

Front of the Line: August 2015

Dear Friends of the Metro Theatre,

This newsletter is written and structured with you, our audience, in mind.

Curtain Calls

The Theatre has been very busy since our season officially closed with “**The Graduate**” in May. We have pulled back the curtains for a co-production of *Holmes & Watson: Save The Empire*, the Montessori School’s year-end ceremonies, Jennifer Bishop’s wonderful tap dancing school, a local musical theatre youth production and a film group for their “shoot”.

Put more PLAY in your life

We’d like to share the exciting experience of live theatre by encouraging everyone to buy at least a **4-PACK** for next season! This entitles you to 4 tickets to any show (except the Panto, “*Sleeping Beauty*”). For about \$20 a show you can either see 4 shows yourself or use the 4 tickets in any combination you choose (go to one play and take 3 friends, for example) **It’s your ticket, your choice.**

Call 604 266 7191 or visit the website www.metrotheatre.com to reserve your spot. The arts are a vibrant part of our community and we cannot exist without support from people like you, so please put more Play in your life this season and invite your friends to do the same.

Let there be Lights, Curtains, Heaters

Metro has received a \$12,000 grant from the City of Vancouver (Vanculture); on condition we match that amount. After much consideration, our first priority is new black “masking” curtains for the backstage area as replacement has been due for some time. The remaining funds will be spent on (environmentally friendly) lighting in both the men’s and women’s washrooms, and the box office; and a new heater for our box office.

We are also renovating the Metro Theatre lounge this summer; new (larger) glasses , culling the liquor choices, and installing a new ice machine . Remember service is faster if you pre-order your intermission drinks before the show.

Have you heard about the “**LIGHT UP THE FACE OF METRO**” campaign in the name of the late John Crittenden? We will do our **500th SHOW** (in Oct. 2016) and would like to replace our

marquee lights with new ones in time for that celebration. (The marquee lights are the sign that passersby see outside the theatre, especially when they are stuck in traffic!). Donations for this campaign are needed and greatly appreciated. Any amount, any time – online www.metrotheatre.com or through the box office 604 266 7191.

Save the Date

The **METRO THEATRE AGM** is on Mon. Sept 14, at 7:30 PM. After the meeting, there will be a complimentary **WINE AND CHEESE PARTY** . You may only attend this event and vote, if you are a Metro VIP member. (Membership is \$20 per year, but is included if you are a season subscriber) *Memberships are sold in the lobby on the night of the AGM.* (If you bought your VIP membership after Sept. of last year it will be valid until the date of purchase.)

All re-subscribers have been mailed a ticket to be used for their complimentary drink – everyone else will be issued a ticket at the door. Hold on to the ticket stub – there will be a small prize-draw after the meeting.

In The Wings

The cast for our season opener, the British farce “**HEATSTROKE**”, includes Paul Kloegman . as Sam with the role of his wife being played by his real wife, Deborah Spitz. Corey Woods is playing the” cheese- commercial” actress Dodie. Kevin Sloan, is portraying Mad Dog Moon, Lloyd Darling, the Detective Inspector and Steve James, plays Howard Booth, a ‘has been’ TV actor. Quite the line up!

Rehearsals are going well for this hilarious “heist farce” that follows a baggage mix-up at the airport and the fate of 3 identical flight bags – one of which is filled with cash from a bank robbery. Set in a Spanish villa, both British couples lay claim to the money. Who will be left holding the bag? This show, directed by Rita Price, opens on Sat., Sept 12 and runs until Sat. Oct. 3 with Sunday Matinees on Sept 20 & 27. Preview on Fri., Sept. 11.

Next, is a return to that wacky hotel in Torquay – ‘**FAWLTY TOWERS**’. with 3 more episodes based on the iconic BBC TV series. Back as Basil is Chris Dellinger, with Martha Ansfield Scrase portraying Sybil, Jill Raymond as Polly, and Tom Kavadias as the irrepressible Manuel. The show opens on Hallowe’ en and runs until Nov. 21 with Sunday matinees on Nov. 8 & 15. Preview on Fri., Oct. 30.

We finish 2015, with our Christmas Musical/ Panto “**SLEEPING BEAUTY**”. With funny high-jinks, and wonderful singing and dancing, this pantomime promises to be a Christmas treat! Princess Aurora, has to avoid spinning wheels, Nanny Do-Little runs the castle laundry (badly) and the Good Fairy and Demon enter into their usual battle of good and evil! “**SLEEPING BEAUTY**” runs from Fri. Dec. 11 – Sat. Jan. 2 (evenings at 7:00 PM) with **nine** Sat. and Sun. matinees. (At 2:00 PM) Check the web-site for exact dates.

TICKETS for the PANTO go on sale on Oct. 1 ! (Book early for good seats) METRO THEATRE VIP members get 10% off

AUDITIONS for “Sleeping Beauty” are on Aug. 31 and Sept 2 at 7:00 PM at Metro Theatre.

See you at the Theatre

TICKETS – Buy all tickets for any production at Metro Theatre by going online: tickets@metrotheatre.com or phoning the box office (604) 266-7191.

PARKING – Metro Theatre patrons are very lucky as there is free parking, both on the street and beside the theatre. Additional parking is available at Value-On Liquor Store , ½ block north of Metro for \$4.00 parking for a 24 hour period (or \$1.00 per hour).

VOLUNTEERS – If you are interested in helping at the Metro Theatre, we’d love to hear from you. From Front-of-House people, to the Backstage helpers, we rely on teams of committed volunteers to operate. Volunteers do get to see the shows for free and spend time with a fun bunch of folks.

Volunteers are needed to:

- Run the lights and sound in the booth
- Collect and organize the props backstage
- Stage Manage the show
- Assist the Director
- Collect and co-ordinate costumes (sewing & altering)
- Take rehearsal photos/video
- Post on social media
- Assist with Lighting and Set design
- Tickets & Concession

For more info please visit <http://metrotheatre.com/volunteers/> or contact the Technical Director at td@metrotheatre.com

Renters On Stage

See productions at a discount by using your VIP discount for these exciting rental groups –

A **Chinese Opera** presentation celebrating multiculturalism rents our stage on Sunday Aug. 16 at 1:30 PM. This promises to be a wonderful experience of sound and colour; exotic costumes, beautiful sets and authentic Chinese music and instruments. A very Special Offer for METRO THEATRE VIP MEMBERS – **FREE TICKETS** – just phone the theatre (604) 266-7191 and identify yourself as a VIP member.

METRO VIP members get a 10 % discount off The Orthos Theatre production “ **A Modern Fairy Tale** “ running Wed., Aug. 19 – Sun. Aug. 23 , and Tues. Aug. 25- Sun. Aug. 30 . Evening shows at 7:00 PM and matinees at 1:00 PM ; 2 matinees on Sunday Aug, 23 and Sun. Aug. 30 (Check web-site for details)

The Royal Canadian Theatre is presenting “**Dracula**” – just in time for Hallowe’en. It is giving an updated Victorian Steam Punk treatment to this thriller. It opens, Wed. Oct. 14 with four, 2 for 1 performances on Oct. 14, 15, 21, and 22 and runs until Sat., Oct. 24 (with 2 performances at 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM)

