

VIRTUAL SHOWS JUST 'NOT THE SAME EXPERIENCE'

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and insurance on our home at The Old Armoury, so we have drawn heavily on our emergency operational funds."

And, as a volunteer, not-for-profit organization with no employees, Globe Productions has not been eligible for any of the government COVID assistance programs, said Llewellyn.

That bleak scenario has been commonplace for theatre groups across Halton.

The Milton Players were two weeks into rehearsals when the world shut down.

The cast of the Norm Foster comedy were anxiously anticipating the May 2020 opening at FirstOntario Milton Arts Centre, but as theatre doors were shuttered, hopes of staging the play were shattered.

It was particularly devastating because audiences had been building after a lull when the Players moved to the new venue.

"We were on an upswing; we were on a really good roll," said Players secretary Sandra Ingrat-

ta.

Rather than sit idle, members mounted an online Christmas show written by one of their own in both 2020 and 2021, and in May, they brought the cast back together to perform a live reading of the comedy production to keep both members and audiences engaged.

"We're in trouble because we're not getting any revenue, but everybody else is suffering too."

Plans are to begin a new three-production season in November.

"Everybody just wants to get back on stage and act," said Ingratta. "Our biggest concern is audience engagement when we come back. Being away from it for two years, we're not sure. Are they going to come back? Are they going to remember? Are they going to feel safe?"

In the short term, Burlington's Drury Lane Theatrical Productions feels audiences will be smaller, said board member Brian Vaughan.

"Our ticket-buying demographic is a bit older, and we're not sure they are ready to be in an audience the way they were before,



Mark Llewellyn photo
Globe Productions' Mark Llewellyn said the pandemic has had a major impact on community theatre.

but we are optimistic this will fade as theatre returns and the cases and hospitalizations continue to diminish," said Vaughan.

Burloak Theatre Group was six weeks away from opening one of its biggest musicals, "Mamma Mia," when the province issued a lockdown. Most of the budget had been spent.

"Our tickets buyers were very generous. A lot donated their ticket money to us to help us get through," said theatre group president Tim Cadeny.

Although the group ventured into virtual shows, it's not the same experience, he said.

"Theatre is about connection. You feel the actors in the room, the energy of their words and actions. You can't get that from home. Theatre has been an art that has persevered through many tough times in the past. Theatre will come back again strong," said Cadeny.

Theatre Burlington was one of the lucky ones, with a "comfortable reserve that meant we were able to maintain our building and look after expenses," said Liz Boydell, Theatre Burlington treasurer.

When "On A First Name Basis" opened in October of 2021, audiences were limited to 50 per cent of normal capacity, with everyone being vaccinated and masked, said Boydell.

"The response was overwhelmingly positive."

"We love Globe Productions, and we are anxiously awaiting the opportunity to enjoy their masterful productions once again."

- Christine Arbic

Among those who've missed local theatre is Georgetown's Christine Arbic.

"Both my daughter and I absolutely love musical theatre. We love Globe Productions, and we are anxiously awaiting the opportunity to enjoy their masterful productions once again."

STORY BEHIND THE STORY:
With live entertainment pretty much shuttered over the past two years, we wanted to talk to local theatre groups to find out their hopes and concerns about returning to the stage after a lengthy hiatus.

WHAT'S ON

LOCAL ARTISTS FEATURED IN UPCOMING EXHIBIT

HERB GARBUTT

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The Norval Parish Hall will host "Forms, Faces and Spaces, Relatively Speaking" throughout the month of May.

The hall will serve as a pop-up for the Munson and Friends Studio Gallery. Photographer, writer

and artist E. Connie Munson and artist Milly Tseng, both members of Georgetown's Credit Valley Artisans, will be among the featured artists. The exhibit will be at the hall, located at 16 Adamson St. S. in Norval from Thursday, May 5 to Sunday, May 29. It will be open noon to 4:30 p.m. Thursday to Sunday and holiday Monday.

The opening reception will be held Saturday, May 14, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. All public health protocols will be followed and wearing a mask will be encouraged.

The exhibit will also include members of the Latow Photography Guild, Headwaters Arts, Arts on the Credit, Beaux Arts Gallery, Visual Arts Brampton.



Milly Tseng, a member of Georgetown's Credit Valley Artisans, will be among the artists featured in "Forms, Faces and Spaces, Figuratively Speaking."

E. Connie Munson photo

Notice of Noise Exemption Application - Northern Heat Rib Series



Please be advised the Northern Heat Rib Series has applied to the Town of Halton Hills for an exemption to the Noise By-law 2010-0030 Part 2, Schedule A to be held at 1 Park Avenue, Georgetown.

The report will be before Council on May 24, 2022. For meeting start time and more information, visit calendar.haltonhills.ca/meetings. If you wish to appear before Council regarding this item you must register as a delegation. Complete the Application to Appear before Council form at haltonhills.ca/delegation.

For further information on registering as a delegation, contact Melissa Lawr, Deputy Clerk at 905-873-2600, ext. 2333.