

'WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE THE INCOME'

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It's said that laughter is the best medicine, and even as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are still being felt, Binbrook Little Theatre is ready to give a big dose of humour to the community with its new show.

"The Little Mermaid: A Family Pantomime" opens on April 22; it's had a bit of a longer lead-in

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Tamara Botting/Metroland Mya MacLeod and Brad Fortman are two of the cast members in Binbrook Little Theatre's upcoming production, "The Little Mermaid: A Family Pantomime."

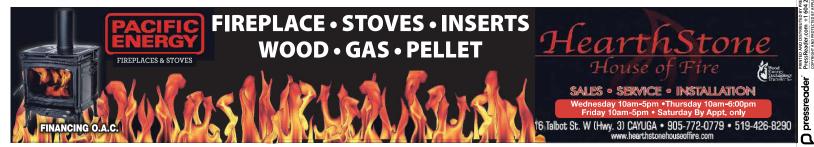
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THEATRE HOLDING FUNDRAISER MAY 29

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time than most shows the troupe stages.

At the start of December 2021, Binbrook Little Theatre was getting ready to stage the show in February, to try and offset some of the costs that didn't stop just because the curtain had to be drawn for a time — like insurance and property taxes on their storage building.

Board member and producer for the show Shirley Marshall told the Gazette at the time, "Things are starting to get tight."

Then, on Dec. 17, the provincial government an-

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nounced capacity restrictions for venues such as live theatres, so the Binbrook group put the show on hold.

Now, though, they're ready to raise the curtain and are hoping for a big splash. "If we can sell a reasonable number of tickets, we can continue to be a viable organization," Marshall said. "Hopefully COVID cases among cast and crew won't force us to close down

residents. A monetary donation would be appreciated to support Hamilton Food Share and can be made online at www.hamiltonfoodshare.org.

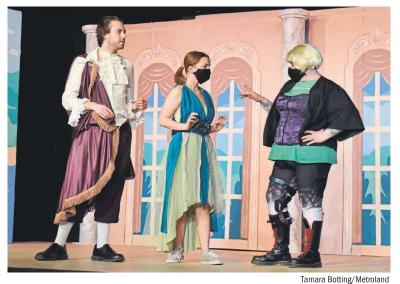
WHEN? From 7am to 12pm Saturday, April 30 Saturday, May 7 Saturday, May 14

WHERE?

Turner Park 344 Rymal Road East, Hamilton

15 minute time limit loading
Vehicles will be physically spaced
While quantities last. Compost is for residents only and not available for commercial businesses

⊕ hamilton.ca/compost
@ askcity@hamilton.ca
Food Share
Hamilton



Hudson Harris (left), Ella Kennedy and Andrea Chrysler are among the cast members in Binbrook Little Theatre's upcoming production, "The Little Mermaid: A Family Pantomime."

any performances; since the expenses for the show have already been incurred, we can't afford to lose the income from performances."

Marshall said that when they first started doing rehearsals before Christmas, they had to check cast and crew members' vaccination status and conduct screening and contact tracing with everyone every time they entered the building, which is municipally owned.

While all of those measures weren't necessary when they returned on March 1, "We did, as a group, decide that only vaccinated people would be allowed to participate in the show and that we would continue to wear masks as much as possible during rehearsals," Marshall said.

Andrea Chrysler, who performs as the sea witch Octavia in the show, said rehearsing with masks was actually beneficial.

"It actually helps with my enunciation on stage," she said. "If you can't hear me clearly with the mask on, I'm not loud enough for the people at the back."

Chrysler is a veteran performer with the troupe,

and said she was very glad to be back.

"I do it because as adults, we lose our imagination. (The theatre) is a place to go to fully involve yourself in something so much bigger ... It gives you a chance to focus on something other than the world, the chaos."

Fellow cast member Mya MacLeod agreed.

"It's so incredible to be back. Being on stage and performing is my passion; it's like a breath of fresh air."

MacLeod is playing the role of Bastian, best friend to the titular mermaid, Mariel.

Brad Fortman, who is in the role of Captain Aargh, said being back at the theatre meant reuniting with his second family.

Though "I forgot how busy it was" being in a show, he said with a laugh. Marshall encourages

everyone to come out to the show, which is "fun ... for the whole family, with some great music that will get stuck in your head and lots of opportunities for audience participation."

Other ways to support the theatre include giving a donation, as the theatre is a not-for-profit enterprise, and attending their upcoming fundraiser on May 29.

"We will be performing two live radio plays and there will be a silent auction and pie," Marshall said. Tickets for that event are \$25 each; visit www.binbrooktheatre.ca for more details.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: With Binbrook Little Theatre gearing up to stage its first live performance in over two years, we wanted to know what it means for the cast and crew.

TICKET INFORMATION Binbrook Little Theatre's

production of "The Little Mermaid" will run from April 22 to May 8. Shows are on Fridays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased online at www.binbrooktheatre.ca. by emailing tickets@binbrooktheatre.ca or by calling the box office at 905-692-5076. The show is being performed at Binbrook Memorial Hall at 2600 Highway 56. All show dates are tentative. based on COVID-19 restrictions, and all provincial COVID-19

regulations are in effect.

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