

# KANATA THEATRE

## 20TH

### BIRTHDAY!

#### 1968-1988

### Kanata Theatre announces plays for 1988-89

Kanata Theatre will be 20 years old next season, and it has many plans to celebrate this important birthday. Kanata Theatre would like to thank all the faithful supporters of its productions over those 20 years. Without our audiences, our efforts would seem in vain. We have chosen an exciting and demanding season which we are proud to announce.

The first play is Helene Hanff's gentle and very personal play *84 Charing Cross Road*

adapted from her book for the stage by James Roose-Evans. Based on the letters between Helene Hanff and Frank Doel, it tells of the relationship that develops between two people, one in New York and one in London, through their love of literature. (19-22 October).

In January we are presenting Tom Stoppard's *On the Razzle*, to be directed by a professional commissioned for the purpose. This should be a rewarding experience for the theatre groups as

well as for the audience. With a cast of 25 and Stoppard's brilliant dialogue, the play will be a tremendous challenge. (18-21 January).

The March production will be Edward Albee's award winning production *A Delicate Balance*, described by the Boston Record as a balance between wisdom and folly, fact and fancy...simple as a child's fable, complex as life itself, gaily funny...a study of human beings. (1-4 March).

The final production of next

season will be the popular play *Pardon Me, Prime Minister* by Edward Taylor and John Graham. A lively and amusing comedy that takes us to Number 10 Downing St., London, to watch the fun and chaos that transpires when a wicked post reveals that he knows, that she knows, that he knows...but do they? Add to this lovely ladies in undressed distress, and it should add up to a fast moving, hilarious evening. (10-13 May).

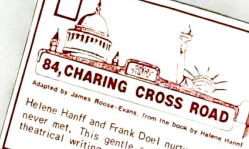

As the Kanata Theatre closes

for this season, we thank you for continuing to share our love of live theatre. Have a relaxed and happy summer, and do join us for our "20th birthday".

New members are most welcome...old members, please keep coming! For more information on membership, call Chris Ballard at 592-9562 or Barrie Kirk at 592-4672.

Season ticket renewal forms will be sent out within the next few weeks, which we ask to be completed and returned as soon as possible.



 <p><b>84, CHARING CROSS ROAD</b> Adapted by James Roose-Evans, from the book by Helene Hanff Helene Hanff and Frank Doel nurtured their relationship by mail and never met. This gentle and personal memoir is a gem of recent theatrical writing.</p> <p><b>OCTOBER 19-22, 1988</b></p>	<p>Frank Doel loved them in London. Helene Hanff loved books and she ordered them from New York.</p> <p>Season ticket renewal forms will be sent out within the next few weeks, which we ask to be completed and returned as soon as possible.</p>
<p><b>On the RAZZLE</b></p>	<p>Thornton Wilder called his version "The Matchmaker", the Broadway audience knew it as "Hello Dolly"; Tom Stoppard and his verbal felicity provide this new version of the Austrian play "a marvellous play ... it pinpoints decadence with wit and irony."</p> <p><b>JANUARY 18-21, 1989</b></p>
<p><b>A Delicate Balance</b> by Edward Albee</p>	<p>In Edward Albee's Pulitzer Prize winning play, the delicacy of the balance is everywhere apparent. The submission between power and and insanity, between maturity and age, a sensitive and gripping play about real people and real lives.</p> <p><b>MARCH 1-4, 1989</b></p>
 <p><b>Pardon Me, Prime Minister</b> by Edward Taylor and John Graham</p>	<p>In the unlikely address of 10 Downing Street, hilarious parts give us The revelations about what he knows that she knows, and the undressed ladies... what more do we need for a hilarious evening?</p> <p><b>MAY 10-13, 1989</b></p>

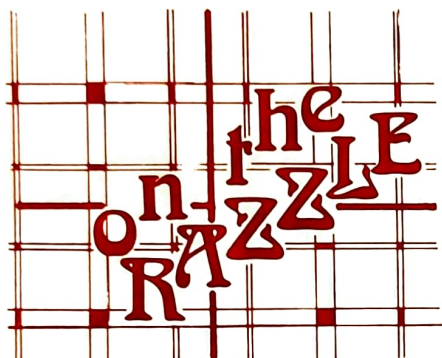


Adapted by James Roose-Evans, from the book by Helene Hanff

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Helene Hanff and Frank Doel nurtured their relationship by mail and never met. This gentle and personal memoir is a gem of recent theatrical writing.

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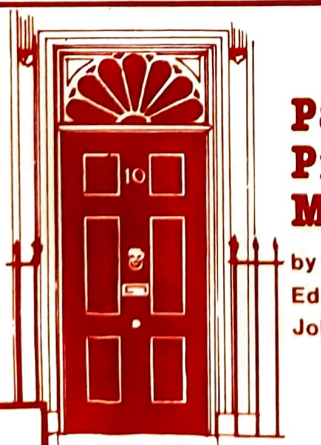
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In Edward Albee's Pulitzer Prize winning play, the delicacy of the balance is everywhere apparent. The balance between power and submission, between sense

and insanity, between maturity and age. A sensitive and gripping play about real people and real lives.

**MARCH 1-4, 1989**



## **Pardon Me, Prime Minister**

by  
Edward Taylor  
John Graham

In the unlikely address of 10 Downing Street, wicked pasts give us hilarious presence. The revelations about what he knows that she knows that he knows, and the undressed distress of decorous ladies . . . what more do we need for a hilarious evening?

**MAY 10-13, 1989**



# Kanata Theatre raises curtain on 20th season!

BY CAROL WEEKS

Twenty years ago, a handful of Kanata residents got together to read poetry and plays in each other's basements just to kill time during long, cold winter nights.

Now, two decades later, that handful has grown to 120, puts on four plays every winter, has over 1,000 season ticket subscribers and sells out most plays to audiences that fill a high school auditorium.

The Kanata Theatre troupe has grown and become a part of the community that makes winter seem almost bearable. All of the members are residents of Kanata and all put in countless hours of hard work for the pure love of community theatre.

But the times they are a-changin' and Kanata Theatre is not excluded from this trend. For the first time in its history, there is going to be a member who is young. The City of Kanata and Theatre of Ontario are assisting Kanata Theatre in hiring a professional director for the play "On the Razzle."

This is only one of the extra events the group is planning for the 1988-1989 season because history has shown the group has much to celebrate.



Laughter was generated with the '85 farce, "There Goes the Bride."

The first notices for Kanata Theatre appeared in October 1968 and read "An invitation to all ham actors. Please join us for our first meeting. This will probably be a play reading group initially but who knows how it may develop?"

The ad was signed and placed by Mary Mauger, who is still very involved with the group and is considered the founder.

"At the first meeting there were about 15 to 20 people," says Mauger. "We just started reading plays and doing charades." The first play wasn't performed until 1969 when the budding thespians performed two one-act plays for the winter season, "Lady Killers" and "Rise and Shine."

"My husband and I built the set in our basement and painted it with gold leaf paint," recalls Mauger. "My husband made tomb stones out of styrofoam, it wasn't much because they were one-act plays."

Mauger got her first taste of directing experience that year when she directed "Rise and Shine" and Laurence Thornton directed "Lady Killers."

Thornton, who already had experience as a director, talks about the stages back then as being "postage stamp stages" — not much bigger than the average living room. All of the plays were performed at the Stephen Leacock School until 1971, when Kanata Theatre moved to the Earl of March.

The first three-act play the group performed was in May 1970 when they put on "Present Laughter."

Although many of the original members are still with the group, no person involved has a particular job; everybody rotates positions. So, while one performer is the star in one play, he/she may work behind the scenes in the next. No one tries to outshine anyone — they're all in it for the fun.

The first play performed at the Earl of March High School's new auditorium was "The Crucible" in May 1971.

"We put on 'The Crucible' with a cast of about 25," says current publicity co-ordinator, Sally Raney. "And all the costumes cost \$25.00."

Kanata Theatre members have also performed "Our Town" with an all-



The banner advertising 1987's "Key for Two" production proudly displays the SOLD OUT banner. A record audience locked to see the play.

teenager cast in May 1970. And, for some of those earlier performances, the group came close to not going on because the stage was brand new and had never had a play performed on it just getting the equipment there had some members worried.

"It damn near wasn't put on because the lights never arrived until the afternoon of the first performance," said Thornton.

It wasn't until 1972 that the number of performances was again increased to four plays per season. Actors performed "Mousetrap," "Separate Tables," "Penny Packers" and "Three Angels" that year.

The group has kept with four performances since 1972 but have improved greatly in other areas.

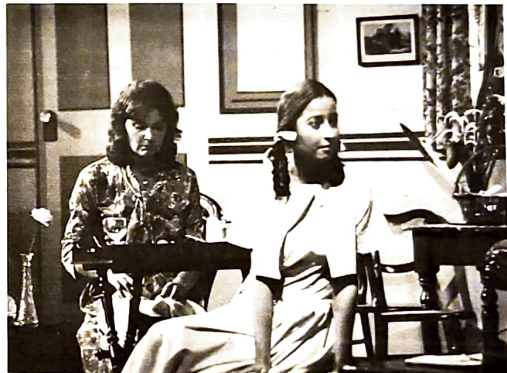
"We adjusted to doing four plays per year remarkably well," says Thornton. "There is great pressure because in addition to doing four plays a year we also do a couple of children's plays every year."

Approximately half of the present members are originally from the United Kingdom and feel that working in the theatre gave them a common tie, particularly during the winter when the Canadian climate made many of them feel like returning home rather than get involved in a community activity.

But nobody who belongs to the company has any reason to feel unwanted or useless — there is plenty of work to do and plenty of people who make the work pleasurable.

"I think people know what plays are coming up so people know what they want to read for or build a set for and people pace themselves through out," says Ann Marie Gopple, president of Kanata Theatre. "We do get tremendous support for each play."

Even the new members feel like they have become a member of a very close family that often socializes together.



## Two theatrical decades

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT, 1970: Can this really be Laurence Thornton (l) and Bob Knight in "Waltz of the Toreadors"? 1976: Mary Mauger, founder of Kanata Theatre, with Diana Fajraji, who is now a professional actress, returned from training in the National Theatre School to perform in "The Chaik Garden." 1980: Punch and Judy was the theme of float in the parade. 1973: Were they really this young? Here Drew McMillan, Valerie Mauer, John Walt, Susan Boss, Alanna Knight and David Boss in "The Remarkable Mr. Pennybacker." The kids all had parents involved in the theatre group. Photos: Kanata Theatre archives.



**KANATA THEATRE**  
TEL: 592-1715  
More Charades or no members available to:  
KANATA THEATRE  
P.O. BOX 13004, KANATA, ONTARIO K2K 1K3

"Everybody is willing to do all the jobs, back stage as well as acting or directing," says Raney. "It's one of our strengths, it's very much like a family."

One of the reasons the members feel that there is such a bond with the group is because they all reside in Kanata or what used to be the Township of March.

"People from Ottawa wanted to come out and read for us and they would complain," says Thornton. "That (having only Kanata members) has given us a cohesion, a community identity so people don't just come into town, read for a play and disappear, this has been our success."

Despite this bond that exists, the members disclaim that the group is cliquish or closed to new blood.

"New members have to be willing to participate," notes Dorothy Beaker, who keeps the archives impeccably. "But very quickly, people who are really interested in becoming members are accepted by the large."

The theatre members have a small party at the beginning of every season just to introduce new members to the senior members.

For its 20th season, Kanata Theatre has some extra special things planned for its audience including birthday cake for the audience, a play with a professional director and there is even talk of an authentic British Pub.

Thank you for twenty years of entertainment Kanata Theatre!

Best of luck in the future and "break a leg!"



Laurence Thornton and wife Heather recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. Thornton is involved in projects ranging from making audio tapes for the blind to being a member of Kanata Theatre.

## All the world is a stage for Kanata's Thornton

BY JULIE JOYCE

With involvement in such projects as newspaper audio tapes for the blind, Kanata Theatre productions, and a seniors play-reading group, Laurence Thornton's theatrical talents have benefited thousands of Kanata and area citizens.

"It almost doesn't matter what it is, theatre or acting, I love doing it," Thornton says. "If it has to do with the beginning, but I've been reminded, jokingly, that I didn't come to the very first meeting," he laughs.

Thornton says that during the theatre's first year, activities were limited to a weekly meeting at a member's house to read plays aloud. The highlight of that year's activity was the presentation of two one-act plays, one of which was directed by Thornton.

"The stage at Stephen Leacock school was the size of a postage stamp, but the group had fun and the audience response was great," Thornton remembers. "The people in the community really seemed to like it. More and more people came out with each production."

Over the years, Thornton has acted in and directed many productions for the theatre, including *The Crucible*, *Present Laughter* and *Noises Off*.

Another important project for Thornton is *Communicate*. He acts as a reader for the small Kanata-based organization which puts the two local newspapers and some books on tape for the blind.

"Some of our theatre people volunteer to put books and other things of interest on tape. But the big thing is to give the blind access to the local news so they know what's happening in the community. It is so important for them to have the paper available to them."

"Unless it is something really significant to the region, Kanata news doesn't get covered in the local broadcast media," he continues. "So without this service many of Kanata's blind citizens would have no access to local news at all."

By keeping the tone of the tapes conversational, Thornton says he finds himself commenting on the copy he reads.

"I told them one of the penalties of having me read for them is that they have to put up with occasional editorial interjections. Sometimes I comment on what I'm reading. I say 'Oh, I like that' or 'I don't agree with that at all.'"

"Feedback about his editorial comments have been positive."

"I tell them they won't always agree with me, but I can't help it because I don't always agree with what I read," Thornton notes. "The main thing is that I try to keep it human."

Thornton also uses his theatrical skills to benefit seniors at Ottawa's Unitarian House. Once a week for the last two years, he has been coaching a group of residents interested in reading plays aloud.

"They are a very charming group and I have a lot of fun with them, particularly enjoy helping them prepare one play a year for a reading presentation for the other residents," he says.

Thornton's acting skills are not limited to the amateur ranks. Listed with a local agent, he does occasional professional acting jobs. They have included a commercial for the Rideau Centre, training and publicity videos for M&L and a small role in last year's Mackenzie King mini-series for the CBC.

"All the Ottawa actors got called to audition for parts when the film was shooting here," Thornton says. "I played one of the Tory cabinet ministers. I had two long, but fun, days of shooting."

Unfortunately, jobs like that are few and far between.

"There aren't a lot of professional acting jobs in Ottawa, particularly for someone in my age group," he laughs.

In a more offbeat professional engagement, Thornton has also used his acting talent to assist the Public Service Commission in administrative training role-playing sessions. Among the characters he has portrayed are the President of the Treasury Board and an Officer of the Treasury Board.

"I'm happy on stage, whatever I'm doing," he notes. "I started acting in Montreal when I was about six. There was a very good amateur group there that my mother was involved in. She was a very good character actress."

Thornton's interest in acting continued even after he began working at the age of sixteen. At night he studied and was involved in a local amateur theatre. After the war, he attended Queens University, where he was active in the theatre guild.

Retired from the civil service for almost nine years, Thornton is married with four grown children. He and his wife, Heather, recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary.

Over the years, Thornton's activities have netted him a number of awards, the most recent of which is the Beaverbrook Community Association's 1987 Man of the Year.

"It was very pleasant to win the award, but also somewhat embarrassing, because with or without recognition, I would still be out there doing things and keeping busy."

My motivation is simple," Thornton concludes. "Anything theatrical is fun."

Ed. Note: Anyone interested in learning more about *Communicate*, should contact Margaret Jardine at 592-5376 or Mary Williams at 592-1876.

Julie Joyce is a freelance writer living in Kanata.

## Love blossomed during wartime

By Barbara Crook  
Citizen staff writer

Laurence and Heather Thornton have made up for their hasty wartime courtship with a solid, satisfying marriage that has lasted more than 45 years.

"I always figure I'm the lucky one, to have such a wonderful wife," says Laurence, a distinguished-looking man of 69, whose eyes fill with affection when he looks at his quiet, dark-haired wife, also 69.

"She has to put up with me, whereas all I have to do is enjoy her company."

The Kanata couple met Dec. 5, 1942, three months after Laurence's Canadian Army unit was sent to England. At the start of a seven-day leave in London, relatives introduced the Montreal native to Heather, who was enjoying her last bit of freedom before joining the Auxiliary Territorial Service, the women's branch of the British Army.

They dated every night, then Heather invited Laurence to meet her parents in Surbiton, southwest of London. He returned to barracks, only to discover he was scheduled for weekend guard duty.

"Oh, no, you've got to do something," he said to the soldier who broke the news. "I've just met the girl! I'm going to marry, and I have to see her parents."

The other soldier agreed to switch duty weekends, and Laurence headed off to Surbiton bringing a tin of pineapple and other delicacies from his first parcel from home.

"Heather's parents left us alone after dinner, and I lost all sense of reason, because I asked Heather to marry me — exactly one week after we'd met," he recalls.

"And I must have lost all sense of



reason, too, because I said yes," Heather says.

Adds Laurence: "Her parents told me later they suspected I was special, because Heather hates pineapple — but she ate some of the tin I'd brought."

They were married June 5, 1943, and enjoyed a nine-day honeymoon in Cornwall before returning to their respective units, and continuing their romance through letters and occasional leaves.

Laurence was stationed in Holland during the latter part of the war, and his discharge leave in London with Heather and returned to Canada in December, 1945. Heather followed in May, 1946.

After receiving his honors English degree from Queen's University, Laurence joined the public service in 1952, and worked in Ottawa, Dartmouth and Edmonton before settling in the Beaverbrook area of Kanata in 1966.

Laurence, who does volunteer work with seniors and the blind, and has been active in Kanata Theatre since it started in 1968, was the Beaverbrook Community Association's Man of the Year in 1987.

The Thorntons have four grown children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and have travelled extensively since Laurence retired 10 years ago.

"We love each other very much, but we're also very good companions," Laurence says. "We just like being together."



London was bleak at times during the '40s, but Heather and Laurence Thornton found a love that has lasted 45 years



—Chris Makin, Citizen

An INVITATION to help celebrate  
Kanata Theatre's 20th Birthday

## A Summer Ball

Saturday 3rd of June  
at  
Loch March Golf & Country Club  
Old Carp Road

Cocktails at 6:30 for Dinner at 7:30

### Dancing

Dress optional: Costumes/Black Tie  
(masks encouraged)

Tickets \$30 per person, available from Dorothy Beak, 592-5787

Advance sale of tickets exclusively  
for  
Members and Immediate Family Members  
until 30th of April

Additional tickets may be ordered subject to availability  
Remaining tickets on sale to the General Public  
after 1st of May

"Come WINE and DINE and DANCE the night away  
to begin the next twenty years  
of Theatrical Fantasy!!"



1976-77 THE CHALK GARDEN ANGEL STREET JACK AND THE GIANT THE CLAM MADE A FACE	LLOYD GEORGE KNEW MY FATHER YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU MANY MOONS WIZARD OF OZ
1977-78 NOT NOW DARLING MURDER ONCE REMOVED THE FATE OF THE RED DRAGON	A CHRISTMAS CAROL ARSENIC AND OLD LACE
1978-79 ENTER A FREE MAN DIARY OF A SCOUNDREL ALICE IN WONDERLAND	EVERYTHING IN THE GARDEN HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA
1979-80 FORTY CARATS THE COUNTRY GIRL MOONCHILD PUNCH AND JUDY	DANDY DICK TWO AND TWO MAKE SEX THE POPCORN MAN
1980-81 BEDROOM FARCE BOUSILLE AND THE JUST	HARVEY HABEAS CORPUS
1981-82 PHILADELPHIA STORY ROUND AND ROUND THE GARDEN THE HONEYBIRD	I NEVER SANG FOR MY FATHER JILL
1982-83 JITTERS DEATHTRAP A CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE	OTHERWISE ENGAGED ROMANTIC COMEDY WANDERING MINSTREL
1983-84 HAY FEVER DANGEROUS CORNER THE PRINCE WHO WOULDN'T GROW	TWELFTH NIGHT WHITE LIARS; BLACK COMEDY
1984-85 CRITICS CHOICE CAUSE CELEBRE CHOICE FOR THE FUTURE	THERE GOES THE BRIDE LIVING TOGETHER THE ANIMAL MUSICIANS OF BREMEN
1985-86 SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER CHARLEY'S AUNT WHICH WHICH IS WHICH	ENTER LAUGHING GHOST ON TIPTOE
1986-87 A BEQUEST TO THE NATION WAITING FOR THE PARADE RUMPLESTILSKIN	KEY FOR TWO WHODUNNIT
1987-88 RELATIVE STRANGERS QUIET IN THE LAND SNOW WHITE	LUNCH HOUR NOISES OFF
1988-89 84 CHARING CROSS ROAD A DELICATE BALANCE	ON THE RAZZLE PARDON ME PRIME MINISTER

# Menu

Garden Salads  
with  
Chef's Dressing

Veal Marsala  
Stuffed Tomatoes  
Seasoned Rice  
Legume de la Saison

Dessert Delicieux  
en saison

coffee, Tea

Cash Wine Bar

## THE INVITATION

### ADULT DRAMA CLUB

An invitation to all ham actors.  
Please join us at our first meet-  
ing - October 22nd 8 p.m.  
12 Sandwell Crescent. This will  
probably be a play-reading group  
initially but who knows how it  
may develop? Just come along and  
bring your bright ideas with you!

Mary Mauger.

## THE RESPONSE



1968-69	RISE AND SHINE	LADY KILLERS
1969-70	HEAVEN ON EARTH THE REHEARSAL THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE	PRESENT LAUGHTER CINDERELLA
1970-71	THE WALTZ OF THE TOREADORS THE CRUCIBLE	OUR TOWN JACK AND THE GIANT
1971-72	RING ROUND THE MOON HALFWAY UP THE TREE A WITCH'S FIRST BIRTHDAY	I REMEMBER MAMA THE GOLDEN GOOSE PUNCH AND JUDY
1972-73	THE MOUSETRAP SEPARATE TABLES THE WAYWARD CLOCKS PUNCH AND JUDY	THE REMARKABLE MR. PENNYPACKER MY THREE ANGELS RUMPLESTILTSKIN
1973-74	BLITHE SPIRIT HUNTING STUART SNOW WHITE AND ROSE RED PINNOCHIO	THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST THE TUNNEL OF LOVE IGOR AND THE TIME MACHINE THE RELUCTANT DRAGON
1974-75	DEAR CHARLES A SHOT IN THE DARK A CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS	HEDDA GABLER LIFE WITH FATHER HANSEL AND GRETEL
1975-76	THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND LOVE OF FOUR COLONELS MOVE OVER MRS. MARKHAM	AFTER MAGRITTE ANTIGONE; LOVE'S THE BEST DOCTOR CINDERELLA

## Programme

The action passes  
in The Clubhouse of  
a venue for The  
Scottish Game

Prologue  
The Arrival  
The Punch

Act 1  
The Welcome

Act 2  
The Meal

Act 3  
The Toast

Epilogue  
The Dancing

Our revels now  
are ended.....

1976-77	THE CHALK GARDEN ANGEL STREET JACK AND THE GIANT THE CLAM MADE A FACE	LLOYD GEORGE KNEW MY FATHER YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU MANY MOONS WIZARD OF OZ
1977-78	NOT NOW DARLING MURDER ONCE REMOVED THE FATE OF THE RED DRAGON	A CHRISTMAS CAROL ARSENIC AND OLD LACE
1978-79	ENTER A FREE MAN DIARY OF A SCOUNDREL ALICE IN WONDERLAND	EVERYTHING IN THE GARDEN HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA
1979-80	FORTY CARATS THE COUNTRY GIRL MOONCHILD PUNCH AND JUDY	DANDY DICK TWO AND TWO MAKE SEX THE POPCORN MAN
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1985-86	SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER CHARLEY'S AUNT WHICH WITCH IS WHICH	ENTER LAUGHING GHOST ON TIPTOE
1986-87	A BEQUEST TO THE NATION WAITING FOR THE PARADE RUMPLESTILTSKIN	KEY FOR TWO WHODUNNIT
1987-88	RELATIVE STRANGERS QUIET IN THE LAND SNOW WHITE	LUNCH HOUR NOISES OFF
1988-89	84 CHARING CROSS ROAD A DELICATE BALANCE	ON THE RAZZLE PARDON ME PRIME MINISTER





Twentieth Birthday Summer Ball

Loch Marcho Golf & Country Club

Saturday June 3, 1989

Cocktails 6:30      Dancing follows      Dinner 7:30

Dress optional, black tie, costumes, masks encouraged

Ticket \$30 per person      Cash bar

June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1989.

Guests.

Barbara Scott  
 Pat Wabinski  
 Ann Dubrav  
 J. Williams  
 Almarie Co. M.  
 Pam Williams  
 Terry Cople  
 Chuck & Wendy Wright - 'England'  
 Sally & Keith Lang  
 Carol & Doug Strong  
 Niemi Pajunen  
 Joan & Carl McLaughlin  
 Brooke & Ross Kauford  
 David & Tony Bent  
 Bruce & Barbara Kaufman

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 initially but who knows how it  
 may develop? Just come along and  
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Mary Hauger.

THE RESPONSE

Carol Mackenzie Kirk  
 Rachel Trimmie  
 Betty & Tony Franca  
 Gary Francis  
 & Valerie  
 Kathleen  
 M. Gardiner  
 Dave Jardun  
 Susan Williams  
 Bev Sullivan  
 Heather Thomson  
 Susan Horton

Liz & David Friedman  
 Eric & Tony Bryant  
 Laura Badger  
 Duffy Wilton  
 Marlene & Bob Wellman  
 Mary & Jim Holmes  
 Joan & Tim Ritchie  
 Jane & Ron Martin  
 Jane Knight & Betty Affair  
 Brenda Robbin & Jeff Robbin  
 Mr & Mrs R. A. Johnston  
 & Loni  
 Mr & Mrs Mike Fajarsil  
 Mary & Marge  
 Mable Robertson  
 Neil Robinson  
 Glenn  
 Robine & Huessey  
 Gordon & Sheila West

June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1989.

Guests.

Teal Mayson  
 Brenda Robinson  
 Chris Robins  
 Mabel Hayes  
 Jennifer Haynes  
 Peggy & Robert Timony  
 Pat & Jim Keneford



# THE BALL



## KANATA THEATRE - 20TH ANNIVERSARY BALL

JUNE 3, 1989

### RON MASLIN'S TOAST

*October 1968 to June 3, 1989 - Kanata Theatre's first twenty years are history, over, past, but not forgotten. If you doubt that line just hang around tonight and listen to the stories - a few true, mostly exaggerations and some barefaced lies. And that is what we really are all about: over the years we have each taken on other characters and for a too brief span of time have had the opportunity to become one of a stack of memories to ourselves and for each other. On top of this we are amateurs: the OED says that an amateur is "one who is fond of or one who cultivates a thing as a pastime". This perhaps is trying to tell us that we may try and cover the holes in our technique with patches of passion - or at least fondness.*

*In twenty years and more than one hundred plays we have seen, and indeed have each been some wondrous characters and lest those of you who have not yet ventured into the limelight think I am talking only of the actors, you must not deny the characters that have moved heroic moves and spoken historic if unrepeatable oaths not related to eternal friendship when a flat has slipped, a costume ripped, an actor went blank, a property has broken or a light switch failed.*

*Memories of characters, and the book in which they are all scripted in the twenty years of Kanata Theatre. The good times, the bad times, the fun and the tears, the squabbles and the celebrations, the disappointments and the successes, the quarter of a million person hours that it has taken from our collective lives and the short but exhilarating minutes of sheer bliss that most of us have known when an audience, live and breathing and applauding has told us in a way we could not tell ourselves, that we got it right.*

*There have been moments that each of us has said, with varying degrees of projection and different choice of vocabulary, to himself, herself, or the world in general that Kanata Theatre could go and do weird and unnatural things with or to its primary orifice but we are a remarkably resilient group. More people have joined and stayed than have joined us and left us. Do not forget that our membership lists include the arid island of Newfoundland, beautiful Belville, the waster of Southern California, and the tropical paradise of Saskatoon - and Kanata Theatre grows and goes from strength to strength. It can take a bit of your time or it can be almost an obsession. What it always needs is all our talents and all the commitments we can spare.*

*In proposing this toast, I ask you to honour memories, keep the characters always in mind and keep the hook open. May Kanata Theatre always be served by the likes of those who have served it for these twenty years and if indeed all the world's a stage, then may there always be a Kanata Theatre to tread its local boards.*

*Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you Kanata Theatre - two decades of its past, this instant of its present and the infinity of its future!*

Ron, June 3, 1989



