



NFLT Winter News

Greetings from theatreland!
Brrrrrr! Hope everyone is making it through our lovely but challenging winter. Good occasion to grab a hot chocolate and catch up NFLT

News.

Canada 150 It is hard to believe that Canada 150 has come and gone! NFLT was a proud community partner in celebrating our local heritage and rejoicing in our amazing country. From Central Frontenac Heritage Weekend fun in February to an awesome Canada Day Parade float, to an August Youth Theatre Camp to our fall production of “Sunshine Sketches of Our Little Towns”, our executive planned and carried out a spirit filled agenda that marked this very special anniversary.

Bill Bowick, chair of the Canada 150 Committee of Central Frontenac, had some very kind words for our group that we feel very proud of and thankful for:

Canada’s Sesquicentennial is drawing to a close and on behalf of the Canada 150 committee, I would like to congratulate everyone in the community for staging a great year...

... The North Frontenac Little Theatre’s fall production is already an annual event but this year’s show Sunshine Sketches of Our Little Town is especially suited to Canada 150. It is a delightful retrospective of our community and the wonderful things that happen in it. So

we have to extend special thanks to all the volunteers who keep this great institution vibrant.

Congratulations to NFLT for another wonderful year. It's great having you in our "Little Town" and great being a part of your community.

The Little Mermaid We are delighted to be presenting as our spring production this beloved **Hans Christian Anderson's classic tale** of the little mermaid who realizes her dream of rising to the surface of the ocean and marrying the prince she longs to be with. The script has been adapted by **Eugene Jackson** with music by **Carl Alette** and is being presented with permission of **Pioneer Drama Service**. The production crew, including the talented **Donna Larocque** on sets and the awesome team of **Margo McCullough** and **Kathy Lowery King** as stage managers, is getting busy as we slowly but surely progress toward our performance dates of **April 26 through 29**. Our cast of young people between the ages of 9 and 19 is a talented and enthusiastic group:

The Little Mermaid Cast List



* Anemone – Sophie Neumann * Prince Theodore – Mason Moore *

* Clem Clam - Annika Putnam * Queen Neptune – Alexi Gray *

* Princess Atlantis - Esther Hofmann * Sea-Witch - Talia Maclean

* Rip-Tide, the shark - Braiden Merrigan * Zip-Tide, the shark - Joey Beckett * *Chef Pierre – Makenzie Drew * Georgina (prince’s would-be bride) – Gillian Hofmann * Clara (Georgina’s attendant) – Sidney Drew *

Mermaids and sailors * Claire Seymour * Rylee Beattie * Isabelle Uens * Kaylea Cox * Makenzie Drew * Sloane Putnam * Lily Kerr Schlegel * Danielle Gosse * Eva Webster * Khloea Cox * Rachel Parker *

NFLT Contact Information Our new webmaster, Brett Hilder, has gotten our website up and running, and is continuing to work on updating it with our news. (Thanks, Brett!) Please check it out: www.nflt.co. And check us out on our Facebook page as well! To contact us, email us at nflt1980@gmail.com.

Calling All Aspiring Directors! As usual, we are in need of people interested in directing a script that they may have in mind, or a script recommended by our committee. We are presently considering veteran Jeff Siamon's original script, "The Wonder Boy" for our fall production. All prospective scripts undergo a suitability process developed by NFLT member-at-large, **Carol Belanger**. So please contact us, pitch us a proposal and who knows, perhaps you will be the director of one of our future productions!

Foundation Grant of Kingston Member-at-large **Carol Belanger** is spearheading an acquisition of a grant in partnership with GREC and the Limestone District Schoolboard to enhance the GREC stage in a variety of ways for the benefit of theatre productions, presentation assemblies and GREC student functions. **James MacDonald**, principal of GREC, was very positive about the stage improvement proposal at a meeting in December.

NFLT to celebrate 40th anniversary The year 2019 marks the 40th anniversary of NFLT! Be on the lookout for related updates as the year approaches. And we invite anyone with ideas of how to help us celebrate this anniversary to please contact us and share your thoughts at nflt1980@gmail.com.

President's Term is up! NFLT President, Brian Robertson, will be completing his second term come May, and shall accordingly be stepping down. We invite anyone interested in taking on this volunteer position to contact us with a resume at nflt1980@gmail.com. The candidate should preferably have a background (or at least a keen interest) in theatre, an appreciation of community theatre and be an avid supporter of NFLT.

Theatre Things for Which We Are Thankful

By Lavinia Roberts

[Lavinia Roberts](#) is a theatre teacher and award-winning playwright who's passionate about arts education and about creating zany, engaging, and meaningful plays for schools and community theaters.

Although theatre can be fraught with drama on and offstage, we theatre folk — as well as the communities we serve — have a lot to be thankful for. So, this Thanksgiving season, I raise my glass to you — theatre teachers and directors, student actors and all the others — and bestow upon you this banquet of tasty tidbits celebrating all for which we as theatre practitioners have to be thankful!

Creating Community

Working on a theatre production creates a strong sense of camaraderie for the participants involved. After all, performers rely heavily on one another. As young actors develop self-confidence on stage, those performers also grow to understand the power of working together. They see firsthand that a team employing all their unique gifts toward a common goal can create something big, magical, and powerful!

Applauding Failure

Theatre classrooms are a safe space for young people to take risks, express difficult emotions, be imaginative, and explore. Acting on stage requires young actors to make themselves vulnerable. During a rehearsal process, actors will explore various acting choices to decide on the strongest one. So, in order to succeed in developing that role in new, exciting, and surprising ways, they will often fail first. Every time an actor auditions for a part, they also risk facing failure. Creating a classroom culture that applauds these failures will support a creative community that reaches greater success. Being comfortable with failure will also help students when they leave the theatre classroom to be thankful for the power of a good work ethic and positive attitude.

Engendering Empathy

Acting requires performers to put on and walk around in someone else's shoes. Developing emotional intelligence — being aware of both their own emotions and others — will be useful to them, both on and off stage. They'll be thankful for the range empathy can bring to their acting; others will be thankful, too.

Celebrating Inclusion and Diversity

Theatre is a space where we celebrate a diversity of perspectives and experiences, on and off stage. Teaching doesn't just come from us, the educators, but from the pupils, as each student brings their unique skill set and experiences to a production. When young actors are fully engaged and contributing to the creative process, they are teaching others and learning from their peers.

Developing Listening Skills

Theatre teaches students to be active listeners, to listen with all their senses and really absorb what is being communicated to them. Actors must listen for their cues. They also must be in the moment, changing each performance slightly in response to other actors. This kind of active listening will help students to be better communicators and listeners all around.

Bringing Joy

Theatre is fun! Despite the myriad of challenges, creating a theatre production is exciting and invigorating for both the performers and the audience who share the show. And for this, I think we are all most thankful!