

Front of the Line: November 2015



Dear Friends of the Metro Theatre,

This newsletter is written and structured with you, our audience, in mind. A down-loadable and printable PDF can be found at the end of each issue.



TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED

That is the number of hours of volunteer time that has been committed to the average show that you see on Metro`s stage. The actors, stage management and director have each committed at least **12 hours** per week for a minimum of **6 weeks** working together at rehearsals and countless hours on their own reading, memorizing and creating their characters. A creative team of designers and builders have each lent us **60 – 100 hours** each to design the costumes, sets, lighting, props, paint, and all the other pieces that need to be created, obtained, or built before the audience can see the whole production. During the week of set up on the stage a team of volunteers are needed to move the set from our scene shop where it was built and painted and erect it again on the stage. The lighting is hung, plugged in and powered, focused and coloured. The sound is programmed into a computer and tested, the props, costumes and makeup are organized and readied and the show goes through the technical and dress rehearsals before the audience sees the result. Once a Metro Show has opened the cast and crew will give us another **50 hours** over the **13 – 19** performances. And don`t forget the volunteers that take your tickets,

manage the concession and box office for each performance. Metro requires from 15 or up to 40 and more volunteers for every performance of every show we put on.

It all adds up to **2,500 hours or more per show** and 17,500 hours for this our 53rd season. We are rapidly approaching our 500th show – the simple math will amaze.

Please consider joining the team and contributing your time as part of the TWENTY FIVE HUNDRED. admin@metrotheatre.com or online www.metrotheatre.com



Volunteer Profile

1) *When and how did you first get involved with Metro Theatre?*

I was a patron for a few years in the 70s and 80s and recently over the past 5 years. I began volunteering in front of house during the Panto almost 2 years ago, starting on the door (my ticket ripping skills are no longer necessary since the arrival of the bar code reading system), moved on to concession and now I help out in the box office.

2) *What was your favorite show done at Metro?*

Going with the most recent I have to say Fawlty Towers. The pace and timing of the actors brought the original show alive and brought back many memories.

3) *If you could share a meal with any 4 individuals, living or dead, who would they be?*

- My grandmother, who raised 10 children on a small farm in Ireland and passed away in 1953. She lived close to the land and her home and now her great grandchildren speak many languages and live and travel all over the world.
- Yoko Saito a prominent Japanese designer of fabric and patterns and renowned quilter.
- Rick Steves, travel writer and host of PBS programs covering individual travel in Europe.
- Someone who is leading work on robot development.

4) *What's the most unusual thing you've ever eaten?*

My culinary adventures have been fairly tame so I'll say haggis although the beef tongue runs a close second.

5) *What is your favorite thing about live theatre?*

The energy, both on and off the stage. The whole community of performers, set designers, helpers etc that come together for each performance.



What is PANTO?

Is it like mime where silent clowns perform?

Actually, it's nothing like that at all. British Pantomime, or Panto, has no resemblance to those silent comedians whatsoever. In fact, Panto is probably the noisiest, rowdiest sort of live theatre you can attend and it's for the whole family. It's a musical comedy traditionally done for a Christmas treat. It has nothing to do with mimes, those silent performers in white-faces.

Panto takes familiar fairy tales and children's stories such as this year's **Sleeping Beauty** and injects a bit of music hall, vaudeville, contemporary references and lots of audience participation to create a raucous, noisy entertainment that's fun for everyone.

It is a traditional British Christmas play and a chance for people to go to the theatre. But it really came from very un-British traditions, nothing to do with Christmas whatever!

Often billed as children's entertainment, pantomime really began as an entertainment for adults. It can be traced back to the ancient Roman 'Saturnalia' midwinter feast, at which everything was supposed to be turned upside-down like the Pantomime Dames (Men comically dressed up as women).

Pantomime first came to Britain in the 18th century from the 'commedia dell'arte', the Italian tradition of improvised theatre. The stories of the commedia dell'arte had many 'stock' characters in them such as clowns and jesters and a 'baddie'. Traditional plots got mixed up with fairy stories, folk tales, or tales from the Arabian Nights stories, and gradually evolved into the dozen or so familiar stories of the panto repertoire that are still used today. The traditional figures from the commedia dell'arte gradually disappeared, and pantomimes became more as we know them today; they also became an expected part of our Christmas festivities.

Pantomime is now a popular family entertainment enjoyed by the adults as much as the children. The audience has to work almost as hard as the performers, whether it be joining in the songs,

assisting in conjuring tricks, booing the villain and warning the hero with 'He's behind you!' or cheering them on!



Metro Theatre is proud to present our Christmas Musical/Panto **Sleeping Beauty**, with funny high-jinks, sophisticated 3 and 4 part harmonies, and complicated dance routines ,for a cast of 27 wearing over 90 costumes. Princess Aurora has to avoid spinning wheels (you remember the story), Nanny Do-Little (the Dame) runs the castle laundry (badly) and the Good Fairy and Demon enter into their usual battle of good and evil.

Sleeping Beauty runs from December 11th, 2015 to January 2nd, 2016 Thurs, Fri, & Sat evenings at 7 pm with **nine** Sat & Sun matinees at 2 pm.

Tickets are on sale now – please book early as performances are selling out quickly.

****Metro Theatre VIP members get 10% off.**

New This Season

We are pleased to introduce “**Director’s Talk**” a 20 minute session **immediately following the** performance that takes place on the first Friday of the run.

Keep your seats, or move up a little closer, and chat with the director and possibly some of the cast on a topic that is advertised in advance.

The session is very informal, with lots of time for your questions about how the play was chosen, how actors are selected ,how actors learn their lines, technical aspects of the production and whatever else is on your mind.

Director’s Talks are being offered at **no additional charge and** our licensed lounge will remain open afterwards for you to continue your discussions upstairs.

Next Director's Talk is December 18th with Catherine Morrison, writer and director of *Sleeping Beauty*.

Introducing the Corporate Flex Pass



Corporations can purchase 25 tickets for \$300 to be used in any combination they wish for the 2015 -2016 season.

All tickets could be used for the same show or spread out over the remaining shows. Shows do not have to be decided upon in advance. The pass is Totally Flexible .

This pass represents significant savings and is a wonderful way to offer employees or clients a special perk.

You must be a business to take advantage of this offer. Call the box office for more details 604 266 7191 or order on line under Corporate Flex Pass.

Parking

We have new neighbours. Some of you will have noticed the Riverside Golf store that moved in beside Metro. You can still park in that lot but the number of spaces has decreased. So if you are looking for parking, we suggest the Value Liquor Store lot at \$4 for the entire evening and only a block and a half walk to our doors.

Did you know?

We offer **free** loan out of hearing devices. Simply leave some sort of ID with the box office and enjoy the show.

Give the Gift of Entertainment

Nothing feels quite as good as giving. With a Gift Certificate from Metro Theatre, it's easy to share those good feelings with someone special.

A 4 pack is a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday season, birthdays, graduations and anniversaries. It's truly the gift that keeps on giving all season long. So switch things up this holiday with a 4 pack – the recipient can use the 4 tickets any way they like – maybe they will even invite you along!

Christmas Gift Certificates in any amount you specify are available on line: [Christmas Gift Certificates](#)



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