



ECHO Players Theatre
Member Newsletter
Volume 2, Issue 3

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The Bugle

Spring Edition



**"Spring is the time of the year when it is summer in the sun
and winter in the shade."**

- Charles Dickens

From The Editor



Woohoo! It's Spring! Happy "cute-baby-animal-bright-green-leafy-fluffy-cloud-rainbow-let's-go-outside-and-play" time. (Can you tell I like Spring?) Another reason to love this time of year is that ECHO Players members get really BUSY; there are auditions for the upcoming season to plan for, our NIZ Festival play, *Collected Stories* is set to hit the stage at the Village Theatre next week, there's a staged play reading of a brand new work, rehearsals are under way for Spam and Maple Syrup, we are preparing to rent our theatre out to the B2B folks

for the summer and SO MUCH MORE! We have a LOT of wonderful and exciting things to cover in this edition of the Bugle, so read on.

Kerry Campbell - Bugle Editor

[Click Here to leave your Newsletter feedback, ideas and photos](#)



ahhh

spring

**IT'S
SHOWTIME**



COLLECTED STORIES

by Donald Margulies – April 19th – May 6th at the Village Theatre

***Collected Stories* is a gem of a two-hander. Ruth Steiner (Beth DeVolder), a celebrated short story writer and a Columbia University professor with a dry wit and a fine writing resume, lives alone in a Greenwich Village walk-up. Her apartment, filled with books, art, a messy writer’s desk and a comfortable chair, makes it so inviting you won’t mind spending the evening there. Joining Ruth on stage is Lisa Morrison (Jennifer Kelly) who wastes no time sharing her immeasurable adoration for the author’s work, spouting titles both well-known and obscured. In the course of their introductory meeting, the seemingly impassive Ruth becomes aware of her protégé’s incorrigible need for approval, or at least encouragement until Ruth asks, “Are you going to survive this tutorial, or are you going to require oxygen?” By the conversation’s end, a softer, less resistant Ruth assures Lisa of her “innate” talent as a writer and after much prompting agrees to hire her as a personal assistant.**

***Collected Stories* is told in six scenes and spans six years. It is a beautifully layered take on the six-year relationship between**

author/professor and a grad student and protégé. It is a play about the hazards of discipleship, the boundaries of intellectual property, the agony of one generation handing over power to the next, the treacheries of friendship, the exploitation that comes with love and the seductive nature of fame. The last scene will give you much to think and debate about.

There are many elements to telling the story of Ruth and Lisa and we have a wonderful team of production designers and dedicated crew to do the job. The set, lighting, costumes, props and music all reflect passage of time and growth and generation differences. It takes a team to pull all this together. ECHO Players is a community volunteers. Props co-ordinator Tricia Browne, set designer and lighting designer George Murguly, sound designer David Attley, costume designer Jane Still, artistic painter Jeanne Ackles-Cardinal and set decorator Mo Ross, and all of the production crew worked hard to capture the mood, the changing relationship between Ruth and Lisa, and the seamless transition through six scenes. Producer Val Axford, and Stage Managers Lynne Walker and Margaret Jenkins kept all of us on track. Other areas Box Office, Front of House, publicity, poster distribution are valuable in ensuring that this Village Theatre experience is one not to be missed. Director Lynne Carrow and I are truly grateful for all of their work and support.

Submitted by Sue Murguly

[Get your tickets for Collected Stories online right now by clicking here! Or call the Box Office at \(250\) 752-3522](#)

Extra Extra! Read all about it!

The *Collected Stories* production is looking for American newspapers. Or, the London Times would also be appreciated. They need a bunch if possible.

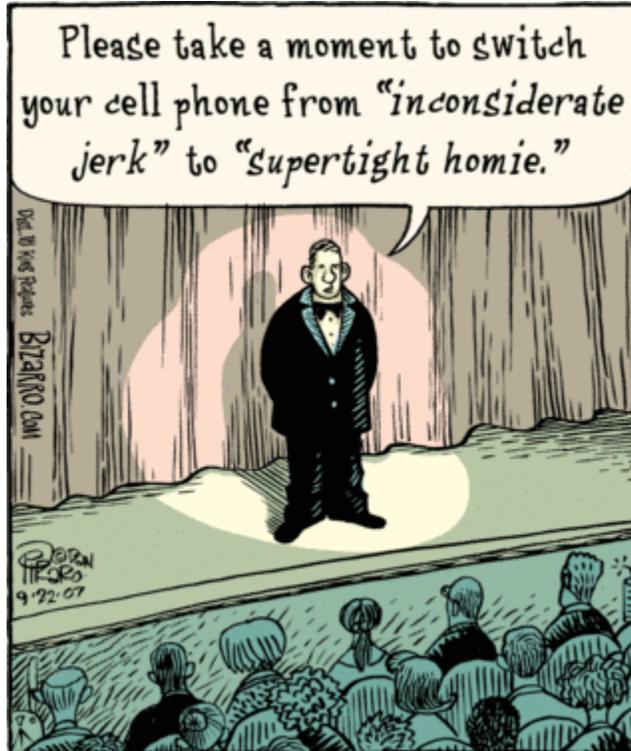
Also, a dresser for backstage is still required - only needed during the first act, and then could leave.

Thanks so much.

Lynn Walker

Stage Manager

[If you can help, please contact Lynn by clicking here!](#)



Committee News

Staged Play Reading

The ECHO Players Play Reading Committee invites you to a staged play reading of a BRAND NEW WORK on Monday, April 30th, 7:30 p.m. at the Village Theatre. This evening is open to ALL ECHO Players members and includes a social featuring a cash bar and goodies upstairs in the lounge after the reading.

Dimming the Lights by Jay Silverberg

Welcome to Ward 5, where very few “guests” make it out. But then again, when patients fall in love, compete in teams to control the supply of adult diapers, build new bonds of friendship and comradery that know no bounds, dig deep into their memories of better times and generally create mayhem amongst the staff and fellow patients, Ward 5 is an irresistible concoction of melodramas guaranteed to make you laugh, empathize and maybe even shed some tears.

Dimming the Lights by our own local actor and playwright, Jay Silverberg, delves into the inner conflict of mortality with a host of remarkable, memorable characters and all ranges of emotions; from heartfelt inner conflict to outrageous dark humour.

Nobody is immune to dying, but who said it can't be a bouillabaisse of events, from whimsical to intensely thought-provoking?

Welcome to Ward 5. “Ladies and gentlemen, it's 9 o'clock, time to dim the lights.”





ECHO Players hosted an evening of fun as *Dickens of a Twist* hit the stage at the Village Theatre, featuring many ECHO alumni. With a focus on homelessness, this wonderful production raised funds for the Salvation Army in our area.



This past January and February ECHO Players hosted 11 students for an **Introduction to Speech and Drama**. The classes were taught by Performing Arts teacher, **Jennifer Kelly**. Lots of fun was had by all and the students had the opportunity to work on stage with scripts and monologues. We were visited by ECHO

players member **Kathy Harper** whose theatre experience is incredible. She watched monologue presentations and gave the students fantastic feedback. **Julian Packer** also paid us a visit to encourage the students to audition for his upcoming production of ***Peter Pan***. This course celebrates and encourages youth in our theatre group!



Students from **Qualicum Beach Elementary School** were hosted by volunteers from ECHO Players at the Village Theatre this past Monday. The theatre wanted to share the many opportunities it provides to the community, including youth. Students got to discover a behind-the-scenes tour of the 68 year-old theatre with **Jennifer Kelly**. **Alistair McVey** led the students through a mini sound workshop, and **George Murguly** demonstrated the lighting board from the booth.

Mark McInnes, the teacher of **S.T.R.E.A.M**, a program that uses

science, technology and math, interpreted through engineering, robotics and the arts, to deliver the B.C. curriculum felt that this was an excellent educational opportunity. "Learning the basics of lighting, sound, and stage production was great in and of itself, but seeing how skills of the volunteers come together to provide a cultural experience for the community was special for the students."

The students ended their morning with the opportunity to get up on stage where they got to practice what it was like to be an actor. Lots of fun was had and we hope to collaborate like this again!



**A little birdie
from the
Artistic
Direction
Committee
told me...**

Auditions for the ECHO Players ***2018/19 Season***

Enchanted April a romantic comedy by Matthew Barber

October 11 - 28 2018

3M, 5W ages 25's – 60's

Director: Wendy Punter

When two frustrated London housewives decide to rent a villa in Italy for a holiday away from their bleak marriages, they recruit two very different English women to share the cost and the experience. There, among the wisteria blossoms and Mediterranean sunshine, all four bloom again—rediscovering themselves in ways that they—and we—could never have expected.

AUDITION DATES:

Thurs May 24th 7 pm to 9 pm

Sunday May 27th 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Tuesday May 29th 7 pm to 9 pm

LOCATION:

ECHO Players' Rehearsal Space in Hilliers

Unit #6, 3125 Van Horne Road, Qualicum Beach, V9K 2R3.

Turn right on Alberni Highway just past “T-Shirts that talk”

CONTACT PERSON:

Lynn Walker, Producer at lynnwa2@shaw.ca

Peter Pan ITM British Musical

December 13 – 30 2018

20 to 30 cast members – many young people and adults of all ages

Director: Julian Packer

The delightful and classic story of childhood, fantasy, and staying young and daring set to a lively musical score. Guaranteed to charm and satisfy all audiences young and young at heart.

AUDITION DATES:

Thursday June 14th 6-9 pm

Friday 15th June 6-9 pm

Saturday 16th June 12-4 pm

LOCATION:

Shelly Road Centre, 186 Shelley Rd. in Parksville

CONTACT PERSON:

Judi Andrews, Producer at jbba@shaw.ca

Second Chances Musical Original book, lyrics by David Jewell. Music by David Jewell and Nico Rhodes

Show Dates: Feb 14 – Mar 3 2019

Director and Choreographer: Jennifer Kelly

Second Chances is thrilled to make its debut for the upcoming ECHO 2018-19 season. It is a story written by local playwright David Jewell with music by David and talented musical director/composer Nico Rhodes. Inspired by a conversation between the author and a homeless man, *Second Chances* is a tale that celebrates the triumph of the human spirit in trying circumstances. The setting is New York City, 1955. An Off Broadway theatre struggles with only two weeks until the opening night of their production *Ole Louisiana*. However, the arrival of a mysterious stranger sets in motion a series of unpredictable events. *Second Chances* follows the tradition of musicals from the golden era. It is a captivating story embracing drama, comedy and romance that is sure to thrill audiences.

Character Breakdown:

Michael: Age 40-50. Musical playwright and director of *Ole Louisiana*. He is consumed with his dream of making it back to Broadway's stages. A creative, driven, high strung, compassionate man.

Alice: Age 16-25 First time on a New York stage for the young ingénue. She has all the tools to make a big impression in the Big Apple. Enthusiastic, naïve, nervous and considerate.

Lacey: Age 16-25 A native New Yorker and member of the chorus. Was romantically involved with Roger before being discarded. She is passionate, jealous and energetic.

Ruth: Age 16-25 Another member of the chorus, Ruth is close friends with Sally and Lacey. She is inquisitive, supportive and self-assured.

Sally: Age 30-40 The choreographer for *Ole Louisiana*. It is her first opportunity to choreograph a musical production. Innovative, thoughtful, vivacious.

Roger: Age 25-35 The rising star and leading man in Michael Fisher's latest production. An ambitious, charming, narcissistic character who will stop at virtually nothing to get what he wants.

Wanda: Age 55-70 The wardrobe mistress and stage dresser who rules her roost with an iron fist. An uncompromising, outspoken woman who is not to be trifled with.

Boo: Age 40-60 Wanda's ever present assistant who is also responsible for props. Sympathetic, bashful and industrious.

Paddy: Age 60-75. The savvy Irish stage manager who wears many hats in the production. He has a keen wit and extensive knowledge of the theatre world. Generous in spirit yet little time for egotistical thespians.

Elizabeth: Age 50-60. Celebrated actress who has spent most of her career in the West End of London. An articulate, temperamental, talented performer who, despite her inner conflict, has at heart a caring disposition.

Samuel: Age 50-60 The producer of *Ole Louisiana*. His primary concern is the commercial success of the show. Strong willed, combative and opportunistic and one who does not suffer fools gladly.

Barney: Age 45-65 Career criminal from the Bronx. What Barney lacks in brawn he more than compensates for with his brain. Domineering, volatile and vengeful.

Sergei: Age 40-55 Russian immigrant and Barney's long time partner in crime. He provides the muscle to their criminal endeavours. Loyal, impulsive and imposing.

Adam: Age 50-60 Former Broadway star who has disappeared from the public eye due to a personal tragedy. Unlikely sequence of events brings him back to the theatre. Once there, he meets his love from thirty years past. A man conflicted and haunted by his past and longing to find redemption.

Marlow: Age 50-70 A millionaire with a passion for the theatre. He and his partner make for a most unusual couple. An avid fan of

the theatrical world with more money than sense. Eccentric, extravagant and social.

Perkins: Age 40-55 A respected yet feared critic of the theatre. She is intelligent, persistent, ruthless and scathing in her reviews for theatre that does not measure up to her high standards.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

One prepared musical theatre song showing your vocal range and a 1 minute monologue. Please bring comfortable shoes in case you are asked to dance.

AUDITION DATES:

June 10th 6:30 – 9:30 pm

June 11th 6:30 – 9:30 pm

June 17th 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Call backs June 18th 6:30 - 9:30 pm

LOCATION:

**Qualicum Beach School of Dance, 744 Primrose St.
Qualicum Beach**

CONTACT PERSON:

Sue Murguly, Producer at smurguly@telus.net

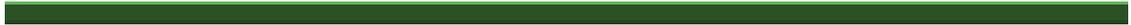
STAY TUNED:

**AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD IN JANUARY for
Almost, Maine by John Cariani**

Show Dates: April 18 –May 5, 2019

This will be our 2019 North Island Zone Festival entry

Director: Don Harper



Audition Rule #1

Don't think you can wing it, you MUST practice!

**"We are but what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then,
is not an act, but a habit" -
Aristotle (who knew a fair bit about being awesome)**

AUDITION WORKSHOP

Theatre...can be exhilarating!!! Nervous or curious about being on stage? We want to show you that it can be an enjoyable experience.

ECHO Players is holding a free audition workshop. Open to anyone interested in giving theatre a try or to people with acting

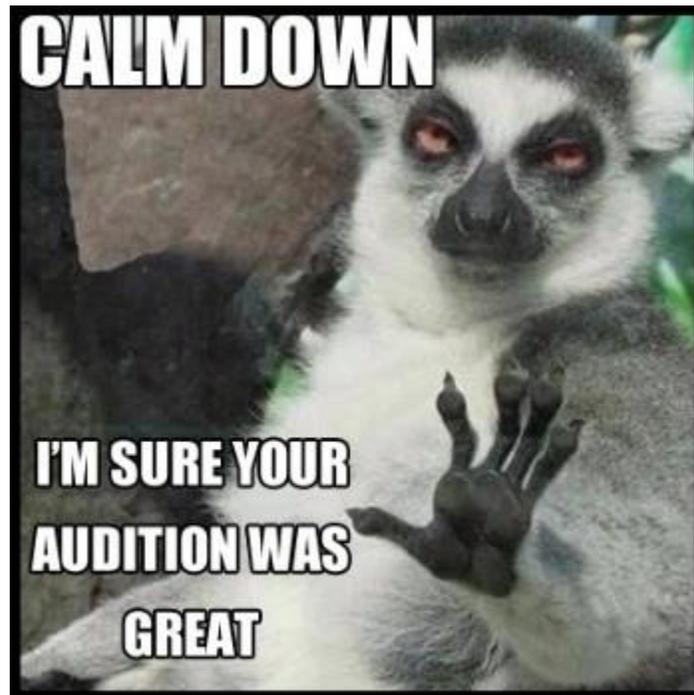
experience who want to sharpen their auditioning skills.

Saturday, May 5th, 2018 1:00-4:00 pm

At Shelley Road Centre, 186 Shelley Road, Parksville

Learn effective “how to audition” tips for plays and musicals so that you can gain confidence to audition for a role in a theatre production. Pre-registration is not required but encouraged. We can provide you some materials to consider prior to the workshop to help put you at ease.

To register and/or for more information contact Susan Warner by clicking here!



Save the Dates

April 19 - May 6

April 30

May 5

May 10 - 13

May 24, 27, 29

June 14 - 16

June 10, 11, 17, 18

Collected Stories

Staged Play Reading

Audition Workshop

Spam And Maple Syrup

**Enchanted April
Auditions**

Peter Pan Auditions

**Second Chances
Auditions**



***Your 2017-18
Board of Directors
and Committee Chairs***

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Costumes - Celia Wesselman

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Concession - Tricia Browne

Health & Safety - Alistair McVey

Membership - Lesley McVey

North Island Zone Festival Rep - Linda Attley

One Act Play Festival - Margaret Jenkins

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Social - Margaret Jenkins

Subscriptions - Linda Attley

Technical - Ken McCready

The Bugle Newsletter Editor - Kerry Campbell

Theatre BC Rep - Linda Attley

Theatre Management - Alistair McVey

Web Master - Chris Lee

Theatre Links:

<http://www.community-theatre.com/>

<http://www.theatrebc.org>

<https://westernedge.org/>

<https://www.citt.org/>

<http://bluebridgetheatre.ca/>

<https://www.nanaimotheatregroup.ca/>

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Our mailing address is:

**110 West 2nd Ave
Qualicum Beach BC
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