

# arts

The Art of Living

# news



# us

Spring  
2025

## SWAN SONG

*Read the back cover.*



## arts hudson

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## COMING UP AT HUDSON VILLAGE THEATRE

Welcome to a Quirky Little Place filled with Love, Laughter and Steamy Gossip

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by Norm Foster  
Directed by Don Anderson

MAY 14-25

MATINÉES AND EVENINGS

A Theatrical Tour-de-Force as Riotously Funny as it is Deeply Moving

# Bed & Breakfast

By Mark Crawford  
Directed by Trevor Barrette



JULY 9-20

MATINÉES AND EVENINGS

A Classic Comedy from Master Playwright Neil Simon

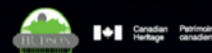
# THE ODD COUPLE

by Neil Simon  
Directed by Terry Donald

AUGUST 13-24

MATINÉES AND EVENINGS

TICKETS & INFORMATION - [VILLAGETHEATRE.CA](http://VILLAGETHEATRE.CA) - 450-458-5361



# Ken Ludwig's *The Game's Afoot*

*A farcical Sherlock Holmes-themed murder mystery*

Preview by Kathryn Lamb

## WHAT IS IT ABOUT A GOOD MYSTERY?

What is it about a good mystery that grabs us by the gut, holds our attention as we piece together clues into theories, and then leaves us surprised but delighted when we find we were wrong all along? Watching a mystery is an active rather than passive experience. We are all somehow implicated into the action!

*The Game's Afoot* is a play written

by Ken Ludwig in 2012. It takes place in a luxurious mansion on the Connecticut River owned by William Gillette, a very successful actor who played Sherlock Holmes in over 1300 productions in both England and America. In this case, William Gillette, the actor, was a real person, and his mansion on the river was real, however everything else in this play is pure fiction. It takes place in 1936 during the Christmas period. A holiday house party is

(continued on page 4)



## New Children's Book About Greenwood's Phoebe Hyde

*And the lasting legacy  
that she left  
for this and future generations*

By James Parry

It is a story written in honour of **Phoebe Hyde**, born in 1910 in **Montreal** and who loved history, theatre, literature, antiques, her Hudson, Quebec, community, and her Indigenous neighbours. Upon her passing in 1994, she bequeathed her home and all of its contents to **Canadian Heritage of Quebec** and today the **Greenwood Centre for Living History** takes pride of place as one of the town's most popular tourist attractions where, as the name implies, history comes alive. Caught up recently with Hudsonite **Frank**

**Hicks** who, together with friends, created *Phoebe's Magical Gift*. And as to how the conversation went, check out *Parrydise* on page 2.

The Hudson Legion's annual Burns Dinner was held on Saturday, January 25th, which this year is the actual Robbie Burns birthday. The Community Centre was full of people with Scottish blood in their veins and many of their friends, ready to experience traditions that go back 100's of years.

Guests were piped into the hall and then entertained by highland dancers from the Stephenson School of Highland Dance. The Haggis was piped in and addressed, followed by toasts to the Haggis and to the Piper. The Selkirk Grace was recited and then dinner was served.

Genuine haggis was available, but because it may not be to everyone's taste, it was served separately. The haggis was in fact delicious and there was lots to go around.

In addition to the haggis, the menu included Cock-A-Leekie Soup, Balmoral chicken, bashed neeps, chappit tatties and tipsy laid. All except the haggis deliciously prepared by local chef Stuart LeBaron of Baron Bites.

## Hudson Legion's Annual Burns Night

*Big Donation to the Hawkesbury General Hospital*

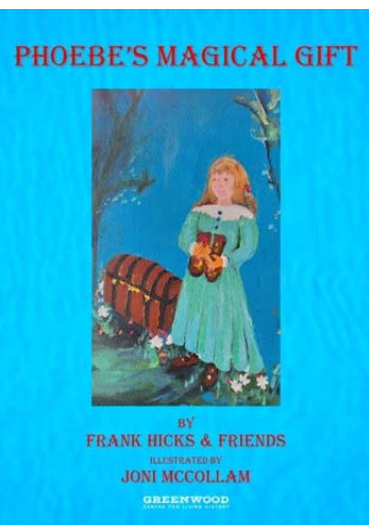
by Bert Markgraf

As part of the celebrations, donation cheques were presented to the Hawkesbury General Hospital and to the Veterans Hospital in Ste. Anne's. The funds come from the poppy campaign and over the years, The HGH has received over \$27,000. In recognition of these contributions, the HGH is setting up a new urinary tract ward named after the Hudson Legion.

After dinner and several recitations of Burns works, A DJ took over with popular music as those present danced into the night. And a good Scottish time was had by all.

From L to R in the photo... John Dalgarno (chairman of the Legion's Poppy Committee), Eve de Grosbois (Donor Relations Officer, HGH), Erin Tabakman (Executive Director of the HGH Foundation) and Robin Pelletier (member of the Poppy Committee).

Photo courtesy of Robin Pelletier



# Parrydis Hudson

*From The Gazette  
to Greenwood  
to gobbling Wild Turkeys*  
by James Parry

Well dear readers, yet another winter has come and gone. And, as of March 20, Spring is officially upon us. Must say that as I write this in mid-February it would appear to have been another very temperate one. All things considered. There again, by the time this column goes to press and given the unpredictability brought about by climate change, we could all be digging out from the snow storm of the century. Nah, that just ain't going to happen. Any more than this great country of ours called **Canada** will become the **51<sup>st</sup> State of the U.S.** But I digress. So let me introduce you to some of the fascinating and positive local people that I have been talking to in recent weeks that make our community such a great place in which to live.

## HUDSON HARDWARE MAKES HEADLINES

Late one afternoon towards the end of January, I received a telephone call from **Hudson Hardware** in the centre of town politely letting me know that I hadn't picked up my order and that they were closing in an hour. Puzzled for a moment because I'm certainly not in the habit of regularly buying lumber or

Hudson Hardware's Denis Lauzon and customer service associate Lily Sargent are making a lot of people in our community happy that they can now pick up a print copy of the Saturday edition of the *Montreal Gazette* and the *Globe & Mail* to read over the weekend.

Photo by James Parry



plumbing fittings or the myriad things that they stock, it suddenly struck me. Sheesh. It's Saturday. And I hadn't picked up my ordered copy of the *Montreal Gazette*!

I was out of the house in a flash and, later that evening in front of a blazing log fire, I settled down to read the latest print edition which ceased off-island distribution some two years ago because of ongoing problems with the **Ile aux Tourtes Bridge**.

And all thanks to Hardware owner **Ken Crombie** and his wife **Amanda Olliver** who, like so many of us prefer to actually touch and feel a newspaper instead of reading it online. That's not only because I have been a print journalist for over 50 years in both **England** and **Canada** I assure you. But also thanks to dedicated employee for the past six and a half years, the man with the hat **Denis Lauzon**.

And so it was that in early August 2024, and after conducting an informal survey with potential subscribers in our area, Ken received some 15 copies hot off the press, which immediately sold like hot cakes. Which, according to an extensive article in the *Gazette* written by **Allison Hanes**, made his store not only the one place the newspaper is available in the **Vaudreuil** region west of **Montreal** where there is a sizeable English-speaking population, but also the largest single regular retailer anywhere in the Montreal area.

Just before *Arts Hudson* magazine went to press and while picking up my latest copy, I caught up with Denis, described by Ken at the time as the lynchpin of the operation, and was gobsmacked to learn that he had just delivered to the store 190 *Gazettes* and 45 *Globe & Mails* which, he explained, was actually a little less than usual as there are some subscribers who are snowbirds and who are obviously not in town at the moment.

And so, in an

impromptu and certainly exclusive interview over the counter, I asked him more about his personal role in this excellent initiative, what it entails for him specifically, and why he does it?

"I live on the West Island," he said with a big smile, "so picking up the papers is actually on my way to work here in Hudson. It means that every Saturday morning I'm up at 4 a.m. and on the road 20 minutes later to pick up the papers in my Volkswagen Tiguan no later than 5 a.m.."

So why does he believe this to be an important service to the community here at large and what gives him the most satisfaction before returning home on a Saturday evening? Explained Denis who, I was intrigued to learn, has four grown up children named **Sara, Emma, James** and **Dylan**.

"Given the ongoing problems with the bridge, I believe it saves time and a lot of problems for people in our community who want to read an actual print copy as opposed to going online and who can now find it in their own backyard right here at Hudson Hardware.

"And the best part of it all for me is seeing and hearing that we are all being thanked for doing this for a community that embraces me for my services and it gives me so much pleasure to see smiles on their faces. But I must stress the fact that Ken Crombie is the reason that all of this is happening. He had to make the initial contact with **Post Media**, which publishes the newspapers, and make it real. And then he asked me if I would be willing to pick them up and bring them to Hudson every Saturday morning in time for the store's opening. I told him that it would be a pleasure and it still is. Every Saturday!"

So if you are not already picking up your copies on a weekly basis, how do you go about it, what does this entail, and is he ready to pick up even more copies?

Explains Denis, "They can come to the store and fill in a form for either the *Gazette* or *Globe & Mail* or both and then complete the appropriate account form. We accept credit card, debit, cash, or on account although cash is the easiest for us to process. The *Gazette* is \$3.25 plus taxes, the *Globe & Mail* \$9 plus taxes. And as for more? Sure. The more the merrier!"

And by the way, but very important, Hudson Hardware is not charging one extra cent for doing all this. Ah, you gotta love it! Except, on a personal note, I still miss **Alan Lee's** fabulous cryptic crosswords!

## REMEMBERING PHOEBE HYDE IN NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK

It was on a snowy day in early February that I met up with author **Frank Hicks** at the historic **Greenwood Centre for Living History** in **Como** to learn more about this beautifully illustrated book as prefaced on page 1, which not only tells the story of **Phoebe Hyde** but also the lasting legacy that she has left for this and future generations. And here is what I learned.

**Q:** *How, why, when, and by whom was this book first proposed?*

**A:** In the summer of 2024 at a Greenwood board meeting, I suggested it as a joint project we could all have some fun with. I wanted a story children would relate to and a book that told the tale of one of the oldest homes in Hudson said to date back to 1732.

**Greenwood**, the many events that took place there, and the remarkable woman, **Phoebe Hobbs MacKellar Hyde**, who made it all possible.

**Q:** *How long has it been in the works?*

**A:** It started that summer, and we had a finished project by Christmas.

**Q:** *Who were the principal contributors, what role did they have, and why?*

**A:** All the then Greenwood Board members were principal contributors. Namely **Karen Molson, Kathryn Lamb, James Robertson, Deborah Woodhead, Alice Lenko-Christofaro, Doug McCollam, and Céline Pilon**, along with Doug's wife, **Joni**, as an illustrator. They all chose an artifact to tell a story about and the objective was to educate and entertain.

**Q:** *What was your specific role? And what, if any, were the challenges in bringing it all together?*

**A:** In essence, it was to take this tapestry of wonderful stories, add in one of my own, make them all fit perfectly together, and give them a beginning and end. The challenges were consolidating many different writing styles into one without causing offence and making them all suitable for children and adults.

**Q:** *Who did the cover design and*

*illustrations?*

**A:** Joni did most of the illustrations, three were borrowed from *Antique Children's* books, and the cover image was again done by Joni with background colour being added by my good friend **Arnie Guha**.

**Q:** *How was it financed from start to finish?*

A professional page designer did his magic with the book and helped us upload it to Amazon at no cost. The first one hundred copies were financed by another generous local resident. And the editing and fact checking were done by Karen Molson and James Robertson. Indeed, I am so happy to report that there was no cost whatsoever associated with this project.

**Q:** *What was your concept of the book and what is the potential readership in terms of age and interest?*

**A:** My concept was to tell the amazing history of one of the oldest houses in Hudson which is now a museum and to tell it in a way that all ages from 6 to 96 would enjoy.

**Q:** *In your own words, how important is Greenwood to Hudson's past and history, the role it continues to play, how has it evolved over the decades, and how do you see its future?*

**A:** Greenwood is a monument to the early history of Hudson and the people that settled here, and it is constantly evolving. There are the walking tours that take place every summer at the museum, the annual *Greenwood StoryFest* event

attracting such amazing authors as **Margaret Atwood, Kathy Reichs, Roméo Dallaire** and many others. There is *Music on the Lawn, Shakespeare on the Grass, Afternoon Tea, A Very Victorian Christmas, Treasures in the Kitchen*, book readings and many other events that take place at Greenwood throughout the year. I see its future as continuing to be this beautiful home, filled with fascinating artifacts and stories

and a place for people to get away from the hustle and bustle of their busy lives and enjoy peace, comfort, music, history, and beauty.

**Q:** *Is it true to say that volunteers are at the very core of Greenwood?*

**A:** Absolutely. Volunteers are the heart and the soul of Greenwood and the town of Hudson. Without these hardworking men, women and, at times, children who give of their time freely seeking no reward in return, many of the wonderful things we love about this town would disappear. We have gardeners, craftsmen, researchers, preservationists, butchers, bakers, and candlestick-makers all devoted to this town and this museum. Without their help nothing would get done.

**Q:** *How many books have you written to date and what are their titles?*

**A:** I've written two novels, one autobiography, one play, one book of poetry and two children's books. *Politically Incorrect Memoirs of an Antique Dealer, The Rebels, Murder in a Small Town, Pugsley the Peculiar Puffin, Phoebe's Magical Gift, Poetry From the Bottom of a Bottle, and For All the Heroes*. My first book was released in 2014 and all are available on **Amazon**.

**Q:** *Have to ask you Frank. Do you miss your days as a professional antiquarian?*

**A:** For sure. I miss the people, the crazy stories I was told along the way, and the excitement of finding a buried historic treasure.

(continued on page 6)

Photographed at the Greenwood Centre for Living History, author Frank Hicks, and with a lot of help from his friends there, promises a great read in the new children's book *Phoebe's Magical Gift*.

Photo by Arnie Guha



## The Game's Afoot

(continued from page 1)

going on indoors, filled with theatre people and superficial bonhomie, while outdoors, a winter storm is raging (definitely a dark and stormy night). The only thing missing so far is a murder!

This play is a mystery that also embraces farce and humour. The plot is complex, with its share of twists, misunderstandings and red herrings. There are lots of opportunities for over-the-top performances, big gestures, exaggerated expressions and just so much fun! It features actors that we know from previous Hudson Players productions (John Sheridan, Jean Frederic Samson, Fiona Chandler, Diana Gausden, Geneviève Grenier) as well as a few new faces. Heidi Hawkins, an accomplished director and actor with over two decades of professional experience is directing this show. She is known for a hands-on-style, working closely with each artist to refine words, gestures and movements that are the building blocks of this play. And Heidi is

enjoying working in Hudson, supported by the skilled actors, producers and back-stage people that the Hudson Players Club is known for. The day I sat in on a rehearsal, there was more than 30 cm. of snow and everyone had made it in!

The action moves quickly in this play, and everyone appears to be having a great time, until the late arrival of an unpopular and controversial guest. Suspicion and paranoia arrive with her, as we are carried along by both humour and tension. Things head downhill, but hilariously. People start to die. Even William, the great portrayer of Sherlock Holmes, is stymied, and the police are called in.

As a closing note, it is interesting how Sherlock Holmes has been an object of fascination since his first appearance in 1887. The books and magazine stories by Arthur Conan Doyle that first popularized this detective and his methods of deduction and forensic practices, have been

followed up by movies, TV series, games and podcasts that continue to entertain people of all ages to this day. I think he might be one of the most extensively reinterpreted literary figures in history.

So, as promised, no hints or spoilers here. The play arrives at the Hudson Village Theatre on April 4 to the 13<sup>th</sup>. You'll just have to come in person to experience the fun for yourself! For information and ticket call-450-458-5361 or contact

[hvtbox@villagetheatre.ca](mailto:hvtbox@villagetheatre.ca)



Cast and director Heidi Hawkins at rehearsal

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PLATINUM  
AWARD

## 9 to 5 by Patricia Resnick

*Presented by Encore Theatre March 6th to 16th at the Hudson Village Theatre*

Preview by Kathryn Lamb

Encore Musical Theatre is returning to Hudson in March with a new show based on the 1980 hit movie **9 to 5**. Patricia Resnick wrote the book for this show, and Dolly Parton, the music. Following up on last year's very successful production of **Curtains**, this year's show will be directed and choreographed by Corey Castle, supported by Jen Baltuonis as musical director, Peter Garbacz as technical director, and James Berryman as set designer.

Anyone who has seen the 1980 movie, starring Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin knows the story. Three gutsy women work together in an office under the thumb of an exceptionally corrupt and misogynistic boss, where lack of respect for women is the norm. But these girls are clever, organized, and strategic. Together they plot a hilarious and hugely satisfying revenge.

I sat in on a rehearsal last weekend and was immediately struck by the focus and professionalism of the cast, a very multi-generational group. Concentrating with the director to get the refining and timing of a movement just right, I watched a series of gestures transform a rather banal office routine, like the passing of a piece of paper, then stamping the paper, then stapling it, into a dance sequence that melted into the music and became part of the story. There was lively feedback between the actors and directors, and you could feel the satisfaction as routines became more solid. Although still in rehearsal mode, I heard some great voices. The lead roles of Violet, Judy and Dora Lee are played by Maggie Owen, Elizabeth Proulx and Amanda Caron. This show, however, is clearly a group effort, and all parts, small or large, are played with skill and enthusiasm.

The cast consists of about twenty actors who come from Hudson and surrounding areas. Performing in a production like this entails months

of practice and preparation, and commuting is regularly complicated by blizzards and bridge closures - a truly dedicated bunch. On top of that, they lead busy lives - other jobs, young children, family commitments. When I asked where time was found to practice their lines, one said she rehearsed while driving, and another found time when cooking the family dinner. Her young daughter, she said, who should have been practicing her spelling homework, now could sing all her show numbers word for word! These people really love the theatre, and our community reaps the benefits. As well, the Hudson Village Theatre, the town of Hudson, the Vaudreuil-Soulanges Palliative Care Residence and other sponsors have provided support and valuable rehearsal space for this endeavor.

And I guess we could ask ourselves if the position of women in the workplace has improved over the last 45 years. I think the answer is yes - and no. The workplace has changed, indeed the whole corporate world, and not just due to COVID. Workers, both men and

women, often have to work longer hours, and need to be constantly reachable by text, email and cell phone. Job security, pensions, and healthcare seem harder to come by, and young people often live with their parents well into their 20's because they can't afford rent let alone a home of their own. Men as a whole still earn more than women, and as media and the #MeToo movement regularly point out, sexual harassment continues to be alive and well. I still think the message of 9 to 5 is relevant today, and that we need to be reminded of how things used to be. Perspectives, situations and the state of the world will always intervene to complicate our working lives, but humor, courage and friendship can keep us afloat!

**9 to 5** will play at the Hudson Village Theatre from March 6-16, with both evening and matinee performances. For tickets and information contact:

[villagetheatre.ca](http://villagetheatre.ca)

or 450-458-5361.

The front three ladies from left to right are Maggie Owen (playing Violet), Amanda Caron (playing Doralee) and Elizabeth Proulx (played Judy) at the end of one of the big musical numbers.  
Photo by Terry Broda



## Parrydise Hudson

(continued from page 3)

**Q:** *How does Greenwood receive the financial help to keep it going?*

**A:** We get support from the Town of Hudson's Mayor and Council, Federal government student grant support, **Canadian Heritage of Quebec Foundation** support and we have modest membership fees. We also have bake sales, the various events mentioned earlier for which there is a slight charge, the *Greenwood StoryFest* events, the *Greenwood Singers* concerts and our thrift store revenues. Many generous supporters also help us financially as well as give us goods which can then be sold and the revenue from those sales helps us maintain the home and property and finance our many community events. So basically, everyone helps keep Hudson's history alive and well.

**Q:** *When and where will the book be officially launched and subsequently be available for purchase?*

**A:** It is available now on **Amazon** and at Greenwood. Just call Greenwood at (450) 458-5369 or email us at [history@greenwoodcentre.org](mailto:history@greenwoodcentre.org) and we will make arrangements for anyone to get a copy. The cost is \$20 and all proceeds will go towards maintaining and improving the property that is such an important and integral part of Hudson's history.

Well Frank, sincere thanks to you and all your friends for this new treasure of a book that is surely going to be read by youngsters, their parents, and even grandparents today telling the magical story of Phoebe Hyde. A truly remarkable lady who left her lovely home and all its treasures to the **Canadian Heritage of Quebec**, a foundation dedicated to preserving homes of historical interest and lands of natural beauty, and her lasting legacy for generations to come.

### NOW LET'S TALK TURKEY

Don't know about you, but it seems I have heard a lot of alarming reports around town recently as well as on our local **Facebook** sources about big freaking flocks of plump **Wild Turkeys** strutting around nearby fields, causing local traffic to slow down while they cross, and even invading **Downtown**

**Montreal** to the amazement and consternation of residents there. And so I decided to check it out as to whether this was normal at this time of year or yet another harbinger of climate warming of the planet or whatever.

So my first local source of reference to talk turkey as it were was to contact **Denis Germain**, a former **Provincial Game Warden** in our region and subsequently a **Conservation Officer** in the **Province of Quebec**, specializing in fish, birds, and game, who retired after 30 years of distinguished service back in 1998.

Recalled Denis, who lives in **St. Lazare**, "I remember seeing my first wild turkeys while patrolling along the Canada-U.S. border near **Covey Hill, Rockburn**, in the early 70s. There were several small flocks of them coming north and obviously they saw what they liked and they have done very well ever since, considering the numbers we are seeing today."

Added Denis, who says he thoroughly enjoyed his career, including being promoted **Chief Warden** on Quebec's **Lower North Shore** right up to **Anticosti Island** in the **Gulf of St. Lawrence** and **Blanc-Sablon** on the border of **Labrador** where, because of the geography and climate, turkeys simply didn't exist.

"That being said, there is no question that they are a very hardy breed. They are also grain eaters which just love to gobble up corn, canola and soya and, if these are difficult to find for whatever reason, they will eat any grain that is available."

Climate change, he pointed out, has also contributed significantly to their success in that our milder winters in recent years have made our region even more attractive to them. I was also intrigued to learn that a wild turkey hen can lay up to 14 eggs at a time in the breeding season, but that because of natural predators such as birds of prey, raccoons and even skunks, not all survive. Not only the eggs but also the newly hatched and very vulnerable flightless poults that need up to two weeks before they can fly.

"So do they represent a clear and

present danger to we humans as some people are suggesting?" I asked. "Not at all," replied Denis. "If you see them crossing the road, just slow down and they will be on their way. But I certainly wouldn't advise getting too close to them on foot. Brooding hens have sharp beaks and are very protective. While the males, called Toms, have very sharp spurs. But dangerous? No not really. Accidentally hitting a white tailed deer on the road? Now that is dangerous! And one should always remember that all wild animals are unpredictable if you approach them too closely. After all, they are not living in a petting zoo."

And on that note, I was going to suggest that we share a glass of **Wild Turkey Bourbon** all the way from **Kentucky** south of the border to make a toast to the birds, but then realized that, thanks to **President Donald Trump's** insane tariffs, it was no longer being stocked on **SAQ** shelves. And instead, we opted for a generous glass of 12-year old Scotch all the way from **Bonnie Scotland**. So Slàinte mhath, pronounced slan-ge-var. **And that's a wrap!**

In this photo taken on the day of his retirement in 1998, Denis Germain poses with his now vintage Game Warden's uniform including the hat that has since gone the way of the extinct Dodo bird.

Photo courtesy of Denis Germain





# The Hudson Chamber Music Series

*The Hudson Chamber Music Series Returns to St. James Hall*

by Steve Ambler

The Hudson Chamber Music Series is pleased to announce its return to hosting concerts at St. James Church Hall, 642 Main Road in Hudson. On April 6 at 4 pm, Laurence Kayaleh (violin), Elizabeth Dolin (cello) and Lucas Porter (piano) will perform works by Sergei Rachmaninoff, Robert Schumann and Antonin Dvorák.

This will be the first concert at St. James Hall since the tragic fire in April 2024, which destroyed the church and the adjoining chapel and forced the cancellation of one of our concerts on the very day of the fire. The hall and its piano were spared, and it now has a new entrance and washroom facilities. We are extremely happy to be able to once again use the hall. It is an ideal setting for chamber music with wonderful acoustics (CBC Music has recorded concerts there in the past). It also has an unparalleled view of the Lake of Two Mountains and the church grounds.

Elizabeth Dolin has been recognized as one of Canada's finest cellists, in demand as a recitalist and chamber musician and as a soloist with major Canadian orchestras. She is Assistant Professor of Cello at the Schulich School of Music (McGill) and Professor of Cello and Chamber Music at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal. Elizabeth has recordings on several record labels, and plays with a François Lotte bow on loan from CANIMEX Inc. in Drummondville.

Laurence Kayaleh has performed as guest soloist with many distinguished orchestras on several continents. She has released several recordings on the Naxos label, including the complete works for violin and piano of Nikolai Medtner, Arthur Honegger, Georgy Catoire, and Joachim Raff. She plays a magnificent Guarneri violin that belonged to the eminent violinist and pedagogue Carl Flesch.

Lucas Porter is a national and international award winning pianist from Nova Scotia. He completed his doctorate at the Université de Montréal in 2023. He has been a semifinalist in a number of international piano competitions in the USA, Italy, Canada, and Japan, and has won a number of first prizes and grand prizes at the national Canadian Music Competition. Lucas is quickly gaining recognition across the country and internationally. The Montreal Gazette describing his double octaves as "The fastest since Horowitz's, and even cleaner."

The concert program features three Romantic-era piano trios: the Trio élégiaque in G minor by Rachmaninoff, the Trio in G minor opus 110 by Schumann, and the Trio in E minor opus 90 (subtitled "Dumky") by Dvorák.

Rachmaninoff composed his Trio élégiaque in 1892 when he was a student at the Moscow Conservatory. It was part of his debut concert at which he performed solo pieces by Chopin, Liszt and Tchaikovsky as well as some of his own chamber compositions. The trio was written over a four-day period less than two weeks before that concert. Like much of his early music, it owes a debt to Tchaikovsky while remaining recognizably his own. It is in one long movement. It has a powerful sweep, growing in intensity before ending with a sombre funeral march.

Schumann composed his Trio in G minor in 1851, relatively late in his career. The year was a busy one for the composer: he also revised his Symphony in D minor from 1842, which was published as his fourth and last symphony, and wrote two violin sonatas. The trio is in four movements. The first is  
(continued on the next page)

Dolin & Kayaleh & Porter Chamber Trio  
Photo courtesy of Hudson Chamber Music Series



## Chamber Music (continued from previous page)

one of his finest sonata-form movements, which ends dramatically. The second movement is an almost operatic duet between the violin and cello. The final two movements are a patchwork of miniature dance and march tunes, which are by turns proud and satirical.

Dvořák wrote four piano trios, and the Dumky trio (his last) is the most famous of the four as well as one of his best known works in any format. The first performance took place in Prague in 1891 with the composer at the piano. It was so well received that he performed it on his forty-concert tour through Moravia and Bohemia, just before leaving to head the National Conservatory of Music of America in New York City. The subtitle is the plural of the Slavic word dumka, which refers to a type of folk song alternating

between the doleful and the exuberant. This perfectly describes the structure of the trio, which is less formal than its three predecessors. It consists of six sections, with the last one alternating between a mournful C minor and an effervescent C major. The trio contains some of his most memorable melodies, as memorable as those in the New World Symphony, which Dvořák composed two years later in New York.

Admission for the concert is \$30 at the door (free for those under 14). More details are available at:

[hudsonchambermusic.ca](http://hudsonchambermusic.ca)



CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES – SÉRIE DE MUSIQUE DE CHAMBRE

## Ken Ludwig's *The Game's Afoot*

Directed by Heidi Hawkins  
April 4 -13, 2025

Packed with laughter and intrigue, *The Game's Afoot* begins with a weekend of revelry at the Connecticut castle of Broadway star William Gillette. Gillette, who fancies himself the real-life Sherlock Holmes, has invited his fellow cast members for a holiday retreat filled with high spirits and holiday cheer. But when one of the guests is unexpectedly murdered, the atmosphere shifts from festive to dangerously mysterious.

With no one able to leave and secrets lurking in every corner of the house, Gillette must solve the crime before more lives are lost — if his amateur sleuthing can survive the chaos and hilarious comedy, that is.

**Tickets: 38\$ ( no tax) at  
[villagetheatre.ca](http://villagetheatre.ca)**

Tickets can also be purchased by contacting the box office directly:  
**450-458-5361 or  
[hvtbox@villagetheatre.ca](mailto:hvtbox@villagetheatre.ca)**



**Murderously Funny  
You'll Die Laughing**

**Whacky Characters  
Hilarious Plot Twists**

**Ken Ludwig's  
*The Game's Afoot***

# The 3 of Us

Presented by GlenKaren and the Hudson Village Theatre

Review by Kathryn Lamb

An intergenerational family unit consisting of struggling mother sandwiched between an acid-tongued grandma and insolent teenaged daughter? Dysfunctional would be an understatement. In *The Three of Us*, a new play, written and directed by Glen Bowser, home is a battle field, and the tactics are ruthless!

Karine Dion, in the role of mother Marion MacKenzie, performs with skill and intensity, trying to hold her crumbling family together. Karen Cromar is brilliant as Gran, a crochety grandmother, with tightly permed hair and an acid tongue that produces some hilarious zingers ("puberty is when Satan takes over and all hell breaks loose"). And Hazel Nugent is Lisa MacKenzie, a rebellious, narcissistic teenager who is hard-to-love.

Things become complicated when Lisa commits a crime, and Marion, distraught with guilt and nerves, looks to psychiatrist Dr. Whitmore (Andrew Richardson) for advice. Layers of fear and anxiety need to be peeled back before underlying truths are revealed and healing can happen.

Dave Thompson (Robert di Loreto), a sympathetic neighbour, is keen to come to Marion's aid. But for everyone, including the audience, there are shocking surprises in store.

The acting throughout is skillful and convincing. We feel for Marion in her predicament – it is a situation many of us are familiar with. Lisa believes, like many teenagers, that the world revolves around her needs, and Gran seems oblivious to the needs of anyone else. There seems to be real chemistry between Marion and Dave in his attempts to support her, as she moves closer to him then pulls

away. Dr. Whitmore, the psychiatrist comes across as believably remote, yet is the first to get an inkling about what is really going on. The script cleverly propels us along with the characters, as the plot delivers us to the climax.

This play held me in thrall right up to the end. The writing is inspired

and the acting compelling. There were little hints, artfully placed in the dialogue that became clear only in retrospect, which somehow added to my enjoyment. The tension is released only when the final lines are spoken between Marion and Dave. "Maybe someday we can introduce ourselves again".

**HUDSON VILLAGE THEATRE** **THEATRE MUSICAL ENCORE & SPECIAL THEATRE**

# 9 to 5

*The Musical*

Basé sur le film à succès de 1980. Située à la fin des années 1970, cette histoire hilarante d'amitié et de vengeance à l'ère du Rolodex est scandaleuse, stimulante et même un peu romantique.

Based on the 1980 hit movie. Set in the late 1970s, this hilarious story of friendship and revenge in the Rolodex era is outrageous, thought-provoking and even a little romantic.

Livre de/Book by  
**Patricia Resnick**

Musique et paroles/Music & Lyrics  
**Dolly Parton**

Directeur artistique/Artistic Director  
Chorégraphe/Choreographer  
**Corey Castle**

Directeur musical/Musical Director  
**Jen Baltuonis**

Arrangements et orchestrations supplémentaires/Arrangements and Additional Orchestrations  
**Stephen Oremus & Alex Lacamoire**

## MARCH 6-16 MARS

SOIRÉES ET MATINÉES AND EVENINGS

Billets/Tickets & Info **VILLAGETHEATRE.CA | 450-458-5361**

Basé sur le film de 20th Century Fox. Initialement produit à Broadway par Robert Greenblatt, en avril 2007. Présenté en accord spécial avec Music Theatre International (MTI). Tous les matériaux de performance autorisés sont également fournis par MTI. Based on the 19th Century Fox Picture. Originally produced on Broadway by Robert Greenblatt, April 2007. Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishow.com

# The BIG little CANADIAN FILM FESTIVAL

by Clint Ward

**“There’re Swan Lakes all over the world and they’re danced beautifully – but I’m tired of looking at things that are academic exercises – I want to be moved – It’s Theatre you know – I want to cry....”**

Karen Kain’s quote comes from the final feature length film of the 2025 Film Festival. *Swan Song* is an immersive, behind-the-scenes look at one of the world’s leading ballet companies as it mounts a new production of *Swan Lake* directed by Ballet icon Karen Kain, on the eve of her retirement. The film weaves together intimate scenes of the creative process and the dancers’ personal lives.

**Guest: Karen Kain.**

**Monday, April 21, 2.00 pm**  
***Universal Language***  
**(Comedy Drama)**

**“Winnipeg is a strange destination for tourism”**

In a mysterious and surreal interzone somewhere between Tehran and Winnipeg, the lives of multiple characters interweave with each other in surprising and mysterious ways. Grade schoolers Negin and Nazgol find a sum of money frozen in the winter ice and try to claim it. Meanwhile, Massoud leads a group of increasingly-befuddled tourists through the monuments and historic sites of Winnipeg. Matthew quits his meaningless job in a Québec government office and sets out upon an enigmatic journey to visit his mother. Space, time and personal identities crossfade, interweave and echo into a surreal comedy of misdirection. Bridging two nations with a clever and surreal conceit, *Universal Language* is a culture clash comedy brimming with wisdom.

**Guest: Matthew Rankin (director)**

***Canada’s Nomination for the 2025 Academy Awards, Audience Award at Cannes Film***

***Festival, Best Canadian Discovery at the Toronto International Film Festival, Best Canadian Film at the Vancouver International Film Festival***

**Monday, April 21, 8.00 pm**  
***Ice-Breaker: The 72 Summit Series (Documentary)* 95 Min**

**“I’ve never felt pressure like that in my life. I remember I had a cup of tea the afternoon before the game and there were whitecaps in my tea, that’s how uptight I was.” Paul Henderson.**

Those of us who were alive at the time will always remember where we were when that series-winning goal was scored by Paul Henderson with 34 seconds left in the game in 1972. But many of us do not recall in detail the seven other games leading up to that moment in September 1972, or the fact that we actually booed our Canadian heroes off the rink after an early and unexpected loss to the Soviets. Fifty plus years ago, more than 20 million Canadians and 150 million Soviet citizens were mesmerized by what is now known as the “Summit Series.” These matches led to the growth of sports diplomacy, and placed a human face on communism. *Ice Breaker* unearths stories from the Summit Series with fresh perspectives and unique analysis, exploring the impact of the games on Canadians from coast to coast.

**Guests: Robbie Hart (director), Gary Smith (diplomat/author), Terry Mosher (cartoonist) and others.**

**Tuesday, April 22, 1.00 pm**  
**First Nations Day**  
***So Surreal: Behind the Masks (Documentary)* 88 Min.**  
**Guest: an Elder**

**“These Masks have a life”**

Illustrating a wildly fascinating connection between the work of some Surrealist artists and Indigenous ceremonial masks from

the Yup’ik and Kwakwaka’wakw nations, *So Surreal: Behind the Masks* goes on a journey from Turtle Island to Europe to find them. Cree director Neil Diamond accompanied by a cadre of cultural preservation workers and art experts, journeys across the ocean to try to locate the Raven Transformation Mask, an invaluable cultural item that the northwest coastal community has previously had no luck tracking down. With dreamy Surrealist imagery interspersed with Yup’ik dancers in masks, interviews with current-day carvers and art experts, this doc masterfully weaves together the threads of cultural and artistic histories. Part detective story and part illuminating history, *Behind the Masks* is a must-see for anyone who loves art, culture, and entertaining docs.

**Tuesday, April 22, 3.00 pm**  
***Soleils Atikamekw (Documentary-fiction)* 103 min**

**“How do you explain these cuts? ...it’s not an accident”**

Manawan, 1977. A vehicle falls into a river near an indigenous community. Two white Quebecers escape, but five Atikamekw lose their lives. While the police conclude that it was an accident, for the victims’ families, questions remain unanswered. A choral film, a historical and poetic tale, *Soleils Atikamekw* is loosely inspired by the dreams, impressions and memories of the victims’ loved ones. Reality and fiction come together in a moving film about mourning, injustice and memory. **Guest : Chloé Leriche (director)**

***Seven major awards including, Best Female Director (Chloé Leriche), Best Film, Best Director (Chloé Leriche) and Best performance for all cast at the Whistler Film Festival***

**Tuesday, April 22, 8.00 pm**  
***Sugarcane (Documentary)* 107 Min**

**"Being sorry for something is just the first step"**

Set amidst a groundbreaking investigation, *Sugarcane* illuminates the beauty of a community breaking cycles of intergenerational trauma and finding the strength to persevere. A stunning tribute to the resilience of Native people and their way of life, *Sugarcane*, the debut feature documentary from Julian Brave NoiseCat and Emily Kassie, is an epic cinematic portrait of a community during a moment of international reckoning. In 2021, evidence of unmarked graves was discovered on the grounds of an Indian residential school run by the Catholic Church in Canada. After years of silence, the forced separation, assimilation and abuse many children experienced at these segregated boarding schools was brought to light, sparking a national outcry against a system designed to destroy Indigenous communities.

*Sugarcane* is one of the most compelling and important documentaries of the year.

**Certainly a Highlight of the Festival**

***Nominated for the Academy Awards 2025, Feature Documentary, Documentary Directing Award Sundance Film Festival, Best Documentary Feature Sarasota Film Festival, Best Documentary Feature San Francisco International Film Festival, Grand Jury Prize Seattle International Film Festival, Best Documentary Film National Board of Revue***

**Wednesday, April 23, 2.00 pm  
*Hôtel Silence* (Drama) 100 Min**

**"No one comes here without a reason – I just wanted the pain to stop"**

Jean, at the age of 52, is divorced and depressed. He decides to set off on a one-way journey of no return to a country destroyed by war. But nothing goes exactly as planned. Jean checks into a hotel that is in total disrepair with few guests. His despair soon seems minor in the face of the fate of those who welcome him as they cling to the

slightest hope of reconstruction. Jean becomes a volunteer handyman, fixing everything from doors to getting fresh water working again and he gradually rediscovers the meaning of his existence. It is heartwarming to watch the central figure's perspective on life change. *Hotel Silence* is about a man at a crossroads but in building relationships with the survivors he meets, he rediscovers meaning in his life. The film is an "ode to resilience, an ode to life."

**Guest: François Tremblay (producer)**

**Wednesday, April 23, 8.00 pm  
*Le Successeur (The Successor)* (Drama Thriller) 112 Min**

**"I'd like to say it's kind of a modern tragedy" Xavier Legrand, Director**

From the opening scene of *The Successor* - depicting a dazzling fashion show - the audience perceives that this is not a conventional film: the staging, the rhythm and the music start ringing alarm bells that something, tragic and disturbing will be coming after such a spectacle of beauty, glitter and sophistication. Happy and accomplished, Ellias Barnès becomes the new artistic director of a famous French Haute Couture house. When he learns that his father, whom he has not seen for many years, has just died of a heart attack, Ellias goes to Quebec to settle the estate. The young creator will discover that he has inherited

much worse than his father's fragile heart. It is a nightmare discovery of deep family shadows.

***Best Film Award at Festival of French Speaking Films CINEMANIA (Montreal) and Public Prize Award at Festival Les Arcs in Savoie, France***

**Thursday, April 24, 1.30 pm  
*Goddess of Slide: The Forgotten Story of Ellen McIlwaine* (Music Documentary) 96 Min**

**"She has power and soul – and Feel!" Joanna Conner blues singer/songwriter**

Celebrating the Canadian musician who fought for her right to play the slide guitar, a male-dominated instrument in a male-dominated world. Eight months after arriving in Greenwich Village with no prospects, she found herself opening for the biggest blues legends in the world, like Odetta, Richie Havens, and Mississippi John Hurt. But it's the six magical nights that Ellen ignited the stage with Jimi Hendrix that changed the course of her life. *Goddess of Slide* is an intimate look at a pioneer performer whose road trip to stardom and long career deserves a rightful place in music history.

**Guest: Alfonso Maiorana (director)**

**Thursday, April 24, 4.00 pm *Déjà vu* (Short Film) 12 min.**

(continued on the next page)

Sugarcane



Film Festival, continued from p. 11

**"A soul is eternal; it never dies or ends."**

**Guest : Jean Frenette, director**

**Thursday, April 24, 8.00 pm**  
***Bergers (Shepherds)***  
**(Drama) 113 min**

**" We're nomads, we follow the grass"**

Mathyas trades in his Montreal life as a young advertising executive to become a shepherd in the South of France. But the harsh realities of the pastoral world force him to question his romantic vision of the profession. A visit from Elise, a civil servant who has abruptly quit her job, gives Mathyas' quest a new direction. Together, with a herd in their care, they embark on a journey towards a new way of life in the mountains. Just the two of them. And one border collie. And 800 sheep.

**Guests: Félix-Antoine Duval (main actor), Mathyas Lefebure (author of *D'où viens-tu, berger?*)**

***Best Canadian Film Award at TIFF - Toronto International Film Festival 2024 and Finalist for the Rogers Best Canadian Film at the Toronto Film Critics Association Awards 2024.***

**Friday, April 25, 1.00 pm.**  
***Allen Sunshine (Drama) 90 Min***

**"...and pain can no longer control you"**

We often find joy in unexpected places, and *Allen Sunshine*, the debut film by Harley Chamandy, beautifully captures this sentiment against the backdrop of grief and isolation. The film follows Allen, a famed music mogul who retreats to a small lakeside cabin after his wife passes away. Allen's journey develops as he uncovers the warmth of unexpected friendship while fishing with Dustin and Kevin, who spend their summers on the lake. Their companionship becomes a source of comfort and healing and helps Allen rediscover life's simple pleasures and the subtle but profound power of connection. Set against the leafy Canadian wilderness, *Allen Sunshine* artfully combines themes of loss and renewal. As Allen grapples with the absence of his late wife, he finds solace in nature and the companionship of the two local boys and his dog Sully. Their playful interactions, like fishing, cooking and making music, serve as an all-encompassing reminder of the persistence of joy even under the weight of grief. *Allen Sunshine* is a slice-of-life film that stands out as a beacon of optimism. In an era where many films lean toward overly fantastical and dystopian themes, Chamandy's film offers a humanistic perspective on resilience and healing in an essential moment.

Bergers

**Guest: Harley Chamandy (director) via Zoom**  
***Werner Herzog Award 2024***

**Friday, April 25, 3.30 pm**  
***The Young Werther***  
**(Romantic Comedy) 101 Min**

**"You mean everything to me"**

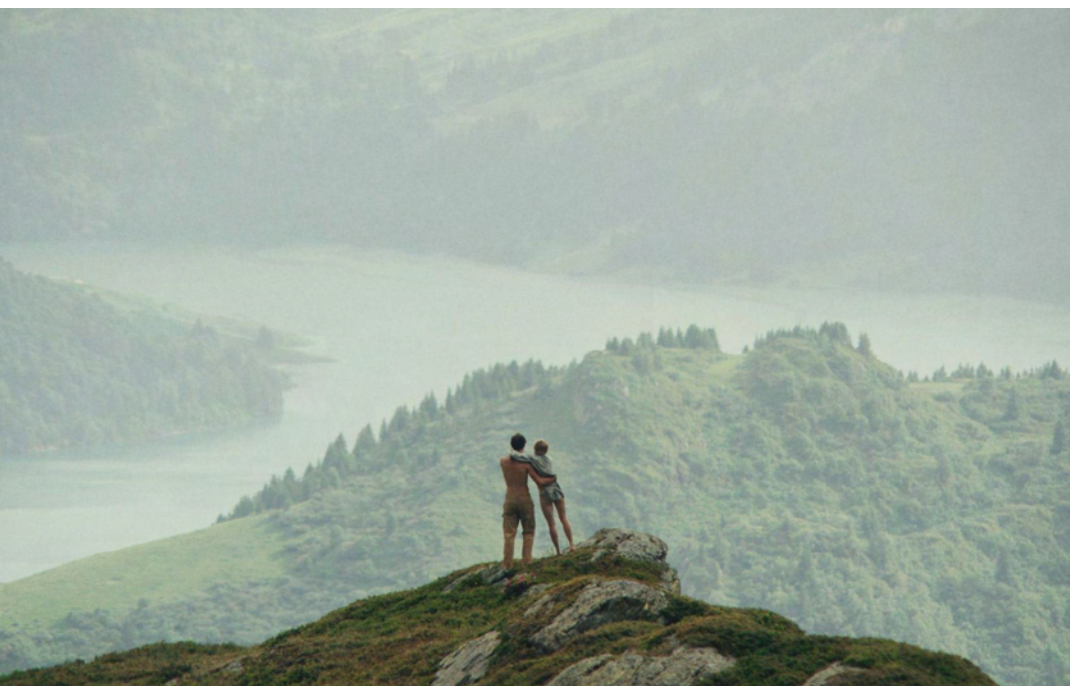
Wit and unrequited love are at the core of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's 18th-century novella *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, and those elements are updated and adapted beautifully in this snappy, humorous reimagining, set in modern-day Toronto. Werther, is making a brief pit stop to retrieve a statue before departing on a European adventure with his best friend, but a chance encounter with Charlotte, puts those plans on hold until he can win her over. He falls more in love with her as they spend time together. She's introverted, loves to read, and has been the main caretaker of her siblings since the deaths of their parents. A small snag to their union, however, is that Charlotte is engaged to successful lawyer Albert. With delightful performances from the cast, director José Avelino Gilles Corbett Lourenço's feature debut succeeds in the difficult task of preserving the pertinence of Goethe's dark and philosophical work in a bright and fun romantic comedy for a modern audience.

***The film was longlisted for the 2024 Jean-Marc Vallée DGC Discovery Award.***

**Friday, April 25, 8.00 pm,**  
***Richelieu (Drama) 90 Min***

**"No Québécois will shovel for 10 bucks an hour?"**

Ariane moves back home to the Richelieu Valley and gets a job in a food transformation plant for seasonal migrant workers. Focused on solving her financial issues, Ariane serves as an interpreter between Stéphane, the factory's aggressive supervisor, and the 42 seasonal Guatemalan workers hired as cheap labor. She obeys Stéphane's often excessive orders,  
(continued on page 14)



# Kathryn Panto

## *Cinderella*

Review by Kathryn Lamb

### CINDERELLA PANTO 2024/25

Cinderella, our theatre's annual holiday pantomime, arrived in mid-December with all of its customary mayhem, hilarity and joy. This year's production, written and directed by John Sheridan, presented a new take on the traditional story, previously adapted a few hundred years ago by French storyteller Charles Perreault and the German brothers Grimm. Anyone familiar with the original fairy tale- will soon recognize that several liberties have been taken with this version. But hey, this is panto, and if you can't improvise during panto, then where's the fun?

The first person we encounter is Buttons, small in body but big in voice, who is our narrator and tour guide on this wild, rollicking, adventure. She is also the audience's coach in correct "panto-etiquette"- basically cheer the good guys, boo the bad ones, and let the hero(ine) know when bad guys are creeping up from behind!

We soon get introduced to Cinderella, bullied by her very mean stepmother, and two very nasty, big busted, over made-up step sisters. We also meet the prince, who is being pushed by his dimwitted parents to find a wife. A ball has been organized so the prince can choose among the loveliest ladies of the realm. And also, hopefully the richest, since mom and dad are somewhat "skint" as they say.

But this is where the story begins to go awry. Walking in the forest incognito, the prince meets Cinderella and her stepsisters. He claims to be immediately besotted by one of them, but which one has caught his eye?? The woods are filled as well with mysterious "SPIES" hired by the prince's parents to keep an eye on him.

The stepsisters are very excited, when they hear about the ball, but of course, since Cinderella has no fancy dress, she can't go to the ball with the others. Thank goodness for fairy God-mothers!

The night of the ball arrives, and the dancing begins, but wait a minute! Who, after all, has caught the fancy of the prince?? Not, as we expect, the lovely sparkly-gowned Cinderella- (she is seen cozying up to the prince's sweet manservant) but the corpulent Anastasia who trips over everyone's feet with her immense multi-coloured hiking boots while trying to dance. There is a moment of panic as midnight arrives, and everyone leaves in a rush. It was beyond hilarious.

There is so much that could be said about this production- the finely executed backdrops (James Berryman and the late J.C. Olivier), the gorgeous costumes (Carla Labrosse and her team), and the music and choreography (Donna Stewart and Tim Duggan Walsh). The songs were original to this production, and the singers even had mics! All the performances were amazing. Buttons did a tremendous job of keeping the show on track, the chases through the audience were uproarious, and all the kids (and maybe adults too) in the sold-out theatre were in seventh heaven by the end of the show. I confess to being in love with Buttercup,

the prince's horse whose fluttering eyelashes and smooth dance steps stole my heart. And kudos to the guy in the audience who agreed to go on stage to marry the remaining "ugly stepsister" so the show could end with a triple wedding.

Since its inception in 2000, the Christmas pantomime has been the biggest fundraiser of year for the Hudson Village Theatre and represents countless hours of donated time by the performers, their families, and volunteers. There were two complete casts of hard-working actors to accommodate all the sold-out shows in the run. It is an incredible gift to the community.

Several weeks ago, when I watched a rehearsal of this show, I asked director John Sheridan (just out of curiosity) whether a glass slipper would be involved in his production, since it seemed to be such an important part of the original story. His cryptic answer to me was- "This play has a lot of "plot-specific" footwear". You've got to love it!

Some of the Cinderella Panto cast. Photo by Karen Walker



Film Festival, continued from p. 12

pressuring the underpaid Latino workers to constantly work overtime and turning down any request for better conditions. Little by little, she befriends a group of four Guatemalans assigned to the most physically demanding unit of the entire factory. Shoveling shredded corn in the harsh sun all day long, Manuel, Alfonso, Guillermo, and Juan have no one else but her to voice their concerns. Realizing the extent of her new friends' vulnerability, Ariane begins to take a stand against Stephane. Tension slowly builds up between the two as Ariane defies his decision to fire workers or to illegally install surveillance cameras in the dormitories. When Manuel slowly falls ill to a mysterious condition, the stakes quickly develop into a crisis situation.

**Guests: Pier-Philippe Chevigny (director), Ariane Castellanos (main actress)**

**Saturday, April 26, 9.30 am  
Desjardins Family Day  
Free Popcorn!  
Tous toqués! (All Stirred up)  
(Comedy) 112 min**

**"You're not going to nab me over vegetables and wine?"**

In a remote village somewhere on the border between Quebec and the United States, the unyielding customs officer Sonia confiscates the contents of the car belonging to Victor, a French chef living in New York and in need of recognition. She soon regrets it when her daughter, Lili-Beth, decides to take part in a Petits Chefs competition, in which she seems to have little chance of winning. The intractable Sonia then decides to try everything in her power to enlist the help of the charming but exasperating Victor. This more-than-improbable encounter will bring the whole village together to get past their differences and get a taste of what's essential.

**Runner-up, Audience Choice Award, 2024 Cinefest Sudbury International Film Festival**

**Saturday, April 26, 12.30 pm,  
Mlle Bottine (Miss Boots)  
(Comedy Drama), 111 Min**

**"I have no words. That's why I write music"**

Philippe, an opera composer lacking inspiration, is forced to take in his niece Simone, a rebellious and eccentric orphan whose best friend is a skunk. Despite their opposite personalities, Philippe and Simone quickly discover that they may need each other more than they initially thought.

**Best Actress Award (Marguerite Laurence) and Jury Prize Award for the Film at Club of Festival Children at Festival Schlingel Chemnitz in Germany**

**Saturday, April 26, 3.00pm  
La Petite et le Vieux (Blue Sky Jo), (Comedy Drama), 105 Min**

**"Money can't buy happiness"**

Quebec City, in the early 1980s. Her name is Helene, but she calls herself Jo because she wants to live like her hero, Joséphine the little musketeer, her favourite cartoon character. Jo is only ten years old, with three sisters, a very busy and troubled father and an understanding but strict mother. She lives in Limoilou, a blue-collar neighbourhood with a very diverse population, the most endearing of whom is her new neighbour, Monsieur Roger, a prickly old man who works hard at hiding his big old heart. A romantic soul with a voracious appetite for drama, Jo dreams of doing great things. One day, she decides to make it her mission to save her father from his work and his misery. **Guest: Gildor Roy (main actor)**

**Critic Prize Award at International Festival in Schlingel Germany, Best Film in French Award at Sudbury International Film Festival in 2024, Best Performing Actress (Juliette Bharucha) in Liege, Belgium at the International Comedy Film Festival 2024**

**Saturday, April 26, 7.30 pm,  
Swan Song**

**(Documentary), 100 Min**

*Swan Song* is a touching and exquisitely made documentary that provides an up-close and enlightening glimpse into the world of ballet. It's not just about dance; it's about the enduring legacy of lifelong artists and their passion, tenacity, and devotion to their craft. Whether you're a superfan of ballet or just looking to escape to a different world, this documentary is a must-see. Long after the final curtain call, Chelsea McMullan's cinematic masterpiece will remain in your heart.

**Guest: Karen Kain**

**Best Canadian Feature Documentary at Calgary International Film Festival, Rogers Best Canadian Documentary at the Toronto Film Critics Association Awards 2023, and the 2024 DGC Allan King Award for best documentary Film**

**9.30 pm Q & A  
10.00 pm On Stage pass holder Reception**

**Sunday, April 27, 2.30 pm  
Best of Ben's Screening Room**

**7.00 pm, Celebration Dinner at Hudson Creative Hub. (Tickets available during the Festival)  
Passes available at the Village Theatre Box Office. Single Tickets at the last moment – of each film – if available.**

Swan Song





# Memories of Hudson

*Tales that might have happened*

by Art MacDonald

Ed was kind of a nothing pupil. He wasn't smart or dumb or big or small. He didn't make trouble in his Mount Pleasant Elementary School classes but he didn't pay much attention either. His grades were always G or sometimes VG but never E or F. On his report card, teachers would write things like, "Does well in class," or "Could try harder." He always just passed his year and eventually found himself in Grade 7, the final Mount Pleasant School year before going on to Hudson High.

He didn't have any close friends but he hung out with some of the other kids at recess or during lunch break. He'd stand at the edge of a group and sometimes agree with what people were saying. He wasn't really interested in the gossip, about the girl who had been caught shop-lifting at Mullan's or who had kissed whom.

Sometimes kids would stand at the top of the hill in front of the Grade 7 classroom. When somebody walked by, they would get pushed down the hill. It turned into a game, and kids would walk by wanting to be pushed. When they were, they'd grab the kid who pushed them and they'd both roll down the hill with much screaming and laughter. Ed liked those kinds of games.

A highlight of lunch break would often be a game of "tackle." Kids played it mainly in the fall, after the rink boards went up but before the ice was ready for skating. Everyone would be heading outside after finishing their lunch and a few kids would yell "tackle, tackle." Twenty or thirty kids would head over to the ice-less rink and stand at one end against the boards. A medium-sized kid would volunteer to be in the middle.

The game was for everyone to run from one end of the rink to the other. The kid in the middle had to tackle at least one other kid, who would join him in the middle. Eventually there would only be one or two big kids left to run back and forth. They would be tackled right at the end, with lots of the small kids hanging on to them trying to bring them down. The biggest kids would end up at the bottom of this heap, always being careful that no kids, especially small ones, got hurt.

Ed sometimes volunteered to be in the middle. That first kid had to be just about the right size. If he was too small, he wouldn't be able to tackle anyone to join him and

grow the number of kids in the middle. If he was too big, the game would be too short. Ed had this trick, where he would run up to a kid trying to get to the other end of the rink. He'd fall to one knee just in front of him and grab his legs. It almost always worked.

After lunch Ed was sitting in the classroom looking out the window. The principal was the teacher for Grade 7 and it was near the end of the class. Ed wasn't paying attention but suddenly he realized that the class had gone completely silent. He looked around, wondering what was going on.

The teacher had left the classroom and it looked like he had put a sign up front. Kids were standing up to get a better look. Yes, there was a sign leaning up against the teacher's desk. It said, "This above all, to thine own self be true. Thou canst not then be false to any man."

Ed wondered what it meant. It must mean more than just to tell the truth. Just then the principal came back in, put the sign away and dismissed the class. The incident remained in Ed's mind, but he didn't think about it very much.

Years later, he had moved into Montreal and was working in finance. He had some difficult decisions to make and didn't know what to do. There was a lot of pressure. Then he remembered that day in Grade 7 at Mount Pleasant and suddenly he knew.

He made his decisions and eventually everything worked out. He thought then that what he had learned that day in his Grade 7 class was probably more valuable than everything else he learned that year.



# Arts Hudson Calendar of Events

## March 2025 Events

**Encore Musical Theatre Company, [encoremusicaltheatre.ca](http://encoremusicaltheatre.ca)**

**Friday March 6th to Sunday March 16th** 9 to 5 The Musical!

With music and lyrics by Dolly Parton and book by Patricia Resnick

9 to 5 is based on the 1980 hit movie. Set in the late 1970s, this hilarious story of friendship and revenge in the Rolodex era is outrageous, thought-provoking and even a little romantic  
Presented at Hudson Village theatre, 450.458.5361

Thursday, March 6, 7:30 pm; Friday, March 7, 7:30 pm; Saturday, March 8, 2 pm & 7:30 pm;  
Sunday, March 9, 2 pm; Wednesday, March 12, 7:30 pm; Thursday, March 13, 7:30 pm;  
Friday, March 14, 7:30 pm; Saturday, March 15, 7:30 pm; Sunday, March 16, 2 pm

**Soulanges Irish Society, [soulangesirishsociety.ca](http://soulangesirishsociety.ca)**

Saturday March 15th, St Patrick's Parade Irish Festival, Main Road Hudson, 1:00 to 5:00 pm

**Hudson Film Society, [hudsonfilmsociety.ca](http://hudsonfilmsociety.ca)**

**Monday, March 17** The Quiet Girl (2pm & 7.30pm)

**Hudson Creative Hub, [hudsoncreativehub.org](http://hudsoncreativehub.org)**

**Saturday March 8th, Vernissage: March 8 from 2-5 pm, Exhibition: March 8 – April 30th.**

A creative conceptual photographer, Adriana Balaban is an artist exploring the boundaries of visual expression through a unique blend of technical expertise and creativity.

**Cardinal Microbrewery Events, [cardinalhudson.com](http://cardinalhudson.com)**

Live music every weekend, plus an ongoing program of comedy nights, trivia and tasting events - see website for details

## April 2025 Events

**Hudson Players Club and Village Theatre, [hudsonplayersclub.ca](http://hudsonplayersclub.ca), [villagetheatre.ca](http://villagetheatre.ca)**

**Friday April 4th to Sunday April 13th**, Annual Spring Production

"The Game's Afoot," by Ken Ludwig

An award-winning Sherlock Holmes-themed murder mystery.

Murderously funny - you'll die laughing

Friday, April 4, 7:30 pm; Saturday, April 5, 2pm & 7:30 pm; Sunday, April 6, 2pm & 7:30 pm;  
Thursday, April 10, 7:30 pm; Friday, April 11, 7:30 pm; Saturday, April 12 2pm & 7:30 pm;  
Sunday, April 13, 2pm

**Hudson Chamber Music Series, [hudsonchambermusic.ca](http://hudsonchambermusic.ca)**

**Kayaleh \* Dolin \* Porter Chamber Music Trio**

Concert Location: St. James Church Hall, 642 Main Road Hudson, QC  
April 6, 2025 @ 4:00 pm, Tickets at the door: 30\$

**Hudson Film Society, [hudsonfilmsociety.ca](http://hudsonfilmsociety.ca)**

**Monday April 21st to Sunday April 27th**, Hudson Film Festival

Award-winning films with guests including Karen Kain for the film "Swan Song."  
Festival Passes available at the Hudson Village Theatre Box Office, 450-458-5361  
see details in article by Clint Ward

**Have an event you want to promote? Email [bert@artshudson.org](mailto:bert@artshudson.org)**

# Arts Hudson Calendar of Events

## May 2025 Events

Village Theatre, [villagetheatre.ca](http://villagetheatre.ca)

**"Halfway There** by Norm Foster

Welcome to a Quirky Little Place filled with Love, Laughter and Steamy Gossip  
Wednesdays, May 14 & 21, 2 pm; Thursdays, May 15 & 22, 7:30 pm; Fridays, May 16 & 23, 7:30 pm;  
Saturdays, May 17 & 24, 2 pm & 7:30 pm; Sundays, May 18 & 25, 2 pm

**"Summer of Love"**

a Chris McHarge Production with live music

Travel back to a time of Peace, Love, and Good Vibrations!

Wednesday, May 28 – 2 pm; Thursday, May 29, 2 pm & 7:30 pm; Friday, May 30 – 7:30 pm;  
Saturday, May 31, 2 pm & 7:30 pm; Sunday, June 1 – 2 pm

**Hudson Chamber Music Series**, [hudsonchambermusic.ca](http://hudsonchambermusic.ca)

occasional concerts, check the website

**Hudson Creative Hub**, 273 Main Road [hudsoncreativehub.org](http://hudsoncreativehub.org)

Regular markets, quizzes, art exhibits and courses - check the website

**Hudson Film Society**, [hudsonfilmsociety.ca](http://hudsonfilmsociety.ca)

Monday JNight at the movies, become a member, check the website

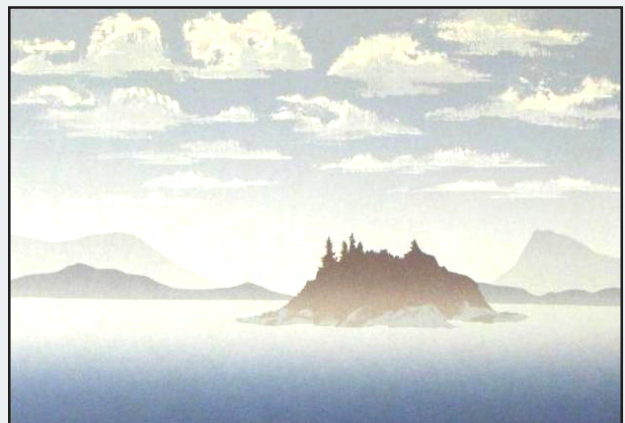
**Cardinal Microbrewery Events**, [cardinalhudson.com](http://cardinalhudson.com)

Live music every weekend, plus an ongoing program of comedy nights,  
trivia and tasting events - see website for details

# GALLERY +



Heather Lowe Hudson Landscapes



Markgraf Silk Screen Serigraphies

[galleryplus.ca](http://galleryplus.ca)

# The BIG little Canadian Film Festival

APRIL 21-27 2025  
AT HUDSON VILLAGE THEATRE



## Get Ready for the 10th Anniversary of the Festival Experience!

Join us for an unforgettable cinematic experience at the Hudson Film Festival, where big stories come to life on the big screen in our intimate, cozy, village theatre. From April 21 to 27, we are showcasing the very best of Canadian cinema.

### Why You Shouldn't Miss It:

- **15+ Incredible Films:** with something for every taste
- **8 Films in French (subtitled):** Celebrating the richness of Quebec cinema
- **A True Village Experience:** In the historic Hudson Village Theatre
  - **Celebrate Canadian Talent:**  
Discover exceptional Canadian storytelling
  - **Unforgettable Atmosphere:**  
A festival that feels like home
  - **Meet the Guest Filmmakers:**  
Engage with the creators behind the films
  - **For Film Lovers, by Film Lovers:**  
Experience the magic of film
- **Get it all with Festival Passes:**  
[hudsonfilmfestival.ca](http://hudsonfilmfestival.ca)

From humble beginnings and a passion for film, the Hudson Film Festival has gained international acclaim. Known as **The BIG little CANADIAN FILM FESTIVAL**, it offers a special Festival Experience with outstanding films and a welcoming atmosphere.

DISCOVER MORE AT [WWW.HUDSONFILMFESTIVAL.CA](http://WWW.HUDSONFILMFESTIVAL.CA)

