

Dick Whittington was fun for all!



The extreme weather conditions during the run of *Dick Whittington (and his cat)* may have resulted in cancelled performances but cast, crew and audiences all still had fun!

Opening night looked as if it might go ahead but once everybody arrived at the theatre, they had barely started to get into costume when the snowfall turned into a howling blizzard and there was a mad scramble to get home before the roads were closed. Some cast members didn't make it and, like three hundred other motorists, were marooned in Shelburne for the night. Many roads remained closed the next night and we eventually opened for the Sunday matinee. The second weekend we fared a little better and the show went on for two of the three scheduled performances.

We had great support this year from the new editorial staff at the Shelburne Free Press. They published a great promotion article during opening week, and followed up with a review the next week so that, but for the awful weather, all those people reading about us would surely have come out to see us!

## Exciting Changes In Store For 2014/15 Season

We are anticipating great things for our next season! Changes have been made to the dates and order of our productions, and we are looking forward to bringing another year of spectacular theatre to Shelburne.

Our season starts at the end of November with the pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, penned, of course, by resident panto-playwright Bev Nicholas. Bev takes the original tale of Red and adds some twists, delightful characters, catchy songs, and local flavour to make it fun for the whole family. It will be the perfect way to welcome the Christmas season.

We've got the hilarious mystery-farce *But Why Bump Off Barnaby?* playing late in March. *Barnaby* is a classic whodunit with the riotous appeal of a farce, complete with kooky characters who all have something to hide - or do they? This show will have you rolling in the aisles and trying to guess the motive right along with the cast.

Rounding out the season in June is *What the Heart Wants*, a three-act romantic comedy that touches on the subject of marital infidelity in humorous ways. Each act features a different couple meeting in the garden of an Inn for a little clandestine flirtation and witty conversation. This play is a great oppor-

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## Exciting Changes In Store *cont'd...*

tunity for aspiring directors to choose an act and hone their craft, with an experienced director available to oversee and guide them as needed. We are excited to offer this option to members who have considered directing before, but didn't know where to start.

We have decided to return to a single weekend of performances due to the lower audience attendance that all community theatres are experiencing these days. This will reduce our theatre rental and advertising costs, and we are hopeful ticket sales will increase with the improving economy.

## Annual General Meeting

Just a small number of us turned out for the Annual General Meeting last month. The current state of our finances was presented – not good due to all the performance cancellations, as was the play reading committee's decision on next season's schedule, and the executive committee was re-elected for another year.

At the time of the meeting, two requests were before Council - 1) the request for credit of the theatre rental for the three performances of the pantomime which were cancelled and 2) the dates for performances and rehearsals for the 2014-2015 season. Since then, we have been advised that both were approved.

## NOTICES

We need four actors to perform a sketch at Shelburne's 1st Easter Egg Hunt on the outdoor stage at the Fiddle Park on April 12th at 2:00. You can download the script from the server – [tiplingstagecompany.com/easterskit.pdf](http://tiplingstagecompany.com/easterskit.pdf). Please consider taking part. It will not require a great deal of rehearsal time and there aren't a lot of lines to learn... and, unless you've been living under a rock somewhere, you already know the songs. **Please contact Jean Miller at [jeanmiller@designandcopy.ca](mailto:jeanmiller@designandcopy.ca) or 519-925-3146.**

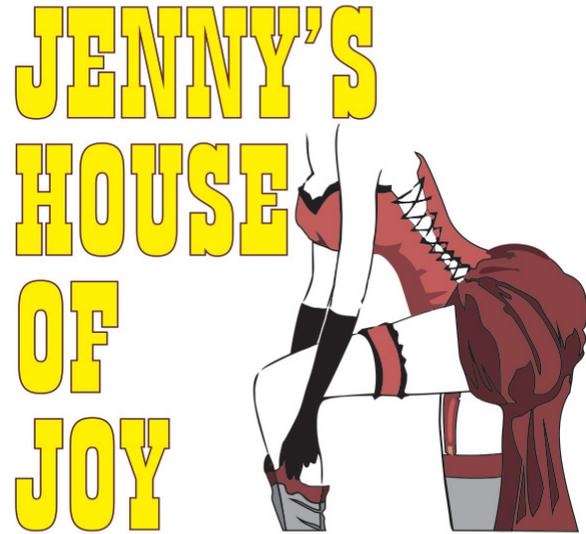
Front of house help will be needed on the weekends of April 25th to 27th and May 2nd and 3rd for five performances of *Jenny's House of Joy*. If you are able to commit to an evening or afternoon, email [info@tiplingstagecompany.com](mailto:info@tiplingstagecompany.com)

Email articles to be included in the June newsletter to [info@tiplingstagecompany.com](mailto:info@tiplingstagecompany.com) before May 31st. Attach a Word file or cut and paste the article into the email message.

## Jenny's House of Joy

Rehearsals are in full swing for our next production. Any help with costumes will be sincerely appreciated – there's a lot of sewing to be done, as well as assistance (as in ASM) needed for cast members between scenes when quick changes are required.

This is a great comedy and, with your help, a successful run will offset some of this season's losses. So, please let everyone you know that this fantastic play about four whores in a whorehouse will have them laughing and crying just like the Norm Foster play we did last year.



Jean Miller is directing the play and the "whores" are Jeannette Massicote, Melina Prentice, Amber Tabor and Kathleen Peeters. Debbie Tait is the indignant wife of a client – and you must come and see how she gets her revenge! By the way, anybody with a non-functioning old rifle, get in touch.

Bob Turnbull is producer and Jane Turnbull stage manager. Mike Hale's doing lights "if he's still around" – so don't anybody buy his house until after May 3rd!

As mentioned before, we need an ASM to help with costume changes and another to handle props and decor changes. This is not a play that can be done with a skeleton staff backstage. Some blackouts represent the passing of several weeks so somebody's got to get in there and make it look like it, while somebody else has to help the whores get dressed! Contacts for aspiring ASMs:

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This month's newsletter was written by Jean Miller with contributions from Amanda Philip.