

Langham Court Theatre resides on the territories of the ləkʷəŋən people, also known as the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nation. We live and create on this land with humility and gratitude.

August 2026

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Langham Court News is published 11 times a year. Deadline for submissions is the 22nd day of the month preceding the month of publication. Send submissions to Elaine Kao at newseditor@langhamtheatre.ca

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Cast announcement for *Amigo's Blue Guitar*

Submitted by: John Varszegi

Get ready for our season opener: *Amigo's Blue Guitar* by Joan MacLeod! Directed by Don Keith, this powerful production sets the stage for a fantastic year of theatre. Performances run from September 24th to October 11th.

About the Play:

Winner of the 1990 Governor General's Award in drama, this acclaimed Canadian play centres on a family living on an island off the BC coast that sponsors a refugee from El Salvador amid that country's brutal civil war. Set in 1990, the play explores the meeting of two contrasting cultures.

The characters go on a journey starting from a number of misconceptions about each other, then gradually they begin to reach an understanding. The story is told with warmth and humour, but with some intense scenes. Its universal message of diversity awareness is even more relevant today than it was 30 years ago.



Cast from left to right: Jhosed Silva Bustor as Elias; Kennedy Halwa as Callie; Julie Gray as Martha; Ben McFee as Sander; and Charlie Quirt as Owen



Tickets are on sale at 250-384-2142 or online at www.langhamtheatre.ca

From the Board of Directors

Submitted by: Kyla Mellish

We hope you are having a lovely and relaxing summer! We are excited for the 2026/2027 season which will kick off in September with our first show *Amigo's Blue Guitar* by Canadian playwright, Joan MacLeod, and directed by Don Keith. Show dates are September 24th to October 11th. Tickets are available now, or consider purchasing a subscription for all 5 of this year's shows. Season subscriptions are on sale until September 20th. An Adult Subscription for all five productions is \$140, and a Senior is \$130. This is a \$15 discount from the regular price. Go to our web site, www.langhamtheatre.ca and select 'SEASON SUBSCRIPTION' in the banner on the top of the home page for more details.

If you love theatre, why not volunteer? As a performer, I thought all the people working on the production teams and crew had some kind of special training or experience. Some do, but many learned by volunteering. A couple of years ago I was asked if I would like to volunteer as a sound operator. It only took one session for the training and I ended up having so much fun! It's a great way to dip a toe in. I've done that for a few shows, and have also volunteered as a lighting operator and assistant stage manager. I've gotten to know some amazing people who love theatre as much as I do. If you'd like to get involved, please send an email to gm@langhamtheatre.ca. Let us know what you'd like to try this season!



Audition Notice: *I'll Be Back Before Midnight*

Audition dates for *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* by Peter Colley are September 8th and 10th 2026 from 6pm-9:30pm at Langham Court Theatre. No appointments required.

Auditions will be cold readings from the script.

Call backs will be on September 13th starting at noon.

A comedic thriller that will have you screaming with laughter and terror!

Jan and Greg rent an isolated farmhouse for a quiet holiday, but when they arrive they are told of a terrible murder that happened there. None of the characters in *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* turn out to be what they seem, all are playing roles within roles of one type or another. The big question is: Who will win in the end?

Character Descriptions:

Jan Sanderson: On the surface, she appears to be a highly sensitive and vulnerable woman who is recovering from a severe nervous breakdown. Outwardly positive, she is inwardly terrified of relapsing. She is isolated and forced to navigate horrifying events while questioning her own sanity. As the play unfolds, she proves to be much stronger than she ever realized was possible. (Age range: 20s to 40s.)

Greg Sanderson: He seems to be a caring husband for Jan, and yet he proves to be a somewhat detached and insensitive man. He is passionate about his work as an archaeologist, and it later becomes apparent that he has a suspiciously loving relationship with his sister Laura. (Age range: 20s to 40s.)

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Laura Sanderson: Although she is introduced as Greg's sister, her behaviour towards him is anything but sisterly. She is a cool, confident, and highly manipulative businesswoman. Her arrival severely strains the couple's relationship, and she appears to have dark motives involving Jan and her brother.
(Age range: 20s to 40s.)

George Willowby: At first, he seems to be simply a loveable but eccentric local farmer who rents the farmhouse to the couple. He acts as comic relief but also thoroughly enjoys spinning gruesome, terrifying ghost stories about the property. Could there also be some ulterior motives underneath his jolly exterior? (Age range: 60+.)

Call for Production Team Members

Submitted by: Peta MacKenzie, Producer

The production team for *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* are looking for volunteers who would be interested in heading up the Props and Set Decor positions. Some experience would be preferable, but, if we are able to have both experienced and someone with little or no experience who would be willing to learn and work as teams that would be a great option.

Important dates to note:

- Rehearsals: Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Tech weekend: November 14th - 15th
- Final Dress Rehearsal: November 16th
- Preview: November 18th
- Opening Night: November 19th
- The show run is Wednesdays to Saturdays (evening performances) and Sunday Matinees at 2pm
- Closing Day: Sunday, December 6th

For further information please contact Peta MacKenzie (Producer) at petabob@shaw.ca or Stephanie Ustina (Assistant Producer) at stephanieustina@gmail.com.



Readers' Theatre Auditions: *Make it Count* by James Sweeney

Submitted by: Claire White, Director

Characters:

Lily (2 actors portraying the character over a 16-year period, approx. ages 20 & 36):

Quick-witted and emotionally open. Requires strong comedic/dramatic range. (Note: No specific accent is required, but both actors must sound as close as possible as they are portraying the same person).

Jonas (2 actors portraying the character over a 16-year period, approx. ages 25 & 41): Charismatic and impulsive. Balances humour with depth. (Note: No specific accent is required, but both actors must sound as close as possible as they are portraying the same person).

Noah (55+):

Dry, precise, and wryly funny; excellent timing.

Narrator:

Male or female.

Auditions:

- Saturday, August 29th 9:30-11:30am in the Rehearsal Room (enter via Stage Door). Cold readings only.

Mandatory Rehearsals:

- August 31st & September 9th (7-10pm, Rehearsal Room)
- September 5th (9am-12pm, Rehearsal Room)
- September 11th Tech/Dress (7-10pm, Main Stage)

Performance Date:

- Saturday, September 12th (7:30pm, Main Stage)

For more information please contact Claire White at readerstheatre@langhamtheatre.ca





Audiences Love *Shakespeare in Love*!

Submitted by: Holly McGimpsey and Gord More, Producers

Langham's 2025/26 season closed with happy audiences and almost all sold out houses. Accolades go to everyone involved with *Shakespeare in Love*'s overwhelming success; the brilliant directorial team, talented cast, creative production departments, strong stage management and their crews, helpful LCT support staff and, of course, the cute dog!

Following the final performance there were many laughs and lots of clever entertainment presented by the cast at the closing party. The camaraderie of this wonderful group was clearly evident!

We are very excited to announce that on July 24th, *Shakespeare in Love* won the first annual Spotlight Award for the Best Community Production! The celebration of local theatre was presented by the Victoria Theatre Collective. Many of our cast members attended the event and were overjoyed to win and accept the award.

Other nominees included the entire ensemble of *Shakespeare in Love* for Best Performance and Heather-Elayne Day for Best Direction. Congratulations to the whole team on these prestigious nominations and the big win!

It appears that everyone loved *Shakespeare in Love*!
Well done!

Photos: Final bows, closing party laughs, producers sharing a laugh and the Spotlight Awards presentation for Best Community Production.





Highest Grossing Production in Langham history, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, mounts encore performances!

Submitted by: Holly McGimpsey and Gord More, Producers

Due to all the sold out houses, including an extra show, for the original January run of this popular musical, audiences wanted more. The consensus was that, with careful planning, we could do it. Then four more performances, June 25th - 28th came very close to selling out again!

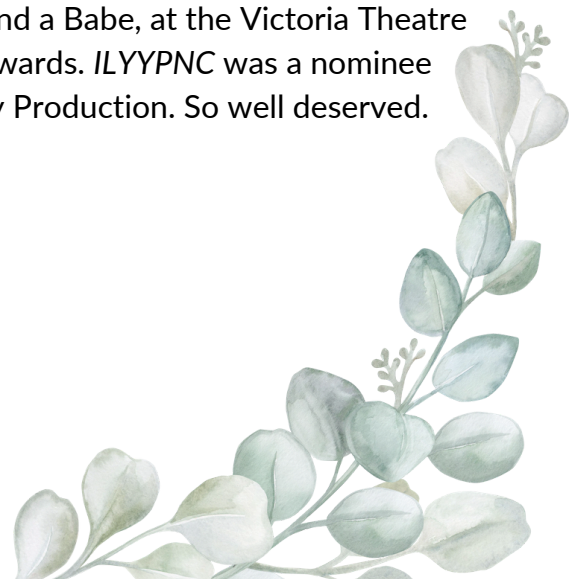
It was no small feat to assemble the original cast, production team and crew to get the show ready to open only two and a half weeks after *Shakespeare in Love* closed! That has to be a record!



Everyone on the *ILYYPNC* team was thrilled to present an encore of this show that we all fell in love with and was just too darned fun. Imagine, the casts only had one run through before hitting the stage again and they didn't miss a beat.

Enormous thanks and kudos to everyone for their hard work, diligence, dedication and the belief that we could actually pull this off! You all succeeded beyond our expectations. Special shout out to Mike Kuss and his builders and painters who remounted the elaborate set in record time.

On July 24th Danielle Greschner and Spencer Irwin reprised their hilarious, *A Stud and a Babe*, at the Victoria Theatre Collective's Spotlight Awards. *ILYYPNC* was a nominee for the best Community Production. So well deserved.





Adaptation by R.J. Peters

Director R.J. Peters | Music Directors Jim Hill and Sara Partridge | Choreographer Andrea Lemus

The Pirates of Penzance: A Modern Major Reimagining

Submitted by: Holly McGimpsey, Producer

About the Production

The Pirates of Penzance: A Modern Major Reimagining takes Gilbert & Sullivan's beloved operetta and joyfully throws it overboard! This isn't a museum piece, and it isn't a parody. It's a celebration of everything that has made the show endure for nearly 150 years: brilliant music, razor-sharp wit, larger-than-life characters, and delicious theatrical absurdity. We're simply giving it a fresh coat of paint.

Set against a distinctly West Coast sensibility, our pirates could just as easily be tied up at Fisherman's Wharf as off the coast of Cornwall. Our world is playful, contemporary, and unmistakably Victoria. This production is a love letter to community theatre itself... eccentric, inventive, heartfelt, and gloriously fun.

Our Casting Philosophy:

Every Role. Every Performer. Endless Possibilities. This production embraces creative, non-traditional casting. Every role is open to every performer, regardless of gender identity, gender expression, race, ethnicity, body type, ability, or previous experience. We're casting creativity, musicality, comic instinct, and joy, not preconceived ideas about who should play which role.

Have you always dreamed of being the Pirate King? Want to tackle the Major-General's legendary patter song? Have a completely unexpected take on Mabel or Frederic? Bring it! Come help us create something wildly inventive, hilariously funny, and unmistakably ours.

Audition dates are tentatively set for the end of September. Exact dates, times and audition requirements will appear in the Sept newsletter.

Characters:

The Pirate King:

The charismatic, flamboyant leader of the pirates. Equal parts rock star and swashbuckling rogue, with confidence, humour, and irresistible charm.

Frederic:

A young apprentice pirate with an unwavering moral compass. Earnest, optimistic, and occasionally naïve, determined to do the right thing.

Ruth:

Frederic's devoted nursemaid. Sharp-witted, fiercely loyal, pragmatic, and delightfully unconventional.

Mabel:

The youngest child of Major-General Stanley. Intelligent, independent, quick-witted, and wonderfully romantic.

Major-General Stanley:

A charming intellectual who knows a little about everything... except the things that matter. Bombastic, lovable, and famous for his patter song.

Sergeant of Police:

The earnest leader of an enthusiastic but spectacularly timid police force. A natural comedian with excellent timing.

Samuel:

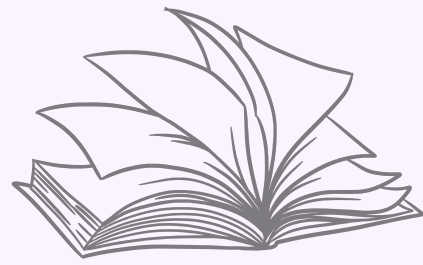
The Pirate King's trusted lieutenant. Dependable, good-humoured, and an integral part of the pirate family.

Edith, Kate, & Isabel:

The Major-General's daughters. Playful, clever, energetic, and wonderfully theatrical.

Langham Court Theatre Workshops

Submitted by: Heather Day



Contact the box office by email

boxoffice@langhamtheatre.ca,

or phone 250-384-2142 to register for any of the workshops listed on this page.

Everyone is welcome, but due to the hands-on nature of two of the workshops, the number of participants is limited. Reserve early to secure your spot!

Workshop fee: General: \$25 LCTS Member: Free

Storytelling

Sunday, August 16th 2-5pm. Participation is limited to 12 people.

*Enter through the Lounge on the north side of the building.

Learn simple techniques to create your own stories. Jim Leard's three-hour workshop is a gentle and safe step-by-step guide that will end with everyone creating and telling their own short story.

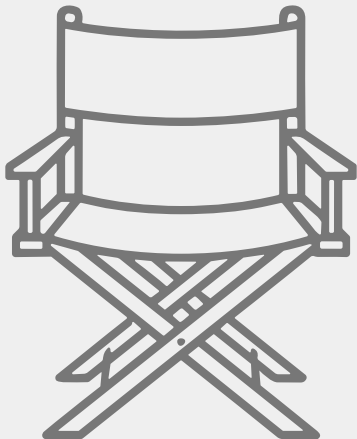
Jim is an experienced storyteller with years of creating stories and teaching storytelling techniques. He created The Story Theatre Company which toured internationally for 35 years and taught storytelling and Improvisation at Canadian College of Performing Arts for 20 years.

Introduction to Technical Theatre at Langham Court

Thursday, August 20th 7-9pm

*Enter through the Lounge on the north side of the building

Our Technical Director, Jason King, leads this workshop, suitable for anyone interested in lights and sound at Langham. He will cover the basics of lighting including the different kinds of lights and how they work. You will also be introduced to the lighting console and general programming concepts. Jason will also discuss the sound system at the theatre, how the sound console works, and introduce QLab which we use to play sound effects on shows. Hands-on opportunities are offered with all aspects of this workshop.



Introduction to the Role of Production Chair

Sunday, September 13th 1-3pm

*Enter through the Stage Door on the south side of the building

The LCTS Production Chair is elected by the membership at the AGM for a two-year term and is responsible for selecting two theatre seasons to recommend to the Board. The Production Chair can be an individual or a pair of Co-chairs. This workshop is designed for those who may be interested in standing for election this Fall or in the future. Current Production Co-chairs, Jim Leard and Heather Day, will discuss established practices and share a Production Chair Handbook with a step-by-step guide.

Big Beautiful Poster Boards

Submitted by: Marilyn Kuss

Have you ever admired the poster boards decorating the Langham hallways and wondered how they come together? If so, please consider attending the next Langham Coffee Morning.

I am hoping to gather a group of people interested in helping with our poster board displays. Over coffee, we can chat, look at examples, and discuss everything involved - from selecting and swapping out posters after each show to designing new ones.

My name is Marilyn Kuss and I've been managing the poster boards for a while now. I would love to share the process with you. If you are interested, you can reach me at marilynjk@gmail.com.

The coffee is on me!



Ben & Tom Waters, Piano & Saxophone Duo

Submitted by: Gloria Di Iola

In September 2026, Ben and Tom Waters return to Canada for their first tour together here in several years - bringing their electrifying father-and-son show to venues across British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario.

This is music played the way it should be:
live, dangerous, joyful and full of heart.

Ben Waters is internationally known as one of the UK's most explosive boogie-woogie and rock 'n' roll pianists - a performer whose high-energy style has taken him around the world and onto stages with some of the biggest names in music.

Tom Waters is a Royal Academy of Music graduate and a formidable saxophonist whose sound spans blues, soul, funk and rhythm & blues. From the raw power of Big Jay McNeely to the groove of Maceo Parker and the sophistication of David Sanborn, Tom brings fire, authority and huge musicality to every performance.

They will be at Langham Court Theatre September 3rd and 4th, doors open at 6:30pm, show starts at 7:30pm with an intermission.





Happy Retirement, Mike!

Submitted by: Caroline Herbert

Thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating Mike Kuss's Retirement. We are grateful to all who helped make the occasion so special and wish Mike all the best and lots of happiness as he begins this next chapter!



News from the Costume Loft: 2026 Annual Sale Report

Submitted by: Misty Buxton

The Annual Sale this year was a completely different experience for the staff and volunteers when compared to last year. Our sale date was back on a Saturday which unfortunately conflicted with the FIFA Canada game. Additionally, unlike the last two sales, we only had 1 year's worth of donation pool and a much smaller prop area.

Despite these limitations we still had more visitors this year and I am pleased to say that the sale brought in over 3k in revenue.

I'd like to thank everyone who came out to the sale and I am most grateful to all my volunteers that donated their time helping with prep and set up. There is no way an annual sale could happen without the continuous support of volunteers.

A special thanks to Wendy Henderson for all her hard work throughout the year sorting, culling and pricing items that make it to the sale. She is truly a lifesaver!



Langham Court Theatre
Partnerships:



**Victoria
Foundation**

*Funds were received from
the Michael & Anne Tyler Fund
through the Victoria Foundation.*



**VANCOUVER ISLAND
MARBLE QUARRIES**
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