

★ LANGHAM COURT THEATRE PRESENTS ★



TAKING LEAVE

BY NAGLE JACKSON

DIRECTED BY ANGELA HENRY

MARCH 1ST – 18TH, 2017

President's Message



As President of the Victoria Theatre Guild, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 4th play of our 88th Season. *Taking Leave* is a poignant story of love, loss, and letting go, with allusions to and riffs on *King Lear*. While I was writing this President's Message, I learned the sad news that CBC's Stuart McLean had died. The loss of such a skilled storyteller is felt by many of us. Whether on the radio, or here on the stage, storytelling binds us together, gives us a way to share joy, and a way to talk about difficult things like losing those we love. The elaborate sets, the lights and sound, the costumes and the many weeks of rehearsal are all in the service of letting the actors on stage tell you, the audience, a story that will, if they do it well, move you to laughter and tears.

Thank you for continuing to share in our stories.

Kevin Stinson, President

Reflections from the General Manager



Late December, as I was sitting in the director's living room to hear the first read through of *Taking Leave*, I looked around the room and felt, "I'm home."

The read through is a privilege to experience and has always been one of my favourite times in the rehearsal process. For me, it's like the moment you meet someone with whom you come to share a profound and significant friendship. Years later, you can look back on that first moment and see that the magic of friendship was already present.

There is so much required to bring a play to stage; to tell a story. It requires dedication, skill, a lot of work, and a commitment to excellence. What I have experienced in my first three months here at Langham Court Theatre, is that those who choose to share their dedication, skills, work ethic, and commitment do so with such grace, generosity and heart that we cannot help but be deeply touched by what we get to experience on (and off) our stage. What you see here is almost exclusively the work of volunteers, often done after a full day of work or study somewhere else.

I feel enormous gratitude to the members of the Langham community who have welcomed me and who share their gifts to make possible the magic that happens on our stage. My hope for you is that while you're here, you have that similar "I'm home" feeling too.

Michelle Buck, General Manager



Director's Notes

Jackson writes an immensely touching and layered story of a once vibrant intellectual "changing" into an irrational man. It is at once poignant and funny. The story of Alzheimer's disease is a compelling and horrific one to all involved. But Jackson has found a way to see the humour in the lives of the family as they scramble to cope. He creates an ingenious mechanism by which we can see the former lucid man and the gradual leave-taking of sanity. Set against the background of King Lear, we see many parallels between Eliot's family of three daughters and Lear's struggle with his daughters. It is a rich comedy. But Jackson's story has brought it to modern day and allows us to laugh at our dilemma. Jackson himself sends his best wishes to our production: *"Thanks so much for your appreciation of my work. Cheers, Nagle"*

Angela Henry



Langham Court Theatre
presents

Taking Leave

by

Nagle Jackson

Directed by Angela Henry

March 1 – 18, 2017

Presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service Inc.

Director	ANGELA HENRY
Assistant Director	KATHY MACOVICHUK
Producer	JANE KRIEGER
Stage Manager	KATHY MACOVICHUK
Asst. Stage Managers	QUINN MACTAVISH MARYELLEN LAW
Set Décor	JOYCE KLINE
Properties	MAUREEN COLGAN
Set Design	SEAN THOMPSON
Lighting Design	KARRIE AYOTTE
Sound Design	JASON KING
Costume Design	PEARL ARDEN JANE KRIEGER

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Eliot	ALF SMALL
Eliot-Once-Removed	RANDY PARKER
Mrs. Fleming	GELI BARTLETT
Alma	TAMMY JOHNSON
Liz	RENÉE YAKEMCHUK
Cordelia	KAYLA HAMILTON

SETTING

The living room of Dr. Eliot Pryne in the spring of 2000 in Seattle, Washington

SCENES

ACT 1 / Scene i	3:00 am
ACT 1 / Scene ii	That evening

INTERMISSION

ACT 2	Just before dawn the next day
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Production Team

Head Scenic Carpenter	Chris Clarke
Set Construction	Mike Kuss, Julius Maslovat, Bill Adams, Charlie Encell, David Burbank, Gordon Alexander, Alf Small
Set Painters	John C. Smith, Anthony Johnston
Lighting Operators	Jennifer Illingworth, Emily Yarnold
Lighting Crew	Finn Archinuk, Carol-Anne Moore, Paul Hilton, Colin Hopcraft, Alan Mackenzie, Jennifer Illingworth, Emily Yarnold, Michael Romano, Anastasia Schwarze, Maureen Colgan, Alex Carroll
Sound Operators	Timothy Watters, Larry Taylor, Andrea Pite
Properties Assistant	Hillary F. Allen
Set Décor Assistant	Gaetanne Leduc
Prompter	MaryEllen Law

Theatre Team

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ANGELA HENRY *Director*

Angela's first director was Iona Campagnolo in Prince Rupert. From that auspicious start in 1974, Angela has acted and directed with several theatre companies. Favourite acting roles include Doris, in *The Cemetery Club* and Dorothy in *The History Boys*. Recent directing credits include *Humble Boy*, *Lady Windermere's Fan* and *The Memory of Water* for Langham. Up next, SPARK festival. It is an honour to be working with such a well-crafted script and a dream team.



JANE KRIEGER *Producer*

Jane is delighted to be part of this talented production team. As it is her first time in this role she is indebted to Gil Henry for all the wonderful groundwork he laid and the mentoring provided by both Angela and Gil. Combine that with the wonderful cast and crew and it makes for a very positive experience

Production Biographies



KATHY MACOVICHUK *Stage Manager, Assistant Director*

This is Kathy's third adventure as Stage Manager with Langham. Having previously stage managed *The Crucible*, with a cast of 26, she's happy to be handling a smaller show. Operating behind the scenes of a production has always given her a greater appreciation for all the hard work that goes into putting on a great show. It certainly does take a village to raise this child.



MARYELLEN LAW *Assistant Stage Manager*

It's been a pleasure for MaryEllen to work with such a talented cast and production team! She thanks our stage manager Kathy and director Angela for the opportunity to learn about stage management and for their guidance and patience along the way.



SEAN THOMPSON *Set Designer*

Sean is a recent graduate from the University of Victoria with a BFA in Theatre. Sean designed *Birdwatching* during the Victoria Fringe Festival in 2016, and worked as a scenic carpenter during his time at UVIC from 2011 to 2015, and as head scenic carpenter for Blue Bridges production of *Private Lives*. Sean is very excited to make *Taking Leave* his first production at Langham Court Theatre.



KARRIE AYOTTE *Lighting Designer*

Karrie is pleased to be helping such an amazing team bring this thoughtful, timely show to light. Karrie thanks Angela for her faith and her husband Todd and son Joshua for allowing "mom" to play at the theatre. Always in memory of phil. Recent designs: *One Man Two Guvnors*, *Female Transport*, *August: Osage County*, *Drood*, *Cabaret*, *Drowsy Chaperone*.

Production Biographies



JASON KING *Sound Design*

Jason is thrilled to be working with old friends again in this challenging production and after a three week tour through Northern Alberta with Ballet Victoria, is appreciating being back in more normal temperatures. Other shows he has been involved with this season include sound design for *The Crucible* this fall at Langham as well as projection design for *Ragtime* with St Michaels University School. After *Taking Leave* his next project will be the original music for the upcoming *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*.



PEARL ARDEN and JANE KRIEGER *Costumes Designers*

Pearl and Jane have teamed up previously to costume *Doubt* and *The Crucible*. They have enjoyed working with Angela and this wonderful cast and crew to bring to life this touching script.



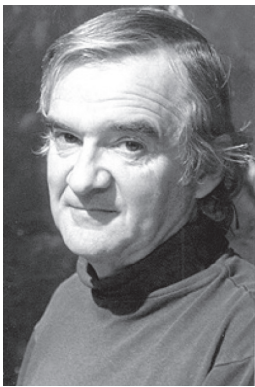
JOYCE KLINE *Set Decor*

Joyce thanks Langham for giving her entrée into theatre and film. Her past shows include *Penelopiad*, *Rosenkrantz* and *Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Small Room at the Top of the Stairs* and *Humble Boy*; upcoming is *Dr Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*. Most recently, she designed sets for Sin City Improvised Serial, created storyboards for films *The Hollow Child* and *CAW*, and was production designer for *The Cameraman*. She teaches at Victoria College of Art.



MAUREEN COLGAN *Properties*

Maureen was thrilled to be asked to work with Angela and the incredible cast and crew she brought together. Thanks to Hilary for all her support and attention to detail. Earlier this season, Maureen worked on *The Crucible* and *One Man, Two Guvnors*.




About the Playwright

NAGLE JACKSON


An actor, director and playwright, Jackson's career has spanned six decades. He was raised in Seattle, the setting of *Taking Leave*. He has authored several plays, adaptations and translations which have been produced at leading theaters throughout the U.S., from American Conservatory Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Seattle Rep in the West, to the McCarter, Kennedy Center and New York's Intar Theater in the East. Several of his plays – *Taking*

Leave, *The Quick-Change Room*, *A Hotel on Marvin Gardens*, debuted at The Denver Center, for which theater he also created several translations from the works of Molière. His play *The Elevation of Thieves* was prize winner in the Onassis Foundation International Playwriting Contest, an award presented to Mr. Jackson by the President of Greece in Athens, 1998. Mr. Jackson was Artistic Director of both the Milwaukee Repertory Theater and the McCarter Theater. He continues to direct as a guest artist with theaters throughout this country and in Europe. He has been a Master Director with The Directors' Company in New York for several years. Mr. Jackson resides with his wife in Princeton Junction, New Jersey but has fond memories of visiting Victoria and having tea at the Empress.



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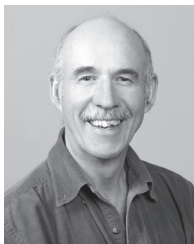
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Cast Biographies



ALF SMALL *Eliot*

Alf was last seen on the Langham stage as Reverend Crisparkle in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Previous roles include Herr Schultz in *Cabaret*, Aldolpho in *The Drowsy Chaperone* and Man 2 in *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*. He is delighted to be part of such a talented company and would like to dedicate his performance to the memory of his father who struggled with dementia during his final years.



RANDY PARKER *Eliot-Once-Removed*

Since 2009, Randy has made five Langham Court appearances in *A Shot In The Dark*, *Picnic*, *Silver Dagger*, *A Month In The Country* and last year's, *She Stoops To Conquer*. Randy first stepped on stage 50 years ago and is thrilled to celebrate this milestone with his sixth Langham appearance as Eliot-Once-Removed. He is also very honoured with the opportunity to be a part of the discussion on Alzheimer's disease.



GELI BARTLETT *Mrs. Fleming*

Geli feels honoured to be cast as the redoubtable Fleming and is thoroughly enjoying working with Angela, the cast and crew. This is Geli's sixth role at Langham. She was last seen as Iris in *People*. The subject of Nagle's play affects a growing percentage of the world's population. Alzheimer's Disease has a devastating effect on those it touches, not least the caregivers. Some experts expect it to be North America's next epidemic.



TAMMY JOHNSON *Alma*

Tammy is very excited to be back on stage after a six year hiatus. This is her first production with Langham and is loving it. Some favourite past roles include Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*, Clarissa in *Spider's Web*, and Woman C in *Three Tall Women*. She would like to thank her soon to be husband Michael for his excitement and support.



Well done!

Langham Court Theatre

Taking Leave makes us grateful for our
compassionate families and community

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RENÉE YAKEMCHUK *Liz*

Renee is thrilled to be working with this talented cast and crew on such a lovely play. Recent roles include Karen in *August: Osage County* here at Langham Court Theatre and Pam in *Mating Dance of the Werewolf* at Theatre Inconnu among others in New York City. Renee was trained at the Hagen Institute at HB Studio in New York and is very happy to be back home in Victoria.

Cast Biographies



KAYLA HAMILTON *Cordelia*

Kayla wishes to express her sincere gratitude to the director, assistant director and fellow actors for their support in her development in *Taking Leave*. Kayla's love of theatre began at age five when she watched her dad perform in a Black Comedy. Although she fell asleep during the first act, her love for the arts never rested. This will be Kayla's first onstage performance and she is excited for the opportunity to showcase her skills in front of a live audience.



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Charles Dool

Initially I specialized in botanical watercolour, whether the background was empty, a wash, real, or abstract, on either paper or watercolour canvas, but while the "rut" was comfortable, I decided to explore other ways of painting and now also use acrylic. I often prepare the surface with drywall mud to texture the base. I also sometimes finish off an acrylic painting with watercolour, then protect it with an acrylic spray to seal it. Variety is usually rewarding.

My art is represented in:

Austria, Denmark, England, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Norway, Scotland, Singapore, USA and five Canadian Provinces.

1962–1965: Initial Studies, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

1994: Botanical studies, Victoria.

1998: Goward House Art Group and Saanich Peninsula Arts & Crafts, exhibiting with them and other outlets in Sidney and Victoria, in solo and group shows.

2003: Active member, Federation of Canadian Artists.

2005 and 2006: Exhibited at Emily Carr House, Victoria.

Charles Dool

John Janzen

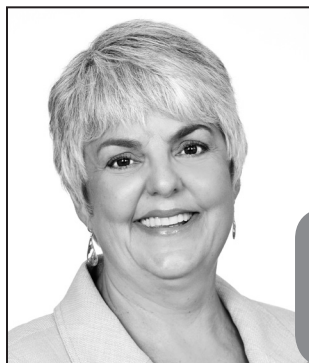
John Janzen was born in Ottawa in 1954. He moved to Alberta at a young age and spent most of his life skiing, building houses, breeding Newfoundland dogs, and running engines for CN through the Canadian Rockies. His need to create and express himself evolved during quiet moments on lengthy layovers between shifts. Watercolour was his chosen medium in the midst of these scenic adventures because of its portability and convenience.

In 2001, Janzen enrolled at the University of Alberta Extension program and began refining his style and skills as a painter.

In 2011, Janzen re-located to Milan, where he studied Italian and continued his art education at NABA School of Art and Design. He travelled throughout Europe pursuing the works of great masters like Caravaggio, Michelangelo, Rubens, Modigliani, and Soutine. These works inspired a shift to oil painting.

After moving to Victoria in 2013, Janzen has been inspired by the power and movement of the ocean. He is especially attracted to how boats are time worn and weathered, and how everything is eventually destroyed by the incredible power of the sea.

This show is the first opportunity Janzen has had to display and share his oil paintings.



Thank you Langham Court Theatre
for staging *Taking Leave* and portraying
a theatrical link to Alzheimer's disease.

Carole James, MLA

Victoria–Beacon Hill
Community Office
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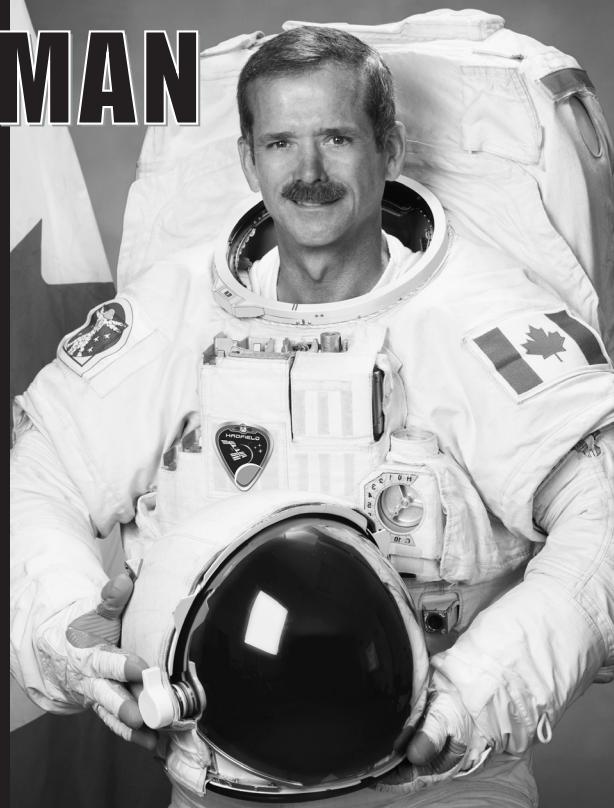
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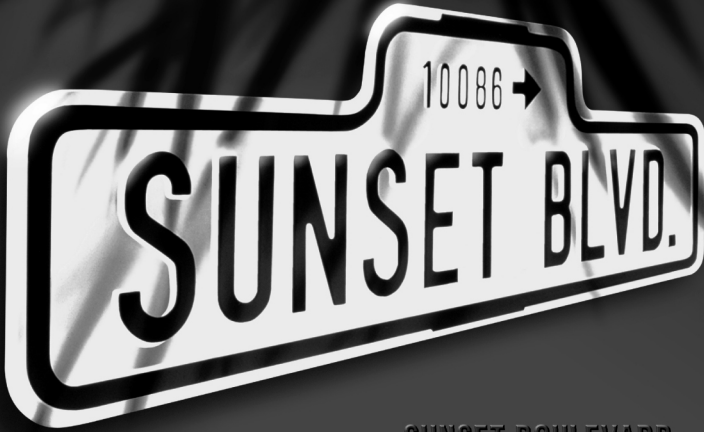
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