

**LANGHAM
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THEATRE**
presents



FEB 28 – MAR 17, 2018
**SENSE AND
SENSIBILITY**

JANE AUSTEN'S CLASSIC DRAMATIC COMEDY
ADAPTED BY KATE HAMILL

DIRECTED BY KEITH DIGBY & CYNTHIA PRONICK

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Langham Court Theatre presents

Sense and Sensibility

Adapted by Kate Hamill from the novel by Jane Austen

Directed by Keith Digby & Cynthia Pronick

February 28 – March 17, 2017

Presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service Inc.

Directors	KEITH DIGBY & CYNTHIA PRONICK
Producer	MICHAEL GOSSELIN
Stage Manager	SYLVIA LINDSTROM
Costume Designer	HANA RUZESKY-BASHFORD
Lighting Designer	PAUL HILTON
Properties/Set Décor	LINDA MACNAUGHTON
Set Designer	CHRIS CLARKE
Sound Designer	JON SCHEER
Choreographer	SYLVIA HOSIE
Assistant Stage Managers	ARIEL GLIDDEN & BARRY PUTZ
Wigs/Hair Design	LAL O'CONNOR

Cast

Mrs. Dashwood / Gossip	URSULA SZKOLAK
Marianne Dashwood	MICHELLE MITCHELL
Elinor Dashwood	HELENA DESCOTEAU
Margaret Dashwood / Gossip	JULIANA MONK
Mrs. Jennings / Gossip	DE ROGER
Sir John Middleton / Gossip	KEVIN STINSON
Fanny Dashwood / Lucy Steele / Gossip	KATT CAMPBELL
Anne Steele / Gossip	JEI LEGH
Edward / Robert Ferrars / Gossip	JAMES JOHNSON
Colonel Brandon / Gossip	CARL POWELL
Thomas / Gossip / Servant / Lady Middleton	JOHN BIDNER
Willoughby / John Dashwood / Gossip	BRIAN QUAKENBUSH
Gossip	BARRY PUTZ

Setting
England, 1790s



Production Team

Head Scenic Carpenter	Chris Clarke
Apprentice Director	Quinn MacTavish
Props Assistant	Wendy Henderson
Backstage Props	Maureen Colgan
Projection Designer	Jason King
Puppet Designer	Cynthia Pronick
Sound Technician/Operator	Jon Scheer
Sound Operators	Andrea Pite, Larry Taylor
Lighting Operators	Jennifer Illingworth, Alexis Kuss, Mike Kuss
Set Construction	Mike Kuss, Gordon Alexander, Charlie Encell, Julius Maslovat, Carl Powell, Alf Small
Set Painters	Don Keith, John Smith
Lighting Crew	Karrie Ayotte, Perry Burton, Maureen Colgan, Allan Dong, Noel Feliciano, Christina Haska, Jennifer Illingworth, Jeff Nelson, Tasia Schwarze, Max Terpstra
Hair Dresser	Megan Stretch
Hair Crew	Geraldine Finch, Alyssa Bryce, Ashley King
Costume Sewers	Geraldine Finch, Erika Schweitzer, Jane Smith



Theatre Team

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Custodian/ Facilities Manager	Michael Gosselin
Front of House Manager	Christina Haska
General Manager	Michelle Buck
Head Scenic Carpenter	Chris Clarke
Photographer	David Lowes
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Properties Managers	Sally Crickman Jean de Cartier
Technical Director	Jason King
Production Chairs 2017-18	Roger Carr Keith Digby
Production Chairs 2018-20	Alan Penty Pat Rundell

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Please refrain from using scented products when attending a performance. Some of our patrons are highly allergic to certain scents. Thank you.

WARNING: fog and strobe light used



Vice President's Message



Langham Court Theatre is one of the busiest places in Victoria: while a performance takes place on the main stage a Readers' Theatre rehearsal happens downstairs; when an acting class takes place in the lounge, a light hang happens on the stage; and while a seniors' group or a middle school class rehearses, our volunteer carpenters are hammering and sawing in the shop, busily creating the next dose of magic for our audiences. Hundreds of volunteers contribute the thousands of hours of creative energy that make Langham Court Theatre what it is today—one of the most successful performing arts companies in Greater Victoria. But it would all be for nothing without

you, our audience members; and for your continued attendance and support, we thank you very much!

Wendy Merk, Vice President



Welcome from the General Manager



Sense and Sensibility seems the perfect play to welcome spring. We believe Kate Hamill's refreshing adaptation of this Jane Austen classic is a joy and hope you agree. And once you do, we have a favour to ask. As you may know, traditional media in Victoria is changing leaving fewer professional critics to share our stories, making word of mouth reviews even more important. So we need you, our patrons and friends, to talk to others and share your excitement about Langham and the calibre of work on our stage. Thank you for being here, for sharing with others, and for continuing to support live theatre.

Michelle Buck, General Manager



A Note from the Production Co-Chairs



After the enigmatic *Goldfish*, the rancorous *Les Belles* and the flying pee of *Urinetown*, our audience members might be looking forward to relaxing into the bucolic calm of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*. However, we've put her on wheels! The fourth play of the season sustains the gauntlet thrown with the opening play. A production that is fun, passionate, cerebral and, above all, theatrical. We hope you enjoy *Sense and Sensibility*.

Roger Carr and Keith Digby, Production Co-Chairs

Melina Boucher

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Directors' Notes

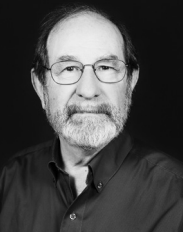
We must be crazy. Trying to bring this wonderful circus of a play to a controlled but creative whole is somewhat like trying to weave water. Luckily, Kate Hamill's super comic-melodrama reimagining of the Jane Austen early nineteenth century classic is strongly crafted, despite its seemingly improvisatory (and sometimes downright wacky) staging concept. We have benefited from a cast and a creative team who, from moment one, became excited by its performance and production originality.

Enjoy this version of *Sense and Sensibility*: a romp, surely, but with Jane Austen's vision of society still firmly in place.

Cynthia and Keith: Co-Directors



Production Biographies



KEITH DIGBY & CYNTHIA PRONICK *Directors*

Cynthia and Keith's directing partnership at Langham Court Theatre began with *Arcadia* in 1996. Their collaborative efforts have since included *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *The Dining Room*, *Racing Demon*, *Pack of Lies*, *The Lady in the Van*, *The 39 Steps*, *August Osage County* and *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*.

Co-directing *Sense and Sensibility*, their tenth directing gig for Langham, has been a madcap delight! It will be followed by a flurry of visits to their four children, six grandchildren, and kayaking around beautiful Vancouver Island.



MICHAEL GOSSELIN *Producer*

This is Michael's sixth stint as Producer at Langham Court and third with Keith and Cynthia. He would like to thank the phenomenal cast and crew for their effort as it has made his job much easier. Michael would also like to thank the continued support of his wife Rebecca in his near constant participation with Langham.



SYLVIA LINDSTROM *Stage Manager*

Sylvia is pleased to be able to work with the talented people involved in this show and thanks Cynthia and Keith for asking her to be on the *Sense and Sensibility* team. Previous stage management work includes *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The 39 Steps*, *Cabaret*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *August: Osage County*, *Female Transport* and *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (Langham Court); *Casino Royale* and *Leer* (Outpost 31); *Twelfth Night*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Macbeth* and *Love's Labour's Lost* (GV Shakespeare Festival); *Spit Delaney's Island* and *Shock-headed Peter* (Inconnu).



HANA RUZESKY-BASHFORD *Costume Designer*

Hana is a graduate of the Phoenix Theatre program at UVic with a specialization in design. She is excited to be working on her first show with Langham Court Theatre. Recent costume design credits include: *Project Mercury* (Vino Buono), *The Inspector* (Phoenix Theatre) and *Dog Sh*t* (SATCo).



PAUL HILTON *Lighting Designer*

This will be Paul's 7th show at Langham. He has also designed two original plays and was responsible for the sanctuary lighting renovations at First Met. United Church. Thanks to Keith and Cynthia, the production team, cast and crew, Rose (the love of his life!) and anyone who knows about R325! Selected designs: *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl* (with Carol-Anne Moore), *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *Humble Boy*, *Godspell*, *the Mikado* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

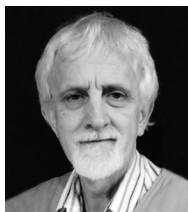


Production Biographies



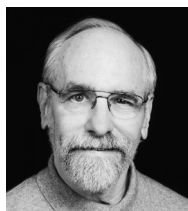
LINDA MACNAUGHTON *Properties/Set Décor*

Theatre provides Linda with a magical playspace – to design, collect, build, sew – and collaborate with so many creative souls. Her previous Langham shows include *The Girl in the Goldfish Bowl*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and *August: Osage County*. She thanks Bill, Keith and Cynthia, and all the wonderful Janeites.



CHRIS CLARKE *Set Designer*

What seems like hundreds of years ago Chris went to film school and though his intent was to work in live action, he did only a bit of that until he ended up in the globe trotting gulag of cartoon animation. He prefers actually building things, so, quite rightly, this is his favourite job ever.



JON SCHEER *Sound Designer*

This is Jon's thirteenth show at Langham since moving to the Victoria area in 2006 which follows his undergraduate degree in theatre and over 60 years experience on stage and back stage. It has been a delight working for the third time with Keith and Cynthia. He wants to thank Jason for the challenge and his wife, Teva, the theatre widow in the background.



SYLVIA HOSIE *Choreographer*

After 50 years in the professional theatre, Sylvia is delighted to be retired and involved with Langham Court, one of the stages on which she first began. This is her sixth adventure with LC (*Wind In The Willows*, *Arcadia*, *Penelopiad*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Drood*). She also serves on the Board and will be AD for *A Chorus of Disapproval* opening in April.



ARIEL GLIDDEN *Assistant Stage Manager*

Ariel is absolutely delighted to be back behind the scenes at Langham. This is her sixth production at the theatre and her second as Assistant Stage Manager. She would like to thank her family for their tremendous support! Welcome to the Regency era and enjoy the show!



BARRY PUTZ *Assistant Stage Manager*

Barry has been involved with Langham Court Theatre since moving from Regina in 2016. He has helped with lights in Langham Court's 2017 productions of *Next to Normal* and *Les Belle Soeurs*. Prior to moving to Victoria, Barry appeared on stage in many plays in community theatre groups in Saskatchewan. *Sense and Sensibility* is his first time as an Assistant Stage Manager as well as his first time acting with Langham Court.

About the Novelist



JANE AUSTEN

Jane Austen (1775–1817) is known primarily for her six major novels, which interpret, critique and comment upon the British landed gentry at the end of the 18th century. Ms Austen picks apart a society where the only hope for a secure future for a woman of “no fortune” was to marry well, where gossip was the lifeblood of society and where reputations were both built and destroyed by rumour and innuendo. *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), is the first of her major novels, and was followed by *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814) and *Emma* (1815). She wrote two additional novels, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, both published posthumously in 1818.

About the Playwright



KATE HAMILL

A hundred-dollar bet with a friend started Kate Hamill's playwriting career. In 2010 she was an aspiring actress becoming frustrated by looking at casting notices that all seemed to call for long-suffering girlfriends or bikini babes. “I got swiftly irritated by the dearth of good female roles in female-centric stories,” Hamill said recently. The friend was Andrus Nichols, co-founder of New York's downtown Bedlam Theatre Company. *Sense and Sensibility*, her wildly energetic hundred-dollar-bet-winning adaptation of the Jane Austen classic, was produced by Bedlam Theatre in 2014. Her balance of high theatricality and strict adherence to story, theme and sentiment won her acclaim with audiences, critics and the Janeites alike. Soon, other projects followed, including adaptations of Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* and Austen's other great, *Pride and Prejudice*. In 2017 her “kinetic concoctions” raised her into the top ten list of playwrights produced in America for that year. Hmmm... a hundred dollars risked, from which Kate Hamill, Bedlam Theatre, and theatre producers all over North America have benefited immensely. Enjoy the mayhem.



About the Music

As with some of Fanny Mendelssohn's compositions, published first under her famous brother Felix's name, Jane Austen's name was not attached to her novels.



Cast and Crew of *Sense and Sensibility*



Bravo! Langham Court Theatre for staging Jane Austen's classic family drama, *Sense and Sensibility*.

Hon. Carole James, MLA

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NORAH SADAVA & AMY NOSTBAKKEN IN MOUTHPIECE - PHOTO BY BROOKE WEDLOCK



Cast Biographies



URSULA SZKOLAK *Mrs. Dashwood | Gossip*

Ursula is happy to be back on the Langham stage after her last appearance as Mavis in *Stepping Out* (2015). Other recent credits include Sheila in *A Chorus Line* (VOS), *Spamalot* (VOS), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Langham) and *The Penelopiad* (Langham). Ursula would like to thank the directors, cast and crew for a wonderful experience exploring the fabulous world of Jane Austen.



MICHELLE MITCHELL *Marianne Dashwood*

Michelle is excited to be back on stage at Langham with this zany cast and crew. Previous Langham credits include *Escape from Happiness* and *Better Living* (Mary Ann), *You Can't Take It With You* (Essie), *Harvey* (Myrtle Mae), *The Graduate* (Stripper), *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Ophelia), *Elizabeth Rex* (Bear) and *The Laramie Project* (Zubaida Ula). Much love to her husband for helping to instill a love of theatre in their daughter, and for his everlasting patience and support.



HELENA DESCOTEAU *Elinor Dashwood*

Helena Descoteau is thrilled to be performing with Langham Court for the first time! Since graduating from the Canadian College of Performing Arts in 2016, Helena has enjoyed taking part in shows with companies all around Victoria. Some all time favourite credits include: Corday, *Marat/Sade*; Jordan, *The Great Gatsby*; Rapunzel, *Into the Woods* (CCPA); and Ensemble, *Sunset Boulevard* (VOS). Helena is also a singer-songwriter.



JULIANA MONK *Margaret Dashwood | Gossip*

Juliana Monk, age 14, is ecstatic to be in her first show at Langham Court. She has always been interested in performing arts and has taken part in a few shows such as *This Little Light* with the Belfry and *Macbeth* with the Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival. She has also dabbled in the film industry with a few credits such as *Love Under the Stars* and *Cedar Cove*. She would like to thank her wonderful family and friends and of course the magnificent cast and crew. Enjoy the show!



DE ROGER *Mrs. Jennings | Gossip*

This is De's first time on the Langham Court stage and she's fulfilling a dream by being here. She is a 12 year member of the Victoria Gilbert and Sullivan Society and has performed with VOS (Aunty Em in *Wizard of Oz* and *Sound of Music*) and St. Lukes Players (*Bull in a China Shop* and *The Robin Hood Caper*). De loves to hear the audience laugh and thanks them for making these shows possible!



Cast Biographies



KEVIN STINSON *Sir John Middleton | Gossip*

Kevin is "simply delighted old boy" to be appearing as Sir John. Recent onstage appearances here include *Escape From Happiness*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Harvey*, *Elizabeth Rex* and *The Laramie Project*. Offstage, he sometimes dabbles in Sound and Projection Design, and is currently serving as President of the VTG. His favourite Langham experience was getting married on our stage to the lovely and talented Gloria Snider.



KATT CAMPBELL *Fanny Dashwood | Lucy Steele | Gossip*

Sense and Sensibility is the second production Katt has performed in at Langham, having also appeared as Charlotte Lucas in *Pride and Prejudice*. When she's not busy stealing other women's husbands, Katt can be found backstage, stage managing shows like *Spamalot!* (VOS), and as the Guest Producer for the 2016 Victoria Fringe Festival. Katt recently abandoned her real life and spent 2017 volunteering in Switzerland and the UK for the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. She is now back in Victoria, armed with cookies and a feminist agenda (of which she's certain Jane Austen would approve).



JEI LEGH *Anne Steele | Gossip*

Jei is delighted to join the Langham family for the first time in *Sense and Sensibility*; It's been wonderful working with the cast and crew! Offstage she is currently a student in the Faculty of Writing at the University of Victoria. She hopes you enjoy her musical stylings at the opening of Act Two.



JAMES JOHNSON *Edward | Robert Ferrars | Gossip*

This is the third production James has been involved with at Langham Court with his previous roles as Tony Kirby Jr in *You Can't Take it With You* (2015–2016 season), and Mr. Richard Enfield in *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (2016–2017 season). He feels that Langham is a second home and he is honoured to be a part of this production with such a wonderful cast and crew. He hopes that you enjoy the show, laugh loudly and suggests you have your tissues ready! James would like to give special thanks to his Auntie Tess, who is an incredible continual source of inspiration.



CARL POWELL *Colonel Brandon | Gossip*

From his very first play, *You Can't Take it With You*, Carl has appeared in two other Langham court productions, *She Stoops to Conquer* and *The Crucible*. As a huge Jane Austen fan, he is thrilled to be a part of this play and working with such fun, talented and generous production team.



Cast Biographies



JOHN BIDNER *Gossip* / *Servant* / *Lady Middleton* / *Thomas*

This is John's first show with Langham Court Theatre. Recent credits include Charles Condomine in Sooke Harbour Players' production of *Blithe Spirit* and The Knight of Ni in *Spamalot* (VOS, 2016). He also played George Tesman in workingclasstheatre's 2015 production of *Hedda Gabler*. John is excited to be working with the incredibly talented cast and crew on this wonderful show.



BRIAN QUAKENBUSH *Willoughby* / *John Dashwood* / *Gossip*

Brian is new to Langham Court, but has been seen locally with the Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival and Atomic Vaudeville. For the past decade he's been producing, directing, writing, designing and acting for a variety of outfits in the San Francisco-Bay Area, including his co-founded sketch comedy groups Battle Stache Studios and Round Belly Theatre Company. This summer he'll be acting as General Manager for the GVSF and writing/directing *Beginning/Middle/End* at the Victoria Fringe Festival.



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Wendy Merk

Wendy started drawing pictures as soon as she could hold a pencil. In those days her subjects were her mother and Olive Oyl from the 'Popeye' cartoons on television.

In her teens Wendy discovered theatre. She was able to combine both interests in her costume design paintings, some of which will be part of the art show at Langham.

Wendy truly appreciates the opportunity to display her work along with that of her friend and colleague Jean Topham.

Jean Topham

Jean trained as a paper conservator at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, England. On returning to Canada she set up a paper conservation program at the Vancouver City Archives. She then moved to Victoria where she has worked as a private paper conservator for the last forty years conserving everything from family memorabilia to Emily Carr works of art on paper. She is currently a consultant for the B.C. Land Title and Survey Authority.

Jean was greatly influenced by the work of Lorne Loomer and his use of cedar bark brushes and ink. After experimenting with these brushes and ink Jean started using brushes drawn from nature – lavender, heather, reeds, daffodil leaves and fungi. Combining natural brushes, Chinese ink and watercolour or gouache Jean produced the work in the current exhibition.



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Space does not permit us to individually express our gratitude to the 11 Supporting Players who contributed up to \$99 each. We are grateful to you all!

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