



# Gros Morne Theatre Festival

# Tempting Providence

By Robert Chafe



Playing from June 25 to August 29, 2021



## Artistic Director's Notes



Welcome to our brand-new Nurse Myra Bennett Centre for the Performing Arts and our 25<sup>th</sup> 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 the show! ~Jeff

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Adam Brake

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Jeff Pitcher

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Adam Brake

## Actors

Allison Crowe

Jerry Etienne

Colin Furlong

Craig Haley

Andrew Halliday

Emma Hewitt

Una Hill-McMullin

Stephanie Payne

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## Company Manager/

## Production Manager

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## Carpenter

James G. Gow

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Stefanie Power

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## Assistant

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## Lighting Technician

Kirsten Watt

## Designers

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Deanna Hutchings

Carla Keough

Jayden Payne

Jodi Payne

Lorrie Reid

Nicholas Thistle

Jennie Tomkinson

Sonya Warren

## Sound Technician

Adam Thistle

## Technical Assistants

Hannah Legge

## Props Person/Scenic Painter

Denise Dolliver



## CAST

Myra Bennett

Angus Bennett

Man

Woman

Una Hill-McMullin

Colin Furlong

Craig Haley

Stephanie Payne

## PRODUCTION

Director

Assistant Director

Stage Manager

Set & Props Design

Original Lighting Design

Costume Design

Pre & Post Show Music Selections from Father of the Newfoundland Fiddle Vol. 1

Jillian Keiley

Adam Brake

Amanda Klein

Jillian Keiley

Walter J. Snow

Barry Buckle

## Director's Notes

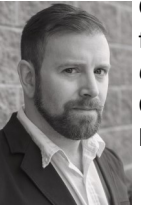
There are some stories that tell themselves. Stories like this one are legends long before they hit the stage. It is a unique pleasure to tackle a subject like Myra Bennett—a resourceful and brave woman who, while she was 'from away', signifies everything we are brought up to believe a Newfoundland woman should be. Robert Chafe's re-creation of Myra brings a depth to her character that suggests her intelligence and fearlessness were parts of a more complex person – one who experienced loneliness, alienation and homesickness. Her struggles make her wit and courage all the more human and all the more triumphant. Robert, the cast and I owe a great debt to Myra Bennett, her husband Angus and all of the wonderful people who inhabit her journals and diaries. It is their stories and strength that we pay tribute to tonight; to Nurse Myra Bennett and all the people who have come to the outreaches of this wild and wonderful place, at first to help and then to find a home. ~Jillian

### Colin Furlong (Actor)



Colin is an Actor from Mount Pearl, NL and this 25th Anniversary Season marks Colin's 13<sup>th</sup> with GMTF. Memorable roles here at the festival include *Mary's Wedding*, *Stones in his Pockets*, *Outside Mullingar*, and, of course, nearly 200 performances on board *The Ethie*. Other select credits include *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams*, *AfterImage* (Artistic Fraud); The UK tours of *Our Frances*, and *With Cruel Times in Between* (TNL). Colin can also be seen on the new SYFY tv series *Surrealestate* premiering this summer. Other film and Television credits include *Hudson and Rex* (CityTV); and *Republic of Doyle* (CBC). A heartfelt thank you goes out to all of the frontline workers, essential workers, medical professionals, and everyone else who worked so diligently and selflessly over the past year and a half to ensure our health and safety. Thank you, and enjoy the show!

### Craig Haley (Actor)



Craig is thrilled to be returning for his 10<sup>th</sup> 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 Hill-McMullin now calls St. John's, NL her home. Una moved to Newfoundland 9 years ago to attend the Theatre Program at the Grenfell Campus of MUN and graduated in 2016. While studying at Grenfell, she earned the Andre Noble Award for most Promising Third Year student and spent 3 summers with Beyond the Overpass Theatre Company in Gander. Her favourite credits with BTO include *Boeing Boeing* and *Soul Singing* (dir. Jamie Harding) and *The 39 Steps* (dir. Andrew Tremblett). Una has worked with GMTF since 2017 where her favourite credits include: *Fly Me to the Moon*, *Our Frances* (dir. Jeff Pitcher), and *Tempting Providence* (dir. Jillian Keiley). Una would like to express her sincerest thanks to everyone who made this summer possible – all the doctors, nurses, and frontline workers who worked tirelessly to keep us safe and keep us healthy. She would like to dedicate her performance in *Tempting Providence* this summer to all those healthcare professionals who give 100% every day.

### Stephanie Payne (Actor)



Stephanie is thrilled to be back for her 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Nights*. When she is not performing, Stephanie is a substitute teacher and mom to 3 beautiful children. Here's to a wonderful summer! Enjoy!

### Jillian Keiley (Director/Set & Props Design)



Best known productions include *Under Wraps*, *Between Breaths*, *Afterimage*, *Emile's Dream*, *Salvage*, *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams*, *Oil and Water* (Artistic Fraud,) and *Twelfth Night*, *Metamorphoses*, and *Tartuffe* (NAC). She directed *Bakkhai*, *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *As You Like It*, (Stratford) *The Neverending Story* and *Alice Through the Looking-Glass*, (Stratford and NAC) Jillian assumed her current role as the National Arts Centre's English Theatre Artistic Director 2012. After 19 years *Tempting Providence* is still her favourite show to come home to.

### Adam Brake (Assistant Director)



Adam Brake is proud to work as Artistic Associate at TNL where he manages the Sara...H McDonald Youth Theatre. Adam received a BFA from Memorial University (Grenfell Campus) in 2005, and in 2014 returned as a professor of acting. Throughout his time with GMTF Adam has worked as an actor in *The Known Soldier* (2014) *Cod On A Stick* (2015) *Brazil Square* (2016) and *Tempting Providence*, as a director and writer on *Newfoundland Vinyl* and Director on *The Sinking of the SS Ethie*. Adam takes great pride in intersecting with artists during every phase of their career, in rehearsal halls during their high school experience, the theatre spaces at their universities, and finally our brand new space in Cow Head.

### Amanda Klein (Stage Manager)



Amanda is a multi-disciplinary artist originally from Ontario, but now living in St. John's, who is thrilled to join GMTF for her third season. She is also an aspiring playwright, mess maker and overall adventurer. Recent credits include *Phantom of the Opera* (Opera on the Avalon), *What Hangs in the Balance* (PerSISStence Theatre), *Mom's Girls Gone Wild* (Mom's Girls Comedy), and *Tempting Providence* (GMTF).

### ***Also playing this summer at the Gros Morne Theatre Festival:***

#### **The Only Living Father by Tom Cahill**

Price: \$35 + HST adult; \$17.50 + HST students

Playing June 25 - August 27, 2021



#### **Neddy Norris Night**

Price: \$35 + HST adult; \$17.50 + HST students

Playing July 2 - August 27, 2021



#### **SS Ethie Dinner Theatre by Shane Ellis Coates**

Price: \$60 + HST adult; \$30 + HST students

Playing July 17 - August 28, 2021



For tickets visit [www.theatrenewfoundland.com](http://www.theatrenewfoundland.com) or call 1-877-243-2899

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