

"Bringing It All Together" For The Deep Cove Stage Society.

by Gail Traver

Spring '92 holds two very exciting events for Deep Cove Stage! The first, getting settled into our new home at the Deep Cove Cultural Centre. The second, competing in the annual Theatre B.C. North-Shore-Zone Drama Festival.

Imagine a showcase of six community theatre groups, six plays and six nights of coming together to learn, share and compete! To compound the excitement, the festival will be held at The Cove Theatre in the new Deep Cove Cultural Centre (week of April 20th). What a fabulous way to break in a new theatre, and what a treat for the community and its players!

Perhaps the best thing about the drama festival and about all community theatre is how it brings people together in a most enjoyable way. The expression, celebration, and sharing of the human story through live theatre also helps to strengthen and develop a sense of togetherness or community. And wouldn't a strong artistic and cultural community also be a prime asset for any community? Anyway, Theatre B.C.'s Drama Festival certainly plays a big part in developing and supporting the artistic and cultural activities that exist in our community. This festival has been going for three broken decades. The way it works is, the province is broken down into zones, theatre groups from the communities in each zone come together and compete, then the award winner from each zone goes on to compete at a provincial level. That is at "Main Stage Festival" which will be held in Campbell River this year.

The drama festival offers community theatre groups a chance to put on the best they can produce, get valuable feedback on their work, and to learn from each other. The community gets a chance to come out and see what's happening in its midst and is invited to stay after the performance for the most interesting experience of hearing the public adjudication. New playwrights also get an opportunity to participate in local playwrighting contests and have their works produced in the festival.

On that note, Deep Cove Stage Society is pleased to announce that Mr. Ken Zokol's "Casual Employment" is the winner of the Fall '91 playwrighting contest. Mr. Zokol won \$100 and his one-act play will be produced as one of Deep Cove Stage's festival entries. The play has already been cast and will be directed by Liz Lambert. Deep Cove Stage will also be entertaining another play called "For Those In Peril At Sea", by W.O. Mitchell. Deep Cove Stage's festival achievements include awards for best company ensemble with "The Indian Wants The Bronx" in 1979, for best production with "Plantation DeSade, Or How To Poison Ivy" in 1987, and for best production, actor, supporting actor, and set design with "Journey's End" in 1991.

We look forward to the festival and to you coming out and cheering us on again! And don't forget to watch for the Grand Opening of

the Deep Cove Cultural Centre in June! In the meantime, if you are out for a Sunday drive, moosey on down to Deep Cove and take a look at the new building (Gallant Street).

If you would like to join or learn more about Deep Cove Stage, please call the Cultural Centre, 929-5944 or Debra Drayton, President 421-4857.

Calling All Artists, Performers and Musicians!

Each summer the three North Shore municipalities host a successful series of public concerts and entertainment in the Parks. While most of the presenters are professional performers and artists, we would also like to create opportunities for local artists to gain experience and to participate in these community events.

We invite all North Shore amateur musicians, dance groups, visual artists, theatrical groups to apply for inclusion in our summer parks performance programs. The municipality will provide a venue, promotional and technical support, as well as a captive audience. Applications must include the following information. Name of group, contact person, type of presentation, phone number, address, technical requirements, and a demo tape (if available). Send your application with all the above information to Colleen Reed, District of West Vancouver, Cultural Services, 750 - 17th Street, West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 3T3. Deadline for submissions is April 30, 1992.

Haunted House Hamlet

by Patricia Savage

At Presentation House Theatre from June 2nd to August 1st, Haunted House Hamlet, by Peter Elliot Weiss, will provide a wonderful opportunity for some "tongue-in-cheek" enjoyment of Shakespeare's classic.

When a young boy breaks into the theatre, he encounters the spirits of all the previous productions of Hamlet which have taken place there. The walls will resonate with Shakespeare's words, but not necessarily in the order in which we have come to expect them! The audience is free to wander through the building, and through Anne MacDonald Hall next door, choosing which scenes to watch and in which order.

Previous productions of Haunted House Hamlet include those at Heritage Hall and at the original Tamahoum Theatre space. This production will be directed by Kate Weiss and Peter Elliot Weiss. For information and reservations please call 986-1351.

A New Acting Program Studio Series '92 - '93

The following is a short interview with Sally Williams Pardee who has been scheduling acting sessions here on the North Shore since September 1992. She has an extensive background in theatre and modern dance and uses it to work with groups and individuals year round, combining a variety of different disciplines to create a well-integrated holistic acting approach.

Q: What distinguishes your approach from other theatre programs offered locally?

A: Essentially, it is a strong belief in the value of exploring artistic process from a fully evolved system of principles and aspirations. The ideal system or "method" of any art needs to be a well-integrated whole, rich and full, and most certainly objective.

The actor has to perform on the most difficult instrument to master - his very own physical and emotional being. I offer a technical training that works towards the attainment of a sensitive balance between body and psychology. I am very aware of the fact that people suffer in various ways from the body's resistance. The performer is desperate to free himself of bodily resistance because only then can he access his real talent.

Q: And so even the talented person can need technical training to the creative process?

A: The teacher/director Michael Chekhov would answer you by saying: "The 'system' when fully exercised and patiently assimilated becomes the performer's 'second nature' - a powerful tool to spring from. The participant can now access all the facets of her being and awaken emotions at will. She can be radiant; full of stage presence, with control over her creative abilities. The process becomes an illuminating experience.

Q: Who created the system that has influenced you so much?

A: The foundation techniques are a blend developed by Michael Chekhov and Konstantin Stanislavsky. I studied under a student of Chekhov's and have been intrigued by creative process for years.

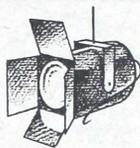
Q: How does your degree in modern dance figure in all of this?

A: It has been important for me on many levels. To be brief, I will say that I am starting to build a movement program to further meet the specific needs of the actor. This will be a hefty challenge.

Q: Where is your studio located?

A: I have been renting space at Highlands United Church. The participants have been teens and adults, primarily non-professionals, although recently I have been approached by some very experienced performers.

To register for April classes, or for further details, please call Sally at 988-1768.



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"Does an intelligent child need an education?"

Perhaps talented persons need to understand creative process more than anyone else because talent or "inspiration" can be the most unpredictable of our endowments.

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