

Windmill Theatre presents One Act Play Festival

April 21, 09
Times

SUBMITTED

Windmill Theatre Players, along with the Alberta Drama Festival Association is pleased to present the 2009 Foothills Zone One Act Play Festival at the Highwood Memorial Centre in High River on Friday and Saturday.

The plays will be adjudicated by Marilyn Potts, a well-known Calgary educator, who will share her thoughts about each play with the audience at the end of each session and will also choose winners in three categories, Outstanding Female Actor, Outstanding Male Actor and Outstanding Production.

Ten plays will be presented over the course of the Festival with the "Outstanding Production" going on to represent this zone in the Provincial Festival in Medicine Hat May 29 and 30.

Friday night's line up will begin at 7 p.m. with three plays presented by Windmill Theatre Players.

Brat House written by Karen King, directed by Jim Goodwin and featuring Breighanne Brandford, Richelle Flitton, Dorian Goodwin and Alyshia Hobday.

Freedom Fighter by George Stone, directed by Nicole Lejeune and featuring Eric Baxter, Charlotte Bouck, Don Geade, Rhea Simpson and Terri Thiessen.

Courage Mr. Green by James P. Ferguson, directed by Carol Knox with Josh Bertwistle, Breighanne Brandford, Dave Burton, Herb Haekel and Helen Rogers.

Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m.

Free Range Chicken by Ann Wuehler directed by Jane Platt with Kier Wright and Chanelle Kavalinas presented by Dewdney Players of Okotoks.

DMV Tyrant by Christopher Durang directed by Derek Losoncy with Jen Webster, Cory White, Lorence Maione, Jake Skow

and Matt Molyneux presented by Gypsy Cabaret Theatre Society from Okotoks.

Ferris Wheel by Mary Miller, directed by Carla Schmidt and featuring Paul Rancourt and Carla Schmidt presented by Windmill Theatre Players.

Hour Glass by David-Matthew Barnes directed by Sue Gothard with Steve Buoninsegni and Florence Maione by Dewdney Players.

Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m.

For Whom The Southern Belle Tolls by Christopher Durang directed by Derek Losoncy with Florence Maione, Matt Molyneux, Derek Losoncy and Alex Entz presented by Gypsy Cabaret.

The Ladykiller by John S. Wells directed by Paul Rancourt with Ami Sands and Anne-Marie Cotton presented by Dewdney Players.

The Oracle of Deli by Dani Atkinson directed by Dani Atkinson featuring Karin Atkinson and Evan Sisson, presented by BraggArts Theatre from Bragg Creek.

Festival Passes are available at the door for \$20 or \$8 for each session. For more information call Celia at 403-562-7913.

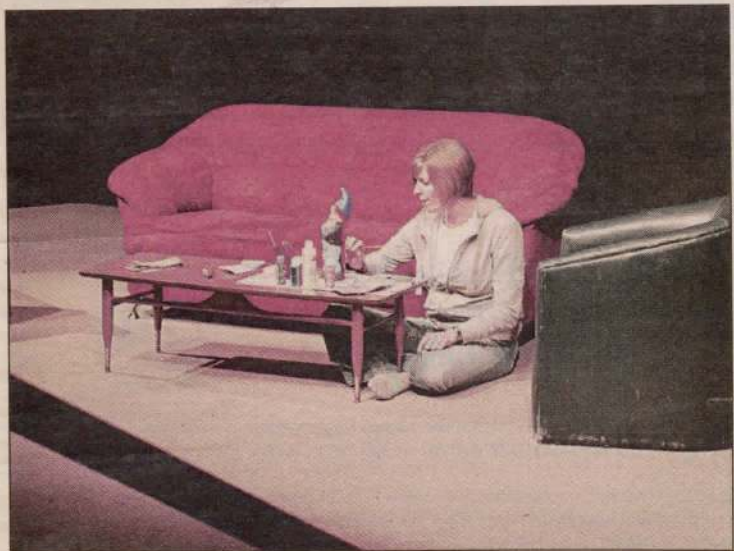


Photo by Alyssa Burnham

BRAT PACK — Breighanne Brandford garnered laughs for her role as an under-achieving 20-something in "Brat House," by local playwright Karen King at Windmill Theatre Players' Cookies and Plays event at the High River Centennial Library last Friday.



Photo by Alyssa Burnham

ACT ONE — Helen Rogers, as Jane Greene; Herb Haekel, as the bumbling Percival Greene; and Josh Bertwistle, as Smith, a cunning thief, star in "Courage Mr. Greene" during Windmill Theatre Players' Cookies and Plays event at the High River Centennial Library last Friday.



Actors Richelle Flitton, left, Dorian Goodwin, and Breighanne Brandford, rehearse for their comedy play 'Brat House' as part of the Windmill Theatre Players in High River. 'Brat House' played along with 'Courage Mr. Greene' recently.

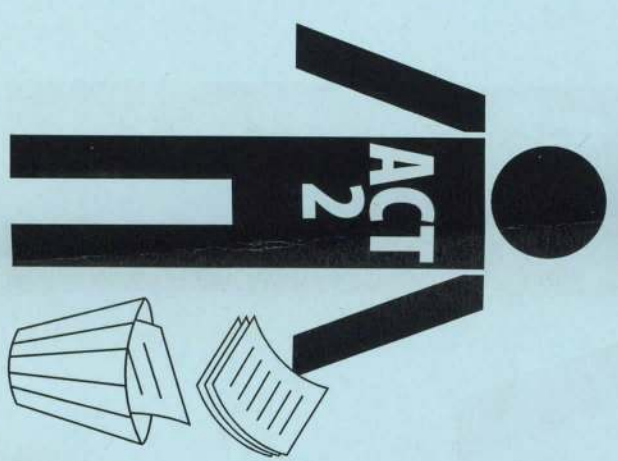
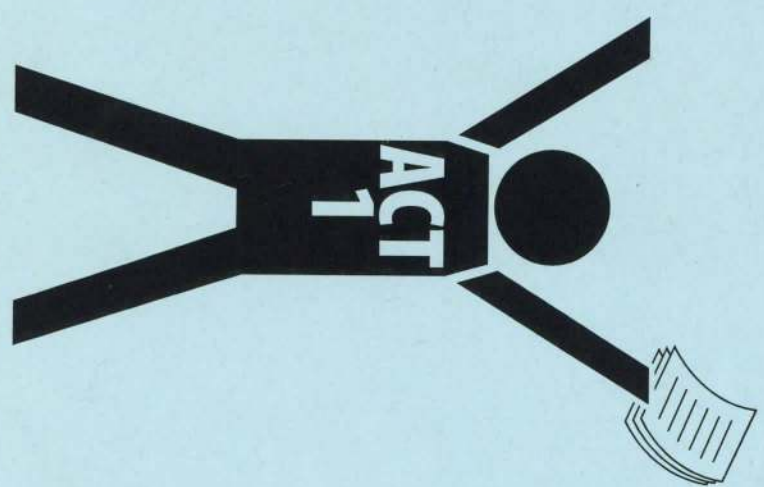
PHOTO BY ANGELA HILL,
HIGH RIVER TIMES



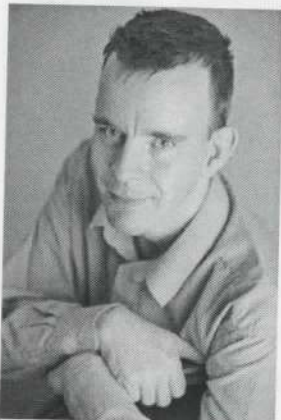
Alberta Drama Festival Association
& Windmill Theatre Players
are proud to host the:

2009 Foothills Region One Act Play Festival

Highwood Memorial Centre
High River, Alberta
April 24 & 25



Director's Notes



"All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above" I don't think Stephen Schwartz could have said it any better. I first joined Front Row Centre Players 3 years ago as Andrew Carnes in the Fall Musical "Oklahoma!" at the same time I joined the executive board as Secretary. This year, I debut as a first time Director for Front Row Centre and continue my participation on the executive board as Marketing Director. Other directorial debuts were Secret Garden with Chinook Singers and Players in Nanton. I have always been a part of a musical production since I could remember whether it be in my hometown of Nanton or the neighboring community of High River. Musical theatre is in my blood and I love it.

I am apprehensive to say that I had only "heard of" Godspell before I had the privilege to direct the show, which you are about to see. I bought the movie at a grocery store for a measly pittance solely for the purpose of it being a Musical and I had to add it to my collection. Godspell is not only the Gospel according to St. Matthew – but it is also a spiritual journey for 11 very different individuals brought together by the teachings and lessons given to them through Jesus. I would like to Thank James Noonan and my very talented Cast and Crew for their continued support and artistic vision throughout the creation and planning and rehearsing of this show, as well as my family and friends and their love and support as I continue to carve a path in Theatre within Calgary and beyond. I invite you now to sit back and enjoy the show.

**Shea Christie – Director
November 2008**



Did you like what you experienced here today?

Nominate us for a CAT Award!

2009 Calgary Community Theatre Awards

The fifth annual Calgary-ACTS CAT awards in 2008 were a resounding success, **Again, your opinion counts in 2009**
Vote for your favorite performances of the 2008-2009 season
online at: www.calgary-acts.com/

Page 4 of 12

The Disciples

Jesus
Judas
Omar
Jolene
Darren
Krista
Heimen
Charlotte
Heather
Jennifer
Christine

Janos Zeller
Chris Willott
Omar Escobar
Jolene Anderson
Darren Steward
Krista Willott
Heimen Van Essen
Charlotte Loepky
Heather Smuda
Jennifer Mikla
Christine Horne

Song Synopsis

Location: The Big City

Act One

- 1 Tower of Babble - Company
- 2 Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord - John the Baptist & Company
- 3 Save the People - Jesus & Company
- 4 Day by Day - Heather & Company
- 5 Learn your Lessons Well - Jolene
- 6 Oh Bless the Lord my Soul - Krista & Company
- 7 All for the Best - Jesus, Judas & Company
- 8 All good Gifts - Heimen & Company
- 9 Light of the World - Company

There will be a 20 minute intermission between Acts One and Two

Act Two

- 1 Beautiful City - Omar & Company
- 2 Turn Back, Oh man - Jennifer & Company
- 3 Alas for You - Jesus
- 4 By My Side - Charlotte & Christine
- 5 We Beseech Thee - Darren, Heimen & Company
- 6 On the Willows - Judas, Heimen & Men
- 7 Finale - Company

Page 5 of 12

MORE amazingly fresh
theatrical productions...

...a **feast** for your senses!

Windmill Theatre Players

is celebrating

35 years

of great fun and fabulous entertainment

Friday & Saturday,
July 3 & 4th, 2009

We want you to join us!

If you have been part of any
"Windmill" show
either on stage or behind the scenes,
but haven't received an invitation yet

please contact Celia at
wtp@shaw.ca

or

403-652-7913

to find out all the details.

787-HRT50970

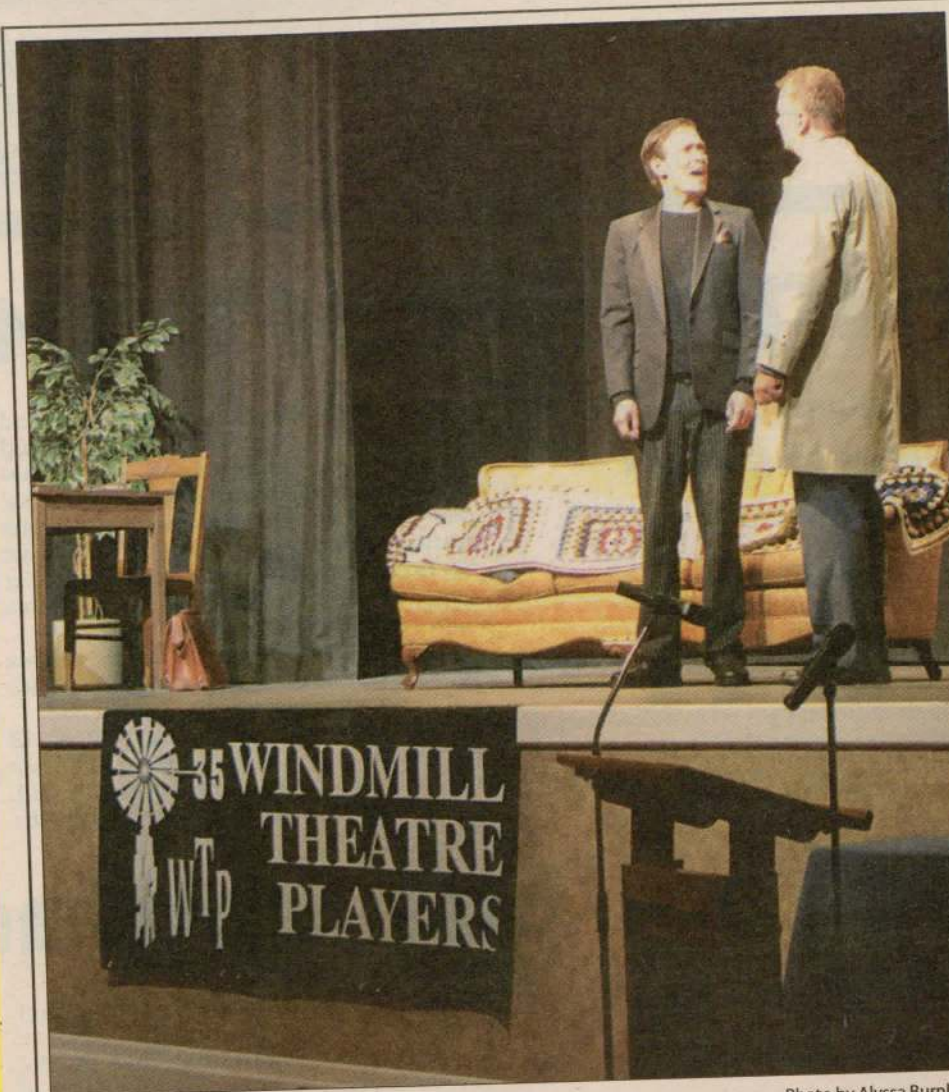


Photo by Alyssa Burnham

35 YEARS — Members of the Windmill Theatre Players performed the award-winning one-act play *Courage Mr. Greene* during the theatre group's 35-year anniversary celebration Saturday night at the Highwood Memorial Centre.

Windmill Theatre Players celebrate 35 years

BY KEVIN RUSHWORTH
TIMES REPORTER

Both present and former members of Windmill Theatre Players will be celebrating the community theatre group's 35th anniversary with a camp-out in George Lane Memorial Park tonight.

Even though, it is only the people who have been involved with Windmill Theatre over the years who will be able to participate in the camp-out, the general public is also invited to the Highwood Memorial Centre on Saturday for entertainment, dancing and learning about 35 great years of live theatre in High River.

Celia Penman, treasurer of Windmill Theatre Players, said they used to have an annual camp-out many years ago. As part of their evening of strolling down theatre memory lane, the camp-out in George Lane Memorial Park was brought back.

"I will remember the camaraderie and the friendship," said Penman. "When you make a friend through this group, it is long lasting," she said.

Thirty-five years ago in 1974, Windmill Theatre Players had their first show. From that day on, each year, they have had two major plays. Songs from many of the shows will be sung

around the campfire, and on Saturday, the winning play from the One Act Play Festival, *Courage Mr. Greene*, will be performed at the Highwood Memorial Centre.

Pictures and scrapbooks will be available for people to flip through and there will be a costume contest where people have to guess which show the various costumes come from.

Penman said over the years, there have been more than 850 people involved either off stage or on stage. It would not be the same group without them and the anniversary celebration is a way to thank them for their hard work.

Currently, 80 people are signed up but Penman said she is expecting close to 100 people. Penman said members from

Vulcan, Claresholm, Calgary and even Las Vegas are coming down for the celebrations.

"It is a social thing and a relief for the people who do it," said Penman. "They work all day but when they get to a performance, they are energized. It is the same for the audiences."

The camp-out begins at 7 p.m. and ends at 11 p.m. Members who are interested in spending the night under the stars (or in the rain) have that opportunity. On Saturday, the entertainment at the Highwood Memorial Centre begins at 6 p.m. "I hope it will continue for another 35 years," said Penman.

H.R. TIMES
July 3, 2009

Museum hosts costumed family dance

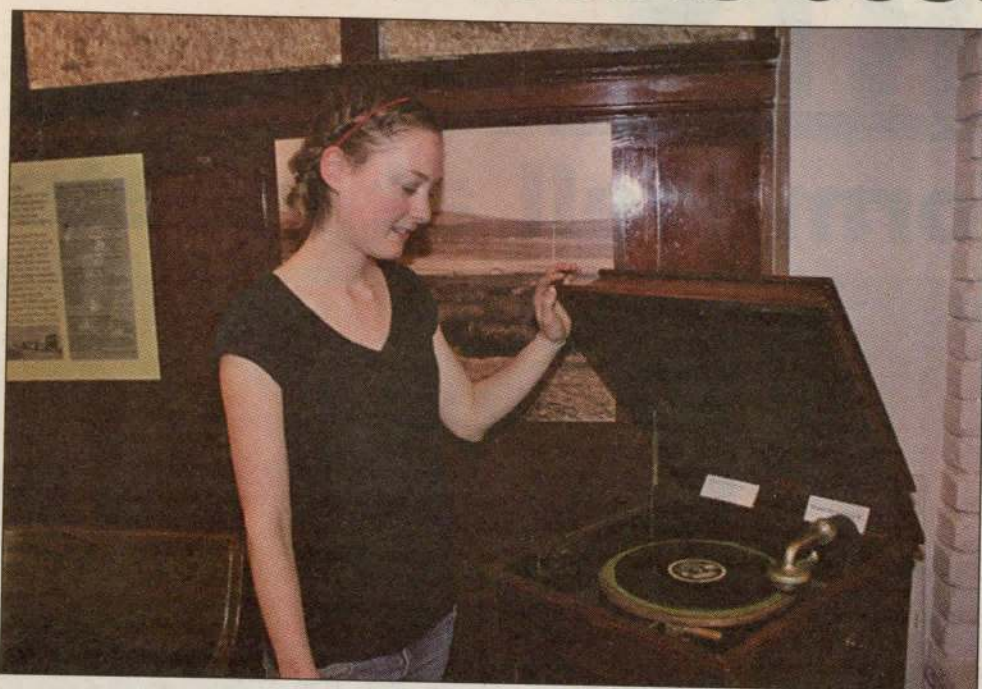


Photo by Kevin Rushworth

Dara Murphy, assistant director of the Museum of the Highwood, shows the 1913 original Edison that some of the music will be played on during the dance.

BY KEVIN RUSHWORTH
TIMES REPORTER

Music, dances and clothing of bygone eras will be once again brought to life when the Museum of the Highwood hosts their costumed family dance on June 13. Everyone who is thinking of coming is encouraged to dress up in outfits from their favourite musical era or they can come just as they are.

Even if they are seen as unusual looking, bring out those platform shoes with the plastic fish floating in them or remember where you put that polka dotted poodle skirt. Grease your hair into a curl and sport the trademark Elvis sunglasses. Practise your pout in the mirror before you pop your white collar.

Dara Murphy, museum assistant director said, "It seems that when people are seeing the posters, all kinds of different people are getting excited about it. I hope that we get a lot of people in and that some dress up."

Murphy, who said that she will either be attending as a square dancer or a member of an 80s hair metal band, explained how they decided to host a family dance. "We were researching for the new music exhibit

and found out that people used to have family dances all the time and family events where people could get together. Nowadays, we do not see that as much."

She added that, "Music is so important in our culture. Music can show the history in any time period so well, the style of it and how people enjoyed it."

Zac Shiel, local record collector from High River, will bring only some of his 60,000 records to the dance which has been called Saturday Night Fever. Dancers will be able to look through the music of decades long past from Shiel's collection and then choose what they wish to hear. Even the device which the music will be played on will be from vastly different time frames. Music will be played on everything from a 1913 original Edison record player, cassette players to the modern iPod.

The staff at the museum is hoping that members of the community come out to the event and Murphy said that the event is free and that people are free to come and go as they please. She is hoping that it is a beautiful evening so that they can open the doors of the old train station and then people can dance outside. The dance begins at 7:30 p.m. and ends at 10 p.m. on June 13.

Windmill actors take winning play to provincials

BY KEVIN RUSHWORTH
TIMES REPORTER

After winning three out of four major awards for their production of *Courage Mr. Greene* at the One Act Play Festival in High River, members of Windmill Theatre Players advanced onto the Provincial One Act Play Festival in Medicine Hat on May 29 and 30.

At the regionals, which were held in High River, Josh Bertwistle walked away with best actor for his performance as antagonist Smith and Carol Knox was awarded best director. *Courage Mr. Greene* also won outstanding play.

Although they did not win any hardware at the provincials, Celia Penman, treasurer of Windmill Theatre Players, said, "They

performed very well and they did us proud."

Bertwistle, Helen Rogers, Dave Burton, Herb Haekel and Breighanne Brandford were the actors who performed their winning play *Courage Mr. Greene* at the provincials. Penman said that there were over eight theatre companies at the provincials who came from all around the province of Al-

berta. She added that the adjudicator, Daniel Hall from Strathcona-Tweedsmuir school, had "good, favourable comments for our show and he liked what we did."

Windmill Theatre Players have been going to the Provincial One Act Play Festival since 1980 and have only had four or five years where they haven't had a play in the festival.



35

Windmill Theatre Players
presents

Viva Lawstwages!

High River's first live,
completely improvised Soap Opera!

Wednesdays, 7:30pm
(doors open at 7:15pm)

July 15-August 26, 2009

High River Centennial Library
Tickets \$5 - available at the door

Not recommended for children under 14
possible adult themes and language

www.windmilltheatreplayers.com



Alberta
Foundation
for the Arts

Windmill improvises with new show

BY ALYSSA BURNHAM
TIMES REPORTER

Windmill Theatre Players have thrown the script out the window, along with all lighting cues and blocking notes.

The community theatre group is hosting an improvised soap opera for the first time in its 35-year history. The show, called *Viva Lawstwages*, opened on Wednesday and actor Ray Fox said the night went "surprisingly well."

Viva Lawstwages differs in format from the more familiar type of improv acting featured on shows like *Whose Line is it Anyway* and at Loose Moose Theatre in Calgary in that it is long-form improv.

"The basic difference is that the players in this (format) have a character, and that character stays the same throughout the entire run, whereas with improv games it's a different scenario and different characters every time," he said. "In long-form you are able to develop a character over time. From week to week we are the same people and the storyline goes on."

The show follows the staff at the Lawstwages Hotel and Casino in Niagara Falls. The 10 actors, or "players" as they are known in improv theatre, are thrown into a variety of scenes from director Cheryl Fox's creative imagination.

"Basically, she'll call a scene and we

(the actors) don't know what that scene will be," said Fox, who plays the hotel's headlining magician Sigmund. "When she feels the scene is over or has run its course, she calls for lights down...and she'll call the next scene."

Fox said Windmill Theatre Players have thought about doing an improvised show for years, but the format and concept came to them by way of Dirty Laundry, a Calgary-based improv group that Fox's son Layne is a member of.

Dirty Laundry has been performing an improvised soap opera at Lunchbox Theatre for 10 years, and producer Karen Johnson-Diamond put on workshops for Windmill Theatre Players and coached Cheryl on how to direct and manage the show.

Viva Lawstwages runs nightly at 7:30 p.m. at the High River Centennial Library theatre. Tickets cost \$5 at the door. Windmill Theatre Players do however caution that the show is not recommended for children under the age of 14 due to possible adult themes or language.

Fox said even though the storyline started last week, audience members will have no trouble catching up because each performance can stand on its own and a synopsis is handed out at the beginning of each show.

Viva Lawstwages runs until Aug. 26.



A DMV lady, played by Jen Webster, tries to reassure a frustrated James Agnes, played by Derek Losoncy, she can help him with his driver's license during the play *DMV Tyrant* presented by Okotoks' Gypsy Cabaret Theatre Society at the One Act Play Festival in High River on April 25. High River Windmill Theatre's play *Courage Mr. Greene* won the award for best play and will move on to provincials.

PHOTO BY JOHN BARLOW,
OKOTOKS WESTERN WHEEL



A DMV lady, played by Jen Webster, deals with a frustrated James Agnes, played by Derek Losoncy, during the play DMV Tyrant presented by the Gypsy Cabaret Theatre Society at the One Act Play Festival in High River on Saturday. *photo by John Barlow*

T H E A T R E

Local thespians showcase talents at regional festival

Windmill Theatre Players wins top awards at festival

By Tamara Neely
STAFF REPORTER

It was a clean sweep for High River's Windmill Theatre

Players at this year's One Act Play Festival held this weekend in their hometown.

Windmill Theatre swept the four main awards at the Foothills Region One Act Play Festival held at the Memorial Centre in High River. The Windmill Theatre Players' production *Courage Mr. Greene* earned the

awards for outstanding play, best actor (Josh Bertwistle) and best director (Carol Knox).

The other main award, best actress, was presented to Charlotte Bouck for her performance in another of Windmill Theatre's productions, *Freedom Fighters*.

Continued on page 37

Local thespians, from page 36

This year's festival included 10 plays presented on Friday and Saturday. Four were creations by Windmill Theatre, three from Okotoks' Dewdney Players, two from Okotoks' Gypsy Cabaret and one from Bragg Creek's Bragg Arts.

The big winner, *Courage Mr. Greene*, was a story of personal transformation directed by Knox. Bertwistle won best actor for his performance as the antagonist Smith, a robber who helps Mr. Greene, played by Herb Haekel, see a new way of being. The winning play also starred Helen Rogers as Janet Greene, David Burton as Robert Ramsay and Breighanne Brandford of Okotoks as Minnie.

Dewdney Players vice-president Ed Sands said he didn't envy the judge because there was a lot of heart in the productions — three of the plays were original, written by members of the theatre groups.

Freedom Fighters was written by George Stone and in addition to earning best actress for Charlotte Bouck, it also garnered an honourable mention for director Nicole Lejune.

Brat House was written by Windmill Theatre member Karen King and Bragg Arts'



Robert, played by Kier Wright, (right) reacts to another whacky analogy by Celerina, played by Chanelle Kavalinas, in the Dewdney Players play *Free Range Chicken* during the One Act Play Festival in High River on Saturday. *photo by John Barlow*

only production in the festival, *The Oracle of Deli*, was written by member Dani Atkinson.

"I wouldn't want to be an adjudicator to try and pick the (winning) plays," said Sands. "It was a weekend of great plays."

Although they did not win a major award, Okotoks' theatre groups received nods from the judge. Dewdney Players' production *Hourglass* was awarded an honourable mention for best play; best director, Sue

Gothard; best actor, Steve Buoninsegni; and best actress, Florence Maione.

Gypsy Cabaret landed an honourable mention as well. Matt Molyneux earned honourable mention for best actor for the play *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls*.

Windmill Theatre's *Courage Mr. Green* will advance to the One Act Provincials to be held in Medicine Hat.

tneely@okotoks.greatwest.ca