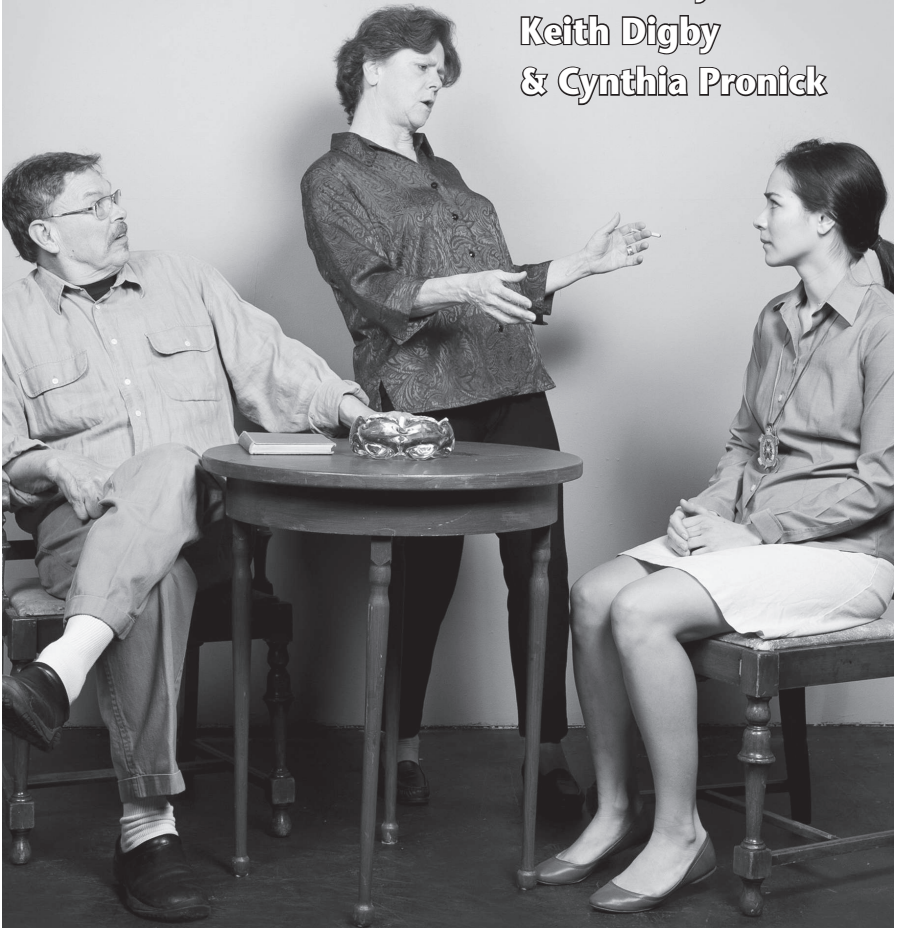


Langham Court Theatre

presents

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

By Tracy Letts
Directed by
Keith Digby
& Cynthia Pronick



April 22 - May 9, 2015

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Directors' Notes

"And the good old family reunion...is very much like diving into the octopus tank at the aquarium."
Robert Penn Warren, *All the King's Men*.

It's an immense gift, directing a play as brilliant as Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize winning... "good old family reunion." As directors, our initial trepidation about taking on what eminent critics have called, "The first great American play of the 21st Century," lessened as design team and cast brought so much talent and commitment to this project. Rehearsals themselves have been 'octopus-like' reaching tentacles into the acting company's time far beyond the scheduled rehearsal times. Stage-management and crew, too, have gone well beyond their actual remit while developing this monster of a show. It's not a comfortable play, dealing as it does with a damaged family, but in looking at the text long enough to get beyond simply condemning the Westons for their behaviour, we have found a sad humanity in them, an inkling of the human truth about the causes and course of the disintegrating family. This aspect has also struck a chord in many connected with this production. Shakespeare talked about the theatre holding "a mirror up to nature." Tracy Letts does this with daring, imagination and, surprisingly, a lot of humour.

We hope that you, our audience, will find time spent with the Weston family a super, if not totally comfortable, theatrical experience.

Cynthia and Keith

Langham Court Theatre
presents

August: Osage County

by Tracy Letts

April 22 – May 9, 2015

August: Osage County is presented by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

August: Osage County premiered in June 2007 at Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago, IL,
Martha Lavey, Artistic Director; David Hawkanson, Executive Director.

Steppenwolf's production of *August: Osage County* opened on Broadway at the Imperial Theatre
on December 4, 2007. It was produced by Jeffrey Richards, Jean Doumanian, Steve Traxler, Jerry Frankel,
Ostar Productions, Jennifer Manocherian, The Weinstein Company, Debra Black/Daryl Roth, Ronald
& Marc Frankel/Barbara Freitag, and Rick Steiner/Staton Bell Group.

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Directors	KEITH DIGBY*, CYNTHIA PRONICK
Producer	MICHAEL GOSSELIN
Assistant Producer	ANGELA HENRY
Stage Managers	SYLVIA LINDSTROM, JON SCHEER
Asst. Stage Manager	DAVID LARSEN
Set Design	DAN THACHUK
Lighting Design	KARRIE AYOTTE
Sound Design	ALAN MACKENZIE
Costume Design	LISA LEIGHTON
Properties	MAUREEN COLGAN
Set Decor	LINDA MACNAUGHTON

* appears with the permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association

Cast

Beverly Weston	NICK STULL
Violet Weston	SUSIE MULLEN
Barbara Fordham	LORENE CAMMIADE
Bill Fordham	WAYNE YERCHA
Jean Fordham	AMANDA WEAR
Ivy Weston	SHARA CAMPSALL
Karen Weston	RENEE YAKEMCHUK
Mattie Fae Aiken	HILARY F. ALLAN
Charlie Aiken	PETER MCNAB
Little Charles Aiken	MARK RIISHEDE
Johnna Monevata	KESHIA PALM
Steve Heidebrecht	PERRY BURTON
Sheriff Deon Gilbeau	MICHAEL GOSSELIN

Setting

A large country home outside Pawhuska, Osage County, Oklahoma.
The action takes place over the course of three weeks in August.

There will be two 15 minute intermissions.

Production Team

Head Scenic Carpenter Set Construction	BILL ADAMS MIKE KUSS, CHARLIE ENCELL, JULIUS MASLOVAT, GORDON ALEXANDER, DOUG CRAIG, CHRIS CLARKE, BARRY GRIMSHAW, DAVID BURBANK, DAVID CHAPLIN
Set Painters	BARRY GRIMSHAW, JOHN SMITH
Lighting Operators	IRENE DOERKSEN, JENNIFER ILLINGWORTH
Sound Operators	ALAN MACKENZIE, TIM WATTERS, CARL POWELL
Props Assistant	DEBBIE LAVERTY
Stage Crew	DAVID LARSEN, ANTON BRAKHAGE, HANAN ABOUSALEH
Lighting Crew	KARRIE AYOTTE, MICHAEL GOSSELIN, MICHAEL ROMANO, JENNIFER ILLINGWORTH, IRENE DOERKSEN, COLIN HOPERAFT, KEN MASON, LANE CHEVRIER, MIRNA TROGRIC, CAROL-ANNE MOORE, ALAN MACKENZIE, MILES PROVENCHAR, CORRINA GILLILAND, PAUL HILTON, FINN ARCHINUK, PERRY BURTON
Dialect Coach	NED LEMLEY
Hair Consultant	LAL O'CONNOR

Theatre Manager	Denise Brown
Facilities Maintenance	Dick Newson
Technical Director	Alan MacKenzie
House Manager	Karen Stack
Costume Manager	Lisa Leighton
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Artist Coordinator	Jeani Reynolds
Program Coordinator	Linda Billings
Custodian	Finn Archinuk
Photographer	David Lowes
Box Office Manager	Dick Newson
Head Scenic Carpenter	Bill Adams

Theatre Team

Admin/Box Office 250-384-2142

Costume Loft 250-384-2025

Mailing Address

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Acknowledgements

Jill St. Laurent of Osage County OK , Kenedy Colgan-Scallen, Ted Izard, Bill Haisell, Doug Baxter, Di Madill, Mark Heine, Anne Swannell, Jane Siegel, The Frame Up, Paul Bowman/Zebra Hair Studio, Levi Newnham, John Ratel, the generous support of Canadian Actors' Equity Association

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KEITH DIGBY & CYNTHIA PRONICK *Directors*

When Keith and Cynthia co-directed their first show at Langham Court Theatre, Stoppard's *Arcadia*, Cynthia's directing credits included *Come Back to the Five & Dime*, *7 Stories*, *Waiting for the Parade*, and *Les Belles Soeurs* at Brentwood College, and Keith had directed for Bastion Theatre and Citadel Theatre, Edmonton. Cynthia has acted onstage in Victoria: several roles with Langham, her favourite role being Annie in *The Real Thing*, and with Capital Comedy Theatre, Colin Skinner's Victoria summer stock company. Since *Arcadia*, they have co-directed *The Dining Room*, *Racing Demon*, *Pack of Lies*, *The Lady in The Van*, *The 39 Steps* and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* for LCT.

Production Biographies

MICHAEL GOSELIN *Producer/Sheriff Gilbeau*

Michael has dual roles with the production of *August: Osage County*. Not only is he producing the show, but also playing Sheriff Deon Gilbeau. Michael previously produced Langham's production of *People*, and last season was seen on stage in *The Graduate* in a plethora of roles. Michael wants to thank the fantastic Cast & Crew for making this such an enjoyable experience.



JON SCHEER & SYLVIA LINDSTROM *Stage Managers*

United again after successful stage management collaborations on *The 39 Steps* and *Cabaret*, Jon and Sylvia, are enjoying working with Keith & Cynthia again. In their spare time away from *August: Osage County*, they have been involved in other theatre projects. Jon, recently directed *Victoria's House* for St. Luke's Players and Sylvia was stage manager for *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

DAN THACHUK *Set Design*

Although he came to the theatre late in life, Dan's set designs reflect a life-long interest in the visual arts and architecture. Theatre, for Dan, is a magical and intensely creative place. It is, therefore, not surprising that he could not resist the siren call of another Langham Court production. "Each production", he says, "has its special share of challenges and delights, and *August: Osage County* has had an abundance of both".

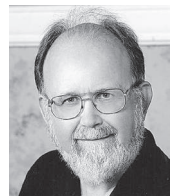


KARRIE AYOTTE *Lighting Design*

Although Karrie's day job keeps her away from Victoria most days, when Dan called with his vision for this set, Karrie knew where it would lead. And she's very grateful it did. Thanks to Keith, Cynthia and the cast and crew for letting me play with light, and to my husband, Todd, who patiently shares my time at home. As always, in memory of phil. Recent designs: *Drood*, *Cabaret*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead*, *Drowsy Chaperone*, *The 39 Steps*.

ALAN MACKENZIE *Sound Design*

Alan has been a member of Langham Court for over 50 years, having joined while still in High School. He has designed sound for far too many productions to list, including the Victoria Operatic Society, String of Pearls, and the Starlite Pops Choir to name a few. Each one has been a rewarding challenge.



LISA LEIGHTON *Costume Designer*

Lisa has enjoyed dressing the Westons. Rather like dressing the Borgias, but with less bloodshed and brocade. Thanks to our fabulous cast and crew for their generosity and patience. Special thanks to fiancé Mark, Sarah, Charlotte and Erica, the family behind whatever stage family Lisa is helping bring to life. Favourite past Langham shows: *Calendar Girls*, *Pack of Lies*, *The History Boys* and *Elizabeth Rex*.



Production Biographies



MAUREEN COLGAN *Props*

August Osage County is Maureen's third show this season following on the heels of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Pride and Prejudice*. Thanks to the cast and crew for a fabulous experience.

LINDA MACNAUGHTON *Set Decorator*

Linda arrived at Langham Court about a year ago as a Costume Loft volunteer. Although she is no stranger to designing clothing and jewellery, *August: Osage County* is her first foray into theatre set dressing – a challenging and exciting journey. Linda feels privileged to work with the talented, professional and supportive August 'family'. Special thanks to Bill and to Ned Lemley for his wisdom and encouragement in matters both theatrical and human.



Bravo Langham Court Theatre!
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provocative family-oriented themes.*

Carole James, MLA

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About the Playwright



TRACY LETTS *Playwright*

Tracy Letts was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1965 to best-selling author Billie Letts (née Gipson) and the late college professor and actor Dennis Letts. Letts moved to Chicago at the age of 20, and worked for the next 11 years at Steppenwolf Theatre Company and Famous Door. He is still an active member of Steppenwolf today. He was a founding member of Bang Bang Spontaneous Theatre.

In comparing their writing, his mother Billie said, "I try to be upbeat and funny. Everybody in Tracy's stories gets naked or dead." Letts'

plays have been about people struggling with moral and spiritual questions. He says he was inspired by the plays of Tennessee Williams, William Faulkner and Jim Thompson.

August: Osage County is based on a seminal event in Letts's own Durant, Oklahoma family: his maternal grandfather's suicide and his grandmother's ensuing drug addiction.

Upon reading the play, Letts' mother commented, "You've been very kind to my mother." Letts' response: "Had I portrayed my grandmother as accurately horrible as she could be, it would be too tough to take."

Letts plays include: *Killer Joe* (1993); *Bug* (1996); *Man from Nebraska* (2003); *Superior Donuts* (2008); *Three Sisters* (2009), an adaptation of Chekhov's *Three Sisters*. He adapted *Killer Joe*, *Bug* and *August: Osage County* for the screen.

A highly acclaimed actor, Letts received a Tony Award for his portrayal of George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* He is also known for his ongoing portrayal of Andrew Lockhart in seasons 3 and 4 of Showtime's *Homeland*, for which he has been nominated for two Screen Actors Guild Awards as a member of the ensemble.

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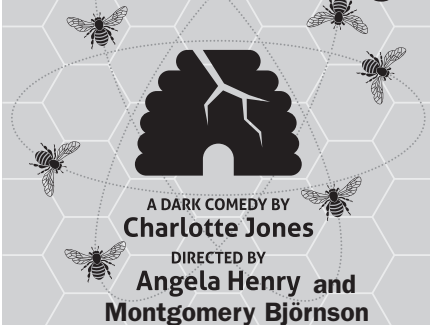
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NICK STULL *Beverly Weston*

In the last while, Nick has produced *Boeing, Boeing*, stage managed *Pride & Prejudice*, and assistant stage managed *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, but the character of Beverly Winston is his biggest challenge. Study for this part crosses paths with T.S. Eliot, Hart Crane, John Berryman, and some very interesting real people from Oklahoma and Arkansas. Come and feel the heat!

Cast Biographies

SUSIE MULLEN *Violet Weston*



This is the third show Susie has done at Langham Court (*Dancing at Lughnasa* – 2002, and *Cabaret* - 2014). She is delighted to be back, working with Keith and Cynthia and the talented cast and crew of *August: Osage County* to bring this dynamic play to Victoria. As she did last summer, Susie will spend this summer *trodding the boards* at Camosun for the Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival's 25th Anniversary season.



LORENE CAMMIADE *Barbara Fordham*

Lorene is very excited to be part of this production and working with Keith and Cynthia once again! Recent roles include the highly inappropriate Nanny in *Baby with the Bathwater* (Theatre Inconnu), and the dastardly, duplicitous title character in *Lady Audley's Secret* (Dragon Monkey Theatre) in last year's Fringe Festival. Most recently for Langham Court, she appeared as Nora in *Better Living* and Becca in *Rabbit Hole*. Lorene dedicates this performance to her family, who are (luckily) unlike the agitated Westons!

WAYNE YERCHA *Bill Fordham*



Wayne has performed in a number of Langham productions over the years, the latest being *Better Living* in 2013 and *The Graduate* last season. He's delighted to have the opportunity to be part of this wonderful production and to work with this very talented and dedicated group.



AMANDA WEAR *Jean Fordham*

Amanda has been acting since she was 8, studying Theatre at Kaleidoscope Performing Arts Studio, TV & Film acting at Screen Actors Studio, (David Simmons & Andrew McIlroy), & acting for screen at CAST, (Althea McAdam), in Victoria. Amanda has also been training her exceptional singing voice with Althea since 2012, nailing pop, blues, soul, & anything by Paloma Faith. She recently had lead roles in the Stelly's Secondary School musical theatre productions of *The Lion King* and *Band Geeks*. Amanda is beyond thrilled to be cast in Langham Court's production of *August: Osage County*.

SHARA CAMPSALL *Ivy Weston*



This is Shara's fourth Langham production and she is thrilled to be back on this stage. Shara began performing in local theatre as a child with Four Seasons, PACE productions and VOS. Shara trained at Vancouver film school and has acted in a few short films and television productions. She is a proud mom of two boys Ethan and William.



RENEE YAKEMCHUK *Karen Weston*

Renee is very happy to be performing in her first production at Langham. Renee completed the Hagen Core Training at HB Studio in New York and continued on to study with the amazing Carol Rosenfeld, Victor Slezak, Mark Blum, Ilse Pfeifer and Austin Pendleton among others. Theatre credits include *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *3xBeckett=...* (a compilation of *Come and Go*, *Not I* and *Footfalls*), *Day One Thousand* and *Love Stories* which she co-wrote, created, produced and performed.

HILARY F. ALLAN *Mattie Fae Aiken*

Hilary started acting in Belfast at 7 years old. She has performed in many Canadian cities, and was last on the Langham stage in 1999 in *Deathtrap*. She started Toba Theatre Productions and directed/produced one acts for dinner theatre at the Blethering Place. Hilary returned to the stage after 14 years in October 2014, as Ouiser in St. Luke's production of *Steel Magnolias*. She is delighted to be back after such a long absence, and is enjoying working with such a kind and talented group.



PETER MCNAB *Charlie Aiken*

Peter is moving from co-producing *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* to a role in a fraught family. Previous credits include *Cemetery Club*, *The Laramie Project*, *King Lear*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *Nightfall to Belfast*, *We Bombed in New Haven*, *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, *Travesties*, and *The Crucible*. Peter is also a member of Target Theatre. He thanks Cynthia and Keith for reinforcing the importance of punctuation when taking on a character.

MARK RIISHEDE *Little Charles Aiken*

Mark is thrilled to be trodding the boards again at Langham Court Theatre. Previous LCT credits include, *Cabaret* (2014) and *History Boys* (2010). Other local credits include *Chorus|Line|Cabaret* (GGG), *Into The Woods* (UrbanArts), *Seussical* (Saltwater), and *A Christmas Story the Musical* (VOS). Thank you for supporting live theatre in Victoria, BC.



KESHIA PALM *Johnna Monevata*

Keshia is in her final year at the University of Victoria, finishing her BFA in Theatre. This will be her second production at Langham Court, following *Pride & Prejudice* this past fall. Other recent productions include: *Amadeus*, *Savage in Limbo*, *Unity (1918)* (UVic Phoenix Theatre), *Miss Saigon* (Victoria Operatic Society), and *The Daughter of Turpentine* (SATCo). It's been an absolute joy tuning up this American-made behemoth for you. Please, enjoy the ride.

PERRY BURTON *Steve Heidebrecht*

This is Perry's fourth production at Langham Court, appearing most recently in last summer's successful run of *Boeing Boeing*. Performing since childhood, he has lived throughout Canada moving to Victoria in 2009 from Calgary, where he won the Outstanding Male Actor award at the Calgary One Act Festival. Perry thanks the wonderful cast and crew for making this a most enjoyable production.



MICHAEL GOSSELIN *Sheriff Deon Gilbeau*

see page 6.

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ESTHER PARKER

Esther paints and draws people, pencil sharpeners, peas... and anything else that strikes her fancy! She became interested in art when she picked up a camera in her teens. She was drawn to the documentary-style images of photographers such as Mary Ellen Mark and Dorothea Lange.

These days, painting and drawing are Esther's primary means of creative expression, but photography continues to influence her work, which is often monochromatic, revealing her photographic roots.

An admission free Art Reception will be held at Langham Court Theatre Sunday, April 26th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Lounge. Art work can be viewed and/or purchased preshow, intermission or post-show during the show run and during box office hours. Call 250-384-2142 for more information.

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