

under the sun

'Kalamity' Cast, Crew Are Volunteer

No Brunswick Players production would make it to the stage without the work of volunteers.

From the cast on stage to the technical crew in the wings, there's only unpaid labor—a labor of love for most of those involved.

Many of those involved in "Klondike Kalamity" have worked with the Brunswick Players before, according to publicist Ken Campbell.

Stuart Callari, who runs her own Victorian woodworking business, has used her extensive background in theater to good advantage with the Players. She holds a degree in drama from Louisiana State University and has completed graduate work in outdoor theater.

Currently she is president of the Brunswick Players. She directed "Brigadoon," "Carnival," and "Annie Get Your Gun," and appeared in the Players' production of "Plaza Suite."

In "Klondike Kalamity" she pulls double duty as director and as Chief Wapokenetta, a snow-blinded Indian chief whose nose guides him across the Yukon wasteland.

Amy Astoske ("Annie Get Your Gun" and "Carnival") debuts in her first principal role as Nellie Oudt, a lonely miss whose only companion is covered with fur.

Born in Syracuse, N.Y., Amy attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and East Carolina University before coming to Brunswick County five years ago. She works for Dr. Larry Hemby and serves as membership chairman for the Players.

Ken Campbell, a Southport attorney and Players board member and publicist, plays freelance lumberjack Warren Oudt, Nellie's father.

Campbell graduated from N.C. State University and the Campbell University School of Law. He has served in community theater on and off state, including a term as charter president of Stanley County's Uwhar-

rie Players. He appeared as Charlie Davenport in "Annie Get Your Gun." He has had major roles in two educational productions and experience in radio newscasting, production of a folklore series and promotional for NCSU's student FM station.

Bob Poulk Jr. portrays the dismounted Mountie, Roger B. Upright. After attending N.C. State University, he served 10 years in the U.S. Navy and now works with Carolina Power & Light Co. His hobbies in-

clude sports and singing, including participation in several Sea Notes concerts.

His Brunswick County stage appearances include roles in "Carnival" and "Brigadoon" as well as Chief Sitting Bull in "Annie Get Your Gun."

Steve Fitzgerald, manager of the Spats nightclub, appears as the treacherous Fangduster T. Barrelbottom VIII, a villain bent on evicting Warren Oudt and claiming Nellie's heart.

Theater experience since his first involvement as a four-year-old in Lexington include parts as actor, singer, dancer, tech man, director and writer. He has appeared in dinner theaters, night clubs, summer stock and outdoor theater and radio, and has authored books of poetry.

As the villain, he does an about-face from his recent portrayal of Frank Butler in the Players' "Annie Get Your Gun."

Laura Hare wanders into the Oudt cabin as Farley Goodbody, a confus-

ed, but kindhearted villain's assistant. Theater was her major at the University of Mississippi. Her stage experience includes acting and directing and choral roles, as well as membership in touring vocal groups. She wowed local Players' audiences as Annie Oakley in "Annie Get Your Gun."

Jane Astoske plays her first feature role as Gwendolyn Oudt, who mysteriously disappeared from her family home as a "toddling tot." Born in Queens, N.Y., Astoske came to Southport in 1978. She is a Players board member and appeared in the chorus in "Annie Get Your Gun."

Dale Hare, a Carolina Power & Light Co. employee, plays Prince K'nook, a nomadic Eskimo who has been educated at a well-known (take your pick) east coast university. His stage debut was as a messenger in the Players' "Annie Get Your Gun." He served as stage technician for "Plaza Suite." Hare has had previous experience in broadcast announcing in Mississippi and plays guitar and sings.

Patrick Connaughton appears as Justice Dunn, a judge of the Yukon circuit. In addition to his work as an emergency medical technician with the Southport Rescue Squad, Connaughton assists with the Little Miss N.C. Fourth of July and Miss N.C. Fourth of July pageants each year.

He also is an avid participant in the Brunswick Players, as a board member and in roles in "Revolution!," "Brigadoon," "Carnival," "Plaza Suite," and "Annie Get Your Gun."

Audience members will see only a bit of rising high school freshman Brian Mintz as Bruno, a flapjacking-loving bear. He has appeared in middle school productions. His first Players appearance was in the chorus of "Annie Get Your Gun."

Theme music by local jazz musician Dick Conrad will set the tone of "Klondike Kalamity," along with sets created by Roy Daniel, Hannah Daniel, Byron Simmons and Debi Coleman and costumes assembled by Rose Chasteen.

Assisting director Stuart Callari are Roy Daniel and Erinn Fitzgerald.

Monda Failor and Mary Campbell are in charge of props, while Martha Wiggs is handling tickets. Stage technicians for the show are Millie Hart, Meshelle Hart, Cari Failor, Debi Coleman, Jeremy Bium and Barrie Campbell.

Laura Hare, Abbie Failor, Briton Campbell, Tracey Potter and Susan Williams are in charge of refreshments, while Sam and Marion Kneal and Martha Welsh will work the doors.

Erin Fitzgerald also is in charge of the program.

Thundering Tundra! August 'Blizzard' Arrives Friday

BY SUSAN USHER

A blizzard raging through the Canadian wilderness forces a disgraced Mountie, a keen-nosed Indian chief, a villain and his lightly-disguised confederate and assorted other visitors into the Oudt (out) house for shelter one cold December night in 1888.

A freelance lumberjack named Warren Oudt (Ken Campbell), given to expletives such as "Thundering Tundra!" and "Walloping Walrus!" has shared this cabin for 20 years with his beautiful daughter Nellie (Amy Astoske), whose "innocent face shines like the Northern Lights" and whose dreams are filled with images of dashing Mounties who defend the weak and build civilizations.

They've been on their own since Nellie's mother and big sister Gwendolyn (Jane Astoske), then only a "toddling tot," disappeared 20 years ago to the day while ice fishing. Nellie's only companion during Oudt's long hours away in the lumber camps is Bruno (Brian Mintz), a furry-armed bruin who shares her dwindling supply of lumpy flapjacks.

In the city-slick (but nefarious) Fangbuster T. Barrelbottom VIII (Steve Fitzgerald), Oudt sees a chance to remedy his daughter's spinsterly status. Little does he realize, however, that Barrelbottom is out to make his fortune by evicting Warren and stealing fair Nell's heart. Barrelbottom is accompanied through the timber stands by a confused, but kindhearted assistant, Farley Goodbody (Laura Hare).

But like another famous Nell of the Northwest, Nellie has her eyes on a Mountie, dismounted though he may be.

The intrepid Roger T. Upright (Bob Poulk Jr.), alleged to have burned a friendly Indian village, is determined to clear his name and earn the right to wear once again the red coat of the Mounted Police.

As the flapjack batter thickens, so does the plot—and the fun for both cast and audience.

So begins "Klondike Kalamity," a melodramatic spoof by Gary Peterson and David Byrne and the first summer production by the Brunswick Players, a county-wide community theater group based in Southport.

"We wanted something light and fun for the summer," said Director Stuart Callari. "We wanted something we could enjoy."

And what could be more fun than a little snow and ice, a blizzard during the dog days of August?

"Klondike Kalamity" storms Southport at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 23 and 24, at City Hall, upstairs in the old county courtroom, promising relief for a hot summer's night.


Before the final curtain drops, however, good will triumph over evil once again—and both Nell and the Mounties get their man.

Tickets are \$4 per person, available at the door. Refreshments will be sold for a nominal price.


Yearly memberships also are available for \$10 and up per person, either at the door, or by contacting Amy Astoske at 457-5026.

Yearly memberships are good for 12 months from the date of purchase and include admission to all productions during that time period.

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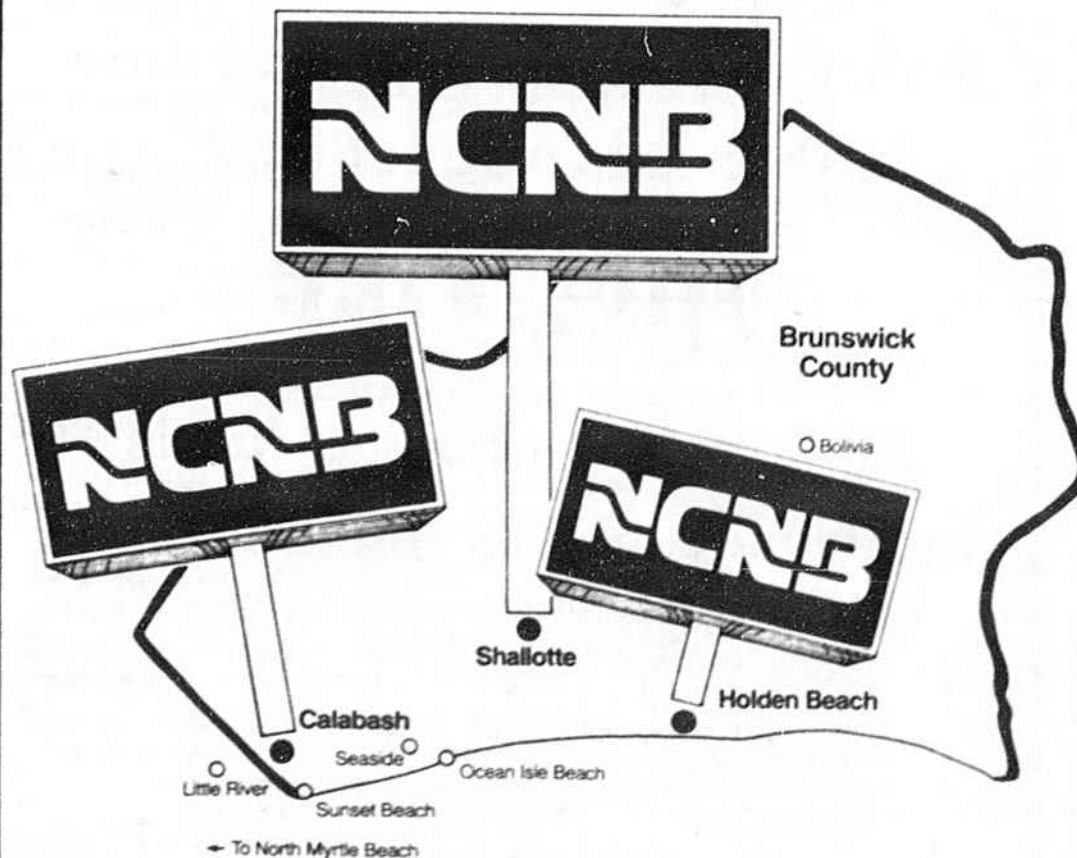
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