



Gallery 7 Theatre & Performing Arts Society

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For Immediate Release

August 30, 2006

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Please include in September event & calendar listings.

Auditions for *The Hobbit* Launches 16th Season for Gallery 7!

This November, Gallery 7 Theatre & Performing Arts Society will be presenting an exciting stage adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic adventure story, ***The Hobbit*** and local performers are being invited to be a part of the action!

Open auditions for this special Canadian adaptation by Kim Selody will be held at the MEI Secondary School Auditorium, 4081 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford on September 7, 2006 beginning at 6:30 PM. All male and female performers ages 14 and up are welcome to attend, as are those interested in working behind the scenes.

The Hobbit tells the story of reluctant explorer, Bilbo Baggins, who is compelled to leave the comfortable surroundings of the Shire to rescue a golden treasure guarded by an evil dragon. Audiences young and old will meet all sorts of colorful and sometimes treacherous characters in this retelling of a classic tale of courage and discovery.

Interested individuals are requested to register for the audition ahead of time by calling the Gallery 7 administration office at 604-504-5940.

The Hobbit marks the beginning of Gallery 7's 16th annual season of theatre, a season which Executive Artistic Director, Ken Hildebrandt, calls "an exciting theatrical adventure featuring two American classics and a couple of delightful Canadian works". Following ***The Hobbit***, Gallery 7 will present Neil Simon's Pulitzer Prize-winning dark comedy about family, ***Lost in Yonkers***, in January and in spring, the group will present Robert Harling's heartwarming tale of friendship, ***Steel Magnolias***. The season will wrap up in June with Canadian playwright John Lazarus' quirky and endearing play about community, ***Village of Idiots***.

Tucked in and amongst the four main stage productions will be two engagements (September and April) of the hilarious improv group, ***Panic Squad***, and an all-new workshop series for both beginners and veterans alike looking to further develop their dramatic skills. Three-session workshops in both acting and playwriting have been scheduled, as have two, three-hour workshops in technical theatre and stage make-up.

Hildebrandt says that "there's a little something for everyone" this year. "There's a heavy dose of comedy, a big serving of drama, and a healthy dash of adventure". He also adds that all the plays in the series explore the question: *What matters most?* Hildebrandt indicates that "ever so often, we can get side-tracked from doing what's best and from focusing on what's most important. Each play in our series evaluates this reality from a unique angle. We may just be surprised at what we discover."

This fall will also mark a new chapter in the history of Gallery 7. Having performed for the past ten years in the Eben-Ezer Church Drama Centre, the theatre group will perform at their new venue at the MEI Secondary School. "This is an important step in our growth," Hildebrandt indicates. "While we will miss our old location, we're anticipating a fresh and exciting theatrical experience in our new venue. We hope everyone will come out and enjoy some great community theatre."

Season tickets are now available for Gallery 7's entire season of theatre and can be ordered by calling 604-504-5940 or by visiting their website at www.gallery7theatre.com.