

Playhouse line-up packed for holiday celebrations

It's starting to look a lot like Christmas with a festive December schedule at the Bancroft Village Playhouse. With events including live music, films and a silent auction, North Hastings residents will want to make time in their schedules to join in the festivities and Hospice North Hastings co-ordinator and Village Playhouse Manager Heather Brough is busier than one of Santa's elves trying to pull it all together.

"Because this is the first Christmas season that Hospice North Hastings has managed the Village Playhouse, we wanted to make sure we were capturing the meaning of Christmas with all the events that we booked," explained Brough.

"These events are great for celebration, reflection and for keeping the spirit of Christmas alive and well in our community. We also hope that our decorations will bring a smile to everyone's face. We decided to dress up the old theatre to really showcase our love of the holidays!"

The holiday season launches on Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. when the North Hastings Community Choir takes to the stage with their new holiday concert, "What Did the Star See?" Under the direction of Melissa Stephens with accompanist Rod Moffitt, the concert will have the audience focused on the true meaning of this very special holiday. A second show is booked for Dec. 6 at 2:30 p.m.

Building on the musical theme, the December selection in the North of 7 Film Fest is the new Dustin Hoffman hit, Boychoir. TIFF Tuesday fans will love the uplifting film that screens at both 4:15 and 7 p.m. on Dec. 8. All proceeds of the screenings go to Hospice North Hastings.

Outreach to our local Christian community this season happens with the film Heaven is For Real.

Based on the best-selling book of the same name, this film tells the true story of a small-town father who must find the courage and conviction to share his son's extraordinary, life-changing experience with the world after his son claims to have visited Heaven during a near death experience. This family-friendly film screens on Dec. 11 at 4:15 and 7 p.m.

For those who love the Leahy family, on Dec. 12 the Next Generation Leahy take to the stage with song, dance and nothing but pure holiday spirit.

You will not believe what the next generation of this family, famous for their love of Celtic music and dance, can do. With performers aged four to 13, the audience will fall in love with the Leahys all over again. Next Generation Leahy hits the stage on Dec. 12 at 2 and 7 p.m.; with time for a nap between the shows!

And finally, on Dec. 17, everyone is invited to the Christmas Office Party. This event is a great holiday event for small businesses that want to celebrate the end of another year with clients and staff. Blues Boyler is providing the live music and the \$20 ticket includes snacks before the show! Grab your friends, clients and co-workers and celebrate because this is how we throw an office party in Bancroft!

Brough will be working away through the events with her Hospice team; making sure everyone has a great time. And while guests are at the theatre, Brough encourages them to bid on a holiday bauble. Tons of fabulous, festive ornaments have arrived at the Village Playhouse and the Bauble All the Way Silent Auction is now open. Drop by the Playhouse to view and bid on your favourite baubles with all proceeds going to Hospice North Hastings.

"This is going to be one heck of a holiday season," Brough laughs. "And I think this is the perfect time to celebrate friends, family and our amazing community so I hope everyone comes out to these events and makes the most of what we have to offer here in Bancroft."

For show details please visit bancroftvillageplayhouse.ca.

Submitted by Barbara Shaw