



# Medicine Hat Musical Theatre Newsletter

JANUARY 2010

ISSUE 9

## Hello members of MHMT, and Happy New Year to you all!

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you all of a major decision recently made by the Board of Directors.

By unanimous decision, the Board of Directors of MHMT have voted to end our CTAC partnership with Firehall Theatre, effective immediately.

We are at present awaiting a response from the Firehall Board as to how they would like to proceed with the dissolution. We have offered them the choice of either MHMT withdrawing, with all our equipment and equity -- or for them to leave with theirs. We truly believe it is in the best long-term interests of each group that we go our separate ways. It is our hope that this process can be brief and fair to both parties.

This partnership, which MHMT entered in good faith, has had a very difficult history. I have no desire to list the litany of challenges we have encountered along the way, or to assign blame. Simply put, this partnership was intended to be symbiotic and beneficial to both parties. Regrettably, it has instead become the exact opposite. Despite our genuine and exhaustive efforts to sustain the spirit of the agreement we entered into, it has become blatantly obvious to us that this is simply not a workable arrangement.

I want to assure you that the entire Board feels confident that every reasonable effort to sustain this partnership has been exhausted and that the decision to end it did not come quickly or easily to us. We deeply regret that the situation could not be resolved, but things are what they are and we need to do what is best for MHMT.

There is no intent on our part to cause harm to Firehall Theatre. I do not believe going our own way will harm them in any way. Firehall existed for years without a partnership with MHMT and there is every reason to believe that it can continue without us from now on. We are not a fit, and no hard feelings are necessary. We all tried -- it didn't work -- let's all move forward.

On the positive side, as soon as we are clear of these present difficulties, I foresee a bright and exciting future for MHMT. There is something going on in theatre that has not been true for a good long while. We have before us an "embarrassment of riches" with regards to the numbers and talent of young people wanting to become involved with us both on and off

stage. These new people are our future. To fail to engage them and encourage their enthusiasm (even if what they are interested in doing is well “outside of the box”) would be a mistake from which we can never recover. The need to nurture and protect this talent pool is paramount to the Board. To that end, we must provide an environment where the efforts of these new people are appreciated and encouraged -- not viewed with hostility or as an inconvenience.

Once in our own space (be that CTAC or elsewhere), we can focus on the big picture and redirect our energies into the development of the next generation by letting them learn by doing, all under the umbrella of MHMT. The shows we have been able to offer at CTAC (Rocky Horror, Full Monty, and Gifts of the Magi) have all been successful for MHMT both financially and as positive learning experiences for many new faces.

MHMT will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011 and we have much to be proud of, however, there is no guarantee of another 50 years if we don't grow and bring in new people. The next 50 years will not look like the past 50 -- we will need to change and adapt. I truly believe that the small shows we do are every bit as important as the big one to our continued long term success.

Finally, it is the goal your MHMT Board to be as transparent and open to the membership as possible. No confidentiality agreements, or need for secrets here. Any board member is free to discuss the situation with you should you have concerns. If you want more information feel free to ask -- we are literally accountable to you and take that responsibility quite seriously.

Regards,

Derek Martin, President  
Medicine Hat Musical Theatre  
526-6497  
dmpattfh@telus.net

---

**Medicine Hat Musical Theatre Board of Directors 2009 – 2010**

Lynda Darley .....	527-2142
Lawrence Gordon, Vice President .....	526-5086
Becky Grewer .....	528-0137
Robert Grewer .....	928-6569
Pat Jamieson .....	529-5261
Amber Krause .....	977-5820
Delle Lovig .....	526-6057
Brenda Neilson, Treasurer .....	529-2428
Donna Propp .....	504-1141
Sharon Regehr .....	529-6256
Dr. Bill Taylor .....	526-5484
Gail Williams, Secretary .....	529-6944
Ron Zablocki, Past President .....	527-1916