



## ITR Fall Newsletter 2023

It has been an incredible 50th year so far for ITR Theatre and we have so much to celebrate! I am pleased to share that at our Annual General Meeting we had a number of current board members acclaimed to their current roles, with the exception of Catherine Potts-Halpin who is stepping down as Secretary (but remains on the Board as a Director at Large) and is being replaced by Helen Visbach, formerly Past President. We are also welcoming some new Directors at Large to the Board - Kim Blanche, Vivian Beck and Daniel Bourget have all joined us and will help to make the next season of ITR Theatre the best it can be. Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting and to all those who give so generously of your time.

Speaking of giving generously - I also wanted to note that Presidents' Award, which is to be awarded by the President to anyone they deem to have contributed substantially to ITR's success of the prior year, was awarded to the 3 key members of the 50th Anniversary Committee - Sheila Dubyk, Helen Visbach and Krista Lang. These 3 women have worked tirelessly over more than a year of planning to ensure that we truly bring the community together in celebration of ITR's phenomenal achievement of 50 years of community theatre. Additionally, the Board made the decision to award our very prestigious Honorary Patron status to Wayne Hall. Wayne has supported ITR for many years in multiple ways - but many of you know him as our long time Box Office Manager who has ensured that every single patron is well taken care of. Wayne, we can't thank you enough for your contributions!

What a year it has been! In early March we had *Death by Denouement*, our Murder Mystery written especially for ITR by Mary Jane Maffini which was sold out in a matter of days for both performances. Our spring Production of *The One Act Play that Goes Wrong* had audiences in stitches with some of the antics - and duly impressed with the set which had to fall down for each performance. We then celebrated ITR's incredible 50 year legacy with

The Way We Were and it was such a joy to welcome so many of our alumni back to the stage to reprise original roles - as well as to see some of our newcomers step in where needed.

Most recently we held the first ever Community Theatre Expo with sister theatre companies across and outside of Ottawa. This event was both educational and fun, helping to share the joys of theatre and mastery of theatre related skills. We are also preparing for our Fall Production Staff Room, as well as ITR's entry into the Eastern Ontario Drama League's One Act Play Festival which will take place in Kemptville.

ITR is busier than ever, which is wonderful. This also means that there are lots of jobs to be done and support that is needed from our broad community. We are in need of people to support in every way - whether it is involvement in the shows themselves, both on and off stage or involvement in running ITR in terms of the Board. If you love ITR, and want to see it continue to flourish and provide quality theatre in the community, we implore you to consider stepping up in some small way. For more information on how you can help, please contact me directly at [basquejorie@gmail.com](mailto:basquejorie@gmail.com).

## Spring 2023 SHOW

### The One Act Play that Goes Wrong



(From left to right: Jasmin Churchill, Connor Ibach, Rachel Slevin, Shauna Akkermans, Stuart Brink, Robin Churchill, Jorie Basque and Dominic Churchill)

Our Spring production, The One Act Play That Goes Wrong was a monumental undertaking and if not for the fearless leadership and engineering talents of our director Len Trembley this show would likely never have happened. As it turned out, it was a lot of fun for cast, crew and audience alike and many marveled at the 'tricks' that had props and set pieces falling and then resurrected on a nightly basis. We were proud to have some new members in key roles with this production; Jeanne Currie was our producer extraordinaire who took on this very large task with true dedication and Nicki Demers stepped up to Stage Manager with

absolutely no backstage experience and did a wonderful job ensuring that everything backstage ran smoothly in spite of the difficulties of a production with so many technical aspects. Our Front of House Manager Roos Spanjers was also brand new to ITR and did a wonderful job ensuring that our Front of House ran smoothly.

## The Way We Were

On June 10th, members of ITR past and present gathered to present and to watch an incredible tribute to ITR's 50 years. To say that we laughed and we cried was an understatement - this phenomenal production brought together some of the best scenes from plays from each of the 5 decades. The show was a resounding success and exactly the reunion it was intended to be. A huge thanks to everyone who had a hand in making this happen, especially the 50th Anniversary Committee made up of Krista Lang, Helen Visbach and Sheila Dubyk. It should also be noted that between this event and Death by Denouement Murder Mystery, we will be able to donate over \$1,500 to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.



## The Community Theatre Expo

We have been blessed over the years to have many sister community theatre companies with whom we partner in some way. We see each others' shows, we lend each other costumes or set pieces, we cross promote each other's auditions. These organizations came together to share our love of theatre in what we hope will be the first annual Community Theatre Expo on Saturday, September 10th at our very own Stuart Holmes Arena. This was a wonderful one day event which saw booths hosted by the different groups with activities and information as well as a list of workshops put on throughout the day. Thanks to all who participated!

## Fall 2022 SHOW

### Staff Room by Joan Burrows

Selecting plays for ITR is a daunting task. We are blessed to have a Reading Committee with volunteers who read and evaluate dozens of plays each year. Then the evaluations and recommendations are sent to the ITR Board for review and selection. The suggestions for scripts come from various sources, including the Directors themselves. Staff Room was suggested by Andre Dmitrijevic and then the script was evaluated by the reading committee.

who loved it but felt it was a bit dated. We approached the playwright - Joan Burrows and as it happens, she had been interested in updating the material anyway. We are excited to be putting on the first production of the updated version of Staff Room and rumour has it that Ms. Burrows herself may attend a production!

The setting is a staff room wherein a series of 16 scenes occur that might occur in any high school staff room. Some are comic and some poignant and some a combination of both.

**Tickets for Staff Room by Joan Burrows, directed by Andre Dimitrijevic will go on sale the week of October 16th with performances running the weekend of November 24th and the weekend of December 1st. We will once again be offering dinner theatre on Saturday, Nov. 25th. The dinner will be catered by [Lolacher Catering](#) who did a wonderful job catering Death By Denouement, our recent Murder Mystery Production.**



## **ITR's Submission to the Eastern Ontario Drama League One Act Play Festival - You Have New Relatives by Mary Jane Maffini**

Many of you will recall that in the fall of 2022 we were finally able to hold our much anticipated Playwriting Workshop. This workshop was incredibly successful, producing several fantastic One Act Plays written by participants. When the workshop was first introduced, it was agreed that any of the playwrights from the workshop would have the opportunity to submit their plays to the Board of ITR for consideration as ITR's submission in the Eastern Ontario Drama League's One Act Play Festival to be held in Kemptonville, hosted by our friends the North Grenville Community Theatre.

The Board had an incredibly difficult decision with so many wonderful plays, and in the end were thrilled to select You Have New Relatives which was submitted by Mary Jane Maffini. The EODL One Act Play Festival will take place the first weekend in November at the Municipal Centre in Kemptonville. It will be an opportunity to see not only ITR's submission, but a total of 9 One Act Plays from Community Theatre Groups around Eastern Ontario performed over 3 sessions, Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and Saturday evening. Head to <https://www.itrtheatre.com/shows> for more information on how to get tickets.

## **FINAL WORDS**

Having just held our Annual General Meeting, it is a good time to take stock of how blessed we are to operate in a community that is so supportive of community theatre. During this banner year, I have had the opportunity to meet some of the people who were involved with

ITR for decades and whose legacy we carry on to this day. We should be so proud of who ITR is and the joy we bring to our audiences. We also need to respect and appreciate the work that it takes to keep a volunteer organization going.

I was recently made aware that the Community Theatre in Cornwall had disbanded. I know nothing of why this happened but it served as a reminder that what we have here with ITR is precious and that we all need to do everything in our power to keep that legacy alive. Our patrons, sponsors, volunteers and audience members enable ITR to exist - if you would like to support us in any way, we are always happy to welcome contributions - please see our website or contact me directly should you have any questions.

Thank you for all of your continued support and patronage.

*Jorie Basque*

President, ITR Theatre