

# Greystone GOSSIP



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Welcome to the second edition of *Greystone Gossip*, the newsletter for Greystone Theatre at the University of Saskatchewan.

Our first production of 2018 was the Thornton Wilder and Ken Ludwig adaptation of George Farquhar's restoration comedy *The Beaux' Stratagem*, directed by Julia Jamison. It featured a large cast that included wooing lovers, swindling fraudsters and attempted robbers. The open-style interior home set with grand staircase and balcony was designed by Carla Orosz. The lighting design by David Granger allowed for action to seamlessly occur in different parts of different houses. Jensine Emeline's gorgeous period costumes help transport the audience to 18th century England.

Cam Fuller from *The StarPhoenix* wrote in his review of the show: "Director Julia Jamison keeps it snappy, energetic and fun with no lack of physical comedy to go with the witty script. And somehow, she manages to get the thing done in a mere two hours... The world here is a fascinating mix of inherited wealth and brazen larceny. Mr. Gloss fits in perfectly. He's a fake minister who genuinely loves preaching and also happens to be a highway robber doing, as he elegantly terms it, 'the work of the road.' The many shades of the part and its inherent comedy are portrayed delightfully by Michael Martin, one of the strongest actors in the cast.

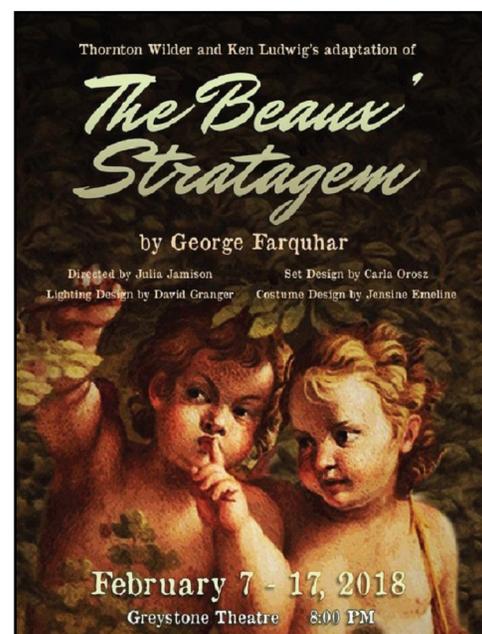
The play is filled with many quirky, absurd, outrageous characters — none more so than Lady Bountiful (Erin Bro-

phy is quite fun here), a self-trained doctor quick to rely on quack medicines like 'raccoon's milk' and the removal of limbs by bone saw for such ailments as headaches."

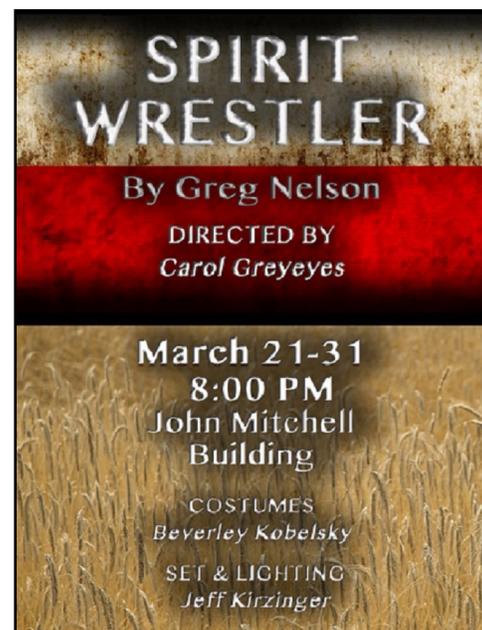
Closing out our 2017-18 season was *Spirit Wrestler*, directed by Carol Greyeyes. It told the tale of the Russian Doukhobors, a Spiritual Christian sect who fled persecution and starvation in 19th century Russia for Saskatchewan. It was written by Greg Nelson, a graduate of the U of S who has gone on to become one of Canada's leading TV writers and producers (*Orphan Black*, *Frontier*, *Rookie Blue*). The striking, minimalist set designed by Jeff Kirzinger featured two white house silhouettes as the focal point. Kirzinger also designed the lighting for the show, notably Nikolai's fire scene. Beverley Kobelsky's peasant-style costumes featured sashes, head scarves and long skirts that were popular during the time period.

In an interview with Jenn Sharp of *The StarPhoenix*, Carol Greyeyes said of the production, "For the sesquicentennial, I felt really strongly that I wanted the students to do a Canadian play, preferably a Saskatchewan play which is about where we are. Although a lot of the themes are universal, I think the specificity is really important."

She also noted how some local refugee organizations set up displays in the lobby of the theatre to emphasize the fact that history is repeating itself with the current refugee crises around the globe.



Poster designed by Brooklynn Bitner



Poster designed by Jeff Kirzinger

# The Beaux' Stratagem



Lady Bountiful (Erin Brophy) concocts a tonic with Scrub (Makhosini Ndlovu) and Kate Sullivan in the background (Pieternella Kielstra)



Archer (Max Perez) woos Kate Sullivan (Pieternella Kielstra)



Scrub at left (Makhosini Ndlovu) and Archer at right (Max Perez) confront Mr. Gloss (Michael Martin) as Kate Sullivan (Pieternella Kielstra) looks on



The lovers dance (from front L, clockwise): Sir Charles Freeman (Drew Mantyka), Cherry (Sammy Ramsay), Dorinda (Danica Tempel), Tom Aimwell (Kody Farrow)



*The Beaux' Stratagem* Cast: Stairs Top Row (L to R), Brent Olsen as Daniel, Emily Rempel as a Servant, Crystal Poniewozik as a Servant, Stairs Second Row (L to R), Judith Schulz as a Servant, Tamara Schaan as a Servant, Stairs Front Row, Courtney Forest as Assistant Stage Manager and Set Transitions, Standing Back Row (L to R), Drew Mantyka as Sir Charles Freeman, Greg Leonard as Hounslow, Michael Martin as Mr. Gloss, Matthew Wiwchar as Bagshot, Jimmy Mayo as Boniface, Garrett Gizen as Foigard, Tyler Bueckert as Sullen, Middle Row (L to R), Erin Brophy as Lady Bountiful, Sammy Ramsay as Cherry, Makhosini Ndlovu as Scrub, Bottom Row (L to R), Max Perez as Jack Archer, Pieternella Kielstra as Mrs. Kate Sullen, Danica Tempel as Dorinda, Kody Farrow as Tom Aimwell

# SPIRIT WRESTLER



Savely (Drew Mantyka) looks away from his son Nikolai (Mackenzie Dawson)



Nikolai (Mackenzie Dawson) stands before the fire



Tanya (Danica Tempel) and Nikolai (Mackenzie Dawson) care for his ailing mother Anna (Erin Brophy)



Professor James Mavor (James Mayo) and Minister of the Interior Charles Sifton (Makhosini Ndlovu) meet over tea



*Spirit Wrestler* Cast: *Top Row (L to R):* James Mayo as Zubkoff/Mavor, Mackenzie Dawson as Nikolai, *Middle Row (L to R):* Kody Farrow as McDougall/Vasily Verigin/Dizibroloff, Danova Dickson as Zinoviya/Ambrosim Drozdo, Makhosini Ndlovu as Gubanoff/Sifton, Danica Tempel as Tanya, James Miller as Yakov Malakhov, Garrett Gizen as Demitrious Savoy, Matthew Wiwchar as Lebedev/Zibaroff, *Seated (L to R):* Kyler Bueckert as Nakashidze/Maximoff, Crystal Poniewozik as Natasha Maximoff, Drew Mantyka as Peter Verigin, Erin Brophy as Anna, Salma Kazmi as Pavlova Ilych, Alexie Beaulac as Natalya



# Interview with Wanita Bird

Wanita Bird was a member of the first graduating class of the wîchêhtowin Aboriginal Theatre Program. In February 2018, she was the the recipient of an Indigenous Student Achievement Award from the College of Arts & Science.

**Congratulations on winning an Indigenous Student Achievement Award earlier this year. Tell me a little about that experience.**

Thank you! It really felt powerful and special to be a part of the award show! I kept clapping like crazy for everyone. I was proud to represent the Drama department and the Arts in general. My award was for Academic Success for my contributions to the wîchêhtowin Capstone Show, for playwriting, acting in multiple scenes and original song composition and I was recognized for being approached from a Major Feature Film for assistance with original songs. It was so amazing seeing as I was lucky enough to win a music award in the school year as well at the Indigenous Music Awards in Winnipeg.

**What have you been working on since graduating from the ATP certificate program?**

Oh wow, since the ATP I have been in *Dominion* at Gordan Tootoosis Nîkânîwîn Theatre in the Fall, and in *Beneath the Ice*, the 2018 Youth Tour with Persephone Theatre. We just completed that tour. We did 30 shows all over Saskatchewan. We focused on rural places where the community may not always get a chance to see a play production. The most memorable part was the final week where we travelled to remote reserves up North where it is accessible by plane or water only. We got to share the play and do workshops in the afternoon with theatre exercises. Some of the kids way up North asked "what's a play?" So it was enchanting to share something memorable with them. I have also been back at work full time (when I'm not acting) where I am a Youth Cultural Worker

that serves Saskatoon youth. I have also been finishing my last classes toward my sociology degree. I am also working on a song to collaborate with my son Bird who is an emerging hip hop artist and will be dropping his first LP this summer. So that's exciting, who said you can't teach an old dog new tricks?

**What skills obtained in the certificate program have allowed you to success since graduating?**

I felt ready to take on roles within professional productions. Where I really saw my instruction come into effect had to be in the drama workshops we did on our Persephone Youth Tour. I thought back to all the theatre exercises my professor Carol Greyeyes and other professors did with us. I tried to incorporate some of those exercises into our workshops. There were things that other Drama department professors told us would echo in my head, like Carla Orosz (our U of S tech) said, "It's a PLAY so PLAY, have fun with it!" I would always repeat that in the workshops. I got to work with two other graduates of the U of S Drama department, Connor Brousseau and Andrea Folster who were my co-actors on the tour. I would say, "Okay, we learned a lot at the U of S, what can we share with the youth", and we wouldn't even have to think hard, a fun exercise would pop into our minds and we would do it! As well, in my job with Mental Health and Addiction Services, I am trying to assemble a special drama project with the youth I serve here in Saskatoon. I am hoping to see it this summer.

**What's next for you? Do you have any upcoming projects or artistic pursuits you'd like to share?**

I was invited to apply for the Drama Therapy Master's Program in Montreal at Concordia University. I have decided to wait one year so I can take what I learned in the wîchêhtowin program and apply it to my job with the youth. I am also waiting to hear back from Los Angeles. I had been approached from the creators of the Avatar movie sequels to help make music for their upcoming movies. That is unbelievable, but I am absolutely on board to try to represent Saskatoon as an artist. I just pray to the Creator, to make a way for anything that is good for me and things that are not good to let me be okay with those things not happening. Thank you for choosing me for your interview!

## Greystone Theatre - 2018-19 Season Announcement



We have have four exciting and diverse shows planned for our 2018-19 season. Kicking things off will be the Tom Stoppard comedy *Arcadia*, which travels back and forth across time periods to explore the nature of truth and science while musing on the difference between classical and romantic temperaments.

Next, we'll be presenting one of William Shakespeare's historical epics, *Henry V*, giving our students their first chance at reciting the Bard's lines on the Greystone stage since our 2012 presentation of *Henry IV Part 1*.

Our third show of the season is *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, written by recent Academy Award nominee Martin McDonagh. This dark comedy is set in 1930s Ireland, where members of a small community are vying for a part in a Hollywood documentary being filmed about their lives, including local 'cripple' Billy Claven.

We'll close our season with *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell. Inspired by the notorious real-life case of convicted murderer Ruth Snyder, Treadwell's 1928 Expressionist drama tells the story of a young woman trapped in the patriarchal power dynamics of the time who is driven to commit a tragic act.

We offer season subscription rates of \$80 for adults, \$68 for seniors (60+) and \$60 for students. For more information, call (306) 966-5188.

# Around the Department

## Winter 2018 Events:



On Wednesday March 7, Yvette Nolan gave a public lecture entitled "The Secret of Joy: Re-Claiming Rita Joe" on her 40th anniversary production of George Ryga's *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*. In her lecture, she spoke of the experience of mounting the Indigenous production at the National Arts Centre and offered illumination on the process of "indigenizing the institution".



Drama department alumnus Greg Nelson (BA '88) was awarded an Alumni of Influence award from the College of Arts & Science on Friday March 16. That afternoon, he gave a public talk on his storytelling process and career as a producer in television, theatre and radio. He was also able to sit in on a rehearsal of the Greystone Theatre production of *Spirit Wrestler*, which he wrote in 1994.



Oliver Smart, a London-based puppeteer and founding member of Folded Feather Theatre, visited the department at the end of March for a series of workshops for the 3rd and 4th year students. He also gave three public performances of *Puppeteer Laid Bare*, a journey through varying styles and approaches to puppetry.



Local playwright and founding director of SUM Theatre Joel Bernbaum gave a talk on Thursday April 5 on his documentary play, *Home is a Beautiful Word*, which was presented by Persephone Theatre in mid-April. For the show, he travelled to Victoria, BC and interviewed over 500 people to create an enlightening, funny, and moving theatrical portrait of homelessness told in the actual words of the housed, the homeless and those only one paycheque away from the street.

### GREYSTONE THEATRE Department of Drama



### Making a Scene

**DRAMA  
SUMMER  
CAMPS**

Making a Scene: Drama Camps are for kids aged 10-17. Join us for an exciting week of creativity, where imaginations are opened up and confidence is nurtured, all in an informal and fun-filled environment. Each camp features plays, monologues, improvisation, theatre games and more. Camp Leaders are experienced senior Drama students.

The cost is \$220 for one week of camp. Camps are offered on the following weeks:

- Camp 1 - July 2-6
- Camp 2 - July 9-13
- Camp 3 - July 16-20
- Camp 4 - July 23-27

To register for camp, visit [kidscamps.usask.ca](http://kidscamps.usask.ca) or call (306) 966-5539.

If you have any questions about camp, please call (306) 966-2323.

### Congratulations to the following Drama Department students who have submitted their applications for Spring Convocation:

#### **BFA Honours:**

Rachelle Block  
Kyler Bueckert  
Mackenzie Dawson  
Samantha Fairweather  
Kyle Kuchirka  
Logan Martin-Arcand  
Timothy Mason  
James Mayo  
Taegan O'Bertos  
Jonathon Pickrell  
Katelyn Polischuk  
Matthew Wiwchar

#### **WTP Certificate:**

Lorne Duquette  
Eric Johnstone



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