

MAY/JUNE, 2003

***** Your Invitation to Opening Night *****
***** Is On Page 2. Don't Miss Out! *****



STARLINES

Theatre Under the Stars Newsletter --- Luli Loyd, Editor, Carole Jinks, Board Liaison



A New Vancouver Landmark



... Rendering of proposed new Malkin Bowl ...

NEW BOWL: AN INFORMATION UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Background:

Summer 2001: The Vancouver Parks Board told Theatre Under the Stars they wished to rebuild the Malkin Bowl theatre. The old structure is over 60 years old and is becoming more and more difficult to maintain. TUTS had already found it an increasing challenge to produce and stage the high quality musicals our audiences expected. So, we supported the Parks Board's position.

The Parks Board proposed a private/public relationship with TUTS in developing the new theatre, whereby the two groups would work together on a new design and TUTS would be granted a very favourable



Become a TUTS Subscriber * Special * Limited Time Offer

Vancouver, May 27: The Board of Theatre Under the Stars announces a special offer to members. Become a subscriber: order **four adult tickets for the special price of \$100**. These will be honoured at any performance of Theatre Under the Stars for this Season! You must act quickly - this offer good until June 30 only. Call TUTS at 604-687-0174. Subscription tickets are for "festival seating"; they may be upgraded to "reserved" at the box office for a small surcharge.

BONUS: Each subscriber will be eligible to win a trip for two to anywhere WestJet flies! That's most major cities in Canada!

*** Call before June 30: 604-687-0174 ***



exclusive lease on the land and the finished facility. Theatre Under the Stars is to raise the majority of the money needed.

Plans and Studies Thus Far:

We engaged Busby & Assoc. to do a feasibility study and to develop design concepts for a new building. The design is nothing short of

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GREAT CREATIVE TEAMS FOR BOTH SHOWS!

Anne of Green Gables:

Nicholson! Easton! Bryson!

You loved *Kiss Me Kate* last year, and you're going to love *Anne of Green Gables*. One reason is the return of a winning creative team. **Lloyd Nicholson** will be Director. He's been wowing Vancouver audiences since *The Beachcombers*, (the early years), acting, directing and teaching. We remember Lloyd's involvement in *Gypsy*, *Chorus Line*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Music Man*, -- and for TUTS, *South Pacific* and *Annie*. On faculty at Langara, he was Musical Director of the musical comedy, *Trelawny of the Wells*. **Valerie Easton** is Choreographer, a fine innovative talent whose work includes *Fiddler on the Roof* for Royal City, *My Fair Lady* and *West Side Story* for the Arts Club's Stanley Theatre. Valerie enjoys Theatre Under the Stars, and the opportunity of rejoining Lloyd and James for another season. **James Bryson** returns for his third season with TUTS as Music Director. He holds Bachelor and Masters degrees in Music from UBC and has been Musical Director for the Royal City Musical Theatre since 1989. His company "James Productions" puts on a great Christmas Pops show locally. It's becoming a Holiday Tradition. Some lineup, eh?

The King and I:

The "King" Creative Team is composed of the dynamic duo of **David Connolly** and **Wendy Bross Stuart**, who are working together for the first time at TUTS. **David Connolly** is a highly sought-after Director/Choreographer. This role for TUTS will be a return to Vancouver and musical theatre for him. To list the musicals he has been involved with, and the venues he has worked in (TV, Cruise Lines, Casinos, Broadway, L.A.) would take most of this column. Welcome to TUTS, David. **Wendy Bross Stuart**, Music Director is back at

Theatre Under the Stars for her fourth production since 1977. Former shows with TUTS were *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Oklahoma*, and *South Pacific*. As an ethnomusicologist, she has written, recorded, produced and arranged a panoply of works, including native, Japanese and Jewish music. It is a pleasure to have her back with Theatre Under the Stars.

Join or Renew NOW!

BE A MEMBER OF TUTS Worthwhile, Great Fun, and The Best Deal in local Theatre!

Become involved with the great outdoor musical theatre Vancouver has been proud of for decades! Help to make it flourish -- it's fun to participate! AND YOU CAN HELP EVEN MORE ... We **welcome your donation.**

Fill out the form, mail your annual dues of \$25 per person _____
your donation to the Building Fund _____
Total: _____

To: TUTS Membership
2099 Beach Avenue, Stanley Park
Vancouver BC V6G 1Z4

- My cheque is enclosed, payable to Theatre Under the Stars.
 Please charge my VISA, MasterCard
 Card #
 Expiry Date:
 Signature:

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Phone (Res.) _____ (Bus.) _____

fax: _____

E-mail: _____

I'd like to volunteer. Call me!

Your membership entitles you to receive:

A Membership Card,

Opening Night Invitation to Either Show!

"Starlines" Newsletter three times annually,

Voting Privileges at the AGM, and especially,

The knowledge that you are an important part of *Theatre Under The Stars!*



New Bowl, continued from page one

spectacular, while still being competitively priced. The concept had been compared to the Sky Dome and the Sydney Opera House and could become a Vancouver landmark.

The existing below-ground structure will be retained and renovated. Aboveground the new structure will "collapse" into an arch in the winter and be expanded concertina fashion to be a fully functional theatre in the summer. TUTS will get bigger wings, a slightly larger stage and much more efficient backstage facilities. More importantly, the new facility will offer more flexibility in terms of sets, and allow for improved sound and lighting for our productions.

The Next Step:

The Parks Board has already approved the design concept and held a public information meeting to show it to the taxpayers. We received significant support, so it is now full speed ahead to make the project a reality.

Our share of the costs will be approximately \$3 million and we are about to start fund raising to make our dreams come true. Our fund raising approach will be similar to those for the Stanley Theatre and the Orpheum -- but our dollar target is much lower. With luck we'll succeed, and construction of the new theatre will be complete for the 2005 season.

- Douglas Louth, President, TUTS



TUTS people Jessie Nominees!

Check out these familiar names ...

Significant Artistic Achievements, Large Theatre:
Valerie Easton, Choreography, for *West Side Story*, Arts Club Theatre.

Wendy Bross Stuart, Musical Direction, for *Company*, Skycorner Productions Inc.

Kevin MacDonald, Outstanding Performance by an Actor, for *Snowman*, Section 8 Theatre.

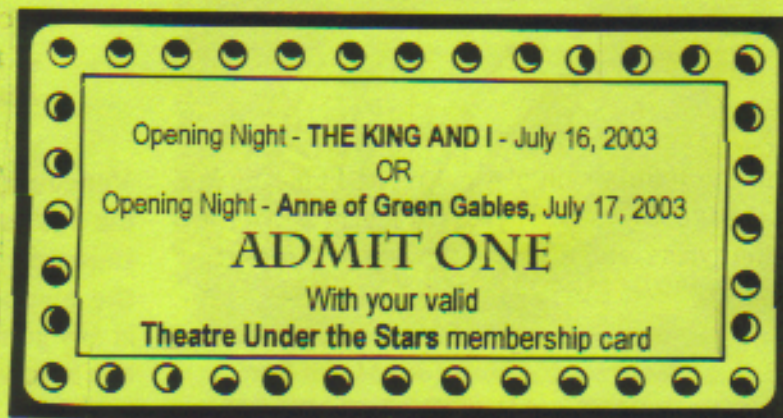
Chris Hall, Kevin MacDonald, Outstanding Set Design, for *Snowman*, Section 8 Theatre.

Meghan Gardiner, *Hedwig and Angry Jack*, Hoarse Raven Theatre.

Significant Artistic Achievement, Small Theatre.

YOU ARE INVITED!

Bring this ticket and your TUTS membership card!
Showtime: 8:00 pm. Reception After the Show.



MEMBERSHIP LAPSED??

No Problem! Send in your membership dues today using the form on page 4, or join by phone, calling 604-876-0174, by Visa or Master Card.

We'll speed your membership card to you so you can validate your free ticket to Opening Night of either show. Hurry! You don't want to miss out!



Rehearsals: "King" (left) and "Anne of GG" above





Meet Raugi Yu He's "THE KING"

Raugi is "honoured and proud" to be a part of Theatre Under the Stars' production of *The King and I*. This is his debut with TUTS, and with any Musical. Can he sing? Of course. And act, and direct

and teach and what else -- write! (He's currently working on a play for kids about dragons), but we digress.

He was born in Montreal where he attended an "English" school, though his three sisters, older by a decade and not Canadian-born, attended a "French" school. The theatre scene in Montreal is very different: there's only one major English theatre for example. So after high school plays and the Dome Theatre (now there's a tough course!), Raugi came to UBC for a BFA, and is now acting full-time on plays, TV and films... living in Vancouver, married to his lovely Sandi for four years, and enjoying the opportunities here on the "Wet Coast".

He is influenced by, and a great admirer of Yul Brynner, whom many regard as the definitive "King of Siam". He says Brynner's presence was electric, dominating the stage even when not on stage. But will he shave his head by *Opening Night*? Maybe. Wait and see.

The role is a challenging one. It is important to Raugi to look at the reality of what's going on for the King, his perspective, the time and the tradition of which he is a part. "I'm rooted in the truth of the story", he says.

You may well recognize Raugi when you see him this summer. He's a very busy actor. Shall I list all the many parts he's played recently? No, I'll just end as he ended an e-mail to me:

Etcetera, Etcetera, Etcetera.

- Luli Loyd

Meet Kelly Metzger - She's "Anne"

Hurray for Studio 58! Kelly is a recent graduate from this wonderful theatre school, and a bright fresh addition to TUTS. She begins in the title role, as *Anne of Green Gables*. Pretty exciting for Kelly. And we are delighted to have her. She has done several roles at Studio 58 as a student and with other theatres in Studio 58's actor-exchange program.

Kelly enjoys straight acting roles as well as musical theatre and is eager to pursue all the possibilities that come her way. I saw her recently in *Trelawny of the Wells*, she was that cutie-pie in the Victorian frou-frou costume, twirling her parasol ... very winsome.



Her approach to the role of Anne will be unaffected by previous impressions. She has not seen the film or TV versions, but as she reads the book, which she loves, she says, "I see something of myself there. I totally do!"

Kelly came to Vancouver from Edmonton, specially to study at Studio 58 and has never seen a TUTS production. Her favourite musical is *Five Guys Named Mo*, but she's also a fan of *West Side Story* and *Funny Girl*.

It is a privilege for Kelly to be working with such a wonderful, seasoned ensemble. The experienced and classically trained **John Innes** will be Matthew Cuthbert, the reluctant guardian whom Anne wins over completely, and the versatile multi-talented **Ruth Nichol** will play Marilla Cuthbert, Matthew's sister, whose steady influence warms Anne's heart.

Kelly is very pleased that her parents, who live in Edmonton, will be coming to her debut. All Kelly's TUTS friends will be joining in the applause.

