

The Game's Afoot brings murder and mirth to BCS

By Gordon Lambie
LENNOXVILLE

The BCS Players, an extracurricular gathering of theatrically inclined students from Bishop's College School, will be offering three presentations of playwright Ken Ludwig's 2011 play *The Game's Afoot*, starting this evening and running until Saturday night. Hailed as a "wonderfully appealing seasonal murder mystery" by BCS drama teacher Dan Rae, the play will be the result of hours of hard work by the cast of eight and supporting crew of 14.

Rae, calling Ludwig one of the best playwrights working today, hailed the script's blend of 1936 Connecticut charm with modern sensibilities.

"It follows the classic Agatha Christie or Conan Doyle murder elements, but having been written in 2011, it has sort of a modern, ironic sensibility to it," the drama teacher said. "It's a lovely combination of old and new."

The play is set in the home of real life famed actor William Gillette. Gillette was very famous in the '20s and '30s for creating Sherlock Holmes plays with the blessing of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle himself. On Christmas Eve, while recovering from an attempted murder, Gillette sees his home become a crime scene and must use some of Sherlock's skills to un-

cover the murderer in an investigation that proves to be full of both frightening and funny twists and turns.

"My catchphrase is; you'll scream out loud, you'll laugh out loud," Rae shared.

"It's dramatic at some points but there's a funny twist that makes it light hearted at the same time," said student actor Michelle Rasidescu. "It's not too heavy."

Rasidescu explained that she is the senior member of the cast, having been in three past productions with the BCS Players, but said that this is her first-ever murder mystery.

"The whole story is so intense and funny at the same time." The student said, sharing that her favourite part has been working to keep the solution to the mystery a secret. "It's been really fun."

Asked what inspired this particular performance, Rae explained that his guiding principle in script choice is very simple.

"There's no formula; if I think we can do it, we do it. I try to do plays that capture my imagination," the drama teacher said. "We've done about 25 productions since I got here, and my favourite one is always the one I'm working on."

Rae spoke with great admiration for the 22 students who have committed to the extracurricular project, pointing



TYLER GORDON — BCS

The Game's Afoot, a murder mystery presented by the BCS Players' Club until Saturday night, features Antoine Bertrand as Simon Bright and Michelle Rasidescu as Martha Gillette.

out that all makeup and technical organization of the show, from the stage-hands to the lighting and sound, is student-led.

"The kids are very busy at this school, so for them to do theatre on top of everything else they do is really quite a commitment," Rae said. "But they do a great job, and they do it because they love

doing theatre."

The Game's Afoot opens tonight and runs through Saturday, at 7:30 p.m. each night, in the R. Lewis Evans Memorial Theatre at BCS, 80 Moulton Hill Road in Lennoxville. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$12 for adults and can be reserved by calling 819-566-0227 during school hours (Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.).

Pool tournament helps Missisquoi North youth scratch their itch for fun



THE SCOOP
MABLE HASTINGS

Last Saturday evening, the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre Youth Program held a pool tournament where younger youth were paired up with

older youth in boy/girl teams. Some of the older youth had a little more experience while some of the younger youth had close to none.

The evening was an interesting one in watching older youth partnered, in most cases for the first time, with a younger less-experienced player as they strategized, coached and encouraged each other. This was not your average competitive tournament but rather one filled with fun and in most cases, learning.

Organized by youth leader Eleanor Paige who was assisted by the Youth Centre staff and volunteers including Julia (Joe) Hastings and Real Forget, who judged each pool table, and Patricia

Lachance assisted by Kate Eldridge, who were the score keepers, the evening was a memorable one.

Volunteer Norma Clifford prepared pool-themed specials in the kitchen at cost price and there were various door prizes drawn throughout the event.

Eight teams took part in the triple elimination tournament where there was more laughter and cheering in the air than quiet concentration.

Spectators were welcome and many came just to watch. First prize went to the team of Jacob Woodard and Jessie Lee Johnson, second prize went to Kim-micka McKenney and Yossi Salama (Kim-micka had never played before) and third prize was a shoot-out between the team of Sarah Chubby and Noah Patch-McCoy and Vance Cote and Amanda Barnett resulting in the winning team being Vance and Amanda.

Judges added a fourth and special

prize this year (Most Shocking Shot) and it was won by Vance Cote who, in attempting to "call" his winning shot, accidentally hit the eight ball with this cue and sunk it (without using the white ball)! This inspired a roar of laughter and Vance, in his good nature, joined the group.

The Youth Centre staff, particularly event organizer Eleanor Paige, sends out a big thank you to the judges, score-keeper, and kitchen volunteers as well as to the youth from all of the youth programs who took part. A future plan is to organize a tournament for parent/son or daughter teams to compete against each other.

For more information about the Missisquoi North Youth Centre, contact director Mable Hastings at m.hastings@cabmn.org, call the centre at 450-292-4886 or visit their website: www.cabmn.org.

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MABLE HASTINGS

The winners of the pool contest were Jacob Woodard (second from left) and Jessie Lee Johnson (centre). They are shown with scorekeeper Patricia Lachance (left), and judges Real Forget (second from right) and Julia Hastings.