

★ LANGHAM COURT THEATRE ★

PRESENTS

Present Laughter

A Comedy by
Noël Coward

Directed by
Don Keith

JUN ★ JUL
26^{to} ★ 14 2024

For easier
viewing, please
use this QR code
for an online
version of our
programme.



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**Sep 25–Oct 13
2024**

RAVENSCROFT
by Don Nigro

Nov 13–Dec 01 **THE WICKHAMS: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY**
2024 by Lauren Gunderson & Margot Nelson

**Jan 29–Feb 16
2025**

NOW AND THEN
by Sean Grennan

**Mar 26–Apr 13
2025**

AN INSPECTOR CALLS
by J.B. Priestly

**Jun 25–Jul 13
2025**

SEND ME NO FLOWERS
by Norman Barasch & Carroll Moore

ART in the LOUNGE

Johanne Hémond is originally from Montréal but has been a Victoria resident for over twenty years. She works as a Recreation Therapist with Island Health's Wellness Monitoring Program and is an artist in her free time.

Johanne brings compassion and empathy to her clinical practice, and ongoing support around her clients' mental health. She also brings the arts into her practice as a way of coping with emotional and physical pain. In 2013, she initiated and led the Aberdeen Art Program which ran until 2016.

GERI BYRNE

*"I do not follow a path.
Just my heart"*

Geri Byrne is a Victoria-based artist whose work is inspired by nature's dramatic and colourful moments. A simple slice of everyday! Geri's paintings are admired and easily recognized by her use of light, vibrant colour and contrast. Because colour and light have such a powerful impact on the body, soul, and mind, we are naturally drawn to colour often triggering an emotional state that is stimulating and energizing.

gerihbyrne@gmail.com

THE CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Emme Sait	Daphne Stillington, <i>an eager fan</i>
Julie Gray	Miss Erikson, <i>the Swedish housekeeper</i>
Malcolm Harvey	Fred, <i>a talented and loyal valet</i>
Elizabeth Whitmarsh	Monica Reed, <i>private secretary to Mr. Essendine</i>
Toshik Bukowiecki	Garry Essendine, <i>a famous and popular comedic actor</i>
Jacquelyne Keath	Liz Essendine, <i>Garry's wife and business partner</i>
Nolan Fidyk	Roland Maule, <i>a neurotic and obsessive playwright</i>
Carl Powell	Morris Dixon, <i>Garry's manager</i>
John Bidner	Hugo Lyppiatt, <i>Garry's producer and business partner</i>
Deirdre Tipping	Joanna Lyppiatt, <i>the other woman</i>
Kyla Mellish	Lady Saltburn, <i>a lady of the upper class, and Daphne's Aunt</i>

SETTINGS

TIME

Late 1930s

SETTING

Garry Essendine's luxurious studio in London, England, depicting a few days in the life of the successful, self-obsessed light comedy actor as he prepares to travel for a touring engagement.

ACT I

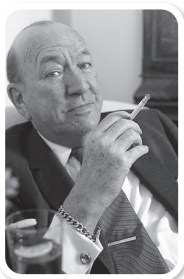
Morning and Evening 3 days later

There will be a 20 minute Intermission

ACT II

The next Morning and Evening a week later

THE PLAYWRIGHT



Noël Coward – Author

Sir Noël Peirce Coward (16 December 1899 – 26 March 1973) was an English playwright, composer, director, actor, and singer, known for his wit, flamboyance, and what Time magazine called “a sense of personal style, a combination of cheek and chic, pose and poise”.

Coward achieved enduring success as a playwright, publishing more than 50 plays from his teens onwards.

Many of his works, such as *Hay Fever*, *Private Lives*, *Design for Living*, *Present Laughter*, and *Blithe Spirit*, have remained in the regular theatre repertoire. He composed hundreds of songs, in addition to well over a dozen musical theatre works (including the operetta *Bitter Sweet* and comic revues), screenplays, poetry, several volumes of short stories, the novel *Pomp and Circumstance*, and a three-volume autobiography. Coward’s stage and film acting and directing career spanned six decades, during which he starred in many of his own works, as well as those of others.



The most excellent production crew

LCT gratefully acknowledges the *lək'wəŋən* Peoples, on whose traditional territories we create and perform, and the Songhees and Esquimalt Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. We are committed to listening, learning and collaborating as active participants in truth and reconciliation as we create on this beautiful land.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Don Keith, BA, MA (Directing) – Director It has been a great pleasure to direct *Present Laughter*. I am so grateful to have a brilliant production team, cast and crew. We have been inspired by playing together to discover all the delights of Noël Coward's writing. *Present Laughter* was originally chosen as part of Langham's pre-Covid season. It is an immense pleasure to finally present Coward's masterpiece, originally produced in the 1930s and at Langham in 1951.

I hope you agree it was worth the wait! Enjoy the show!

~ Don Keith, Director



The amazing building crew



The awesome cast

GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks to Alf Small, Alan Penty, Kathleen Somers, Carlo Schluschen, James McClelland, Marilyn Jones, Jude Somers

There are many vibrant and creative opportunities in volunteering with Langham Court Theatre

ushering, bartending, acting, directing, producing, stage managing, costume design, lighting design, sound design, set painting/decor, set construction, backstage crew, tech operators, committee work

THE CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



Emme Sait – Daphne Stillington

Emme is an actor, writer, and voiceover artist from Yorkshire, UK. Theatre credits include: *Oedipus*, *Antigone*, *A Respectable Wedding* (NDCSFC); *West Side Story*, *The Mikado*, *Kes* (Lamproom Theatre); *License to Thrill* (Palace Theatre). She is delighted to join the cast of *Present Laughter* for her first LCT show and Canadian stage debut!



Julie Gray – Miss Erikson

Julie is thrilled to be performing in her first LCT play. Her previous visits to the stage include shows with Theatre Inconnu, Peninsula Players, St. Luke's Players and Theatre al Dente, with a little Shakespeare thrown in for good measure. This is her third role as "the help" in a play... is there a theme developing here? Thank you for coming!



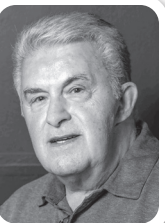
Malcolm Harvey – Fred

Malcolm is delighted to return to LCT after too many years away. His Langham credits include: *Blithe Spirit*, *Goodnight Mr. Tom*, *You Can't Take it With You* and *People*. He's also performed with SLPCT in *They Promised Her the Moon*, *Curious Savage*, *Prescription for Murder*, *The Trouble with Cats* and others.



Elizabeth Whitmarsh – Monica Reed

Elizabeth is extremely happy to be returning to the Langham stage in Noël Coward's brilliantly witty *Present Laughter*. Her role? A secretary. Trained as one, her working life was spent as one, so she should at least know how to perform as one! You be the judge.



Toshik Bukowiecki – Garry Essendine/Set Design

Toshik has "tread the boards" at LCT since 1971 when he was reviewed as "a promising new-comer" in *I Am a Camera* and was last seen as Selsdon Mowbray in *Noises Off*. Some favourite roles have been the 15 characters he played in *The 39 Steps*; Theodore, the porn film director in *People* and Rev. Harry Henderson in *Racing Demon*. This is his second set design this season after *Murder Weekend*.

THE CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



JACQOLLYNE KEATH – Liz Essendine

After directing, SMing and producing, Jacqollyne is now thrilled to make her stage debut with LCT. She is a well known director, actor and sound designer on the lower mainland. Favourite roles are Donna in *Mamma Mia!*, Portal Players (Port Alberni) and Sister Robert Anne for Sidekick Players (Tsawwassen) in *Nunsense and Nuncrackers*.



NOLAN FIDYK – Roland Maule

Nolan grew up around the theatre, with both parents being actors/producers throughout his childhood. He is a graduate of the Studio 58 Acting program at Langara College. Recent credits; James M. Barrie, *The Lost Boy* (LCT), Erik Arndt, *Survivors* (BEMA productions), and Dr. Hull, *Vision Disturbance* (Theatre Inconnu).



CARL POWELL – Morris Dixon

Hot on the heels of his very fun romp as “Julian” in *Murder Weekend*, Carl is thrilled to be present on LCT’s stage again for lots of laughter with yet another great production team and the unparalleled wit and humour of Noël Coward. He thanks you for supporting LCT and hopes you enjoy the show.



JOHN BIDNER – Hugo Lyppiatt

This is John’s second LCT show. He previously appeared as Lady Middleton in *Sense and Sensibility* (LCT), Charles Condomine in *Blithe Spirit* (Sooke Harbour Players) and the Knight of Ni in *Spamalot* (VOS). John is excited to be working with the incredibly talented cast and crew of *Present Laughter*.



DEIRDRE TIPPING – Joanna Lyppiatt

You may remember Deirdre at LCT in *Female Transport*, *Les Belles Soeurs* and *Her Best Chance*. At Theatre Inconnu she was in *Witch*, *Black Rider*, *Trad* and *Age of Arousal* plus some murder mystery romps with SLPCT. Thanks to a fab cast and crew it’s been simply lovely, darlings.

THE CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



Kyla Mellish – Lady Saltburn

After recently relocating from the Toronto area, Kyla is excited to be performing in her first Victoria production. She previously performed on stage in Newmarket, Ontario in *Steel Magnolias* and *Opal's Husband*. Kyla has enjoyed getting to know the cast and crew at Langham Court Theatre.

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR	Don Keith	Set Painters	Carol Cross, Jane Grainger, Bert Laging, David Wheatley
PRODUCER	Holly McGimpsey	Lighting Crew.	Perry Burton, Mitchell Little, Théo Marill, Carol-Anne Moore, Luke Stewart-Weston
STAGE MANAGER	Sylvia Lindstrom	Lighting Board Ops.	Dominick Ali, Deb Laverty, Nahlia Meyer, Luke Stewart-Weston
Asst Director/ Intimacy Coach	Sylvia Hosie	Sound Board Ops.	Patrick Heath, Holly McGimpsey, François-Michel Pellequer, Jude Sommers, Georgia Tooke
Asst Director/ Accent Coach	Jean Topham	Programme Coordinator/Ads	Holly McGimpsey
Asst Producer	Simmi Behal	Programme Design.	Saltchuck Studios
Asst SMs.	Mariah Madill Stephanie Ustina Marni Wedin	Hair Styles	David Blue The Blue Room Salon
SET DESIGN	Toshik Bukowiecki	Publicity	Kathy Macovichuk
LIGHTING DESIGN.	Théo Marill, Luke Stewart-Weston	Programme and Archival Photos	Terry Stitt
SOUND DESIGN	Gord More	Front of House Manager	Marilyn Kuss
COSTUMES	Wendy Henderson	Box Office Manager	Dick Newson
SET DECOR/PROPS.	Jude Somers	Bar Manager	Kathy Macovichuk
Asst Set Decor/Props.	Carol Cross		
HEAD CARPENTER	Mike Kuss		
Set Construction	Gordon Alexander, David Burbank, John Clarke, Allan Dong, Bruce Dzioba, Charlie Encell, Marcus Handman , Colin Houghton, Mike Kuss, Julius Maskovat, Alf Small, Blair Williamson		

THE PRODUCTION TEAM



DIRECTOR – Don Keith BA, MA (Directing)

Don has developed a reputation for producing challenging and diverse shows. He designed sets for LCT and directed *Heroes*, *Doubt* and *Noises Off*. For Theatre Inconnu he directed *The Good Soldier Schweik*, *Crumble*, *East of Berlin*, *Bull* and *Significant Other*. Don has over 50 years of experience as a teacher, designer, director and adjudicator.



PRODUCER – Holly McGimpsey

Holly has played in theatres, on and off stage since 1962, 62 years! She produced 5 LCT shows last season with 2 more coming up. Holly has directed, performed, stage managed and produced for companies including SLPCT, VOS and LCT and is a Life Member of VOS. A favourite role was Diana Morales in *A Chorus Line*.



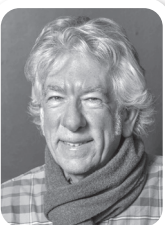
STAGE MANAGER – Sylvia Lindstrom

Sylvia has been in theatre for 44 years. Previous SM work includes VOS (*Sweeney Todd*, *Oliver!*), GV Shakespeare Festival (*Twelfth Night*, *Winter's Tale*), Theatre Inconnu (*The Shadow in the Water*, *Black Rider*), LCT (*Drowsy Chaperone*, *39 Steps*, *August Osage County*, *Female Transport*, *Noises Off*), and numerous Fringe productions from 1989 to 2021.



LIGHTING DESIGN – Théo Marill and Luke Stewart-Weston

Luke and Théo are newcomers to LCT this season and now onto their 3rd show together. With their first foray into lighting design, they are thankful for Carol-Anne Moore's guidance. and thank the lighting crew and rest of the team for their dedicated collaboration.



SOUND DESIGN – Gord More

Through television production and song-writing, Gord has been a lifelong dabbler in audio production. After helping his wife with props this season, Gord has been given his own task as Sound Designer for *Present Laughter*. He would like to thank the other members of Langham Court Theatre who have been incredibly helpful and patient.

THE PRODUCTION TEAM



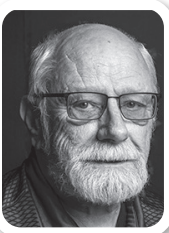
Costumes – Wendy Henderson

Wendy recently costumed *The Lost Boy* and *Moon Over Buffalo* at Langham Court Theatre and *They Promised Her the Moon* and *The Game's Afoot* at St. Luke's Players Community Theatre as well as BEMA productions. She enjoys being a volunteer in the Costume Loft.



Set Décor & Properties – Jude Somers

This is Jude's first season with LCT. She's enjoyed creating and hunting down props for three previous productions: *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Maggie's Getting Married* and *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*. Jude also has fun meeting patrons when she helps work behind the bar during intermission, especially if they order gin and tonics.



Head Carpenter – Mike Kuss

Mike thanks his dedicated crew for their willingness to pre-build major units of Toshik Bukowiecki's incredible Art Deco set. Special thanks to David Burbank for his years of service. He hopes this praise will bring David back next season. Mike acknowledges the many new builders that have joined his crew. A final thank you to his wife, Marilyn, who put up with his constant avoidance of tasks at home.



ASSISTANT PRODUCER/DIRECTORS

- Simmi Behal, *Assistant Producer*
- Jean Topham and Sylvia Hosie, *Assistant Directors*



ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS

- Marni Wedin
- Mariah Madill
- Stephanie Ustina

LANGHAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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			Jacqollyne Keath

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Sally Crickman	Marilyn Kuss	Dick Newson	Brian Woodman
Jean de Cartier	Mike Kuss	Jeani Reynolds	
John Fear	Chad Laidlaw	Jon Scheer	

LANGHAM DONORS

Langham Court Theatre Society is grateful for the generous contributions of the people listed below. Their support enables Langham Court Theatre to be a vibrant part of the Victoria Community. Donations listed here have been made since May 19, 2023.

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Clever, insightful, touching sequel to the Broadway hit, "Same Time, Next Year." A memorable evening with Doris and George, two of the world's favourite characters, opens on the couple's 25th anniversary in 1976

PERFORMANCES

Tuesday, July 16 – 7:30	Monday, July 22 – 7:30
Wednesday, July 17 – 7:30	Tuesday, July 23 – 7:30
Thursday July 18 – 7:30	Wednesday, July 24 – 7:30
Sunday, July 21 – matinee 2:30 pm	Thursday, July 25 – 7:30
	Sunday, July 28 – matinee 2:30 pm

TICKETS \$30

ticketowl.io/bema-sametime

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