

Theatre's demise would be a loss for entire community

The announcement that Theatre & Company has cancelled its 2008-09 season arrived in my inbox just before I went out the door to attend the MT Space production *Season of Immigration to the West* at Centre in the Square last week.

When I got to Centre in the Square, I watched people congregate to form what has to be one of the largest audiences ever assembled for a local professional theatre presentation, and witnessed their enthusiastic response to what was presented on the stage. This provided reassurance in the wake of the bad news: There is no need to doubt that this community can and does support cutting-edge theatre.

If you apply the "extreme competition for the entertainment dollar" model, MT Space, Lost & Found, Theatre Athena, Nova Stage, Flush Ink, Poor Tom, Drayton and all the other players in this region's extraordinarily lively theatre scene should be glad that Theatre & Company is out of the picture, even if only temporarily. But that is a specious — and potentially very damaging — argument.

The fact is, a large part of the reason why *Season of Immigration to the West* was able to be such a triumphant success is because of the ground-work that Theatre & Company has done in this community for almost 20 years. Its loss would be everyone's loss.

Earlier that same day I'd spent an engaging hour



Martin DeGroot Arts and Culture

talking with a Waterloo playwright about another upcoming theatre offering that is very different, but perhaps not entirely unrelated to the work that Theatre & Company and MT Space do:

Under the Knife, a "hilarious medical comedy of errors," will be staged at the Waterloo Community Arts Centre in Waterloo on Saturday, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The author is Walt R. Weber, a.k.a. Roy Weber, who honed his playwrighting skills at a workshop the arts centre offered last year — the kind of workshop that Theatre & Company introduced here years ago.

Weber got involved in the theatre, first as an actor then as a director, through his church, the Waterloo Mennonite Brethren congregation on Lexington Road, where they have been offering dinner theatre productions to sell-out audiences for 14 years now.

The plays put on at the church do not have a high-toned moral or religious message. The purpose is fellowship — among members of the congregation (each production can involve up to 400 volunteers), and with friends and neighbours. An evening of food, a play and discussion is something you can invite people to without making them feel un-

comfortable.

Weber turned to playwrighting because as a director he had difficulty finding suitable material — entertaining one-act plays that people of all ages can enjoy. Although writing has become a serious pursuit, he has no intention of giving up his day job (he works as a small-business advisor). He does, however, always insist on collecting royalties due out of respect for the artist as a professional.

Weber and his troupe are donating their time to put on this production of *Under the Knife* as a fundraiser to support the Waterloo Community Arts Centre's community arts programming. In true church hall style, coffee, tea and cake will be served afterwards.

Fourteen years of sell-out performances at the Mennonite Brethren church also says something about the state of the dramatic arts in this community.

The emphasis on sharing and fellowship is also relevant: There was a congregational element to the original Theatre & Company that got lost in recent years. Lost & Found and MT Space still have this: They give audiences, volunteers and the community far more than a quality product for our entertainment dollar.

Martin DeGroot is executive director of the Waterloo Regional Arts Council. He comments on arts and culture Tuesdays in The Record. You can reach him by e-mail at mdg@golden.net.

MOVIE DIRECTORY

SHOWTIMES VARY WEEKENDS 2008 ONLY

EMPIRE STUDIO 12 Kitchener 519-650-0071	PRINCESS TWIN CINEMAS Waterloo 519-885-2950	CINEPLEX FAIRWAY CENTRE Kitchener 519-893-3456
RACE (HINDI W.E.S.T.) 7:25	JUNO (14A) 6:45 P.M.	DRILLBIT TAYLOR (14A) 6:50, 9:40
SHUTTER (14A) 6:55, 9:30	MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG) 7, 9	DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) 7:10, 9:30
DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) 7:10	THE BANK JOB (14A) 8:50 P.M.	NEVER BACK DOWN (14A) 7:20, 10
10,000 B.C. (PG) 9:55	PRINCESS CINEMA Waterloo 519-885-2950	COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) 7:9-10
COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) 7:05, 9:25	THE DRAUGHTSMAN'S CONTRACT 6:45 P.M.	10,000 B.C. (PG) 7:30, 10:10
DRILLBIT TAYLOR (14A) 7:20, 10	THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY (PG) 9:15 P.M.	SEMI-PRO (14A) 6:30, 9:20
VANTAGE POINT (14A) 7:15, 9:50		VANTAGE POINT (14A) 6:40, 9:30
NEVER BACK DOWN (14A) 6:45, 9:35		GALAXY @ CONESTOGA MALL Waterloo 519-883-8843
HANNAH MONTANA & MILEY CYRUS: BEST OF BOTH WORLDS DISNEY 3D (G) 7, 9, 15		DRILLBIT TAYLOR (14A) 3:45, 6:45, 9:45
DOOMSDAY (18A) 6:50, 9:45		SHUTTER (14A) 3:50, 6:50, 9:50
THE BANK JOB (14A) 6:40, 9:40		DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) 3:30, 5:05, 6:30, 7:35, 9, 10:10
DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) 6:30, 9		DOOMSDAY (18A) 7:30, 10:30
10,000 B.C. (PG) 6:35, 9:20		COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) 4:7-10, 9:40
GALAXY CAMBRIDGE Cambridge 519-740-3456	THE GORGE CINEMA Elora 519-846-0191	10,000 B.C. (PG) 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
DRILLBIT TAYLOR (14A) 6:45, 9:35	THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES (PG) 2 P.M.	SEMI-PRO (14A) 4:30
SHUTTER (14A) 7:05, 9:55	JUNO (14A) 6:45, 9	THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (14A) 3:35, 6:35, 9:35
DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) 6:40, 7:15, 9:15, 9:40	FREDERICK TWIN CINEMAS Kitchener 519-896-3500	VANTAGE POINT (14A) 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
DOOMSDAY (18A) 6:35, 9:25	DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) 6:45 P.M.	HANNAH MONTANA & MILEY CYRUS: BEST OF BOTH WORLDS DISNEY 3D (G) 4:50, 7:50, 10
NEVER BACK DOWN (14A) 6:40, 9:40	COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) 7 P.M.	GALAXY CINEMAS GUELPH Guelph 519-763-9188
COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) 7:10, 9:30		DRILLBIT TAYLOR (14A) 7:15, 10:20
10,000 B.C. (PG) 6:30, 9:20		SHUTTER (14A) 7:25, 10:05
VANTAGE POINT (14A) 6:50, 9:50		DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) 6:45, 7:30, 9:15, 10
		DOOMSDAY (18A) 6:40, 9:45
		NEVER BACK DOWN (14A) 7:05, 10:15
		COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) 7:9-35
		10,000 B.C. (PG) 6:35, 9:50
		THE BANK JOB (14A) 6:50, 9:55
		THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (14A) 6:30, 9:40

Ontario Film Review Board Classifications

G Suitable for all
 PG Parental Guidance Advised
 14A Persons younger than 14 must be accompanied by an adult
 18A Persons younger than 18 must be accompanied by an adult
 R Restricted to person 18 or older

Information provided by movie chains is subject to change without notice. See www.therecord.com.

TELEVISION HIGHLIGHTS

David Letterman: Kate Bosworth, John Witherspoon, the Raveonettes
 Jay Leno: Abigail Breslin, Seth Meyers, Steve Earle
 Late Late Show: Thandie Newton, Dom Irrera, Bell X1
 Conan O'Brien: Peter Fisher, Bob Arnot, Eric Lindell (R)
 Daily Show: Alex Kingsbury (R)
 Colbert Report: Dean Kamen (R)
 The View: Gene Wilder, Counting Crows
 Regis and Kelly: Demi Moore, guest cohost Joy Philbin
 Ellen DeGeneres: Christina Aguilera, third-grade author Alec Greven (R)
 Martha Stewart: Producers' Picks Show

LATE NIGHT LAUGHS

(from March 21, 2008)
 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno
 "John McCain is now 10 per cent ahead of Hillary Clinton and seven per cent ahead of Barack Obama. This is after Iraq, a recession, and no health-care. Imagine if the Republicans had actually done something."
 "John McCain received a warm welcome in Israel. He's always been hugely popular in Israel, ever since he stood with the Jewish people against the pharaoh."
 Late Night with Conan O'Brien
 "A new study shows that wine drinkers prefer Hillary Clinton to the other candidates. After hearing this, Bill Clinton asked, 'How much wine have they had?'"
 "A big insurance company just announced they will give \$10 million to anyone who can invent a car that gets 100 miles per gallon. Meanwhile, Exxon says they'll give \$11 million to anyone who kills that guy."

TOP 10 TV SHOWS IN CANADA

- (or the week of March 10-16 from BBM Nielsen Media Research:
 1. American Idol (CTV, Tuesday) — 2,661,000
 2. American Idol (CTV, Wednesday) — 2,284,000
 3. Survivor: Micronesia (Global, Thursday) — 2,132,000
 4. Law and Order (CTV, Wednesday) — 1,802,000
 5. Lost (CTV, Thursday) — 1,589,000
 6. Law and Order: SVU (CTV, Tuesday) — 1,448,000
 7. CTV Evening News (CTV, Monday-Friday) — 1,411,000
 8. Two and a Half Men (CTV, Monday) — 1,355,000
 9. Corner Gas (CTV, Monday) — 1,230,000
 10. Hockey Night in Canada (Buffalo at Toronto) (CBC, Saturday) — 1,227,000

Compiled by the Hamilton Spectator

TUESDAY EVENING

Station	1	2	3	4	6 PM	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
(2)	11	15	28	18	News	NBC News	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	The Biggest Loser				Law & Order: S.V.U. (R)	News	(35) Jay Leno	
(3)	21	23	52	5	News		Wheel Fort.	Degrassi (R)	Dancing With the Stars	Dancing Results		Primetime Pt. 4 of 5	News	(35) Jay Leno		
(4)	17	17	27	10	News	CBS News	Inside Ed.	Access H.	NCIS (R)		Big Brother		Jericho Season Finale	News	Letterman	
(5)	5	6*	10	6	News		CorrieStreet	ComedyFest	Rick Mercer	22 Minutes	Comedy	Laughs (R)	CBC News: The National	The Hour		
(6)	3	3	3	3	News		E.T. Canada	Ent. Tonight	NCIS (R)		Big Brother		Very Bad Men	News	E.T. Canada	
(7)	6	9	29	22	News	ABC News	Wheel Fort.	Jeopardy	Dancing With the Stars	Dancing Results		Primetime Pt. 4 of 5	News	(35) Nightline		
(9)		13		8	News		Etalk	Jeopardy	American Idol		Dancing		Law & Order: S.V.U. (R)	News	CTV News	
(10)	9	95	5		News		Wheel Fort.	Degrassi (R)	Dancing With the Stars	Dancing Results		Primetime Pt. 4 of 5	News	(35) Jay Leno		
(11)	10	12	11	11	News		The Insider	E! News	The Biggest Loser			E! Showcase	News	News (R)		
(13)	12	40	13	13	News		Etalk	Jeopardy	American Idol		Dancing		Law & Order: S.V.U. (R)	News	CTV News	
(17)	61	35	30	61	News	NewsHour	Jim Lehrer	Manor Born	Roy Orbison (R)			Marty Robbins (R)	News	Climber		
(29)	28	34	31	21	Judge Judy	Seinfeld (R)	Judge Judy	Half Men (R)	American Idol			Til Death	Seinfeld (R)	Half Men (R)	Simpson (R)	70s (R)
(36)	23	36		14	Family Ties	Laverne (R)	F.House (R)	FactsLife (R)	Michael Coren Live		100 Huntley Street	J. Robison	Benny Hinn	John Hagee	W. Vision	
(47)	4	4	47	4	FamilyG. (R)	Friends (R)	Half Men (R)	Simpson (R)	Italian News		Vivere II	News	Simpson (R)	KingHill (R)	Metropia (R)	Letterman
(57)	7	7	33	7	News		Friends (R)	Access H.	Beauty and the Geek		* Exit Wounds ('01) Steven Seagal.		News	CityNews		
(61)	8		4	12	Le Téléjournal		Virginie	La Facture	René		Casino		Le Téléjournal	La zone	(45) Journal	
(A&E)	31	29	16	30	Cold Case Files (R)	CSI: Miami (R)			The First 48 (R)		Jewels (R)	Jewels (R)	Jewels	Jewels	Parking (R)	Parking (R)
(AMC)	55			57	*** Blazing Saddles ('74) Gene Wilder.				*** Silverado ('85) Kevin Kline.						** The Comancheros	
(APTN)	70	38	57	70	APTNNews	APTN News	Wlipogwad	Tortue	Regards	Presser...	Guides	Triumphs (R)	Reel Insights (R)	Suanagan	APTN News	
(BNN)	57	93		37	Star&Dog	The Business News		Market Call	Workopolis	Talking Tax	Squeeze Play		Market Call		The Business News	
(BRAVO)	40	56		39	Street Legal (R)		Bazart	Natalie Mac	Master & Friends (R)		** A Mighty Wind ('03)		(45) B! News	Law & Order (R)		
(CMT)	38	55	9	40	CMT's Cross Canada Countdown			Three Wishes	Reba (R)	Hope&F. (R)	Home I. (R)	Rose. (R)	CMT30	Totally Faith		
(CNN)	33	28	15	31	The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Out in the Open		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360			
(COM)	46	45	37	50	JFL: Gags	Comics (R)	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs (R)	CornerG (R)	Simpson (R)	SouthPk (R)	Extras	(40) Tim&Eric	Daily Show	Colbert
(DISC)	42	57	19	38	Megabuilders (R)		Daily Planet		How Made	H.Made (R)	Smash Lab		Megabuilders		Daily Planet	
(FAM)	51	46	38	48	Zoey 101	Life Derek	So Raven	Smart Guy	Suite Life	Sadie	H. Montana	Life Derek	Ned	Cory House	Suite Life	Life Derek
(FOOD)	56	90	50	52	French (R)	Fresh (R)	Ricardo (R)	Chef (R)	Restaurant Makeover (R)		Chef School	Table (R)	Kitchen Nightmares		Restaurant Makeover (R)	
(HGTV)	43	43	34	42	Holmes (R)	Holmes (R)	House Hunt.	Buy Me (R)	Design Guy	Design (R)	Colin and Justin		HGTV Special (R)	Style (R)	Sarah (R)	
(HIST)	45	41	39	54	Disasters (R)	Master. (R)	JAG (R)		Digging for the Truth (R)		Moby Dick: Story (R)		Crime Stories (R)	JAG (R)		
(KWTV)	20				Grand River	First Local	OHL Hockey Guelph Storm vs. London Knights		First Local	Structures	Daytime					
(MM)	29	22	35	28	Untrue (R)	Born Rihanna	The O.C. (R)		Video Trial	Video Trial	America's Dance Crew (R)		Girlicious (R)	Stars Wild	Stars Wild	
(MMM)	36		51	68	Profile	mmmtop10.com	Uncover (R)		Listed (R)		Story Of Ozzy Osbourne	Jewels (R)	Jewels (R)	Listed (R)		
(MTV)	52			56	MTV Live		MTV e2	Diary of... (R)	MTV Cribs	Parental	The X Effect	LifeRyan (R)	Life of Ryan	Rob and Big	MTV Live	
(NW)	26	19	25	23	News	Business	World	Politics (R)	The Hour		CBC News: The National		A Safer Sex Trade (R)	CBC News: The National		
(OLN)	48	48	32	53	Don't Forget Passport (R)	Explore... (R)	Vacation	Survivorman	Odyssey	Surf Patrol	Don't Forget Passport (R)		Pilot Guides			
(OMN2)	14	18			Law & Order: C.I. (R)		Law & Order: S.V.U. (R)		South Asian News		Cantonese News		Queens (R)	Queens (R)	Cold Case (R)	
(PCH)	47	51	40	49	Friends (R)	Seinfeld (R)	FamilyG. (R)	FamilyG. (R)	*** Space Cowboys ('00) Clint Eastwood.				Frasier (R)	Seinfeld (R)	Frasier (R)	
(RDI)	10	61		10	RDI en direct		Dominique Poirier		Grands Reportages		Le Téléjournal		Club des ex	Le National	Le Téléjournal	
(RSD)	22	44	42	36	Sportsnet Connected Live		HockeyC	NHL Hockey	Boston Bruins vs. Toronto Maple Leafs				Sportsnet Connected Live	Connected	Sports (R)	
(SCORE)	53	70	48	41	Hockey Talk	Game On	NBA Basketball	New Orleans Hornets vs. Indiana Pacers		Court Surf.	Score Tonight		The Spin			
(SHOW)	39	59	20	44	CSI: NY (R)		ReGenesis (R)		Earth: Final Conflict (R)	Trailer (R)	K. vs. S. (R)	Shameless	Sunny (R)	Saxon. (R)		
(SLICE)	41	58	36	43	Three Takes (R)		Women (R)	Til Debt (R)	The List (R)	Matchmake	The Real Housewives	ToriDean (R)	Newlywed	The List (R)	Matchmake	
(SPC)	44	47	45	55	Star Trek: NG "Ethics" (R)		Stargate: SG-1 (R)		Star Trek: Voyager (R)		Ultimate Super Vixens (R)		Primeval	Stargate: SG-1 (R)		
(SPD)	54	54	44	46	Unique Whips (R)		Pinks!	Pass Time	SPEED Test Drive		Tuner Chall.	Low Life	Super Bikes	Super Bikes	Pass Time	NOPI
(SPIKE)	32	30	14	34	CSI: Crime Scene (R)		CSI: Crime Scene (R)		CSI: Crime Scene (R)		CSI: Crime Scene (R)		CSI: Crime Scene (R)		CSI: NY (R)	
(SUNTV)	15	16		16	Super Dave	Videos	Scrubs (R)	G. Lopez (R)	** Smilla's Sense of Snow ('96) Julia Ormond.				DVD Show	Grill Room	Super Dave	
(TCM)	49			51	*** Suddenly, Last Summer ('59) Elizabeth Taylor.				*** The Dark Past ('48) Lee J. Cobb.	* The Amazing Doctor Clitterhouse			Blind Alley ('39)			
(TFD)	18	8	56	27	Wonder (R)	Lili (R)	Panorama		Histoires (R)	Âge Afr. (R)	*** Balzac ('99) Gérard Depardieu.		Pilules	Éclairage (R)		