

Summer theatre just around the corner

Brampton Guardian

It's a diverse season at the Rose Theatre this summer— one that will excite you, engage you, entertain you and enlighten you, probably in that order. From avant garde to quirky musical, and crime drama to poignant comedy— the 2013 season runs the gamut from July 5 through to Aug. 24.

Danny Harvey, who shares the role of the season's artistic director with Rob Woodcock, said this summer shaping up to be the best offering yet.

"Our subscribers' expectations are increasing every year, and so we want to really please our audiences," said Harvey. "We want people to leave saying 'Wow, I can't believe that was in Brampton'."

And with subscriptions for around \$100 that includes all four of the professional series shows, there's huge value for local and visiting theatre-goers.

This year kicks off with something a little different, as the series' producers bring in

SPIN
(<http://www.brampton.ca/sites/Rose-Theatre/EN/Events-And-Tickets/Pages/ShowDetails.aspx?ShowID=529&ShowDate=07/04/2013>) for one night only on July 4. The theatrical event, billed as "part theatre, part musical gig, part spoken word poetry and part documentary" introduces performer Evalyn Parry and her captivating show that celebrates the bicycle for all its contributions.

"It's completely unique," said Harvey. "It's really interesting, really avant garde — it's one of those shows where people will be glad they saw it."

A reception following this one-night presentation, which takes place on the main stage, will give the audience an opportunity to meet performers from all the summer shows.

Studio Two opens its doors the next night, July 5, when it premieres the gripping drama

12 Angry Men
(<http://www.brampton.ca/sites/Rose-Theatre/EN/Events-And-Tickets/Pages/RoseTheatreSummerSeason.aspx>)

. Running in the smaller, more intimate venue at the Rose Theatre until July 27, this production brings the audience into spellbinding journey as a jury deliberates the innocence of a teenage boy facing a death sentence in the killing his father. With a cast of 13, Harvey (who directs this one) said the smaller space of Studio Two will help create a tense atmosphere as the story unravels, and will bring the audience into a shared emotional space with the characters.

It's a riveting piece of theatre that will spark discussion and contemplation, in addition to providing top-quality entertainment.

?The main stage re-opens July 26 with the fun and quirky musical,

Little Shop of Horrors
(<http://www.brampton.ca/sites/Rose-Theatre/EN/Events-And-Tickets/Pages/ShowDetails.aspx?ShowID=531&ShowDate=07/26/2013>)

, which runs until Aug. 3. It's a show, said Harvey, that everyone has some familiarity with— and one that is widely enjoyed year after year.

"This is a really cool show because it's not a big show but it feels like a big show with all the production value it has," said Harvey, who directs the show.

It's a show about ordinary people and a simple love story— but told in the midst of extraordinary events. And, the music by Alan Menken, is always a hit.

"The music is so cool," said Harvey. "It borrows from so many different genres, and it has all these really cool components."

This one, he said, is bound to be a real audience pleaser. How could it not be, he added, with man-eating plants?

Closing out the season is a tried-and-true Norm Foster—

The Melville Boys
(<http://www.brampton.ca/sites/Rose-Theatre/EN/Events-And-Tickets/Pages/ShowDetails.aspx?ShowID=532&ShowDate=08/02/2013>)



The Melville Boys closes out the 2013 Summer Theatre Series at the Rose Theatre.

, running Aug. 2 to 24 in Studio Two.

One of Foster's "staples", said Harvey, the play will satisfy an appetite for poignancy and comedy, without really trying.

Typical of the works written by heralded the Canadian playwright.

This one is stocked with a cast of returning favourites— Erin McKinnon, Jamie McRoberts, Jim Watson and Brampton's own Scott Carmichael— and is directed by Woodcock.

Harvey said many familiar faces will return to the stage this summer— but he believes there is a good mix of returning talent and new talent on the Brampton stage this summer.

Casting and nurturing local talent, he said, is one of the company's goals.

And, if you want to get to know some of the cast or ask questions directly to actors and directors, audiences are invited each Wednesday evening for a Talk Back Q&A session.

The summer season also presents an outdoor Shakespeare presentation in Garden Square. This year,

Taming of the Shrew

(directed by Woodcock) will run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. beginning July 16 and wrapping up Aug. 15.

Season tickets are available (for four shows, or three shows) for as little as \$76.50. Individual tickets are also on sale. For more, call the box office at 905-874-2800 or visit www.rosetheatre.ca (<http://www.rosetheatre.ca>).