

Backstage Whispers

North Grenville
Community Theatre



August 2021

Just Maybe -Story by - Steve Wendt

A guy was sitting at a table doing a crossword and finishing his coffee after a plate of eggs and bacon. There was no one else at his table, the town was still doing the covid thing so you couldn't get close to anyone but family members. And the guy didn't have any of those.

A woman walks in. "Hey, how's it going?"

"Not much", the guy says. "You?"

"Yeah" she says. She hasn't said much to the guy lately. They had been in high school together, one time he even walked her home after a school dance. Long time ago. When they got to her place they just stood for a while. Lit by the light from her living room, the drapes were open. She could see her Dad inside, fallen asleep in his big chair. Again. Just a glow of light coming through that window. It was warm, and the street smelled good, like fresh cut lawn and some flowers. She didn't mind standing close to the guy; he must be pretty good at keeping his teeth brushed and stuff. They looked at each other.

Now, in the restaurant, they looked at each other. They hadn't talked much in high school, or after, for that matter. They could have, no reason why not, but it just didn't happen. But just now they both remember standing there, that summer night, wondering how a guy says good night to a girl after he walks her home.

The woman says, "Keeping busy?"

The guy says, "Not really". He looks right at her. "But I was thinking. We should be doing something."

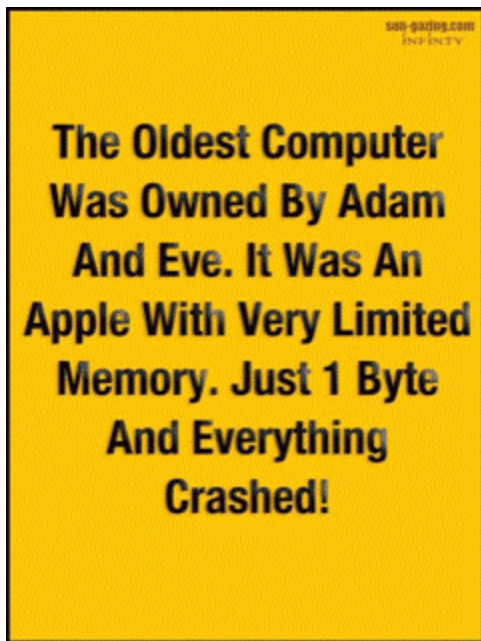
"What, you and me?" She almost laughs.

She hardly knows the guy anymore.

"No, the town, the people in town. We should get something going, something to do. Theatre or what-not".

"Oh... Like in English class, when we did scenes from To Sir with Love?" She's thinking, nobody does that kind of thing anymore.

"Hmm". He just has a feeling. They are going to do some shows, and have some fun doing them. And she is going to be part of it.



Covid 19 has changed live theatre in many ways. Very few theatres have been operational and if they have, it has been virtual. In a recent letter from Geoff Gruson, President of Ottawa Little Theatre, their theatre is not opening up until the New Year. He added Broadway in New York is opening up this fall but the audience, as well as the performers, backstage crew and theatre staff, must show proof of full vaccination.

This makes me wonder about community theatre. Can we enforce performers to be vaccinated? How would a cast member who is vaccinated feel being on stage with a non-vaccinated cast member? I am sure this is being raised in numerous theatre groups. Eastern Ontario Drama League members meet for their first in person meeting on Sept. 18th. Hopefully clearer guidelines will be forth coming.



Message from the Editor – Paul Rochon

When the Covid 19 pandemic started in March 2019, who would have imagined this would be like a novel. First chapter starts with everyone very hopeful of a vaccine to be developed. The next chapter, takes place in December 2019. The vaccine is finally made available and almost everyone scrambles to get it. The third chapter is the long process to get everyone vaccinated. We are now writing the fourth chapter where we are trying to persuade the non-vaccinated to get their shot. Let's hope this book has almost reached its conclusion.

Based on recent news, Ontario will be getting passports for the full vaccinated. I expect the next phase will be to have a booster shot after a certain time or perhaps another variant emerges?

The New Executive Board

At the June Annual General Meeting, the next term of executive Board members was confirmed.

President - Steve Wendt
Past President – Shannon Lever
Vice President – Darrell Nunn
Treasurer- Richard Pickard
Secretary- Caroline Matheson

Five new Directors (formerly called Members at Large) were also named.

Terry Watkiss
Mary Anne Leang
Ron Hallman
Jorie Basque
Paul Rochon (named in July)

At Shannon Lever last meeting as President, she received many accolades. Her time as President was a most difficult for North Grenville Community Theatre (Kemptonville Players Inc.) and everyone in this community.

A New Name – BUT the same Wonderful People

At the Annual General Meeting, the new name was announced - North Grenville Community Theatre (NGCT). A close second was Kemptonville Players Community Theatre.

The membership thinks since our audience, as well, as our members not only come from

Kemptonville but from all parts of North Grenville the name should be more representative.

Kemptonville Players Inc. is incorporated therefore remains for legal purposes.

It will take time to adjust to the new name, after all the last name change was in 1974. Hopefully we attract new patrons, volunteers and actors to our group from the many new people that have relocated to our community.

A big thank you goes out to Phil Irving our webmaster. In this role he has obtained a new website for North Grenville Community Theatre. Here is the link. Check it out!
<https://www.kemptonvilleplayers.ca/>

Ripcord

After an almost two years delay, the comical play Ripcord written by David Lindsay-Abaire, is scheduled to be performed in November at the North Grenville Municipal Theatre. Of course, this is dependent on how the fourth wave of Covid 19 will manifest.

Auditions have been called to replace three of the cast members.

Eastern Ontario Drama League (EODL)

It has been quiet with no in person meetings since January 2019. The new President of EODL is Val Bogan from Ottawa Little Theatre.

In June it was announced that there would not be a One Act Festival in 2021 due to the uncertainty of Covid 19. This will be the third year it has been cancelled. There is also uncertainty if the travelling Full Act Festival will take place due to the recent increase of cases.

In the past, EODL receives information from Theatre Ontario to pass on to community theatres. In the past, Theatre Ontario holds a festival every year in one of the four sections of the province. The festival is comprised of the four theatre groups who have won the Best Production Award from each of their respective Ontario Drama Leagues. Theatre Ontario survives on membership fees and donations. Now this line of income has stopped. Theatre Ontario with no income has ceased to exist. It is unfortunate this had to happen because over the years, they provided guidance and assistance to community theatre groups.

Darrell Nunn

During the last few weeks, Darrell Nunn has finally been able to contact the Program Director at the North Grenville District High School. His idea is that the high school drama program could work with North

Grenville Community Theatre. In return, the students could become a source of young actors. Further, these young thespians could become part of our theatre group in later years.

It has been said that most great actors started in community theatre.

Darrell also has suggested to have a small group from North Grenville Community Theatre attend a number of the Upper Canada Playhouse performances. If you are interested, contact Darrell at Darrell@kapn.net

