2024-2025 SEASON





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This season presented by Nanaimo Foundation – Stanley de Vos Fund



Written by Sheila Coultish, Peggy Harris and Ian Matthews

Setting:

The story takes place in the village of Gooselandia, in a country faraway at the time of fairies and villains when peppers were pickled, mice ran up clocks and families lived in shoes.



We Say Goodbye to One of Our Founding Members: Barbara Desprez

Nanaimo Theatre Group wishes to honour the contribution that Barbara and her husband, Roger, made to this community. In June 1961 they put out a call to anyone interested in forming a community drama group to meet at their house; the Nanaimo Theatre Group was born that night. They were both involved in all aspects of theatre production and club

management over the following 60+ years. Barbara's love was always performing, she is especially remembered for representing royalty in the image of Queen Victoria for the Empire Days Society. Barbara and Roger also were accomplished musicians; she sang in many, many productions and Roger played percussion in the Nanaimo concert band for many years. But above all, their unwavering dedication to the promotion and preservation of Nanaimo Theatre Group over the past 60 years is the basis of the success that we enjoy to this day.



HEARING DIFFICULTIES?

Please see the Front of House People to borrow hearing assistance equipment.



PHOTOGRAPHY?

Please refrain from using cameras or other recording equipment in the theatre as copyright regulations do not allow this.



PHONES?

Cell phones & pagers must be turned off during a performance.



SCENT-FREE?

Please refrain from using scented products in the theatre for the health & well-being of your fellow patrons.

THE PLAYWRIGHTS









Producer Sheila Coultish

Ian, Peggy and Sheila all have the honour of being named life members of Nanaimo Theatre Group. They have all directed and acted in many productions for NTG since the very early days when the Bailey Studio had only a 50 seat performance area. They have written several pantos for the club and are proud to be reviving this favourite for Nanaimo audiences which they wrote and produced in 2008. We thank you for supporting live theatre and welcome you here today.

THE NANAIMO THEATRE GROUP EXECUTIVE

President Edward Gueulette

Vice President Nikita Towe Treasurer Peggy Harris

Secretary Sheila Fremont-Male

Executive Producer Sheila Coultish
Building Manager Jolyon Brown
Marketing Director Joan Roszmann

Director-at-Large David Bourne



MOTHER GOOSE | Andrew Speirs

Andrew is excited to return to the stage after a 20-year absence. He previously starred in several productions in Kelowna and is eager to get back at it. When not doing this, he can usually be found spending time with his family, working, or singing with Island Soul Choir.



PRISCILLA THE GOOSE | Autumn Olenick

Autumn is making her debut with Nanaimo Theatre Group playing the role of Priscilla! HONK! This will be her second pantomime after playing the principal boy in Courtney Little Theatre's Snow White last Christmas. Autumn believes theatre fosters an environment where creativity thrives, so playing the goose has given her the opportunity to dive more into a physical and non-verbal side of acting, challenging her to become more open and confident within herself.



JACK | Nicole Darlington

This is Nicole's seventh Panto with NTG. She was most recently in Little Red Riding Hood last year, and is excited to be back! When she is not at the theatre, she is studying Biology and Aquaculture at VIU. She hopes you enjoy the show!



PRINCESS CAROLINE | Leila Sadeghi

Leila auditioned for her first play this year on a whim, and she's been a passionate thespian ever since. This summer she played Hero in Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing, and The White Queen in Alice's Wonderland. She is currently writing her first play, The First to Stand, as well as preparing for her role as Saifi in the upcoming play the Untold Story of Imogen Flight. She's had so much fun preparing to become Princess Caroline!



CHANCELLOR | Morgan Gould

Morgan Gould is thrilled to return to the stage with NTG this holiday season! You may recognize him from Echo Players' The Play That Goes Wrong, A Grand Time in the Rapids and NTG's Ripcord. Morgan is a passionate artist, and can often be found behind the lens of a camera, or training in the aerial arts at Circus Freaks studio. He would like to thank his partner, children, and cats for their love and support.



HOOK | Shannon Reimer

Shannon has been a member of NTG for the past 30 years and in 2015 was honoured with a life membership to the club. She is excited to share the stage with her son Clayton in his first ever production, and to be directed by her dad, Ian. Three generations involved in the same show is a neat experience! She is having a lot of fun as Hook and loves working with this amazing cast and crew.



CROOK | Carolyn Waye

Carolyn is thrilled to be making her NTG debut alongside her daughter Maeven. Carolyn has recently performed with Opera Nanaimo and was very involved in the Edmonton theatre community where she played Mrs. Potts in Beauty and the Beast, Nettie in Carousel and Marmie in Little Women and directed Dirty Rotten Scoundrels (to name just a few). Much love to her husband and kids for their endless support. Merry Goose-mas and enjoy the show!



FAIRY | Cara Denney

Cara is ecstatic to be in her first NTG production. Favourite past roles include Audrey in Little Shop of Horrors, Judah in Technicolour Dream Coat and singing in Ladysmith Light Up and Arts on the Avenue. In the last 18 years she has thrown many round houses, and uppercuts, and tapped her opponent out with kimuras and chokes. This year she trades her spotlight in the ring to tread the boards as she stretches her theatrical chops in this play. It is just the beginning of her NTG journey!



APPRENTICE FAIRY, POM POM | Anna Farlie

A second-year theatre student at VIU, Anna has been passionate about acting since the age of six particularly in musical theatre. She has performed in various school-related plays and dabbled in stage managing and props. Anna has aspirations to explore on-screen and voice-over work, and is eager to share this unforgettable opportunity with her friends and family.



KING COLE | Jonee Janolino

He's back!! It's been a few years since Jonee has been on stage. The last play was Lend me a Tenor, playing the bellhop and that was a treat. Playing King Cole is an opportunity to have some fun with a great cast and crew!!!



QUEEN | Wanda Badduke

Wanda is excited to be on stage acting in her first panto. She dipped her toe in theatre later in life and has enjoyed frolicking with cast and crews for several years. This particular role was meant for her as she most certainly is noble. At least to her family. She hopes you revel in the joy and laughter of this production and wishes you all a Happy Christmas.



JILL | Natalie Crowhurst

Natalie is excited to be playing Jill in Mother Goose. This is her fourth panto after Cinderella (2019), Hansel and Gretel (2022), and Little Red Riding Hood (2023). Outside of theatre, Natalie loves being outdoors, as well as singing and sewing. She also cares for four pet ducks. She is thankful to her family and her fellow cast members for getting her to and from rehearsals. Natalie hopes you will enjoy the show!



MARY MARY | Kye Wennerberg

While Kye has done a few theatrical productions before, this is the first he's done outside of high school. He's currently attending VIU for theatre and was excited to use his new knowledge to improve his skills for this show. He wants to thank the cast and crew for being wonderful to work with and everyone in the audience for watching.



LITTLE BO PEEP | Maevan Clifford

Maeven is so excited to be doing her first show with NTG. You may have recently seen Maeven as Sheer Khan in Jungle Book or as a trickster Oompa-Loompa in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Maeven is in Grade 8 at Wellington Secondary, has a brother and twin sister and 15 pets! The pets do not include a goose, though, much to her disappointment. Have a honkingly fun time at the show!



LITTLE MISS MUFFET | Sawyer Parker

Sawyer is very excited to make her acting debut in Mother Goose. The role of Little Miss Muffet is a perfect fit for her, as she is terrified of spiders and quite enjoys sitting, although she isn't particular to a tuffet. She has been welcomed into the NTG community with open arms, thank you everyone, and thanks to her dog Salty for being so darn cute.



LITTLE TAMMY TUCKER | Emily Huggins

Emily is an 11-year-old arts enthusiast and thrilled to be part of this cast. In addition to acting, she enjoys dancing, tumbling, and baking. Emily loves being on stage and has a passion for singing. Her first stage performance was at age 5. She has enjoyed roles such as Belle and Peter Pan. Emily would like to thank her family for their continued support. Enjoy the show!



LITTLE BOY BLUE | Clayton Reimer

This is Clayton's first show with NTG, and he is very excited to be involved, especially because he gets to be on stage with his mom, directed by his papa, and his grandma is in the boxoffice. He is having lots of fun and hopes that you do too.



SIMPLE SIMON | Max Slade

Max is twelve years old and lived in Africa for four years. He moved to Nanaimo four years ago. He is a grade 7 student at Ecole Oceane, the Francophone school in Nanaimo. He really likes reading and can spend hours on the couch doing just that. He has never experienced acting in front of such a large audience before, so he is very excited. He also hopes you will love the show!



LUCY/ DANCE CAPTAIN | Stacey Grubb

Stacey is delighted to be performing in her first production with the Nanaimo Theatre Group! Favourite theatre credits include: Singing in the Rain, Anne of Green Gables and Mary Poppins (Festival Players), Guys & Dolls (Metro Theatre), and Anything Goes (Walterdale Theatre). Stacey is the Executive Director of Legal Services, Contracts & Privacy at Island Health. You can catch Stacey in Cowichan Musical Society's upcoming production of Legally Blonde in January. Merry Christmas!



POLLY | Evelyn Trepke

Evelyn is delighted to be part of her second Christmas pantomime! After playing Rapunzel in Little Red Riding Hood, she fell in love with pantomimes and hopes to be part of many more to come. She wishes you a merry Christmas and oodles of fun at this year's show!

THE CREW



STAGE MANAGER | Cindy Williams

Cindy joined NTG in 1993 and has been involved backstage, onstage, and in the booth. She loves spending the holidays with the cast and crew of NTG pantos and is pleased to contribute this year in the very important job of Stage Manager. Enjoy the show!



MUSICAL DIRECTOR | Debbie Dixon

This is Debbie's second pantomime for NTG as Musical Director. Last year Ann Gogo invited her to work alongside her as musical director for Little Red Riding Hood. Her first introduction to panto was way back in 1995 when she played a singing villager and courtier in Puss in Boots. Debbie would like to thank her son David for reintroducing her to the Bailey Family.



CHOREOGRAPHER | Tasha Ballantyne

Tasha appeared in lead roles in three recent NTG productions: Legoland (2022), Never Swim Alone (2022), and Fox on the Fairway (2023). No stranger to pantomimes, she is excited to return to this beloved Christmas tradition having acted in Emperor's New Clothes, Aladdin and the Pirates, and Puss in Boots. She also choreographed Robin Hood and His Very Merry Men and Cinderella, the latter of which she also co-directed.



SET DESIGNER | Jolyon Brown

Well, here we are again! "The Boot", resurrected after 18 years! But this year with a lot of help from new construction talent and lots of papier mâché instead of thin-set concrete! Thanks to everyone listed on the programme. Bur don't ask me again after 18 more years.....as I'll be 106.

THE CREW



LIGHTING DESIGNER | Neil Leslie

Neil started out at NTG as a lighting operator in 2009. Since that time, he has designed lighting and operated many shows for NTG enjoying the different challenges with each one. The club has upgraded the equipment over the past number of years to LED fixtures providing far more flexibility; working on panto is always a chance to play and experiment with lighting effects. Enjoy the show!



SOUND DESIGNER | Doug Blackmore

Doug is a valuable asset to our team adding his talent in sound design to many of our productions. Some memorable ones are The 39 Steps, Cabaret and Godspell. He began designing soundscapes in 2008 with Mother Goose when his daughter was the princess. We are very happy that he is with us for the repeat performance.



HEAD OF PROPERTIES | Libba Innes

Libba Is a fairly new member of NTG who has found her niche in the props department. Last season she helped backstage with Ripcord and followed this by taking the helm in props in Leading Ladies. She is very happy to be working on the panto this year and is more than grateful for the generous help and extensive knowledge of her two assistants, Kristal and Vanessa. Thanks also to the rest of the panto team for their help and support.



MAKEUP | Evelyn Barth

Evelyn has been a member of NTG for several years now bringing her skills as a makeup artist to many of our productions. Her most recent shows include Stepping Out, When we Are Married, Leading Ladies and several pantomimes. Many congratulations to Evelyn on her recent marriage!

PRODUCTION TEAM

Directors Peggy Harris & Ian Matthews

Producer Sheila Coultish
Music Director Debbie Dixon

Choreographer Tasha Ballantyne
Dance Captain Stacey Grubb

Stage Manager Cindy Williams

Assistant Stage Manager Shawn Lewis, Milo Cathers

Set Designer and construction Jolyon Brown

Set Construction John Hepples, Dave Smith,

Sloane Waldie

Set Painters Laurie and Laura Loewen,

Kristal Atkinson, Libba Innes

Lighting Designer/Operator Neil Leslie

Lighting Operator
Sound Designer
Sound Operator
Costume Head

Nicola Crowhurst
Doug Blackmore
Grace Smiley
Lorna McLellan

Costume Assistants Patti Bradley, Jan Leslie

Properties Lead Libba Innes

Properties Assistants Vanessa Jones, Kristal Atkinson

Makeup Evelyn Barth, Nikita Towe

Front of House Manager Tatjana Hayes
Box Office Manager Meg Matthews

SPECIAL THANKS

Ken Anderson of Northwest Tidal Rigging, Maggie Brown,
Jacki Buechlar, Lisa Eckert, Fenceline Products Ltd, Sheila Fremont-Male,
Janet Hepples, Sue Gueulette, Liz Higgins, Carolyn Kuhn,
Frankie Kuhn, Jan Moles, Sandee Phillips, Francesca Reside,
Joan Roszmann, Yellow Bird Arts Gallery

All concession and front of house volunteers!

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Ardelle Ross Pat Scholz

Jacqueline & Gregory Slocombe

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