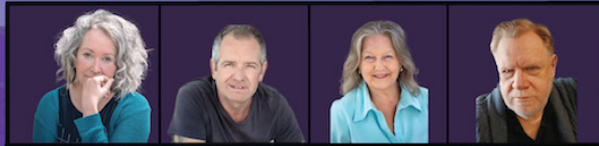


PAL Canada Foundation
Presents

Newfoundland Stories

Woven Through the Lens of Senior Artists

Featuring the stories of:



Bernadine Stapleton Lawrence Barry Jillian Rees-Brown Geoff Adams



George Masswohl Helena Elueme Aiden Flynn

Deep in our hearts and souls, our stories are waiting for us to give them a voice.
For centuries, we have used Storytelling to communicate and entertain.

The stories we tell connect us with one another. Enjoy our brilliant cast of senior artists who share stories that uncover a personal journey of trials, trauma and triumphs through a range of social issues.

Directed and woven by: June Cupido
Musical Director: David Warrack

The Barbara Barrett Theatre
at the Arts and Culture Centre

March 22, 23

Tickets: \$35.00

artsandculturecentre.com/stjohns/online

709-729-3900

palcanada.org

Funded in part by the
Government of Canada's
New Horizons for Seniors Program

Canada

The participation of these Artists are arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance-Opera-Theatre Policy.



Welcome to Newfoundland Stories - Woven Through the Lens of Senior Artists. Dedicated to supporting senior and disadvantaged artists across the country, PAL Canada Foundation is excited to launch this initiative to bring its mission to Newfoundland and Labrador.

Working alongside a passionate group of Newfoundland artists, PAL Canada aims to establish a Supporting Cast chapter in the province, its first in Newfoundland and Labrador. Once formed, this Supporting Cast team will provide much needed support to senior artists throughout the region, ensuring they continue to live and thrive with dignity.

To mark the beginning of this effort, PAL Canada is proud to present this unique theatrical storytelling event celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Newfoundland, Labrador, and Canada's Atlantic region. Directed and woven by June Cupido and featuring performances by Geoff Adams, Lawrence Barry, Helena Elueme, George Masswohl, Jillian Rees-Brown and Bernadine Stapleton, this production blends captivating storytelling, evoking love and hope, personal trials, traumas and triumphs, which are uncovered with a musical backdrop created by one of Canada's most iconic and award winning musicians and musical directors, David Warrack. The show offers audiences a unique and inspiring experience.

PAL Canada Foundation is a national charitable organization dedicated to supporting elder and disadvantaged members of Canada's arts and entertainment community. Through its Supporting Cast program, PAL Canada provides both in-person and virtual services that help alleviate isolation and ensure elder artists can live with dignity and security. The program also offers essential volunteer home services, such as household chores, grocery shopping, transportation to medical and dental appointments, and companionship for those in need. In addition to these services, PAL facilitates affordable housing for artists through its chapters in Toronto, Vancouver, and Stratford. A residence is currently in development in Ottawa, while efforts continue toward establishing housing in Calgary, Halifax, and Winnipeg.

With support from the federal government's *New Horizons for Seniors Program*, Newfoundland Stories aims to strengthen the artistic community in St. John's and across Newfoundland and Labrador. Our long-term vision includes developing a Supporting Cast program and ultimately establishing a PAL residence in St. John's to provide affordable housing for artists in need.



As the founding Artistic Managing Director of New Curtain Theatre. in Clarenville, NL since 2005, it was then that **Geoff Adams** returned to Newfoundland after a 10-year career in Vancouver, BC that saw me working with a variety of different theatre companies including Presentation House Theatre, North Vancouver Theatre, Savage God Productions, Apple Core Productions and Highland Leads Cooperative and Down East Productions (of which I was the founder). These are all companies that I have played a role in whether

as a director, actor, designer or producer. With NCT I brought it from a production by production - based company to a one which has now produced near on 50 productions with an additional amateur youth company, community outreach and acting studios to our resume. In addition to NCT I have also collaborated with other artists and organizations throughout the province on other theatre projects such as The Cross-Handed Festival (2007), The World Theatre Project – Cupids 400 (2010) and The Norstead Theatre Festival (2009) Over this time, I have worked tirelessly as an actor, director, producer, designer, writer, administrator and presenter in all sectors of our industry. Most recently I have been the face of Newfoundland tourism in the role of Seamus -The Welcome Desk on the head of a wharf or floating on a boat that is “not eve his”.



Jillian Rees-Brown has been a professional actor since 1979. Most of my living has come from performing, supported by stage managing and directing. Writing is becoming an artistic outlet more as I age. As an actor I have travelled a great deal performing in drama, comedy, musicals, Shakespeare, mime & mask, dance and clown. There have been many experiences I've had that may be helpful to up and coming performers along their path. For example, being 'on the road', musical & physical theatre, in the biz and as a single mother. Although aging brings some physical challenges, I feel that I am at my best at this age and have a lot more to give to this career. I hope that my story aids in expanding the performance world to embrace the wealth of talent and experience older artists can offer by shining a light where so many of us fade into darkness and invisibility.



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New Horizons for Seniors Program



Lawrence Barry has been part of the film and theatre scene in Newfoundland for more than twenty-five years, has written and co-written plays, and has performed numerous film and television roles. He was born in Grand Falls-Windsor, Newfoundland and Labrador to Dorothy, who single-handedly raised him and his four sisters. His affinity for nature compelled him to build a log cabin in the woods, which he lived in for a period of time before moving to St. John's to pursue his acting career. He was nominated for Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role at the 2017 Canadian Screen Awards for his role in Riverhead. You can also see him in the feature films The Grand Seduction, Maudie, Away From Everywhere, and Sweetland, to name a few.



Helena Elueme (she/her) is a playwright, musician and communications specialist based in Newfoundland and Labrador. After completing a Bachelors of Business Administration from Memorial University in 2022, she worked at Sharing Our Cultures and ContentCollab as a marketing and communications coordinator. Helena performs with Sam the Band at local events and festivals such as Hold Fast Festival, Sarfest, Markets on Water, the Farmers Market, etc. Her plays have been performed on stages around Canada such as the St. John's Shorts Play Festival, The Gathering Divergence Multi Arts Festival, and the King Black Box. She is currently working on another play! When she's not serving the community or working on her creative projects, Helena enjoys volunteering, traveling and reading novels while soaking up the sun at the beach!



Raised in St. Catharines, ON, **George Masswohl** has been one of the leading performers in the Canadian musical theatre for decades. A Dora Mavor Moore Award winner, George is probably best known for his acclaimed 2 year run as Claude, the Mayor of Gander Newfoundland in the Canadian production of Come From Away in Toronto. Having criss-crossed the country playing a range of iconic roles for the Shaw and Stratford Festivals, Young People's Theatre, Canadian Stage, and the Charlottetown Festival, to name a few, George now lives in St. John's, Newfoundland where he owns and operates his own tour company: George's Tours. He is also lead singer of The Rowdymen, a band that plays Newfoundland traditional, contemporary, and original music.



Bernardine Stapleton is a playwright, author, skit-artist, and actor. She was born in North West River, Labrador and grew up on the south coast of Newfoundland. She is a Siminovitch Playwright Prize finalist, as well as being the recipient of the Rhonda Payne Award for Theatre. She is the Artistic Director of Girl Power Inc. an indie feminist theatre company. She is the inaugural playwright-in-residence with RCAT, embarking on a year-long journey of creation

new play on aging and dying in the professional arts: Senior Moments: Don't Wait Until We're Dead. She has had almost forty plays professionally produced in Canada and beyond, including Ireland, the U.K. and New York. Her plays include *Offensive to Some* and *The Antidote for Life: Memory, Madness and Beagles*, an autobiographical exploration of madness in the arts. New works in progress include an audio play for the NAC English Theatre's *Irresistible Neighbourhoods: Walking on Water; Ophelia Saves the World from Zombies* and the upcoming podcast *The Haunted Doorbell*. Bernardine was writer-in-residence at Memorial University in 2019 and has taught an Introduction to Playwriting course there. Her books include *Love, Life, with Breakwater Books* and the newest yet unpublished *Brazil Square* about the once iconic boarding house district of St. John's. She lives in St. John's with rescue beagles *Georgie Girl* and *Tiggy Duff*.



Director, **June Cupido** is a Story Weaver and the creator of *Truth and Illusion*, a soul-searching exercise as it takes an intense creative process for someone to come up with a heartfelt monologue. As a story weaver and Jungian Coach, June asked the performers to dig deep. June calls the complete process of crafting the narrative response: *Deep, Dark, and Delicious*. As each performer processes their world inside, they can discover

enlightenment. This method is inspired by the three main stages of the "Hero's Journey", a narrative pattern identified by Joseph Campbell, world-celebrated mythologist. The teachings of Joseph Campbell serve as the inspiration for the production. He asserts that storytelling and myths relate to our search for truth, meaning, and significance. According to Campbell, we all need to tell our personal story and, most importantly, to understand our story. He encourages us to view parts of our lives as heroic journeys, to find out what excites us and make that the basis of our quest. We invite you to accompany the performers on their journey. After spending 36 inspiring years in post-secondary education developing leadership programs to help students find a sense of purpose and social direction, June's focus now is to continue to create provocative theatre experiences that guide the integration, acceptance, and compassion for others through increased understanding of what another has experienced or is experiencing.



ARTS & CULTURE CENTRE



David Warrack – Arranger, Orchestrator, Composer, Conductor, Musical Director, Pianist, Recording Artist, Producer. Canadian Actors' Equity (life member), Toronto Musicians' Association (Lifetime Achievement Award), IATSE (honorary member), Dramatists' Guild, Playwrights' Guild, Canadian Music Centre. David produced 86 musicals as writer/composer, including *Flicks*, *Vaudevillians*, *Tut Tut*(CD), *On Tap*, *Rob Roy* (Edinburgh Festival) (CD), *Dancing in the Cold Dust*, *Deco Beach*, *Kaboom* (Vegas), *Panama* (Panama City). Wrote Oratorio *Abraham* (premiered in 2015 with lead, Richard Margison).

12 Musical for Children. Current: *Carry on Vamping*, *Mama and Me*, *Lotto Millionaire*, *Jacob's Ladder*. Translation of *La Belle Helene* for Canadian Opera Company. Musical Director for over 200 Theatre productions in Canada, U.S.A. and Panama. 4 years as guest performer on Peter Gzowski's *Morningside* (CBC Radio). Recent recordings: the *The Three Davids*, *The Universe is Dancing*. Toured with *Maureen Forrester* for 15 years (CD). Extensive tours with *Michael Burgess*, *Rebecca Caine*, *Louise Pitre*, *Jackie Richardson*, *Ben Heppner*, and *Jeff Hyslop* (CD). Stratford with *Len Cariou*. Conductor: *Canada Pops Orchestra* (18 years); *Shenandoah* (Broadway); orchestras across Canada; first 9 *Pantomimes* at *Elgin Theatre* (*Ross Petty*); *Unforgettable* (3 month run Vancouver); cross Canada tour of *Jacques Brel*. Currently, 7th season of *Your All-Time Classic Hit Parade* (Vision TV). Selected shows as Producer: *Toronto*, *Toronto 1&2*, *All for One* (CBC Superspecial), *Songs of the City* (United Way, 2015 - 2019); 3 *Dora Mavor Moore Awards Shows* (the only three ever televised); *Ronnie Hawkins* at *Massey Hall*; *Canada Day* at the *Met*. Organist at *Hillcrest Christian Church*.



Physically Disabled Service Centre

Newfoundland Stories Cast (in order of performance)

Lawrence Barry
Bernardine Stapleton
Helena Euleme
Geoff Adams
Jillian Rees-Brown
George Masswohl

Musical Numbers

Say Nothing - words and music by June Cupido and Michael Mulrooney

Shame - Traditional gospel, with lyrics adapted by June Cupido and Michael Mulrooney

If I Were King of The Forest - E.Y. Harburg/Harold Arlen (From the Wizard of Oz)

Please remain after the show and enjoy our talk-back session where you will have an opportunity to ask any of our performers questions about their stories,, while you'll also learn more about the St. John's project from Aiden Flynn.

PAL Canada Foundation would like to thank the following for their support of this show.

Grady Aylward
Nick Decker
Jenn Doen
Marie Jones

Becky Pendergast
Matthew Malay
Aaron Manyanda
Linda Swain



About PAL Canada

Founded in 1986, PAL Canada Foundation is the national “umbrella” organization of seven independent PAL chapters across the country, including Halifax, Ottawa, Toronto, Stratford, Winnipeg, Calgary, and Vancouver. Each PAL chapter has its own unique requirements, which are defined by the needs of their local community of arts and entertainment professionals.

For many years in Toronto, members of the Arts Community had decried the lack of care and support facilities for older members at a stage in their lives when these became increasingly necessary. However, momentum seemed to increase around 1983, and there was a crescendo of voices asking for serious investigation into the treatment of senior artists: professionals who had given their lives to the Arts.

A professional theatre company in Toronto, The Smile Theatre Company, commented on the growing number of older performing artists living in circumstances that were sometimes heart-breaking; unable to keep their homes (if they had been able to accumulate one while in the finicky market of Canadian Culture), ending their days in an institution ill-suited and ill-prepared for the sometimes difficult characteristics of the older artist. In such an atmosphere, alienated from “their old buddies”, living in a place where few, if any, knew their background, and out of touch with colleagues in similar situations. These artists were unhappy to say the least.

Born was the root and heart of PAL Canada, Supporting Cast, an outreach program that offers assistance to aging artists to help alleviate isolation, while also enabling them to lead meaningful, independent lives in their own homes. Elder artists tend to experience an increased level of social isolation due to the reality of the independent, inner expression, often required with their professions. So, in its quest to fulfill its mission, PAL Canada has pivoted to develop virtual connectivity programs to “create caring communities and support programs, which allow senior members of Canada’s arts and entertainment industry to thrive”. Programs like Book PALs, Game Days and Tea-Time are held via Zoom and provide a wonderful opportunity for seniors from coast to coast to coast, to connect helping to alleviate isolation. We invite you to register for any of our fun virtual programs by signing up at palcanada.org/programs.

PAL Canada looks forward to working with Aiden Flynn, Jillian Rees-Brown and others in their goal to develop a PAL Chapter in St. John’s, which will serve this wonderfully talented province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Learn more at: palcanada.org