

Misery comes to Fort St. John

FORT ST. JOHN — A Stephen King creation will come alive in Fort St. John this fall, just in time for Halloween.

Misery, a horror drama production put on by two local theatre groups, will bring "your worst nightmares into living colour" beginning Oct. 26, said a news release.

Not-Quite-a-Theatre Company and Stage North warn that the adult and violent content is not for the weak of heart, as the production explores the dark side of love and obsession.

Locals Laura Doray and Gilles Francoeur play the lead characters, last seen in local productions Steel Magnolias and Noises Off, respectively.

Director Michael Sawatzky had nothing but praise for the pair.

"Both Gilles and Laura have a real sense of the characters," Sawatzky said.

On Oct. 26, every audience member will receive a vial of stage blood and the recipe to make the blood, as part of the show's opening. Tickets are available at the North Peace Cultural Centre.



contributed photo

Annie Wilkes, played by Laura Doray, demonstrates how far she will go to keep Paul Sheldon, played by Gilles Francoeur, in her care in the horror drama Misery.



LAST MINUTE PREPARATIONS

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Gerald Gauthier photo

It will be a weekend of Stage North this Friday and Saturday when the local theatre company presents two plays. Shown here Chelsea McPeake, left, Blair Scott, Dave Eaton and Sarah Brown practice for their Friday evening performance of "The Melville Boys". On Saturday Randolph Smyth, Laura Dora, Michael Odowichuk, Dave Batterham, Larry Evans and Josue Laboucaine star in "Frog Galliard". Both shows will be presented at the cultural centre and show time each night is 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10.50 and are available at the cultural centre box office.

Festival offers g

By DONNA LESSARD

From March 28 to April 2, the Peace River Zone Theatre Festival will be held in Fort St. John at the Cultural Centre.

The festival offers audiences a number of local productions, a theatre forum, an awards ceremony and a closing reception.

There will also be a Directors Workshop offered to potential directors of live theatre productions. John Cooper, who is the adjudicator for the festival will be the instructor for this workshop which will take place on Saturday, March 31 from 1 to 5 p.m. If you would be interested in registering for this workshop you can call Sue Popesku at 785-6214.

Stage North Theatre Society will be offering two productions during the festival and will also be showing them the week before the festival. Back by popular demand is the production "The Melville Boys" which is directed by Blair Scott. The show is about two brothers who embark on a "guys" weekend of hunting and fishing at a lakeshore cabin. Enter some women into the picture and you have a weekend of dance, card

games, bedroom games, too many beers, a few laughs and a few tears.

Owen Melville is played by Blair Scott, Lee Melville by Dave Eaton, Mary is played by Terry Boyle and Loretta is played by Chelsea McPeake. "The Melville Boys" will be playing at the Cultural Centre on Friday, March 24 and Friday March 31, so if you didn't catch this one last time, make sure to get your tickets this time around for a great show.

The second production by Stage North is called "The Frog Galliard" and is an Elizabethan comedy by Vancouver playwright Christopher Dafoe. Local June Ainsworth is directing this production about an Elizabethan poet who is on his death bed. The cast includes former "ugly sisters" Larry Evans as the gold thieving priest and David Batterham as a pipe playing Scotsman. Newcomer to Stage North, Randolph Smyths plays a dying poet who pleads with all his friends to keep Shakespeare out of his house - he is afraid that Shakespeare will steal his manuscripts after his death!

great local productions

MAR 2000

Laura Dora plays the poets housekeeper who does her best to keep Shakespeare out of the house. Shakespeare is played by the dynamic Josue Laboucane who then proceeds to produce a "fitting" death scene for the poet with help from the confused but enthusiastic doctor played by Michael Odowichuk. The whole cast is kept under control by stage manager Alissa Roode and the show is produced by Vivian Capsall and Sue Popesku. This show can be seen on Saturday, March 25 and Tuesday March 28. Show times are at 8:00 p.m.

Some of the other shows that will be offered at the Zone Theatre Festival are; "Cold Storage" by the Bridge to Broadway Theatre Group about two men who face issues of living and dying. This show will be playing on Wednesday, March 29 at 8 p.m.

The North Peace Secondary School Drama Class has also entered a production entitled, "The Insanity of Mary Girard".

In 1970, when Mary Girard was put into an asylum by her husband, she is teased and tormented by the Furies. She is forced to look

inside of herself and prove that she is not insane. However, the further she searches, the further she sinks into insanity. This show will be seen on Thursday March 30 at 8 p.m.

As well, local playwright Cynthia Livingstone, who brought us "Last of the Big Inch", has entered a monologue called "Archie" which looks at a forgotten WW1 veteran who is haunted by his war experiences and plagued by incontinence, stripped of autonomy and whose sole joy in life is to head to the Legion for a pitcher of draft. This is part of a play to commemorate the armed conflicts in which Canada has taken part. This show can be seen on Saturday, April 1 at 7 p.m.

At the Awards Ceremony on Saturday April 1 at 8:30 p.m., one of the Mainstage plays may be chosen to represent the Peace

River Zone at Mainstage 2000 in Delta in early July. After awards are handed out, both audience members and festival participants will be invited to the Closing Reception in the loft at the Cultural Centre.

If you would like to take part in this festival, you can buy individual evening tickets or a festival pass for all shows. The cost of the pass (for all five evenings) is \$35 for adults and \$25 for students and seniors. You can call 785-1992 for tickets or registration will be open from 6-8 pm on Tuesday, March 28 at the ticket office.

"The Frog Galliard" and "The Melville Boys" will be available to audiences the week prior to the festival, so make sure to catch these two wonderful local performances at the North Peace Cultural Centre on March 24 and 25 at 8 p.m.

Getting ready for show time

Right: Local actors rehearse for their part in "The Frog Galliard".

"The Frog Galliard" is an Elizabethan comedy, sure to delight audiences. Local talent from Stage North Theatre Society will be on stage for this production at the Peace River Zone Theatre Festival and on Saturday, March 25 at the Cultural Centre. Make sure to catch this one!



Laughter and tears

Left: Stage North actors Dave Eaton and Sarah Brown rehearse for "The Melville Boys" which will be playing at the Peace River Zone Theatre Festival and on Friday, March 24 at the Cultural Centre.

This production was enjoyed by local audiences last year and is sure to once again entertain.

- photos by Donna Lessard



Present

2000

Stage North

and

A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WHO ARE

NOT

MISERY

*Based on a novel by Stephen King
Written by Simon Moore*

**October 26th, 27th, and 28th
November 2nd, 3rd, and 4th**

Caution: Adult and Violent Content

Tickets \$15⁰⁰

*Available at the North Peace Cultural Centre Box Office
785-1992 or 1-877-785-1992*



MISERY

Oct 2000

Sue Popesku photo

The Stephen King story *Misery* opens at the North Peace Cultural Centre Oct. 26. The tale of a disturbed housemaid, played by Annie Wilkes, who nurses her favourite author, played by Gilles Francoeur, runs Oct. 26 - 28 and Nov. 2 - 4. Tickets are available at the Cultural Centre – also, check out the Steven King display at the Public Library.