



Isle in the River Review Theatre Company

2013 in Review

40th Anniversary Gala

2013 was a banner year for ITR. We celebrated our 40th anniversary in April with a gala at the Osgoode Legion. Krista Lang organized a fantastic party and about 85 people came out to eat, drink, dance and be merry. Councillor Thompson joined us to congratulate ITR on its contribution to the local community. Everyone had a great time, and we look forward to the next 40 years!

Two great plays

Our 2013 plays were very different and both were great successes. Our spring play, *Heroes*, told the story of three war veterans reminiscing about their younger years while trading quips and barbs with each other at the nursing home where they were spending their remaining days. Our fall play was a spoof of murder mysteries, complete with British gentry, bumbling police officers, a ditzy daughter and a missing cat. As always, we are grateful to the amazing volunteers who work backstage and onstage and at the front of house. Their efforts and their dedication make ITR possible.

A new executive

We are also grateful to the volunteers who keep ITR going between plays. We elected a new executive in June and it has accomplished a great deal in a short time. We have a statement of values and a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities. We did a total redesign of our website and it just keeps on improving. We refined our online ticketing system to make it easier to use and to pay for tickets in advance, thus reducing line-ups at the door for our shows.

Audience Survey

We conducted a survey of our audience in the fall of 2013 and the results from 182 respondents reassured us that we are doing what most of you like and want. You said you liked comedies best, followed by mysteries and farces, and we will give you more of those as we go forward. As requested by most respondents, we will also continue to offer table seating and a cash bar during our performances, to provide you with a comfortable environment during the show. Congratulations to Heather Martin, who was the lucky winner of two tickets to our spring 2014 show, just for filling in the survey!

President's Award

Every year, ITR honours a volunteer with the President's Award, in recognition of his or her contribution to community theatre. In 2013, as always, there were a number of deserving candidates: an embarrassment of riches. The President's Award was awarded jointly to Davis and Andrea Jermacans for their outstanding work as President and Public Relations officer for ITR.

Spring play

ITR's spring 2014 play (April 24-26 and May 2-4) will be "Here on the Flight Path", written by Norm Foster and directed by André Dimitrijevic:

Set on adjoining balconies in an apartment building very near a major airport, the play follows John Cummings, a recently divorced journalist, as he interacts with three women - Fay, Angel, and Gwen - who become his neighbours over a three and a half year period. Over the length of the play, John gets to know all three women by trading quips across the shared balcony, and while he doesn't always get lucky, he learns a lot about himself in the process. Hilarious and, at times, touching, "Here on the Flight Path" is one of Norm Foster's best-loved works.



**Looking forward
to 2014**

The play has been cast and rehearsals are underway. Please visit our website, <http://www.itrtheatre.com>, for more information about the play and to buy your tickets. Tickets will go on sale for ITR Patrons on March 1st and for the general public on March 15th.

Fall play

In November, ITR will present Robert Harling's "Steel Magnolias", the often funny and also touching story of true friendship between six women. More information to follow as the year goes on...

ITR Patronships

Being a patron of ITR is a win-win situation. For ITR, the ongoing support from our patrons allows us to continue producing plays with a sense of stability and security. For our patrons, the satisfaction of supporting community theatre is bolstered by a tax-deductible receipt (ITR is a registered charity) and front-of-the-line reservation privileges.

ITR recently revised our patron levels and benefits. They are described in full on our website at <http://www.itrtheatre.com> and follow the links to the Patrons page. One of our long-standing patrons, Betty O'Malley, recently went to the website, saw the new patron information and took the initiative to renew her patronship for 2014 even before we asked. In her own words:

"I have noticed an increase in the membership fee this year but it is all worth the extra money. So this is to pay my Gold Membership. Thanks and have a wonderful day."

Betty really made our day, and we hope others will follow her lead!

We currently have 21 patrons and our target is to increase that number by 50% in 2014. If you are an ITR patron already, please renew and consider increasing your patronship level. Please also help us meet our target by encouraging your friends to become patrons too. If you are not yet an ITR patron but have enjoyed our shows in the past, please become a patron and help us ensure that we can keep entertaining you with high-quality community theatre in years to come.

ITR Sponsors

In addition to patronships for individuals, we are offering local businesses the opportunity to support ITR by sponsoring performances of our spring and fall shows. Sponsors can support ITR in cash or in kind. Benefits to sponsors will be tailored individually and will be consistent with the level of sponsorship. For more information, please contact president@itrtheatre.com .

The executive of ITR wishes you and yours a happy, healthy year in 2014 and for many years to come!