



kanata theatre



Ron Maslin Playhouse

## **Celebrating Our 40th Season 2008 - 2009**

### ***Ken Ludwig's Leading Ladies***

Directed by Peter Williams

**September 16 - 27, 2008**

Meet Jack and Leo, English Shakespearean actors whose fortunes have sunk to performing "Scenes from Shakespeare" on the Moose Lodge circuit in rural Pennsylvania. Hearing that a wealthy matron in nearby York is about to die, they conspire to impersonate her two long lost nephews and get the cash. The trouble is, the missing relatives aren't nephews, but nieces! Add in some romance and mischief, and try to keep up as, undaunted, these two thespians forge ahead with their harebrained scheme!

### ***The Countess by Gregory Murphy***

Directed by Gwen Knight

**November 11 - 22, 2008**

In 1853, London Society was shocked by the notorious scandal surrounding John Ruskin, the preeminent Victorian art critic and essayist, his young wife Effie, and his friend and protege, the Pre-Raphaelite artist John Everett Millais. Based on that true-life story, "The Countess" is an account of madness, cruelty, and obsession, as well as a tender and touching love story.

### ***Kiss the Moon, Kiss the Sun by Norm Foster***

Directed by Tom Kobolak

**February 3 - 14, 2009**

Robert is 35, talks to everyone, is proud of his job, and loves his mother. He's not good with time and directions, but he leads a reasonable, if challenged, life. Holly is a luckless graduate student, penniless, jobless and pregnant. In Norm Foster's 2003 play, after Robert and Holly meet at a bus stop, Life throws them every curve ball it can...

And we learn that the damaged can be just as brave as anyone.

### ***Bus Stop by William Inge***

Directed by Rosemary Keneford

**March 17 - 28, 2009**

In the middle of a howling snowstorm, a bus out of Kansas City pulls up at a small roadside diner. All roads are blocked, and four or five weary travelers have to take refuge until morning. Cherie, a nightclub singer has the most to worry about. She's being pursued by a young cowboy with all the romantic finesse of a rodeo bull. He's right behind her, ready to sling her over his shoulder and carry her, alive and kicking, all the way back to his Montana ranch!

### ***Scotland Road by Jeffrey Hatcher***

Directed by Dorothy Gardner

**April 28 - May 9, 2009**

A young woman in late nineteenth-century clothing is found floating on an iceberg in the North Atlantic. She speaks only one word: "Titanic". Who is she? What was she doing on an iceberg? She cannot possibly be a survivor of the Titanic disaster, can she? A Titanic expert tries for six days to find the truth. By the end of the play, the secrets of the woman, her interrogator AND his assistants have been laid bare.



# kanata theatre



*STAGING A FESTIVAL IN THE CAPITAL  
MAY 13 - 17, 2009*

*Come one, come all!*



In celebration of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Kanata Theatre has been given the honour of hosting the 2009 Theatre Ontario festival at the Ron Maslin Playhouse. This event promises to serve up a theatrical feast with all that springtime in the beautiful City of Ottawa has to offer!

Visiting theatre groups from across Ontario will be presenting their best productions each evening May 13 - 16 with an Awards Brunch on May 17.

For further information on the Festival, please visit our website at [www.kanatatheatre.com](http://www.kanatatheatre.com) or call the Box Office at 613-831-4435.

## **KANATA THEATRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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The box office opens two weeks before the opening night of each play. Our hours are: 5 pm to 7 pm on Monday through Friday, 10 am to noon on Saturdays, and 5 pm to 8 pm on play nights.

You can also reserve seats by phone. Call 613-831-4435 to purchase tickets or subscriptions using Visa or Master Card. You can see approximately what seats are available at [www.kanatatheatre.com](http://www.kanatatheatre.com) click *box office* then *seat availability*. Please inquire about group rates.

**If you need to exchange your ticket, we must receive your old ticket at least 48 hours before the performance time shown on the ticket; no exchange will be made until we receive your tickets. There is a mail-box by the front door of the Playhouse so you may drop them off at any time.**

You may have noticed that many performances play to packed houses. If you are a season ticket holder but are unable to attend a particular play, please don't waste your tickets: do give them to a friend or neighbour, as we are unable to issue refunds. Curtain time is 8 pm.

Do you see yourself as a designer, constructor, or painter?  
How about as a costumer, or a light or sound person?  
Or ticket-taker, or usher, or a properties person?  
How about as an actor?  
Or are you just someone who enjoys many aspects of theatre?  
Come join us!  
Call Membership and Training (592-3733) for more information.

Paintings in the foyer  
are by courtesy of the  
Kanata Civic Art Gallery.

For further information,  
please get in touch with  
Ann Williams 592-2399  
or  
Leslie Kirby 592-5248

The Ron Maslin Playhouse  
is accessible by ***OC Transpo***.

Route 118 and some runs of  
route 96 go along Terry Fox  
Drive. The bus stops for the  
Playhouse are 6381 and 6382.

Kanata Theatre's business number, which can be given to  
baby-sitters or care-givers for emergency calls, is:  
831-4436

Visit our web site! There is more information about Kanata Theatre's  
past, present and future at:  
[www.kanatatheatre.com](http://www.kanatatheatre.com)

TITLES by Geoff Holland

A few years ago I visited Stuart Pennypacker, a distant cousin of mine living in Canada. Stuart owned a small jewelry and clockmakers business, called 'THE WAYWARD CLOCKS' in the town of Perth, Ontario. He and his wife JILL were LIVING TOGETHER, with their two children, in a tiny cottage, A DOLL'S HOUSE at 84, CHARING CROSS ROAD. Their son, Clem, aged four, was a dour little chap who seldom spoke. In fact, his nickname was "The Clam". His sister was three years younger, and they called her Awich - strange name, European I suppose! Anyway it was A WITCHES' FIRST BIRTHDAY and I had arrived with a picture book of "SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS" for her. Being a boy, and above fairy stories, THE CLAM MADE A FACE when he saw my present.

Later that evening, when Stuart, Jill and I had time to ourselves, I was able to ask them about something that had caught my attention earlier. "Why had a little bookmark in the shape of a red dragon been framed and given pride of place on the mantelpiece?" They looked at each other and then told me the following story.

My cousin and his wife had been married two years, at the time of their story. For THE COUNTRY GIRL, Jill, the QUIET IN THE LAND had been HEAVEN ON EARTH. Whereas Stuart suffered from HAYFEVER and was not happy. His CHOICE FOR THE FUTURE was to go ON THE RAZZLE, to see the REAL THING and experience HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES. YOU NEVER CAN TELL; WHEN WE ARE MARRIED - EVERYTHING IN THE GARDEN seems to be lovely, but what starts out as THE TUNNEL OF LOVE can soon become eating at SEPARATE TABLES, and 'NOT NOW DARLING!'

Maybe IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY! I know back in OUR TOWN in England, we had more than our own share of scandals, and I'm speaking of my BLOOD RELATIONS now! I REMEMBER MAMA and LIFE WITH FATHER after he ran off with CHARLEY'S AUNT. She was years his senior. Charles was a close friend. DEAR CHARLES, I still picture him coming into my room, ENTER LAUGHING and saying "RISE AND SHINE, your old man has eloped with THE RELUCTANT DRAGON," referring to his aunt of course. I agreed with him, for as far as I was concerned his aunt was a mixture of ARSENIC AND OLD LACE. Talk about THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE, she had nothing on Charlie's Aunt. Anyway, Father was bewitched. He was just like THE PRINCE WHO WOULDN'T GROW up, obsessed with both THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA word. He insisted on going through with the BEDROOM FARCE, despite having THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE raised up against him in a CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL.

Not that Mama was SNOW WHITE, for she certainly knew that TWO AND TWO MAKE SEX and once boasted of enjoying the LOVE OF FOUR COLONELS in one LUNCH HOUR! In fact they were both SINNERS. Luckily, LLOYD GEORGE KNEW MY FATHER, and he convinced them that they were being FOOLS and restored some semblance of A DELICATE BALANCE. I never forgave him though, and from that time on I NEVER SANG FOR MY FATHER again, although I knew he loved my voice. Anyway that was MANY MOONS ago and I digress.

To return to our heroes Stuart and Jill Pennypacker. They had become RELATIVE STRANGERS, and one December night Stuart got out of bed, and making no NOISES, OFF he went like a GHOST ON TIPTOE to catch the bus to New York via PHILADELPHIA. STORY is, he stopped at HARVEY'S and that's where he met THE MELVILLE BOYS. The two didn't look like brothers, for Jack was only five feet tall whilst Igor was huge. Never the less, they both fancied themselves as LADYKILLERS and were out for A CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE. Apparently Stuart joined them and all three piled into their old car, called 'The Timemachine', which was really a DEATHTRAP on wheels. Singing A CHRISTMAS CAROL at the tops of their voices, they sped off.

Shortly afterwards, the old car left the road at a DANGEROUS CORNER, ON GOLDEN POND and landed HALFWAY UP THE TREE. It should have been 'MY THREE ANGELS' right there and then, but Stuart was lucky, for he was the only one to avoid ANGEL STREET. When the police arrived, all they found were the bodies of

the two Melville brothers, little JACK, AND THE GIANT IGOR, AND THE TIMEMACHINE, or what was left of them. For Stuart there was no HABEAS CORPUS. How THE REMARKABLE MR. PENNYPACKER had survived THE CRUCIBLE no-one knew, but he had, and was gone.

Meanwhile, back in town, there had been some related developments. A touring show, 'THE ANIMAL MUSICIANS OF BREMEN', never a CRITIC'S CHOICE, had chosen this moment to go bankrupt, leaving many children WAITING FOR THE PARADE that never happened. The proprietors, HANSEL AND GRETEL Markham, were forced to part with all their animals, who were like family to them. The PYG MALION and THE GOLDEN GOOSE, HEDDA GABLER, would never sing 'THE HONKEYBIRD' duet together again. The show's main attraction, the two bulls PINOCCHIO and ANTIGONE, stars of 'THE WALTZ OF THE TOREADORS', had been sold to the local farmer BOUSILLE, AND THE JUST finished cow striptease number 'DAISY PULLS IT OFF' would now never be seen by a live audience. Poor Daisy was destined to be ONE FOR THE POT. She deserved a better fate after THE REHEARSAL had gone so well. Hansel and Gretel Markham had paid off their staff the best way they could, right down to the PUNCH AND JUDY puppeteer and THE POPCORN MAN, and were now all alone.

Instead of consoling each other, the two fell to arguing and Hansel ended up slapping Gretel's head. Then, feeling angry and upset, he went for a walk on his own, to think. He was sad about Daisy the cow, but what else could he do? He could hardly write to Ottawa and say "PARDON ME PRIME MINISTER please take my cow as A BEQUEST TO THE NATION." The government wouldn't accept Daisy, even as a PRESENT. LAUGHTER would be the only reply to his request. Now he was penniless. All he had were lots of ABSENT FRIENDS and no-one to ask "LEND ME A TENOR". He couldn't even take Gretel flowers to apologize, unless he was prepared to STEEL MAGNOLIAS from a garden. Maybe he would have to return to his previous career as a WANDERING MINSTREL.

While all this was going on, only a short distance away, Jill was at her wits end. She realized that she still loved Stuart. It was now the TWELTH NIGHT since he had left her. She was walking ROUND AND ROUND THE GARDEN, that is THE CHALK GARDEN at their house, looking up at the RING ROUND THE MOON and wondering what she could do, when Hansel Markham came up the road. He saw this MOONCHILD floating about the garden like some BLITHE SPIRIT, all SNOW WHITE, AND ROSE RED lips.

The moonlight was bewitching, as an owl hooted softly AND A NIGHTINGALE SANG. Hansel was captivated. His heart was caught in THE MOUSETRAP of love and enchantment.

"MOVE OVER MRS. MARKHAM" he said to himself "LOVE'S THE BEST DOCTOR for my depression."

"Hello" he called to this unknown ALICE IN WONDERLAND, "My name is Hansel." Seeing that his unexpected approach had given her the JITTERS, and knowing THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST in his approach was the KEY FOR TWO people to start off on the right foot, he added "Don't be afraid. You can call me Hans."

Jill could only think of Stuart, and answered rudely, "Who do you think you are - DANDY DICK?" Hansel was hurt. His thoughts of a serious relationship were turning into a ROMANTIC COMEDY. Seeing his face, Jill relented somewhat and said "LOOK...NO HANS, I'm married and my heart belongs to my husband."

Before she could say another word there was A SHOT IN THE DARK. Hansel fell to the ground in a crumpled heap. One moment he'd been a young man standing before her, and the next he looked old and asleep like RUMPLESTILTSKIN. Only he wasn't asleep, he was dead!

A wild looking Gretel emerged from the SHADOW. "BOX my ears would he" she muttered, "and then leave me like CINDERELLA while he went to the ball, chatting up this scheming witch, while I was OTHERWISE ENGAGED."

Gretel approaches the body. SHE STOOPS. "TO CONQUER my heart you accepted my ring" she cries. "Well YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU" and reaching down she pulls the wedding band off his finger. "At least I'll let you go to heaven, or rather hell, and ENTER A FREE MAN." Then looking at the ring she mutters, "I only wish it were FORTY CARATS" .

Jill, who was now very scared, ran for the house.

"THERE GOES THE BRIDE" Gretel screamed after her, then sat down with her head in her hands and cried.

When Jill reached the house she telephoned the police. The nearest homicide unit was at the Real Township office. The Police told her to expect Constable Magritte immediately, and that THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND would follow shortly AFTER MAGRITTE. Once the two police officers arrived, it didn't take long for the Inspector to sort out the two ladies into WHICH WITCH IS WHICH, and to realize that this was one of those CRIMES OF THE HEART, a romance turned into a BLACK COMEDY by jealousy.

Jill had quietened down by this time and told the Inspector that it was definitely MURDER. ONCE REMOVED from the scene Gretel also seemed to regain some composure. After taking their statements, unless they were a couple of WHITE LIARS, the Inspector knew, BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT, WHODUNNIT.

Gretel was taken into custody and Jill could once again turn her attention to HUNTING STUART, but she had no idea where to start. However, the next morning her attention was caught by the red dragon bookmark. The one she had given him as a keepsake. It was marking a page in Stuart's diary - his latest entry. It certainly wasn't the DIARY OF A SCOUNDREL because the last entry confirmed his love for Jill, but also stated how tired he had become OF THE FIELDS LATELY, and his intention to go to New York. Most importantly there was the address of a distant relative in New York City. She leapt up, and tucking the lucky red dragon into her purse, she packed a bag and ran for the airport. Later as she arrived at La Guardia, a shower was just finishing and the sun was coming out, creating a beautiful rainbow. She remembered thinking it was a good sign and maybe she would find her love over the rainbow, just like the song in THE WIZARD OF OZ.

And indeed she did. The rest was easy. Jill avoided getting LOST IN YONKERS and found the address where Stuart was staying. Soon they were safe in each others arms, and all was forgiven. They have never looked back since, and now you know THE FATE OF THE RED DRAGON.

As for Gretel she went to prison of course, and was later interviewed by Robert Heidi of the Globe and Mail. Her case was written up in the HEIDI CHRONICLES and became quite a CAUSE CELEBRE, but that's another story!

So there you have it. A happy ending, just AS YOU LIKE IT. Perhaps one day someone will make a play out of all this - who knows!

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