



Plautdietsche Owendt Review

By Sela Balzer

Our Plautdietsche Owendt featuring the plays Na, Kinga and De Roude Laump were well received by the 1,500 plus people who attended the show. The Low German drama was staged four times at the Langham Community hall then followed up with performances in each of Swift Current, Taber, and Calgary.

The caliber of the performance was one that would make any director proud, and it only got better with each show. Watching the reactions of the audience, their knee slapping and spontaneous bursts of laughter, that made tears roll down their cheeks, was the highlight of each show for me. I especially enjoyed hearing the comments of people at the conclusion of each play, such as; "What a good ending, those kids got just what they deserved!" this in reference to Na, Kinga. And after De Roude Laump, "That burglar, things were so mixed up, I just wanted to go up on stage and help them all out! I loved Hermaun, he was the best, he was so full of it and the way he jumped around... I can't remember when I laughed so hard."

The experience of taking the show on the road was most rewarding for us. We rented a coach and all 15 members of our team, namely the actors and their spouses who doubled as the sound technicians, stagehands and makeup artist, all agreed it was great fun. It was truly a weekend full of good ole fashioned 'Plautdietsche spos' and one we will most likely do again in the future.

Menno Zacharias and Will Peters did a great job of constructing the stage walls, with a window stable enough for actors to climb in and out of, which could be assembled and disassembled quickly and easily. The walls were designed so that sections could be deleted if necessary should we set up on stages smaller than Langham's, as was the case in both Swift Current and Calgary.

The luggage compartment of the 47-passenger coach proved to be large enough to store our personal luggage as well as the stage walls and all of our stage props. A concern however, was how to transport our very fragile red lamp globes. The play The Red Lamp required a lamp with a globe that would shatter when dropped. When presented with that challenge back in January Hella MacDonald, Archerwill, Sk. had cleverly crafted for us globes out of royal icing. These globes were great for the show but as they were extremely fragile, and could not be replaced should we break them on our travels, we were worried. We carefully wrapped each globe in tissue paper and placed them in a sturdy box using puffed wheat for packing material. It worked, at the conclusion of our road trip we had four globes left over. Before boarding the bus for our journey home we had a red lamp ceremony in which we formed a circle in the hotel parking lot, we passed one globe around to see how many times it could be passed before it shattered. It was a very short ceremony.