



OnStage

BARD TO BROADWAY

THEATRE SOCIETY



Spring 2009

10x Season Begins!



Mark Your Calendars for *It's Showtime! Season Premiere!*

On May 23, in the Chrysler Theatre, Parksville Community & Conference Centre, the entire 2009 Bard to Broadway summer season will be presented to you in our gala preview production that features a wonderful evening of entertainment and treats.

It's Showtime is sponsored by From A to Zebra Fashions, a proud support of the arts in Oceanside. Decorations are sponsored by Petal and Kettle, a great new business on Craig Street in Parksville and intermission refreshments will be catered by always yummy, Masters Touch Catering.

And a gala evening it will be! An evening of wonderful appetizers, your favourite drinks at a no-host bar and on the Chrysler Theatre stage, snippets from each of this season's four shows, *Oliver!*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Glorious* and *The Foreigner*.

*Photo: Cast, crew, staff and board at Crescendo 2009
Photo by Michael Chriss*



Saturday, May 23

The committee is well into its planning for this fun-filled event, a wonderful evening of entertainment and gustatory pleasures. The evening will be held in the PCCC where along with recognizing our generous season, show and media sponsors, you will be treated to some of the songs and action from our upcoming productions, intermission refreshments and then the music of *Arrowsmith Big Band*. So... mark those calendars and tell your friends, families and neighbours.

6.45 pm	Doors open
7.30 pm	B2B 2009 Preview
8.30 pm	Intermission and refreshments
9.00 pm	Arrowsmith Big Band

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE EVENING PLEASE!

Volunteers needed to help set up the hall, put the stuff away at the end of the evening, and organize snacks for the cast, crew and volunteers. We could use just a few minutes of your time. CONTACT Hugh Sinnott at 250-248-4271. We WILL call you back!

Update from Gary Brown, B2B's Artistic Director

Another summer season of theatre from B2B is underway. Who knew that a short-lived season of shows in July and August would become year-round work. Once the season ended last September we all took a well deserved month break and in November were hard at organizing our tenth anniversary season. The shows were chosen, royalties from New York secured and season passes put on sale in December.



When January rolled around, the directors and designers met to set up auditions. In late January we auditioned over seventy actors and by February, our casting was complete. Here we are now, with sets are under construction, fabrics chosen, crew members secured, box office plans finalized, and our first "read-thru" of the scripts done. Now the excitement and anticipation begins. As a director, I have been over the script and music many, many times and the ideas are flowing. For the actors, who were cast in February, this is now their first chance to hear the script and realize how much work is ahead.

For those who have not been in a play, it is hard to understand how much commitment and effort it takes. Each play will now begin rehearsals in earnest. This means from two to three times per week the actors are called to learn blocking (stage movement), songs, choreography, dialogue and character development. They will work with the director to flesh out characters that before were just text on a page. They will be poked and prodded by their costume designers. They will also be asked to memorize a great deal of text as well as remember all their movements, songs and dances. For most of those involved, this is a passion for theatre while holding down "real" jobs or schoolwork. It is about commitment, true teamwork, trust and joy. There will be times that doubt sets in, times of hysterical laughter, and always the joy of performing. Behind the scenes are the designers, crews, technicians, musicians who lend there valuable talent and creativity to the whole process.

It is not always about the being in the spotlight but about friends, creativity, and memories that last forever. Our first major event for cast and crew is *Crescendo*, when we all gather as a huge group to see old friends and make new ones. For many, this was a new experience. It is always rewarding to see new talent and new faces grace our stage. We have a terrific season of excellent shows to stage this summer and we are raring to get started. So let us help to put a smile on your face this summer. I guarantee it will be worth it.

2009 is B2B's 10th Season!

Our first season was in 2000 with the bold choice of *Company* by Stephen Sondheim as feature production. Over the past nine years, B2B has consistently provided high-quality productions to the community and its visitors and continues to be a stepping-stone to performers and production crew keen to be involved in the theatre and entertainment business.

The 2009 season, with another four sensational productions runs from July 3 to September 5 in the Chrysler Theatre, PCCC. Here's a synopsis:

Glorious! is the true story of Florence Foster Jenkins (1868-1944), the worst singer in the world and a gregarious socialite who became a must-see performer in the 1940's. Gloriously bad and lunatically funny, the play chronicles her rise to the pinnacle of a sold-out Carnegie Hall. Her joy and enthusiasm made up for the fact that she couldn't hit a single note! Written by Peter Quilter.



The Foreigner is a farcical production set at a rural Georgia fishing lodge that centers on Charlie Baker, a shy Englishman who tends to be socially anxious. While at the lodge, he pretends to not know his native language in order to avoid contact with the others. Successfully convincing them that he cannot understand, he becomes privy to information that is both comical and threatening to the characters in the play. Written by Larry Shue.

Oliver! Charles Dickens' charming story of the poor little orphan, headed for no good, who comes up with a happy ending, is the plot of *Oliver!* Memorable songs include *Food, Glorious Food, I'd do Anything, Where is Love? Long As He Needs Me, and Who Will Buy?* The sad-happy ending, on London Bridge shortly before midnight, sees Oliver headed for a happy future. His recent comrades-in-arms are fed, and Fagin's a changed man. A great version of a much loved tale. Written by Murray Chapman, music and lyrics by Lionel Bart.

Little Shop of Horrors is one of the longest-running Off-Broadway shows of all time. This affectionate spoof of 1950s sci-fi movies has become a household name. Charming, tuneful and hilarious, with tongue firmly planted in cheek, *Little Shop of Horrors* never fails to entertain. A nerdish florist finds his chance for success and romance with the help of a giant man-eating, exotic plant with a mysterious craving for fresh blood. This horticultural horror will have audiences screaming with laughter. Book and lyrics by Howard Ashman, music by Alan Menken.

B2B's Spectacular

... Eileen Butts



Eileen Butts has been a significant contributor to B2B since its inception. Whether applying her directing and acting talents for the stage, or enjoying a performance (you can't miss her laugh!), Eileen continues to share her joy of theatre.

Interview by Dave Graham.

Eileen, how did you first become involved with Bard to Broadway?

Well, community theatre has been a large part of my life for over three decades. I had met Gary Brown through Echo Players, and in the spring of 2000, I was invited to become a cast member of *Company*, which seemed an aptly-named show to inaugurate a brand new troupe.

What have been some of the highlights over the years?

Oooooooo - there are too many!! Yenta (*Fiddler* 2002), Aunt Eller (*Oklahoma* 2003), and Josephine "Ma" Strong (*Urinetown* 2007) were terrific parts (thanks, Gary!) Certainly I would have to say that the most FUN was the role of Vera Charles. Hey, I got to play an alcoholic bad actress, who was best friend to the glorious *Mame* (2004), played to perfection by Rosalee Sullivan. And the costumes! Susan Jacobsen-Frith outfitted us divinely, dahling! "You look mahvelous," was never more true.

And as a director?

Ah, now that's a different sort of satisfaction. *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* (2001) was the first musical I'd ever tackled. What I came to realize was how incredibly terrific is the team made up of the vocal director, musical director and choreographer. The perceptions, talents, and energies of those folks elevate the entire enterprise to a whole other level.

The thrilling voices in *The All Night Strut* (2002), *South Pacific* (2005), *Sound of Music* (2006), *Guys and Dolls* (2007). *The Melville Boys* (2004) was B2B's first Canadian play. I think *Guys and Dolls* will always occupy a very special place in my heart because my father used to read the Damon Runyon stories aloud to us when we were children. Some of those characters have been my friends for a long, long time.

How do you feel about the move to Parkville?

Well, as an audience member, I really appreciated my cushioned seat, my uninterrupted view of the entire stage, a roomy lobby to roam in, and the facility to relieve myself of life's little burdens in comfort.

And as a performer?

Don't get me started! A dressing room - in fact, separate dressing rooms for the men and ladies - mirrors, lights, running water, hot water, flush toilets, props storage, costume storage, set storage, wing space, backstage space.... I've run out of breath.

We get the picture. So, what's up next?

"The future's so bright, I gotta wear shades." I think B2B's going to have a fabulous 10th anniversary season, and I'll talk to you again for our 20th anniversary edition.



Bard to Broadway's 2009 artistic team:

Artistic Director	Gary Brown
Directors:	
Oliver!	Dean Chadwick
Glorious	Dave Graham
The Foreigner	Don Harper
Little Shop of Horrors	Gary Brown
Choreographer	Juli Martell
Vocal director	Hilary Whelton
Set design	Roger Lappin
Props/set dresser	Lyn Strand
Lighting	Michael Stebbings
Music directors	Pat and Barry Miller
Costumes	Lorna McLelland, Caron Byrne and Diana Naylor

The Historical Oliver

Oliver Twist (1838) is Charles Dickens' second novel. The book was originally published in *Bentley's Miscellany* as a serial, in monthly installments that began appearing in the month of February 1837 and continued through April 1839.

Oliver Twist is the first novel in the English language to centre throughout on a child protagonist and is also notable for Dickens' unromantic portrayal of criminals and their sordid lives. (The musical, however, softens their characters and makes some of them almost friendly.) The novel may have been inspired by the story of Robert Blincoe, an orphan whose account of his hardships as a child labourer in a cotton mill was widely read in the 1830s.

Born into a life of poverty and misfortune, Oliver is orphaned almost from his first breath by his mother's death in childbirth and his father's unexplained absence, Oliver is meagerly provided for under the terms of the Poor Law, and spends the first eight years of his life at a baby farm in the 'care' of a woman named Mrs. Mann. Along with other juvenile offenders against the poor laws, Oliver is brought up with little food and few comforts.

Around the time of the orphan's twelfth birthday, Mr. Bumble, a parish beadle, removes Oliver from the baby farm and puts him to work picking oakum at the main workhouse (the same one where his mother worked before she died). Oliver, who toils with very little food, remains in the workhouse for six months, until the desperately hungry boys decide to draw lots; the loser must ask for another portion of gruel. The task falls to Oliver, who at the next meal tremblingly comes forward, bowl in hand, and makes his famous request: "*Please, sir, I want some more.*"

In *Oliver Twist*, Dickens mixes grim realism, and merciless satire as a way to describe the effects of industrialism on 19th-century England, and to criticize the harsh new Poor Laws. Oliver, an innocent child, is trapped in a world where his only alternatives seem to be the workhouse, Fagin's thieves, a prison, or an early grave. From this unpromising industrial/institutional setting, however, a fairy tale also emerges: In the midst of corruption and degradation, the essentially passive Oliver remains pure-hearted; he steers away from evil when those around him give in to it; and, in proper fairy-tale fashion, he eventually receives his reward - leaving for a peaceful life in the country, surrounded by kind friends. On the way to this happy ending, Dickens



explores the life in the Great Britain of Queen Victoria and her time. This novel is loved by people around the world, while the book itself is now translated into more than 25 languages.

Oliver Twist has been the subject of numerous film and television adaptations, and is the basis for a highly successful musical, *Oliver!* *Oliver!* was the first musical adaptation of a Charles Dickens work to become a stage hit. There had been two previous Dickens musicals in the 1950s, both of them television adaptations of *A Christmas Carol*, but the dramatic story of *Oliver Twist* was the first Dickens work to be presented as a successful stage musical. The plot of Dickens's original novel is considerably simplified for the purposes of the musical, with Fagin being represented more as a comic character than as a villain, and large portions of the latter part of the story being completely left out. After all, who wants a musical that sends you home singing dirges?



MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

Dates to remember

April 23	Annual General Meeting
May 23	<i>It's Showtime</i>
July 3	2009 season opening night
July 18	Garden & Home Tour
July 27 - Aug 1	Pacific Vocal Institute, Junior
August 2	Faculty Recital
August 3-8	Pacific Vocal Institute, Main
August 4-22	Teen Musical Theatre
September 5	Closing night performance

2009 CALENDAR JULY • AUGUST • SEPT

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					03 JUL	04	02 ★	03	04	05	06	07	08
05	06	07	08	09	10	11	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
12 ★	13	14	15	16	17	18	16 ★	17	18	19	20	21	22
19 ★	20	21	22	23	24	25	23 ★	24	25	26	27	28	29
26 ★	27	28	29	30	31 AUG		30 ★	31 SEP	01	02	03	04	05

■ **Glorious!**
■ **Oliver!**
■ **Little Shop of Horrors**
■ **The Foreigner**

Evening shows begin at 8 pm • Matinéés at 2 pm

★ = Sunday Performances are Matinéés only

Garden & Home Tour July 18, 2009

This year's Garden & Home Tour, sponsored by the Coast Realty Group, will once again feature spectacular, never before viewed gardens and homes in the Oceanside Region. B2B's fourth annual tour will showcase award winning gardens and unusual contemporary and traditional homes that exemplify the creative and original tastes of their owners. Gardens will feature musicians, artists as well as master gardeners. Tickets cost \$25 (plus GST)

The committee, chaired by Kevin Clayton, is hard at work with the planning. As always, the tour is a huge success and B2B's major fundraising event for the year. Tickets may be purchased starting May 1 from the B2B box office as well as Coast Realty Group in Parksville and Qualicum Beach and the Qualicum Beach Visitor Centre.

If you know someone who's just waiting to show off their garden or home or if you would like more information, please call the box office at 250 248 0444.



OnStage!

Notes FROM THE BOARD

The excitement builds. The shows have been cast and rehearsals are underway. Improvements at the Parksville Community and Conference centre are coming along nicely including an upgraded power supply so we can bring the theatre lighting up to professional standard, and a \$5,000 grant received from the Coastal Community Credit Union to purchase lighting improvements, a new counter across from the PCCC reception office to serve as our box office.



The plans for an outstanding *It's ShowTime!* on May 23 to open the season are progressing well. Planning for the summer fundraiser, the Garden and Home Tour, is underway and will build on last summer's highly successful tour.

We have recruited some excellent staff to help take care of business - Duncan Green, a chartered accountant, is now doing our books and financial reports. Shay Jones joined us on April 1 as our operations administrator to oversee office systems, the box office, volunteer coordination, and membership and subscriber databases. She brings exceptional computer/internet skills, small business management and customer service experience to the job.

The Spring *Break-A-Leg* program for 6 to 12 year olds was a resounding success with 28 active participants. Planning is well on the way, and initial marketing is in place for the summer educational programs - Pacific Vocal Institute, PVI Junior, and Teen Musical Theatre.

And in the midst of all this activity, our annual general meeting will be held on April 23 at the PCCC - at which we expect to have a record turnout of members. ON WITH THE SHOW!

D. C. (Don) Harper, President

Spring Break-A-Leg

This year's Break-a-Leg was a huge success with more than 28 students registered for this week long camp. Designed for youth aged 6 to 13, the camp featured daily classes in all elements of musical theatre. Team aught by Kelly Barnum, Allison Shaw, and Hilary Whelton, students gained experience in dancing, singing, and acting. The goal of the week was to learn the skills necessary to perform a short musical for families on Friday afternoon. This year's selection, "The Granny Awards," featured numerous young performers playing a variety of fairy tale characters. Vignettes were strung together with each winning a specific "Granny Award" in the form of certificates and statuettes. Highlights included Madison Poole as Snow White, Lee Johnson Broderick as Jack in Jack and the Beanstalk, and Maggie, Hannah Richard, Ciera Greig and Claire Purvis as Goldilocks and the Three Bears.



Crescendo 2009

...there's no people like B2B show people ...



Thanks to Michael Chriss for the photos

Box Office Now Open at the PCCC

For April and May, the box office at the Parksville Community & Conference Centre will be open Monday to Friday, 10 am to 4 pm

Space at the B2B Shelly Road Centre

B2B's office is now at 186 Shelly Road in Parksville.

If you know someone interested in renting space at the Shelly Road Centre, please have them call 250 927-0641 for rental information.

OnStage Newsletter

Submissions are welcome and strongly encouraged! Send story ideas, thoughts or questions to b2b@b2btheatre.com



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?? Contact Gary Brown (stageguy@shaw.ca) or email b2b@b2btheatre.com

Looking for Members!

Bard to Broadway always welcomes new input and new energy to our endeavour. 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 \$15 (2008).

B2B's 2009 10th anniversary season summer program will feature a special dedication to the Director's Circle for donations of \$100 or more. A tax receipt will be issued for the balance over and above the \$25 membership.

For more information or to become a member, contact Eileen Butts, 250 248-3782 or ebutts@telus.net.

B2B's Board of Directors

Don Harper	President
Dave Graham	Vice President
Michael Chriss	Past President Designate
Eileen Butts	Secretary
Rob Atkinson	Treasurer
Kelly Barnum	Director
Kevin Clayton	Director
Al McLean	Director
Doris Mueller	Director
Hugh Sinnott	Director
Charlie Whelton	Director
Gary Brown	Artistic Director (ex-officio)

OUR MOST HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

We are indeed fortunate to have the support of our corporate sponsors.

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We are so pleased to announce our newest production sponsors who have confirmed their support for the 2009 season.

Windsor Plywood
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Christopher Lee & Associates
Parksville Downtown Business Association



*Parksville Downtown
Business Association*

Bard to Broadway Theatre Society Mission

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.

2009 is B2B's 10th Season

Bard to Broadway Theatre Society

Phone 250 248-0444 | www.b2btheatre.com | info@b2btheatre.com

Performing in the Chrysler Theatre

Parksville Community & Conference Centre | 132 Jensen Avenue East, Parksville

B2B Shelly Road Centre | 186 Shelly Road, Parksville

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