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MARCH 4-13



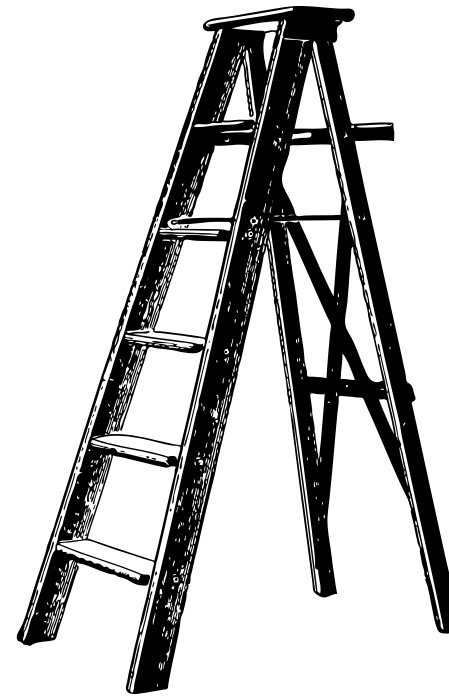
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THE PASSIONATE PLAYERS PRESENT

OUR TOWN

By Thornton Wilder

A Fundraiser Production by

OUTSIDE THE MARCH & CONVERGENCE THEATRE

Directed by MITCHELL CUSHMAN & SIMON BLOOM

Acting Workshop Leaders: JULIE TEPPERMAN & AARON WILLIS

Music Consultants: NEVADA BANKS & LUC TROTTIER

Movement by AMY KEATING

Set & Costumes by JESSICA GUYON

Stage Managed by AIDAN MORISHITA-MIKI

Administrated & Produced by ELIZABETH STUART-MORRIS

General Manager: KATHERINE DEVLIN ROSENFELD

The Church of the Holy Trinity

Friday February 26th at 7pm

Saturday February 27th at 2pm & 7pm

Sunday February 28th at 5pm

Thank you for attending The Passionate Players Production of **Our Town**.

This show is a fundraiser!

The show runs 2 hours and 30 minutes. There will be two 15-minute intermissions.

Feel free to purchase and snack on some of our concessions during the show:

<i>Hot Chocolate, Coffee, Tea, Water.....</i>	<i>\$1.00</i>
<i>Chocolate Chip Cookies.....</i>	<i>\$1.00</i>
<i>Miss Vickie's Original Chips.....</i>	<i>\$1.50</i>
<i>Glosette Raisins, Hershey's Cookies 'n' Cream.....</i>	<i>\$2.00</i>

There will be a 50/50 draw!

Purchase your tickets during intermission for \$2 each, or \$5 for three.

Winner to be announced at the end of the show!

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ABOUT THE COMPANIES

CONVERGENCE THEATRE

Convergence Theatre is a Toronto-based, artist-driven, Dora-award winning indie theatre company founded in 2006 by Julie Tepperman (actor-playwright-educator) & Aaron Willis (actor-director-educator). With each new project we challenge ourselves to find innovative ways to push the boundaries of intimacy between performer and audience. We create plays with large ensembles, in site-specific and non-traditional venues, as well as completely re-imagine traditional theatre spaces. We invite our audiences to be an integral part of their theatre-going experience by exploring ways to fully immerse them in the world of the play. *NOW Magazine* readers twice voted Convergence Theatre as “The Best Site Specific Theatre Company in Toronto” (2007 & 2013), and in 2009 Julie & Aaron were named by *NOW* as Toronto’s “Most respected theatre duo.” Check out their next show *Replay* performed at Aunties & Uncles Restaurant + two secret locations, as part of the Toronto Fringe, June 29 – July 10.

PAST PRODUCTIONS: *Passion Play*, *YICHUD (Seclusion)*, *The Gladstone Variations* and *AutoShow*

CONTACT US AT: convergencetheatre@gmail.com

OUTSIDE THE MARCH

We are dedicated to making theatre an Event, by creating work that is:

- 1) **IMMERSIVE:** We offer full theatrical experiences — personal and immediate encounters that endure.
- 2) **SITE-ENGAGING:** We transform found spaces into playgrounds of performance, as well as unearthing new possibilities within traditional theatres.
- 3) **NEW:** We introduce local and international voices to our audiences — compelling stories that grapple with our here and now.
- 4) **TRANSFORMATIVE:** We are looking to captivate a wide range of individuals, especially audiences who might not normally find themselves in the theatre.
- 5) **COMMUNAL:** We forge resonant collaborations between artists of all levels of experience and across disciplines, as well as meaningful partnerships within our community.

Since 2009, we’ve invited our audiences to play with us in kindergarten classrooms, parade with Queen Elizabeth along the Danforth, tinker in garages, congregate in churches, strategize across boardroom tables, and to join us up onstage at the Royal Alexandra Theatre.

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A NOTE ABOUT *OUR TOWN* FROM THE DIRECTORS

"Invisible before birth are all beings, and after death invisible again. They are seen between two unseens. Why in this truth find sorrow?"

– THE BHAGAVAD GITA

"It is often thought that the dead see us. And we assume, whether reasonably or not, that if they see us at all, they see us more clearly than before."

– C. S. LEWIS

It is so thrilling to be opening the third production from our Passionate Players program, and to be sharing this show with all of you. For this year, we decided to dig deep into Thornton Wilder's quintessential classic "Our Town" – the ultimate play about community, performed by a community. We've always looked at the Passionate Players as something of a family, but that description is even more apt this year. We have a number of real-life parent/child relationships running through the clans of Gibbs and Webb—including, in one case, the opportunity for a truly great role reversal, as a son gets to parent his mother!

Unexpected reversal is a thread that runs throughout our production. In reflecting on how to best make Wilder's 1938 script speak to our contemporary moment, we decided to gender-bend the characters of Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs. In Wilder's original, Mr. Gibbs works as a doctor, and true to the time the piece was written, his wife tends the house and raises their family. We thought it would be interesting to turn this trope on its head. In our town, Mr. Gibbs is a stay-at-home dad, and as much the backbone of the family unit as is his neighbor Mrs. Webb. His wife is the doctor, overworked, and unwilling to take a vacation, despite her husband's pleas. A flight of fancy for a small 1900's American town? Perhaps. But we have been amazed how by simply flipping the genders of this one set of characters, it has breathed new, vibrant life into every inch of the Grovers Corner's we present to you this evening.

We're quite proud of Our Town, and the brave and beautiful people who inhabit it. We hope you will be too!

– Mitchell, Simon, Amy, Julie and Aaron

A NOTE FROM PASSIONATE PLAYERS PARTICIPANT PATRICIA PATCHET-GOLUBEV

In Act Three of *Our Town*, the newly dead Emily Webb, having been given the chance to “relive” a day in her past, laments: “It goes so fast ... we don’t have time to look at one another. ... do any human beings ever realize life while they live it ... every, every minute?”

This sad complaint resonates with audiences, of course, for we all know that our lives are so fleeting; so many of us miss the temporary beauty of each minute, struggling as we do, facing challenges and stress, but too often lacking awareness and appreciation of each precious moment of life.

Unlike Emily, however, those of us privileged enough to be part of the Passionate Players have been given a rare gift. Instead of that rushed, deadened existence so bemoaned by Emily, we have been offered a magical escape from everyday reality on many cold, dark winter evenings. Some twenty-nine of us, ranging in age from adolescence to the autumn of life, have spent the last six months immersed in a slower, “make-believe” world, where we have played together, dug deeply into ourselves, taken incredible risks, and, in the process, learned something about acting and performing. We have, I think, savoured each and every minute we have been given to really look at, really listen to, and really understand one another. And all this while being immersed in a kind of upside-down reality.

For, in a very real sense, the experience of being a “passionate player” is very much the opposite of the world “out there.” As opposed to the work world of competition, hierarchy and status, the classes and rehearsals have brought us together in a non-judgmental environment of rough equality. Further, there is a basic rule of trust and support: we open ourselves up fully to the rest of the group because we know that we will be cared for and respected. And we will grow together.

How does all this happen? It might feel like magic, but it’s not, not really. There are two key reasons for this magic. First and foremost is the patient, respectful, and brilliant guidance provided by our wise, young coaches and directors, whose unbelievable talent is matched only by their unbelievable humility. (Oh, yes, and unbelievable wit!) Julie, Aaron, Mitchell, Simon, and Amy ... the fabulous five! Under their expert encouragement and prodding, we have grown internally as actors and as a tightly knit community. I am continually wowed by the mentorship they provide: they treat us bumbling amateurs, so prone to missteps and errors, with total respect, as though we are the professionals they really are. (Some of us occasionally pinch ourselves: are we really being taught and directed by some of the most creative and innovative directors in Canada today?)

And, secondly, because of this sterling guidance, we, this mixed group of refugees from reality, continue to nurture and support one another, always ready to really listen to one another, really look at one another, and really learn from one another.

In so doing, we have been given a rare chance to realize life while we live it ... each and every minute. And, at the same time, we have also managed to recreate this timeless community of Grover’s Corners, in our imaginations and in this beautiful old church. And that, I think, is the stuff of miracles. In the words of another great American writer, Willa Cather: “Miracles ... rest not so much upon ... healing power coming ... from afar, but upon our perceptions being made finer, so that, for a moment, our eyes can see and our ears can hear what there is around us always.”

I am so grateful.

THANK YOU...

To our wonderful audience for supporting us and this production!

*To **The Church of the Holy Trinity** for hosting us in their incredibly welcoming and beautiful space!*

*To **The Marriott Hotel** for sharing their facilities!*

*To **The 3 Brewers** for hosting our Cast Party– Sunday February 28th at 8:00pm.*

*To our **Fundraising Committee**: Jeanette Cairns, Susanne Egier, Patricia Patchet-Golubev, Peter Sevitt, Brent Vickar & Doug Watters.*

*To our **Silent Auction Donors**: Susanne Egier, Karen Franklin, Janet Lewis, Dorothy Rusoff, Margaret Sellers, Lesley Sevitt, Peter Sevitt, Doug Watters, Acting Up Stage, AGO, Art of Cheese, B Current, Blue Ice Pictures, Blythe Festival, Body Harmonics, Bonjour Brioche, Buddies in Bad Times, Caboots, Canadian Opera Company, Canadianstage, Close to the Bone, Courage Foods, Esther Myers Yoga, Factory Theatre, The Frame Maker, Hill 100 Productions, JCC, Kinosmith, Koffler Centre, Lori Dell, Merchants of Green, Playwrights Canadian Press, Salon Y, Shaw Festival, Soulpepper Theatre Company, Spiritus Yoga, Stratus Vinyards, Tapestry Opera, Tarragon Theatre, The Toronto Fringe, Theatre 20, Theatre Passe Muraille, Volcano Theatre, Young Peoples Theatre*

*To our **Production Photographer**: Sam Godfrey*

*To our **Headshot Photographer**: Sebastien Heins*

*To our **Program Designer**: Leigh Beadon*

*To our **Organ Player**: Gerald Martindale*

*To our **Front-Of-House Volunteers**: Nevada Banks, Gavin Bowerman, Katherine Cullen, Troy DeFour, Shane Gramlich, Christopher Mastropietro, Peter Mazzuco, Caitlin Robson, Lesley Sevitt & Steve Vargo*

*To our missed Passionate Players member **Heather Johnston***

*To our remarkable **Administration and Stage Management duo** Elizabeth Stuart-Morris and Aidan Morishita-Miki, without whom this endeavour would not have been possible!*

...And finally, our fabulous ensemble of actors – your incredible bravery and dedication to this project has been an inspiration!

SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE CAST

In memory of my mother, May McBride Robertson, who introduced me to acting as one of the child carolers in a 1950's community theatre production of The Holly and the Ivy. She played Mrs. Webb in an early 1960s production of this play.

- ANN ROBERTSON

It has been an unqualified pleasure to share this journey with all of you and it has been a unique gift to work alongside my very own daughter. Thank you once more to Mitch, Simon, Julie, Aaron, Amy, Aidan, Elizabeth and Jess for being magical. OXO

- MOE

To my cast mates, thank you for this grand collaboration and break legs! Bless be Julie, Aaron, Mitchell, Simon, Aidan, Elizabeth, Kat, Amy, Jess & Luc. Thanks to Patricia, a calming influence in the Gibbs household. And to Doug W. for making me a Passionate Player. Now we're ready - make it talk!

- BRENT

Thanks to all the creators of this special town of ours: what a magical journey we've had! What incredible discoveries we've made! Best of all is the time we found "to look at one another ... and.. to realize life while [we] live it." XO

- PATRICIA P-G

To everyone in our town: thanks for coming out to play!

- THE "DOUGS"

Congratulations to my fellow Our Town Passionate Players for wonderful direction, support and encouragement, and all in all, a great ride!

- DOROTHY

I have thoroughly enjoyed playing with such a wonderful group of people. Passionate Players indeed. Break-a-leg everyone! xoxo

- "DEAD DOC GIBBS"

Our Towners: Pay Attention. There Will Be A Test. - PROFESSOR WILLARD

BREAK A LEG EVERYBODY!

Interested in hearing about auditions for the next Passionate Players Production? E-mail Katherine to be added to the Convergence and OtM mailing lists: katherine@outsidethemarch.ca

THE PASSIONATE PLAYERS PRESENT OUR TOWN

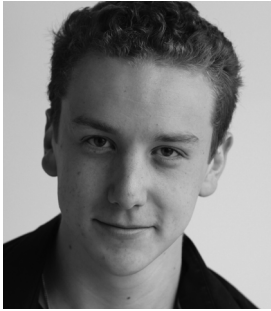
Production Team:

Directors SIMON BLOOM & MITCHELL CUSHMAN
 Acting Coaches JULIE TEPPERMAN & AARON WILLIS
 Music Consultants NEVADA BANKS & LUC TROTTIER
 Movement Coach AMY KEATING
 Set & Costumes JESSICA GUYON
 Stage Manager AIDAN MORISHITA-MIKI
 Administrator & Producer ELIZABETH STUART-MORRIS
 General Manger KATHERINE DEVLIN ROSENFELD

Cast:

MAX ACKERMAN *George Act 1*
 BARBARA AUFANG *Joe Crowell Jr. / Si Crowell / Sam Craig*
 JEANETTE CAIRNS *Professor Willard*
 PAT COCHRANE *Simon Stimpson / Woman on Balcony*
 DOUG CROKER *Mr. Webb Act 1*
 SUSANNE EGIER *Dr. Gibbs Act 3*
 JENNIFER ELLIOTT *Stage Manager Act 3*
 KAREN FRANKLIN *Constable Warren*
 SUSAN GINSBERG *Stage Manager Act 1*
 LOUISE HOWLINGS *Emily Act 2*
 HOLLY KIRKCONNELL *Emily Act 3*
 SHERY LEEDER *Stage Manager Act 1*
 JANET LEWIS *Reverend / Malt Shop Owner*
 ANDREA MOST *Dr. Gibbs Act 1*
 MAUREEN MURRAY *Mrs. Webb Act 1*
 PATRICIA PATCHET-GOLUBEV *Dr. Gibbs Act 2*
 ANN ROBERTSON *Stage Manager Act 3*
 DOROTHY RUSOFF *Stage Manager Act 2*
 MARLEE SANSOM *Emily Act 1*
 MARGARET SELLERS *Howie Newsome*
 PETER SEVITT *George Act 2*
 NANCY STEWART *Wally Webb / Lady in Box*
 CAROLYN TANNER *Stage Manager Act 2*
 MARILYN TATE *Joe Stoddard*
 BRENT VICKAR *Mr. Gibbs Act 2*
 DOUG WATTERS *Mr. Webb Act 2*
 JESSE WATTS *Mr. Gibbs Act 1*
 MARGIE WATTS *Rebecca Gibbs*
 BEVERLY WISE *Mrs. Soames / Belligerent Man*

CAST



MAX ACKERMAN (GEORGE ACT 1)

Max has been acting since he was very young and has been featured in roles such as: Julius Caesar, “Julius Caesar”; Billy Flynn, “Chicago”; Juror Three, “Twelve Angry Men”; and Jack, “The Importance of Being Earnest”. This year, he will be playing the title role in “The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui”. He is also in the process of directing Daniel MacIvor’s “Never Swim Alone” for his school’s submission to the Ontario SEARS Drama Festival. Max is very excited to be entering his second year with the Passionate Players after playing Francis Flute in last year’s production of “A Midwinter Night’s Dream” and looks forward to working with the company further. (Harmony Over War).



BARBARA AUFANG (JOE CROWELL JR. / SI CROWELL / SAM CRAIG)

Barbara has always been drawn to music and theater and is grateful for this opportunity to be able to participate in the production instead of just watching it! In addition to theater, her interests include voice training, dance, and political activism. Barbara is looking for a way to combine all three of her interests, stay tuned for the singing canvasser!



JEANETTE CAIRNS (PROFESSOR WILLARD)

Jeanette is delighted to be a part of this incredibly talented group of Passionate Players for the third time. She played a naughty abbess in “The Lady From Maximes”. She got to ROAR as Snug, the Lion, in “A Midwinter Night’s Dream”. She looks forward to playing Professor Willard of Grovers Corners in “Our Town”. It is quite a departure from the haughty Queen Ramona that Jeanette just portrayed in the “The Frog Princess” for Act II Studio. Thanks to Mitchell, Simon, Julie, Aaron, Amy, Aidan, Elizabeth, and Jess for their patience and creative vision.



PAT COCHRANE (SIMON STIMPSON/WOMAN ON BALCONY)

Pat is “over-the-moon” to be a part of this Passionate Players production. Watching Mitchell, Simon, et al put this beautiful play “on its feet” has been an amazing experience. Pat has been with Ryerson’s Act II Studio for four years, and has been acting, writing, and most recently singing her lungs out. She draws inspiration from Julie, Aaron, Mitchell, and of course Vrenia Ivonoffski, who makes all things seem possible. Pat wants to thank her friends, and most of all her small-but-mighty family, for pushing her and propping her up as she climbs, nervously, onto the stage. Gotta love The Theatre!



JULIE TEPPERMAN (ACTING COACH)

Julie is an actor, playwright and educator, as well as co-artistic director (with Aaron Willis) of Convergence Theatre. Julie teaches acting, Shakespeare, playwriting and self-producing workshops for The Stratford Festival, The Luminato Festival, The Toronto Fringe, Nightwood Theatre, Tarragon Theatre, Young People’s Theatre, Ryerson University (Act II Studio), George Brown and Humber Colleges. Upcoming: 20-minute excerpt from her new musical with composer Kevin Wong will be presented as part of Reframed (Acting Up Stage Theatre), this April 12-17 at the Art Gallery of Ontario. Julie will be acting in “Still” at Unit 102 March 1-12, and in Convergence Theatre’s latest immersive production at the 2016 Toronto Fringe.



LUC TROTTER (MUSIC CONSULTANT)

Luc Trotter has been acting across the GTA since the age of seven. His favourite roles include: Sir Robin/French Taunter, “Spamalot” (Stephenville Theatre Festival); and Joseph, “Brantwood”, Rudolph “Hello! Dolly”, and Freddy Benson “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels” (Theatre Sheridan). Training: Bachelor of Music Theatre Performance with Honours from Sheridan College, Shakespeare Intensive at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, Improv at Second City, and Core Acting 1 at Armstrong Acting Studios. Special thanks to Julie and Mitchell for this opportunity!



AARON WILLIS (ACTING COACH)

Aaron is an actor, director, educator, and co-founding artistic director of Convergence Theatre (with Julie Tepperman). Selected Directing: “The Testament of Mary” (Soulpepper – May 2016, starring Nancy Palk); “Stupidhead!” (SummerWorks 2015); “Who’s Your Daddy?” (Crow’s Theatre East End Performance Crawl); “The Thing Between Us” (mcguffin company); “Danny and the Deep Blue Sea” (Baro Theatre); and “Passion Play” (Convergence/Outside the March/Sheep No Wool). Aaron is an “Artist-in-the-Schools” with the Stratford Festival, The Luminato Festival, and an instructor at Ryerson University’s Act II Studio, as well as Humber College. Other: Assistant Director on Phillipe Boesmans’ opera “Julie” at Canadian Stage (2015), and on “Evita” (2010) and “Much Ado About Nothing” (2012) at the Stratford Festival (Michael Langham Workshop for Classical Theatre Direction). Aaron has a BA Honours in Drama from the University of Alberta and is a graduate of George Brown Theatre School. Aaron is currently working as a producer at Canadian Stage with the support of the Metcalf Foundation.



KATHERINE DEVLIN ROSENFELD (GENERAL MANAGER)

Katherine Devlin Rosenfeld is the Managing Producer for Outside the March. She is a graduate of the Randolph Academy for Performing Arts and a graduate of the Arts Management program at the University of Toronto. Katherine's past positions include General Manager of the Paprika Festival, Associate producer for Crow's Theatre, Development Intern at Dancemakers, Development and Marketing Intern at Nightwood Theatre, and an Artistic Research Intern at Canadian Stage. Katherine is thrilled to have had the opportunity to work on "Our Town" through the Passionate Players program with Convergence Theatre and Outside the March.



AMY KEATING (MOVEMENT COACH)

Amy is a Dora-nominated actor, founding member, and company manager of Outside the March. Acting credits include: "Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play", "Passion Play", and the Dora-award winning "Mr. Marmalade" (Outside the March); "Wormwood" (Tarragon Theatre); "I, Claudia" (TiFT); "The Amish Project" (GreenLight Arts); "New Jerusalem" (HGJT); "After Miss Julie" (RedOne Theatre); "Pacamambo" (Canadian Rep); "Loyal Ronin: The Working Girls' Version" (Spotlight Japan, Canadian Stage); "Water Under the Bridge" and "The Forest in My Room" (Carousel Players); "Inside" (Appledor Productions), and "The Importance of Being Earnest" (Capitol Theatre). Amy will be playing the role of Madge in Common Boots Theatre's production of "The Public Servant" at the Berkeley Street Theatre. Amy has had a wonderful time playing with the inspiring humans of "Our Town".



AIDAN MORISHITA-MIKI (STAGE MANAGER)

Aidan is a stage manager and recent graduate of OISE's Masters in Adult Education & Community Development program. Stage management credits include: "To Live in the Age of Melting" (Outspoke Productions); "A Day on the Shore" (Mixed Company Theatre); "MacArthur Park Suite: a Disco Ballet" (colored lights); "A Midwinter Night's Dream" (Passionate Players); "Lysistrata" (Canopy Theatre); and "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying" and "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" (Toronto Youth Theatre). Other theatre experience includes work with Re:Current Theatre, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre and Hart House Theatre. Thanks to the cast and production team for all of their work!



ELIZABETH STUART-MORRIS (ADMINISTRATOR & PRODUCER)

Elizabeth is thrilled to be on board again for her second Passionate Players' production! A graduate of U of T and Sheridan College's Theatre & Drama Studies Program, she is an avid actor, singer, producer, and all-around entrepreneur. Past credits include: Producer, "Seams" (SummerWorks); Assistant Producer, "Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric play" (Outside the March); and Producer, "A Midwinter Night's Dream" (The Passionate Players). Elizabeth is a proud co-founder of The Seams Collective, Bald Monkey Theatre (now Theatre By Committee), and Well Fought Theatre Company. Check her out in Theatre Tonight's production in association with Canadianstage, "Orpheus & Eurydice".



DOUG CROKER (MR. WEBB ACT 1)

Doug is pleased to once again be part of a Passionate Players production. Previous roles include: Bottom in "Midwinter's Night Dream", Monsieur Vidauban in "The Lady From Maxim's", Paul in "The New Eighty", and the evil villain in the hit 2012 Toronto Fringe production of "Spychasers".



SUSANNE EGIER (DR. GIBBS ACT 3)

It's Susanne's third time performing with the wonderful Passionate Players. She is a retired elementary school teacher. She caught the acting bug over twenty years ago, performing in various community theatre productions and taking classes at Equity Showcase, Soulpepper, Seneca and Ryerson's Act II Studio. Previous roles include: Titania, "A Midwinter Night's Dream"; Yentl, "Yentl"; Sara Goode, "Sisters Rosenweig"; Dr. Livingston, "Agnes of God". She thanks family and friends for their love and support. Thanks to Julie, Aaron, Simon, Mitchell, Amy, Aidan, Elizabeth, Katherine and Jess as well for their guidance and positive energy.



JENNIFER ELLIOTT (STAGE MANAGER ACT 3)

Jennifer feels blessed to be making her adult acting debut with such a talented, inspiring and supportive company. She wishes to thank the many dedicated people who made this opportunity possible. Jennifer is grateful to her friends and family who came to support her, and sends her love and gratitude to her husband Daniel who indulges her passions and looks after her so well when she needs it. In her other life as a Childbirth Educator and hypnotist, she inspires expectant couples to birth calmly and more easily with HypnoBirthing techniques.



KAREN FRANKLIN (CONSTABLE WARREN)

Many years ago Karen appeared onstage in Camp Arrowhead's production of "A Chorus Line" (and was also choreographer) and "Sweet Charity". She also produced her high school variety revue and danced a duet to "The Doobie Brothers' Long Train Running". After a break of some 35 years, participating in theatre only as an audience member, Karen is back to exploring the other side of the fourth wall. Thanks to Julie, Aaron, Simon and Mitchell as well as Kat, Elizabeth and Aidan for their patience, encouragement, professionalism and expertise, and to her mom Judy for her love of theatre.



SUSAN GINSBERG (STAGE MANAGER ACT I)

Susan is happy to be part of the Passionate Players' production of "Our Town". As a member of Act II Studio, Susan has enjoyed developing her skills in acting, directing, lighting, and improv. Selected acting credits include: "I'm Still Here" by Vrenia Ivonoffski, and "Departures and Arrivals" by Carol Shields. Reader's theatre productions include: "Under Milk Wood" by Dylan Thomas, and "The Laramie Project", and "Laramie Ten Years Later" by Moisés Kaufman. Susan has also performed in scenes from various plays by William Shakespeare, Arthur Pinero, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett, Marsha Norman, and Daniel MacIvor.



LOUISE HOWLINGS (EMILY ACT 2)

Louise is excited to be back working with the Passionate Players again, after an incredible run as Mrs. Egeus / Mustardseed Fairy in "A Midwinter Night's Dream" last year. Past work has been with the Curtain Club in Richmond Hill as Juror Six in "Twelve Angry Women", and Jennifer Doer in "Welfarewell". She thanks the entire cast and production team for being so awesome, and a special shout-out goes to friends and family for all the love and support on this crazy journey!



HOLLY KIRKCONNELL (EMILY ACT 3)

What a joy to be part of another Passionate Players production! First as Jeanette Tournay in "The Lady From Maxim's" (2013), then as Hippolyta in "A Midwinter Night's Dream" (2014), and now as Emily, Act 3 in "Our Town". I'd like to dedicate this performance to my mother, Marjorie, who passed away early on in our rehearsal process. Thanks to both of my parents who instilled in me a love of theatre from a very young age.



SHERY LEEDER (STAGE MANAGER ACT I)

Shery is a first time Passionate Player and she has so enjoyed the project. Lots of acting (not acting out!), in high school led to acceptance into the Ryerson Acting Program. After 1st year, Shery decided to take some time to pursue other things and did not return to the program. Well – here she is some 30+ years later! In the intervening years Shery has produced two lovely sons, built and sold a business and has now transitioned into a full-time Lactation Consultant. Shery would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to the whole team at Outside the March and Convergence Theatre for their incredible talent and patience devoted to all of us in "Our Town".

PRODUCTION TEAM



NEVADA BANKS (MUSIC CONSULTANT)

Nevada is originally from the small town of Delburne, Alberta and holds a Bachelor of Music Theatre Performance from Sheridan College. She is also a graduate of Red Deer College's Theatre Studies program. Nevada has been seen in shows such as "Into the Woods" (Hart House); "Frolic at Fratters", and "The Suite Life" (Primestock Theatre); "Brantwood", "A Man of no Importance", "Little Women", "Parade", and "Marathon of Hope" (Theatre Sheridan); "The Hangoverture" (Ignite Theatre Festival), and "Beauty and the Beast", "RENT", and "A Chorus of Disapproval" (Red Deer College).



SIMON BLOOM (DIRECTOR)

Simon is a director and web developer, and former Co-Artistic Director of Outside the March. Past credits include "Mr. Burns: A Post-electric play", "East of Berlin", and "Hamlet". He has directed productions across Canada, including Toronto, Edmonton, and Halifax. He is thrilled to be back with the Passionate Players for his second year directing. Special thanks to Mitchell for teaching me how baseball works.



MITCHELL CUSHMAN (DIRECTOR)

Mitchell Cushman is a director, playwright, producer and founding Artistic Director of Outside the March. Favourite directing credits include: "Mr. Burns", "Vitals", "Passion Play", "Terminus", and "Mr. Marmalade" (Outside the March); "Possible Worlds" (Stratford); "New Jerusalem" (Harold Green); and "I, Claudia", "The Last of Romeo and Juliet", and "Possible Worlds" (Talk is Free). He is also the Co-Creator of "Brantwood", Canada's largest immersive musical theatre experience. He has received two Dora Awards for Outstanding Independent Production, the Siminovitch protégé award, the Ken McDougal Award, and the Toronto Theatre Critics' awards for Best Production and Best Director (Terminus). Mitchell is a graduate of the University of Alberta's MFA Directing program. Upcoming: Breath of Kings (Stratford).



JESSICA GUYON (COSTUME & SET DESIGNER)

Jess's past theatre credits include: Costume Design for "Scribe" (Hamilton Fringe 2015); Writer and Actor in "Twelve", and Wardrobe Design and Playwright for "Cutting Halloween" (Robert Bateman High School); and Assistant Head of Paint, "The Idiot" and Wardrobe Design Assistant, "Caucasian Chalk Circle" (Humber Theatre). In future she hopes to pursue for Screenwriting for theatre and film while doing costume and set design on the side. She would like to thank her Humber Mentor, Mary-Jo Carter-Dodd as well as Lindsay and Mama Guyon who have continued to support her love of theatre from the beginning.



BRENT VICKAR (MR. GIBBS ACT 2)

Brent has practiced law since 1983. He is grateful for the opportunity to share this journey to Our Town with this wonderful cast and creative team! In 1978-79 he performed in works by Prevert and Jarry. He returned to the theatre in 2010 in the Nightwood Lawyer Show, appearing through to 2015 as Egeus, Don Pedro, Antonio, Balthazar and Holofernes. In Fringe 2014, he appeared in “Watching Seana McKenna Watch Paint Dry”. Upcoming: “Guys and Dolls” (Nightwood Lawyer Show) and 2016 Fringe. Many thanks to the theatre professionals whose passion inspires me every day.



DOUG WATERS (MR. WEBB ACT 2)

Doug is delighted to once again be a member of the Passionate Players, this time as the elder Mr. Webb. He has appeared in productions by Poculi Ludique Societas, Hart House and the Lawyer Show (Nightwood Theatre), but never before in a play written after the 16th century. He is a theatre addict who is not in the least interested in rehab. Thanks to all involved in “Our Town”!



JESSE WATTS (MR. GIBBS ACT 1)

Jesse is currently studying Arts Management, Theatre, and Music at the University of Toronto Scarborough. He is thrilled to be acting alongside his mom for the first time in this heartfelt production. Producing credits include: Producing Assistant: “Brotherhood: The Hip Hopera” (Buddies in Bad Times); “Afterplay” (Campbell House Museum), Producer: “Sundance” (Toronto Fringe 2012). Acting credits include: “A Midwinter Night’s Dream” (Passionate Players); “Vitals” and “Passion Play” (Outside the March); “The Crucible”, “The Women of Troy”, “The Importance of Being Earnest”, and “Our Town” (University of Toronto); and “The Dumb Waiter” and “The Zoo Story” (Two Wolves Theatre).



MARGIE WATTS (REBECCA GIBBS)

Well, who knew? Never in a million years did I think I would ever attempt to be on stage- in front of people! Jesse and Chris encouraged me to try this, so here I am! It has been a great experience and lots of fun. I will have lots of great memories. Sure beats Toast Masters! Any way, they say the proof is in the pudding, so here goes...



BEVERLY WISE (MRS. SOAMES / BELLIGERENT MAN)

Beverly joined Act II Studio at Ryerson where she’s been performing and taking classes. She’s been fortunate to play a variety of roles from comic to tragic, male and female, and young and mature. She’s appeared in several Act II stage productions: most recently “Departures and Arrivals” by Carol Shields. She is a member of the cast of the research-based play about dementia, “I’m Still Here”, which performs throughout the community.



JANET LEWIS (REVEREND / MALT SHOP OWNER)

A social worker in a downtown hospital by day, Janet is making her first ever appearance on stage and is thrilled to be part of such a talented and supportive ensemble. It has been an absolutely delightful experience and she hopes to continue acting through the Act II Studio. She wishes to thank everyone in the ensemble as well as her family and friends for their continued support and enthusiasm.



ANDREA MOST (DR. GIBBS ACT 1)

Andrea has been involved in theatre and film for more than thirty years. Some favorite theatre jobs include: Stage Manager, American Repertory Theater; Associate Director, Performance Space 122; and Administrative Director, The Wooster Group. For sixteen years, Andrea has been a Professor in the Department of English at the University of Toronto and has published award-winning books on Jews, Broadway, and popular entertainment. But this is her first time actually appearing on stage! She is grateful to Simon, Mitchell, Aaron and Julie for the opportunity and especially delighted to be performing opposite her favorite actor of all, her son Max.



MAUREEN MURRAY (MRS. WEBB ACT 1)

Maureen is thrilled to be a part of another Passionate Players adventure. This production is particularly special to Maureen because she appears alongside her teenage daughter Marlee. Maureen last appeared in the 2015 Toronto Fringe Festival production “The Hollow Square”, and earlier in the year was cast in “(En)Lightening” at the Alumnae Theatre’s New Ideas Festival. She extends a heartfelt thanks to Mitchell, Simon, Julie, Aaron and Amy for helping her to rediscover her love of acting after a three-decade-long hiatus. And last but not least, a special thanks to her hubby and kids for encouraging her to pursue her passion.



PATRICIA PATCHET-GOLUBEV (DR. GIBBS ACT 2)

Patricia is absolutely thrilled to be part of the Passionate Players for the second year in a row! Last year, as Cobweb in “A Midwinter Night’s Dream”, she first treaded the boards in this amazing enterprise. By day an instructor of writing, Patricia relishes the escape and learning provided by this adventure! Thanks to the wonderful cast and players of “Our Town”; our awesome, unbelievably talented coaches and teachers Julie and Aaron; and our inspiring, expert, and patient directors Simon, Mitchell, and Amy. Thanks also to Elizabeth, Aidan, and Jess. We love you!



ANN ROBERTSON (STAGE MANAGER ACT 3)

Ann Robertson is delighted to be part of another Passionate Players production and to be working with a wonderful creative team. Since retiring, Ann has been studying acting through Act II Studio at Ryerson University and has appeared in a number of stage performances, most recently in the Passionate Players' production of "A Midwinter Night's Dream" in December 2014. Thanks to Aaron, Julie, Mitch, Simon and Amy for this fabulous opportunity, and to all the cast and crew for their shining talent and dedication, and for the camaraderie that makes it all such fun.



DOROTHY RUSOFF (STAGE MANAGER ACT 2)

Dorothy has participated in community theatre on and off for a number of years. She has earned her clown nose through work with John Turner of Mump and Smoot, Helen Donnelly of Foo and Posey fame and Lynda Del Grande in Ryerson's Caring Clown course of the 50+ Program. She is thrilled to be part of Passionate Players and can't thank the staff enough for all their encouragement, enthusiasm and expertise.



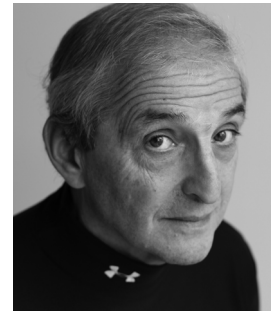
MARLEE SANSOM (EMILY ACT 1)

Marlee is very excited to be a part of this year's passionate players production. This is especially exciting for Marlee because she is acting alongside her mother Maureen. Marlee attends Etobicoke School of the Arts and is a part of their main stage production of "Love and Information" opening in April. Marlee wants to say a special thank you to the cast, directors and everyone involved for making this experience so great. She would also like to say thank you to her friends for running lines with her instead of doing homework.



MARGARET SELLERS (HOWIE NEWSOME)

Margaret is thrilled to again be part of this energetic and creative group of directors, crew, and actors. Past performances include: Maria Sara in "A Death and the Marias" at Alumnae Theatre; Quince in Passionate Players' "A Midwinter Night's Dream" at Factory Theatre; Evelyn in "Dust Motes Dancing" at Red Sandcastle Theatre; and several and various roles in "What Tucci Saw" at the Victory Cafe with Archival Acting Workshop. Margaret is passionately enjoying this phase of her life and continues to make the outstanding Act II Studio Theatre program at Ryerson part of her learning and growing.



PETER SEVITT (GEORGE ACT 2)

In his third public acting performance, following "The Lady From Maxims" and "A Midwinter Night's Dream", Peter is playing 20-year-old George in this timeless story, "Our Town". To reminisce about adolescence and to try and feel the insecurity and the anxieties of young love took me back nearly 50 years! We are indebted to the coaching of Julie and Aaron who along with Acting 101 classes was so much fun and created the building of a passionate team effort. Thanks to our inspiring directors and all the wonderful team behind them. Thanks, as always, to my wife, Lesley for her continued encouragement and love. She even started to call me George!



NANCY STEWART (WALLY WEBB / LADY IN BOX)

Nancy is making her Passionate Players debut and is thrilled to be part of this exciting production of "Our Town". Since retiring from primary teaching, Nancy has been studying acting through Act II Studio at Ryerson University. Nancy wishes to thank Mitchell, Simon, Aaron, Julie, Amy Jessica, Aidan and Elizabeth for their guidance and support. It has been a pleasure to work with such a creative and gracious group of artists.



CAROLYN TANNER (STAGE MANAGER ACT 2)

Carolyn is delighted to be back in this wonderful ensemble, under the incomparable direction of Mitchell Cushman and Simon Bloom, and the inspired guidance of Amy Keating, Julie Tepperman, and Aaron Willis. Previous roles include Peaseblossom and Philostrate in "A Midwinter Night's Dream" (Passionate Players, 2014); and the Mother in "Dad's Ashes" (Ryerson Film, Daniel Scott Tysdal, 2015). She thanks her friends and family for their indulgence and support, especially her daughter Ashley. Special gratitude to the abiding spirit of her great-aunt Winnifred, who left her turn-of-the-century dress in her attic in Richmond, Quebec, for her great-niece to find in 1973.



MARILYN TATE (JOE STODDARD)

Marilyn acted in "The Bald Soprano" at high school and in a Mayakovsky play at UC Playhouse at U of T, many decades ago. More recently, she has been a part of Jumblies community arts theatre productions, including "Oy Di Velt Vet Ven Yinger" (Oh the World Will Get Younger) put on at Camp Naivelt and Mayworks; and "Like An Old Tale", part of Jumblies Scarborough residency. Marilyn currently serves as the Chair on the Board of Directors of Jumblies. She is excited about this undertaking with Passionate Players.