

SHAW GUILD NEWS



The fact that a believer is happier than a skeptic is no more to the point than a drunken man is happier than a sober one.

GBS



President's Column

In April 2006, my husband and I decided to take our annual holiday around the bi-annual conference of CAVORT (Conference about Volunteers of Regional Theatres) in St. Louis, Missouri. CAVORT is a not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to strengthen and recognize volunteer theatre organizations, such as our own Shaw Guild, and to establish a network for the exchange of ideas, in support of professional, not-for-profit theatres.

The programme of the conference in St. Louis proved extremely interesting. It gave us the opportunity to meet representatives of some thirty other theatres, and to compare our own Guild practices and successes to those of other theatres. We also saw a few plays, and of course enjoyed St. Louis itself, a very interesting city.

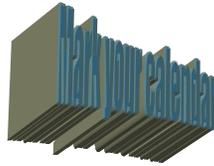
The next conference takes place in Pasadena California, hosted by the renowned Pasadena Playhouse, on March 13-15, 2008. My husband and I are planning to attend the conference, and of course to use the opportunity to spend a few weeks after the conference itself exploring California wine country while the Niagara Peninsula is still under snow. If you would like to learn more about CAVORT, and might be interested in joining us in California in March (life could be worse...), why not give me a call at 905-468-3590?

Suzanne Hebert

St. Joan on the road in the USA

The Shaw Festival's flagship production of Bernard Shaw's iconic *Saint Joan*, directed by Artistic Director Jackie Maxwell, will be presented at Philadelphia's Annenberg Center, in the Zellerbach Theater, from October 30 to November 4, 2007. *Saint Joan* will be presented as part of the Annenberg Center's professional performing arts series *Penn Presents*. The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a leading non-profit multi-disciplinary venue in Philadelphia. It serves the University of Pennsylvania and the greater Delaware Valley regions as a performing arts center of national reputation, distinguished by a broad-based programme of music, theatre, dance, art education and outreach for adults and young people.

As previously announced, the production will also be presented in January as part of the Chicago Shakespeare Theater's 2007-2008 *The World Stage Series*.



Museum's Tea Party at the Shaw—Monday July 30th

From 3 to 5 pm, on Monday July 30, The Shaw celebrates the 100th year of Niagara -on-the-Lake's Historical Museum on Castlereagh Street.

Participants will enjoy a traditional elegant afternoon tea, with small sandwiches, scones and clotted cream and scrumptious deserts.

We will also be entertained by Shaw company members modeling period costumes from past performances. Bill Schmuck, Shaw Head of Design, will be commenting, with Sharry Flett and Guy Bannerman presenting *Manners of the Mandate*— a light educational session on how to survive socially in a by-gone era.

The price for this delightful afternoon is \$30 per person.

To reserve a space, please call the Historical Museum at 905-468-3912. Places are very limited, so please reserve as soon as possible.

The Tea Party will take place in the lobby of the Festival Theatre.



SHAW FAIR & FETE

The Shaw Fair & Fete will be held Monday August 6 on the grounds of the Festival Theatre. This annual event is organized by the Shaw Company members with Guild volunteers operating the Treasure Table, The Tea Tent, Bingo, palm reading and various booths. It is with your support, that this annual event is such a success and a big thank you to all the Shaw Guild members who have readily volunteered to help this year.

We are looking for items worthy of our Treasure Table, such as jewelry, china, pottery, crystal, glassware, linens, small appliances in working condition, leather goods, dried flower arrangements, handbags and scarves, paintings posters and pictures, figurines, silver and pewter, table lamps and playing cards videos and CD's.

For the Children's section we are looking for toys games and jig-saw puzzles, clean and almost new clothing, knitted goods, baby items such as strollers, appliances and small furniture.

Please do not submit used adult clothing, kitchen ware, pots, pans or soiled items.

Items can be dropped off from Thursday July 19 to noon on August 4, by appointment only please at: June Langford or July Holmes, 7 Shaw Lane, Tel: 905-468-3842 (secondary telephone number is 905-468- 8985- Suzanne Lefebvre).

Items are to be left at the front door entrance, at the end of the side pathway to the left of the Garage .

Thank You

Annual Cricket Match – Shakespeare against Shaw

Hot off the press! The annual cricket match between the Shaw & Stratford companies will take place this year on **Monday September 10, in Stratford**. There had been some doubts, earlier in the year, whether the 32nd annual match would indeed take place in 2007, since Stratford's team captain now works for Shaw!

Cost per person is \$60. Travel to Stratford by comfortable coach, enjoy the usual Pimm's No 1 cup and wine with your picnic lunch, and a sumptuous and very substantial afternoon tea at the theatre.

We will also be treated to a private tour of the new Stratford Costume warehouse by The Friends of the Festival, the Guild's equivalent volunteer group in Stratford. You may even get to try on a costume.

Guild members who joined us last year to cheer our local team had a wonderful time, even those who knew nothing whatsoever about cricket! And remember, Shaw won the last two matches!

If you are interested, or would like more details, please contact either Sheila Hill (905-468-5076 sheila256@yahoo.COM) or Suzanne Hebert (905-468-3590 sogestec@sympatico.ca).

VISIT TO THE COSTUME WAREHOUSE

On **Thursday August 9**, Guild members will have a rare opportunity to visit the Shaw costume warehouse in Virgil. Each season, The Shaw Festival Theatre creates more than 300 costumes. The majority are kept when the play closes in the fall and are used again in future plays or for understudies. On average about 20% of the costumes, each year, are pulled from stock (more for men than women.) At the costume warehouse, you can find almost everything- dresses hung by period, blouses, skirts, coats, men's suits, army uniforms, petticoats, bustles, corsets and thousands of shoes in all sizes. There are also personal wardrobe items accumulated over the years by actors who have been at The Shaw for many years. Although quite large, the Shaw costume warehouse cannot accommodate a large crowd. Therefore we are organizing this even as an "open house," meaning you may arrive any time between the hours of 1:30 pm and 4:00 pm, for a 15 minute guided tour. Due to space restrictions, each tour will consist of a group of 10 people at a time.

Depending on the pattern of arrivals, you may have to wait outside for a few minutes. If it is hot, bring a hat or an umbrella, or wait briefly in the coolness of your car. If it is raining the umbrella is still a good idea. You may also want to bring your own water while waiting. (No food or drink is allowed *inside* the costume warehouse.)

Shaw's costume warehouse is located in Virgil **11 Henegan Road, Unit 2**, right behind the Edward Jones building. Parking is available on site. **Be sure to check in with one of the Guild volunteers when you arrive.**

Nominating Committee

In accordance with Article XIII of the Shaw Guild by-laws, Faye Goodwin, Past President and Chair of the Nominating committee presented the names of three Nominees for the approval of the Guild Executive at their June meeting. Members of the nominating committee are as follows: Faye Goodwin, Chair (ex-officio,) Suzanne Hebert, President (ex-officio,) David Fowler, Luba Fraser, Maureen Dagleish. (Guild members)

The Nominating Committee must present a "Slate of Nominees" and obtain the approval of the Executive Committee at the September 2007 meeting.

Our by-laws do not provide for nominations 'from the floor' at our Annual Meeting. However, a member of The Guild may "*recommend a Nominee to the Nominating Committee not later than September 1, provided that the Nominee meets the criteria for the position, has consented in writing and the nomination has been seconded by another Member.*" (Article XIII, item 4) . Nominations or questions regarding the nomination process should be directed to Faye Goodwin, Chair at 905- 468-8981 or bob.faye@sympatico.ca.

THIS AND THAT

JACKIE MAXWELL AWARDED HONORARY DEGREE

“It gives me particular pleasure to welcome our honorary degree recipient, Jackie Maxwell, the celebrated Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival Theatre...and I especially look forward to hearing her Irish lilt”

Dr. Ross Paul

Vice Chancellor of the University of Windsor, June 13, 2007

Our own Dr. Jackie Maxwell addressed the graduating class comprised of students in the Humanities and Social Science. On hearing that she was awarded the degree, Ms. Maxwell said, “I am touched and honoured to be awarded this degree by the University of Windsor—an institution for which I have tremendous respect and which plays a vital role in the training of Canada’s theatre artists—and to be recognized in this way for my work in Canadian theatre.”

Born and educated in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Jackie Maxwell studied Drama at the University of Manchester. She acted in both Ireland and England before coming to Canada in 1978. Ms. Maxwell has been dramaturge and teacher for several Canadian theatre schools, most notably the National Theatre School in Montreal. For eight years she was Guest Artist/Lecturer at the Graduate Centre for Study of Drama at the University of Toronto. In October 2005 Ms. Maxwell was the recipient of the National Theatre School’s prestigious Gascon-Thomas Award recognizing her exceptional achievements in the theatre. Ms. Maxwell is celebrating her fifth season as The Shaw’s Artistic Director.

SHAW GARDEN TOUR WINS AGAIN

To the delight of the organizers, the over 60 Guild volunteers and, of course the Garden Donors, Saturday May 19 dawned sunny and warm. The Garden Sponsors had all been confirmed, maps were prepared, the signs and balloons in place and the Master Gardeners had all worked hard in preparing their feature sheets detailing the delightful gardens. All that was needed were people.

Close to four hundred people visited our gardens that day. As it was designed and arranged as a walking tour, many of them took the Museum-prepared hand-out and the map and walked from garden to garden. Others drove but however they arrived, arrive they did, and a good time seemed to be had by all.

Our thanks to those who opened their gardens for the show this year. Betty-Ann and John Asher, Glenn and Nancy Brazeau, Frank Massacesi, Jeanette and Bruce Murdock, Marilyn and Paul Shepherd and Angie and Hartley Strauss. Your hard work and love of your gardens was obvious to everyone who attended. Our thanks also to the Master Gardener Association for participating before and during the day, as well as to Mori Gardens our Corporate Sponsor, our six garden sponsors, Upper Canada Travel, Simpson’s Pharmacy, Bank of Montreal, Regal Florists, NOTL Realty and the Copper Leaf. A final thanks to all of our Guild organizers and members, far too many to mention, who worked so hard preparing the Appreciation Night and the Garden Tour itself. Watch for us next year as we try to top ourselves again

Parentage is a very important profession, but no test of fitness for it is ever imposed in the interest of children.

GBS, Everybody’s Political What’s What, Chapter nine, 1944.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

A 2007 Ontario Volunteer Awards Evening was held on June 12 in Niagara Falls. During the evening six Shaw Guild members were recognized for their dedicated volunteer service to The Shaw Festival Theatre. The following members received certificates and pins from the Province of Ontario.

Faye Goodwin-five years, Sheila Hill-ten years, Marguerite (Peggy) Service– fifteen years, Howard Martin-twenty years, Elsie Martin-twenty years, June Munro-thirty years.

We congratulate our newest recipients and thank The Shaw Festival for its continued support and recognition of our volunteer efforts.

HOSTING

This year the hosting captains began telephoning members whose last name begin with the letter "M." According to Jim White, Hosting Chairman, they are working in reverse order up the alphabet toward "A" and then will proceed to "Z" and back again to the starting place. The current captains have been making calls to people whose last names begin with letters "B" and "A." As in previous years the captains will endeavor to give all Guild volunteers five hosting opportunities before the end of the season.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
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Thank you to the approximately thirty Guild member who volunteered about an hour of their time to go through a "simulated fire drill" at the Court House Theatre on Friday April 13. We evacuated from the theatre in an orderly fashion and had an interesting discussion with the Fire Marshall afterwards. The exercise was worthwhile and some practices will be improved in the hopes of providing the best safety for patrons. Of course, we continue to hope that a real evacuation will never be necessary.

GUILD ENDOWMENT FUND

In November 2005 the Guild Executive created the new position of Chair, Fundraising committee. Guild member Peter Gill fearlessly took on the challenge on our behalf. Subsequently, in September 2006, Colleen Blake and Faye Goodwin, then President of the Guild signed an agreement establishing a new Shaw Guild Endowment Fund. The Fund supports The Shaw Festival, particularly in those areas where Guild members are most active: for example, front-of-house with the hosts, the education programmes with the Docents and the Shaw gardens.

Our efforts have been very successful to date. At the end of 2006, we donated \$27,000 to the Endowment funds, the net proceeds from our 2006 fundraising activities. A few weeks ago, under Peter's leadership, we held the second Garden tour under brilliant skies, again raising more than \$10, 000. The Shaw Guild will shortly be making a second donation of \$26,000 to the Guild Endowment Fund, bringing its total to more than \$53,000 (part of this is matched by both levels of government, increasing the total even more.)

Thank you to all Guild volunteers who volunteered their time, their money or their valuables to make these events a success. And thank you also to the Shaw company members who supported us and helped us along the way.

Executive Committee

President	Suzanne Hebert	905-468-3590	sogestec@sympatico.ca
Past-President	Faye Goodwin	905-468-8981	Bob.faye@sympatico.ca
Vice-President	Livia Martin	905-468-2226	Alliviamartin@sympatico.ca
Secretary	Josie O'Brien	905-357-3577	obriens@vaxxine.com
Treasurer	Richard Ventresca	905-468-8310	richard.ventresca@sympatico.ca
Membership	Justin Venhuizen	905-468-3336	Justin.fran@sympatico.ca
Guild Activities	Katherine Stephaniuk	905-984-8513	Katja.stef@sympatico.ca
Information	Leonard Kooperman	905-262-1664	ddeaune@sympatico.ca
Hosting	Jim White	905-562-9679	jimwhite@sympatico.ca
Docents	David Hunter	905-468-7487	Dave.hunter@sympatico.ca
Fundraising	Peter Gill	905-468-5190	gillhome@cogeco.ca

Letters to the Editor

Dear Justin, Membership

Just a short note to thank you and all the members of the Guild who so generously gave of their time to participate in our recent Fire Drill. We found the drill to be very helpful and the feedback assisted us to make some changes in our evacuation plan.

Thank you again, Dianne Gibbs, Shaw Festival

Voices At The Museum

Back for its fourth season, the popular *Voices at the Museum* series brings together Guy Bannerman, Patty Jamieson, Lorne Kennedy and Goldie Semple, with special guest voices, all from The Shaw Festival. This year's performances will include a new selection of poems, songs, and readings about love called *Falling in Love...again*, a new selection from the writings of Stephen Leacock, a new selection from Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads*, readings from the Joe Masters Series and an October reading called *Remember Me to Everyone*. All performances are held at the NOTL Historical Museum at 11 am, and tickets are \$15 per person.

In July: Friday 6, Posthumorous Medals (Leacock); Friday 13, Talking Heads; Friday 20, Falling in Love Again; Friday 27, Masters of the Town.

In August: Saturday 4, Falling In Love Again; Saturday 11, Posthumorous Medals; Sunday 12, Talking Heads; Saturday 18, Masters of the Town; Friday 24, Falling in Love Again; 31, Friday 31, Masters of the Town.

In September: Friday 7, Falling in Love Again; Saturday 15, Talking Heads.

In October : Friday 5, Saturday 6, Friday 19, Saturday 20, Friday 26, Saturday 27, Remember Me to Everyone.

Niagara Historical Society and Museum, 45 Castlereagh Street, NOTL, ON, L0S 1J0, Phone 905-468-3912, Fax 905-468-1728.