Neptune THEATRE

JEREMY WEBB artistic director

THE LAST WIFE

BY KATE HENNIG

DIRECTED BY NATASHA MACLELLAN

SEPTEMBER 10 - OCTOBER 6, 2019

FEATURING STEPHANIE MACDONALD

INDOCHINO MADE TO MEASURE

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Neptune THEATRE

JEREMY WEBB artistic director

WORLD PREMIERE

Pleasureville

WRITTEN BY ELLEN DENNY

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PLEASUREVILLE PACKS A LOT OF HEART
AS ITS CHARACTERS LEARN TO CLAIM THEIR
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Neptune THEATRE

Presents:

THE LAST WIFE

BY KATE HENNIG

DIRECTED BY NATASHA MACLELLAN

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This production has an approximate running time of 2 hours and 30 minutes including a 20-minute intermission.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

The Last Wife is staged by arrangement with Emma Laird, GGA, "http://www.ggagency.ca" www.ggagency.ca.

The Last Wife was originally produced by the Stratford Festival of Stratford, Ontario, and premièred there on August 14, 2015. Antoni Cimolino, Artistic Director & Anita Gaffney, Executive Director.

Neptune Theatre gratefully acknowledges the support of

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CAST

(Order of Appearance)

Stephanie MacDonald ..... Kate
David Patrick Flemming ..... Thom
Jodee Richardson ..... Henry
Lesley Smith ..... Mary/Fight Captain
Koumbie ..... Bess
Isaac Neaves ..... Eddie

CREATIVE TEAM

Natasha MacLellan ..... Director
Alexis Milligan ..... Movement Director
Katherine Jenkins-Ryan ..... Set Designer
Janet MacLellan ..... Costume Designer
Ingrid Risk ..... Lighting Designer
Aaron Collier ..... Sound Designer/Composer
Heather Lewis ..... Stage Manager
June Zinck ..... Assistant Stage Manager
Michelle Langille ..... Assistant Director (Chrysalis Participant)
Olivia McGinn ..... Assistant Lighting Designer (Chrysalis Participant)
Alexander Sinclair ..... Assistant Sound Designer (Chrysalis Participant)

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Welcome to Neptune Theatre for the first Fountain Hall show of the 2019-2020 season. We're excited to bring you into a world of elegance, power and royalty.

In addition to examining patriarchy, sexual politics and women's rights, this spirited tale also showcases the luxurious lifestyle of its regal characters. Our talented creative team has constructed captivating visual and audio elements to beautifully capture the mood and perspective of this powerful play.

Among the many sophisticated designs, the set, created by Katherine Jenkins-Ryan, is a demonstration of streamlined elegance, incorporating wonderful technological and engineering feats executed by Neptune's amazing production team. Also, the Couture-inspired costumes, designed by Janet MacLellan, have provided the wardrobe team with the opportunity to further share their incredible skill and craftsmanship with the audience.

This season is full of impactful stories of empowerment, perseverance and triumph. Live theatre has the ability to take audiences on an cathartic journey. Now is a good time to continue to "Get Hooked" and experience the emotional journey that can only be found inside of a playhouse. There are still a number of great, flexible subscription packages available.

We hope to see you enjoying the magic on both stages this season.

Rebecca Hiltz LeBlanc
President, Neptune Theatre Foundation

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JEREMY WEBB artistic director

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Two years ago, over a coffee, director Natasha MacLellan pitched me a play I had not seen. She told me how good it was and told me 'if you ever program it, I would jump at the chance to direct it.' I went away and dug up a copy of *The Last Wife* and agreed with her enthusiasm. I actually tried to program it for last season, but couldn't squeeze it in. I am delighted to welcome Natasha and the script she pitched as the first show in this season. She has assembled a dynamic and strong team.

A contemporary retelling of the compelling relationship between Katherine Parr and Henry VIII, *The Last Wife* is a intriguing, powerful examination of patriarchy, sexual politics, and women's rights.

Kate Parr is smart, confident, and passionate: a rising star in a world of intense competition. But her obligatory marriage to Henry is rife with the threat of violence and lure of deceit; her secret liaisons with Thom, her husband's former brother-in-law, could send her to an early grave; and her devotion to the education and equal rights of Henry's daughters is putting an even bigger strain on her marriage. Does Kate risk her life to gain authority in both her relationship and her political career? Which love will she be led to if she follows her heart? And what kind of future is there for her children if she makes a crucial mistake?

I was so taken with this piece of theatre. It has such a classic flavour but with such a modern edge to it. I hope you enjoy the skilled performances of this wonderful cast and the creative design that the team has put together. Welcome to the 2019-20 season. There's so much more to come this year at Neptune Theatre. As I write this message we are already reading plays for the 2020-21 season (which we will announce on February 14th, 2020.)

See you at the theatre.

Jeremy Webb
Artistic Director
jwebb@neptunetheatre.com

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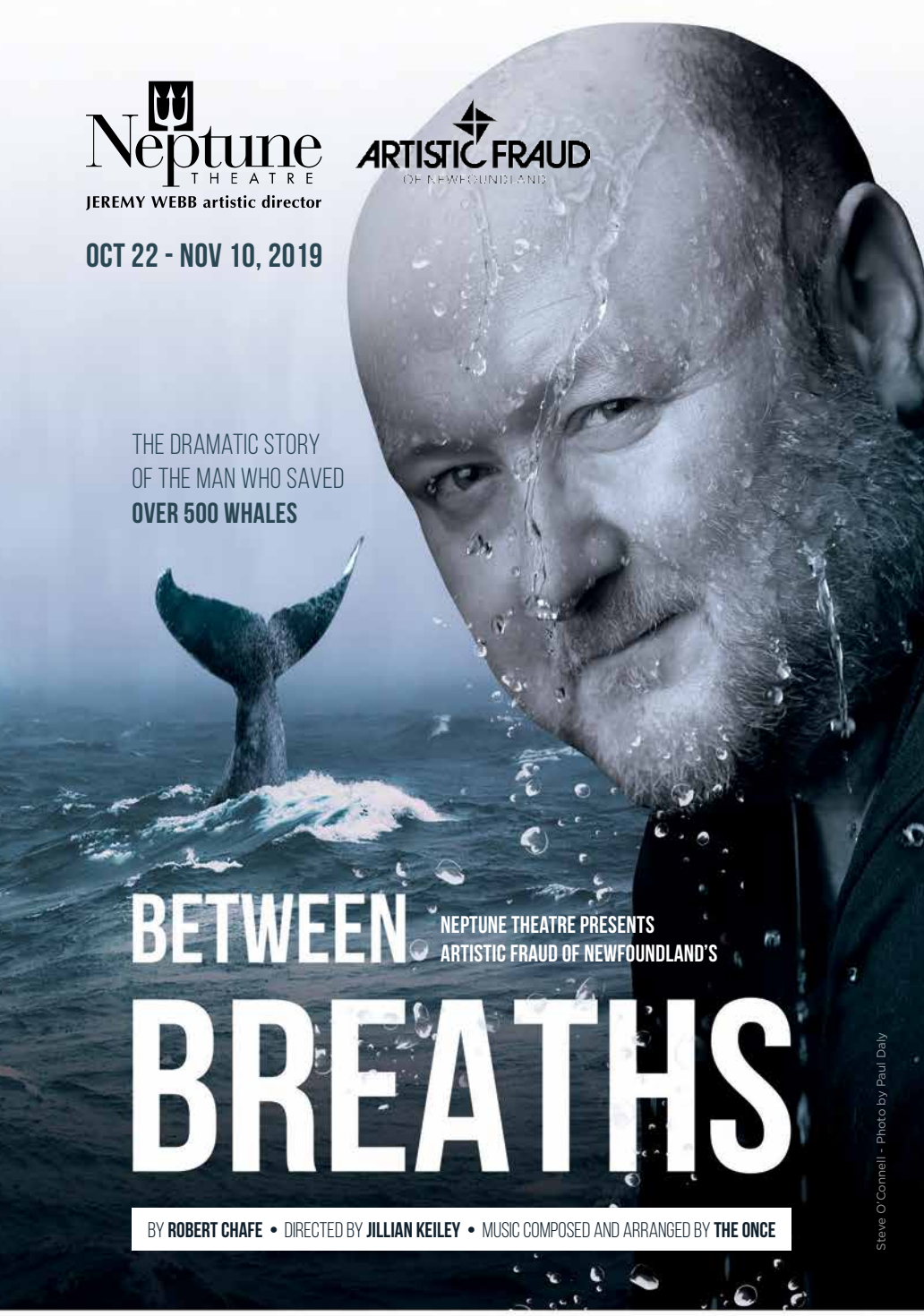
Neptune THEATRE
JEREMY WEBB artistic director

ARTISTIC FRAUD OF NEWFOUNDLAND

OCT 22 - NOV 10, 2019



THE DRAMATIC STORY
OF THE MAN WHO SAVED
OVER 500 WHALES

BETWEEN BREATHS

NEPTUNE THEATRE PRESENTS
ARTISTIC FRAUD OF NEWFOUNDLAND'S

BY **ROBERT CHAFE** • DIRECTED BY **JILLIAN KEILEY** • MUSIC COMPOSED AND ARRANGED BY **THE ONCE**

Steve O'Connell - Photo by Paul Daly

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Hello and welcome to Neptune for another season full of dynamic and engaging theatre. We're delighted to begin the season with *The Last Wife*.

The care, craftsmanship and skills of the many artisans who work at Neptune is on full display in this play. The creative team, spearheaded by director Natasha MacLellan, brings together a powerhouse team of outstanding designers, including a core of inspiring women.

Last season Neptune began honouring contributions of its past artistic directors. This year we will applaud the contributions of several ADs including Linda Moore, a pioneering woman who took the theatre to new heights—both on and off the stage.

We are also thrilled to applaud the accomplishments of our staff. Artistic Associate Annie Valentina who will direct the world premiere of *Pleasureville*, and our Theatre School Administrator Julia Topple, who will take centre stage in a leading role in the same production.

This season marks the final term for the incredible Rebecca Hiltz LeBanc as president of the Neptune Theatre Foundation. I hope you will join me in thanking Rebecca as we congratulate her on her enduring contributions to Neptune and the arts in Nova Scotia.

I look forward to sharing more details with you about the amazing season ahead.

Lisa Bugden
General Manager

Neptune THEATRE

JEREMY WEBB artistic director

November 26, 2019 – January 5, 2020

PETER PAN

A musical comedy for the whole family!

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Choreography by **Stephanie Graham**
Musical Direction by **Lisa St. Clair**

Brandon Antonio as Peter Pan, **Kelly Holiff** as Hook
and **Julie Lumsden** as Wendy

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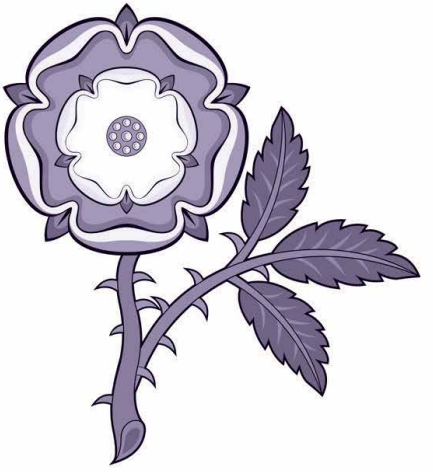
Hailed as "lively, contemporary, unapologetic" by *The Globe and Mail, The Last Wife* is a modern-day telling of the compelling relationship between King Henry VIII and his last wife, Katherine Parr; a union rife with the threat of violence and the lure of deceit.

A secret relationship and Katherine's steadfast fight for the education and equal rights of her stepdaughters puts her life on the line. This spirited and powerful play challenges the status quo through the eyes of modern-day royals in a world of elegance and power.

Written by Kate Hennig, *The Last Wife* first premiered to a sold out audience at the Stratford Festival in 2015 and has since enjoyed productions throughout Canada and the United States.



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STEPHANIE MACDONALD

Role: Kate **Neptune:** *Snake in the Grass.* **Other Theatre:** *New Magic Valley Fun Town* (Tarragon Theatre & Prairie Theatre Exchange); *Tom at the Farm* (Workshirt Opera); *Watching Glory Die, Small Things* (Mulgrave Road Theatre); *Nothing Less!, Dream By Fire, Liberation Days, Mary Celeste by fire* (Two Planks and a Passion); *Marion Bridge* (Valley Summer Theatre); *The Weekend Healer, Communion* (KAZAN CO-OP/NAC); *Talk Sexxxy, Short Skirt Butch* (LAP PRO); *The Boat* (Theatre New Brunswick); *This is Nowhere* (Zuppa Theatre). **Other:** Twitter: @stefunnymacd Instagram: @stefmacdonald

DAVID PATRICK FLEMMING

Role: Thom Seymour **Neptune:** *Annie, What A Young Wife Ought to Know.* **Other Recent Theatre:** *Romeo and Juliet/ A Midsummer's Night Dream* (Canadian Stage); *What A Young Wife Ought To Know* (2b Theatre co-production with Crow's Theatre, GCTC, The Grand Theatre); *Orphans* (Coal Mine Theatre); *Bunny* (Stratford Festival); *A City* (Necessary Angel); *Beyond the Cuckoo's Nest* (YPT); *Two Gents, Cymbeline's Reign* (Shakespeare in The Ruff); *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (Citadel Theatre); *The Apology* (Alberta Theatre Projects); *Highway 63* (Prince Edward County Playhouse); 2 seasons with Shakespeare by the Sea. **Film/TV:** *Easy Land* (TIFF Premier 2019), *Frankie Drake* (CBC), *Suits* (USA Network), *Slasher* (Netflix), *Reign* (CW Network), *Conviction* (CTV), *The Strain* (FX), *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC), *The Listener* (CTV).

JODEE RICHARDSON

Role: Henry **Neptune:** *Oil and Water*, *Colony of Unrequited Dreams* (Artistic Fraud). **Other:** Very happy to be working on this project with this fantastic cast and crew.

LESLEY SMITH

Role: Mary/Fight Captain **Neptune:** *Intimate Apparel.* **Other Theatre:** *This is Nowhere, At This Hour* (Zuppa Theatre); *Strawberries in January* (Live Bait); *Constellations* (Keep Good Theatre); *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* (Valley Summer Theatre); *The San Family* (San Family Productions); *Ash* (Forerunner Playwrights); *L: a Fragmentation Subway Waltz, Some Sunny Day, On the Verge, Honey & Jupiter* (Once Upon a Theatre Collective). **Film/TV:** *The Child Remains* (Malefic Films); *Let's Get Physical* (POP). **Other:** Thanks to my friends and family—especially my mom and dad, Glenna and Colin—for all of their love and support.

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KOUMBIE

Role: Bess **Neptune:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** *At This Hour* (Zuppa Theatre Co.); *SLUT: The Play* (Luna Sea Theatre); *Once: Africville Stories* (Voices); *What to Expect When You Aren't Expected* (Annie Valentina). **Film/TV:** *Diggstown S1-S2* (CBC); *Addison S1-S2* (CBC); *Mr. D S1-S6* (CBC); *Studio Black! S1-S2* (CBC); *Sex & Violence S3* (OutTv); *Aquateam S1* (YTV); *Black Cop* (Cory Bowles). **Other:** So grateful to be making my mainstage debut with this show and this team. Twitter/Instagram: @Koumbie

ISAAC NEAVES

Role: Eddie **Neptune:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** Isaac has enjoyed being a part of a musical theatre group and studying several shows with Upstage Studios in Dartmouth, NS. **Other:** When not living his dream of being on stage, Isaac's passions are writing, singing and training as a competitive gymnast.

The *Last Wife's* cast and creative team pose for a photo.

THE LAST FIVE YEARS

WRITTEN AND COMPOSED BY **JASON ROBERT BROWN** | DIRECTED BY **MARCIA KASH**

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NATASHA MACLELLAN

Role: Director **Other Neptune:** Young Company, Box Office, Front of House, Theatre School Instructor. **Other Theatre:** *A Brief History of The Maritimes and Everywhere Else* (TNB); *No Man Is An Island* (ARC); *Pugwash, The Romeo Initiative, The Sister Salter Mystery Trilogy* (Ship's Company); *The Pillowman* (Fuller Terrace Five); *Brightest Red To Blue, Miss Right Now* (Forerunner Playwrights Theatre). **Other:** Natasha is a co-founder of Forerunner Playwrights Theatre; was the Artistic Producer of Ship's Company Theatre for six seasons and is currently the Artistic Director of Theatre New Brunswick. She sits on the board of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres.

KATHERINE RYAN

Role: Set Designer **Neptune:** *In a World Created by a Drunken God*, *Drowning Girls*. **Other Theatre:** Recent design credits include: *Real Estate* (Victoria Playhouse); *Any Given Moment* (Ships Company Theatre); *Speaking in Tongues, Pageant* (DMV Theatre Company); *How Small, How Far Away, Uncle Oscar's Experiment* (Zuppa Theatre). **Training:** BA in Technical Scenography (Dalhousie University), MFA in Theatrical Design (University of Alberta). **Other:** Katherine is a set and costume designer based in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Love and appreciation go to her Friends and Family.

JANET E. MACLELLAN

Role: Costume Designer **Neptune:** *Small Things*, *BINGO!* (a co-production with Mulgrave Road Theatre); *A Beautiful View*, *Communion* (a co-production with KAZAN & (NAC); *Marion Bridge* (a co-production VST); *Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)*. **Other Theatre:** *His Greatness*, *Best Brothers, Stacey & Liz, I, Animal, Heaven Above, Heaven Below, Weekend Healer, The Realistic Joneses* (KAZAN); *Girl In The Goldfish Bowl*, *Estate* (LunaSea Theatre); *Driving Miss Daisy, The Woman in Black, Educating Rita, Vigil* (VST). **Other:** Much gratitude to Natasha MacLellan, the cast, creative team and Helena, and the Atelier team for everything. As always, thank you to my family for their endless love and support. This one is for you, Dad.

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INGRID RISK

Role: Lighting Designer **Neptune:** *Noises Off, Half Cracked: The Legend of Sugar Mary* (co- production with Eastern Front Theatre); *Snake in the Grass, Small Things* (co-production with Mulgrave Road Theatre). **Other Theatre:** Selected Design Credits: *An Ordinary Afternoon in 1974* (MRT); *Any Given Moment* (Ship's Company Theatre); *Watching Glory Die* (MRT). **Other:** Ingrid also splits her time working as a Stage Manager. She has received many nominations for her work as a lighting designer and is the recipient of several Theatre Nova Scotia Merritt Awards.

AARON COLLIER

Role: Composer and Sound Designer **Neptune:** *Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells).* **Other Theatre:** *One Discordant Violin* (2b Theatre); *Bed & Breakfast, Odd Ducks* (Ship's Company Theatre); *A Christmas Carol* (Theatre New Brunswick); *Princess Rules, New Waterford Boy, The Princess Show, NATION* (Heist). **Awards:** Robert Merritt Award for Outstanding Sound Design (2013, 2017, 2018) **Other:** Aaron is the Technical Director for Heist, a live art company he started with husband and Artistic Director Richie Wilcox. Gratitude to the cast, crew, and staff!

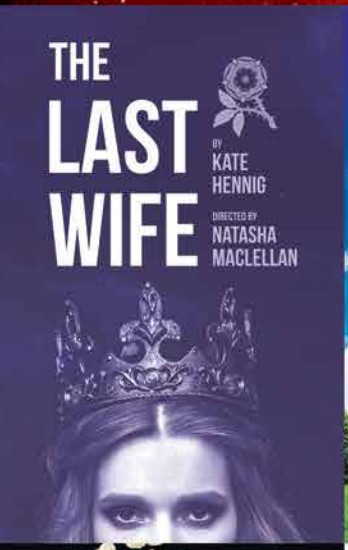
ALEXIS MILLIGAN

Role: Movement Director **Neptune:** *Frankenstein.* **Other Theatre:** Three seasons Movement Director at The Shaw Festival; *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* (Stratford Festival); *En Jülefortelling* (National Theatre of Norway, Bergen). **Other:** She's the founding director of Transitus Creative, a multi-disciplinary arts organization specializing in Art Communication and Public Engagement through the arts transitus.ca. She is a recurring guest teacher at NYU Tisch School for the Performing Arts and Verbier Festival (Switzerland). For more information, visit her website: alexismilligan.com

HEATHER LEWIS

Role: Stage Manager **Neptune:** SM highlights include: *The Color Purple*, *Noises Off*, *Cinderella* (and *Summerella*), *Mamma Mia!*, *The Mountaintop* (BTW), *Seeds* (Porte Parole), *Stan Rogers*, *Once*, *Addams Family*, *Billy Bishop*, *Into the Woods*, *West Side Story*. ASM: More than 20 shows, including *Kim's Convenience*, *Mary Poppins*, *Legally Blonde*, *The Wizard of Oz*. **Other Theatre:** SM/ASM for Charlottetown Festival, Soulpepper, Angels & Heroes, 2b, OneLight, Two Planks, Eastern Front, Shaw Festival, LunaSea, Mulgrave, Centaur. **Film/TV:** Producer's Assistant, *Cavendish* (CBC). **Other:** Heather is proud to be a part of this killer female-heavy team!

GET HOOKED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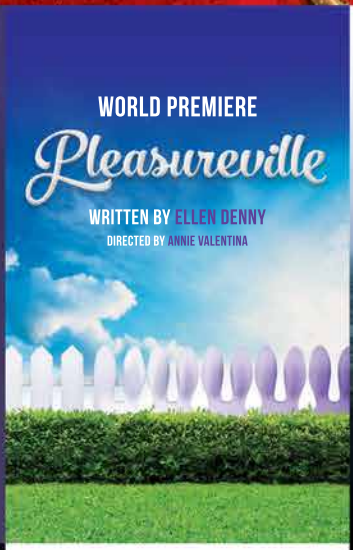
BY
KATE
HENNIG
DIRECTED BY
NATASHA
MACLELLAN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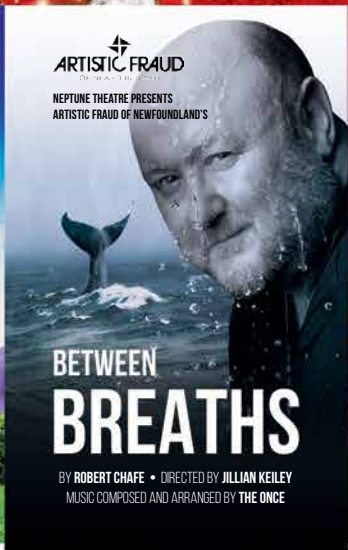
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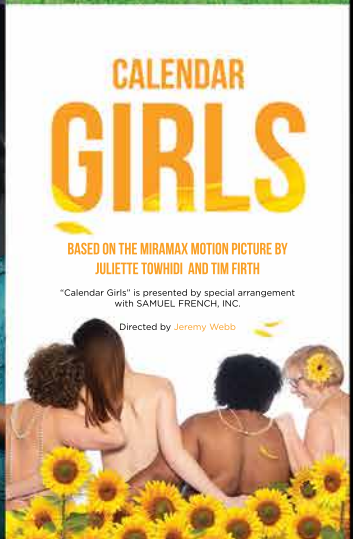
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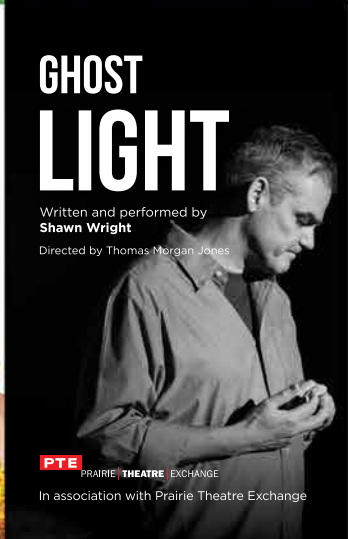
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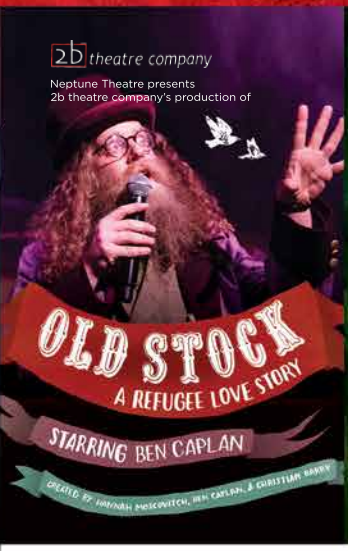

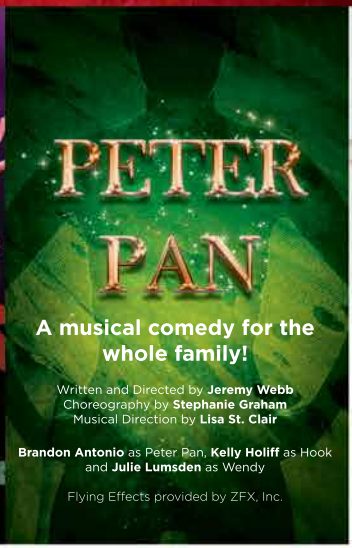

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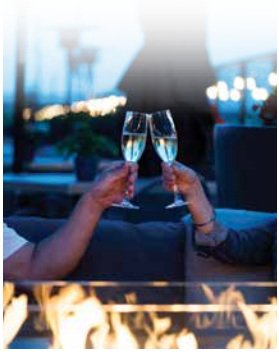

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JUNE ZINCK

Role: Assistant Stage Manager **Neptune:** *The Argyle Street Kitchen Party, Noises Off, Shakespeare in Love, Mamma Mia, It's A Wonderful Life, Miracle on 34th Street, Disney's Beauty and the Beast, 2 Pianos 4 Hands, Stag and Doe.* Stage Manager: *The Argyle Street Kitchen Party.* **Other Theatre:** Stage Management: *Kamp the Musical* (Eastern Front Theatre); *Scoop* (Kick At The Dark); *Kronberg 1582, Glenda's Kitchen, Spoon River* (Charlottetown Festival); West Woods (Mulgrave Road Theatre). **Other Theatre:** Sound Design: *Assassins* (Whalesong Theatre), *The Colour Purple* (Neptune Chrysalis Assistant), *Concord Floral* (DMV/Kings Theatrical Society), *Cinderella* (Neptune Chrysalis Assistant), *In A World Created By A Drunken God* (Neptune Theatre), *Half-Cracked: Legend of Sugar Mary* (EFT), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Whalesong Theatre).

MICHELLE LANGILLE

Role: Assistant Director (RBC Chrysalis Participant) **Neptune:** *The Wizard of Oz*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Evita*, *Oliver!*, *The Sound of Music*. **Other Theatre:** As Director/Assistant Director: *The Penelopiad* (Hart House); *Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)* (Nightwood Theatre/Crows Theatre); *She Kills Monsters* (Neptune YAC); As Actor: *Mary's Wedding, Saltwater Moon* (Single Thread Theatre); *A Man Walks Into a Bar* (Amblemore); *Clique Claque* (Pea Green Theatre); *Gray* (Theatre Inamorata). **Other:** Playwright - *Ten Days* (developed through Nightwood's Write from the Hip); *Lady Capulet* (Currently in development).

OLIVIA MCGINN

Role: Assistant Lighting Designer (RBC Chrysalis Participant) **Neptune:** Lighting Debut. **Other Theatre:** *Peter & the Starcatcher* (Whale Song Theatre); *The Spanish Tragedy* (Villain's Theatre). Stage Management: *The Bridge* (co-production with 2b theatre); *KAMP: A New Musical* (co-production with Eastern Front); *The Songs of the Rat Pack, A Christmas Story* (Neptune Theatre); *Lullaby: Inside the Halifax Explosion* (Eastern Front Theatre); *A Rat Pack Christmas with Geordie Brown & Heather Rankin, The Advent Show* (Spatz Theatre); *The West Woods* (Mulgrave Road Theatre); *Martha* (Festival Antigonish); *The Changeling: Chimes of Bedlam, Tyrant* (The Villain's Theatre); *Heathers: The Musical* (Whale Song Theatre); *Seminar* (Kick at the Dark Theatre); *Stop Kiss, Cartography, Dark Matter, Story of a Sinking Man* (Atlantic Fringe Festival).

ALEXANDER SINCLAIR

Role: Sound Designer (RBC Chrysalis Participant) **Neptune:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** *The Ladies Foursome, Dancing on the Elephant* (Theatre Baddeck); *Secret in the Wings* (Fountain School of Performing Arts). **Other:** Thank you to Annie and Jeremy for this amazing opportunity, and to Aaron for your mentorship throughout.

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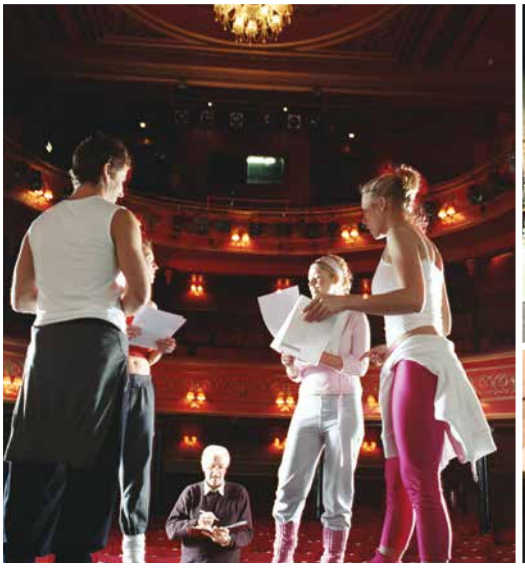

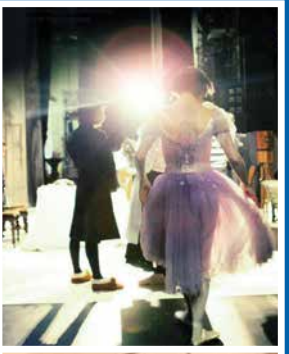

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The RBC Chrysalis Project represents Neptune Theatre's commitment to supporting local artists' growth within our community and beyond, while promoting a key element of theatre. Passing on creative knowledge and receiving guidance from other artists is such a valuable process, and to have this resource created for exactly that, is really special. The energy on the first day of this season was totally electric; buzzing with anticipation, warmth and gratitude. Building collaborative relationships and bridging the (sometimes very daunting) gap between emerging artists and experienced professionals is crucial to keep theatre communities thriving. I am very grateful to have this opportunity and am thrilled to learn from amazing designers I admire (lovely Ingrid Risk and Leigh Ann Vardy) on such bold productions of *The Last Wife* and *Billy Elliot: The Musical*. To carry everything gained from this experience forward into our careers is a gift I hope to give back in some way in the future. The time ahead of us all this season is sure to be filled to the brim with artistic challenges and celebrations, fresh inspiration and much laughter. I am so delighted to be a part of it all.

Thank you!

Olivia McGinn,
Assistant Lighting Designer

(RBC Chrysalis Project)

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On the surface, the Tudor family could be described as opulent, powerful and elegant. *The Last Wife*, written by Kate Hennig, tells the story of the Tudor's as a modern day royal family. To capture the regal essence of the play, the costuming needed to evoke a sense of majestic nobility and prominence.

Enter Swarovski.

The jewelry store, located on the second level of the Halifax Shopping Centre, offers gems and charms for an assortment of occasions: everyday use, engagements, special events, and even plays on the Neptune stage.

"The pieces Janet MacLellan (the show's costume designer) picked are things people can wear anytime, anywhere," says store manager Cheryl Sullivan. "You get the sparkle and the showiness of the pieces but they're also something you can customize to any outfit."

Ten items were selected for the show including the Red Goddess Ring worn by Jodee Richardson (Henry VIII), the Swarovski Power Collection Red Bracelet worn by Lesley Smith (Mary), and the Rhodium Plated Fit bracelet worn by Stephanie MacDonald (Katherine Parr).

The jewelry used in the play will be auctioned off at the end of run. Tickets can be purchased from ticket sellers or at the Fountain Hall lobby bars – $5 for a single ticket or $20 for a book of five. The winner will be drawn on Oct. 6.

Pictured in the middle: *The Last Wife* costume designer Janet MacLellan and Swarovski store manager Cheryl Sullivan.

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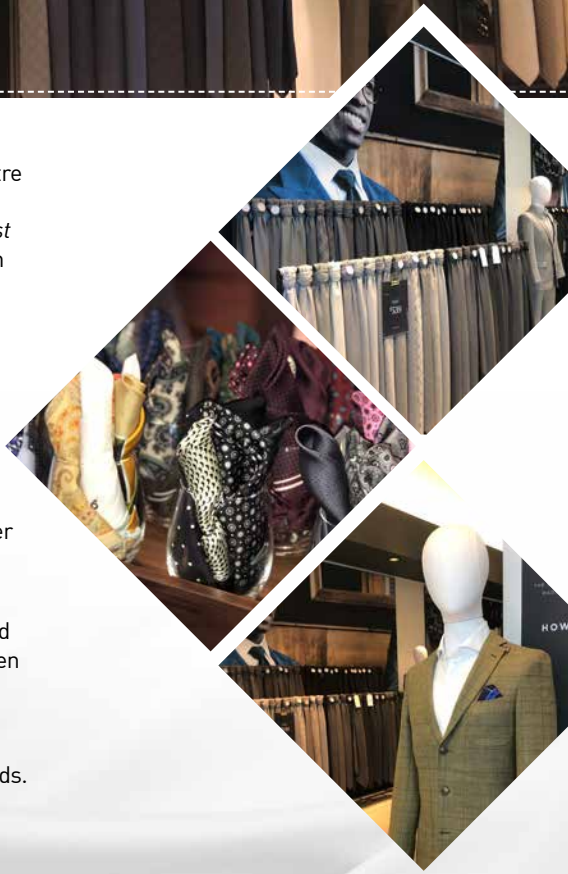
Indochino's showroom is located on the second level of the Halifax Shopping Centre and is lined with high-quality fabrics that make creating the right suit easy. *The Last Wife's* costume designer Janet MacLellan visited the store prior to the run of show. She was in search of making suits which would portray a classic modern elegance on stage. Thanks to Indochino, she found exactly what she was looking for.



"To design a suit and make it contemporary for modern-day royals is certainly a first for me," she says. "Their clothes are a symbol of power and status, particularly when they're in public."

"Indochino's service has been excellent and very communicative. As a customer it's been very rewarding and I would highly recommend visiting the shop and working with Denise and Bradley to have yourself fitted for a made-to-measure suit," she adds.

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A perk of my job is that I read and see a lot of plays. Every now and then, one impresses itself upon me so strongly that I simply can't forget it. And I haven't forgotten *The Last Wife* since I first encountered it. Perhaps it has an unfair advantage, as I am a fan of historical fiction. But come on, it has everything – sex, intrigue, violence, dazzling intellect, a powerful legacy, high stakes and opulence. What more could you ask for?

Ok, so, also: I love clothes. As did Katherine Parr. As did Henry. And all the Tudors. How is this relevant? That will become obvious as the show unfolds. And on that note, if you came for a historical portrayal of the Tudors, brace yourself. Our facts are accurate, but what you are about to watch is an imagining of history. We take liberties. We explore the people and trust the facts. And that, in my opinion gets closer to the truth than any history book.

You're in safe hands tonight, I promise you. Some of our finest Atlantic Canadian artists have lent their talents to this play. I am humbled by their talent and efforts in putting our collective best feet forward. We proudly offer you our modern reimagining of Katherine Parr's chapter of the Tudor dynasty, that playfully tips its hat to the past before dancing a sure-footed Volta into the future.

Natasha MacLellan
Director, *The Last Wife*

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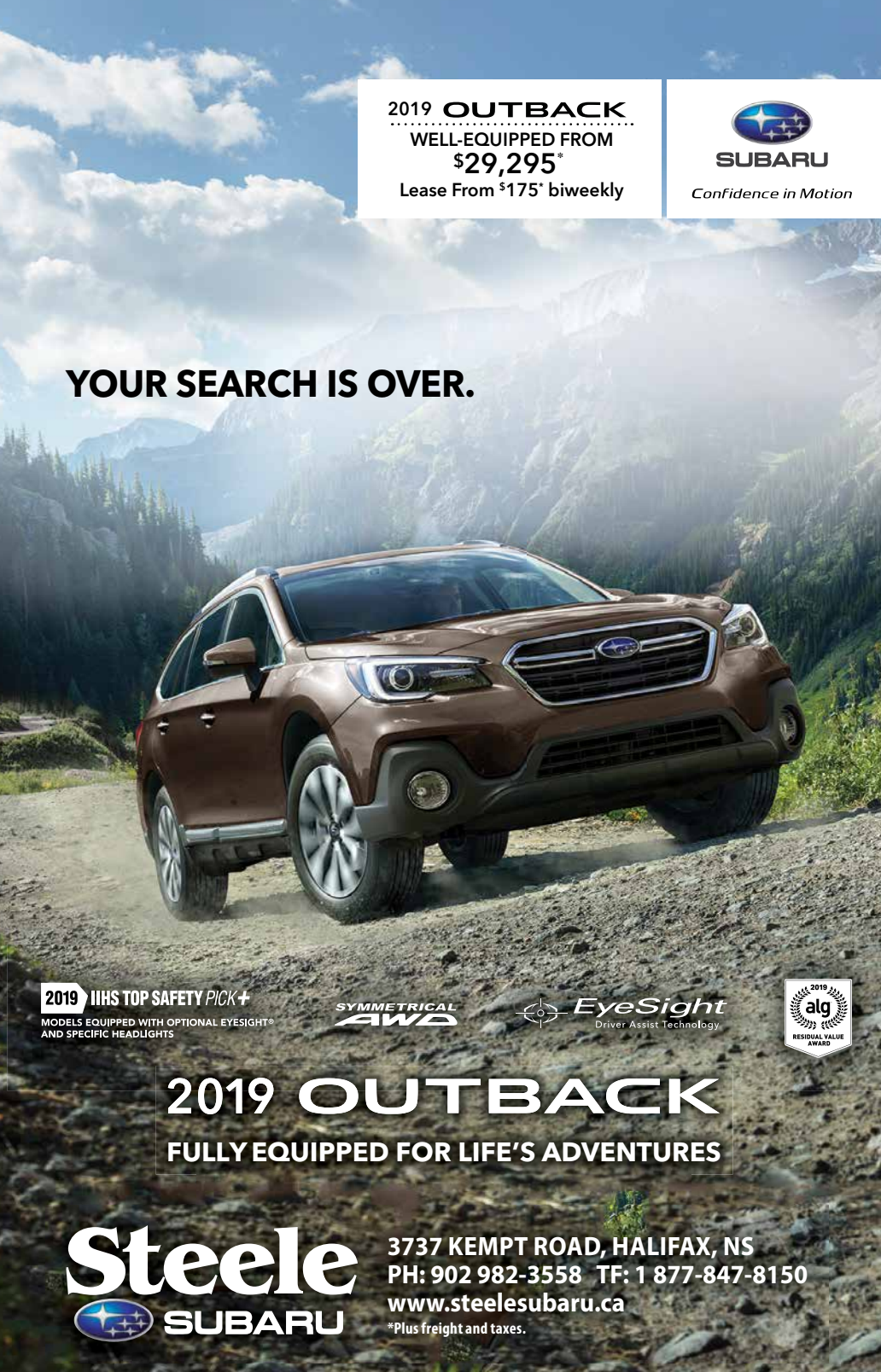

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