



Theatre Newfoundland Labrador

**PRODUCTION OF
TEMPTING PROVIDENCE by Robert Chafe**

In 2000, Theatre Newfoundland Labrador (TNL) commissioned Newfoundland playwright Robert Chafe to research and write a play on the life of Nurse Myra Bennett. Early in the writing process, TNL contracted award-winning director Jillian Keiley to direct.

Since its world premiere on June 1, 2002 at TNL's Gros Morne Theatre Festival, *Tempting Providence* has played to more than 70,000 people in 370 performances in 9 Canadian provinces, one territory, Ireland, England, Scotland and Canberra & Tasmania, Australia. the UK and Australia:

It has been part of a number of Festivals at home and abroad:

2003 On The Waterfront Festival, Dartmouth, NS; Atlantic Scene Festival, Ottawa, ON

2004 Magnetic North Theatre Festival, held in Edmonton, AB;

2004 Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Traverse Theatre)

2005 Ten Days on the Island Festival in Tasmania (playing in Hobart and Launceston)

2006 PuSh International Festival in Vancouver

2002-2008 – TNL's Gros Morne Theatre Festival, Cow Head, NL

Tempting Providence is a story of courage and strength told with simple elegance. British-trained nurse & midwife Myra Grimsley arrived in Newfoundland from her native London, England in 1921 after hearing of the desperate need for her work in rural communities. She was one of the first group of outpost nurses who became a legend for performing a variety of medical tasks, from delivering babies to setting bones to extracting teeth. All this she did in all kinds of weather while traveling by foot, horse, dogsled, boat along the 320-kilometer rugged Northern Peninsula. She was known throughout Newfoundland and Labrador as "Florence Nightingale of the North." *Tempting Providence* is a wonderful, heart-felt portrayal of Nurse Bennett who has been honored many times over by the Governments of Canada and Britain.

Timeline:

August, 2000 – TNL Commissions Robert Chafe to write a play about Nurse Myra (Grimsley) Bennett

June-August, 2002 – Premiere production – Gros Morne Theatre Festival, Cow Head, NL

December, 2002 – LSPU Hall, St. John's, NL – co-presented with Artistic Fraud

April, 2003 – Atlantic Scene Festival, National Arts Centre, Ottawa, ON

May, 2003 - On The Waterfront Festival, Dartmouth, NS

June-Sept., 2003 – Gros Morne Theatre Festival, Cow Head, NL

September, 2003 – Tour of Newfoundland & Labrador Arts & Culture Centres, starting in Corner Brook and culminating with performance at *Contact East* in St. John's (named the favourite showcase)

June, 2004 – Gros Morne Theatre Festival, Cow Head, NL

June, 2004 – Magnetic North Festival, Edmonton, AB

July, 2004 – National Arts Centre, Ottawa, ON

August, 2004 – Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Scotland

September, 2004 – Toured 15 towns and villages in England organized through Get Moving!, Take Art, Villages in Action and Poole Lighthouse Arts Centre; and Garter Lane Arts Centre, Waterford, Ireland and Waterfront Hall, Belfast, Ireland

October, 2004 – Corner Brook Arts & Culture Centre

October-November, 2004 - Toured 21 cities in Ontario (through Community Cultural Impresarios

(Judy Harquail) Saskatchewan, Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils (Nancy Martin); and Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, (through by Atlantic Presenters Association) April, 2005 – Hobart & Launceston, Tasmania, Presenter – Ten Days on the Island Festival; and performances at The Street Theatre, Canberra, Australia (organized with the assistance of the Ten Days and the Canadian High Commission in Canberra)

June-September, 2005 – Gros Morne Theatre Festival, Cow Head, NL

January-March, 2006 – Tour British Columbia, Alberta and the Yukon

Presenters – PuSh International Festival, Vancouver; Sunshine Theatre, Kelowna; Western Canada Theatre, Kamloops; Yukon Arts Centre, Whitehorse; Banff Centre, Banff; Kitimat Concert Association; Prince Rupert Performing Arts Centre; Terrace Concert Society and Belfry Theatre, Victoria. During this tour we also self-presented at Keyano Theatre, Fort McMurray; Capitol Theatre, Nelson, BC; and Vernon & District Performing Arts Centre, Vernon.

October 10-28, 2006 – Presenter - Globe Theatre, Regina, Saskatchewan

March 10, 2007 – Presenter – The Arden Theatre – St. Albert, Alberta

March 13-April 1, 2007 – Presenter – Alberta Theatre Projects, Calgary, AB

April 4-22, 2007 – Presenter – Factory Theatre, Toronto, ON

May 29-Aug. 15, 2007 – Gros Morne Theatre Festival, Cow Head, NL (celebrated its 300th performance on June 9, 2007)

Nov. 14 – Dec. 2, 2007 – Prairie Theatre Exchange, Winnipeg, Manitoba

July 1- Aug. 31, 2008 – Gros Morne Theatre Festival, Cow Head, NL

January 6-25, 2009 – Great Canadian Theatre Company, Ottawa, ON

Upcoming - confirmed

January 29-March 3, 2010 – Manitoba Theatre Centre, Winnipeg and rural Manitoba and northern Ontario tour

March 9-20, 2010 – The Rooms, St. John's, NL

Founded in 1979 by the late Maxim Mazumdar, TNL operates a year-round professional theatre company from its home base, Corner Brook. From September to May, TNL produces professional theatre, community and youth programming in Corner Brook and from June to September a repertory summer festival the *Gros Morne Theatre Festival* in Cow Head, Gros Morne National Park.

Artistic Director - Jeff Pitcher

General Manager - Gaylene Buckle

Artistic Associate (Youth & Outreach) – SaraH McDonald-Anderson

Administrative Assistant – Natasha Butt

Financial Administrator – Cynthia Harris

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