



We're Really Back!

2022-2023

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

Report to the Members

Report to the Members

For the 2022-2023 Season

Yes, this is truly our first full season back! We produced 4 shows, we offered subscriptions as all seats were available and by the last show of our season, masks were optional. Yet, COVID still did its magic as our first 2 shows lost 7 performances due to the unstoppable and annoying virus. New boosters are available this fall.

We will admit that we were all a bit rusty – wheels were slow to turn but we soon found a rhythm, again – meetings, auditions, director hiring, play reading, Out Louds, Improv Fridays, rehearsals, set building, costumes, props, crews, publicity, designers, move-ins, move-outs, closing parties, all times 4, and so much more.

Our 2022-2023 Productions

The season began in October 2022 with the production of *Storm Warning* by Norm Foster. We welcomed David Eden as a new director with Holm Bradwell as Jack Forrester and Alex Saul as Emma Currie. Set in cottage country in 1953, the play provided some set problems to be solved – how to change the set from the exterior to the interior and have a cottage slide into the lake. Set designer and head carpenter, Greg Nowlan with the help of the wonderful set musketeers, figured it out. For a cast of two, we needed a crew of 8 to turn the set. Chris Northey's lights, Kelly Booth's costumes, added to the experience. Though performances were lost due to COVID, the audience very much enjoyed this little-known Foster.

In January 2023 after withdrawal of rights in 2018-2019 and then a pandemic, Players finally produced *An Inspector Calls*. Director Joseph van Veen waited patiently building his vision of the play supported by producer, Darlene Thomas. The musketeers were pleased that it was a very simple set, as if in the warehouse of company owned by Birling – a simple floor like an architect's drawing and wooden crates becoming seats, tables, and a bar. The cast included Greg Nowlan, Janice Hansen, Coral Benzie, John Palmieri, Loren Beiko, Connor Cooke, and Alma Sinan. Special shout out to Tony Jones for the amazing clock and his being in the loft each performance to do its magic. J.B. Priestley's masterpiece remains a play for our time.

April 2023 we finally produced another pandemic delayed play – *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. An extraordinary ensemble of actors, designers, stage management, a producer, a director, and crew brought the play to life – a wonderful collaboration. There were some interesting, unexpected occurrences such as during the 2nd performance, the mirror ball fell from the grid during Act 1. The actors continued until Wendy Miller, the SM, stopped the show to clean up the broken glass and then they went on. Each night there was a standing ovation. Each night, before the performance, Ciara Crozier and Valerie Lusted washed the black stage in time to be dry. After that, everyone had to wear booties as if they were investigating a crime scene so *CSI Curious Incident*.

June/July 2023 production of *Arms and the Man* by George Bernard Shaw welcomed back to Players after many years, director Larry Westlake and producer Alison Overington. The production also welcomed many first timers to the cast- Stefanie Goldhar, Sarah Gazzola, Kerri Henman, Lucas Blakely and Caleb Upshaw supported by Players' veterans, Holm Bradwell and David Eden. Other newcomers included lighting designer, John Sellens, sound designer, Jasmyn Jaynes, props coordinator, Patsy Hamilton-Diabo and Tony Jones as ASM after a 45-year absence from backstage. The last time Players attempted a Shaw play was the 1972 production of *Pygmalion*. Each night in 2023 audiences left the theatre smiling and saying how much they enjoyed the show. Perhaps we should consider another Shaw

Storm Warning – October 2022

Exterior Set and Cast and Crew
Photos by Brian Whitmore



An Inspector Calls by J.B Priestley January 2023
Cast and Crew and Curtain Call
Photos by Brian Whitmore

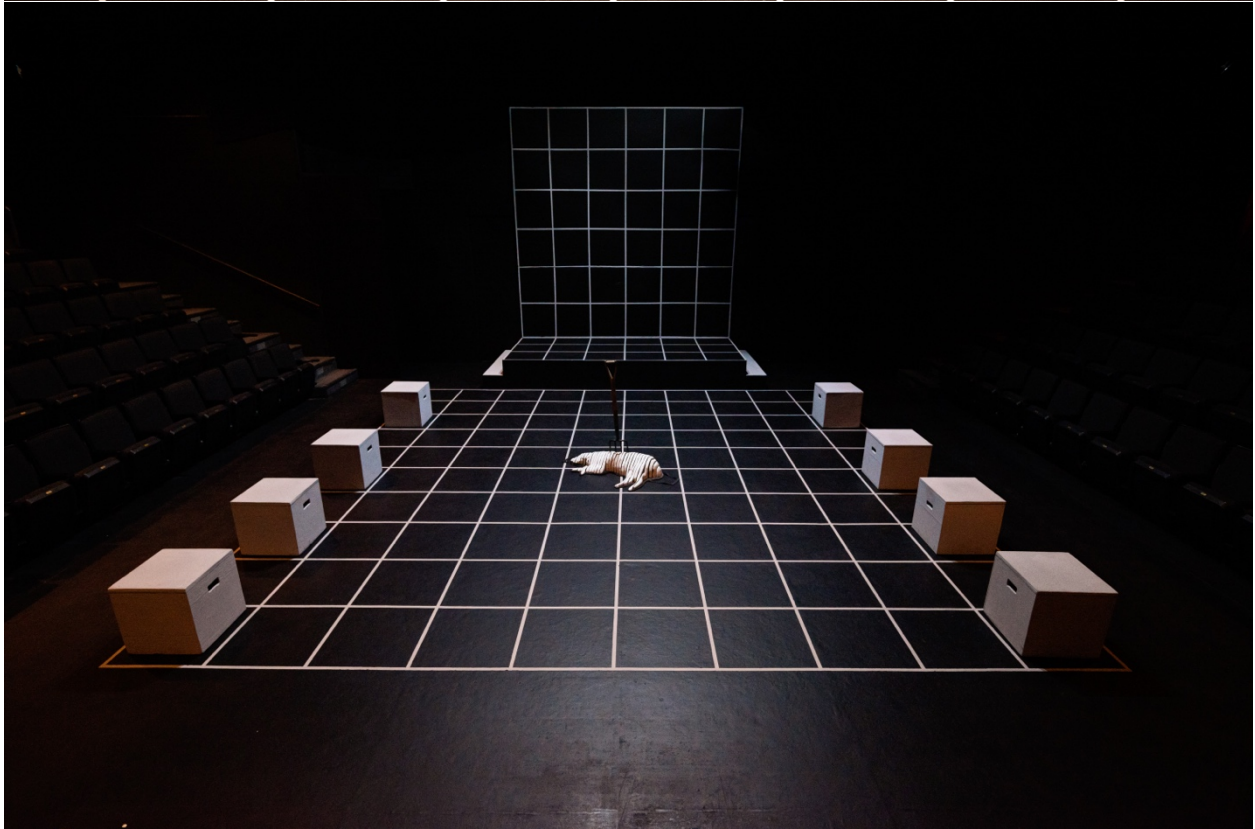


The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

April 2023

Cast and Crew and Set Picture

Photos by Brian Whitmore



Arms and the Man by George Bernard Shaw – June/July 2023
Act 2 Garden Set and Cast and Crew
Photos by Brian Whitmore



Your Play Reading Committee guided by chair, John Pirker, continued to provide opportunities to gather on ZOOM to read plays for possible future productions and just for fun. Here are some of the plays read throughout 2022-2023. Your committee is working towards presenting about 8 titles to the Players' Board to determine the 2024-2025 season by mid November.

Category	Sub	Title	Author	Cast Size	Out Loud Date	
Farce	Modern	Play On!	Rick Abbot	3M, 7F	Apr 26	
Farce	Period	Screwball Comedy	Norm Foster	2M, 2W	May 3	
Comedy	Modern	Renovations for Six	Norm Foster	3M 3W	May 17	
Comedy	Modern	Book Club	Kristin DaSilva	3M 3W	July 5	
Comedy	Period	Cyprienne	David Nicholson	7M, 4W	May 10	
Comedy	Period	The Amateurs	Jordan Harrison	4M, 2W	July 12	
Drama	Modern	By the Bog of Cats	Marina Carr	6M, 5W	May 24	
Drama	Period	Les Liaison Dangeureuses	Christopher Hampton	3M, 6W	May 31	
Drama	Modern	Things I Know to Be True	Andrew Bovell	3M, 3W	June 21	
Drama	Period	Emilie	Laura Gunderson	2M, 3W	July 19	
Drama	Period	The Great Gatsby	Simon Levy	7M, 4W	Aug 2	
		Coming Soon!				
Comedy	Period 30's	You Can't Take it With You	George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart	7W 12 M Doubling of M	Sept 13	
Comedy	Period	The Book of Will	Lauren Gunderson	7M 3W		
TBD					Oct 4	

Plays Under Consideration for Out Loud

Category	Sub	Title	Author	Cast Size	Out Loud Date	Interest?
Drama	Modern	The Humans	Stephen Karam	2M, 4F		
Drama	Period	Silent Sky	Lauren Gunderson	1M, 4W		
Drama	Period	Scenes from an Execution	Howard Barker	15M, 3W		
Drama	Period	The House of Mirth	Edith Wharton	5M, 5W		
Comedy	Modern	Outside Mullingar	John Patrick Shanley	2M, 2W		

Again, thanks to John Pirker as your committee chair and to members Magda Nusink, Bill Simpson, Danelle Abbott, Alma Sinan, Christine Dick, David Eden and Katherine Turner.

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

Director Hiring Committee

In 2022-2023, we had two rounds of Director Hiring. In the fall, interviews were conducted to hire a director for *Arms and the Man*. That committee, Bodene Corbitt, Chip Thompson, Janice Hansen and Katherine Turner were delighted to offer the role to Larry Westlake.

The second round of hiring was for the 2023-2024 season. The committee led by chair, Meg Gibson with Janice Hansen, Chip Thompson and Bodene Corbitt, interviewed multiple candidates for the 3 shows needing directors. Meg will be directing *Shakespeare in Love*, among the last of the missed pandemic shows. The committee deliberated with many difficult choices, determining what would be best for Players going forward. The Board was happy to approve their recommendations –Maureen Lukie to direct *Halfway There* by Norm Foster, Katherine Turner to direct *A Christmas Carol* adapted by John Jakes and Greg Nowlan to direct *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling.

Thanks to both Hiring Committees for their work this season.

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

Theatre Scarborough

Our partnerships in Theatre Scarborough are strong. The Board works to ensure that the theatre is well looked after, the Box Office, Theatre Refreshments and all shared needs are supported. It has been a pleasure being part of the board and thanks to presidents, Dot Routledge of SMT and Len Henderson of STG for their spirit of collaboration. Thanks to TS president, Ian Fox for his dedication and getting the job done.

Special thanks to Wendy Miller, Mike Scott, Mark Parent and all the Box Office volunteers for looking after all our patrons.

Special thanks to June Bedford, Rhoda Brachman and all the Theatre Refreshment volunteers for offering treats and drinks.

Shout-out to Dot Routledge for taking on designing a new website that will be easier for folks to use and will be up and running soon.

TS and the City

Lynette Fairweather, TS treasurer and Ian Fox, TS president 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 have heard what we need to do our work, though their understanding is not quite there. Ian is doing everything possible to have Tim Scherk at the SVRC, and the powers at be, understand our scheduling needs as they do not align with Parks and Rec building hours in the SVRC.

Ian and Lynette have worked to ensure that our footprint in the building was reduced which resulted in lease payment reduction and some significant money returned.

TS is now responsible for cleaning the theatre and Ian is in to oversee it is done properly. So far so good.

For more information and details about this work, you will need to attend the TS AGM on Wednesday, August 30, at 7 p.m. on ZOOM.

TS and Community Events

We're Back! We continue to reconnect with some of our important community partners and add new ones.

Cedarbrae Collegiate Wellness Day – Thursday, April 27, 2023

Students had asked for a day dedicated to learning and experiencing new things and the staff went to work creating Wellness Day inviting the community in to provide unique experiences and challenges. Andra Bradish from STG and Tom Gallagher from SMT answered the call to participate in this event for students. Tom presented morning improv and choreography workshops. In the afternoon, Andra Bradish presented an interactive costume workshop followed by a more general workshop – opportunities all around the stage. This workshop was supported by Valerie Lusted, Wendy Miller and Katherine Turner. Though student turnout was disappointing, Valerie, Wendy and Andra created a wonderful brochure outlining volunteer opportunities with Theatre Scarborough. Thanks to Jennifer Hall, drama teacher, for her hospitality and participation.

Guildwood Day- the first Saturday in June at Wilfrid Laurier Collegiate

On June 3, 2023, A team of volunteers participated in Guildwood Day and handed out our 2023-2024 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. This year we did not participate in the parade so hoping that in 2024, we join in again.

Thanks to Drew Smylie and Holm Bradwell for setting up the booth and to volunteers, Christine Bonnemaïson, Mary Nowlan, Maureen Lukie and Katherine Turner for their work handing out brochures.

Taste of Lawrence July 8 and July 9, 2023

SMT was invited by the Taste of the Lawrence festival to perform on July 8th (12:30-1:30pm) and July 9th (11:45am-12:15pm) on the Family Stage.

11 performers (including 3 from the SMTY program) and an accompanist took to the stage to perform 15 songs and talk about Theatre Scarborough.

The weather was great, and the festival was quite busy. The performers drew quite a good-sized crowd during their set.

5 volunteers handed out brochures in the area of the stage area during the performances. Each wore a headband with blue bobbles so they could be easily identified by festival goers. As the MC, I also wore a headband so I could bring attention to them. Volunteers were also given a sheet with basic info and QR codes that festival goers could use to go to the TS website or the SMTY camp page. Over the course of the 90 minutes that SMT was performing the volunteers gave out 1 ¾ boxes of brochures (about 1,000) and said they weren't approaching people but instead were being approached for brochures.

Performers: Aidan Ross, Brenna McDonald, Carys McDonald, Charlie Davidson, Claire Latella, Dot Routledge, Ethan Rotenberg, Grace Latella, Jeremy Cook, Jill McMillan, Karine Ringenberg, Olivia Jon, Sarah Stapleton

Brochure and Tech Volunteers: Sandy Ross, John Anderson, Rachel Macleod, Shannon Macleod, Mark Tingle

The Guild Alive with Culture took place July 22 and 23, 2023 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. 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 22nd with MC, Dot Routledge, 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.

Performers: Aidan Ross, Brenna and Carys McDonald, Christian Baes, Claire and Grace Latella, Jack Ford Stevens, Jeremy Cook, Katie Wise, Olivia Jon, Sarah Stapleton, and Ethan Rotenberg

Volunteers: Greg Nowlan, Katherine Turner, Tony Jones, Pat Wilson, Bodene Corbitt, Larry Westlake, Susan and Bob Sanders, Gail Murray, Dot Routledge, Heather Hyslop, Jan Harvey, Frank and Annemarie Kaufman, Andra Bradish, Susan Ackerman, Christopher Kerr, Alison Overington, Darlene, Thomas, Jessica McQueen-Bird, Eileen Dalton, and Christine Dick.

Celebrating 40 years in the Scarborough Village Theatre – free workshops

Andra Bradish had a brilliant idea to offer free workshops inviting the community into the theatre to celebrate our 40 years in the Scarborough Village Theatre. Attendees enjoyed learning secrets, touring the backstage and sets and feeling connected to Theatre Scarborough. Thanks to all the presenters!

September 2022 – STG All Around the Stage presented by Larry Westlake and Alison Overington

October 2022 – SP Sharing Secrets- Auditioning for a Role presented by Carolyn Williamson and Katherine Turner

November 2022 -SMT Ensemble: Let’s All Sing Together presented by Steve Nadon

December 2022 STG – Costumes presented by Andra Bradish and Erin Jones

March 2023 STG- Self-Care for Actors presented by Meg Gibson

June 2023 STG – From the page to the stage -directing presented by Kevin Shave

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

Through ACT-CO, we continue to engage with Community Theatre groups across Central Ontario to share stories, plans and some solutions as we all endeavoured to recover from the pandemic. 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 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 continued to offer workshops and townhalls as well as monthly newsletters to keep us informed. Act-Co social media was active reminding everyone about auditions, performances, and opportunities for live theatre across the GTA and beyond. Act-Co is also looking ahead to a return to a Festival and Adjudications likely for the 2024-2025 season

Reports from your Board Members for 2022-2023

Katherine Turner – President

It has been a very 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 with a full season. 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!
- Wrote a few press releases
- Submitted permit requests – schedules to the Scarborough Village Recreation Centre
- Served on the Play Reading Committee and Director Hiring for *Arms and the Man*
- Audition coordinator for all four shows this season
- Served on the Theatre Scarborough Board as Players’ President

- Coordinated volunteers for Guildwood Day and The Guild Alive with Culture
- For the 40th anniversary in the SVT, presented an Audition Workshop with Carolyn Williamson
- Directed *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*
- Produced *Storm Warning*
- Costume coordinator for *Arms and the Man*
- Had fun doing the 50/50 all season

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
- Head Carpenter for 4 sets
- Set Designer for *Storm Warning* and *Arms and the Man*
- Drove the truck for load-ins and load-outs
- Served on the TS board
- Got some acting in *An Inspector Calls*
- 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 *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, served as ASM for *Arms and the Man* along with building special props and set pieces- dogs, guns and clocks etc.

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

Teresa Bakker- Board Secretary

This past season has been a very busy one. I attended board meetings as secretary and took minutes. I enjoyed being able to contribute and participate.

I was also able to attend and participate in some of the out loud reading for both Scarborough Players and Scarborough Theatre Guild. I really enjoyed listening to and sharing thoughts and ideas about the different plays. I still have a lot to learn and valued the teachings of some of the other participants in the out loud readings. I read the plays that I was unable to attend the out loud readings for so I could contribute to and participate in the Scarborough Players play decision for the 2023-2024 season.

I was Assistant Stage Manager for Scarborough Theatre Guild's production *Jakes Women* in September and Stage Manager for Scarborough Player's production *An Inspector Calls* in January as well as helping with the Box Office for some shows.

Ian Fox – Front of House Coordinator

There are 140 names in the Players Volunteer database and another 120 names in the membership and other lists to which I have access. This has enabled me to staff all of the positions required for an acceptable staffing level for Front of

House. I have also been actively encouraging others to become FOH Managers and there are some 15 volunteers who are now comfortable performing in that role.

The masking protocols (with only one or two exceptions) were readily accepted by both patrons and by our FOH volunteers. Mask wearing is now recommended but optional and almost everyone is now maskless.

The lack of A/C in the theatre was a problem until I called Ainsworth HVAC on June 3 and raised a trouble ticket regarding it. Since then, the temperature in the theatre has been around 21C but because the air circulation fans are set on high, the slight breeze makes the temperature seem to be a little lower.

I have no additional FOH incidents (such as scent and/or difficult patrons) to report. However, one performance of the *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* had to be halted when the disco ball in the ceiling fell onto the stage and shattered.

Bodene Corbitt Membership Secretary

I was off to a slow start with my duties this past year. Thank you to Katherine for all her help keeping the files up to date. I would like the opportunity to serve in this position again.

I did stage manage *Storm Warning* and mentored stage management for *Arms and the Man*. I also sat on the Directors' Hiring Committee.

Janice Hansen – Member at Large

In my role as a Member-at-Large, my primary responsibility for this year was to sit on the Director Hiring Committee to help select the directors for our upcoming 2023-24 season. I also performed the “top of the show” duties with respect to general announcements, as well as the intermission 50/50 draw for two of our shows. In terms of my general duties, I attended monthly board meetings, participated in play-reading “out-louds” to help identify potential plays for the coming year.

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, and edited newsletters and promotional materials. Additionally, I delivered the Land Acknowledgement, welcomed the audience, and conducted the 50/50 draws at several performances.

Christine Dick – Member at Large

As a Member-at-Large, I attended monthly board meetings, volunteered for FOH, was a member of the Play Reading Committee, participated in “Out-Louds,” and volunteered for Guild Alive with Culture. I’m looking forward to serving on the Scarborough Players Board for 2023-2024.

Ciara Crozier - Member at Large

What a great, full season we had. I tried my best to help with Publicity and Marketing as best I could, and to assist when and where possible on the Board. With Carolyn Williamson and Antara Chatterjee, I plan to continue promoting Players' productions in a non-board capacity by chairing our new Marketing Committee. If you have some great ideas and would like to join us, we would be happy to have you :D

In addition to my board duties, I have continued to give feedback on the redesign of the new Theatre Scarborough website over the past year.

After 4 years on the Board, I am stepping down to focus more on working on the shows themselves. There is still more I want to try and would like to make room for others to serve on the Board.

Carolyn Williamson – Member at Large

This was my eighth year on the board, and my third as a Member at Large. It was so wonderful to have a full season again, and I was happy to participate as an audience member and as a member of the cast of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. In addition to my board duties, I continued teaching a monthly drop-in improv workshop and in April we were thrilled to finally get back to in-person sessions after three years of virtual gatherings. It's been great to get back to some more physical games, along with re-discovering the joys of eye contact and not having to fight with technical lags. We're back to doing a single two-hour session on the last Friday of every month at the unit, and anyone who would like to join in is welcome! I am looking forward to the sensational season that The Scarborough Players has planned for 2023/2024. 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.

Special thanks to Janice Hansen for her service to Scarborough Players Board and members over the past two years. We hope that when time allows, she will consider returning to the Board.

Huge thanks to Ciara Crozier for all her time as a Board Member and work to get the word out. Though she will no longer be on the Board, Ciara is continuing to work behind the scenes doing what she loves.

From Our Audience

Scarborough Players uses House Seats to help fill the house. Their members are asked to do a survey and add comments. Sadly, we did not use House Seats for *An Inspector Calls*.

Here is what they had to say!

From *Storm Warning* – October 2022

- A great performance at a great theatre.
- Great play (love Norm Foster), and a wonderful production of this play! - Great show. Very entertaining. We would recommend this show to other people.

From *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* April 2023

- Attending this play was meaningful as it dealt with a topic not all are very familiar with. It shows how the patience and struggles of parents, teachers and neighbours provide the supports required for challenged youth.
- This show was absolutely fabulous. The story was so intriguing and the Acting, especially the actor who played the 15-year-old autistic boy deserved an award for his brilliant portrayal of his character. I enjoyed this show beyond words!
- Loved the play. It got better and better as it went along.
- the acting was great and so was the story.
- The first act was perhaps too long or slow. The actor playing Christopher was superb. The supporting actors were good too.
- Fantastic volunteer staff - box office, beverages and 50/50 draw tickets. Play enjoyable and mainly followed the book. Lead didn't even flinch when a large disco ball fell from the rafters - not part of the play. He just continued on. Bravo!
- Excellent from start to finish Amazing
- Absolutely loved this play. The male character was superb in acting as a 15-year-old boy who appears to be on the autistic scale yet a brilliant mathematician. It tells the story of his unique relationship with his parents and his world. Excellent
- I was delighted to have had this opportunity to see this production as it has been one of my favourite books for decades

From *Arms and the Man* June/July 2023

- Great show, thank you
- I really enjoy this venue as it's a smaller venue and every seat is very good and you can see the characters costumes and faces like sitting in an orchestra seat. The play was excellent with the acting, sets for each act and costumes
- Wonderful acting and superb sets and set changes.
- A great location. A very good production.
- Friendly staff and the *Arms and the Man* was great!
- I bought 50/50 draw tickets. Great show, good acting, good venue, thanks very much.
- Great volunteers and very good play. I am always amazed at the quality of their productions
- Great venue with the in-the-round seating. Thoroughly enjoyed the performance. Would come back to see this theatre group again. Thanks!!
- The performance was excellent. Well worth the drive from West Mississauga.
- !- A very enjoyable and entertaining production of one of my favourite George Bernard Shaw plays. I even found the changing of scenery between Acts 1 & 2 by the stage crew to be entertaining!

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...
 - Join the publicity and marketing team!
 - 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 – more to come in the Fall and later
 - Design lights, design sound, design sets, stage manage, assistant stage manage
 - Build sets, learn to build sets – join the Saturday gang at 10 a.m.
 - 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, hire directors!
 - Produce shows, please!!!
 - Join the Play Reading Committee
 - Suggest Plays for Consideration
 - 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

2023-2024 – OUR 65th SEASON!

Halfway There, A Christmas Carol, Steel Magnolias, and Shakespeare in Love

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