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VANCOUVER 2024

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WESTERN GOLD  
THEATRE

NOVEMBER 7 - 24, 2024

# TOM CREAN

## DISCOVERING ANTARCTICA

HEROIC TALES OF SCOTT, CREAN & SHACKLETON

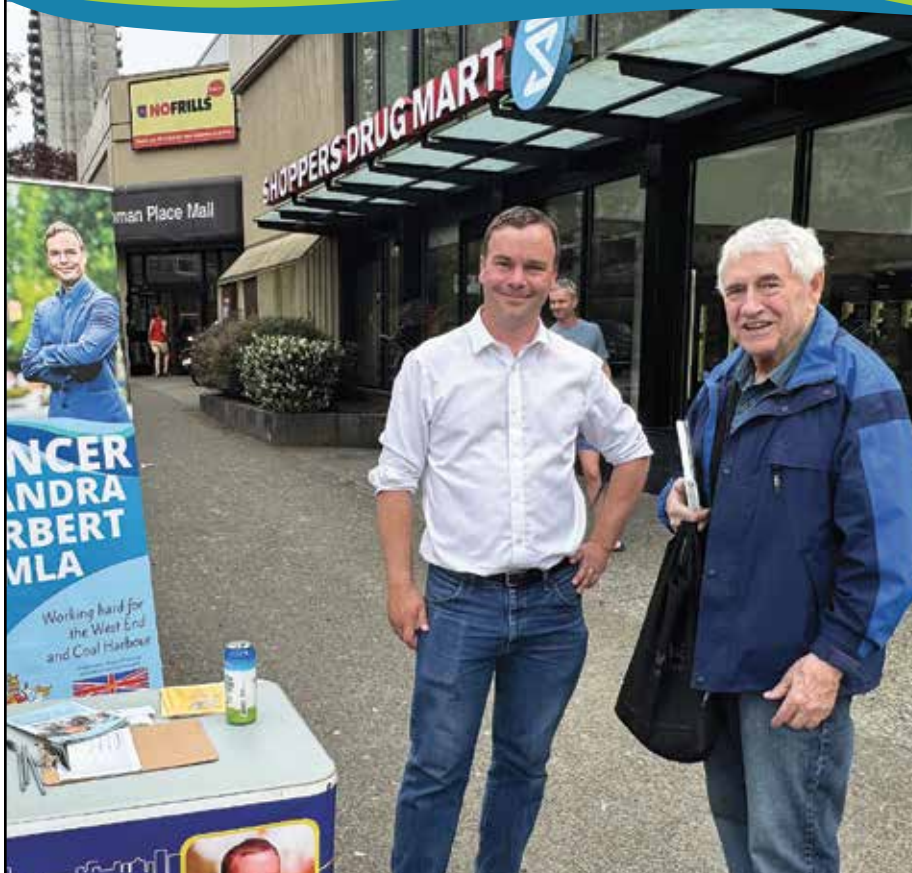
We gratefully acknowledge that we are on the traditional and unceded territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) First Nations. We deeply thank them for so generously allowing us to live, work, and play on their beautiful lands.



# SPENCER

## CHANDRA HERBERT

MLA WESTEND & COAL HARBOUR



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TO WORK FOR YOU.

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MOBILE OFFICE ON A  
STREET CORNER NEAR YOU.



923 Denman Street



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[spencerchandraherbert.ca](http://spencerchandraherbert.ca)



[s.chandraherbert.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:s.chandraherbert.mla@leg.bc.ca)

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S NOTES



Every so often I go to the theatre and I am blown away! This is what happened to me last year when I first saw *Tom Crean – Discovering Antarctica*. I was aware, of course, of Shackleton and Scott's expeditions from high school history books; however, I had no real comprehension of what they entailed and the tremendous perseverance, tenacity, loyalty, friendship, and bravery that was required.

Aidan Dooley's performance is exquisite, and I was riveted. I knew immediately that it needed to be on the Western Gold Stage. I am thrilled that Western Gold is working in collaboration and partnership with Vancouver CelticFest and Play On Words Theatre to bring the voice and life of a remarkably unique, intrepid, and courageous man to PAL's diamond of a theatre in the sky. How marvelous that Aidan is here to share his talents with us and bring us this extraordinary story. Ah, the magic of theatre! How I love it.

~ Tanja Dixon-Warren

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## PLAY ON WORDS THEATRE

Play On Words Theatre was formed in 1990 and is based in Rochester, Kent UK. The company has produced: *Prostitutes Only Marry in May* (formerly *Sister Queens*), tours of N. Ireland and Scotland; *Tom Crean - Antarctic Explorer* (2001-24), touring Ireland, UK, Australia, USA including a Fringe First at The Edinburgh Festival 2006; *Galway Girl* and *Melody for Medway* Fuse Festival 2009. The company toured Ireland in 2011-2013 with *Our Last Chieftain - O'Sullivan Beara*. Their educational arm has toured *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth* and numerous workshop performances on many of Shakespeare's other plays, as well as performances on science and history for schools.

Play On Words' production *Only Prostitutes Marry in May* (the relationship between Queen Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots) was seen in 2012 at Waterloo East Theatre, London, where it received a nomination in the Off West End Theatre Awards for best female performance. The company also runs drama summer schools and has co-produced acclaimed and highly successful Christmas shows for 3-6 year olds with *The Creatives* at The Brook Theatre, Chatham, 2010-2022. [www.playonwordstheatre.com](http://www.playonwordstheatre.com)

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## ABOUT TOM CREAN

Tom Crean was born in 1877 in Kerry, Ireland. He joined the Royal Navy at 15 years of age. He served on "Discovery" from 1901 – 1904 and "Terra Nova" 1910 -1913 under Captain Robert Scott, and from 1914 – 1916 served on "Endurance" under Sir Ernest Shackleton. Crean survived for months trapped on the ice floes after the ship was crushed, and journeyed with Shackleton and four others in a 21-foot lifeboat across the South Atlantic (800 miles). They scaled the uncharted glaciers of South Georgia to reach help for their stricken colleagues left behind. Crean received the Albert Medal for bravery. He returned to UK in 1916 to serve out the remaining time of WWI and was medically discharged in 1919. Crean married a girl from Annascaul called Nell Herlihy, and returned home to Ireland. They brought up two daughters, Mary and Eileen. Sadly, their middle daughter Kate died aged four in 1924. Crean remained in Annascaul where he ran a public house with Nell until his death in 1938 of a burst appendix, aged 61.

# THE JOURNEY OF THE PLAY

Tom Crean – Discovering Antarctica; Heroic Tales of Scott, Crean, and Shackleton (also known as Antarctic Explorer and Discovering Antarctica – The Heroic Tales of Shackleton, Crean & Scott), written and performed by Aidan Dooley premiered at The Medway Fuse Festival and then at the New York International Fringe Festival in August 2003, where it won the Best Solo Performance Award. In the same year, the show played the Dublin Fringe Festival where it picked up a Best Actor nomination.

The show originated from a fifteen-minute Living History performance on Tom Crean created by Aidan Dooley for London's National Maritime Museum's Antarctic Exhibition South in 2001. Following the publication of Michael Smith's book about Tom Crean called *Unsung Hero*, the show was developed over a two-year period with several small tryout performances in Ireland, including a performance in front of Crean's remaining family at the Tom Crean Society's memorial in Annascaul.

Between 2004 and 2005, the show toured to over 30 venues across Ireland, and also played two sell-out seasons at the Northern Stage Theatre Vermont, USA.

2006 saw the show return to the USA playing a sell-out, three-week season at The Suga Theater at Boston Center for the Arts where the show was nominated for an Outstanding Solo Performance Award at that year's Elliot Norton, Boston Theater Critics Awards. The show then returned to Ireland to play the first of two sell-out, five-week seasons at Andrews Lane Theatre Dublin, the second season following the triumphant success at the 2006 Edinburgh Fringe Festival where the show won a Fringe First Award.

In 2007, after its sell-out success at the Brighton Festival, the show returned to Ireland to play two capacity weeks at Dublin's Olympia Theatre before travelling to the Adelaide Fringe Festival Australia, via seasons in Florida, Vermont, Malta, Dubai, and Geneva. It then returned to the USA to play an eight-week sell-out season at the award-winning Irish Repertory Theatre in New York before returning to the UK to complete a four-week UK tour.

2008 saw the production receive its London premiere at the New End Theatre, where it played a six-week limited run to capacity houses and was awarded the Time Out Critics Choice Award before returning to Dublin for a third sell-out week engagement at the Olympia Theatre which, by popular demand, then transferred to the Gaiety Theatre Dublin for a further two weeks.

Since 2009, the show has continued to tour extensively both in Ireland and internationally.

It was seen in New Zealand at the International Arts Festival. In 2015, 2017, and 2019 it returned by popular demand to Ireland and UK. In 2020, COVID forced the show to take a hiatus, like the rest of us, but in 2023 it was seen in Vancouver and returned to the Olympia in Dublin for the sixth residency with a two-week run. The show then toured Ireland and the UK to finish that year. In 2024, we saw a return by popular demand to Vancouver, an Alaskan Cruise with Cunard, shows in Dublin and Kerry, and finally to finish this amazing year, Aidan is delighted to be in this residency here at Western Gold.

Find out more at [tomcreanshow.com](http://tomcreanshow.com)



# TOM CREAN - DISCOVERING ANTARCTICA

HEROIC TALES OF SCOTT, CREAN, AND SHACKLETON

Produced by Play On Words Theatre Company  
written and performed by Aidan Dooley

## CAST

Aidan Dooley----- Tom Crean

## CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

Glenn MacDonald-----Production Manager  
Michael Fera -----Production Coordinator  
Ingrid Turk -----Production Coordinator  
Andrej Stanojlovic----- Assistant Production Manager /Lighting Designer

*The performance runs two hours including one 15-minute intermission*

*There will be a talkback after the performances on*

*Thursday, Nov 14, Saturday, Nov 16, Thursday, Nov 21, and Saturday, Nov 23*

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TOM CREAN - DISCOVERING ANTARCTICA is produced by special arrangement with  
Aidan Dooley and Play On Words Theatre

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

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



## CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM BIOS



**Aidan Dooley - Tom Crean** Aidan is from Galway, Ireland. He trained at the Guilford School of Acting and works as a freelance actor, writer, and director in London. Highlights of his career as an actor include *Translations* - National Theatre, London. *Philadelphia Here I Come* - Wyndhams Theatre London. *Elegies for Angels* - Criterion Theatre London. *DA* - White Bear Theatre London, *Players and Painted Stage*, *Last Apache Reunion* - SOS Theatre Bristol, National Tours of *Julius Caesar* and *Romeo and Juliet*, *Tales of the Lost Formicans* - Bristol Old Vic Theatre Company, *Galway Girl* and *Melody* in the UK Fuse Festival, *Crossed Keys* - Eastern Angles Theatre Company, and *Tales of Snowy the Fox* - The Brook Creatives Theatre Co.

He first performed *Tom Crean - Antarctic Explorer* 20 years ago at The South Pole Inn, Annascaul for Tom Crean's family, and then at the Medway Fuse Festival followed by The New York International Fringe Festival (Best Solo Show Award Winner). He has also been nominated for awards at The Dublin Festival, Adelaide Fringe Festival, and The Elliot Norton Theatre Critics Award Boston, and in 2006 won the prestigious Fringe First at Edinburgh. Aidan toured his other solo show *Our Last Chieftain - O'Sullivan Beara* from 2011 to 2013.

Aidan's book *TRAVELS with TOM CREAN - Antarctic Explorer* was published in 2016. It tells the story of his journey with Tom Crean: how the play was written, and how it grew from an unknown show with an unknown actor into an award-winning hit that has been performed all over the world.

Aidan has worked for many years developing various performance pieces and historical characters for all the National Museums in England, including the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich where the Tom Crean show started. He is a Co-Director of Play On Words Theatre Company and is also an Associate Lecturer in Drama at Canterbury Christ Church University, Kent. He lives in Rochester with his wife Miriam and has two children, Liam and Nancy. [www.aidandooley.co.uk](http://www.aidandooley.co.uk)



**Michael Fera - Production Coordinator (he/him)** 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 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.



**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!* If you prefer to donate online, please visit the SUPPORT US page of our website at [westerngoldtheatre.org/support-us](http://westerngoldtheatre.org/support-us)



**Glenn MacDonald (he/him) – Production Manager** Glenn trained in all aspects of the theatre at the Manitoba Theatre Centre in Winnipeg. He has worked as an actor, stage manager, production manager, and designer for theatres across Canada and in the US. He co-produced *Torch Song Trilogy* at the Cultch, worked in production management for Expo '86, stage managed the opening and closing ceremonies of the Calgary Winter Olympics and was Operations Director for BC's MUSIC '91. He also works in TV and film in set decoration and has over 100 projects to his credit. Glenn is the recipient of the Jessie Richardson Theatre Award for Outstanding Set Design for *Annapurna*. He designed sets for *Collected Stories* for Log House Productions, *No Man's Land* for Smoking Gun Collective at PAL, *The Woman in Black* and *The Play That Goes Wrong* at Metro Theatre, *The Ballad of Georges Boivin*, and several OOF! Staged Readings for Western Gold Theatre, where he has been Production and General Manager since 2012.



**Andrej Stanojlovic (he/him) – Assistant Production Manager/Lighting Designer** Andrej is an emerging artist and designer, originally from Belgrade, Serbia. Since moving to Canada at the age of 13, he found love and passion for theatre and acting. His journey as an artist started when he discovered a theatre production program in high school. He studied acting for three semesters at Studio 58 where he learned crucial production skills. Andrej has previously worked with Western Gold Theatre as the Assistant Production Manager and Lighting Technician for *A Doll's House Part 2*, *Super Seniors*, and as a lighting technician for numerous OOF! Staged Readings.



**Ingrid Turk (she/her) – Production Coordinator** 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 40 years. She's a House Manager at Bard on the Beach and a Stage Manager for the VSO. She's delighted, as always, to work with Western Gold.

## 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 nine new Canadian plays as well as produced a further 12 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, and, in 2023, we launched our inaugural HAVE A SENIOR MOMENT FESTIVAL, a curated, multi-discipline series celebrating the performing arts for old folx and/or by old folx!

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

# OUR TEAM, OUR PARTNERS, OUR SUPPORTERS

## 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, Jean Hurst

## PRODUCTION STAFF

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

## PAL STUDIO THEATRE STAFF

Theatre Manager	Matthew Bissett
Executive Director	Lynn Ross

## SUPPORT

We acknowledge the financial assistance of The Canada Council for the Arts, The BC Arts Council, and The Province of British Columbia

## HOSPITALITY SPONSOR

Sage Hayward Vineyard

## FOUNDATIONS

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

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

East Van Graphics, Lift Restaurant, PAL Studio Theatre, Shoreline Studios, West End Journal

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Western Gold Theatre would like to thank Harry Cussen and Tory Ross

Aidan Dooley would like to thank Jane Dewey, who saw the potential of a performance about Tom Crean and was an inspiration to that process. The National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. Michael Smith, whose book *Unsung Hero* by Collins Press (ISBN 1-903464-0909) has been a constant and essential source in the knowing of and the being of Tom Crean. Dave McGilton for the use of the ballad Tom Crean [www.davemcgilton.com](http://www.davemcgilton.com).





## ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, BID!

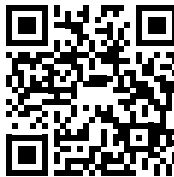
**NOVEMBER 6, 2024 AT MIDNIGHT TO DECEMBER 1, 2024 AT MIDNIGHT**

Please join us for our 2024 online auction fundraiser! Proceeds from the auction will be used to support our Intergenerational Mentorship Program and Creative Access for Seniors Program along with production and artist costs for our 2024-25 season.

**There are many fabulous auction items to bid on, including:**

- Relax and unwind with a **Gulf Islands Getaway** at the lovely Saturna Lodge
- Savor a chocolate tasting for 10 at **Origins Chocolate Bar**
- Delight in **Living Room Theatre** with a theatrical evening like no other! Gather your friends together and host a beloved Vancouver actor: Bernard Cuffling!
- Pamper yourself with a gift certificate to **Sabai Thai Spa**
- Discover a new favourite in baskets of **carefully curated wines**
- Enjoy **fine art, dining out, theatre tickets . . . AND SO MUCH MORE!!**

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO VISIT OUR AUCTION SITE!**



## 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, Rob Haynes, Deanne Henry, J. M. Hurst, Dawn Johnston, Donnie MacDonald, Anne Mathisen, Elizabeth Snow, Tim and Hilary Temple, Vicki Webster, Wensley Architecture, Lily Yuan

### **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, Terri Johnson, Linda Johnston, David C. Jones, John H. Kennedy, Gerry Kowalenko, Phyllis Lavelle (to support an artist in need), Glenn MacDonald, Tom McBeath, Margot McKenzie, Bill Millerd, Lindsay and Cheryl Moyle, Marjorie Munkley, Vicki Patenaud (in memory of Janet Sala), Patricia Phillips, Hesein Rahemtulla, Shehin Rahemtulla, Zahida Rahemtulla, Pat Regan, Pat Ritchie, Gene Rumley, Diana Sandberg, Perry Schneiderman, Kathie Schwaia, Kathryn Shaw, Marsha Sibthorpe, Elizabeth Snow, Magda Theriault, Malcolm Toms, Helen Volkow, Johnna Wright, Katey Wright, Hang Yuan, Audrey Zaharichuk

### **YOUNG AT HEART! (\$100 – \$199)**

Victor Martinez Aja, Herbert Auerbach, Neil David Boucher, Dave Campbell, Valentina Cesaratto, Arthur Close, Louis Chirillo, Catherine Condon, Tony Cox, Harry Cussen, Patricia Curtis, Kate Dahlstrom, Dhirendra, Heloise Dixon-Warren, Adrianna Bakos Donaldson, Ian Farthing, Thomas Ferguson, Nina Ferretti, Sarah Flemming, Michele Fontana, Jan Gilchrist, Pamela Hawthorn, Stephen Heatley, Jane Heyman, Arlene Howard, Linda King, Joan Kirkwood, Helen Low, Kelly Marshall, Diana Mitchell, Robin Montcalm, Francesca Moore, Craig Neill, Madeleine Nelson, Jayson Nichols, Monica Morten, Malcolm Page, Tim Pelton, George Plawski, Nora D. Randall, Anita Romaniuk, Jordan Samek, Kathryn Shaw, Shamim Shivji, Cecil Sigal, Sally Stubbs, Karen Vail, Shemin Virjee, Laura White, Janet Wynne-Edwards, Alan York

### **ON THE BOARDS! (\$50 – \$99)**

Adrianna Bakos-Donaldson, Jo Scott Baxendale, Scott Bellis, Mackenzie Birrell, Mary Black, Kathryn Bracht and Cavan Cunningham, Brenda Brandle, Deborah Brown, Katherine Burega, Anne Carew, Vickie Carter, Noleen Cassidy, Irene Caudwell, Valentina Cesaratto, David Diamond, Adrianna Donaldson, Richard Dopson, Bruce Dow, Elizabeth Dropko, Kathleen Duborg, Carey Erickson, Patricia Fong, Jan Gilchrist, Marie Gleason, Rachel Goddyn, Pamela Goosens, Corinne Hebden,

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### **APPRENTICE! (UP TO \$50)**

Chris Adams, Sheila Adams, Salim Ahmed, Patti Allan, Sheila Margaret Anderson, Jeane Andrews, Moezin Baloo, M. Bates, Eileen Barrett, Paul Batten, Martin Bellemare, Elyse Bennerman, Keri Bennett, Mackenzie Birrell, Ken Boyd, Colleen Brow, Linda Brooks, Marianne Brorup Weston, Janet Bruce, William Byrd, Scott Campbell, Carole Christopher, Albert J. Cochrane, Adele Cohen, Deborah Cooper, Ann Cowan-Buitenhuis, Wendy Craig, Beverly Cramp, David Critoph, Laura Di Cicco, Daryl Cummings, Wayne Dannhauer, Tim Dixon, Michael Dobbin, Barbara Anne Eddy, Angela Falbo, Monika Forberger, Jane Forward, Claude Garceau, Marc Gelmon, Michelle Gerber, Elan Ross Gibson, Georgeann Glover, Lynna Goldhar, Lesley Goodbrand, Jenn Griffin, Sarah K Harlow, Karin Hartner, Robert Heidbreder, Barbara Heller, Victoria Henderson, Sandy Hislop, Wendy Holtan, Janet Hopkins, Cara Hunter, Layla A. Jaffer, Mauro Joao, Michael Janusz, Paul Jeeves, Simon Johnston, Gary Jones, Azmina Kassam, Alice Kamani, Byung Joo Keum, Brian Kipp, Kate Lancaster, Raynard J. LeBlond, Lisa Lee, Joey Lesperance, Michael Louie, Jennifer Louise, Jean Lum, Judith MacPherson, Heather Main, Bill Mak, Tim Matheson, Minaz Mawji, Andrea McCorkell, Chris McGregor, Chris McKeon, Sandra McNulty, Marjorie McPhee, Donna Mihm, Cheryl Mitchell, Rozmin Mitha, Jennifer Wightman Morabito, Laura Morrison, Linda M Navotny, Regina Nebrida, Craig Neill, Nancy Nelson, Christine Nicolas, Jayeson Nicols, Melissa Oei, Dorothy Papadakos, Roman Podhora, Deborah Pound, Simone Plusa, Jen Raguz, Prudence Reid-Gogh, Murray Reinhart, Anassa Rhenisch, Julie Robinson, Marlene Rodgers, Gabrielle D Rose, Paul Ross, Jo-Anne Salmon, Oliver Schulte, Debra Sears, Alexandra Sellers, Mary-Virginia Shaw, Lesley Sherlock, Miriam Smith, Sue Sparlin, Jane Srivastava, Ellawyn Stacey, Danny St. Andrews, Nadia Stefyn, Sharon Straathof, Roy Surette, Chelle Tanner, Zahir Teja, Barbara Tattersall, Magda Theriault, Rob Thomson, Gillian Thompson, Chandan Toor, Mary Ungerleider, Almas Virani, Daniele Walker, Gilliam A. Walker, Jennifer Wightman-Morabito, Rosemary Diane Warriner, Cheryl Weir, Barb Wheeler, Maxine Wilson-Young



**LUCKY IRISH 50/50 RAFFLE**

**WINNER TAKES HALF!**

**3 for \$5**

Tickets available in the lobby

Maximum Prize: \$ 750.00

*Winner will be notified by November 30, 2024*

*Winners consent to the release of their name by the licensee. Ticket purchasers must be 19 years of age or older. If a winning ticket bears a minor's name, the prize will be lawfully delivered on behalf of the minor to the minor's parent, legal guardian, or trustee.*

## 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 day-to-day operations), we depend largely on you, the audience, to support us. For *Tom Crean – Discovering Antarctica*, project support from grants and foundations cover approximately 23% of our budget. The remainder comes from Box Office, concession, fundraising, and donations. 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.

Working in the theatre is a vicarious life. 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 senior artists, this is further compounded because work opportunities are limited. Few roles are written for characters over 55, and they are frequently stereotypical characters that amplify preconceived notions of old people. 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 and must sell to near capacity. In order for *Tom Crean – Discovering Antarctica* to break even, more than 1190 people must purchase a ticket.

**We invite you to be Western Gold Theatre'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 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 where your ticket dollars go (based on an 85% house at an average ticket price of \$19.00\*)

*\*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 ticket prices offered.*

Venue (including rehearsal space) -----	16%
Production (props / costumes / set / lights) -----	5%
Advertising / Promotions -----	8%
Administration -----	6%
Royalties -----	3%
Artist / Production / Cultural Fees -----	57%
Accessibility Initiatives -----	1%
Staff & Contractors -----	4%

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

## CREATIVE ACCESSIBILITY at WESTERN GOLD THEATRE

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, including physical mobility, stamina, memory loss, cultural displacement, and the inherent emotional barriers that result. 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.

Thus, as part of every project we embark upon, we examine these barriers and challenges and find opportunities and solutions therein.

### **The questions we ask are:**

- What are the barriers?
- How do we fully support senior artists on stage/in rehearsal?
- Are there commonly used accessibility tools we can apply to theatrical creation?
- How do we bring practices such as viewpoints, Laban (a method and language for describing, visualizing, interpreting, and documenting human movement), or biomechanics to senior artists?
- 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?

**FOR THE AUDIENCE:** This means ensuring our venue is fully accessible and offering ASL and VocalEye performances for each production as well as audio assist. It means we acknowledge, support, and advocate for cultural ceremony and protocols.

**FOR THE ARTIST:** This means actors may be seen using an earpiece / having a prompter to the side of the stage / integrating a teleprompter into the set design / incorporating the script as a prop (i.e. a diary, a memoir, a journal) / 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 means we acknowledge, support, and advocate for cultural safety and protocols. It varies and adapts to each artist and each production.

This is what you will see on our stage: 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.

# WHAT'S ON? VIRTUAL GOLD!

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Enjoy our VIRTUAL GOLD presentations from the comfort of your own home!  
Visit [westerngoldtheatre.org/virtualgold](http://westerngoldtheatre.org/virtualgold) for more info and links

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## **THE PINCH PENNY POKER PLAYERS CHRISTMAS LIGHT TOUR**

Written and performed by Nora D Randall

Watch all 12 episodes of Nora's quirky series featuring Mavis the curmudgeonly bus driver as she describes a Christmas light tour of Vancouver Island with a gaggle of old ladies. Chaos ensues, fun is had, friendships are forged . . . sort of.



## **SUPER SENIORS**

By Kathryn Shaw

Did you miss seeing Kathryn Shaw's hilarious hit comedy SUPER SENIORS on the Western Gold stage this past summer? You can now watch a pay-per-view YouTube version as part of our VIRTUAL GOLD series!

SUPER SENIORS stars three of Vancouver theatre's luminaries: Patti Allen, Annabel Kershaw, and Kathryn Shaw.

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## 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](http://WESTERNGOLDTHEATRE.ORG)

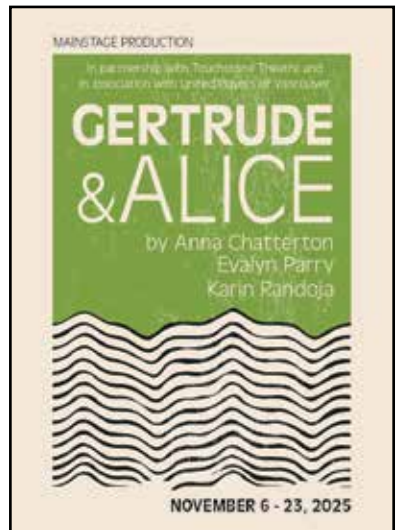
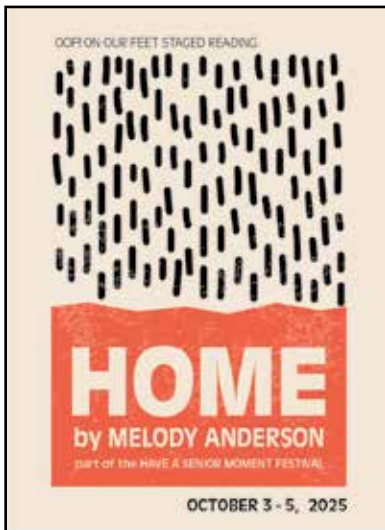
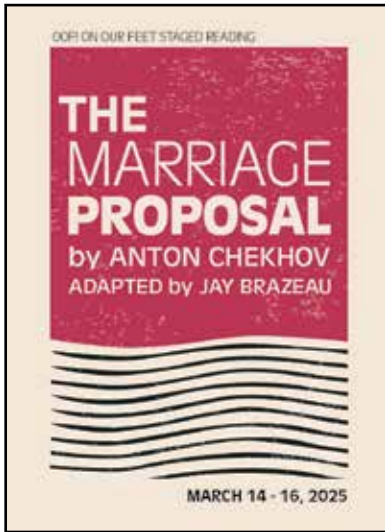
# WESTERN GOLD'S 2025 SEASON

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*Welcome to our 2025 season! It's all about love and living life with love: its complexities, complications, and the many forms love takes! It's about pushing back, standing up, and daring to go forward. It's about celebrating great playwrights (the majority Canadian – yay!) and creative thinkers, and it's about art, words, each other, and how we dance together.*

GET YOUR SEASON TICKETS NOW at [WESTERNGOLDTHEATRE.ORG](http://WESTERNGOLDTHEATRE.ORG)

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Programming subject to change



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Community History • Business, Community, and Restaurant Spotlights ... and More!

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