

Langham Court Theatre

presents

# 84, Charing Cross Road

By Helene Hanff

Adapted by James Roose-Evans

Directed by

Sylvia Rhodes



**October 3 - 20, 2012**

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## Director's Notes

In this age of instant messaging, emails, texting, twitter etc, it is refreshing to hark back to a time when people corresponded in a way that enabled them to reveal themselves over time, and, dare one say, after more considered thought; when two people, living on two different continents, could, through their letters, exchanged over 20 years, discover the special joy of sharing their common love of literature.

But our play speaks not only to those of us who delight in reading, but to all of us who recognise one of life's precious gifts, the gift of friendship.

**Sylvia Rhodes**

Victoria Theatre Guild  
presents

# 84, Charing Cross Road

by Helene Hanff

Adapted for stage by James Roose-Evans

October 3 - 20, 2012

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. New York City

Director	<b>SYLVIA RHODES</b>
Producer	<b>VINNIE CHADWICK</b>
Stage Manager	<b>PENELOPE HARWOOD</b>
Asst. Stage Manager	<b>PAUL GILLAN</b>
Set Design	<b>BILL ADAMS</b>
Lighting Design	<b>CHAD LAIDLAW</b>
Costume Co-ordinator	<b>PETA MACKENZIE</b>
Sound Design	<b>ALAN MACKENZIE</b>
Properties	<b>JEAN DE CARTIER</b>
Set Decor	<b>SALLY CRICKMAN</b>

## Cast

<b>JENNIFER HOENER</b>	Helene Hanff
<b>ROGER CARR</b>	Frank Doel
<b>DIANE BRIGGS-HOYLE</b>	Maxine
<b>DIANNE CURRIE</b>	Cecily
<b>ALISON FULLER</b>	Megan
<b>DAVID ELENDUNE</b>	Bill
<b>SALLY CRICKMAN</b>	Joan Todd
<b>PAUL GILLAN</b>	Tom
<b>ALAN OMEROD</b>	Mr. Martin
<b>PETER MCNAAB</b>	"
<b>JON SCHEER</b>	"

The play takes place in two areas, the apartment of Helene Hanff in New York City and the former antiquarian book shop at 84 Charing Cross Road. Scenes begin in 1949 and 1951 when Britain was just recovering from the war, through the year of the Coronation 1953, the years of the Beatles and Carnaby Street and ending in the more affluent times of 1969.

Act I  
Intermission  
Act II

We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia

## Production Team

Assistant Director	<b>CORINNA GILLILAND</b>
Assistant to the Producer	<b>WUMI AWOFALA</b>
Assistant Stage Managers	<b>PAUL GILLAN, CORINNA GILLILAND</b>
Properties Assistant	<b>SALLY CRICKMAN</b>
Head Scenic Carpenter	<b>BILL ADAMS</b>
Set Construction	<b>BILL ADAMS, JULIUS MASLOVAT, BARRY GRIMSHAW, MICHAEL KUSS, GORDON ALEXANDER, CHARLEY ENCELL, GORDON HOYLE</b>
Set Painters	<b>NAOMI ASHDOWN, JOHN SMITH</b>
Lighting Crew	<b>CHAD LAIDLAW, EMMA DICKERSON, KARRIE WOLFE, HEATHER JARVIE</b>
Lighting Operators	<b>CAROL-ANNE MOORE, EMMA DICKERSON</b>
Sound Operators	<b>ALAN MACKENZIE, GORDON HOYLE</b>
Back Stage Crew	<b>HEATHER STONE, CECILE WRIGHT</b>
Dressers	<b>PETA MACKENZIE, VINNIE CHADWICK, SALLY CRICKMAN, JEAN DE CARTIER</b>

Theatre Manager	<b>Denise Brown</b>
Facilities Maintenance	<b>Dick Newson</b>
Technical Director	<b>Alan MacKenzie</b>
House Manager	<b>Alex Carroll</b>
Head Carpenter	<b>Bill Adams</b>
Costume Manager	<b>Ned Lemley</b>
Properties	<b>Carol-Anne Moore, Sally Crickman</b>
Newsletter	<b>Corinna Gilliland</b>
Arts Coordinator	<b>Jeani Reynolds</b>
Program Coordinator	<b>Linda Billings</b>
Custodian	<b>Pauline Quinlan</b>
Photographer	<b>David Lowes</b>
Box Office Manager	<b>Chad Laidlaw</b>

## Theatre Team

Admin/Box Office 250-384-2142  
Costume Loft 250-384-2025  
Mailing Address  
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email: [boxoffice@langhamtheatre.ca](mailto:boxoffice@langhamtheatre.ca)  
[www.langhamtheatre.ca](http://www.langhamtheatre.ca)  
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## Acknowledgements

Sally & John Crickman, Sarah Smith, Simon Skey, David Hardwick - VOS Costume Dept., Friends of the Library

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## SYLVIA RHODES

*Director*

This is the 10th play that Sylvia has directed at Langham Court. Other plays include last season's *Rabbit Hole*, also *Shadowlands*, *Private Lives*, *Act of the Imagination*, *School for Scandal* and *The Mouse Trap*. Since joining Langham in 1976 with a 9 year break living in Africa, she has performed in many plays including *Lady in the Van*, *Shot in the Dark* and *The Lion in Winter*.

## Production Biographies

## VINNIE CHADWICK

*Producer*



Vinnie has costumed and produced many plays over the last twenty-five years. She would like to extend a warm welcome to the three new cast and five new crew members, including Assistant Producer Wumi Awofala. Besides duties as Producer, Vinnie enjoys her time with her three grandchildren and plans for travel to Hong Kong and India in November. Thank you to Sylvia for the opportunity to work with her again and to the dedicated cast and crew.



## PENELOPE HARWOOD

*Stage Manager*

*84 Charing Cross Road* is Penelope's third production as Stage Manager for Langham; the others being *Enchanted April* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She also directed *A Shot in the Dark* and *Perfect Wedding* at Langham. She is looking forward to directing *Cake Walk* for St. Luke's Players next spring. Thanks to Sylvia for directing a challenging and engaging show.

## PAUL GILLAN

*Assistant Stage Manager / Thomas*



Paul Gillan is a relative newcomer to the theatre. Paul worked as the Props Master for *Lady In The Van*, stage crew for *Month In The Country* and several productions of Readers' Theatre, all at Langham Court. Paul was one of the "husbands" who got the cold shoulder in *Smell Of The Kill* (Fringe Festival) and recently worked with the cast and crew of *Rabbit Hole* as Assistant Stage Manager and *Pink Thunderbird* as Assistant Producer. Paul is Assistant Stage Manager for *84, Charing Cross Road* and plays the part of Thomas.



## BILL ADAMS

*Set Design*

It is always a challenge to have two settings running concurrently in one play and Bill likes a challenge. This play provides a wonderful opportunity for design creativity. Other sets that Bill has designed recently include *Beauty Queen of Leenane* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

## CHAD LAIDLAW

*Lighting Design*



Recently returned from living in Iceland, Chad is happy to be at Langham Court and lighting shows again. Most recently, he designed lights for *1959 Pink Thunderbird Convertible*, while simultaneously stage managing *Lone Star*. No stranger to wearing multiple hats at once, Chad has also recently taken on the role of Box Office Manager, which provides a different set of challenges to juggle with those of design. He really hopes to learn how to juggle.



**PETA MACKENZIE**

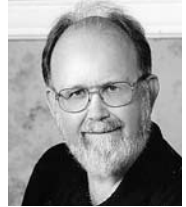
*Costume Co-ordinator*

Peta has been involved in the Victoria Theatre scene for many years and has worked in most capacities of production including Stage Management, Props, Costumes and has appeared on stage in several Victoria Operatic Society productions including *Mame*, *Camelot*, *Brigadoon* and *My Fair Lady*. She has produced numerous shows both at Langham Court and for The V.O.S. and is an Honorary Life Member of both groups.

**ALAN MACKENZIE**

*Sound Design*

Alan has worked on numerous productions since joining Langham Court while still in High School, (about 50 years ago!). He has designed sound for several Victoria Operatic Society productions and he spent many years working and touring with the Victoria based Show-Bands "Doc & The Doo Wops" and more recently "String of Pearls." Besides being one of our Honorary Life Members, Alan is also Langham's Technical Director.



**Production Biographies**



**JEAN DE CARTIER**

*Properties*

*84 Charing Cross Road* is Jean's fifth play as part of the production team with director Sylvia Rhodes. *Shadowlands* in 2008 was her first play as a crew member at Langham Court Theatre. Having had no experience with theatre before and recently retired she was looking for a new ways to expand her interest and skills. Since 2008, Jean has worked with many directors and has enjoyed being part of community theatre at Langham Court and St. Lukes.

**SALLY CRICKMAN**

*Set Decor / Joan Todd*

Sally is delighted to be doing Set Decor for *84 Charing Cross Road*. Having lived in post war London she remembers the rationing and can relate to Megan's desire to move to warmer climes as she moved with her family to Australia in 1948. Sally is also pleased to have a very important role as Mrs. Todd and has diligently learned her lines. Thanks to all the cast and crew for their hard work.



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## About the Playwright



Helene Hanff, born in Philadelphia wrote many unproduced plays and the book, *84 Charing Cross Road* was written at the lowest part of her career. Hearing of Frank Doel's death she says, "the news was devastating. It seemed to me that the last anchor of my life – my bookshop – was taken from me". It was then that she wrote the story of her relationship with the shop and particularly Frank Doel, "her little nothing book". She never married and later achieved greater success with her books and her trip to "84" is chronicled in *The Duchess of Bloomsbury Street*. She died in 1997 at the age of 80.

## Synopsis

The play *84 Charing Cross Road* is based on Helene Hanff's bestselling book of the same name which tells the story of the real correspondence between herself and the manager of the book shop at that address, Frank Doel, and although they never met, resulted in a 20 year friendship.

After many unsuccessful attempts to write a play she became a script reader for a film company and wrote "84" in her 50's but was not

invited to write the screenplay (for the award winning film version, starring Anthony Hopkins and Anne Bancroft). Writing a synopsis for *The Lord of the Rings*, she submitted an extra invoice for \$40 for "mental torture".

Helene wrote to a friend "I was wary of meeting Frank, I had a feeling we might disappoint each other, that it would fatally interfere with our correspondence". (There is a brass plate on the site of the shop which is no longer there.)



*Bravo*  
*Langham Court Theatre*  
*for staging this sentimental story*  
*of love and great literature.*

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Cast and Crew of *84, Charing Cross Road*



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**JENNIFER HOENER**

*Helene Hanff*

Jennifer's theatre credits are extensive and varied. Past Langham shows include *Shadowlands*, *Betrayal*, *The Dining Room*, *Night Sky*, *Angel Street*, *Money and Friends*, *The Club*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Noises Off*, and *Pygmalion*. She has also performed with Victoria Operatic Society and the Victoria Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Brought up in a musical family, Jennifer studied violin and trained in classical ballet. She has been a guest artist with the Civic Orchestra of Victoria and is currently studying voice.

**Cast Biographies**

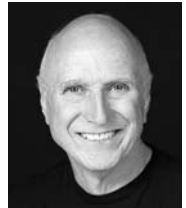
**ROGER CARR**

*Frank Doel*

Roger's recent acting at Langham includes *The Lady in the Van*, *Shadowlands* (with Sylvia and Jennifer) and *Under Milk Wood*. Recent directing at Langham includes *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The Laramie Project* and *The History Boys*.

He is about to direct David Elendune adaptation of 1984.

"It has been a delight to play Frank".



**DIANNE CURRIE**

*Cecily*

Known for her more comedic roles Dianne is thrilled to take the stage in her first appearance with Langham Court.

**ALISON FULLER**

*Megan*

Alison Fuller is thrilled to be performing in *84 Charing Cross Road*, her first production with Langham Court Theatre. She has appeared as Beatrice in *Much Ado about Nothing* and Kate in *The Taming of the Shrew*, both with the Fraser Valley's Press-Ganged Theatre Company.

Like Helene, Alison reads extensively and is obsessed with the stories behind books. Special thanks to Michael Case, who cheerfully puts up with her many personalities.



**DIANE BRIGGS-HOYLE**

*Maxine*

Diane is new to Langham Court. Drawn to the theatre three years ago while living in Mexico, she immersed herself - performing, sewing, painting, Board of Directors and Business Manager. Diane's most recent credits include the lead in the musical *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, Catherine Simms in *The Foreigner*, and Elaine Harper in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Diane is passionate about theatre and thrilled to be a part of the Langham Court family!

**DAVID ELENDUNE**

*Bill*

David lives at home with his big dog, small cat and medium sized wife. Artistic highlights so far include: an advanced diploma in directing - two national BBC awards for his writing - Head of Sound for Todd AO UK.

In 2009, his play *Good Night Uncle Joe* was produced in Victoria to critical acclaim. This November sees the premier of his retro-future adaption of *1984* for Giggling Iguana at Intrepid Theatre.





**PETER MCNABB**

"I had my lines nailed faster than any other cast member, with the possible exception of the other two Mr. Martins."



**JON SCHEER**

This is Jon's first role at Langham although he has over fifty years experience as director, stage manager and actor.



**ALAN OMEROD**

Alan has graduated. Over 20 years ago he was the voice of a parrot off stage. Now he is on stage. Yes!!

***Today a reader,  
tomorrow a leader.***

**Margaret Fuller**



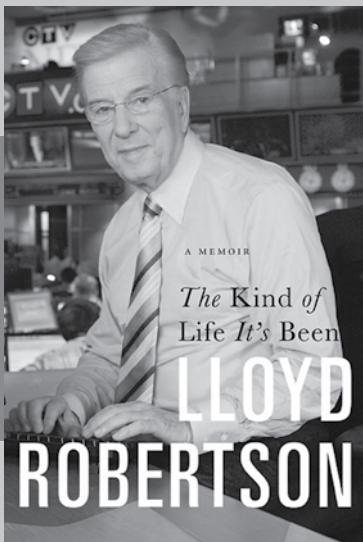
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## Neil A Fatin – Photographic Art

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Australian born in small town called Norseman, Western Australia, with Australian/ Slovakian/Irish heritage. Neil emigrated to Canada 25+ years ago. He has had an on and off interest in photography as a hobby for the last 45 years. His photographic interests are varied, but he has not had the time up until his retirement to pursue this hobby with any seriousness. He is totally self-taught, picking up skills from personal experience, reading and taking a keen interest in, and an appreciation of, the works of other artists and photographers.

In his former life, Neil trained as a Physician and Internist and went on to health administration.

The Sidney Fine Art Show 2006 was the first event that he had entered any works for either adjudication or showing in Canada. Over the years since, he has broadened his photography to include photographic art and has entered both media with success in the Sooke Fine Arts Show, the Sidney Fine Arts Show, the Cowichan Valley Arts Council Showcases, the Ladysmith Fine Art Multimedia Shows, "Click 07 - 12 (Nanaimo), Photo Salon (Nanaimo), Mid Island Photo Expos and the Nanaimo Arts Council Fine Art Shows. In the past he has had some of his work published and has received an award in a world competition.

His wide travels provide an abundance of material and he always remains fascinated by the interplay of nature, life and light. He continues to exhibit his work at various centres throughout Vancouver Island

Art is available for viewing in the lounge during theatre hours. Admission-free art shows are held the first Sunday of each show run. For more information, please call administration at 250.384.2142 or visit [www.langhamtheatre.ca/about/art-shows](http://www.langhamtheatre.ca/about/art-shows)

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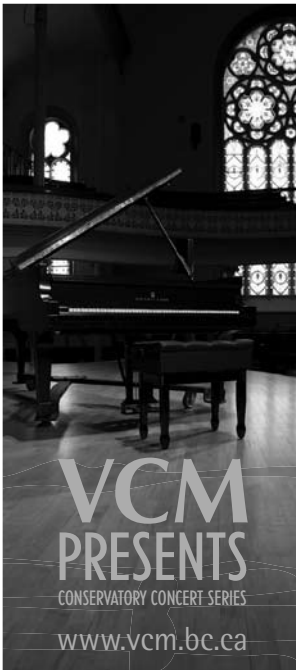
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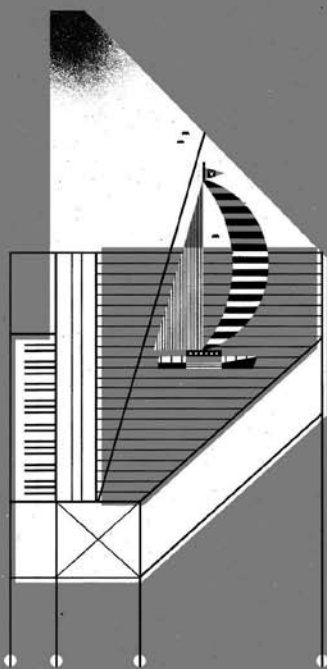


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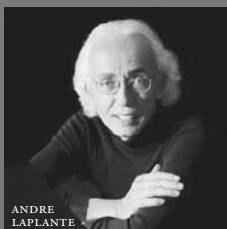


# VICTORIA SYMPHONY 12/13

## OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER



VICTORIASYMPHONY.CA



ANDRE LAPLANTE

**OCTOBER**

27 & 28  
Laplante Plays  
Beethoven

SIGNATURE SERIES



COMPAÑIA AZUL

**NOVEMBER**

1, 2 & 3  
Red Hot  
Flamenco!

VS POPS



SHOKO INOUE

12  
Saint Saëns  
Piano Concerto

LEGACY SERIES



TANIA MILLER

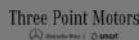
24 & 25  
Mozart  
Requiem

SIGNATURE SERIES

PLATINUM SPONSORS



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GOVERNMENT FUNDERS

