



BOX 94

NEWSLETTER OF SAULT THEATRE WORKSHOP

Sault Theatre Workshop

Community Theatre Since 1948
PO Box 94 Sault Ste Marie On P6A 5L2

Our Young Company is
Stage1



Studio Theatre 121 Pittsburgh Ave. Sault Ste Marie On P6C 5A9

www.saulttheatre.com

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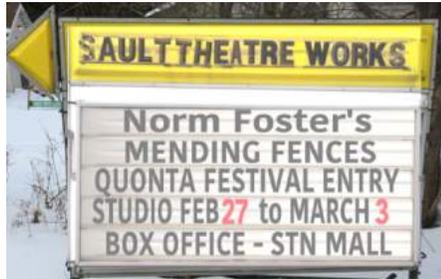


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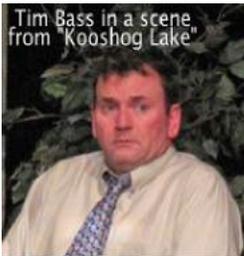


The Marquee
A Poignant
Tale of
Stubborn Men

NORM HAS KNACK FOR MELTING OUR HEARTS

Tim And Cat Are No Strangers To Foster's Quirky But Loveable Characters

Tim Bass, and **Catharina (Cat) Warren** have played characters in **Norm Foster** plays before. Cat, most recently as Hilda in **Hilda's Yard** and Tim as James



Tim Bass in a scene from Kooshog Lake

in season 67's **The Great Kooshog Lake Hollis McCauley Fishing Derby**. So it's no surprise that they were keen to do another Foster play. **Harry Houston** has himself performed in or

directed ten of Norm's more than 50 plays. To quote the critics: "**Norm Foster** creates characters who are so believable that theatergoers see bits of themselves reflected on stage." --L.A. Daily News

"**Norm Foster** has a knack for creating winning characters and situations that make audiences respond with affection." --Toronto Globe & Mail

In **Mending Fences**, the actors play more than one character in flashbacks. Leading the cast as Harry is **Tim Bass**. Harry's estranged son Drew will be portrayed by **Michael Hagerman**, and Harry's female companion, Gin, will be played by **Catharina**

Warren.

This three actor play tells the story of two men who are too stubborn to give in to the feelings of their heart and the woman who has to set them straight.

Producer **Sandra Houston** has lined up designers and crew for this production.

Set is under the lead of **Randi Houston Jones** while Husband **Phil Jones** has set up the lights. **Evan Levoskin** and **Rick Mooney** will operate the lights during production.



SAULT THEATRE WORKSHOP PRESENTS ...

MENDING FENCES

BY
NORM FOSTER

DIRECTED BY
HARRY HOUSTON

This poignant comedy tells the story of two men who are too stubborn to give in to feelings of the heart.

Feb 27, 28, March 1, 2 and 3

Sault Theatre Workshop's
STUDIO THEATRE
121 Pittsburgh Ave

Box Office
Station Mall

2019
QUONTA
DRAMA FESTIVAL
Entry

Adults \$ 29
Seniors \$ 27
Students \$ 19

(Includes Box Office Charges)

MENDING FENCES is staged by arrangement with Pam Winter, GGA, www.ggaagency.ca

Sound was designed by the amazing **Don Kelly**, while **Gerry Boire** will operate the sound board. Our friend **Val Wilson** has rustled up the costumes. The Stage Manager

is **Linda Strom**, assisted by **Wendyllynn Levoskin**.

Because this play opens the QUONTA Festival, the set will have to be disassembled and reassembled at the Community Theatre Centre (White Pines) on March 13th. If you are interested in being part of this team, call Sandra @ 705, 946-4081.

Production dates for **Mending Fences** are February 27, 28 and March 1, 2, 8:00 PM curtain with a matinee on March 3, 2:00 PM curtain. Box Office - Station Mall.

There is a preview performance that has been donated to the Sault Ste. Marie ZONTA Foundation on Tuesday February 26th. See ZONTA members for tickets for the preview.

QUONTA FESTIVAL 2019 COMING SOON!

If you have never attended a Drama Festival before, you have a great opportunity coming up. Sault Theatre Workshop is hosting the QUONTA Festival 2019 right here in the Sault at the Community Theatre Centre. See a different play each night. Hear a top professional adjudicator give a critique of each play. Attend Green Room parties to mix and mingle with the actors, directors and crew of the plays. Find a theatre Workshop that interests you. Attend the Awards Brunch and cheer on your favourite plays or actors. A truly exciting week has been planned. March Spring Break should be blocked off on your calendar! Hope to see YOU there!

Festival 2019 has four entries so plays will begin on Wednesday evening. Sault Theatre Workshop will present **Norm Foster's Mending Fences**, directed by **Harry Houston**. Thursday will have **This Is How We Got Here** by **Keith Barker** directed by **Andrea Emmerton** and **Walter Maskel** for Gore Bay Theatre. **Our Town** by **Thornton Wilder**, Directed by **Scott Fitzgerald** for Gateway Theatre Guild of North Bay is the Friday play. **SHORTHANDED** by **Michael Grant**, directed by **Murray Finn** for ELATE Theatre of Elliot Lake rounds out the plays on Saturday evening.

The adjudicator for Festival 2019 is

Bea Quarrie. The host hotel for the festival is the Sault Ste Marie Delta Waterfront Hotel, where the nightly Greenrooms and Sunday's Awards Brunch will take place.



Workshops are planned on a variety of subjects including Grant Writing (sponsored by Ontario Arts Council) masks and soapstone carving. The adjudicator's workshop will focus on directing. Details and times of these workshops will be posted on our web site -

www.saulttheatre.com.

Festivals take a lot of planning and we do our best to keep costs and expenses down. The cultural benefit and learning opportunities provided are a boon to our community. Donations to help our organizers are much appreciated.

The QUONTA Festival Committee is looking for sponsors for the following:



It's a FESTIVAL of Theatre!

QUONTA DRAMA FESTIVAL 2019

4 Plays
4 Nights
GreenRoom Parties
Adjudications Workshops
Sunday Awards Brunch

Wednesday March 13
Thursday March 14
Friday March 15
Saturday March 16

MENDING FENCES LOCAL FOSTER
Sault Theatre Workshop

THIS IS HOW WE GOT HERE by Keith Barker
Gore Bay Theatre

OUR TOWN by Thornton Wilder
Gateway Theatre Guild

SHORTHANDED A ONEACT PLAY by Michael Grant
FEB. 22 + 23, 2019 7:30 P.M.
Elliot Lake Amateur Theatre Ensemble

Sault Community Theatre Centre
1007 Trunk Rd, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5N3
Delta Hotels Sault Ste Marie Waterfront
2018 St. Mary's River Drive Sault Ste Marie

BOX OFFICE
Station Mall
Call (705) 946-4081
For information

Awards Sponsorship \$150*

Workshop Sponsorship \$200*

Green Room Sponsorship \$500*

Donations in any amount welcome.

* Acknowledgment in program, from Stage and signage at venue.

Ongoing Call For Directors

We are looking to line up Sault Theatre Workshop's 71st and 72nd seasons, (2019/2020/2021) and we invite all those interested in directing to submit a proposal. It is our plan to host Theatre Ontario Festival in May of 2020.

Show dates are not yet firm but the time slots are: one in October, one late November or early December, (QUONTA entry) late February or early March. Another play may be added early May or early June.

If you have an interest in directing but aren't sure about a play, we have many suggestions. Please contact Harry and let him know your interest. If you have a play you would like to see done, let us know as well. We do have some directors looking for script ideas.

We have a tentative production and director lined up for October 2019 but no announcement yet.

Note From STW President

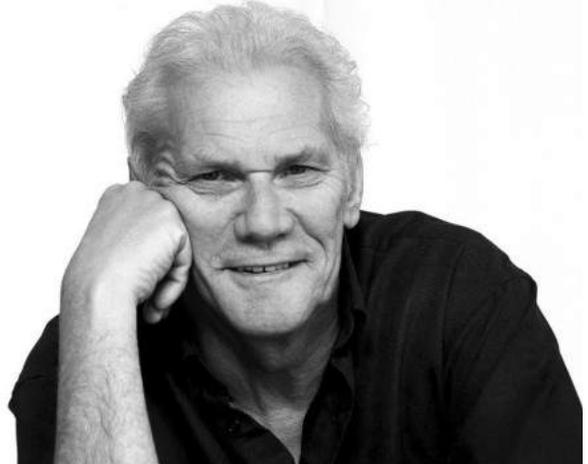


Randi Houston Jones

We are thrilled and excited to host the **2019 QUONTA Drama Region Theatre Festival** held during the week of March 11-17, (March School Break). We are expecting guests and participants from all over. Join us to welcome entries from North Bay, Gore Bay and Elliot lake. There will be an amazing week of theatre, Greenrooms and workshops. Some amazing plays will be presented at Community Theatre Centre with adjudicator comments following. Greenrooms will be at the Delta Waterfront Hotel right after the plays. Detailed adjudications are at the Delta on the following day. Workshops are scheduled for both locations. Come out to the plays, cheer on your favourites, meet cast and crews at the Greenrooms and come to the Awards Brunch to congratulate those

presented with awards. Help us demonstrate to our out-of-town guests that true northern hospitality that the Sault is famous for. See you there!

February 14th (Valentine's Day) is also playwright Norm Foster's Birthday!



MEMBER NEWS

Glenn Wilkins, last seen on the Workshop's stage for a memorable performance in **Inherit The Wind** back in 1986 has published an e-book available through Kobo. The book, **AMAZING BROADWAY** tells the history of a number of Canadian actors who have made a name for themselves on Broadway. Glenn now resides in Barrie Ontario.



AMAZING BROADWAY
Canadians on the Great White Way



Glenn Wilkins

....

Those who head in early to the Grand Theatre (9:30 AM) for the **Shadows Of The Mind** film festival Tuesday February 26th - **Reel Northern Flicks** - may be surprised to see **Harry Houston** up on the big screen. Harry was involved in Sault College student, **Vlad Sokolsky**'s short film "**The Last Wish**". Vlad's film has recently been officially selected for the TINFF (Toronto International Nollywood Film Festival). Harry loves helping out the film students and has appeared in a number of films over the years.



...

We Get Letters . . .

We received an e-mail from a former President of Sault Theatre Workshop, **Dr. Bob Martin:** Harry

Mary White forwarded a copy of the recent newsletter which included a picture with the back of my head (more grey hair now and less of it) from a meeting years ago. I remember the production very well and have great memories of **Ed Stephenson** and so many others from that era.

Congratulations to you and Sandra on keeping the STW going all these years

STW is among my fondest memories and was the basis for me becoming more involved in the arts scene of SSM and culminating with my six years on the Ontario Arts Council.

I know it is a labour of love for the two of you in difficult times. You should be nominated for the Order of Canada.

Keep it up and hopefully you have stimulated others to continue the STW tradition.

Cheers and have a Wonderful xmas and a great 2019.
Bob



Becky Petrunik, John Hawke and Jennifer Boulard in a scene from *Trickeries of Scapin*

Trickeries of Scapin director also leading man

By ROBIN MAPLES
The Sault Star

When John Hawke agreed to direct *The Trickeries of Scapin* for the Sault Theatre Workshop, the last thing he wanted was to cast himself in the leading role.

But it must have been fate.

Just as the playwright, Jean Baptiste Poquelin, stepped in to perform in his own plays, Hawke has had to step into this one.

The play, written under Poquelin's pen name, Moliere, will be staged this Wednesday through Saturday in the Sault Community Theatre Centre.

It's a light-hearted work, written by the Frenchman who is considered by many to be the greatest writer of comedies of all time.

Hawke would have preferred to concentrate solely on his directing duties, but when the actor who was supposed to play Scapin the servant backed out of the role five weeks before show time, and with no one else suitable available, Hawke — an award-winning actor — was forced to take it on himself.

"It's a difficult job to do, when you have to be on stage interacting with the actors, and still be

able to step back as a director and see what's going on," admits Hawke. "Fortunately, Harry Houston said he would help out any way he could off-stage, and so he came on as a co-director. I've put in my ideas and Harry's added some of his own. I think we've come up with a good script."

Born in 1922, Moliere studied philosophy and law, but preferred writing and acting. In 1647 he joined a band of actors, and stayed with them (except for a brief period of imprisonment for debt) until he died in 1673.

The troupe travelled throughout France honing their acting and writing skills and returned to Paris in 1657, where eight years later they became La Troupe du Roi to the court of Louis XIV.

Although most of Moliere's works ridicule the hypocrisy of the people of his time, and point up their false values, *The Trickeries of Scapin* was written more as a piece of buff to entertain. However, it still manages to poke fun at issues that remain relevant three centuries later.

"It deals with the influence of parents, the misbehaving of children, love and marriage and the law," explains the director. "Those are all things still important today."

Hawke sees the group hopes to present "a fast-paced kind of thing with lots of movement and action. It's been a lot of work because, although the play reads fairly easily, it's much more difficult to pull off. Comedies are challenging any time, and when you throw in a period piece, well it's turned out to be a much bigger challenge than I expected. They say that one's much should always exceed his grasp, and that's what we're doing."

The *Trickeries* cast includes Mark Brumbyer, Greg LaCrosse, Jennifer Boulard, Ed Houston, Greer Thom, James Stone, Michael Bennett, Becky Petrunik and Lorenza Dard.

Anna-Lee Purvis is producer, Margaret Gordon is stage manager assisted by Amy Retelle, and Nicole Theriault is choreographer. Susan Mann is in charge of properties, Linda DiPaolo is handling costumes, Laurie McCarthy is doing make-up and Mike Jerke is in charge of set construction.

Todd Makiari is the strutting guitarist and Kim Rowden, Jess Korkkainen and Heather Campbell are the musicians.

Curtain is at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale at the box office of the Sault Star.

BURSARY ASSISTANCE

STW Pull-Chain Theatre Bursary

When Pull-Chain Theatre was dissolved, the remaining funds in the bank account were dispersed to Sault Theatre Workshop to benefit community theatre. It was the decision of the Sault Theatre Workshop Board of Directors to create a bursary to honour the spirit of that theatre company to provide teaching and training for the members of our community.

The purpose of the bursary is to honour Pull-Chain Theatre's promotion of Community Theatre and the striving for theatre excellence, by helping students, young and old, participate in theatrical education.

Awarded annually to one qualified applicant, an amount of up to \$1000.00, Last year's recipient was **Kassandra Bailey**.

Applications for the bursary must be submitted by May 1st of each year and the bursary will be awarded in June. Applications can be submitted "attention Bursary Committee" in one of 3 ways:

Website <https://saulttheatre.com>
 Email rmraud@hotmail.ca
 Mail Post Office Box 94 Sault Ste Marie ON, P6A 5L2

Save Us A Bundle!

Choose Email

All you have to do is send an email to hehouston@shaw.ca with Box 94 as the subject and give us your name and address so we can remove you from our snail mail list.

BOX 94 Volume 70

(Our 70th season)

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 Visit our web site

www.saulttheatre.com

Or Visit us on FACEBOOK

To ensure continued Newsletters be sure to keep your membership up to date. Contact Membership Chair

Dianna James (705) 257 6599