

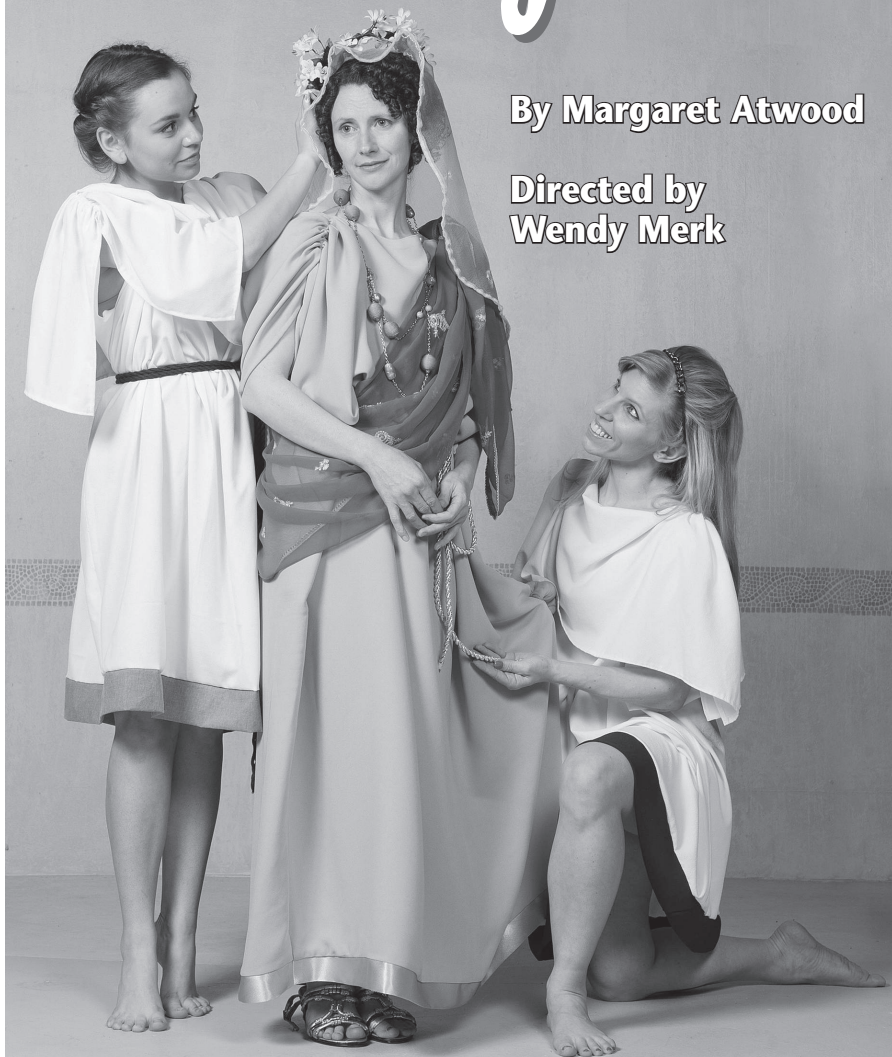
Langham Court Theatre

presents

The Penelopiad

By Margaret Atwood

Directed by
Wendy Merk



April 23 - May 10, 2014

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Director's Notes

This play examines the nature of guilt and responsibility. Penelope wears the guilt, but is it really HER fault? Is it the fault of Eurycleia, the slave, whose envy of 'the pretty ones' erupts into a bloodthirsty vendetta? Is it the fault of the suitors, whose actions rendered the maids 'unclean' and an intolerable pollutant in Odysseus' household? Is it the fault of Telemachus, who reluctantly obeys his father's command? Or is it the fault of Odysseus himself, whose absence necessitates the secret ruse to which only Penelope and her faithful maids are privy, thus making their subsequent actions open to misinterpretations? Penelope is placed in an intolerable position, where whatever actions she takes, someone will suffer. Ultimately she alone wears the crown of guilt forged by the actions of many, including herself.

Despite its serious theme, this is a very funny play! Some of the humor didn't become obvious until we started acting it out in rehearsals. I've highlighted Margaret Atwood's sly and knowing wit wherever appropriate; after all this is a modern re-telling of an ancient work of fiction and the sky's the limit. Another directorial choice has been to expand the definition of 'maids' to include ALL maids. Maids are not only young maidens, they are maids of all ages: maids who work as slaves, as servants, or even as the gilded wives of kings.

Wendy Merk

Langham Court Theatre
presents
The Penelopiad
by Margaret Atwood

April 23 - May 10, 2014

Langham Court Theatre - Home of the Victoria Theatre Guild & Dramatic School
Langham Court Theatre acknowledges the generous
support of Canadian Actors' Equity Association

Director/Set Design	WENDY MERK*
Producer	ANDREA PITE
Stage Manager	SHARON SUTHERLAND
Lighting Design	ANASTASIA SCHWARZE
Costume Design	ANN-MARIE ARNESON
Sound & Projection Design	KEVIN STINSON
Properties	JOYCE KLINE
Choreographer	SYLVIA HOSIE

*appears with the permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association

Cast

JACKIE RIOUX	Penelope
KATHY MACOVICHUK	Odysseus
GLORIA SNIDER	Eurycleia
PIPPA CATLING	Queen Anticleia, Oracle, Maid
EMILY YARNOLD	Helen, Maid
SARA GUSTAVSON	Maid, Melantho, etc.
LEAH MOREAU	Maid, Tanis, etc.
URSULA SZKOLAK	Maid, Klytie, etc.
AMELIA PETSCHLEIT	Maid, Telemachus, etc.
TARYN LEES	Maid, Naiad, etc.
ROSEMARY JEFFERY	Maid, Icarius, etc.
CORINNA GILLILAND	Maid, Laertes, etc.
NICOLE MOLLER	Maid, etc.
KATE BOUTILIER	Maid, Iole, etc.
ALISON FULLER	Maid, Antinous, etc.

There will be a 15 minute intermission

Production Team

Assistant to the Director	LORENE CAMMIADE
Assistant to the Producer	CORINNA GILLILAND
Assistant Stage Manager	ROWAN HEBERT, PALOMA PONTI
Dance Captain	LEAH MOREAU
Composers	IVANA JOKIC, LIAM GIBSON
Vocal Coach & Accompanist	MARGARET MCLYNN
Music Director	KIM MCCUE
Mask Design	TROI DONNELLY
Costume Assistants	HEATHER TRUSWELL, LYNN CADRAIN
Head Carpenter	BILL ADAMS
Set Construction	GORD ALEXANDER, JULIUS MASLOVAT, CHARLEY ENCELL, DOUG CRAIG, MIKE KUSS, DAVE BURBANK
Ship & Bow Designer	BILL ADAMS
Head Painter	ANTHONY JOHNSTON
Painter	JOHN SMITH
Set Artists	SVEN BLACK, ANNE SWANNELL
Tech Advisor	TONY CAIN
Stage Crew	REKA SIKLI, ROSEMARY HENRY
Dressers	SANDI NORTON, VINNIE CHADWICK, PETA MACKENZIE, PEARL ARDEN, LYNN CADRAIN, JEAN DE CARTIER
Lighting Operators	BRETT BURROW, MICHAEL GOSSELIN
Sound & Projection Operators	JASON KING, AMANDA HEFFELFINGER, KEVIN STINSON
Hair Consultant	JEAN DE CARTIER
Lighting Crew	EMILY YARNOLD, KYLA MCKENZIE, ALAN MACKENZIE, MICHAEL ROMANO, PAUL HILTON, PERRY BURTON, ANASTASIA SCHWARZE

Theatre Manager	Denise Brown
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Facilities Maintenance	Dick Newson
Technical Director	Alan MacKenzie
House Manager	Emma Morgan-Thorp
Head Carpenter	Bill Adams
Costume Manager	Ned Lemley
Properties	Sally Crickman, Jean deCartier
Newsletter	Corinna Gilliland
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Program Coordinator	Linda Billings
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Photographer	David Lowes

Theatre Team

Admin/Box Office 250-384-2142
Costume Loft 250-384-2025
Mailing Address
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Doug Anderson, Pearl Arden, Lisa Leighton, Jaime Tiampo
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WENDY MERK

Director/Set Design

After receiving her Bachelor's degree in Theatre from the University of Victoria, Wendy worked as a professional actor in Toronto, and later went on to direct operettas, operas, children's plays, a classical Greek comedy, comedies and tragedies by Shakespeare, as well as contemporary comedies and dramas. Her future plans include producing an all-female version of *Lady Audley's Secret*, a Victorian melodrama, for the 2014 Fringe Festival. Her most memorable role was Lord Montague in a gender-bending production of *Romeo & Juliet*, performed in a wasteland underneath a bridge in Toronto.

Production Biographies

ANDREA PITE

Producer

This is Andrea's thirteenth production at Langham Court and her fourth as Producer. She produced *The 39 Steps*, *A Month in the Country*, and *Rabbit Hole*. She has also volunteered at St. Luke's Players and Gilbert & Sullivan. Andrea finds it a real joy to be part of *The Penelopiad* and work with such talented and committed cast and crew. Special thanks to Wendy, Lorene, and Corinna. Outside of theatre, Andrea is an avid duplicate bridge player and sometime lawn bowler.



SHARON SUTHERLAND

Stage Manager



Sharon has been involved in community theatre for several years; everything from props to producing and has stage managed more than twenty productions. *The Penelopiad* has probably been the most complex of these and she has been truly awed by the talent and passion of both the cast and production team. She'd like to thank everyone for making this such a fantastic experience... although she does hope the "Wily Sea Captain" song won't be stuck in her head forever!

ANASTASIA SCHWARZE

Lighting Design

Anastasia has been involved in theatre since middle school, starting with acting. Backstage is where she feels the most at home, whether it's creating props, hanging lights, or whatever else needs to be done. She graduated from the UVic Theatre Department in 2010. Past lighting designs for Langham Court were *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* and *Better Living*.



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ANN-MARIE ARNESON

Costume Design

The timelessness and fantastical nature in this play suggested that it would be an opportunity to create an abstract blend of 'modern' and 'old' costume designs for the show. She has worked on costuming a wide variety of shows at Langham since joining Langham in 1989. Ann-Marie is deeply grateful for her excellent costume assistants.

KEVIN STINSON

Sound & Projection Design

Kevin previously designed sound at Langham Court for *Better Living, The 39 Steps, 1959 Pink Thunderbird Convertible, That Summer and Blithe Spirit*. He also designed the sound for Theatre Inconnu's productions of *In the Next Room* and *Kafka the Musical*. Favourite onstage appearances include Luddy in *Elizabeth Rex* at Langham, and Falstaff in Keep It Simple Theatre's *Henry IV Part I*. Also, if you need help with your Mac he's your friendly neighbourhood Mac Geek 4 Hire.



Production Biographies



JOYCE KLINE

Properties

In her first gig as props mistress, Joyce loved creating fake meat! An instructor at Victoria College of Art and Royal Roads University, Joyce's artwork has been exhibited across Canada and Finland. Joyce's plays have been produced at Vancouver TheatreSpace, the Vancouver Fringe Festival, and Toronto's Artword Centre, and workshoped at the Belfry, New Play Centre and Intrepid Theatre Club. She was a finalist in The Writers' Union of Canada's Writing for Children Competition.

SYLVIA HOSIE

Choreographer

Working with an all-female cast and an all-female artistic / production team has been a real pleasure, even though we were facing pillage, plunder, rape and slaughter at nearly every rehearsal. Everyone has a bruise somewhere to show for the intense work that they were all so willing to tackle. Ms. Atwood leaves no choice! I began my career on the Langham Court stage in 1961, and now that I am retired from a rather long career in the performing arts, I feel like I have come home.



**Congratulations
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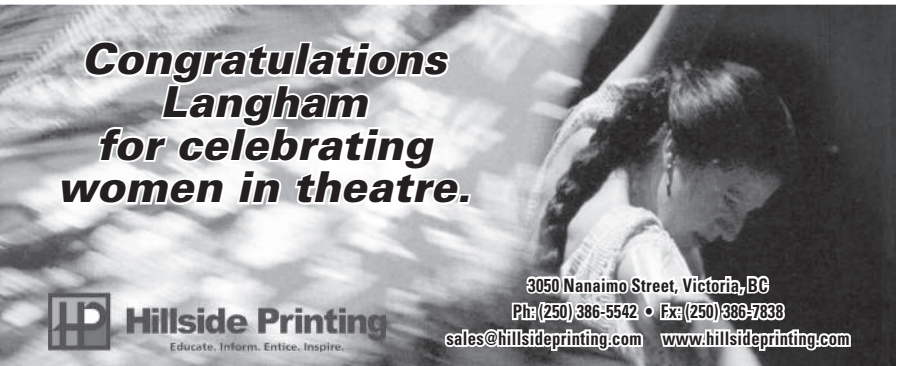
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About the Playwright



Leading Canadian novelist, Margaret Atwood was born in 1939 in Ottawa and spent most of her childhood in Northern Ontario and Quebec. She was a student at the University of Toronto; and in an interview on CBC, some years ago, she recalled, with great pleasure, the classes she took from the late, great Northrop Frye when she was an undergraduate at Victoria College.

Margaret Atwood's career as a writer began in 1964 with the publication of a book of poetry, *The Circle Game*, for which she won the Governor-General's Award. Five years later, in 1969, her first novel *The Edible Woman* was published as well as a second book of poems entitled *The Animals in That Country*. Since then, Ms Atwood has published many novels including *The Handmaid's Tale*, later turned into a film scripted by Harold Pinter, and *The Blind Assassin* winner of the 2000 Booker Prize. She has also written many short stories, children's books, collections of poetry, critical studies, and scripts for radio and television as well as editing works of both fiction and non-fiction. *The Penelopiad* is Ms. Atwood's first stage play.



Bravo to the brilliant local women in the cast of Langham's "The Penelopiad."

Carole James, MLA

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Cast and Crew of *The Penelopiad*



JACKIE RIOUX

Penelope

This is Jackie's second performance at Langham Court, having appeared in the 2007 staging of *Here on the Flight Path*. No stranger to playing the tragic heroine, her past favourite roles include Hero (*As You Like It*) and Juliet (*Romeo and Juliet*). She would like to thank Wendy and the production team for giving her the chance to breathe life into Penelope. She is humbled by the talent involved in this cast and loves these girls like sisters. Gods be

thanked she has a supportive, loving husband and two wonderful boys to go home to each night. They've made it all possible.

Cast Biographies

KATHY MACOVICHUK

Odysseus

Enjoying the stage once again, Kathy's previous experience includes St. Luke's Players' productions of *Casting for Murder*, *Murdered to Death* and *Robinson Crusoe*, as well as Peninsula Players *The Unexpected Guest*. You may have also seen her in Langham Court Theatre's *The Odd Couple*, *Silver Dagger* and *Picnic*. Exploring outside the gender box has been an interesting experience for Kathy. Discovering how much difference there is, when playing a male character, has proved to be a thought-provoking exercise.



GLORIA SNIDER

Eurycleia

Gloria is pleased to be involved in this intriguing production and to work with such a talented group of women. As a Victoria community theatre regular, she has been in over thirty shows with various companies since 1990. This will be her ninth on stage performance here at Langham. She was last seen as Vita Louise Simmons in *Harvey*.

**PIPPA CATLING***Queen Anticleia, Oracle, Maid*

Pippa is delighted to be back on the Langham stage with this talented cast of women, enjoying Margaret Atwood's wonderful language and sly humor at close quarters. Pippa has been seen at Langham as May Davenport in *Waiting in the Wings* and Miss MacKay in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Last year she helped stage manage *Better Living*.

Cast Biographies**EMILY YARNOLD***Helen, Maid*

Emily is so excited to be working on her second production with Langham Court. Past credits include: Joanne Jefferson in *Rent* (CYMC), Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof* (SIMTS), Brianne, in *Frog in Love* (SATCO), and most recently, Melissa, in *Ghosts of the Plaza* (Best Bits Productions). Emily is honoured to be a part of such a fantastic team of women (and men). Enjoy the show!

**SARA GUSTAVSON***Maid, Melantho, etc.*

Sara is an energetic and active individual. She is currently a student at Camosun College with the desire to one day be a dietician as health and nutrition are very important to her. Sara is currently training to run a half marathon. Her favorite parts of being in a production at Langham Court are to make friends and be creative. Sara is very pleased to be a part of the production of the *Penelopiad*.

**LEAH MOREAU***Maid, Tanis, etc.*

A middle school vice-principal by day, Leah hasn't been on the Langham stage since 2001's *Company*, but was last seen in the VOS productions of *Miss Saigon* and *Grease!*, and choreographing the best in pre-teen musical theatre. Although she was often heard lamenting the lack of a kick line in this show, she loved working with Wendy and Sylvia and the talented cast/crew. "Quacks to you all."

**URSULA SZKOLAK***Maid, Klytie, etc.*

Ursula Szkolak was born and raised in Toronto, ON. As a professional dancer for over 10 years, she had performed with ballet companies worldwide and, locally, with Canadian Pacific Ballet and Ballet Victoria. Ursula is currently working as an Administrative Assistant for Number 41 Media as well as teaching ballet part-time. Ursula's passion is being on stage and performing so she is thrilled to be a part of the excellent cast of *The Penelopiad*!

**AMELIA PETSCHLEIT***Maid, Telemachus, etc.*

Amelia is a student at UVic's Phoenix Theatre and is excited to have her first performance in Victoria at Langham Court Theatre. She played Catherine Connolly in the *Laramie Project* and Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as part of Kelowna's Night Owl Theatre Company. Besides theatre, Amelia is interested in writing, film and music as she loves storytelling.



**TARYN LEES***Maid, Naiad, etc.*

Taryn is delighted to be a part of her first show at Langham Court Theatre. She wants to thank the amazing cast and crew for making this experience such a blast, and she hopes to take part in more Langham shows in the future. Past credits include Rhoda Marley in *Rookery Nook* (Phoenix Theatre), *A Stone in Eurydice* (Phoenix Theatre), and Elizabeth Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice* (Kate Rubin Theatre).

ROSEMARY JEFFERY*Maid, Icarus, etc.*

Rosemary is very excited to return to the stage at Langham Court Theatre in *The Penelopiad*. Rosemary has contributed to community theatre through a variety of roles, both on stage and off. This is her third show with Langham Court; most recently she was thrilled to make her debut as stage manager for the production of *Heroes*.

She is inspired by the talented and diverse cast and would like to say a big 'Thank You' to the production team and crew whose creative effort never ceases to amaze.

**CORINNA GILLILAND***Maid, Laertes, etc.*

Corinna is delighted to be back on stage at Langham Court Theatre. Once again, she is portraying at least one, if not two, extremely antisocial characters. Her most recent parts have been the demented Sarita in *Waiting in the Wings*, the fantasist Mildred in *The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wilde*, and the witch in *The Crucible*. Corinna is extremely happy, but somewhat overwhelmed, to be performing alongside so many talented women.

NICOLE MOLLER*Maid, etc.*

Nicole is a student at the University of Victoria and will be studying theatre this coming year. She has been in plays such as *Fame*, *Little Women* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Nicole is very excited to be a part of her first Langham Court production. She has especially enjoyed meeting such hard working talented women. She looks forward to being in many more Langham Court productions.

**KATE BOUTILIER***Maid, Iole, etc.*

Kate has loved Greek myths since before she could read, and bringing this retold one to life has been a suitably fun challenge. She has performed with St. Luke's Players, at Belfry Theatre's Spark Festival, and with Epiphany Productions, and this is her fifth show on the Langham stage. She just can't seem to stay away! "Apologies to the male portion of the audience for any offensive portrayal of your gender".

**ALISON FULLER***Maid, Antinous, etc.*

Alison Fuller first took to the stage at Langham as Megan Wells in *84 Charing Cross Road* and is delighted to return in *The Penelopiad*.

A graduate of UVic who specialized in Classical Studies, she is grateful for the opportunity to provide an answer to "...And what exactly do you plan to *do* with that degree?" As usual, her performance would not have been possible without the love and support of her husband, Michael Case.



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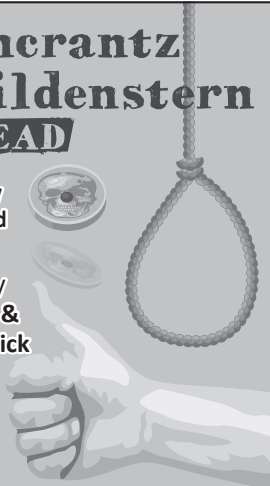
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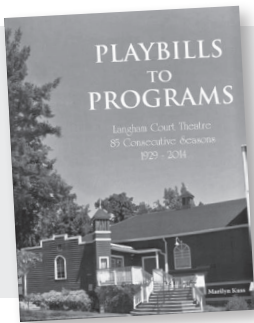
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Art Exhibition

Adam Lloyd Cook

Adam is a Victoria, B.C. based artist, born in Scarborough, ON, on November 24, 1964, after being conceived nine months earlier by two students attending the Toronto College of Art. With two artist parents, Adam has been a lifelong artist, who focuses on painting with acrylics on canvas. Adam went on to study animation as well as drawing and painting. Adam's current technique involves finding a piece of comic art or other image that stimulates and motivates him, changing the colors and dialogue (or eliminating it), and then planning for the way he wants to see it painted. Adam's bright studio overlooks Beacon Hill Park, and along with painting, he enjoys Bonsai, sushi making, skateboarding and martial arts. His philosophy is, "life is too short for lite sour cream, (lite ANYTHING)".

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



Langham Court Theatre is celebrating its 85th Season and 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 theatres first 85 years – Filled indexed.

The book is for sale, for \$25 (tax included), at the theatre in either the lobby or the lounge (during show times) or at the box office during office hours.



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