

September 20—
October 16
2016



The Last Wife

BY

KATE
HENNIG

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Ivan Habel and Michael Shamata

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Artistic Director's Notes

Welcome back!

I was reminded over the course of last season's 40th Anniversary celebrations – or more correctly, I was made truly aware – just how much people love this theatre, and what a very special role it plays in our community. People wanted to celebrate the Belfry's anniversary and its accomplishments – including the very fact that it has weathered the ups and downs of any arts organization – and survived!

I feel incredibly honoured to be at the artistic helm of this remarkable theatre. It is a responsibility I take seriously, and I hope that I continue to connect with you and your sensibilities, and deliver pieces of theatre that give you something to be excited about and something to think about.

Which brings us to *The Last Wife*. Let us now praise famous women. Or, at least, women who *should* be famous. Or women who should be *more* famous than they are – and for their own accomplishments – not simply for being married to famous men. Katherine Parr was one of the world's great women, and I am thrilled to get to know her.

History re-examined from the point of view of its female protagonists... may you engage and enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael".

Notes from the Executive Director

The Last Wife uses the world of power and politics as the foundation of its story. The struggle of politics, power and shifting priorities is not unlike running a non-profit performing arts organization: the challenge is responding to the shifting priorities of a constituency, while balancing a longer term view and the necessities of an internal mission and mandate.

What are the strategic objectives, and which decisions lead to the successful paths? For the Belfry, the path is consistent with our history: make our artists and patrons as engaged and comfortable as possible by providing them with programming that captures their imaginations and a space that provides comfort.

We are pleased to share with you the experience of new seating as the start of an exciting plan for the next stage in the development of this extraordinary building and company. Next summer brings changes to our lobby, concession, washrooms and our ability to serve and make you comfortable in this our beautiful home. We know you'll support and enjoy these changes as much as I'm sure you will this play and our season.

Welcome to our 41st season and the start of the next great 40 years of contemporary theatre in Victoria.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ivan".



Our \$1 Million Capital Campaign will transform the Belfry into a more thriving and vibrant space for future generations to enjoy!

You may be reading this from the cosiness of our new theatre seats. Replacing our old seats was the first stage of our campaign to improve patron comfort and enhance your theatre experience.

The next stage is extending our lobby with a glass roofed atrium and updating the concession with better equipment and a new layout. Sound insulation will be improved between the lobby and theatre, and the women's washroom facilities will be extended. The wheelchair ramp will be resurfaced, have better lighting, and a new canopy at the side approach to the Belfry.

We have a contribution of \$340,000 from the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program, provided we match the amount. This is where we need your help. Your gift will double the impact.

All gifts to the \$1 Million Capital Campaign over \$100 will be recognized in our house programs and larger gifts on our Capital Campaign lobby recognition board.

We also have naming opportunities available. Talk to us about what is possible and you could put your name on a piece of the Belfry.

You can make a donation at the Box Office, speak with Susan or Judi at 250-385-6835, email development@belfry.bc.ca or donate on our website www.belfry.bc.ca/donate

Please step forward and make your pledge today!

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada.



CANADA 150

Canada

The Belfry Theatre presents

The Last Wife

by Kate Hennig

Cast

(in alphabetical order)

Sean Baek	Thomas
Oliver Becker	Henry
Ellis James Frank	Edward
Anie Richer	Mary
Celine Stubel	Kate
Mahalia Golnosh Tahririha	Bess

Director	Esther Jun
Set and Costume Designer	Shannon Lea Doyle
Lighting Designer	Martin Conboy
Sound Designer	John Gzowski
Stage Manager	Jennifer Swan
Assistant Stage Manager	Jessica McLeod
Fight Director	Nicholas Harrison

There will be one fifteen minute intermission.

The Last Wife is a co-production with
The Great Canadian Theatre Company in Ottawa, Ontario.

The Last Wife is staged by arrangement with Emma Laird, Gary Goddard Agency,
www.garygoddardagency.com.

The Last Wife was originally produced by the Stratford Festival of Stratford, Ontario,
and premiered there on August 14th, 2015.

Antoni Cimolino, Artistic Director and Anita Gaffney, Executive Director.

The use of video or audio recording devices is strictly prohibited at all times.

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Please enjoy the performance.

Please
join us for an
Afterplay discussion
following this evening's
performance.
(See page 7 for details)

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AFTERPLAY Discussions

Extend your enjoyment of the Belfry and this play. Following all evening performances,* you're invited to join us "stage-side" for a lively discussion with fellow audience members about the play.

You are welcome to take part in the conversation or just listen in.

Afterplay lasts about 15 minutes.

We hope you'll join us for this popular activity!

*There are no Afterplay discussions following Opening Night performances and matinees.

Nota Bene: The music for *The Last Wife* is almost entirely interpretations of the compositions of Henry VIII.

The Last Wife is an *imagining* of history. Oh yes, it's based on actual people and events, and while portions of it are deliciously accurate, some bits may offend the historically precise among you, while still others are completely and utterly fabricated. My priority in choosing must always favour the dramatic. —KATE HENNIG

Post-Script

Katherine Parr died of puerperal fever on September 5, 1548. She was the first woman to publish her own writing, under her own name, in the English language. She was an avid religious reformist, a patroness of arts and education, and a lover of fabulous clothes. Her motto was: "To be useful in all I do."

Thomas Seymour was tried on thirty-three counts of treason. Elizabeth was questioned as a possible co-conspirator during his trial. She was exonerated. He was found guilty and was executed on March 20, 1549. His sentence was signed by his nephew, Edward VI.

Henry VIII reigned from 1509 to his death on January 28, 1547. He was a poet, a songwriter/musician, and was purported to have enjoyed needlework. The wound on his leg may have been caused by garters that he wore to show off his calves.

Edward VI reigned from 1547 until his death on July 6, 1553. He was nine years old when he became king. He left Lady Jane Grey as his heir, attempting to disinherit his sisters, Mary and Elizabeth.

Mary I (Bloody Mary) was the first reigning Queen of England, from 1553 to her death of influenza on November 17, 1558. She married Philip II of Spain to secure land and riches for England and to beget a Catholic heir. She had two false pregnancies (possibly cysts or uterine cancer) and left the kingdom to her sister, Elizabeth. Her motto was: "Truth is the daughter of Time."

Elizabeth I (The Virgin Queen; Gloriana; Good Queen Bess) reigned from 1558 until her death on March 24, 1603. She was moderate, tolerant, perhaps indecisive, and a lover of plays. A cult grew up around her virginity in the latter part of her reign. She was the last of the Tudor line. Her motto was: "Always the same."

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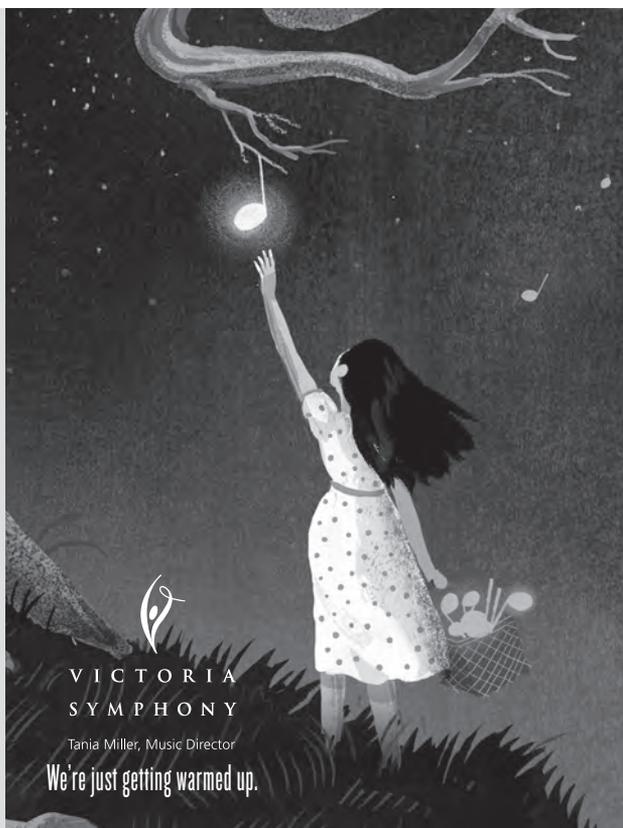
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Acting Company



Sean Baek

Sean Baek

Thomas / Fight Captain

Belfry Theatre debut.
Favourite theatre credits: *The Death of the King* (Modern Times/ Theatre Centre – DORA Nomination for Outstanding Performance – Ensemble), Brutus in *Julius Caesar* and Angelo in *The Comedy of Errors* (Canadian Stage's Shakespeare in High Park), *Bird Brain*, *Juliet [& Romeo]*, *New Canadian Kid* (Young People's Theatre), *Nisei Blue* (Alberta Theatre Projects), *Head à Tête* (Roseneath Theatre, International Tour), Stratford Festival (3 seasons), following Birmingham Conservatory, Fight Director – *Kim's Convenience* (Fringe & Soulpepper). Film/TV/Voice (Selected): *Killjoys*, *The Art of More*, *Flashpoint*, *Republic of Doyle*, *FarCry 2*, CBC Radio Dramas.



Oliver Becker

Oliver Becker

Henry

Oliver is thrilled to be back on the boards of the beautiful Belfry Theatre. For the Belfry: *Red*, *Memories of You*. Other Theatre: *The Secret Mask*, *Private Lives* (The Globe Theatre) *God of Carnage* (Vancouver Playhouse/Manitoba Theatre Centre), *Hosanna*, *Zastrozzi*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *MacBeth* (Stratford Festival), *The Pillowman*, *Frozen*, *Twelfth Night* (Citadel Theatre), *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *The Flood Thereafter*, *The Weir* (Canadian Stage), *MacBeth* (Grand Theatre), *Hamlet*, *La Ronde*, *The Bear* (Soulpepper Theatre), *A Whistle in the Dark* (Company Theatre), *Sideman*, *Soldier's Heart* (Tarragon Theatre), *The Glace Bay Miner's Museum* (Factory Theatre), *Playboy of the Western World* (Shaw Festival). Film & Television: *The Girlfriend Experience*, *Bitten*, *Reign*, *Man Seeking Woman*, *Rookie Blue*, *Rent A Goalie*, *The Line*, *X-Files*,



Ellis James Frank

Rehearsal photography by Peter Pokorny

MacGyver. It was Kyle Atlas Stahl, who played Tiny Tim in the Belfry's 2015 production of *A Christmas Carol*, who once replied to the question, why he liked acting: "So everyone can see me." I concur. Yay!

Ellis James Frank

Edward

Ellis is making his professional acting debut! He lives in Victoria. 11 year old Ellis is in grade 6 at Maria Montessori Academy. He was introduced to theatre through Saltwater Creative Arts. Ellis is passionate about music. He sings, plays guitar, ukulele, harmonica and dabbles in drums. He also enjoys getting to assist in the recording studio. Ellis has had the privilege of sitting in on gigs with Spirit of the West, Jesse Roper and The Odds. His favourite thing to do is perform. His other interests include biking, reading and hanging out with friends.

Acting Company



Anie Richer



Celine Stubel



Mahalia Golnosh Tahririha

Rehearsal photography by Peter Pokorny

Anie Richer

Mary

Anie Richer graduated from the University of Ottawa's theatre program, and perfected her craft through various workshops both in Canada and in France. She is mostly known for her work with the French theatre companies of Ontario, such as Théâtre la Tangente (*Americandream.ca*), Théâtre Rouge Écarlate (*Pour l'hiver*), Théâtre la Catapulte and Théâtre Français de Toronto (*Les Médecins de Molière, La Meute*). Anie has also had the opportunity to star in a number of television series. She received three Prix Gémeaux nominations for her work on *Motel Monstre*, a children's series where she played Kimi, the not-so-friendly-ghost.

Celine Stubel

Kate

Theatre credits for the Belfry: *Speed-the-Plow, Venus in Fur, Proud, A Christmas Carol, God of Carnage, And Slowly Beauty* (NAC co-production), *Unless, Garage Sale, and My Chernobyl* (Jessie Richardson Award). Elsewhere: *The Great Gatsby* (Theatre Calgary), *Oliver* (National Arts Centre), *Macbeth, Fire, Whose Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, A Streetcar Named Desire* (Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre), *One Man Two Guvnors, The Graduate, The Constant Wife* (Arts Club Theatre), Electric Company's *Studies In Motion* (Citadel and Canadian Stage), *Tyland* (Alberta Theatre Projects), *Ride The Cyclone, Legoland, The Qualities of Zero* (Atomic Vaudeville), *Richard II, All's Well That Ends Well, (Bard on The Beach), Unity (1918)* and *My Three Sisters* (Theatre SKAM).

Mahalia Golnosh Tahririha

Bess

Mahalia is ecstatic and grateful to be joining the team for *The Last Wife*. Originally from North Vancouver, she holds an Honours BA in Theatre and Psychology *Summa Cum Laude*, and is completing a Master's in Theatre Theory and Dramaturgy, both from the University of Ottawa. Recent credits include: *Pericles* (A Company of Fools), *Listen To Me* (Resounding Scream Theatre), *Happiness* (May Can Theatre), *The Bald Soprano* and *Hunting Cockroaches* (Unicorn Theatre). She would like to thank Esther, Eric, Hugh, Michael and Ivan for this opportunity, and her family and friends for their unwavering support and tolerance of her bad jokes.

Creative Team



Kate Hennig



Esther Jun



Shannon Lea Doyle

Kate Hennig

Playwright

Kate is a diverse, multi-award-winning theatre artist, with over thirty-five years of professional experience as a performer, including seasons on Broadway, with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and with both the Shaw and Stratford Festivals. Kate received the 2015 Christopher Plummer Award for Excellence in Classical Theatre. Kate is currently writing two companion pieces to *The Last Wife: The Virgin Trial* (which will premiere at the Stratford Festival in 2017) and *Father's Daughter*. The trilogy is a contemporary feminist imagining of the Tudor queens Katherine Parr, Mary I, and Elizabeth I. Kate's other playwriting includes: *Wilde Tales*, *The Eleventh David*, *Waterworks* and *More*. Kate lives and writes in Stratford, Ontario.
www.katehennig.com

Esther Jun

Director

Esther Jun originally trained as an actor in NYC and completed her directing degree at Drama Centre London in 2006. Most recently she was Assistant Director on *John Gabriel Borkman* at the Stratford Festival, as part of the 2016 Michael Langham Workshop for Classical Direction, and was the 2015 Neil Munro Intern Director at the Shaw Festival. She is a founding member and Co-Artistic Director of Directors Lab North and is the new Assistant Artistic Director at Tarragon Theatre in Toronto starting this November. Selected Directing Credits: *Tales from Folks-Laos & Mongolia* (Soulpepper), *Rococo* (Shaw Festival), *And Now, The End* (Ante Up), *Bremen Rock City* (Song Trolley), *Cowboy Mouth* (Heart In Hand), *Yellow Face* (Hart House),

Trout Stanley (Heart in Hand), *Fear & Misery of the Third Reich* (DeusXM), *First Hand Woman* (Fire Up Productions). As always, much love and gratitude to Mike & Lola!

Shannon Lea Doyle

Set and Costume Designer

Shannon Lea Doyle is a set, costume, and video designer from Toronto. She is pleased to be making her Belfry debut. Shannon holds a BFA in Sculpture and Installation from OCAD University and is a graduate of the Soulpepper Theatre Academy, where she worked under the mentorship of designer Lorenzo Savoini. Her recent credits include: *The Just*, *The Heidi Chronicles*, *The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine*, *The Dybbuk* (Soulpepper Theatre), *Hairspray* (YES Theatre), *Faust* (Theatre By The Bay), *Seams* (SummerWorks), *Love Me Forever Billy H. Tender* (Videofag, NYC Fringe),

Creative Team



Martin Conboy

Objections to Sex and Violence (Praxis Theatre), *Mary Stuart* (George Brown Theatre School) and *Vitals* (Outside The March).

Martin Conboy

Lighting Designer

Martin has worked nationally and internationally. He is pleased to return to the Belfry after working on *Big Mama* in 2012. Recent credits include *Janet Wilson Meets the Queen* (Great Canadian Theatre Company), *Will Somers* (Gladstone Theatre), *The Public Servant* (Canadian Stage), *RED* (Theatre Aquarius), *Sister Judy* (Arts Club Theatre), *Moss Park* (Green Thumb Theatre), *Burden of Self Awareness* (GCTC), *Facts* (GCTC, tour of Jerusalem and Palestine), *Orfeo* (Lithuanian State Opera), and *Cranked* (New York). As a theatre consultant, Martin has designed many theatres: GCTC, Canadian Aviation Museum's theatre, Algonquin College 700



John Gzowski

seat theatre, Arts Court redevelopment. Architectural lighting projects include Roy Thomson Hall, Massey Hall and the Canadian Embassy in Paris.

John Gzowski

Sound Designer

Composer, sound designer and musician, John Gzowski's theatre work has won him six Dora Mavor Moore Awards for companies like Stratford Festival, Shaw Festival, Luminato Festival, Mirvish Productions, National Arts Centre, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Arts Club Theatre Company, Canadian Stage, Soupepper, Dancemakers, Tarragon Theatre, Factory Theatre and Young People's Theatre in over 200 productions. Gzowski has played on numerous CDs, with recent releases with Patricia O'Callaghan, Tasa, and Autorickshaw and has received a Juno Award nomination with Maza Meze.



Jennifer Swan

Rehearsal photography by Peter Pokorny

Jennifer Swan

Stage Manager

Born and raised in Victoria, Jen is happy to once again be Island based. This is her 12th season (over 17 years) working at the Belfry. Other favourite Canadian theatres include: Theatre SKAM, Electric Company Theatre, Vancouver Playhouse, Canadian Stage, Caravan Farm Theatre and Theatre Calgary. Jen spent most of this past season living and working in Calgary – stage managing *The Little Prince the Musical* and *The Light in the Piazza* (directed by Michael Shamata), both for Theatre Calgary. She also works as Company Manager for Electric Company Theatre in Vancouver.

Creative Team



Jessica McLeod, *Assistant Stage Manager*

This show marks the start of Jessica's third season at the Belfry. Recent credits include *The Valley*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* and *The Rez Sisters* (Belfry), *Emerging Voices* (Theatre One), *Harvey*, *Waiting for the Parade* and *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Chemainus Theatre Festival). Jessica is a graduate of the University of Victoria and has worked with theatre companies from BC to Saskatchewan. Born and raised on Vancouver Island, she spends her time outside the theatre cooking, travelling, and making gin in the Cowichan Valley.



Nicholas Harrison, *Fight Director*

Nicholas Harrison was trained as an actor in London, England at the London Academy of Performing Arts, has a Masters in Directing from the University of Victoria and a PhD from the UBC. He has written a book about the origins of stage combat in Canada and continues to choreograph violence for film, television and theatre all over the world. He is currently developing a play about child abuse based on the true story of his time at a private school in British Columbia and how he credits *Star Wars* with saving his life. He is the current Chair of the School of Performing Arts at Capilano University. This fall he can be seen in the twelfth season of the popular television series *Supernatural*.

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Latecomers & Re-admission

The Director of each production designates moments in the show when the seating of latecomers will cause the least amount of distraction for actors and audience members. Should you leave the theatre, our House Manager will not be able to reseat you until one of these breaks.

Babes in Arms

The Belfry is proud to produce adult contemporary theatre. Our productions are not suitable for children 10 and under, including babes in arms.

Recording Devices

No cameras or recording devices are permitted in the theatre.

Audience Advisories and Running Times

We make every effort to advise you of strong language, subject matter or extreme technical effects (strobe lights, fog). Please look for signs at the entrances to the theatre. Advisories and running times are available at the Box Office as of the first preview.

Food & Drinks

Please feel free to take only food and/or drinks you've purchased from the Belfry bar into the theatre. Our goodies are packaged so that they don't make a lot of noise and disturb your fellow audience members.

Perfume & Cologne

Please refrain from using perfume and cologne when you come to the theatre. Some of our patrons are highly allergic to scents.

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Please refrain from using electronic cigarettes in the theatre, to avoid distraction for other patrons and the Artists on stage.

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2016-2017 Season

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As of September 1, 2016.

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The following individuals and groups have contributed
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Eric & Shirley Charman

Blaire Walker

The Barraclough Foundation

The Government of Canada – Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program

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Gift planning is an inspired, meaningful and deeply personal way to secure the future of the Belfry Theatre. The support of visionary philanthropy ensures that the Belfry will continue to flourish as Greater Victoria's premier contemporary theatre company.

Consult your professional advisors about the tax advantages of charitable donations and bequests. We would welcome the opportunity to ensure that your gift is recognized according to your wishes during and/or after your lifetime. For more information on planning your gift to the Belfry Theatre, please contact: **Susan Stevenson**

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