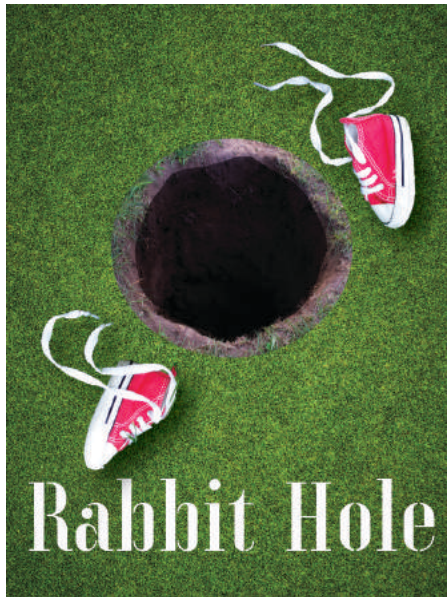


Scarborough
Players
Good stories. Well told.



Annual General Meeting
Thursday, August 20, 2020

Report to the Members

For the 2019-2020 Season

Overview of the 2019-2020 Season

The Board of Scarborough Players is truly a working board and everyone's work is making a difference. Over the past few years we seem to have found the magic formula to maintain our audience numbers so we can continue to play.

However, as you can imagine, like many professional and community theatre companies, we are dealing with the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our March production of *Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice* closed halfway through the run and our final production of *The Government Inspector* was cancelled. Our proposed 2020-2021 season has been postponed until we can perform to full houses again. With the 2020-2021 season now being subscription-free, we have begun to consider alternative programming for the fall and for when with social distancing, we can perform for a live audience in the theatre.

We continued to pay our portion of the theatre lease and the rent for our unit even though we could not actually use either space. Initially the City of Toronto only offered a rent deferment however, once council returns in September, we are hoping that we may benefit from "an abatement" from the City which should benefit all 3 Theatre Scarborough companies. Our unit landlord – Colliers International – only offered a deferment as they chose not to apply for the Federal program for rent relief. So yes, we are paying our share of leases without an opportunity to earn any revenue. Fortunately, we are ok for now. We would like to thank all the subscribers and ticket holders of those cancelled shows who decided to convert their tickets to a donation or receive a code to use for tickets to a future show. We would also love to thank all the wonderful members and friends who decided to make a donation to Scarborough Players.

Our Play Reading committees work hard to bring good, solid works to the Board for consideration. This year's committee is not only looking forward to selections for the 2021-2022 season but have been active in seeking many titles that could go up in our new 2020-2021 season. They are searching for good stories, well told with small casts, simple sets that can socially distance on the stage and be produced at lost cost while engaging our more intimate audience of about 80. Our Out Louds have changed this year - we invite actors, friends, and frustrated actors to join us on ZOOM to consider the choices and provide feedback. The Board then will battle it out to choose the best season. Thanks to John Pirker for his continuing role as chair of the Play Reading Committee. He keeps the committee on track but also brings forward potential plays along with Kris-John Kucharik, Katie Ribout, Alex Saul, Danelle Abbott, Katherine Turner, Joseph van Veen, Magda Nusink, Sherry Brown and Alan Maynes.

The director hiring committee worked very hard this year to select the directors for the proposed 2020-2021 season. Due to COVID, they had to change their scheduled plans and interviews to later dates and by ZOOM. Directors were hired and though the proposed season has been postponed, the selected directors will continue to be attached to those shows when re-scheduled. Thanks this year to Malorie Mandolidis and Chip Thompson as co-chairs along with committee members Ciara Crozier and Drew Smylie for all their work.

Our shortened season was an artistic success. It could not have been done without everyone working together. Wonderful directors, stage managers, asm's, actors, producers, designers, builders, paintings, finders, operators, and the rescue rangers who came to the rescue when needed.

We should all be proud of Scarborough Players THEA Awards and nominations from this year's Act-Co Gala. (complete list at the end of this report).

We wish we could be together in person sharing the success of the season such as it was. So please salute an amazing company of Players (pat yourself on the back, too) for a successful season. Let's look forward to seizing opportunities in these unprecedented time to create unexpected exciting, entertaining, thought-provoking and laughter-inducing work.

The Unsung Heroes

A big round of thanks and applause for all the volunteers who help with Front of House, Information Tables, Theatre Refreshments, Box Office, 50/50 sales – their amazing customer service keeps our audiences coming back and feeling

welcomed. This spring, the Box Office managers – Rhoda Silzer and Wendy Miller along with volunteers Teresa Bakker, Jennifer Bakker, Britt Noll and Gary Prudence called every single ticket holder for all the cancelled shows - close to 1200 calls. This proved to be an extraordinary venture in amazing customer service and we thank them as this personal touch resulted in many making donations and feeling connected to their community theatre.

Wine and Cheese Receptions

We continued to host a Wine and Cheese Reception following our Friday Opening Night. Opening night has become a wonderful event with food, wine, beverages, conversations and a delighted audience chatting personally to cast and crew members after the show. We were nearing sellout crowds for opening night and it is giving us momentum into the rest of the run. Thanks to local wine maker James Howitt of *Grapefully Yours* for continuing to donate the wine. When we return to the live physically distanced theatre, we will not host this reception until we safely return to hosting a full house.

Scarborough Players Mid-Season Celebration x 2

Since January 2012, Scarborough Players has been inviting members to a Mid-Season Celebration – a chance to meet old and new friends, enjoy some treats and cheer and watch a preview of the next season performed by the Not Ready for Prime Time Players (thanks SNL). This year was a little different – we added a performance prior to the Players' Celebration. This year, suggested by Mike Scott, Theatre Scarborough decided to launch the 2020-2021 brochure- live and at the theatre on February 8. Our audience was invited to join us in the theatre for a preview of all the plays and musicals. Mike Scott was our MC and in the order of the productions, STG, SMT and SP presented. For this first time event, we were delighted that about 100 patrons joined us in the theatre. Rhoda Silzer along with Linda Brent were at the information table, signing up subscribers – returning and new.

The following week on February 15 at the Players unit, over 65 members attended our Mid-Season Celebration enjoying the company, the conversations, the cheer and the scenes.

Thanks to members of the Scarborough Players Board – Darlene Thomas, Bodene Corbitt, Jennifer Bakker, Linda Brent, Ian Fox, Tony Jones, Malorie Mandolidis, Ciara Crozier, Greg Nowlan - for all their help in preparing refreshments, setting up the unit and cleaning up! Thanks to the Not Ready for Prime Time Players for their work presenting over the two weekends, the 2020-2021 season – Greg Nowlan, Barton Graff, Will van der Zyl, Kris-John Kucharik, Katie Ribout, Alex Saul, Jacob Klick, Bodene Corbitt, Dave Corbitt, Malorie Mandolidis, Uju Umenyi and Alan Maynes.

The Season

***Rabbit Hole* September 2019**

Maureen Lukie - director, Linda Brent – producer

A tender and heartbreaking play brought to life by a thoughtful director, authentic performances from a most talented cast, a haunting sound design and magical lighting and set.

***Miracle on 34th Street* December 2019**

Jeff Burke – director, Linda Brent – producer

A great way to get into the Christmas Spirit! It was a big show with many moving boxes. Special thanks to Amanda Sinclair for organizing the SMTy gang who performed as elves. It was a very successful show for us so thanks to everyone involved onstage and behind the scenes.

***Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice* March 2020**

Katherine Turner – director, Darlene Thomas- producer, Danelle Abbott – assistant producer

A wonderful experience with a talented, generous cast, crew and creative team to bring this story to life. Everyone was sad to have it close but grateful that it was filmed for the adjudication and for family and friends who missed seeing it due to COVID-19. As the set is still on the stage, there are dear dreamers hoping to finish the run not to mention having a closing party. Winner of Best Production of a Comedy. This production was set to have a very successful run – nearly selling out for the last 5 shows that were cancelled.

The Government Inspector June 2020 – postponed to another season

Marisa King- director, Todd Davies – producer

This show had been cast, had it first read-through and started rehearsals only to end the process by March 15.

It was going to be a roaring success and we hope that when we can re-schedule, the same creative team will be available to capture the same spirit.

Reports from Your 2019-2020 Board

Katherine Turner – President

It has been a busy season with much work being done by many hands.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve Scarborough Players

- Served as President of the Board – created and sent agendas and pertinent documents, chaired board meetings – The Board traditionally meets on the 2nd Monday of the month – we try to follow the Saturday TS meeting.
- Sent out Newsletters and New Blasts to Membership - they were not pretty but were informative!
- Audition Coordinator for 4 shows this season. Managed all the emails, replies, coordinated with directors and producers
- Provided Top of Show announcements including the Acknowledgement of the Land
- Managed the 50/50 draw – ensuring all supplies, floats, preparing all the money for deposit and working the table. This year even with a reduced season, the 50/50 earned a total of \$4,620.00
- Assisted with the Wine and Cheese Receptions – connected with the wonderful James and Jennifer Howitt of Grapefully Yours to bring in the wine, arranged for Special Liquor Permits, brought in all the supplies from the unit, assist set up with all the usual suspects- Drew Smylie, Linda Brent, John Pirker, Greg Nowlan, Jennifer Bakker, Dave Corbitt creating Café Players. A big shout-out to the amazing cheese and veg choppers- Tony Jones and Pat Wilson
- Costumes for *Miracle on 34th Street* (with amazing help from Andra Bradish and Mary Nowlan)
- Directed *Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice*
- Organized the Not Ready for Prime Time Players for the Brochure Launch at the Theatre and for our Mid-Season Celebration.
- Started to Organize Theatre Scarborough and Players at the Act-Co Gala for April 2020 until it was cancelled– This year I was the uber Wedding Planner for all the Act-Co groups so did not get to select tables for TS!
- Submitted permit requests – schedules to the Scarborough Village Recreation Centre
- Liaison with Pathways for Education – their graduation was cancelled due to COVID
- Liaison with StARTypa Youth Festival – their festival was cancelled due to COVID
- Serves on the Play Reading Committee
- Serves on the Theatre Scarborough Board as Players' President
- Serves on the Theatre Scarborough COVID response Sub Committee
- Attends all Act-Co COVID Response related ZOOM meetings
- Misses seeing everyone in-person

Greg Nowlan – Vice-President

As Vice-President, I served on the Scarborough Players Board and made decisions around the running of our group with the rest of the board.

Other things that I did in support of Scarborough Players:

- Designed ads for print: Beach Metro, Bluffs Monitor
- Designed posters, flyers, eFlyers
- Designed and typeset programs
- Designed and printed membership cards
- Master carpenter for 2 sets
- Drove the truck

- Many other small chores along the way
 - Served on the Act-Co Board

Linda Brent - Treasurer

Dear members of the Board and Scarborough Players,

As your Treasurer this past three years I have collected any monies and deposited them, paid out all bills and reimbursed funds paid out, kept a record of all transactions, reported financial information to monthly meetings and to this annual meeting. I also prepared the books and necessary information for their annual review by our account's review.

I also assisted all our member groups of Theatre Scarborough with 50/50 and the Information table coverage. As well, I was the Producer for RABBIT HOLE and MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET, the first two shows of this most unique season.

Before all the current craziness of COVID struck, back in January I was thinking long and hard about my time with Scarborough Players and decided it was time to make some changes. I informed the Board of this decision in February.

I am a life-long member since 1992 and have served on this board for over 20 years, in a variety of positions and with some repeats (due to the 3 year limitation on roles): Member at Large, Membership Secretary(twice), Front of House Coordinator (also twice) and-most recently-Treasurer. I have participated in seasonal promotional activities at Guild Alive with Culture, sat on the PH66/TS Board, as well as served on the subscription table. I have served with full dedication and ensured that I performed with the upmost integrity. I have worked to lead by example to encourage others to do the same.

I will be stepping back from duties with the Board at this time. I will continue to work on shows and with all the groups at Theatre Scarborough.

I look forward to seeing Scarborough Players coming through this pandemic while taking the opportunity to become even more reflective, creative, diversified, and respectful.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Brent

Carolyn Williamson – Secretary

This was my fifth year on the board, and my fourth as Secretary. What started out as a perfectly normal year became something quite different as the COVID crisis forced us to make big decisions quickly. It has definitely been a learning experience and it has forced us to focus even more on working together to ensure the best future for the company, and in my opinion this has been a huge success.

In addition to my board duties this year, I continued teaching a monthly drop-in improv workshop. After a pause in March to determine the best way forward, I began holding the sessions on Zoom in April and have continued to do so ever since. These sessions are shorter (30 minutes as opposed to 2 hours for the live version) and I hold three per evening with a cap on the number of participants for each, to ensure everyone gets a chance to play. To my surprise, this has increased the number of participants! The Zoom format has allowed people to “buy in” without having to leave their homes or devote an entire evening and this has encouraged more people to try it out for the first time, and for occasional participants to attend more regularly. It is so nice to see everyone each month and I encourage any members who haven’t tried it yet to consider joining us for the next session – it’s only 30 minutes from the comfort of your own home. Please email me at scarboroughplayersimprov@gmail.com if you’d like to be added to the email list to receive notifications, or keep an eye on the newsletters for upcoming dates.

More recently, with input from my fellow board members I created a document for the Players to use as a guideline for how to proceed in these uncertain times. The Decision Tree is to be consulted 14 weeks before the scheduled opening night of each of our productions; a series of yes/no questions regarding safety, financial and artistic concerns then guides us to the best decision regarding whether or not we should go forward with the production or cancel it. I am pleased that this document has been shared with several other companies and I hope that it proves useful to them as well as to us as we move through this unprecedented time in the Players' history.

It has been my pleasure to serve the members of the Scarborough Players this season and it would be an honour to continue to do so.

Jennifer Bakker - Membership Coordinator

It is a pleasure to have you all at our AGM. I will keep my report short and sweet as I know we have a lot to cover this season. I attended read-thrus to gather membership forms and monies as well as to inform everyone of the benefits of membership. Our current membership stands at 120 members with 19 of them being new members and 49 being life members.

Attending the read-thrus enabled me to hear a preview of the wonderful shows to come which I thoroughly enjoyed. As well, I had the pleasure of attending opening nights and getting to meet our wonderful audiences. I am glad to say that those shows we were able to present were exceptionally well received.

This year, as I am sure others will mention, has been rather extraordinary and challenging. I am proud to say that all three of our groups as well as our amazing Theatre Scarborough board and volunteers handled themselves with amazing grace during a very stressful time. A special thanks to Rhoda and her box office staff for being there not only for us but for our patrons. Thanks to them, we were able to handle an unprecedented number of cancelled shows in a timely and effective fashion. The tools they have developed as well as the skills they already possessed should set us in good standing for years to come. Hopefully, we won't be dealing with another major loss of sales, but there is always the distant future to keep an eye out for.

During the shutdown, I have been attending our Zoom board meetings where we have been discussing options for our opening as well as ways to improve our services to our patrons so they can feel safe and comfortable returning to the theatre. We have also been researching how we can keep our lovely casts and crews safe when we do return to the stage. Thankfully, through ACT-CO and Theatre Scarborough, we have been given access to discussions with theatre professionals who have spoken eloquently on the issues we will face in the coming years. Thank you to all of the boards, especially the Theatre Scarborough Board, for all the hard work that has been done during this difficult period.

I have also taken the time to begin cataloging our impressive collection of plays. I knew there were a few plays on the shelf, but I had no idea that we had such a large and diverse collection. It has been interesting to see all the shows we have collected and to get ideas from these for the future. Our script library is a wonderful resource for our play reading committee. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the library and to those who lend from their own.

Thank you everyone for the opportunity to serve and I hope to see you all both back here and at the theatre when we finally get to get back to the business of making great theatre. May the coming months find you happy and well.

Ian Fox – Front of House Coordinator

I have really enjoyed being FOH Co-Ordinator for the past year. Our volunteers are a very diverse set of people and working with them has been a real pleasure.

Listed below are the things that have been accomplished during the past season.

1. The volunteer data base of names has been doubled to just over 200.
2. A revised and updated version of the FOH Policies and Procedures manual has been produced and agreed to by all of

the FOH co-ordinators. This now serves as the reference manual for FOH managers when they hold their information and orientation meetings prior to the opening of a show.

3. Programmes for the performances are now distributed in the lobby prior to the show so that we can better engage with our audience members and make them feel even more at home and welcome.

4. Name tags for volunteers were prepared to further improve on our image of openness and friendliness to our patrons.

5. When the City banned the re-sale of bottled water, FOH ran a pilot program that sold empty re-fillable water bottles and offered free water re-fills. This successful program has now been taken over by the refreshment staff.

6. As FOH co-ordinator, I attended every performance so that I could get to meet all of the volunteers and to act as a back-up for the FOH manager and as a fill-in if we were short-staffed in any way.

Ciara Crozier - Publicity and Marketing

I have really enjoyed this year serving on the Scarborough Players Board as your Publicity and Marketing Coordinator. I hope to continue to do so for the upcoming year, which will certainly be challenging given the changing state of theatre.

My goal for this past year was to build consistent marketing for all productions and Scarborough Players events that will ensure every show gets the same level of promotion and something that is easy to pass on to future people in this position. I also wanted to look at expanding our audience and promote Scarborough Players in neighbourhoods which may not know much about us, but are still within easy travel to the theatre, and to expand our outreach in the area surrounding the theatre.

Consistent Branding and Advertising

- Sent out press releases to all relevant websites and publications for each production
- Increased social media presence by sharing photos/videos from each production from both rehearsals and backstage during performances.
- Rebuilt and redesigned the patron newsletter database and email template. The goal is to have a monthly newsletter go out to Patrons, with increased promotions in the weeks leading up to a show's opening night.
- Prepared artwork for print ads and designed consistent digital advertising
- Kept the Scarborough Players page on the website up-to-date with production notices and cast/crew information for each show
- Worked with Greg Nowlan to design the artwork for the 2020/2021 season

Expanded Community Reach

- Joined new Facebook groups to promote auditions and ticket sales to a wider audience in the GTA.
- Added new advertising opportunities including Beaches Life Magazine, Blog TO and the Fox Theatre
- Worked with Alumnae Theatre to have Scarborough Players/Theatre Scarborough represented at the "Artists Appreciation Night"
- Was working on campaign to promote Scarborough Players to more local community groups, which was postponed due to COVID

Miscellaneous

- Setup Scarborough Players Zoom account so that the Board and other committees could continue to have meetings and for members to still participate in the Out Louds
- Organized the online interviews for the Director Hiring Committee, and stepped in when a couple of members had to step down due to scheduling conflicts
- Act as Zoom Manager for AGM

Ciara also assisted with props for *Rabbit Hole* as the ASM and found and created props for *Miracle on 34th Street* and *Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice*

Member at Large - Anthony Jones

My main focus this season was to have been an extensive survey of our patrons to determine where they had received their information regarding our productions. It would have been used to examine the best use of our marketing and publicity efforts. Unfortunately, only the surveys from our first production were completed. A short report was generated from them but there was not enough information to complete and extensive examination. The continuation of the surveying for next season has not yet been decided.

Further to that I participated in the discussions and decision making of the business of the board.

Continuing my production activities, I was the set designer and master carpenter for *Miracle on 34TH Street*.

Member at Large - Bodene Corbitt

It has been my honour to serve as a Member -At - Large these past 6 years. I have contributed to the group mainly as a Stage Manager and Sound Designer

I have great respect for the past and current Board Members who are genuinely dedicated to the welfare and development of Players.

I hope to continue to serve this Board even if it just means working with FOH to sanitize/ supervise when we welcome back our patrons.

Sincerely,

Bodene

Member at Large - Darlene Thomas

Theatre Roles & Accolades for past season:

- Producer for *Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice* (winner of best Comedy at 2019/2020 Act-Co Awards.
- Productions Nominated twice in same category.
- Produced/Hair & Makeup Designer for 3 shows between SP & STG. 21 nominations, 4 wins.
- 2018 Winner of the Pace Award.

Board Duties:

- Helped select 2020/2021 season plays.
- Catered for the 2020 Mid-Season Celebration in February.
- Other various Member at Large duties as requested by board

Member at Large – Chip Thompson

This was my first year as a member of the Scarborough Players Board.

I attended all board meetings including those held in person and those held remotely via Zoom.

I participated in the selection of the four shows included in the 2020/2021 season.

With Malorie Mandolidis, I co-chaired the Director Hiring Committee which interviewed and selected the four directors for the shows in the 2020/2021 season.

Chip also appeared as Mr. Bennet in *Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice*.

Member at Large - Malorie Mandolidis

It was with great pleasure that I returned to Board service over this past year as an elected Member-At-Large. An unpredictable term of office to say the least, I want to express respect, admiration and thanks to my fellow Board members, for their generosity of time and their many talents in all they do on behalf of Scarborough Players members, and for our theatre community in general, particularly in these unprecedented times.

As well as our regular monthly meetings and fulsome discussions, several other events have continued to keep me busy and engaged since our previous AGM last August.

While completing the rest of my term as a member of the Play Reading Committee, I saw our proposed play selections brought forward to the Board for review and finalization in November.

I was asked to co-chair the Director Hiring Committee for our 2020-21 season, and once participating members were confirmed, we met several times in preparation for the interviews, originally scheduled for the end of March. Needless to say, we had to postpone and revisit the entire process, but nonetheless, virtual interviews were successfully completed and our new directors were ratified by mid-May.

At the same time, I auditioned for the role of Mrs. Bennet in our production of *Jane Austen's Pride & Prejudice*, and was thrilled to be cast, in rehearsal and mid-production until the pandemic necessitated our final curtain on Friday, March 13th.

However, prior to the closure, we were able to present the inaugural Season Preview at Scarborough Village Theatre, along with our sister companies, and I was grateful for the opportunity to participate. February was also the time to recognize our members and volunteers at our mid-season social event, previewing the upcoming season as part of the Not Ready for Prime Time Players, and proudly celebrating our collective achievements.

While not an active member of this years' Play Reading Committee, I am currently participating in the scheduled virtual Out-Louds over the summer months.

It has been a privilege to represent my fellow SP members at the Board level, and although I may be stepping down, my commitment as a Life-Time member of Scarborough Players remains unchanged. I wish the incoming Board another rewarding year ahead, and want them to know of my continued willingness to stay involved as needed, and when asked. Along with the much anticipated reopening of our theatre and the return of our audiences, as we all do, I hope for and look forward to a safer time when we can actively be together once again.

Respectfully submitted,
Malorie Mandolidis

In Conclusion

There are small tasks that can make a real difference—we currently have 120 members, 49 life members who love being part of live theatre...

So what do you know, what do you want to contribute...

- When we can return to producing shows onstage, come in on a Saturday to spend time with the Set Build team as we have an offer you can't refuse— if you are interested in building, learning, helping – just come to the unit on Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and we will find something for you to do, to learn, to paint and to build. Believe me, once we can begin again, they will be in so please email Greg at nowlangm@gmail.com just to

confirm and join the musketeers.

- What else!
 - Write copy for a newsletter story
 - Share your computer skills, your social media skills, your design skills, or your organizational skills...
 - Do you work for a company or organization that might be interested in sponsoring a production?
 - Do you have a social committee or website at your workplace where our productions can be included?
 - Bring a friend to a show who has never been to our theatre
 - Come and Play Out Loud – watch for new dates this September 2020
 - Design lights, design sound, stage manage, assistant stage manage
 - Find, create and manage props
 - Operate lights, Operate sound
 - Sew costumes, repair costumes, find costumes, research, imagine, create
 - Clean stoves, fridges, and toilets... (We really do this as it must be done!)
 - Plan social events, cater SP events
 - Audition – Act
 - Direct shows
 - Produce shows, please!!!
 - Join in, build a new audience, make a difference
- Share an idea and offer your hands to make it happen!

LOOKING AHEAD

2020-2021 - OUR 62nd SEASON!

We do wonderful work - play a part, take action – You are a Player!

ACT-CO Thea Awards and Nominations for 2020-2021

Scarborough Players

Miracle on 34th Street Drama

Special Adjudicator's Award for Most Magical Moment Children's Chorus (SMTY kids!!)

Nominees

Pride and Prejudice Comedy

Best Costume Design Mary Nowlan - Nominee

Best Performance by a Female in a Supporting Role Mary Nowlan as Mrs. Reynolds - Nominee

Best Performance by a Male in a Leading Role Chip Thompson as Mr. Bennet - Nominee

Best Stage Management Wendy Miller - Nominee

Best Director Katherine Turner - Nominee

Best Production, Comedy Darlene Thomas, Producer Winner!