

WE RAISED THE HEAVENS

by Cindy Venema

Success is ours! "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers" (*Henry V*), managed to alert the nation of our victory! The Bardathon (12 hours of Shakespeare reading in the faculty lounge on Nov. 21, to raise \$500 for the new Globe Theatre) was more than a financial success; it was a cultural and theatrical triumph for UPEI.

Our university, that usually makes the national news when it is receiving poor ratings, remarkably made coverage on CBC, ATV, and *Compass*. Professor Lindsay received a call from his brother in Toronto asking what was going on at our small university should catch the interest of our national information network. Talking to professor Shannon Murray, I learned that there were others who were amazed at our grand success, particularly the individuals who participated in the event. However, is this due to all the influential persons that made an appearance at the Bardathon? In fact, many of these individuals contributed personal recitations of Shakespeare. For instance, UPEI's former president, Dr. Eliot, graced us with some readings; then later in faculty lounge by reciting from memory several of Shakespeare's sonnets and speeches (I felt like I was in a scene from *The Cosby Show*).

Also, Anne Thurlow of CBC, David Daughton, and members of the Society for Creative Anachronism performed readings from their favourite Shakespeare scenes. And naturally, some Shakespeare-loving professors came and contributed to this worthy event (Richard Lemm, Glenn Palmer, David Milne and Ron Irving).

And who did all these reading entertain? Well, they entertained the continual flow of interested students, faculty and guests that sat comfortably in the sophisticated atmosphere of the faculty lounge. We even persuaded some of the visiting students to participate. Congratulations on your show of literary courage Eric Chase, Emily Ledwell, and Wendy Venema.

The day consisted of tag-team readings of Shakespeare, where many people took turns showing off their favourite sonnets and scenes by this great artist. "Time-outs" happened when the readers were united twice during the day to read a play by Shakespeare. Many of the readers were brilliant in their interpretations of their Shakespeare characters (which were designated per act by the luck of the draw from a hat), and the result was a lot of spontaneous fun.

The official readers of the Bardathon (I am sorry if I missed anyone) were: professor Richard Kurial (who gave us an

example of Shakespearean cross dressing), professor Geoff Lindsay (one of the head Bardathon organisers), professor Terry Pratt (another organiser, and an absolute delight to watch act), Janet MacDonald, Shanna Ramsay, Tanya Painter, Charity Becker, Laura Hansen, Haley Crane, Laurel Connell, Emily Smith, Geraldine Quinn, Sarah Underwood, Kersti Kass, Cindy Venema, and most importantly, professor Shannon Murray (the initiator of the who event). I must also not forget to mention the fabulous food that was available! Haley Crane, Tanya Painter, Laura Hansen, Shanna Ramsay, Charity Becker and Shannon Young put on a wonderful feast of sandwiches, pastries, lasagna and vegetable platters. We ended the evening with champagne and cake, and Dr. Murray gave a toast to sum up the successful event. Cheers to a memorable day!

Now that I have elaborated on the cultural and promotional achievement of the day, I know that you are probably wondering what the financial outcome was (how much we raised for "the heavens" in the Globe Theatre -- the purpose for the

event). We raised double the amount needed! In the collection box at the Bardathon alone we received \$459.54, and from other donations, that have not been fully collected yet, we earned roughly \$650, so a huge thanks goes out to all for the Bardathon's sponsors and contributors. This event has been a success from all aspects. Perhaps we could do something like this again in the future.

Now UPEI should get two time-capsules buried in the Globe's stage (every \$500 donated gets a time capsule). The question is, what should we put in these capsules? Any suggestions are welcome, and can be shared with professor Murray. We should include something to show the victory that we won with the Bardathon, and years down the road our ancestors will know how our small school contributed to the timeless symbol of the Globe Theatre...

Old men forget; yet all shall be forgot,
But he'll remember with advantages
What feats he did that day (*Henry V*).



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