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FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to the start of a new season! *The Children* focuses on three old friends—and so many of you reading this are long-time friends of the Belfry. We have travelled together through so many different stories and states of mind, that we now have a shared history together.

I also have a shared history with the three remarkable actors onstage in *The Children*. Nancy Palk was in the first professional production I directed; I met Brenda Robins in Vancouver in 1981, and first worked with her in 1990 when I was running Theatre New Brunswick; and Joseph Ziegler, in addition to our many other productions together, has played Ebenezer Scrooge for almost 20 years in the Toronto production of *A Christmas Carol*—the same adaptation we do here.

Together with our creative team—Christina Poddubiuk, Alan Brodie, Tobin Stokes and Jacques Lemay—there is a lot of theatrical history on stage in this production! Thrillingly, we are all here in aid of the beautiful writing and affecting content created by the 32-year old Lucy Kirkwood (now an ancient 35!) Her play deals with our responsibility to the generations coming behind us—but what she is ultimately writing about is Life.

May this season at the Belfry bring you joy, new perspectives and food for thought!

With sincere respect—



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As each season starts, we also start the planning processes for the next. Each season brings new opportunities and new plans for the future of your theatre company. The loyalty of our audiences and donors does not simply provide value for today but allows us to continue to constantly plan for the future. Donations from patrons support not only the productions and activities of today, but of the future of the Belfry and its future patrons.

The Belfry has just completed renewal of our strategic plan which envisions expanded programming, new ways to lessen our impact on the environment, on-going improvements to our facility, and greater connection to local, provincial and national communities. This is our vision for the future and the future leaders of this jewel of a company.

As part of that vision, we will also continue to invest in future Canadian playwrights and plays. The Belfry has a long history of developing new Canadian plays. In recent days we have been the beneficiary of a gift from the family of the late Violet Armstrong to support new play development over several years. We are hoping to use this gift to encourage matching contributions in order to sustain the development of new work over an extended period of time. If you're interested in learning more please contact Susan Stevenson or Kate Barry.

**FROM THE
REHEARSAL HALL**

Photography by
Peter Pokorny

Carissa Sams and Jennifer Swan



Brenda Robins



**Joseph Ziegler and
Brenda Robins**

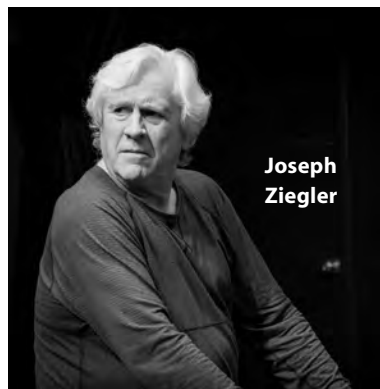


Nancy Palk

**Carissa
Sams**



**Joseph
Ziegler**



Michael Shamata and Joseph Ziegler



**Nancy
Palk**



THE BELFRY THEATRE PRESENTS

The Children

by Lucy Kirkwood

Starring

Nancy Palk *Hazel*

Brenda Robins *Rose*

Joseph Ziegler *Robin*

Director Michael Shamata

Set & Costume Designer Christina Poddubiuk

Lighting Designer Alan Brodie

Composer & Sound Designer Tobin Stokes

Stage Manager Jennifer Swan

Assistant Stage Manager Carissa Sams

Choreographer Jacques Lemay

Dialect Coach Adrienne Smook

Assistant Director Molly McDowell-Powlowski*

The Children is approximately one hour and forty minutes with no intermission.

**Christina Poddubiuk's participation is supported
by a generous gift from Fiona Hunter.**

*Molly McDowell-Powlowski's participation made possible through the Belfry's Emerging Artist Enhancement Program, funded by the RBC Emerging Artists Project.

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The Vi Armstrong Play Creation Fund

The Belfry is always active in developing new plays. Our role takes many forms – dramaturgy, workshops and readings – and each aspect requires some financial investment.

We are grateful to have received a gift for new play creation from the estate of long-time Belfry supporter Vi Armstrong (1918-2018).

Vi's family has asked us to honour her gift with a request to you. They would like to treble the gift so that new play development is sustained at the Belfry in perpetuity.



If you support new play development, or you had the pleasure of knowing Vi Armstrong, we encourage you to make a gift to help build the The Vi Armstrong Play Creation Fund (every dollar you give goes straight toward new play development).

Contact: Susan Stevenson
Director of Development
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ACTING COMPANY



Nancy Palk Hazel

Nancy and her husband Joe Ziegler last performed at the Belfry in 1980, in *Da*. She is a Founding Member of Soulpepper Theatre in Toronto, acting in *August Osage County*, *Innocence Lost*, *A Tender Thing*, *Angels in America*, *Ghosts*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Hamlet*, *A Winter's Tale*, and *King Lear*. Her directing credits include *White Biting Dog*, *True West* and *The Gigli Concert*. Nancy has performed at Tarragon, Stratford, Shaw, and in NYC. She has taught at NTS, Tarragon and Soulpepper. Film/TV credits include *Keeley and Du*, *The Other Half*, and *Rogue*.



Brenda Robins Rose

Brenda is thrilled to be returning to the fabulous Belfry Theatre, having appeared in *4000 Miles* this past spring. Selected theatre credits include *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Belfry Theatre), *Grace* (Nightwood Theatre), *Escaped Alone*, *A Delicate Balance*, *Noises Off*, *King Lear*, *Faith Healer* (Soulpepper Theatre), *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Citadel, RMT, Grand Theatre), *The Lion in Winter* (Grand), *August: Osage County*, *The Constant Wife* (Citadel), *Doubt*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (Centaur), *Private Lives* (Grand, Canadian Stage), *Death and the Maiden*, and *Hedda Gabler* (Vancouver Playhouse). Brenda co-adapted the scripts for *Picture This* and for the award-winning *Parfumerie*, for Soulpepper Theatre. She is the recipient of Dora, Sterling and Jessie Awards.



Joseph Ziegler Robin

Joseph has over 40 years of experience in theatre, film and television, and is widely recognized as an accomplished director and actor. He began his career in theatre and has worked on over five dozen stage productions including Soulpepper's *The Time of Your Life*, *Death Of A Salesman* and *Twelve Angry Men*. His work on film spans a wide variety of genres, from *The Mathew Sheppard Story* (2002) and *Amreeka* (2009) to acclaimed television series *Black Harbour* (1996–1999) and *Side Effects* (1994–1996). He is also a winner of the 2008 and 2011 Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Performance by a Male.

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Aspen Santa Fe Ballet in *Where We Left Off*. Photo © Sharen Bradford – The Dancing Image 2018

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CREATIVE TEAM



Lucy Kirkwood Playwright

Lucy Kirkwood is an East London born playwright. She won the PMA award in 2006. She is a writer on the Channel 4 programme *Skins* and is currently resident writer at Clean Break theatre company. Her first full professional production, *Tinderbox*, was directed by Josie Rourke and performed at the Bush Theatre, London, in 2008. Her adaption of Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*, entitled *Hedda*, was directed by Carrie Cracknell and performed at the Gate Theatre later that year. She is currently working on a Sloan commission for the Manhattan Theatre Club and a full-length one-woman show for Clean Break, as well as various television and film projects.



Christina Poddubiuk Set & Costume Designer

Christina returns to the Belfry, having previously designed *A Doll's House, Part 2*, *Venus in Fur* and *A Tender Thing*. Recent credits include *Private Lives*, *Julius Caesar* (Stratford Festival) and *La Traviata* for a five-city Canadian tour. Other theatres: *Romeo and Juliet*, *John Gabriel Borkman*, *Phèdre* (also A.C.T.) and many others for the Stratford Festival. For the Shaw Festival, *Pygmalion*, *Faith Healer*, *Come Back Little Sheba*, *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, *Major Barbara*, *The Heiress* and others. *The Wars* for the Grand Theatre (London, Ontario); several productions at Soulpepper including *The Fantasticks*, *Travesties* and *Mary Stuart*; and *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Othello*, and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Chicago Shakespeare). Opera includes *Don Quichotte* and *Béatrice et Bénédict* (Canadian Opera Company), and *Lucia de Lammermoor*, *Tosca* and *Capriccio* (Pacific Opera Victoria).



Alan Brodie Lighting Designer

Alan is delighted to return to the Belfry, where his credits include *Mustard*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Alice Munro Stories*, *I Think I'm Fallin': The Songs of Joni Mitchell*, *Equivocation*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *The Syringa Tree*, *Mary's Wedding*, *When We Were Singing*, *The Drawer Boy*, *Two*, *Skylight*, *Come Rain or Come Shine*, *Anatol* and *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid*. A member of the Associated Designers of Canada, Alan lives in Vancouver with his wife Michele. He was a 2016 MFA directing grad of the Phoenix at UVic and he recently directed *The Drawer Boy* for Ensemble Theatre Company and *Wit* for Peninsula Productions. www.alanbrodie.ca



Tobin Stokes Composer & Sound Designer

Tobin is honoured to be back at his favourite theatre this season. Since the late 80s he's been lurking here as a performer, arranger, musical director, composer and/or sound designer for various productions. Musical projects at the Belfry have featured the music of Leonard Cohen, Patsy Cline, Harry Chapin, Joni Mitchell, and his own opera, *The Vinedressers*. Besides opera and music for theatre, he writes music for choirs, orchestra, and television. Last year Tobin's first play, *Trust Me*, (performed in the Belfry's belfry stairwell) almost sold out at the SPARK Festival.

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CREATIVE TEAM



Jennifer Swan Stage Manager

This is Jen's 15th season (over 20 years) stage managing at the Belfry. Other favourite Canadian theatres to work at include: Theatre Calgary, Electric Company Theatre, Vancouver Playhouse, Canadian Stage, Caravan Farm Theatre and Theatre SKAM. This winter she is thrilled to be stage managing *The Louder We Get* at Theatre Calgary. She also works as Company Manager for Electric Company Theatre in Vancouver.



Carissa Sams Assistant Stage Manager

Carissa is thrilled to be back at the Belfry Theatre. She has travelled from Calgary, Alberta and is very happy to be back on the island, even with the spiders. Her credits include: Stage Manager – *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *As You Like it*, *Hamlet* (Shakespeare by the Bow, Theatre Calgary), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (SITP), *Smoke* (Downstage), and *The Good Bride* (Handsome Alice). Assistant Stage Manager – *A Doll's House, Part 2* (Belfry Theatre), *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *The Humans*, *Skylight*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Bad Jews* (Theatre Calgary), *The 39 Steps*, *Our Man in Havana* (Vertigo Theatre). Apprentice Stage Manager – *Dear Johnny Deere*, *One Man Two Guvnors* (Theatre Calgary), *BOOM!* (One Yellow Rabbit, Theatre Calgary), *I'll Be Back Before Midnight*, *The Haunting*, *In the Heat of the Night* (Vertigo), *The Surrogate* (Lunchbox Theatre).



Jacques Lemay Choreographer

Jacques is a celebrated Producer/ Director/ Choreographer/ Fight Director of operas, ballets, concerts, musicals, multi-cultural productions, royal galas, variety shows, and tv productions. He has directed and choreographed hundreds of productions across Canada the USA, Japan and Europe. He is a former Artistic Director of the Charlottetown Festival. He was Artistic Director and Senior Choreographer of the Calgary Olympics Opening Ceremonies; Producer/Artistic director of the Victoria Commonwealth Games; Special Olympics World Winter Games; Canada Summer and Winter Games; Opening Ceremonies of Confederation Bridge; Artistic Director of six Royal Visits and Creative Advisor for the Vancouver Olympics Opening and Closing Ceremonies. He is co-founder of the Canadian College of Performing Arts.



Molly McDowell-Powlowski* Assistant Director

Molly graduated from UVic's Phoenix Theatre this spring with a focus in Directing and Applied Theatre. Her recent credits include *Fake News*, Phoenix Theatre's *Trojan Women*, *Vino Buono's While You Sleep* at the Vancouver Fringe, Victoria Fringe Festival's *Ernie and Bethy* and *Daddy Issues*, and the Belfry's New Play Cabaret (2018) and *The Lonelies* Mini Play (2019) at the SPARK Festival. Molly is thrilled to have been able to learn from Michael and the incredible cast, creative team, and crew while working on *The Children*.

*Participation made possible through the Belfry's Emerging Artist Enhancement Program, funded by the RBC Emerging Artists Project.



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AUDIENCE INFORMATION

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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 Sponsored by ArtSEE Eyewear

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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Bravo!

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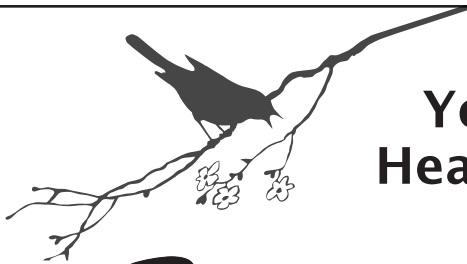
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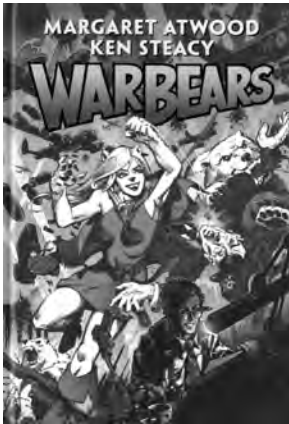
Atwood Illustrated

September 26 - October 8, 2019

**An exhibition and sale of signed illustrations
of Margaret Atwood's graphic novels
War Bears, The Handmaid's Tale and *Angel Catbird*.**

Opening Reception with a special guest appearance
by Margaret Atwood;
artists Ken Steacy, Renee Nault & Johnnie Christmas
will be in attendance

September 28, 2019 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.



(Note: There will be **NO** book signing by Ms. Atwood)

These contemporary artists / illustrators have collaborated with Margaret Atwood to introduce visual dynamism to her literature.

This exhibition invites both visual and literary connoisseurs to acquire illustrations of these graphic novels.



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