

Newsletter of



REGINA LITTLE THEATRE
SOCIETY, INC.

Vol. 64, No. 4

Entertaining Regina & Area since 1926.

Jan. / Feb. 2005

The third play of our 79th season:

Barefoot in the Park

by Neil Simon



February 2, 3, 4, and 5, 2005 at the

 Regina Performing Arts Centre
1077 Angus Street, Regina, Saskatchewan S4T 1Y4

Performances start at 8:00 p.m. each evening

About the Play:

After a six-day honeymoon a spanking new lawyer, who has just won his first case (6 cents in damages), and his young bride, who is as pretty and addled as they come, move into the new, high-rent apartment that she has chosen for them. The difficulty is that in order to enjoy the charming character of this apartment, one has to climb six wheezing flights. The apartment is absolutely bare of furniture, the paint job came out all wrong, the skylight leaks snow, there isn't room for a double bed, and an outlandish gourmet who lives in a loft on the roof uses it and the window ledge as the only access to his padlocked premises.

The situation is enough to break the heart and burst the lungs of any stylish young lawyer; and indeed it does, on the night he flatly refuses to join his wife in a barefoot walk through the snow in the park. She kicks him out, but he comes back – not for reconciliation, but because he figures that since he's paying the rent she should be the one to go.

Barefoot in the Park is Neil Simon's second play, after *Come Blow Your Horn* (1961), and before *The Odd Couple* (1965). *Barefoot in the Park* was a smash success, and ran for 1530 performances on Broadway 1963 thru 1967, in a production that featured Robert Redford and Elizabeth Ashley as the young couple. The play won the Tony for Best Play, Best Actress (Elizabeth Ashley), and Best Director (Mike Nichols) in 1964.

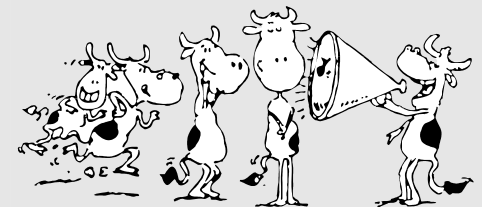
Barefoot in the Park was made into a successful movie in 1967, starring Robert Redford and Jane Fonda. It was nominated for the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for Mildred Natwick (as Mrs. Banks).

RLT produced the play in 1968, directed by Harold Woodward; it was our Festival play for that year, and won several awards.

In 1970, there was an attempt to make the play into a regular TV series, but it only ran for 13 episodes before it was cancelled. In 1981 there was a successful TV movie version made, featuring Richard Thomas and Bess Armstrong.

(continued on page 2 ...)

RLT is pleased to dedicate our 2004-2005 season to the memory of Hazel Robinson



Auditions completed for RLT's Fourth Play of the Season:

Unity (1918)
a play by Kevin Kerr

PERFORMANCES: Mon., March 28, 2005
at TheatreFest 2005 in Weyburn,
and April 6, 7, 8, and 9, 2005

at Regina Performing Arts Centre
at 8:00 p.m. each evening

AUDITIONS: Sun. & Mon. January 16 & 17
7:30 p.m. each evening

BRIEF SYNOPSIS: In the fall of 1918 in Unity, Saskatchewan, the townspeople pine for the end of The Great War and the return home of their young men. The first soldier to arrive home is blind, and a stranger, and shortly after his arrival comes the Spanish Flu. This sentimental, sad, and funny, play won the 2002 Governor General's Award for English Drama.

CAST INCLUDES:

Meghan Pedersen, Megan Gates, Krista Trettwer,
Shanna-Marie Tice, Nora Berg, Colleen Hawkesford,
Josh Strait, Andy Fisher, Mark Claxton,
Darcy Donovan, Jeff Ring, and Marty Krieser.

For more information about the auditions or the play, please contact director Ken Spencer at home 585-0719 or at work 751-7807.

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Barefoot in the Park

(continued from page 1)

About the Playwright: Neil Simon

Neil Simon is a middlebrow playwright whose plays have been popular successes both on stage and in their screen adaptations. Born July 4, 1927, he grew up in the Bronx in New York City, the second son of a Jewish family. Simon cut his comedy teeth in one of the most famous laugh factories of all time, writing for Sid Caesar (along with such colleagues as Woody Allen, Mel Brooks, and Carl Reiner, among others) on the TV series "Your Show of Shows" and "Caesar's Hour" in the 1950s. (In 1993 he drew on those experiences for a hit Broadway play, "Laughter on the 23rd Floor.") Adept at creating colorful characters and fashioning clever dialogue, Simon harbored ambitions of Broadway fame and fortune. He achieved that goal with his first play, 1961's *Come Blow Your Horn*. In 1963 he followed it with another hit, *Barefoot in the Park*, and in 1966 he wrote the book for the Broadway musical success "Sweet Charity," which was adapted as a movie in 1969.

The almost impossibly prolific Simon churned out plays at the rate of two or more a year. Few had depth, but they offered some of the biggest laugh-lines in Broadway history. Among his plays that were adapted for the screen:

- *The Odd Couple* (1968, Oscar-nominated for Screenplay and later spun off into a TV series),
- *Star Spangled Girl*, and *Plaza Suite* (both 1971),
- *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* (1972),
- *The Sunshine Boys* (1975, Oscar-nominated),
- *California Suite* (1978, Oscar-nominated), and
- *I Ought to Be in Pictures* (1982).

His ambitious comedy-drama *The Gingerbread Lady* was transformed into the film *Only When I Laugh* (1981). A series of autobiographical plays showed a more thoughtful Simon. These too became films:

- *Chapter Two* (1979),
- *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (1986),
- *Biloxi Blues* (1988),
- the made-for-TV *Broadway Bound* (1992), and
- *Lost in Yonkers* (1993 won the 1991 Pulitzer Prize)

The height of verisimilitude was reached in *Chapter Two* the story of widower Simon's meeting with, and courting of, his second wife, when the part was played by the actual woman in question, actress Marsha Mason. In 1983, he achieved something no living playwright ever had: A Broadway theatre dedicated in his name.

Cast & Crew:

Nevin Danielson is playing "Paul Bratter". This is Nevin's RLT debut. He would like to thank the cast, crew, RLT, John and Ruth for helping him take the plunge into acting. His amazement and gratitude is reserved for his wife, Kerri and his daughter, Annika for their patience and generosity. They have shared family time so Dad could go play. In the future, Nevin hopes to audition for a role in "Sound of Music" and write a biography that actually references acting experience.

Glendyne Collins is playing "Corrie Bratter". In 2001 she played Maxine the bubbly secretary charading as a nurse in *Playing Doctor* with Balgonie's Tumbleweed Dinner Theatre. For RLT she appeared in two different "An Evening of One-Act Plays" – in Guy Michaud's production of "Unwanted" and in Linda Biosotto's play "The Perfect Arrangement". In 2002 she played Betty Morrison in Balgonie Tumbleweed Theatre's production of *Sensuous Senator* directed by Murray Hugel. Glendyne has traveled extensively and in January 2003, she landed her dream job as a Children's Programmer for 8 - 12 year olds with Disney Cruise Line. She is ecstatic to be in "Barefoot in the Park" and like her character feels that she will soon be relating well to the newlywed life as she got engaged on September 13, 2004 and is planning to be married in Portland, Oregon on August 27, 2005.

David Storey is playing "Victor Velasco". He has lived in Regina all of his life. The honeymoon with his lovely wife, Katherine, has been going strong for 18 years plus. They have two wonderful children, Michael and Samantha, and one spoiled dog, Merlin. Although David hasn't been involved in a theatre production in over twenty years, he is thankful for the opportunity to be working with the great group assembled for this production of *Barefoot in the Park*. David hopes that he will not have to wait another twenty years for his next role!

Glen Butz is playing "Harry Pepper", the telephone repairman. Glen first became involved in acting in the fall of 1994 in the role of Father Kelleher in the RLT production of *Catch Me if You Can* and absolutely loved the experience. He then took a short sabbatical until he came back as the bailiff in the 1998 production of *Inherit the Wind*. Since then Glen has had roles in the following RLT productions: *Death of a Salesman* (April 2000), *The Play's the Thing* (June 2001), *Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii* (February 2002), and *The Odd Couple* (February 2003). When Glen's not acting up for RLT he has a real job at the Co-op Refinery.

RLT Honourary Life Member **Lyn Goldman** is playing "Mrs. Banks" and has been involved with RLT for many years as an actress and director. She has worked in Public Relations, Broadcasting, Television, Teaching and Administration. She was a freelance writer and broadcaster for CBC and CKCK radio, and was a writer-producer for CK-Television in its "early

days." She also worked in television and film production in Toronto and Los Angeles. She taught English at the University of Regina, and conducted seminars in writing, public speaking and promotion techniques. She set up the PR office at the U. of R. in 1968, and was granted tenure as an associate professor, largely based on her public service contributions in the city; she took early retirement from the U. of R. in 1989. Lyn has received the YWCA Woman of the Year Award, an Honorary Life Membership in ACTRA and, in 2002, the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. She is devoted to the Prairies, cats, travel, and the state of the English language.

Nils Clausson is the director of *Barefoot in the Park* – his second time directing a Neil Simon play for RLT. Two years ago (February 2003) he directed *The Odd Couple*. Most recently he directed Woody Allen's *Death Knocks* for RLT's one-acts (February 2004) and Edward Albee's *The American Dream* for the RLT/RPAC fundraiser in September 2003. Nils was an RLT board member from 2000 to 2004. When he isn't directing, Nils teaches in the English Department at the U. of R. "I enjoy directing Neil Simon's plays," says Nils. "They are so well written that actors take to them like a duck to water—which means directing them is a thoroughly enjoyable experience."

Chuck Jordan is the stage manager for *Barefoot in the Park* as well as playing the role of the delivery man. Chuck first joined RLT in 1965 in the production *Arsenic & Old Lace* directed by the late Margaret Woodward. Since then, Chuck has acted in and directed a number of RLT shows, taught creative drama to students for The Regina Child and Youth Drama Association, has acted in the *Trial of Louis Riel* for over 30 years. In 1968, when RLT last produced *Barefoot in the Park*, directed by Harold Woodward, Chuck was also the stage manager, and played the part of the telephone man. Chuck is a Sammy Award recipient and is an RLT Honourary Life Member. He is presently on the board of directors for Regina Summer Stage and appeared in *Camelot* (July 2004). Theatre has certainly been a big part of Chuck's life.

Margaret Tororey, Assistant Stage Manager for this production, has been working with RLT for many years, but took some time off to get married and have her son! She enjoys working with the diverse people that appear in RLT's productions, and the quality of the final products! For her, it's great to be working with Nils again, and with an almost new cast to RLT!

The *Barefoot in the Park* production team includes:

- John Egarhos, prompter and Second ASM
- Rick Harvey, set design (with Nils C.)
- Set construction by Rick Harvey, Harvey Friess, Fred Gallagher, Rod McLeod, Barry Uncles, & Harold Woodward
- Guy Michaud, music design
- Oscar Olivas, properties
- Jean Taylor, costumes

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Need an RLT Scholarship?

The third and final scholarship of this season is the *Honourary Life Member Jean Freeman Scholarship*. Here are the details:

- The maximum amount of each scholarship is \$400.00
- **DEADLINE:** applications must be received by the RLT office on or before Monday, March 1st, 2005 [See the back page of this newsletter for addresses and other contact information.]
- Applicants must be current members in good standing of RLT.
- Applicants must have been an RLT member for at least one year prior to the application deadline date.
- Applicants must have actively participated in the activities of RLT before the application deadline date.
- Applications must be in writing. Please visit our web site or contact our office for a copy of our scholarship application form. The Applicant will list his/her recent activities with RLT and with other performing arts organizations. Performing arts résumés and C.V.'s are welcome.
- The scholarship may be used to cover registration and/or tuition fees for one and only one educational event (class, workshop, lessons, seminar, conference, etc.), which occurs no earlier than 6 months before or later than 12 months after the application deadline.
- The applicant will demonstrate that the educational event is concerned with the performing arts – that is, drama, theatre, music, dance, including on-stage or behind-the-scenes activities for either live or recorded (TV, film, multimedia) performing arts. Preference will be given to live drama/theatre educational events.

For more information, contact RLT's Scholarships and Awards Coordinator, Bonnie Senger.

An Evening of One-Act Plays



RLT is pleased to announce our second set of one-act plays for this season. (Our last set was October 22 & 23). The next Evening of One-Act Plays will occur on **Friday & Saturday, April 29 & 30, 2005.**

NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE:

RLT was not able to book the Regina Performing Arts Centre during April or May – all the dates had been taken. Therefore, **for this occasion only**, we are happy to hold our Evening of One-Act Plays at the **Northview Community Church** (744 Sangster Boulevard, just off of Argyle Street North). Tickets will be available at the door, and are \$5.00 each.

SEEKING ANOTHER PLAY:

The play *No Exit* by Jean-Paul Sartre will be directed by Shanna-Marie Tice.

In addition, RLT is seeking at least one more play for the evening. Warren James, RLT's producer for One-Act Plays, says he's looking for a small or more intimate play, given our performance venue. Perhaps YOU would like to direct a play. Perhaps you know someone who would (or should) like to direct a play. Prospective directors should contact Warren James or the RLT Office ASAP (see page 4 of this newsletter for contact information).

AUDITIONS:

RLT will hold auditions for the above one-act plays on Monday & Tuesday evenings, February 14 & 15, 2005, at the Regina Performing Arts Centre. Here's your chance to try your hand at acting in a less stressful setting than a full-length main stage play. All levels of acting skill are welcome. You are also invited to these auditions if you'd like to try your hand at working backstage – we need stage managers, set crew, props & costumes people, and so on.

For more information on one-act play auditions, please contact Warren James or the RLT Office (see page 4 of the newsletter for contact information).

BOX OFFICE UPDATE

Theatre Regina, the organization that owns and operates the Regina Performing Arts Centre, has informed RLT that, effective January 4th, 2005, their **hours of operation** are as follows:

R.P.A.C. OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

BOX OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Thursday - 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m.
 Friday - 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
 Saturday - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

You can reach the Box Office at 306-779-2277. Here are some of the Box Office guidelines & policies:

- The Box Office accepts payments by cash, cheques, Interac, and the credit cards Visa, MasterCard, and American Express.
- You can pay over the phone, but there is an administration fee of \$2.50 per order.
- The Box Office DOES NOT reserve tickets or hold tickets without payment in full.
- The Box Office DOES NOT give refunds for tickets. (RLT will consider giving a refund but only in extraordinary circumstances.)
- Ticket Exchanges cost \$1.00 per ticket, plus any positive difference in ticket price. Exchanges MUST take place in person at the Box Office, as we require your original tickets. Exchanges will NOT be done over the phone except for ticket holders outside of Regina.
- In addition to Season Tickets and Single Admission Tickets, you can also purchase RLT Gift Vouchers for the same at the Box Office.

Here are the RLT attendance figures so far for the 2004-2005 season:

PLAY:	Total Attendance:	Average Nightly Attendance:
<i>All My Sons</i>	1036	259
<i>Little Women</i>	1409	352
2004-05 avg.	1222	305
2003-04 avg.	1216	304
2002-03 avg.	1247	312



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE
R.L.T.'S "APPRENTICE" AT
theatre
Saskatchewan
inc.

**TheatreFest 2005
in Weyburn over Easter?**

Theatre Saskatchewan is our provincial umbrella organization for community theatre groups, and RLT is a long-time member. Theatre Saskatchewan has several key events during each year including the annual one-act play festival in November, TheatreWorks the annual workshops weekend, and TheatreFest the annual full-length play festival held each Easter.

TheatreFest starts on Easter Sunday evening with a performance by the host group – this year that is the Crocus '80 Theatre group, who are hosting the festival in Weyburn. The festival features 7 plays over 7 days. Each night is a different play by a different community theatre group from somewhere in Saskatchewan.

There are over 80 community theatre groups in Saskatchewan that are members of Theatre Saskatchewan. Just over 20 of those groups are eligible to enter a play into TheatreFest. Theatre Saskatchewan has a rotation list so that the host group and 6 other groups are selected each year, and this year RLT is eligible to enter. (See the President's message for details).

There is an adjudicator, this year it is Fran Gebhard, who on the morning after the performance gives a 2 or 3 hour workshop for the play's cast & crew and provides her adjudication. At the end of the week the adjudicator decides on the prizes & trophies: Best Show, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, etc.

There are also workshops & other activities during the afternoons. These are attended by "apprentices" from many of the member theatre groups. The apprentice attends all shows, all adjudications, and all workshops during the week. The goal is the apprentice will learn TONS and TONS of theatre stuff, and will return to his/her home theatre group and share all of that knowledge (usually through participating in the group's productions of plays).

Travel & accommodation expenses for the apprentice are covered by Theatre Saskatchewan or by RLT. As RLT's apprentice at festival your commitment would be to attend the entire festival, from Sunday, March 27 evening thru to Sunday, April 3 at noon.

Interested? Call the RLT office 352-5535 and leave a message, or email RLT <rlt@sasktel.net> to express your interest!).

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FROM THE PRESIDENT:



Congratulations to director Jean Taylor and stage manager Pam McMartin on a wonderful production of *Little Women* in December. Kudos to the wonderful (and large) cast, and to the highly talented production team. Several play-goers were

kind enough to tell us how much they enjoyed the show, just as they exited the theatre; some people phoned the RLT Office and left us congratulatory voice messages, and we even received some complimentary e-mails about *Little Women*. All in all the play was well received, and Thursday night we had an audience of 446 people, which is our best attended night in the last 3 years!

It is with sadness that the RLT Board of Directors bids farewell to Patrick Pelletier, who was obliged to step down from serving on the board. Patrick will continue to participate with RLT in other volunteer capacities. Thanks for all of your work Patrick!

Filling the job opening created when Patrick resigned from the board is Cathy Moberly, who has been appointed to the RLT Board of Directors until the next AGM (September 2005). Cathy takes on the job of Front-of-House Manager and Refreshments Coordinator. She has been volunteering in this job at RLT during the last couple of years, and we welcome her to the board!

78 years ago, in February 1927, RLT produced its first ever full-length play for performances for the general public. Now in our 79th season RLT is proud to present Neil Simon's wonderful comedy *Barefoot in the Park*, directed by Nils Clausson, with stage manager Chuck Jordan. This delightful play was previously produced by RLT in 1968, when it was directed by RLT Honourary Life Member Harold Woodward also with Chuck Jordan as stage manager!

I look forward to seeing everyone at *Barefoot in the Park*!

A reminder that RLT is participating in TheatreFest 2005 in Weyburn over Easter. This is the annual full-length play festival from Theatre Saskatchewan, this year hosted by Crocus '80 Theatre in Weyburn. RLT's entry is the play *Unity (1918)* by Kevin Kerr, which is the 4th play of our season, and which I have the privilege to direct. Casting is just completed, and I'm looking forward to telling you all about it in our next newsletter.

Ken Spencer

President



REGINA LITTLE THEATRE
SOCIETY, INC.
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FAX = 584-0504, W = 751-7807, H = 585-0719
Box Office & Memberships, Newsletter

VICE PRESIDENT: Pat Wilson
H = 347-1057
Producer – Main Stage Plays, Keys

SECRETARY: Tony Cuyllé
FAX = 546-1720, W = 546-1716, H = 584-1404
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H = 775-0821
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Colleen Hawkesford
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Andrea McNeil
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Front-of-House Manager, Refreshments

Meghan Pedersen
H = 789-1047
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Bonnie Senger
H = 757-9933
Awards & Scholarships

Shanna-Marie Tice
Office Manager (RLT Office 352-5535)

Masks and Faces

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
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