

Greystone Gossip

July 2020
Volume 3, Issue 2

Welcome to the second edition (July 2020) of **Greystone Gossip**, the newsletter for Greystone Theatre at the University of Saskatchewan.

In these unprecedented and turbulent times, we thought it was fitting to celebrate our achievements of 2020 while trying to bring a small slice of normalcy into a truly abnormal situation.

Our first production of 2020 was Mary Zimmerman's ***The Secret in the Wings***, directed by guest movement instructor, Treena Stubel, from Victoria. The fast-paced play was an adaptation of a group of lesser-known fairy tales such as "Seven Swans" and "The Princess Who Wouldn't Laugh", brought to life by a lively ensemble cast of first and second year students. This production marked the first time that the first and second year show was presented on the Greystone Mainstage and it was a smash hit, with nearly all performances selling out before the run of the show even began.

Actor Avery Fehr discussed the freedom in choreography that the actors were given with Gavin Robertson from ***The Sheaf***.

"The first scene ... originally we just walked around. Then our director added jazz music underneath and said 'just play with it,' and we started dancing and throwing some '50s moves in there. In the moment, it was totally impromptu," Fehr said.

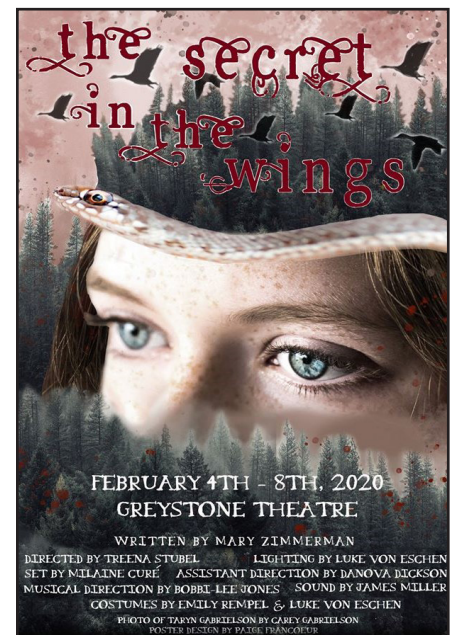
The show featured many musical elements that integrated nicely into the action, with Bobbi-Lee Jones assisting with musical direction. The detailed set by Milaine Curé was a delightful, versatile chaos of "found" basement objects that fluidly transformed into one magical realm after another at the

touch of the ensemble's minds, bodies, and imaginations. The imaginative, movement-based production was completed by Luke von Eschen's expert lighting.

The Grass Tomb, which followed hard on the heels of an Oscars night that saw the intriguing Korean film, ***Parasite***, sweep the awards, introduced the work of Oh Tae-Sok, one of Korea's most original playwrights and a leading figure in the contemporary Asian theatre, to the Greystone stage. As directed and adapted by Raymon Montalbetti, a well-known local educator and Grotowski specialist, the production built on an intensely physical workshop-rehearsal process inspired by both East and West, and combining styles as disparate as ancient Korean masked dance-drama, and contemporary avant-garde theatre.

Unfortunately, the production, which was slated to run from March 18 to 28, had to be cancelled because of COVID-19. The cast and crew were able to stage the show once during the tech and dress rehearsal period where photos and archival video were taken.

As department head Dr. Moira Day noted in a statement regarding the cancellation of the show, "My thanks to the cast, crew and entire production team of ***The Grass Tomb***, including director, Raymon Montalbetti, for their passion and commitment in bringing an extraordinary show through to tech dress on short notice for archival and grading purposes. You are all heroes, and I'm sorry you were not able to share the show with the public audience that also richly deserved to see it."



Poster designed by Paige Francoeur



Poster designed by Paige Francoeur

The Secret in the Wings



"The Father of 7 Sons." (Liam Johnston)



"Allerleira." Miranda Ironstand-Baxter (blonde hair in pink) with (L-to-R): Molly Chartier, Trishia Afable, Jordan Ruiter



"The Three Princes." Matthew Rempel, Liam Johnston and Kurtis Crawford



Taryn (Taryn Gabrielson) comforts her babysitter Mr. Kruger (Michael Kruger)



The Secret in the Wings Cast & Crew: Top Center- Luke von Eschen (Costume Co-Designer & Lighting Designer), Top Row (L to R)- Leze Pewapsonias, John Cody, Ram Argien Bagsit, Selena Janvier, Forrest Hiebert, John Reaney, Emily Rempel (Costume Co-Designer & Stage Manager), David Granger (Head of Props), Top Left (L to R)- Delainey Tait (Stagehand), McKenzie Huyghebaert (Stagehand), Emma Mirwald (Stagehand), James Miller (Sound Designer), Middle Row (L to R)- Michael Kruger, Taryn Gabrielson, Liam Johnston, Nicholas Porrelli, Jordan Ruiter, Bryden Szejvolt, Trishia Afable, Avery Fehr, Danova Dickson (Assistant Director), Milaine Curé (Set Designer & Assistant Stage Manager), Vinrecs Lescano (Dresser), Bottom Row (L to R)- Carla Orosz (Technical Director), Miranda Ironstand-Baxter, Julia Kowalski, Matthew Rempel, Treena Stubel (Director), Lauren Griffin, Molly Chartier, Nathaniel Morin, Kurtis Crawford

The Grass Tomb



John Cody flaps white wings as Bird



Soja (Danova Dickson) with the Fire Spirit (Emily Heinek)



Vinrecs Lescano dons a mask with Koonja (Kaylub Sinclair), Soja (Danova Dickson) and Imja (Paige Francoeur) in the background

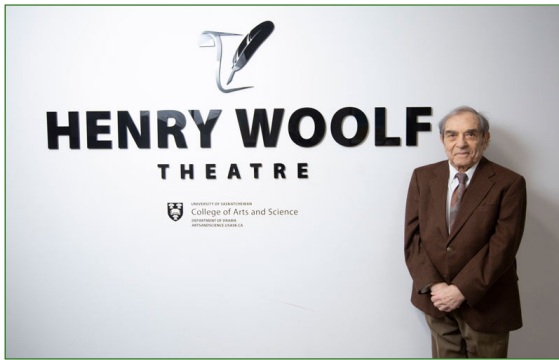


Dangja (Max Perez) in the weeds with Imja (Paige Francoeur) trying to help



The Grass Tomb Cast & Crew: Top (L to R) - Sameen Majeed (Sound Operator), Sandra Pecua (Lighting Operator), Kurtis Crawford (Assistant Stage Manager), Vinrecs Lescano (Apprentice Fisher), John Cody (Fisher/Bird), Kaylub Sinclair (Koonja), Danova Dickson (Soja), Eden Park (Island Air/Greeter), McKenzie Huyghebaert (Imja Spirit), Nathan Harder (Set Designer), Emily Pickett (Voice Spirit), Kihwi Pilon (Costume Designer), Paige Francoeur (Imja), Aalliyah Dustyhorn (Lighting Designer), Beverley Kobelsky (Head of Wardrobe), Bottom Row (L to R) - Paige Nakoneshny (Stage Manager), Jose Arias (Elder Fisher), Molly Chartier (Island Water), Adam Tweidt (Metal Spirit/Greeter), Katie Blackburn-Dust (Island Order), Emily Heinek (Fire Spirit), Max Perez (Dangja), Raymon Montalbetti (Director)

Henry Woolf Theatre Dedication Ceremony - January 20, 2020



Henry Woolf has left a lasting legacy on the Drama department that will continue to be recognized in the John Mitchell building with a performing arts space bearing his name. A dedication event for the Henry Woolf Theatre was held on Monday January 20, which also happened to be Woolf's 90th birthday. There were over 120 people in attendance, including family members, former students and colleagues, and members of the Saskatoon theatre community.

Hosted by Drama faculty member Dwayne Brenna, the ceremony featured speeches from some of Henry's former students, including Dancing Sky Theatre's artistic director Angus Ferguson, Wide Open Children's Theatre co-founder Kristi Friday (BFA '00), and former Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan artistic director Mark von Eschen (BA Hon '87).

Woolf was born in London, England in 1930 and built a career on the stages of West End before arriving in Saskatoon in 1983. Famous collaborators of Woolf's include Nobel Laureate playwright Harold Pinter and Academy Award nominee Peter O'Toole. Woolf appeared on-screen in many films including *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *The Lion in Winter*, and *Superman III*. He served as a faculty member at the University of Saskatchewan from 1983 to 1997, finishing his university career as department head and professor emeritus. In 2001 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Saskatchewan. He was a founding member of Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan and served as the artistic director from 1991 until 2001.

Woolf's legacy is most apparent in the impact he had as a mentor to countless students and theatre collaborators, having directed or acted in over 100 local productions. "There is not a person I know that's been part of this community that's had a bigger effect on more people through creating work, through inspiring work, through teaching people, through leading. You were the most important teacher I had, so thank you," Ferguson told Woolf from the podium.



Woolf called the theatre dedication a "wonderful honour" in a speech at the end of the event. The Department of Drama also announced the creation of the Henry Woolf Bursary in Drama which will help provide financial support to Drama students in need.



"The arts are what stimulate the imagination. And without the imagination, we lead a deprived life. Living without art in one's life is like living in a house without windows. No light can come in, and you can't see out."
-Henry Woolf

All photos pgs 1-4 credit: Dave Stobbe

Department of Drama 75th Anniversary

The Department of Drama is celebrating its 75th anniversary in the 2020-21 academic year!

Plans are being made for a homecoming alumni weekend in spring 2021, which will include dinner and a Greystone performance.

If you are interested in more information, please contact alumni.artsandscience@usask.ca



1945 - 2020
DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA

Around the Department

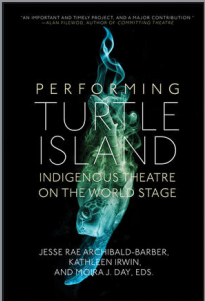
Winter 2020 News & Events:



On January 27, the department sponsored a public lecture, "*Reasonable Doubt: A Theatrical Journey in Community Talking, Listening, and Healing*" featuring Yvette Nolan and Joel Bernbaum, co-creators of *Reasonable Doubt*, on the genesis, development of and response to their verbatim theatre drama based on the shooting of Colten Boushie. This was organized in conjunction with several class and student field trips to see the production.



The Drama Students Association held a workshop on February 27 with Andrew Forsberg on handling emergency situations in theatre.



Performing Turtle Island: Indigenous Theatre on the World Stage was shortlisted for the Sask-Books Publishing in Education Award and the Saskatoon Public Library Indigenous Peoples' Publishing Award. The book was coedited by Dr. Moira Day, faculty member and head of the Department of Drama, together with Jesse Rae Archibald-Barber and Kathleen Irwin.

2020-21

GREYSTONE THEATRE

THE SEAGULL

By Anton Checkov Translated by David French

FEB. 3 - 13, 2021

Directed by Dwayne Brenna



GORDON WINTER

By Kenneth T. Williams

Mar. 24 - Apr. 3, 2021

Directed by Deneh'Cho Thompson



UNITY (1918)

By Kevin Kerr

DEPT. OF DRAMA 75TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW

Date: Spring 2021

Directed by Skye Brandon



CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to the following students who convocated in Spring 2020!

BFA – Honours (Acting)

Kody Lee Farrow (*with high honours*)

Garrett Ryan Gizen

Drew Walter Mantyka (*with high honours*)

Tamara Celine Schaan

BFA – Honours (Design)

Aalliyah Doris Summer Dustyhorn

Rory Galen Youngs Jewiss (*with high honours*)

4-year B.A.

Singyoung (Eden) Park

Haolun (Neil) Tong

Double Honours B.A.

Emily Anne Pickett (Drama/English)

(*with high honours*)

Winner of the 2020 Walter Mills Award



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