



The News Letter

The Newsletter of Theatre Newfoundland Labrador

From the Board Chair

Katrina Basha, TNL Board Chair

This is my third “From the Board Chair” message, and I thought that this time I’d tell you a little about the TNL Board of Directors. It is first and foremost a board of governance and we, the Board members, are all volunteers and members of TNL. The present 17 members bring a variety of skills and experience to the Board that I feel makes us, together with the hard-working TNL staff, a winning team that ensures a successful artistically-driven company.

Our duties are threefold: planning; deciding from options; and monitoring. The overall direction of the company and its activities is conferred upon the Board of Directors, but planning the future direction of any professional theatre company is difficult even in the best of times. We have to try to predict the economic, social and political environment in which the company will be operating in, say, five years’ time. While all of this appears dull and a little boring, the discussions around the table at monthly meetings, and all the activities that TNL finds itself engaged in, are anything but boring! Whether it is serving pizza to the children of our Youth Theatre Program, serving wine to our patrons at our annual *Sexy and Dangerous* show, or selling tickets to

fundraise, on so many levels the Board of Directors must function well, and be a visible part of the community.

I have been Chair of the Board of Directors of TNL for the past several years. I preside at Board meetings and general meetings of TNL, carry out specific tasks delegated to me by the Board, and meet with the Artistic Director, General Manager, and other personnel of TNL, regarding any aspect of TNL’s activities. Chairing the Board continues to be a rich experience for me with many enjoyable and proud moments along the way. I commend the staff of TNL whose commitment and tireless work for the company is inspiring!

Come and see our productions this year, especially our Gros Morne Theatre Festival in Cow Head. Thank you again for your continued support of this grand company and hope to see you soon!



Newfoundland Vinyl 2013 (Jennifer Furlong, Claire Hewlett, Amelia Manuel) (Photo: Peter Buckle)

What’s On at TNL?

May 2 & 3 at 8 pm & May 4 at 2 pm
Corner Brook Arts & Culture Centre, TNL Youth Theatre’s production of *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* by Celeste Raspanti



May 31-Sept. 13
GMTF, Cow Head, (See article by Jeff Pitcher, p3)

***Tempting Providence* by Robert Chafe - Drama**

***The Known Soldier* by Jeff Pitcher - Drama**

***Beauty Queen of Leenane* by Martin McDonagh - Black Comedy**

***Neddy Norris Night* - A Musical Journey through Newfoundland & Labrador’s Past**

***Newfoundland Vinyl* - The “C” Side - Musical/Comedy**

***S.S. Ethie* by Shane Ellis Coates - Dinner Theatre**

August 5-19 Stage Head Academy, Cow Head and Corner Brook

More details at www.theatrenewfoundland.com

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Who's Who in Theatre?

The Production & Company Manager(s)

*Denise Dolliver,
GMTF Company & Production Manager*

Quite often, in smaller theatre companies, one person does two or more jobs. For TNL's Gros Morne Theatre Festival (GMTF), one person does the job of both Company Manager (CM) and Production Manager (PM). While these two positions don't typically go hand-in-hand in a theatre, they do so at the GMTF.

A CM looks after the company: the directors, designers, actors, production staff, and front of house staff that have been selected for the season. The CM is their primary source for information prior to their arrival in Cow Head. Making sure the company is well informed, that they arrive safely, and that their homes and workspaces are ready is the CM's job.

At the start of each season the CM

- prepares the contracts for each company member
- prepares a company information package for each company member which is human resources information that the theatre requires for each company member to complete (for example – payroll forms, medical forms, bio/ headshot forms)
- sends out all contracts and company information to company members

- receives and tracks all completed company information and distributes it to the appropriate department as required
- arranges company member travel
- arranges company member housing
- sends out other information to the company as it becomes available
- is the Festival's liaison for human resources issues after the company has arrived for the season

The CM is also responsible for housing, coordinating the preparation, cleaning and repair of all company housing as well as renting additional housing as needed so that by the time the company arrives in May all of the company housing is set up, clean, warm, and ready for them to settle into. We want our company members to feel "right at home" when they arrive. As well, the CM coordinates, before the start of the season, the preparation, cleaning, and repair of all theatre buildings, plus the rental facilities such as the carpentry shop and the church hall rehearsal space, so that once the company arrives they can get straight to work and have the shows ready for their scheduled openings.

The PM's job is to ensure that the production staff have the time, the money, and the information and materials they need so that everyone can be successful in their work for the productions. The PM focuses on the productions, a focus that must be on THE BIG PICTURE. In a repertory theatre it is important that the artistic

and production team are aware, through reminders if necessary, that the theatre is producing six equally important shows. It is the job of the PM to maintain an awareness of this perspective throughout the company.

A PM:

- coordinates all production aspects of the Festival, such as keeping to time and budget, in consultation with members of the Festival's administrative, artistic and production teams, and it's community partners
- creates and oversees the production schedule i.e. rehearsals, production builds and performances
- oversees production spending and maintains the production budget
- hires and oversees the production staff for the season
- oversees the scheduling of all production staff work and overtime

A successful (and creative) team makes a successful (and magical) production.



Painting by Doreen A. Noseworthy, used with permission

TNL has a new website

It's the same address but has been completely redesigned and (mostly) updated. Check it out at www.theatrenewfoundland.com

TNL is a registered charity (BN: 126589910RR0001). If you would like to make a donation please contact the TNL office at 709-639-7238 or visit the TNL website at <http://www.theatrenewfoundland.com> and click on "Donate Now".



2014 Season

Jeff Pitcher,

Artistic Director, TNL

30 artists, 7 productions, 159 performances in 2 theatres – here's the 2014 Gros Morne Theatre Festival.

“The Known Soldier”, written and directed by TNL's Artistic Director. Sgt. Thomas Ricketts is the youngest soldier in the British Empire to be awarded the Victoria Cross and this is a poignant and heart-felt portrayal that follows his life as a young boy in Middle Arm, White Bay, through his traumatic experiences in World War I with the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, to his later years as a recluse in St. John's. The play will feature Adam Brake as Tommy Ricketts, Jenn Furlong as his alter-ego, The Hag and Craig Haley playing various roles. The set is designed by Brian Ball who last year brought us “The Belle of Bonavista Bay.”

She delivered more than 700 babies, extracted at least 5,000 teeth, set broken limbs, performed kitchen table operations by lamplight and was known throughout Newfoundland and Labrador as "Florence Nightingale of the North." **“Tempting Providence”** by Robert Chafe is a wonderful heartfelt portrayal of Nurse Myra Bennett who for more than 50 years was the only medical aide along the almost 350 miles of rugged coastline on the Great Northern Peninsula. Over 600 performances around the world and this TNL commissioned play is finally returning to Cow Head for a full summer run. Directed by Jillian Keiley, Artistic Director of the National Arts Centre and featuring an all-new cast – Amelia Manuel, Colin Furlong, Adam Brake and Marquita Walsh.

In Martin McDonagh's black comedy **“The Beauty Queen of Leenane”** Maureen, a lonely spinster in her forties, lives with her diabolically manipulative mother Mag in an isolated cottage in the west of Ireland. Mag whines and bullies to get her way while Maureen resentfully fulfills her mother's every command. When Maureen is offered a last chance at love, she sees a chance to escape. But Mag has other ideas, setting in motion a chain of deceptions, secrets, and betrayals that are both heartbreaking and hilarious. This is story-telling at its finest and will feature a stunning cast of Jenn Furlong, Claire Hewlett, Mark Bradbury and Evan Mercer with set and costume design by Vicky Marston.

“Newfoundland Vinyl” is back! And this time it's **“The “C” Side”**. Allison Crowe has made this show into a perennial Festival favourite. The vinyl Newfoundland hits of the 1960's, 70's and 80's by Newfoundland's biggest recording stars are never-ending. From Harry Hibbs' *“The Wild Rover”* to Eddy Coffey's *“Area Code 709”* to Cory & Trina's *“Northern Lights of Labrador”* Allison manages to lay bare the simple and beautiful melodies and lyrics of our most talented artists, featuring the wonderful talents of Stephanie Payne, Amelia Manuel, Claire Hewlett, Colin Furlong, Marquita Walsh, Craig Haley and Keelan Purchase.

Stephanie Payne will be bringing back her wonderful version of **“Neddy Norris Night”**. Our traditional music is a cultural touchstone and this show, with its strong story-telling, simple sound and powerful connections to our past, transports us to a simple and pure place that connects with our strong Newfoundland culture. The songs are as pure as the heart and the singing is the heart of this wonderful show that will feature Stephanie, Craig Haley, Claire

Hewlett, Jenn Furlong and Evan Mercer.

Our dinner theatre, **“SS Ethie”**, by Shane Ellis Coates and directed by Sarah McDonald, originally opened at the inaugural Gros Morne Theatre Season in 1996 and has been playing to full houses ever since. It's a wondrous journey back to December 1919 for the Ethie's final voyage. Captain English, Cassie Brown and First Mate Gullage, along with a colourful crew recreate the tale of how she came to rest on the rocks of Martins Point 94 years ago. This year our colourful cast includes Mark Bradbury, Amelia Manuel, Evan Mercer, Claire Hewlett, Marquita Walsh, Colin Furlong, and Keelan Purchase.

On July 1st we'll present our **“Memorial Show”**, specially created to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the start of World War I. On Cow Head's new cenotaph are listed 16 soldiers who served in World War I. Over the next four years we will discover the men behind the names; who was Naaman Payne? What happened to Art Gill? Does Bill Knott have family in the area today? As we answer those questions you'll hear the songs and recitations from a Regimental Concert aboard the SS Florizel in 1914 as Newfoundland's first 500, the Blue Puttees, approach England for the start of war.

There's so much more but I'm running out of space. Our **“Who's Darkening Our Door Tonight”** series will feature the musical talents of Daniel Payne, Danielle Smith Trio, Mary Barry, Allison Crowe, The Sharecroppers, Marquita Walsh and Stephanie Payne. Our **“Workshop and Reading Week”** in August (you are invited, FREE) and **Stage Head Academy!** Check our website!

Come and join us for Festival 2014!

Youth Theatre

Sara.h McDonald, Associate Artistic Director, and Mervyn Dean, newsletter editor

The annual **Stage Head Academy** was the idea of TNL's Associate artistic Director, Sara.h McDonald. The first Academy was offered in 2005 and since then 84 students have been through the program. It provides young people considering a career in theatre with practical experience where students learn from professional theatre personnel and classes in various areas of theatre.

With the first week of the program in Cow Head during the Gros Morne Theatre Festival students are immediately immersed in a festival season where they can learn how a professional summer-stock theatre program operates as well as watch and critique the season's productions. The Academy encourages and strengthens

imagination, creativity, self confidence, self discipline, and group work, with students given the opportunity to develop and stage a performance in a professional setting. In this environment students make contacts that may be valuable when later establishing themselves as professional artists. At the end of the two-week program students are well-prepared for entrance into college and university theatre arts programs, as evidenced by the fact that 100% of the students who have auditioned for post-secondary performing arts programs across the country have been accepted.

David McHugh went through the Stage Head program and is now in the acting program at Grenfell. He is very positive about the value of his two-week experience. "[Stage Head Academy] has gained a reputation in the professional theatre scene for its excellence in educating young actors and hardening them through its intense environment. I will be spending the summer working with a

professional theatre and I feel strongly that having Stage Head Academy on my resume was a factor in the company's decision to take me on as an actor. Stage Head not only instilled in me one of my most important goals in life, but helped me achieve it as well.'



Stage Head students Heidi Smith & Chad Froude (TNL staff photo)

Next TNL Production:

I Never Saw Another Butterfly by Celeste Raspanti
May 2 & 3 at 8 pm, May 4 at 2 pm - Corner Brook Arts & Culture Centre

Theatre Newfoundland Labrador presents a dramatic and heartfelt retelling of the true story of the children of the Terezin . From 1942 to 1945 over 15,000 Jewish children passed through Terezin, a former military garrison set up as a ghetto. It soon became a station, a stopping-off place, for hundreds of thousands on their way to the gas chambers of Auschwitz. When Terezin was liberated in May, 1945, only about one hundred children were alive to return to what was left of their lives, their homes, and families. The story of those years at Terezin is the basis of the play, which will feature members of TNL Youth Theatre and adult community actors.

For tickets contact Corner Brook Arts & Culture Centre Box Office 637 2580 or visit www.artsandculturecentre.com



Draw tickets from: GMTF box office Cow head (1-877-243-2899); TNL Office 709-639-7238; Various business outlets in Corner Brook and Cow Head

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