

Lock Up Your Daughters

A Repeat Performance – 26 Years Later

Anne Marsh

WHAT: *Lock Up Your Daughters*

WHEN: May 26-27, May 31-June 3, June 7-10 (preview May 25)

WHERE: Presentation House Theatre, 333 Chesterfield Ave, North Van

TICKETS: 604.983.2633



From left: Glen Greaves, Jeanette Lewis and current director Dave McIntosh

Many years ago, 26 to be precise (back in 1980), North Vancouver Community Players left their cozy little 76-seat theatre in Hendry Hall on 11th and Hendry to stage a 1730's musical play called *Lock Up Your Daughters* at Presentation House Theatre. The idea behind this "experiment" was to make the public more aware of the theatre group and at the same time help promote the newly established Presentation House Theatre. The experiment worked – people came, and it turned out to be one of the highlights of the theatre group's 50-year history.

In May this year, the Players will stage a revival of *Lock Up Your Daughters* at the same venue. Regrettably, original cast members such as Dennis Mitchell, Glen Greaves and Rob Santo, are no longer with us and Martin Millerchip of the North Shore News is now too old to re-create Constant, the dashing handsome male romantic lead. But most of the others should just about manage to climb into their Presentation House Theatre seats to enjoy and reminisce. North Van Players' member Dave McIntosh, who played Justice Squeezum in the 1980 production, makes a return appearance, but this time, as the Director.

Lock Up Your Daughters is based on a play by Henry Fielding, the originator of the Tom Jones character and set in licentious London of the 1730's - it is full of deliciously ribald characters who poke fun at themselves and at the established milieu. With a cast of twenty, the show offers a perfect vehicle to demonstrate the strength of community theatre - teamwork, togetherness and hard work, where the only reward is the thrill of treading the boards and entertaining an audience. This musical romp, with lyrics by Lionel Bart and music by Laurie Johnson, was a tremendous hit at the Mermaid Theatre in London forty years ago and it is still really rollicking good fun today.



All photos from North Vancouver Community Players' May 1980 production of *Lock Up Your Daughters*
Left: Jeanette Lewis and Dave McIntosh

Below: Martin Millerchip on the left, Barry Duffus in the middle (he is reprising his role in this 2006 production) and Dennis Mitchell

