

Gaslight



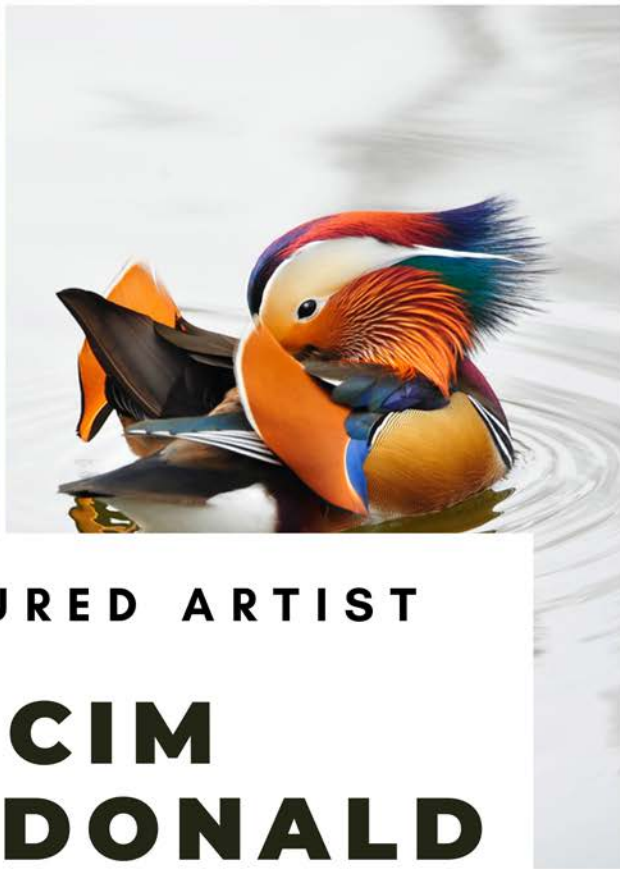
A new adaptation by
**Johnna Wright and
Patty Jamieson**

Based on the play *Angel Street* by Patrick Hamilton

CLASSIC THRILLER

APR 28 - MAY 28

2023 SEASON
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APR 28 - MAY 28

GASLIGHT

A new adaptation by
Johnna Wright and **Patty Jamieson**

The Creative Team

Director	Sarah Rodgers
Set Designer	Hans Saefkow
Lighting Designer	Mark Carter
Costume Designer	Crystal Hanson
Sound Designer & Composition	Rick Colhoun
Fight Director	Simon Fon
Stage Manager	Koh Lauren Quan
	Liz King
Assistant Stage Manager	Madison Henry

The Cast

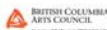
Bella	Nyiri Karakas
Jack	Ben Sanders
Elizabeth	Erin Ormond
Nancy	Jenaya Barker
Understudy	Megan Zong

THERE WILL BE ONE 20 MINUTE INTERMISSION

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This adaptation of Gaslight was originally produced at the Shaw Festival Theatre, Ontario in 2022.

With gratitude, we acknowledge the Puneluxutth (Penelakut) Tribe and the
hul'qumi'num speaking peoples, on whose traditional territory we work and play.

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Valerie Reynolds
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WELCOME!

We are glad you could join us for this exciting West Coast premiere! Along with creating exceptional theatre that inspires and nourishes the human spirit, Chemainus Theatre Festival aims to enrich the region, advance the arts, and build a just, equitable, inclusive and accessible community. This adaptation of a play of enduring value elevates these goals, and we are very pleased to be producing it here on the Island. Thanks to Sarah and the fantastic team that has been assembled and the clever reimagining of this piece from Canadian playwrights Johnna Wright and Patty Jamieson. It's great to see this historic work take on new life with a fresh lens and we hope you enjoy the ride.

The 2023 season is off to a great start, with fresh artwork in the Gallery and throughout the building, the Playbill Present Cabaret Series between some mainstage shows and lots of live professional theatre yet ahead. Thanks to the season ticket holders in the house and the many donors. If you're still considering joining us for the year, three show packages are available until Gaslight closes. We welcome you to join our season ticket holders in helping create a strong baseline of support. Enjoy the show!



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DIRECTOR'S NOTES - SARAH RODGERS



Gaslight was the Word of the Year for 2022. Gaslighting is "the act of practice of grossly misleading someone especially for one's own advantage."

The term comes from the title of a play and the movie based on that play: *Angel Street* by Patrick Hamilton.

I recall as a young girl watching the George Cukor film *Gaslight* starring the beautiful Ingrid Bergman. Even as a seven-year-old girl there was something about the treatment of the heroine in that film that was irksome.

Many years later my dear friend Johnna Wright and writing partner Patty Jamieson found a way to reinvent the story and bring intuition, strength and bravery to the central female character.

It's a wonderful and refreshing take on an old tale – there is no man sweeping in to save the day - if you are waiting for the Inspector to call you may be waiting a long time.

This heroine takes matters into her own capable hands with surprising and delightful consequences.

The mystery genre is one of my favourite genres – sit back and enjoy the suspense, wit, plot twists and intrigue and cheer our heroine on – she just might hear you this time!

Sarah Rodgers is a theatre practitioner based in Vancouver and the Artistic Director of United Players Theatre Company. Sarah received her BFA (acting) MFA (Directing) from The University of British Columbia. Sarah directs for many companies in Vancouver and across North America. Most recently: *Our Ghosts* by Sally Stubbs at The Firehall Theatre. Upcoming: Disney's *The Little Mermaid* for Opera House in Wilmington, North Carolina. Sarah is tickled pink to be back at the wonderful Chemainus Theatre Festival.



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PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES



JOHNNA WRIGHT & PATTY JAMIESON

Gaslighting. We have heard that word a lot recently. You're told that what you're seeing and hearing – what you think you know – simply isn't so. Are your eyes being opened to reality? Or is someone deliberately making you doubt what you know to be true? The expression comes from Patrick Hamilton's play, *Angel Street*, which was adapted for film in the 1940s as *Gaslight*. It's a great, suspenseful story: the mysterious dimming of the lights; the seemingly loving and debonair husband; the dark secret that lurks beneath; the fragile and neurotic woman whose reality is being upended. We love a good thriller, but like many stories from this era, Hamilton's *Angel Street* can be difficult for a modern audience to navigate because it is based on some dated ideas about how women operate. It's frustrating to see Bella, the heroine, so easily dismissed. In *Angel Street*, a police inspector explains the mystery to her while she reacts with surprise and dismay. Bella does a lot of listening in the play, but doesn't have the opportunity to take much action. Still, the idea at the centre of *Angel Street* is compelling, and Bella's struggle resonated for us in so many ways that we thought it could have meaning for others as well. Would it be possible to reimagine *Angel Street* as a story about Bella's strength and resourcefulness? Our version starts off much the same as the original. But part way through something changes, something that puts Bella at the heart of a story many of us are living right now, in one way or another. No spoilers here, but in this version there is no police inspector. No one is coming to save Bella. The question is, can she find the strength to save herself?



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Valerie Reynolds
Development Manager
vreynolds@chemainustheatre.ca



THE COMPANY



MARK CARTER

Lighting Designer

Most recent lighting design for United Players' Hedda Gabler. Other designs for UP include: Silent Sky, Amphitruo, and The Thursday Night Bridge Circle. Other design credits include: The Wizard of Oz (St. George's), RESPECT! and Making Spirits Bright (VMC). Next up Mark will be directing The Lightning Thief in May, and The Wizard of Oz in October both with C.T.O.R.A. Mark is the founding Artistic Director of DSR Productions as well as the owner of Vanstage Productions.



JENAYA BARKER

Nancy

Jenaya is a graduate of the Capilano Musical Theatre Program, and is thrilled to be making her Chemainus debut! She is also an accomplished vocalist, songwriter, and a proud mother to many plants. Thank you so much to Sarah and the team for this opportunity! Stay hydrated, stay humble. Past credits include work with URP, First Impressions Theatre, Theatre Under the Stars, and Far From the Tree Productions. Spotify: @jenayabarker.



RICK COLHOUN *Sound Designer & Composition*

Four-time Jessie Award nominee and one-time winner. Rick is so excited to be at the renowned Chemainus Theatre for the first time! Rick thanks his family for their support and everyone who makes live theatre happen



SIMON FON

Fight Director

Over 600 professional credits. Broadway, Stratford, coast to coast. Resident fight director Soulepepper. Fight Master with Fight Directors Canada. Executive Director and Founder of RIOT ACT team that earned 17 nominations and 8 awards internationally, including Simon for Male Action Performer of the Year 2009 AOF Festival California.

THE COMPANY



CRYSTAL HANSON

Costume Designer

Born on Vancouver Island, Crystal returned to its moss covered rocks and tall trees a number of years ago. Favorite costume designs at the Chemainus Theatre Festival include *A Tiny Christmas Carol*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *Silent Sky*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Ring of Fire*, *Waiting for the Parade*, *Countryside Christmas*, and *Ah, Wilderness*. She enjoyed the recent opportunity to create the puppets for CTF's web series *The Seasideers*.



MADISON HENRY

Assistant Stage Manager

Maddy is thrilled to be spending her spring on the island with this incredible team. Many thanks to Chemainus Theatre for having her! Select credits include: *Deafy*, *Jane Eyre* (Citadel Theatre); *Network* (Citadel Theatre/Royal MTC); *Hey Viola!* (Charlottetown Festival); *The Wizard of Oz*, *Chelsea Hotel*, *The Sound of Music*, *A Christmas Carol* (Western Canada Theatre); *The New Canadian Curling Club*, *The Buddy Holly Story* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Silent Light* (Banff Centre).



NYIRI KARAKAS

Bella

Nyiri holds an MA in Acting from East 15 Acting School in London, UK, where she was also part of a residency at Shakespeare's Globe. Theatre: *Sense & Sensibility* (Arts Club); *Children of Fire* (Nightwood/Aluna); *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Modern Times/Aluna); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare Bash'd); *As You Like It* (Bard in the Park); *Top Girls* (Alumnae Theatre); *The Penelopiad* (Hart House Theatre). Film/TV: *Tiny Pretty Things* (Netflix).



LIZ KING

Stage Manager

Liz is a Saskatchewan born, BC based stage manager and is thrilled to be here for Gaslight. This will be her 15th production at CTF with her favourite being *Once*. Elsewhere Liz has worked across Canada at theatres such as the Belfry, Persephone Theatre, Gwaandak Theatre, and the Stratford Festival. Liz has run one marathon and had one major mountain biking crash. She cares to repeat neither.

THE COMPANY



ERIN ORMOND

Elizabeth

Erin is a Jessie-nominated actor based on Vancouver Island. She is overjoyed to return to the CTF stage, where she also performed in *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *Mamma Mia!*, *A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur*, *Harvey*, *Grace and Glorie*, *Dracula*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Enchanted April*, *An Ideal Husband* and *Queen Milli of Galt*. Other Theatre credits include *The Audience* (Arts Club), *The Christians* (Pacific Theatre), *Steel Magnolias* (Richmond Gateway), and *The Miracle Worker* (Western Canada Theatre).



KOH LAUREN QUAN

Stage Manager

Born and raised on the island, Koh now works across Canada for companies such as Drayton Entertainment, Thousand Islands Playhouse, Persephone, Arts Club, Gateway, Savage Society, TUTS, Touchstone, and Theatre NorthWest. This is her 7th production with CTF. Recently, she was also the Assistant Choreographer for *Something Rotten!* (TUTS), and the Artistic Coordinator for the Arts Club. Upcoming: *Matilda* (TUTS), and many more new adventures... @kohlaurenquan



HANS SAEFKOW

Set Designer

Hans is excited to be working with Chemainus Theatre for the first time. Most recent: Premiere of *Sleight of Mind*, Western Canada Theatre, and the first time Hans had a chance to work with his son, actor Teo Saefkow, in a professional context. Recent and notable work: *Shoplifters*, Theatre North West; *Stones in His Pockets*, Persephone Theatre; *Isitwendam* (An Understanding) - Bound to Create's collaboration with Native Earth Performing Arts in Toronto. *Mamma Mia*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Chicago* and *What You Will* - Smithers Secondary Arts Academy.



BEN SANDERS

Jack

Ben has been performing on stages in Ontario since 2008, including 10 years at the Shaw Festival. Since 2020, his on-screen work includes *Fellow Travelers* (Showtime), *Malory Towers* (BBC), *Cross* (Amazon), *Transplant* (CTV), *Five Days at Memorial* (Apple TV), *Locke and Key* (Netflix), *Mayor of Kingstown* (Paramount+), *What We Do in the Shadows* (FX), several silly rom-coms, and recurring roles on *Murdoch Mysteries* and *Frankie Drake Mysteries*.

THE COMPANY



MEGAN ZONG

Understudy

Megan Zong is a Chinese-Canadian actor and emerging playwright and producer originally from Treaty 6 Territory (Saskatoon) but currently based on the unceded and traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations (Vancouver). She received her B.F.A in Acting from the University of Saskatchewan and has been working professionally in theatre for the past five years. For more information on her artistic body of work and upcoming projects you can visit meganzong.com.

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This is a love story that knows no bounds, made famous by the 1990 film featuring Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore and first adapted for the musical theatre stage in London before becoming a Broadway hit! After a huge success in Russia and Germany, Ghost the Musical finally arrived in Paris, with a delightful soundtrack and surprisingly special effects.

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