

At the Library for Monday, February 6, 2012
Steven MacLean Community Outreach Assistant

Theater in the Making

Fans of live theater can mark their calendar for a special workshop presentation of "Two Hours in a Madhouse: An Evening with the Notorious Nellie Bly" at the New Glasgow Library. The biodrama about the famous, pioneering female investigative reporter will be delivered in it's entirely by actor Amanda Jefferson-Gillis and is written and directed by novelist and playwright, Gary Blackwood. The open presentation will allow the public to participate in the creative process by offering constructive criticism, thus allowing them to perfect the work.

Sometimes referred to a "dramatic reading", the two-hour play uses some props and costumes and is just one of many steps a production takes in becoming a fully staged play, which they hope to officially launch in the coming months. Audience members are welcome to participate in this "work in progress" and any feedback will be greatly appreciated. Admission to the program is free and will be held on Wednesday, February 15 with curtain time at 6:30 pm.

Amanda Jefferson-Gillis last performance was her two-year run of "The Belle of Amherst" portraying the eccentric American poet, Emily Dickinson. Her success with "Emily" has led to this project; a welcomed opportunity to co-produce and perform Gary Blackwood's challenging work "Two Hours in a Madhouse". Blackwood is well known to young readers for his award-winning, Young Adult novels while and for his extensive stage and playwrighting career south of the border in the United States.

Local Author to Read

For anyone wishing to support one of our up-and-coming writers, novelist Jennifer Hatt will be reading excerpts from her latest novel, "Orchids For Billie" the evening of Wednesday, February 8 at 7:00 pm in the New Glasgow Public Library. This is Hatt's second work of fiction, a prequel to her warmly received, "Finding Maria". This time the story picks up Jack as a troubled eight year old during the summer of '55 as he discovers the restorative powers of tending green house and growing rare plants.

While new to publishing non-fiction, Hatt is no stranger to writing in other forms - as a journalist she won awards for her work with Thompson Newspapers and currently writes for periodicals and corporate clients along with participating in the Writers in the School program and other writing skills programs. Copies of her self-published book will be available for purchase and signing.

Emerging Artist Series

The New Glasgow Public Library's month of art programs continues with the second of the three-part, Emerging Artist series on Thursday, February 16 at 7:00 pm. with painter, Katie Roux. In her illustrated presentation, "Making Sense of Making Art", Roux will discuss the artwork she made in the final years of her undergraduate studies and how it has evolved into her current work and artistic vision. Roux is one of the three NSCAD/ Town of New Glasgow Artists In Residence Program.

For more information on upcoming library programs, special events and services, please drop by your local library branch, follow us on *Twitter*, find us on *Facebook*, or visit us online at PARL events at www.parl.ns.ca.