

Welcome to the Gas Station Arts Centre's monthly e-Newsletter – newly redesigned to showcase the various updates, events, news and opportunities that are of interest to GSAC members. For more information on any of the following items, simply click on the accompanying links.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dearest Friends of the Gas Station Arts Centre,

Last month I had the honour of thanking our Past president and Executive Director for the incredible work they do.

This month I get to say thank you to Andrea Von Wickert as Artistic director of Girls! Girls! Girls! – *THE RAPTURE*. Andrea has given so generously of herself to make all of the Girls! Girls! Girls! shows a standout success. I would really like to express the deepest gratitude to all of the performers and everyone who was involved in making an amazing show – and a magical night. GGG has truly placed itself on Winnipeg's cultural landscape, providing a range and level of performance that would make any stage in this city proud (I know that night it made our stage beam).

GGG has also become a vital fundraiser for the Gas Station Arts Centre and an important part of building our ongoing improvements. Even more than that, it is a great opportunity for us to come together in celebration of our little theatre and the amazing community that it builds and attracts.

As I write this, we are just weeks away from the Winnipeg Comedy Festival – and I know that our Comedy Festival Artistic Director (the always brilliant Al Rae) is putting the finishing touches to what will be another masterpiece. His commitment and dedication to this event cannot be matched – and it shows in the excellence and renown of the festival that we continue to host. Last year the Winnipeg Comedy Festival made history by becoming the first all gay prime time show shown on Canadian television (and we had record attendance). This year we are going to follow that up with the largest number of performers and performances yet to date – and the addition of the innovative “story-tellers” program – so if you have not got your tickets, do it now. This year's performances will be standing room only!

Much warmth,

Geof Langen

President, Gas Station Arts Centre

NEW EXECUTIVE & BOARD COMPOSITION:

Executive:

Geof Langen (President)
Christine Van Winkle (Vice-
President)
Bob Hamilton (Finances)
Shirley Grierson (Secretary)

Board:

Barb Besner
Hugh Conacher
Jess Irvine
Rob Krause
Paulette LaFortune

Peter Reimer (past
president)
David Schmeichel
John Silver
Lori Stefaniuk
Tanis Wheeler

MEMBERSHIP:

"Help a community grow – by allowing arts to prosper."

For just \$20 a year, you can help steer the GSAC on its path to future success, while ensuring that we remain anchored to the very community whose mandate we've made it our mission to fulfill. As a member, you'll receive monthly updates on the progress of GSAC-related events and initiatives, as well as information on upcoming shows, priority ticketing and special offers, and the opportunity to vote on our membership at the Annual General Meeting in December.

But that's not all! Your \$20 membership fee also includes one free ticket to a Winnipeg Comedy Festival gala of your choice (currently a \$40 value), plus a 15% discount on all Winnipeg Comedy Festival events, please use the discount code GSAC15 at ticketmaster.ca or by calling 780-3333. Businesses and non-profit arts organizations are welcome; info on payment options and additional benefits at the link.

Link: www.gasstationtheatre.com/Membership.html

WINNIPEG COMEDY FESTIVAL

Cue up the Strauss intro, and open the pod bay doors, HAL! Then get ready to laugh your way into the stratosphere, with help from the star-studded lineup of this year's CBC Winnipeg Comedy Festival, aka **2010: A Comedy Odyssey**. Running April 6 to 11, this year's Fest boasts another laugh-heavy roster of observational yuks, sophomoric stunts and gut-busting funny business, with appearances by Cathy Jones, Derek Edwards, Gerry Dee, Tim Nutt, Steve Patterson, Elvira Kurt, former Kids in the Hall stars Kevin McDonald and Scott Thompson, and Canuck icon Gordon Pinsent, among countless others. Click the link for a full schedule, and for info on Gala events and returning favourites (among them, CBC's much-loved The Debaters series, an encore performance of McDonald's acclaimed Hammy and the Kids, a Homecoming gig by local fave Trevor Boris, and an All-Star Tribute to recently-deceased Rumor's Comedy Club founder Ross Rumberg. Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.ca.

Link: www.winnipegcomedyfestival.com

RAFFLE TICKETS

Just in time for Manitoba's Homecoming 2010 festivities, comes a fundraiser that'll make you the envy of local culture lovers. Celebrating the best of this province's busy festival season, the GSAC's 2010 Raffle offers the chance to win a truly calendar-clogging prize pack, featuring two tickets each to the Winnipeg Folk Festival, the Winnipeg International Jazz Festival, the Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival, the Gimli Film Festival, the Winnipeg Wine Festival, Festival du Voyageur, and of course the 2011 Winnipeg Comedy Festival. Secondary prizes include 2,000 Air Miles and a series of Winnipeg Comedy Festival ticket packages. The winning ticket will be drawn at the GSAC on May 31 at 9 p.m.; tickets available at the GSAC, or from all GSAC board members.

PATIO SERIES

Looking to enhance the quality of the public space at the corner of River and Osborne? Or support local growers (while reducing your carbon footprint) by sticking to a 100-mile diet? Then be sure to check out the GSAC's Village Market, which aims to foster a connection between consumers and producers, while improving the state of neighbourly relations via a welcoming, walkable corner. Now entering its third season, the Village Market will again boast an impressive array of locally-grown (or made) food, arts and crafts, every Thursday evening from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., starting on Canada Day, July 1.

Check next month's newsletter for details on GSAC's Roots and Wings program, as well as our Canada Day plans and a performers schedule for this summer's Village Market. Also, feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone who'd be interested in GSAC-related goings-on!