



# THE STRANGER

by Agatha Christie

*An intimate psychological thriller that keeps you guessing until the end!*

DIRECTED BY COLLEEN WINTON

OOF! (On Our Feet) Staged Reading

**MARCH 13 - 15, 2026**

We gratefully acknowledge that we are on the traditional and unceded territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔt (Tsilil-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 FOR THE WEST END & COAL HARBOUR



**PROUD TO SUPPORT  
THE ARTS  
IN OUR COMMUNITY**

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# THE STRANGER

BY AGATHA CHRISTIE

1935

*Act I A flat in Kensington - A morning in spring*

*Act II A cottage in the country - An afternoon three months later*

*Act III The same - That evening*

*£5000 today would be worth \$700,000*

There will be two 15-minute intermissions

## CAST (in order of appearance)

Colleen Rae Lornie	Enid Bradshaw
Tanja Dixon-Warren	Mrs. Huggins
Bronwen Smith	Doris West/Mrs. Birch
Craig Erickson	Gerald Strange
Ian Farthing	Dick Lane

## CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

Colleen Winton	Director
Glenn MacDonald	Production Designer
Sayer Roberts	Composer
Gower Roberts	Sound Editor
Andrej Stanojlovic	Lighting Designer
Ingrid Turk	Stage Manager
Colleen Bayati	Lighting Technician
Sebastian Barbera	Lighting Technician
Johnathan Stone	Stagehand

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Western Gold Theatre engages under the terms of the INDIE 3.0, professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

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*Photo at left: MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert presenting Western Gold's Glenn MacDonald with the King Charles III Coronation Medal in recognition of his valuable contribution to our country.*

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES



THE STRANGER is an Agatha Christie chestnut with which you, like me, may not have been familiar before now, but which has had a long history.

This mild-mannered thriller began in 1934 as an Agatha Christie short story called PHILOMEL COTTAGE. Christie adapted it into this play a short time later. It also had life with author Frank Vosper in 1936 as the play LOVE FROM A STRANGER, which was adapted into a film by the same name in 1937, starring Basil Rathbone (and then again in 1947). In 1938, that play was televised live on BBC and it was also adapted for a US radio program, SUSPENSE,

starring Orson Welles as Gerald. More recently, LOVE FROM A STRANGER enjoyed a tour of the UK in 2018. The play you will see tonight is the simpler story, but don't be fooled by its pleasant pastoral bliss.

It has been my pleasure to perform in a number of Western Gold's OOF! readings, and I am thrilled to be steering this fine group of actors through the twists and turns of this time-honoured mystery.

~ Colleen Winton

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## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S NOTES



When I was 12 years old on a family trip to the UK, as a way to keep occupied on Britrail and not roll my eyes at my parents, I picked up my first Agatha Christie novel. I was hooked! Subsequently, I spent almost all my diligently saved souvenir money on Agatha whodunits. Over the next year, I read her books on the bus, in the back of our family station wagon, under my sheets after lights-out, furtively at my desk in school, yes—I read every single one of them! And then I went back and read them all again. Years later, after downsizing, clearing out, donating and/or replacing books with digital versions, every dog-eared Agatha Christie remains in my library.

So, when planning the first OOF! of the season, I couldn't resist including something by the Queen of Crime. Based on her short story PHILOMEL COTTAGE, THE STRANGER is a departure from the whodunits Christie is known for and is described as an intimate psychological thriller suspense! I mean c'mon, what's not to love?!

OOF! shows are a joy. They are also a master class in performance. In a few short days, we are up: books in hand, flying by the seat of our pants, unleashing every iota of technique, intuition, ingenuity and unbridled creativity, talent and skill that Canada's most experienced artists have to offer. However, it only becomes theatre when you, the audience join us; that's when the real magic happens and we are all on our feet (oof!) together! I thank you deeply for being here.

~ Tanja Dixon-Warren

## THE PLAYWRIGHT



**Agatha Christie: Playwright** (September 5, 1890 – January 12, 1976) Born in Torquay, England, Agatha Christie is the best-selling novelist of all time. With over one billion books sold in English and another billion in over 100 languages, she is outsold only by the Bible and Shakespeare. She wrote 80 crime novels and collections of short stories, over 25 plays (including THE MOUSETRAP, the world's longest running play), and six novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott. Her first novel, THE MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR AT STYLES, introduced the world to the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, followed a decade later by the shrewd and often-underestimated Miss Marple.

*Photo courtesy of The Christie Archive Trust*

## CAST & CREATIVE TEAM (LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)



**Colleen Bayati: Lighting Technician** Colleen is an Iranian-Canadian director, writer, and theatrical technician based in Vancouver, BC. Graduating with a BFA from SFU, Colleen was a part of the Boca del Lupo's SLaM program (2024), and is currently in Presentation House Theatre's Creative Hub. She enjoys working with indie and community productions as well as larger commercial productions to help emphasize local theatre. She founded the company GREAT TRASH PRODUCTIONS where she debuted her musical WORLD ENDER (2025), new play BULIMIA IS MY ROMAN EMPIRE (2026), and has her short film ENTITIES in post-production. Recent technical work includes: SIGNALS (DigiBC), MY FRIEND FRITZ (Vancouver Fringe), DEAD DRONE (Upintheair Theatre), and the Dance in Vancouver Festival (The Dance Centre).



**Tanja Dixon-Warren: Mrs. Huggins** Seen on many stages over the years, favourite acting credits include, for theatre: GERTRUDE AND ALICE, A DOLL'S HOUSE PART 2, ESCAPED ALONE (all for Western Gold), ACT OF FAITH (Real Wheels), A PRAYER FOR OWEN MEANY (ETC /Pacific Theatre), THE WOLVES (With a Spoon /Pacific Theatre), THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE (ETC) and WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF (United Players). Her Film/TV credits include a bunch of blink & you'll miss 'em plus the occasional role with an actual name! Nominated for a number of Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards, she won the 2025 award for Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Comedic Role for her performance as Anne-Marie in Western Gold's A DOLL'S HOUSE PART 2. She is also proud to have received the Mary Phillips Award. Tanja is the Artistic Director of Western Gold Theatre.



**Craig Erickson: Gerald Strange** Craig is delighted to be performing with Western Gold. Over the last 20 years, he's been active in Vancouver theatre, most recently performing at the City Centre Motel (!) as Leontes in the ecstasy's WINTER'S TALE. This past year included a remount of WAKEY, WAKEY (Pacific Theatre), and last summer's romp COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged) (Bard on the Beach). Other recent projects include new works HURRICANE MONA (Touchstone/Ruby Slippers), and THE CULL (Arts Club). Other highlights: EAST VAN PANTO (Theatre Replacement), FORGET ABOUT TOMORROW (Belfry/Arts Club), ANGELS IN AMERICA, PARTS 1 AND 2 (Arts Club), THE INVISIBLE HAND (PI) and WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF (Arts Club/Blackbird Theatre). Craig just completed a draft of his play, THE CLOUD OF UNKNOWING. He also had a blast writing and shooting a comedy pilot about late night security guards, IN THE WEE HOURS, produced with his friend Raugi Yu.



**Ian Farthing: Dick Lane** After 35 years in the business, there's always something new on the horizon – and this marks one of those occasions, as it's the first time Ian has worked with Western Gold! Some of his favourite acting gigs have included: THE SOUND OF MUSIC (three different productions in Toronto, Chemainus, and Rosebud – over 700 performances in total!); SOUTH PACIFIC and CINDERELLA (off-West End); Vancouver productions of TOLKIEN, THE FOREIGNER (Pacific Theatre), CABARET, THE MOUSETRAP (Arts Club). For 10 years, Ian was the Artistic Director of the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival in Prescott, Ontario, where award-winning productions he directed included MACBETH, OTHELLO, THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA, MAID FOR A MUSKET. Alongside his theatre endeavours, Ian also works as a writer for a studio in Vancouver that dubs animation projects, with over 600 episodes on more than 20 shows to his credit.



**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!



**Colleen Rae Lornie: Enid Bradshaw** Colleen is thrilled to be working with Western Gold Theatre for the first time, with longtime friends and new! Originally from Vancouver Island, Colleen is a multifaceted artist with a passion for music and theatre. She last combined the two playing Patsy Cline while touring ALWAYS, PATSY CLINE with First Impressions Theatre on Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, and Alberta. Other highlight productions include CYRANO, A FEW GOOD MEN and WAITING FOR THE PARADE. Colleen also loves singing with her classic rock band WATERFRONT STATION.



**Glenn MacDonald: Production 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. Set design credits include for THE WOMAN IN BLACK at Jericho Arts Centre, THE BALLAD OF GEORGES BOIVIN, SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER, HILDA'S YARD, TOM CREAM and THE MARRIAGE PROPOSAL / OVERRULED for Western Gold Theatre and, most recently, AND THEN THERE WERE NONE at Metro Theatre, HONK, THE MUSICAL and INTO THE WOODS for Children's Theatre of Richmond Academy, here in the PAL Studio Theatre. Glenn also works in television and film in set decoration and has over 100 projects to his credit.



**Sayer Roberts: Composer** Sayer is a freelance composer for TV and film, such as Paramount's 100 DAYS TO INDY, FORKED, and BULLY BUNCHES dog treat commercials, podcasts (UNBALANCED ENCOUNTERS, TRUE NORTH TRUE CRIME, PHANTOMS OF TALVA, MCU&ME), video games (THE HALLS OF TALAMH DOMNHAIN), as well as a creator for various tabletop role-playing (TTRPG) games like DUNGEONS & DRAGONS. His solo work can also be found on any music streaming platform.



**Bronwen Smith: Doris West/Mrs. Birch** Bronwen is very happy to be returning to the PAL Theatre stage. She first performed here in The Good Company Collective's 2010 production of NIGHT, MOTHER. She's been back since to work with Western Gold Theatre in: MR. KETTLE AND MRS. MOON, THE LEARNED LADIES, and MYSTERY AT GREENFINGERS. Other stage credits include: THE CHERRY ORCHARD (Smoking Gun Collective), MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (Classic Chic), and MARJORIE PRIME (Ensemble Theatre Company). Bronwen was nominated for the Jessie Richardson Theatre Award for Outstanding Lead Performance by an Actress, for her work in Aenigma Theatre's production of THE HOW AND THE WHY. She also works on screen, with credits that include: TRACKER, THE NIGHT AGENT, THE GOOD DOCTOR, many Hallmark & Lifetime movies, and the award-winning feature film RE: UNITING for which she was nominated for a UBCP/ACTRA Award for Best Lead Performance. She is also an acting teacher and coach for both emerging and established actors.



**Andrej Stanojlovic: Lighting Designer** 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 been working consistently with Western Gold since January of 2023, where he started out as a lighting technician. For the more recent projects, Andrej took the role of the Assistant Production Manager on top of being a general technician and occasionally a lighting designer.



**Ingrid Turk: Stage Manager** Ingrid, a daughter of settlers, is fortunate to live on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people and grateful for their endless stewardship of the lands and waters here. Ingrid has been a stage manager of theatre, dance, and opera for 40 years, and has been working with Western Gold for several seasons. She is also a House Manager at Bard on the Beach during the summers, and stage manages for The VSO and other theatres throughout the year.



**Colleen Winton: Director** Colleen's career of 45+ years as a performer, director, and choreographer has taken her from Chemainus to Charlottetown at the Arts Club, Playhouse, Citadel, Theatre Calgary, Persephone, Tarragon, Shaw, and Stratford Festivals, to name a few. Colleen has played everything from Daisy in DRIVING MISS DAISY and Dolly Levi in HELLO, DOLLY! to Shelly Levene in GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS. She appeared at the Arts Club as Dotty in NOISES OFF and in their smash hit KINKY BOOTS. Colleen received Jessie and Ovation Awards for her performance as Mrs. Lovett in Rain City's acclaimed, site-specific SWEENEY TODD. She made her (non-singing) opera debut as the scene stealing Maid in Vancouver Opera's DON PASQUALE, a role she repeated at the COC. Most recently she finished a run as Mother Superior in SISTER ACT at Calgary's StageWest. On the small screen, she's appeared in LOST IN SPACE, FAMILY LAW, MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE, and a host of Hallmark movies. For Western Gold: OPENING NIGHT, LEARNED LADIES, HARVEY, RUMOURS, JACK OF DIAMONDS, MYSTERY AT GREENFINGERS, SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER, and directed QUEEN LEAR (with the late, great Shirley Broderick), and a host of readings. She is grateful to WGT for the opportunity to jump back into the director's chair for an OOF! reading with these fantastic players.

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS (AS OF MARCH 2025)

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

**STARRING ROLE! (\$1,000 – \$1,999)** Coreen Douglas, Johanna Hickey, Timothy and Hilary Temple, Audrey Zaharichuk

**GO AHEAD – HAVE A SENIOR MOMENT! (\$500 – \$999)** Harry Cussen, Rob Haynes, Deanne Henry, J.M. Hurst, John H. Kennedy, Donnie MacDonald, Anne Mathesin, Nasreen and Salim Rahemtulla, Kathie Schwaia

**ENJOYING BOLD AGE! (\$200 – \$499)** Kathryn Aberle, Kate Dahlstrom, Evelyn Harden, Stephen Heatley, Arlene Howard, Mary Jansen, Gerry Kowalenko, Kate Lancaster, John Lazarus, Margot McKenzie, Pam McPhail, Bill Millerd, Nora D. Randall, Anita L. Romaniuk, Charlotte Rozsa, Diana Sandberg, Perry Schneiderman, Kathryn Shaw, Jane Srivastava, Malcolm Toms, Peter Zednik

**YOUNG AT HEART! (\$100 – \$199)** Ivan Antoniuk, Neal Boucher, Leo Bruneau, Donna Celle, Valentina Cesaratto, Nattana Dixon-Warren, Elizabeth Dropko, Monika Forberger, Pamela Hawthorn, Angie Ip, Theodore Jevne, Linda Johnston, Anna Hagan and Terence Kelly, Phil Knaiger, Helen Low, Judith MacPherson, Catherine and Jim Miller, Marjorie Munkley, Georgia Roxborough, Elizabeth Stewart, Jane Srivastava, Magda Theriault, Delia Visscher, Jerry Wasserman, Johnna Wright, Alan York

**ON THE BOARDS! (\$50 – \$99)** Chris Adams, Liz Carney, Jane Clayton, Leslie Goodbrand, Nina Ferretti, Robert D. Hamilton, Paddy Laidley, John A. Lakes, Lisa Lee, Michael Louie, Shawn Macdonald, Donna Mihm, Ellie O'Day, Sally Petitpierre, Deborah Pound, Linda Stender, Nancy Sweedler, Greg Unsworth, Helen Volkow,

**APPRENTICE! (UP TO \$49)** Marilyn Patricia Allan, Melody Anderson, Rhonda Arab, Herbert Auerbach, Linda Ruth Berndt, Isabel Bleim, David Booth, Margo Boyer, Barbara L. Brolly, Jim Brown, Frances Burnside, Paula Cline, Sue Culver, Harry Cussen, William B. Davis, Dolores Drake, Verna Faughnan, Julia Gibson, John Holland, Elizabeth A. Jones, Kim Jordheim, Nora D. Kelly, Gerda Krause, Rudi Leibik, Cher Lewis, Maureen Leyland, Rhona Lichtenwald, Jordy Matheson, Catherine Miceli, Jennifer Morabito, Robin Mossley, Sean Nakatani, Jayeson Nicols, George Plawski, Vanessa Richards, E. Kate Robbins, Penelope Sinclair, Philip Spedding, Gordon Stahl, Lesley Stark, Alice Sundberg, Roy Surette, Ellie Swann, Michelle Thorne-Speir, Johanne Thorpe, Rebecca Toolan, Jeffrey Turner, Rhiannon Williams, Denyse Wilson, Stephen Wurz

## 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



## WESTERN GOLD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President -----Donnie MacDonald  
Vice President ----- Kathryn Aberle  
Treasurer -----Alen Dominguez  
Secretary ----- Diana Sandberg  
Directors-----Anna Hagan, Morteza Moshtaghi

## WESTERN GOLD 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  
Social Media Coordinator ----- Tyquira Dixon-Traer

## PAL STUDIO THEATRE STAFF

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

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Western Gold Theatre would like to thank Dek Green, Tory Ross, United Players

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## LUCKY 50/50 RAFFLE - WINNER TAKES HALF!

Tickets available in the lobby OR  
click the QR Code to order online!

**TICKETS** →→→→→→

1 for \$5

3 for \$10

7 for \$20



Maximum Prize: \$ 3400.00

Draw Date: Sunday June 7, 2026 at 3:00 pm

Winner Notified: Sunday June 15, 2026 at 3:30 pm

License # 171406

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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, tenacious, and ambitious project-based company (aka, no government funding for ongoing operations of staff etc.), we depend largely on you, the audience, to support us. Your attendance sustains our artistic productions and ancillary events, as well as our hardworking team throughout the year. We have much to thank you for.

This production of THE STRANGER has a total of \$3000.00 in funding from only one government source. This does not even cover the costs of the actors you see on stage, let alone the artists and crew who work behind the scenes as well as royalties, sets, props, costumes, theatre rental, marketing, and so forth. Thus, box office revenues, donations, concession, and fundraising events make up more than 90% of our budget. PAL's intimate theatre has a house capacity of less than 90. This means we must sell to near capacity, at full ticket price, in order for THE STRANGER to break even.

Working in the theatre is an extremely rewarding life; and a vicarious one. Actors and many other theatre artists are gig workers and —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 further compounded because work is limited. Few roles are written for characters over 55, and they are frequently stereotypical characters that amplify preconceived notions of older people. Statistics cite the median age for a working actor is: Women Age 37 / Men Age 46. OUCH! We are trying to change this.

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 Facebook or Google. If you are really feeling passionate, contact your local MLA/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 88% house at an average ticket price of \$20.00\*)

*\*Average ticket price is calculated by totaling all ticket prices (incl. full price, concession prices for 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) -----11%
- Production (props / costumes / set / lights) -----6%
- Advertising / Promotions -----8%
- Administration -----3%
- Royalties -----4%
- Artist / Production / Cultural Fees -----59%
- Accessibility Initiatives -----2%
- Staff & Contractors -----7%

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

COMING UP at WESTERN GOLD!



## **SALT-WATER MOON**

**By David French**

**Directed by Michael Fera**

**May 21 – June 7, 2026**

**Starring Dolores Drake and Craig March**

It's a splendid moon-filled night in Coley's Point in 1926. 18-year-old Jacob Mercer has returned from Toronto to the tiny Newfoundland outpost, hoping to win back his former sweetheart, Mary Snow. SALT-WATER MOON won the 1985 Canadian Authors Association Literary Award for Drama, the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Play, the Hollywood Drama-Logue Critics' Award, and was a finalist for the 1985 Governor-General's Award for Drama.

## **TOMATOES TRIED TO KILL ME BUT BANJOS SAVED MY LIFE**

**A True Story Written and Performed by Keith Alessi**

**June 11 – 14, 2026 | A Fundraiser for Western Gold Theatre**

Western Gold is thrilled to be bringing TOMATOES TRIED TO KILL ME BUT BANJOS SAVED MY LIFE to Vancouver audiences. Critically acclaimed and toured internationally, Keith Alessi shares his exceptional true story of leaving the world of corporate boardrooms behind to follow his long-delayed passion—playing the banjo! When faced with a deadly cancer, his musical pursuit took him on a journey that became the key to saving his life. Told through authentic storytelling, heartfelt humor, and music, Keith's story is an uplifting tale of challenge, triumph, and the healing power of the arts and music. Don't miss it! *Please note: This production is not included in our 2026 Season Tickets package.*

## **HAVE A SENIOR MOMENT FESTIVAL 2026**

**September 25 – October 4, 2026**

Western Gold's HAVE A SENIOR MOMENT FESTIVAL is a multi-disciplinary series of events and gatherings showcasing the performing arts for old folx and/or by old folx. HAVE A SENIOR MOMENT FESTIVAL aims to turn the notion of "having a senior moment" on its head and provide a gathering place for young, old, and those in between. The festival includes theatre, works in development, music, creative workshops, artist salons, and more—all celebrating the notion that Creativity Has No Expiry Date!

### **2026 FESTIVAL HEADLINER: ANNIVERSARY**

**By Carol Shields | Written with Dave Williamson**

**September 25 – 27, 2026**

A send-up of love, life, and the destruction of furniture, ANNIVERSARY puts accepted notions about relationships and marriage to the test. A bit raunchy, a bit serious, and wonderfully hilarious!

*Programming subject to change*

Find out more and buy tickets at [westerngoldtheatre.org](http://westerngoldtheatre.org)  
or call the Box Office at 604-363-5734

## 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 10 new Canadian plays as well as produced a further 12 mainstage presentations from major playwrights. In 2012, we launched the highly popular OOF! (ON OUR FEET) 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.

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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, anyone and everyone!

### **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](https://www.westerngoldtheatre.org)**

## 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.

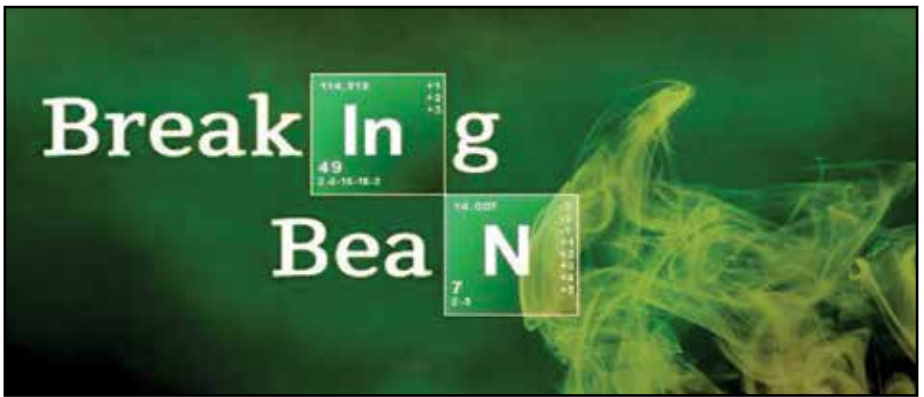
The questions we ask are:

- 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.



# The West End Journal

**New features and photos online every month**

West End Events • Small Space Gardening • King George High School News  
Community History • Business, Community, and Restaurant Spotlights ... and More!

[www.thewestendjournal.ca](http://www.thewestendjournal.ca)

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