idea of being involved in a musical. The success of the Youth Performing Arts program reflects this phenomenon, and has now expanded to include "youth" from eight to eighty. The classes bring each student to the stage with their own particular strengths whether it be acting, dancing or swinging- one does not necessarily have to be good at all three. The focus is to learn by doing. Self-confidence grows so profusely as the students step onto the stage and are welcomed by 135 paying eager audience. Three classes were offered this spring with a total enrollment of 79: A class for all youth on Saturday mornings, another for older teens on Tuesday nights, and a youthful adult group on Thursday nights. The final show of staged talent took place during the week of April 18 to 23.

The Tuesday night class of older teens performed "The Best of American Beauty . There were a lot of outstanding bits of showmanship and solid performances.

The Adult group performed " The Best of Chicago. They also plied their friends and family with wine and cheese beforehand (The audience is so much more receptive that way.)

" The Best of Annie" by the younger group was such a success we had to offer an extra performance

Summer camps will be offered
check www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca
or contact Susie Keating
youthperforming@hotmail.com

course offering training in: Dance, Voice and Drama, facilitated by three dynamic, highly qualified teachers. Equal emphasis will be placed on training in these three distinct disciplines. Our goal is to produce triple-threat performers who will have the necessary tools to prepare them for the musical stage.

Start fulfilling your dreams today!

Ages 8 and up welcome.

Course Dates:

July 17-21 one week (Grease) \$120

August 14 to 25 two weeks (American Idol Disney Style)
\$200

If you have read our newsletter please give us your name and phone for a chance on two complimentary tickets for the next season of Dartmouth Players

NAME

Phone

#

and when you come to see Walking Happy just drop it in the box marked "NEWSLETTER DRAW" in the theatre lobby. Draw June 24th

YOUTH PERFORMING ARTS SUMMER PROGRAM

Calling All Music Theatre Stars-to-be!

If you've ever dreamed of performing onstage, come and join us at Dartmouth Players. A comprehensive