



OnStage

BARD TO BROADWAY



THEATRE SOCIETY

Fall/Winter 2009

Wow - what a season!

B2B's 10th anniversary season marked a milestone in more ways than one. We enjoyed settling further into our new home, the Parksville Community & Conference Centre for our 2nd season in the Chrysler Theatre with improvements on many fronts; we also bade goodbye to Gary Brown, founding member and Artistic Director. After a decade of extraordinary contributions - and a significant personal investment in time and energy - Gary came to the difficult decision to resign. This is not to say we won't see him back in a B2B production in one capacity or another, but now Gary can enjoy considerably more free time than he's had for a long while.

As in past seasons, we had our ups and downs. While we had probably the best-ever Garden & Home Tour this year - everyone in attendance was impressed by the terrific selection of properties - we had to alter our educational programming somewhat. Plans are already coming together for next year's educational opportunities. We'll make some adjustments to improve our offerings and, as always, aim high.

Since our 2009 Season closed, we've had 2 all-day planning sessions for our next year's worth of activities and it's going to be ab-fab (that's "showbiz" talk for absolutely fabulous). Stay tuned for more announcements via this newsletter in the months to come.

Dave Graham



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B2B Board of Directors For the 2009-2010 Season

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Bard to Broadway Theatre Society

Phone: 250-248-0444

www.b2btheatre.com

b2b@b2btheatre.com



Our 2010 Season



Multi-tony Award winner! GYPSY is the ultimate story of stage mom-itis! Join Rose, June and Louise in their trip across the United States during the 1920's, when vaudeville was dying and burlesque was born. Jule Styne's music and Stephen Sondheim's lyrics include *Let Me Entertain You, Some People, You'll Never Get Away from Me, If Momma Was Married, All I Need Is the Girl, Everything's Coming Up Roses, You Gotta Get A Gimmick* and *Together Wherever We Go.*
Directed by Eileen Butts



Penned by comic genius Norm Foster! In this touching romantic comedy, you'll join the Duncan family as they prepare for the wedding of their daughter. It is the night before the big day, and Maggie's older sister discovers that she knows the groom a **little** better than Maggie would like her to.
Directed by Don Harper

THE WILD GUYS

Four guys, with nothing in common except their gender! Randall, Andy and Robin - all modern men for whom "hunting and gathering" means looking in the produce section of the grocery store - head out for a "soul exploring" weekend in the woods, "guided" by Stewart. Of course they get lost, and of course they confront their own fears and emotions, and of course there's a virtually endless stream of jokes. Without food or shelter, they are stalked by man and beast and start to come to terms with their blind spots, and their bald spots. They are middle-aged men who are confused about where life has taken them. They need some answers... **any** answers.

B2B Audition Dates for 2010 Season

B2B will be holding general auditions, in both Nanaimo and Parksville, for these 3 shows.

Sunday, January 24th

St. Paul's Hall, Chapel Street, Nanaimo
 2:30 pm

Saturday, January 30th

St. Paul's Hall, Chapel Street, Nanaimo
 2:00 pm

Sunday, January 31st

Shelly Road, Parksville
 2:00 pm

Sunday, February 7th—Callbacks

Shelly Road, Parksville
 2:00 pm

Wonderful roles for male and female actors, aged 8 years and up!

Please prepare a monologue and approximately 16 bars of music to sing. For further information please contact 250-248-0444, or 250-248-3782 (Eileen) or info@b2btheatre.com

Play a part in our exciting, invigorating and friendly company this summer!





An Interview with Amber Lohead

In November, Dave Graham had the opportunity to interview Amber Lohead. Many of you have seen Amber perform for the past 4 years in a number of B2B shows.

Talk a little about how you caught the acting bug.

Essentially I've been performing since before I even knew such a thing existed. Informally, I started in the backyard; my big sister and I would make up stories and plays and perform them (we found out years later this was much to our neighbours entertainment). We were very lucky to have a mother who encouraged 'Creative Play'. We had a big trunk of dress up clothes and were always creating costumes and performing in them or creating puppet shows. Our parents also had a fabulous record collection and we would perform an entire album from start to finish — our favourites being Queen's "A Night at the Opera" and the Soundtrack from "The Muppet Movie".

Even when I was alone I was always acting out scenes; sometimes with dolls and stuffed animals, sometimes just as a one-man show for imaginary audiences. Following in my sister's footsteps, I took up dancing in kindergarten. I can still remember my first performance; "A Spoonful of Sugar"...I had a beautiful white pinafore dress with a green satin sash...that was the moment; I had caught the bug and there was no turning back.

My first 'acting' role was as the youngest Baby Angel in "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever". I had no lines. This was actually a common theme for a number of years, and creating a solid character out of little or no scripted lines has become somewhat of a forte of mine. The majority of my childhood revolved around theatre in one capacity or another. Aside from getting involved regularly with shows (both school and community-based), I was fortunate to have both of my parents involved in the local Arts Centre in Chilliwack (where I grew up). My mom was the Manager for a number of years and my Dad came on board as the technical director. This made for hours upon hours spent inside the walls of the Arts Centre, making the theatre my home away from home. I had the luxury of seeing the ins and outs of the day to day running of the theatre, an invaluable experience that has stayed with me. Some of my fondest childhood memories involve hanging lights with my dad and 'performing' on the stage when no one was around.

Rental Space at B2B's Shelly Road Centre

B2B's office is located at 186 Shelly Road in Parksville. If you know someone looking for meeting or special event rental space, please have them call the Shelly Road Centre at 250 927-0641.

What keeps you active in theatre?

Although I do have other interests in my life, my passion for theatre and performing has never dwindled. There was, of course, a time in my later teen years where I had aspirations to hit Hollywood and Broadway; but reality ultimately set in. The truth of the matter is, unless you're one of the lucky ones who catch a break, it can be a lot more fun getting involved in smaller scale and local theatre productions. Often you wind up getting to take on incredible roles and characters. Despite years of various fun roles, it's only been in the last five years or so (since moving to the Island) that I've really started coming into my own as more of a leading performer. I've had the opportunity to tackle some pretty fantastic, strong female roles.

Can you put your finger on a favourite role?

It's so hard to peg down my 'favourite' roles and shows, as I love all of the experiences for different reasons. In 2007, I had the opportunity to play 'Miss Adelaide' in "Guys and Dolls". This was definitely one of my most enjoyable experiences on stage; what a gift that character is. The accent, the songs and the costume era, mixed with a great cast made it pretty impossible not to enjoy performing in that show. The same can be said for 'Hope Cladwell' in 2007's "Urinetown, The Musical". That show had such a fantastic energy! It's a great feeling knowing you have the right cast, crew and directing team working together.

Thinking of great ensembles brings to mind another very special experience; in 2005 I was fortunate enough to be cast as one of the five women in "A...My Name is Alice". Not only was the show an audience favourite with so many great and memorable characters and songs, it was the beginning of some incredible friendships. I attribute who I am as a person to the influences of so many strong females throughout my life; contained within the Alice cast were some incredibly strong women both in their persons and in their performing abilities. I consider myself so lucky to count them amongst my friends and am lucky to have had the opportunity to work with all of them a few times since the original 2005 show.

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Strong females seem to be a theme in most of the shows I am part of. 2008 was a shining example of this; the summer season enabled me to take on two great roles. The Strong-headed 'Lucy Van Pelt' in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" ended up being a very liberating role. Working with such a great cast without the stresses of major costume changes and hairstyles allowed all of us to 'play', which is so much fun.

That same summer saw me in the lead role of 'Annie Oakley' in "Annie Get Your Gun". 'Annie' was my first title lead and it was such a great experience. I loved all of my songs and loved the feeling I got from performing in that character each night. More than that, I enjoyed the support and feedback I got from audience members. One of the main reasons I love performing so much, is the feeling I get when I know an audience is right there with me; enjoying



themselves and being entertained. It's a fantastic feeling knowing you are bringing a smile to someone's face and allowing them to 'escape' for a few hours. That's one of the main reasons I get involved with mostly comedies and musicals; I like to know the audience members are really enjoying themselves. Laughter is such a key element in my life and I like being able to bring that to other people.

What about some roles you'd like to play?

There are, of course, those dream roles out there that I would so love to take on. Mine are fairly standard and all fall under the 'Diva' heading. The three top roles always lingering in the back of my mind are 'Sally Bowles' in "Cabaret", 'Fanny Brice' in "Funny Girl" and 'Velma Kelly' in "Chicago". These are the big three, but there are so many other great and fantastic roles out there. The beauty for females is that quite often the really juicy roles tend to come later on in life; 'Mama Rose' from "Gypsy" and 'Julie' from "Showboat" are two such roles (sigh...maybe one day).

Right now my focus has altered slightly. I was given an opportunity to assist in the directing of "Oliver" this past summer and I like to think of the experience as a good way of getting my foot in the door. I hope to take on a solo directing role in the near future and unleash a different part of my creative brain. I really relish the idea of immersing myself completely in the creative and technical side of a show.

I was thrilled to hear the announcement of the line up of shows for next year. I think the upcoming season is going to be a really interesting one to be a part of, in any capacity. All the performing aside, the best thing about working with B2B is being part of the 'family'. That's what we are, in the truest sense of the word; we laugh, we cry, we argue, we make up and (most importantly) when

things get tough we pull together to get the job done. I'm sure, being a year of some transitions, 2010 will not be without some challenges; but I've also seen the heart and soul that people are willing to put in to make it a success. It's going to be great!

**"News Flash: Amber will be directing
The Wild Guys next summer."**

Did You Know?.....

Shakespeare's play Macbeth is said to be cursed, so actors avoid saying its name (the euphemism "The Scottish Play" is used instead). Actors also avoid even quoting the lines from Macbeth inside a theatre, particularly the Witches incantations. Outside of a theatre the play can be spoken of openly. If an actor speaks the name Macbeth in a theatre, he or she is required to leave the theatre building, spin around three times, spit, curse, and then knock to be allowed back in. There are several

possible origins for this superstition. One is the assumption that the song of the Weird Sisters is an actual spell that will bring about evil spirits. Another is that there is more swordplay in it than most other Shakespeare plays, and the more swordplay must be rehearsed and performed, the more chances there are for someone to get injured.



Membership has its Benefits!

B2B welcomes new input and new energy. If you would like to "have a say" in the operations and future direction of this exciting theatrical company, please consider becoming a member. Our membership fee, set annually at the annual general meeting, is currently \$20

Membership offers many benefits:

- vote at the AGM
- receive newsletters and announcements
- purchase concession items for half-price (must present membership card, non-transferable)
- Bring a Friend for Free! Members receive one free ticket with purchase of **a regular price** admission. Offer is valid for Tuesday night shows in July, 2010.

For more information or to become a member, contact Eileen Butts, 250 248-3782 or ebutts@telus.net. Membership forms can be found on the B2B website at www.b2btheatre.com.

Bard to Broadway is pleased to announce our ticket prices for the 2010 season.

Ticket prices are subject to taxes.

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	Adult	Student
Maggie's Getting Married	\$22	\$20
The Wild Guys	\$22	\$20
Gypsy	\$26	\$24

Bard to Broadway swallows the GST!

Purchase your Season's Pass(es) before Jan 30th and B2B pays the GST.

Pre-Season's Pass Prices

Before January 30 \$65 (includes GST)

Join B2B as a volunteer!

We have openings available in almost every department, including front-of-house, concessions, and technical crew as well as costumes, special events, and fundraising. We offer a unique opportunity to work in the wild and wonderful world of theatre! Where does your expertise lie?? Know someone who might like to help out??



Here's the perfect way to brighten someone's Christmas!

B2B Season's Pass(es) or B2B Gift Certificates (Available in \$50.00 denominations). Purchase forms are available on our website, by email, or by phoning us.

Buy a Season's Pass for the theatre-lover on your Christmas list

Mission of the Bard to Broadway Theatre Society

To produce quality live theatre on central Vancouver Island with broad audience appeal, while providing stimulating educational opportunities, skill development and community participation in the performing arts.

Bard to Broadway Theatre Society

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THEATRE SOCIETY



Pre-Season Ticket Order Form

Please make cheque payable to Bard to Broadway.

Mail form and payment to:

Bard To Broadway Theatre Society
PO Box 427
Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 1S9

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

SEASON PASSES

# OF PASSES		TOTAL
	@ \$65 ea	

B2B GIFT CERTIFICATES

# OF CERTIFICATES		TOTAL
	@ \$50 ea	

MEMBERSHIP

	@ \$20 ea	
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GRAND TOTAL

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