

July 2008 Special Issue

SHOWTIME – A Musical Tribute to the Silver Screen – June 14th 2008



The Opening Pose

What a Night it Was!

By **Gord Ross** - Executive Show Producer (retired)



After a year of preparation it all came together June 14th on a beautiful, sunny, Saturday evening. The Cabaret Organizing Committee had its 1st meeting last July at Global TV. We discussed themes, responsibilities and venues. A month later we agreed on the show theme (*A Night at the*

Movies) and title (*Showtime – A Musical Tribute to the Silver Screen*) and discussed possible songs. **Charlie Metzger** was to research suitable music, **Rob Hood** to prepare a script outline, and **Arthur Loyie** to look for a venue.

Lake City Studios would have been perfect for our show theme. Unfortunately, it only accommodated about 200. So back to the Hellenic Centre where we had our very successful 2003 Sinatra Cabaret.

Then began the process of learning 5 new songs, reviving one sung years ago, and polishing up our current repertoire.



After Division Contest preparation began in earnest. **Rob Hood** had done a great job of writing a script that just needed a little fine tuning, and **Elie**

Savoie was putting his production plan together. Rehearsals were scheduled, casting of all the speaking parts completed and a presentation plan done for each song. **Allan Pinvidic** did an awesome job of creating and teaching choreography for many of the songs. Professional looking show posters and tickets were produced thanks to **Rod MacLeod** our marketing guy, **Allan Pinvidic** who came up with the idea of using a film reel format, and **Alex Leung** our in-house designer and artist.



Rob Hood

wrapped up. Wrong! Last minute requests flooded in and Carl did well handling returned tickets, requests for additional tickets, and shuffling people around to sit with friends, etc. Carl was also our photographer for the antique cars.

Silent auction donations started slowly but we ended up with over 100 items. **Don Frost** and **Al Alain** coordinated the setup, running and closing of the



auction. Thanks to their efforts and their crews, I received comments about how smoothly things ran and how quickly the closing was handled.

Rich Clark and **Jim Bates** coordinated the food and beverage services and everyone raved about the quality and quantity of food (catered by the Hellenic Centre). Rich is a like me, very detailed, and Jim has years of experience running the bar at GOF functions. There were a few anxious moments as people were ordering drinks different from what would normally be expected so Rich had to make a late night run to the liquor store.

Marketing the show produced some interesting results. While we had fantastic looking posters that were put up all over town, just about every ticket sold came through the chorus. Something to consider for future shows.

We had a stroke of luck with the antique cars at the entrance. We thought of a limo but June is high school



grad month and none were available. I contacted the president of the antique car club of Vancouver and he put our request to his members. A week later I heard from a fellow who has about 20 antique cars, was a long time GOF follower, and also church friends of George and Dorothy Meehan.

He offered his cars for free in memory of George and Dorothy.

The Show Committee under **Elie Savoie** had a big challenge. Because the hall is not set up to do stage



productions (small stage, no lighting and limited sound capabilities) everything had to be brought in. Thanks to Elie, his friend **Gord Alarie** and **Ray Fallan**, we hauled in every piece

of lighting required. It took Gord and his son all day Saturday to set up. One of the biggest challenges was positioning the projectors and screens for the film clips so they could be seen clearly from every seat. Thanks to **Rob Hood** everything ran perfectly. Rob spent most of the evening running everything from behind one of the screens. I heard many comments about how much the video presentation enhanced the show.

The night itself was a great success. A few hiccups such as guests arriving more than 1/2 hour early before our maitre d' and waiters were in place. **Ray Fallan** and his helpers were still assembling staging around the screens as guests were filing in. I took a break at 3:00 thinking everything was ready to go and came back at 5:00 to see sawdust all around with Ray down on his knees drilling and cutting. Anyway, these kinds of things just add a touch of humour to the evening.



MC Sue Gibson

You could tell from the outset that it was going to be a great night. Everyone was put in the right mood with the antique cars and red carpet at the entrance, a welcome by our charming MC **Sue Gibson**, the ambience of the hall, all the movie memorabilia and the wonderful table settings (centerpieces by **Dorothy Fallan** and show programs by **Alex**). People were kept entertained prior to dinner with movie quizzes on the tables, the dulcet tones of our own velvet fog, **Jeremy Wong**, and the wonderful background music of our first class DJ, **Doug Affleck**.



Dinner was served on time and everyone was impressed with both hot and cold appetizers, a great chicken dinner and Italian pastry dessert. The serving staff did a great job getting the meals out quickly but we soon realized it would take more than an hour for 400 people to be served. The show was put back 20 minutes but this was better than rushing people through their meal.

The show itself was an unqualified success. With Rob's

Jeremy (Karaoke) Wong film clips supporting the chorus performance, the guys came through with their best performance yet and all the speaking parts outdid themselves. What a satisfying feeling to do your best when it counts. The audience was on its feet before the final bars of the closing 'Overture'.



Narrator George Gregory



Ian (Harold Hill) McGillivray



Ed Arnold, George G. & Allan Pinvidic

After the show the evening continued at a high energy level as **Doug Affleck** started up the dance music and people were on their feet right away. I was quite surprised at the number of people dancing but I think this was the result of the whole mood of the evening and Doug's great song selection and sound system. Dancing continued until closing when the cleanup crew (thanks to

those of you who stayed around) had to work around the last few dancers.

I have mentioned a number of people and know I have left out many who also contributed greatly. I want to thank each member of the chorus for their contribution to a most wonderful evening. One of my goals was to have every chorus member involved in putting the event together. I think we got close to 75% involvement from the membership either through direct activities like working on committees, to selling tickets, to soliciting/making silent auction donations, to decorating, to grunt work hauling equipment around, to set up and cleanup. A few need special mention:

Sue Gibson: who did a wonderful job as our cabaret Emcee. How many of you know that she also put together 14 show-themed gift baskets for our auction?

Jim Gibson: who was the major gatherer of auction donations. Jim has lots of great contacts and solicited by far the greatest value in donations.

Elie Savoie: who drives himself too hard. How many of you know he was suffering a bad back for the month before the show but still attended the rehearsals as well as having extra ones at his home for the speaking parts?

Gord Alarie: who provided thousands of dollars worth of his own personal movie props. Did everyone see the movie camera (valued at about \$45,000) that was used in the filming of Gunsmoke?

Rob Hood: who wrote our script, assembled and edited the musical film clips used in the show, and set up and ran the projection system. This while working long hours at Global TV.

Allan Pinvidic: who prepared and taught our song presentation packages, spent many hours editing the 40 minutes of pre-show film clips, worked with Elie and Doug on the sound system and did an awesome job as Otto Preminger (or was it Cecil B de Preminger?).

Ray Fallan: who was up for practically 24 hours on the show day, picking up the movie props first thing in the morning, helping set them up, setting up the stage, building props at the 11th hour, tearing down the stage and hauling the props back to Gord's at 3:00 am.

Last, but not least, the **Ladies Committee** under the direction of **Dorothy Fallan**. They helped primarily with selling drink tickets, CDs and recipe books; silent auction setup, running and closing; and the table decorations.

Thanks once again to one and all for a wonderful experience.



The Basses give their Hearts to “Old Man River”

SHOWTIME

Elie Savoie - Show producer

The GoF Annual Spring Cabaret-Show-Silent Auction chose a subject rich in memorable music that spans the decades from the inception of sound in “*The Movies*”. The blend of picture, sound and music has become an integral part of our entertainment and our visual heritage and the GoF accepted the challenge of the Music of the Movies with enthusiasm.



The man in tights, yet

The script, by **Rob Hood** with contributions from **Allan Pinvidic**, **George Gregory**, **Carl Gung** and most of the performers with lines, was an entertaining vehicle, which allowed for a wonderful comedic romp from **Allan P.** and **Ed Arnold**, elegant intros by **George G.**, a stirring overture to *The Quest* from

Dave Whittier, a smooth dancing intro from **Alex Leung**, energetic and attention-grabbing interstitials from **Ian McGillivray**, **Carl Gung**, **Jim Bates**, **Mac Matheson**, **Don Frost**, **Moe Jones**, **Rick Morrison** and the dynamic interpretation of the lines, “*rolling*” and “*speed*” from **Jim Lohnes** and **Bob Bradley**.

The chorus played it’s many parts with believability and energy. There were some truly amazing characterizations taking place on the stage of the Hellenic Centre as the chorus took on the double task of singing well and role interpretation. The kids (**Shoji & Taro Whittier** and **Matt May** as Hobbits, and **Eric Morrison** as Harry Potter) were standouts as they played their parts flawlessly – and without a single injury to themselves or

the chorus. There was no doubt in my mind that the Chorus was enjoying the event and imparting this joy to the appreciative audience. The directors, **Charlie Metzger** and **Andry Layarda**, worked under less than optimum conditions as the stage did not permit good line of sight with the chorus.



Rob & Elie behind the screens

The night was a busy one and many chorus members chipped in with the set-up and striking of the set and lighting elements. The crew started early and worked till early the next morning. Thanks to **Dave Ellis**, **Rich Clark**, **Carl Gung**, **Sean Donovan**, (I’m sure I missed a few), etc. for the hard work in setting up the stage and the decorations.

I don’t think the audience had time to be bored. The program for the evening was full to overflowing with activities and the Cabaret MC, **Sue Gibson**, kept the events moving along. A popular feature was the photo op with the Antique cars. The playback of **Carl Gung’s** photos on the hall’s twin screens was well received by the audience. There was a long line-up of guests waiting to be immortalized by the caricaturist. What a pleasure it was to see and hear the very talented **Jeremy Wong** in his solo performance.



Gord checkin' out Carl & Rich

The smooth operation of the Silent Auction was due to the good job by **Don Frost** and his committee. The few

times I had the opportunity of walking through the Silent Auction displays, the place was packed.

Dorothy Fallan and her ladies did a wonderful decorating job as the tables looked classy and they greatly enhanced the movie awards night theme



atmosphere. **Ray Fallan** has the patience of Job as last minute set-up of the rear screen systems meant a lot of hurry-up-and-wait, putting up and taking down, building and taking apart and constant re-adjusting. Not a word of complaint – that I could hear at any rate.

Doug Affleck's sound equipment was a life saver and his dance music was an appropriate cap to a full evening of quality entertainment.

It was a tough one to execute but the pay-off was worth it and the pay-off is the appreciation of the audience. Not only their enthusiastic standing ovation and their comments after the show but also there was a solid link between the chorus and audience; the rapport between the performers and the audience was palpable.



And finally, kudos to **Gordon Ross** for the superb prep work and constant pushing to achieve the clearly laid out goals, to **Rob Hood** for the vision, the creativity in the preparation of the script and the skilful editing of the videos and to my friend **Gordon Alarie** for his generous assistance, equipment and expertise in

the decorating and lighting of this event.

Thank you for allowing me to play a small role in this wonderful performance experience.

The Show Quartets



Straight Up - Clarence Stad, Jim Lohnes, George Metzger, Ian McGillivray



West Coast Fusion II - Andry Layarda, Alex Leung, Jeremy Wong, Pat Downton



West Coast Fusion I - Jeremy, Sean Huston, Andry, Pat



Antique Gold - Dave Anderson, George Wakeham, George Metzger, Charlie Metzger

Picture Parade

Photos courtesy of Carl Gung



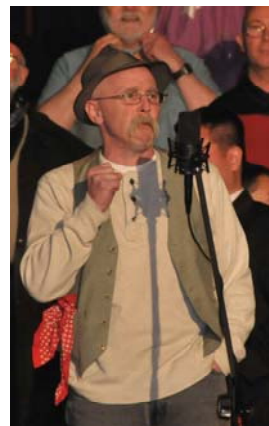
L to R: Baritones & Leads



L to R: Tenors & Basses



Chester Colpitts (centre left) forsook his hospital bed to see the show. Thanks to Clive Allen for taking care of him.



Jim Bates (Hobo)



Carl Gung (Sam & Janet Evening)



Gerry Borden & Tucker Goodwin (Stan & Ollie)



**Directors:
Charlie Metzger (L) and Andry Layarda**





Moe (Gene Kelly) Jones



Mac (WWII) Matheson



Rick (Bogie) Morrison



Dave (G'Day Mate) Ellis



Hobbits on the Warpath



Dorothy back from the Land Oz (with Ma & Pa Metzger)



Dave (Don Quixote) Whittier



Capt Don Frost



Producers Elie Savoie (l) & Gord (Keystone Kop) Ross



Andry and Jeremy (Men in Black) Capture the Hobbits.



Hobbits get rained on too.



Jim pays off Rick while Shari Clark sells tickets



Yvonne Martin sells CDs & Cookbooks to Allan



Singin' in the Rain



Thanks for the Memory