



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

January 2010 Newsletter

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Woman In Mind

By Alan Ayckbourn

“December Bee?” This is a question asked to Susan, the main character of Alan Ayckbourn’s *Woman In Mind*, to which she confusedly replies, “No bees in December!” What else could she possibly say? This exchange perfectly represents my occasionally confusing (but very enjoyable) experience directing for the first time.

Ayckbourn is perhaps one of the greatest living playwrights. More prolific than Shakespeare, and almost as consistently good, it’s hard to find fault with an Ayckbourn play: they are perfectly structured, loaded with humanity and heart, and there’s always humour, often on the dark side. The result is a great night of entertainment. Dartmouth Players has done several Ayckbourn plays in the past, and they were all extremely well received, with great reviews from critics and audiences alike. I certainly hope this one will be no different!

From questions of “December Bees”, *Woman In Mind* takes us into the life of Susan, a suburban housewife with an active fantasy life that makes up for the shortcomings of her dull, monotonous, and all-too-real existence. Various family members (both imaginary and real) and a well-meaning physician come in and out of her backyard, where the play takes place, and she tries to make sense of her situation, while avoiding garden frogs, Earl Grey Omelettes, and figuring out what is reality and what is “in mind” only. Susan is a dominating force in the play; she is on-stage for the entire show, and it was important to find an actress who could essentially carry the play on her shoulders. I believe I have found that in DP veteran Leslie Milne. From beginning to end, she is an absolute force of nature. She makes Susan a completely believable character: any woman who has ever experienced marriage, child-raising, and the endless slog of housekeeping can empathise with her, and think of themselves in Susan’s shoes. Leslie is backed up by a fine supporting cast; they’ve really embodied the characters, and working with them has been a great experience! And of course, I hope you will come and see the show. From my slightly biased eye, it’s a fantastic play, filled with love, laughter, and above all, a poignant tale that anyone can relate to, even if you do question the existence of bees in December...

Director, Andrew Coll

Woman in Mind
A dark comedy
Wed. to Sat. 8pm,
Feb. 3 - 20
Sunday Matinees
Feb. 7 & 14 2pm
Reservations Open Jan. 13
Adults \$15
Seniors/Students \$12

Reserve at
www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca
or call 465-PLAY as of January 13.
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.

Dress Rehearsals for Charity

The dress rehearsal performance of *Woman in Mind* will take place **8pm Monday Feb. 1**, with proceeds supporting the charity below. Please make reservations through: Prince Andrew High and Cole Harbour High student trip to Guatemala, in assistance of Habitat for Humanities, contact person is Jackie White, email jackie.white@ctv.ca, phone 434-6343

Inside this issue of *Dartmouth Player*

Woman in Mind, our winter offering

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Dartmouth Players Reservations and Tickets Handling

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 still be made to those people who reserve seats by phone.

Purchase Tickets, Subscriptions and More Online. In the previous issue of the newsletter, we had publicized that online ticket sales, via the DP website, would be available as of October 14, 2009. We apologize that, due to technical difficulties, we have been unable to keep that commitment. We ask for your patience while we continue to work on this issue. Subscriptions and membership, however, continue to be offered through the website, www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca.

There will be only 2 advance ticket sellers for the 2009 - 2010 season:

Fisher's Stationery and Smitty's Restaurant

AUDITION NOTICE

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST
by Oscar Wilde
Directed by Isabelle Thériault



Audition Dates:
Sunday, Jan. 10th 1-4pm
Monday, Jan. 11th 7-9:30pm
Storm date:
Wednesday, Jan. 13th 7-9:30pm
Performance runs April 7th-24th

Upstairs at Dartmouth Players Theatre,
33 Crichton Ave.

Audition scenes will be available by e-mail request.

These scenes are preferred for auditions.
e-mail: isabelle_theriault_44@hotmail.com

Eight actors: 4 female ages 18 and up;
4 male ages 30 and up.

The Importance of Being Earnest is a play about the time. Set in the middle-upper class society of the British 1890's. The comedy of the era; as two friends lead double lives, unknowingly using the same name. Chaos and hilarity ensue. This play is a challenging experience for actors and will be equally rewarding.

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.

Dartmouth Players 2009-2010 Season

Anything Goes by Cole Porter	November 2009 directed by the Tyner Team
Woman in Mind by Alan Ayckburn	February 2010 directed by Andrew Coll
The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde	April 2010 dir. by Isabelle Theriault
The Cover of Life by R.T. Robinson	June 2010 directed by Ian MacDermid

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

Editor: Bryn Rowlands

Next deadline: Feb. 24, 2010

Please let us know if you would prefer an e-mail link to our colour version only.

www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca

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.

ABOUT OUR DIRECTOR FOR *WOMAN IN MIND*, ANDREW COLL

As part of our ongoing series, introducing our current season directors, I recently sat down with Andrew Coll, who is directing our upcoming production of *Woman in Mind*. I hope this interview will help you learn more about one of our up-and-coming young talents.



Andrew Directing

DP: Andrew, as far as we are aware, you are the youngest ever director at DP; how and when did you come to be involved with Dartmouth Players?

ANDREW: I started coming to DP with my parents as a member of the audience for *Me And My Girl*, and *Murder by Misadventure* when I was a 13 year old. In 2003 I signed up to help on the play *Deathtrap*. I applied for backstage work and ended up in the technical booth as sound operator. From there, I somehow worked my way up to lighting operator, lighting designer and then technical director. I also now do as many “odd jobs” as I have time for. You learn by doing and asking questions from the talented people around you.

DP: Can you tell me more about the other areas of DP that you are involved with; for example, VP of the board and/or your involvement as technical director?

ANDREW: I love being VP on the Board of Directors. It's giving me a chance to help influence the direction of the theatre. I do my best to make sure that the theatre is a great place to be for our volunteers and audience members.

I ended up as technical director because no one else was around to do it! (laughs) I learned to do the job by doing it hands on, if you will, and now I get to teach others some of the technical aspects of theatre. I'm now branching out to directing. I love to learn, and learning other areas of theatre is very rewarding and keeps the boredom away!

DP: What can you tell us about your endeavours in filmmaking, for which, I understand you have won an award?

ANDREW: My friends and I worked on a three-year science fiction film project between the ages of 13 and 16 years. That experience gave me the ability to make a short film, which won an award through the “ViewFinders International Film Festival” which is for youth between the ages of 13 to 18. I'm too old to enter that now, but I did have a film in the Atlantic Film Festival this year, which was screened twice at Park Lane and once for a sold out audience at the Oxford Theatre. I do have a real fascination with telling stories through film. It is very different from theatre where your audience is planted firmly in their seats; you have the ability to change perspectives. One thing I dislike about film is getting “writer's block”; as opposed to working with a written script in theatre, I usually write my own film scripts with some help from friends and actors in the film. I have learned a lot about film, again, primarily from “doing” as opposed to reading manuals or books on the subject.

DP: What drew you to the play *Woman In Mind*?

ANDREW: I came across the play in a stack of scripts I was reading and from the first time I read it, I was fascinated by the idea of an ordinary woman compensating for the boredom of everyday life through fantasizing another life going on around her. Her character reminds me of an original “Desperate Housewife”. I also feel women are not well represented, in a lot of plays, as interesting, original characters. This character is really well written and gives a good actress some great material to work with. Our lead actress, Leslie Milne, is fantastic in this role, along with the other members of the cast.

DP: Can you tell me anything about your possible plans for your future role(s) at DP or in life?

ANDREW: I may be going away to university next year, so my plans are definitely open. I have submitted a couple of plays for next year, one of them a musical, and if I'm still in the area, I may try my hand as a musical director. DP will definitely be part of my future. It's a great outlet; it's helped me grow, and provided an outlet for my creativity! I couldn't be more grateful to be a part of this place.

DP: Is there anything else you would like our readers to know about you or about this play?

ANDREW: I hope everyone comes to see the show. It's a fantastic piece of theatre with twists and turns. It's funny, entertaining, and has a heart and a soul. I would also like to say that I couldn't do this without my crew; my fantastic stage manager/mentor, Bryn Rowlands, my great producer, Elaine Marshall, and also Val Tyner who is my set designer along with help from Larry Wilson. I have the best of everything with this wonderful cast and crew... it couldn't be better.

Denise Monbourquette

WINTER PROGRAMS 2010 -
UPSTAGE STUDIOS

Calling all music theatre stars-to-be!

If you've ever dreamed of performing on stage to musicals like *Chicago*, *Annie*, *Grease* or *High School Musical*, come and join us at Upstage Studios for a 16 week course offering training in: Dance, Voice and Drama.

Full musical performance upon completion of course

on Dartmouth Players stage

START FULFILLING YOUR DREAMS TODAY!

YOUTH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAM -
\$290.00

CHICAGO: 10 am - 1 pm, 48 hours
Jan 16 - May 8, 2010
AGES 12 - 18

THE DUELING DISNEY DIVAS:

10 am - 1 pm, 48 hours
Jan 16 - May 8, 2010
AGES 8 - 10, and AGES 10 - 12

SUNDAY MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAM -
\$290.00

THE DUELING DISNEY DIVAS:

1 PM - 4 PM, 48 hours
Jan 17 - May 8, 2010
AGES 8 - 18

TUESDAY NIGHT MUSICAL THEATRE
PROGRAM - \$290.00

CHICAGO: 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM, 48 hours
Jan 19 - May 8, 2010
AGES 8 - 18

ADULT PROGRAMS

THURSDAY NIGHT MUSICAL ADULT THEATRE
PROGRAM - \$290.00

CHICAGO: 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM, 48 hours
Jan 21 - May 8, 2010
AGES 18 AND UP

HIP HOP/CONTEMPORARY DANCE CLASS -
\$150.00

Saturday 1pm - 2:30 pm,
Jan 19 - May 8, 2010
AGES 8 - 18

www.upstagehalifax.ca

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL SUSIE AT
462-6704

Email- youthperforming@hotmail.com

Quiz Winners, Anything Goes

Boston Pizza	- Betty Mailman - Roseen Clayton - Hazel Joyce - Jonathan Oxner - Sarah Mian
Fan's Restaurant	- Carolyn Baker - Mary Brooke - Dick Sircom
Grafton St. Dinner Theatre	- Gladys Webber - Pat Joseph - Forbes Keating - Rachel Leonard - D. Smith-Camp - Sheila Huchington
Health Basket	- Sheila Sandoz - Annabella Taylor - Keith West - Linda Tancock
Ma Belle's Café -	- Sally Bartlett - Malcolm Capstick - Betty MacDonald - Tom Forrest
Neighbour's Pub	- Sandra Bidinost - Joanne Pettipas
Rocco's Ristorante	- I. A. Osborne - Taylor MacPherson
Smitty's Restaurant	- Mildred Weatherup - Grant Steven - Pat Lee - John Withrow
Trendsetter	- Marg Bailey - Marilyn Leblanc - Dave Thomson - Melissa MacKay - Agnes Connor
Violet Spa	- Lorraine Morrow - Kaye MacNeil - Cheryl Anderson - Heather Daigle

[Ma Belle's Café Open](#)

Apologies to anyone who may have gone to Ma Belle's and found them still closed for renovations, in particular those who won gift certificates at a performance of *Anything Goes*. Ma Belle's, located at 44 Ochterloney St., is now open for business, and eagerly looking forward to serving you.

Theatre Notice

Thirteen Hands

Written by Carol Shields,
Directed by Louise Renault
February 11th - 27th, 2010

Set around a bridge table through different generations of players, the women in Thirteen Hands discover family histories, the tricks of getting old and a companionship that gets passed on, like an exquisite heirloom, to a next generation of bridge players.

Pond Playhouse

Reservations: (902) 477-2663 or
www.tagtheatre.com

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.

Our Corporate Sponsors:



Welcome Aboard

A big welcome to all our sponsors and advertisers, both old and new! We are grateful for your support, and would like to thank all of you for your commitment to community theatre. New advertisers this season are *Atlantic Illumination Entertainment Lighting* and season sponsor, *Grafton Street Dinner Theatre*.

Bonnie's Perspective

If you saw *Anything Goes*, no doubt you will vividly remember Lyndsay Anderson, the very talented and energetic young woman who played Bonnie, accomplice to gangster Moonface Martin. It was Lyndsay's first time performing at DP, and we asked her to reflect on her experience as a cast member in this popular show.

Since completing the three-week run of *Anything Goes*, a lot of people have asked me whether I miss the show. They see how much time goes into the long rehearsals, the even longer nights of performances, the 'commute' across the bridge and so on. But thanks to the wonderfully supportive volunteers at Dartmouth Players, anytime I am asked if I miss the show, I respond with 'absolutely'. *Anything Goes* was my first show with DP and I certainly hope that it won't be my last.

Auditioning for a new theatre group can be quite intimidating – it can often feel that everyone knows each other (and with DP they probably did), but I instantly felt welcomed and accepted by Val, Suzie and Ralph. When I got the offer to play the part of Bonnie I was thrilled – not only to gain more experience (this is only my 3rd time on stage,) but because I knew I would get to meet an amazing group of people with a similar passion for community and musical theatre. And I was right. *Anything Goes* included a very large and talented cast and let's not forget the amazing folks who make things happen backstage and in the front of house. I was able to learn so much from all of these people who make up the heart and soul of a successful community theatre. I will admit that this is made much easier when we are all crammed backstage and frequently bumping into each other or sharing in the treats that were provided to us every night. What really impresses me is the amount of time and dedication that each person puts in to their role – there is simply so much effort that goes into one production and it never ceases to amaze me. My first time on the stage at DP was a wonderful experience and I felt as though I was stepping into something special – and I am certainly glad to have been welcomed into the Dartmouth Players family.

- Lyndsay Anderson



A special Thank You to the Shearwater Aviation Museum and curator Christine Heinz for the loan of seamen's jackets for *Anything Goes*.