

# Backstage Whispers

North Grenville  
Community Theatre



December 2021

## Message from the Editor

We are only a few weeks away from Christmas and the New Year holidays. The past year has been difficult for everyone, as well as, for theatre groups who could not perform on stage.

With the gradual lifting of restrictions, most theatre groups are hoping things will finally get better and we will slowly escape this pandemic. A few days before writing this newsletter, I was optimistic that there would be a good end for the year but as we all know the emergence of the new variant, Omicron, who knows what is going to happen next?

We know the Christmas season is upon us when we see the Santa Claus Parades, the Christmas movies on television, and the twenty-four-hour radio station playing only Christmas music. I find this year, homes inside and out have been decorated early, as a way to brighten things up. We all know who the true Santa Claus is but there is a bit of childishness in every one of us.

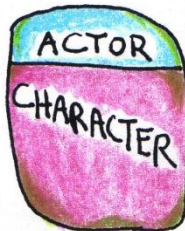
As Christmas nears, no matter how old we are, there is a mysterious magic of Santa Claus with his eight reindeers.

Anne and I would like to wish everyone of you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Paul Rochon



# ACTING 101

Persona



- shows up for meetings on time
- doesn't disrupt rehearsals
- guides the character

- the audience sees only the character
- the character is defined by the words in the play
- the character gives us TRUTH

The Stage and Emphasis



the centre of audience attention

other stuff the team provides in support

## ACTOR'S CREED

- The words in this play are PERFECT
- I am PERFECT for my part

## SECRETS of SUCCESS

- know the words. This is accomplished through Homework. There is no other way.
- Project
- Plan, rehearse, perform as a TEAM

## Acting 101

Steve Wendt,  
President

"People often ask what acting is all about. Everything you need to know is covered in this picture. This might be useful for people new to the stage. If you have any questions about the message here, just ask."

## Ripcord

After a two-year postponement the comedy, Ripcord, will finally be performed at the North Grenville Community Centre from April 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> and from April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Rehearsals started in October and are still ongoing but at a slower pace. Once February comes around, rehearsals will pick up.

When the Producer ask for help in certain areas, either in the weeks before the performances or during the performances, please volunteer to make our first post pandemic play a success.

**Wife texts husband on a cold winter morning:  
"Windows frozen, won't open."  
Husband texts back: "Gently pour some lukewarm water over it and then gently tap edges with hammer."  
Wife texts back 10 minutes later: "Computer really messed up now."**

## A Poem from Cathy TeKamp of Eastern Ontario Drama League

This can be sung to the lyrics of Davy Crockett's song-

We worked on a sexy show for two long years

hard work and planning and yes, a few tears,  
hand sanitizer and mask at all times,  
but the audiences loved it, and we're trying to rhyme.

Chorus: Covid, live shows beat you, and safely made money too!

Ticket sales reduced to make a healthy space,  
actors trying to kiss but keep a six-foot place,  
screening, cleaning and final run,  
and cast and crew had a lot of fun!

Chorus: Covid, live shows beat you, and safely made money too!

## Eastern Ontario Drama League (EODL)

It was announced at an EODL meeting last week, that there will be a Full-Length Festival in 2022. It will include the performances that were adjudicated prior to the pandemic. The same adjudicator will now adjudicate an additional five theatre group performances. The festival will be called the 2019-2022 Full Length Festival.

Since Theatre Ontario no longer exists, EODL is reaching out to the other three drama leagues in Ontario to continue the Full Act Festival that Theatre Ontario had started many years ago. In the past this festival featured the Best Production play from each of the four drama leagues' Full-Length Festivals. The provincial festival was hosted by each drama league on a rotating basis. More news to follow.

## Santa Claus Parade

The North Grenville Community Theatre and the North Grenville Concert Choir joined together to sing Christmas songs in the Kemptville Santa Claus Parade on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The float was beautifully decorated and lit up in the darkness by Steve Wendt's "green energy panels". The weather was perfect and the amazing large crowds enjoyed every minute of it. We could feel the joy that the parade was giving to the spectators.

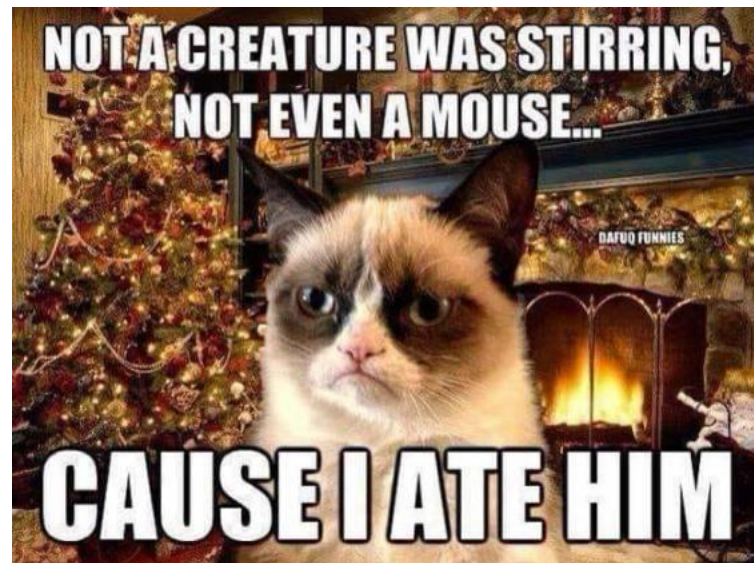


If you missed the parade and want to see it from a drone perspective, below is the link filmed by Christopher Wilson.

<https://youtu.be/1Sc9xkpgVcg>

Here is also a video of the staging area and the second half of the video shows the floats travelling through downtown. This was created using still photography.

<https://youtu.be/p3DGOVwSt0I>



## Darrell Nunn, Vice President

Darrell has been working on the preparation of various plays for our audiences in 2022. One of the plays is "Shirley Valentine" that premiered in 1986. There has been two auditions and the play could be ready for Valentine's Day.

Other plays in the works are "How He Lied" and "Marriage Proposal". They may also be ready in February.

Darrell will start contacting churches and service clubs to see if interest could be generated in having NGCT perform at these organizations. If you have contacts or are a member of these service clubs, please contact Darrell with contact information of the decision maker/s.

Darrell would appreciate some help with the organizing. He will also be looking for a producer, stage manager, costumes, etc. Darrell has put a lot of energy and time into these plays. If you can help in any way, contact him [darrell@kapn.net](mailto:darrell@kapn.net)

**PEOPLE ARE EXCITED  
ABOUT THE NEW IPHONE  
BUT NO ONE HAS CAUGHT  
UP WITH THE AWESOME  
TECHNOLOGY OF USING YOUR  
BLINKER WHEN YOU DRIVE.**

