

THE BIG BROADCAST OF 2014

CRAIG HENDERSON
PRODUCER/WRITER
THE BIG BROADCAST 2014

Rehearsals are now under way for a fundraising event at the Shatford Centre, reminiscent of a show on the very same stage some 78 years ago. Thirty-seven Penticton actors, broadcasters and musical artists are involved in the Big Broadcast of 2014, on stage February 28 to March 2.

"In March of 1936, 110 local singers, actors and dancers put on an event that was just like the radio shows of the era, yet it was not broadcast," explains Craig Henderson of the Peach City Community Radio Society. "Our show pays tribute to the live radio shows of yesteryear and, in addition to having a live audience, our show will be broadcast and podcast."

"The Big Broadcast of 1936 at the Shatford raised funds for

Gyro Park, perhaps even a new bandshell that was constructed that year. The park bandshell became an important performance venue. Our fundraising efforts with the 2014 show are for a community radio studio in downtown Penticton, which will also be a vehicle for local performers."

The Big Broadcast of 2014 includes vignettes of local history and a comedic melodrama play during which the audience is encouraged to "boo" the villain and "cheer" the hero. Sound effects will be performed live using everyday gadgets and gizmos to add to the audio realism. Penticton folk and roots artist Maiya Robbie will perform. Other local musical artists include Katie and Ted Shumaker, Jack Godwin, Larry Saidman and Yanti Rowland. The acting and announcing cast includes Dennis Walker, Gerry O'Day, Paul Varga, Cal

Meiklejohn, Carol Munro, Katie Bowling, Jacinta Ferrari, Bryan Laver and Bob Nicholson, among others.

"There are other historic links between our show and the 1936 Big Broadcast. Two of our performers -- Randy Manuel and Katie Shumaker --- are cousins, and their grandmother, Florence Manuel, played piano in the 1936 event. Grant King was the hero in the 1936 melodrama. Besides starting a clothing store, he was a part of the early ownership group of CKOK, Penticton's first radio station. Our melodrama hero is played by Cameron Baughen, founder of the Peach City Community Radio Society," notes Henderson.

Tickets for The Big Broadcast of 2014 are available at the Shatford Centre, 760 Main Street, or Dragon's Den, 12 Front Street.

*DOWNTOWN
REPORTER*



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