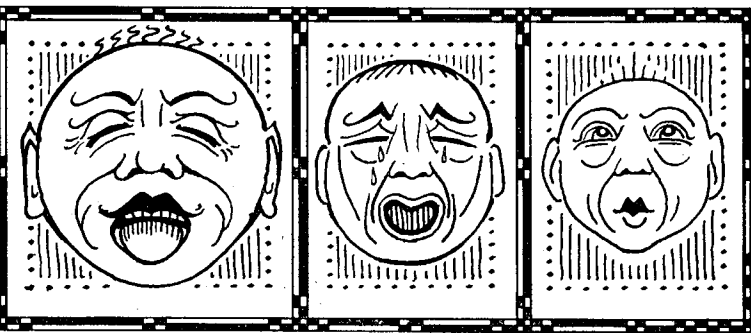


Masks & Faces



Newsletter of



REGINA LITTLE THEATRE
SOCIETY, INC.

Vol. 63, No. 2

Entertaining Regina & Area since 1926.

Sept. / Oct. 2003

Our first play of the season:

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

a dramatic comedy by Tom Stoppard

October 15, 16, 17, and 18, 2003 at 8:00 p.m.
at the

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

About the playwright: TOM STOPPARD

Tom Stoppard was born in Czechoslovakia in 1937 was raised in England, left school at age 17, bored with academics and began working for small newspapers. He was a good reporter and was promoted to writing feature stories quickly. He was made a theatre critic, and he gradually learned that he loved the theatre. He says, however, that he was a terrible critic: he was under the impression that art was an objective business, and judged it accordingly. He began to feel he would be better off writing plays.

He has said that during the sixties in England, almost everyone who wanted to write a play wrote one, because of the recent successes of John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* and Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. Most of those plays, Stoppard continues, were copies of either Osborne or Beckett. At twenty-three he wrote his own first play, *A Walk on the Water*; but he now considers it so unoriginal that he counts his next play, *The Gamblers*, as his real first play. Stoppard says he is a notorious procrastinator, and his plays tend to be written the way a student "crams" for an exam. He notes the constant problem with writing: one cannot begin until one knows what to write, and one cannot know what to write until one begins. Yet he is prolific. He has written dozens of plays and numerous screenplays.

In 1967 he introduced *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. It was his first major play, and is perhaps still

his most famous. Although Stoppard is criticized for his supposed overuse of flashy words and ideas, this same showy wordplay has brought him much admiration from most critics. Most of his plays are filled with light jokes, but they deal with dense subjects.

He is generally a widely respected popular playwright and is also comfortable with writing for mass audiences. He has won three Tony awards, in 1968 for *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, in 1976 for *Travesties*, and in 1984 for *The Real Thing*. He wrote the screenplay for the movie *Shakespeare in Love*, starring Gwyneth Paltrow and Joseph Fiennes, and won an Oscar for it in 1998. He wrote or co-wrote the screenplays for *Brazil*, *Empire of the Sun*, and *Billy Bathgate*, among others. He may have left school out of boredom, but he has written on extremely varied/complex subjects, like poetry, love, history, math, philosophy, and physics. As he says of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*.

... whatever else it is, [it] is a comedy. My intention was comic, and if the play had not turned out funny I would have considered that I had failed. Quite a lot of solemn and scholarly stuff has been written about it, which is fine and flattering, but it is worth bearing in mind that among the productions staged all over the world, two were comparative failures and both of these took the play very seriously, indeed.

(for additional notes about the play,
and the cast & crew, see page 2 ...)

AUDITION NOTICE:



RLT'S SECOND PLAY OF THE SEASON:

Arsenic & Old Lace

the well-loved comedy
by Joseph Kesselring

Directed by Kim Ireton

PERFORMANCES: November 26, 27, 28, 29, 2003
8:00 p.m. each evening
Regina Performing Arts Centre

AUDITIONS: Sunday, Sept. 21, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.,
Monday & Tuesday, Sept. 22 & 23
at 7:00 p.m. each evening
Regina Performing Arts Centre

Theatre critic Mortimer Brewster's wedding plans with Elaine go haywire when he discovers what "sweet little old" Aunts Abby & Martha have been up to, and then his creepy brother Jonathan arrives with his partner Dr. Einstein and things go from bad to worse. Add a mad uncle who thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt, mix in some murder, and you have one popular comedy.

ACTORS REQUIRED: 11 men, 3 women,
ages 20's to 60's

For more information about the auditions and the play, please contact stage manager Bern Ticet at 591-2259 or director Kim Ireton at 751-5411 (work).

80

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

... continued from Page 1

About the play:

If you know about William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* or even if you don't you're in for a treat. *Hamlet* was first performed in 1603, and is arguably the best-known of Shakespeare's works and the most famous English-language play ever written. Many of us remember it as the Shakespearean play of choice of many of our high school English teachers. Just to refresh your memory...

Hamlet is the Danish prince brooding over his mother, Queen Gertrude, having married his uncle, Claudius, who seems to have murdered his father to become the king. Inspired by an encounter with the ghost of his father, Hamlet plays at being crazy in order to try to determine whether or not his uncle is guilty of regicide. This behaviour interferes with his relationship with Ophelia and causes much upset in the royal household. Claudius & Gertrude send for Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, two of Hamlet's school chums, apparently to cheer him up but also to report back to the king and queen whether or not Hamlet is crazy or just pretending. Hamlet finally gets a break with the arrival of a company of players, whose performance of a play about a murder causes Claudius to confirm to Hamlet that Claudius is guilty of the king's murder. In an effort to be rid of Hamlet, Claudius sends him away by ship to England accompanied by Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. The duplicitous school chums meet an untimely end and Hamlet returns to Denmark, and the play continues towards its tragic end.

Hamlet is the quintessential Shakespearean tragedy. By contrast *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* is very much a comedy. The title of Tom Stoppard's play comes from a line from Act 5 of *Hamlet*. Stoppard's play comically muses about what this pair was up to between their appearances in Shakespeare's play. Our title characters are confused and a bit bewildered by what's going on (or NOT going on) around them, and they're trying to make the best of it. Are they real people in the real world with free will, or are they characters whose fate is sealed by forces beyond their control (i.e., the playwright)? They meet up with The Player, who leads a troupe of actors travelling to the royal castle, and thus the line between what may be real and what may be fantasy is colorfully and artfully blurred.

About the cast & crew:

ROSENCRANTZ is played by Josh Strait who begins his 3rd year with RLT. He last appeared on the RLT stage as Mitch in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (October 2002), and before that in *Broken Up* (February 2002). Josh can also be seen on CTV in January as the cook on *Brent Butt's Corner Gas*, and as Mr. Beecher on the teen series *renegadepress.com*

Ryan McLeod, who has just returned from Toronto where he graduated from the Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts, is excited to be making his RLT debut as GUILDENSTERN and to be working with such an excellent cast. While at Randolph he took part in the shows *I Stand Before You Naked* and *Morning Coffee*.

THE PLAYER is played by Melodi Hawkesford, who last appeared for RLT in *Office Hours* (November 2000). She has her B.F.A. in Theatre Performance from the U. of R. and has acted in several professional, university, and community plays and films. Some of her favourite roles include: The Mother in *Blood Wedding* (U. of R.), Sarah in *The Volstead Blues* (Souris Valley Theatre, Estevan), and Jelly in *The Attic, The Pearls and Three Fine Girls* (Fabulous Finds Theatre, of which she is a founding member).

David Mark plays ALFRED, one of the Tragedians. Born in Winnipeg, he completed a 4-year science degree at the U. of Winnipeg, Moving from Manitoba to Saskatchewan and from the sciences to the humanities has given David many experiences. He would like to thank RLT for another new experience.

HAMLET is played by Jadon T. Rempel, a newcomer to the RLT stage who since the age of 5 he has been entertaining crowds with his original compositions and competed for 15 years in various speech arts festivals throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Having majored in English at Brandon University he is an admirer literature and is proud to make his RLT debut in this particular play.

Meghan Pedersen, active with RLT for several years and recently elected to the RLT board of directors, plays OPHELIA. She was last seen as Kate's maid and Roblyn's secretary in *Davin* (June 2003), and before that appeared in *A Christmas Carol* (November 2002) and in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (October 2002). Meghan is very excited to play Ophelia and hopes that everyone will share her extreme love for this play!

CLAUDIUS, the king and Hamlet's uncle, is played by Tony Cuyllie who was last seen on the RLT stage in *Moon Over Buffalo* (April 2003) and *A Christmas Carol* (November 2002). He was also re-elected to

the RLT board of directors, having been RLT's Internet Webmaster for the better part of last season. He previously appeared in a dinner theatre play *Sorry, Wrong Chimney* for Tumbleweed Theatre in Balgonie.

GERTRUDE, the queen and Hamlet's mother, is played by Sally Bryant Tubello, a self-professed Tom Stoppard groupie. Sally has acted in several RLT productions including *Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii* (February 2002), *The Glass Menagerie* (October 2000), and *Blithe Spirit* (October 1999). She has also worked backstage as rehearsal prompter, vocal coach, and on one-act plays as stage manager.

POLONIUS, Ophelia's father, is played by Ken Ludwig. He, too, comes to his involvement in community theatre from his "Fishmole" experience. He was last seen in RLT's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* (October 2002). Ken also enjoys his time out in the hills.

SOLDIER is played by Marie Degenstein, who is thrilled to debut with RLT in this play. Marie's photography is currently on exhibit at the Mackenzie Art Gallery in a group exhibit entitled *Through My Eyes*, her piece is entitled *My Life on the Fridge*. She lives in Regina with her wonderful husband Ian and her two fabulous daughters Madeleine and Jamie.

HORATIO is played by Jody Sadowsky, who is delighted to be a part of this play. Past acting credits include: *What I Did Last Summer* (RLT; November 1998), *By George! And Ira, Too!* (Regina Lyric Light Opera Society), *Waiting for the Parade* (Persephone Theatre), *Annie* (Regina Summer Stage), *The Catalan Plays* (Persephone Theatre), and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Regina Summer Stage).

In addition to their roles listed above, several actors in the company also play other TRAGEDIANS, COURTIERS, AMBASSADORS, SOLDIERS, ATTENDANTS, and MUSICIANS. These "chorus" roles are also played by:

Michelle Biden has recently returned from travelling abroad. In the process of reacquainting herself with her hometown she placed herself in the midst of a roving band of prostitutes (a line from the play) in her first ever RLT performance. Apart from work and play, Michelle studies natural healing (very happily) from Wild Rose College.

After discovering an appreciation for clowning around, Colleen Hawkesford decided it was high time to jump headfirst into the world of live theatre. This show marks her RLT debut. She also enjoys exploring her creative side through pastel drawing, gourmet cooking, traveling, and assisting with indepen-

Play #3 is *Communicating Doors*, a comedy by Allan Ayckbourn, directed by Nora Berg

PERFORMANCES: February 11, 12, 13, & 14, 2003 AUDITIONS: November 24 & 25, 2003

Play #4 is *Blood Relations*, a drama

PERFORMANCES: March 25, 25, 26, & 27, 2004

-dent Canadian films. Colleen also enjoys writing, and works by day as a mild-mannered communications advisor.

Jolene Higgins was born in Brooks, Alberta, grew up in Independence, Kansas, and built igloos in Inuvik. She also went to theatre school at Red Deer College and also at the Canadian College of Performing Arts on Vancouver Island. This is her first production with RLT and she is very happy to be a part of this play.

Kim Oberthier got her start in film and performed as a double, and had a part in a university film. She has taken some acting classes and participated in a clowning workshop last year. She has decided to expand her horizons and try her hand at theatre. She is looking forward to playing a Tragedian as it incorporates everything she learned in the clowning workshop which she thought was "tons of fun!".

This production is directed by Darla Biccum. She has appeared on the RLT stage in *Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii* (February 2002), *Office Hours* (November 2000), *What I Did Last Summer* (November 1998), and *Cake-Walk* (February 1998). Darla is thrilled to make her main stage directing debut with RLT. She received her acting training at the U. of R. and has performed for Regina audiences with RLT, Globe Theatre, and the U. of R. Through her involvement with community organizations, such as the Saskatchewan Drama Association, Darla has worked extensively throughout the province delivering acting, improv, and voice workshops to elementary and high school students. Darla is also a founding member of the theatre collective *Lunacy*, currently in the process of creating an original work for the stage, thanks to a grant from the Saskatchewan Arts Board. She is pleased to be working with such a talented cast and crew.

Stage Manager for this production is Pat Wilson, who has previously stage managed *Black Coffee* (November 2001), *Office Hours* (November 2000). She has also stage managed for Regina Summer Stage for *H.M.S. Pinafore* (July 2001), and has been an assistant stage manager for Regina Lyric Light Opera Society. By day Pat is a manager at the City of Regina in the Utility Billing department, and she is a member of the RLT board of directors. She has assisted in organizing the Queen City Marathon for the last couple of years, and she is an avid quilt maker.

Other members of our backstage production team include Andrea McNeil (Assistant Stage Manager), Jolaine Huber, (prompter/ line coach) Melanie Little (dresser, backstage crew), Carol Krieser (costumes/ wardrobe). Set construction crew includes: Fred Gallagher, Rick Harvey, Harold Woodward, Barry Uncles, Lexi Rennebohm, James Englot.

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We fondly remember

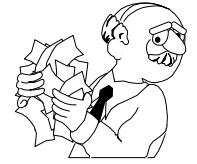
Friday, July 25, 2003 **Dale Simmons**, age 60 years, passed away in Regina, SK. A gathering of family and friends was held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 550 Sangster Boulevard with Bishop Ken Burgess on Sunday, August 10, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. with interment with his parents in Balcarres Cemetery at a later date. Dale was a long time active RLT member, and recently ran RIELCO that produces performances of *The Trial of Louis Riel*.

The family of **Stan Beadnell** is heartbroken to say he suddenly and reluctantly left us Sunday, August 24, 2003 at the age of 70. Ever ready with a smile, a joke or a comforting shoulder, Stan enjoyed his years at Shoreacres on Last Mountain Lake with family and friends, the many dogs who enriched his life and his various stage roles with Regina Little Theatre some years ago. Margaret Woodward directed him as Henry VIII; he also appeared in *Ten Little Indians*, and he played Big Daddy in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. He relished his appearances as Santa Claus in many Regina Homes, at children's parties and on CBC Radio. His writing and journalistic career included work with the Saskatchewan Government Information Services, the Regina Leader-Post, and a published children's book with his friend and collaborator the late artist Vern Castle. At Stan's request there was cremation and no funeral service. In remembrance friends so wishing may send donations to the Regina Humane Society, Albert Street and Armour Road, Regina, or the Intensive Care Unit, Pasqua Hospital, 4101 Dewdney Ave. Above all, be a friend to those you meet.

Jack Woolley passed away on Friday, August 29, 2003 at the age of 76. Jack, along with his wife Lena, was active in the Boy Scout movement, starting the Regina 33rd group at Peart School and he was Scoutmaster there until 1961, following this was Scoutmaster for many years with the 46th group at Whitmore Park United Church. Jack became actively involved in musical theatre in Regina in 1975. For a number of years he was the judge in the *The Trial of Louis Riel*. Following the re-organization of the Regina Lyric Light Opera Society in 1977, Jack was a regular member of the cast and served as President and Production Manager for many years. Jack was honored with a life membership in the Regina Lyric Light Opera Society. Jack enjoyed life to the fullest. He shared his love of life and music with Lena and family and friends. Donations may be made to the charity of your choice or the Kidney Foundation of Saskatchewan, #1 2217 Hanselman Court, Saskatoon, SK, S7L 6A8.

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Need a Scholarship? APPLY NOW!!



RLT is pleased to offer three scholarships annually, and the second of these is the *Vic & Mary Rouse Memorial Scholarship* to be presented/awarded in December. Here are the details:

- The amount of this scholarship is \$400.00
- APPLICATION DEADLINE: applications must be received by the RLT office on or before Saturday, November 1st, 2003 [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.
- Applicants must have actively participated in the activities of RLT before the application deadline.
- 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 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.

The third and final scholarship of the season is the *Life Member Jo Dunn Scholarship*, applications will be due March 1st.

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by Sharon Pollock, directed by Ken Spencer

AUDITIONS: January 11, 12, & 13, 2004

Play #5 is *Past Artistry*, a new play by J.J. Steinfeld, directed by Carol Krieser

PERFORMANCES: June 9, 10, 11, & 12, 2004

AUDITIONS: April 4, 5, & 6, 2004

REGINA LITTLE THEATRE SOCIETY, INC.



1077 Angus Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4T 1Y4

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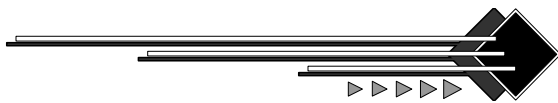
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THE NEXT ISSUE IS Wednesday, November 5th, 2003**

Costume Sale !!

Recently RLT and Regina Summer Stage have combined our costume rooms. In doing so we've uncovered numerous wonderful costume items that we can unfortunately no longer keep, so we're having a costume sale just in time for Halloween!

WHEN: Saturday, October 25, 2003 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Regina Performing Arts Centre basement, 1077 Angus St. (at 4th Ave.) CASH OR CHEQUE ONLY

FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

Season ticket holders may now pick up their season tickets at the Box Office. This can be done any time between now and your performance night of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* on October 15 thru 18. For the hours of the Box Office or other ticket information please call 779-2277 or 2279. (We're keeping our postage expenses down by asking you to pick up your tickets.)

CONGRATULATIONS to James Trettwer, who is the recipient of the RLT *Margaret Woodward Memorial Scholarship* for 2003-2004. James has been active in many RLT productions in recent years, and will be using his scholarship to take a specialized workshop in dramatic writing, or playwriting, taught by Gail Bowen at the U. of R. See inside this newsletter for details of our next scholarship.

As you read this RLT will have completed our Fall Fundraiser and Season Opener, a performance of the Edward Albee satire *The American Dream*. Congratulations and thanks to director Nils Clausson and his talented cast & crew for all of their hard work: Colleen Kembel, Warren James, Margaret Tororey, Linda Biasotto, Nelson Mitchell, prompter Bonnie Giesbrecht, music arranged by Guy Michaud, lighting by James McCullough, set Rick Harvey, Fred Gallagher, and Harold Woodward.

September continues to be busy with many theatrical events, including Theatre Saskatchewan's presentation of the festival winning production of the Norm Foster comedy "The Foursome" performed by Swift Current Little Theatre at the Regina Performing Arts Centre on Friday & Saturday, September 26 (a pub night) and 27 (a dinner theatre). Call Theatre Saskatchewan at 352-0797 for information. (This is a FABULOUS show, and I highly recommend it to all.)

An exciting start to a great season!

President

**business
Printers**

2330 - 8th Avenue, Regina, S4R 1G3, 522-4941
Special Thanks to Charlie & Jim Leibel & staff
who donate the printing of this newsletter to RLT