

STEEL MAGNOLIAS

BY ROBERT HARLING



MAR 8 - APR 3
2022

theatre:
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WELCOME



A steel magnolia (noun) is primarily a Southern United States woman who exemplifies both traditional femininity as well as a brilliant fortitude.

I adore strong female identifying characters in plays and musicals. Perhaps that's because my mother was a strong woman who also possessed a traditional femininity that she wore (both) with pride. I wouldn't call my mom a steel magnolia, however she definitely possessed elements of that above mentioned definition. (And interesting to note that my mother was also named after a flower, however not a magnolia, but a daisy).

My mother was born in Leross, Saskatchewan. She had three brothers and four sisters. My mother was the second youngest of the family. She moved to Toronto in the 50s and found her passion in the big world of finance. She worked her way up in a male-dominated financial world to become one of the pioneer women who held the title of a money market trader. My mom was an anomaly within her industry. Perhaps because she was a woman in the 1950s in a primarily male dominated world, my mother had to adopt a strong exterior so she could "play ball with the boys."

All of the characters in *Steel Magnolias* remind me of my mom – big hearted, over-protective, opinionated, silly. Perhaps you too can find similarities within your family and extended family within these vibrant characters. Whether or not you see any familiar character traits in the women in your life, what *Steel Magnolias* will provide you with is an uplifting comedy that tickles the funny bone and pulls on your heartstrings.

My mom never got a chance to see this play. However, I hope and trust that she is watching from above and enjoying the performance as much as I hope you do.

- **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.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES



Not long ago, just before being offered *Steel Magnolias*, I read an article about what sustains long term relationships. The idea that stood out for me in the article was the ability to tolerate difference and imperfection. This was the secret to longevity in a relationship the article asserted. It made me think of my best friend of over 50 + years. We've been through thick and thin together; literally and figuratively!

The ability to tolerate and see past someone's flaws.

Reading that article and then reading this beautiful play, I imagined these women: Truvy, Annelle, Ouiser, M'Lynn, Shelby, and the recently widowed Clairee, and their ability to tolerate and see past each other's flaws. They choose to hold each other with compassion and a good deal of humor. They are mothers, daughters, grandmothers, and aunts, within the families they have, and the ones they choose. I was struck by a feeling of hope.

This world is shifting, and we can be polarized by so many issues. We say that we want to fight against binary thinking, yet we act in ways that create other binaries, often ones that suit us personally.

What wave of feminism are we at? Who's been left out of the conversation?

Now I'm not advocating for putting up with disrespectful or boundary crossing behavior. I am advocating for a step back. A chance to see and hear each other, with the objective to understand and not to debate our disagreements. I'm advocating for active listening.

I don't know if theatre can change the world but telling this story offered me an aspirational space. One where there is grace and resilience and some unconditional love...

This team has given me hope. These brilliant women all, these *Steel Magnolias*! Wrestling and working and walking together.

I need me some of that! Maybe you do too.

- VALERIE PLANCHE
DIRECTOR

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Steel Magnolias poster and cover artwork by MAYA GOHILL.

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Originally developed and produced by Relevant Theatricals, John Cossette Productions and Northern Lights, Inc. at the Goodman Theatre, Robert Falls, Artistic Director - Roche Shuffer, Executive Director and transferred to The Apollo Theatre, Chicago, IL, 2008. Produced by the Village Theatre, Issaquah, Washington, Robb Hunt, Producer - Steve Tompkins, Artistic Director, 2007 and Seaside Music Theater, Daytona Beach, FL, Tippin Davidson, Producer - Lester Malizia, Artistic Director, 2006



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STEEL MAGNOLIAS

BY **ROBERT HARLING**

CAST (in alphabetical order)

Clairee Belcher	PATRICIA DARBASIE
M'Lynn Eatenton	NORMA LEWIS
Annelle Dupuy-Desoto	ALLISON LYNCH
Truvy Jones	KATELYN MORISHITA
Ouiser Boudreaux	LAURA PARKEN
Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie	DONNON ROOT

SETTING

Truvy's Beauty Salon
Chinquapin Parish, Louisiana. 1987.

Director	VALERIE PLANCHE
Assistant Director	LENNETTE RANDALL
Set, Lighting & Projection Design	BETH KATES
Costume Design, Assistant Set Design	SARAH UWADIAE
Sound Design & Composition	ALLISON LYNCH
Assistant Set & Lighting Design	JENNIFER LEE ARSENAULT
Voice & Dialect Coach	JANE MACFARLANE
Stage Manager	EMMA BRAGER
Assistant Stage Manager	CARISSA SAMS
Apprentice Stage Manager	JENNIFER YEUNG
Head of Sound	BRONWYN BOWLBY
Head of Lighting	CATHARINE CRUMB
Head Dresser	RACHEL MICHELLE SHERIDAN
Head Stage Carpenter	DONNIE OSLER
Head of Video	DANIEL PLUMTREE
Head of Wigs	JULIETTA RAOUL
Alternate Head of Sound	MIKE GESY
Dresser	NANCY JANZIG

Steel Magnolias has one 20-minute intermission.

STEEL MAGNOLIAS is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Originally produced by the W.P.A. Theatre, New York City, 1987. (Kyle Renick, Artistic Director)

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grand re-entrance,
We are reminded of the
persevering magnolia.
Her varied species
and robust survival,
Awaken our own diversity
and strength.

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CAST



PATRICIA DARBASIE

Clairee Belcher

(she/her) THEATRE CALGARY DEBUT. Pat is an Edmonton-based actor and is a graduate of the University of Alberta's BFA Acting program and MFA Directing programs. She is a two-time Sterling award winner, and was last seen onstage at the Citadel Theatre in *Shakespeare in Love* and *A Christmas Carol*, Atlas Theatre's *Going to St. Ives*, and Teatro la Quindicina's *The Finest of Strangers*. During 2020, Pat was lucky to be working - first with Catalyst Theatre on *Until the Next Breath* and a co-production with Northern Light and Workshop West *Here There Be Night*

- an outdoor theatrical experience. In 2021, Pat was part of a filmed *Something Unspoken* with Northern Light Theatre and she has been busy directing.



NORMA LEWIS

M'Lynn Eatenton

FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Norma has been in the performing arts in Calgary for over 20 years working with various theatre companies. She is the co-founder of 8Rojo, a unique collaborative company developing innovative work, and over the last sixteen years she has produced, co-created, and acted in several original creations (*After, Gretchen's Nightmare, The Lost Hours, Neruda Nude, and Macula*). She has had the privilege of performing internationally in their many productions in such places as London, Taipei, Stockholm, Prague, and Mexico City.

Norma has also worked with Dandi Productions in *The Twins and the Monster* in affiliation with several philharmonic companies, performing in numerous cities across Canada and the United States for family audiences. Norma's passion is storytelling, in which she continues to do extensive work through writing, voice, mask, and dance. Norma is thrilled to return to Theatre Calgary's stage, having previously performed as Helen Robinson in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.



ALLISON LYNCH

Annelle Dupuy-Desoto, Sound Design & Composition

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: Sound Designer/Composer - *A Christmas Carol* (2019-21), *The Scarlet Letter*; *As You Like It, Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare by the Bow 2013), *Comedy of Errors* (Shakespeare on the Go); Music Director - *A Christmas Carol* (2016-18); 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 2020 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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CAST



KATELYN MORISHITA

Truvy Jones

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *Billy Elliot the Musical*. Katelyn is excited to be working with Theatre Calgary, and is over the moon to be able to create and bring stories to audiences again. Select acting credits include: *Murder In The Studio* (Vertigo Theatre); *Never Ending Story*, *Matilda the Musical*, *Curious George the Musical* (StoryBook Theatre); *Canada the Musical*, *Legends* (Carter Ryan Productions); *Bare: A Pop Opera* (The Honest Collective); *Rudolph* (Birnton Theatricals). Select directing credits include: *Scattered the Musical* - Director (SideNote Theatre), *The Shift* - Assistant Director (One Act Play Festival), *Junior Claus the Musical* - Assistant Director (StoryBook Theatre), *The French Kiss Off* - Assistant Director (Confederation Theatre). Katelyn is beyond grateful for her family and friends for their love and support and would like to thank all those involved in this production and in the theatre community for bringing theatre back.



LAURA PARKEN

Ouiser Boudreaux

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Making Brownies Like We Used To*, *Golden Girls*. Laura is delighted to be back at Theatre Calgary with this amazing group of women. Born and bred in Calgary, she has performed locally and nationally for over 30 years. Laura has worked with most local theatre companies including Alberta Theatre Projects, Vertigo Theatre, Lunchbox Theatre, Theatre Junction, Sage Theatre, Handsome Alice, and One Yellow Rabbit as well as creating and producing her own work independently. Laura is honoured to have twice been the recipient of a Betty Mitchell Award for acting.



DONNON ROOT

Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie

(she/her) THEATRE CALGARY DEBUT. Donnon is a Calgary-based artist who received her training from Central Memorial's Performing Visual Arts Program, taking their courses on Dance and Theatre Arts. She has performed in local work such as: *Hair The Musical*, *Hear Our Song Cabaret* (BrownCow Collective); *Bring It On* (StoryBook Theatre); *Treasure Island*, *Oliver The Musical* (CMHS). Donnon makes her professional debut as Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie, and she couldn't be more thrilled. When not performing, you can currently catch her watching *The Woman In The House Across The Street From the Woman In the Window*, and eating an assortment of junk food. Donnon would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her these past couple of months, and is dedicating her performance to her grandmother who has recently passed.

CREATIVE TEAM



VALERIE PLANCHE

Director

(she/her/elle) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: Director - *Bad Jews*, *Skylight*. Originally from Montreal, Valerie is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada and has an MFA from the University of Alberta. She is an award-winning actor, director and instructor with over 30 plus years' experience on stage and in film and television. As an actor, Valerie has performed across Canada and in the US, garnering an Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Award in Edmonton and Betty Mitchell Awards and nominations in Calgary. As a director selected credits include

Constellations for Alberta Theatre Projects, *Arden of Faversham* for the Birmingham Conservatory in Stratford, *Honour Beat* by Tara Beagan for The Grand Theatre, Canadian Premiers such as Meg Braem's *Blood: A Scientific Romance*, Lynn Nottage's *Ruined* for Ellipsis Tree Collective, and Edward Albee's *Homelife* for Aboriginal Arts, as well as many others. Her production of *Thy Neighbor's Wife* by Tara Beagan garnered a Betty Mitchell Award (nomination-Best Production). The Arts Club/Citadel Theatre production of Lynn Nottage's *Sweat* in 2018/19 garnered a Sterling nomination (Best Production). In 2019 Valerie was awarded the Flare Creativity Award from the Banff Centre for the Arts, Theatre Alberta awarded her the Michelle Dias Award in 2018. In 2015 she was awarded the Gina Wilkinson Prize from the Shaw Festival, and the Alberta Graduate Teaching Award from the University of Alberta in 2014.



LENNETTE RANDALL

Assistant Director

(she/her/zee) FOR THEATRE CALGARY (Actor): *Da Kink in my Hair*, *The Crucible*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare in the Park 2013). Recent Directing Credits: *Duty* - Brighton and Camden Fringe Festivals; *Voices of Sierra Leone* - UK Young Company. Lennette recently returned from completing her masters training in Classical Acting at London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA). She is delighted to be back in her artistic home and actively pursuing her first loves of creating and directing. She is also the managing director of LeRa Entertainment

Services Limited. Lennette is a graduate of Rosebud School of the Arts and a recipient of the Stephen Hair Emerging Actor Award (2014) and the Fight Directors of Canada (FDC) Jacie Levinson Memorial Award (2017).



BETH KATES

Set, Lighting & Projection Design

(she/her) Beth is an award-winning designer whose work has been seen around the world for over 30 years. She co-created and directed 'Bury The Wren', a Virtual Reality / Live performance, and is currently leading a VR Performance residency at Canadian Stage, Blyth Festival's Young Company in VR, and co-curating the 'Multiple Realities' section of World Stage Design 2022 to be held in Calgary. A charter member of ADC IATSE 659, her favorite production is her son, Aaron. I want to offer love to you, beloved audience. Welcome to this world of Southern

warmth and Matriarchal wisdom—in a production led by love and generosity from each human involved. This show is an act of love, of 'survivance', of community. What a joy to be back.

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CREATIVE TEAM



SARAH UWADIAE

Costume Design, Assistant Set Design

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: Design Mentee/Assistant - *The Humans*, *Skylight*. Sarah is a Nigerian multi-disciplinary artist and theatre designer based in Calgary. Select design credits: *The Mountaintop* (Persephone Theatre); *Scope* (Lunchbox Theatre); *Murder in the Studio* (Vertigo Theatre); *Gimme Chance Leh* (Chromatic Theatre); *The Sound of Music, Where Words Once Were* (StoryBook Theatre); *A Christmas Story, Sexy Laundry* (Keyano Theatre); *Safe Site* (Downstage Theatre). Sarah is an emerging filmmaker, and she enjoys creative collaborations and is

passionate about storytelling, and artistic exploration through theatre, film and visual art.



JENNIFER LEE ARSENAULT

Assistant Set & Lighting Design

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *The Humans*. Jennifer has worked with theatres across Canada including: Lunchbox Theatre, Fire Exit Theatre, the Stratford Festival, Handsome Alice Theatre, The Shakespeare Company, Alberta Theatre Projects, Theatre NorthWest, Vertigo Theatre, Chromatic Theatre, Cowtown Opera, the Banff Centre for the Arts and Creativity, Eye Eye Eye and L'île Imagin'air. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Design from the University of Calgary and a Bachelor of Arts in Scenography from the École Supérieure de

Théâtre de l'Université du Québec à Montréal. She is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada.



JANE MACFARLANE

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*, 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. Jane also coaches Voice and Presence through her business Voice Activated. She has taught Voice

for the Actor and Acting 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. Jane lives in Mohkinstsis, with her husband and daughter, and our sweet lab, Trixie.

CREATIVE TEAM



EMMA BRAGER

Stage Manager

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: (selected) *A Christmas Carol* (2010-19, 2021), *The Scarlet Letter*, *Mary and Max*, *Sisters: The Belles Soeurs Musical*, *Crazy For You*, *Mary Poppins*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Comedy of Errors* (Shakespeare by the Bow). Emma is so pleased to be a part of this team at Theatre Calgary as we bring the joy of live theatre back to the city. Select credits include: *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 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.



CARISSA SAMS

Assistant Stage Manager

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: Stage Manager - *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2019, 2012), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *As You Like It*, *Hamlet* (Shakespeare by the Bow). Assistant Stage Manager - *A Christmas Carol* (2019), *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *The Humans*, *Skylight*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Bad Jews*. Other selected credits: *Undressed*, *Stealing Sam* (Alberta Theatre Projects); *The Children*, *A Doll's House Pt. 2* (Belfry Theatre); *Murder in the Studio*, *39 Steps*, *Our Man in Havana*, *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* (Vertigo Theatre); *Smoke* (Downstage). Carissa would like to thank her fiancé, Myles, for his continued support.



JENNIFER YEUNG

Apprentice Stage Manager

(she/her) THEATRE CALGARY DEBUT. Jennifer is ecstatic to debut with Theatre Calgary on *Steel Magnolias*. Selected stage management credits include: *Mandarin* (Chromatic Theatre); *Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse* (Vertigo Theatre); *The Tempest*, *Hamlet Frequency* (The Shakespeare Company); *The Sound of Music* (StoryBook Theatre); *Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder* (Stage West); *In and Out of Love* (One Yellow Rabbit); *The Mousetrap* (Torchlighthouse Theatre). In her free time you will see her rock climbing, exploring new restaurants, or playing video games. She would like to thank her parents, Catherine and Paul, and puppy, Max, for their immense love and continued support. @jyeungrealestates

SPECIAL THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

We wish to extend special thanks to Christian Goutsis, and One Yellow Rabbit Performance Theatre.

ROBERT HARLING

Playwright

Robert Harling made his directorial debut with *The Evening Star* for Paramount, which he also wrote for the screen based on Larry McMurty's novel. *The Evening Star* reunited Shirley MacLaine and Jack Nicholson and co-stars Juliette Lewis, Bill Paxton, Scott Wolf, Miranda Richardson, and Marion Ross. *The Evening Star* is the continuation of one of the most beloved and acclaimed movies of our time, *Terms of Endearment*. Before launching a successful stage and screenwriting career, Robert graduated from Tulane University School of Law, but instead of taking the bar exam, he opted to become an actor in New York. After years of productive work as an actor in voiceovers and commercials, Harling was inspired to write the highly acclaimed stage play *Steel Magnolias*, which was based on events from his personal life. *Steel Magnolias* continues to thrive in theatrical productions throughout the world. Immediately bridging a career from stage to screen, Harling adapted his original play into the popular film of the same title, which starred Sally Field, Julia Roberts, Shirley MacLaine, Olympia Dukakis, Dolly Parton, and Daryl Hannah. Over the years, Mr. Harling has become a much sought-after screenwriter: other credits, to name a few, include *Soapdish*, which was based on Harling's acting experience and starred Sally Field, Whoopi Goldberg, and Robert Downey Jr., and *First Wives Club* for Paramount, starring Bette Midler, Goldie Hawn, and Diane Keaton.

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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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- At Theatre Calgary, we recognize our responsibility to have practical guidelines in place to ensure our performances are safe and enjoyable for everyone. To learn more about our current Safety and Comfort protocols go to theatrecalgary.com/comfort-and-safety or scan here:



10 QUESTIONS WITH MAYA GOHILL, Theatre Calgary Season Illustrator



Maya Gohill is a Canadian painter and illustrator who currently lives in Calgary. Maya earned a Bachelor's degree in Painting from the University of Calgary, and a Master's degree in Illustration from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. Despite her training as an illustrator, she consistently returns to the luscious beauty of the oil painting medium which is where her heart lies. Her illustration background informs her current work, both in style and process, and her technical training in realistic, figurative painting, remains a pivotal part of her work. She sees her work as a marriage between the two disciplines.

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

The musical, *Cats* had come to Calgary in the 1980s at a time when the arts scene in Calgary was just burgeoning. Therefore seeing that as a young girl was a pretty big deal! The music, the costumes and the theatrics, all lingered in my mind for years afterwards, and I still regard it as a special moment in my childhood.

2. ***Your secret talent?***

If you need help deciding the right size of tupperware to fit leftovers, I'm the gal for the job. It's a running game in my family to see whether I can estimate the volume of various substances in order to fit them accurately in a container, without them overflowing or have a giant void of container space. This is a very monumental, impactful skill to have. Wink.

3. ***Tell us about your art for Steel Magnolias.***

I wanted to capture the essence of friendship between the women in the story, while also paying homage to the environment in which the story occurs. I wanted to intertwine colours associated with beauty and colours that represent softness, femininity, and feminine friendships. Joyful expressions, and body language that evokes connection and emotion, were also important to the visual storytelling of the image.



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

Wow, that's unfair! If I had to choose just one, it would be Prince's first album, *For You*. It's groove-able, the songs fit and flow together perfectly, it's also catchy, but when I listen to it, I feel like I am witnessing the very beginning of Prince's very magical time on our planet.

5. What are three things you cannot live without?

My loved ones, Avene Hydrance Water Cream, and Portrait of a Lady perfume, by Frédéric Malle.

6. Best thing about being an artist in Calgary?

Calgarians are very proud and supportive of the arts and culture in the city, and I have been fortunate to be on the receiving end of this. It seems like every time I turn around, I meet another talented individual who is progressing the arts and culture in the city.

7. Tell us about your art for Million Dollar Quartet.

I wanted the image to feel moody and a slightly voyeuristic, like how you would feel if you walked into a situation by chance, and then experienced something that made you feel awe and quieted. Like the feeling you get when you realize you are witnessing something incredibly special, and historical. The closeness of the musicians, the dimmed, stage lighting, the emotive expressions, are some of the tools I used to create this.



8. Favourite book you've ever read?

Watership Down, by Richard Adams

9. Musical instrument you play, or want to learn?

There's something enticing about the idea of being a proficient banjo player...but I will never give it a serious attempt. I met someone who had given it a solid try for years, and he relayed his experience as a constant loop of never ending failure and undetectable progress. I'll just stick to the piano and continue to dream.

10. What three people alive or dead would you make dinner for?

Knowing that a great dinner party is the result of the chemistry between your guests, I would venture to say that an evening with Robin Williams, Daniel Levy, and Yoko Ono would be equally interesting, entertaining, and insightful!

You can learn more about Maya's artwork at mayagohill.com

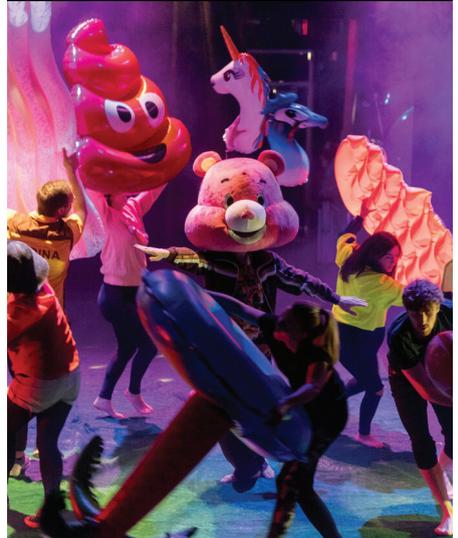
RESILIENCY. The theme for this play or the theme for our times?

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CHRISTOPHER NEWTON IN MEMORIAM



Christopher Newton (1970).
Calgary Herald.

On December 20, 2021, we were heartbroken to learn of the passing of our founding artistic director **Christopher Newton**, 85. He was an artist who brought a maverick sensibility to our city and our stage. From Theatre Calgary to the Shaw Festival, his legacy across our country will live on for generations.

"I first met Christopher in 2017 when he and his husband, Nicholas came to Calgary to celebrate Theatre Calgary's 50th anniversary on the opening night of Sharon Pollock's play *Blow Wind High Water*. I'll never forget the roar of applause from the audience when Chris took the stage. It was deafening. Chris' words were simply profound. He reminded us that **"In order to achieve success, you also have to allow for failure."** He ended his speech by acknowledging how much support Theatre Calgary has received over the decades from the city. **"Thank you,**

Calgary, for letting us create here." It is Theatre Calgary that owes Christopher a colossal thank you. Without his originating vision, we would not be here 54 years later. He created a bar that is impossibly high, but one that he and his artistry jumped over with grace and strength. It goes without saying that Theatre has lost a titan. Good Night Sweet Prince." - **STAFFORD ARIMA**

We send our hearts and love to Nicholas, Christopher's family, and everyone in our community who had the opportunity to work and learn from him.

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