



Spotlight

Winter Edition



December 2009
Morpheus Theatre News

Upcoming Events:

- Dec 20
Morpheus G&S Singers
Joint Christmas Concert
- Dec 21 - Jan 1
Morpheus Office Closed
- Jan 3
Music Theatre Workshop
- Jan 8 - 23
HARVEY
- Jan 8 - 23
Front Row Centre Players -
Hello Dolly!
- Jan 31
Script Analysis Workshop
- Jan 22 - Feb 7
StoryBook Theatre
Cookie Cabaret -
Seymour the Stegosaurus
- Feb 28
Dance for Musicals
Workshop
- Mar 14
Improvisation Workshop
- Mar 26 - 10
THE MIKADO

Morpheus Theatre
Community Arts Centre
2633 Hochwald Ave SW
Calgary, AB T3E 7K2

Info & Season Tickets:
(403) 246-2999

Ticket Sales:
(403) 216-0808
Excluding Season tickets
and Gift Certificates

E-Mail:
info@morpheustheatre.ca or
tickets@morpheustheatre.ca

We're on the web:
www.morpheustheatre.ca

A Pooka's view of Reality

When Elwood P. Dowd, a good-natured, mild-mannered eccentric, starts to introduce his imaginary friend- Harvey, a six-and-a-half-foot rabbit- to guests at a society party, his sister Veta, has seen as much of his eccentric behaviour as she can tolerate. She decides to have him committed to a sanitarium to spare her daughter, Myrtle Mae, and their family from future embarrassment.

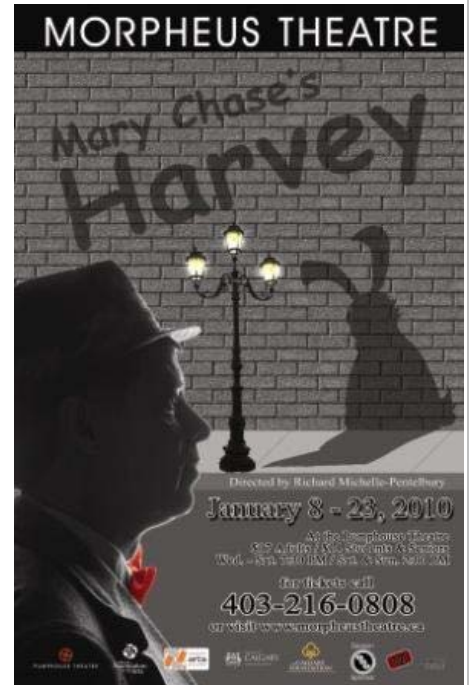
Problems arise; however, when the doctors commit Veta instead of Elwood, but when the truth comes out, the search is on for Elwood and his invisible companion.

Mary Chase's Harvey
presented in the
Joyce Doolittle Theatre
at the
Pumphouse Theatre
(2140 Pumphouse Avenue SW)

January 8 - 23, 2010

Show Times are:

Wednesday to Saturday at 7:30pm
Saturday & Sunday at 2:00pm



Adults - \$17
Students & Seniors - \$14

To purchase tickets:
Call (403) 216-0808 or visit
www.morpheustheatre.ca

To Book your Flex Pass tickets,
please call: (403) 246-2999.

Would you like to see Harvey for Free?

We need 2 volunteer ushers for each of the performances. Ushering is quick and easy, and all volunteers are invited to stay and watch the performance for free! To volunteer, please email tickets@morpheustheatre.ca or call (403) 246-2999.

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- HARVEY - A director's reflections and insights
- G & S CONCERT - Come support our chorus and be festive!
- WORKSHOP UPDATE - Past successes & Upcoming opportunities!
- VOLUNTEER PROFILE - Morpheus Theatre Administrator



A Director's Insights into Mary Chase's *Harvey*

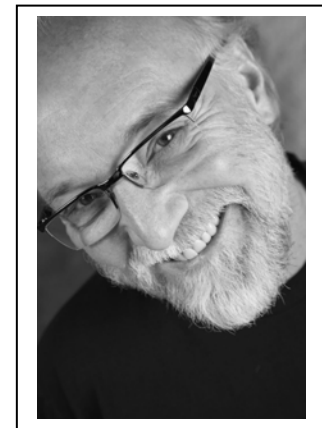
"Imagination is more important than knowledge," said Einstein. Harvey would concur.

When Sean Anderson invited me to direct this show I felt an immediate kinship with 'Harvey'. My 'Penelope' has been a constant for my casts and students over the past 30 years. And like 'Harvey' (a 'pooka,' or mischievous spirit given animal form), 'Penelope' provides for a constant scapegoat. 'Harvey', given materialization by his real-life friend, Elwood P. Dowd, has a significant effect upon the life of everyone who 'sees' him. And after all, to be so affected, all that any of us need do is imagine that we see 'Harvey' too.

We have a truly superb cast with a mixture of professional experience, veteran community theatre experience, and novices amongst us all. We were very fortunate to have "the ideal" persons for the roles turn up at auditions. As a result the play's pairings are really well suited: Myrtle with Wilson, Veta with Judge, Chumley with Betty, Veta with daughter Myrtle, and of course, Elwood with Harvey. Then too, we wanted stellar persons to suit the cameo roles, the Maid, the Socialite, and the Cabby. Also, we didn't want the play to resemble the movie, nor for the cast to copy the movie actors, and so, luckily for us, most of the cast have not even yet seen the movie. And if you have seen it, or when you do, I'm sure you'll agree, we have an altogether more vital show!

Featuring:

Mike Johnson as *Elwood P Dowd*
Elizabeth Greenwood as *Veta Louise Simmons*
Lisa Joanne Murray as *Myrtle Mae Simmons*
Sandy Lucas as *Mrs Ethel Chauvenet*
Brittany Richards as *Ruth Kelly, RN*
Steve Nagy as *Duane Wilson*
Tom Currie as *Lyman Sanderson, MD*
Scottie Grinton as *William R Chumley, MD*
Pat Baceda as *Betty Chumley*
Allen Crowley as *Judge Omar Gaffney*
Tim Elliott as *E J Lofgren*
Taylor Thompson as *Miss Molly Johnson*
and Harvey as *himself*



Thanks to 'Harvey' you're seeing a show built upon the painstaking imaginary reality of atavistically imbued mime, an antiquated home, a suppressive sanatorium, and a cast enlivened with their distinct psycho-geometric proclivities of personality, their spiral-dynamic colours of character, and the careful inculcation of their semiotics of time and space. *Huh?*

Not to worry. Knowledge of our *Harvey's* methodology is not necessary. Imagination is all!

Come. Enjoy!

Richard Michelle-Pentelbury

In the last issue, we asked readers for their input on their preferred method of communications. The overwhelming response was that we continue to use both newsletters and targeted emails.

Morpheus Theatre
Community Arts Centre
2633 Hochwald Ave SW
Calgary, AB T3E 7K2

Info & Season Tickets:
(403) 246-2999

Ticket Sales:
(403) 216-0808
Excluding Season tickets
and Gift Certificates

E-Mail:
info@morpheustheatre.ca or
tickets@morpheustheatre.ca

We're on the web:
www.morpheustheatre.ca



Gilbert & Sullivan Singers News!

The Morpheus G&S Singers are looking forward to ending the year by joining with a couple of other choirs for a Christmas Concert. We will be singing at the Good Shepherd Church, 6411 Norfolk Drive NW, on **Sunday, December 20th** at 7:00PM.

Come on out and join us as we celebrate the Holiday Season with old carols and new and, of course, carols arranged by Sir Arthur Sullivan.

As we go forward into the New Year we are looking forward to competing in both the Kiwanis Festival and Alberta Choral Fest as we prepare for a spring concert at the Victor Mitchell Theatre on March 28.

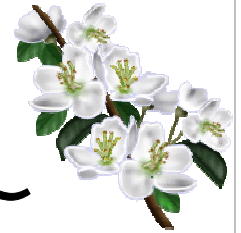
Watch the newsletter for more on these upcoming events as details get firmed up.

Tim Elliott

Mark Your Calendars!

The Mikado

March 26 - April 10, 2010



2009 – The Year of the Workshop

After the very successful 2009 Workshop Series, Morpheus Theatre launched their second great season of workshops. This season we are focusing more on the artistic side of theatre, with most workshops geared towards on-stage volunteers.

First up this year was an Audition Intensive Workshop with Richard Michelle-Pentelbury in September. This was the second time holding this workshop with a continued enthusiastic response from all.

Our second workshop was Intermediate Directing with Mark Bellamy in November, which brought out participants of all experience levels and also received rave reviews.

As always, our upcoming workshops will be geared to community theatre volunteers, mostly older teens and adults.

All workshops will be held on the weekend, most from 10am to 4:30pm with a half hour lunch break.

Individual workshop fee is \$30

Register a group of 5 or more, and attend for \$20 each! Or, register for 3 workshops and get the 3rd one for 50% off!

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE FOR 2010

Jan 3 – Musical Theatre Workshop*
(tentatively rescheduled)

Jan 31 – Script Analysis Workshop*

Feb 28 – Dance for Musicals Workshop

Mar 12 – Improvisation Workshop*

April – Hitting the High notes

**This Workshop is sponsored by Theatre Alberta with funding from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.*

Morpheus Theatre
Community Arts Centre
2633 Hochwald Ave SW
Calgary, AB T3E 7K2

Info & Season Tickets:
(403) 246-2999

Ticket Sales:
(403) 216-0808
Excluding Season tickets and Gift Certificates

E-Mail:
info@morpheustheatre.ca or
tickets@morpheustheatre.ca

We're on the web:
www.morpheustheatre.ca



So who is this Theatre Administrator Anyway?

As we continue our series on profiling the people behind Morpheus Theatre, we wanted to introduce you to one of the more public names and voices. Ginette Simonot joined Morpheus Theatre in the fall of 2007 as our first paid staff member, in the role of Theatre Administrator.

MT – What did you expect when you first started at Morpheus Theatre? How has that changed?

GS – I don't think any of us were sure what to expect. I've been involved with theatre all my life, but I'd never worked on the administrative side of theatre (you never know where a B.A. in Linguistics will take you!). I thought my job would consist of selling tickets, with perhaps the occasional email to volunteers. Over the years, that has evolved. I still sell tickets, but I also find myself organizing workshops, Front of House volunteers, promotional material for auditions and productions, newsletters, and I even find myself volunteering in my free time!

MT – What do you do when you are away from the office?

GS – You can usually find me preparing for a performance, whether it is with a local community theatre or one of the dance groups I'm involved with. I also spend a lot of time keeping my skills sharp with dance classes and voice lessons.

MT – Do you do anything that is not performance related?

GS – In the summer I like to camp and hike in the mountains, grow vegetables, and travel as much as I can. I also work at a downtown restaurant once a week, which is a nice change from the office desk.

MT – What's next for you?

GS – Something new and very exciting is coming up. I will be involved with our upcoming production of *The Mikado*, my first G&S operetta.

Out with the Old, In with the New

As regular audience members will know, Morpheus Theatre collects patron feedback through surveys. Every time we see the same concerns: requesting better seating, temperature control, and lobby carpet. While the Pumphouse is making plans for future renovations there is not much that can be done about the first two items. However, when it comes to the lobby carpet, Morpheus has made a generous donation to the Pumphouse which will see the carpet in the main entrance, bar area and Victor Mitchell lobby replaced during the month of December. We hope that this small change will help enhance your visit to the Pumphouse - if even just a little bit.

Happy Holidays from Our Family to Yours



Just a reminder that the Morpheus Theatre Office will be closed December 21 – January 1. Tickets will still be available for purchase online at www.morpheustheatre.ca.

For questions, ticket exchanges, and Flex pass bookings, please leave a message at (403) 246-2999 or email tickets@morpheustheatre.ca.

Messages will be checked periodically, but most requests will be addressed in the New Year.

Morpheus Theatre
Community Arts Centre
2633 Hochwald Ave SW
Calgary, AB T3E 7K2

Info & Season Tickets:
(403) 246-2999

Ticket Sales:
(403) 216-0808
Excluding Season tickets
and Gift Certificates

E-Mail:
info@morpheustheatre.ca or
tickets@morpheustheatre.ca

We're on the web:
www.morpheustheatre.ca

