

★ LANGHAM COURT THEATRE PRESENTS ★



MARCH 02 - MARCH 19, 2016

FEMALE TRANSPORT

**BY
STEVE GOOCH**

**DIRECTED BY
MONTGOMERY BJÖRNSON**

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Director's Notes

Female Transport. The title could be "Female Exile", for that is, in essence, what the transportation of these convicts from England to Australia was... exile. For the female convicts that were sent to serve out their sentence on the other side of the world, the oceanic journey that brought them to that fatal shore was almost unimaginable in its barbarism. These were not women convicted of some great crime. They were petty thieves or prostitutes, surviving in a time in England that is renowned for its social and economic injustices. They were women living in a system that treated them as inferior. Worse – as "wild animals" that couldn't be tamed and were treated and transported not unlike animals we use and abuse in our modern society.

It is truly an ensemble piece and while in such creations we might expect a more resounding sense of community or solidarity at the end of the voyage, for those women who survive the transportation, their journey on land is just about to begin. What is essential at all times, however, is how the women choose to survive this ordeal. As the Sergeant remarks to Tommy, "character shows" and the choices that each of the women make is what determines their survival – and what characters they are! After all, it was women like these upon whose survival an entire country was founded.

My thanks to the incredible production team, cast, and crew for their trust, support, and willingness to tell the story of these convicts and crew and embrace the vision put before you.

Montgomery Björnson.

Langham Court Theatre
presents
Female Transport

By Steve Gooch
March 2nd-19th, 2016

Female Transport is presented by special arrangement
with SAMUEL FRENCH INC.

Director	MONTGOMERY BJÖRNSON
Stage Manager	SYLVIA LINDSTROM
Set Design	DOUG CRAIG
Lighting Design	KARRIE AYOTTE
Sound Design	JASON KING
Costume Design	CHRIS STUSEK
Properties/Set Decor	SALLY CRICKMAN

Cast

DEMELZA RANDALL*	Winnie
DEIRDRE (DIDI) TIPPING	Madge
MELISSA TAYLOR	Nance
ISOBEL (TONI) SCOTT	Pitty
TARYN LEES	Charlotte
SARAH CASHIN	Sarah
ALEX JUDD	Tommy
GRAHAM ROEBUCK	Sarge
DAVID BILTEK	Captain
IAN SIMMS	Surgeon

*Appearing with the permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association

Setting

The Play is set on a ship that is sailing to Australia in the year 1807.

We encourage you to Tweet your thoughts about *Female Transport* using
#FemaleTransportLCT

Production Team

Set Design Mentor
Set Construction

BILL ADAMS
MIKE KUSS, CHARLIE ENCELL, JULIUS MASLOVAT,
GORDON ALEXANDER, ALF SMALL

Assistant Stage Managers
Scenic Artist
Set Painters

CHAD LAIDLAW, MAUREEN COLGAN
BILL ADAMS

Lighting Operators
Sound Operators

JOHN SMITH, BILL ADAMS
JENNIFER ILLINGWORTH, PAUL HILTON
MARY ELLEN LAW, TIMOTHY WATTERS, JASON KING,
AMANDA HEFFELFINGER

Projections
Lighting Crew

JASON KING
PAUL HILTON, FINN ARCHINUK, JENNIFER ILLINGWORTH,
COLIN HOPCRAFT, MICHAEL ROMANO, PERRY BURTON,
CAROL-ANNE MOORE, CHAD LAIDLAW

Fight Choreographer
Dialogue Accent Coach
Special Effects Makeup

SYLVIE LA RIVIERE
TONY CAIN

Prompt
Stage Crew

SERENA STONE
EMMA BRADSHAW
NICK STULL, JON SCHEER, SANDY WILSON

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Program Coordinator	Michael Gosselin
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Theatre Team

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Acknowledgements

Kate MacCallum, Glenlyon Norfolk School, United Engineering Ltd.,
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John Crickman

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Some of our patrons are highly allergic to certain scents. Thank you.

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MONTGOMERY BJÖRNSON *Director*

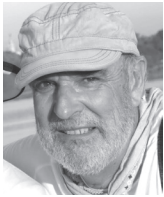
Montgomery has been involved with Langham as a board member, actor, and director since 2014. Montgomery co-directed *Humble Boy* with Angela Henry in Langham's 2014-2015 season. You can also see him perform as Jerry Lee Lewis in the Chemainus Theatre Festival's, *Million Dollar Quartet*. Montgomery would like to thank everyone involved in this production of *Female Transport*. It has been a pleasure to work with such an incredibly thoughtful, creative, and committed ensemble.

Production Biographies



SYLVIA LINDSTROM *Stage Manager*

Sylvia is having the best time ever working on *Female Transport*. Well, as good a time as you can have watching prisoners locked in their cell for 6 months. But we have an amazing cast and super production team led by our very creative director. Sylvia sends huge thanks to the hard working crew, especially Chad and Maureen. Previous stage management work includes *The Laramie Project*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The 39 Steps*, *Cabaret*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *August Osage: County*.



DOUG CRAIG *Set Design*

Why would a glass blowing, retired architect, who "lives to MacGyver", want to design sets? Doug has found a new venue to utilize his design skills and create a set for the Langham Court Theatre. He loves the opportunity to design. He has thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of this project as well as the camaraderie of teaming up with a fabulous construction crew, production team and especially his mentor Bill Adams.



KARRIE AYOTTE *Lighting Design*

Karrie is pleased to be part of this challenging show, particularly given she just embarked on her most ambitious production yet - motherhood to her new son! Karrie thanks Paul, Perry and Finn whose help allowed her to juggle designing amidst new demands; and her husband, Todd, for respecting that theatre keeps her sane. In memory of phil, a huge presence in her life. Recent designs: *August: Osage County*, *Drood*, *Cabaret*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead*, *Drowsy Chaperone*.



JASON KING *Sound Design*

After writing all original music for *Doubt* earlier this season, and taking a trip back to the hit music of the eighties for *Stepping Out*, there couldn't be a much more different challenge than coming up with nautical sounds for *Female Transport*, which included touring around to many local docks and arenas to record much of the source material. Jason is happy to be back working with old friends again on *Female Transport*.



CHRIS STUSEK *Costume Design*

Chris is thrilled to be working with Langham Court Theatre on their production of *Female Transport* as costume designer. In the past Chris has worked on shows for Langham Court Theatre and Victoria Operatic Society, as well as various school performances. Chris enjoys the creative and technical aspect of designing and creating costumes for theatre.



SALLY CRICKMAN *Properties/Set Décor*

Sally lived in Australia from age 6 to 36 and in addition to learning Australian history had friends who traced their roots to the early settlers. She is delighted to do Decor and Properties for the incredible set. Some of her past productions include, *Edwin Drood*, *Cabaret*, *Drowsy Chaperone*, and *84 Charing Cross Road*. Sally salutes the Director and cast for their authentic portrayals and thanks the crew for all their hard work. Enjoy this glimpse of the founding of Australia!

Production Biographies



MAUREEN COLGAN *Assistant Stage Manager*

Maureen wants to give a big shout out to Sylvia for encouraging her to work with Chad as co-ASM. The staging of this powerful, hard-knock story has been as rewarding as it has been challenging. The dedication of the cast and crew is nothing short of stellar and she is humbled to be a part of it. Oi!



CHAD LAIDLAW *Assistant Stage Manager*

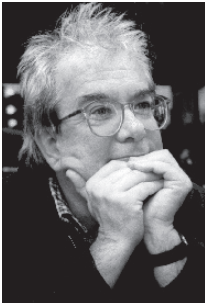
Chad has been active at Langham for over 15 years in a wide variety of capacities, and was made a life member this past January. Last season, he co-produced *Humble Boy*, and played James Throttle in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. With his wife he co-founded Jarvolution Theatre and produced *The Weir* this past October.



SERENA STONE *Make-up Specialist*

Serena is from Calgary. She graduated from the Pasadena Playhouse in 1967. After this she toured for a year as Joan in *Saint Joan* and the woman in *The World of Carl Sandburg*. Over the years Serena worked in various roles in theatre, radio and TV, directing such shows as *The Fantasticks*, *Oliver* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*. She created/wrote the 70's children's CBC-TV series *Just for Fun*. From '01-'10 she taught English and drama in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Kiev, then relocated to Victoria in 2015.

About the Playwright



STEVE GOOCH

Steve Gooch is the author of over forty produced scripts, including *Female Transport*, which enjoyed its fortieth anniversary two years ago, and the Writer's Guild award-winning BBC Radio 4 play *McNaughton*. His career as a writer and teacher includes stage plays, adaptations, radio and screenplays, as well as his popular series of edited Shakespeare texts, *The Cut Shakespeare*. He runs a script editing consultancy for both playwrights and producing companies called The Playpen. Steve's adaptations include *Great Expectations*, produced at Liverpool Playhouse, and *It's all for the Best* (from *Candide*) performed at the Victoria, Stoke.

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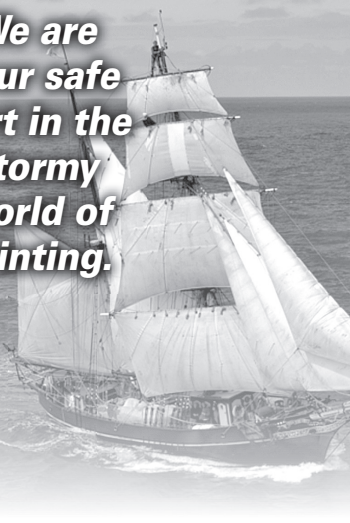
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DEMELZA RANDALL *Winnie*

Demelza made her stage debut, aged six, playing the Angel Gabriel. Despite a rogue strand of Christmas tinsel in her knickers, Demelza relished in sharing her message of peace and goodwill. Since that thrilling (and itchy) performance, she has worked with the BBC, ITV and Film4. Despite being thrilled to be back onstage (with such a fun cast and supportive crew) she firmly believes that her greatest performance was birthing her two brilliant sons.



DEIRDRE (DIDI) TIPPING *Madge*

Deirdre is very excited to be at Langham Court Theatre. It is her first dramatic role on the stage and she enjoys working with and learning from Monty and the fabulous cast and crew of *Female Transport*. You may have seen her at St Luke's theatre in a murder mystery or two. Deirdre graduated from Vadarts in 2014 and would love to thank its director, Joe McCoy, for his faith and encouragement, and her husband, Cam, for his amazing support.

Cast Biographies



MELISSA TAYLOR *Nance*

Melissa is thrilled to be taking on the role of Nance in this production. Past roles at Langham Court Theatre include Mia in *That Face*, Nurse Kelly in *Harvey*, Elizabeth Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*, and Rosie Pye in *Humble Boy*. She's happy to have you on the voyage, and keep your eyes peeled for that Sydney sun on the horizon.



ISOBEL (TONI) SCOTT *Pitty*

Toni is originally from North Vancouver. She has been acting for three years. This is her third community theatre piece. Toni is currently taking an acting course at the University of Victoria. She is also working towards becoming a professional actor.



TARYN LEES *Charlotte*

Taryn is delighted to be taking part Langham Court's production of *Female Transport*. She plans to teach English in Japan later in the year, but will greatly miss Victoria's wonderful theatre community. Past credits include *The Penelopiad* (Langham Court), *Eurydice* (Phoenix Theatre) and *Rookery Nook* (Phoenix Theatre). She hopes you will enjoy the ride!



SARAH CASHIN *Sarah*

Sarah is a recent graduate of the UVic Phoenix Theatre program. Past credits include *A Marriage Proposal* (Phoenix Theatre), *A Midsummer Nights' Dream* (Phoenix Theatre), *Lion in the Streets* (Phoenix Theatre), and *The Dangers of Daphne* (Victoria Fringe). This is Sarah's first show at Langham and she is thrilled to share this experience with such an amazing and talented group of people.



ALEX JUDD *Tommy*

Alex is elated to be back on the Langham stage for his third time. The most recent of which was as *Rosencrantz in Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead*. The opportunity to be a part of this production saw the end of a brief acting hiatus for him, but he was immediately compelled to work with not only an incredible team, but with the most promising artists working in our island theatrical community. He hopes you enjoy *Female Transport*.



GRAHAM ROEBUCK *Sarge*

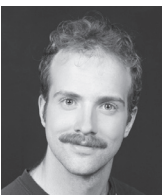
Graham is an award-winning composer and playwright and has been performing relentlessly since childhood. He last appeared in *You Can't Take it With You* (his first Langham show) and in *Daughter of Turpentine* at the Victoria Fringe Festival. He and two fellow cast members also used to work together aboard a pirate ship. Graham is honoured to help bring this important, evocative piece to life alongside a ridiculously talented cast.

Cast Biographies



DAVID BILTEK *Captain*

David arrives at Langham after 40 years of experience in community theatre in Grande Prairie, where he acted, produced, directed and served on the Board of Grande Prairie Live Theatre and the Grande Prairie Regional College Players. He says: "...I am absolutely amazed and impressed by the organization and commitment that exists at Langham and am delighted to be part of what is likely the most successful community theatre in Canada".



IAN SIMMS *Surgeon*

This is Ian's second show with Langham Court, after appearing in 2014's *Pride and Prejudice* as Mr. Bingley. You may have seen Ian in a few other performances, such as Laertes in *Hamlet* (Shakespeare by the Sea), Henry in *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Phoenix Theatre), and *The Problem with Facebook* (Theatre Theatre). Ian is super lucky to be working with such an awesome cast and crew!

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Art Exhibition

SUSAN MCGILLIVRAY

As long as I can remember, I have been inspired to create. I have painted professionally since 1992 and returned to the West Coast in 2005. A constant source of delight and artistic stimulus, The West Coast has renewed my energy and vision. Whether perceived on location, from memory or imagination, with every brush stroke I seek to reawaken reverence for this beautiful planet. Colour is my passion, and it inspires me to interpret the beauty and to reveal the magic in everyday reality. I paint in both oil and acrylic on canvas.



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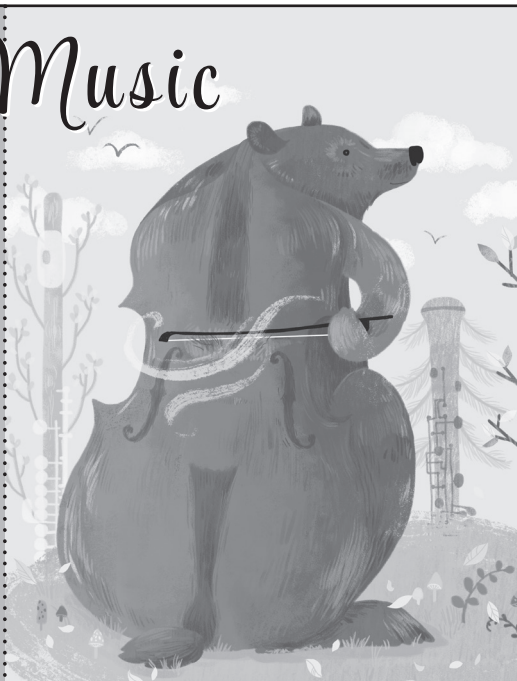
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