

ITR Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall 2010

Jitters!

Call 613-860-1291 to reserve your tickets today!

ITR is delighted to put on a play by renowned Canadian playwright David French. This play-within-a-play captures the struggles of a small theatre company trying to open a brand new play when everyone has, well, jitters! The characters and situations go from painfully hilarious to hilariously painful, and no one escapes unscathed.

Read all about it on page 2, then book your tickets right away.

Performances will be October 29th, 30th & November 4th, 5th & 6th at 8:00 pm (doors open at 7:00, except Saturday the 30th, when they open at 6:00 pm for dinner theatre) and October 31st at 2:00 pm for the matinee.

Tickets are \$15 adults and \$13 for students & seniors.

For more information or to subscribe to the newsletter, visit <http://www.itrtheatrecompany.com>

To reserve tickets call **613-860-1291**.

More about Jitters! on page 2

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The Return of... Dinner Theatre!

Dinner theatre returns to ITR!

Back by popular demand, it's the ITR Dinner Theatre! We've got a delicious meal all ready to be served by helpful and courteous wait-staff, so don't miss out! At only \$45 for dinner and a show, you can't miss! Make your reservations today by calling our Box Office at 613-860-1291.



Break-a-Leg Bursary

Every year, ITR offers a bursary to a student from St. Mark High School and one student from Osgoode Township High School, who has enrolled in a post-secondary program in the field of theatrical arts in Canada. Our aim is to encourage the study of the performing arts.

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Jitters!

By Andrea Jermacans

Osgoode's amateur theatre troupe, Isle in the River Review, hits the stage once again this fall with three-act Canadian comedy, Jitters.

After a successful run in the spring with quick-paced farce, *Said the Spider to the Spy*, ITR is ready to take on something a little more serious, though no less funny.

"It's a play about the challenges and relationships that go on when producing a play," explains director Len Trembley.

Set in Toronto during rehearsals for a new production, Jitters gives audiences a candid look at theatre life behind the scenes in a play-within-a-play setting. Written by Canadian playwright David French, Jitters also makes a few pokes at the differences between theatre in Canada versus the United States.

"In the U.S. you think of Broadway. But here, most theatres are not all that profitable," says Trembley. "There's a great line in this play about Canadian theatre, something to the effect of 'Where else can you be a star and still die broke and anonymous?'"

One of those fading stars is Jessica, an actress past her prime who is desperate for a New York producer to take her back to Broadway. Flanking her are Patrick and Phil, her stubborn and talented co-stars, and Robert, the fledgling playwright who wants to see his play succeed as badly as Jessica. Throw in a handful of other colorful characters and soon the determined director, Georgie, finds herself swimming in egos, divas, disasters and drama, all the way up to opening night.

"I don't want to get into too many details because we'll give away the plot," Trembley says mysteriously, hinting that audiences can expect a few surprise twists. "But let's just say it's a comedy. This isn't a farce. A farce is all about doors and timing, this is more about relationships. It's quite true to life of what happens in a real play."

Nothing could be further from the truth. Jitters itself has had its share of drama with a revolving door of producers and a last minute quest for the perfect person to play the role of Tom, a young actor who turns out to be unreliable when the curtain goes up.

"ITR went through a lot of ups and downs trying to find a Tom, so it's pretty appropriate that the character causes similar strife in Jitters," he explains.

All challenges aside, Trembley says his cast is ready to put on a great show.

"We have a very nice range of actors, including two from the drama program at Algonquin College," he says.

Trembley himself is no stranger to theatre and he and his wife, Elaine, have been involved in several ITR productions over the last decade including *Rumours*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Squabbles*, and *Cash on Delivery*. He has also directed two plays for other theatre groups but has had his sights set on Jitters since it ran at the National Arts Centre a few years ago.

"It's worth seeing because it's funny as hell," he smiles. "It's very funny, it's entertaining."

Jitters plays are at 8 p.m. at the Osgoode Community Centre Friday, October 29, Thursday, November 4, Friday November 5, and Saturday November 6. A matinee show will run Sunday, October 31 at 2 p.m. ITR's popular dinner theatre performance will be held Saturday, October 30 at 6 p.m. The buffet dinner features hip of beef and tickets cost \$45. Tickets for all other shows are \$15, for adults and \$13 for students and seniors.

To reserve tickets, call 613-860-1291 and leave a message.

BOX Office
860-1291

Osgoode Medieval Festival

ITR is delighted to report great success with their production of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight at the Osgoode Medieval Festival. It was such a success we hope to do it again next year, so be sure not to miss it, and keep an eye on our website early next summer to try out!

If you will be pursuing theatrical arts education at a post secondary level, please print out and submit the form on our website, or contact ITR by email or mail to have the form sent to you, then take it to you drama teacher or submit it with a copy of your registration for our consideration.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FALL PRODUCTION

OSGOODE COMMUNITY CENTRE 5660 OSOODE MAIN STREET

OCTOBER 29 & NOVEMBER 4, 5 & 6 AT 8 PM

OCTOBER 30 AT 6:00 PM FOR DINNER THEATRE

MATINEE OCTOBER 31 AT 2:00PM

Our annual Fall Production, this year is *Jitters!* Prices for evening performances are: \$15 and \$13 for children. Dinner theatre is \$45 per person. Please call our box office message line to reserve your tickets:

613-860-1291

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE MOVED BACK TO ITS JANUARY DATE. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND. STRONG COMMUNITEE GROUPS MAKE FOR A STRONG COMMUNITEE. EXACT DATE, TIME AND LOCATION TBA.

CHRISTMAS PARADE

OSGOODE MAIN STREET

FIRST WEEKEND IN DECEMBER

We'll be joining in the fun at this year's Christmas Parade. Watch out for flying candy!



OTHER NEWS

AREA DRAMA

There is a ton of high quality amateur theatre in Eastern Ontario. Here are just a few websites to get you started in your exploration of local live theatre:

Dundas County Players: <http://dcplayers.ca/>

The Greely Players: <http://www.greelyplayers.ca>

Kemptville Players: <http://kemptvilleplayers.ca/>

The Russell Association for the Performing Arts – RAPA:

<http://rapa.ncf.ca/>

OTTAWA LITTLE THEATRE'S 70TH ANNUAL ONE ACT NATIONAL PLAYWRITING COMPETITION

Aspiring playwrights! Don't miss the OLT's One act playwriting contest. The original play has to have never been produced before, or have only been produced in 2010. The run time must be under 1 hour. There is a special prize for PLAYS written for children (17 & under). The deadline is October 15th, so don't delay your submission (or else start right away to be ready for next year, since, with that successful history, it looks pretty likely to be coming up again!)

Spring Production

Work on our Spring production has already begun!

ITR is already hard at work putting together our Spring production.

Look for audition information in the new year!

Audition information will be posted on our website early in the new year and ads will appear in local papers, so please keep your eyes peeled for audition dates. Don't forget, we are always looking for crew and front-of-house help, so that's a great time to ask us about that, too! ■

Email us:

itrtheatrecompany@yahoo.ca

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: I am interested in ITR, but I have no acting experience. Can I still be involved?

A: Yes! Many of our members come to us with little or no experience. Part of the charm of community theatre is that everyone is welcome, and every production is a teaching/learning opportunity. Nothing delights us more than having a hand in launching an amateur theatrical career!

Q: I'd like to find out more, but I feel intimidated about coming to the Annual General Meeting. Is there any other way to get information?

A: Absolutely! Email us anytime. We are always happy to answer questions, chat about the organization, and tell you what we are all about. But don't be intimidated by the AGM, either. It's just a quick meeting and a barbeque with some friendly neighbours.

Q: How many plays does ITR do every year?

A: We have one production every spring and another in fall. We also get involve in other events, like being in parades, giving out our 2 bursaries and putting on skits for the Osgoode Medieval Festival.

Q: I'd like to join ITR, but I'm just so busy. Can I be just a bit involved?

A: Of course! Every member is welcome to do as much or as little as they want. For some of us, it is an all-consuming passion and for others it is an interesting little hobby we dabble in. If you want to come sell chocolate bars once a year and see a free play, that's great. If you prefer a little light administrative work, join the executive (we meet a little less than once a month). If you want to try acting, stage managing, technical theatre, directing or producing, come on out! If you are involved in a production, there can be quite a time commitment, depending on what you are doing. We all depend on each other to be reliable, so it is a big decision. But it's also a super fun, sociable and rewarding hobby, and one that will reward you for every ounce of commitment you put into it!

