

Expanded Market Coverage

EMMC

Your Community Newspaper



**Over 70,000 copies of your ad every week.
As low as \$10.50 or 1.3 thousandths of a cent each!**



Contact us at 613-966-2034 Ext. 560

Serving: Belleville, Trenton, Stirling, Campbellford, Norwood, Hastings, Havelock, Madoc, Marmora, Tweed

DISTRIBUTION	LETTERS TO EDITOR	ADVERTISING	CONTACT US
------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------

Schoolhouse on the outdoor stage



Thursday, JUL 30, 2009

NEWS

• [Front Page](#)

SERVICES

- [Auction Ads](#)
- [Employment Ads](#)
- [VIEW Classifieds](#)
- [PLACE Classified Ad](#)
- [View Events](#)
- [Submit Events](#)

LOCAL NEWS

- [Belleville](#)
- [Quinte West](#)
- [North West](#)
- [North East](#)

REGIONAL NEWS

- [News](#)
- [Lifestyles](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Health & Wellness](#)
- [Rural Report](#)

COLUMNS

- [Editorials](#)
- [Gwynne Dyer](#)
- [Reality Check](#)
- [Roy Bonisteel](#)
- [Solmer Says](#)
- [Derek Arsenaault](#)
- [Travel with John **NEW!**](#)
- [Small Town Business](#)

SEARCH ARCHIVES

By Jack Evans

Picton - Opening night Thursday had more than its usual share of challenges for the cast of Schoolhouse, the second show this season for the Festival Players of Prince Edward County summer festival.

Specifically, director Jennifer Brewin had rehearsed and designed the entire show for an outdoor stage and setting on the lawn of Macaulay House Museum. There the cast had ample room and props to illustrate ball tossing games, outhouse, and movements such as vintage elementary school drills. Thursday's downpours of rain forced a last-minute change into the adjoining old St. Mary Magdalene Church, which, while providing a stage area, was cramped and caused a major adjustment for all players. Brewin asked the audience to use their imaginations and to regard the performance as "the radio show version."

Having said that, it was another capacity crowd for the second show opening in this festival. Also, the audience included the playwright herself, Leanna Brodie, of Toronto, who registered her approval for this production of her creation. As far as this reviewer, and the first night audience are concerned, this treatment of a snapshot of Canadian life in the 1930s has every right to go to become a Canadian classic.

Brodie has done a masterful job in taking a poignant story and carefully, with painstaking detail, fitting it into a one-room schoolhouse on the Prairies in 1938. From teaching methods and content of the day, to drill formations to games to the patriotism of the times, this is a real-life setting.

Brodie admits that she spent some time in one-room schools in the Cobourg area herself and also interviewed many old-line school teachers to authenticate the details and also worked many true-life events of their experience into the play.

The Picton presentation was capably acted, with Christine Brubaker as Miss Linton, an optimistic teenager fulfilling her dreams of becoming a teacher despite the challenges, Adam Cunningham as the burly, talented and diamond-in-the-rough Ewart Rokosh, a "reform school kid," and Courtenay Stevens as the young school marm's tormentor-suitor.

Paul Rainville lights up the stage with his World War I veteran's approach as a rigid school inspector plus other roles and the children talentedly establish themselves as lively and prankish individuals.

The cast logically includes many local talents, including Belleville's Lise Lindenbergh, playing one of the mothers.

Tense and poignant drama mingle in this show with warm humour and youthful hijinks, making it a rewarding evening of theatre for all ages. Show times for this run are at 6:30 p.m. for a two-hour show running Wednesday through Saturday through August 8, plus 1:30 matinees July 29 and August 1, 5 and 8.

Single tickets are \$29.95 with student, senior and group rates available. For more information, call the Box Office, 613-471-1991, or toll free,