



Mom's the Word 3: Nest $\frac{1}{2}$ Empty

Written and performed
by Jill Daum, Alison Kelly,
Robin Nichol, Barbara Pollard
& Deborah Williams

July 24—August 12 2018

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Ivan Habel

FROM THE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Michael Sharma
I love the Moms.

FROM THE
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Welcome to a new season—
and what better way to start a
new adventure than with mom(s).

My mom always told me to say thank you to anyone who has done something for you, so I'll take this opportunity to thank some of our special neighbours who make it possible for us to host our guest artists from away. Our accommodations hosts who, with us, assure that artists who come to entertain you have a home away from home. Some of these remarkable neighbours have been with us for years, and some are new to us; new or old they deserve a special thank you for their part in making the Belfry one of the best places for artists from across the nation to work and perform for you.

Without further ado thank you to:

Al, Aleigh, Treena, Maggi, Robert, Lottie, Ray & Jan, Val & Len, Robert & John, Laurie & MJ, Don, Vicky & Brock, Josh & Nan, Susie & Wayne and Jane & Dave.

Thank you also to all our donors and to our corporate supporters, some of whom provide hotel accommodations, and others who provide financial or goods and services support. To all, and to all of you, thank you.

Ivan

I have loved them ever since 1998, when I heard a cassette recording of their first show and brought them to the Grand Theatre in London, Ontario — toddlers in tow.

I love the way they can turn fear and pain into laughter and recognition for everyone who sees them (men included!).

I love that they share their most personal stories with us — making their lives part of our lives — their tears part of our tears.

I love what good and decent human beings they are.

Deborah Williams has been the Belfry's Associate Artist for the past few seasons, she wrote and starred in *Taking Off* in the Studio Theatre two seasons ago, assisted me on productions here and in Toronto, and co-produces and facilitates the Belfry's storytelling event, *The Flame*.

Jill Daum wrote one of our most successful and affecting shows ever, last season's premiere *Forget About Tomorrow*.

Alison Kelly participated in a workshop of Sean Harris Oliver's new play, *The Soldier's Wife*.

Barbara Pollard is the Belfry's "booster extraordinaire."

And Robin Nichol is here! — a rare event, due to her teaching schedule at Thomson Rivers University.

They're Canadian rock stars. They're BC treasures. They're five of our best friends. And when you add in the husbands and children we've come to know, they're a freakin' village!

They're part of our family. Welcome home!

And welcome to the beginning of our 2018–2019 Season — I hope we'll see you often!

Michael

L to R: Barbara Pollard, Jill Daum, Robin Nichol, Alison Kelly and Deborah Williams



Photo by Emily Cooper

Mom's the Word was born.

FROM THE PLAYWRIGHTS

24 years ago, Linda Carson called the five of us — friends and colleagues all — together to try to come up with a short piece of theatre that would expose the world of new motherhood in all its gore, guts and glory. After a year of sharing tears, laughter and hefty childcare costs, and under the encouraging umbrella of the Women in View Festival, the original

Mom's the Word went on to be a ground breaking, award-winning hit in Vancouver and became an international sensation. It has since been translated into 14 languages and has united parents around the globe. Ten years later, we returned with *Mom's the Word 2: Unhinged*, a show about the turbulent teenage years. Two years after that, those shows were united in *Mom's the Word: Remixed*.

The children are now (mostly) grown and are in various stages of leaving home, thinking of leaving home, trying to leave home, have left but are now back at home, or are being kicked out of home. Our marriages have evolved, devolved, or dissolved, and it's time for another installment! Welcome to our endlessly changing, often humiliating and ever hilarious world. We gotta keep going, so we may as well laugh while we can.

— Jill Daum, Alison Kelly, Robin Nichol, Barbara Pollard and Deborah Williams

Facility and Fire Update

As some of you know, in late May we had a small fire here at the Belfry. The damage was mainly limited to the room that contains the electronics that control the stage lights and the audience lights. The unexpected need to replace these, along with flooring replacement in the dressing room area due to water damage from the sprinkler system, plus other minor repairs, led to expenses over and above a significant insurance claim.

We're all up and running with restoration complete, new equipment installed and evidence of the fire all patched over.

This unexpected work as a result of the fire was added to the scheduled replacement of our old and malfunctioning heating, ventilation and air conditioning system for the Stewart Theatre. In the past three years we have invested over 1.5 million dollars to improve comfort and address needed (and sometimes unexpected) repairs and upgrades to your beautiful heritage theatre.

We're hoping for a calmer summer next year.



THE BELFRY THEATRE PRESENTS
AN ARTS CLUB THEATRE PRODUCTION

Mom's the Word 3: Nest ½ Empty

Written and
performed by

Jill Daum

Alison Kelly

Robin Nichol

Barbara Pollard

Deborah Williams

Director Wayne Harrison

Set and Costume Designer Pam Johnson

Lighting Designer Marsha Sibthorpe

Sound and Projection Designer Kate De Lorme

Choreographer Anna Kuman

Stage Manager Marijka Asbeek Brusse

Assistant Stage Manager Sandra Drag

Mom's the Word 3: Nest ½ Empty is approximately two hours and twenty minutes in length,
including one fifteen-minute intermission.

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Jill Daum

Two-time Jessie award winner, Jill is a graduate of the Studio 58 acting program. She has been working as an actor and writer for over 35 years. Most recently she premiered her new play *Forget About Tomorrow* at the Belfry Theatre with Michael Shamata as director. She is also one of the original co-creators and performers in all of the *Moms* productions: *Mom's the Word*, *Mom's the Word 2: Unhinged*, *Mom's the Word: Remixed* and *Mom's the Word 3: Nest ½ Empty*.



Alison Kelly

Alison has been making her living as an actor, writer and theatre instructor for over 30 years. She is one of the original creator/performers of the award winning, internationally acclaimed *Mom's the Word* series: *Mom's the Word*, *Mom's the Word 2: Unhinged*, *Mom's the Word: Remixed* and the current *Mom's the Word 3: Nest 1/2 Empty*. Alison has performed across Canada and as far afield as Australia. She is a proud graduate of Studio 58, where she has been a theatre instructor for 30 years.



Robin Nichol

Robin has been acting, directing, stage managing and writing for the last 28 years (1984–86 at the Belfry!) She holds a BFA from UVic and an MFA from UBC and has been teaching acting and directing for the theatre program at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops since 2004. *Mom's the Word*, in all its incarnations, has been an unceasing source of great joy, public humiliation and improved mental health since it all started in 1994. Much thanks to my honest and talented Mom-sisters, my extraordinary children and my supportive and long-suffering husband, without all of whom this never would have happened!



Barbara Pollard

I am thrilled to be working “overseas” and back at the beloved Belfry, but first and foremost, I want to thank my fellow Moms. We've had 25 years as writers, and what an amazing team. Big thank you also to the International director Wayne Harrison, who has directed 16 productions of our shows and keeps coming back for more. We are so lucky. Thanks to all who made this possible. And we're here in the summer. Happy Prosecco Day! Recent years have brought more musicals into my life, including *My Fair Lady* and *Billy Elliott*. Feature Film: *Love and Oatmeal*, TV: *Chesapeake Shores* and *iZombie*. Upcoming: *Much Ado About Nothing* with Classic Chic at the Cultch, and more writing.



Deborah Williams

Deborah has been an actress, playwright, producer, director, comedian, storyteller and teacher for over 3 decades. She is co-creator of Vancouver/Victoria's *The Flame*, heading into its 10th season. For the Belfry, she recently debuted her one-person show *Taking Off*, appeared in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* and is proud to be an Associate Artist of the best theatre in Canada. This spring Deb directed *The Velveteen Rabbit* (Carousel Theatre), *One of a Kind* (Vancouver International Children's Festival) and *Crow Hill* (4thLine Theatre, Ontario). Next season she is looking forward to working on *HIR* (PI theatre) and *The Matchmaker* (Arts Club Theatre). Deb is a graduate of Studio 58, community builder, gardener, textiles artist and mother of a couple of wonderful adults who let her share their lives on stage.



Wayne Harrison

Director

Wayne Harrison AM (Member of the Order of Australia) has collaborated with the Mom's the Word Collective 16 times, including the production in London's West End and the premiere of *Mom's the Word 3: Nest ½ Empty* at Vancouver's Arts Club. Wayne is the former Artistic Director of Sydney Theatre Company, where he directed over fifty productions, as well as Director of the New Year's Eve celebrations on Sydney Harbour. Based in London, he was co-producer and/or director of *Gumboots*, *Tap Dogs*, *Slava's Snowshow*, *Fosse* and *Mom's the Word* for Back Row/Clear Channel Entertainment (Europe). As the Head of Creation for Spiegelworld International, he has written and directed *Absinthe*, *Desir*, *Empire* (New York) and *Vegas Nocturne* (Las Vegas). His production of *Absinthe* at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas is in its eighth year. He is the creative director of *Human Nature's Jukebox*, in residence at the Venetian in Las Vegas, and on tour. www.wayneharrison.com



Pam Johnson

Set and Costume Designer

Pam is thrilled to be working with the Belfry gang. Her Belfry credits started in 1988 with *Homework and Curtains*, and include *Come Rain or Come Shine*, *Oleanna*, *The Far Away Nearby*, *Three Tall Women*, *The Sum of Us*, *Mom's the Word*, *A Guide to Mourning*, *The Weir*, *One Last Kiss*, *The Syringa Tree*, *Rough Magic*, *Mom's the Word 2: Unhinged*, *Homechild*, *The Number 14*, *The Valley*, and *Forget About Tomorrow*. Pam has received several Jessie Awards, an IDI Award, Capital Critics Award (Ottawa), and Monday Magazine Award (Victoria) for her outstanding work. In 2012 she received a Career Achievement Award from the VPTA. She is a graduate of Studio 58.



Marsha Sibthorpe

Lighting Designer

Marsha's work was most recently seen at the Belfry in *Mom's the Word: Remixed*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *The Cripple of Inishmaan*. In 2017 Marsha was awarded the Vancouver Professional Theatre Association Lifetime Achievement Award.



Kate De Lorme

Sound and Projection Designer

Kate is a Sound Artist and Designer based in Vancouver, BC. She graduated from the University of British Columbia in 2015 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, majoring in Theatre Design and Production and has a certification in Audio Engineering. Kate is currently an Artist in Residence at The Spatial Sound Institute in Budapest, Hungary, where she is creating a solo work sponsored by The Canada Council for the Arts and the BC Arts Council.

Select design credits include: *Feasting on Famine* (Shay Kuebler Radical Systems Art), *Salmon Girl* (Raven Spirit Dance), *Major Motion Picture* (Out Innerspace Dance Theatre).
katedelorme.com



Anna Kuman

Choreographer

Based in East Vancouver, Anna is a performer, choreographer, and director. Her most proud accomplishment has been creating *Circle Game: Reimagining the Music of Joni Mitchell* with her husband, Andrew Cohen. The show premiered at the Firehall Arts Centre and was nominated for 3 Jessie Awards and 5 Ovation Awards, winning for Outstanding Professional Production and Outstanding Music Direction. Vancouver Island audiences can see *Circle Game* on tour with the Arts Club in 2019. Internationally, Anna has choreographed casts of over 8,000 people for the *Rio 2016 Paralympic Opening Ceremony* in Brazil, and *2017 AIMAG Opening* in Turkmenistan. Anna is a graduate of CapU Musical Theatre. She thanks the Moms for this fantastic opportunity. www.annakuman.com



Marijka Asbeek Brusse

Stage Manager

Based in Vancouver, Marijka is thrilled to be making her debut at the Belfry Theatre with *Mom's the Word 3: Nest ½ Empty*. Recent credits include *The Overcoat — a musical tailoring* (Canadian Stage/Tapestry Opera/Vancouver Opera), *L'elisir d'amour*, *Turandot*, *Dead Man Walking*, *Evita* (Vancouver Opera), *C'mon, Angie!*, *Late Company*, *The Romeo Initiative*, *True Love Lies* (Touchstone Theatre), *Between the Sheets* (Pi Theatre), *Mixed Nuts*, and *Season Finale* (Arts Umbrella Dance Company). Next up she will be back in Victoria Assistant Stage Managing *Fidelio* with Pacific Opera. Marijka is a graduate of UBC Theatre's BFA Production and Design program, where she now teaches stage management.



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BUM dancers: Kennedy, Kraeling and Benjamin Mitchell. Photo © Marc Montplaisir



Sandra Drag

Assistant Stage Manager

Having spent this season touring the productions of *Onegin* (Arts Club Theatre) and *We Are All Treaty People* (Quest Theatre), Sandra is excited to be back at the Belfry and in one place for longer than a hiccup. A 2014 graduate of the University of Victoria's Theatre Production and Management program, Sandra's Belfry credits also include *Home is a Beautiful Word* and *Venus in Fur*. Select past credits include *The Piano Teacher*, *Onegin* (premiere) and *One Man, Two Guvnors* (Arts Club), *Miracle on South Division Street* and *The Last Romance* (Miracle Theatre), *Animal Crackers* and *Waiting for Godot* (Blue Bridge Theatre). Much love and thanks to Mum and Dad, who always have room in their nest for me.



Brava to all the Moms
on stage, backstage and in the audience.
You're the best!

Hon. Carole James, MLA

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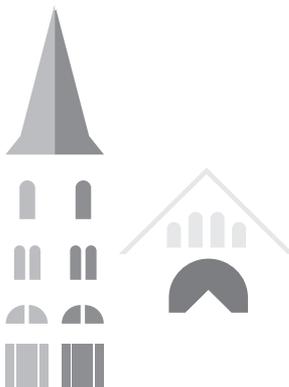
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The use of cameras, smartphones or audio/visual recording equipment is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all personal electronic devices prior to the performance. If you need to be contacted in an emergency, please leave your name and seat number with our House Manager.

Latecomers & Re-admission

The Director of each production designates moments in the show when the seating of latecomers will cause the least 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, but you can watch the performance on the monitor in our lobby.

Perfume and Cologne

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

Drinks

To cut down on plastic we have moved to glassware in the lobby. If you still wish to take your drink into the theatre please transfer it to a disposable cup, available at the bar.

Food

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

Lost and Found

Please check with our House Manager if you have lost an item in the theatre.

Script Library

Read the play before or after you see it. We have scripts of the season's plays available at the Box Office, plus a bookcase filled with Canadian plays, all for reading in the Lobby.

Lobby Touchscreen

The TV monitor in our new lobby is a touchscreen device. By touching the screen you can delve deeper into each production, learn about the artists who created the show, and much more. Give it a try.

PRE-PERFORMANCE

B4Play

Live talk shows hosted by CBC Radio's Gregor Craigie and featuring artists from the upcoming show, along with experts from the community, have been designed to provide insight into each Mainstage production. Each event, held the Saturday prior to Opening,

is free to attend and is also livestreamed on Facebook, and available as a podcast on our website.

Podcasts

Listen and download the full interviews from each B4Play, recent stories from The Flame, our storytelling series, and more at belfry.bc.ca/podcasts

Upstage Magazine

Our magazine provides insight into each Mainstage production, further enriching your experience. Upstage is available in the Lobby and on our website. Drop us a line at hello@belfry.bc.ca for an advance copy.

FOLLOWING THE PERFORMANCE

Afterplay

Following every evening Mainstage performance (except Opening Night and Talkback Thursday) we offer facilitated discussions — audience member to audience member. Stick around — these are a great opportunity to discuss the play and the ideas it contains.

Talkback Thursday

Meet the actors post-performance when they return to the stage to answer questions and provide insight into the play.

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES

VocalEye

For patrons with low or no vision, we offer one VocalEye performance during each Mainstage production. Trained Audio Describers provide descriptions of the visual elements of the show, allowing people with low vision to enjoy the theatrical experience without missing any of the details.

Hearing Assist

For patrons who are hard of hearing, the theatre is equipped with an infra-red hearing assist system. We have 6 devices available through the Box Office.

Babes in Arms and Free Childcare Performances

The Belfry is proud to produce adult contemporary theatre. Most of our productions are not suitable for young children. Sorry, we do not admit babes in arms. To help young parents experience the Belfry, we offer inexpensive tickets and free childcare on select afternoons. To book your tickets and a spot for your kids (between 3–10 years old), please call our Box Office at 250-385-6815.

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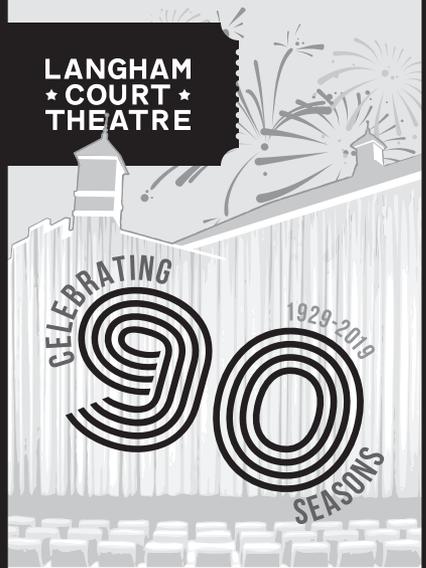
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