



2024-2025

A Fabulous Season to Remember!

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Report to the Members

Report to the Members

For the 2024-2025 Season

We are back – meetings, auditions, director hiring, play reading, Out Louds, Improv Fridays at the unit, rehearsals, set building, costumes, props, crews, publicity, designers, move-ins, move-outs, closing parties, all times 4, and so much more. Scarborough Players continues to honour – Good Stories. Well Told.

Our 2024-2025 Productions

Screwball Comedy – October 2024

The season began in October 2024 with the production of **Screwball Comedy** by Norm Foster. The year was 1938 and the gruff editor of The Chronicle (Derek Barber) along with his snappy secretary (Michelle Baynton) ignites a competition between star reporter, Jeff Kinkaid (Holm Bradwell), and rookie Mary Hayes (Meg Gibson) to cover the society wedding of the son of newspaper owner, Delores Diddle (Lynn Oldershaw). Throw in an embalmed dog stuffed with Delores' husband's ashes, along with her new fiancé (Derek Barber again!), add Delores' challenge to find dirt on her son's (Caleb Upshaw) sexy fiancé (Ariana Figueroa), then add a delightfully sarcastic butler (Chip Thompson), and you had a performance filled with hilarity and fun.

We welcomed director, James Quigley who brought delightful creative energy to the production inspired by the Hollywood tradition of 1930's screwball comedies. Julio Torres designed the brilliant Art Deco set, built by Greg Nowlan and a dedicated team of volunteers. Lighting designed by Chris Northey along with sound designed by Bodene Corbitt and James Quigley with costumes and props coordinated by Katherine Turner, add hair and make-up designed by Jamie Obregon and Summer Stephenson created the look and mood of the era. All this screwball energy was kept under control by stage manager Bodene Corbitt and ASM Joey McCormick assisted by Jamie Obregon, Elena Oak and the servants in the Diddle home.

Audiences enjoyed the show – they laughed and laughed. **Screwball Comedy** was the first show to be adjudicated in the return of the Act-Co Festival after a five-year absence. (For more details, please see the Act-Co report)

Les Liaisons Dangereuses – January 2025

We entered the opulent parlours, boudoirs, and bedrooms of 18th Century France where dangerous games of seduction, betrayal and revenge are plotted and played out against unsuspecting victims. In a world governed by rigid rules of aristocracy, untamed desire and passion can lead to ruin. The Marquise de Merteuil and Vicomte de Valmont know this and contrive a game of sexual chess that will leave you breathless with its cunning and cruelty.

Director Sheila Gatensby provided her understanding of what compels the action of the characters in the play.

“The story takes place in the background of what was a tumultuous lead up to the outbreak of revolution in 1789. It's the endgame for the aristocracy and the Ancient Regime.

It is about game playing, manipulation and revenge that fuels the relationship between Merteuil and Valmont and their targets, but game playing is a strategy for survival in a world where no one is safe... For me, the dominant image of the action is “decay”: we witness the breakdown of self, the heart, and relationships all played out within the context of a disintegrating society and that's what is compelling for an audience.”.

Supporting this vision was a most talented cast. Returning to our stage were Jeff Grujicich as Valmont (Shakespeare, *Shakespeare in Love*), Christine Dick as Merteuil (M'Lynn, *Steel Magnolias*), Misha Harding as Tourvel (Viola, *Shakespeare in Love*), Anne McDougall as Volange (Mary Ellen, *Halfway There*). Catherine Lenihan as Rosemonde (Mrs. Bailey, *It's a Wonderful Life*), Bil Antoniou as Azolan (Burbage, *Shakespeare in Love*), Rod Cook as Major Domo (Tilney, *Shakespeare in Love*), and Melissa Wood as Emilie (Kate, *Shakespeare in Love*). Scarborough Players was thrilled to welcome Casey McMahon as Cecile and Erik Bracciodieta as Danceny

Producer and costume designer, Mary Nowlan gathered a talented team to bring elements of the Ancient Regime to life. Sheila Gatensby's research and choice inspired fight director and intimacy coordinator, Mercedes Davy, props designer, Carol Kim with Jamie Darker, sound designer, Larry Westlake, lighting designer Jennifer Bakker and all the builders and painters led by Greg Nowlan. Jamie Obregon and Summer Stevenson recreated the hair and make-up of the era. All this was held together by the watchful eye of stage manager, Luisa Hoffman, with help from her assistant stage manager, Cindy Alexander, and crew.

You Can't Take It with You – April 2025

What do you do when you love your family but can't help being embarrassed by them? The Sycamore family's eccentric lifestyle is a testament to living life joyfully and on one's own terms. However, when daughter, Alice brings her fiancé's, straight-laced family to dinner, hilarity ensues, leaving everyone questioning what it means to be normal and whether it's worth it. Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's classic comedy, *You Can't Take It with You* has been charming audiences for decades with its story that celebrates life and the courage to embrace one's individuality.

Kaufman and Hart created the Vanderhof/Sycamore Family who live their lives in a wonderful, creative world of constant improvisation- a typewriter arrives, and plays are written. People enter their home and stay – why not! Living near Columbia University, Grandpa, Martin Vanderhof; visits Commencement Ceremonies, listens to speeches, watches the graduates, and feels glad that he isn't young anymore.

The youngest daughter, Alice Sycamore, is the only one that seems to be living what one might call “a normal life”. She goes to work each day in an office while her older sister, Essie Carmichael, dances and makes candy, her brother-in-law, Ed, delivers the candy and plays the xylophone, her father, Paul Sycamore, makes fireworks, and her mother, Penny, writes or paints. There is much love in the home and people are welcomed, embraced, and just decide to stay, like Mr. De Pinna. Oh, and there are snakes in the dining room and fireworks explode.

Enjoying all the fun was a most talented cast. Returning to our stage were Bil Antoniou as Mr. Kirby, Paul Coady as Martin Vanderhof, Carolyn Williamson as Rheba, Alma Sinan as the Grand Duchess, Victoria Badham as Mrs. Kirby, Drew Smylie as Paul Sycamore, David Rudat as Mr. De Pinna, and Stephen Flett as Mr. Henderson. Returning to our stage after a long absence were Tom Girling as Donald, Rob Walker as Tony Kirby and Barbara Horsburgh as Gay Wellington. Scarborough Players was thrilled to welcome Erin Mackie as Penny Sycamore, Monica Horsburgh as Alice Sycamore, Victoria Rose as Essie Carmichael, Sam Wheller as Ed Carmichael, Julio Torres as Boris Kolenkhov, August Peters and Aiden Oak as the G-men.

A talented team gathered to capture the 1936 home of the Vanderhof/Sycamores under the direction of Katherine Turner. Returning were fight and intimacy director, Mercedes Davy, props designer, Eileen Dalton, sound designer, Larry Westlake, lighting designer Jennifer Bakker, Costume Squad headed by Mary Nowlan with Annette Heitzner, Sheila Gatensby, Denise Daly and Katherine Turner and all the builders and painters led by set designer, Greg Nowlan.

All this was held together by the watchful eye of stage manager, Wendy Miller with help from her assistant stage manager, Joey McCormick, and crew.

Pygmalion – June/July 2025

George Bernard Shaw's timeless play explores class in Edwardian society, moral responsibility and the possibility for growth and change.

It starts with a bet. Brilliant phonetics professor, Mr. Higgins, makes a wager with Colonel Pickering, that he can turn a lowly flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, into a lady who could pass as a duchess. Thus begins a series of speech and etiquette lessons that sculpt Eliza into Higgins' vision of a proper lady. Unlike her mythic counterpart, Galatea, (*Pygmalion* within Ovid's *Metamorphoses*), Eliza is street-smart, scrappy and dares to dream of a better life for herself. She is all for the challenge and stands up for herself in a world determined to maintain its rigid class systems. While *Pygmalion* remains the ultimate makeover story, it also offers theatre goers a chance to laugh at the dazzling wit of characters of all walks of life, and gets audiences to think about class, identity, moral responsibility and what transformation really means.

Enjoying all the fun is a most talented cast: Misha Harding as Eliza Doolittle, Holm Bradwell as Henry Higgins, Bil Antoniou as Col. Pickering, John Pirker as Alfred P. Doolittle, Alma Sinan as Mrs. Pearce, Catherine Lenihan as Mrs. Higgins, Carolyn Kelso-Bell as Mrs. Eynsford Hill, Rod Cook as Freddy Eynsford Hill, Jasmina Brar as Clara Eynsford Hill, and Kevin McDonnell, Vivian Lockton, Kieran Ramos, Piranavan Vivekanantharajah and August Peters as our marvelous Ensemble.

A talented team gathered to recreate the streets and homes of Edwardian London. Returning were, props designer, Eileen Dalton, sound designer, Guy Kersey, lighting designer, Jennifer Bakker, our costume squad, Taylor Markwell, Mary Nowlan and Andra Bradish, with builders and painters led by set designer, Greg Nowlan. All this is held together by director, Larry Westlake, producers, Bodene Corbitt and Mary Nowlan, and our wonderful stage managers June Watkins and Teresa Bakker.

We would like to take this space to thank our sister companies- Scarborough Theatre Guild, Scarborough Music Theatre and other community theatre companies – Stage Centre, Bloor West Village Players, and The Toronto Irish Players for their continuing friendship and generosity in sharing resources.

Screwball Comedy

October 2024

Cast and Crew and Set Photos by Brian Whitmore



Les Liaisons Dangereuses

January 2025

Cast and Team and Set Photos by Brian Whitmore



You Can't Take it with You
April 2025

Cast and Crew and Set Photos by Brian Whitmore



Pygmalion
June/July 2025

Cast and Crew and Set Photos by Brian Whitmore



Report from the Play Reading Committee

Their Mission: To read plays, to bring plays to the members at the Out Louds and recommend plays to the Board for the 2026-2027 season – October 2026, January 2027, April 2027, June/July 2027.

The Committee: Chair: John Pirker with Alma Sinan, David Eden, Brian Whitmore, Magda Nusink, Danelle Abbott, Lynn Oldershaw, Christine Dick and a little bit from Katherine Turner (ex-officio).

As you will see in the lists below, the committee does an extraordinary job of searching for plays and reading them. The committee always welcomes your recommendations and even more so, if you can provide a script. They always welcome new members who add experience and depth to conversations and deliberations.

Out Louds so Far C for Canadian

Mending Fences – Norm Foster April 23, 2025 C

Done to Death – Fred Carmichael April 30, 2025

New Magic Valley Fun Town – Daniel MacIvor May 7, 2025 C

The Minutes – Tracy Letts May 21, 2025

The Cottage – Sandy Ruston May 28, 2025

Marion Bridge – Daniel MacIvor June 4, 2025 C

Late Company – Jordan Tannahill June 18, 2025 C

Break due to *Pygmalion*

The Constant Wife – Somerset Maugham July 23, 2025

Cake Walk – Collen Curran August 6, 2025 C

More to come in September and possibly October

We need you at the Out Louds. Your voices and opinions matter. When making decisions, the Board will consider your reactions to the plays along with what is needed in a balanced and entertaining season.

Plays being Read or in Consideration for an Out Loud

The Crucible -Arthur Miller?

Half Life – John Mighton C?

Enemy of the People- adaptations from the Ibsen including Arthur Miller and Herzog

Black Comedy – Peter Shaffer

Lettice and Lovage – Peter Shaffer

Science and Madness- George F. Walker C

Six Degrees of Separation – John Guare

Strangers on a Train - Craig Warner

The Rimers of Eldritch- Lanford Wilson

The Corn is Green – Emyln Williams

I'll Leave it to You – Noel Coward

Our Town – Thornton Wilder – possible new adaptation

Plays Dropped

Middletown – Will Eno

Crimes of the Heart – Beth Henley

45 Seconds to Broadway – Neil Simon

Rose's Dilemma – Neil Simon

Ghost on Fire-Andrew Weller

The Solid Gold Cadillac – George S. Kaufman, Howard Teichmann

Eureka Day – Jonathan Spencer

Oh, Mary – Cole Escola

Born Yesterday – not available

Plays in the Bullpen – from previous years still in consideration

Things I Know to be True – Andrew Bovell

The Government Inspector – adapted by Jeffrey Archer

Frankenstein by Nick Dear

The Book of Will

Special Thanks to the Committee for all this ongoing work!

Director Hiring Committee

The committee to select directors for the 2025-2026 season, was chaired by Carolyn Williamson with Larry Westlake, David Eden, Magda Nusink, and Lynn Oldershaw with Douglas Oak auditing the process. They interviewed several directors for each show and brought their recommendations to the Board. After questions, discussion and deliberations, the following directors were determined – Mark Nathanielsz to direct *Lunenburg*, Sheila Gatensby to direct *A Christmas Story*, Katherine Bignell-Jones to direct *Good People* and Michael Jones to direct *Arcadia*. We thank the committee for all their thoughtful work on this most important task.

The Marketeers

For our 2023-2024 season, we did not have a Board member who served in the Publicity and Marketing portfolio. So, rather than doing nothing, a group of dedicated individuals came together with determination to get the word out and bring our audiences back! Their incredible, creative work continued to get the word out in 2024-2025.

Carolyn Williamson got the ball rolling. Alma Sinan – stories for patrons' news, Vicki Badham – social media guru, Larry Westlake – Mailchimp news to patrons, archives, videos and interviews, Chip Thompson – editor in chief, Greg Nowlan – images and artwork, Katherine Turner – press releases and contact with the papers, Brian Whitmore – photographer extraordinaire! We love getting the word out. We can see true joy and playfulness coming out in the work. As a result, we had good audience attendance for our 2024-2025 season. We look forward to their continuing creative work for the 2025-2026 season. Please let us know if you would like to contribute to the team.

Subscriptions are coming back – so far for 2025-2026 we have 677. Single Tickets went on sale on August 1.

The Remarkable Musketeers!

Almost every Saturday starting at 10 a.m. – they begin to arrive at the unit. Their goal to get the sets built while conversing, having a coffee/tea break and enjoying the good company. Head Carpenter, Greg Nowlan makes sure there is work to be done from clean-up, to building, to painting and learning how to use new tools like our brand-new Track Saw. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the remarkable sets of the 2024-2025 season: Tony Jones, Holm Bradwell, Tom Bakker, Kevin McDonnell, Ken Gray, Gary Lennox, Mary Nowlan, Vivian Lockton, Bill Simpson, Julio Torres, James Quigley, Larry Westlake, Jasmina Brar, Jamie Obregon, Elena Oak, Jasmine Oak, Bodene Corbitt, Tom Girling, Ryan Hawkyard, Zoya Fazal, Gary and Annette Heitzner...For the upcoming season, we are purchasing wonderful wheels! You, too can join the Saturday fun.

The Lumineers

Once again, we would like to thank Jennifer Bakker and Chris Northey who completed the lighting design for all Players shows this season. There is a lighting team, and they all work collaboratively helping each other – Jennifer helps Chris and Chris helps Jennifer along with Alan Page, Emily Pople, Guy Kersey and others. Thank you all.

Scarborough Players – Members of Act-Co

This was a busy year for Act-Co - the Association of Community Theatre-Central Ontario. After five years including the pandemic, there was a return to the Act-Co Festival. As with the return of any activity after being shut down, there were learning curves and slow engines revving back up to speed. A Committee had to advertise, interview and hire adjudicators who each would be available to prepare for and view 18 musicals or 16 comedies or 13 dramas. The adjudicators were Carolee Mason for Comedy, Janet Kish for Drama and Andrew Lamb for Musicals. A special round of applause for Anne Currie O'Brien for once more taking on the task of Festival Chair ensuring that each adjudicated show was supported by Act-Co. Anne attended most of the musicals along with Andrew. Tristan Smith along with Anne Harper attended our festival performances. Our Greg Nowlan managed the feedback from the adjudications (those cards handed out to cast and crew) so Act-Co could assess the success of the festival and the adjudicators.

Work on a Gala – the new Thea Awards extravaganza began in late September 2024 building to weekly meetings until mid-June 2025.

The Thea's June 6, 2025, at the beautiful Lyric Theatre – North York

Sadly, I was unable to attend the awards, but 32 other members of Scarborough Players were there in their best dresses, suits, and tuxedos to walk the red carpet, and cheer all the nominees and winners. Three Scarborough Players productions were entered in this year's Festival – *Screwball Comedy* -comedy, *Les liaisons Dangereuses* – drama, and *You Can't Take It with You* -comedy. Very proud that Players' hard work and creativity were recognized by the Festival – Three Cheers!

Players' Nominees

- Julio Torres for Best Set Design of a Comedy – *Screwball Comedy*
- David Rudat for Best Performance by an individual in a Male supporting role in a Comedy as Mr. De Pinna in *You Can't Take It with You*

- Misha Harding Best Performance by an individual in a Female leading role in a Drama as Mme. Tourvel in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*
- Erin Mackie Best Performance by an individual in a Female leading role in a Comedy as Penny Sycamore in *You Can't Take It with You*
- Larry Westlake Best Sound Design for a Comedy – *You Can't Take It with You*
- Jamie Obregon with Summer Stephenson best Hair and Make-up Design for a Drama – *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*
- Jamie Obregon for Best Hair and Make-Up design for a comedy- *You Can't Take it with You*
- Luisa Hoffman Best Stage Management Drama for *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*
- *You Can't Take It with You* – Producer- Katherine Turner Best Production of a Comedy

Players' Thea Winners

- Barbara Horsburgh – Best performance by a female in a supporting role – Comedy as Gay Wellington in *You Can't Take It with You*
- Mercedes Davy – Adjudicator's Award Drama for Best Fight and Intimacy Director for *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*
- Mary Nowlan – Best Costume Design Drama for *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*
- Katherine Turner – Best Costume Design Comedy for *Screwball Comedy*
- Sheila Gatensby – Best Direction Drama for *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*

Thanks to Jeff Grujcich (Valmont) and Christine Dick (Merteuil) for recreating a wonderful scene from *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* as part of the showcase at the Thea's.

Our talented Victoria Badham was nominated for her role in STG's Christmas pantomime.

Thanks always to the wonderful team who worked to bring the Thea's back to life – Anne Currie O'Brien, John Currie, Lynda Muir, Dot Routledge and Katherine Turner. Yes, it has been noted that the Lyric needs to bring in more bartenders and not hide the food! However, the actual Thea's were a wonderful success.

Act-Co also continued to produce workshops including one on updating By-Laws for ONCA and one on applying for Trillium Grants. Thanks to John Wyman with Rob Mather for continuing to manage the important website which includes audition notices and hiring needs. Also, thanks to Tristan Smith and Jeff Burke for the newsletters and to Alexandra Lembo for all the social media promoting productions.



The Theas – Greg Nowlan accepting for Katherine Turner – Costumes *Screwball Comedy*
Mary Nowlan -Costumes for *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* Photo by Bil Antoniou

What's happening at Theatre Scarborough

Our partnerships in Theatre Scarborough are strong. The Board works to ensure that the theatre is well looked after, the Box Office, Theatre Refreshments and all shared needs are supported. It has been a pleasure being part of the board and thanks to presidents, Olivia Jon of SMT and Len Henderson of STG for their spirit of collaboration. Thanks to TS president, Dot Routledge for her dedication to getting the job done along with past-president Ian Fox and treasurer, Lynette

Fairweather for their ongoing communication with the “City”.

Special thanks to Wendy Miller, Mark Parent and all the Box Office volunteers for looking after all our patrons.

Special thanks to June Bedford, Rhoda Brachman and all the Theatre Refreshment volunteers for offering treats and drinks. Thanks to Susan and Bob Sanders for managing and maintaining our important Hearing Assist program. Thanks to all the Front of House Coordinators – Catherine Lenihan, Jon Anderson and Susan and Bob Sanders and all the FOH volunteers for looking after our audiences.

Shout-out to Dot Routledge for taking on designing the new website that is easier for folks to use.

Community Outreach with Theatre Scarborough

Together, we are helping to spread the word about the joys of Community Theatre!

Please attend the TS AGM for a report on all the events – in August, September and early November 2024. It was busy thanks to all the work of Valerie Lusted and volunteers.

Nov 17, 2024-Beaches Santa Claus Parade- Jim Hyslop successfully recruited 10 volunteers to support this event; ran out of brochures & flyers part way through, but entertained the crowds with their smiles until the end of the route; recommend continuing this event next year as we were able to get the registration fee waived AND got the organizers to bend the rules by allowing us to distribute our flyers; consider entering a vintage car in the future along with parade marchers.

Nov 23, 2024-Pickering Santa Claus Parade-Val Lusted recruited 8 volunteers to support this event; ran out of brochures & flyers part way through but entertained the crowds with their smiles until the end of the route; recommend continuing this event next year as registration fee was waived; consider entering a vintage car in future along with parade marchers. Many thanks to Jim, Lee, Vivian, Evan, Leah, Nita, Yana and August for supporting this Outreach event!

Nov 23, 2024-Adam Beck Public School’s Artisan Market-STG Board funded the \$40 table fee; staffed by a cast member (Vicki Badham), in costume; reportedly well trafficked, lots of brochures and flyers distributed along with supported conversations about Theatre Scarborough

Photo: Pickering Santa Claus Parade November 23,2025



Photo: East York Canada Day Parade
Evan and Rick’s Cars also in the Guildwood Day Parade



**Photo: Guild Alive with Culture
Erin Mackie and David Rudat**

Theatre Scarborough has provided a budget so Valerie and others can participate in worthy events even if a fee is required. TS has also agreed to make banners that will attach to the cars in a parade as they are often photographed or filmed.

Centre 55 Spring Festival

Saturday, May 31, 2025, from noon - 4 p.m.

The Organization: Centre 55 Spring Festival

Location: Stephenson Park - south of The Danforth, Val Lusted (Lead), Evan MacDonald, Sheila Gatensby, Maureen Dorey-Lukie, Jessica McQueen, Andra Bradish, Lorin Beiko volunteered for Centre 55's Spring Festival Table. However, due to low numbers, we left the event earlier than expected. I would not recommend participating in this event next year due to poor foot traffic, not as high as what was promised. Thanks so much, Valerie and all the volunteers!

Guildwood Day- the first Saturday in June at Wilfrid Laurier Collegiate

On June 7, 2025, A team of volunteers participated in Guildwood Day and handed out our 2025-2026 season brochure. Anytime we get to interact with the community is positive. Residents of Guildwood are our potential audience and they often do not know the theatre is just west of them. We were in the parade along with Rick and Evan Macdonald's beautiful vintage cars. Thanks to Vivian Lockton who organized the event. Scott Baker and Catherine Lenihan were volunteers along with 5 performers from SMT (names not taken!)

East York Canada Day Parade July 1, 2025

Many thanks to **Theatre Scarborough's Community Outreach Team** (*Mark Doucet, Evan MacDonald, Andra Bradish, Maureen Dorey-Lukie, Armaity Perry, Rick MacDonald, Chelsea Perry*)! Wasn't it fun to walk (and at times run?) that **2025 East York Canada Day Parade** route, passing out flyers and season brochures and see all of those smiling diverse faces!?!?

And guess what?

We made the news! **Twice: CP24 and CTV!**

Many thanks to Valerie Lusted for all her amazing work to engage with community and get the word out. Thanks to Valerie for the photos and reporting.

Guild Alive with Culture July 26 and 27, 2025

Though delighted to organize and schedule volunteers, I missed being at the event this year for the first time in years. Thanks to all the volunteers who set-up and staffed the booth over the 2 days letting everyone know there is great theatre at the corner of Markham Road and Kingston Road. It was hot and humid and foggy, but everyone enjoyed the opportunity to talk about theatre. Thanks to the volunteers – Greg Nowlan, Luisa Hoffman, David Rudat, Andra Bradish, Catherine Lenihan, Gail Murray, Darlene Thomas, Claude Hould, Linda Hutson, Sheila Gatensby, Bob Sanders, Heather Hyslop, Alison Overington, June Watkins, Bodene Corbitt, Judy Brobyn, Erin Mackie, Valerie Lusted, Maureen Lukie and Greg again to strike the booth.

SMT for Theatre Scarborough

We would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the performers and volunteers who represented SMT and Theatre Scarborough at summer festivals in July!

First up was the **Taste of the Lawrence** where we performed on the Family Stage on Saturday, July 5th (12pm) and Sunday, July 6th (11:30am) presenting a wonderful performance celebrating SMT's past

season and our upcoming shows. Thank you to performers Tori Waller and Tristyn King, Elaine O'Neal, Jordan Maguire, Josh Harrison, Justin P. Douglas and our very own President, Olivia Jon as well as volunteers Sandy Robb and Jan Harvey!

Next SMT performed at the **Guild Alive with Culture** on Saturday, July 26 on the main stage and in the Youth Area and an amazing group of volunteers staffed the Theatre Scarborough booth where they told all our wonderful neighbours about our upcoming season! Thanks, top performers Elaine O'Neal, Tristyn King, Jhelisa Carroll and Olivia Jon. Thanks, Olivia for your reporting

A Very Special Event – Volunteer Recognition at the Players' Unit

After 5 years, Theatre Scarborough returned to a cherished event to honour our shared volunteers.

Saturday, April 12, 2025, was the date and the location at the Scarborough Players Unit from 2 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

We are reached out to a wonderful team to manage the catering and the décor. Many hands made light work.

Thanks to Vivian Lockton, Andra Bradish, Valerie Lusted, Eileen Dalton, June Watkins, Christine Bonnemaïson, Susan Sanders, Bob Sanders, Ian Fox, Catherine Lenihan and Greg Nowlan. The food was delicious; the wine was enticing and the coffee and tea flowed.

The unit was as transformed as it could be- tablecloths help! Our volunteers – Front of House, Box Office, Theatre Refreshments – were so pleased for their well-deserved recognition. Vivian and Ian designed a new pin presented to those present and to future volunteers. Thanks to all the presidents for being present and addressing the wonderful volunteers who support the productions. Thanks to Catherine Lenihan for her delightful presentation of “How *not* to be a TS volunteer!”



Volunteer Recognition Savouries and Sweets photo by Christine Bonnemaïson



This year, Theatre Scarborough purchased a smart flat screen TV for the large glass display cabinet to be used by all three companies as needed.

We will review how to stand for the TS Board later in the AGM.

Reports from your Board Members for 2024-2025

Katherine Turner – President

It has been a very busy season with much work being done by many hands to produce Good Stories. Well told. We have completed an exciting and well attended season. As always, it is a pleasure to serve Scarborough Players

- Served as President of the Board – created and sent agendas and pertinent documents, chaired board meetings – The Board traditionally meets on the 2nd Monday of the month – we try to follow the Saturday's TS meeting.

- Sent out Newsletters and New Blasts to Membership - they were not pretty but were informative!
- Wrote a few Press Releases supporting the work of the Marketeers
- Submitted permit requests – schedules to the Scarborough Village Recreation Centre
- Served on the Play Reading Committee – ex-officio
- Audition coordinator for four shows this season
- Served on the Theatre Scarborough Board as Players’ President
- Worked with the Act-Co Thea team to plan the Thea Awards at the Lyric Theatre in June
- Coordinated volunteers for The Guild Alive with Culture
- Directed *You Can’t Take It with You*
- Produced *Screwball Comedy*, *You Can’t Take It with You*, assisted on *Pygmalion*
- Costume coordinator for *Screwball Comedy*, assisted on *LLD* and *You Can’t Take it with You*
- Won an Act-Co Thea for Costume Design for a Comedy – *Screwball Comedy*
- Missed doing 50 50 for 2 of the 4 shows and Top of Show for 3 of 4 shows– special thanks to Mary Nowlan, Melissa Wood and Scarlett, Alma Sinan, Teresa Bakker, Jennifer Bakker.
- Hope to have a new hip in September with restored mobility in time for *A Christmas Story*

So far, 2025 has been a difficult year for me and I would like to thank the wonderful theatre community for all the care and support. Theatre is magic, and collaboration is a key. Special thanks to Greg Nowlan and sister-in-law, Mary Nowlan for always being there.

Greg Nowlan – Vice President

As Vice-President, I served on the Scarborough Players Board and made decisions around the running of our group with the rest of the board.

Other things that I did in support of Scarborough Players:

- Designed posters and flyers and programmes
- made Magnet mementos for all shows
- Master carpenter for the season
- Designed 2 sets
- Drove the truck for load-ins and load-outs
- Served on the TS board as Vice-President and as liaison for theatre repairs and upkeep
- Other small chores along the way

Anthony Jones - Treasurer

As treasurer for Scarborough Players, I was responsible for the payment of all bills and invoices and the depositing of all cheques. In addition, I presented a monthly financial report to each board meeting and a financial report to the Annual General Meeting.

This season I also had the pleasure of creating special props when needed – a printing press and fireworks for *You Can’t Take It with You*, and the recording device in the office of Henry Higgins, for *Pygmalion*.

Teresa Bakker – Board Secretary

I admit to always being nervous about writing these, no matter how often I do them.

I have had another very busy and enjoyable year working with the Scarborough Players Board. I have attended all meetings, submitted the minutes, and collaborated on choosing the next season.

As well as board duties, I’ve helped with the Box Office and Front of House for Theatre Scarborough. I’ve also Stage Managed four shows and am currently training for Producer. My Stage Manager duties included *Barefoot in the Park* with Oshawa Little Theatre, *Tick, Tick, Boom* with Whitby Courthouse Theatre, *Birds and the Bees* with Scarborough Theatre Guild and *Pygmalion* with Scarborough Players. I helped with move-in and move-out days for some of the other Scarborough Theatre productions during the season as well.

I am currently training as Producer with Scarborough Theatre Guild’s version of *The Full Monty* and will be Stage Managing their production of *Witness for the Prosecution*.

Melissa Wood – Membership Coordinator

As the Membership Coordinator for SP this year, my role was to keep track of our members who appear both on the stage and off the stage. Our members bring a myriad of experience that when highlighted, help us to put together names for when we need volunteers for front of house, ushers, catering, marketing, community outreach and auditioning. In return for their membership, our members are rewarded with free admission to SP's final dress rehearsal, free admission to a Players performance when seats are available, half-price opening night tickets for SP, STG and SMT, voting privileges at SP's AGM and more. Membership costs \$20 for Individuals and \$30 for Families that extends from September to June. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the SP Board this past year. Carolyn Williamson will undoubtedly ROCK in this position.

Melissa needs to step away from the Board next year, we thank her for her amazing service and hope she will consider a return in the future. Personally, I would like to thank Melissa for being the Top of Show announcer and 50/50 presenter for *You Can't Take It with You* and *Pygmalion*. Thanks also to Scarlett, her daughter, for all her help.

Catherine Lenihan – Front of House Coordinator

I organized volunteers for three of our shows. Very high caliber of people.

I did have some difficulty getting sufficient numbers in the very cold weather and again in the middle of the summer.

My suggestion is to eliminate the role of Greeter.

Ushers and ticket checkers can do this job, and it eliminates a volunteer for each show = 10 people.

Thank you, Regards,

Catherine also appeared in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and *Pygmalion*. It is always delightful to see Catherine onstage.

Larry Westlake – Marketing and Publicity - Marketeer / Archivist

It's hard to believe that another year has gone by! Four amazing shows and I am pleased and proud to have been involved, in some way, with each of them!

Besides sitting on our Board again and attending our monthly Board Meetings over Zoom, I spent the year keeping up with the archives. I am still scanning anything I find and saving and preserving it on a computer stick. As new photos have arrived for our current shows, I automatically have added them to the proper files. There are just a few more shows to do, but every time I get close to thinking I'm finished, someone sends me more pictures! But I love it! We must keep track of our past so people in the future know how we came to be what and where we are! (if anyone out there has any photos, feel free to get them to me to be scanned)

For the past two shows this season I have created, as part of the lobby display, a video showing pictures and posters from our past. I think it went over well as I heard many positive comments as patrons stood and watched. For the final show I also included THEA Awards and Plaques to show more of our accomplishments. All this has come under the title, and with the help of other Marketeers. We each have worked on our speciality and have used our knowledge to create some great videos and articles. As part of my Marketeer position, I have also designed and mailed out three Patron Newsletters per show over Mail Chimp, where we now have over 1700 names and emails from patrons over the years. I have also created numerous short videos on the various shows this season, for our YouTube Channel. (If you haven't been, go to the Scarborough Players channel with the Black and White logo, then subscribe and give us a big thumbs up!)

In another department, I designed the sound for various productions this season and was nominated for an Act-Co THEA Award for my work on *You Can't Take It with You*.

Last, but not least, I directed the final show of this successful season, *Pygmalion*. What a joy it was directing on that stage again! The cast was amazing, and they worked together well with each bringing their own style to the roles they played. This will go at the top of my list of shows I've directed over the years!

I will be staying on the Board for the 2025-2026 Season. I am filled with excitement to continue with the above jobs as well as to where I can put my energy next!

Alma Sinan - Member at Large – Marketeer, Reading Committee

SP Board: participated in board meetings

Member of SP's Play Reading Committee: read & critiqued plays, attended meetings and Out Louds

Member of SP Marketeers:

- wrote descriptions of the 4 shows for the 2025/2026 season brochure,
- wrote articles for the membership and patron newsletters,
- helped write and edit other items (such as press releases) as requested

Performed as The Grand Duchess Olga in *You Can't Take It with You* (April 2025),

Mrs. Pearce in *Pygmalion* (July 2025), and

Will be performing as Iris in SP's upcoming September 2026 production of *Lunenburg*

Led actor warm-ups at rehearsals and during the run of the April and July shows.

Carolyn Williamson – Member at Large – Marketeer, Improv

This was my tenth year on the board, and my fifth as a Member at Large. It was such a pleasure to work throughout season again (and what a season it was – bravo to all the fantastic casts, crews and volunteers who made it happen!) In addition to my board duties this year, I continued teaching a monthly drop-in improv workshop. Having returned to in-person sessions, it has been such a great experience to see people together again, enjoying each other's company and getting back to object work and moving around in the space. I was surprised to realize just how long we've been doing this, and we celebrated our 100th session on January 31, 2025! Over 30 improv veterans and newbies celebrated with lots of "Yes, and" along with cake and bubbly! We have continued to welcome new participants and kept a steady core of long-timers. If you haven't tried it yet and are curious, please drop me a line at

scarboroughplayersimprov.yesand@gmail.com

This year I also returned to the Director Hiring Committee as Chair and enjoyed the experience of hearing different visions for our season's plays. It was wonderful working with the other committee members and rewarding being a part of the shape of the season to come. I think you're going to love it.

It was also wonderful to be back on stage this year as Rheba, the magical maid in the Sycamore home in our production of *You Can't Take It with You*.

It has been my pleasure to serve the members of the Scarborough Players this season and it would be an honour to continue to do so.

Chip Thompson – Member at Large - Marketeer

During my sixth year on the Scarborough Players Board, I attended all board meetings, took part in the process of selecting the roster of plays for next season, and volunteered to work on Front of House for a few shows. As a member of the Marketeers, I edited press releases and promotional materials. I purchased food and drinks for two Opening Night receptions and assisted in the set up and take down of both events. I took part in several Out Louds and very much enjoyed reading a variety of roles. Finally, I performed on stage in one production this year, playing Reginald, the acerbic butler, in *Screwball Comedy*

Douglas Oak – Member at Large

Douglas, after his experience creating many characters in *Shakespeare in Love*, he joined the Board and hoped to make a difference. Douglas expressed interest in revising our by-laws and constitution. This season Douglas appeared in *The Sound of Music* and continued to audition for Players and others. He also appeared in Whitney Courthouse production of *Tick, Tick, Boom*. It was a very busy year for Players and all our volunteers including Douglas, so it proved difficult for all involved to wrap their heads around our much-needed revisions to our by-laws. We thank Douglas for all his work to start the process. Due to work demands, he will not seek a second year on the Board. We thank Douglas for his service in 2024-2025.

Victoria Badham – Member at Large - Marketeer

Thanks to everyone on the board for a great first year! I have attended monthly board meetings and a couple of outreach events. I also volunteered to assist as ASM for *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* until Cindy (the real ASM 😊) returned. I played the role of Mrs. Kirby in *You Can't Take It with You* (loved this show and cast and crew, thanks Katherine!). Mainly, I've been managing Scarborough Players' Facebook and Instagram accounts, creating videos and other content, sharing videos, updates and stories, and interesting information related to Scarborough Players. Our followers are

growing steadily, and we're just shy of 1,000 followers on Instagram and just over 600 on Facebook. I have also been posting SP shows to Blog T.O. and NowPlaying Toronto.

LOOKING AHEAD

2025-2026 – OUR 67th SEASON!

Lunenburg, A Christmas Story, Good People and Arcadia

We do wonderful work - play a part, join the action – You are a Player!

Just wondering...

How do we motivate more actors – members - to volunteer for Outreach Community Events or Front of House or other non-acting help?

Just wondering...

Do you work for a company that champions community involvement and/or social events, that would support Scarborough Players?

**A great night out and a worthy investment!
Remember, we are registered charity.**

Just wondering...

Do you know of a community organization that might appreciate the opportunity to attend a final dress rehearsal for free along with members?

Just wondering...

Would you be interested in serving on or chairing a social committee to assist with catering for Scarborough Players?

Just wondering...

Would you appreciate a workshop on auditioning?

A workshop on directing?

A workshop on stage managing?

Just wondering...

Do you have suggestions for the playreading committee?

Would you like to serve on the playreading committee?

Just wondering...

Why is being a part of Scarborough Players important to You?

What is a favourite memory?

Please reply to sp@theatrescarborough.com