
The RMT

News

MAY 2008

runawaymoon.org

Runaway
MOON
theatre

Be A Part Of The Spring Planting Spectacle

IT'S EASY, IT'S FUN AND WE FEED YOU!!!

Spring is here and Runaway Moon Theatre is in the middle of preparing for a spring spectacle celebrating our release from winter, the land's return to growing, and the beauty of the season.

Peruvian musician Rene Hugo Sanchez will share his music and some of his high Andean planting traditions with participants, and there will be singing, simple dances, music, and a chorus of blossom children.

This outdoor spring planting celebration will take place on Sunday, May 11th, Mother's Day, at 2 pm at Curly



Willow Farm in Grindrod.

We are again offering an opportunity for you to be part of any aspect of the event. There is a part for everyone, kids and adults, whatever your level of experience! Rehearsals will take place the week-

end of May 3rd, with a dress rehearsal on May 10th. There will also be opportunities to help make costumes, masks and props. Snacks will be provided on rehearsal days. To sign up or find out more please call 838-0883 with your contact information, or email to

runmoon@jetstream.net. We'd love you to be a part of this experience!

Out in the Cold Wintery Celebration A Success

Holding an outdoor performance is one thing, but in the middle of the winter is quite another! Fortunately, the

weather cooperated (not too cold, no snow) and the 7 pm show went off without a hitch.

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(Out In The Cold Wintery Celebration — Continued from page 1)



The audience received hot baked potato hand warmers at the Gazebo and moved to the performance circle by the river in a procession lit by apple lanterns. They met frozen skiers and a scary ice lady along the way and enjoyed a chorus of thawing people spouting winter poetry, children's snow games (including dog tricks), a snowman dance and a magical shadow play inspired by farmer's dreams of spring. Snow angels



played in the fields of snow, and the pathway sparkled with snow lanterns.

All in all, a special evening out celebrating the intersection of the cold season with the foods that keep.

A Lot On Your Plate - Summer Spectacle - This July 19th

Keep an eye out for the last installment of our full cycle of seasonal spectacles, called A Lot on Your Plate. Set to be performed the weekend of July 19th at Curly Willow Farm, this event will tie together all the previous spectacles and art pieces into one glorious celebration of the food that we grow here all year round.



Varrick Grimes will direct once again (he directed Open Air in 2005), and we'll be starting our three week rehearsal process with a mask workshop for those interested in delving a bit deeper into a specific skill. We're also looking for participants who are interested in helping to create some mini puppet shows that will be integrated into the larger spectacle. Keep your eyes open in the last half of June for our call to participate.

Peony Tea on June 15th

This year's Peony Tea, Runaway Moon Theatre's major fundraiser, will be held on Father's Day, Sunday, June 15th, from 1-4 pm. This event just gets better each time, and this year will feature (of course), a field full of peonies for the picking, plenty of live music and a silent auction with great deals on lots of goods and services. Last year, items included locally milled birch flooring, garage shop time, plants and flower baskets and gift certificates for many supportive local businesses.



You can also be a part of our Food for Thought project (for the first time, or again) by contributing to a fabulous "transparent" art piece about spring greens. Come out to the farm and celebrate the season with us!

MEMBERSHIPS

Runaway Moon memberships are now due! In order to receive gratitude, good wishes and continuing great theatre, please take a moment to fill out the form at the end of the newsletter and send it in to us with your payment.

Upcoming Events — Dates To Remember

May 11 - Spring Planting Spectacle

June 15 - Peony Tea

July 19 — Summer Spectacle

Kernel Of Truth Harvest Spectacle — Thank You

Our first seasonal spectacle was a treat for both participants AND audience who made it out to Curly Willow on a threatening late September Sunday. Each audience member wrote a "kernel of truth" (something you know for sure) and inserted it into a kernel which they then brought with them to the performance circle in the field. Along the way they encountered farmers, a water lady and the sun.



corn folk on stilts, everyone was invited to put their kernel back on to the cob.



The circle of corn and sunflowers was the container for a number of different scenes -



from the fire dance performed by 10 small dancers, to the water ceremony, to the weaving of the giant vegetable ribbons. A group of singers and musicians hidden in the corn provided beautiful music and when the giant cob entered accompanied by a chorus of

Afterwards, back at the puppet museum, cast and audience

enjoyed soup and cornbread prepared by Uschi Eder. Almost 75 participated as performers, musicians, makers of things and minders of children. Special thanks to Camille Martens for her leadership in organizing the ribbon weaving!

Apple Beading

Led by Splats'in artist Marie Thomas, an apple beading workshop with food was held at the Band Hall on two successive Sundays starting November 25. A small but enthusiastic group gathered to make beaded apples and leaves and enjoy delicious apple themed food such as soup, muffins and crisp prepared by Lisa Sterritt. We'll be sewing

all the apples and leaves into a tree to create a ceremonial piece of clothing that can be used in one of our spectacles.



Theseus and the Minotaur

And now for something completely different! For one week in February, nine artists gathered at Curly Willow Farm to share skills and inspirations, and begin work on bringing the Greek myth of Theseus and the Minotaur to life as a Runaway Moon Theatre show.

Each person in the group gave a workshop to everyone else in something like mask, puppet making, movement and design - for two days immersing themselves in learning new things and having a blast! On the third day everyone shared their research into the myth and its characters, the historical time period, place and other inspirational images. Then director Varrick Grimes divided the story into six scenes, the artists into six groups, and everyone got to work on creating their scene.

In order to keep some consistency throughout, every group had to fulfill certain requirements, such as; use a poem, use a song, use mask, but otherwise was completely free to come up with whatever style, characters or approach they were interested in.

After two days, an invited audience of about 25 got to see the results. They were led all around the farm and buildings (each scene took place in a different location), witnessed an aerial love duet, a rap song between the king and his son, the murder of a pitiful minotaur by a puppet one-tenth his size, and a hypnotically beautiful corridor puppet show.

We're very excited about what we came up with, and look forward to continuing to develop the material - right now, we're looking at a production early in 2009.



Thanks Joani!

Many, many thanks to Joani Cowan who has been a Runaway Moon supporter from the beginning. She takes many of the beautiful photos you see of our various events, and has never hesitated to help in any way she can!

You might have seen us at...

Salmon Arm Fall Fair
Band Hall
Salmon Arm Art Gallery
(thanks to SDAC!)
Leah's Place
Kingfisher Hall
Curly Willow Farm



Meet Our Volunteers — Donlea McCombs

Donlea McCombs has been an active volunteer for Runaway Moon almost since its inception. We are lucky to have someone we can call on to handle whatever gap we might have - front of house, ticket sales, volunteer coordinator, concession stand, parking guide and production help - and to do it with such flexibility and finesse.

Donlea is also a longtime volunteer for the Enderby and District Resource Centre Society and Family Place, our local young family support group. She is proud to point out that she is from Mars, since she was born and raised in Mars, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh. But Mars' loss is Enderby and Canada's gain, as she has been happily settled in Enderby and area for thirty years, enough time to raise two wonderful daughters, Amanda and Kelsie. A proud Canadian citizen, she says she is a born again Canadian. She now shares her life with Ken Jones and Simba, the cat. She is a practicing therapeutic masseuse, herbalist, and alternate healer.

Donlea says she has great respect and admiration for Cathy Stubington and the actors who give so much of themselves for each magical production, and that it is a privilege to work for, and with, them.

We say, thanks so very much Donlea!

Membership / Volunteering / Donations

Don't forget to renew **your annual \$10 membership** to help support our community plays and our one of a kind professional theatre productions. This will ensure you will continue to receive our newsletters and notices, and helps demonstrate our community support to our funders.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN/CITY & POSTAL CODE: _____

TELEPHONE & EMAIL: _____

- I prefer to receive my newsletter via email (Adobe PDF)
- I would like to volunteer for:
 - Concession
 - Parking Guide
 - Front of House
 - Transport
 - Production (Cleanup, Painting, Setup, Takedown, etc)
 - Other _____
- I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to Runaway Moon Theatre. Donations are greatly appreciated, and we will issue an official tax receipt for any donations over \$25.



Runaway Moon Theatre Board

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