



OnStage

BARD TO BROADWAY THEATRE SOCIETY



Winter 2009

Roger Lappin: Set Designer and Builder

"This job is so much fun!" - Roger Lappin

Now in his sixth season in set design and construction for B2B, Roger Lappin could be described as a problem-solver. How else do you stage *The Sound of Music* on a tiny platform with no back-stage and no wings to speak of? Such was the case a couple of seasons ago, when B2B was still in the tent.



"While I miss the tent atmosphere of previous years, it's obvious that our productions are now more rewarding for our audiences and for those of us who put them together," said Roger.

The Chrysler Theatre offers a problem of its own: how do you design and build sets for four productions that need to be changed every few days? The answer was inspired by set designers from long ago. "This isn't my invention," Roger added. "I'm borrowing the basic form used in the theatres of Shakespeare's time." The basic concept involves a two-story superstructure that can be re-positioned for each of the four productions. This "skeleton" will be designed to accommodate various elements as required by each show.

Roger has been acting, singing, and dancing for over 30 years, but his break into the "backstage" (doesn't it normally work the other way?) came when he was cast in a 1991 production of *The Mikado*. The producers were unable to find a set designer/builder and armed with some experience with a hammer from doing home renovations, Roger offered to take on the task. "I got hooked on the design process and have been lucky enough to find a steady flow of projects coming my way ever since."

That steady flow has included about a show a year for the Nanaimo Theatre Group (Roger will design for their production of *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* in the spring), plus design work for many other theatre companies in the Central Island area.

Care to share any tricks of the trade, Roger? Here's his response!

1. A ground plan should be presented on the bias (30 to 45 degrees), with no lines running parallel to the lip of the stage. Improved sightlines for the audience, architectural integrity, and natural open-stances for the actors result.
2. Layers (in the form of obstacles such as furniture, low walls, level changes) should exist between the audience and the upstage (back) wall.

If an actor can stand centre stage and take off in any direction he or she chooses without either bumping into or having to walk around some obstacle, the set hasn't provided a natural environment. That's not how people live-- not in my house anyway!

Written by Dave Graham

It's Showtime! is Back

Mark your calendars for May 23. *Showtime!* returns with previews of each of this season's four shows. Because this format is so popular and missed in 2008, we are bringing it back for your enjoyment. *Showtime* provides us with the opportunity to recognize our generous season, show and media sponsors.

The committee has just started to work on this event so only a few details at this time. *Showtime* will be held in the PCCC where along with recognizing our sponsors, you will be treated to a preview of songs and scenes from our upcoming productions and after intermission, you will be entertained by the sounds of *Arrowsmith Big Band*.

As always, volunteers are needed so if you wish to help on the committee or be a volunteer for the evening, please leave a message at 250 248-0444.

We WILL call you back!

An Update from Gary Brown, B2B's Artistic Director

The talent is jumping on board once again in preparation for B2B's 10th season. Behind the scenes, many are already at work planning everything from costumes to sets and orchestras. In November, the costume girls made a trip to The Arts Club in Vancouver where they salivated over the costume department and found many wonderful costumes to adapt for our shows. Set designs are done and the directors can now pre-plan their "blocking" (movement around the set). Our vocal director and musical directors are assembling the orchestras for the two musicals. Finally, preparations for the auditions have been finalized and we are ready to go.

I am very excited to see alumni return to B2B but also happy and thrilled to have so many newcomers join in for the fun. Putting together four shows at the same time is a monumental feat and call us crazy, but we have done it for nine years now. Also in the frenzy comes the satisfaction of lending your talents to a project that so many have embraced.

This will be a year of lessons learned, improvements and new innovations for B2B's production crew. First and foremost are improvements to the theatre itself. We will try our best to convert a large room into a more intimate theatre setting. We are investigating ways to provide better spacing for seating, improved lighting and better sound control especially on our stage, which acted like a drum last season. When footsteps were the only sounds you could hear, we knew we needed to concentrate on sound baffling. We want every word and every note of each song to be heard above the footsteps.

We are pleased to announce our 2009 team:

Directors - Dean Chadwick (Oliver!); Dave Graham (Glorious); Don Harper (The Foreigner) and Gary Brown (Little Shop of Horrors).

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, Diana Naylor



It's Time for Auditions!

Auditions for B2B's 2009 season will be held in Parksville and Nanaimo. With about forty actors needed for this season, B2B is also looking for crew members - lighting, sound, costumes, props, sets and stage managing - please let us know if you are interested.

FOR ADULTS:

PARKSVILLE, Shelly Road Centre

Sunday January 11 - 1:30-5 pm

NANAIMO, St Paul's Church Hall

Saturday Jan 17, Sunday Jan 18 - 1:30-5 pm

FOR CHILDREN: (young boys or girls who could play boys)

NANAIMO, St Paul's Church Hall

Saturday January 24 - 1:30-4 pm

PARKSVILLE, Shelly Road Centre

Sunday, January 25 - 1:30-4 pm

Come with a short comic monologue and 16 bars of a song, if auditioning for musical. No specific appointment times necessary. Rehearsals begin April, but not all actors called for all rehearsals. Mileage will be paid to out-of-town actors. Contact Gary Brown at stageguy@shaw.ca

For you actors out there, here's a list of this year's roles.

Oliver! - this big musical has a cast of about 21 singers, dancers and actors with major roles for almost every age. Young people (boys and girls) include Oliver, the Artful Dodger, the orphans and Fagin's gang of pick-pockets. Many great character roles for all adult ages - Nancy, Fagin, Bill Sikes, Mr Bumble, the Sowerberrys, the widow Corney, Bet and more.

Little Shop of Horrors - this small musical, with a small cast, has no small parts. For women - Audrey, Chiffon, Ronette, Crystal. For men - Seymour, Mr Mushnick, Orin (the Dentist), Audrey II (voice), Audrey II (puppeteer).

Glorious - this wonderful play about Florence Foster Jenkins offers a starring role as Florence for a mature woman. Her best friend Dorothy, her Mexican maid and the woman who tries to silence Florence are terrific roles for women of a variety of ages. Men in the cast include Florence's new accompanist and her old friend and an over the hill actor.

The Foreigner has a cast of five men and two women. "Froggy" LeSeure in his late 50ish, brash, adventurous British military officer. His sidekick, Charlie, about the same age is a quiet, sullen fellow. Betty is an elderly, strong-willed but gentle character. The Reverend is 30ish, very confident and self-possessed; even conniving. His fiancée, Catherine is in her late 20s, her younger brother, Ellard, about 20ish. Sheriff Musser, 40ish, is a real southern cracker.

2009 is B2B's 10th Season!

The 2009 season will be B2B's 10th year in Oceanside - our first season was in 2000 with the bold choice of *Company* by Stephen Sondheim as the feature production. Over the past nine years, Bard to Broadway 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, begins on July 3 and runs through to September 5 in the Chrysler Theatre in the Parksville Community & Conference Centre. Here's a synopsis of our 2009 productions, just to whet your appetite:

Glorious! is the true story of Florence Foster Jenkins (1868-1944), the worst singer in the world. Known as the "first lady of the sliding scale", Florence was 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. Convinced she had the operatic voice of an angel, Ms Jenkins' joy and enthusiasm made up for the fact that she couldn't hit a single note, not 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 and unobtrusive Englishman who tends to be socially anxious. While at the Georgia lodge, he pretends to not know his native language in order to avoid contact with the other guests. Successfully convincing them that he cannot understand them, 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?, Consider Yourself, As 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 and an evening of splendid entertainment for everyone. 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.

Of Interest!

One of the most important "stars" in *Little Shop of Horrors* is Audrey II, the man-eating creation from outer space. Somewhere between an avocado and a Venus Flytrap, for our show, she is contentedly resting in her nest. Don't be fooled, she's a mean green mother from outer space.



It's All Over on January 31

We are pleased to offer the best possible price on 2009 season passes until January 31. The great price of \$70 gets you one ticket to all four fabulous shows. After February 1, cost for a season pass is \$78 compared to four individual tickets at \$84. Prices are subject to \$1.50 admin fee per ticket and GST.

Thank you for supporting B2B's 10th season of fabulous summer theatre in Oceanside.

Mark your calendars for 10th season!

January 11	Auditions Parksville
January 17/18	Auditions Nanaimo
January 24	Auditions Nanaimo (Kids)
January 25	Auditions Parksville (Kids)
February 8	Wonders of Oceanside, QBCC
March 16-20	Spring "Break a Leg" Program
May 23	It's Showtime! at the PCCC
May	Annual General Meeting TBA
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

Notes from the Board... *ONWARD!*

Midst all the economic, political and social turmoil that came with the end of 2008 (to say nothing of the weather!), the B2B board has remained constant, committed and excited about the coming season. Elsewhere in this issue of *OnStage* you will find important information about our 2009 shows and activities.



Once again we made what we hoped would be an enticing offer to encourage people to purchase their 2009 season passes and the response has been most gratifying. This year we have extended the offer to the end of January - so don't delay.

Likewise, we received many favourable comments about *OnStage* after the inaugural issue, so we will continue to publish quarterly to keep you up to date.

Our discussions with the Parksville Community and Conference Centre about improvements in the Chrysler Theatre have been most positive. This summer, look for improved lighting, more comfortable seating arrangements, better sound and a more inviting theatre atmosphere.

Planning for our summer educational programs is also well underway. If you have plans for relatives with children to visit this summer, take note of the dates - these programs provide a fun and worthwhile experience for kids from age six to the late teens.

We look forward to your support and enjoyment of Oceanside's live theatre activities in 2009.

D C (Don) Harper
President

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

2009 Spring "Break-a-Leg" Youth Theatre Arts Camp

B2B is pleased to offer a dramatic spring break for kids from March 16 to 20. This camp is for young performers, ages 6 to 13. No experience necessary!

This exciting camp is being offered March 16 to 20 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Shelly Road Centre in Parksville. A student performance will be held on March 20. Participants will need to bring lunch.

Daily classes in musical theatre, dance, vocals, scene work and FUN!

Enrolment is limited so early registration is encouraged.

Cost is \$150 for the week plus GST. Registration forms are on B2B's website or leave a message at 250 248-0444 and we will mail a copy to you.



New Office Space at Shelly Road Centre

B2B's office is now set up and ready to go at 186 Shelly Road in Parksville.

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



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 per year.

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

We have a full complement of board members at this time and are particularly pleased to welcome new members, Al, Doris, Hugh and Kelly.

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)

Sincere Thanks to Sponsors

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

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We are pleased to announce that Tim Hortons has come on board as a new show sponsor in 2009. We appreciate their support of theatre in the Oceanside region and look forward to working with them in 2009.

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

OnStage Newsletter

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

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Bard to Broadway Theatre Society

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Performing in the Chrysler Theatre

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

Shelly Road Centre
186 Shelly Road, Parksville, BC