

Dartmouth Players

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

December 2010 Newsletter

Dartmouth Players
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Director's Notes

Dartmouth Players presents David Mamet's 1999 comedy, **BOSTON MARRIAGE**, an American love story with a twist, set a century earlier. The term "Boston Marriage" describes an arrangement where two women live together without a man's support in order to save money and to appear respectable. It may or may not be a platonic relationship.

The play features plenty of very witty "Mamet-speak" dialogue and a few ribald, hysterical surprises.

It will be wonderfully presented by two veterans of the Dartmouth Players stage; Lorraine Cantwell and Leslie Milne. Together with a gifted newcomer, Becca Babcock, the ensemble will have you in stitches. This project has been a delight so far and I know that you, our audience, will be thoroughly entertained by the chemistry of their performances.

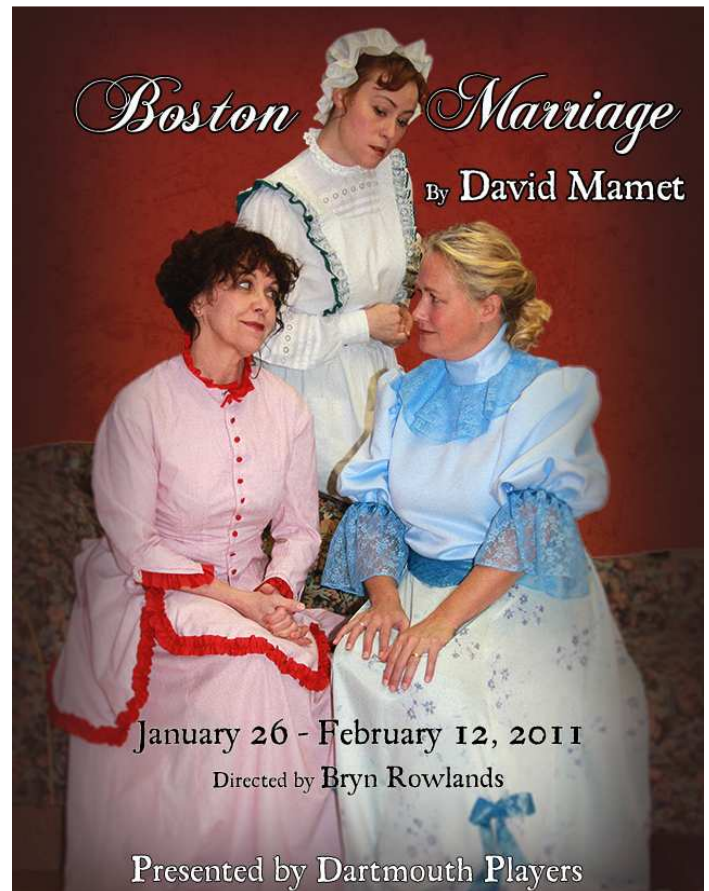
Our technical team draws from Dartmouth Players' typical cast of backstage characters, but with some welcome newcomers, and all have worked tirelessly to present a top-notch product. Have fun!

-BRYN ROWLANDS, DIRECTOR,
BOSTON MARRIAGE 2011



Dartmouth Players is a not-for-profit society and a federally registered charity in the *Promotion of the Arts* category, B/N Registration # 889456976RR0001.

No one is paid - we are all volunteers who take pride and pleasure in bringing the magic of live theatre to the residents of Halifax Regional Municipality.



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BOX OFFICE OPENS JANUARY 5th, 2011

Showtimes

Wednesday through Saturday

January 26 - February 12 @ 8:00 p.m.

Sunday Matinees

January 30th and February 6th @ 2:00 p.m.

CAST:

Lorraine Cantwell as ANNA
Leslie Milne as CLAIRE
Becca Babcock as CATHERINE



Bryn Rowlands, Director

DARTMOUTH PLAYERS

Auditions for "*FUNNY MONEY*"



written by Ray Cooney and directed by Cliff Tyner

Auditions will be held on

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

JANUARY 4th & 5th 2011, 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

upstairs at the theatre. Bring your own audition piece (5 minutes or less) or use the audition pieces that we will provide you. PLEASE NOTE: THAT "*FUNNY MONEY*" will run in our theatre March 30th to April 16th on Sundays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

THE PLAY:

FUNNY MONEY is a Riotous English Farce first produced in 1994. The play is set in London at the home of Henry & Jean Perkins. Eight actors are needed for the following parts:

HENRY PERKINS: An insignificant man in his early fifties

JEAN PERKINS: A pretty but ordinary woman in her late forties

BILL: A middle-aged London taxi driver of spirit

DAVENPORT: A sparse middle-aged man with a knowing glint in his eye.

BETTY JOHNSON: A buxom and cheerful woman in her late forties.

VIC JOHNSON: A brash man with feet of clay.

SLATER: A solicitous and kindly soul – until provoked!

A PASSER-BY: A large man.

For more information, or if you have any questions please call Cliff Tyner, the director, at 434-1078 or e-mail him at: ctyner@eastlink.ca

Audience Comments:

The Fantasticks

Judging by the majority of the very positive comments, you, the audience, really enjoyed this musical, and I must stress that we enjoyed being able to present this to you! All of your comments are filed in a folder and made available to the cast and crew.

We have been asked if we can start before 8:00pm. Although desirable, this is just not possible. Our cast and crew have day jobs; therefore, they must get home from work, have a quick meal and are required at the theatre one hour before curtain. This gives the cast twenty minutes to do their voice exercises before the theatre is open to the audience. The crew has a lot of work to do to get the stage ready, and, for this play, the stage manager was always in the theatre at least ninety minutes before curtain.

Once again we have had comments about the number of reserved seats and have been asked if we could have seat numbers for assignment to the audience. For a little theatre like us this would be very labour intensive for our volunteers and cannot be considered. We do our best to give audience members with special needs the front seats and leave the rest of the theatre open to the remaining audience.

Wednesday audiences have noticed the Red Cross blood collection units in the parking lot. This happens almost every Wednesday and we have to share the parking lot with them. Please respect this inconvenience and we ask that you not block any of their vehicles. You can also expect to have parking problems during Easter Weekend.

Please keep the comments coming. Be advised that there is no such thing as a bad comment. If it is on your mind, we want to hear it! Here is a direct quote from one comment; "*This is my 3rd time. The show is great!*"

-Angus Duncan

Petrie's Halifax Feast Dinner Theatre



LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL (LITF)

Started in 1992, the Liverpool International Theatre Festival (LITF) is an amateur theatre competition hosted every two years in the town of Liverpool, Nova Scotia, at the historic Astor Theatre.

The Artistic Director selects twelve amateur theatre companies from countries all over the world, via an application process, to perform at this phenomenal five-day festival. At least two of the twelve available invitations are reserved for troupes from Nova Scotia, making the festival a delectable mix of local flavour and international flair. The next festival is scheduled for 2012.

LITF has drawn participation from 23 countries including: England, United States, Japan, Sweden, Norway, Bulgaria, France, Ireland, Slovakia, Germany, Venezuela, Singapore, Denmark, Belgium, Korea, Poland, Croatia, Australia, El Salvador, Pakistan, Israel, Syria, and Wales. Canadian troupes from Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Quebec have also performed at LITF over the past ten festivals. Plays are performed in the language of the competitor's choosing, and run between 30 and 50 minutes.

The festival kicks off with an Opening Night Reception. Over the five days of the festival, theatre professionals offer various workshops to ticket subscribers, delegates, and the general public. The festival wraps up with a closing ceremony, where production awards are presented.

DARTMOUTH PLAYERS entered the festival in 2000 with the play "*Bottoms Up*" written and directed by our own Flo Trillo. This play was well received, and the cast and crew had a wonderful time. Some of the volunteers at Dartmouth Players are investigating the possibility of entering a play for the next festival in 2012.

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 thank you in advance for your cooperation in this regard. ☺

PARKING NOTICE:

Patrons and volunteers are reminded that during performances, the parking lot in the upper courtyard is reserved for the vehicles of persons who have difficulty with mobility. Patrons and volunteers who do not have mobility difficulties are requested to use the church and school parking areas.

Charity Preview Night - January 24, 2011

Charity Preview Night for *Boston Marriage* will benefit the following local organizations. If you wish to attend this performance, please contact either of the representatives as listed below.

Circle of Care (Dartmouth Furniture Bank)

Carol Ann Ando, ando@ns.sympatico.ca, 435-5984

Bust a Move for Breast Cancer

Carol Rayner, crayner@staff.ednet.ns.ca, 434-6815

THE FANTASTICKS **Producer's Notes**

I have worked on many plays in the past, but there are not many about which I can say that I was sad when the run finished - *The Fantasticks* is in that category. It's not just the content of the play, but the music, the actors, and of course the whole team that brought to life a dialogue and score, turning both of these into something that was amusing, heart warming, poignant, and a pleasure to listen to and watch.



Cast of The Fantasticks

The abilities of not only the actors, who were able to give a superb performance each night, but the overall talent and dedication of the whole team involved in the production never ceased to amaze me. It was truly a polished production and as the review in *The Coast* said, "The theatre gods were certainly smiling down on Dartmouth Players" as *The Fantasticks* was most definitely fantastic! Here's to the next Dartmouth Players musical!

-Elaine Marshall



UPSTAGE STUDIOS

FEBRUARY WINTER CAMP 2011

Feb 14 - 19, 2011

West Side Story: a hip hop twist on a classic favourite, West Side Story. Modern songs weaved into traditional story line! Hip hop dance, rapping, graffiti, and more!

Performance 4 pm Friday

Feb 21 - 25, 2011

Broadway Review: A singing dancing review of some of our favourite old classics

Performance 4 pm Friday

YOUTH WINTER PROGRAMS

SATURDAY MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAMS

10 am - 1 pm, 39 hours

Jan 8 - May 1, 2011 - \$235.00

RENTal: AGES 12-18 **Broadway Bound:** AGES 8-11

SUNDAY MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAM

1 PM - 4 PM, 39 hours

Jan 9 - May 1, 2011, \$235.00

Broadway Bound

AGES 8 - 13

TUESDAY NIGHT

MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAM

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM, 26 hours

Jan 18 - May 1, 2011 - \$170.00

RENTal

AGES 11 - 18

HIP HOP DANCE CLASS

Saturday 1:15 -2:15pm, Jan 8 - May 1, 2011, \$90.00

AGES 11 - 18

To find out more or to register go to

www.upstagehalifax.ca

Congratulations to all our winners

of gift certificates from :

Boston Pizza, Cora's, Dartmouth Community Concert Association, Halifax Feast Dinner Theatre, Health Basket, Ma Belle's, Neighbours, Noble Grape, Rocco's Restaurant, Smitty's Restaurant, Trendsetter, and Willow Point Art, won during our performances of "The Fantasticks"

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Noble Grape
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Rocco's
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Smitty's
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Trendsetter
Trendsetter
Willow Point Art
Willow Point Art
Willow Point Art

WINNER

Kendra Burchill
Karen Muder
Heidi Clough
Joan Halsey
Duane Jeffrey
Sue Lloy
Maureen Carew
Sheila Haines
Bob Thomson
Cheryl Eaton
Mike Robson

Roseen Clayton
Edith Willette
Roberta Robertson
Charlene Morrison
Jack McNeil
Donald Jarvis
T. Brown
Margaret O'Rourke
Shari Clarke
Joan Rushton
Judy Tolson
Irene Breen
Diane MacDonald
Bill Stone
Ken Norris
Kay Hatcher
Colin Moore
Cindy Norwood
Eli Gordon
Barry Kenney
William Dodsworth
Angelique Beaupre
Audrey Misener
Stephanie Dornet
Tom Bell
Mothaiee Mergami
Ellen Dupuis
Mae MacDonald
Nyima Wimberly
Teresinha Coelhobudag
Tim McClare
Anne Gniewek



Who's Who in "Boston Marriage"



Lorraine Cantwell

Lorraine has had a long history with Dartmouth Players – since 1996, actually – in a variety of roles that have included acting, ensemble work, chorus, stage managing, youth workshops, set crew and technical assistant. She is ecstatic to play at Dartmouth Players once again in David Mamet's *Boston Marriage* with an absolutely fabulous cast and crew. As she says, "It is fantastic to have this opportunity to be back at Dartmouth Players. So often we let time and other commitments dominate our lives so much that we forget how to have fun. Being able to relax and enjoy something you truly love is a gift to be treasured. Thank you so much for allowing me this time to spend with you again." She notes that this play has something for everyone – comedy, drama, a love triangle, petty jealousies, personality conflicts, irony, double entendres, and some trickery and naughtiness thrown in for good measure – which makes it both a challenge and a joy, to attempt to realize it all. She states that, "It is fascinating to try to understand the relationships and the motivations of these characters and to aspire to realize the intentions of this brilliant playwright." To sum up the experience as her character Anna might do: "I could not conceive, indeed, of a more perfect example of time spent."



Leslie Milne

Leslie became a member of Dartmouth Players in 1999. Before that, theatre had just been a dream for her. She had lived with her husband and two children in Victoria (Sidney actually), British Columbia, and the opportunity to be involved in community theatre had never materialized until they moved to Nova Scotia in 1998. Leslie has come a long way since her very first play "*The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*" directed by Sheila McLean. With each new project, Leslie strives to learn and strengthen her skills, and Dartmouth

Players has afforded her more opportunities to improve on her craft, than any other theatre. Last February Leslie played the main character, Susan, in *Woman in Mind*. In June, she portrayed Aunt Ola in *The Cover of Life*.

Leslie has been involved in a professional capacity with various other theatre projects including Shakespeare by the Sea (2003, just before Juan hit), many spring break children's theatre theme shows at the Natural History Museum, various private functions including Atlantic Lotto, AGNS The Impressionists, and Medical Society's 150th Anniversary. She has been writer, director, costume/props/set fabricator, researcher, promoter, but her true love is acting (okay, it's 2nd to her husband), and that is why she is always drawn back to Dartmouth Players. And it's not for the money! The people and the projects are what keep her returning for more.



Becca Babcock

Becca Babcock is an actor, a writer, and a PhD candidate in English at Dalhousie University. Before moving to Nova Scotia, Becca performed in many stage productions in Edmonton, including Twelfth Night with the Nice Wantons (as Duke Orsino), A Doll's House with Walterdale Theatre (as Christine Linda), and in her own one-woman show, Everysecondweekend, for the Edmonton Fringe Festival. Here in Halifax, Becca has acted in Theatre de Boheme's The Balcony (as Carmen), the short film Homework, and as a background performer in nearly twenty feature films and television series.

Reservations & Tickets

Please note: Our reservations department will no longer be making confirmation phone calls to those people who reserve online. Instead, a confirmation email will be sent. Phone calls will be made to those who reserve by phone. Please note that anyone requiring special needs seating (hearing or visually impaired, or physically challenged) **must reserve by phone**. There are only two advance tickets sellers: **Fisher's Stationery**, 122 Portland Street, and **Smitty's Restaurant**, 107 Main Street, both in Dartmouth, NS.

Our Reservation System

If you went online to reserve seats for *The Fantasticks*, you may have noticed a few changes to the website and reservation system - well, more than a few actually! After several months of planning and preparation, we launched a completely overhauled reservation system and website. Over the past few years, we had come to realize that we needed a system which could incorporate new features that both our volunteers and patrons had requested. One such major addition is the option of buying show tickets online via PayPal. Using PayPal is easy, safe, and convenient. It has been in use all over the world by businesses and non-profits both large and small, for many years.

- You don't need a PayPal account to use PayPal, and when you use it, you are not "joining" anything. You simply use your Visa or MasterCard as you would for any over-the-counter purchase.
- Your credit card information is not shared with Dartmouth Players, or with any other entity.
- There are no service fees or taxes: for a \$15 ticket, you pay \$15, and nothing more.

Upon buying your tickets online, you will receive an e-mail with printable tickets: bring these with you to the show, and you can enter through our "advance ticket-holder door" (lower level) and skip the box office lineup! People will progress more quickly into the theatre as the number of advance ticket-holders increases. PayPal is easier on our volunteers as well, reducing the amount of cash handled each night.

If you wish to only reserve seats online, and not pre-pay, you may still do so. Click "Get Seats Now", choose your performance date and number of seats. For payment method, choose "Pay at Door". It's that easy. Please note, however, that anyone requesting "special needs seating" **must reserve by phone**, at 465-PLAY.

We've launched a Frequently Asked Questions section on the website to (we hope) answer all your questions about the new system, and how to use it.

Go to our website, <http://www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca>, click on "Tickets" at the top of the page, and then click on "FAQs".

Now that *The Fantasticks* is over, we've learned a few things, taken note of your comments, and we should have an improved system by the time *Boston Marriage* comes to the stage!

UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS

FUNNY MONEY by Ray Cooney opens in late March 2011. For fans of the rip-roaring, high speed, door-slamming British farce, this one's for you! What happens when Joe-Average-Englishman opens his briefcase and discovers 1.5 million pounds inside?

FUNNY Money



Finally in June, you will be treated to a gentler, warm-all-over kind of comedy, **BE MY BABY** by Ken Ludwig. Take one irascible old man and one uptight mature woman, and add one adorable baby. Then watch the fun unfold!



The Dartmouth Players Newsletter

is published 5 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, N.S., B2W 2L7 or e-mail:
ctyner@eastlink.ca.

Please let us know if you would prefer to have the newsletter sent to your e-mail address.

Editor: Ruth Sperl

