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Grand reopening

Bedford theatre group set to launch new season after halting productions for nearly two years

STEVE GOW
BEDFORD WIRE

For the first time since the start of the pandemic, the Bedford Players Community Theatre is launching a full season of plays and they plan to begin by solving a mystery.

"We've got Clue for the fall show," says Bedford Players president Elaine Melanson about the popular murder mystery adaptation that will kick off their 2021-22 season.

"It is based on the original board game (and) the basic premise is who is the murderer, what did they use to kill the person with and in what part of the mansion."

Adapted from the 1985 movie version of the classic board game that itself originated in the 1940s, Clue has gone through several stage versions since it was adapted for live theatre. Melanson says she's excited to bring the latest version of its incarnation to Bedford as this season's lead-off production.

"It's been adapted over time to make it streamlined a little bit," says Melanson, noting that the rights to the play only recently became available for community theatre. "We snapped it right up and we were thrilled to get it. Between the music and the sound effects — there are over 100 different sound cues and technical parts to it — it's just amazing."

Running from Nov. 4 to 20, Clue is a madcap comedy that sees all the board game characters — Professor Plum, Colonel Mustard and the rest — at an unusual dinner party in a mansion where they must attempt to solve a murder



Bedford Players Theatre is located at the All Saints Anglican Church on Bedford Highway. **STEVE GOW**

mystery before the body count piles up. Following the run of Clue, Bedford Players Theatre will be presenting a winter production of The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood, a family-friendly retelling of one of popular culture's most enduring folk heroes.

In the spring, the theatre's season will wrap with the Nancy Frick play Four Weddings and an Elvis, a silly romantic comedy that centres around a "four-times-married and three-times-divorced" owner of a wedding chapel.

"Our grand reopening season, as we've named it, is mostly based on plays we would have staged previously over the last 20 months but were unable to do so," explains Melanson about how the company chose the trio of comedies.

"Mostly the choice of play is (based on) what's out there that would be appealing to people and would be a fun way to pass an evening."

In addition to launching a new season, Bedford Players Theatre is also excited to re-union its committed volunteers in-person again after COVID-19 restrictions kept everyone



Actors perform in a scene during a previous Bedford Players Theatre season. **CONTRIBUTED**

apart for nearly two years.

"It is so wonderful to be back and to be putting something on stage," says Melanson, who notes that Bedford Players is made up of wonderful volunteers from across Halifax Regional Municipality — around half of which are from the Sackville and surrounding area. "We don't ask where you're from when you

come in the door (so) the idea of us being inclusive is exactly that — we don't care what your address is."

Melanson invites anyone interested in volunteering to reach out through the group's website. Not only are they always looking for help with everything from taking tickets to painting sets, but Melanson promises the experience is

very rewarding.

"It doesn't matter your age, it doesn't matter what your skills are," says Melanson. "We leave our differences at the lobby door; we come together as a team and work together and we are just one big family."

For more information on Bedford Players Theatre, visit: www.bedfordplayers.ca.

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