

Langham Court Theatre

presents

Heroes

By **Gérald Sibleyras**



Translated by Tom Stoppard

Directed by Don Keith

November 13 - 30, 2013

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

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Director's Notes

Heroes is a small play of great intelligence. Charming, moving and funny, it fully disarms one with surprising depth. The ironies of the characters, their background stories and the dialogue give the play a thoughtful, surprising flavour. Dramatist Gérald Sibleyras was inspired to write the play after hearing a story of a WW I soldier who spent his entire life after the war in a veterans' hospice. What are the consequences of a life broken by war he wondered? How did this man view the world? Tom Stoppard worked closely with Sibleyras on this stunning English translation of the French play, *Le Vent des Peupliers*. Worried that English audiences might confuse *The Wind in the Poplars* with *The Wind in the Willows*, Stoppard then looked at *Veterans* and discovered this was the title of a play by Charles Wood. So, he chose *Heroes*, and in this work the two authors collaborate closely to celebrate ageing in a touching, poignant theatrical journey that speaks about dreams, hopes and aspirations. Still, *Le Vent des Peupliers* is an interesting title and the folklore surrounding these trees is intriguing and it has guided us in our thoughts about the theme of the play. *"The spirit of the poplar tree is most concerned with the earthly and mundane matters of the people in her environment. She teaches us how to endure the hardships of life and to keep our roots strong. She will help us overcome our personal fears and self doubts that may block our endeavors. She reveals to us lost and forgotten memories of our dreams through the gentle whispers of her leaves with every breeze."* Ted Andrews Winner of the Laurence Olivier Best New Comedy award, *Heroes* was first produced in English in 2005 and starred Richard Griffiths, John Hurt and Ken Stott. Our production is a premiere for Victoria and Langham Court. I have enjoyed working with my talented cast and crew and want to thank them all for their devotion, energy and enthusiasm. This is my directorial debut at Langham Court, and in addition, we welcome new people to the production staff. Everyone has been fantastic! I couldn't have asked for a better team.

Don Keith

Langham Court Theatre
presents

Heroes

by Gérald Sibleyras, translated by Tom Stoppard

November 13 - 30, 2013

Langham Court Theatre - Home of the Victoria Theatre Guild & Dramatic School
Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Director	DON KEITH
Producer	VINNIE CHADWICK
Stage Manager	ROSEMARY JEFFERY
Set Design	DON KEITH
Set Artist	ANNE SWANNELL
Lighting Design	CAROL-ANNE MOORE
Costume Design	LYNN CADRAIN
Sound Design	ODILE NELSON
Properties	MICHAEL GOSSELIN

Cast

BILL CHRISTIE	Gustave
ALAN ORMEROD	Henri
TOM HOLDER	Philippe

Act I

Scene 1	August
Scene 2	The next day
Scene 3	Later that week, after a funeral

There will be a 15 minute Intermission

Act II

Scene 1	Later in August
Scene 2	The next day
Scene 3	Around a month later

Production Team

Assistant Stage Manager	ROWAN HEBERT
Head Set Painter	ANNE SWANNELL
Lighting Operator	GORDON HOYLE, ANDREA PITE
Lighting Crew	KARRIE AYOTTE, KEN MASON, PAUL HILTON, CAROL-ANNE MOORE, ALAN MACKENZIE, NATALIA CABRERA, RIIKKA LIPPONEN, TARAN JOHANNE NECKELMANN
Sound Operators	DIANE KEATING, KIM McCUE, LEIGH ROBINSON, ODILE NELSON
Sound Advisor	KEVIN STINSON
Head Carpenter	DOUG ANDERSON
Construction Crew	TOM HOLDER, DOUG CRAIG, MICHAEL KUSS, JULIUS MASLOVAT, CHARLEY ENCELL, GORDON ALEXANDER
Dressers	LYNN CADRAIN, VINNIE CHADWICK, ZSUZSA HARSMAN, ROSEMARY HENRY, PALOMA PONTI, KAY HOLDER
Scenic Painting Consultant	BILL ADAMS
Set Painting	JOHN SMITH, KATHRINE PRESTON
Make up Advisor	CHELSEA WILSON
Rehearsal Prompt	MICHAEL GOSSELIN

Theatre Manager	Denise Brown
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Theatre Team

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Acknowledgements

Sylvia Rhodes, Carol-Anne Moore, Oak Bay Flowers, Kevin Stinson, Sally and John Crickman, Gordon Hoyle, Charles Pelletier, Rebecca Simmons, Andrew Blanschard, Lester B Pearson College

***Please refrain from using perfume/cologne when attending a performance.
Some of our patrons are highly allergic to certain scents. Thank you.***

Programme Advertising, Design and Production



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DON KEITH

Director & Set Design

Don Keith is a veteran director and theatre teacher whose body of work reflects his belief that theatre is an exercise in intense and committed collaboration and a life altering exchange for actors and audience. Recognized for his large-scale musicals and award-winning plays, he has developed a reputation for producing challenging and thought provoking productions. Langham credits are set designs for *Better Living* (2013) and *The Melville Boys* (2011).

Production Biographies

VINNIE CHADWICK

Producer

Vinnie has costumed and produced many plays at Langham over the past years. She is enjoying the experience of working with Don Keith directing his first show on our stage. As the membership representative on the Board, she thanks all the cast and crew members for their hard work and dedication to this delightful play.



ROSEMARY JEFFERY

Stage Manager

Rosemary has enjoyed playing a variety of roles in community theatre. Seen last season as Marie in *Calendar Girls*, Rosemary is excited to be back venturing into new territory as *Heroes* stage manager. Rosemary would like to thank the talented cast and production team for contributing to what has been a genuinely fun and challenging experience. Also, a huge thank you to Don and Vinnie for their support and mentorship.

ANNE SWANNELL

Artist

Anne was given a set of paints when she was four and hasn't stopped painting since. She became a newspaper layout artist, a graphic designer and created and tutored an art course for distance learners. Now she's invaded the theatre! She painted scenery for *Better Living* and *Calendar Girls*, as well as the dog and the rock-work for *Heroes*. Now, she's gearing up to paint backdrops for St. Luke's Christmas panto.



CAROL-ANNE MOORE

Lighting Design

Carol-Anne has had many happy years working as a lighting operator and designer, with a couple of shows as ASM. Some of her previous lighting designs were *A Shot in the Dark*, *Picnic*, *The Perfect Wedding*, *A Month in the Country* and *Rabbit Hole*. This year she designed for *Cake Walk* and *Who Dunnit?* with St. Luke's Players. The challenge of getting it right – or as near to the director's vision as possible - is exciting and intimidating. "Many thanks to all the cast, crew and mentors for their support and inspiration."



LYNN CADRAIN

Costume Design

Lynn has worked on quite a few productions at Langham as assistant stage manager/props person and has also helped with set decor. Her main work, however, has been with costuming, most notably *Enchanted April* for which she was nominated "critic's choice" for costume. She is a member of Langham's Costume Guild and has enjoyed (almost) every minute of her association with the theater. Lynn is hoping many more people may be inspired to join the fun, in whatever capacity they think sounds interesting.

ODILE NELSON

Sound Design

Such a wondrously sad and hopeful play! "For I have known them all already, known them all: /Have known the evenings, mornings, afternoons/ I have measured out my life with coffee spoons/ I know the voices dying with a dying fall/ Beneath the music from a farther room." Thanks to Don, Vinnie, Rosemary and the rest of the cast and crew. With love to Patrick, Nunu and Loic.



Production Biographies



MICHAEL GOSSELIN

Properties

Michael has returned to the theatre after a lengthy layoff, except for a quick turn as the "Voice of the Lone Ranger" in a reading of the old radio series at Langham Court. Despite missing the World Series, the lure of Tom Stoppard has drawn Michael out of his slumber and back to the stage in numerous capacities. He's hoping for a long and fruitful relationship with Langham Court.

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Photo: YAM Magazine

About the Playwright & Translator



Sir Tom Stoppard is a Czech-born playwright. He began his career in England in 1954 as a journalist, soon moving to London in 1960 to start work as a playwright. His first play, *A Walk on the Water* (1960), which was televised in 1963, soon reached London with a stage version titled *Enter a Free Man* (1968). His next work, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (1964-65), showed at the 1966 Edinburgh Festival to rave reviews. It became internationally known in 1967 after it was entered into Britain's National Theatre. Additional work includes stage plays *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour* (1978), *The Real Thing* (1982) and *Rock 'n' Roll* (2006). Over the course of his career he has written for radio, television, film and stage. In 1998 he cowrote the Academy Award winning screenplay for the film *Shakespeare in Love*.

Gérald Sibleyras was born in Paris in 1961. *Heroes*, or *Le Vent des Peupliers*, was originally commissioned by Théâtre Montparnasse and received four Molière nominations in 2003. His other plays include *Le Béret de la Torture*, which he co-wrote with Jean Dell, along with *Un Petit Jeu Sans Conséquence*, which received five Molière awards in 2003. His most recent play, *Une Heure et Demie de Retard* (again co-written with Dell), premiered at Théâtre des Mathurins. Currently he is working on two plays, *La Danse de l'Albatros* and *Vive Bouchon!*



*Thank You
Langham Court Theatre
for reminding us of the "Heroes"
who have served our nation.*

Carole James, MLA

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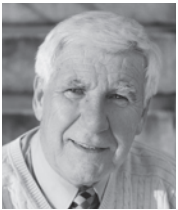


**BILL CHRISTIE***Gustave*

Bill originally trained as an actor in UK attending The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. He has been involved in small independent film projects and television commercials on the West Coast for many years. Past President of "The Peninsula Players," Bill has both acted and directed in local theatre projects in Victoria. Bill can be seen in the Leo Award winning Web project *Freshman's Wharf* and for February release, local feature film *Jackhammer*.

Cast Biographies**ALAN ORMEROD***Henri*

Alan is pleased to be involved in another Theatre Guild production. He would like to congratulate the Play Selection Committee for choosing a play with such outstanding roles for the more senior male members of the Guild. Also, Alan thanks EVERYONE involved with the production. They have been so supportive in our 'heroic enterprise'!

**TOM HOLDER***Philippe*

Tom has recently moved from Winnipeg to Victoria. He was a member of the Tara Players for 25 years and was involved as an actor, director, and set builder. The plays produced by the Tara Players were mainly by Irish Playwrights or had an Irish content. He has performed at the Acting Irish Theatre; an adjudicated competition involving all the Irish associations from all over North America and has also appeared in the Master Playwrights Festival in Winnipeg; a festival featuring a different playwright every year. Tom is delighted to be one of the actors in *Heroes*, his first role in Victoria and is very pleased with the reception he has received from all the people he has met at Langham Theater. He hopes this will be the first of many roles he will be asked to with his new group.

This year Langham Court Theatre is celebrating it's 85th Season!

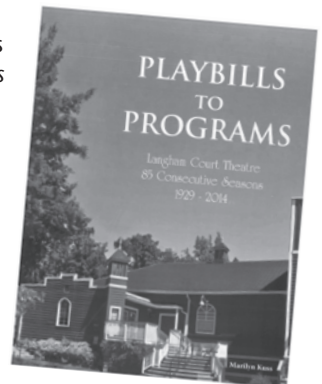
To mark this achievement, Marilyn Kuss, Archivist, has produced a 200-page anniversary book called *Playbills to Programs*. The history of the theatre from 1928 to 2013 is revealed in selected programs and photos of the theatre's first 85 years - fully indexed. Look for the people you know!

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From November 13th to November 30th, during the run of *Heroes*, the Art Show will feature the works of Diane Adolph and Charles Dool. If you wish to meet the artists, they will be in the Lounge on Sunday, November 17th from 1:00 to 3:00p.m.

Charles Dool

Charles began his studies at the University of Alberta in 1962. He went on to do Botanical Studies in Victoria in 1994. Then, In 1998 he became a member of the Goward House Art Group. Charles exhibited with Goward House and with Saanich Arts and Crafts as well as with other outlets in Sidney and Victoria. He has also done solo shows at the Community Arts Council Gallery in Victoria. In 2003, Charles was juried into active membership in the Federation of Canadian Artists, and in 2005 was invited to exhibit at Emily Carr House in Victoria -- an invitation that was repeated the following year. Charles' art is represented in Austria, Denmark, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Norway, Scotland, Singapore, the USA, and in five Canadian provinces. He specialises in botanical watercolour done on both paper and canvas.

Diane Adolph

Diane Adolph is an accomplished visual artist residing in Victoria, BC. Since graduating from the Victoria College of Art in 1992, she has achieved favourable recognition for her brightly painted city scenes and still life and, more recently, an exciting new body of mixed media and abstract expressions.

Multiple showings over the years, including the Sooke and Sidney juried shows, have kept Diane's artwork in the public eye. Her work is held in private collections around the world. For more details, go to www.dianeadolph.com

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

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