

# LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2014

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Hubcity Theatre's Paul Power, centre, works with Nicole Cormier and Cody Bolton on drama exercises.

## Get in on the act with Hubcity Theatre's community workshops

Theatre troupe will offer drama workshops beginning this month, will stage dinner theatre production *Last Chance* and perform Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* at Victoria Park this summer

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Hubcity Theatre has some exciting surprises in store for its 2014 season. Best known for its summer productions of Shakespeare in the Park in downtown Moncton and its classic theatrical productions each winter, Hubcity is expanding its community involvement this season by offering a more diverse mix of theatrical programs and activities.

Artistic director Paul Power says they are expanding programming this year to include dinner and show nights, an extended return to Victoria Park for the group's annual Shakespeare production and one of the most famous murder mysteries of all time.

"We really are everywhere this year," says Power. Our board and volunteers have worked hard to bring you a number of offerings throughout 2014.

"We're performing in some unique untraditional settings as well as presenting original works alongside the classics. This all adds to some great and diverse entertainment offerings for Moncton."

Hubcity has entered into a new partnership with the Red Leaf Grill and Lounge, where they'll stage a series of dinner and show nights on March 22 and 29, as well as on April 5.

"We were looking for new entertainment opportunities and these are an economical way of putting on shows," reveals Power. "It's not typical musical theatre - it's a play."

The group will present an original piece at the dinner and show. Written by Power, *Last Chance* is contemporary comedy/drama first produced to rave reviews in St. John's, N.L.

Hubcity Theatre will return to Moncton's Victoria Park this summer for three consecutive weekends beginning in July for its annual Shakespeare in the Park. *Julius Caesar* will be presented on Friday and Saturday, July 18 and 19, 25 and 26, and Aug. 1 and 2.

The expanded performance schedule gives audiences more opportunities to catch the show, whose subject matter Power feels meshes well with recent political events.

"With all the federal and provincial scandals in the news over the past several months, we'll be presenting what I think is the most famous political scandal of all - Julius Caesar."

Credited as the world's longest-running play, Hubcity Theatre is excited to bring Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* to Moncton Nov. 27 to 29 at the Capitol Empress Theatre. The play is a combination of 1950s English comedy with classic Christie murder-mystery.

Based in a farm setting, it's said to be based on



Hubcity will be offering free drama workshops to the community on the last Wednesday of the month beginning on Wednesday, Feb. 26. Here, Cody Bolton works with Nicole Cormier.

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England. Known for its twist ending, the audience is traditionally asked to keep the ending a secret.

As part of its mandate to create opportunities for all members of the community to take part in the arts, Hubcity Theatre will offer monthly acting workshops that are open to anyone interested in theatre.

"The workshops are for all experience levels from beginner to seasoned veteran," adds Power, who assumed the role of artistic director with Hubcity about a year ago.

Scheduled to take place on Feb. 26, March 26 and April 30 at Crandall University, the workshops were first offered last fall following the conclusion of Shakespeare in the Park as a way of filling in time before the group's fall production and feeding local interest in theatre.

Power describes the workshops as a time to play and have fun.

"It's free to everyone, so if you ever wanted to try it, it's the perfect opportunity. It's a very friendly and welcoming environment."

The two-hour workshops are being led by Power and a team of other experienced actors/actresses who'll cover everything from warming up to vocal exercises and how to be heard onstage.

There will also be theatre games, improv and movement exercises designed to get participants comfortable performing with and for other people. Participants will receive instruction on how to get into and develop characters and even

### Show facts

- WHAT: Dinner Theatre at the Red Leaf Grill, featuring Hubcity's production of the comedy drama *Last Chance*
- WHERE: Red Leaf Grill & Lounge, 938 Mountain Rd. Moncton
- WHEN: March 22, March 29, April 5. Seating is at 6:30 p.m., with food service at 7 p.m. and the show getting underway at 8 p.m.
- TICKETS: \$29.99, includes show and set menu with appetizer, entree (choice of three) and dessert. For reservations, call 506-204-9472 or email redleaf-grill@gmail.com
- Workshop facts
- WHAT: Acting workshops
- WHEN: Feb. 26, March 26 and April 30
- WHERE: Crandall University, Stultz Hall entrance
- COST: Free, but participation is limited to 25 people for each workshop. To register, email life@hubcitytheatre.com. Please leave your name, a brief description of your theatre experience and why you are interested in attending.

Hubcity Theatre is a non-profit professional theatre company dedicated to enriching southeast New Brunswick through theatre.

More information on taking part in the workshops can be found on the group's website at [hubcitytheatre.com](http://hubcitytheatre.com)