

# News Release

For immediate release

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## **Encore! - Theatre Royal, Barkerville Chillwack Humdinger RV show March 19 – 22nd**

Barkerville Historic Town's popular Theatre Royal cast is rolling into Chillwack near the beginning of a sold-out trip around the province.

"Each year we tour the province to perform in over 20 venues for more than 5000 people. This year we return to Chillwack," says manager and impresario Richard Wright. "We will travel from the west coast throughout the interior, including Terrace and Prince George from small, intimate venues to large theatres. Everywhere we have good houses and leave them all with a smile."

The goal of the tour is to promote the Cariboo and Barkerville as a tourist destination, but the secondary goal is to take a little of Barkerville to communities around the province.

"Our shows bring back a lot of memories for folks," says musical director and partner Amy Newman. "They remember visits to Barkerville or they remember some of the music we perform. Last year in Port Alberni we met a man who was celebrating his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday – who was born in Barkerville in 1920 in the old Cariboo Hospital."

"The most common comment from folks is that they have not laughed or sung so much in years," adds Wright. "That's a great accomplishment for us," says Wright. "We all take pride in bringing a light entertaining moment to folks."

As they travel, the troupe is gathering requests and are already booking their 2010 schedule.

The show focuses on material actually sung on the stage of the Theatre Royal, Barkerville. The Theatre itself was built in 1869, right after the Great Fire of 1868, but before that time performances were held in the Parlour Saloon. The music includes tunes that were popular as BC was entering confederation, tunes and stories that tell the story of Barkerville. It also moves into the later years of the Theatre with rollicking songs and humour associated with the great British Music Hall era. All of the performers are masters of this era and bring a great evening of entertainment.

Musical director Amy Newman says, "The Gold Rush Music Hall Revue blends all of these, beginning with the music directly related to the gold rush and moving into the Music Hall genre that was so popular at the time.

"In historic terms one might say 'The cast of the Newman & Wright Theatrical Troupe presents an array of magnificent musical numbers, engaging sketches, fantastical farces, romantic interludes and ostentatious olios. We bring you the best thespians and musicians that money can buy, direct from the music halls, theatres and grand stages of London, New York, San Francisco and Victoria,'" she expounds.

The tour cast features Elliott Loran on piano with Amy Newman, Marcello Sequeira, Thomas Boutilier and newcomer Alison Jenkins in a variety of song, dance and comedic numbers. Stage Manager is Aaron Wicks and Richard Wright serves as the host and manager.

The tour is being undertaken with the financial support of the Barkerville Heritage Trust, local businesses and other sponsors.