



OnStage

BARD TO BROADWAY THEATRE SOCIETY



July 2009

Our 10th Season is here!

Back in 1999, a dream by three co-founders with vision and passion to create a summer theatre festival became a reality and now ten years later, the curtain is up on B2B's tenth anniversary season. Since the beginning, B2B has consistently produced four high-quality productions for the enjoyment of almost 90,000 Oceanside residents and visitors.

B2B provides an opportunity to pursue semi-professional and amateur talents close to home and over the years, hundreds have been involved as actors or behind the scene as directors, production crew, stage managers, education faculty, front of house and box office staff - just to mention a few. Performing arts education programs are cornerstone to B2B's mission; programs instill a sense of adventure and excitement about the theater world for all ages.

B2B has worked hard to provide the most professional product possible. The decision by B2B's board to move from a tent in Qualicum Beach to the Chrysler Theatre has allowed B2B to grow creatively while providing a much improved space for all. B2B is lead by a board of directors and founder and artistic director, Gary Brown. Many individuals have contributed to B2B's success over the past ten years; Hilary Whelton, Sher Chycoski and Julie Martell have been involved since the beginning and truly deserve a special mention.

And, as they say, it's all history. With the completion of our 2009 season, B2B will have entertained about 100,000 Oceanside residents and tourists.



B2B president, Dave Graham and artistic director, Gary Brown

Standing Ovation to Our Sponsors!



Sincere heartfelt thanks to the many businesses of Qualicum Beach and Parksville who have supported B2B since 2000. Over the past ten years, B2B has indeed been fortunate to have the support of a community and wish to thank Quality Foods, Windsor Plywood, Royal LePage, PQB News and Parksville Chrysler who have been with us since the beginning.

Long-time sponsors also include Island Radio - The Beach & The Lounge, Pharmasave, Vision Arts Eyecare Centre, Blackberry Creative, and Christopher Lee & Associates. Boston Pizza joined B2B as season sponsor in 2007 and our new sponsors in 2009 include From A to Zebra Fashions, the Parksville Downtown Business Association and Tim Hortons. *We applaud you!*

There are very few organizations that have had the long-time support that B2B has experienced. When you are in these businesses, please take a moment to thank them for their support of B2B. We would not be celebrating our 10th year without the support of the business community.



Gary Brown Recognized With Award



Starting in 2009, long-term commitment and contribution to B2B as well as the broader Oceanside community will be recognized with an annual award.

At a B2B get together in June, the first **Gary Brown Award** was presented to Gary Brown, B2B's artistic director and co-founder. The award was presented by Don Harper and Kelly Barnum to a very surprised (and deserving) Gary.

Criteria for Gary Brown Award

The Gary Brown Award is conferred on an individual who has had continuous involvement with Bard to Broadway for a minimum of five consecutive years, making an unselfish commitment in time, energy and expertise in a variety of capacities. Recognition will be for contributions which may include any of the following activities:

- Onstage performance
- Show direction
- Stage management
- Production design (set, lighting, costumes)
- Musical direction, vocal coaching, performance, accompaniment
- Production support (set building, costume-making, properties, backstage, rehearsal assistance)
- Educational programming (planning, coordination, instruction)
- Governance and administration (board of directors, fundraising, marketing)
- Community liaison and public relations

The recipient of the award will be recognized and respected for his or her contribution, both by Bard to Broadway members and participants, and the broader Oceanside community.

Process - The recipient of the award will be named at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, following a nomination by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee may solicit input from current and/or past board members and individuals who have participated in productions. The board at its discretion may choose not to grant an award in any given year.

The Award - The name of the recipient of the award for each year shall be engraved on a plaque which will be prominently displayed in the foyer of the performance area, and shall receive an engraved replica of that plaque to keep. Recipients of the Gary Brown Award shall be named as Honorary Life Members of the Bard to Broadway Theatre Society.

It's Just the Ticket! Dinner & Theatre Extravaganza

It's Just the Ticket! is new this year. We are pleased to partner with Boston Pizza to offer a dinner and theatre package at the great price of \$29.95. Check it out at Boston Pizza!

At Boston Pizza you'll have a choice from a set menu (such items as a half order of prawn and scallop fettuccini; half order of spaghetti bolognese, beef dip, two-topping pizza or a beef burger. Includes choice of a side Caesar salad or fries and coffee or tea. For the great price of \$29.95, you will also receive a coupon valid for one ticket for any show until September 5 - evening or matinee, based on availability of seats. You can use the ticket the same evening (if seats are available) or on another evening. It's a great deal and you will also be supporting a B2B sponsor.



Dave Graham Takes a Leading Part with B2B

Following a year as vice president, long-time friend of B2B, Dave Graham is now the new president of the board of directors of the Bard to Broadway Theatre Society. Dave has the honour of guiding B2B into the next decade! No pressure at all Dave!



B2B: Earliest theatre memory?

Dave: I don't know if you'd call it necessarily "theatre", although it involved a stage and singing. I might have been 6 years old and was part of the Christmas pageant one year at Lord Kitchener Public School in North Van.

B2B: And from there?

Dave: A move to England brought about the opportunity to play Tiny Tim and my first lesson in how to speak with a British accent - something I've never forgotten, thankfully. After that, we can skip over the usual little plays that kids put on, and then in high school it all changed. We had a very dynamic theatre program and I dove in head first.

B2B: Any idea why?

Dave: Are you going to charge me for this analysis? I need a couch. Frankly, I think it was a safe way to gain acceptance. You're given lines and movements and that proved - for me, at least - to be a way to present myself to others within the guise of someone else; it was a way to put yourself "out there" without truly putting your *self* out there.

B2B: What kept you at it?

Dave: Before the applause comes the camaraderie of a close-knit group of like-minded and creative individuals. It's been said in these pages before; the relationships formed in theatre are special. As far as the actors are concerned, it's an intense time when we're all asked to take chances and the trust that results is magic. Then the mix progresses to include wardrobe, set, props, lighting and sound and it's a wonderful collection of people all working toward a common goal.

B2B: "Glorious!" marked your debut as a director with B2B, how was the experience?

Dave: I can say without reservation that it was wonderful. I've co-directed, assistant-directed and even polish-directed (that would be polish as in "to make shine", as opposed to anything to do with Poland, and that involved coming on late in the rehearsal process to "tweak"), but this was the first time I'd ever had a show all of my own and, thanks to a remarkable organization with experienced people, the entire process was delightful. That said, it wasn't a walk in the park. I mean, it's quite a responsibility, but to expect otherwise would be unrealistic. As any one given show - let alone four of them - comes closer to opening, many people from many different departments must converge and it can get somewhat hectic. But that happens in every show.

B2B: Any final words?

Dave: I think now would be a good time for me to acknowledge the cast, crew and the entire B2B organization for making the production of "Glorious!" so rewarding.

2006 performance of *Greater Tuna* with Gary Brown.



Update from Gary Brown, B2B's Artistic Director



The season's summer shows are now all on stage and enjoying great responses from the audience. It is such a pleasure to see all that hard work producing excellent theatrical results. The greatest stress of course comes in late June when all shows and production people are scrambling to be ready.

My sincere congratulations to all who helped "pull it off". We can all be proud of the results.

This year we have made improvements to the theatre experience. Deadening the sound from under the stage was accomplished by installing carpeting and hanging underlay beneath the floor. Amplifying the sound by mics has helped a great deal (even with its own inherent problems), thanks to Robin, Barry, Claudio and Hilary. Next, linking the chairs with zap straps has given audience members more room to spread out and successfully so. Moving the entire seating forward in the theatre has provided a much more intimate feeling for both actors and audience.

As for "sleeper hits" this season, I think all productions are included. Each show is creative, entertaining and filled with such wonderful talent. I think those memorable moments from each will remain with everyone and will certainly keep people talking about B2B Theatre.

The following quote kind of sums up what B2B is all about and in the most positive way:

"Nothing of significance was ever achieved by an individual acting alone. Look below the surface and you will find that all seemingly solo acts are really team efforts."

Congratulations team!!

Gary Brown, Artistic Director

OnStage! Notes from the Board



As this is being written, we're at the end of the third week of the season and, as expected, ticket sales are climbing steadily. We have four terrific plays providing some great entertainment for the summer. The improvements in lighting, sound and seating this year have worked wonderfully. Need I mention the Chrysler Theatre is air-conditioned?

Thanks to Kevin Clayton and the Coast Realty Group, our volunteers and the hosts involved in this year's Garden & Home Tour. Judging from the comments, this year may be hard to top. Thanks also, to those who attended! Congrats also to Kevin and the crew for putting together the winning float for B2B in the Canada Day parade.

Our summer educational component may have been a victim of the times as we've had to cancel our Teen Musical Theatre class for this year. The Pacific Vocal Institute "Junior" class is still on track. All the information is on our website: www.b2btheatre.com

This summer the board instituted a new award, with thanks to Don Harper for making it happen. At our BBQ early in June, we presented the inaugural "Gary Brown Award" - for outstanding long-term service to the Bard to Broadway Theatre Society - to, whom else but Gary Brown. We now have a permanent award at our Shelly Road headquarters and Gary received a plaque to take home. Congratulations Gary and thank you from all of us.

Speaking of our HQ, this is a fine facility with two large rooms, kitchen and bathroom facilities for rent. Whether it's for a regular meeting of some sort, or a one-time occasion, keep it in mind should the need arise.

Meantime, the B2B board continues to meet regularly and plans are being made even now as to our next season in the Chrysler Theatre.

Dave Graham, President

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.

Mark your calendars... Dates to remember

July 27 - Aug 1 Pacific Vocal Institute, Junior
 August 2 Faculty Recital
 August 29 Closing night, *Glorious!*
 August 31 Closing night, *The Foreigner*
 September 2 Closing night, *Little Shop of Horrors*
 September 5 10th season closing night, *Oliver!*

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 | 01 AUG | 30 ★ | 31 | 01 SEP | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 |

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

Evening shows begin at 8 pm • Matinées at 2 pm

★ = Sunday Performances are Matinées only



The Historical Florence

Florence Foster Jenkins (July 19, 1868 - November 26, 1944) was an American soprano who became famous for her lack of rhythm, pitch, tone, and overall singing ability. Born Florence Foster on July 19, 1868, Jenkins received music lessons as a child, and expressed a desire to go abroad to study music. Her wealthy father refused to pay the bill, so she eloped to Philadelphia with Frank Thornton Jenkins, a medical doctor who became her husband (the two divorced in 1902). Upon her father's death in 1909, Jenkins inherited a sum of money which allowed her to take up the singing career that had been discouraged by her parents and former husband. She became involved in the musical life of Philadelphia, and later New York City, where she founded and funded the Verdi Club, took singing lessons, and began to give recitals, her first in 1912. Her mother's death in 1928 gave her additional freedom and resources to pursue singing.

From her recordings, it is apparent that Jenkins had little sense of pitch and rhythm and was barely capable of sustaining a note. Her accompanist can be heard making adjustments to compensate for her tempo variations and rhythmic mistakes. Her dubious diction, especially in foreign language songs, is also noteworthy. Nonetheless, she became tremendously popular in her unconventional way. Her audiences apparently loved her for the amusement she provided rather than her musical ability. Critics often described her work in a backhanded way that may have served to pique public curiosity. Despite her patent lack of ability, Jenkins was firmly convinced of her greatness. She compared herself favorably to the renowned sopranos Frieda Hempel and Luisa Tetrazzini and dismissed the laughter which often came from the audience during her performances as coming from her rivals consumed by "professional jealousy."

She was aware of her critics, however, saying "People may say I can't sing, but no one can ever say I didn't sing." Backed by her accompanist, Mr. Cosmé McMoon, who reportedly made faces at Jenkins behind her back to get laughs, Jenkins often wore elaborate costumes that she designed herself, sometimes appearing in wings and tinsel, and, for Clavelitos, throwing flowers into the audience while fluttering a fan and sporting more flowers in her hair. After each performance, Cosmé McMoon would collect these flowers from the auditorium in readiness for redistribution at the next one.

After a taxicab crash in 1943, she found she could sing "a higher F than ever before." Instead of a lawsuit against the taxicab company, she sent the driver a box of expensive cigars.

In spite of public demand for more appearances, Jenkins restricted her rare performances to a few favourite venues, and her annual recital at the Ritz-Carlton ballroom in New York City. Attendance at her recitals was always limited to her loyal clubwomen and a select few others — she handled



distribution of the coveted tickets herself. At the age of 76, Jenkins finally yielded to public demand and performed at Carnegie Hall on October 25, 1944. So anticipated was the performance that tickets for the event sold out weeks in advance. Jenkins died a month later. All indications are that Florence Foster Jenkins died with the same happy, confident sense of fulfillment that pervaded her entire artistic life.

The play about her life, *Glorious!* by Peter Quilter opened in September 2005 in England. It starred Maureen Lipman, who, in the words of the New York Times reviewer, provided the requisite "terrible singing." The show transferred in November 2005 to London's West End where it ran for over 200 performances and was nominated for the Laurence Olivier Award as Best New Comedy.



Bard to Broadway Theatre Society

Production History - 2000 to 2009

- 2000 Company
Luv
Barefoot in the Park
- 2001 A Funny Thing Happened on the Way
to the Forum
Over the River and Through the Woods
Gigi (non-musical)
Annie Jr
The All Night Strut (off season)
- 2002 Fiddler on the Roof
Broadway Bound
Saving Grace
Rapunzel
- 2003 Oklahoma
Any Wednesday
The Complete Works of William
Shakespeare (Abridged)
Oliver Twist
- 2004 Mame
I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change
Melville Boys
The Housekeeper
Tom Sawyer
- 2005 South Pacific
A... My Name is Alice
Red Herring
All the Great Books (Abridged)
Honk Jr.
- 2006 The Sound of Music
Steel Magnolias
Wrong for Each Other
Greater Tuna
- 2007 Urinetown
Guys and Dolls
A... My Name is Still Alice
Lend Me a Tenor
Any Friend of Percy D'Angelino is
a Friend of Mine
- 2008 Annie Get Your Gun
You're A Good Man Charlie Brown
Leading Ladies
The Love List
- 2009 Oliver!
Little Shop of Horrors
Glorious!
The Foreigner



Membership has its Benefit!

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 \$20 (2009-2010). Membership offers many benefits:

- vote at the AGM
- newsletters and announcements
- you can purchase concession items for half-price (must present membership card)
- Bring a Friend for Free!

Bring a Friend for Free - members receive one free ticket with purchase of regular price admission. Offer is valid Mondays or Tuesdays until August 18 (date has been extended for the 2009 season).

For more information or to become a member, contact Eileen Butts, 250 248-3782 or ebutts@telus.net. Membership forms are on the B2B website at http://www.b2btheatre.com/pdf/registration_2009.pdf

4th Annual Garden & Home Tour a Smashing Success!

This year's Garden & Home Tour, sponsored by the Coast Realty Group, was an unequivocal success thanks to the realtors of the Coast Realty Group and the many generous homeowners who opened their homes and gardens to support B2B.



Almost 500 happy garden and home “tourists” viewed 13 homes and gardens in Nanoose Bay, Errington, French Creek, Parksville and Qualicum Beach. This was B2B's fourth annual tour and a major fundraising event for B2B



The committee, chaired by Kevin Clayton, included hardworking Brenda Nicolls, Aaron Nicklin, Shay Jones, Debbie Tardiff and Jeff Healey. As well, Jeff spent hours preparing for a

plant sale to benefit B2B. We already have offers for homes for next year's tour but are relishing in 2009's success before moving into planning for 2010. Home-owners and the many volunteers that helped at the homes were treated to a performance of *Glorious!* the week after the tour - great time was had by all!

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

B2B's Board of Directors

At the 2009 Annual General Meeting, the following were elected to the board of directors. Congratulations and sincere thanks to Don Harper for serving as president of B2B two great years! Job well done!

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Dave Graham | President |
| Don Harper | Past President |
| Eileen Butts | Secretary |
| Rob Atkinson | Treasurer |
| Kelly Barnum | Director |
| Kevin Clayton | Director |
| Doris Mueller | Director |
| Hugh Sinnott | Director |
| Charlie Whelton | Director |
| Gary Brown | Artistic Director |

* Position of Vice President is vacant at this time

OnStage Newsletter

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

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.

Our Most Heartfelt Thanks to Our Generous Sponsors

We are indeed fortunate to have the support of the Oceanside business community.

Province of British Columbia
Gaming Grant



Service Canada

Season Sponsors

Quality Foods
Realtors of Royal LePage
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Coastal Community Credit Union

Show Sponsors

Glorious!

Parksville Chrysler and Tim Horton's

Oliver!

Windsor Plywood
Parksville Downtown Business Association

The Foreigner

Pharmasave Parksville
Christopher Lee & Associates
From A to Zebra Fashions

Little Shop of Horrors

Tim Hortons
Vision Arts Eyecare Centre
Blackberry Creative

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It's Showtime! Season Premiere

From A to Zebra Fashions
Petal and Kettle
Masters Touch Catering

Print Sponsor

Coastal Colour Printing



Mission

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.

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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