



We're Back!

2021-2022

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Report to the Members

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For the 2021-2022 Season

The 2021-2022 season began on Saturday, September 11, 2021 when a team went into the theatre to finally strike the set from *Pride and Prejudice* which closed on March 13, 2020. Following the strike, teams went into the theatre to clean and make the space ready for a most hopeful return to live theatre.

All the Theatre Scarborough companies hoped to get at least a few shows in as we kept fingers and toes crossed that the pandemic would truly end. As you know that wish did not come true. Some productions – SMTY's *Dara's Dream* in November 2021 and our production of *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* in December 2021 completed their runs before everything closed again.

Productions were postponed until it was safe again starting in April 2022 with STG's *A Red Plaid Shirt* (postponed since April of 2020), SMT's *The Fantasticks* in May and our *Educating Rita* in June.

It was determined to maintain hybrid seating with physically distanced performances and eventually some standard seating – almost a full house with row A closed. Our audiences preferred the distanced performances, our vaccination checks and masking policy.

As we look forward to our full subscription season for 2022-2023, we are aware that some of our audience members remains cautious.

Our 2021-2022 Productions

Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley December 2021

"Mr. Darcy sends you all the love in the world that he can spare from me. You are all to come to Pemberley at Christmas." - Lizzy, Chapter 60, *Pride and Prejudice*

It is now 1815 and it has been two years since Lizzy and Jane were happily married at the end of *Pride and Prejudice*. What sister will be the focus this time – well, Miss Mary Bennet, the bookish, judgmental, mediocre pianist, of course! Oh, what changes have occurred in the last two years for Mary to become the unlikely heroine of this story. Determined to cast off her role as dutiful middle sister, she begins to assert her new found confidence. When unexpected guests arrive, Mary's new sense of self is tested by her family and a new friend. *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* will delight with its charming and spirited celebration of family, romance and the holiday season.

And we were right – the audiences loved it and were delighted to return to the theatre with safety in mind – vaccination checks, masking and only 108 seats available – physically distanced seating.

We had a wonderful Pemberley team with many new faces in the cast and many returning members on the production team

Cast

Coral Benzie	Mary Bennet
Sage Anthony Hyden	Arthur de Bourgh
Amanda Bennett	Elizabeth Darcy
Holm Bradwell	Fitzwilliam Darcy
Riley Anne	Jane Bingley
Rhys Harrison	Charles Bingley
Alison Mullings	Lydia Wickham
Tamika Poetzsch	Anne de Bourgh

Production Team

Director, Co-Producer
Co-Producer
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Set Designer
Costume Designers

Sound Design
Lighting Design
Props Design and Coordination
Master Carpenter
Sound Operator
Lighting Operator
Audition Greeter
Photography

Katherine Turner
Mary Nowlan
Bodene Corbitt
June Watkins
Anthony Jones
Sandra Clive, Andra Bradish
and Mary Nowlan
Bodene and Dave Corbitt
Karen Brown and Paul Harris
Ciara Crozier
Greg Nowlan
Dave Corbitt
Bodene Corbitt
Laura Wilde
Brian Whitmore



Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley - Team Photo by Brian Whitmore

Educating Rita June 2022

Thanks to the cast – Alison Mullings and Greg Nowlan – for their extraordinary work in bringing Frank and Rita to life – just the 2 of them for over 2 hours and had the audience engaged and with them throughout. To director, Maureen Lukie for all her work, care, planning and listening to support her cast and production team bringing the play to life. To Wendy Miller, stage manager and Ciara Crozier, assistant stage manager and props for making sure everyone was supported to do their work each and every performance. A special shout-out to all the new folks who joined the team – Karen and Sage Scottie as operators, Monima Thomas as a set designer, Sue and Ted Gordon joining the Musketeers – building and painting. Thanks always to our veterans, Bodene Corbitt for Sound Design and as associate Stage Manager, Tom Bakker, Will van der Zyl, Dave Corbitt, Mary Nowlan, Kevin McDonnell, Holm Bradwell, Ken Gray, Tony Jones for their work on the set, to Brian Whitmore and his able Assistant, Carolyn Williamson for the production photography, Laura Wilde as Audition greeter, Ian Fox and his FOH volunteers. We love theatre because everyone makes a difference and inspires. Just one final shout-out to our wonderful rescue rangers – Chris Northey, David Buffham and Jennifer Bakker who made sure there was light!



Educating Rita – Team Photo by Brian Whitmore

Your Play Reading Committee guided by chair, John Pirker continued to provide opportunities to gather on ZOOM and read plays for possible future productions and just for fun. With the return to a full subscription season in 2022-23, we could include two plays that were postponed from 2020-21, *An Inspector Calls* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* as well as *Storm Warning* that was postponed from June due to

another COVID wave. With safety in mind, the Board determined that we would wait before including the remaining postponed large cast shows.

So, the Play Reading committee was tasked to find an engaging comedy for the final June/July slot in 2023.

The winter/spring 2022 Out Louds included *Storm Warning* by Norm Foster to provide members with a chance to get excited about this play that would now be produced in October 2022.

The plays considered for the June/July 2023 slot included: *Arms and the Man* by George Bernard Shaw, *Black Comedy* by Peter Shaffer, *The Kitchen Witches* by Caroline Smith, *Beside Manners* by Derek Benfield, *Weekend Comedy* by Sam and Jeanne Bobrick and *Nested* by Liz Best.

And the winner was *Arms and the Man* by George Bernard Shaw which is now the final show of the 2022-2023 season.

Summer Out Louds continued with *Marjorie Prime* by Jordan Harrison, *Rough Crossing* by Tom Stoppard. The reading committee will offer later in the fall *Holmes and Watson* by Jeffrey Hatcher.

As we are still needing to add postponed plays to our 2023-24 season, your play reading committee is building a list of possible plays to complete that season and beyond. Watch for updates from your Reading Committee.

Again, thanks to John Pirker as your committee chair and to members Magda Nusink, Bill Simpson, Danelle Abbott, Andrew Horbatuik, and Katherine Turner.

If you are interested in joining the Committee, please email John at spplayreadingcommittee@gmail.com

Director Hiring Committee

It was determined that if we were able to produce shows for the 2021-2022 non-subscription season, we would consider small cast shows. *Educating Rita* and *Storm Warning* were selected which meant we would need to hire directors for those shows. A committee was struck including Bodene Corbitt, Chip Thompson and Katherine Turner. Applications were accepted until September 23, 2021 and ZOOM interviews were held October 2nd.

We were delighted to offer *Educating Rita* to Maureen Lukie and *Storm Warning* to David Eden. Maureen directed our 2019 production of *Rabbit Hole*. David is new to Players though has directed for other companies.

So, what else have we been up to during this past year...

Theatre Scarborough

It was an encouraging time and it was a very sad time.

We all felt the loss in March of our Rhoda Silzer. Rhoda was our box office manager providing extraordinary customer service to our patrons for years and she was our Theatre Scarborough president, guiding the Board through these challenging years. We miss Rhoda's care, determination, support, insight, laughter and love of Theatre Scarborough and the work we all do producing live theatre.

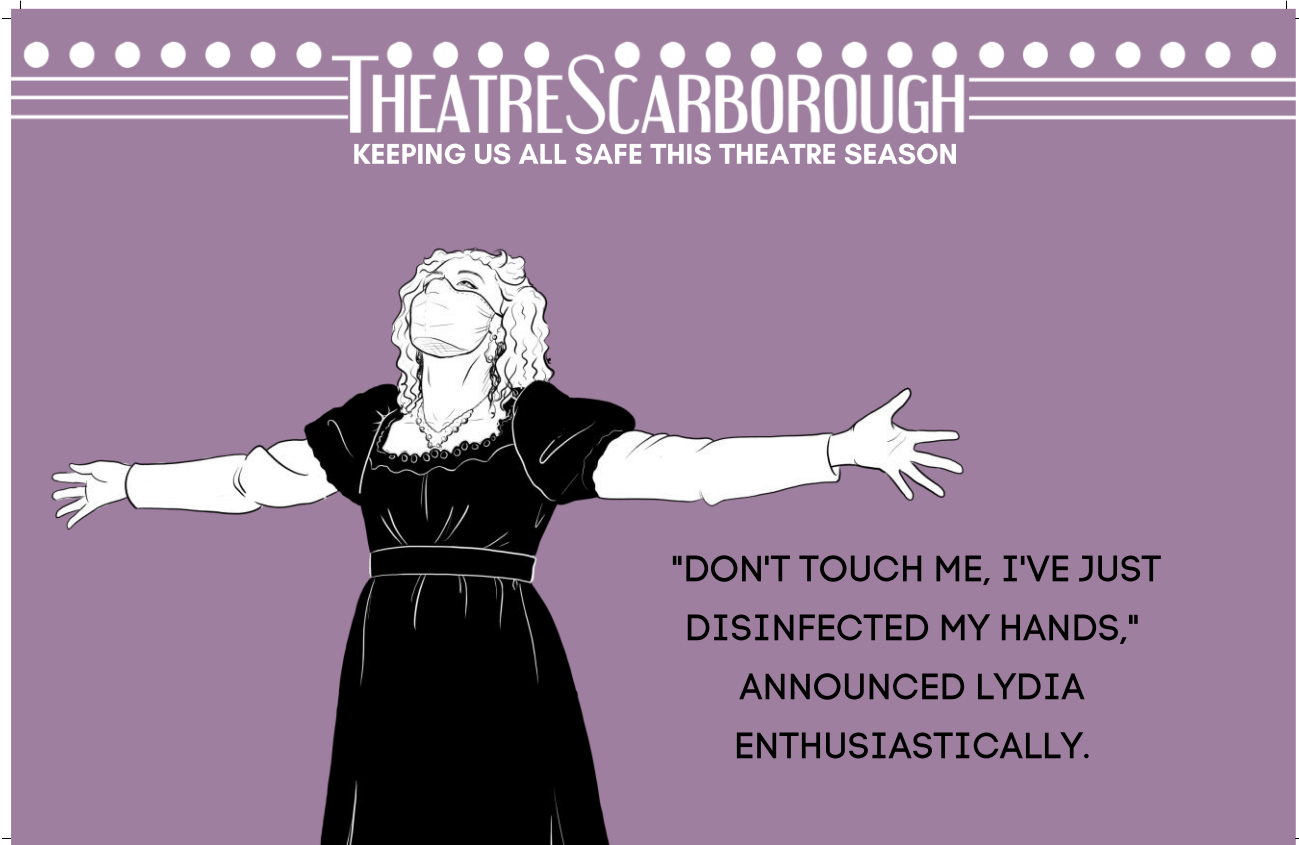
The TS COVID Sub-Committee continued to meet through 2021 as we managed the re-opening of the theatre.

There were 3 amazing groups working making sure that once we moved back into the theatre, everyone would feel safe.

#1 –The Cleaning Squad: Len Henderson with Rhoda Silzer and their team of dedicated volunteers, cleaned the theatre from top to bottom, onstage, backstage, in the house - everything. The carpets were shampooed for the first time since they were installed 2007!

#2 – Training and Documentation Team: Lynette Fairweather with her team of dedicated and imaginative trainers reviewed protocols, determined the best way to support our volunteers and patrons as we return to the theatre. They facilitated a Volunteer Training which was filmed and added to the website to guide patrons in our policies and protocols.

#3 – The Communication Crew: Led by Dot Routledge, kept the crew on track to create the communication that went out to volunteers, members, patrons, the media, and politicians. Not only wordsmithing but creating the visuals – from the banner “Our lights are coming back on”, (Ciara Crozier) to posters to direct our audience and the hilarious posters for the theatre reminding everyone to wear a mask to keep social distanced and sanitize.



Designed by Gayle Cook and Robyn Hughes

TS and the City

Lynette Fairweather as the TS treasurer continued her efforts to apply for every grant available that would offset the Theatre lease payments so the groups would not have to pay from their reserves. However, once grants ended, we all had to pay a little. Thanks to Lynette for all her work.

Lynette and Ian Fox continued in their efforts to build a relationship with the key decision makers at City Hall regarding the new lease agreement – Community Space Tenancy (CST). Through their efforts, we now understand how lease payments are determined, and the City and SVRC understand what we need to do our work. For more information and details about this work, you will need to attend the TS AGM on Wednesday, August 24 at 7 p.m. on ZOOM.

TS and Community Events

We're Back! We are beginning to reconnect with some of our important community partners. On June 4, 2022, Mike Scott and a team of volunteers participated in Guildwood Day and the Parade and handed out our 2022-2023 season brochure. Anytime we get to interact with the community is positive. Residents of Guildwood are our potential audience and they often do not know the theatre is just west of them.

The Guild Alive with Culture took place July 23 and 24, 2022 at the Guild Inn. This is an important event as folks from across the GTA attend. It is an opportunity to speak with potential new audience members, potential new volunteers and to hand out about 1,000 brochures. Scarborough Music Theatre entertained the crowd on the 23rd with MC, Mike Scott, making the upcoming season a not to be missed one. Thanks to all the volunteers who came out on both days to promote the work of Theatre Scarborough.

We hope that as 2022-2023 season unfolds celebrating our 40th anniversary in the Scarborough Village Recreation Centre, that our series of Free Workshops will inspire the community to come out and play with us.



Archive – SVT being built in 1981-82

A big tip of the Hat to Wendy Miller and Mike Scott managing the Box Office on behalf of the groups and to Rhoda Brachman and June Bedford for getting Theatre Refreshments up and running again after over 2 years.

Also, a TS website committee (including our Ciara Crozier) is working to create a new, engaging and user-friendly website for the new season.

SP and ACT-CO – the Association of Community Theatres – Central Ontario

Since last year, we have engaged with Community Theatre groups across Central Ontario to share stories, plans and some solutions as the pandemic continued. Traditionally, groups are in competition with each other as we submit our work for adjudication and then celebrate our success at the Gala as we await nominations and awards. Without a Festival, we are actually getting to know each other. We would like to thank Act-Co president, Anne Currie O'Brien and her Board for keeping us all in the loop working together. Act-Co also provided workshops including a delightful evening with Paul Harris and Karen Brown as they walked us through the art of Lighting Design. Other workshops will follow in the

new season. Act-Co is also looking ahead to when we might return to a Festival and Adjudications - what that might look like now that there is no longer a Theatre Ontario and its festival.

Reports from Your Scarborough Players 2020-2021 Board

Katherine Turner – President

It has been an oddly busy season with much work being done by many hands. many zoom meetings and being back live in the rehearsal hall and in the theatre. 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!
- Submitted permit requests – schedules to the Scarborough Village Recreation Centre
- Served on the Play Reading Committee and Director Hiring (that was fun as I never get to serve here as I am usually pitching to direct!)
- Audition coordinator for *Miss Bennet*, *Educating Rita* and *Storm Warning*
- Served on the Theatre Scarborough Board as Players’ President
- Served on the Theatre Scarborough COVID response Sub Committee and Communication Crew
- Attended all Act-Co COVID Response related ZOOM meetings
- Coordinated volunteers for Guildwood Day and The Guild Alive with Culture
- Directed *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*
- Produced *Educating Rita*

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 and typeset programs
- Master carpenter for 2 sets
- Drove the truck for load-ins and load-outs
- Served on the TS board
- Got some acting in
- Other small chores along the way

Anthony (Tony) Jones – Treasurer

The main activities of the treasurer involve the timely paying of all expenses and depositing of all revenue. Records are kept of all bank transactions and these are reconciled monthly with each bank statement to ensure accuracy. The treasurer is also responsible for a report at each Board Meeting and a final report at the Annual General Meeting. Also, major financial decisions are discussed with the treasurer and put before the board for action.

Tony designed the set for *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*

Please note: Tony will be providing a complete financial report as a separate agenda item.

Teresa Bakker – Secretary

In my second year as a secretary, I have continued to learn. I continued to assist in problem solving and brainstorming at our monthly meetings while taking notes. I am learning to listen, type and talk at the same time and getting better at it. Everyone is still being patient with me and I'm getting faster at sending out the minutes and more accurate. As we re-opened, I was able to resume some box office volunteering and stage-managed *The Stillborn Lover* for STG in addition to being on the SP board. I'd forgotten just how busy it gets. There were times I felt really out of step, but everyone is feeling the same. We are so happy to be back giving patrons a good show again. I really look forward to our first full season coming up.

Ian Fox - Front of House Coordinator - report for 2021-2022

The contact database has 149 entries for volunteers, in addition there are 103 entries for SP Members and 13 entries for SP Board Members. This information is used (via email) to ask for individuals to sign-up for FOH shifts. Some of the usual volunteers did not respond whilst others were pleased to sign-up for multiple shifts.

Mask wearing by Patrons was generally accepted as an appropriate safety and health measure and we had no issues with Patrons presenting vaccination certificates, I/D and tickets. The Box Office created lists of attendees and we used them to cross check attendance for contact tracing requirements as per the City's protocols. Our computer technology related to scanning vaccination certificates and tickets did have some problems and when scanning failed, we resorted to visual checking and making the appropriate notes on the attendee list.

In order to facilitate the check-in process, two check-in stations were set-up. A Greeter met patrons as they entered the building through the West doors simply to remind them to have their various pieces of documentation ready for inspection and validation and to direct the patrons to the next available check-in position.

For the December show, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, neither refreshments nor 50/50 were in effect and disposable, non-returnable earbuds were used in the Hearing Assist programme as replacements for the usual headsets. With the change in health requirements and for *Educating Rita*, both refreshments and 50/50 were allowed to open up to the great relief of our patrons.

Once in the theatre, the patrons all seemed quite ready to accept the physical distancing seating arrangements.

As FOH Co-ordinator, I continued to send out monthly "Keeping in Touch" emails to our volunteers in an effort to keep them engaged (and occasionally amused). These were generally well received and will be continued in the future.

Ongoing and as a part of succession planning, I continue to look for and to encourage people to act as FOH Managers and perhaps take over from me as Co-Ordinator.

Ciara Crozier – Publicity and Marketing

It was so great to get back to working on shows this season, even with the few hiccups we had. Getting back into the swing of things was interesting, but also very welcome.

This was my third year as working on publicity for Scarborough Players, which included the regular publicity and marketing for the two shows we were able to stage this year. I also continued my work in finding new and different places to promote Players, as I believe it is important to continue to find new ways to expand our

audience reach. I also helped to design the posters for both the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 seasons and continued my role as the Zoom manager for the Board and our meetings.

In addition to my board duties, I also worked on the TS Communications Committee responsible for getting the informing our patrons about Theatre Scarborough's return to the theatre, and all the protocols, etc. we had instituted. That also included helping to design and print all of the new signage for the theatre, and have been giving feedback on the redesign of the new Theatre Scarborough website.

Though I am looking to take a step back from being the Publicity and Marketing Coordinator, I am looking forward to continuing on the Board in the role as Member at Large. As MAL, I look forward to helping out wherever I am needed.

Jennifer Bakker – Membership Coordinator

This year was an interesting one. Although Covid was still a major factor, we finally had the opportunity to return to the stage. In addition to my duties as membership secretary, I was able to once more return to my duties with box office and even had the opportunity to return to shows as I was called upon to act as one of the last-minute lighting designers on *Educating Rita*. It has been a very trying, but rewarding few years on the board. I will be stepping down this AGM to pursue other opportunities, but I hope to still be an active part of Players in other capacities. I want to thank each and every one of you who helped us get through this very difficult time and I look forward to the future of our group and our fellow community theatres.

Bodene Corbitt – Member at Large

I have stage managed and sound designed for *Miss Bennet* (2021) and *Educating Rita* (2022) in our last season. I am currently stage manager/sound designer for our first play of the new season *Storm Warning*. I also served on the Director Hiring Committee selecting the directors for *Educating Rita* and *Storm Warning*.

I am running for Membership secretary this year so that even when I am not working directly on a production, I can still contribute at the Board level.

Chip Thompson – Member at Large

I attended all board meetings this year, served on the Director Hiring Committee, read scripts and participated in the play selection process for next season, volunteered for FOH, and edited newsletters and promotional materials.

Janice Hansen – Member at Large

In my role as a Member-at-Large, my primary responsibility for this year was to revise Scarborough Players' Respectful Environment Policy, as part of a joint sub-committee with Christine Dick and Carolyn Williamson. In terms of my general duties, I attended monthly board meetings, contributing to planning discussions regarding SP's return to live productions within the context of COVID restrictions. I participated in play-reading "out-louds" to help identify appropriate productions for our modified 2021-22 season, and to also determine our final show for the 2022-23 season. I will be joining the Director's selection committee later this year to help choose the director for that production.

Christine Dick - Member at Large

- Served on the Covid Team – Training- Developed training materials for volunteers to support return to Theatre.
- Updated SP's Respectful Environment policy with team of board members
- Attended Board Meetings
- Read scripts and participated in play selection

Carolyn Williamson – Member at Large

This was my seventh year on the board, and my second as a Member at Large. It was an exciting year to be a part of, as we finally had productions in the theatre again and I enjoyed watching both multiple times. I also served on the Theatre Scarborough board as a Member at Large. In addition to my board duties this year, I continued teaching a monthly drop-in improv workshop via Zoom. In order to ensure adequate playing time for participants most workshops are capped at 6 participants and two or three workshops are held in an evening, with each lasting 45 minutes. So far this season I have taught 28 workshops, with 3 more scheduled for August 26th (please get in touch if you'd like to attend!) I have also enjoyed attending several Out Louds and am very much looking forward to the 2022/2023 season we have planned. 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.

Nancy Brown – Member at Large

We would like to thank Nancy for taking the step to join the Board. Due to unexpected circumstances, Nancy was unable to continue to serve. She feels she can best serve Players in the future by encouraging folks to come out and see a show.

In Conclusion

There are small tasks that can make a real difference—you, our members love being part of live theatre...

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

- 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
- Design lights, design sound, design sets, stage manage, assistant stage manage
- Build sets, learn to build sets – join the Saturday gang
- 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! To help – email sp@theatrescarborough.com and let us know what you want to do!

LOOKING AHEAD
2022-2023 – OUR 64th SEASON!

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