

TUESDAY
February 23, 1999
95th Year, #8

*Founded in 1905
by Charles Clark*

REFLECTING ON HER WORK



photo by Bruce Campbell

Carla Schmidt puts the finishing touches on her make-up in preparation for her role as Daphne in the one-act play 'A Tantalizing' at Windmill Theatre Players' dessert theatre Feb. 19 at the Highwood Memorial Centre. Schmidt will be back on the boards for the Zone 8 Foothills Region one-act festival Feb. 26-27 at the Memorial Centre.

community

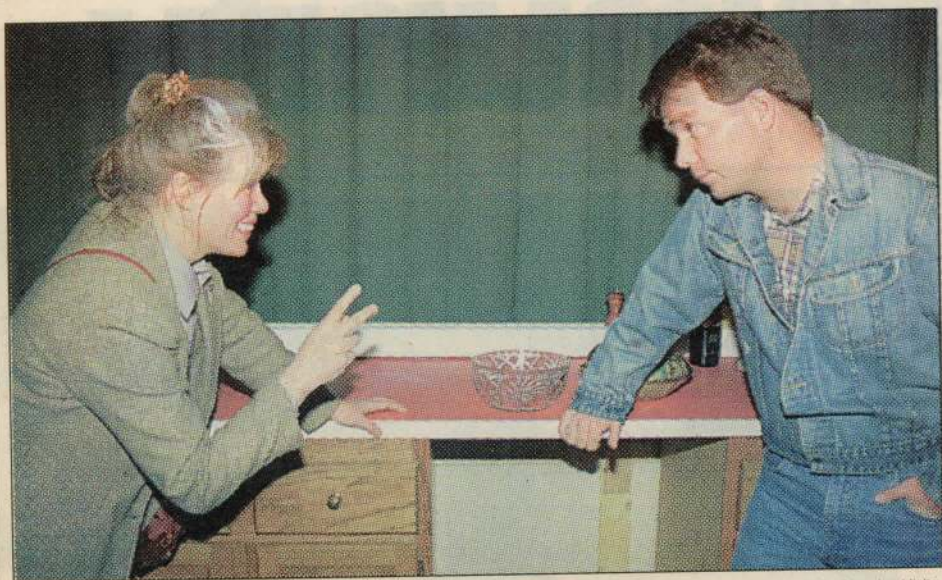


photo by Lorraine Hjalte

FAMILY FEUD Joann Newton and Bill Stevenson as the brother-and-sister team Vicky and Jack, squabble over what to do with their parents' remains in the one-act play 'Sibling Revelry' Feb. 19 at the Highwood Memorial Centre. The performance was part of Windmill Theatre Players dessert theatre.

FEB. 23 / 99

TIMES

news

JUST A
minute!

**Windmill hosts
one act festival**

Windmill Theatre Players will host the One Act Play Festival Feb. 26-27 at the Highwood Memorial Centre.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., with curtain call at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will only be sold at

TUESDAY

March 2, 1999

95th Year, #9

\$1 INC. GST

Inside
THIS WEEK



One Act Festival a celebration

Local theatre people excelled at the regional one act play festival.

page **15**



photo by Gerry Newlands

Carla Schmidt, director Jim Goodwin and George Stone of 'A Tantalizing,' which was named best play in the regional one act play festival Feb. 26-27. Stone was also named best actor, and Schmidt was a co-winner of the award for best actress.

High River thespians hosted tantalizing weekend festival

.....
paula **ELLIOTT**
TIMES CONTRIBUTOR
.....

"Theatre is a communal experience. It is the kind of work that involves taking responsibility, interacting with others, solving problems creatively, and accepting team challenges. It is an art form on which, very often, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts." (Stage Directions Magazine, August/96)

The 22nd annual Zone 8 Foothills Region One Act Play Festival was a celebration of community theatre. Diverse in themes and styles, each performance reflected hours of thought, effort, focus and co-operation. While the festival was competitive, it was designed to be educational to both the audience and the players.

Each performance was adjudicated by Gail Hanrahan, who has a Master of Fine Arts degree in directing and teaches all aspects of theatre at the University of Calgary. Hanrahan evaluated and provided constructive criticism to all participants.

The Pause Award, presented for the Best Play was received by "A Tantalizing," written by William Mastrosimone and directed by Jim Goodwin.

The award for Best Actor, Male was presented to George Stone for his portrayal of a homeless person in "A Tantalizing." Best Actor, Female was tied between Carla Schmidt for her performance in "A Tantalizing" and Sylvia Fournier who gave flesh to an unborn spirit in "The Cloak," written by Clifford Bax, directed by Ute Holewa.

Honorable mention went to the production of "The Cloak."

Also earning honourable mention were performances given by Jessie Gaede ("The Scarecrow"), Debbie Scott ("School for Pedoflies"), Dave Burton ("Louis and Dave"), David Orr ("Life on Mars").

Honourable mention for direction went to Ute Holewa ("The Cloak"), Mark Aitchison ("Life on Mars"), Steve Penman ("Sibling Revelry"); for costume design



photo by Gerry Newlands

Sylvia Fournier was co-winner of the award for best actress for her role in 'The Cloak.'

to Judith Colborne ("The Cloak"); for ensemble acting by the cast of "The House Still Stands" and for lighting to Mike Youden ("The Second Cougar," "Life on Mars," and "The Cloak").

The winning play from this festival, "A Tantalizing" will represent Zone 8 at the Provincial One Act Play Festival at the Pumphouse Theatre in Calgary on March 19-20. For ticket information phone 263-0079.

BEST BARGAIN BUZZ



REFLECTING ON HER WORK photo by Bruce Campbell Carla Schmidt puts the finishing touches on her make-up in preparation for her role as Daphne in the one-act play 'A Tantalizing' at Windmill Theatre Players' dessert theatre Feb. 19 at the Highwood Memorial Centre. Schmidt will be back on the boards for the Zone 8 Foothills Region one-act festival

Bringing a smile
to your morning!

March 2, 1999

Volume #1, Edition 1

Times reader enjoyed the backstage view of work on Windmill

Congratulations to Bruce Campbell for the front-page picture of local actor Carla Schmidt in the Feb. 23 edition of The Times. A delightful view backstage.

Windmill Theatre Players are a dedicated and talented group which enriches the life of High River.

May all the participants in the One Act Festival "break a leg."

*Mavis Walker
High River*

H.R. Times MARCH 2, 1999

community Windmill players preparing The Hollow

Windmill Theatres Players will present Agatha Christie's "The Hollow" as its spring production in 1999.

An unhappy game of Follow My Leader explodes into murder one weekend at The Hollow, home of Sir Henry and Lucy Angkatell.

Dr. John Cristow is at the centre of the trouble, for at The Hollow are his mistress Henrietta, his ex-mistress Veronica and Gerda, his wife.

To further complicate matters, also present are Edward, who is in love with Henrietta, and Midge, who is in love with Edward.

Veronica ardently desires to marry John Cristow but, although she succeeds in reopening their affair, he refuses to divorce his wife.

At this point Veronica unwisely threatens that if she cannot have John, no one else shall. Within five minutes, Cristow is dead.

Nearly everyone has a motive to wish Cristow dead. Most had opportunity but who actually committed the murder has to be discovered by Inspector Colquhoun and Sgt. Penny.

Production dates are April 22-25, and April 30-May 1. Phone Laureen at 652-1197 for more information.

Windmill Theatre Players

will be holding auditions for Agatha Christie's "The Hollow" on Sunday January 10, 1998 ⁰⁰¹⁹⁹ at the Highwood Memorial Centre in High River.

Ages 20 and up are needed for 6 male and 6 female roles.

For more information call Michelle at 601-2039



H.R. TIMES REGIONAL DEC. 22 198

community

H.R.T. - Tues. Feb 9, 99

Christie is foundation for Windmill

Windmill Theatre Players will present Agatha Christie's "The Hollow" in its spring production in April and May.

Production dates are April 22-25, and April 29-May 1 at Highwood Memorial Centre in High River.

Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller Christie Mallowan was born in 1890 at Torquay, Devon, England and died in 1976 at Wallingford, Berkshire, England.

She was brought up in South England and at 24 married Capt. Archie Christie. She wrote her first detective story, The Mysterious Affair at Styles in 1920, while serving

as a nurse during World War One.

With her marriage dissolving, Agatha Christie suffered a breakdown and "disappeared" briefly in 1926. She divorced Capt. Christie in 1928.

She then met archaeologist Max Mallowan while travelling in the Middle East a year later, and married him in 1930.

For the rest of her long life, she wrote prolifically, joined Mallowan on his yearly digs, and tried to avoid the public eye, which became more difficult as her fame grew.

She was awarded the CBE in 1956, and made a Dame Commander of the British Empire — the female equivalent of a knighthood — in 1971. Her last novel, "Postern of Fate," was written in 1973, when she was 82 years old.

During most of her career, Christie wrote at least one novel a year, ending with a total of 66. The last one published was "Sleeping Murder," which appeared after her death.

Another 21 volumes of short stories, mostly published in the 1940s and '50s, round out the catalogue, but these are hard to count prop-

erly since many of the 145 stories were repeated in more than one collection.

She also wrote or adapted from her stories 15 plays, of which all but one have mystery plots. Between 1930 and 1956 she also published six romantic novels, under the name Mary Westmacott, and there are five more books of autobiography and poetry.

For information about Windmill Theatre Players' production of "The Hollow," contact Laureen at 652-1197.

WIN! WIN! WIN!
For Valentine's Day.
See pages 14-15.

THE HOLLOW

Windmill cast brings Christie work to the stage

Three members of the cast of "The Hollow" will bring a variety of experience as performers to the stage in Windmill Theatre Players spring production.

"The Hollow," written by Agatha Christie, will be performed April 22-25 and April 30-May 1 at the Highwood Memorial Centre.

Jane Sutherland

Jane Sutherland was born into a musical family in Toronto, where she honed her chops as a guitarist, fiddler, vocalist and songwriter.

After completing university she headed west, performing at many festivals. She has recorded two CDs and performed with stars such as Lyle Lovett, Jann Arden and Prairie Oyster.

At present she lives with husband Cam near High River, recording demos for songwriting publishing purposes.

Sutherland has taken on the world of live theatre in "The Hollow" as Henrietta Angatell.

Henrietta, a sculptor, is the latest mistress of

Dr. John Cristow. A weekend at "The Hollow" will prove interesting since in attendance is Edward, who is in love with Henrietta, rival Gerda Cristow and a surprise visitor, Veronica Craye, a former mistress of John Cristow.

Henrietta will have to summon all her strength and grace to weather this situation.

Doug Elliott

Doug Elliott has always been comfortable performing in front of people, even in school. When a situation gets too serious, he lightens it up with a song, humorous antic or a dance. Amateur theatre is his way to help others laugh more.

He was involved in theatre in 100 Mile House, B.C. and since coming to High River two years ago with wife Paula and daughter Rachel, has been involved in Windmill's production of "Oklahoma."

He is perfect in the role of Sir Henry Angatell in "The Hollow."

Sir Henry Angatell is a retired governor of

India. He is a consummate statesman with influential connections, who spends his days shooting and entertaining family and friends at his home, "The Hollow."

Shannon Simington

Shannon Simington is an accomplished pianist and vocalist who has had a lengthy and rewarding theatrical career. Her credits include film, video, recording, acting and directing.

She has won several theatrical awards for acting and directing. At present she lives in High River with husband Lawrence.

Simington has taken on the humorous, challenging role of Lucy Angatell in "The Hollow."

Lucy Angatell bubbles with personality and charm. Even though she is aristocratic in appearance, she is completely vague. Yet, family and friends hold her dear. She provides the comic relief during a weekend filled with tension and murder.

For ticket information phone Laureen at 652-1197.

H.R. Times - Feb 23/99



Windmill Theatre Players
presents
Agatha Christie's
The Hollow
Highwood Memorial Centre
High River
Dinner Theatre:
Dinner 6:15 - 7:30 pm
Show 8:00 pm April 22, 23, 24
For tickets/info call
Marlene 652-7605
Matinee: 2:00 pm April 25
Regular Performances: 8:00 pm
April 30, May 1, 1999
For tickets/info call
Pickersgill Clothing 652-2252



photo by Lorraine Hjalte
AUDITIONS Shannon Simington reads with Barry Manard for one of the roles in Windmill Theatre Players up-coming production of Agatha Christie's *The Hollow*.

THE HOLLOW

H.R. TIMES MARCH 9, 1999

Three Windmill veterans return to stage

Veteran performers will fill three of the roles in Windmill Theatre Players' upcoming production of the Agatha Christie Thriller, "The Hollow."

Windmill brings "The Hollow" to the Highwood Memorial Centre stage on April 22-25 and April 30-May 1.

Terri Thiessen

Terri Thiessen, a native High Riverite, first joined Windmill in 1977 while in high school. She has participated in many musicals, including both productions of Oklahoma!

She resides in High River with husband Ray and daughters Amy and Lindsay. For the past 15 years she has worked at High River Hospital. At present she is president of High River Citizens On Patrol.

This is Thiessen's first dramatic role with Windmill, playing Midge Harvey. Midge Harvey, cousin to the Angatells, is a practical, independent woman who refuses financial "hand-outs"

from her wealthier relatives.

She fondly remembers her days growing up at Sinsiwick and since childhood has been quietly in love with Edward. She understands that Edward's heart belongs to Henrietta, but she has never lost hope that some day he will be hers.

Don Gaede

Don Gaede has lived in High River for 21 years, working as chief technologist in the diagnostic imaging department at High River Hospital.

His first theatrical role came in Grade 3 as the Scarecrow in "The Wizard of Oz." His next role came 37 years later as Marshall Ellam in Oklahoma! Gaede looks forward to portraying Gudgeon, loyal butler to the Angatells.

Gudgeon is in all respects the "perfect butler" — well-organized, professional, discreet and unquestionably loyal. Like most servants he knows and sees all that goes on in the home and would do any-

thing to protect his employer.

Barry Maynard

Barry Maynard lives in town with wife Lauren and sons Jason and Alex.

His first role with Windmill was in 1995 playing Christopher Wren in another Agatha Christie play, "The Mouse Trap." His most challenging role came in 1998 playing Scotty Templeton in "Tribute."

Maynard looks forward to working with the ensemble and playing Edward in this year's play. Edward Angatell, cousin to the Angatells, is a bookish man with a pleasant smile but diffident manner. His lack of confidence is evident with the other characters. His love for Henrietta, and hatred for John, has blinded him to Midge's feelings. He feels his only redeeming quality is Sinsiwick.

For more information on "The Hollow" phone Lauren at 652-1197. Gift certificates are available by calling Marlene at 652-7605.

THE HOLLOW

H.R. TIMES MARCH 16, 1999

Cast member comes from Down Under

Michelle Tapper comes to Windmill Theatre Players' production of "The Hollow" from Australia as an exchange student at Highwood High.

She has been interested in theatre since early childhood and has experienced every aspect of a theatrical production. In Australia, Michelle has had experience writing and directing short plays for children.

"The Hollow" is her first dramatic work and she looks forward to playing the maid, Doris. Doris is a young, inexperienced and very curious servant. She is developing her craft under the watchful eye of Gudgeon, the butler.

The events surrounding the murder leave Doris perplexed about the lifestyle of

the "upper crust."

Jason Fraser

Jason Fraser hails from Calgary with film and theatre experience. He has had extensive theatrical training and brings enthusiasm to his roles.

This is Jason's first appearance with Windmill in the roles of John Cristow and Sergeant Penny.

John Cristow is a respected doctor from London. His good looks and dynamic personality do not make up for his brusque manner. He is selfish and egotistical, and easily alienates some people, especially Edward.

The animosity between the two men is apparent from the beginning. This conflict, the struggle for Henrietta's affection, is integral to the

plot of the play, "The Hollow."

Helen Rogers

Helen Rogers lives in High River with husband Jim and daughter Jennifer.

Helen joined Windmill in 1994 with "Murder In The Wings." Besides other dramatic roles, she has performed in the musical "Oklahoma" and many one-act plays. She has also worked backstage as props mistress and producer.

She's excited about her role as Gerda Cristow in "The Hollow." Gerda is a timid, rather stupid, woman. The focus of her life is her family.

One can't help but feel sorry for this woman who is devoted to her husband, a man who treats her rather shabbily.

For information call Lauren at 652-1197.

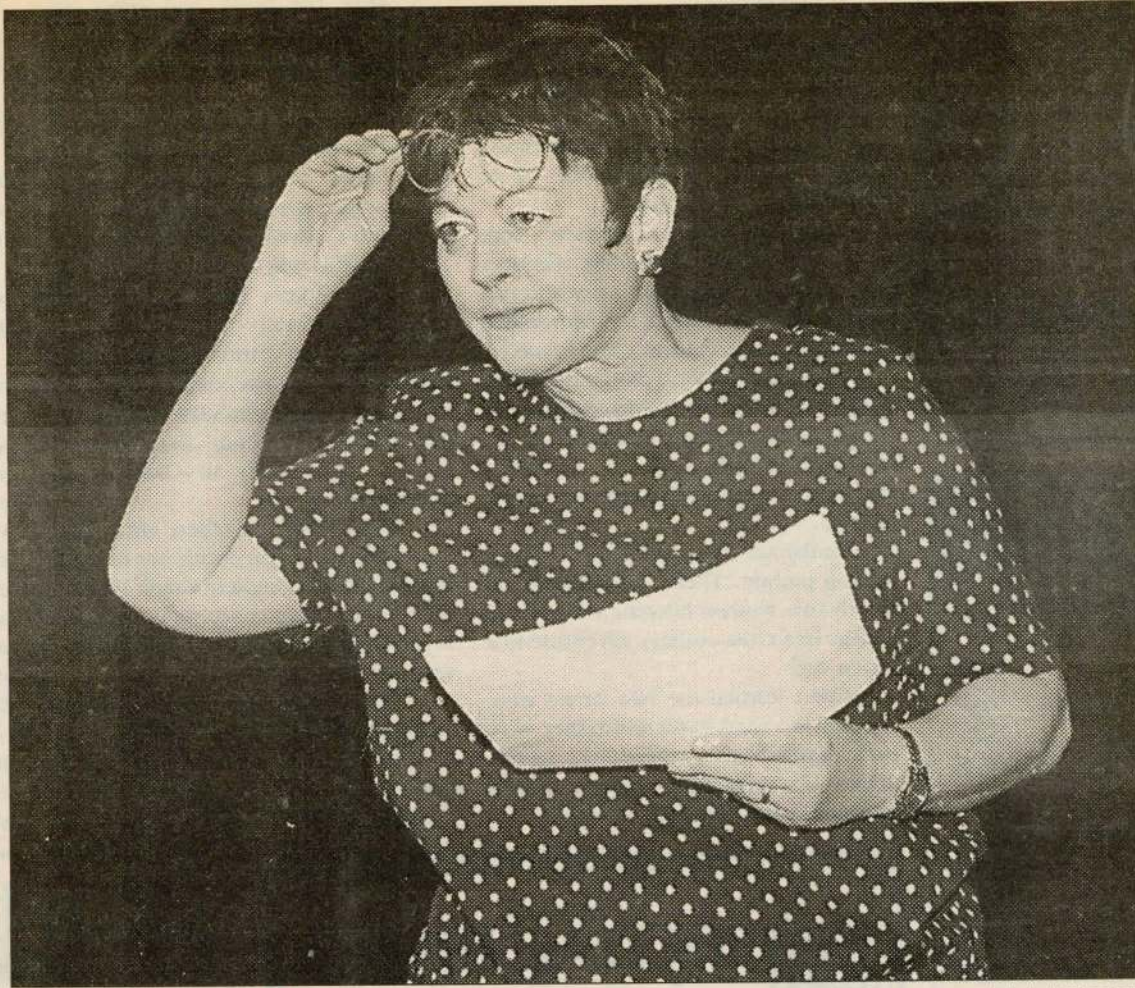


photo by Lorraine Hjalte

UNDER DIRECTION Jan Darrah listens to advice from director Michelle Desmonlis during an audition for Windmill Theatre Players up-coming production of Agatha Christie's *The Hollow*.

community

Windmill brings Agatha Christie to the Memorial Centre stage

Windmill Players are hard at work preparing "The Hollow" for its High River debut.

Three of the cast members bring varied backgrounds to their roles.

Michele Desmoulin

Michele joined Windmill two years ago when she was cast as Shelby in "Steel Magnolias."

Since then she has been in the chorus of "Oklahoma," stage manager for "Tribute" and held several roles in the one-act festivals.

Michele works as a massage therapist in High River. "The Hollow" marks her first stint as director. In the play she also plays Veronica Craye.

Veronica Craye, former mistress of John Cristow, is a self-centred movie star from Hollywood. Her sudden, unexpected appearance at *The Hollow* sends the plot of the play on a rollercoaster ride.

She makes it very clear she wants and expects John to resume their relationship, regardless of

his marital status.

Gerry Skeet

Gerry has been involved with amateur theatre for more than 30 years. He has been in such classics as "Fiddler On the Roof," "The King and I," "The Wizard of Oz" and "A Christmas Carol."

His most challenging role was that of God in "Pageant of the Medieval Mysteries."

Since moving to High River he has been in "Annie" as Franklin D. Roosevelt, and was sound techni-

cian for "Steel Magnolias." He now takes on the role as Inspector Colquhoun in "The Hollow."

Inspector Colquhoun comes from Scotland Yard to investigate the sudden murder. He is a sympathetic listener with a keen sense of sorting fact from fiction. Without prejudice he must review relationships, establish alibis and probe motive and opportunity.

Rhea Simpson

Rhea has recently joined the cast of "The Hollow" as Henrietta,

replacing Jane Sutherland.

She lives in High River and has been involved in Windmill for several years. Her stage credits include Sally in "Oliver," Grace Farrell in "Annie" and chorus work in "Meet Me In St. Louis."

Rhea has been in several one-act plays. She has worked as properties mistress and assistant director.

For more information on "The Hollow" contact Laureen at 652-1197.

THE HOLLOW

Windmill production crew knows its way around stage

A veteran team has been assembled for Windmill Theatre Players' production of "The Hollow."

The production crew brings an extensive track record to the play, which runs April 22-25 and April 30-May 1.

Laureen Maynard joined Windmill in 1995 as properties mistress in "The Mouse Trap."

Since then she has directed a one-act play and has been house manager. This is her first time at producing. She lives in High River with her family.

"The Hollow" marks the beginning of Celia Penman's 17th year of involvement with Windmill.

Celia loves to act and sing in musicals and tried her hand at directing in "Meet Me in St. Louis."

She has worked behind the scenes as house manager, props, sound and producer. Husband Steve and all four of her children are, or have been, involved in theatre so it's a family passion.

In "The Hollow" Celia wears two hats — assistant director and house manager.

Marlene Suitor has been involved in Windmill for 20 years. She has done everything — acted, directed, props, produced, make-up, hair, and backstage. She has been president and treasurer.

Marlene is now the chief dinner theatre manager.

Christina Ersson joined Windmill in 1996 and has been in the dark backstage ever since as the properties mistress. She will go (or fax or e-mail) to the ends of the earth, and has, to retrieve a special prop.

Christina enjoys working

with Windmill, and the group is fortunate to have her.

Joann Newton (or St. Joann) began in the costuming of actors in 1990. She generally prefers behind-the-scenes activities (painting sets, publicity, stage managing) but she also directed a few one-act plays and found the courage to get on stage — and survived.

No play would be complete without Joann's expertise in costumes.

For more information, call Laureen at 652-1197.

H.R. TIMES MAR. 30/99





