



# CRANBROOK COMMUNITY THEATRE

Since 1964

## Acting Out Bud Abbott

1921-2019

A notice appeared on the front page of the Cranbrook Townsman on August 25, 1960. Accompanied by a photo of a good-looking, clean-shaven, young-looking gentleman (he was thirty-nine years old at the time), the article stated simply that Philip "Bud" Abbott recently arrived in Cranbrook with his wife and children to take up the position of insurance manager at Cranbrook Agencies Ltd., with the intention of making the city his permanent home.

Of course the writer could not know that Bud would become a cornerstone of the community for the next six decades, not least of which for his many contributions to local theatre and music.

It is no coincidence that shortly after his arrival, the Cranbrook Arts & Crafts Association decided to host the East Kootenay Drama Festival for the first time. Nor that a production of *My Three Angels* followed at Mt. Baker School auditorium that same year. In fact, from that moment on it was rare that more than a few months went by without a local theatrical production, many of which included Bud in one capacity or another and often in a number of capacities at the same time.

Bud Abbott was the consummate actor,

the complete showman, the polished song-and-dance-man, the accomplished Shakespearean, the perfectly-timed comedian and a tireless worker behind the scenes. With his golden voice, the twinkle in the eye and the skip in his step he held crowds in the palm of his hand time and time again. Bud won many acting awards and accolades throughout his career as he took on roles of every type, always eager for a new challenge. From Liza Doolittle's father Alfred in *My Fair Lady* to Og the Leprechaun in *Finian's Rainbow*. From the beloved Widow Twankey in Christmas pantomimes to King Herod in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, he never turned down an opportunity to hone his craft.

Although Bud would be the first to suggest that he was simply one of many, in truth he was largely instrumental in the formation of the Cranbrook Community Theatre in 1964, and the saving from demolition and the subsequent re-purposing of the Masonic Temple as the Studio/Stage Door in the early 1970s. Bud will remain within the hearts and minds of all those who had the good fortune of seeing him perform.

A master of his craft and a truly amazing man, he will be greatly missed.

By Jim Cameron



Brian Clarkson photo

# CCT Core Season

After a hugely successful run of *The Tin Woman* this fall, we are gearing up for our next production.

As part of our commitment to including a Canadian production in each of our seasons, we are proud to be presenting *Amigo's Blue Guitar*, by Joan MacLeod. Set on an island just off the BC coast, this powerful play tells the story of Elias, an El Salvadoran refugee, brought to Canada by Sander as part of a school project. Elias' arrival has a profound, touching and sometimes frightening effect on everyone involved.

Directed by long-time CCT member, Alexander Gilmour and starring a cast of locals, this production is sure to move you.

Tickets are available now at Lotus Books. Please note that Lotus Books is moving during our opening weekend and ticket sales will not be available during that time (although we will have them at the door). Make sure you pick up your tickets early to avoid any disappointment.

Up next, director Michelle McCue brings us the well-known story of *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

Opening at the end of April, this timeless tale of one young girl's journey from childhood into puberty set against the horrors of the Holocaust, reminds us that, in Anne's own words, "In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart".

Tickets will be on sale soon.

And then, on May 26, join us at the Key City Theatre for the second Annual Abbott Awards. Look for your ballots after *The Diary of Anne Frank* closes and vote for your favourite performances of the 2018/19 season.

# Sip 'N Script

*Sip & Script* continues once per month as a fun way to read scripts and get acquainted with others at Cranbrook Community Theatre. It's designed as a 'hobby' of sorts for theatre lovers. It's a social and socializing activity.

We read plays aloud: cold reads. That makes it more fun! Participants take or share a role. A narrator leads us through the activity within the story. No experience is necessary. And, a little libation is at hand to add the 'sip' to the 'script'!

*Sip & Script* is FREE and now open to the public for participants. Sorry, no audiences, but you may bring one friend. CCT would love to have you with us. It happens on Tuesdays 7 – 9:30 pm:

- Feb. 19 (a silly comedy);
- March 19 (a vampire spoof);
- April 16 (a comedic crime thriller);
- May TBA (an original script!).

For more information contact Melodie via [crancommtheatre@gmail.com](mailto:crancommtheatre@gmail.com)

*Acting is behaving truthfully under imaginary circumstances.*

Sanford Meisner



## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Board Meetings  
February 26, March 26, April 23, May 28
- Amigo's Blue Guitar opens February 8
- Sip & Script : Feb. 19, March 19, April 16
- Diary of Anne Frank opens April 26
- Donations to our Legacy fund anytime

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Bud Abbott	1
Core Season	2
Legacy Fund	2
Sip & Script	2
Board Members	2

## CCT Board

Peter Schalk, President  
Elizabeth Ross, Vice President  
Harriet Pollock, Treasurer  
Melodie Hull, Secretary  
Trevor Lundy, Production Mgr  
Kevin Higgins, Building Mgr  
Ashl e Perreault, Director  
Marn e Bellavance, Director  
Marsha Blom, Director  
Michelle McCue, Director  
Michael Prestwich, Director  
Sheila Schell, Director

## Legacy Fund

Donations to the Cranbrook Community Theatre Legacy Fund can be made anytime by calling the Community Foundation of the Kootenay Rockies. All donors receive a tax receipt and the funds are held to generate future funding for live theatre in our community.

Current Status - January 2019 \$4,240.  
Thank you to all who have contributed.

*Acting Out* is a newsletter produced by Cranbrook Community Theatre to keep members and the general public up to date with our theatre programs and our Studio/Stage Door building. This and past issues are now on our website.

Kevin Higgins, Editor, P.O. Box 345, Cranbrook, BC V1C 4H8

Volume 4; Issue 1