

OOF! (ON OUR FEET) STAGED READING



NORM FOSTER'S

OPENING NIGHT

DIRECTED BY ANNA HAGAN



Photo Credit: Ellie O'Day

March 17 - 19, 2023

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

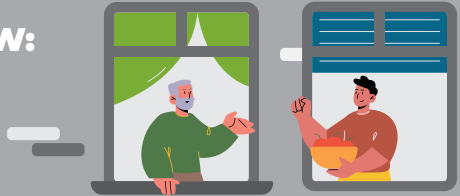


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A NOTE FROM DIRECTOR ANNA HAGAN

Opening Night is a phrase that produces a number of responses depending on who you are talking to: anxiety, fear, excitement, relief. Norm Foster, our playwright, shows us what happens when eight different people experience this remarkable event. Through humour and incisive wit, he shows us that we all have our own “opening nights” to go through; but no matter what happens, there will be more nights to follow.

We have brought together a stellar cast all set to show you some of the trials and tribulations that await some Opening Nights . . . Enjoy!

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

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OPENING NIGHT!

BY NORM FOSTER

Directed by Anna Hagan

The action takes place at the Charles Killian Theatre Noir Repertory House

CAST

Dave Campbell	Jack Tisdale
Colleen Winton	Ruth Tisdale
Jerry Wasserman	Richard Hyde-Finch
Annabel Kershaw	Cilla Fraser
Keith Martin Gordey	Michael Craig
Bernard Cuffling	Clayton Fry
Angeles Paz Latapi	Libby Husniak
Aidan Wright	Tom Delaney

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Designer	Glenn MacDonald
Scenic Painter	Senem Yaman
Stage Manager	Ingrid Turk
Assistant Stage Manager	Fraser Read
Photographer	Javier Sotres
Set-up Crew	Lulan (Nicole) Huang, Yoel Ortega, Jonathon Stone, Andrej Stanojlovic

ARTISTIC & PRODUCTION STAFF

Artistic Director	Tanja Dixon-Warren
General Manager	Glenn MacDonald
Literary Manager	Seamus Fera
Casting	Stephanie Hargreaves
Creative Marketing Manager	Kate Lancaster
Publicist	Gwen Kallio

WESTERN GOLD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Directors: Kathryn Aberle, Andres D. Abogado, Alen Dominguez, Keith Martin Gordey, Anna Hagan, Cuneyt Sarikaya

There will be one fifteen minute intermission

BIOGRAPHIES



DAVE CAMPBELL (he/him) – Jack Tisdale

This is Dave's eighth appearance with Western Gold. Previously he played Dimas the Gardener in *Triumph of Love*, Bill the Minicab Driver in *Funny Money*, Mortimer the Lawyer in *Jack of Diamonds*, Arnold the Chef in *Mystery at Greenfingers*, Wilson the Nurse in *Harvey*, Sir Toby the Uncle in *Twelfth Night*, Officer Welch the Party Pooper in *Rumors*, and Roger the Dancer in *Comfort Cottages*. Dave

has also performed with Patrick Street Productions, Itsazoo, Ensemble Theatre Co, URP, Fighting Chance, United Players, Theatre Under the Stars, UBC Players Club, Vagabond Players, and Metro. Dave hosts the radio show *Eclectic Lunch*, a weekly stroll through life's garden of musical delights, on CiTR.ca. This summer he celebrates 20 years of marital bliss with the amazing Ronaye Haynes.



BERNARD CUFFLING – Clayton Fry

Bernard has been a professional actor/director in Vancouver for 45 years. He was born in London, UK but is now [since 1974] a Canadian citizen. Bernard has appeared or directed in major theatres in Western Canada. As an actor, he has worked on productions at National Theatre in Ottawa and has been seen in more productions at the Arts Club Theatre than any other actor. Bernard recently

directed and acted in *The Woman in Black* for Classical Act Company and has been seen in copious TV and film productions including a recent stint on *The Good Doctor* as well as a guest starring role in the new TV series *Reginald the Vampire*. In the year 2000, he was the recipient of the Sam Payne award, presented by UBCP/ACTRA. He received a Jessie award for his lifelong commitment to theatre and is also proud that he is a member of the BC Walk of Fame.



KEITH MARTIN GORDEY – Michael Craig

Having performed in nine Western Gold shows so far, Keith looks forward to being in a tenth, *Opening Night*. He is a Past President of Western Gold Theatre, a Director on the board of the Canadian Artists Network (CAN, formerly CSARN), Past President and Past Treasurer of PAL Vancouver, and currently serves on the board of The Motion Picture Arts & Sciences Foundation of British Columbia

(which hosts the Leo Awards), Treasurer and Past President of the Union of BC Performers (UBCP/ACTRA), and Vice President of the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television, and Radio Artists (ACTRA). Keith Martin Gordey has appeared in over 70 film and television productions to date including such shows as *The Order*, *Watchmen*, *Center Stage*, *Supernatural*, *Alcatraz*, *Men in Trees*, *Smallville*, *The Dead Zone*, *Flight 93*, *The 4400*, *Da Vinci's Inquest*, *Cold Squad*, *Stargate SG-1*, *A Storm in Summer* and many Hallmark movies. Love to Tory and Sasha.

OPENING NIGHT premiered at The Piggery Theatre in North Hatley, Quebec, 1989. OPENING NIGHT is staged by arrangement with Pam Winter, GGA, www.ggagency.ca

**ANNA HAGAN (she/her) – Director**

Anna's accomplished career has been honoured with a Jessie Richardson Theatre award for Outstanding Career Achievement, as well as being inducted into the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame. She served as assistant director of the Stratford Festival's Young Company and was mentored by the internationally 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. Favourite directing credits include: *Waiting for Godot*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, and all the *OOF!* productions for Western Gold Theatre! Her extensive acting credits include: *Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Music Man*, *Our Town*, and the acclaimed World Theatre production of *The Mill on the Floss* (Soulpepper Theatre, Toronto). Vancouver audiences will have seen her in *A Delicate Balance*, *Half Life*, *Home Child*, *Three Tall Women*, *Vigil*, *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.

**ANNABEL KERSHAW (she/her) – Cilla Fraser**

Annabel's career has spanned many decades and many parts of Canada. For Western Gold she has joyously appeared in *Funny Money*, *Comfort Cottages*, *The Learned Ladies*, *Splitting Heirs*, *Jack of Diamonds* and more. In Vancouver, she has appeared at the Arts Club Theatre, Vancouver Playhouse, and The Richmond Gateway, among others. Favourite shows include *Snapshots*, *The Thing About Men*, *My Fair Lady*, *Private Lives*, *The King and I*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Mom's the Word*. She is a recipient of two Jessie Richardson Awards for *Aunt Dan and Lemon* and *The Elephant Man*. Film and television appearances include in *The Angel Tree* and several other Hallmark movies, *Get Shorty*, *Unreal*, *iZombie*, *Arrow*, *Married Life*, *The L Word*, *The Client List*, *Smallville* and *Jumanji*. Annabel is also a certified 500-hour yoga instructor and lives in Vancouver with her husband and their yoga dog Padma, who does a perfect Downward Facing Dog.

**ANGELES PAZ LATAPI (she/her) – Libby Husniak**

Angeles is an emerging artist currently residing in Vancouver, originally from Mexico City. She has been involved with all aspects of theatre throughout her time at Langley Fine Arts School and beyond, recently graduating from Capilano University's Acting for Stage and Screen program. Angeles continues to happily pursue her passion for theatre in all shapes and avenues: from starring in *The Penelopiad* (CapU Theatre), to production management for a local amateur cabaret show with friends. She can often be found taking long walks around Vancouver, belting rock at the local karaoke joint, or at home cooking yummy Mexican food.

**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. He recently created the set designs for *No Man's Land* here at PAL and *The Woman in Black* at Jericho Arts Centre.



FRASER READ (they/them) – Assistant Stage Manager

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!



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 Vocal Eye, the organization that provides description of live performances for patrons with limited vision.



JERRY WASSERMAN (he/him) – Richard Hyde-Finch

Jerry is delighted to be back at PAL with some of the theatre pals he's known longest in this, his 50th year on Vancouver stages. Professional acting credits include *Western Gold*, the Arts Club, the late lamented Playhouse and City Stage, and over 200 film and TV appearances, most recently in HBO's *The Last of Us*. Jerry reviews theatre for the Vancouver Sun and his website, vancouverplays.com.

He taught English and Theatre for over 40 years at UBC, including five years as Head of the Department of Theatre and Film, and edited the anthology *Modern Canadian Plays*. He dedicates his performance in *Opening Night* to one of the funniest actors he was lucky to know, Andy Rhodes.



COLLEEN WINTON (she/her) – Ruth Tisdale

Colleen's career of 45+ years as an actor / director / singer / choreographer has taken her from Chemainus to Charlottetown (and most cities in between), at the Arts Club, Playhouse, Citadel, Theatre Calgary, Persephone, Tarragon, Shaw, and Stratford Festivals, to name a few. For *Western Gold*: *Learned Ladies*, *Harvey*, *Rumours*, *Jack of Diamonds*, *Mystery at Greenfinger*, and directed *Queen Lear*

and a host of readings. On other stages, Colleen has played everything from Daisy in *Driving Miss Daisy* and Dolly Levy in *Hello, Dolly!* to Shelly Levene in *Glengarry Glen Ross*. She received Jessie and Ovation awards for her performance as Mrs. Lovett in the acclaimed site-specific *Sweeney Todd* and recently appeared as Dotty in the Arts Club's *Noises Off* and in the smash *Kinky Boots*. She is proud to have been in the company of *The Unnatural and Accidental Women*, the inaugural production of the NAC Indigenous Theatre in Ottawa. On the small screen, she lately appeared in *Lost in Space*, *Family Law*, *Man in the High Castle*, *You Me Her*, and a collection of Hallmark movies. She is grateful to Western Gold for the opportunity to once again be playing with this group of talented, lovable loons.



AIDAN WRIGHT (he/him) – Tom Delaney

Aidan Wright is incredibly excited to be in his first production with Western Gold Theatre. He has seen many of their productions and is honoured to be up there on stage with such massive talent. You might have seen him in the recent production of *The Woman in Black* at Jericho Arts Centre. He has recently released his new album *Kiss Your Friends* with his band *The Sweet Hours*. He would like to thank his family for their constant support.



SENEM YAMAN (she/her) – Scenic Painter

Senem is an experienced scenic artist and makeup artist. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts, a diploma in makeup design from Vancouver Film School, and a diploma in stagecraft technology at Douglas College. She previously worked as a scenic artist at Bard on the Beach and makeup designer for Children's Theatre of Richmond CATS Musical, as well as *90 DAYS* and *Seventeen* for Western Gold.

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Apprentice! (up to \$50)

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volunteers, PAL Vancouver residents, and you, the audience.

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UP NEXT ON STAGE AT WESTERN GOLD

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or call the Box-Office at 604-363-5734



The Importance of Being Earnest

June 2 - 4, 2023

On Our Feet (OOF!) Presentation

By Oscar Wilde | Directed by Anna Hagan

This brilliantly clever comedic masterpiece was called by W.H. Auden, “the only pure verbal opera in English.” Wealthy gentlemen Jack and Algernon have chosen to lead double lives to evade the tedium of polite society.

However, when they attempt to win the love of two women, who declare they will only love a man called Earnest, chaos begins and hijinks ensue. The two gentlemen and their ladies are in for more than they ever anticipated when the formidable Lady Bracknell begins sleuthing around. The Importance

of Being Earnest is a tale of mistaken identities, rapid-fire wit, and cucumber sandwiches. This beloved satire of Victorian social hypocrisy is the wittiest classic there is!



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, there is a knock at that same door. Nora has returned. But why? And what will it mean for those

she left behind? Tony nominated playwright Lucas Hnath's funny, probing, and bold play continues Nora's story as she confronts her husband, daughter, and the nursemaid who raised her children. It is both a continuation of Ibsen's exploration of traditional gender roles and a clever contemporary take on marriage and the complexities of all human relationships. Sharp, witty, invigorating, and somewhat naughty.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to photographer Ellie O'Day, proofreader Tory Ross,
and all our fabulous volunteers!

NEW & UPCOMING VIRTUAL GOLD: LOOK!

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, 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!



The Pinch Penny Poker Players Christmas Light Tour

EPISODES 1, 2 & 3 are available for viewing!

Written and performed by Nora D Randall

This delightful series carries the magic of the holiday season through the year. Follow cantankerous bus driver Mavis as she shuttles a gaggle of old poker playing ladies around Southern Vancouver Island. Watch the first three episodes on our website now, and stay tuned for more episodes being released over the year. The series is a fundraiser for Nora's favourite charity, *Rainbow Refugee*. Find out more about the series and how you can donate on the Virtual Gold page of our website at westerngoldtheatre.org.



FORGIVENESS: Process and Progress

Musings, Musical and Otherwise with Tom Pickett

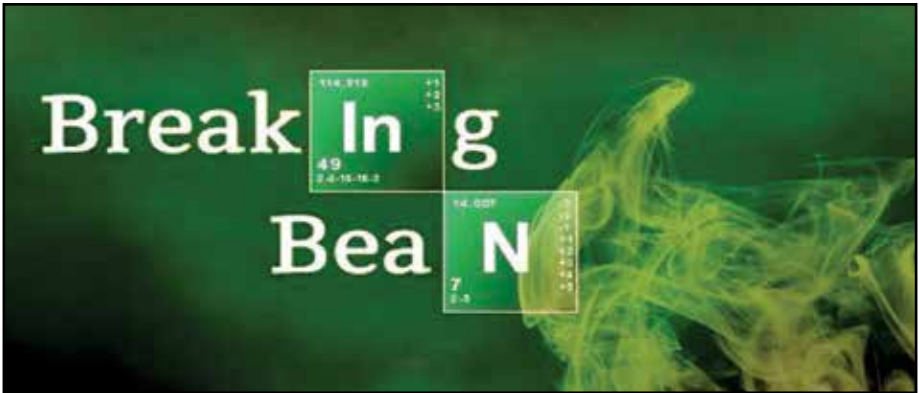
Watch and listen as Vancouver treasure Tom Pickett brings his soaring, soulful voice, his great big smile, and his own personal thoughts to lead us on an exploration of forgiveness. Although Black History Month has wrapped up for 2023, we encourage all to continue learning about and honouring Black History.



COMING UP

Our Ghosts Pay-Per-View on YouTube

Western Gold Theatre is pleased to partner with the Firehall Arts Centre and Our Ghosts Collective on the Vancouver premiere of *Our Ghosts*. The play, written by Sally Stubbs and produced by Our Ghosts Collective in association with Western Gold, runs live on stage at the Firehall Arts Centre from March 19 - 22, after which it will be available as part of our Virtual Gold: LOOK! series as a pay-per-view YouTube screening. Please check our website towards the end of March for the link to the YouTube video.



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