



# Dartmouth Players



Our Mission: To bring the magic of live theatre to the residents of HRM

Dartmouth Players  
33 Crichton Avenue, Dartmouth  
Mailing Address:  
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Dartmouth, NS B2W 2L7

**MAY 2008**

Fax: (902) 435-7647

Hotline: (902) 465-PLAY (465-7529)

E-mail: [info@dartmouthplayers.ns.ca](mailto:info@dartmouthplayers.ns.ca)

Website: [www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca](http://www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca)

Our Summer production: June 11 – 28, 2008



**THE SPITFIRE GRILL**, Music and Book by James Valcq. Lyrics and Book by Fred Alley. Based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff. Directed by: **Ian MacDermid**

**SYNOPSIS:** A feisty parolee follows her dreams, based on a page from an old travel book, to a small town with a big heart. Add a crotchety old woman, her boss and owner of *The Spitfire Grill*, a romantic sheriff, a bitter ex-quarry foreman and his mousy wife, a nosey post mistress, throw in some amazing melodies and lyrics and you have a great evening of entertainment.

*Reservations are held until 10 minutes prior to curtain. At that time they will be given to anyone waiting for cancellations. If you find that you need to cancel your reservation, please call us before 5 PM at 465-PLAY and leave a message.*

Dartmouth Players is a **not-for-profit** society and a federally registered **charity**. No one is paid; we are all volunteers with the objective of bringing the magic of live theatre to the residents of HRM.

**The Spitfire Grill**  
Wed. to Sat. 8pm, June 11 - 28  
Sun. 2pm, June 22

Reservations Open May 21

Adults \$12  
Seniors/Students \$10

### Charity Dress Rehearsal

Monday, June 9:

Dartmouth General Hospital Auxiliary  
contact Val Conrad, [valbconrad@hotmail.com](mailto:valbconrad@hotmail.com),  
434-1707

### Inside this issue of *Dartmouth Player*

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### Dartmouth Players 2007-2008 Season

<b>jitters</b>	November 2007
by David French	directed by Bryn Rowlands
<b>Good Things</b>	January 2008
by Liz Lochhead	directed by Cliff Tyner
<b>The Clean House</b>	April 2008
by Sarah Ruhl	directed by Geoff Ball
<b>Spitfire Grill</b>	June 2008
by J. Valcq, F. Alley	directed by Ian MacDermid

### Dartmouth Players Scent-Free Policy

The Dartmouth Players executive wishes to make our building a comfortable place for all who come to the theatre, whether as volunteers or patrons. To this end, we would like to emphasize that the theatre is a **scent-free space**. We respectfully ask everyone to please be sensitive to others who may become ill or uncomfortable as a result of exposure to perfumes, colognes and other scented products. We thank you in advance for being considerate in this regard.

Help Dartmouth Players save the trees! Dartmouth Players mails out over 2,000 copies of our newsletter five times a year. As you can imagine this amounts to a lot of paper and a lot of printing and mailing charges. We are now making our newsletter available on our website in full colour for you to read at your convenience at [www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca](http://www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca). If you wish to help Dartmouth Players save the trees and reduce our mailing costs and you have internet and email service and are not a subscriber, we invite you to let us know by emailing us at [info@dartmouthplayers.ns.ca](mailto:info@dartmouthplayers.ns.ca) asking us to cancel your "snailmail" newsletter. Then we will do so and advise you by email when each new newsletter is posted on our website. Please note: Subscribers will continue to receive their newsletter and tickets by first class mail.



Music, Book and Orchestrations by James Valcq  
Lyrics and Book by Fred Alley  
Based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff

When someone first suggested presenting *The Spitfire Grill*, I had not heard of it. I had not heard of the authors, I had not heard the music, and I had not even heard of the movie! But when I read the script I found an amazing story of love and innocence, lost and found. I had not heard the music, but hoped that it was just as amazing.

I searched the internet for information. I found many things about the movie, but not a lot about the play. I ordered the CD from Samuel French and waited anxiously for it to arrive, which it did a month later, and as I had hoped, it was just as wonderful as the script.

This is a modern day musical - no big chorus, no huge production numbers, just, as one reviewer called it, "a slice of Americana; a modern folk tale". Of the music, another reviewer said, "The songs are country-style folk and alternate between sober and uplifting." I think it is simply a story of how one person can change the lives in a whole town, told with soaring melodies and beautifully descriptive lyrics. It covers the whole range of emotions, from the gossiping of "Something's Cooking at the Spitfire Grill", to the heart wrenching "Way Back Home", from the hilarious kitchen romp of "Out of the Frying Pan", to the heartbreaking pain of "Digging Stone".

James Valcq and Fred Alley had been friends since high school in 1980. They had not worked together, but after Alley's off-Broadway success, *Zombies from The Beyond*, closed in 1995, they started looking for a vehicle to create a "piece of populist theatre with elements of myth and folk-tale". They found that in the film, *The Spitfire Grill*. In June of 2000, the show was work-shopped in New Jersey, and, after a premiere production in November of 2000, they were encouraged to follow their own emotional truth in the material, and changed the ending. After this production, it was announced that, after a May workshop, it would open the 2000-2001 season at Playwright's Horizons. Tragically, one week before the workshop, Alley suffered a fatal heart attack. He was 38. Two weeks later, *The Spitfire Grill* won the Richard Rodgers Production Award.

We have assembled a terrific cast. Some have years of experience onstage while some are quite new. Some, you have seen on our stage before, some are here for the first time. All are amazing. And, in my opinion, our backstage crew is second to none. I am so proud to be able to present to you this beautiful musical.



Enjoy.  
Ian  
MacDermid

#### **PARKING DURING PERFORMANCES**

Dartmouth Players performances are frequently attended by a number of people who have physical disabilities. It is important to us to keep our shows accessible to all patrons. Therefore, during each three week period while our own performances are running, the entire upper theatre parking lot is reserved for those who have difficulty with mobility.

# Congratulations Andrew!

Very exciting news! Our resident wunderkind, AKA Andrew Coll, won the People's Choice Award at *ViewFinders*, the youth edition of the Atlantic Film Festival this spring, for his 5-minute film, *Bench Talk*. The film was made in partnership with his sister Emily, and friend Josh Cruddas.

This is a significant award, and very deserved.

So a BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO ANDREW!! WELL DONE, SIR!!

For those inclined, their opus should be available on YouTube shortly.

For those not lucky enough to know the capable-beyond-his-years

Andrew, he has performed the lighting (and film) design for numerous DP productions and will do same as well as providing musical direction & piano accompaniment for the fabulous upcoming *Spitfire Grill*.



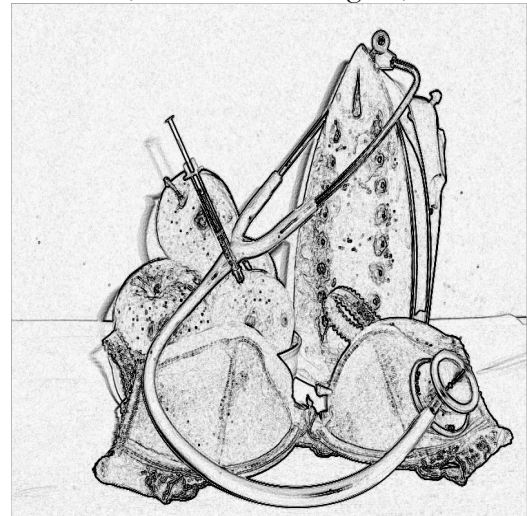
## THE CLEAN HOUSE

*The Clean House* by Sarah Ruhl, directed by Geoff Ball, finished its highly successful run April 19, 2008. The production set many benchmarks in DP history, showing that casts, crews and audiences appreciate truly theatrical works of substance. The media sang their praises of all aspects of the show – acting, direction, design and technical. The audiences responded extensively, often keeping cast and crew well after final curtain, giving them outpourings of both general and specific highly positive feedback. Audiences particularly enjoyed the riveting reversals of comedy and drama, the original use of multi-media techniques, the set, and the many other innovations of the production. Many gave sincere thanks for their tears and laughter, which the intelligent cast evoked with their powerful portrayals of complex, truly human characters.

As well as the “traditional DP’ers,” *The Clean House* brought many new audience members to the theatre. Much new talent was developed as well, particularly on the technical side. The production was all the more impressive for having been created “from scratch”; the new play is still only in manuscript form, with virtually no stage directions, set description, or other notes. The set, multi-media effects, and everything else (including some additional dialogue) were entirely original creations, not even hinted at in the manuscript.

The outstanding critical and popular success of *The Clean House* shows that intelligent, modern, truly theatrical works can indeed be produced at DP. Deepest thanks to the marvellous cast and skilled crew who proved this. Their creativity, dedication and hard work have been truly appreciated.

Geoff Ball, Director & Designer, *The Clean House*



The **Dartmouth Player** Newsletter is published five times a year.

To be added to our mailing list free of charge, please send your name and address to:

Dartmouth Players  
23 Wildwood Blvd.  
Dartmouth, NS B2W 2L7  
or e-mail: [ctyner@eastlink.ca](mailto:ctyner@eastlink.ca)

Editor: Bryn Rowlands

**Next deadline: June 30, 2008**

[www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca](http://www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca)

### ***Ticket Pricing***

A Dartmouth Players show continues to be one of the best entertainment bargains in Metro.

A regular adult ticket costs only \$12.00; student/senior tickets are \$10.00.

In addition, tickets to Opening Night, (the first Wednesday) of each production are a mere \$5.00.

To take advantage of this special price, make sure you reserve your seats early.

### ***The Audience Speaks***

The sponsor's quiz for *The Clean House* generated 175 responses from the audience. The majority of the comments tended toward the words: excellent acting, very entertaining, great show and suburb performance. A number of people indicated their first time at Dartmouth Players and said they will return, and some said it was great to have this venue in Dartmouth.

Two people named plays they would like to see, and these plays were passed on to the play-reading committee. Other people stated they like comedy, musicals, drama, spy and mystery plays. Three people made comments about the language in this play, three people said the seats were uncomfortable but one person found the seats very comfortable especially with the seat cushions. Six people specifically mentioned the very good sweets available at intermission. Four people mentioned the admission price was a good value.

No matter how hard we try, we still cannot get the message across that Dartmouth Players is a scent-free environment. It is mentioned in our newsletter and program, on a sign posted on the door and stated in the pre-show announcements. There are still comments from our audience that they are bothered by someone's scent!

Thank you all for your comments, and keep them coming.

*Quizmaster Angus*

Theatre Notice  
***Theatre Arts Guild***  
June 26 to July 12, 2008

## **The Foursome**

**By Norm Foster**

**The Foursome is vintage Norm Foster and looks at four old college buddies getting back together for a round of golf at a class reunion and sharing their successes and failures amidst hilarious one-upmanship, unexpected revelations and surprising role reversals.**

Directed by Frank MacLean

Pond Playhouse

Reservations: (902) 477-2663 or [www.tagtheatre.com](http://www.tagtheatre.com)

## **Summer Musical Theatre Camps**

### ***Grease***

Date: July 7 - 11, 2008

Time: 9 am - 4 pm

Ages: 8 and up

### ***High School Musical***

Date : July 14 - 18, 2008

Time: 9 am - 4 pm

Ages: 8 and up

### **An intense Physical theatre/Contemporary Dance Workshop**

**This workshop will explore the devastating effects of Anorexia and the struggles of body image and self worth in young women today. The students will undergo an intense rehearsal period using their emotions as the inspiration to create the Piece, with the use of dialogue, silent movement and dance set to music, a powerful performance will be created in hopes of sending out a very important message to both audience and students..**

**Facilitated by guest artist and performer Catherine Owen, from England**

Ages 12 and up

Date : July 14 - 18, 2008

Time: 9 am - 4 pm

### ***Hairspray***

Date: August 11 - 15, 2008

Time: 9 am - 4 pm

Ages: 8 and up

**Full performance on Dartmouth Players stage upon completion of course**

**All camps are located at Dartmouth Players, 33 Creighton Ave. Dartmouth**

**Ages 8 and up are welcome**

**Cost of the camps \$130.00**

**For more information please contact**

**Susie Keating**

**462 6704**

**[www.upstagehalifax.ca](http://www.upstagehalifax.ca)**

**Our Corporate Sponsors:**



**Dartmouth Players  
Dress Rehearsals for Charity  
for the 2007 /2008 Season**

Your attendance on any of the dates listed below will support the listed registered charity. All proceeds for that night will go to the individual charities. For tickets on these nights only, please contact the listed charity.

*jitters:* Nov. 5, 2007  
Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society  
Canadian Fabry Association

*Good Things:* Jan. 21, 2008  
Grannies for Grannies (Stephen Lewis Foundation)  
Saints Alive Theatre Society

*The Clean House:* Mar. 31, 2008  
Dartmouth Learning Network  
Gordon Eastwood, geastwood@eastlink.ca,  
827-5543

*The Spitfire Grill:* Jun. 9, 2008  
Dartmouth General Hospital Auxiliary  
Val Conrad, valbconrad@hotmail.com,  
434-1707



***The Clean House – QUIZ WINNERS***

ADVERTISER	WINNER
Boston Pizza	Scott Hurst
Boston Pizza	Charlene Bonang
Boston Pizza	June L'Oiseau
Boston Pizza	Pearl Green
Fan's	Paul Howe
Fan's	Georgia Fyfe
Fan's	Nick Mattison
Janice Webber	Brian King
Janice Webber	Elaine Furlong
Janice Webber	Vic Parkes
Neighbour's	Holly Irving
Neighbour's	Bill Purvis
Neighbour's	Beth Franklin
Neighbour's	Judi Todd
Queen of Cups	Marie Wells
Queen of Cups	Gina McIntyre
Queen of Cups	Joyce Irvin
Queen of Cups	Mildred Parsons
Queen of Cups	Ellen Sinclair
Queen of Cups	Patrick Ciraco
Queen of Cups	Brenda Byatt
Roccos	Bruce Thomson
Roccos	Maurice Fougere
Roccos	Bernie Roberts
Roccos	Janette MacCallough
Roccos	Debbie Boon
Roccos	Tom Pitts
Smittys	Sarah King
Smittys	Elaine Skinner
Smittys	Josh Edmonds
Smittys	Brad Crosby
Smittys	Shelly Gooden
Trendsetter	Carole Pomeroy
Trendsetter	Debbie Pastorius
Trendsetter	Jane Trefry
Violet Spa	Barb Doré
Violet Spa	Kathy Leblanc
Violet Spa	Mary Liz
Violet Spa	Margaret Lemieux