



Photo submitted

Jacinta Ferrari, left, Cal Meiklejohn and Yanti Rowland rehearse for the upcoming presentation of *The Big Broadcast* at the Shatford Centre in Penticton. The play mirrors a local 1936 radio-style talent show, complete with music, comedy and melodrama.

THE BIG BROADCAST

Feb 18, 2014

Old-school radio show channels sounds of the past

Folk music, slam poetry, tribute to Penticton talent show of 1930s among events for Peach City Community Radio fundraiser

Special to the Herald

A vintage radio show, live on stage at the Shatford Centre, will have a decidedly folk feel, according to producer Craig Henderson.

The Big Broadcast of 2014, a fundraising event for Peach City Community Radio, will be performed over three nights from Feb. 28 to March 2. It includes radio vignettes and a comedic melodrama play peppered with local history.

"The musical guests are bringing an acoustic sound to the show," said Henderson.

Penticton-based folk and roots performer Maiya Robbie is first on stage. In recent years, Robbie has toured with Penticton performance poet Shane Koyczan as part of the ensemble Short Story Long.

She has also shared the stage with such notable performers as Dan Mangan, the Be Good Tanyas and Corwin Fox. In 2013, Robbie released the CD "You Should've Been a Mountain."

Folk duo TeKatie, also known as Ted and Katie Shumaker, will also play for the audience.

The 2014 show pays tribute to a Penticton talent event in 1936 on the Shatford stage, also called the Big Broadcast.

Although Penticton did not have a radio station at the time, the performances mirrored the format of the national radio "cavalcades of talent" common to the era.

Florence Manuel played piano throughout the 1936 show. She is the grandmother of both Katie Shumaker and Penticton historian Randy Manuel.

Heritage music performer Jack Godwin will join in The Big Broadcast with a song or two, including "Plum Outta Peaches in Penticton." Acoustic blues artist Terry Kaiser will perform "The Naramata Nut Brown Blues." Vocalists Bob Moss, Yanti Rowland, Larry Saidman, and a sextet called the Temperance Chorus are also among the cast of 37 for the Big Broadcast of 2014.

The acting cast includes Dennis Walker, Paul Varga, Cal Meiklejohn, Jacinta Ferarri, Kim Russell, Bill Phillips, Carol Munro, Bob Nicholson, Katie Bowling and many others.

The show will have all the energy of a live radio show — complete with live sound effects. Members of the audience are encouraged to boo the villain and cheer the hero and heroine.

Showtimes are at 7 p.m. on the Friday and Saturday nights and a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday. The show is also being recorded for later broadcast and podcast by Peach City Radio.

Tickets for all three performances are available at the Dragon's Den on Front Street and the Shatford Centre in Penticton, and Shades of Linen Boutique in Naramata.

More information is available online at: www.tinyurl.com/TheBigBroadcastof2014.