

RECONCILIATION THEATRE
SOCIETY & LANGHAM COURT
THEATRE

present...

The

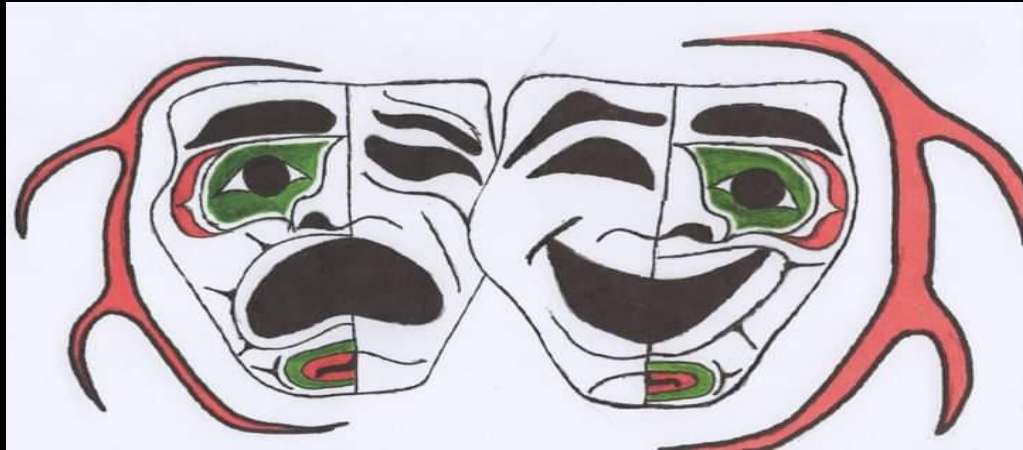
BERLIN

BLUES

BY DREW HAYDEN TAYLOR



Berlin Blues is written by Anishnaabe playwright Drew Hayden Taylor. It explores life on Otter Lake reserve when a German corporation arrives to build a multimillion dollar amusement park dedicated to indigenous culture in their community. Taylor's trademark humour helps unpack issues of economic development and cultural appropriation in a way that leaves you laughing and thinking. Enjoy the show!



Reconciliation Theatre Society was founded by Tom Rokeby and Daniel Puglas as a playreading circle. The circle met during covid, outside at the South Wellington Art Farm, on traditional Snuneymuxw territory. Once live events returned, we wanted to share the stories, and the creative relationships, our Playreading Circle had nurtured. Our inaugural production of *True West* by Sam Sheppard took place last summer at the OV Art Center.

Reconciliation Theatre Society began working on *The Berlin Blues* last fall, when the First Nations Health Authority asked us to perform at their provincial *Wellness Conference*. We subsequently spent the winter preparing for a tour of mid-island nations. We have had the honour

of performing on Quw'utsun, Qualicum and S'nuneymuxw territory during the month of May.

Our final stop is here on the traditional territory of the Songhees and Esquimalt nation.

We are very excited to bring “The Berlin Blues” to our provincial capital on Canada Day Weekend, and thank Langham Court Theatre for their initiative and commitment to reconciliation.

Our mission...

Reconciliation Theatre Society would like to thank the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations for the lands upon which we gather, create, and tonight we play.

Although we strive to produce great theatre together, first and foremost we value the wellness that accompanies our creativity, and the community that we build in doing so. From curated playreading circles, to small venue live stagings, to full productions in modern venues, Reconciliation Theatre aspires to partner with community organizations to foster literacy, identity and wellness through storytelling.

For more information about what we do, upcoming productions and becoming an active member, email us at reconciliationtheatresociety@gmail.com

or find us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083211522772>

CAST

Dan Puglas as ANDREW



Dan Puglas a Kwakwaka'wakw artist based in Nanaimo BC. A self proclaimed jack of all trades he loves to create art within his community. Dan has appeared in numerous productions as an actor/director in the past few years with

Western Edge Theatre as well as Reconciliation Theatre. As the current President of Reconciliation Theatre he is excited to see what the future holds for the company and his personal endeavours.

Ali Scott as ANGIE



Ali is a mix of both heritages, her mother being Cree and her father being a descendant of Selkirk Settlers. Her passion for theatre and learning about her Metis culture brought her to Reconciliation Theatre.

Damon Mitchell as TRAILER



Damon Mitchell discovered his love of acting in high school at John Barsby Community School, where he played the role of George in Mary Poppins. Damon appeared in numerous productions at Vancouver Island University's Malaspina Theatre. He most recently appeared as Paul in Western Edge's production of This Is How We Got Here. He is excited to bring Trailer to life.

Talela Manson as DONALDA



My name is Xulsimalt'tanut, my given name is Talēla Manson. I come from the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw and Tsleil Watuth people. Theatre has been a way to share and express myself, recently I have been part of productions that allowed me to express my indigenous and Two-spirit identities. Reconciliation theatre was a natural step in my journey of performance.

Lisa Rokeby as BIRGIT



Lisa Rokeby is a settler on unceded Snuneymuxw territory. By day, she enjoys creating stories with her kindergarten students. By night, she creates music and stories with her own children. Between those hours, she enjoys performing with her family and friends in Reconciliation Theatre. Lisa has enjoyed channelling her German and Norwegian ancestors as she navigates the critical line between cultural appreciation and cultural appropriation.

Jesse Wilson as REINHART



Jesse is excited to be a part of this production and to be working towards reconciliation with Reconciliation Theatre. After getting a Diploma in Theatre and a Degree in Creative Writing from VIU, he has performed in shows with Yellowpoint Theatre, Ladysmith Little Theatre, Bard 2 Broadway and Nanaimo Theatre Group, and was part of his first touring show last summer *Built Different*. He hopes you enjoy this show as much as he did working on it!

Tom Rokeby...Artistic Director



Tom is a settler on Snuneymuxw territory. His family left Germany generations ago to settle in India and following that, Turtle Island. He divides his time between his role as Artistic Director of Reconciliation Theatre, and being a trustee on the Nanaimo Ladysmith School Board.

He is grateful to have found so many creatives that want to be part of a journey of Reconciliation, for his wife Lisa and children Franklin and Carmanah for their love and support, and for the Snuneymuxw people, the stewards of the land we live on, since time immemorial.

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Bryce Crichton...production assistant.



Bryce Crichton has been doing theater for 6 years. He started by going to after-school classes then taking them in his main course, since then he hasn't stopped. He is now furthering his education at VIU in their theater department. He plans on being a sound technician for shows all over.

Sylvia (Sierra) Clark...



Sierra's passion for theater began when she joined Bulldog Theater in grade eight, since then she has found it a great relaxer and way to escape reality momentarily. She chose to join reconciliation so that she could merge that passion with her activism for various communities. She would like to thank the Snuneymuxw people whose land she resides on for sharing their culture with her as she continues to learn and grow.

Thank you for joining us.
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