



# 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

Member of:



www.saulttheatre.com

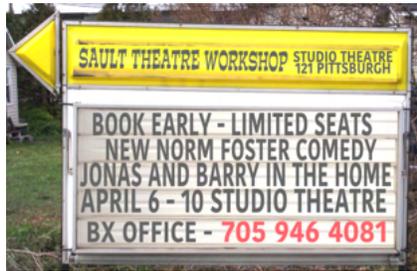
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Volume 72 Issue # 6

Feb/April 2022

Marquee is out of order and until it is replaced We'll Fake it!



# Michael Hennessy Prepares Norm Foster Comedy For Spring Opener



It has been quite some time since **Michael Hennessy** directed for Sault Theatre Workshop and it's his first time directing a full length play in our Studio Theatre. Michael retired from his own company, the much respected Family Life Theatre a number of years ago. Many of our long time patrons will remember STW. shows like "Of Mice and Men", "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest" and "Man For All Seasons". These were just a few of the many award winning plays he directed for STW. So what was it that brought him back to the Workshop?

Like many of us in the theatre, Michael is a fan of **Norm Foster** plays and when he was asked to direct "Jonas and Barry in the Home" he couldn't say no to such a beautiful funny and touching script. Unfortunately due to a false start before rights were available and then Covid interruptions, we were forced to shelve the project. When Harry got notification from Foster's agent that the production rights were available to community theatres, Harry called Michael right away and Michael agreed. Scripts were off the shelf and into the actors hands right

away. Flaring Covid and restrictions to gatherings caused one more delay from a March opening to an April one but now it is full steam ahead.

With a cast of only three, the play puts heavy demands on the actors but they are loving it. The Jonas and Barry of the title are played by **Vernon Bailey** and **Harry Houston** respectively. These two jolly veteran actors were last on the Studio stage together in "Sylvia" in 2013 directed by **Richard Howard**.

Our lead actress with the challenging role of Rosemary, Director of Life Enrichment at the home and daughter of Barry **Amanda Hicks Moss** is first time on our Studio stage. Amanda recently



Sault Theatre Workshop Proudly Presents . . .



# Norm Foster's Jonas and Barry in the Home



Two retirees search for friendship, love, sex and elusive happiness in an assisted living home. Join Jonas and Barry in a laugh-a-minute journey as they search for new ways to spice up their lives and the lives of those around them. This hilarious and poignant story will bring tears of joy and compassion, as Jonas and Barry win your hearts.

Directed by **Michael Hennessy**

"The play is a roller coaster of emotions, evoking uncontrollable laughter one moment and profound sadness the next." - The Wellington Advertiser

STW's Studio Theatre 121 Pittsburgh Ave

## April 6 to 10 2022

8 PM Curtain - except Sunday 2PM Matinee

Seating May be limited due to covid spacing.

Call 705 946-4081 to book tickets. Advance tickets only

Adults \$ 30  
Students \$ 20



Jonas and Barry in the Home is staged by arrangement with Pam Winter, GGA, www.ggapgency.ca.

appeared in **A Christmas Story** for Algoma Repertory Theatre.

Tracey McKiddie, "Lady Efficient" is Stage Manager for this production. Rob Rock will be in charge of lighting and Marc Beaudette is on Sound. Dennis O'Callaghan is our Set Builder with Terri Miller looking after Set Decor. Candace Withers has signed on for Costumes. Sandra Houston is Producer.

With more of the governments Covid restrictions being lifted in March and April, it's not clear at this time what our audience capacity will be. We have, however, acquired a new sanitizing fogger and we are committed to ensuring the safest possible cosy and intimate experience. This is **a show not to be missed!** Book early for your reserved seat!

**George Houston** and cast and crew we mounted a successful and popular production of **Tom Dudzick's Miracle on South Division Street**. Health authorities had limited us to 50% audience but we further restricted ourselves to assure safety for our patrons to 30 people per performance. This allowed us to break even on costs. Our preview night for this show earned a nice profit for The Lions Club of Sault Ste. Marie. It was good to be back on stage.

Our second production is bumped to a date a month later. Our cautious approach has paid off and we have a good amount of time for rehearsal. Director **Michael Hennessy** and cast are loving rehearsals. It looks like the set will be up early. It is always nice to be able to rehearse on set.

We are now looking for entrants in our One Act Festival Workshop. This very popular two night production will close out our shortened season but we are feeling good and excited to plan for **Season 73**. We have two entries so far and have confirmed with adjudicator/workshop leader John P Kelly. John is looking forward to coming to the Sault in June.

He writes:"I'm off to Ireland on Wednesday to adjudicate a ten night full-length festival... and I have a show in Ottawa in May. As my mudder used to say "It's hard to kill a bad thing!"

We always learn a lot from John and we are excited to have him back.

If you didn't get our brochure check out our web site [www.saulttheatre.com](http://www.saulttheatre.com). Now that we are planning next seasons, we invite suggestions and comments.

## Ever Wanted To Be A Director?

This is a golden opportunity!

You can be part of:

### Sault Theatre Workshop's One Act Festival Workshop

Internationally renowned adjudicator and workshop leader **John P Kelly** currently residing in Ottawa, will be coming to Sault Theatre Workshop's Studio Theatre in June 2022. There will be an opportunity for up to eight potential directors to present one act plays and take part in workshops with John.



**John P. Kelly**  
Adjudicator/Workshop Leader

Three or more one act plays will be performed on Friday evening and those plays will be adjudicated that evening and workshoped on Saturday. Three or more different one act plays will be performed and adjudicated on Saturday evening and workshoped on Sunday. Learn what works and what doesn't, how to problem solve, creating focus . . .

If you are interested, contact Harry Houston, Artistic Director for Sault Theatre Workshop. We can help you with picking a play, casting and with rehearsal space.

You will be responsible for play royalties and an entry fee. Two of those director spots are already spoken for so don't delay. Deadline for entry - Friday April 15  
For more information - call or email Harry

To Enter - call or email  
Harry Houston  
[hehouston@shaw.ca](mailto:hehouston@shaw.ca) 705 946-4081

## Season 72 Moves Forward Despite Challenges

Our limited brochure for season 72 hit a few covid bumps along the way, but we persevere! Thanks to



### Sault Theatre Workshop's

## Pull-Chain Bursary

Covid disruptions to school and theatre have had our bursary on hold but we're back!

### Purpose:

**The purpose of this bursary is to honour Richard Howard's dedication to Community Theatre and his love of teaching, by helping students involved in Theatrical Education.**

**Who is Richard Howard:**

Richard Howard was a professional theatre director and acting coach. He has worked in over 50 communities in Ontario alone, as well as many cities throughout Canada, U.S.A., England, France, Germany and Australia. As a result of his love of Community Theatre and Sault Ste. Marie, he settled here and founded Pull Chain Theatre. He was the Artistic Director and founder of Pull Chain Theatre, where over a hundred works were performed. He started in the back of Purple Lantern restaurant hosted by Nancy Mah. What most of us remember the most about Richard was his love of teaching the craft.



He directed many plays for Sault Theatre Workshop and conducted workshops and acting classes for us.

Sault Theatre Workshop is pleased to make this bursary available from funds passed to us from the closing of Richard's Pull-Chain theatre account. Donations earmarked for this Bursary account are being accepted and can be sent to Sault Theatre Workshop PO Box 94, Sault Ste Marie Ontario P6A 5L2

#### **Duration of and amount of Bursary:**

The award will be available for a minimum of 10 years. It will be awarded annually to one qualified applicant per year. An amount of up to \$1000.00 annually.

#### **Qualifications:**

The applicant must demonstrate recent community theatre involvement and be furthering their education in the field of the performing arts. This includes: College, University, training program or an individual course.

#### **Application:**

Applications can be accessed at <https://saulttheatre.com>. All applications must be submitted by May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. 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](mailto:rmraud@hotmail.ca),

Mail P.O. Box 94

Sault Ste. Marie, ON, CAN

P6A 5L2

## **Long Time Patrons and Supporters Don and Joyce Move West**



We first met them when they were living in Elliott Lake. Don and Joyce Watts could generally be found sitting in, or very close to, the front row at theatre presentations. We saw them at QUONTA productions and Theatre Ontario productions and they started coming to plays in the Sault. They were generous donors and season ticket holders and were quick to support all types of theatre. Always fun to be with and great on conversation, Don and Joyce were adventurous. They actually biked to the Sault from Elliot lake at one time.

We were thrilled when they moved to the Sault. For several years we counted them as regulars in our Studio theatre.

Health problems began and curtailed their activities in the last couple of years. With covid restrictions we had less opportunity for contact. Last November we learned that they were moving to Winnipeg to be with family.

Joyce sent us the following email:

"Don and I depart The Soo on November 19 moving to Winnipeg by plane at 6:15 PM. Our daughter-in-law Joan is coming Nov. 17 and will be a good help for us.

Things are winding down very well here as I empty fridge/cupboards and pack. On November 17th I will return modem to Vianet so we cannot be contacted by email after Nov. 16.

Family lives in great numbers in Winnipeg: we have five children, 7 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren all in Winnipeg. They are all waiting with open arms for us to return after a 42 year absence.

You've enriched our lives, dear Sandra and Harry, in so many ways!

Our Winnipeg address is:

Mr. and Mrs. Don and Joyce Watts

135 Niakwa Road, Apt. #734

Winnipeg, MB R2M 5K2

Love, Don and Joyce.

We wish Don and Joyce all the best and we hope we can get an email connection so that we can send them newsletters.

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## Greetings from STW President

Hello to all. So happy to see theatre coming back to life again, for us and our friends from the larger community of Sault Ste Marie. We have had a successful smaller scale launch of Season 72 with **Miracle on South Divison Street**. It was such a joy to see the theatre alive again. Thank you to the cast, crew, and audience for braving Covid and trusting us to follow appropriate protocols.

We are getting ready now to raise our capacity and get closer to normal. Please join us in April for **Jonas and Barry in the Home**. It is full of laughs and we can all use some laughs right about now. Can't wait to see you all again. Thank you for your continued support.

**Randi Houston Jones**

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## Introducing Our New Fundraising Chair

We are pleased to announce that **Susan Sirvio** has joined the board of Sault Theatre Workshop and taken on the responsibility for fundraising for the theatre. She has asked us to advise our members that something super exciting will take place at the theatre during the dates of Monday, Sept 26, 2022 to Sunday, October 2, 2022. Stay tuned for the details of this great community event involving our youth within the Sault area.

It's a little too soon for this issue of Box 94 to tell you any more, but excitement is building and heavy planning is on track. So welcome **Susan Sirvio!**

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## Become One Of Us!

A membership in Sault Theatre Workshop gives you the opportunity to take part in the excitement of live theatre. Just attending plays or by taking part you will be learning from veteran actors, directors, designers and technicians with years of experience in community theatre. We bring in

professionals for workshops and take part in festivals around the province.

You can be part of the teams for each production and experience the thrill of bringing a play to life. Develop your skills as an actor, a technician, a crafts person or director. And have fun doing it!

We also looking for volunteers for our board of directors. Want to get involved? Contact Wendylynn Corrigan for a membership. [wcorrigan76@gmail.com](mailto:wcorrigan76@gmail.com) or phone (705) 450-6430

## Archive Photo:



## BOX 94 Volume 72 (Our 72nd season)

Editor Harry Houston

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E-mail [hehouston@shaw.ca](mailto:hehouston@shaw.ca)

Next Issue April 2022

Visit our web site

[www.saulttheatre.com](http://www.saulttheatre.com)

Or Visit us on FACEBOOK

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

Contact Membership Chair Wendylynn Corrigan

