



The News Letter

The Newsletter of Theatre Newfoundland Labrador

From the Board Chair

Welcome, my fellow theatre patrons, to the Winter edition of Theatre Newfoundland Labrador's newsletter. We are entering our 38th year as a professional theatre company and that has been no easy feat in the present economic climate. We know many people would prefer to stay at home and "stream" their entertainment rather than experience a live production. We encourage you to get out and see all that live theatre has to offer. From performances offered by our very own **SaraH McDonald Youth Theatre** to the awesome productions at the **Gros Morne Theatre Festival** we are certain that you will be well entertained.

GMTF kicks off the season on 03 June 2017, in Cow Head with three

new productions and three second-stage favourites. There's more information about the program on page three of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you and please do let us know what you think by completing the feedback form provided at the shows. We love to hear from you.

TNL is a 'not for profit' charitable organization and we depend on the financial contributions of both corporate and individual donors. Please consider becoming a TNL member or donor and help ensure that we will be able to continue to offer professional, dynamic and innovative theatre.

On behalf of the TNL Board of Directors I wish you all the best for the coming season. Stay healthy and safe. See you at the show!

Katrina Basha, TNL Board Chair



Marquita Walsh, Anne Gregory and Claire Hewlett in a scene from the 2016 GMTF production of *SS Ethie*.

Photo: PB Productions

What's On at TNL?

11 March, Rotary Arts Centre at 3:30 pm. A reading of *The Wonderful Dogfish Racket* by SaraH McDonald, adapted from the book by Tom Dawe

28-30 April, Arts & Culture Centre at 8:00 pm (28th-29th) and 2:00 pm (30th) *Jack-Five-Oh* by Andy Jones & Phillip Dinn*

03 June-29 September: Warehouse Theatre & Shallow Bay Motel, Cow Head, **Gros Morne Theatre Festival.**
Neddy Norris Night
Newfoundland Vinyl
SS Ethie by Shane Ellis Coates
Fly Me to the Moon by Marie Jones
Heroes by Gérald Sibleyras, translated by Tom, Stoppard
The Out Vigil by Julie McIssac
(See page 3, and website for show dates and times).

01 July (Cow Head) and **20 August** (Lighthouse, Rocky Harbour) *Memorial Day Show* by Jeff Pitcher

31 July-14 August: *Stage Head Academy*

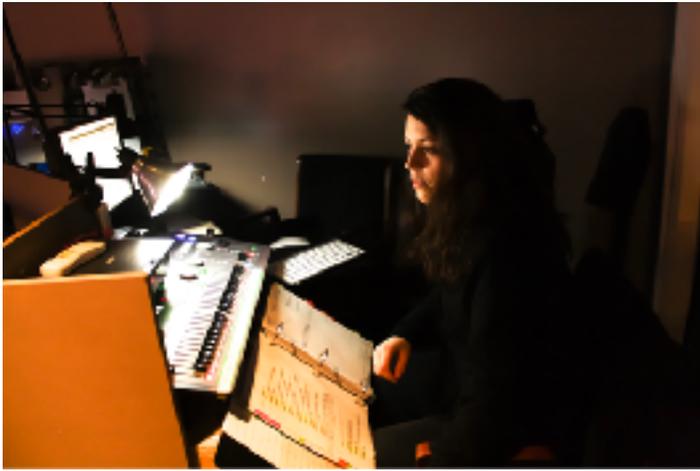
July & August: *Corner Brook Ghost Walk* by Jerry Etienne & Pamela Gill

*School show performances 27 April at 10:00 am and 28 April at 1:00 pm. Teachers or school administrators: contact Adam at 639-7238 or youth@theatrenewfoundland.com For school group bookings, call the Arts & Culture Centre at 637-2581.

More details on all the above at www.theatrenewfoundland.com

Who's Who in Theatre?

The Stage Manager



What is a Stage Manager (SM)? When you type that question into Google, all it tells you is that the stage manager is “the person responsible for the lighting and other technical arrangements for a stage play.” If only that was all there was to the job! While being responsible for the tech is indeed true, there are many other aspects to being an SM that make the job challenging, but it is also one of the most rewarding jobs I’ve ever had.

The SM of a production is responsible for overseeing the entire process of putting a show together, and ensuring that at every step along the way, things are running smoothly. We are the first to arrive in the morning, to prepare our space for rehearsal, and the last to leave at night, after sending out the day’s production notes to the rest of the tech team. SMs are the primary liaison between the director and the production team, and also between the actors and production staff. We keep the lines of communication open at all times, doing our best to ensure that the director’s vision of a show is articulated well, so that it reflects in what we see onstage on opening night.

SMs are responsible for keeping track of everything that has anything to do with a production. We have lists upon lists of props, costumes, set pieces, designs, construction drawings, lighting fixtures, sound cues, contact information, scene breakdowns, etc. All of the information, along with the script for the show, culminates in a Prompt Script (sometimes lovingly referred to as the Show Bible) which keeps all the info in one place, for easy reference by the SM. We are everyone’s ‘go-to’ person for any questions about the production. At any given moment in a play, a good SM needs only one look at their Prompt Script to know exactly where all the actors need to be onstage, what they are wearing in the scene, which props are being used, what position the furniture is in, what lighting state and sound cues are present, and where the action continues next.

Stage Management requires organization, communication, patience (for those extra long days), and, most importantly, a good attitude. Keeping a level head and a positive attitude is essential for a SM. A positive attitude works wonders when a show is in rehearsal, when everyone is working long hours, giving their all into bringing the show to the stage. A level head comes in handy when the show opens, and the SM becomes solely responsible for running the show. Any problems that arise (broken props, malfunctioning tech, ripped costumes) are the SM’s responsibility to solve in that moment.

The nuances of Stage Management are vast and varied, and I could fill many more pages with all that I’ve learned. However, one thing I can say with pride, having worked with TNL as an SM for the past few years, is that for all the hard work the payoff is SO worth it. Unfortunately, I take a step away from being an SM this coming summer with GMTF, but as the Assistant Company/Production Manager, I hope to see you all in Cow Head to share in the shows we present this season!

Sarah White, TNL Stage Manager

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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”.



Gros Morne Theatre Festival

The 2017 Gros Morne Theatre Festival will open on Saturday 03 June. By the Festival's close on 29 September we'll have played 160 performances, plus another seven in our visiting artists series. This year's plays are:

Fly Me to the Moon by Marie Jones, directed by Jeff Pitcher. A quirky comedy with an Irish twist about a workday that goes from bad to worse. Frances and Loretta are home-care workers in Belfast. Their charge is an elderly man named Davy, who has a passion for Frank Sinatra and betting on the ponies. When Davy dies in the loo with an unclaimed winning race ticket sitting on his bureau, Frances and Loretta tell one lie that leads to another and another... and then another. Their attempt to beat the system throws them headlong into a hilarious yet wild ride.

Heroes by Gérald Sibleyras, translated by Tom Stoppard, directed by Jerry Etienne. In this hilarious and poignant story, we meet three World War I veterans who pass their monotony-filled days in a retirement home for veterans by engaging in verbal battles of their long-forgotten military campaigns, grumbling about the staff, and reflecting on their lives. Henri is afflicted with a gammy leg, Gustave suffers from agoraphobia, and Philippe has episodes of passing out due to a piece of shrapnel lodged in his brain. Their cantankerous camaraderie becomes strained when Gustave conjures up an escape plan. Looking over the cemetery to the poplars beyond, they dream of

freedom. Will today be the day they finally make it to Indochina or perhaps only as far as the top of the hill?

The Out Vigil by Julie McIsaac, directed by Tamara McCarthy. Mere hours before the opening of the perilous king crab fishing season, Danny, a young Newfoundlander, arrives in Alaska, desperate for a job. A local fisherman, Cal, grudgingly agrees to help him out, but past & present collide when Lizzie, his feisty girlfriend from home, shows up. *The Out Vigil* takes on a bold new form of poetic naturalism that allows for a harmonious marriage of elements — fact and folklore, music and magic, the modern and the mythical.

Newfoundland Vinyl conceived by Jeff Pitcher, directed by Allison Crowe, will return along with *S.S. Ethie* (Shane Ellis Coates) directed by Adam Brake, and *Neddy Norris Night* directed by Stephanie Payne. Our fourth *Memorial Day Show* (Jeff Pitcher) will return for a 01 July performance in Cow Head and a special performance at the Lighthouse in Rocky Harbour on 20 August.

We're currently in the process of re-establishing **Stage Head Academy** under the direction of Adam Brake. We're continuing *Who's Darkening Our Door Tonight?* with guests that will include: Daniel Payne; Shirley Montague and Jeff Anderson; Kevin Woolridge in his one man show *All the Birds in their Birdhouse*, and Allison Crowe with a special "Cast Jam" comprised of GMTF artists.

Finally, we'll be presenting, in Corner Brook through July and August, the *Corner Brook Ghost Walk* by Pamela Gill and Jerry Etienne, featuring Adam Brake. Stay connected to our Facebook and Webpage for more details!

Jeff Pitcher, Artistic Director, TNL



Stephanie Payne (L), Colin Furlong, and Allison Crown in a scene from the 2016 GMTF production of *Neddy Norris Night*

Photo: PB Productions

GMTF Subscription Package

This season we are introducing a subscription package for GMTF. See all six plays for one payment of \$175.00, taxes included. That's a saving of \$37.00

Call 1-877-243-2899

SaraH McDonald Youth Theatre

Our classes kicked off in January. While weather has been a factor, leading to a few cancellations, we have progressed well and are moving into more complex concepts that will support the actors in rehearsal. This term I've organized the classes to help students focus on the core concepts of making theatre. Each class centres around a theme, with students engaging in activities that explore one theme from multiple angles, such as memory, concentration, trust, communication and creativity. As we move into the second half of the term we'll begin to explore text, ensemble and, finally, an extended session on auditions, to support them as we get ready for the spring productions.

This year, we have an entirely female enrolment in our Adult Drama Lab, which has expanded to 10 classes. Classes either explore a theme that can support them in rehearsal, or serve as mock rehearsals. We have chosen *Marion Bridge* by Canadian playwright Daniel McIvor for our scene study, exploring the various roles in the play, directing each other and encouraging each other to take bigger and bigger risks, all in the comfort of our rehearsal hall.

The YT students have been diligently rehearsing *Mummers: Tusslemania* for the annual Winter Carnival production. I'm surprised every day by the students' commitment to make this play their own. As part of their preparation our students have been learning about the principles of stage fighting, thinking of it as a



partnership as opposed to a fight. We worked with Christian Morgan (a student from Grenfell) to choreograph the fight. It's very exciting to watch the students build a complex fight that is 100% safe.

On 11 March the YT students will present a reading of *The Wonderful Dogfish Racket* (SaraH McDonald/Tom Dawe) at this year's March Hare. This was SaraH's last piece of written work before she died, and I've organized this reading as a thank you for everything she did for me and for our students, and as a celebration of the written words that Sarah loved so dearly. I have invited some of our TNL youth alumni to read with some of our current students.

Finally, at the end of April, we will be producing *Jack-Five-Ob* by Andy Jones and Phillip Dinn. Two "Jack" tales collected in our own province are brought to life by Freeman Bennett, the owner of the *Hundred Tongues Hotel*.

Adam Brake, Artistic Associate, TNL

Online Ticket Purchase for TNL shows

Now you can book and buy your tickets for Gros Morne Theatre Festival online. Go to <http://www.theatrenewfoundland.com> or scan the QR code with your mobile device.



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