

Stage North Presents



# CHICAGO

THE MUSICAL

Book by

FRED EBB & BOB FOSSE

Music by

JOHN KANDER

Lyrics by

FRED EBB

Based on the play CHICAGO by Maurine Dallas Watkins

DIRECTED by Jenn Strachan  
CHOREOGRAPHY by Emry Mika

*In this town,  
murder is a form of  
entertainment*

*DJP*



**October 29, 30, November 4, 5, 6**

North Peace Cultural Centre at 7:30pm

Adults \$25 Students and Seniors \$20 Children \$15

Tickets available at the NPCC Box Office or online at [tickets.npcc.bc.ca](http://tickets.npcc.bc.ca)

Chicago is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

27506



Alaska Highway News



*Oct 27, 2010*



Theatre *Nov 1, 2010*

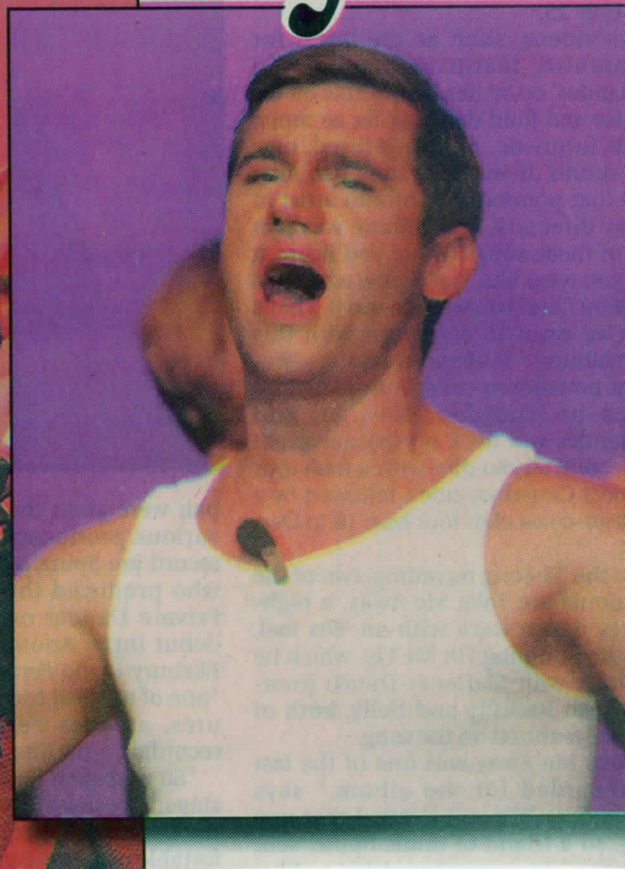
# THAT'S CHICAGO, BABY!

Check out the photos display  
from Stage North's Chicago

See **COMMUNITY**  
page B1

*DUP*

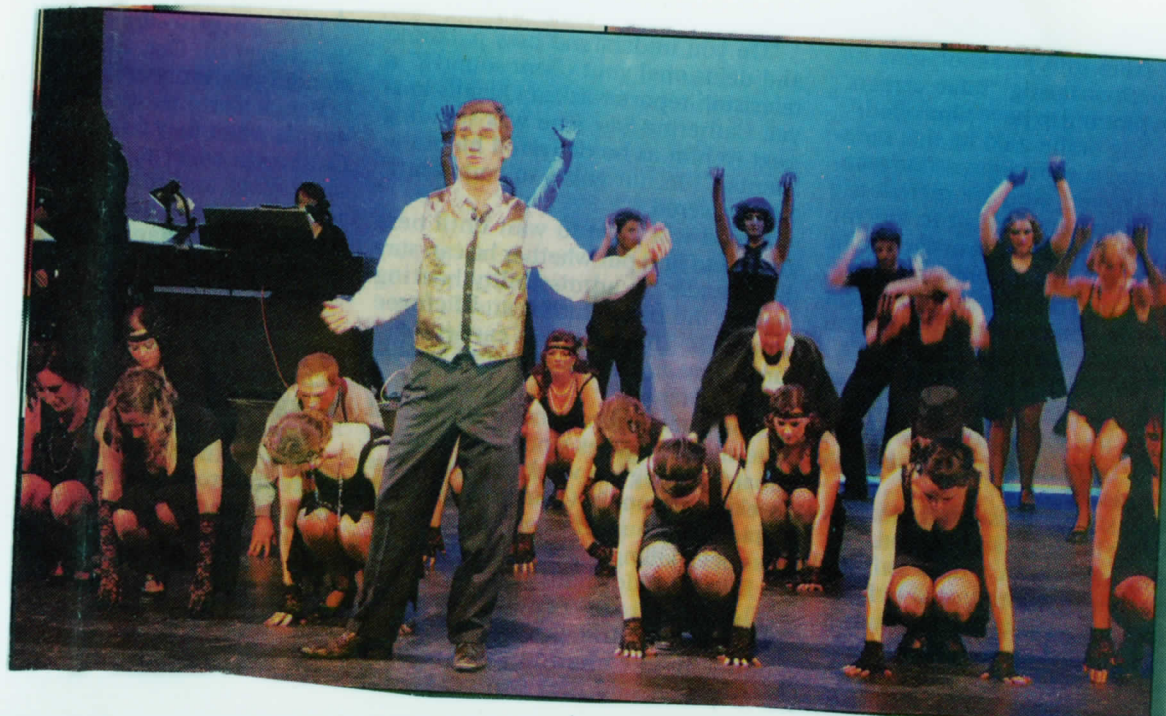
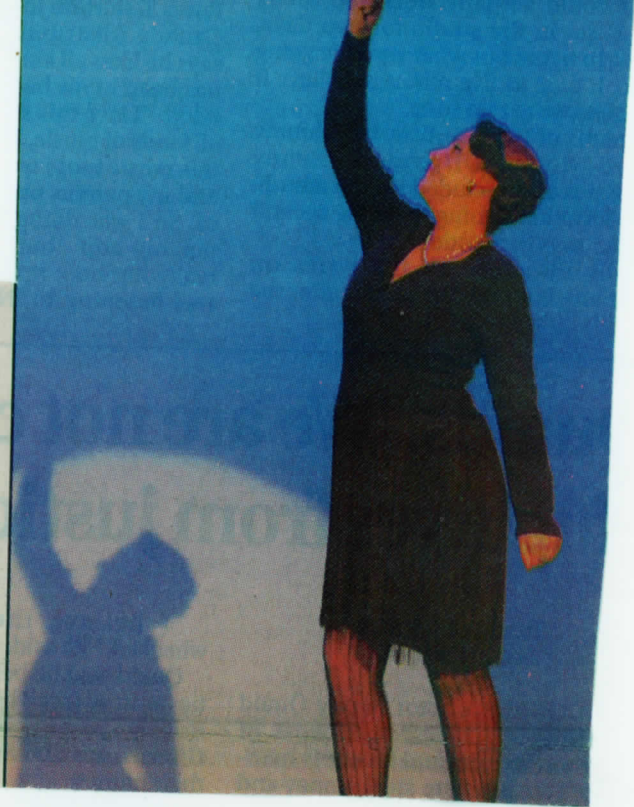
# That's Chicago, baby



4/28



Stage North opened its new theatre season on Oct. 29 and 30 with an all-singing, all-dancing performance of Chicago at the North Peace Cultural Centre. The actors have been working since June to master the choreography and songs as well as their lines. There's still time to see the show on Nov. 4, 5 and 6. Call the North Peace Cultural Centre at 250-787-1992 for more information. (Aleisha Hendry Photos)





Oct 22, 2010

27513

Stage North Theatre Society

Stage North Theatre Society

Presents

# THE BIG TICKET

6 shows of enormous proportions

Chicago The Musical ● Improv Dinner Theatre  
Miracle on 34th Street ● Pink Panther Strikes Again  
Oscar Night on the Big Screen ● Kingfisher Days

**Season Tickets now available at the  
North Peace Cultural Centre**



\$129.00

Regular \$175 when purchased separately

(250) 785-1992

ADP

# Stage North ready for another season

ALEISHA HENDRY  
Staff Writer

Theatre lovers of Fort St. John have something to look forward to as Stage North launches another season of music, laughter and drama.

This year the local award-winning theatre company is showing four plays, plus an improv dinner theatre evening and the Oscar Night On The Big Screen event.

Stage North President Dale Hillman is looking forward to the upcoming season.

"It's very exciting. A lot of energy is flowing, especially with Chicago," he said. "It's going to be a great season."

The first play of the season at the end of October is the musical Chicago, and with a 40-person cast, who all need to learn choreography and a whole playlist of songs, it's going to be quite a production, said Hillman.

Director Jen Strachen has been actively engaged in putting Chicago together since January, securing the rights to the production, then holding auditions in June, and working on getting the choreography and music down pat – as well as the actor's lines

on top of that.

"Chicago is really what they call a triple-threat show. You have to be able to act, sing and dance – and you have to be really good at all three if you want a good role in it," laughed Strachen after rehearsal on Wednesday night.

Also in November, Stage North's improvisational acting group, Spontaneous Combustion, is back with another dinner theatre evening, and Hillman said he's impressed with how far the group has come.

The Christmas/New Year's production this year will be Miracle on 34th Street, sticking with the family-friendly, lighthearted theme the company usually follows during that time of year.

In February they will be putting their mystery-solving – and comedic – skills to the test with Pink Panther Strikes Again, in addition to laying out the red carpet for Oscar Night on the Big Screen.

The last production of the season will be Kingfisher Days, which will be entered in the Peace River Zone Theatre Festival in May.

•SEE THE SHOW ON A3

DUP

Sept 10, 20

## Stage North 2010-11 Theatre Season

CHICAGO

Oct. 30-31 and Nov. 4-6

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION  
SNOW FOLLIES IMPROV DINNER  
THEATRE

Nov. 19

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

Dec. 29-31

PINK PANTHER STRIKES AGAIN

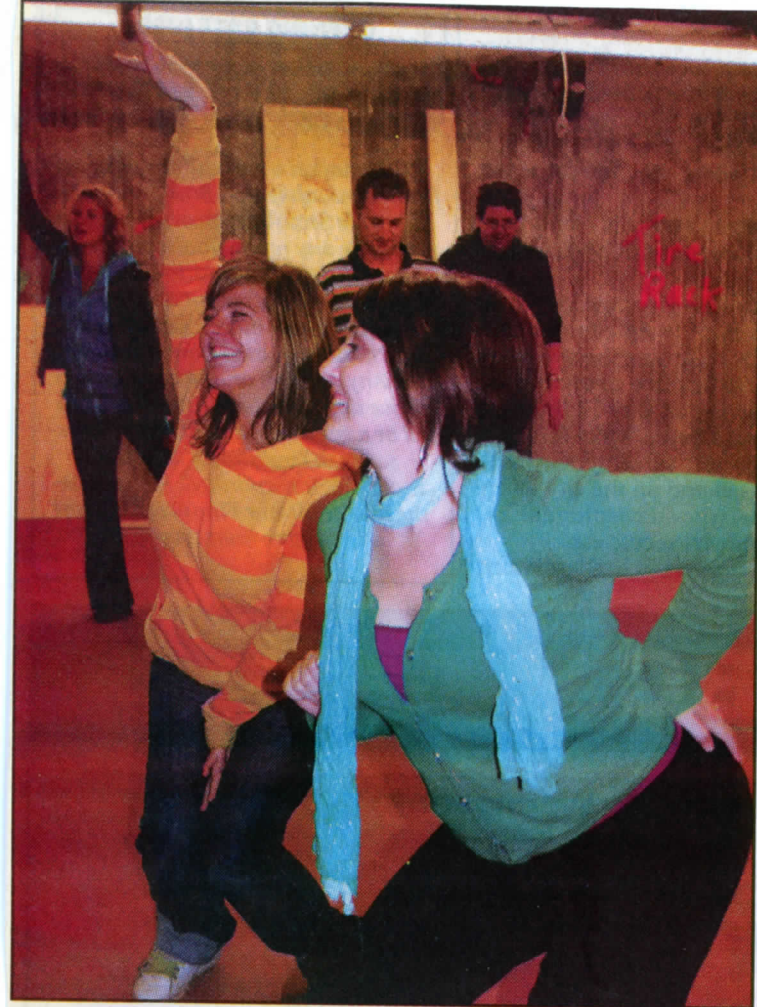
Feb. 18-19 and 24-26

OSCAR NIGHT ON  
THE BIG SCREEN

Feb. 27

KINGFISHER DAYS

April 29-30 and May 5-7



ALEISHA HENDRY PHOTO

A small portion of the 40-person cast of the Stage North production of Chicago practice their choreography during rehearsal on Wednesday night.

WS

POP

# The show can go on thanks to Stage North's new location

CONT. FROM A1

Stage North has faced a few hardships this year, having lost their long-time rehearsal space several months ago and hunting for a new location they could afford.

Luckily, they have found a new space in the basement of the old Co-Op Mall, which Hillman said is working out better than he expected.

"It's actually working out quite well. We did manage to get all of our props and set pieces and everything we had in there," he said. "It's not nearly as big as what we

had before – it has lower ceilings so we're kind of restricted in what we can do for height, but it's working out very well for us. We're quite pleased at this point."

Stage North is holding auditions for *Miracle* on 34th Street, *Pink Panther Strikes Again* and *Kingfisher Days* on Saturday and Sunday from 12 to 4 p.m. at the North Peace Cultural Centre. Hillman noted that anyone who might be a bit shy about being on stage can also put their name in for the behind-the-scenes aspect of theatre, such as set design, lighting and costumes.



# CHICAGO

THE MUSICAL

## OPEN AUDITIONS on June 19

at the North Peace Cultural Centre 10015 100 Ave 10am to 4pm

*Stage North is seeking dancers, singers and actors for this well-known Broadway Musical set in 1920 in Chicago.*

**Callbacks June 26**

Performance Dates are October 29, 30, November 4, 5, 6, 2010

Director Jenn Strachan      Choreographer Emry Mika

### STAGE NORTH THEATRE SOCIETY

**Contact:** Sue Popesku Executive Director 1-250-785-6214 [spopesku@shaw.ca](mailto:spopesku@shaw.ca)

**Rehearsal Space:** 9916 97 Avenue **email:** [stagenorth@stagenorth.ca](mailto:stagenorth@stagenorth.ca) **www.**[stagenorth.ca](http://www.stagenorth.ca)

**Mailing Address:** Box 33, 9420 93 Avenue, Fort St. John, BC V1J 6W7



2010

DJP



# REVIVING THE THEATRE SPIRIT

BY SUE POPESKU

THEATRE REVIVING THE SPIRIT

Three years after the Ocean Ranger sank off the coast of Newfoundland, Majorie Clifford converses with her late husband who lost his life in the disaster along with 82 other oilmen. It is Valentine's Day and Marjorie is ready to move on with her life but must first put Harry's memory to rest. Canadian playwright Joan MacLeod wrote this story in a one-woman play called "Jewel". Joan MacLeod set the play in a trailer park in Fort St. John.

Hudson's Hopes community theatre company, Reviving the Spirit, is touring "Jewel" to Chetwynd on June 12. Producer of "Jewel" and President of Reviving the Spirit, Steve Metzger said, "Our aim is to extend the theatre experience. The show was well received in Hudson's Hope at the end of May and we feel that the Chetwynd audience may enjoy it as well."

Reviving the Spirit has been successful in Hudson's Hope providing unique theatre experiences at the Pearkes Centre. Reviving the Spirit provides tantalizing theatre treats such as Dessert Theatre which has become a trademark of the small, but mighty, theatre company. Each Fall the company pairs up with the Women's Club and produces a theatre performance with dessert or appetisers, an event that always packs in the crowd.

Reviving the Spirit was aptly named four years ago when a few residents lit up the stage with local actors for the first time since 1987. The company's first appearance was a showcase produced by Greta Goddard for the regional audiences of the Peace River Zone Theatre Festival held in Hudson's Hope in 2006. Since then, Reviving the Spirit has partnered with Stage North of Fort St. John for an exchange performance in each of the communities. A small

group of six people are the driving force behind Reviving the Spirit but the audiences are growing each year with more people from the surrounding communities attending the productions.

"Jewel" will play on June 12 at the Chetwynd Secondary School Theatre at 7pm. Tickets are \$18. The play is a one-act performed by accomplished actress and teacher, Liza Rhymmer. Director Grace Okada said, "Liza has a demanding role. She portrays Majorie with the skill of a seasoned actress and the compassion of a woman who has suffered great loss."

Liza was born and raised in Hudson's Hope. She returned in 2007 to teach drama and musical theatre at Dr. Kearney Junior Secondary School. She has worked many summers doing street theatre at Cranbrook's Fort Steele and Quesnel's Barkerville. She has appeared with companies such as Quest Theatre, Theatre Calgary, Sage Theatre, Lunchbox Theatre, and Mob Hit Productions. With film, TV and radio Liza appeared in a series of promotional commercials for Global Calgary and Edmonton - one aired during the Super Bowl. She was an extra in the movie Brokeback Mountain.

Liza lives in Hudson's Hope with her husband Craig Stephenson who is also an actor/director. She said,

"I moved around a lot thinking I would find somewhere I liked better but I never did. The Peace is a unique area in so many ways and the opportunities available here are not available in many other places."

For more information : Steve Metzger 250-783-5655 OMNorth@pris.ca

# Peace River Zone Theatre Festival kicks off tonight

MAY 4, 2010

DAVID BELL  
STAFF WRITER

through the recognition they have received from local productions, at the zone level and at the provincial level too. To be recognized as the best actor or actress opens doors for a lot of them.”

The plays, from Tumbler Ridge, Dawson Creek and Fort St. John, will be competing in 12 different categories, including the top prize of best production. Professional actor, director and educator Andrew McIlroy is being flown in to make those tough decisions.

McIlroy will give feedback following each play and a more thorough, interactive assessment to the cast and crew of each production the following day in most cases.

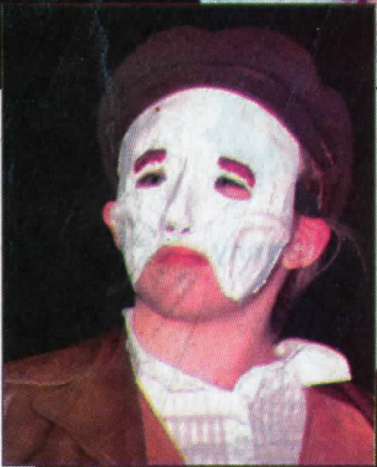
Peltier said success for the festival would simply mean more people in the seats and further interest in theatre from the community.

“What is important to me is that we constantly see high quality theatre coming out and we have been seeing that over the years.”

• SEE THEATRE ON A3



(Top) Tom Kirschner in Bridge 2 Broadway's production of Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll. (Middle) Karleigh Smith in Stage North's production of I, Claudia. (Bottom) Blair Scott in Stage North's production of Toronto, Mississippi. These are just a few of the plays in the Peace River Zone Theatre Festival. (AHN File Photos)



The curtain goes up on the first of six plays in five days at the Peace River Zone Theatre Festival tonight.

Besides getting the chance to move onto Mainstage 2010, the actors will get feedback from a professional adjudicator, a unique element in the regional festival.

The annual festival, now in its 25th year, is a great opportunity for theatre communities to share with each other, said festival chair Jim Peltier.

“It brings plays in from outside of the community which allows us all to connect with each other within the region over the five day period. It allows for a lot of cross fertilization within the local and the regional community.”

The festival over the years has provided many opportunities, he said.

“It opens doors for actors, we have had quite a few local actors that have gone on to theatre schools, both

**PEACE RIVER NORTH THEATRE FESTIVAL**  
**SIX PLAYS IN FIVE NIGHTS**

**At the North Peace Cultural Centre Fort St. John**

**May 4 to 9, 2010**

Tickets are available at the North Peace Cultural Centre for \$10/\$8 each evening and festival passes are available for \$48/\$36.

**May 4 – I, Claudia**

*by Kristen Thomson, Directed by Oliver Hachmeister,*

*Produced by Stage North of Fort St. John*

**May 5 – Sex, Drugs, Rock and Roll**

*by Eric Bogosian, Directed by Tom Kirschner,*

*Produced by Bridge to Broadway of Fort St. John*

**May 6 – The Melancholy Minstrel**

*by Cynthia Livingstone, Directed by Cynthia Livingstone,*

*Produced by Fort St. John Players*

**May 7 – Toronto, Mississippi**

*by Joan MacLeod, Directed by Terry Boyle,*

*Produced by Stage North of Fort St. John*

**May 8 – Sylvia (1pm matinee)**

*by A.R. Gurney, Directed by Darcy Frost,*

*Produced by Dionysus Theatre of Dawson Creek*

**May 8 – November (8pm)**

*by Don Nigro, Directed by Erin Hanna,*

*Produced by Grizzly Valley Players of Tumbler Ridge*

All shows at the North Peace Cultural Centre in Fort St. John.

Weekday evening curtain at 7:30pm, Saturday matinee at 1pm and Saturday evening at 8pm.

For further information:

Contact Festival Chairman, Jim Peltier at 250-787-0342, [jpeltier49@gmail.com](mailto:jpeltier49@gmail.com)

or Sue Popesku, Treasurer at 250-785-6214, [spopesku@shaw.ca](mailto:spopesku@shaw.ca)

# Theatre festival has something for everyone

MAY 4, 2010

• CONT. FROM A1

Festival treasurer and Stage North executive director Sue Popesku said the annual event has grown in key areas since it began.

"This festival seems to grow every year although it has been going for about 25 years, it gets stronger and more educational each year. Everyone who participates learns more as we have qualified adjudicators."

Terry Boyle of Stage North, directs Toronto, Mississippi, and said the play should appeal to most patrons.

"It has everything in it. You have the dysfunctional family, the comedy from the Elvis impersonator, the depression of a poet and then you have Jhana who is mentally handicapped and a bit autistic. It is a wonderful story that has everything, tears, laughter, everything you could want to see in a show."

Darcy Frost adds Sylvia to her directorial credits, a production of the Dionysus Theatre of Dawson Creek.

She said the play has a number of twists.

"It is a comedy about a man, a woman and a dog. It is interesting in that the part of the dog is played by an actor. It is not a dog but the personality of a dog. When I first read it, it appealed to me because it had that human aspect of it. Pet owners will appreciate it and I am hoping it might draw a tear or too as well."

She said the play has coarse language, but it belongs there.

Erin Hanna, director of November, said the Tumbler Ridge Grizzly Valley Players bring comedic value to the production.

"It is just verging on farcical at times. It is going to be a lot of laughs. We have some strongly characterized people in the play."

The play is a historical look

at author Don Nigro's family seen through comedic eyes, she explained.

"It is the story of a woman in a nursing home. She has a lot of visits from relatives who are trying to steal her farmhouse, and from relatives who care about her, a mix of the two."

Oliver Hachmeister, who directs the Stage North production of I, Claudia, said the play is for people looking for something a little different, as masks are used throughout.

"That generally doesn't happen in Fort St. John. The show itself is quite entertaining, funny at times and heartfelt at others as you are introduced to Claudia and the people in her life."

He said it will reveal adult truths through a child's eyes.

"Over the span of the show, you will learn how a child can feel when change threatens to topple everything she knows to be true, but also how those changes can bring her to realize a truth about herself that so many of us know in our heads but not in our hearts."

Tom Kirschner, the sole actor and director of the Bridge 2 Broadway production of Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll, said the play's self titled themes are universal.

"They are three subjects that invoke either emotions of pleasure or distain. This production is about people: what they think and what they feel. We all see the world through our own thoughts, views and emotions."

He said the show is a "dark comedy into the minds of men, from the incredible mind of writer Eric Bogosian. It is almost as exciting as getting a message from outer space."

Cynthia Livingstone is both writer and director of The Melancholy Minstrel, a production of the Fort St. John Players based in the

Fort St. John Association for Community Living.

She said the actors are "a wonderful group. We have been together for 10 years and this is our third full-length play. It is a comedy. It written to appeal to both kids and adults."

The main character, Pete Boggs, has lost something, she explained.

"It is a play about finding inspiration and true love right under one's own nose in the course everyday life."

Seven new actors this year make a cast of 17 bringing to life a total of 21 characters, she said.

Some of the actors have disabilities, while others do not.

"It has some twists to it, is it colourful and there are a lot of gorgeous costumes. The text rhymes and it has a hint of Shakespearean flavour. We also have a great deal of fun playing with sound."

The play, not unlike the association, has an agenda.

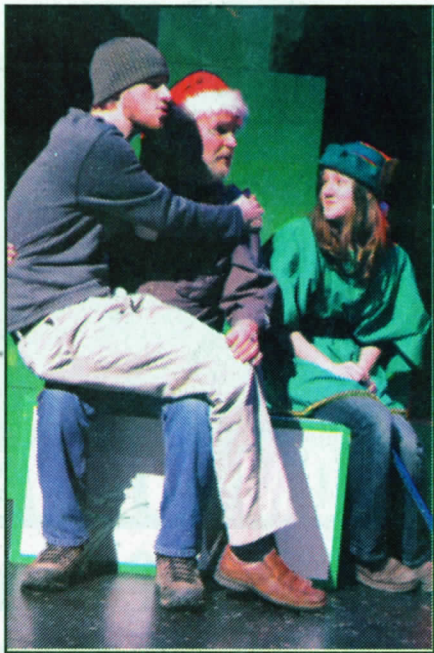
"We don't want people to be looking at the disability, what is lacking or missing. We want them to look at the ability, what the person can do and we work really hard at that."

Popesku said the festival is steadily growing and evolving.

"We have six shows this year, not the usual five and some years we have even had four. The number of shows is increasing and the excitement seems to be increasing as well."

A large meet and greet is planned for Saturday at 6 p.m. and is open to all Saturday evening ticket holders and "after that is the awards ceremony, and after that is a big celebration in the loft of the Cultural Centre."

For tickets or more information, contact the North Peace Cultural Centre at 250-785-1992 or online at [www.npcc.bc.ca](http://www.npcc.bc.ca).



# Christmas Hams



The cast of Stage North's *Miracle on 34th Street* hammed it up during rehearsal on Dec. 20. Director Blair Scott told his actors to "go big" and have "lots of energy," which they had in droves as they ran through the first few scenes. (Aleisha Hendry Photos)