

Prime Minister for a Day, written and directed by James F.W. Thompson, about what happens when Ryan MacInnis, a do-nothing slacker from Cape Breton becomes the greatest pawn in Canadian political history without being aware of it, with Wesley Colford, Jennifer Cormier, Daniel Dobson, Erin Gillis, Bonnie MacLeod, Brent Martin, Michael Taylor and Thompson, Aug. 19 to 22, 7 p.m.

Tickets \$15, \$10 students and seniors at CBU Boardmore Playhouse (563-1652), Cape Breton Curiosity Shop, 306 Charlotte St., (564-4660). Cambridge Suites is offering a dinner-and-theatre package at its Trio Restaurant.

Cape Breton Stage Company presents its **Outdoor Theatre Festival** of original plays staged in parks and parking lots, Aug. 5 to 8, 6 p.m. Pay-what-you-can.

SHAKESPEARE BY THE SEA

July 1 to Sept. 6, Point Pleasant Park Halifax

Jack and the Beanstalk-Market, original all-ages production based on Jack and the Beanstalk, described by director Amos Crawley as "based on a stock market crash in a Bugs Bunny meets the gangsters sort of world, the world of Jimmy Cagney and Al Capone, and it's a chance for people to do funny voices. Jack is an overgrown newsie and the Giant is an Al Capone character; quite dangerous." Opening July 1, 7 p.m.

Love's Labour's Lost, never produced before by the company in its 16 seasons, directed by Elizabeth Murphy, set in the 1950s. The King of Navarre (David Patrick Flemming) gets his three best friends to sign an edict, swearing off wine, women and song for three years but when princess of France (Geneviève Steele) arrives with her three ladies in waiting, they all fall in love at first sight. Is the love real? Opening July 5, 7 p.m.

Macbeth, Shakespeare's famous bloody tragedy about the overly ambitious Macbeth (David Patrick Flemming) and his striving wife, Lady Macbeth (Geneviève Steele), directed by Jesse Maclean, opening Aug. 1.

Company members are: Caitlin Stewart, Geneviève Steele, Jeremy Webb, Ari Millen, Drew O'Hara, Jeff Schwager, Tom Smith, Amos Crawley, David Patrick Flemming, Simon Henderson, Kevin Macpherson, Cadence Allen, Nathan Bender, Carly Chamberlain and Mary Fay Coady.

Suggested donation \$15. Tuesdays to Sundays 7 p.m., 1 p.m. matinees Saturdays and Sundays. At Cambridge Battery; in rain, move to SBTS's newly expanded headquarters.

422-0295, www.shakespearebythesea.ca

SHIP'S COMPANY THEATRE

July 1 to Sept. 20, Parrsboro

Ivor Johnson's Neighbours, by Charlie Rhindress, adapted from the novel by Bruce Graham, a quirky and familiar story about a community of colourful characters, set in Parrsboro's Whitehall in the 1950s, directed by Pamela Halstead, starring Deborah Allen, Stephanie Folkins, Bill Forbes, Gay Hauser, Frank MacKay, Amy Reitsma, Mary Vingoe and Gordon White. July 1 to 26.

Ferry Tales, book and lyrics by Carol Sinclair, composition and additional lyrics by David Sereda, a musical full of the lore of the beloved MV Kipawo, last of the Minas Basin ferries, directed by Pamela Halstead with musical director Holly Arsenault, starring Deborah Allen, Bill Forbes, Frank MacKay, Amy Reitsma, Paul Tupper, Mary Vingoe and Gordon White. Aug. 5 to 30.

OneLight Theatre's **The Veil**, a Persian princess's epic journey from the palace harem, to Europe where she survives personal and political traumas, and her return to a country forever changed by revolution, written by Shahin Sayadi, based on Masoud Behnoud's epic novel, Khanoom, winner of the 2008 Merritt Award for best new play. Sept. 11 to 20.

Second Stage

Trudeau Stories, writer-performer Brooke Johnson's story about becoming friends with Pierre Elliott Trudeau in 1985 when he had returned to private life and she was a National Theatre School student in Montreal July 29 and 30.

Lorne Elliott with his newest comic and musical theatre creation, the 2009 Catch Him Before He Croaks Tour, turning the serious heart attack he experienced in 2007 into a light-hearted show about redefining priorities, July 31.

Kids' Stage: Maritine Marionettes, Molly and the Oak Island Treasure, the story of Molly, her boat and Pixie, her little fairy friend, told with 13 hand-crafted puppets operated by Heather and Darryl Taylor, with the music of the Barra MacNeils, Aug. 1.

Concert series: July 13, Frank MacKay; July 20, Samantha Robichaud; July 27, Fullhouse; Aug. 10, Hal Bruce; Aug. 17, Abrams Brothers; Aug. 24, Theresa Malenfant; Sept. 6, 2 p.m., Atlantic Canada Ceilidh; Oct. 18, 2 p.m., Ardyth & Jennifer and Nova Voce.

Reading Series, Destination Gallery, 1 p.m.: July 4, Charlie Rhindress; July 18, Bruce Graham; Aug. 1, 8 p.m., The Summer of the Handley Page by Carol Sinclair to commemorate the 25th Anniversary at Ship's Company Theatre; Aug. 8, Carol Sinclair; Aug. 22, Catherine Banks.

Special 25th anniversary event: The Singing Ranger — A Musical Tribute to Hank Snow. Join the talented musical team of Greg Simm, Gordon Stobbe, Stephen Osler, Mike Farrington Sr. and Michael Swinmer, with Andrew Cull as Hank Snow. Sept. 25 and 26, 7:30 p.m., 2 p.m. matinee Sept. 27.

Tickets \$27.50 adults, \$18 youth, student and Sunday evening shows, \$24 seniors, \$12 preview and Kids' Stage, \$20 Oct. 18 concert.

1-800-565-SHOW, www.shipscompany.com, 254-3000



Starring in Daniel MacIvor's **Marion Bridge**, which opens the new Play This Summer: Theatre and Art Festival in Sydney on July 2 are, from left, Carolyn Dunn, Kerriane MacKenzie and Colleen MacIsaac. The play, directed by Todd Hiscock, runs in St. Andrew's Hall Thursdays and Saturdays to Aug. 15.

(LAURA FRASER / Staff)



Charlie Rhindress, left, has adapted Ivor Johnson's **Neighbours**, a novel by Bruce Graham, right, into a play opening Ship's Company Theatre's 25th season on July 3 in Parrsboro.



Shelley Thompson performs as Florence Foster Jenkins with Ian Gilmore as Cosme McMoo, in **Glorious!**, a comedy by Peter Quilter, directed by Robert Metcalfe and opening Festival Antigonish's summer season on July 9.

(ASHLEY KOWALEWSKI)

THE SAVOY THEATRE

Cape Breton Kitchen Party, Sundays through July and August.

4 Men in a Tub, a music and comedy show with original and traditional East Coast songs, jazz standards, fiddle tunes and character-driven sketches written and performed by Duncan Wells, Brian Martin, George MacDonald and Shawn MacDonald, Tuesdays through July and August.

The No Class Reunion Dinner Theatre, about five quirky musical hopefuls who believe they can catch a break when they are recruited to perform in the Savoy's first-ever variety gala, July 7 to 11; July 20 to 22.

Ghost of the Savoy Dinner Theatre, which delves into true tales of the Savoy ghost, Aug. 1 to 22.

Tickets \$39.50 dinner theatre, \$20 for 4 Men in a Tub. 1-902-842-1577, www.savoytheatre.com

TWO PLANKS AND A PASSION

July 11 to Aug. 9, Ross Creek

World premiere of Allen Cole's new musical **Rockbound**, an adaptation of the beloved novel by Frank Parker Day, the latest in the company's award-winning Theatre Off The Grid productions at the Ross Creek Centre for the Arts, near Canning.

Rockbound tells the story of David Jung, a poor orphan who returns to the island of his birth to claim his rightful share of land, and is a story of unrequited love and the destructive greed that drives many of the inhabitants of Rockbound. Ken Schwartz directs a cast of 14 performers: Burgandy Code, Ryan Rogerson, Martin Burt, Frank Moore, James MacDonald, Amanda LeBlanc, Bridget Bezanson, Margot Sampson, Leete Stetson, Kyle Gillis and Cliff LeJeune. Musical direction is by Allen Cole and choreography by Alexis Milligan.

Tickets \$25 regular, \$20 students and seniors, \$10 children (ages five to 12); \$65 family (two adults, two children), \$5 additional children; \$10 preview. Call 582-3073, 1-888-895-4545 or email boxoffice@twoplanks.ca. www.twoplanks.ca

VALLEY SUMMER THEATRE

July 29 to Aug. 23, Acadia Cinema's Al Whittle Theatre, Wolfville

July 29 to Aug. 16: D. L. Coburn's Pulitzer prize-winning **The Gin Game**, set in a dilapidated nursing home where Fonia Dorsey and Weller Martin spar with each other over cards, starring Ontario actor Carolyn Hetherington (Lillibet)

Nova Scotia's exhibit of paintings and the Painted House. Mary-Colin Chisholm and Carroll Godsman alternate in the role of Maud.

Shows are Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 2 p.m.; Thursdays, 7 p.m.; Fridays, 2 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets for members are \$20 plus HST and \$24 plus HST for non members. Tickets are available at the AGNS Information Desk or 424-5280.

LIFE IN THE EARLY DAYS OF GRAND-PRÉ, July 1 through August, Grand-Pre National Historic Site

Most people associate the Grand-Pré National Historic Site with Evangeline and the history of the Deportation, but Grand-Pré was a vibrant Acadian village for almost 75 years. Inspired by the ancient tradition of the wandering minstrel, Daniel Castonguay has created a new play that brings to life the early days of Grand-Pré. Four young actors — Tanya Brideau, Ludger Beaulieu, Joseph McNally and Daniel Pinet — move about the historic site, impersonating a number of Acadians who lived in Grand-Pré. On rainy days, the 20-minute performance will take place in the memorial church.

There are several performances daily in both English and French, from Thursday to Sunday in July and August. Entrance fee (\$7.80 adults, \$6.55 seniors, \$3.90 a child, and \$19.60 for a family) to Grand-Pré National Historic Site includes the play. This year chef Michael Howell is preparing picnics for lunch in the gardens at Grand-Pré National Historic Site.

www.grand-pre.com

COMMUNITY THEATRE

Chester Drama Society and Chester Municipal Heritage Society: A Brief History of Chester (may contain nubs), a new play and a "quasi-historical comedy-drama with music," written by Malcolm Callaway, with original music by Dawn Harwood-Jones and John Overton, directed by Cynthia Myers, at the Chester Playhouse July 9 to 11 and July 14 to 18 with a pay-what-you-can preview July 8. Tickets \$17, \$15 for seniors and students.

CentreStage Theatre, Kentville: Here on the Flight Path, a dramatic comedy by Norm Foster Friday, Saturday and Sunday (matinee), July 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18 (tickets are \$12, \$10 for students and seniors, \$5 for matinees and kids); Sleeping Beauty a family musical by Susan Bardsley and Lani Brockman, July 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 (tickets are \$5 and all shows begin at 2 p.m.). 678-8040, www.centrestagetheatre.ca

Theatre Arts Guild: Marie Antoinette: The Colour of Flesh, by Joel Gross, the story of an imagined love triangle between the controversial queen, a fictional count and a real-life social climbing portrait painter named Elisabeth Vigée le Brun, to July 15. Sea Marks, winner of the LA Drama Critics Circle Best Play Award, directed by J. Frederick Brown, a TAG seat sale fundraiser, Aug. 13 to 16. Pond Playhouse, Halifax. Tickets \$15, \$12 members, seniors and students. 477-2663, www.tagtheatre.com.

Th'YARC: musical family comedy Once Upon A Time, directed by Randy Muise with a cast of 33. Evil is about to be banished from Pantoland, thanks to the wedding of Cinderella's daughter and Snow White's son. However, the wicked queen, Evelyn, sets out to stop the wedding by transporting Princess Lottie and her two assistants, Nick and Nack, to the far reaches of Pantoland, Aug. 13 to 15, 20 to 22, 7:30 p.m., 2 p.m. matinee Aug. 16. 742-8150, <http://yarcplayhouse.com>

DINNER THEATRE

Grafton Street Dinner Theatre: Someone Wake Mr. O'Brien. It is the final day of the three day wake for Paddy Jr. and time is running out. Lift a glass and check his pockets, cause Paddy may be gone but the will ain't. Tickets are \$42.03 plus tax; from Sunday to Friday \$22.12 plus tax for kids 12 and under. 425-1961, www.graftonstreetdinnertheatre.com

Married to the Mob: music and mayhem with Motown and soul classics, the fourth dinner theatre staged by writer-producer Ed Kennedy with his E.A.K. Entertainment company at the Rodd Grand Hotel in Yarmouth. Monday to Saturday 6:30 p.m., to Aug. 31. 742-2446, www.roddvacations.com

Petrie's Halifax Feast: High School Reunion: The Musical. Join the class of 1959 as they put aside their walkers and take a look back at a time when life seemed rosier and the future was full of promise. To November. Tickets are \$42.70 plus tax; \$21.35 plus tax for kids 12 and under except on Saturday. 420-1840, www.feastdinnertheatre.com

Vignettes at the Halifax Club: Sentimental Journey, a journey through Halifax in the 1920s with stories of the Titanic and the Halifax Explosion and wartime in the city. Brylcream & Bobby Socks, a musical review from the 1950s, comedy and songs from the '50s.

Shows alternate as lunch and dinner theatres. Lunch theatre noon, Tuesdays to Fridays. Dinner theatre Thursdays to Saturdays, doors open at 6 p.m., show at 7 p.m. Tickets \$19.95 plus tax and gratuities for lunch; \$39.95 plus tax and gratuities for dinner. 423-8460 (ext. 3), reservations@halifaxclub.ns.ca, www.halifaxclub.ns.ca

The Feast and the Fury: a new dinner theatre at Fortress Louisbourg running July 1 to Sept. 2, featuring an 18th century meal in a tavern setting with stories, comedy, drama and song. The show brings to life the characters and events from Louisbourg's past with all its joys, laughter and sadness. Meet at Visitors Reception Centre, 6 p.m. Tickets are \$50. 733-3546

(ebarnard@herald.ca)



Two Planks and a Passion Theatre's 18th season features the world premiere of Allen Cole's Rockbound as the latest in the company's award-winning Theatre Off The Grid productions at the Ross Creek Centre for the Arts near Canning. Rockbound officially opens July 12, 6 p.m., and runs to Aug. 9 at the Ross Creek Centre for the Arts. The adaptation of Frank Parker Day's beloved novel set in Nova Scotia has a cast of 14.

(DOOWAH DESIGN)

and Halifax actor Lee J. Campbell (The Drawer Boy, Bump), directed by Linda Moore.

Aug. 19 to 23: A.R. Gurney's **Love Letters**, a Pulitzer Prize-nominated, Broadway hit celebrating the lost art of letter writing and the story of a couple whose friendship and ill-fated romance takes them from second grade to middle age, starring C. David Johnson (Street Legal) and Stratford veteran Diane D'Aquila (Elizabeth I in the film Elizabeth Rex), directed by Pamela Halstead.

Creative team: set designer Victoria Marston, costume designer Janet MacLellan, sound designer Sandy Moore and lighting designer Leigh Ann Vardy.

Shows are Tuesday to Sunday at 8 p.m., 2 p.m. matinees Saturday and Sunday. Tickets \$25 regular, \$17.50 students. Two play subscriptions are available with a special opening-night subscription package. Tickets are available at Wolfville's Box of Delights (542-9511) and by calling 1-877-845-1341. www.ticketpro.ca

TRUDEAU STORIES

touring in July

Brooke Johnson's one-woman play **Trudeau Stories**, written and performed by Brooke Johnson, chronicling her friendship with Pierre Elliot Trudeau formed while she was a student at the National Theatre School in Montreal. Johnson brought it to the SuperNova Festival then Canada's Magnetic North Festival before starting a summer Maritime tour.

Tour dates: July 20, Chedabucto Performing Arts Centre, Guysborough; July 22, Marigold Arts Centre, Truro; July 23, Osprey Theatre, Shelburne; July 24, Th'YARC, Yarmouth; July 25, Melville Heights Seniors Residence, Halifax; July 29 and 30; Ship's Company, Parrsboro; Aug. 5 to 8, Chester Playhouse.

PLAY PLUS EXHIBIT PACKAGES: A HAPPY HEART: THE MAUD LEWIS STORY To Oct. 25, Halifax

Seattle playwright, director and producer Greg Thompson's new one-woman play about the art and life of famous Nova Scotia folk artist Maud Lewis, held in conjunction with the Art Gallery of