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ANNUAL GENERAL

MEETING: JUNE 12

Join fellow members and friends at ECT's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Sunday, June 12, 2005 starting at 7 p.m.** Meet and hear from the Directors of next year's season (see next page for details). Learn about the Trillium Grant that ECT has received, how it will benefit our theatre company, and about the outcome of the organizational review/retreat undertaken by the Board in May. In addition, new Board members will be elected; other highlights of the past year will be reviewed, and entertainment is tentatively planned.

All members and others interested in ECT are encouraged to attend the **AGM on Sunday, June 12 at 7 p.m., at the Fergus Grand Theatre.**



Be Part Of The Decision-Making Process: Join The Board Of Directors

Elora Community Theatre is well over 30 years old and looking forward to reaching 40 and beyond. Thus, the Board is in the midst of **developing a new strategic plan** to ensure it continues to grow and prosper and meet the needs of the

Centre Wellington community and beyond. ECT is currently looking for company members and others interested in community theatre to **join its Board for the 2005-06** year and help develop and implement this new Plan. If interested, please **contact President Liz Scott** at lizscott@rogers.com or 780-2677 prior to the AGM on June 12, and/or plan to attend this meeting.



2005-06 THEATRE SEASON ANNOUNCED



The Board of Directors of Elora Community Theatre is pleased to announce a season featuring **three comedies** that are sure to be great fun for casts, crews, and especially, audiences:

November 2005
February 2006
April 2006

The Odd Couple
Norman, Is That You
Mom's The Word

Directed by **Denise Gismondi**
Directed by **Dianne Thompson**
Directed by **Mary LLOYD**

"Can two divorced men share an apartment without driving each other crazy?" is the classic question posed by Neil Simon's perennial favourite, ***The Odd Couple***. The popular story has been produced as a hit Broadway play, television series and movie. It premiered on Broadway in 1965 at the Plymouth Theatre in New York City, starring Walter Matthau as Oscar and Art Carney as Felix. Later in the show's run, Jack Klugman took over the role of Oscar, which he played until the show ended its Broadway run in 1967. Matthau reprised his role in the movie, with Jack Lemmon taking on the role of Felix, while Klugman continued in his role as Oscar on television, with Tony Randall playing Felix. Simon's inspiration for the play was his brother Danny, who was divorced and was rooming with a divorced friend, to cut expenses and save for alimony. The roommates began to get on each other's nerves, and Neil told his brother, also a comedy writer, that the premise would make a great play. Danny started to write one, but later gave up and suggested that Neil write it instead. The rest, as they say, is history! Be part of ECT's history in November. **(see AUDITIONS NOTICE NEXT PAGE)**

Norman, Is That You is a very funny play that centers on Ben Chambers, a dry cleaner from Ohio whose wife Beatrice has run away with his brother to Montreal. When Ben arrives in New York to seek sympathy from his son Norman, he soon discovers that Norman is gay and living with Garson. Needless to say, Ben does not take it well, and numerous complications follow, including Ben's attempt to "fix" Norman by "fixing him up" with a hooker. Will Ben and Beatrice get back together to straighten their son out? Don't miss the hilarious complications as Ben deals with his own confusions over his role as a father and husband.

A collective creation of six Vancouver-based actresses-turned-mommies-turned-writers, ***Mom's The Word*** is a series of laugh-filled and tearful anecdotes and confessions of motherhood. A perfect Mother's Day present, the play will be appreciated by anyone who is a mother or has had a mother, in a word – everyone! The play is a funny and thoughtful presentation of different experiences and insights each woman brings to being a mom. The humorous and often poignant short vignettes that form this play look at some of the miserable moments of raising children from post-pregnancy, but also reveal the invaluable rewards of parenthood.

Look for information in the near future on subscription sales for ECT's next season of hilarity and touching moments of human nature.

AUDITIONS FOR "THE ODD COUPLE"

Auditions are being held for *The Odd Couple* on **Sunday, June 19, 2005** between 2-5 p.m. and on **Wednesday, June 22** between 7-10 p.m. at St. James Anglican Church, 171 Queen East in Fergus (behind the swimming pool).

According to Director Denise Gismondi, "*The Odd Couple* is about two best friends (male). After one man, a compulsive nitpicker, is thrown out of the house by his wife, he goes to live with his friend (a confirmed slob). Hilarity as only Neil Simon could envision, ensues as these two opposites are made dependent on each other, and learn the true meaning of friendship."

Two males are required to play the leads, four or five men to play their poker friends, and two women to play the "Pidgeon Sisters". No one under 25, please.

For further information, please contact Denise at denisegismondi@rogers.com or 763-7760.

REMEMBERING MARGARET STEWART

Long-time theatre member Margaret Stewart passed away earlier this spring, in her early 90s. She served ECT for many years as Board Secretary, Newsletter editor, actor, director, and proud supporter.

She often remarked on how Elora Community Theatre welcomed her into the group, and on how she always felt a kinship with the theatre people here.

Margaret's zest for life and her feisty attitude will be remembered by her many friends at ECT.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR ECT

Within the past several months, ECT was fortunate to receive an Ontario **Trillium Grant** to undertake an organizational review and subsequently develop a new marketing plan for the company. **Further information will be provided at the AGM on June 12.**

As a major part of this process, the Board plus several company members met all day on Saturday, May 7 to begin the **development of a strategic plan**. Board members were joined by **Rachel Behling, Nadine Bell, Alma Bennett, Eric Goudie, Bryan Hayter, Julie Wheeler-Bryant** and **Kimberley Young**. The Board is appreciative of the time, interest and enthusiasm of these company members in assisting with the development of this Plan.

GARY BRYANT FEATURED IN SUMMER THEATRE

This summer, ECT's own Gary Bryant is performing in *Doctor Barnardo's Children*, at the Fourth Line Theatre (www.4thlinetheatre.on.ca). This new Canadian script has a cast of over 30, including 25 children.

The play runs from July 12 to August 14, Tuesdays through Saturdays, outdoors at the Winslow farm near Millbrook. The Theatre's website has lots of information about the summer season, the area's bed and breakfasts, and the Theatre's history.



ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR MEMBERS!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Denise Gismondi is looking after membership and thus, is looking for you!



If your membership has expired, or if you are not currently a member, please contact Denise. She can be reached at denisegismondi@rogers.com or 763-7760. Denise will also be available at the AGM on June 12 to receive membership renewals.

ECT ADOPTS NEW PRIVACY CODE

In accordance with new federal privacy legislation that applies for organizations that collect membership information, Elora Community Theatre has developed its own Privacy Code. While the complete Code is available on ECT's website (www.eloracommunitytheatre.on.ca) it is excerpted below for your information:

Privacy Statement

The Elora Community Theatre (ECT) values the relationship it has with its members and patrons and therefore is committed to respecting their privacy. We protect this privacy by maintaining personal information in the strictest confidence and securing it using appropriate safeguards. ECT does **not** share members' information with other organizations without their consent.

Collection, Use and Disclosure of Information

ECT collects, uses and discloses personal information only for those purposes necessary to administer membership and theatre patronage, and in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act 2004*. This information includes, but is not limited to: Name, Address, Telephone, and Email Address. Collection of this information allows ECT to establish and maintain communications with members and patrons, provide ongoing programs and services, and respond to inquiries.

Personal information collected from members prior to the implementation of the Act is subject to the Act. Since it has already been collected, ECT assumes the right to continue to use and disclose such personal information, unless notified otherwise by individual members.

Questions and concerns should be directed to ECT's Privacy Officer, c/o mail@eloracommunitytheatre.on.ca

WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

Congratulations to **Kelly Meckling** who recently was named one of Guelph's Women of Distinction in the 10th annual ceremony sponsored by the YMCA-YWCA. Honoured in the Science and Technology category, **Kelly has been both on stage and worked behind the scenes with ECT**. Kelly has had a distinguished career in cancer research, has a wide range of expertise on nutrition and disease prevention and treatment, and has been recruited to serve on local and national research panels.

