

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY **CHARLES DICKENS**

ABRIDGED ADAPTATION BY **GEOFFREY SIMON BROWN**



NOV 30 - DEC 24, 2021

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theatre:
CALGARY

Stafford Arima, Artistic Director

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A Christmas Carol poster and cover artwork by MAYA GOHILL.

WELCOME



A *Christmas Carol* is one of the most powerful stories in existence. It has always profoundly moved me because its story is woven around a man who, until one very unusual Christmas Eve, has not truly noticed all the good and wonderful humanity that surrounds him. This year, as we are slowly coming out of isolation and back into the theatre, that specific message rings even more true than in the past – to freely open your heart to others, and be filled with gratitude for the people in our lives. This season, as we were making plans to re-ignite Theatre Calgary’s stage, we were faced with the

uncertainty as to whether a live production of ‘*Carol*’ would be able to happen. With so much uncertainty in our lives, we felt it was important to put our best foot forward and tell this classic story on our stage once again come rain or come shine.

This year’s production of *A Christmas Carol* is, once again, a brand new ‘*Carol*’ that has never been performed in front of a live audience before. Similar to last year’s filmed version, this production boasts a small cast of brilliantly talented local actors, and a team of creative designers to bring a unique and intimate performance to our stage.

I am profoundly proud of this ensemble of artists who have come together to, once again, share this holiday classic of transformation, family, and forgiveness.

“God bless us, every one.”

- **STAFFORD ARIMA**
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of reconciliation, Theatre Calgary acknowledges that we live, work and create on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut’ina, the Îyâxe Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta. They were the original occupants of this land and continue to be here to this day. Theatre Calgary is grateful to have the opportunity to present in this territory.

TOONIES FOR TURKEYS

Once again this year, at the conclusion of the performance we will be accepting donations in our lobby for our annual Toonies for Turkeys campaign to support local families in need. 100% of all donations collected go directly to the Calgary Food Bank to help fight hunger in Calgary.

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Our heartfelt thanks to **The Cal Wenzel Family Foundation** for supporting our production of *A Christmas Carol*, and to **Shane Homes** for their generous **\$20,000 donation** to kick-start the 2021 Toonies for Turkeys campaign.



PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES



Every time I read the original novella of *A Christmas Carol*, I am struck by how timely it feels. It feels so shocking to me that, while we are living in such unprecedented times, somehow every time I dive back into this story, it feels more relevant than it did the time before. Even though he was writing so specifically about the time he was living in – almost 200 years ago – it feels like Dickens tapped into something that we all seem to forget and need to be reminded of again and again: to pay attention to those around us; that we all belong to the same world.

When I first adapted *A Christmas Carol* for Theatre Calgary back in 2019, I spent a lot of time thinking about how, in an increasingly individualized world, with technology driven isolation and polarized politics dividing friends and family, it feels so vital that we can come together around a story to remind us of our shared humanity. Of course, over the past two years, those things have been put into hyperdrive. We have spent so much of this time separated from family, separated from friends, from community. I know so many people who have been left feeling scared, feeling angry, and those feelings can make it that much harder to feel connected to the larger world in which we live.

It feels strange and lonely to not be able to come together with my *Christmas Carol* family: the full team of artists who brought this story to life on the Max Bell stage two years ago and for every year for longer than I have been alive. It has been such a joy and an honour to be invited into that family, to get to create alongside such a large and inspiring band of Calgary artists. It was our hope to be able to share that production with our city again this year. But instead we are being asked to do what theatre artists have done for thousands of years: adapt.

This year we are presenting a different kind of *Christmas Carol* than has ever been put on stage at Theatre Calgary. As I began to craft this play into this intimate adaptation, it was important to me to lean into the theatricality of what we were doing: to invite the audience inside this story in a way they never have before. So we have stripped down the set to a handful of set pieces, exposing the full machinery of the theatre, with two incredible casts of actors transforming character to character right in front of you.

I know that this play is a tradition for so many people and families in this city. I hope that this year's *Carol* can bring some normalcy to a very unfamiliar holiday season. And for those who are experiencing this play for the first time, I hope you can find comfort and reflection in this story about redemption, resiliency, and change.

As we gather together in the theatre again, for the first time in what feels like eternity, I hope we can all feel our sense of community start to heal itself. Thank you to Theatre Calgary for this tremendous opportunity and thank you for coming.

Merry Christmas and enjoy the show.

- **GEOFFREY SIMON BROWN**
PLAYWRIGHT

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DIRECTED BY VALERIE PLANCHE



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Max Bell Theatre at Arts Commons
November 30 - December 24, 2021

theatre:
CALGARY
Stafford Arima, Artistic Director

presents

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY **CHARLES DICKENS**

ABRIDGED ADAPTATION BY **GEOFFREY SIMON BROWN**

HOLLY CAST (in alphabetical order)

Ebenezer Scrooge and Others	HAYSAM KADRI
Ghost of Christmas Past and Others	JAMIE TOGNAZZINI
Ghost of Christmas Present and Others	MARSHALL VIELLE

IVY CAST (in alphabetical order)

Ghost of Christmas Past and Others	VANESSA LETICIA JETTÉ
Ghost of Christmas Present and Others	KAREN JOHNSON-DIAMOND
Ebenezer Scrooge and Others	MIKE TAN

Musician **ALLISON LYNCH**

Director	STAFFORD ARIMA
Assistant Director, Voice & Dialect Coach	JANE MACFARLANE
Set, Lighting & Projection Design	SCOTT REID
Costume Design	DEITRA KALYN
Sound Design & Composition	ALLISON LYNCH
Dramaturg - Abridged Adaptation	JENNA RODGERS
Stage Manager	SARA TURNER
Assistant Stage Manager	KENNEDY GREENE
Rehearsal Stage Manager	EMMA BRAGER

Head of Sound	BRONWYN BOWLBY
Head of Lighting	CATHARINE CRUMB
Head Dresser	KATIE KLINGVALL
Head Stage Carpenter	DONNIE OSLER
Head of Video	DANIEL PLUMTREE
Stage Hand	JOSH SEMOS
Alternate Sound Mixer	MICHAEL GESY
RF Technician	SAM HINDLE

A CHRISTMAS CAROL by Charles Dickens as adapted for the stage by Geoffrey Simon Brown is produced by permission of the Author and Marquis Literary (Colin Rivers) www.mqlit.ca.

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The cast of *The Louder We Get*. Photo by Trudie Lee

HOLLY CAST



HAYSAM KADRI

Ebenezer Scrooge and Others

(he/him) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *TC Returns, A Thousand Splendid Suns, Enron, To Kill A Mockingbird, Much Ado About Nothing, The Crucible, A Christmas Carol* (Actor – 2012-14, Assistant Director – 2019-20).

ELSEWHERE: *The Hollow, Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily, The Hound of the Baskervilles, Twelve Angry Men, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Black Coffee* (Vertigo Theatre); *Richard III, Macbeth, Othello, William Shakespeare's Land of the Dead*, and *The Winter's Tale* (The Shakespeare Company); *The Virgin Trials, The Last Wife, Cockroach, The Motherfu**er*

with the Hat, Shakespeare's Dog, Robin Hood, Oliver Twist (ATP). FILM/TELEVISION: *The Last of Us, The Revenant, Hell on Wheels*. Haysam is the Artistic Producer of The Shakespeare Company.



JAMIE TOGNAZZINI

Ghost of Christmas Present and Others

(they/she) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *A Christmas Carol* (2019-20), *Agápi sti Fury* (Page to Stage New Play Festival). Jamie T is a queer transdisciplinary artist with special interest in vocal performance/musical theatre, physical theatre/circus, and puppetry. This year,

Jamie was a featured artist for *35 for 35 Who Are You Now?* at the High Performance Rodeo, filmed *A Midsummer Daydream* with OYR/BYA for the NAC, and workshoped the new musical *Black Horse* at Caravan Farm Theatre (Summer 2022 premiere). In 2019, Jamie T was honoured

as co-recipient of the Betty Mitchell Award for Best Ensemble for their work in *Giant* by Ghost River Theatre. SELECT CREDITS: *The Gin Experience* (Ghost River Theatre); *Modern Times Redux* (The Grand YYC); Catalyst Theatre's *Fortune Falls* (ATP/Citadel Theatre); *The Drowning Girls* (Vertigo Theatre); *Songs from Nightingale Alley* (FoF); *Awesome Girl and Radical Boy* (Lunchbox Theatre); *The Toxic Avenger Musical* (Broadway West); *Evil Dead: the Musical* (GZT/H&M); *Moon, Moon No Moon*, and *Calgary, I Love You but You're Killing Me* (OYR). "It's a sublime thrill, returning to live performance together... sincerest gratitude to the outstanding people making this tradition possible."



MARSHALL VIELLE

Ghost of Christmas Past and Others

(they/he) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *A Christmas Carol* (2019-20), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Shakespeare by the Bow), *Blow Wind High Water*. ELSEWHERE: *Christmas Carol: A Drag Story* (Blue Jeans Theatre); *Mx., These Four Walls* (Alberta Queer Calendar Project, Cardiac Theatre); *Where the Two-Spirit Lives* (Intrepid Theatre, The Cultch, Theatre Outré); *Istotsi, KAAHSINONIKS* (Making Treaty 7 Cultural Society); *We Are All Treaty People* (Quest Theatre). Marshall is an Actor, Director, Playwright, Podcaster, and Drag Performer from the Kainai

Nation. They work as an advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion in the performance sector, while also lending their creativity to several Queer Youth initiatives. They received the 2018 Stephen Hair Emerging Actor Award and are very excited to be back at Theatre Calgary for another holiday season!



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IVY CAST



VANESSA LETICIA JETTÉ

Ghost of Christmas Past and Others

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *A Christmas Carol* (2019), *Hamlet* (Shakespeare by the Bow). Vanessa is a Mexican-Canadian artist living in Mohkinstsis. She is a multidisciplinary theatre and movement artist. She is very excited to be back performing after what has felt like the longest hiatus from theatre because of the pandemic - which is saying a lot because she worked on cruise ships for 3 years. You may have seen her previously on stages and Zoom boxes with companies like Major Matt Mason Collective, Lunchbox Theatre, One Yellow Rabbit:

BeautifulYoungArtists, and The Shakespeare Company. She is forever grateful to her family for all their support and she hopes you all enjoy the show!



KAREN JOHNSON-DIAMOND

Ghost of Christmas Present and Others

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *A Christmas Carol* (2019), *Noises Off*, *The Crucible*, *W.O. Mitchell's Jake and the Kid*, *The Miracle Worker*. Karen is an award-winning actor, working in western Canada for over 30 years. As a professional improviser, Karen co-founded *Dirty Laundry - The Completely Improvised Comedy Soap Opera*. Karen serves as the Administrative Director of ARTSTREK, Theatre Alberta's summer drama camp for teens, and is the co-host of three podcasts: *The Breakfast Dish* (with her son Griffin Cork), *Scamtime*, and *Bridging the Gap Between*

Generations Who Assume Things About Each Other. Her Film and TV credits include *Heartland*, *Fargo* and the multi award-winning web series *Abracadavers*. Karen is the recipient of the Duval Lang Theatre for Young Audiences Award and has played Mrs. Claus for CBC radio for the last twenty-one years. Karen loves Neil Diamond. As one should.



MIKE TAN

Ebenezer Scrooge and Others

(he/him) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *A Christmas Carol* (2017-18). Mike is a Treaty 7-based theatre artist and photographer. He has worked as a co-creator in devised theatre creation ensembles with Downstage, Theatre Junction, and Ghost River Theatre; an acting ensemble member at the Banff Centre Playwrights Lab workshopping new plays from around the world; and as an actor at Vertigo Theatre, Alberta Theatre Projects, and Theatre Calgary. Mike also works as a documentary photographer for arts and culture organizations, events,

and independent artists. He is honoured to be back at Theatre Calgary again. He lives with his loves: Di, his son Aiden, and their cat babies, Frankie and Prismo.

CREATIVE TEAM



STAFFORD ARIMA

Director

(he/him) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *A Christmas Carol* (2019-20), *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *Mary and Max - A New Musical*, *The Secret Garden*. ELSEWHERE: *Allegiance* (Broadway); *Ragtime* (West End); *Carrie* (Off-Broadway); *Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living In Paris* (Stratford Festival); *Red Velvet* (The Old Globe, CA); *The Tin Pan Alley Rag* (Roundabout Theatre Company, NYC); *Altar Boyz* (Off-Broadway); *bare* (Off-Broadway); *Candide* (San Francisco Symphony); *Bowfire* (PBS television special); *A Tribute to Stephen Sondheim* (Boston Pops); *Saturday Night* (Off-Broadway); *Two Class Acts* (The Flea Theatre, Off-Broadway); *Poster Boy* (Williamstown Theatre Festival); *Guys and Dolls* (Paper Mill Playhouse, NJ); *Children's Letters to God* (Off-Broadway); *The New World* (Bucks County Playhouse, PA); *Bright Lights, Big City* (Prince Music Theater, PA); *The Princess and the Black-Eyed Pea* (San Diego Rep); *Total Eclipse* (Toronto); *Spring Awakening - The Musical* (UC Davis); and *Marry Me A Little* (Cincinnati Playhouse). Stafford served as associate director for the Broadway productions of *A Class Act* and *Seussical*. He is on the faculty of Broadway Dreams, and a former adjunct and Granada Artist in Residence at the University of California, Davis. Stafford studied at York University in Toronto. staffordarima.com



GEOFFREY SIMON BROWN

Playwright

(he/him) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *Playwright - A Christmas Carol* (2019-20); *Actor - Skylight*, *Much Ado About Nothing*. Geoffrey is a Calgary-based playwright, actor, director, and co-creator of the Major Matt Mason Collective. As a playwright, his work has been produced in Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, and Montreal. His plays include *Destroy*, *Air*, *Control*, *Still Still Still*, *Michael Mysterious*, *If I Could Tell You Everything* with the Theatre Junction High School Mentorship Ensemble, and *The Circle*, which was published by Scirocco Drama in 2017. He is the winner of two Betty Mitchell Awards, Theatre Calgary's Stephen Hair Emerging Actor Award, and Tarragon's RBC Emerging Playwright Award. Geoffrey is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's playwrighting program. Love to M, D, A, & E.



JANE MACFARLANE

Assistant Director, Voice & Dialect Coach

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: Resident Voice Coach - More than 60 productions since 2000 including *Admissions*, *The Louder We Get*, *Noises Off*, *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *Mary and Max - A New Musical*, *Honour Beat*, *The Secret Garden*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Audience*, *Skylight*, *Bad Jews*, *The Crucible*, *Liberation Days* (WCT co-pro), *One Man, Two Guvvners*, *The Mountaintop*, *Enron*, 10 seasons of Shakespeare by the Bow and 15 years of *A Christmas Carol*. Jane has also worked for ATP, is the Voice & Dialect Consultant for Vertigo Theatre and the Voice & Text Coach for The Shakespeare Company. She has taught at such institutions as York University, Harvard University, Southern Methodist University, MRU, UofA, and is currently teaching in the Drama Division in the School of Creative & Performing Arts at the UofC.

CREATIVE TEAM



SCOTT REID

Set, Lighting & Projection Design

(he/him) FOR THEATRE CALGARY (selected): *TC Returns, A Christmas Carol* (lighting - 1999, set & projections - 2019, production design - 2020), *Billy Elliot the Musical, Mom's The Word: For Crying Out Loud, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, A Raisin in the Sun, Sherlock Holmes, Crimes of the Heart, Romeo and Juliet, Gaslight*. ELSEWHERE: *Stealing Sam, Disgraced, The New Canadian Curling Club, The Virgin Trial, The Last Wife, 1979* (ATP); *Strangers on a Train, Dracula: The Bloody Truth, The Thin Man, The Lonely Diner, Nine Dragons, The Drowning Girls* (Vertigo

Theatre); *Eugene Onegin, South Pacific, Die Tote Stadt* (Calgary Opera); *Our Canada, Class Acts* (Alberta Ballet); *Better Get Hit in Your Soul, Modern Vaudevillians, Juliet and Romeo* (DJD). Scott has also designed for such companies as Quest Theatre, Lunchbox, and The Shakespeare Company.



DEITRA KALYN

Costume Design

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *A Christmas Carol* (2019), *Noises Off, Shakespeare by the Bow* (2012-2018, 2021), *Blow Wind High Water, The Crucible, One Man, Two Guvnors, King Lear*. Deitra is so incredibly thrilled to be writing this bio and for you to be reading it! She has been designing theatre, dance, film, and TV across the prairies for well over a decade. She is an award-winning designer who was educated both at Grant MacEwan University and ACAD. Her career in design has allowed her to work with some of the best companies in the country. Selected

credits include: *Dracula: the Bloody Truth!, Calamity Town, Sherlock Holmes, Sweeney Todd, The 39 Steps* (Vertigo Theatre); *Intimate Apparel, Legend Has It, playRites 2013* (ATP); *Evil Dead: The Musical: '09, '10, '12* (GZT/H&M); and *The Penelopiad* (Arts Club). Welcome back everyone! Sending love to my brood of boys!



ALLISON LYNCH

Musician, Sound Design & Composition

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: Sound Designer/Composer - *A Christmas Carol* (2019-20), *The Scarlet Letter; As You Like It, Romeo and Juliet* (SBTB 2013); Music Director - *A Christmas Carol* (2016-19); Actor - *A Christmas Carol* (2011-2019), *The Secret Garden, Dear Johnny Deere, One Man, Two Guvnors*. Allison has appeared on most of Calgary's stages either onstage as an actor or behind the scenes as a composer/sound-designer/music director (and sometimes all simultaneously).

Allison was the recipient of three Betty Mitchell Awards for acting (*Romeo & Juliet* - The Shakespeare Company/Hit & Myth, *Ash Rizin'* - ATP, *Twisted* - Forte) and one for composing (*The Scarlet Letter* - Theatre Calgary), as well as the 2019 Critic's Choice Award for Outstanding Design for her score for *The Ministry of Grace* (The Belfry) at the Greater Victoria Regional Theatre Awards. You may have seen her outside Alberta onstage at the NAC, The Grand, Rainbow Stage, Persephone, The Arts Club, The Drayton Festival, The Belfry or The Chemainus Theatre Festival, and as far abroad as Kuala Lumpur with the Malaysian Symphony Orchestra. You can find her debut album *Skin & Flame* on all streaming platforms.

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CREATIVE TEAM



SARA TURNER

Stage Manager

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: SM – *TC Returns, A Christmas Carol* (2020); ASM – *The Louder We Get, The Secret Garden, Twelfth Night, The Audience, The Light In The Piazza, The Little Prince – The Musical, The Crucible*. Other stage management credits: *Naughty But Nice Vaccin8te, Naughty But Nice: Six In The City, Crossing Swords, Touch Me: Songs For A (dis)Connected Age, Naughty But Nice Too!* (Forte Musical Theatre); *SensoryBox, Giant* (Ghost River Theatre); *Strangers On A Train, The Thin Man, The 39 Steps, Our Man In Havana, Dial “M” For Murder, Vintage*

Hitchcock (Vertigo Theatre); *In Flanders Fields, Ride, It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (Lunchbox Theatre); *Legends Of Country, Million Dollar Quartet, Rumors & Dreams* (Stage West); *Canada 151, Million Dollar Quartet* (Drayton Entertainment); *The Patron Saint of Stanley Park* (Theatre North West); *The Red Priest* (ATP); *Polygraph* (Sage Theatre); *The Peace Maker* (Next Stage Festival). Wishing you joy and love this holiday season!



KENNEDY GREENE

Assistant Stage Manager

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *TC Returns, A Christmas Carol* (2020), *The Louder We Get*. ELSEWHERE: *Filumena, Turandot, South Pacific, Rigoletto, Everest, Hansel & Gretel* (Calgary Opera); *All That Binds Us* (Azimuth); *There Goes the Bride, 80’s Solid Gold 1 & 2, Spamalot, Chicago, Love Train, Fiddler on the Roof, Gameshow* (Stage West); *The Thin Man, The Hollow* (Vertigo Theatre); *A Love Letter to Emily C, A Chitenge Story, The Tall Building* (Handsome Alice); *Flight Risk* (Lunchbox Theatre); *Assassinating Thompson* (Lunchbox/Inside Out); *Make Love Not Art*

(Inside Out); *Benefit* (Downstage); *La Boheme, L’incoronazione di Poppea* (Centre for Opera in Italy); *Sylvia, Twist & Shout, The Drawer Boy, Frolic!, Tidings* (New West Theatre). Kennedy is a proud graduate of the University of Lethbridge’s Technical Theatre Program.



EMMA BRAGER

Rehearsal Stage Manager

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY (selected SM and ASM credits): *A Christmas Carol* (2010-19), *The Scarlet Letter, Mary and Max, Sisters: The Belles Soeurs Musical, Crazy For You, Mary Poppins, Romeo and Juliet and The Comedy of Errors* (Shakespeare by the Bow). ELSEWHERE: *Actually, Zorro: Family Code, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, Venus in Fur, The Motherf**ker with the Hat* (ATP); *Undercover, The Hollow* (Vertigo Theatre); *Sansei: The Storyteller, Inner Elder, 6 Guitars, Beneath Springhill* (Lunchbox Theatre); and *Blind Date* (Spontaneous Theatre). Emma is

so pleased to be back with the team at Theatre Calgary for *A Christmas Carol*, a show very near and dear to her heart. She would like to thank her husband Eric for feeding the cats, keeping the home fires burning, and always being the steadiest rock in the tides.

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Theatre Calgary gratefully acknowledges the support provided by the City of Calgary through Calgary Arts Development, the Government of Alberta through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the Government of Canada through the Canada Council, Canadian Heritage, and all corporate and private contributors.



SAVE 10%

Through the generous support of **EFW Radiology** and **Mayfair Diagnostics**, Theatre Calgary is offering a 10% discount on single show ticket purchases for healthcare workers throughout our 2021-22 season.

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CALGARY

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Cameras and audio/visual recording devices are not permitted in the theatre.
- Video and audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.
- We ask that you please refrain from using your cell phone, smart watch, or any other digital device, in any capacity, during the performance.
- Good theatre etiquette benefits everyone. Please do not talk or unwrap candies during the performance, remain in your seat until the curtain call is finished and the house lights have been turned on.
- Babies are not permitted in the theatre.
- We also offer relaxed performances. For more information, visit our website.
- Assisted listening devices for the hard of hearing are available at the coat check.
- For first aid assistance, see the house manager, or nearest usher.

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10 QUESTIONS WITH VALERIE PLANCHE, Director of *Steel Magnolias*



Valerie has had her work seen at Theatre Calgary as both an actor and director. Her directing credits at TC include 2016's *Bad Jews* and 2017's *Skylight*. Her acting credits include *Blow Wind High Water*, *The Crucible*, *Liberation Days*, *Major Barbara*, *A Christmas Carol* (six productions), *Much Ado About Nothing* (two productions), *Timothy Findley's The Wars*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Amadeus*.

1. **First play or musical you remember seeing?**

Shirley MacLaine at Place des Arts in Montreal was the first cabaret show I saw with my mom and my sister. My first play was Harry Stanjowski in a Noh theatre piece he created on the stage at Théâtre du Nouveau Monde again in Montreal. I wept at both shows.

2. **What was the first show you ever performed in and where?**

I was the director of *Little Red Ridinghood* in a grove of cedars in my neighbours yard. I performed in *Sleeping Beauty* as the witch! I was scary!

3. **Secret Talent?**

Building rock walls, I can also knit without looking at my needles!

4. **Favourite play and why?**

There are so many! *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* by Stephen Adly Guirgis plunges us into examining our biases and judgements. It pulls down icons and makes them relatable in poignant and brutally funny ways. *Soulless* by Aaron Bushkowsky is a thrilling psychological drama that examines the glorification of the individual and how progress leaves people behind.

5. **Favourite musical and why?**

Cabaret is a no brainer for me because it seems to offer something to every age with its examination of class structures. BUT *Book Of Mormon*... I've never directed a musical but I'd love to try this one. It made me laugh out loud and so 'uncomfortably'....if that's a word.

6. **What play or musical do you dream of directing?**

See answers 4 and 5!

7. If you could listen to one album for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Just one?? *Hardnose the Highway* by Van Morrison or Aretha Franklin's *Jump!*

8. What are three things you can't live without?

Water (I always have my water bottle), gardening or flowers, and sunlight.

9. Manicure or pedicure?

Both, with massage, and shellac! A rare treat.

10. What 3 people living or dead would you like to make dinner for?

Tom Waits, Madeline Albright, and Mel Brooks.

***Steel Magnolias* runs at Theatre Calgary from March 8 - April 3, 2022.**

10 QUESTIONS WITH THOM ALLISON, **Director of *Million Dollar Quartet***



Thom Allison is a Canadian Screen Award winner for the role of "Pree" in *KILLJOYS*. He has appeared on Broadway in *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* and in the original Canadian companies of *Miss Saigon*, *The Who's Tommy* and *Rent*. Thom's Theatre Calgary credits include: *Cabaret*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Louder We Get*, and *Evita* (Theatre Calgary/Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre). Directing: *Seussical*, *Mary Poppins* (Young People's Theatre). TV/Film: *Frankie Drake Mysteries*, *Hudson &*

Rex, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Kim's Convenience*, *I Me Wed*, *Road to Christmas*, *Leaving Metropolis*. thomallison.com

1. First play or musical you remember seeing?

The first one I really remember seeing was *My Fair Lady* at Rainbow Stage in Winnipeg. It starred Sharry Flett as Eliza and remember her being perfection.

2. What was the first show you ever performed in and where?

The Tale of the Red Dragon at Actor's Showcase in Winnipeg (1983).

3. Secret Talent?

Not sure if it's a talent but people always find great parking spaces when I'm in the car with them. Oh and I can shift weather.

4. Favourite play and why?

Certainly, one would be *Hedda Gabler*. I find her so enigmatic of a character. I'm fascinated by her inner world.



5. Favourite musical and why?

A Little Night Music. The book, music and lyrics are telling the same story at all points - it's clever, intelligent, charming and magical.

6. What play or musical do you dream of directing?

I've got fun and killer ideas for Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Sondheim's *Into The Woods*.

7. If you could listen to one album for the rest of your life, what would it be?

The Lamp Is Low - Marilyn Maye

8. What are three things you can't live without?

Moisturizer, Jazz music, and laughter!

9. Manicure or pedicure?

Pedicure.

10. What 3 people living or dead would you like to make dinner for?

Meryl Streep, Dwayne Johnson, and Issa Rae.

***Million Dollar Quartet* runs at Theatre Calgary from April 26 - May 22, 2022.**

Tickets for *Steel Magnolias* and *Million Dollar Quartet* are on sale now at:
theatrecalgary.com

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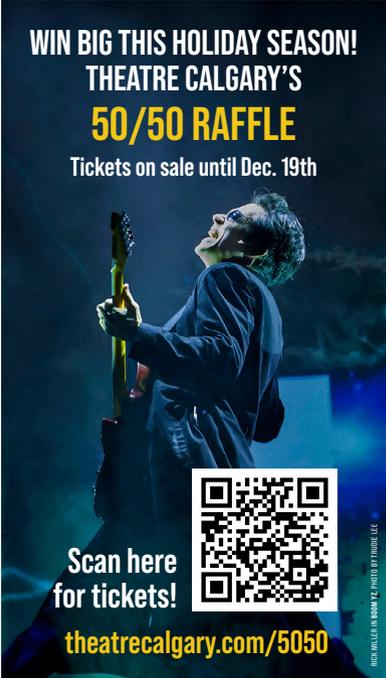
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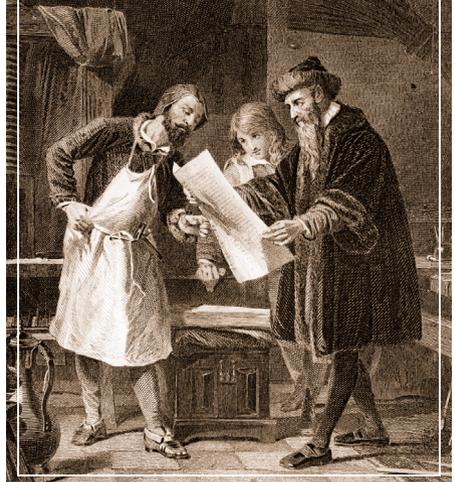
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