



What`s the buzz?

CLT's Christmas party will be held on Saturday **December 7th**. This year we will be supporting the local Food Bank rather than hampers, so please bring non-perishable food items and/or money on or before that evening. More information will be given at the general meeting next Tuesday **November 19th**.

2013-2014 Season

CLT's 2013-2014 Season kicked off on October 4th with a gala night at the Sid Williams Theatre, presenting *A Nice Family Gathering*. It was a very successful run. Producer Maybeth



Hoagland had this to say: "The audiences laughed and cried as they shared Thanksgiving Day 2013 with the Lundeen family. Thank you to Ronda Sproule, the wonderful cast and the excellent production team for making this such a successful season opener for CLT!" Left is a picture taken on the night of the cast party, which was held on the 17th of October at the space.

Rehearsals for CLT's Christmas production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* have started. The director, Susan Bradshaw, says "3 weeks in and we are well under way, putting together the impressive talents of this cast. Creative fun abounds and an amazing show is coming together."



For more information on shows, upcoming dates for meetings and event nights or anything else about the CLT, check out our website at www.courtenaylittletheatre.com.

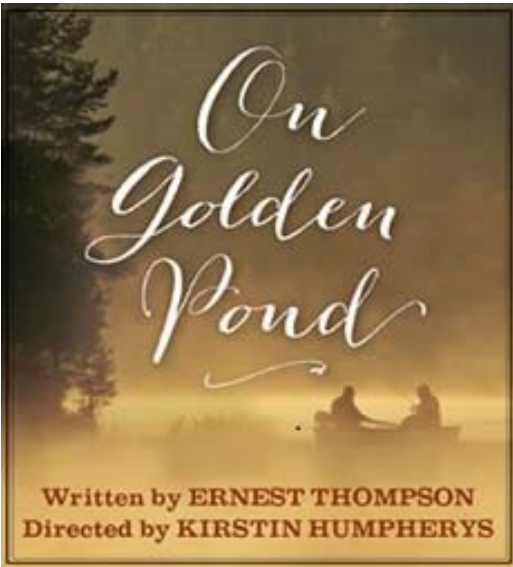
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2013-2014 Season (continued)



DON'T MISS ON GOLDEN POND! APRIL, 2014

Set at the Thayer summer cabin in Maine we see a spirited and lovable elderly couple facing their twilight years. This is their 48th summer at Golden Pond and they are looking forward to a quiet time in their home away from home. Enter Billy Ray, the teenaged son of their daughter's fiance, who is left behind while his father and girlfriend are off to Europe. The summer suddenly offers surprises, adventures and the opportunity to heal old family wounds.

On Golden Pond by Ernest Thompson was written as a stage play and then made famous by the movie starring Katherine Hepburn and Henry and Jane Fonda. Since then, this play is probably being produced somewhere in the world at this

moment. This timeless story appeals to all ages (well, probably not the young ones!) and tells a story with an honest, compassionate script. Don't miss it!

Auditions for our Spring production of *On Golden Pond*, directed by Kirstin Humpherys and co-produced by Maybeth Hoagland and Terry Penney, will be held on **13, 14 & 15 December**. So mark your calendars!

In the Community...

CFB Comox 19 Wing's Annual REXPO was held on Saturday, 14 September 2013. CLT had a table there manned by Vivien Douglas and Maybeth Hoagland, with Lynn Hodge providing some lunch time relief. It's a great way to get out into the community, especially the large military community and make our presence known. It was also some good advertising for the upcoming season. It was a fun day for all.



Pictured L-R: Vivien Douglas, Lynn Hodge & Maybeth Hoagland





Event Nights

Our Event Night on **February 19** will be a reading of *Albertine in Five Times* by Michel Tremblay. Since it was first performed in 1985, this play has become a classic of Canadian theatre. Albertine is presented at five different ages, 30 to 70, and is played by five different actors. She speaks to herself at the different stages, with warnings, regrets, and advice. Throughout the years, she is visited by the memory of her sister, Madeleine. The performance will be directed by Alana Gowdy. As usual, refreshments will be served from 7.00 pm, and the reading will start at 7.30.

The the one Act Play, *Chekhov*, by Keith Miles, which was presented at the CLT space on October 15, to a full house, went on to perform at the Vancouver Island One Act Play Festival, held in Qualicum from 25-27 October, and took the following awards: Best Production, Best Female Actor (Anna Hamersley), Best Male Actor (Nika Berry) and Best Director (Vivien Douglas). The jurors (Shadow Foster, Ann Gates and Eliza Gardiner) spoke of the "polished sophisticated production, with its beautiful set", and of "the many lovely poignant and humorous moments" between the characters. Juror Shadow Foster commented "I forgot to take notes - I was entranced," and both he and Ann Gates asked to be contacted if the show was performed again, so they could see it a second time. "Wonderful, warm performances from the moment they entered - you could have heard a pin drop in the audience" said Ann Gates. All three jurors praised the blocking, Gates saying it was "not only organic, but brought out the subtext with all the swoop and circle of the hunt". Eliza Gardiner added that there was "nothing fake or 'acted' about these performances, it was all genuine," and all three jurors agreed that the classical nature of the play and its language made it a difficult play to perform "but Anna and Nika managed to make it sound completely natural throughout." Foster added "They really listened to each other and were completely in the moment." Both he and Gates commented that they would "change nothing about this performance". Sadly, there is no suitable venue available for a repeat performance - but the cast and crew would like to thank everyone at CLT for their support and encouragement.



Left photo: Front Row R-L: Anna Hamersley, Nika Berry, Vivien Douglas, Dee Sugden (Hair), Bill Sugden (Sound Design), Kathy Prince (Stage Manager) and Kay Kennedy (Lighting). Back row Shadow Foster (a juror), Linda Lillico (ASM). Joy Nagel (ASM) and Val Macdonald (Producer) are not shown, as both were unable to attend the ceremony. *Photo courtesy of Echo Players Qualicum.*
Right Photo: Nika Berry and Anna Hamersley. *Photo by Phil Imrie*





Exciting news...

Dandelion's script of *Are you listening to me?* will now be available through Playwrights Guild of Canada. Since End-of-Life Care and Advanced Care Planning are such hot topics these days, other theatre groups may be interested in mounting the play for themselves. The play has received an



enthusiastic response from a standing-room-only crowd at the CLT space this past April, as well as in Tofino, Nanaimo and at Creekside Commons.

Pictured left to right are:
Dandelion,
Pam Munroe,
Bill Harrower &
Anne Norrgard.

As well, Dandelion hosted a workshop at Tigh-Na-Mara, in Parksville, on

November 9th, on behalf of the Vancouver Island Hospice / Palliative Care Education Day. Her workshop is entitled: *Get your act together (before the final curtain)!*

Did you know?...

Courtenay Little Theatre has been performing for over 50 years, but did you know that there has been theatre in Canada for over 400 years? The first record of a live performance in North America is of a special production that took place on 14 November 1606. It was performed in Port Royal (now in Nova Scotia) to welcome Samuel Champlain as the Governor of New France. Marc Lescarbot, our first playwright and enterprising impresario, created *Theatre de Neptune*, a performance using cast members from French settlers and local Acadian first nations. There were words, music and general jollifications. Lescarbot was a lawyer, poet and renowned author. His book *Histoire de la Nouvelle-France* is considered one of the finest accounts of early attempts at European settlement in Canada.

We have two contemporary benefits of this event. The renowned Neptune Theatre in Halifax is named after the play and the Government of Canada presents an annual Lescarbot Award to people who have made major contributions to arts in their community. The contribution that CLT makes to the Comox Valley is part of this long and valuable tradition.

Contributed by Alana Gowdy.



*If you have any comments, photos or suggestions for articles, please don't hesitate to contact me:
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