

Feb 17, 2012
Local

PLAYING A GOOD GAME

Stage North proves the
arts and sports can
work together

See page A3



ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE



KATELIN DEAN PHOTO

Under the direction of Josue Laboucane, students prepared for their workshoped production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which took place on Saturday evening. These kids had a week of thespian training from the professional actor.

AUG 14, 2012

It's Legal to be Blonde—Stage North Proves It

By Sue Popesku
Submitted article

The curtain goes up on Stage North's opener of the theatre season with *Legally Blonde-The Musical*, on November 2, at the North Peace Cultural Centre in Fort St. John. *Legally Blonde* is known to most people as the movie starring Oscar-winning Reese Witherspoon. Now "*Legally Blonde*" as a musical adds another dimension to the comic plight of Elle Woods, a true blonde who makes it through law school by unconventional means.

As the fashionista Elle Woods, Melanie Truscott, shares the stage with Ben Wheeler (Emmett) Emmett is a Harvard Law alum and teaching assistant who gains insight into the real Elle Woods. Elle enrolled in Harvard Law School to follow her one true love, Warner (played by A.J. Zabinsky). Warner is a snobbish, arrogant, law student and her ex-boyfriend. Apparently Elle had much higher LSAT scores than Warner thought possible. Warner has taken up with Vivienne Kensington (played by Stevie Eby) who is always serious, looks lawyerly, and "wears



Donnie Truscott and Sarah Lyons are two of the many cast members of Stage North who have been rehearsing through the summer to stage "Legally Blonde-The Musical". The show runs November 2-10 at the North Peace Cultural Centre in Fort St. John.

black when nobody is dead". Emmett encourages Elle to spend less time trying to win back Warner and more time on her law studies which includes the trial of the infamous Brooke Wyndham. Brooke and Elle are Delta Nu sorority sisters and the experiences they shared and the knowledge that all "blondes" know is uncovered and is vital in solving the murder case.

The show is fun and amusing. The lyrics of the songs and fast-step dancing propel this story from interesting to dynamic. The energetic song and dance numbers reveal the story through the lyrics and draw the audience into the comic situation of the proverbial blonde getting the upper hand through the very experiences that label her as "blonde" in the first place. The alluring move called the "bend and snap", made famous with the movie, will never be the same again after put to music.

Director and choreographer Emry Mika has had the thirty-five cast members in dance rehearsals since June. Emry has a long list of credits in dance and theatre in Fort St. John. Her soaring career in dance with

daily dedication to lessons at Studio2Stage manifested itself in the role of Peter Pan while she was in high school. Now a teacher at Dr. Kearney, she teaches theatre and dance and directs and produces the school musicals. Her next show will be Anne of Green Gables with the Dr. Kearney students.

Musical Director Chalene Scott was also born and raised in Fort St. John. She recently graduated from theatre school at Capilano University and returned to Fort St. John to work in theatre. Chalene has been in many shows in Fort St. John, first in school and then with Stage North. She has acted, directed, produced with Stage North and won provincial awards in Sound Directing at Mainstage BC. Last year, Chalene directed Stage North's You're a Good Man Charlie Brown, last Christmas and founded a new theatre company, The Spectacular Chair Factory, to get more teens involved in theatre.

Legally Blonde-The Musical runs for five nights on November 2, 3, 8, 9, 10. Show time is 7:30pm. Tickets are now available at the North Peace Cultural Centre box office or online at tickets.npcc.bc.ca. Adults are \$25, Students and Seniors \$20 and Children \$15.

For more information www.stagenorth.ca or phone 250-785-6214.



Submitted photo

Having fun at rehearsals for "Legally Blonde the Musical", Ben Wheeler snuck in behind Stevi Eby and AJ Zabinsky as they posed for a photo. In the play which opens on November 2, all three have lead roles. Ben plays Emmett, the Harvard Law School teaching assistant. Stevi plays Vivienne, the prim and proper lawyerly type. AJ plays Warner, the object of affection of the "blonde" Elle Woods. The show opens in Fort St. John on November 2 at the North Peace Cultural Centre.

IS THAT MUCH PINK EVEN LEGAL?

stage north



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CHOREOGRAPHED BY
EVY HUGH

LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical

MUSIC & LYRICS BY
LAWRENCE O'KEEFE &
NELL BLUMFELD

BOOK BY
HEATHER HACH

BASED ON THE MOVIE BY
ROBERT ROY

AND THE
MUSIC BY LAWRENCE O'KEEFE
AND NELL BLUMFELD

NOV
2,3,8,9,10

7:30PM

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Stage North Theatre Society

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Oscar Night on the Big Screen ● Kingfisher Days

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BIG TICKET

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Chicago The Musical

BOOK by Fred and Bob Fosse MUSIC by John Kander LYRICS by Fred Ebb
Based on the play CHICAGO by Maurine Dallas Watkins
Director: Jenn Strachan Choreographer: Emry Mika Producer: Shauna Milne

The well-known Broadway musical Chicago is a satire on corruption in the administration of criminal justice in Chicago in 1927. A celebrity criminal, Roxie Hart is based on a real, accused murderess who was acquitted, thanks to the "fancy footwork" of corrupt lawyer Billy Flynn. Roxie's competition while in jail awaiting trial is Velma Kelly, a vaudevillian who murdered both her husband and her sister when she found them in bed together. Roxie and Velma compete for Billy's attention, love, and brilliant, though somewhat dubious methods as a defence lawyer.

October 29, 30, Nov 4, 5, 6, 2010

Spontaneous Combustion Snow Follies Improv Theatre

Director: Clarice Eckford

Audience involvement is the key to this fun-filled evening of improv theatre. A full course dinner with entertainment, where anything can happen and usually does, is in store for this Improv Dinner Theatre. Local players of Spontaneous Combustion take audience suggestions to act out various comical and, often absurd, situations. Suggested age is 13 and up.

November 19, 2010

Miracle on 34th Street

from the novel by Valentine Davies

Adapted by Patricia Di Benedetto Snyder, Will Severin and John Vreeke

Director: Blair Scott

As Macy's holiday Santa, Kris Kringle enchants children and shoppers so completely that he is deemed dangerous by fellow employees who question his competency and plot to ruin him. A small girl's belief in Santa and the magic of Christmas is at stake in a climactic courtroom decision. This hilarious, tender and charming show for the entire family is a Christmas classic.

December 29, 30, 31, 2010

With Family Friendly New Year's Party after the show on 31st

The Pink Panther Strikes Again

by William Gleason based on the film by Blake Edwards & Frank Waldman

Director: Rob Laventure

The world's most unusual criminologist, Chief Inspector Jacques Clouseau, fights for his life and for the future of all mankind in the most bizarre and dangerous caper of his brilliantly successful and utterly clumsy career.

February 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 2011

Oscar Night on the Big Screen

The paparazzi greet the Oscar Night guests who come to view the Academy Awards live on the big screen as they are happening in Hollywood. Pizza is served compliments of local pizza establishments and popcorn and drinks are available. Spontaneous Combustion performs throughout the evening. Prizes and movie memorabilia complete the evening of fun.

February 27, 2011

Kingfisher Days

by Susan Coyne

Director: Clarice Eckford

Kingfisher Days is the artful memoir of Toronto playwright, Susan Coyne. Set at the Coyne Cottage on Lake of the Woods, the play introduces an important event in young Susan's life. With no one else to play with, Susan recruits her elderly neighbor to explain a mysterious set of notes from a forest princess named, "Nootsie Tah". Bouncing back and forth between Susan as an adult and a five-year-old girl, we see the effect one monumental summer can have on an artist's experience of friendship and imagination.

April 29, 30, May 5, 6, 7, 2011

SEASON SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES

2011~2012



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CABARET - THE MUSICAL

October 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 2011

Book by Joe Masteroff | Music by John Kander | Lyrics by Fred Ebb
Director Oliver Hachmeister | Producer Twyla Jordan

"Wilkommen! Bienvenue! Welcome." Rousing music and seductive dancers help the devilish emcee draw the audience into the decadent and debauched world of the Kit Kat Klub in 1930s Germany. Cliff, an aspiring novelist from America, arrives in Berlin searching for something to write about but instead finds himself sucked into an exciting exploration of sexuality and danger with the beautiful nightclub singer, Sally Bowles, who shares his bed and Ernst, a political activist, who convinces Cliff to smuggle illicit goods to fund his operations. At the boarding house where Cliff and Sally live, a clandestine romance is forming between a Jewish shopkeeper and the house matron, while another guest provides comfort and other services to the members of the German Navy. But changing public sentiment and political unrest threatens to destroy lifestyles, relationships and possibly even lives.



SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION PRESENTS DINNER PALOOZA

November 18, 2011 | Quality Inn Northern Grand

Producers: Dale Hillman and Dave Truscott

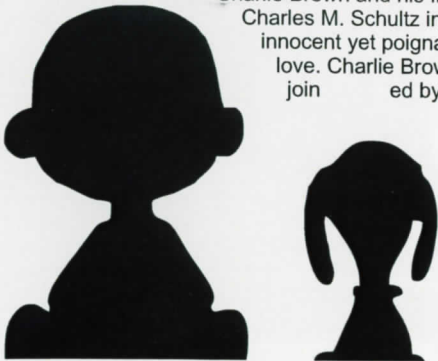
Suggestions from the audience propel the Improv actors of Spontaneous Combustion into comical and sometimes, absurd situations. Music, theatre and more comedy join the Improv evening of fun. Anything can happen and usually does at this evening of dinner, entertainment, and laughter. Expect the unexpected at a Palooza of an event.

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN- THE MUSICAL

December 29, 30, 31, 2011

Music and Lyrics by Clark Gesner
Special New Year's Eve Party Dec 31
Director Chalene Scott | Producer Blair Scott

Charlie Brown and his friends, based on the cartoon characters by Charles M. Schultz in comic strip Peanuts, come to life with their innocent yet poignant observations of the universe, friendship and love. Charlie Brown questions if he really is a "good man" and is joined by Linus, Lucy and Schroeder in the search for "happiness". Sally spouts her "new philosophy" while Snoopy reminds us that dogs have imaginations too. Through the trauma of battling a "kite eating tree" and the team work in writing "a book report", Charlie Brown learns through "little known facts" that he is, indeed, a "good man".



THE GOOD GAME

February 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 2012

By Roy Teed | Director Blair Scott,
Producer Sue Popesku

Comedy erupts in the locker room when, 30 years after winning the championship games of the Nestor Cup three times, four hockey players reunite to take on the much younger competitors in a charity match. The locker room is the scene for the unexpected as well as the usual pre-game banter. The on-going interview with Samantha brings out best in the old-timers and they discover they have not changed very much over the years.



OSCAR NIGHT ON THE BIG SCREEN FEATURING "FASHION AND FORM WITH FILM"

~~March 4, 2012~~ | On the Rocks Nightclub

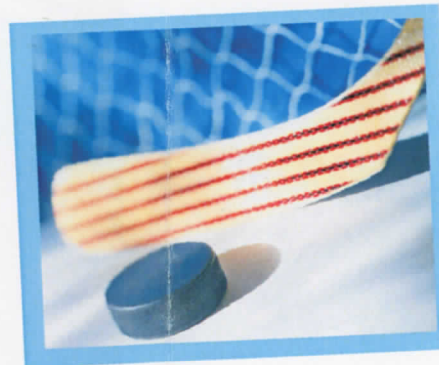
See the Academy Awards on the big screen at On the Rocks Pub and Nightclub as they are happening in Hollywood. A showcase of Fashions and Forms made from recycled movie film is a special feature of this year's Oscar Night. Spontaneous Combustion Improv actors along with musicians and more will perform. Door prizes and awards complete this evening of entertainment.

HOCKEY MOM, HOCKEY DAD

April 26, 27, 28, 2012

By Michael Melski
Director Clarice Eckford | Producer Dave Truscott

Two single parents Donna and Teddy engage in the courtship game while cheering their 8 year old children on at the hockey rink. Teddy is a voluble extrovert who encourages his son's losing team to hit first and think later, and he coaches Troy from the stands to be the "enforcer." Donna, shell-shocked from a violent marriage, is appalled by the physical violence on the ice. This romantic comedy takes a serious look at violence in the hockey rink.



DEATH AND THE MAIDEN

May 3, 4, 5, 2012

By Ariel Dorfman
Director Rob Laventure | Producer Pam Laventure

Paulina, a political activist, is convinced that her unexpected guest, and agent for the government, Dr. Miranda, is the sadistic man who once brutally tortured her. She takes him captive to determine the truth. She is torn between her psychological repressions and vivid memories of the event. Paulina's husband is torn between his wife and the law, and Dr. Miranda is forced to endure captivity while husband and wife seek out the uncertain truth about the clouded past. This dramatic play is extremely intense and emotional with the characters unrepentant and believing the perceived verdict of guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. The truth however, lies in the balance.



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OPPORTUNITIES

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- sponsor name mention on radio and television promotions

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STAGE MANAGER'S SPONSORSHIP: \$2,500

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- sponsor name mention on radio and television promotions

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TECHNICIAN'S SPONSORSHIP: \$1,500

Your name and logo will be featured at each of the seven shows with:

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- all posters, front cover of all programs, website, print ads and more
- sponsor name mention on radio and television promotions

PLUS: Receive 1 season ticket for seven great shows (value \$190)

FRONT OF HOUSE SPONSORSHIP: \$1,000

- your color logo featured in all programs

FRIENDS OF STAGE NORTH

Patrons of Stage North who contribute \$100 or more are acknowledged by name as a "Friend of Stage North" in show programs.

CONTACT STAGE NORTH: stagenorth@stagenorth.ca | www.stagenorth.ca

**Blair Scott, Vice President: 250 793 3003 | bscott@terraenergy.ca
Sue Popesku, Executive Director: 250 785 6214 | spopesku@shaw.ca**

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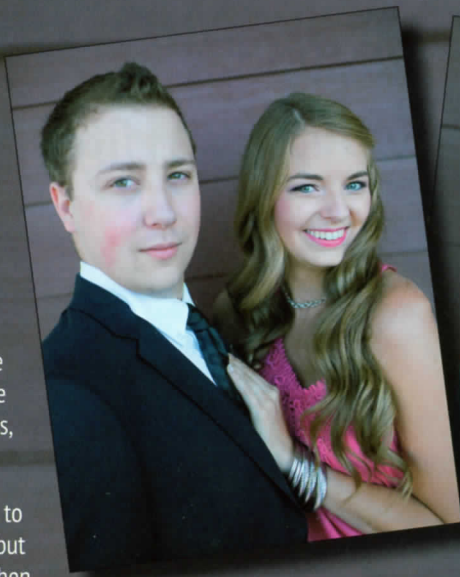
DITSY OR DEEP?

A TRUE BLONDE NEVER TELLS

Seemingly clumsy clowns are very good at their craft. Bumbling detectives play the role to get an edge on the bad guys. So it stands to reason that what we would consider a "true blonde" may be much smarter than all those "blonde" jokes indicate. Yes, Elle Woods, in the musical

Legally Blonde, leads us to believe she is a ditsy blonde but the inner genius surfaces when her friends and colleagues see more than meets the eye.

Melanie Truscott plays Elle Woods in the Stage North production of Legally Blonde coming up in November on the North Peace Cultural Centre stage. Melanie has played many roles in her life, on and off stage, but this one is dear to her heart. She says she has been rehearsing all her life for this role. Melanie is naturally expressive and can easily step from an emotive to a somber character with little prompting. She is creative, energetic, and entertaining. Proof of this is at rehearsals. Fellow cast members are continuously laughing and enjoying the same scenes over and over again which helps Melanie



bounce new things around to see which works best.

As the fashionista Elle Woods, Melanie shares the stage with Ben Wheeler (Emmett), a Harvard

Law alum and teaching assistant, who gains insight into the real Elle Woods. Elle enrolled in

Harvard Law School to follow her one true love, Warner (played by A.J. Zabinsky), who is a

snobbish, arrogant, law student and her ex-boyfriend. Apparently Elle had much higher LSAT

scores than Warner thought possible. Warner has taken up with Vivienne Kensington (played

by Stevie Eby) who is always serious, looks lawyerly, and "wears black when nobody is dead".

Emmett encourages Elle to spend less time trying to win back Warner and more time on her lawstudies which includes the trial of the infamous Brooke Wyndham. Brooke and Elle are Delta Nu

sorority sister and the



experiences they shared and the knowledge that all "blondes" know is

uncovered and helpful in solving the murder case.

The story is fun but the lyrics of the songs and fast-step dancing move this story from

interesting to dynamic. Director

and choreographer Emry Mika has had the cast in dance rehearsals since June. With one month to go, the show is coming together like a whirlwind and

the cast and crew pour out enough energy at each rehearsal to create a tornado.

Contributed by Sue Popesku

Ticket Info

Tickets are now available at the North Peace Cultural Centre box office or online at tickets.npcc.bc.ca

For more information www.stagenorth.ca or phone 250-785-6214.

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