



# HILDA'S YARD

by Norm Foster

Directed by Anna Hagan

**MAY 10 - 12, 2024**

We gratefully acknowledge that we are on the traditional and unceded territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔt (Tseil-Waututh) First Nations. We deeply thank them for so generously allowing us to live, work, and play on their beautiful lands.



## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Hidden within this early play by Norm Foster lies fertile ground showing us how nostalgia for a way of life, long remembered or forgotten by us, still speaks of love, forgiveness, and humour. Best of all it shows us how differences can bind us together not tear us apart. Enjoy!

~ Anna Hagan

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## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S NOTES

We all need a good belly laugh! It's the best thing we can do for ourselves. It keeps us healthy! Who better than Canada's beloved Norm Foster to unleash this in all of us?

I am deeply thankful to Anna Hagan for helming the On Our Feet! (OOF!) Staged Reading Series. Her choice of plays is always bang on, and she, like me, loves a good belly laugh. We also love to celebrate and showcase the magnificence of theatre artists: their quickness, dexterity, inventiveness, intuition, skill and astounding creativity.

In four short days, *Hilda's Yard* was read and blocked; the set designed and built; lights hung; and costumes sourced. And now, today, you the audience join us, the staged reading of *Hilda's Yard* is up, and it all comes together! This is when the real magic happens. On both sides of the curtain, backstage, onstage and in the house—we are all on our feet (oof!) together, creating the uniquely marvelous thing called live theatre!

I thank you deeply for being here.

~ Tanja Dixon-Warren

# HILDA'S YARD

BY NORM FOSTER

Directed by Anna Hagan

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Time: A Friday in September, 1956

Setting: The back yard of the Fluck family home

*There will be one intermission*

## CAST

Cheryl Mullen	Hilda Fluck
Michael Fera	Sam Fluck
Jacob Leonard	Gary Fluck
Emma Ross	Janey Fluck
Gabrielle Nebrida-Pepin	Bobbi Jakes
Alen Dominguez	Beverly Woytowich

## CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

Glenn MacDonald	Set Designer
Fraser Read	Stage Manager
Chaeli Smith	Assistant Stage Manager
Andrej Stanojlovic	Lighting Technician
Colleen Bayati	Lighting Technician
Lulan (Nicole) Huang	Lighting Technician
Jonathan Stone	Stagehand

HILDA'S YARD premiered at Theatre New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick in February, 2012.

HILDA'S YARD is staged by arrangement with Pam Winter, GGA, [www.ggagency.ca](http://www.ggagency.ca).

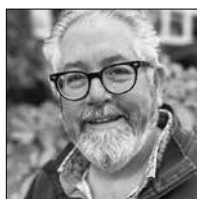
Western Gold Theatre engages under the terms of the INDIE 2.2, professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

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## BIOGRAPHIES (LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)



**Alen Dominguez (he/him): Beverly Woytowich** Alen is a Mexican-Canadian theatre artist who trained at the University of British Columbia. When not on stage, he's the Managing Director at Newworld Theatre, as a producer and cultural advocate. He's worked with some cool folks at Royal City Musical Theatre, Electric Company, City Opera Vancouver, Bard on the Beach, Ruby Slippers, Arts Club, Citadel, Chemainus, Western Gold, TODOS Productions, Tara Cheyenne Performance, the Chop, Rumble, and the PuSh Festival. Alen is a co-founding member of the Canadian Latinx Theatre Artist Coalition (CALTAC).



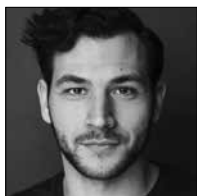
**Michael Fera (he/him): Sam Fluck** Michael has been working as an actor, director, producer, and arts administrator for over 40 years. He has been nominated for Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards for Significant Artistic Achievement and Outstanding Production and is a recipient of the 40 Under 40 Business in Vancouver Award. Michael was the longtime Program and Events Coordinator at Place des Arts in Coquitlam, but he recently retired and is looking forward to the next chapter as a freelance theatre artist. Michael's acting credits include performing at the Vancouver Fringe in September 2023 as Falstaff. Other favourite roles have been in *Rusted Cage*, Theatre Lab's production of *The Zoo Story*, Friar Laurence in *Romeo and Juliet* under the direction of Kevin Bennett. Michael has also appeared in *Hamlet* and *Measure for Measure*, both directed by Mr. Bennett, and Doc in *West Side Story* for Theatre Under the Stars.



**Anna Hagan (she/her): Director** Anna's long and accomplished career has been honoured with a Jessie Richardson Theatre Award for Outstanding Career Achievement and a 2014 Woman of the Year by UBCP/ACTRA. She served as Assistant Director of the Stratford Festival's Young Company and was mentored by the renowned Robin Phillips. She also participated 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 12 years. She now serves on its Board of Directors.



**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!*



**Jacob Leonard (he/him): Gary Fluck** Jacob is a Vancouver-based actor from Ontario, Canada. He has been a part of many productions across the country such as *Forgiveness* (Arts Club Theatre Company/Theatre Calgary), *Mary's Wedding* (Firehall Arts Centre), and *Concord Floral* (Theatre Kingston). Jacob is very excited to be performing with Western Gold Theatre again and hopes you will enjoy the show! Check out his website at: <https://www.jacob-leonard.com>



**Glenn MacDonald: Set Designer** Glenn trained in all aspects of the theatre at the Manitoba Theatre Centre in Winnipeg and has worked as an actor, stage manager, production manager, and designer for theatres across Canada and in the US. He is the recipient of the 2016 Jessie Richardson Theatre Award for Outstanding Set Design. Glenn sits on the Board of Trustees of PAL Vancouver and has been the General Manager of Western Gold Theatre since 2012. Recent credits include set design for *The Woman in Black* at Jericho Arts Centre, *The Ballad of Georges Boivin* and *She Stoops to Conquer* for Western Gold Theatre, stage and set design for the Billy Bishop Legion Theatre for *Tom Crean - Antarctic Explorer*, and set and projection designs for *The Trials and Tribulations of Whiskey Dick* at Jericho Arts Centre. Glenn also works in television and film in set decoration and has over 100 projects to his credit.



**Cheryl Mullen (she/her): Hilda Fluck** Cheryl is so happy to play in Western Gold's back yard. She thanks Anna Hagan and her wonderful team. Recent credits include, Film/TV: *Hanna On the High Seas* and *So Help Me Todd*; Theatre: *The Fantasticks* (Huckabee), *Cabaret* (Fraulein Schneider) and *Steel Magnolias* (Ousier). She hopes our show "razzes your berries!"



**Gabrielle Nebrida-Pepin (she/her): Bobbi Jakes** Gabrielle is a Filipino/French-Canadian actor based in Vancouver, BC who recently graduated from UBC's Acting Program. Over the last 12 years, she has performed for both theatre and film. Some of her favourite theatre credits include: *Henry V* (Understudy/E.R.A, Bard on the Beach), *Ceci est une histoire d'amour* (Anna, Théâtre la seizième), *June Bug* (June Bug, Ragamuffin Productions), *Quelqu'un t'aime M.Hatch* (Betsy, Axis Theatre) and *Coriolanus* (Sicinius, UBC). For film: *iZombie* (Angela, CW), *Retrograde* (Young Woman, Journeys into Crazy), *Riverdale* (Margaret, CW), and *She Kills Monsters* (Tilly, Shinning Light Studios). This summer, Gabby will be remounting *June Bug* in Salmon Arm BC for Theatre on the Edge Festival and will also be in rehearsals for Ragamuffin Productions' upcoming new work at the Vancouver Fringe Festival.



**Fraser Read (they/them): Stage Manager** Fraser is a Vancouver-based, queer artist living and working on the traditional territories of the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. This is their fifth production with Western Gold Theatre. Their experience in the performing arts started in kindergarten, and they have been involved with programs such as Bard on the Beach, Theatre Under the Stars, and The Cultch. Fraser has additional experience with competitive improv, musical theatre, film, and playwriting. Fraser hopes to continue studying the arts and is grateful for the opportunity to expand their knowledge working in live theatre as a stage manager.



**Emma Ross (she/her): Janey Fluck** Emma is an actor and artist. Born and raised in Calgary, AB, she is now based in Vancouver on the unceded, ancestral homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Recent theatre credits include *Mary's Wedding* (Firehall Arts Centre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Minimal Stage Productions), and improvising with Tightrope Impro Theatre. She is a graduate of Studio 58.



**Chaeli Smith (she/they): Assistant Stage Manager** Chaeli grew up surrounded by art and had a love of live performance instilled in them from a young age. Attending music festivals with their father, plays with their grandparents, and many summers spent in theatre workshops have given them a rich foundation to build their life on. They learned that there is a kind of magic that happens when people come together to create and experience stories, and they have been following that feeling ever since. After years of performing and also a brief pause, they have been excited to rediscover their love of storytelling in new ways from behind the scenes.



**Andrej Stanojlovic: Lighting Technician** Andrej is an emerging artist and designer currently residing in Vancouver, originally from Belgrade, Serbia. Since moving to Canada at the age of 13, Andrej found love and passion for theatre and acting. His journey as an artist started with a theatre production program in high school. He studied acting for three semesters at Studio 58 where he learned crucial production skills. Andrej aspires to become a lighting and sound designer. He has previously worked with Western Gold Theatre as a lighting board operator and set up crew on their staged readings of *Opening Night* and *The Importance of Being Ernest*, and, most recently, as the Assistant Production Manager and Lighting Technician for *A Doll's House Part 2*.

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## ABOUT WESTERN GOLD THEATRE

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 12 mainstage presentations by 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, and, in 2023, we launched our inaugural HAVE A SENIOR MOMENT FESTIVAL, a curated, multi-discipline series celebrating the performing arts for old folk and/or by old folk!

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

President-----Donnie MacDonald  
Vice President-----Bonnie MacKenzie  
Treasurer-----Louise DeVita  
Secretary-----Diana Sandberg  
Directors-----Kathryn Aberle, Alen Dominguez, Anna Hagan

## PRODUCTION STAFF

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

## PAL STUDIO THEATRE STAFF

Theatre Manager-----Matthew Bissett  
Executive Director-----Lynn Ross

## SUPPORT

We acknowledge the financial assistance of The BC Arts Council,  
The Province of British Columbia, The City of Vancouver Cultural Services

## FOUNDATIONS

The McGrane-Pearson Endowment Fund held at Vancouver Foundation,  
The Stewart Fund held at Vancouver Foundation

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

East Van Graphics, Full Circle First Nations Performance, Lift Restaurant, PAL  
Studio Theatre, Shoreline Studios, West End Journal

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Tory Ross for her exemplary proofreading skills

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our donors, sponsors, community partners, volunteers, PAL Vancouver residents, and you, the audience. Without your support there would be no theatre!

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### LEGACY DONORS

Johanna Hickey, J. M. Hurst

### MARQUEE HEADLINER! (\$2,000 +)

Anonymous, William B. Davis, Mark, David, and Geoffrey Lecovin

### STARRING ROLE! (\$1,000 – \$1,999)

Keith Martin Gordey and Tory Ross, Johanna Hickey, Bonnie MacKenzie, Salim Rahemtulla, Leonard Schein, France Trépanier

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

Myra Andrews, Elizabeth Ball, Sam Biggs, Tanja Dixon-Warren and Michael Fera, Laura Groos, Deanne Henry, J. M. Hurst, Dawn Johnston, Donnie MacDonald, Anne Mathisen, Elizabeth Snow, Tim and Hilary Temple, Vicki Webster, Wensley Architecture

### ENJOYING BOLD AGE! (\$200 – \$499)

Kathryn Aberle, Anonymous, Loretta Bogert-O'Brien, Doug Cameron, Rena Cohen, Virginia Cooke, Lesley Dawson-Burns, Louise DeVita, Alen Dominguez, Anna Hagan and Terence Kelly, Rob Haynes, Terri Johnson, Linda Johnston, John H. Kennedy, Gerry Kowalenko, Phyllis Lavelle (to support an artist in need), Glenn MacDonald, Bill Millerd, Marjorie Munkley, Vicki Patenaud (in memory of Janet Sala), Patricia Phillips, Hesein Rahemtulla, Shehin Rahemtulla, Zahida Rahemtulla, Nora D. Randall, Pat Regan, Pat Ritchie, Gene Rumley, Diana Sandberg, Perry Schneiderman, Kathie Schwaia, Kathryn Shaw, Marsha Sibthorpe, Elizabeth Snow, Christian Theriault, Magda Theriault, Malcolm Toms, Katey Wright, Hang Yuan, Audrey Zaharichuk

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**THREE BIG CHEERS FOR WGT'S AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!**

**HIP HIP HOORAY!  
HIP HIP HOORAY!!  
HIP HIP HOORAY!!!**

We thank you from the  
bottom of our hearts



## SO WHERE DO YOUR TICKET DOLLARS GO?

As a small, ambitious company operating on a project-to-project basis (meaning we have no regular guaranteed government support to sustain ongoing operations), we depend largely on you, our audience, to support us. On Our Feet (OOF!) productions operate on a shoestring; project funding from government and foundations is 25%, with the rest reliant on box office (45%) and other fundraising endeavours (30%). Your attendance supports our artistic productions as well as our hardworking team throughout the year. We can only hope that the quality of our work will put the “bums in seats” that we rely on to meet so many of our costs. We have much to thank you for.

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. For older artists, this is compounded further. Few roles are written for characters over 55 and statistics cite the median age for a working actor is: Women Age 37 / Men Age 46. OUCH!

PAL’s intimate theatre has a house capacity of less than 100. This means we must sell to near capacity over a very short, four-performance run.

We invite you to be WGT’s marketing team! If you enjoyed today’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 MLA/MP and encourage ongoing funding for the arts.

Following is a breakdown of where your ticket dollars from today’s performance go (based on an 88% house at an average ticket price of \$20.00\*).

*\*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.*

- Venue (including rehearsal space)-----18%
- Production (props / costumes / set / lights)-----6%
- Advertising / Promotions-----9%
- Administration-----4%
- Royalties-----3%
- Artist / Production Fees-----53%
- Accessibility Initiatives-----1%
- Staff Wages-----6%

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

UP NEXT! DON'T MISS OUR TWO MAINSTAGE SHOWS OF THE SEASON



***SUPER SENIORS - WORLD PREMIERE!***

**By Kathryn Shaw**

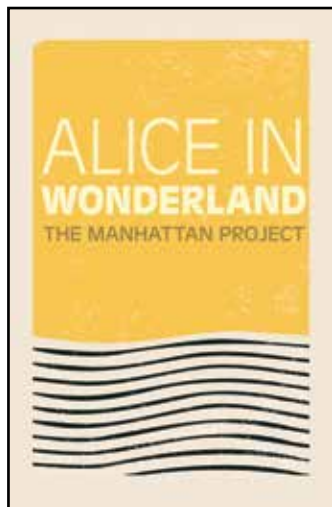
**Directed by Anita Rochon**

**June 6 – 23, 2024**

**PAL STUDIO THEATRE**

**Starring Kathryn Shaw, Patti Allan, Annabel Kershaw,  
Alisha Davidson, Matheus Severo**

Ever wonder what it would be like to be alive and kicking at 105? In this new comedy, Kathryn Shaw takes you to the Fairfield Residence to meet three women over the age of 105 who have differing responses to their extraordinarily long lives. Based on experience with her own ancient family members, the writer brings insight and humour to the conundrum of extreme old age.



***ALICE IN WONDERLAND***

***The Manhattan Project***

**Created and originally directed by Andre Gregory**

**November 7 – 24, 2024**

**PAL STUDIO THEATRE**

Revisit this beloved classic—revamped! Follow Alice as she dives headlong down the rabbit hole where shadows linger around every bend, and madness waits at the end of every path. Alice comes face-to-face with the likes of the temperamental Red Queen, the eccentric Humpty Dumpty, the enigmatic White Knight, and a host of other unusual characters. It is an exuberant, funny piece of pure theatre, full of truth and an uncanny pertinence to our own topsy-turvy times.

*Programming subject to change*

Buy tickets online at [westerngoldtheatre.org](http://westerngoldtheatre.org)  
or call the Box Office at 604-363-5734



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