\star Langham court theatre presents \star



JANUARY 13 - JANUARY 30, 2016 **STEPPING OUT**

BY RICHARD HARRIS DIRECTED and CHOREOGRAPHED BY HEATHER-ELAYNE DAY

2015/16 DINNER SHOW SEASON

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Director's Notes

It's 1983 and the lower and middle-class residents of North London are reeling from Margaret Thatcher's landslide re-election. Close to 3.5 million people are unemployed, petty theft is rampant, and thousands are protesting the siting of American nuclear weapons in British military bases. We'll hear references to the record-breaking heat wave (the hottest July since the 1700s), and even the introduction of wheel clamps to combat illegal parking.



A welcome escape from the challenges and disappointments of daily life, dancing classes have reached a popularity not experienced since Fred Astaire was "steppin' out" in the 40s and 50s.

The eight students in a weekly beginners' tap class come from a variety of back-grounds, and each has his or her own reason for joining. Whatever the reason, they make a point of coming every week to chat, relax and, if they can manage it, learn a few dance steps.

Led by Mavis, their eternally patient instructor, and accompanied on piano by Mrs. Fraser, the students (who range from hopeless to competent) strive to master the basics of tap dancing. But the routines are just the background. It's during the exchanges, quips and quarrels that the real focus of the play is discovered – the relationships and interactions of these ten very different people. By their final performance, they will have developed some degree of skill, but will they also overcome the inhibitions, awkwardness and conflicts that have kept them out of sync?

Langham Court Theatre presents

Stepping Out

By Richard Harris January 13 – 30, 2016

Director/Choreographer HEATHER-ELAYNE DAY

Apprentice Director DEBBIE ROBINSON

Producer ANDREA PITE

Stage Manager JANET HENDER

Set Design BILL ADAMS

Lighting Design ADAM WILKINSON

Sound Design JASON KING

Costume Design CHRIS STUSEK

Properties/Set Decor DREW WAVERYN

Dance Captain SYLVIA HOSIE

Cast

URSULA SZKOLAK Mavis

KRISTIN PICKUP Vera

ELIZABETH BRIMACOMBE Maxine

KEELEY TEUBER Andy

SUZANNE BELL Sylvia

CHRISTIE NORMAN-TAAL Dorothy

JENNIFER ALMEIDA Rose

MICHAEL ROMANO Geoffrey

STEPHANIE GEEHAN Lynne

VALERIE TURNER Mrs. Fraser

MICHAEL GOSSELIN Nigel

AMANDA HEFFLEFINGER Sugar Plum Fairy

JANNIE BALDERDASH Sugar Plum Fairy

ADRIAN SLY Stage Manager (offstage)

DICK NEWMAN Announcer (offstage)

Setting

The action takes place in a North London church hall from February to July, 1983.

We encourage you to Tweet your thoughts about *Stepping Out* using #SteppingOutLCT

Production Team

Assistant Stage Managers IRENE DOERKSEN, MICHAEL GOSSELIN

Head Scenic Carpenter BILL ADAMS

Set Construction MIKE KUSS, JULIUS MASLOVAT, GORDON ALEXANDER,

DAVID BURBANK, CHARLIE ENCELL, DOUG CRAIG

Set Painters JOHN SMITH, BILL ADAMS

Lighting Operators SARAH INNES, ANDREA PITE, JENNIFER ILLINGWORTH

Sound Operators TIMOTHY WATTERS, LARRY TAYLOR, JASON KING

Stage Crew AMANDA HEFFLEFINGER, TOM HOLDER, KORAL HOULANHAN Follow Spot Operators MAX TERPSTRA, JENNIFER ILLINGWORTH, PAUL HILTON

Lighting Crew ADAM WILKINSON, PERRY BURTON, MICHAEL ROMANO,

REBECCA SIMMONS, MICHAEL GOSSELIN, FINN ARCHINUK

Dialect Coach TONY CAIN

Costume Assistants LISA SIMPSON, ERICA THOMAS, MIVI JANSEN,

ERIKA SCHWEITZER, ANNE MARIE ARNESEN

Dressers PEARL ARDEN, GLORIA SNIDER, KATRINA STRICKLAND,

GELI BARTLETT

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2016-2018 Roger Carr

Theatre Team

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Acknowledgements

Wendy Merk, Paul Croy of Croy & Co. Stage Lighting, Linda Richards, Lal O'Connor, Diane Dakers, Kevin Stinson, Kevin Mason

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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HEATHER-ELAYNE DAY *Director/Choreographer*

Heather has directed and/or choreographed productions for the Victoria Operatic Society, The Belfry, Pacific Opera Victoria, Victoria Gilbert and Sullivan Society, Gateway and Arts Club in Vancouver, and for local secondary schools. She is delighted to return to Langham after a long absence. For the Victoria Theatre Guild she most recently directed and choreographed the 2001 production of Sondheim's Company! Before that she directed and choreographed the Guild's productions of 42nd Street, Nunsense, Dames at Sea, and Blood Brothers. She also appeared in a few productions, most notably Gigi and the 1990 production of Stepping Out. Thank you to a great cast and production team; with special thanks to Sylvia, Deb and Janet.

Production Biographies



JANET HENDER Stage Manager

After being encouraged by Peta MacKenzie for many years to work with Langham Court Theatre, Janet has finally taken the plunge. Heather and Deb were a big part of Janet making this decision. What a wonderful experience this has been for her. Janet has Stage Managed for 10 years with the Victoria Operatic Society. She sits on their Board of Directors as Treasurer. Thanking a terrific cast and crew (especially, Michael!), she is also grateful to her family for their support, even if they can never remember which nights are rehearsal nights. "Keep calm and fade to black"



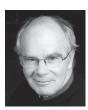
DEBBIE ROBINSON Apprentice Director

Debbie has performed in numerous roles over the past 25 years. Some of her favourites include; Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris, Cemetery Club, Blood Brothers, Company, Beauty and the Beast and Les Misérables. Debbie would like to thank Heather for inviting her to share this directorial adventure with her. She would also like to thank Janet, Sylvia and the talented cast for their hard work and dedication to this production.



ANDREA PITE Producer

This is Andrea's fifth round as Producer at Langham Court Theatre. She produced *The Penelopiad, The 39 Steps, A Month in the Country,* and *Rabbit Hole.* She has also worked on productions at St. Luke's Players and Gilbert & Sullivan. She is pleased to be producing this multi-leveled musical with such a hard-working and talented cast and crew. Outside of theatre, Andrea is an avid duplicate bridge player and sometime lawn bowler.



BILL ADAMS Set Design

Bill's been doing sets around Victoria for many years. In addition to the *Stepping Out* set, he's currently designing the *Spamalot* set coming to the MacPherson in the spring. Other Langham plays he's designed include *The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Cabaret, The 39 Steps, 84 Charing Cross Road, The Drowsy Chaperone, The Beauty Queen of Leenane, Elizabeth Rex and many others.*



ADAM WILKINSON Lighting Design

Adam is delighted to be back with friends revisiting "Stepping Out". Just a few years ago, Adam designed the set and lights for this gem of a show at LCT! Other production credits include The Boyfriend, Abelard and Heloise, Dark of the Moon, The Night Sky, Betrayal, The Lion in Winter, Our Town, Pack of Lies, That Face, The Graduate, and Pride and Prejudice. Adam is most grateful to work with such a talented team and would especially like to welcome Stage Manager Janet Hender into the fold! Adam is gainfully employed at the Royal and McPherson Theatres, and loves to cook with Mom and travel with son Dylan.



JASON KING Sound Design

Jason is happy to be working with longtime friends Heather, Janet and Adam on *Stepping Out* and with recent sound designs involving eras like the Regency for *Pride and Prejudice* and the 60's for *The Graduate* it seemed only a matter of time before a chance to do a design based on the fantastic 80's would come around. Recent other work includes the original score for *Doubt* at Langham Court and Stage Management and projection design for Ballet Victoria.





CHRIS STUSEK *Costume Design*

Stepping Out is Chris' fourth costume venture with Langham Court Theatre. Coming from a sewing, design and artistic background, Chris enjoys the creative process and fulfillment of the vision costuming for theatre presents. Chris has also costume designed for Victoria Operatic Society productions such as Les Miserables, Music Man, West Side Story, and Gypsy as well as using her skills in aid of The Canadian College of Performing Arts and Reynolds Secondary School.



DREW WAVERYN Properties/Set Decor

Drew has appeared in 16 productions at LCT as well as filling many more crew roles since 1985. He most recently appeared as Anthony Kirby in *You Can't Take it With You*. Drew's help on *Stepping Out* is extremely appreciated as he stepped in late in the production.



SYLVIA HOSIE Dance Captain

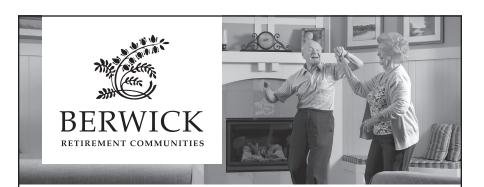
In 1961, Sylvia was a teenager performing tap solos on the Langham Court stage for the Summer Smile Show. She has gone on to have a 50 year career in professional theatre. Now retired, she is enjoying the Langham Court community and serves on the board. Watching Heather draw this story from her lovely cast has been a pleasure. Teaching them to tap has been hilarious. Langham Court credits: *Penelopiad* (movement); *Pride and Prejudice* (choreography); *Drood* (choreography). Most recent credit: *Bernstein Showcase GGG* at The Belfry (director/choreographer).

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About the Playwright



RICHARD HARRIS

Richard Harris (b. London 1934) is a prolific British television writer, most active from the early 1960s to the mid-1990s. Despite a career that has been largely spent writing for the crime and detective genre, in 1994 he won the prize for best situation comedy from the Writers' Guild of Great Britain for *Outside Edge*, a program he had originated as a stage play. Indeed, though the

majority of his work has been for television, a substantial amount of his output has been for the stage. His other plays include: *The Business of Murder, Stepping Out, The Maintenance Man, Visiting Hour, The Last Laugh* and *Dead Guilty*.

THE JACK DROY STAIRWAY

Langham Court Theatre is fortunate to have many, many friends. The volunteers who make our shows a reality, our volunteer Board, our enthusiastic and loyal audience, our neighbours – all have become part of the family.

Our new Stairway is here today because of one of our dear friends. Jack Droy had a career in the early days of Canadian film and was awarded the Canadian Picture Pioneers award in 1952 which was inscribed, "You helped to rock the cradle of our industry."

After coming to Victoria, he actively contributed his time and talent to the theatre scene. He loved Victoria and he loved the theatre community. And now through his Estate, he has contributed mightily to the Langham Court Theatre story.

Thank you, Jack





Cast and Crew of Stepping Out





URSULA SZKOLAK Mavis

Ursula Szkolak hails from Toronto. As a professional dancer, Ursula has performed with companies worldwide until accepting a principal dancer position in 2007 with Canadian Pacific Ballet, in Victoria, BC. This is Ursula's third show with Langham Court Theatre, having last appeared in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (2015), and The Penelopiad (2014). Ursula is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with all the talented and hardworking people involved in the making of *Stepping Out*!



KRISTIN PICKUP Vera

Cast Biographies

It has been a long while since Kristin stepped out on to a stage, but what a way to come back! Her fellow cast mates have been so much fun to work with and made this production such a joy to be a part of. She wishes to thank her superstar family for all of their support and for not commenting on her terrible rehearsal night dinners xo.



ELIZABETH BRIMACOMBE Maxine

Elizabeth is more accustomed to tap dancing around issues than across stages. Nevertheless, she has loved learning the show's choreography and tapping in rhythm with fellow cast members (big thanks to Sylvia and Heather!). Recently seen drunk, prostrate on Langham's stage in You Can't Take It With You, Elizabeth is enjoying playing a role where she is upright, sober, and coherent. Hurrah for the amazing talent, creativity, and good humour in this cast and crew!



KEELEY TEUBER Andy

Keeley is thrilled to be back on stage at Langham, and this time in tap shoes! She was last seen here as Gabriella in *Boeing Boeing* and Elaine in *The Graduate*. She has enjoyed sharing the stage with this lovely group of women... and one man. She hopes you leave the show inspired to step out of your comfort zone and try something new!



Happy New Year to all live theatre patrons at Langham Court. "Stepping Out" in 2016!

Carole James, MLA Victoria-Beacon Hill Community Office 1084 Fort Street

tel: 250.952.4211 role.james.mla@leg.bc.ca www.caroleiamesmla.ca



SUZANNE BELL Sylvia

Suzanne is very excited to be a part of her first Langham production. She fell in love with tap dancing when she did *Anything Goes* with Queen's Musical Theatre – we won't say how long ago! – and thought she'd like to give it another go! Her previous experience includes *Fiddler on the Roof* with the Victoria Operatic Society, a few productions with Opera Studio, and 16 years with Pacific Opera Victoria. She's delighted to be back onstage with this great cast and crew, in such a wonderful production.



CHRISTIE NORMAN-TAAL Dorothy

Christie is thrilled to be making her debut on the Langham Court stage. A Victoria-native, Christie has a Piano Performance & Teaching Diploma, is an accomplished ballet teacher/dancer, and also a professionally trained make-up artist. Her work has taken her across Canada and, with the BBC, to London, England. Christie thanks Kathleen West for suggesting she audition and Heather for including her in such a dynamic team, gleefully fulfilling a lifelong dream of learning to tap.

Cast Biographies



JENNIFER ALMEIDA Rose

Jennifer Almeida is a Malaysian-Canadian who has been living and working in Victoria since immigrating to Canada from Kuala Lumpur in 2004. She is excited to be performing in her first stage role as Rose in 'Stepping Out' at Langham Court and is thrilled to be part of such a wonderful cast. Jennifer is profoundly grateful for the faith that Director, Heather-Elayne Day and mentor, Sylvia Hosie, have shown in her. She wants to thank everyone involved in this production for all their hard work and dedication; as well as, to express her gratitude to Tony deRosenroll, Carlos Gaete and Caroline Yeend [the many personal friends] that have supported her in this creative journey. Enjoy the show!



MICHAEL ROMANO Geoffrey

In *Stepping Out*, Michael has achieved his most sought-after theatrical goal: a dressing room all to himself. Recent LCT roles include Bazzard in last year's *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and Elwood P. Dowd in *Harvey*. Other recent credits include Jim in *The Weir* and Michael in *What Happened Was*.



STEPHANIE GEEHAN Lynne

Stephanie is delighted to be doing another show at Langham Court. Some previous Langham shows include Jacques Brel (Director, Choreographer), You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Sally), and Dancing at Lughnasa (Rose). Stephanie has also choreographed and been in shows with the VOS, Four Seasons, and Theatre Inconnu. Stephanie teaches French at SMUS Junior School, but is currently on maternity leave. She wishes to acknowledge the support of her husband, without whom she wouldn't have been able to do this show.

Cast Biographies



VALERIE TURNER Mrs. Fraser

When Langham Court Life Member Barbara Waldner suggested Valerie audition for the part of Mrs. Fraser, it was meant to be. Twenty-five years ago, Valerie worked in a musical with Director/Choreographer Heather-Elayne Day. Valerie's first paying job, at age 13, was as a rehearsal pianist for dance classes. She now directs the Victoria Police Chorus, plays piano for the Commodores Big Band, The Lodge at Broadmead and Butchart Gardens. She also teaches piano to adult students.



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Paul Terry Jean Topham Judy Treloar Michael Tyler Rick Underwood Barbara Waldner Adam Wilkinson lutta Woodland Brian Woodman

Art Exhibition

Frances Harber

The first time I stepped into Langham Court Theatre it was to act in their productions of Belle Soeurs. Flea in Her Ear and Death of a Salesman. What a pleasure to return in yet another role – artist! I trained at Victoria College of Art and have had shows at studios in Chinatown, Sidney and Sooke Fine Arts Shows as well as Look Shows. Now my stage is canvas. Paint turns my ideas into characters and visual plots.

Like a good play, every line and colour plays an important part and balance depends on fine tuning the interplay between colour, light and line.



For this show I chose mainly animals as subjects because I find Nature to be the ultimate master of design, leading me on an endless fascinating journey. Enjoy both shows both on and off stage!

Our Donors

The Victoria Theatre Guild and Dramatic School is always grateful for the generous support of the people listed here. Their contribution is an important reason the Langham Court Theatre is able to do its part in helping to make Victoria the great place it is.

BENEFACTORS

(\$50,000+) Jack Droy

DESIGNERS

(\$1,000-9,000) Maxine Dell Keith Digby The Estate of Jack Droy The Estate of Jane French Paul Terry & Janet Munsil The City of Victoria

STAGE MANAGERS

(\$400-999) Todd Carter Elizabeth Chatfield The Estate of Jane French Dorothy Hosie Donald & Roberta Johannessen Bill & Shirley Kovits Tommy Mayne Laurie McIndoe Carmen & Edwin Pitcher Maureen Sawkins

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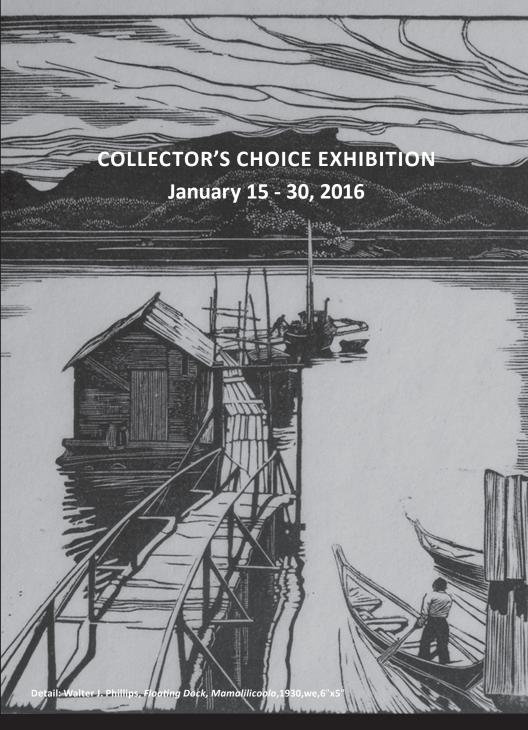
The Victoria Theatre Guild and Dramatic School is grateful for the financial support of the Province of British Columbia Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch.

Langham Court Theatre Sponsorship Program Launched

It is now possible for business to invest in Langham Court Theatre. The return on your sponsorship investment is a more vibrant, creative Victoria, a more engaged community, a heightened awareness of your business through a variety of valuable recognition and activation opportunities and a tangible demonstration of your commitment to building an even greater Victoria. Want to know more? Please email me, Tom McCarthy, General Manager at tom@langhamtheatre.ca.

Learning Opportunities

With the generous support of the Victoria Foundation, Langham Court Theatre will soon be offering a program of Learning Opportunities for our members, volunteers and other interested people. There will be workshops in a variety of theatrical subject areas and a two week summer daycamp, "Let's Make a Play". Details will be announced soon!



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