

# **ACTION NEWS**

A publication of ACT-CO, The Association of Community Theatres – Central Ontario  
Volume 18, Issue 2  
November/December 2004

## **Member Groups 2004/2005**

Althea Production  
Amicus Productions  
Backwoods Players  
Blackhorse Village Players  
Bloor West Village Players  
The Borelians  
Burl-Oak Theatre Group  
Caledon Town Hall Players  
The Curtain Club  
Durham Shoestring  
Performers  
East Side Players  
Etobicoke Musical  
Productions  
Georgetown Globe  
Productions  
Huronians Players  
Mariposa Arts Theatre  
Foundation  
Markham Little Theatre  
Marquee Productions  
Mississauga Players  
Music Theatre Etobicoke  
Newmarket Stage Company  
Nomads Acting Group  
The Oakville Players  
The Oshawa Little Theatre  
Peel Panto Players  
The Queensville Players  
Scarborough Choral Society  
Scarborough Music Theatre  
Scarborough Players  
Scarborough Theatre Guild  
Scugog Choral Society  
The South Simcoe Theatre  
Theatre Aurora  
Theatre Etobicoke  
Toronto Finnish Theatre  
Toronto Irish Players  
Uxbridge Players  
The Village Players of  
Coldwater  
Weston Little Theatre  
Whitby Courthouse Theatre

From ACT-CO President: David Nash

There have been a few changes at ACT-CO since the last newsletter. I would like to welcome Rand Houghton to the Board of Directors. It is encouraging that we have made a start in our project to attract new Board members, but we need more volunteers. If you or anyone you know would like to serve, or at least find out what it entails, please contact me at 905-855-1439 or at [president@actco.ca](mailto:president@actco.ca). It is vital that the Board is truly representative of the membership, and we can only achieve that if the membership is willing to participate.

Congratulations are also extended to Brandon Moore, immediate Past President of ACT-CO. He has accepted a position at Theatre Ontario as Communications Coordinator. We know from his service on the Board, especially as newsletter Editor, how good his skills are. Theatre Ontario is fortunate to have secured his services. This has necessitated a slight reshuffle on our own Board with Brandon volunteering to serve as ACT-CO Secretary.

We are in the process of organizing workshops for the coming season. If you would like to suggest a workshop, please contact Ruth Smith, our Education Chair at 905-473-1977 or at [workshops@actco.ca](mailto:workshops@actco.ca). Also, if your group is running an in-house workshop and would like to advertise this to other groups, or require help in setting it up, we will be pleased to assist.

Finally, I would like to thank all groups who have entered the Festival, hoping you learn from our adjudicators and enjoy the experience.

**ACT-CO Board of Directors  
2004-2005**

David Nash  
President  
905-855-1439

[president@actco.ca](mailto:president@actco.ca)

Brandon Moore  
Past President &  
Theatre Ontario Rep  
905-508-5253

[pastpresident@actco.ca](mailto:pastpresident@actco.ca)

Laura Walters  
Vice-President  
416-801-9543

[vicepresident@actco.ca](mailto:vicepresident@actco.ca)

Ron Ashton  
Treasurer

905-274-5440; [treasurer@actco.ca](mailto:treasurer@actco.ca)

Maureen Lukie  
Gala Chair  
416-469-5061; [gala@actco.ca](mailto:gala@actco.ca)

Michael Roantree  
Editor – ACTION NEWS  
905-668-7938; [action@actco.ca](mailto:action@actco.ca)

Margery Cruise  
Festival Chair  
905-936-9486; [festival@actco.ca](mailto:festival@actco.ca)

Ruth Smith  
Education Chair  
905-473-1977  
[workshops@actco.ca](mailto:workshops@actco.ca)

Mark Nathanielsz  
Webmaster  
Festival Assistant  
905-421-9697; [info@actco.ca](mailto:info@actco.ca)

David York  
Area Rep – North &  
Archivist  
905-457-6488; [north@actco.ca](mailto:north@actco.ca)

Laura Pennington  
Area Rep – South  
905-852-9894; [south@actco.ca](mailto:south@actco.ca)

Vic Blackman  
Area Rep – East  
416-492-4595; [east@actco.ca](mailto:east@actco.ca)

Louise Boutin  
Area Rep – West  
905-857-5175; [west@actco.ca](mailto:west@actco.ca)

Larry Armstrong  
Director-at-large  
416-241-4166  
[larryarmstrong@actco.ca](mailto:larryarmstrong@actco.ca)

**A message from Education Chair: Ruth Smith  
And from Education Assistant: Rand Houghton**

We are appealing to the ACT-CO membership to help us find a venue for our Beginners' Lighting Workshop. We have a number of applicants who would like to take the workshop, but we need a space where our instructor could work with the light for demonstration purposes. We would prefer to have the workshop on a Saturday in November. If you are able to help us, please contact [workshops\(g\)actco.ca](mailto:workshops(g)actco.ca).

The workshop leader is a Grade 12 student at Uxbridge High School, and has been lighting community theatre and high school productions since he was eleven years old. He was nominated for an ACT-CO THEA award for his lighting design for the musical, *Gypsy*, with the Scugog Choral Society. He also won the John Boyd memorial Award, which is given to the student who has shown the most dedication to the technical aspects of theatre in his community. He enjoys working with beginning designers, and welcomes the opportunity to work with younger people as he has appreciated the help and guidance he received in his younger days.

**A message from Festival Chair and Assistant:  
Margery Cruise and Mark Nathanielsz**

On the next page is Festival Schedule for 2004-2005, with a reminder that the Gala is on Saturday, April 9, 2005.

## ACT-CO Festival 2004 – 2005

Group	Show	*	Box Office	Date	Time
Newmarket Stage Company	The Discipline Committee	D	905-830-1082	01-Oct-04	8:15
Brampton Music Theatre	Peter Pan	M	905-615-4720	02-Oct-04	8:00
Scarborough Players	Plaza Suite	C	416-396-4049	15-Oct-04	8:00
Theatre Etobicoke	No Sex Please, We're British	C	416-246-1889	16-Oct-04	8:00
Blackhorse Village Players	Out of Sight, Out of Murder	C	905-880-5002	22-Oct-04	8:15
Toronto Irish Players	Someone Who'll Watch Over Me	D	416-440-2888	05-Nov-04	8:00
Uxbridge Players	The Nerd	C	905-852-4282	06-Nov-04	8:00
Markham Little Theatre	The Art of Dining	C	905-305-7469	11-Nov-04	8:00
The Oakville Players	Dancing at Lughnasa	D	905-815-2021	12-Nov-04	8:00
Caledon Townhall Players	Caught in the Net	C	519-927-5460	13-Nov-04	8:15
Whitby Courthouse Theatre	Nonsense	M	905-430-3774	18-Nov-04	8:00
Oshawa Little Theatre	Hello Dolly	M	905-723-0282	19-Nov-04	8:00
Theatre Aurora	Li'l Abner	M	905-727-3669	20-Nov-04	8:00
Georgetown Globe Productions	City of Angels	M	905-877-3700	25-Nov-04	8:00
Weston Little Theatre	Death Takes a Holiday	D	416-703-8133	26-Nov-04	8:00
The Curtain Club	Design for Murder	D	905-773-3434	27-Nov-04	8:00
Marquee Productions	A Christmas Carol	D	905-953-5122	28-Nov-04	2:00
Queensville Players	Cinderella	M	905 476 0193	02-Dec-04	8:00
South Simcoe Theatre	Annie	M	705-458-4432	03-Dec-04	8:00
East Side Players	The Dining Room	C	416-425-0917	04-Dec-04	8:00
Scarborough Theatre Guild	Romantic Comedy	C	416-396-4049	11-Dec-04	8:00
Scarborough Players	Picasso at the Lapin Agile	C	416-396-4049	21-Jan-05	8:00
Blackhorse Village Players	Dangerous Obsession	D	905-880-5002	29-Jan-05	8:15
Theatre Aurora	Wait Until Dark	D	905-727-3669	03-Feb-05	8:00
The Curtain Club	Painting Churches	D	905-773-3434	04-Feb-05	8:00
Markham Little Theatre	Sylvia	C	905-305-7469	10-Feb-05	8:00
Oshawa Little Theatre	Dial M for Murder	D	905-723-0282	11-Feb-05	8:00
Georgetown Little Theatre	Jakes Women	C	905-877-3700	18-Feb-05	8:00
Whitby Courthouse Theatre	After Magritte/ Real Inspector Hound	C	905-430-3774	19-Feb-05	8:00
Marquee Productions	The Wizard of Oz	M	905-953-5122	20-Feb-05	2:00
Caledon Townhall Players	Arsenic and Old Lace	C	519-927-5460	25-Feb-05	8:15
Toronto Irish Players	Tea in a China Cup	D	416-440-2888	26-Feb-05	8:00
Newmarket Stage Company	Self Help	C	905-830-1082	26-Feb-05	8:15
The Borelians	Auntie Mame	C	905-985-1965	04-Mar-05	8:00
East Side Players	Our Town	D	416-425-0917	05-Mar-05	8:00
Weston Little Theatre	Who's On First	C	416-703-8133	11-Mar-05	8:00
Scarborough Theatre Guild	Marion Bridge	D	416-396-4049	19-Mar-05	8:00
Blackhorse Village Players	Communicating Doors	D	905-880-5002	26-Mar-05	8:15
The Oakville Players	Over My Dead Body	C	905-815-2021	01-Apr-05	8:00
The Curtain Club	Marvin's Room	C	905-773-3434	02-Apr-05	8:00
Toronto Finnish Theatre	Five Women In A Chapel	D	416-724-9856	03-Apr-05	3:00

## **ACTION NEWS GUIDELINES**

E-mail submissions to:  
[action@actco.ca](mailto:action@actco.ca)

or

mail submissions to:  
Michael Roantree  
3010 Cochrane St.  
Whitby, Ont.  
L1R 2P2

Please ensure that all submissions for plays for the Callboard or for the Show Calendar include the name of the author(s) or specific credit for musicals.

### **DEADLINES**

Nov/Dec	Oct. 15
Jan/Feb	Dec. 15
Mar/Apr	Feb. 15
May/June	Apr. 15
July/Aug	June 15

### **Subscriptions & Renewals**

Members of Groups belonging to ACT-CO may subscribe to ACTION NEWS. Send \$10 (cheque made payable to ACT-CO) to:

Michael Roantree  
3010 Cochrane St.  
Whitby, Ont.  
L1R 2P2

Be sure to include the name of your Group.

### **For More Information:**

**ACT-CO WEB PAGE**  
website: [www.actco.ca](http://www.actco.ca)

### **E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

General:

[info@actco.ca](mailto:info@actco.ca)

membership:

[membership@actco.ca](mailto:membership@actco.ca)

ACTION NEWS:

[action@actco.ca](mailto:action@actco.ca)

Workshops:

[workshops@actco.ca](mailto:workshops@actco.ca)

**Privacy Policy**  
[www.actco.ca](http://www.actco.ca)

## **A Notice from Theatre Ontario to all interested thespians**

### **BI-WEEKLY AUDITIONS EMAIL BULLETIN**

Theatre Ontario is pleased to launch a new service for its members, a bi-weekly auditions email bulletin.

This bi-weekly email bulletin will list theatre auditions (Community and professional) taking place throughout the province. Only current members of Theatre Ontario who have requested the bulletin will receive it. The auditions email bulletin is distributed every other Monday.

This auditions email bulletin enhances the benefits of membership with Theatre Ontario. Members also have access to Theatre Ontario's workshops, annual Summer Courses, awards and will receive our newsletter, Theatre Ontario News. A membership survey conducted in the fall of 2003 indicated that this auditions email bulletin would be a great addition to Theatre Ontario's membership services.

**Theatre Ontario invites theatre companies to submit their audition notices. A simple form has been added to our website, [www.theatreontario.org](http://www.theatreontario.org) to assist theatre organizations in submitting their audition information to Theatre Ontario. This information will also be posted in Theatre Ontario's in-office audition binders.**

To become a member of Theatre Ontario so that you can subscribe to this bi-weekly feature, visit them at their website.

# Show Calendar

## Oshawa Little Theatre

*Hello Dolly*  
Music and Lyrics by  
Jerry Herman  
Book by Michael Stewart  
Nov. 11-13, 18-20, 25-27,  
Dec. 2-4 at 8:00 pm  
Matinee on Nov. 21 at 2:00  
Oshawa Little Theatre  
62 Russett Ave.  
Oshawa  
905-723-0282  
[www.olt.on.ca](http://www.olt.on.ca)

## Mariposa Arts Theatre

*See How They Run*  
by Philip King  
Nov. 18-20, 24-27 at 8:00  
pm  
Matinee: Nov. 21 at 2:00  
Orillia Opera House  
Studio Theatre  
West Street, Orillia  
Box Office: 705-326-8011

## The Borelians

*Office Hours*  
by Norm Foster  
Oct. 29-30, Nov. 5-6  
at 8:00 pm  
Matinees: Oct 30, Nov. 6  
at 2:00 pm  
Port Perry United Church  
Queen and Simcoe Streets  
Port Perry, Ont.  
Box Office: Henshalls  
905-985-1965

## Scarborough Theatre Guild

*Romantic Comedy*  
by Bernard Slade  
Dec. 2-5, 9-12, 16-18  
Scarborough Village  
Theatre  
3600 Kingston Rd.  
Scarborough  
Box Office: 416-396-4049  
[www.playhouse66.on.ca/stg](http://www.playhouse66.on.ca/stg)

## Mississauga Players

*Caught in the Net*  
by Ray Cooney  
Nov. 4-7, 11-13  
Burnhamthorpe Library  
Theatre  
1350 Burnhamthorpe Rd. E.  
Mississauga  
Box Office: 905-812-1759

## Theatre Aurora

*L'il Abner*  
Music by Gene de Paul  
Lyrics by Johnny Mercer  
Book by Norman Panama &  
Melvin Frank  
Nov. 12-14, 17-21, 24-27  
150 Henderson Dr.  
(Between Yonge St. and  
Bathurst St.)  
Tickets/info:  
905-727-3669

<http://members.rogers.com/theatreaurora/>

## The Curtain Club

*Design For Murder*  
by George Batson  
Nov. 18-20 24-27, No. 30-  
Dec. 4 at 8:00 pm  
Matinee on Nov. 21 at 2:00  
The Curtain Club  
400 Newkirk Road  
Richmond Hill  
Box Office: 905-773-3434  
[www.thecurtainclub.org](http://www.thecurtainclub.org)

## Georgetown Little Theatre

*That Summer*  
by David French  
Nov. 4-6, 10-13 at 8:00 pm  
John Elliott Theatre  
9 Church St.  
Georgetown  
Box Office: 905-877-3700  
[www.georgetownlittletheatre.ca](http://www.georgetownlittletheatre.ca)

## Markham Little Theatre

*The Art of Dining*  
by Tina Howe  
Nov. 10-13 at 8:00 pm  
Markham Theatre  
171 Town Centre Blvd  
Markham  
Box Office: 905-305-7469  
Toll free: 1-866-768-8801  
[www.markhamlittletheatre.com](http://www.markhamlittletheatre.com)

### Scugog Choral Society

*Once Upon a Winter's Eve*  
an original holiday-themed  
musical  
written by Liz Auston  
Nov. 18-20, 25-27 at 8:00pm  
Matinees: Nov. 20 & 27 at  
2:00 pm  
Centre for the performing  
Arts  
corner of Queen & Simcoe  
Streets, Port Perry  
Advance Tickets at  
Henshall's Clothing and  
Gifts: 905-985-1965

### Scarborough Music Theatre

*Carousel*  
Music by Richard Rodgers  
Book and Lyrics by Oscar  
Hammerstein II  
Nov. 4-7, 11-14, 18-20  
Scarborough Village  
Theatre  
3600 Kingston Road  
Scarborough  
Box Office: 416-396-4049

### The South Simcoe Theatre

*Annie the Musical*  
by Thomas Meehan  
Score by Charles Strouse &  
Martin Charnin  
Nov. 11-14, 18-21, 25-28,  
Dec. 2-5  
The Old Town Hall  
1 Hamilton Street  
Cookstown  
Box Office: 705-458-4432

### Durham Shoestring Performers

*Proof*  
by David Auburn  
Nov 5-6, 10-13 at 8:00 pm  
Arts Resource Centre  
45 Queen St.  
(behind Oshawa City Hall)  
905-725-9256

### Weston Little Theatre

*Death Takes a Holiday*  
by Alberto Casella,  
rewritten for the American  
Stage by Walter Ferris  
Nov. 19-20, 26-27 at 8:00  
pm  
Matinee: Nov. 20 at 2:00 pm  
Weston Collegiate  
Auditorium  
100 Pine Street, Weston  
Box Office: 416-703-8133  
patsalmonds@sympatico.ca

### Whitby Courthouse Theatre

*Nonsense*  
by Dan Goggin  
Nov. 4-6, 11-13, 18-20  
Centennial Building  
Centre Street S.  
Whitby  
[boxoffice@whitbytheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@whitbytheatre.org)

### The Oakville Players

*Dancing at Lughnasa*  
by Brian Friel  
Nov. 11-13, 17-20 at 8:00pm  
The Oakville Centre of the  
Performing Arts  
Box Office: 905-815-2021  
[www.oakvilleplayers.ca](http://www.oakvilleplayers.ca)

### Georgetown Globe Productions

*City of Angels*  
Music by Cy Coleman  
Lyrics by David Zippel  
Book by Larry Gelbart  
Box Office: 905-877-3700

[www.georgetownglobeprod  
uctions.com](http://www.georgetownglobeproductions.com)

### Curtain Call Players

*The Will Rogers Follies*  
Book by Peter Stone  
Music by Cy Coleman  
Lyrics by Betty Comden &  
Adolf Green  
Nov. 4-6, 11-13 at 8:00 pm  
Matinee: Nov 7 at 2:00 pm  
Fairview Library Theatre  
35 Fairview Mall Drive,  
Toronto  
Order by Phone: 416-703-  
6181

# Callboard

## The Oakville Players

Auditions for:

*Over My Dead Body*  
by Michael Sutton &  
Anthony Fingleton

Sunday, Nov. 14 at 2:00 pm  
Monday, Nov. 15 at 7:30 pm  
1037 North Service Road E.  
Oakville

no appointment necessary  
for more info call:

David Nash 905-855-1439  
[dnash@rogers.com](mailto:dnash@rogers.com)

## Scarborough Theatre Guild

Auditions for:

*Marion Bridge*  
by Daniel MacIvor

3 women – early 30's to  
early 40's

2 female voices: ages 20-30

Sunday, Dec. 5 from 6:30 –  
10:30 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 7 from 7 – 11  
pm

Callbacks: Wednesday,  
Dec. 8 from 7 – 11 pm

Scarborough Theatre Guild  
Rehearsal Unit

49 Estate Drive,  
Scarborough

Book and Audition:  
416-755-7422

## Blackhorse Village Players

requires a director for  
"Shadowlands". Mail a  
resume to BVP; PO Box  
548; Tottenham, Ont;  
L0G 1W0

## Scarborough Music Theatre

Auditions for:

*The Goodbye Girl*

Book by Neil Simon

Music by Marvin Hamlisch

Lyrics by David Zippel

Saturday, Nov. 6, 12 – 5 pm

Sunday, Nov. 7, 12 – 5 pm

Monday, Nov. 8, 7 – 10 pm

Callbacks:

Saturday, Nov. 13, 1 – 5 pm

SMT's Unit, The Estate

51 Estate Drive,

Scarborough

(1 block west of Markham

Road, north of Progress

Avenue – opposite The Keg

and Holiday Inn Express)

Book and Audition: call

Linda Ransay 416-699-5220

## East Side Players

Auditions for:

*Our Town*

by Thornton Wilder

25 parts ranging in age  
from 10-60

Sunday, Nov. 21

Tuesday, Nov. 23

Callbacks: Thursday, Nov.  
25

to book an audition please  
call 416-421-0182

## Georgetown Little Theatre

Auditions for:

*Jake's Women*

by Neil Simon

1 male, early 50's

7 females, 12-48

Sunday, Nov. 21 at 1:30 pm

Monday, Nov. 22 at 7:30 pm

The Studio

33 Stewarttown Road

Georgetown

for more info call 905-877-  
3422

## The Curtain Club

Auditions for:

*Painting Churches*

by Tina Howe

Nov. 8 & 9 at 7:30

for more info call Director,  
Brian Moore 905-884-2638

## Marquee Theatrical Productions

requires a musical  
director/accompanist for  
"The Sound of Music"  
slated for May 4-15. For  
more info call 905-713-1040  
or e-mail

[marqueeproductions@sympatico.ca](mailto:marqueeproductions@sympatico.ca)

## THEATRE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

by Andrea Emmerton, Theatre Ontario

The summer courses held once again at Brock University were a great experience for all involved. It was exciting to watch participants transformed into characters just by wearing masks created by Teo Dragonieri as part of the Character-Based Comedy course. Allan Stratton, Tom Diamond, Ralph Small, and Ron Cameron-Lewis, the adult course instructors, all added to the success of the week, along with Sue Miner, Anne-Marie Kerr, David Gale and Randy Vancourt, the youth instructors. Start planning to attend next year's courses, which will be held from August 7-14, 2005.

Theatre Ontario is pleased to add two more adjudicators to the Talent Bank:

**David Copelin** is a playwright, dramaturg, and educator. Recently elected Treasurer of the Playwrights Guild of Canada, he is also a founding member and former president of Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA). David's translation of Alfred Jarry's infamous play *Ubu Roi* has been staged widely, including at the Shaw Festival and the Yale Repertory Theatre, as well as at many universities. His produced plays include *Mind Over Matter* and *Quite Contrary*, with *Bella Donna* ready for production. David is presently writing *The Rabbi of Ragged Ass Road*. Formerly Artistic Director of Toronto's ScriptLab, David still teaches its Writers' Intensive. A graduate of Yale Drama School, he has taught dramatic literature and dramaturgy at many schools including New York University, the University of Texas, and the University of California. A Toronto resident since 1996, David's "day jobs" have included managing a psychotherapy clinic, freelance editing, story consulting, and serving as a member of the Public Lending Right Commission in Ottawa.

**Dennis Johnson** is a director and adjudicator with thirty years experience as an educator and fifteen years experience with the Sears Drama Festival as an adjudicator at the District and Regional Levels. He was educated in Ontario Universities as well as New York, California and England, and holds an MA in Educational Theatre. A wide-ranging teaching career includes Drama Qualifications courses for U of T and Brock University, as well as a Circus Skills course at the Maggie Bassett Studio. Dennis has served on various Theatre Ontario committees and served as President of Ontario's drama teachers (CODE) for three years. Recent directing credits include *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *The King and I* at the River Run Centre in Guelph. Recent adjudication assignments include the Western Ontario Drama League (2002-2003).

David and Dennis will both be adjudicating for the ACT-CO region this year along with Ken Albanese.

I thought that it would be a good time to reprint the article on the adjudication process that was printed in one of last year's newsletters, since the Festival season is about to begin.

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At this time of year, as we move into the Festival season, I am frequently asked questions about adjudicators and the adjudication process. So, I thought I would share some information with you. An adjudicator who is a member of Theatre Ontario's Talent Bank, has gone through a very detailed application process, which includes seven professional references, a review by a jury of peers, a trial adjudication and an orientation session with experienced adjudicators. There is no absolute pattern for good adjudicators, although there are some good guidelines:

1. The ability to communicate with performers and audience
2. Knowledge of the subject (This has to be wide and detailed)
3. The ability to remain objective
4. The ability to criticize constructively
5. Enthusiasm for the work
6. A genuine interest in working and collaborating with people
7. The courage to voice an informed opinion that may be contrary to that of everyone present
8. A sense of humour
9. An ability to combine a humble approach to the job with the confidence that comes from knowledge and experience
10. A professional approach to the job (including the ability to keep to a time-table)
11. Effective presentation skills (including voice, manner and appearance)
12. Physical stamina
13. Flair (Oxford Dictionary definition: 'selective instinct for what is excellent').

During regional festivals and the Theatre Ontario Festival, the adjudicator will be prepared to give a public adjudication of each play, immediately following the performance. The adjudication should cover all aspects of the production, including direction, acting, presentation, production values, and a general evaluation of the success of the production as a whole. At the discretion of the adjudicator, remarks may be made about the play itself, the playwright, the intent, the history and the genre. It is understood that the adjudications will cover the production as presented, not personal opinions on the scripts. The adjudicator will then meet with the director, cast and crew for a detailed adjudication—an informal, in depth, open-minded discussion of the production between the company and adjudicator—an educational dialogue. This is the spirit/intent of adjudication and it is expected that companies and adjudicators participate with this in mind. A reasonable time for these detailed adjudications would be 60 minutes. It is important for companies to prepare their participants for the adjudication process and reiterate that they are not being "judged" but are present to take part in a discussion that will assist them in future productions. Please remember that the adjudicator is presenting an informed, experienced and professional opinion of the work as seen on one particular night.

An adjudicator's job is not an easy one. I have often heard comments such as "There is no such thing as a good adjudicator" or "That adjudicator didn't know anything." Neither of these statements is accurate and sometimes when we have been working closely with a production, we need to step back and try to look objectively at the work. Having said that, if at any time a company feels that that it has not received an informed, educational and fair adjudication, please advise the regional festival chair, or advise Theatre Ontario. All such issues will be dealt with in strictest confidence.

I hope that this has helped to demystify the adjudication process. Remember, all of the adjudicators are participating for the same reasons as all of you: a love of the wonderful world of the theatre.