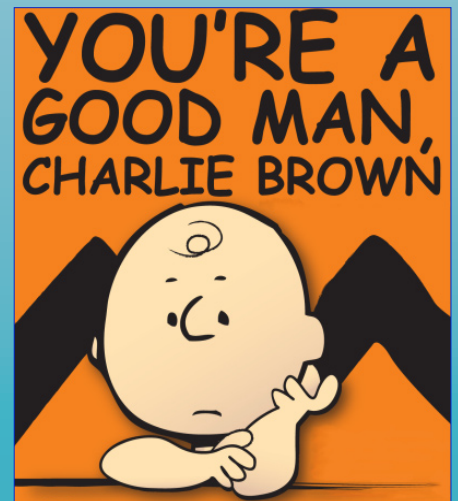
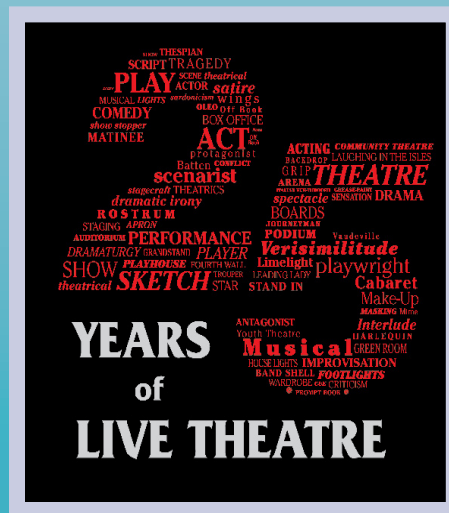
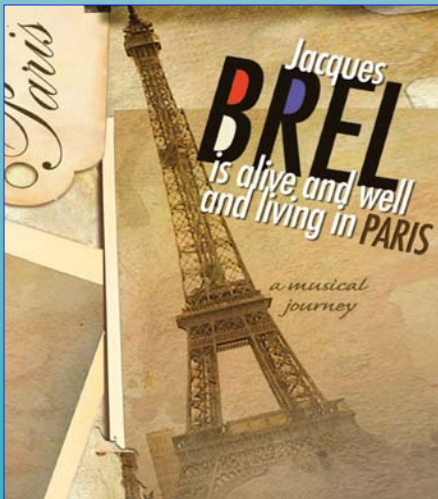




CHESTER PLAYHOUSE

Celebrating 25 years of Live Theatre
1987-2011

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



CHESTER PLAYHOUSE
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 www.chesterplayhouse.ca

Charitable Registration Number 12772744 RP001

BENEFITS

GOLD

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1,000-2499

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	GOLD 6000. +	SILVER 2500-5,999	BRONZE 1,000-2499	YOUTH 2,500-5,999
Year round promotion including: your company LOGO on our website, posters and promotional material				
Discounted tickets to selected shows for company employees.				
Support for the artistic development of the youth of the community				
Opportunity to reserve a group reception in the Ondaatje Room prior to performance and tickets for the play.				
Invitations to participate in our cultural workshops and exhibitions.				
Summer Theatre Festival Program promotions.				
Direct link to your website from our webpage.				
Public recognition of company sponsors prior to each performance.				
Complimentary Tickets and recognition of sponsors at our annual Playhouse gala event.				



Join Us in our Silver Anniversary Celebrations!

The Chester Playhouse Summer Theatre Festival has been the focus for a lot of summer visitors, residents and travellers over the past 25 years. We have had numerous corporate sponsors along the way and they have all contributed to the quality of the Theatre Festival, to raise the level of our programs and presentations with more professional directors, actors and designers. We have been active in promoting our corporate partners in all of our print material, by personal recognition from the stage, and through special events such as our Playhouse Gala. Thank you for taking the time to consider a corporate sponsorship of the Chester Playhouse. If there is any activity that we can supply in order to better promote your company, please let us know.

History of the Chester Playhouse

The Chester Playhouse is a lovely building located in the heart of Chester village. It was built in 1938 by Ken Corkum and Erick Redden under whose direction the building operated for thirty years as the Kenerick movie theatre. The playhouse held its first live performances in 1963 when Dick and Teka Burwell directed the Chester Jesters in the first of five annual summer productions. While the Jesters had been a “summer” phenomenon, the space came into regular use when Leo and Dora Velleman purchased and renovated the building in 1975, re-opening it as the Leading Wind Theatre for their company, The Canadian Puppet Festivals.



The Chester Theatre Council was founded in 1984 in order to preserve the theatre as a performing arts centre for the municipality of Chester. Initially the Council sponsored various touring productions and community rentals, and the first Chester Theatre Festival was held in 1987 featuring several touring companies plus a production by the Chester Drama Society.

In the fall of 1987 the building was purchased by Sir Christopher Ondaatje, and was later donated by him to the Chester Theatre Council Society. The theatre was renamed the Chester Playhouse and permanent seats were added to the balcony, bringing the house capacity to the present 176. Three major renovations have taken place, all being financed primarily through community support. These renovations have made the Chester Playhouse into a modern and comfortable facility for performers and patrons. The Playhouse holds no mortgage nor any accumulated debt, and our financial support from the community has been terrific over the years. We have established an involved youth strategy and have the beginnings of an endowment fund. We are confident that we will attain success in these endeavours through the ongoing support of our corporate sponsors.



Performances at the Playhouse

The very first production of the Chester Theatre Summer Festival in July 1987 was Side By Side By Sondheim. Thus began the tradition of presenting professional quality musicals and drama to our residents and summer visitors. The success of the Chester Playhouse Summer Theatre Festival over the years has been a steady development of quality productions and has far exceeded our wildest expectations. This year we are happy to bring back two classic plays, *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well in Paris*, And a family favorite, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. In 2009 we presented Alan Cole's musical adaptation of Frank Parker



Day's novel *Rockbound* which sold out for 7 performances. Prior to that the big musical was *The Musical of Musicals The Musical*, in 2008 which garnered 4 Merritt Award nominations. Others include *The Fantasticks*, *The Three Penny Opera*, and *Menopositive*. We have also imported many well known Canadian performers such as Lally Cadeau, Albert Schultz, Anna Cameron, Lorne Elliott, Peter Gzowski, David Renton, Alan Maitland, Mary Colin Chisholme, Don Herron and Catherine McKinnon, just to name a few.



The Chester Drama Society has played a large part in the programs over the years with many off-season productions, as well as producing some large cast/community original musicals such as *Mrs. Finney's Hat*, *The Dream Children*, and *Death the Musical*. The latter went on to play the Neptune Stage and is still being produced across the country. In celebration of Chester's 250th anniversary year the CDS presented *A Brief History of Chester, May Contain Nuts* in 2009.



During the spring and fall the Chester Playhouse plays host to many diverse community groups who rent our theater for their productions. Forest Heights Community School Drama Club has had a regular spring production for many years, and The Kids Into Drama Society had productions for about seven years. Other groups who have performed on the playhouse stage include: The Gilbert & Sullivan Society, The Anglican Chester Youth Group, the South Shore Players, Nova Dance, The Studio Singers, Sonic Entertainment Group, Ruby Shoes Productions, Kings Edgehill, and the Chester Drama Society, with a performance of the annual Christmas farce.

And then there is Music! Nova Scotia is lucky to have so many talented and diverse musical groups who are always looking for an audience. As a smaller, soft seat venue we often are able to get some of the up and coming acts before they become too famous. We have hosted Joel Plaskett, James Ehnes, Natalie McMaster, Jill Barber, Old Man Luedecke, Matt Mays, The Cottars, Bruce Guthro, Ashley MacIssac, Great Big Sea, JP Cormier, Michael Kaeshammer, David Myles, and numerous others. We try to have a varied program, and work with Music Nova Scotia to find and promote some of our rising stars.



Youth Programs at the Playhouse

The mainstay of the youth programming here at the Chester Playhouse is our annual Summer Theatre School which has been offering a summer drama camp since 1991. A team of theatre professionals direct, coach, instruct and mentor up to 25 youth from the area who love to be on stage. We have taken great strides in the past few years to raise the level of instruction at our summer school, and the results have been obvious. In 2010 the students performed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to great critical acclaim. This year the kids will present the well loved musical *Guys and Dolls*



In 2008 we started developing a youth strategy to ensure our programming was open to all ages. We are pleased with the involvement of the communities youth on many levels, but particularly the After School Acting classes, directed by Cynthia Myers. This program has involved over 100 of our children over the past year, and continues to grow, giving these young minds a whole new level of confidence. In 2009 we brought local students into special community performances, produced specific programming, and had reduced ticket prices to all of our shows for students.

As well as our own programs, The Playhouse is home to various youth drama groups. The Forest Heights Community School's Drama Club took over Chester Playhouse last May to share a brilliant performance of *Robin Hood* with the community. The cast of 20 and crew of 15 are rewarded for their accomplishments by being part of something they love and by gaining practical skills such as leadership, confidence and teamwork. They will return in 2011 with a new high school production. For 7 years, KIDS (Kids into Drama Society), have presented such great performances in "*Dracula*" and *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Along with managing all the behind the scene duties such as, stage set up, props and sound., they have produced these shows with only limited adult supervision.



Sponsorship of our youth programs benefit everyone, as students, parents, professionals and our patrons get involved in the development of young minds and the love of participation. We are fortunate to have support from The Alexander Flemming Patillo Memorial Trust Fund and The Ellis Davis Sponsorship Fund to keep registration costs down for the students. All youth sponsorship support goes directly to funding these programs.

2011 programming

We are very happy to open this our 25th season with a live performance of a play touring the Maritimes from Quebec and produced by the National Arts Centre in Ottawa We will continue to offer a varied program with performances by well know musicians and theatre actors, as well as our youth actors as part of the after school program ans our Summer theatre school.

Events 2011:

April 9th **The Bookshop** a play for all ages 7:30pm

April 16th **Swingology** 8:00pm

April 30th **Thom Swift and Jamie Junger** 8:00pm

May 7th **Mike Murley Jazz Quartet** 8:00pm

May 11-14th **Forest Heights Community School**

May 21st **Laura Smith & Ryan MacGrath** 8:00 pm

May 27th Theatre **Launch** of our Summer Season 5:00pm

June 15-17th After School **Youth Programs**

June 25th **Garnet Rogers** 8:00pm

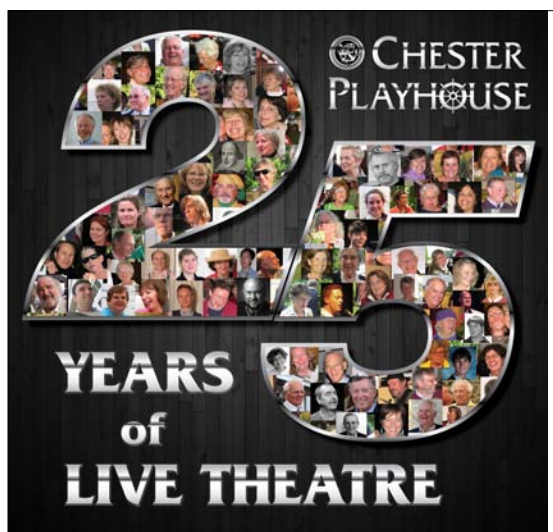
July 7-9th **Chester Drama Society** Production

July 10th **Jaffa Road** 8:00 pm

July 19th **Summer Festival Opening** 8:00 pm

July 23rd **Playhouse Gala**

Aug. 27th **Closing celebration** event for the 25th Season 8:00 pm



Our Summer Theatre Festival will open this year on Tuesday July 19th 2011 with the well known musical *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* directed by our Artistic Director Mary Lou Martin. We will then present a family favorite *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. We look forward to the Summer Theatre School production of *Guys and Dolls* and we'll finish the summer with another new play. During the Summer Festival we also present some music and films and community events.

We recognize that it is the people of our community who have been so important in our 25years of success. Thank you to all of our supporters.