

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I've never worked on a play where the real world and our story intersect so deeply.

I first heard this play in a presentation produced by Third Street Theatre, hearing the voices of Klippert and Maxine from Loft 112 in the East Village, with a clear view to the C-train tracks. Busses rolled by. I could see this city as I heard its story, and that moment has been with me from then to now.

Not to forget Chicken on the Way...

We've said in rehearsal "the specific is the universal," and this is true: you may never have eaten Chicken on the Way or taken the Number One bus route, but you know what it is to live in a city, what it is to want something so badly... but to not be able to touch it.

Natalie has created powerfully true moments in these characters, and it has been an honour to explore this emotional, intimate terrain with her. The real world and our story intersect in spots across the city, and in our hearts, here in the theatre. Here is where we can crack open the strongbox of our own hearts and live together for a time.

Thank you for getting on our bus! See where we've been, how far we've come, and how far we have yet to go.

SPECIAL THANKS to

Jackson

Constance Simmonds

Meg Thatcher

NASA

Alberta Theatre Projects

Production Canada

MRU Faculty of Arts Endeavour Fund

Downstage

Chinook Fund

This play was commissioned by Third Street Theatre then researched and developed in cooperation with The Calgary Gay History Project and Third Street Theatre. Selected scenes have been given a staged reading at Loft 112 to solicit feedback from community members and elders. Many thanks to Jonathan Brower, Kevin Allen and Tereasa Maillie

for those early brainstorming sessions. A million thanks to Donald Klippert, Katherine Griebel, Sarah Griebel, and other relatives and friends of Mr. Klippert who spoke with us during the research stage and kindly shared stories, scrapbooks and his writings. Thank you to all the queer and Indigenous elders as well as to members of the LGBTQIA2+ community and allies who came out to the selected readings at Loft 112 and shared wisdom and stories, to Kevin Rothery and Tara Beagan for lending your acting talents and perspective to the workshop draft, Chapelle Jaffe, Yvette Nolan, Nathalie Kermoal and Brittany Cressy for kind notes on the play during its development, and to Jason Mehmel, Sage Theatre and this talented and passionate cast & crew for bringing it all to life.

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A portion of the proceeds of the play will be donated to: **The Everett Klippert Scholarship**
Awarded by the Faculty of Law on the basis of academic merit to one or more outstanding undergraduate or graduate students entering the Faculty of Law. Preference will be given for students having demonstrated a commitment to working on issues facing marginalized members of LGBT communities.

SAGETHEATRE
(403) 264-7243 | www.sagetheatre.com

Legislating Love

The Everett Klippert Story
by Natalie Meisner

Mar 22-31, 2018

West Village Theatre 2007 10 Ave SW, Calgary



The Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation



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Mark Bellamy

Is very happy to be making his Sage Theatre debut in a new play by Natalie Meisner. Mark is formerly the Artistic Producer of Lunchbox Theatre (2014-2017) and Artistic Director of Vertigo Theatre (2004–2012). He has been honoured with numerous awards for his work as a director, choreographer and arts administrator, including the 2006 Greg Bond Memorial Award, the 2012 Harry and Martha Cohen Award and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his contribution to the arts in Alberta. Some of his favourite recent performance credits include: Moon, Moon, No Moon, (One Yellow Rabbit), In On It, Speed Dating for Sperm Donors (Lunchbox Theatre), Cocktails at Pam’s (Teatro La Quindicina) and Shear Madness (Vertigo Theatre). He lives in Calgary with his awesome golden retriever, Jackson.



Jordan Wieben

FOR SAGE THEATRE: Debut ELSEWHERE: The Outsiders (Storybook Theatre), Extremophiles (Downstage), Grounded (Calgary Young People’s Theatre) Velocity (Decidedly Jazz Danceworks), Almost Maine (Red Deer College), The Circle (Studio Hydro-Quebec), Hamlet (Prime Stock Theatre), A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Prime Stock Theatre), Lion in the Streets (Studio Hydro-Quebec) AWARDS: Best National Dress Design (Miss Canada, Miss Intercontinental). Jordan is a graduate of the Set & Costume Design program at the National Theatre School of Canada. In addition to designing costumes, Jordan has created traditional pen & ink illustrations for Vertigo Theatre, Handsome Alice, Imago Theatre, and the Calgary Centre for Global Community.



Jason Mehmel

Jason Mehmel is a writer, producer and director living in Calgary. He is the Artistic Director of Sage Theatre. His directing work includes Apple, King Kirby, A Beautiful View, (Sage Theatre), and No Exit (VIA Theatre/TheatreBSMT). He helped create End Of The Line as part of the Ghost River Theatre 2013 Devised Intensive. He is also a speaker coach and part of the speaker curation team for TEDxYYC. He has produced and directed short films. He writes comic books, including the anthology book FIGHT COMICS! (fightcomics.ca) Thanks to Mucho and Lisa for all the support.



Travis McKinnon

Travis is an emerging sound designer based in Calgary. With an interest in music and sound scape creation, he studied Theatre Technical Production at Red Deer College and has since gone on to refine his technical skills at Banff Centre. He plays guitar, drums, and banjo and uses these skills along with his technical skills to create a fluent, comprehensive sound experience. His past credits include 9 Circles (Theatre Disponibilité) and Benefit (Downstage). He is thrilled to be a part of this production and would like to thank the cast and crew for this experience.



Jenn Forgie

As part of her ongoing journey connecting with her Métis culture and communities, Jenn recently returned to her home town of Toronto after many years living on the West Coast of BC. She is thrilled to be back in the West, working in beautiful Calgary with this group of committed, talented artists with Sage Theatre. Jenn recently performed in Native Earth’s 30th Weesagechak Festival of new Indigenous works and is a co-creator/performer of Toronto’s Aluna Theatre upcoming new production, The Solitudes. ... She offers a heartfelt Marsee, Chi Miigwetch and Thank You to the Calgary Arts and Indigenous communities for their support of our work and to Natalie Meisner, Jason Mehmel, the creative team at Sage Theatre and the wonderful cast and crew of Legislating Love for their courage and commitment to this important story. Special thanks to Dianne Goodman for making me feel at home.



Natalie Meisner

Is a widely produced author of stage plays and award-winning multi-genre writer. Her nonfiction book: Double Pregnant: Two Lesbians Make a Family (Fernwood) was a finalist in the Atlantic Book Awards. SPEED DATING FOR SPERM DONORS was a hit at Lunchbox and Neptune and will be available from Playwright’s Canada Press (forthcoming). She is at work on several new plays as well as her first children’s book, My Mommy, My Mama, My Brother and Me (Nimbus,2020). Natalie is a wife and mom to two great boys and a Professor Department of English at Mount Royal University working in the areas of creative writing, drama, gender/sexuality studies. (www.nataliemeisner.com)



Kathy Zaborsky

is thrilled to be working with Sage! Selected credits: Bad Jews, The Great Gatsby (Theatre Calgary); Castrati:An ElectroDrag Opera (Theatre Outré); 18 seasons with New West Theatre on over 60 productions including The Shape of a Girl; Toxic Avenger Musical (Broadway West); Educating Rita (Sunshine Festival); The Donnellys Part 2 (Banff Centre) US tour of Romeo and Juliet (National Theatre of the Performing Arts-NYC) This past spring, recipient of best actress award at the Dublin International Gay Theatre Festival for Montparnasse (Theatre Outré). Katharine also works as a musical director and sound designer.



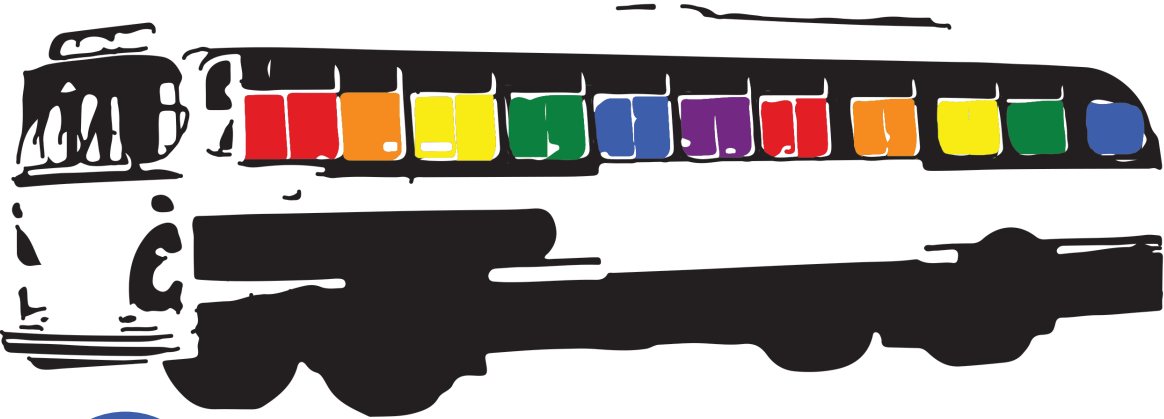
Matt McKinney

Is a multi-disciplinary video and performance artist who graduated from the University of Alberta’s BFA Acting program in 2009. Recent credits include: The Last Voyage of Donald Crowhurst (ATP & Ghost River Theatre), The Passion of Sergius & Bacchus (Third Street Theatre), Snow Angel (Quest Theatre), Speech & Debate (NLT), FILM/TV: Heritage Minute: Brothers (Historica Canada), Three Colours & A Canvas (Vision 10). He also enjoys running a videography company, 2150 Creative. www.matt-mckinney.com



Michael Howard

Is happy to be back at Sage Theatre with such a great group of talented artists. Recent stage management credits include for Vertigo The Big Sleep, Sherlock Holmes And The Case Of The Jersey Lily, The Turn Of The Screw, Shear Madness, Farewell My Lovely, The Hound Of The Baskervilles, The Ends Of The Earth, Noirville, An Inspector Calls and Woman In Black. nOOb for Vertigo Theatre’s Y Stage Theatre Series and YPT Toronto; Harvest and The Notorious Right Robert for The Festival Players of Prince Edward County; A Worthy Opponent and Second Chance; First Love for Lunchbox Theatre; The Motherfucker With The HAT at Alberta Theatre Projects; Playing With Fire: The Theo Fleury Story at ATP, The Citadel, PTE and Persephone and The Crucible and Lost: A Memoir for Theatre Calgary. Michael would like to thank Julie Orton for ‘everything’.



Jay Northcott

Jay is a multidisciplinary director, playwright, puppet maker, solo performer and advocate for racialized and marginalized artists. They are a graduate of the University of Lethbridge, from there they went to Calgary and called it home for the time being. Jay is also terrible at writing bios for shows. Jay’s has been mostly directing these past few years, Favorite credits include: Girls!Girls!Girls!, City of the Broken (TheatreXtra), All that’s Left, The Cows (Theatre Junction). Acting credits: The Listening Room (Cardiac Theatre) Saddest Dance Party Ever, Light Skin Dark Skin (Swallow a Bicycle) Carrie the Musical, Rocky Horror Picture Show, Lion in the Streets (University of Lethbridge). They are incredibly grateful to be working on this show with the rad humans of Sage Theatre. Find me on social media. @nervousshipwreck



Terry Gunvordahl

Terry’s design career continues to shift, change and evolve. He has worked as set designer on a pilot for NBC Television as well as several commercials. His designs have been seen around the world including Paris, France; Rotterdam, Holland; and Manchester, England. Terry’s designs have been nominated for Toronto’s Dora Award, Edmonton’s Stirling Award, Vancouver’s Jessie Award, the Saskatchewan Theatre Award and over 20 nominations for Calgary’s Betty Mitchell Award. In 2015, Terry received The Harry and Martha Cohen Award for significant and sustained contribution to theatre in Calgary. His upcoming designs include Mary Poppins for Storybook Theatre and The Magic Flute and Into the Woods for Opera Nuova. His exhibit designs can be seen at the Glenbow Museum, The Calgary Military Museums and Blackfoot Crossing Historical park.