



**WESTERN GOLD  
THEATRE**

Creativity has no expiry date!

**VIRTUAL GOLD  
LOOK! PRESENTATION**

*My First Time*

A YouTube presentation  
in celebration of  
International World Theatre Day

**SATURDAY, MARCH 27**



*On Stage For the  
First Time*

*On Stage for the First Time by David Ostrem*

Western Gold  
Virtual Gold Look! Presentation

# My First Time!

On March 27, click on the YouTube link on the *Virtual Gold* page of our website and watch as many of our favourite theatre artists take us back to their 'first time' in the theatre! Stories from on stage, backstage and in the house—told in their own voices and in the way they wish to tell them.

**Hosted by Linda Cullen and Featuring**

(in alphabetical order)

Mariam Barry, Tulkweemult (Sam Bob), Emily Grace Brook, Sharon Crandall, Wayne Specht, Simon Webb, Colleen Winton (accompanied by Caitlin Hayes), and Raugi Yu

Also featuring Helen Mirren's 2021 International World Theatre Day message, which will be closed captioned and read by the following people in the following languages

(in alphabetical order)

Mariam Barry: Norwegian

Tsitsáyxemaat (Rebecca Duncan): Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish)

Alen Dominguez: Spanish

Anna Hagan: English

Shizuka Kai: Japanese

Joey Lespérance: French

Check out more of our Virtual Gold offerings on our website.

**LOOK, LISTEN & LEARN!**

Western Gold presents a series of FREE online presentations, podcasts, and creative workshops to help keep you engaged and entertained during these challenging times.

Kw'achmixws Skwayel Syetsm tl'a keksin ti syatshn  
World Theatre Day Message 2021

By Helen Mirren

Translated to Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) by  
Tsitsáyxemaat (Tsee-ts-eye-x-um-aht) Rebecca Duncan

An men tl'i7 kwis cht kw'iyilsh, sxel'xel, nexwsch'etxw iy i7xw  
ta nimelh slhenlhanay.

*It's been such a difficult time for live performance, and many artists, technicians & craftsmen and women have struggled (in a profession that is already fraught with insecurity)*

Na lhkwun wa iyimntsut cht na7 ti xalhan na wa i7xw encha ch'it tl'a  
nimelh. Chet kwelh aynexwi7 iy iyim skwalwen cht.

*Maybe that always present insecurity has made them more able to survive this pandemic with wit and courage.*

Na wa kwelkwalwenitaswit iy mi nach'entsut tina7 tl'a smetsalkn kw'axwa7,  
chet kwenman kwetsi menilh, iy ha7lhk kwis cht men wa7u.

*Their imagination has already translated itself, in these new circumstances, into inventive, entertaining and moving ways to communicate, thanks of course in large part to the internet.*

An men hin kwis cht xwexwiyusentway ta sxwexwiyam cht na7 ti  
keksin ti syatshn iy men wa7u chet kw'achmixws ek.

*Human beings have told each other stories for as long as they have been on the planet. The beautiful culture of theatre will live for as long as we stay here.*

Na wa xwel'shm i7xw ta nexwsxelxel, wa kwiyilshswit, wa lulumwit,  
wa eskwuy'ts kwetsiwit, wa kwekeyleylstn iy wa siiyam, haw kw'at  
mutl'untumulhas ta xalhan, kiyat chat ek' men wa7u nch'u7mut ta iyim  
skwalwen cht esku7 ta xaws yewints cht ti keksin ti syatshn.

*The creative urge of writers, designers, dancers, singers, actors, musicians, directors will never be suffocated, and in the very near future will flourish again with a new energy and a new understanding of the world we all share.*

Eskw'ay kwins iyayshim! *I can't wait!*

# Meet the Cast, Message Readers & Translators



HOST LINDA CULLEN

Almost thirty-five years ago, Linda Cullen and her husband Bob Robertson created the comedy show *Double Exposure*, which ran on CBC Radio for over 10 years, and CTV for 3. They also performed in theatres all over the country. Several years ago, Bob got the ultimate gig, and is now making them laugh on the cosmic stage, leaving Linda to navigate Costco and computer problems on her own. Linda writes a regular blog (assuming the definition of 'regular' is when there is a Blue Moon and a King Tide), which can be found on her website [lindacullen.ca](http://lindacullen.ca). During

the past year of Pandemic Predicament, she has become intimately familiar with her couch, but has used her vast amount of spare time wisely exercising her brain by learning which Property Brother was Jonathon and which was Drew. She is proud to say that it only took her, well, all of that time, but she's got it now, as long as they don't change their hair.



MARIAM BARRY

Mariam Barry is a multidisciplinary artist of dual heritage from Norway and The Gambia. She is an actor, writer, and producer in theatre and film. Mariam's creative work is grounded in her experience as a Third Culture Kid. She grew up internationally between the United States, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, The Netherlands and The Gambia, before moving to Canada as a young adult. This multi-lens frames Mariam's work as she explores what it means to be Black around the world. Mariam's approach to creation is intersectional and

multi-hyphenate. She is a former co-producer for Killjoy Theatre, an intersectional feminist theatre collective, and the co-creator of *Breaking Borders*, a performance crew for newcomer, immigrant, and refugee artists. Mariam's creativity is driven by social justice and Afrofuturism. She holds a BFA in Acting from UBC, and loves telling stories about the diversity of the Black experience. Mariam is also a film editor and youth arts facilitator for Reel Youth where she mentors young people in filmmaking and the digital arts.



TULKWEEMULT (SAM BOB)

Tulkweemult (Sam Bob) is from Nanoose Bay, Vancouver Island. He has performed nationally in television, film, radio, and theatre. Tulkweemult has performed in theatre productions across Canada. He was a nominee for Best Actor in Headline Theatre's *Out of the Silence* and nominated Best Actor by Dreamspeaker's Festival for *The Red Paper*. Tulkweemult can also be seen in a Netflix film *Blackway* with Anthony Hopkins, the Amazon TV show *Loudermilk*, a comedy in which he has a recurring role as "Cloud," and can be seen in the feature film *Monkey Beach* based on Eden Robinson's book.

Sam also teaches free community theatre classes at the Vancouver Friendship Centre. He looks forward to helping train new actors with his crew at Greasy Bannock productions. He attended residential school at Kuper Island.



EMILY GRACE BROOK

Emily Grace Brook is a Writer/Actor/Producer, trained in The Vancouver Film School's Writing for Film and Television program, who has written two short films: *Work Bites* (2013) and *The Specials* (2015). Her work on *The Specials* has been screened internationally in Austin, Texas. It was also awarded Best North American Comedy Short at the 2016 Vancouver International South Asian Film Festival. She made her theatre debut as Jess in the 2019 Real Wheels production of *Act of Faith*.



SHARON CRANDALL

Sharon is a stage and screen actor/singer. She started her professional performing career six years ago in the Arts Club's production of *In the Heights*. Since then, she has had the privilege of working with companies such as Bard on the Beach, Edmonton's The Citadel, Royal Manitoba Theatre Company, The Firehall, and many others. On screen, she has worked with companies such as Netflix, Hallmark, The CW, ABC, Century 21 Fox, and in a number of feature films. She continues to refine her craft under the tutelage of Andrew McIlroy. Sharon calls Port Moody home and there

is where she spends her time baking, kickboxing, gardening, and hanging out with her two teenage sons and her partner, Andrew. She feels blessed to be part of the theatre family and longs for the day when we can all be together again in a theatre. Happy World Theatre Day!



ALEN DOMINGUEZ

Alen is a Latinx theatre artist who trained as an actor at the University of British Columbia. He has since expanded his work into producing and directing with several companies across Metro Vancouver. He is the Executive Producer for award-winning companies like Royal City Musical Theatre in New Westminster and Tara Cheyenne Performance in East Vancouver. He is also a cofounding member of the Canadian Latinx Theatre Artist Coalition ([caltac.ca](http://caltac.ca)) and a proud alumnus of Western Gold, where he performed in *The Dining Room* (2015) and *Quills Don't Tweet* (2019).

Other Credits: *Anywhere But Here* (Electric Company), *Berlin: The Last Cabaret* (City Opera Vancouver), *Coriolanus* (Bard on the Beach), *Marine Life* (Ruby Slippers), *Sweat* (Arts Club, Citadel), *The Audience* (Arts Club), *Cornwall's All Inclusive Cancun Christmas* (Chemainus), *Rent* (URP), *West Side Story* (TUTS), *The Idiot* (Neworld).





### TSITSÁYXEMAAT (REBECCA DUNCAN)

Tsitsáyxemaat is a Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh) Language Teacher/Curriculum Developer. She is from the Squamish and Musqueam Nations of the Coast Salish Peoples. Tsitsáyxemaat has devoted her life to preserving the Skwxwú7mesh Language along with the cultural teachings that have been handed down to her from her late grandfather and his grandfather and so on and so on since the beginning of time. Tsitsáyxemaat is an intermediate-level speaker, and her goal is to be fully immersed to become fluent. Today we are 4,200

strong; however, only seven fluent speakers are left with approximately 90 eager learners. Tsitsáyxemaat has performed worldwide promoting language and culture, representing Coast Salish people, practicing protocols with song and dance, and sharing history with storytelling. No matter where you are from, it is so important to know your history, your ties to the land, and your culture. Welcome to unceded Coast Salish Territory. Our history is your history!!!



### ANNA HAGAN

Anna's long and accomplished career was honoured with the 2013 Jessie Richardson Theatre Award for Outstanding Career Achievement. In 2014 she was honoured to be Woman of the Year by UBCP/ACTRA. She was an associate director of the Arena Theatre Company, a professional repertory company, where she directed and acted – among other plays: *Waiting for Godot*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, and *Hay Fever*. She served as assistant director of the Stratford Festival's Young Company and was mentored by the interna-

tionally renowned director Robin Phillips. Anna then went on to be one of three Canadians invited to participate in the International Directors Seminar in London, England. Her extensive acting credits include *The Music Man*, *Our Town*, *A Man for All Seasons*, and the acclaimed World Theatre 2000 production of *The Mill on the Floss* (Soulpepper Theatre, Toronto). Vancouver audiences will have seen her in *A Delicate Balance*, *Old Goriot*, *Half Life*, *Home Child*, *Three Tall Women*, *The Dining Room*, *Homeward Bound*, *Red Birds* and *Escaped Alone*. Anna was the Artistic Director of Western Gold Theatre, for a total of 12 years. She now serves on the Board of Directors.



### CAITLYN HAYES

Caitlin is a Vancouver-based accompanist, performer, and music director. Along with a busy freelance schedule, she is a faculty member in the theatre department at Capilano University and is the accompanist for the Junior and Senior choirs of the Vancouver Youth Choir family. This pandemic year she has enjoyed trying to turn from a complete Luddite to someone who sort of knows how to use GarageBand and is extremely grateful for digital projects like this one, that help keep art going during these strange times. Stay safe, everyone!



### SHIZUKA KAI

Shizuka is a Vancouver-based artist known for her puppet work and set design, and currently the Interim Co-Artistic & Managing Director (alongside Randi Edmundson) at Carousel Theatre for Young People. She is also a trained puppeteer, mask & props maker, painter, illustrator, costume designer, and director. She has worked with many theatre companies including Arts Club, Neworld, Théâtre la Seizième, Electric Company, Rumble, Axis, Boca del Lupo, Itsazoo, and more. Shiz is a three-time Jessie Richardson Award winner with several nominations, the recipient of the Earl Klein Memorial Scholarship, and a graduate of Studio 58. Her recent design credits: *Straight White Men* (Itsazoo / Gateway), *Iron Peggy* (Boca del Lupo / Children's Festival), *Chicken Girl* (rice & beans), *Peter Pan* and *The House at Pooh Corner* (CTYP).



### JOEY LESPÉRANCE

Joey Lespérance is a bilingual theatre artist established in Vancouver for over 30 years. As an actor, he's performed in English and en Français in many, many productions across Canada. He's been nominated seven times at The Jessie Richardson awards and received the award for the best lead actor in 2015 for his performance in *À toi pour toujours ta Marie-Lou*. Joey is a graduate of Studio 58. Aujourd'hui, en cette Journée Mondiale du Théâtre 2021, il est important de célébrer et de reconnaître la résilience des membres de notre profession. Vive le théâtre!



### WAYNE SPECHT

Wayne retired in 2015 after 40 years as Artistic Director of Axis Theatre Company (originally Axis Mime Theatre). Wayne studied at the National Theatre School of Canada and École Jacques Lecoq (Paris, France). Early years were with Holiday Playhouse, Vancouver and Canadian Mime Theatre, Niagara-On-The Lake, Ontario.



### SIMON WEBB

Simon Webb has been a Vancouver actor since 1976 when he arrived here from the UK. He's been in many shows for many companies, from Ibsen to Molière to Pinter, from *Guys and Dolls* to *King Lear* and *Cabaret*, and from *A Man for All Seasons* to *Noises Off* and *Waiting For Godot*. Produced plays are *Fish Tales*, *Socrates 2nd Wife*, *Jerry Hatrick's Cabaret*, and *The Old Curiosity Shop*. Simon is also a musician and songwriter and loves oil painting. He is a husband, a father, and a grandpa.



COLLEEN WINTON

Colleen Winton's history with Western Gold includes *Learned Ladies*, *Harvey*, *Rumours* and *Mystery at Greenfingers*, and she directed *Queen Lear* and a host of readings. On other stages, Colleen's played everything from Daisy in *Driving Miss Daisy* and Dolly Levy in *Hello, Dolly!* to Shelly Levene in *Glen-garry Glen Ross*. She received an Ovation award for her Mrs. Lovett in the acclaimed site-specific *Sweeney Todd*. On TV, she lately appeared in *Man in the High Castle*, *iZombie*, *Van Helsing*, and a bunch of Hallmark movies. She has appeared in *The Unnatural and Accidental Women*, the inaugural production of the NAC Indigenous Theatre in Ottawa.



RAUGI YU

Raugi Yu is a graduate of The Dome Theatre program in Montreal and The BFA Acting program at UBC. Raugi has been acting professionally on stage, TV and film since the 90's and is an instructor and private coach of acting. He has acted in various theatres across Canada and the U.S. You may recognize him from roles in *Carried Away on The Crest of a Wave*, *The Shop-lifters*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Arts Club), *Coriolanus* (Bard On The Beach), *Act of Faith* (Real Wheels Theatre). Raugi has recently been directing the livestreams for the Arts Club, and post-production for a feature film he directed last October is very near completion. Thank you, Western Gold Theatre. Happy World Theatre Day Everyone!!!

## Credits & Acknowledgements

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