

Langham Court Theatre

presents

The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs



By Carole Fréchette

Translated by John Murrell

Directed by Naomi Simpson

November 19 - December 6, 2014

*A New Broadway Musical
Based On The Classic 1983 Movie*

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December 5 – 14, 2014*

A CHRISTMAS STORY

The Musical

" I
Triple
Dog
Dare
You ! "



Book by **Joseph Robinette**

Music & Lyrics by **Benj Pasek & Justin Paul**

Based upon the motion picture A Christmas Story ©1983 Turner Entertainment Co. distributed by Warner Bros., written by

Jean Sheperd, Leigh Brown & Bob Clark

and on the book in God We Trust: All Others Pay Cash by Jean Sheperd



Directors' Notes

The one thing we can't have is the one thing we must have. No matter how valuable the thing is or not and even at risk of detriment we pursue this till we find Pandora's box and stand before it in exhilarated terror. Curiosity is a powerful force. But why? Is it just human nature? Is it the drive to explore the unknown? Is it the quest for knowledge or for the quest itself? As Grace begins down the hallway toward the door of that which is eclipsed, we ask ourselves more questions. As we move down the hallways and climb up the stairs to discover "that sunken place in the floor", the answers may be more than we bargained for.

Naomi Simpson

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The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs

By Carole Fréchette

Translated by John Murrell

November 19 – December 6

Langham Court Theatre - Home of the Victoria Theatre Guild & Dramatic School
Produced by special arrangement with Les Productions Micheline Sarrazin Inc.

Director	NAOMI SIMPSON
Assistant Director	JULIAN CERVELLO
Producer	ANGELA HENRY
Stage Manager	ROSEMARY JEFFERY
Asst. Stage Managers	KEVIN GILLINGHAM EMMA MORGAN-THORP
Set Design	JULIAN CERVELLO
Lighting Design	FINN ARCHINUK
Sound & Projections Design	GRAYSON WALKER
Costume Design	JOYCE KLINE
Properties/Set Décor	JOYCE KLINE

Cast

Grace	JULIE FORREST
Anne	MICHELLE MORRIS
Henry	JUSTIN CARTER
Joyce	WENDY MAGAHAY
Jenny	LEANNE ALLEN

Scene/Setting

Play takes place in an enormous house in Canada in the present

There is no intermission

The play runs approximately 90 min.

Special Note: After each show, join us in the lounge for a drink and a facilitated Q and A with four members of the psychology community to discuss this unusual psychological drama. Facilitators are:
Randy Tonks, Angela Henry, Emma Morgan-Thorp and Pearl Arden.

Production Team

Properties Assistant	STEPHANIE DOUCETTE
Costume Design Consultant	LISA LEIGHTON
Costume Assistants	KERI GARLAND
Costume Mistresses	GLORIA SNIDER, PALOMA PONTI
Set Design Consultant	CRAIG VANDERMERWE
Head Scenic Painter	STEVEN ALECK
Set Painters	JOHN SMITH, ANDREW SWAN
Set Construction	JULIUS MAZLOVAT, MIKE KUSS, CHARLEY ENCELL, DAVE BURBANK, GORDON ALEXANDER, BARRY GRIMSHAW, TOM HOLDER, DOUG CRAIG
Back Stage Crew	ANTON BRAKHAGE
Lighting Operators	CORINNA GILLILAND, MICHAEL GOSSELIN
Lighting Crew	KARRIE AYOTTE, ANTON BRAKHAGE, PERRY BURTON, KEVIN GILLINGHAM, MICHAEL GOSSELIN, OLIVER HEATH, PAUL HILTON, AL MACKENZIE
Sound Operator	AMANDA HEFFELFINGER
Recroding Engineer	MYKE HALL
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Hair Consultant	DANIELLE BENNETT
Makeup Consultant	ERIN BRADLEY

Theatre Manager	Denise Brown
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Theatre Team

Admin/Box Office 250-384-2142
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Acknowledgements

Sid Ezzedine, Capital City Tuxedo, Lisa Leighton, Diane Madill, Jenn Malone, Kathryn Popham, Bathsheba Garnett, Iris MacGregor Bannerman, Jason King, Amanda Lisman, Fernwood Community Association, Bill Adams, Grace Salez, Paul Jeffery

***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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NAOMI SIMPSON *Director*

Small Room is Naomi's directorial debut at Langham but she is no stranger to the stage. Last seen at Langham as Maureen in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, and Barbara in *Pack of Lies*. With Blue Bridge Theatre, she played in *Uncle Vanya* and *True West*. Her recent directing credits include *In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)* with Theatre Inconu, and *Raptures of Distress* for Stanley K. Frieberg. Naomi is delighted to take on this lovely ghost story and thanks the marvelous cast and crew especially Julian Cervello.

Production Biographies

JULIAN CERVELLO *Assistant Director & Set Designer*

Julian is grateful to make his Langham debut with such an inspired and talented team. Previous directing credits include *Essay* (Scrumpy /Dandelion Theatre) and *Marat/Sade* (Puente Theatre/Worldplay Festival). Favourite local acting credits include *Canterbury Cocktails*, *The Wyf of Bathe*, (Scrumpy Theatre) *The War of the Eagles*, (Kaleidoscope Theatre) *In the Next Room & The Crackwalker*, (Theatre Inconnu). Favourite Shakespearean roles include Hotspur, Henry V and Othello. Special thanks to Naomi Simpson, Angela Henry, and John Taylor for their continued patience, belief, and dedication throughout this design process.



ANGELA HENRY *Producer*

Angela is delighted to mark her 40th year at Langham by producing this delicate play. Angela is currently the production chair of this season and is excited to work with the extraordinary new talent at Langham that this show has attracted. Angela was last seen onstage as Dorothy in *The History Boys* and last directorial venture was *Lady Windermere's Fan*.

ROSEMARY JEFFERY *Stage Manager*

Rosemary made her debut as Stage Manager in Langham's production of *HEROES*. She is delighted to have the opportunity once again. Onstage credits include *The Penelopiad*, *Calendar Girls*, *Doubt*, *Nonsense & Nuncrackers*. Before moving to Victoria in 2007, Rosemary was an active member of the South Island Musical Society. Rosemary is honored to work with such an incredibly talented cast and production team. Special thanks to Paul her life partner of 22 years for his enduring support.



EMMA MORGAN-THORP *Assistant Stage Manager*

Having been employed as Front of House Manager for LCT's 2011-12 and 2013-14 seasons, Emma is thrilled to work on a Langham production for the first time. She has fallen head over heels for Frechette's *Small Room* and hopes that you will too. With many thanks to this fabulous cast and production team, and especially to Rosemary and Naomi.

KEVIN GILLINGHAM *Assistant Stage Manager*

Kevin was educated in Weston, Ontario and later graduated from Vancouver Island University. His interest in theatre dates back to high school where he had lead roles in *The Mouse Trap* and *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Becoming actively involved in theatre has always been on Kevin's wish list. Volunteering at Langham couldn't come at a better time in his life and Kevin is happy and grateful for it.





JOYCE KLINE *Properties/Set Décor and Costume Design*

Apparently, volunteering for a Langham show is a gateway drug, because this is Joyce's third stint this year doing props and set décor for the best community theatre in the country. After contributing props to *The Penelopiad* and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, she blames *Small Room's* brilliant creative team for luring her into the hard stuff – costume design. Joyce teaches at Victoria College of Art and facilitates art related workshops at Royal Roads University.

GRAYSON WALKER *Sound and Projections Design*

Most recently known in Victoria for his two year run as Musical Director for the improvised serial *Sin City*, Grayson Walker started in theatre in Montreal where he joined the OKTheatre Company through the 1990s, producing and housing numerous independent shows in the company's five year life. He is also one half of country-folk band *Hearse* which has just released its debut recording. Grayson is excited to be joining Langham Court for this production.



Production Biographies



FINN ARCHINUK *Lighting Design*

Finn is excited to be designing lights for this unconventional play. He has a BA in Dramatic Arts with a concentration in Stagecraft and Design. Finn has been involved with Langham for a little over a year helping with lighting hangs or as an ASM. Thanks to Karrie Ayotte and Paul Hilton for their guidance and answering a LOT of questions.

LINDEN SINGERS Brian Wismath
Music Director



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About the Playwright



CAROLE FRÉCHETTE *Author*

Carole Fréchette was born in Montreal in 1949, and there attended the National Theatre School. Upon graduating, she joined *Théâtre des cuisines* (Kitchen Theatre Group) in 1974, developing her interests in Marxist and feminist theatre and collective arts production. Since her first play, *Baby Blues*, was staged in 1989, Fréchette's work has been produced the world over and translated into over twenty languages; she is also known for her children's novels and translations. Fréchette's *Les Quatre Morts de Marie* won the 1995 Governor General's Award for Drama, and *La Petite pièce en haut de l'escalier* (*The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs*, in its original French) earned her a nomination for France's *Grand Prix de littérature dramatique* in 2009. Her diverse catalogue includes *Les sept jours de Simon Labrosse*, *Violette sur la terre*, *Jean et Béatrice*, and most recently *Je pense à Yu*. Fréchette has been lauded for her support of francophone and Quebecois theatre, which has included presidency of the *Centre des auteurs dramatiques*.



JOHN MURRELL *Translator*

Born in Texas in 1945, John Murrell moved to Canada in 1969, where he earned a teaching diploma in drama from the University of Calgary. He is a prolific playwright, whose works include *Memoir*, *Farther West*, *New World*, *The Faraway Nearby*, *Democracy*, and *October*. Murrell has worked as playwright-in-residence with Theatre Calgary, as associate director of the Stratford Festival of Canada, as head of the Banff Playwrights Colony, and as head of the theatre section of the Canada Council for the Arts. In 2003, he was appointed an officer of the Order of Canada, and he holds an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Calgary. In addition to *The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs*, John Murrell is responsible for the English translations of Fréchette's other works, *The Four Lives of Marie*, *Seven Days in the life of Simon Labrosse*, *Elisa's Skin*, *Helen's Necklace*, *John and Beatrice*, *Earthbound*, and *Thinking of Yu*. He has garnered international reputation for his translations of Chekhov, Ibsen, Sophocles, and Cocteau.

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Cast and Crew of *The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs*



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community.*

Wishing you a memorable holiday season

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JULIE FORREST *Grace*

This is Julie's Langham Court Theatre premiere and she could not be more excited. Julie is a graduate of the Phoenix Theatre at the University of Victoria. You may have seen her in such productions as *Picnic* (Phoenix Theatre), *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Phoenix Theatre), *TRUNK!* (Victoria Fringe Fest) or *The Girl Rabbi of the Golden West* (Congregation Emanu-El). She is thankful for the wonderful cast and crew, Langham Court Theatre, and you!

Cast Biographies

MICHELLE MORRIS *Anne*

As a recent graduate of the UVic Acting Program, Michelle is thrilled to be working on such a beautifully crafted play with this amazingly talented group of people. This is Michelle's first appearance at Langham. Past credits include: *Giving Back* (Theatre SKAM), *Picnic*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, and *The Good Person of Setzuan* (Phoenix Theatre). Endless thanks to Naomi and Julian for their vision and leadership. Much love and gratitude to Mom and Bruno.



JUSTIN CARTER *Henry*

Justin Carter's artistic endeavours include acting, comedy, food, music, and film. He attended the William Davis Centre in Vancouver, has appeared in commercials, film, and theatre. An avid improviser, Justin has performed with *Throw Us A Line* and *Sin City: the Live Improvised Serial*. He appeared at the 2014 Cannes Film Festival in *Til Death*. Justin has also performed in theatre festivals across Canada with his one man show, *Son of Africville*.

WENDY MAGAHAY *Joyce*

Trying to be gracious about the great Elaine Stritch's observation, "you're a vamp, then you're somebody's mother", Wendy adds this most exceptional mother to a growing list of those played out at Langham: Mrs. Erylne (*Lady Windermere's Fan*), Cass (*Maggie's Getting Married*), Gertrude (*R&G are Dead*) and Hilary (*Hotel Sorrento*). It is a long-overdue pleasure to be working with the talented Naomi Simpson again (*Pack of Lies*). Special thanks to Angela, Graham and Garry.



LEANNE ALLEN *Jenny*

Leanne has come to acting later in life, and swears this time she has found true love. She has worked with CBC, APTN, and KVOS as a host, producer and director. She is a newly represented actor and just got her first paid role on *Untold Stories of the ER*. She is a represented public speaker, and owns CVVmagazine.com here in Victoria. Leanne is thrilled to be part of a thriller here at Langham.

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Art Exhibition

Langham Court Theatre has invited thirty artists of various backgrounds and mediums to produce work inspired by this unusual psychological drama. The art show concept is to connect the art work to the theatrical production *The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs* allowing the theatre audience to experience a unique opportunity of visual expression through the eyes of an artist. Don't be surprised if there is a bit of darkness lurking just beneath the surface...

Come meet the artists and view the show at our opening reception Sunday Nov 23 1 to 3pm in the lounge at Langham Court Theatre. Light refreshments will be served. The art will be on display and for sale Nov 19 to Dec 6, 2014.

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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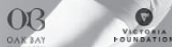
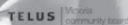
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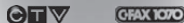
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