

February 21—
March 12
2017

WORLD PREMIERE



Taking Off

BY

DEBORAH WILLIAMS

Belfry
Theatre

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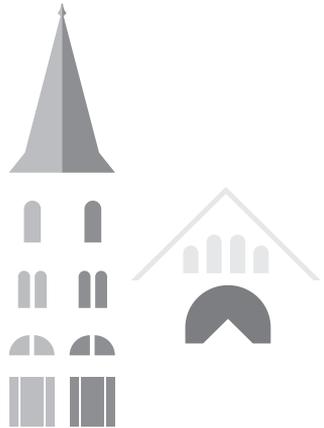
Anonymous (9)

Our thanks to the 56 individuals who have taken part in the Name a Seat campaign.

Together with our patrons, friends, sponsors, and community, and a \$340,000 grant from the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program, we have now raised more than \$600,000 – putting us closer to our \$1 Million goal. We need you to help support the Belfry Capital Campaign for improved patron comfort and accessibility.

With your help, we can reach \$1 Million!

† Through the Victoria Foundation
As of February 3, 2017



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



Canada

THE BELFRY THEATRE PRESENTS

Taking Off

*Written and Performed by
Deborah Williams*

*Director James Fagan Tait
Set Designer Carole Klemm
Costume Designer Erin Macklem
Lighting Designer Bryan Kenney
Sound Designer Malcolm Dow
Stage Manager Jessica Schacht*

Taking Off was developed and workshopped by the Belfry Theatre.

Taking Off is approximately 90 minutes in length
including one fifteen minute intermission.

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

TAKING OFF IS GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY:

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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.



FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

It is a huge pleasure to welcome you to Deborah Williams' play *Taking Off*. Deborah is a very important part of the Belfry family – as a writer, an actress, an Associate Artist, an Assistant Director, a teacher, a story-teller, a host, and the producer of *The Flame*. For years, she has been my eyes and ears in Vancouver, catching interesting plays and exciting new artists when I couldn't make it over there. For years she has been my friend and colleague.

This play has been percolating for a number of years. Now, under the masterful guidance of James Fagan Tait, another Belfry favourite, Deborah and her play are on this stage, designed by the exceptional Carole Klemm, in a costume designed by the treasured Erin Macklem, under lights by the brilliant Bryan Kenney, with supportive sound created by Malcolm Dow .

I am very happy. I hope you will be, too!

Michael

FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

I got an email from an old friend a while back who shared "I've been doing this therapy and I'm supposed to look at pruning my relationships. Start cutting people out of my life. I wanted you to know that you're not on the brush pile yet but your branch is definitely being examined."

My reaction to this note was outrage and hurt. Which soon turned to delight as I realized that this woman was doing exactly what I wanted to. I'd been toying with the idea of pulling up anchor on my friendship for a while. And not because some trendy therapist told me to, but because since I've had children and a career and a husband and a falling down character home, volunteer commitments etc, etc, I am overwhelmed with the responsibility of having so many people in my life. Too many chats, and outings, phone calls and invitations. Too many surprise 50th birthday parties and progressive potluck dinners.

I used to talk to most of my friends several times a week but now I forget until I trip over them in my contact list, Facebook or at some goat cheese centered function every 2nd year. "I've missed you. We really should get together." And I mean it because we've shared years of history and layers of intimacy. Shared things that fuse people for a lifetime like apartments, eating disorders and boyfriends. But the planned luncheon gets moved because of a work schedule or biopsy, then put off until "after the holidays" and finally just doesn't happen. My friendship has become a guilt filled galleon. Thus began *Taking Off*. I am so grateful to the brilliant Jimmy Tait and Michael Shamata, Ivan Habel and the entire staff of the Belfry Theatre who have supported me through the process of writing this show. The Belfry is a wonderful place for an artist to feel at home.

Deborah Williams



Photo by
Peter Pokorny

FROM THE DIRECTOR

One person shows are the oldest form of theatre: storytelling at the kitchen table, embodying the characters as you go. Deb Williams is a great, great story teller, actress and playwright. Tonight (or this afternoon), she will get up before us and take us through “Minnie’s” world, using a chair, miming things, taking on a few characters, but mostly taking our imaginations by the hand and never letting go... and smiling and feeling the whole way. Enjoy, as I have during our joyous rehearsal.

James Fagan Tait

Creative Team



Deborah Williams

Playwright/Actor

Deb Williams is a multi-award winning actress, producer, playwright, comedian and one of the creators of the *Mom's the Word* plays, the latest installment of which is opening in Vancouver this April. Deb has been the Belfry's Associate Artist for the past three seasons, and she was last on the Belfry Mainstage as Sonia in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. She is the co-creator, producer and host of The Flame in Vancouver, a monthly storytelling event, TV special and radio show. Deb launched the successful Victoria incarnation of The Flame three years ago, which she facilitates and hosts semi-annually, in conjunction with story-telling workshops. This season, Deb was Michael Shamata's assistant director on *Mom's the Word*, *I Think I'm Fallin': The Songs of Joni Mitchell*, and his Soulpepper production of *A Christmas Carol*. Next season, she will make her professional directing debut at Carousel Theatre in Vancouver. For the past 30 years, Deb has worked on stages across Canada, is a Studio 58 grad, a community activist, event planner, gardener, knitter, a wife and proud mother of a couple of wonderful adults.



James Fagan Tait
Director

At the Belfry, Jimmy has been a part of *21 Ways to Make the World Last Longer* (Director/Co-Playwright/Actor), *Helen's Necklace* (Director), *The Life Inside* (Director/Playwright), *Half Life* (Director), and *The Hostage* (Actor). At the Canadian College of Performing Arts, he has directed *Our Town*, *Marat/Sade*, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, *Zorba*, and he directed *Joan* for Theatre SKAM. In Vancouver, he received a Jessie Award for Best Director for *Crime and Punishment* and one for Best New Play for *Devil Box Cabaret*. Next spring, he will direct his new play *The Explanation* for the frank theatre company at The Cultch. He is grateful to Michael Shamata for the opportunity to work with Deborah Williams on her beautiful play with this beautiful team and to be back at the Belfry.



Carole Klemm
Set Designer

Carole is delighted to be back designing for the Belfry Theatre and working with Jimmy Tait. Previous work here includes the sets for *Helen's Necklace*, *Big Mama*, *Mesa*, *Trying*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, *Skylight* and *Atlantis*. Recent set designs elsewhere include *Here* for William Head On Stage and *Social Studies* for Prairie Theatre Exchange, Winnipeg. She has designed and painted sets for Manitoba Theatre Centre, Chemainus Theatre Festival, Theatre SKAM, Blue Bridge Theatre, Kaleidoscope Theatre, Western Canada Theatre Company, the New Play Centre, Studio 58 and others.



Erin Macklem
Costume Designer

Erin is a French-Irish-Métis designer and playwright, and the Artistic Associate and Outreach Coordinator for the Belfry Theatre. She has been privileged to live on the traditional lands of the Lekwungen people since moving here to pursue her BFA in Theatre at UVic in 1994. Favourite past designs for the Belfry include *Urinetown: The Musical*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *The Valley*. She was part of the design team representing Canada in the international competition of scenography – The Prague Quadrennial 2015. *This Little Light*, her musical written with composer Brad L'Écuyer, premiered at the Belfry in 2016, and her next play, *Blue Beads & Blueberries*, was commissioned by Story Theatre Co. and will tour schools in 2017-18.



Bryan Kenney
Lighting Designer

Bryan is a Vancouver-based designer and has worked across Canada doing set, lighting, and projection design. He is excited to be returning to beautiful Victoria and the Belfry once again. Recent credits for the Belfry include: *This Little Light*, *Mom's The Word*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Helen's Necklace* and *on the edge*. Other credits include: *Miss Understood* (frank theatre), *Faulty Towers*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *The Rocky Horror Show* (Capilano University), *Patron Saint of Stanley Park* (Halifax Theatre for Young People), *Trojan Women*, *Steel Magnolias* (Douglas College), *Boeing Boeing* (Keyano Theatre), *Anne and Gilbert: The Musical* (Anne and Gilbert Inc), and *Lion in the Streets* (University of Victoria). Bryan is also an Assistant Lighting Designer for the Stratford Festival.



Malcolm Dow
Sound Designer

Malcolm is an award-winning composer and sound designer, and is thrilled to be doing his first stint at the Belfry! Based in Vancouver, his work keeps him busy in the local theatre community, but he also tours as a musician, and writes and produces his own music, under the name Memoria Futura. Select theatre credits include: *Pericles* and the *Comedy of Errors* (Bard on the Beach), *The Graduate* and *Scar Tissue* (Arts Club Theatre), *Angels in America* (Studio 58), *Equivocation* (Persephone Theatre), *Selfie* and *Deux Ans de Votre Vie* (Theatre la Seizieme), *Of Mice and Men* (Hardline Productions), *Play with Monsters* and *After Jerusalem* (Solo Collective Theatre), *I Wish* and *Cat Killer* (Presentation House Theatre).



Jessica Schacht
Stage Manager

Jessica is thrilled to be helping to bring this wonderful show to life among such a talented team of creators. Recent credits at the Belfry include *This Little Light* and, as Assistant Stage Manager, *The Last Wife*, *The Valley*, and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Up next she will be Assistant Stage Managing Urban Ink's world premiere of *Children of God*, and making her directorial debut at the Vancouver Fringe Festival with her play *Adult Company* this fall. Jessica is a student member of the Playwrights Guild of Canada and the Playwrights Theatre Centre, and the apprentice dramaturge for TheatreOne's Emerging Voices series. Born and raised on Vancouver Island, she now calls the Cowichan Valley home.

Belfry Theatre Staff

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<i>Audience Services Manager</i>	Ian Gibson
<i>Executive Director</i>	Ivan Habel
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<i>Scenic Artist</i>	Carole Klemm
<i>Graphic Designer</i>	Jeff Kulak
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<i>Technical Director</i>	Gregory Smith
<i>Development Manager</i>	Susan Stevenson
<i>Head of Wardrobe</i>	Joanne Stichbury
<i>Associate Artist</i>	Deborah Williams
<i>Box Office Clerk</i>	Eryn Yaromy
<i>Box Office Clerk</i>	Allison Yauk
<i>Box Office & Front of House</i>	Golnaz Zad

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

Charitable donation number: 11921 5549 RR0001

Bravo!

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



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As of January 27, 2017

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