



ECT

March 2021 NEWSLETTER

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Stuart Little
Streaming May
15th on our
YouTube Channel

March Re-Cap

Elora Community Theatre started off March strong with our first ever virtual playhouse short film *The White Liars*, which premiered on March 6th. It was beautifully put together under the confines of COVID, with each actor filming their own part. Our wonderful Director Anthony Deciantis along with David Tanner, spent hours masterfully editing their short film for us all to enjoy. *The White Liars* depicts a fateful encounter between a down-and-out fortune teller (Michelle Salmon), a rock musician (Kevin Foad), and his agent (John Settle). The agent bribes Baroness Lemberg to fake some hocus-pocus over a crystal ball, ostensibly to discourage the musician from pursuing his girlfriend.

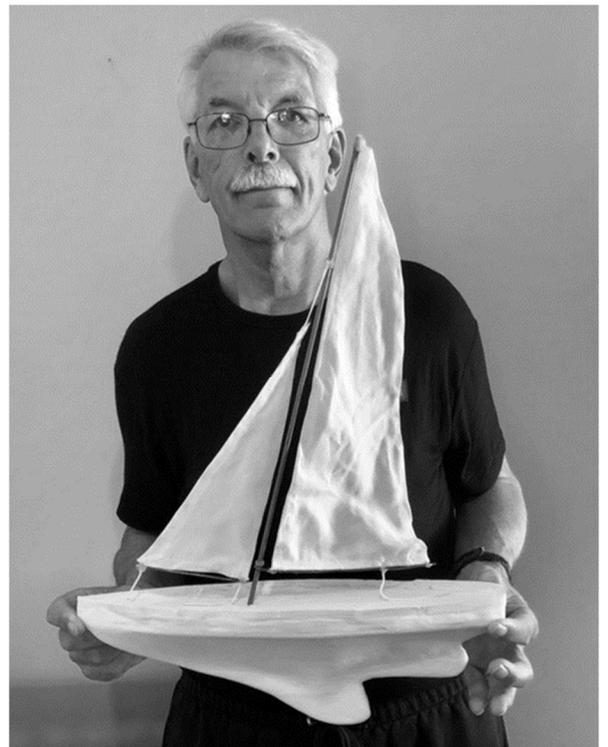
ECT ended the month with a fantastic radio drama, *The Reluctant Dragon* broadcasted on March 27th. This exciting and innovative production was put together by a talented all youth cast and crew, led by none other than our teenage director Finn Janleigh! This majestic performance features a boy named Glaston, portrayed by Henriëtta van Niekerk, who discovers one of the last dragons living near his village. Contrary to his expectations the dragon, played by Brady Bertrand, is quite friendly and instead of eating sheep and terrorizing everyone, he likes to drink tea and write poetry. Unfortunately, the other villagers still see the dragon as a threat. Enter St. George the Dragon Slayer.....

If you missed either performance and would like to check them out, visit our youtube channel at Elora Community Theatre's Virtual - <http://tiny.cc/va49nz>

Upcoming Show - Stuart Little

Ready for another show? Elora Community Theatre is happy to present *Stuart Little* through our Virtual Playhouse Youtube channel on May 15th. This iconic children's story featuring a mouse who is adopted into a human family, will be brought to life by director Deb Stanson, is sure to bring a smile to everyone's face.

The cast and crew are currently hard at work, preparing for the upcoming show. This is a peek at what goes on behind the scenes. When a production gets to the point where set and props are needed, a few crew members are asked to create what is wanted, the most recent being boats for our virtual production of *Stewart Little*. Jim Hoare, our set builder, worked hard to get the dimensions down for these six beautiful little boats (see photos on page 5). They were then passed on to Maggie Parent, our set painter, to make them pretty. I hope you enjoy seeing them in our upcoming production of *Stewart Little*.



ECT'S VIRTUAL PLAYHOUSE

Upcoming Show - Stuart Little

Stewart Little Cast:

Narrator - Alex Kanarek

Stuart Little - Sean Mendes

Mr. Little - Kevin Foad

Mrs. Little - Hailey Rogers

George - Eli McCready Branch

Doctor/Zeke/Telephone Repairman/Dog 1 - Harry Bishop

Snowbell/Neighbour 2 - Lorie Black

Storekeeper/Ensemble/Neighbour 4 - Orianna Abrahamse

Bureau Chief/Bus Driver/Mr. Clydesdale - Haydon Tallon

Woman/Superintendent/Neighbour 3 - Shelley Sheridan

Dr. Carey/Hank/Dog 2 - William Brezden

Leroy/Ensemble - Kayden Thompson

Malty the cat/Ensemble - Mallory-Jane Rogers

Babette the cat/Ensemble - Meg Starra

Tige the cat/Ensemble - Rowan Veit

Angie the cat/Ensemble - Zoe Mcwhirter

Reporter/Referee/Ensemble/Mary - Lorelei Downs

Margalo/Ensemble - Teagan Hiller

Pigeon/Miss Swenson/Ensb/Neighbour 1 - Stacey England

Student/Ensemble - Destiny Gull

Student/Henry/Ensemble - Marshall Hopf

Student/Katherine/Harriet Ames/Ensemble - Henrietta van Nickerk

Upcoming Show - Stuart Little

Stewart Little Crew:

Director - Deb Stanson

Assistant Director - Sammy Beynon

Stage Manager - Eileen McLaughlin

Set Build and paint - Jim Hoare/Maggie Parent

Technical Director - David Tanner

Costumes - Sammy Beynon

Props - Teagan Hiller



Western Ontario Drama League Update

From Mona Brennan-Coles - President of WODL

Hello! Happy Spring! I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine and warmer weather.



WODL Festival 2022 and the Pre-Festival (Travelling) Adjudications

WODL will not hold a *traditional Festival* in 2022. The WODL Board has deferred the decision about providing local adjudications in the 2021-2022 season for now. The WODL Board's decision to cancel Festival 2022:

- recognizes the amount of work involved in planning and preparing for a *traditional WODL Festival*,
- reflects the uncertainty that we are still facing about when we may be able to resume in-person theatre performances safely and economically, and
- acknowledges that different regions of the province are, and may continue to be, in different phases of re-opening.

Area Vice Presidents reported that groups in their areas are making numerous contingency plans for future productions. While some groups might have a production available for an out-of-Festival adjudication, very few groups are willing, or able, to participate in a *traditional Festival* in 2022.

We are able to defer the decision about providing local adjudications as a learning opportunity for WODL groups because:

- our Adjudications Chair, Ken Menzies, has already engaged the adjudicator, Alexander Gallant, and
- the well-established process for arranging local adjudications is easily adjusted to accommodate changes in time

Western Ontario Drama League Update

What's Next for WODL?

When and how WODL could meet in person

Planning for when the WODL community can meet again in person, we began the conversation at our March board meeting. Some ideas include: bringing Minifest back, an in-person AGM with theatre activities and shared food, a theatre weekend of workshops, etc. We will continue the discussion at our April board meeting. Please let us know of any suggestions you have by reaching out to your Area VPs – their contact information is in the next section.

Your Area VPs Can Help You

Please reach out to your area VP if:

- Your theatre company would like to use the WODL Zoom account. While several groups are already using our Zoom account, there are lots of open times for meetings.
- You have questions and/or ideas of how WODL can support your theatre group.
- You have an idea/suggestion for an in-person WODL event once we can meet again.

The Waterloo-Wellington area contact VP is Bev Dietrich, bev@wodl.on.ca.

Take care. Stay safe. I continue to enjoy the inventive ways we are finding to keep theatre alive in our communities and planning for turning out the Ghost Light and welcoming audiences into our theatres.

Mona
(President of WODL)



Congratulations to ECT's Rianna Morgan!

We are so proud to see our "Anne of Green Gables" on screen in Boundless, a historical Canadian short film directed by Kate Campbell.

This film was presented in the Female Eye Film Festival through Toronto International Film Festival.

The Youth of ECT – Zoe Mcwhirter



Our youth piece this month features Zoe Mcwhirter, an ambitious 13 year old who has been a member of the Elora Community Theatre for almost three years now.

Zoe has performed in four plays, with her first acting experience being ECT's *Wonderland*, which took to the stage in June of 2019. She performed as part of the ensemble, as well as a "responsibility" and "the umpire" in the youth musical. Zoe's first singing solo was also through an ECT

production, *Yes Virginia There is a Santa Clause*, where she played a schoolgirl. Last year Zoe participated in her first online show playing a fairy in ECT's *A Midsummer's Night Dream*. Recently, she has been cast in the upcoming online production of *Stuart Little*, as Angie the cat and as an ensemble member. Tune into our virtual Youtube Channel on May 15th to enjoy this spectacular, family friendly show.

In January Zoe auditioned for the drama program at Eastwood Collegiate Institute. **We are happy to announce that she will be joining fellow ECT member Liam Hill in September 2021 as a member of the Integrated Arts Program, majoring in drama.** Congratulations Zoe and Liam!

Zoe has had a passion for singing and acting since she was very little, making it a huge part of her life. She is extremely happy that she can continue to act and sing for others. Zoe also has many interests outside of the theatre including a love for baseball, volleyball, visual arts and solving math problems. We are extremely proud to call her one of our youth members.





Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Clause – December 2019



Cobweb



Moth



blossom

Midsummer Night's Dream – June 2020

Monologue of the Month

This month we bring you a male Shakespearean monologue from the play *Julius Caesar*. In this monologue Antony reveals his true feelings about Brutus, Cassius, and the rest of the group that killed Caesar – they are traitors and should be viewed as such!

Antony

(Male Age: 30-59)

If you have tears, prepare to shed them now.
 You all do know this mantle: I remember
 The first time ever Caesar put it on;
 'Twas on a summer's evening, in his tent,
 That day he overcame the Nervii:
 Look, in this place ran Cassius' dagger through:
 See what a rent the envious Casca made:
 Through this the well-beloved Brutus stabb'd;
 And as he pluck'd his cursed steel away,
 Mark how the blood of Caesar follow'd it,
 As rushing out of doors, to be resolved
 If Brutus so unkindly knock'd, or no;
 For Brutus, as you know, was Caesar's angel:
 Judge, O you gods, how dearly Caesar loved him!
 This was the most unkindest cut of all;
 For when the noble Caesar saw him stab,
 Ingratitude, more strong than traitors' arms,
 Quite vanquish'd him: then burst his mighty heart;
 And, in his mantle muffling up his face,
 Even at the base of Pompey's statua,
 Which all the while ran blood, great Caesar fell.
 O, what a fall was there, my countrymen!
 Then I, and you, and all of us fell down,
 Whilst bloody treason flourish'd over us.
 O, now you weep; and, I perceive, you feel
 The dint of pity: these are gracious drops.
 Kind souls, what, weep you when you but behold
 Our Caesar's vesture wounded? Look you here,
 Here is himself, marr'd, as you see, with traitors..

In Our Community

Check out Hannover Community Players upcoming virtual play, *You're Virtually Driving Me Crazy!* ECT members Alex Kanarek and Jim Monaghan as well two young ECT newcomers Brady Bertrand and Oscar Hulskemper (who were in *The Reluctant Dragon*) all make appearances in this comedic show!

You're Virtually Driving Me Crazy!
A Virtual Play by TODD WALLINGER
TICKETS \$10.00



Wed. April 28th @ 7:30 p.m.

Thurs. April 29th @ 7:30 p.m.

Fri. April 30th @ 7:30 p.m.

**PLEASE REGISTER AND PAY THROUGH THE
WEBPAGE TO ATTEND A PERFORMANCE!**

(NOT FACEBOOK!)

**You will receive the entrance code for the show
and a complimentary show brochure**

**All attendees enter the waiting room 15 minutes be-
fore the show and wait to be admitted**

COME OUT AND ENJOY THE SHOW!

Child Friendly

WWW.HANOVERCOMMUNITYPLAYERS.CA