

Lights Up!

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KWLT President's Address

Hello everyone,

My wife Nadia and I cleaned our attic the other day, and I stumbled upon some old souvenirs I'd saved from my time with Burlington Little Theatre. The items reminded me of the good times I had with BLT and the importance of theatre to my youth. They also confirmed me the importance of keeping young people involved in theatre. I was part way through high-school when my drama teacher recommended I try out for *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. I barely scratched my way through the auditions, asking stupid questions like "You want me to read these lines like the character?" and generally knowing nothing about amateur theatre. I was the only seventeen-year-old male who had auditioned, I am sure.

I couldn't project any louder than I could speak, I terrified the cast with my inability to memorize any of my lines until two weeks before the show, and I learned a lot. I learned a lot about theatre, a lot about acting, and a lot about responsibility. I learned that as much fun as it was to play the sixteen-year old kid, it would be more fun to play the twenty-five year old and the fifty-year-old roles, and I looked forward to those years.

The show was a grand success and won several awards at the BLT annual award show (I also learned a few years later that BLT had too much money for an amateur theatre group). The memories remain, and the experience has shaped me. I kept some gifts from that first show – a kind letter and a box of shells – and I store them with some other memories under a giant hat made of fruit from a recent production with KWLT.

Ten years ago, I had never acted outside of a school musical. Today, I'm on the Board of Directors of KWLT with several productions under my belt and with more to come. Almost everyone that I consider a friend, I met through theatre. All because, ten years ago, a production took a chance on me.

KWLT prides itself on being a gateway for new people to get into acting. It's important that we take a chance on young actors every now and then. Sometimes they disappoint us, but often they surprise us. Every show we're in shapes us a little – for the actors, the final performance on the stage is secondary to the experience of actually getting to that performance – and it's important that we let young people have that opportunity.

Josh Hoey
President, KWLT



From a recent Build Day
(Credit: Josh Hoey)

...From the editor

Welcome to the September issue of *Lights Up!*, the first issue of the 2008-2009 season.

We've reached another September - so far escaping any long heat waves - and there is a crispness in the air, one of changes and revitalization. It feels that way, to me, that we could see KWLTL at a similar stance. We've finally gotten through the slow doldrums of summer and remarkable changes are about to take place. With a line of credit secured, the rebuild project has moved forward in great leaps and bounds. It may be difficult to see from the outside of the building, but inside the building and within KWLTL, from those who have worked with the board, lots of work has been going on to move the rebuild project forward.

Maybe not quite so vast, but I've also put in a few changes to this season's newsletter. Thanks to those who have helped out with this issue. If you, our readers, have any suggestions for articles that would help improve this newsletter, please let me know. Any suggestions are welcome at lightsup@kwlt.org.

With changes happening at the rate they have been the last few months, be sure to keep tuned to the KWLTL website and the members email listgroup to keep up to date with the latest news!

Tim Jackson
Lights Up! Editor

KWLTL Fundraiser Dinner**Anita Kilgour**

An evening of good food, entertainment and music, with all funds raised going towards the Kitchener-Waterloo Little Theatre for the rebuilding of its theatre.

Battle of the Bards and KWLTL, working together with the Castle on King, are offering a night of good food, live entertainment and a chance to do something for the local arts community. Tickets for this evening are \$60 each, with a tax receipt for \$30. Want to make sure you sit with your friends? We have a number of sizes of tables available, with a table of 4 costing \$200.

Tell your friends. Tell your family. Tell your coworkers. Now is the time for us to make sure that everyone knows about this great opportunity to show support for the theatre and for the wonderful impact it has on our community. We bring theatre to those who love it, who enjoy it, who work for it and who value it. Let's show the world what we can do.

Doors will open at 5:30pm on October 6th, with things kicking off at 6pm. Dinner will be at the Castle; where great beer and fantastic food find good friends. An old style restaurant and pub with a modern outlook and a relaxed atmosphere, the Castle is famous for their beer, serving only the finest ales and lagers from select Ontario microbreweries and specialty imports from around the world. It's a unique beer experience for the true connoisseur, and the food matches the excellence in the beer, giving a unique style and vibrancy you won't find anywhere else.

Since 2002, Battle of the Bards has provided a venue for performers in the Waterloo Region to showcase their skills and talents in friendly competition. In 2008, the Battle of the Bards team began organizing fundraisers for not-for-profit groups that lack the resources to produce their own events. Through these functions, Battle of the Bards hopes to enhance the profile of amateur artistry and entertainment while giving back to our community. Contact us to arrange a Battle of the Bards show on behalf of your organization.

To order tickets, please contact the KWLTL Box Office at boxoffice@kwlt.org.

Please check KWLTL's website, www.kwlt.org, for updates regarding performers and other news.

What: KWLTL Fundraiser for Rebuild, in coordination with Battle of the Bards

When: October 6th, 2008 - doors open at 5:30pm, starting at 6pm

Where: Castle on King Restaurant, 1508 King St. E., Kitchener, ON

Tickets: \$60 per person, tables of 4 available for \$200 - charitable receipts will be issued for portion of cost

Contact: boxoffice@kwlt.org or 519-886-0660

One for All and All for One

John Walsh

The Three Musketeers

By Willis Hall

Directed by Anita Kilgour

Performed July 17th-19th, 24th-26th, 2008 at the St. Jacobs Church Theatre.

A truly wicked Milady, a calculating cardinal, a naïve country boy pursuing his noble dreams, three very worldly musketeers and an enthusiastic supporting cast combined their talents to deliver on Director Anita Kilgour's promise of a story of love, honour, valour, swashbuckling and loyalty.

The pace of the performance, enthusiasm of the actors and imaginative use of entrances and exits all combined to keep the story moving and the audience engaged. The action scenes were particularly well choreographed and it was obvious that there had been considerable work done to keep both actors and audience safe.

One of the most interesting elements in the casting, however, was the fact that nearly all the actors played multiple roles and clearly enjoyed switching characters. Of particular note was the doubling of the evil Milady deWinter and the Nun, played by Melanie Card to great effect, and Ashley Kirby's hilarious switching between Dona, the amorous Clothilde and the stately Mother Superior.

Some of the pairings clearly worked because of the experience of the actors. Dave Clegg as Richelieu and Josh Hoey as Rochefort were particularly effective while Eric Logan as the regal, and not quite as simple as he seems, Louis worked well with Amy Holodinsky in the role of Anne. The supporting cast of Carrie Nixon, Rob Card, Patrick Cort, Michael Elg, Tye Zinger, Ryan Consell, and Joanna Fawcett were also critical in this production, taking on sometimes as many as four or five different roles.

It is impossible, of course, not to comment on the four central characters, Aramis played by Brian Gashgarian, Porthos, played by Jonathan Dietrich, Athos, played by Nicholas Oddson and D'Artagnan played by John Milne. Each brought some wonderful nuances and character development into their roles. In many ways the success of the performance was a tribute to their ability to breathe life into their very believable characters without upstaging the rest of the cast.

Overall, an enthusiastic and quite experienced cast who clearly worked well together to deliver a value for money fast paced show under the direction of a director who made the most of the physical constraints imposed by the theatre. Oh yes, and the partial nudity. Nothing to worry about, I don't think the Innkeeper's daughter actually caught Porthos.

2008-2009 Season Update

Melanie Card

With the a fantastic close to the 2007-2008 Season with *Three Musketeers* by Willis Hall we launch into another busy season. *Twelve Angry Men* by Reginald Rose has already auditioned and is well into rehearsals. The play revolves around the deliberation of a 19-year-old man who's just stood trial for the fatal stabbing of his father. Tempers get short, arguments grow heated, and the jurors become 12 angry men. This intense drama opens October 23rd at the Registry Theatre so don't forget to buy your tickets.

Also coming this fall is the English pantomime, *Captain Hook's Revenge* by Richard Coleman, a fun and family friendly Christmas tradition sure to please everyone. This new take on the classic tale of Peter Pan, revolves around Captain Hook plotting his revenge against the young boy with the help of his crew of enthusiastic but inept pirates. The show opens Friday December 5th at the Church Theatre in St. Jacobs.

As well, proposals for full-length plays for the 2009-2010 season are due November 3rd and the public reading night where the proposals will be presented will be November 11th (location to be determined).

And to finish off our packed fall schedule, KWLT and FASS are again co-hosting the Free Theatre Workshop Series, featuring four free workshops at the University of Waterloo in November.

With lots of opportunities to participate both on and off stage, as well as one more directing opportunity this season with the May One Acts, keep an eye on the KWLT website for more information, www.kwlt.org.

KWLT Calendar

If you have any KWLT related events you would like to add to the calendar, please send the details to the editor at lightsup@kwlt.org.

September

20-21: Build Weekend

22-24: Auditions for *Captain Hook's Revenge*

October

6: KWLT Fundraiser Dinner at Castle on King

18: Build Day

23-25: *Twelve Angry Men* Performances

27-29: Auditions for the January One Act Play Weekend

30-31: *Twelve Angry Men* (second week)

November

1: Build Day

1: *Twelve Angry Men* (final performance)

3: Deadline for Full-Length play submissions for 2009-2010 season

7: **Lights Up!** Submission deadline for next issue

10: Reading Night for prospective 2009-2010 submissions

17-19: Auditions for *Henry V*

22: Build Day

December

5-6: *Captain Hook's Revenge* Performances

12-13: *Captain Hook's Revenge* (second week)

Look for the next edition of **Lights Up!** in November.

Visit KWLT on the web at www.kwlt.org for the complete calendar, show listing and other valuable resources!

Fundraising Update

Chris Rovers

Over the past six months, we've been working to make our funding sources more stable and predictable through the monthly donation campaign. I'm pleased to say that we've had some success in attracting monthly donations from our patrons, sponsors and members, although we still have a ways to go in order to reach our goal of five hundred dollars a month. We're still running this monthly donation campaign through CanadaHelps and you can, as always, help out at www.kwlt.org/donate or by calling 519-886-0660. All donations are tax deductible and go directly to helping theatre in Kitchener-Waterloo.

With our rebuild project ramping up to the final push to completion, there are also options for donations of materials, time and expertise. If you or someone you know might be able to help us with our building project, you can find more information on our website - just go to www.kwlt.org and look under the Rebuild menu for what we need to finish our theatre.

We can always use more help with fundraising projects. If you would like to help out, please email fundraising@kwlt.org

As a reminder, KWLT Stars! are still available for a personal donation of just \$250. Donors get their names on a chair at the new theatre, an invite to the grand opening gala and more!



KWLT 2008 - 2009 Board of Directors

Josh Hoey	President
Chris Rovers	Vice President & Building Manager
Anita Kilgour	Secretary, Communications Director & Publicity Officer
Paul Woodard	Treasurer
Mike Kearns	Executive Producer
Melanie Card	Artistic Director
Amos Boratto	Technical Manager
Nadia V. Ursacki	Membership Director & Privacy Officer
Dustin Windibank	Webmaster
Lynn Scott	Director at Large & One-Act Producer
Andrew Salter	Director at Large
John Milne	Director at Large

Half a Dozen Not-So-Angry Questions

Tim Jackson

I had the opportunity to ask Michael Kearns, Director of *Twelve Angry Men*, a few questions about the upcoming production.

TJ: What is *Twelve Angry Men* about?

MK: Although I'm sure many people reading this are already familiar with the production, *Twelve Angry Men* follows twelve jurors into the jury room as they deliberate over the trial of a boy accused of murdering his father. As the drama unfolds, tensions rise, justice is sought and truths are revealed.

TJ: This is your first full-length production with KWLT as director. What drew you to directing a full-length production?

MK: Well, first, I had some time to do it – directing a main stage is much more work than a one act, at least in terms of the time commitment. Second, this is a show that I loved since the first day I saw the 1957 film (which would have been around 1996), and I couldn't wait for my chance to put it on.

TJ: Based on many of the one-act productions you have directed with KWLT in the past, *Twelve Angry Men* seems to be of a different style. Why *Twelve Angry Men*?

MK: No, it's the same – I intend to direct the show to be a slapstick comedy... no, not really. I actually have done two dramas with KWLT in the past (you would have to be a hardcore KWLTer to name them though). In reality, I was looking for a change of pace – and also a change of writers. This show will be a really test for me as a director and I can't wait for it.

TJ: Name three random and unrelated things in *Twelve Angry Men*.

MK: The show, written in 1954 for a television production, was nominated for three academy awards for the 1957 film starring Henry Fonda – it lost all three to *Bridge Over the River Kwai*. The 1957 film starring Henry Fonda was also named the second best court drama film of all time, behind *To Kill a Mockingbird*. I once finished second in a public speaking contest.

TJ: *Twelve Angry Men* was first produced in the 1950's. How do you find it relevant today?

MK: I think that the universal truths of the show are that the entire justice system has flaws, and that we can never be really sure of anything - the truth has many sides. I also think that one of the best parts of the show is that in many ways it is completely dated – it pre-dates most advanced forensic evidence.

TJ: Any other comments you wish to add regarding the production?

MK: Just that if you want a show that is about the acting, this is the show. This show rises and falls on the strength of its actors – and with the cast assembled for this show, the audience is sure in for a treat – I promise you will be glued to the drama.

What: *Twelve Angry Men*

Where: The Registry Theatre
122 Frederick St., Kitchener, ON

When: October 23rd-25th, Oct 30th, 31st
and Nov 1st

Tickets are available online through the Centre in the Square box office (www.centre-square.com)
\$10 for members, \$15 for non-members



Twelve Angry Men is KWLT's first performance of the 2008-2009 season. Performances are Oct 23rd-25th, 30th-31st and Nov 1st at the Registry Theatre.

Rebuild Update

Chris Rovers

Hi, everybody! Lots of things happening on the rebuild front that I'm thrilled to tell you about. First of all, our Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning systems (HVAC) have been installed and this will allow us to work through the winter, hopefully allowing us to finish our rebuild project by Spring! Yes, we've finally got a solid goal and a solid plan to get there. This is very exciting for us and we've got many things on the go to help us reach the goal. Our contractors have finished the roof repair and stucco work, so the exterior of the building is nearing completion. There's a little more lipstick and mascara work that they will be doing and then we will be doing a build weekend in September to do much of the remaining landscaping work.

On the interior front, we've been preparing things for our electrician, as well as readying the building for plumbing work. Plumbing and electrical work are all that remains between us and drywalling, so we're very excited about that. As part of this work, we're having to move all of our theatre supplies out of the building - to do that, we're building a shed behind the new theatre. Hopefully by the time you read this, that shed will be completed (it is almost there as I write this) and we'll be able to move all our bulky but not valuable items into there - risers, flats and other pieces of wood, mostly.

We've announced our up coming build days - all days will happen at 9 Princess St. East and start at 10am.

Saturday and Sunday, September 20th-21st - landscaping days - don't forget your sunscreen!

Saturday, October 18th - drywall

Saturday, November 1st - painting

Saturday, November 22nd - flooring

If you'd like to come out and help, please do! There's always lots to do, whether you consider yourself experienced at building or a complete novice, we have things for everyone to help with. If you'd like more info, please email rebuildinfo@kwlt.org or call 519-886-0660

KWLT 2008-2009 Season

12 ANGRY MEN — By Reginald Rose

Directed by Michael Kearns

Performances: Oct 23-25, 30-31, Nov 1, 2008 8pm

CAPTAIN HOOK'S REVENGE — By Richard Coleman

Directed by Josh Hoey

Auditions: Sep 22-24 (7-10pm)

Performances: Dec 5 & 12, 8pm, Dec 6 & 13, 2pm and 7pm

JANUARY ONE ACT PLAY WEEKEND

Auditions: Oct 27-29 (7-10pm)

Performances: Jan 29-31, 2009

HENRY V — By William Shakespeare

Directed by Amos Boratto

Auditions: Nov 17-19 (7-10pm)

Performances: Mar 5-7, 12-14, 2009 8pm

MAY ONE ACT PLAY WEEKEND

Auditions: Mar 9-11, 2009 (7-10pm)

Performances: May 28-30, 2009

LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES — By Christopher Hampton

Directed by Karen B. Grierson

Auditions: Apr 6-8, 2009 (7-10pm)

Performances: Jul 9-11, 16-18, 2009 8pm

Tickets available on-line through the Centre In The Square box office. KWLT can be reached at 519-886-0660 or info@kwlt.org