



Gros Morne Theatre Festival

SS Ethie Dinner Theatre by Shane Ellis Coates



Playing from July 17 to August 28, 2021



Artistic Director's Notes



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Welcome to our brand-new Nurse Myra Bennett Centre for the Performing Arts and our 25th Gros Morne Theatre Festival Anniversary Season! It took us twenty-six years to get here but here we are!

During this special year I would like to thank the hundreds of artists who have worked and continue to work for Theatre Newfoundland Labrador. Actors, directors, stage managers, production managers, playwrights, lighting designers and lighting technicians, sound designers and sound technicians, set designers, set builders and carpenters, costume designers, wardrobe persons, props designers and props builders, scenic painters, choreographers, dance captains, dancers, musicians, singers, music directors, storytellers, electricians, technical assistants, stage crew, production assistants, assistant stage managers, administrators, administrative assistants, box office staff and ushers. All of us faced a year of uncertainty like no other in an industry built on uncertainty so I would like to extend a grateful and heart-felt thank you. For being you. It's all of these artists and their work who will make our new house a loving home where you the audience will continue to enjoy Newfoundland and Labrador theatre for another twenty-five years or more! See ya at

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CAST

Captain John Gullage

Cassie Brown/Tom

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Director/Walter Young

Mary/Harry

Elizabeth Batten/Jack

Spracklin/Reub

Jerry Etienne*

Allison Crowe

Luke Rowe

Andrew Halliday

Emma Hewitt

Una Hill-McMullin

Craig Haley

PRODUCTION

Director

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**The participation of this Artist is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance- Opera -Theatre Policy.*

***Brian Ball is a member of Associated Designers of Canada*

Steven Drover's Notes

Everyone has a story to tell and everyone tells it differently. "No it happened like this!", and "I don't remember that part." And "it wasn't like that at all!" are comments often heard when someone tries to tell a story that is familiar to everyone. With story-telling, historical accuracy often takes a back seat: we change our stories to add a happy ending, to tell it better, maybe embellish a little. Consequently, like culture, like us, stories naturally evolve and change with time. Therein lies the beauty in folklore and culture – not how well we can quote chapter and verse, but how we cherish and love our own stories enough to tell them again and again. Ethie is a story. Tell it to someone else and don't feel bad if you change just a little. That's how you make it your own. Enjoy. ~Steven

Jerry Etienne (Actor)



Over the past 35 years or so, Jerry has worked from Vancouver to St. John's as an actor/director/artistic director/teacher. He loves three beautiful daughters, one and three quarter cats, a Pammie and a pony ... and summers in Cow Head. At GMTF he has played an axe murderer, a fisherman or three, a boor, a biker, a cop, a director, and the Prime Minister of Canada. He is currently chair of the theatre program at Grenfell Campus, MUN.

Allison Crowe (Actor)



Corner Brook musician/actor Allison Crowe's life on the global stage – performing in concert and on recordings for albums & film (including *Zack Snyder's Justice League* and *Army of the Dead* Hollywood blockbusters) – harmonizes with her love to 'tread the boards'. This GMTF season Allison's star-crossed muses come together via joy-filled roles in *Neddy Norris Night* and *S.S. Ethie Dinner Theatre*.

Luke Rowe (Actor)



Hailing from St. John's, Luke is a recent graduate of the Grenfell Theatre Program. Previously, he has acted in shows with Beyond the Overpass, Shakespeare by the Sea, and Mad as Hops. This is Luke's first summer working in Gros Morne and he couldn't be more excited to make his debut.

Andrew Halliday (Actor)



Returning for his third Gros Morne Theatre Festival, Andrew completed his BFA from Theatre at Grenfell in 2020 and is excited to be performing in the Nurse Myra Bennett Centre for the Performing Arts! Notable credits include *Saltwater Moon*, *No Man's Land* (Rising Tide), *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Tempest* (Grenfell), and all roles during his previous years at GMTF. He hopes you enjoy the shows as much as we enjoy performing them for you!

Emma Hewitt (Actor)



Emma Hewitt (Actor)

Emma is from Jackson's Arm, NL, but was raised in Toronto where she discovered her love for the performing arts at Lorraine Kimsa's Young People's Theatre. During her time in Theatre school, Emma played characters such as Queen Elizabeth I (*Mary Stuart*), Sonya (*Uncle Vanya*) and also received the Tommy Sexton Triple Threat Award. In recent years, Emma has been a performer in *Escape* with Future Leisure and part of GMTF where she played Harry/Mary in *the S.S. Ethie*, the Host/Performer of *Newfoundland Vinyl* and Sarah Singleton in *The Double Axe Murders*. After this past year with COVID-19, Emma hopes that GMTF can bring some joy to you

Craig Haley (Actor)



Craig is thrilled to be returning for his 10th season at GMTF! Patrons of the festival may remember Craig from such roles as Gustave in *Heroes*, Hans in *Our Frances*, or performing in *Neddy Norris Night* and *Newfoundland Vinyl*. Outside of working at the festival, Craig resides in Corner Brook with his beloved landlady. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Una Hill-McMullin (Actor)



Born in Kentville, NS, Una now calls St. John's, NL home. Una moved to Newfoundland in 2012 to attend Grenfell Campus of MUN Theatre program and graduated in 2016. While studying at Grenfell, she won the Andre Noble Award for most Promising Third Year student and spent 3 summers with Beyond the Overpass Theatre Company in Gander. Her favorite credits with BTO include *Boeing Boeing* and *Soul Singing* (dir. Jamie Harding); *The 39 Steps* (dir. Andrew Tremblett). Una has worked with GMTF since 2017. Her favourite credits include: *Fly Me to the Moon*, *Our Frances* (dir. Jeff Pitcher); *Tempting Providence* (dir. Jillian Keiley). Una would like to express her sincerest thanks to everyone who made this summer possible – the doctors, nurses and frontline workers who worked tirelessly to keep us safe and healthy. She would like to dedicate her performance in *Tempting Providence* to all those healthcare professionals who give 100% every day.

Jeff Pitcher (Director)



Born and raised in Grand Falls - Windsor, Newfoundland, Jeff is the Artistic Director of Theatre Newfoundland Labrador and the author of over fifteen produced plays, including the "Ed & Ed" trilogy, "The Known Soldier" "Elvis & Mavis" and "17 Men" along with adaptations of "A Christmas Carol," "Peter Pan," and "Robin Hood." He recently received his Certificate in Creative Writing from Simon Fraser University's Writer's Studio, finished his first novel and is working on a new musical, "Jack & The Whale" with Kevin Blackmore. He splits his time between writing in Vancouver and working with Theatre Newfoundland Labrador.

Stephanie Payne (Director/Musical Director)



Stephanie is thrilled to be back for her 18th season with GMTF. This year Stephanie will be reprising her role as Woman in *Tempting Providence*, as well as Musical Director and performer in *Neddy Norris Night*. When she is not performing, Stephanie is a substitute teacher and mom to 3 beautiful children. Here's to a wonderful summer! Enjoy!

Stefanie Power (Stage Manager)



Stefanie is from Corner Brook, NL, and is a graduate of the Technical Theatre Program at Grenfell. She's a Theatre Assistant and House Manager at the CB Arts and Culture Centre. Past credits include *The Anger of Ernest and Ernestine* at the Rotary Arts Centre, *A Sculptin Named Sam* with TNL's Youth Theatre Program, and *Billy Elliot* with Atlantic Light Theatre. This is Stef's 9th season in Cow Head, and she's thrilled to be back!

Brian Ball (Set & Props Design)



Brian is a BC based Artist and Designer. Born and raised in Newfoundland, he completed his BFA in Visual Arts from Memorial University where he also fell in love with the world of Theatre. After completing his BFA (Visual Arts, Grenfell College Corner Brook) he moved to Victoria BC to complete his MFA; Theatre set and Costume design at UVIC (Victoria)- he currently lives in Vancouver and works full time as a set and costume designer in BC and across Canada.

This is Brian's fifth show with TNL, starting with *The Belle of Bonavista* in 2014, and most recently *Our Fanny (Francis)* in 2017!

Wendy Vey (Costume Design)



Wendy has been a fixture in Western NL's theatre scene for almost 40 yrs, both as a Costume Designer and recently retired educator in Grenfell Campus' Theatre Dept. She has designed and built costumes for the STF, SWTF, TNL and Youth Theatre and GMTF. She is honoured to be the Costume Designer for the S.S. Ethie as she takes her inaugural journey in the Nurse Myra Bennett Theatre. After her trip on the S.S. Ethie is complete, Wendy hopes to retire peacefully with her art supplies and incredibly supportive husband Mike.

Kirsten Watt (Lighting Designer/Lighting Technician)



Kirsten's fourth season. Past designs: *Double Axe Murders*, *17 Men*, *Outside Mullingar*, *Ed & Ed Trapped!*, *Out Vigil*, *Heroes*, *Fly Me to the Moon*. Elsewhere, Kirsten has designed for: Shaw, Drayton, the Segal, Centaur, Neptune, Watermark, Magnus, Sudbury Theatre Centre, Hart House, Sheridan, George Brown, Universities of Waterloo, Windsor and Concordia. During Covid, Kirsten became a courier for Canada Post!

Adam Thistle (Sound Technician/Sound Designer)



Adam is a graduate from the recording arts program at The College of the North Atlantic. He worked with The Stephenville Theatre Festival for a few years after graduation. Since then, he has been touring with such acts as The Ennis Sisters, Shanneyganock, and Rum Ragged with his company Soundwaves Audio Inc.

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