



# JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

## November 18–27, 2010

Jesus Christ, Superstar brings Christ's last days on earth to the stage using an opera medium (script is sung) with rock music to deliver the story. It is this medium that first attracted the younger generation to this concept in the early 1970s.

It was so successful that it went on to London and New York as a rock opera to much acclaim (and some disclaim).

However, it has stood the test of time and today stands out as one of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's greatest works.

Directed for a 2nd time by Tom Rooke, our seven performances will take place in The Esplanade Main Theatre.

Cast in Principle Roles are:

- Jesus ..... Joey Sabourin
- Peter ..... Dave Townsend
- Judas ..... Greg McLean
- Simon .....Evan Sandham

- Mary ..... Melissa Delef
- Caiaphas .....Bert Propp
- Pilate ..... Bill Cocks
- Herod ..... Doug Frelick

Tickets are \$25.00/each at are now on sale at The Esplanade Box Office. A Dinner and Show option is also available on November 19th for \$60.00/each. The Dinner will be held in The Esplanade Studio Theatre and catered by Mike Waskalik of Earl's.

Our last production of this show was done in the College Theatre in 2000 and was sold out every night. Tom is looking forward to using the large variety of high tech equipment available at The Esplanade to make the show spectacular.

Plan to attend! Buy your tickets now to secure your favourite seats!

## Board Increases Membership to 18

At its AGM in the Spring, Medicine Hat Musical Theatre elected additional board members, bringing the total board membership to 18. Those now serving are (in alphabetical order):

- Mandy Bortolossi 2010 to 2013
- Dave Cannon 2010 to 2012
- Lynda Darley 2009 to 2013
- Lawrence Gordon 2010 to 2012
- Becky Grewer 2009 to 2013
- Mike Groth 2010 to 2011

- Ray Hoger 2010 to 2011
- Pat Jamieson 2009 to 2012
- Della Jesse 2010 to 2011
- Amber Krause 2009 to 2012
- Delle Lovig 2010 to 2012
- Derek Martin 2010 to 2013
- Brenda Neilson 2009 to 2011
- Bert Propp 2010 to 2011
- Sharon Regehr 2009 to 2012
- Bill Taylor 2010 to 2013
- Gail Williams 2009 to 2011
- Ron Zablocki 2010 to 2013

Derek Martin was elected President, with Lawrence Gordon being elected Vice President. Our elected Secretary is Amber Krause and Brenda Neilson was elected Treasurer for an additional year. Ron Zablocki continues as Past President.

We continue to be grateful to the new and returning individuals who express interest in serving on our Board and extend our best wishes.

## Tillie Ganden, Charter Member .....by Delle Lovig

Tillie Ganden has always had a magical way of dancing into the hearts of whomever she meets. Why? Because this lovely lady with the sunny smile has danced since she was a little girl living in Calgary. Tillie remembers that one of her first performances was the Sword Dance which she danced using her father's real sword from World War One. A piano was always in the family home and when Tillie's mother sent her daughter for a few piano lessons, the teacher soon realized that it was a waste of her time and the money of the young girl's mother. — Tillie already played the piano - her way. Tillie adds, "The piano lessons would have had to stop anyway because it was the beginning of The Depression!" In her early teens, lessons from dance teacher, Norma Robins, cost 25 cents for two lessons per week, and Tillie's mother saw to it that her girl would take lessons. After a few years, free lessons were offered to Tillie if she would help Norma teach dance, mainly TAP and various dances of the cultures. In the 30's, TAP was the huge in-move and saving a quarter a week was also HUGE so of course Tillie agreed.

The Variety Theatre on Calgary's 8 Avenue East was one dancer short for their chorus line. These dancers opened and closed the Variety/Talent show 3 nights a week with a different routine and different costumes for each night. A certain Daisy Anderson heard of Tillie's talents and asked her to join the group. Tillie remembers, "Practice was on Sundays but not until after church. I earned one dollar each show night, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday." We sometimes took a show to the Currie Barracks which held dances for the soldiers." A young automotive worker

named ED, earning \$6 per week wanted to learn to TAP so he signed up for Tuesday night and Saturday afternoon dance lessons at Norma Robins' School. Tillie, who was in charge of tidy and lock up at the basement dance studio, soon discovered that she and ED lived in the same neighborhood so walking home together naturally blossomed into taking one Saturday off in June 1940 to get married. Arch Deacon Tims officiated in a little Anglican church in the Glenmore area. ED had received a raise and was now making \$8 per week. "One reason we could afford to get married", Tillie says and of course she was earning about \$4 per week! Rent was \$15 per month for one large room with a balcony and a shared bathroom down the hall.

"ED now was now getting dance lessons for free!" laughs Tillie. "We saved quarters at every chance and you know they added up!" "Stage Door Johnny" was the nickname given to Ed by Tillie's friends because of the new husband's habit of hanging around the Variety Theatre after escorting his wife to and from shows.

A move to Brandon, Manitoba where Ed was employed with Continental Auto Supply took the couple

east but after just 9 months, Ed was again moved and this time to Continental Auto Supply, Medicine Hat. The happy couple arrived on their



Tillie Ganden

first wedding anniversary June 1941. Tillie stayed busy raising her first born, Ted, and occasionally teaching a chorus line to boys in the Service Flying Training School. "It was wartime remember!" states

Tillie. "I taught them a CAN CAN for one of their shows and it was the best line of kicking I'd ever seen. All men you know, dressed in costumes like women! They were serious about it! I'd take Ted along and some of the young men always babysat."

Tillie and Ed had 2 more children, Ken and Julie and after Julie's birth, Tillie started teaching dance in her basement and Julie learned from the sidelines. Ed and I made a deal that when he retired, I would retire too so I quit teaching dance in 1975.

The following is from an interesting interview I had with Tillie concerning the history of the early days of Musical Theatre and I quote.

"One afternoon I was raking leaves in my yard on 3rd Avenue and a man walked up and asked if I was Tillie Ganden. It was Dick Mells, a teacher from New Zealand, who was teaching school at Alexandra Junior High School. He informed me that he needed a dance teacher for a community-based musical, OKLAHOMA, that he had a passion to produce and would I do the choreography? I was the only dance teacher in town so poor Dick had no chance of finding someone else to teach TAP.

A group of 10 or 12 interested in forming a musical theatre group gathered together one evening in that same autumn of 1960 in a downtown Medicine Hat office. It was decided that OKLAHOMA would be staged in the Towne Thea-

## Tillie Ganden, con't

tre in February 1961. Musical Theatre was formed and I am a **charter member and the only one left still living the Medicine Hat.** OKLAHOMA was a community success and the first musical produced by Medicine Hat Musical Theatre. In November of the same year, we brought LIL ABNER to the stage and you haven't lived until you've worked in DOGPATCH! Every cast member was on stage dancing! That was a choreographer's challenge! I have never worked so hard in all my life! In November 1962, I was again the choreographer for the

third musical, THE PYJAMA GAME followed by SOUTH PACIFIC in 1963. Musical Theatre would have happened in Medicine Hat at some date but Dick Mells made it happen. He started it with nothing except a talent for being able to talk to anyone and a passion for musical theatre." We know Dick did not start with nothing. He had Tillie just like the following groups have had the pleasure of being blessed with Tillie's faithful friendship and membership: St Barnabas Anglican Church; Eagles; Order of the Royal Purple; MOTH (an honorary member since 1999); Musicians of the

Hat; Dance Teacher - Redcliff Halland Medicine Hat Residence Weekly Pianist at: Central Park Lodge; CORE (honoury life member); Hospital Every second week pianist at: Day Hospital; Sunnyside; Haven of Rest; Valleyview. A City bench in the Dr. MacCharles Park outside of Tillie's home was installed by the city at the request of those who respect and love her. The plaques reads: *"Today the world is a better place because of the tinkle of the ivories and the tapping of your toes"*.

*Tillie celebrated her 90th birthday on March 28, 2010.*

## Upcoming Shows & Auditions

### The Pantomime Cinderella

**Directors: John Beaven & Margaret Brown**

#### AUDITION DATES:

September 8, 2010 7:00 – 9:00 PM

September 9, 2010 7:00 – 9:00 PM

AGE LIMIT: 15 YEARS & UP

#### LOCATION:

CTAC (Community Theatre Arts Centre)

1221 10 Ave SW

Medicine Hat, AB

#### SHOW DATES:

December 10, 2010 7:30 PM

December 11, 2010 7:30 PM

December 12, 2010 2:00 PM

December 17, 2010 7:30 PM

December 18, 2010 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM

#### TICKETS:

WILL BE AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

ON THE CTAC WEBSITE [www.ctacmedhat.com](http://www.ctacmedhat.com)

#### CONTACTS:

Della Jesse 403-502-3477

John Beaven 403-527-9794

Margaret Brown 403-504-6147

## AUDITIONS

### Cinderella

Written by Norman Robbins  
Published by Samuel French

*The Pantomime Cinderella*



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More Information Available at [www.ctacmedhat.com](http://www.ctacmedhat.com)

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**Promoting Theatre in Our  
 Community!**



**Scholarships We Award Annually**

**Medicine Hat College**

This scholarship is awarded to a first-year Fine Arts student returning to Medicine Hat College to complete a second year of Fine Arts studies, based on academic achievement and creative abilities. The annual award is \$1,000, which taken from the endowment we established in 1987.

**Local High Schools**

The recipients received \$300 and are Grade 12 student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in Drama at the following schools:

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Crescent Heights High School | Eagle Butte High School  |
| McCoy High School            | Medicine Hat High School |

**Rotary Music Festival**

This scholarship in the amount of \$500 is awarded to the individual or group achieving the highest score in a musical theatre category. The award includes and engraved keeper trophy.

In addition, we award The Henry Allergoth Memorial Trophy and The Noreen Flanagan Memorial Trophy to deserving performers selected by the adjudicators. These awards are known as the Medicine Hat Musical Theatre Rotary Awards.

**Our Productions**

- February 1961—Oklahoma
- November 1961—Li'l Abner
- November 1962—The Pajama Game
- November 1963—South Pacific
- November 1964—The Sound of Music
- November 1965—Guys & Dolls
- November 1966—Annie Get Your Gun
- November 1967—No Show
- November 1968—Where's Charley
- November 1969—Oliver
- November 1970 — No Show
- November 1971 — Fiddler On the Roof
- November 1972 — Carousel
- November 1973—Hello Dolly
- November 1974 — A Fair Price  
 (Commissioned in Celebration of the RCMP 100th Anniversary)
- November 1975—Sweet Charity
- November 1976 — Mame
- November 1977 — South Pacific
- November 1978 — Camelot
- November 1979 — Brigadoon
- November 1980 — Anything Goes
- November 1981 — Oklahoma
- November 1982 — My Fair Lady
- November 1983 — Guys & Dolls
- November 1984—Seven Brides for Seven Brothers
- November 1985 — The King & I

- November 1986 — The Music Man
- November 1987 — Sugar
- November 1988—Oliver
- November 1989 — Mack and Mabel
- November 1990 — Annie
- November 1991—Finnian's Rainbow
- November 1992 — The Sound of Music
- November 1993 — Best Little Whore House
- November 1994 — Peter Pan
- November 1995 — Paint Your Wagon
- November 1996 — Hello Dolly
- November 1997 — Cabaret
- November 1998 — Crazy for You
- November 1999 — Gypsy
- April 2000—Jesus Christ SuperStar
- November 2000—Fiddler on the Roof
- November 2001—Annie Get Your Gun  
 (MHMT 40th Anniversary)
- November 2002 — My Fair Lady
- November 2003 — The Mikado
- November 2004—Grease
- October 2005—Best of Broadway Musical Revue
- November 2005—Chicago  
 (First Production in The Esplanade)
- May 2006 — Best of Broadway Centennial Spectacular
- October 2006—Little Shop of Horrors

- (Sponsored)
- November 2006—West Side Story
- May 2007—A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum
- November 2007 — South Pacific
- October 2008—Rocky Horror Show  
 (Sponsored)
- November 2008 —Footloose
- November 2009—The Producers
- November 2010 — Jesus Christ SuperStar

In addition, Medicine Hat Musical Theatre has sponsored the following shows presented in the Community Theatre Arts Centre (CTAC):

- The Full Monty
- Gifts of the Magi
- Hedwig



