

November 3 - 20, 2022

We gratefully acknowledge that we are on the traditional and unceded territories of the x^wməθkwəýəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔł (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations. We deeply thank them for so generously allowing us to live, work, and play on their beautiful lands.



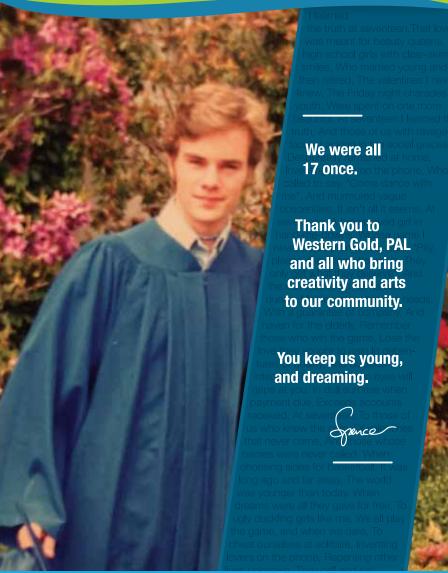
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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR NOTES



It's a funny thing when a script grabs you! One reads, goes to the library, googles, reads, belly aches, reads . . . and suddenly it's in front of you! You just KNOW.

For me, Seventeen perfectly encapsulates what Western Gold Theatre is all about: creativity has no expiry date! It is an observant and optimistic work about being young, about transformation, and, ultimately, about moving forward. It celebrates

life experience and shared memory. It not only showcases senior actors, it challenges them, while fully embodying the work that I love—working across generations—bringing young people together with us old folx and seeing what we can do together! It's a two-way street, and sometimes we learn more from them than they do from us.

A big shout out to the extraordinarily creative minds of the Youth Artistic Advisory Council (YAAC). Thank you for your mentorship of us—your mark is on this show!

Further big shout out to the ensemble cast who were game to embrace a new way of working. In case COVID or any other illness arose, and to ensure everyone got a couple of days off, they shared roles and had each other's backs at all times. Each night the cast changes. Every night it is new—for them and for you! This is a marvellous feat unto itself, and I thank the generosity and fearlessness of all involved.

Theatre is a dance; a dance that begins with the playwright—who in magnificent ways writes the score to which the rest is choreographed. Matthew Whittet has given us an extraordinary score, and tonight our creative team dances with you, the audience! I love that!!

Thank you for making theatre with us.

~ Tanja Dixon-Warren

The performance runs approximately 80 minutes | No intermission There is a talkback after every performance.

Content Warning: Seventeen contains coarse language and sexuality.

WESTERN GOLD'S 2023 SEASON

ANNOUNCING OUR NEXT SEASON OF PROGRAMMING!

Learn about our 2023 season and get your season tickets now via our website at westerngoldtheatre.org

ON OUR FEET (OOF!) STAGED READINGS

Opening Night | March 17 – 19, 2023

By Norm Foster Directed by Anna Hagan

The madcap antics both on and off the stage find the lives of all involved irreparably altered. A full-on belly laugh for theatre lovers!

The Importance of Being Earnest | May 26 – 28, 2023

By Oscar Wilde

Directed by Anna Hagan

Also titled *A Trivial Comedy for Serious People,* this beloved satire of Victorian social hypocrisy is the wittiest classic there is!

MAIN STAGE PRODUCTION

A Doll's House Part 2 | November 9 - 26, 2023

By Lucas Hnath
Directed by Seamus Fera

Fifteen years after Nora Helmer infamously slammed the door on her stifling domestic life, she has returned. This funny, probing, and bold new play is both a continuation of Ibsen's exploration of traditional gender roles and a clever contemporary take on all human relationships. Sharp, witty, invigorating, and somewhat naughty.

EARLY BIRD RATE
Only \$80 for 3 shows — over 20% savings!

VIRTUAL GOLD LOOK & LEARN

When theatres went dark because of the pandemic, Western Gold launched VIRTUAL GOLD, featuring online presentations, podcasts, and workshops. Although we're now back live on stage (YAY!), we're still offering virtual programming for you to participate in from the comfort of your own home.

Visit westerngoldtheatre.org for more info and links!



LOOK! 90 DAYS Pay-Per-ViewNow available to watch online
By Salim Rahemtulla
Directed by Melissa Oei

Did you miss seeing 90 DAYS on stage? Not to fret! You can view a pay-per-view YouTube presentation featuring the cast and creative team of the live production.

Available until November 30 | tiered ticket pricing



LOOK!

The Pinch Penny Poker Players Christmas Light Tour Launching on YouTube November, 2022 (The first 6 of 18 episodes) Written and performed by Nora D Randall

A holiday treat for all lovers of cozy mysteries, old ladies, cantankerous bus drivers, and the beauty of southern Vancouver Island and the magic of its celebrations.



LEARN! Recounting 90 DAYS

Talkbacks, Panel Discussion, Roundtable

Watch recorded versions of the four events we presented as part of Recounting 90 DAYS:

TALKBACK SESSIONS with cast and creative team **LAND: LANDED** round table discussion produced in partnership with Full Circle: First Nations Performance and Primary Colours/Couleurs Primaires **90 DAYS.50 YEARS** panel discussion on the immigrant experience to and in Canada

A NOTE FROM PLAYWRIGHT MATTHEW WHITTET



This play is such a delicate and funny creature. On one level I wrote it to tell a very simple story about hearts being revealed, both in their outrageous joy and deep, quiet pain. But I also wrote it to express how incredible actors are. How they can transform in a heartbeat. How they can be anyone they want to be if they decide to be. This play asks actors

to leap into somewhere that can sometimes feel quite scary and exposed. All I can say to the cast is to leap with open hearts. And have fun. Be delicious and stupidly ridiculous and sharp and whip smart and rude as hell. The play is there to catch them. So leap away!

Matthew Whittet is an Australian playwright and actor who has worked extensively in theatre, film, and television for the past 20 years. He graduated from Australia's National Institute of Dramatic Arts' acting program. His plays include: *Twelve* (2006), *Fugitive* (2010), *Harbinger* (2010), *Old Man* (2012), the trilogy *Girl Asleep, School Dance*, and *Big Bad Wolf* (2014), *Seventeen* (2015).

Matt's play Fight with All Your Might the Zombies of The Night, winner of the 2015 Foundation Commission Award, premiered at Australian Theatre for Young People (AYTP) in November 2016. Matt was among the seven Sidney Myer Creative Fellows chosen in 2012.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES



"LET'S DO IT!!!!"

What does it mean to be a teenager in a post-COVID era of Instagram, Snapchat and rising tuition costs? How does this parallel and differ from the experiences of our audiences? Matthew Whittet wrote *Seventeen* to create an opportunity for cross-generation theatre experiences. When I came across this script I knew that it aligned itself perfectly with

the mandate of Western Gold Theatre.

It has been such a pleasure reliving my grade 12 experiences and hearing about the similarities and differences that the amazing eight actors lived. It has been such an honour navigating the world with these talented actors.

Additionally the immense insight that the Youth Artistic Advisory Council (YAAC) members have had has been such a wonderful resource. By having them advise and mentor us, we have been able to enrich the experience of all involved. We hope that when you watch *Seventeen* you are able to imagine yourself in the lives of these young people. We hope you want to sing, drink and say,

Seventeen

BY MATTHEW WHITTET

Directed by Michael Fera
A park. Vancouver. June 2022. 9:45pm

CAST

Rotating ensemble cast changes nightly and is subject to change.

Stephen Aberle	Tom
Eileen Barrett	Lizzie
David Bloom	Mike
Gustavo Febres	Tom, Mike, Ronnie
Linda Pollard	Jess
Suzanne Ristic	Emelia
Maki Yi	Emelia, Jess, Lizzie
Allan Zinyk	Ronnie

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

Michael FeraDirector
Barbara Clayden Costume Designer
Alaia HamerSet Designer
Shona StruthersSound Designer
John WebberLighting Designer
Jessie AuChoreographer/Movement Coach
Seamus Fera Assistant Director/Youth Artistic Advisory Coordinator
Ingrid TurkStage Manager
Phay MooresIntimacy Director
Megan WongIntimacy Director
Glenn MacDonald Set Construction/General & Production Manager
Antonio Prpic Set Construction/Lighting Operator
Noella Ansaldi, Fraser Read Production Assistants
Chloe Best, Fraser Read, Ryan Tom Youth Artistic Advisory Council
Kareem Marie Box Office Manager

Western Gold Theatre engages under the terms of the INDIE 2.2, professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

The making of electronic or other audio/visual recordings of this production is strictly prohibited and is actionable under international copyright law.

BIOGRAPHIES (LISTED ALPHABETICALLY)



STEPHEN ABERLE (he, him) - Tom

Stephen graduated from Studio 58 and has worked in theatre, film, radio, TV, and opera for forty-odd years. Some of this century's credits include Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* for the Chemainus, Western Canada, and Persephone theatres, Judge Turpin in the award-winning Snapshots Collective production

of Sweeney Todd, Zeus in Ann Mortifee's opera The Mysteries, Uncle Vince in People Like Vince (and last century, Victor in Not So Dumb and Night Light) for Green Thumb. TV appearances include on The Man in the High Castle, The L Word, and Supernatural. Most recently for Western Gold, Stephen curated and performed in Vilna My Vilna, a series of online readings of stories by Yiddish writer Abraham Karpinowitz. Like the characters in Seventeen, Stephen has spent his share (or possibly more) of evenings in parks with like-minded friends in various altered states.



NOELLA ANSALDI (she, her) – Production Assistant

Noella immigrated to Canada in 2018 after graduating from The Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre in New York City. Fluent in Spanish and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, she graduated with honors in Drama Education at Miami Dade College. This is her first time assisting a Western

Gold Theatre production. Her credits include Rights of Passage (audiobook), A Will to Change (2020), The Suppliant Women, Black Snow, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Twelfth Night, In the Heights, Our Lady of 121st Street, The Flick, and The Gin Game.



JESSIE AU (she/her) - Choreographer/Movement Coach

Jessie is Vancouver-based, Chinese-Canadian dancer and actor. Her movement journey began at the age of three studying ballet at the Jean M. Wong School of Ballet in Hong Kong. Upon moving to BC, her dance training expanded to include tap, contemporary, jazz, musical theatre, and hip hop. Jessie

wears many hats as an arts administrator, dance teacher, choreographer, Special Olympics rhythmic gymnastics coach, group fitness instructor, actor and model. Her performance and choreography experiences have allowed her to collaborate with many local artists and musicians, and work with organizations such as Vancouver Fashion Week, Vancouver International Puppet Festival, The Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra, Moving Mirror Productions, United Players of Vancouver and The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre. She truly believes that movement is for everyBODY and strives to create an environment that is inclusive, fun and light.



EILEEN BARRETT (she/her) - Lizzie

Eileen has had the privilege to work in theatres large and small over the years, including touring internationally with Green Thumb Theatre many years ago when she actually still looked like a kid. She was last seen onstage in Western Gold's *Escaped Alone*. Other projects include *Les Belles-Soeurs* (Gateway/

Ruby Slippers), Twelfth Night (Western Gold), It's a Wonderful Life (Arts Club), The Duchess (Ruby Slippers), Scratch (Theatre Plexus), My Mother's Story (Presentation House), Harvest (Gateway), Dead Man's Cell Phone (Vancouver Fringe). Recent Film/TV/Radio/Podcasts: Invisible Women, Love and Sunshine, Web of Dreams, The Good Doctor, The Magicians, Little Pink House, Every Christmas Has a Story, Hector and the Search for Happiness. Eileen also loves working as a live audio describer (for blind and partially sighted theatre-goers) with VocalEye Descriptive Arts. She is a graduate of Studio 58 and recently completed a master's degree in liberal studies from SFU.

CHLOE BEST (she/her) - Youth Artistic Advisory Council

Chloe was born and raised in New Westminster, British Columbia. With a background in theatre and acting, she has a very close relationship with music and dance. While taking interest in singing and performing from the age of four, Chloe began really putting in the work at age nine where she sang, acted, and starred in plays held by her school and local theatre. She continues her dance education by studying and training at 5678 Dance Centre and Harbour Dance Centre. Now at the age of 18 Chloe is setting off to pursue her career and passion for performing arts.



DAVID BLOOM (he/him) - Mike

David is a playwright, director, actor, and fight choreographer. He is descended on his father's side from the Jewish diaspora in Russia/Ukraine. On his mother's, he traces settler/colonist roots back to the Mayflower. Performances include The Designated Mourner (Felix Culpa), and the premiere of Unity

1918 (Touchstone Theatre). Acting and fight choreography have taken him across the country, including work at Shaw Festival, Manitoba Theatre Centre, Citadel, and dozens of companies in British Columbia. Directing includes *Blackbird* (One Story Collective), the North American premiere of Howard Barker's *Und, The Monument* (Jessie nomination, Outstanding Direction, Large Theatre), and his play *Two in The Morning*, produced in Vancouver and London, England. He has directed shows in Vancouver, Montreal, Winnipeg, Calgary, Kamloops, Thunder Bay, Whitehorse, and London. His plays have also been performed by Green Thumb, Felix Culpa, Studio 58, Carousel, Axis Theatre, and Theatre at UBC.



BARBARA CLAYDEN (she/her) - Costume Designer

Barbara has been designing costumes and sometimes sets in Vancouver for over 45 years. Starting her design career with Tamahnous Theatre in the 1970's, Barbara has been largely self-taught in the art of theatre design. Working with Tamahnous introduced Barbara to the joys of collaboration with other artists and shaped how she approaches all her

design work to this day. She has designed for both small and large theatre companies and worked in numerous Costume Departments in film with IATSE 891... always seeking new and exciting methods of approaching various elements of design from those she has the chance to work beside. Selected works in the last few years include: *Beauty and the Beast* 2017 (Arts Club Theatre) *Lysistrata* 2018 (Bard on the Beach) *Coriolanus* 2019 (Bard on the Beach) *East Van Panto* 2018-20 (Theatre Replacement). She has been nominated for over 15 Jessie Richardson Awards and won eight for Outstanding Costume Design. Barbara holds a BA in Fine Arts from the University of British Columbia.



GUSTAVO FEBRES (he/him) - Tom, Ronnie, Mike

Gustavo began his career in his native Venezuela where he started as a journalist, but soon found his place on stage and on screen. Immigrating to Canada almost three decades ago to be with his (still there!) partner, he restarted his career from scratch learning English in part from small roles on the stage.

He worked up to bigger roles and has appeared in *Tony and Tina's Wedding* (for seven years), *Corpus Christi, Love Valour Compassion, Alley Cats, Antigone, The Frogs, School for Wives, The Impostures of Scapin, A Christmas Carol, Streetcar Named Desire* and *The Hypochondriac*. Though his first love has always been live theatre, he has appeared in numerous film and TV roles. A gay, mixed-race man, Gustavo loves taking on unexpected roles; he has played characters much older than he is but looks forward to an exciting change—playing a character much younger.



MICHAEL FERA (he/him) - Director

Michael is a director, actor, and theatre educator who has been working in Vancouver for over 30 years. Favourite directing credits include the Canadian premieres of *Corpus Christi, Molly Sweeney, A Boston Marriage* and Alistaire Elliot's translation of *Medea*, plus *Taken at Midnight, The Imaginary*

Invalid, Ghosts, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, and Angels in America – Parts 1&2. For nine years Michael was an Artistic Executive for Ailanthus Achievement Centre where he worked closely with inner city youth using theatre as a tool to build character and self-esteem. He currently works extensively with youth, specifically through Theatre Temp where he has directed off and on since 1981.

Theatre Temp productions Michael has directed have toured throughout BC and nationally to Ottawa performing for MPs at Canada's parliament.



SEAMUS FERA (he/him) - Asst. Director/Youth Artistic Advisory Council Cordinator

Seamus is a director, playwright, and theatre instructor who works on the un-ceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples. He holds a BFA from UBC in Acting and is currently on faculty at Arts Umbrella,

Place des Arts, and the Anvil Centre. Previously with Western Gold, Seamus Assistant Directed *Escaped Alone*. Other work includes *Charles III* (Arts Club), *The Imaginary Invalid, Taken at Midnight* (United Players), *Unity:1918, A Midsummer Night's Dream* and various other projects. His touring productions of *Kindness* (Arts Umbrella), *The Chrysalids* and *The Jungle Book* (Coquitlam Youth Theatre) have been seen by over 10,000 youths in the Lower Mainland. He has also worked as an artist in residence for the Vancouver School Board where he had the opportunity to direct plays, films, and write an audio play. Upcoming: Directing *DNA*, *Pinocchio*, and Western Gold's 2023 mainstage production, *A Doll's House Part 2*.



ALAIA HAMER (she/her) - Set Designer

Alaia is a theatre designer located in Vancouver, BC. Recent projects include costume design for *HMS Pinafore, Carmen Up Close and Personal,* associate costume design for *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (Vancouver Opera), *Beneath Springhill, The Birds and the Bees,* assistant costume design for *Sweat, The*

Humans (Artsclub), costume design for Beautiful Man (Pi Theatre), costume design for C'mon Angie (Touchstone), assistant costume design for Romeo and Juliet, Coriolanaus, Taming of the Shrew, Macbeth (Bard on the Beach), set design for She Kills Monsters (UBC), production design for The Drawer Boy (ETC). She has worked on a variety of smaller shows through Vancouver and has a passion for costuming dance. Alaia is a graduate of the UBC Theatre Design program in 2017 and holds an English literature degree from 2012. A selected portfolio can be found at alaiahamer.com



JOY-ANNA LEGGASEE (she/her) - Head Hog Of Fundraising Joy-Anna has retired from her long career teaching fiscal management and the importance of saving to children so they can

achieve their financial goals – be they Beanie Baby acquisitions or saving for post-secondary. She has created investment portfolios from paper routes, babysitting, and Christmas cheques from the

grand folks. She steps away from her usual perch atop a chest and you will now find Joy-Anna in the lobby at every show. A foodie at heart, her favourite meal is loose change and cheques. She's very hungry, so please feed her!



GLENN MACDONALD (he/him) - Set Construction/ Western Gold Theatre General & Production Manager

Glenn has worked as an actor, stage manager, production manager, and designer for theatres across Canada and in the US including The Vancouver Playhouse, Arts Club Theatre, Stratford Festival, Charlottetown Festival, and Studio Arena

Theatre (Buffalo, NY). He worked in production management for Expo '86 entertainment department, stage managed the opening and closing ceremonies of the Calgary Winter Olympics, and was operations director for BC's MUSIC '91 province-wide festival. He currently works in television and film in set decoration, with over 100 projects to his credit. He sits on the Board of Trustees of PAL Vancouver and is the recipient of the 2016 Jessie Richardson Award for Outstanding Set Design. Up next: set design for *No Man's Land* here at PAL and *A Woman in Black* at Jericho Arts Centre.



PHAY MOORES (she/they) - Intimacy Director

Phay is an intimacy director/coordinator, theatre director, writer, internationally trained actor combatant, and professional actor who currently lives on the stolen traditional territory of the kwikwałam (Kwikwetlim) Nation. After starting her training in 2016 with Intimacy Directors International, Phay

has trained with organizations and mentors across Canada and North America, and helped in the creation of the National Society of Intimacy Professionals. Phay has supported productions all over the Lower Mainland as an intimacy professional in film, television, and theatre. Past credits include *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again, Machinal, Oil,* and *Coriolanus* (UBC), *Cuello* (Crazy8s), *Superman & Lois Season 2* (Warner Bros), *Bunny* (Search Party Productions), and the 2021 Leo Award Winner FREYA.



LINDA POLLARD (she/her) - Jess

Linda was born and raised in Montreal, Quebec. She earned a BA With Distinction in English Literature and Drama from McGill University. Linda's first Equity role was as Cecily in *The Importance of Being Earnest* with Northern Light Theatre in Edmonton. She continued to work in Edmonton with Phoenix

Theatre, Catalyst Theatre, Workshop West Theatre, and performed in the first Edmonton Fringe Festival. She co-founded Nexus Theatre, Edmonton's lunch-time theatre. Vancouver is her home now. Her latest stage role was in Nanaimo as Cecile in TheatreOne's production of *With Glowing Hearts*. Linda also works in film and TV. She can be seen on screen as Betty the grief junkie in the Canadian feature film *With Love and A Major Organ* when it is released later this year. Linda is delighted to be working with Western Gold Theatre for the first time. She'd also like to mention that she loves to sing and dance.



ANTONIO PRPIC (he/him) - Set Construction/Lighting Operator Antonio wants to be seventeen forever.



FRASER READ (they/them) - Youth Artistic Advisory Council/ Production Assistant

Fraser is a young Vancouver-based queer artist living and working on the traditional unceded territories of the Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh nations. They have always been passionate about live theatre. They have been

immersed in the performing arts since kindergarten and worked in programs such as Bard on the Beach, Theatre Under the Stars, and the Arts Club. Fraser has experience in competitive improv, musical theatre, and film. They have been writing poetry and scripts throughout their life and, in their graduating year of 2022, wrote and acted in their first original production titled *Impact*. Fraser hopes to continue studying the arts post-secondary and always has ideas percolating for their next big project!



SUZANNE RISTIC (she/her) - Emelia

Suzanne is thrilled to have the opportunity to time travel through this wonderful play. Who wouldn't want to relive all that teenage angst after working in the performing arts for almost 50 years. Yikes! Suzanne most recently performed in the premiere of *Driving Me Crazy* at Presentation House

Theatre, a play she co-wrote with her friend Linda A. Carson, and she last appeared at the PAL theatre in Western Gold's production of *Comfort Cottages*. She graduated high school in 1970, Studio 58 in 1984, and has appeared in film and television. Thanks to the men in her life, Jay, Jean, and Max, for making the last half of her life a heckuyalot more fun than the first half!



SHONA STRUTHERS (they/he/she) - Sound Design

Shona is a UBC Acting Graduate, former Pacific Theatre apprentice, and an Affair of Honor company member. An actor, Intermediate FDC Actor Combatant, Advanced BADC Actor Combatant, and sound designer. They have sound designed for Arts Umbrella, Affair of Honor, Stone's Throw Productions,

The Show Must Go Online.



INGRID TURK (she/her) - Stage Manager

Ingrid is a daughter of settlers, fortunate to live here in the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people, and grateful for their stewardship of the lands and waters here. Ingrid has been a stage manager of theatre, dance, and opera for 35 years. She particularly enjoys doing theatre for young audiences

and has been fortunate to work with Green Thumb Theatre many times. She's a House Manager at Bard on the Beach and an audio describer for VocalEye, the organization that provides description of live performances for patrons with limited vision.



RYAN TOM (he/him) - Youth Artistic Advisory Council

Ryan is a senior at Killarney High School and a member and actor in Killarney Mainstage Theatre Company. He's an active person who loves sports of all kinds and is especially obsessed with karate. His favourite foods are cheeseburgers and French fries, and he drinks caffeinated drinks like there is no tomorrow.

Ryan has taken drama and acting classes since he was 13 years old, both inside and outside of school. He has only just started to improve his self-confidence and public speaking abilities but quickly found enjoyment in theatre. Ryan has met many great people who eventually got him into his school's Theatre Company program as an actor. Since then, he's been in two performances and is excited for any new experience in theatre that comes his way!



JOHN WEBBER (he/him) - Lighting Designer

John is honoured to be a back with Western Gold Theatre once again, and to be a part of the production *Seventeen*. A long-time designer of both sets and lighting, he has had the privilege of working with some of Canada's most talented and adventurous artists. Past favourites include: *The Great*

Leap and *Onegin* for the Arts Club and *The Marriage of Figaro* for Vancouver Opera. Recent credits include Wizard of Oz and *Chelsea Hotel* for Western Canada Theatre and *Kinky Boots* for the Arts Club.



MEGAN WONG (she/they) - Intimacy Director

Megan is a queer, neurodiverse, Chinese-Canadian Intimacy Professional working primarily in the Pacific Northwest, residing on the stolen lands of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples and the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations (Victoria, BC). Megan's primary background includes classical ballet,

movement theatre, and psychology (BA). She is also a practicing special educator and sexual assault support worker, and she incorporates skills from those disciplines into her practice from a trauma-informed lens. She has trained

in intimacy internationally with organizations including Intimacy for Stage and Screen (UK), Theatrical Intimacy Education (USA), and Principal Intimacy Professionals (Canada) and is a committee member of the National Society of Intimacy Professionals.



MAKI YI (she/her) - Emelia, Jess, Lizzie

Born and raised in Korea, Maki came to Canada in 2000 where she found theatre and fell in love with it. After completing a BFA in Theatre Performance at University of Regina and an MFA in Interdisciplinary Studies at Simon Fraser University, she became a permanent resident in 2010. She landed in

Regina, then relocated to Vancouver in 2011 for her apprenticeship at Pacific Theatre. Since then, Pacific Theatre has been her artistic home where her autobiographic plays *Gramma and Suitcase Stories* have been produced. Maki was on tour with *Kim's Convenience* (Arts Club), the extension of a Pacific Theatre production, in the beginning of 2020 until the cancellation due to the pandemic. She resumed her role of Umma when the play returned to the Stanley Theatre stage in March 2022, then toured to Western Canada Theatre in Kamloops and Alberta Theatre Projects in Calgary.



ALLAN ZINYK (he/him) - Ronnie

Allan moved to East Van from Winnipeg's North End in the early 1980s. Since then he has made his living as an actor here in the city, across Canada, and abroad. Allan would like to take this opportunity to thank the lovely actors, director, designers, stage managers, staff, audiences, donors, and volunteers for

the unforgettable 40 years!

Our rotating ensemble cast changes nightly. That means you can come and see *Seventeen* again with different performers!

View the cast performance schedule via the QR CODE here or at westerngoldtheatre.org

*schedule is subject to change without notice



YOUTH ARTISTIC ADVISORY COUNCIL (YAAC)

Each season, Western Gold Theatre works with youth and emerging artists. This is key to our mandate. This sharing of knowledge, ideas, creativity, and artistic process between seasoned artists and those who are up and coming is an important part of what we do. It is a rewarding creative boot-camp where all are impacted. This year, we took it one step further and turned the traditional mentorship model on its head. We asked three young people to mentor us.

YAAC was formed to advise, guide, and inspire the senior artists who are performing and designing. Through regular gatherings, workshops, and participation in the rehearsal process YAAC collaborated to bring *Seventeen* to the WGT stage. They have been an invaluable resource for the director, actors and designers. Much of what you see tonight—music, costumes, body language—is a direct result of their input, ideas, and knowledge. Very cool.

Working on adapting and updating this show as a Youth Advisor has been a real blast! I've never had a room of adults so interested in how I walk, what I wear, how I talk, and how I dance. It's been a wonderful experience to work with this talented group of people, and I'm grateful I got to be a part of such a fun production!

~ Fraser Read

ABOUT WESTERN GOLD

Western Gold Theatre was founded in 1994 by Joy Coghill O.C. in response to the dearth of roles for veteran professional artists in the Vancouver area. It is one of only two professional theatre companies in Canada solely devoted to providing work for senior (55+) artists. We are committed to centering the voices and supporting the stories of seniors and Elders across cultures and communities. We also take great pride in the opportunities we offer to emerging theatre artists.

We have commissioned, developed, and staged eight new Canadian plays as well as produced a further 11 mainstage presentations from major playwrights. In 2012, we launched the highly popular On Our Feet (OOF!) series: fully staged readings with all the hallmarks of a full production. In 2020, in response to COVID-19, we initiated VIRTUAL GOLD: online theatrical offerings, creative workshops, and cultural conversations. In 2021 we began a Creative Accessibility Program specifically designed for senior artists.

Western Gold has been helmed for the majority of its time by a number of Canada's leading theatre artists including: Founder Joy Coghill, Artistic Directors Pamela Hawthorne, Colleen Winton, Anna Hagan, and General Manager Glenn MacDonald—trail blazers all. Tanja Dixon-Warren was appointed Artistic Director in 2019.

WESTERN GOLD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SUPPORT

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Bard on the Beach, Killarney Secondary School
The Robert M. Ledingham School of Theatre, Music & Film at Arts Umbrella
Templeton Secondary School

PAL STUDIO THEATRE

Theatre Manager - Matthew Bissett Executive Director - Lynn Ross

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

LEGACY DONORS

Johanna Hickey, J. M. Hurst

MARQUEE HEADLINER (\$2,000 +)

William Davis, Jaffer Foundation, Mark, David & Geoffrey Lecovin (in honour of Gerald Lecovin)

STARRING ROLE! (\$1,000 – \$1,999)

Keith Martin Gordey and Tory Ross, Johanna Hickey, Bonnie MacKenzie, Salim Rahemtulla, Leonard Schein, Tim & Hilary Temple

GO AHEAD – HAVE A SENIOR MOMENT! (\$500 – \$999)

Kathryn Aberle, Myra Andrews, Wensley Architecture, Elizabeth Ball, Tanja Dixon-Warren & Michael Fera, Deanne Henry, J. M. Hurst, Dawn Johnston, Donnie MacDonald, Anne Mathisen, Diana Sandberg, Vicki Webster

ENJOYING BOLD AGE! (\$200 – \$499)

Loretta Bogert-O'Brien, Doug Cameron, Rena Cohen, Virginia Cooke, Kate Dahlstrom, Louise DeVita, Rob Haynes, Terri Johnson, Linda Johnston, John H. Kennedy, Phyllis Lavelle (to support an artist in need), Glenn MacDonald, Patricia Phillips, Hesein Rahemtulla, Shehin Rahemtulla, Zahida Rahemtulla, Pat Regan, Pat Ritchie, Gene Rumley, Kathie Schwaia, Marsha Sibthorpe, Christian Theriault, Magda Theriault, Hang Yuan

YOUNG AT HEART! (\$100 - \$199)

Victor Martinez Aja, Herbert Auerbach, Dave Campbell, Arthur Close, Louis Chirillo, Catherine Condon, Patricia Curtis, Dhirendra, Alen Dominguez, Elizabeth Dropko, Ian Farthing, Sarah Flemming, Michele Fontana, Jan Gilchrist, Anna Hagan, Jane Heyman, Arlene Howard, Terence Kelly, Joan Kirkwood, Kelly Marshall, Francesca Moore, Madeleine Nelson, Jayeson Nichols, Malcolm Page, Vicki Patenaud (in memory of Janet Sala), Anita Romaniuk, Kathryn Shaw, Cecil Sigal, Elizabeth Snow, Sally Stubbs, Malcolm Toms, Shemin Virjee, Janet Wynne-Edwards, Alan York

ON THE BOARDS! (\$50 - \$99)

Jo Scott Baxendale, Mary Black, Kathryn Bracht, Anne Carew, Vickie Carter, Noeleen Cassidy, Irene Caudwell, Susanne, Paul & Tosé Moniz de Sá, Leslie Dawson-Burns, Louise Devita, Adrianna Donaldson, Ian Farthing, Patricia Fong, Elan Ross Gibson, Marie Gleason, Jane Heyman, Corinne Hebden, John Innes, Yasmin Kassam, Lynn Katey, Kathy Kent, Annabel Kershaw, Steph Kirkland, Phiroza Lakhdir, Kate Lancaster, Judith MacPherson, Robin Mossley, Shelley Neill Chuck Newson, Ellie O'Day, Susan Osmers, Elfrede Rolhoff, Gloria Sully, James Stevenson, Tim Temple, Malcolm Toms, Lori Valleau, Helen Volkow, Jerry Wasserman, Brian Wilson, Johnna Wright, Karen Vail, Audrey Zaharachuk

APPRENTICE! (up to \$50)

Sheila Adams, Salim Ahmed, Moezin Baloo, M. Bates, Eileen Barrett, Paul Batten, Martin Bellemare, Lesley Dawson-Burns, William Byrd, Scott Campbell, Albert J. Cochrane, Ann Cowan-Buitenhuis, Beverly Cramp, David Critoph, Kate Dahlstrom, Laura Di Cicco, Michael Dobbin, Nina Ferretti, Monika Forberger, Claude Garceau, Jenn Griffin, Victoria Henderson, Wendy Holtan, Janet Hopkins, Layla A. Jaffer, Gary Jones, Azmina Kassam, Alice Kamani, Byung Joo Keum, Brian Kipp, Joey Lesperance, Jennifer Louise, Bill Mak, Minaz Mawji, Marjorie McPhee, Cheryl Mitchell, Rozmin Mitha, Jennifer Morabito, Laura Morrison, Christine Nicolas, Jayeson Nicols, Melissa Oei, Jen Raguz, Julie Robinson, Marlene Rodgers, Paul Ross, Oliver Schulte, Mary-Virginia Shaw, Shamim Shivji, Sue Sparlin, Jane Srivastava, Danny St. Andrews, Roy Surette, Chelle Tanner, Zahir Teja, Magda Theriault, Chandan Toor, Almas Virani, Daniele Walker, Gilliam A. Walker, Laura White

GET INVOLVED WITH WESTERN GOLD!

There are lots of ways to get involved with Western Gold Theatre, and we'd love to have you on board!

Volunteer!

Help with fundraising events, serve on our board and committees, work at our concession, or be our frontline usher/box office attendant;

Spread the word!

If you liked the show, please tell your friends, family, colleagues, etc;

Become a member!

Be the first to know about upcoming events and auditions, and enjoy special members-only events;

Donate!

All gifts of \$20 or more will be acknowledged with a tax-deductible receipt. Donate online at **westerngoldtheatre.org.**

SO - WHERE DO YOUR TICKET DOLLARS GO?

As a small, ambitious company operating on a project-to-project basis (meaning we have no government support to sustain our ongoing operations), we depend largely on you, our audience, to support us. We can only hope that the quality of our work will put the "bums in seats" that we rely on to meet our costs. Your attendance supports all our artistic productions and ancillary events, as well as our hardworking team throughout the year. We have much to thank you for.

PAL's intimate theatre has a house capacity of less than 100. This means we must sell to near capacity! In order for *Seventeen* to break even, more than 1400 people must purchase a ticket.

Working in the theatre is a vicarious life, and many of us who choose it survive on passion, commitment, and the hope of things to come. Actors and many other theatre artists—at minimum industry standard—get paid less per week than many people get paid per day, and in some cases per hour.

Our marketing and advertising budget is very limited, so if you enjoyed tonight's performance—or any other work by any other theatre company—tell anyone and everyone! Share on social media. Write us a review on Google! If you are really feeling passionate, contact your local MP and encourage ongoing funding for the arts.

If you are even MORE passionate, connect with Joy-Anna Leggasee, our Head Hog of Fundraising! Yes, she's a piggy bank, and she can be found in the theatre lobby.

Following is a breakdown of precisely where your ticket dollars go (based on an 88% house at an average ticket price of \$18.00*)

*Average ticket price is calculated by totaling all ticket prices (including full price, concession prices for youth, students, PAL residents, and members of the community with financial restrictions, comps for volunteers, and promotional comps which offset our marketing budget) and dividing it by the number of different ticket prices offered.

Vanua (including rehearsal space)	100/
Venue (including rehearsal space)	
Production (props / costumes / set / lights)	-10%
Advertising / Promotions	-8%
Administration	-3%
Royalties	-3%
Artist / Production / Cultural Fees	-57%
Accessibility Initiatives	-2%
Staff & Contractors	-7%

Our heartfelt thanks for your collaboration, support, patronage, and applause!

CREATIVE ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

Western Gold Theatre was founded with the aim of supporting, nurturing, and providing opportunities for senior artists and audiences. Instead of hiding the normal experiences of the life process, we aim to shine a light on them and make them integral to creation, design, rehearsal, and performance processes.

It is no secret that challenges come with aging; thus, as part of every project upon which we embark, we examine these barriers and challenges and find opportunities and solutions therein. The questions we ask are:

- How do we fully support senior artists on stage / in rehearsal?
- Are there commonly used accessibility tools we can apply to theatrical creation?
- What new technologies and digital media can be used to support our artists and audiences?
- How can we ensure cultural comfort?
- How can we aesthetically illuminate the experience of seniors' day-to-day living?

This means ensuring our venue is accessible. It means we acknowledge, support, and advocate for cultural ceremony, safety, and protocols.

Actors may be seen using an earpiece / having a prompter / integrating surtitles into the set design / incorporating the script as a prop / the set being wheelchair accessible / adjusting the lighting / using sound cues to facilitate memory / increasing visual markers; or only rehearsing two hours per day for six weeks, instead of seven hours a day for two weeks. It varies and adapts to each artist and each production.

We believe all older adults can, and should, participate in the arts—and not just any arts, but high-quality, innovative, and contemporary arts that engage them fully and reflect the lives they lead.

On our stage, you'll see an artistic form suited to senior artists; one which also reflects the experience of our audience. It embraces adaptability and, at heart, celebrates the notion that life experience fully informs artistic practice.



THE WOMAN IN BLACK

By Stephen Mallatratt and Dame Susan Hill

Starring Bernard Cuffling & Aidan Wright February 17 - March 5 Jericho Arts Centre

www.womaninblackvancouver.com



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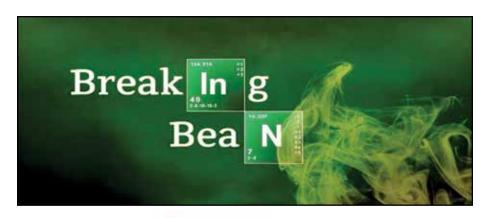


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