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PREMIERE

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By Hannah  
Moscovitch



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FROM THE  
ARTISTIC  
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FROM THE  
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Dear Patrons,

This is an extremely appropriate play to be producing at this time, and I wish that wasn't so.

Recent events remind us that hatred lives in the souls of many. Janusz Korczak, through his life and legacies, reminds us that goodness thrives in the hearts of many. Hannah Moscovitch, with her beautiful play, brings home the truth that goodness may not always win, but it will always triumph.

It is a huge honour to be producing this newly revised version of *The Children's Republic*, and to play host to Hannah Moscovitch and our acclaimed director, Christian Barry. Christian has been a frequent Belfry presence, with SPARK Festival productions including *The God That Comes* and Hannah's *The Russian Play* and *What a Young Wife Ought to Know*.

My gratitude to our remarkable cast and creative team. Welcome back to Camellia Koo (*Goodnight Desdemona*, *Good Morning Juliet*), Paul Rainville (*ART*), Simeon Sanford Blades and Lily Cave (*A Christmas Carol*), and Kerry Sandomirsky (*Skylight*, *Brilliant!*), whose return has a special meaning for me. Welcome to Belfry first-timers Kaitlin Hickey, Sophia Irene Coopman, Zander Eke, and recent arrival from Syria, Sari Alesh.

A new season, a new lobby and a new version of a play. The Belfry does so much

more than produce and perform exceptional plays by the very best Canadian professional artists. As evidenced by this season, we also invest in the development of new work, or in this case, provide a playwright the opportunity to revise an existing script. The work you support through your patronage includes the commissioning of new work, the development of new artists, the presentation of exceptional work from across the country, support for other arts organizations in the city and beyond, and our investments in this remarkable facility for your comfort and enjoyment.

Thank you for your patronage, for your donations, for your love of the Belfry. Thank you for being a lover of the arts and for being the exceptional audience you are. On behalf of the entire Belfry family we look forward to your time spent with us.

Welcome back to another new season; and for those who are experiencing it for the first time, welcome also to our newly renovated space. We look forward to you enjoying both.

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THE BELFRY THEATRE PRESENTS

# The Children's Republic

by Hannah Moscovitch

## Cast

(in alphabetical order)

Sari Alesh *Violinist*

Simeon Sanford Blades *Misha*

Lily Cave *Mettye*

Sophia Irene Coopman *Sara*

Zander Eke *Israel*

Paul Rainville *Janusz Korczak*

Kerry Sandomirsky *Stefa Wilczyńska*

*Director* Christian Barry

*Set and Costume Designer* Camellia Koo

*Lighting Designer* Kaitlin Hickey

*Stage Manager* Jennifer Swan

*Assistant Stage Manager* Sadie Fox

Please join us  
for an Afterplay  
discussion  
following this  
evening's  
performance.  
(Details page 17)

*The Children's Republic* is approximately two hours and fifteen minutes in length, including a fifteen minute intermission.

The Children's Republic is performed by arrangement with Ian Arnold, Catalyst TCM Inc. [www.catalysttcm.com](http://www.catalysttcm.com)

This new version of *The Children's Republic* was commissioned and developed by the Belfry Theatre.

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Please enjoy the performance.



## FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

*If a child has a life where cruelty has become the norm, what a powerful effect would be the memory of that person—perhaps the only one—who showed kindness, understanding and respect. The child's future life and sense of his self could take a different course, knowing there was one person who would not fail him.*

—Janusz Korczak

Heroes give their lives to something bigger than themselves. Heroes are those whose morality does not shift with their circumstances. Heroes have the shortest-lived careers.

Doctor Janusz Korczak, famed educator, pediatrician, children's author and the founder of the Polish orphanage Our Home, believed in respecting children: respecting their griefs (no matter how small) and their personhood. He believed they had a right to love and the right to be imperfect. In the midst of the bleakest circumstances, in which all morality was being evacuated from the world and millions of people were being mass exterminated, Korczak fought for the children in his orphanage. Even as he watched his life's work being obliterated by genocide and war, he fought for the dignity of children.

We were honoured to work with the acclaimed violinist Sari Alesh on this project. Sari played with the Syrian Symphony National Orchestra for six years, and participated in numerous concerts and festivals internationally, including in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Sharjah, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Germany, and Italy. He immigrated to Canada from Syria (by way of Turkey) on February 9th, 2016. It has held us to a high standard to work with Sari because of his firsthand experience of war and displacement.

I'm grateful to the Belfry Theatre and in particular Michael Shamata for inviting us to work on *The Children's Republic* in Victoria. Michael has been boundlessly generous and supportive, and his insights into the project and how to best tell this story have been extraordinary.

I'm also grateful for the participation of Zander Eke, Simeon Sanford Blades, Sophia Irene Coopman, and Lily Cave (who play Israel, Misha, Sara and Mettye) in this process. Over the course of a series of workshops as well as rehearsals, their insights and voices have helped shape the script. Thank you also to the wonderful Paul Rainville, Kerry Sandomirsky, and the previous workshop actors.

*The Children's Republic* was originally commissioned by the Great Canadian Theatre Company and Ottawa School of Speech and Drama to honour the now deceased Leon Gluzman, one of Janusz Korczak's wards.

—Hannah Moscovitch

THE CHILDREN'S REPUBLIC WORKSHOP HISTORY

**First Workshop** (October 2016) with Christian Barry, Lily Cave, Simeon Sanford Blades, Tori Farkas, Richard Newman, William Robertson and Jan Wood. Belfry Theatre, Victoria, BC.

**Second Workshop** (May 2017) with Christian Barry, Lily Cave, Simeon Sanford Blades, Sophia Irene Coopman, Kelt Eccleston, Zander Eke, Camellia Koo, Celine Stubel and Jennifer Swan. Belfry Theatre, Victoria, BC.



**Hannah Moscovitch**

Playwright

Hannah's projects for the stage include *Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story*, *East of Berlin*, *The Russian Play*, *Little One*, *This is War*, *Infinity*, *What a Young Wife Ought to Know*, *Bunny* and *In this World* (for young audiences). Her work has been produced across Canada, as well as in the United States, Britain, Ireland, Greece, Austria, Germany, Japan and Australia. She's won multiple awards and prizes for her work, including the Trillium Book Award and the international Windham-Campbell Prize administered by the Beinecke Library at Yale University. She is a playwright-in-residence at Tarragon Theatre in Toronto.



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### **Sari Alesh**

Violinist

Sari is a professional violinist. He studied at the Higher Institute of Music in Damascus, Syria and worked as a violinist with the Syrian National Symphony Orchestra. He also played many concerts in Europe and the Middle East with orchestras and with pop stars such as Fairouz and the Gorillaz band. Sari arrived in Victoria on February 9, 2016, played many fundraising concerts in support of refugees and worked with autistic children to teach them music. He also performed in the Canada Day Celebrations in both 2016 and 2017, and has performed with the University of Victoria Orchestra.



### **Simeon Sanford Blades**

Misha

Simeon Sanford Blades is extremely proud to be performing again at the Belfry Theatre. Simeon lives in Victoria, BC and attends Central Middle School. Simeon's first professional theatre experience was on stage at the Belfry at the age of seven as Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol*. Since that time, he has enjoyed participating in play workshops and performing on television in *Gracepoint*. Simeon would like to thank his Mom, Dad, Celine, his grandparents, and his brothers Benji and Noam for their love and support. He also thanks director Christian Barry for allowing him to enjoy this valuable experience.



### **Lily Cave**

Mettye

Lily loves to perform, be it singing, dancing, or acting. She first joined the Belfry in 2012, performing in *A Christmas Carol*. In 2015 she won a scholarship to New York's Broadway Artist Alliance dance program, returning in 2016 for voice. Throughout the year Lily can be seen busking downtown and singing anthems for sporting events including the Vancouver Canucks. Lily is excited to be back home at the Belfry with hopes of capturing your hearts through a shared love of live theatre.



### **Sophia Irene Coopman**

Sara

Sophia's first stage performance was "Squirrel #3". She was a natural for the role, as she can regularly be found climbing trees. She enjoys sci-fi and adventure novels and is currently writing her first novel. Sophia is thrilled to have her first dramatic role incorporate her love for music, the violin and the importance of history.



### **Zander Eke**

Israel

Zander is a 15 year old grade 11 student at Oak Bay High School. Zander loves to act in his Drama and Musical theatre classes at school, and in his free time. Recently, Zander was the lead in his drama class's production of *My Man Godfrey* and had a small role in Oak Bay Secondary's production of the musical *Legally Blonde*. He is very excited for his debut Belfry show (which is also his first professional show!)



### **Paul Rainville**

Janusz Korczak

In 2002, Paul appeared at the Belfry in *Art* by Yasmina Reza; he has also worked coast to coast in Canada. Last summer, at Halifax's Shakespeare by the Sea, he played King Lear alongside his two children. To share the stage with his kids; to live and work together, as colleagues, was so wonderful – an unexpected gift. It's a thrill too to play Janusz Korczak again, as he did in the original production at the Great Canadian Theatre Company in Ottawa. Korczak's conviction and kindness blazed; Hannah's words leapt off the page. To the memory of Mr. Leon Gluzman – a "Korczak orphan" who survived and helped to help plant the idea of celebrating Korczak's devotion and sacrifice through this play.



### **Kerry Sandomirsky**

Stefa Wilczyńska

Kerry Sandomirsky has appeared in more than 100 productions for stage and screen.

For the Belfry: *Brilliant! The Blinding Enlightenment of Nikola Tesla*, *Skylight*, and *Patience*. Recent: *Long Division* (Pi Theatre), *The Valley* (Arts Club Theatre), *Late Company* (Touchstone Theatre), *Clybourne Park* (Citadel Theatre), *When We Rise* (ABC) and Principal Meyers on *The Killing* (AMC) directed by Agnieszka Holland, who wrote the screenplay for the film *Korczak*. Selected Canadian Plays: *Communion* (Ruby Slippers), *The One That Got Away* (Electric Company/NAC), *The Retreat* (Western Canada Theatre Company), *How it Works*, *Haunted*, *Life After God*, *Unity 1918* (Touchstone). A graduate of UBC and SFU, she is on faculty at Studio 58, Langara College and Vancouver Film School. Next up: *King Arthur's Night* (Newworld Theatre / PuSh).

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### **Christian Barry**

Director

Christian is a director and theatre-maker from Halifax, and a founding member and artistic co-director of 2b theatre company. Christian is a graduate of Dalhousie University and of the directing program at the National Theatre School of Canada. Christian's productions have won multiple Dora Awards (including best production), and international awards including the prestigious Herald Angel and Edinburgh Fringe First. In addition to numerous nominations, he has won four Theatre N.S. Merritt Awards for Directing (twice), Lighting Design, and Outstanding New Play. Christian received the 2008 Halifax Mayor's award for an Emerging Artist, and the 2006-07 Urjo Kareda residency grant at the Tarragon Theatre in Toronto. Christian has directed shows that have toured across Canada and around the world. Previous shows at the Belfry SPARK Festival include *What a Young Wife Ought to Know*, *The God That Comes* and *The Russian Play*.



### **Camellia Koo**

Set and Costume Designer

Camellia Koo is a Toronto-based set and costume designer for theatre, opera, dance and site-specific performance installations. Past productions in Victoria include *Goodnight Desdemona*, *Good Morning Juliet* at the Belfry. Other collaborations include designs for Cahoots Theatre Projects, Factory Theatre, Obsidian Theatre Company, the Shaw Festival, the Stratford Festival, Tarragon Theatre, Against the Grain, Banff Centre, Ballet Jörgen, Boston Lyric Opera, the Canadian Opera Company, Edmonton Opera, Helikon Opera (Moscow), Minnesota Opera, Pacific Opera Victoria, and Tapestry New Opera. She is a graduate of Ryerson Theatre School and Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design.



### **Kaitlin Hickey**

Lighting Designer

Kaitlin is a production designer and manager based in Toronto. Recent credits include: Production Management, *Charlotte: A Tri Coloured Play with Music* (Theaturtle, World Stage Design Festival), Lighting Design, *baseline* (Adelheid Productions), Lighting and Video Design, *John & Waleed* (Cahoots Theatre and Theatre Passe Muraille), Lighting and Video Design, *The Harrowing of Brimstone McReedy* (Eldritch Theatre), Set and Lighting Design, *A Dimanche Prochain / A Sunday Affair* (Theatre New Brunswick), Production Management and Lighting Design, *Counting Sheep* (Lemon Bucket Orchestra – Edinburgh/Toronto). She is an Artistic Associate of MindLess Theatrics (St. John's, Newfoundland), a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada, and holds a B.Sc. from St. Francis Xavier University.



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**Jennifer Swan**

Stage Manager

Born and raised in Victoria, Jen is so happy to once again be Island based. This is her 13th season (over 17 years) stage managing at the Belfry. Other favourite Canadian theatres to work at include: Theatre SKAM, Electric Company Theatre, Vancouver Playhouse, Canadian Stage, Caravan Farm Theatre and Theatre Calgary. This summer she did two tours to Ontario – once with Newworld Theatre from Vancouver, and once with Juno Productions' *Jake's Gift*. She also works as Company Manager for Electric Company Theatre in Vancouver.



**Sadie Fox**

Assistant Stage Manager

Sadie has spent the last few years, and a span of eight shows, honing her Stage Management skills with the supportive Belfry team. She is so grateful, after a summer away, to return to theatreland and get to work on this moving piece. Previous credits at the Belfry include: *Gracie* (Apprentice Stage Manager), *Reverberations* (Stage Manager), *A Christmas Carol* (Apprentice Stage Manager), and *The Last Wife* (Youth Supervisor). Next, she'll be touring to the Yukon with Runaway Moon Theatre's *21 Ways to Make The World Last Longer*, which premiered at the Belfry's SPARK Festival in 2016. Long live theatre!



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Our complimentary coat check is located at the entrance to the Stewart Theatre. We are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

### **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.

### **Drinks**

To cut down on plastic we have moved to glassware in the lobby. If you 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 have purchased from the Belfry bar into the theatre. Our goodies are packaged so that they don't make a lot of noise and 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

### **BPlay**

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 at 11am on 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 [soundcloud.com/belfrytheatre](https://soundcloud.com/belfrytheatre).

### **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](mailto: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 six devices available through the Box Office.

### **Free Childcare Performances**

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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Development Coordinator	Kate Barry
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Production Manager	Alex Currie
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Audience Services Manager	Ian Gibson
Executive Director	Ivan Habel
Facilities Supervisor & Head Technician	Keith Houghton
Company Manager	Valerie Houle
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Scenic Artist	Carole Klemm
Graphic Designer	Jeff Kulak
Artistic Associate & Outreach Coordinator	Erin Macklem
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Financial Officer	Patricia O'Brien
Head of Props	Peter Pokorny
Master Carpenter	Dale Pudwell
Venue Technician	Lukas Smith
Artistic Director	Michael Shamata
Scenic Painter & Custodian	Lara Shepard
Technical Director	Gregory Smith
Development Manager	Susan Stevenson
Head of Wardrobe	Joanne Stichbury
Box Office / Front of House	Ann-Bernice Thomas
Associate Artist	Deborah Williams
Box Office Supervisor	Eryn Yaromy
Box Office Clerk	Allison Yauk
Box Office Clerk	Golnaz Zad

## BELFRY SUPPORT STAFF

B4Play Host	Gregor Craigie
B4Play Audio Technician	Ben Brysiuk
Photographers	David Cooper Emily Cooper Jo-Ann Richards Peter Pokorny
Child Supervisors	Becca Jorgensen Brendan Agnew
CREW	Hilary Britton-Foster Zoe Hibbert Aislinn Shutton
HAIR	Cristina Woods

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Email: vicarts@vicarts.com www.vicarts.com  
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## Belfry Theatre

1291 Gladstone Avenue  
Victoria, British Columbia V8T 1G5

250-385-6815 Box Office  
250-385-6835 Administration  
250-385-6336 Facsimile  
www.belfry.bc.ca

Charitable donation number 11921 5549 RR0001

The Belfry Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

# Bravo!

## 2017-18 Season Annual Fund

The following individuals have invested generously in support of Belfry Theatre artistic and educational programs.



### Director's Circle: Godsend (\$10,000+)

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**Our thanks to the 77 Believers (\$75 – \$149) and 194 Friends (up to \$74)**

As of August 16, 2017

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† Through the Victoria Foundation

‡ Our thanks to these Belfry Legacy Society Members plus a further 8 anonymous members.

## Legacy Gifts

The Belfry acknowledges the generous recent and past gifts from the estates of:

**Roger J. Bishop**  
**Shirley Mae Dawson**  
**David Neill Lee**  
**M. Grace Mersereau**  
**Margaret Seens**  
**Alan Geoffrey White**  
**Anonymous**

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, contact:

Susan Stevenson,  
Development Manager  
250-385-6835 ext. 229.

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### The Belfry Theatre is a registered Canadian charity, 11921 5549 RR0001.

The Belfry Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres, Theatre Communications Group USA, Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce and the Professional Arts Alliance of Greater Victoria.

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In Memory of Margaret Shamata

# Bravo!

The Belfry Theatre gratefully acknowledges the financial support of The Canada Council for the Arts, the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia through the British Columbia Arts Council and the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, the Capital Regional District Arts Development Office and the City of Victoria.



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