kanata theatre

Ronald Harwood's

QUARTET

DIRECTED BY BARBARA KOBOLAK






kanata theatre
Norm Foster's
OPENING
NIGHT
DIRECTED BY BRIAN MCMANUS
May 12 - 23 2020
KANATATHEATRE.CA | 613.831.4435

CAST

in order of appearance

Reginald (Reggie) Paget	IAN STAUFFER
Cecily (Cissy) Robson	ARLENE WATSON
Wilfred (Wilf) Bond	MICHAEL KENNEDY
Jean Horton	JANET RICE
Bobby Swanson	HOWARD MILLER

AND

The MEMORY QUARTET singing the quartet from Giuseppe Verdi's opera, *Rigoletto* (Covent Garden, 1954)

Young Reginald Paget (as the Duke of Mantua)	MATTHEW LORZ
Young Cissy Robson (as Maddalena, a gypsy)	MELANIE VERMEERSCH
Young Jean Horton (as Gilda, Rigoletto's daughter)	REBA SIGLER
Young Wilfred Bond (as Rigoletto, the court jester)	PAUL MELSNESS

SETTING

A retirement home for professional musicians in Kent, England in 1999.

ACT ONE: The terrace – A June morning, just before noon.

ACT TWO, scene one: The music room. The next day. Mid-morning.

ACT TWO, scene two: The music room. Three weeks later. Early morning.

ACT TWO, scene three: The music room, and the performance hall. 10 October. Early evening.

AND

The Quartet, as performed by their younger selves, Covent Garden, 1954.

SUMMARY OF THE QUARTET IN GIUSEPPE VERDI'S OPERA, *RIGOLETTO*

On a dark night, Rigoletto and Gilda lurk outside the lonely inn to which Sparafucile (an assassin-for-hire), aided by his voluptuous sister, Maddalena, lures his victims. The jester and Gilda watch the womanizing Duke make love to Maddalena. While Maddalena leads her intended victim on, the jester comforts his anguished daughter outside. We hear the individual and collective thoughts, in song, of the Duke and Maddalena, Gilda and Rigoletto.

There will be one 15 minute

INTERMISSION

Coffee, tea, non-alcoholic drinks and dessert are available for purchase in the lobby.

Please be considerate: ensure that mobile devices are turned off. The use of any media capture device during the performance is prohibited by law.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the House Manager.

PhonicEar On-Wave hearing assistance system is available during all Kanata Theatre productions. Small clip-on receivers permit control over listening volume levels. These units are available from the cloak room with regular headsets (or you may use your own headset with 3.5mm plug, if you prefer) or T- Switch hearing aid loops.



PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	Tom Kobolak
Stage Manager	Ron Gardner
Assistant Stage Managers	Charlene Gardner, Dennis Sakalauskas
Stage Crew Lead	Betty Francis
Stage Crew	Cindy Corrigan, Erica Gordon, Tania Nadelle Erin Ryan, Dennis Sakalauskas, Erin Stacey, Shauna Lee Thompson
Accent Coach	Barry Caiger
Piano Coach	Larraine Gorman
Movement Coach	Aileen Szkwarek
Set Design	Jim Clarke
Construction Leads	Jim Clarke, Steven Roberts
assisted by	Paul Behncke, Sean Behncke, Enver Dokuzoguz Les Horn, Clyde LeGuerrier, Simon Lindsay-Stodart, Andrew Stodart Chandra von Teichman, Dan Winters, Sandy Wynne, Stewart Zeyl
Set Painting	Elisa Frost, Heidi Roberts, Chandra von Teichman
assisted by	Marlene Alt, Melanie Baur, Joel Butler Shirley Butler, Abby Dionne, Val Guilbault, Mary Holmes Lucille Lacelle, Barbara Kobolak, Aria Mann, Elena Mann William Mann, Hilary Philebrown, Elias Taylor, Janet White Sandy Wynne, Benjamin Zboril, James Zboril, Julie Zboril
Lighting Design	Rik Côté
assisted by	Mike Hogan
Sound Design	Tracey Bourke
assisted by	Rob Johnstone
Set Décor/Furnishings	Larraine Gorman
assisted by	Michael Gareau, Helen Weeden, Martin Weeden
Properties	Darlene Barr
assisted by	Erica Gordon, Tania Nadelle
Costume Design	Maxine Ball
assisted by	Saundra Eaves
Dressers	Abby Dionne, Larraine Gorman Susan Monaghan, Halia Osacda, Andra Smith
Make-up	Martha Johnstone, Hilary Philebrown
Hair Design	Carol Walkey
Continuity	Margrit Cattell, Miriam Fitzgerald, Emily Walsh
Green Room	Adele Mayers
assisted by	Clare Flockton
Refreshments	Barbara Kobolak, Tom Kobolak
House Managers	Jim Holmes, Mary Holmes, Don Lillico

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The play, written in 1999, incorporates CD technology with decidedly non-PC language. Cissy, Reggie and Wilf are former opera singers now living in a home for retired professional musicians. Each year on October tenth, there is a concert to celebrate composer Giuseppe Verdi's birthday. Jean, who used to be married to Reggie, arrives at the home and disrupts their equilibrium. She still acts like a diva and refuses to sing. How to bridge this divide, with the echoes of memories each carries, is the plot. How each chooses to live is our "music" – which you'll hear snippets of throughout the play, incorporating reflections of mood and character, as well as bits of practicing for the upcoming concert. The music is from many composers (not just Verdi), reflecting the various musical backgrounds of the residents.

It's been a journey of discovery to find the interactions that weld these characters together and uncover what Ronald Harwood was writing about - the way in which aging affects these friends and how they respond to its fears, fascination, and the pleasures of renewal and love. So, enjoy this funny and poignant tale of a "fab four" who have come together, in their retirement years, in search of a little harmony.

BIOGRAPHIES



BARBARA KOBOLAK (Director) has been a Kanata Theatre member since 1989. She received the CCC award for directing KT's *The Dining Room*, and last spring directed *Mending Fences* for Ottawa Little Theatre. Other theatrical contributions include over 40 acting roles, box office, backstage, refreshments, and serving the previous six seasons on KT's Board of Directors as Vice President, President, and Past President. Barbara has worked with six theatre companies in the Capital, and her next directing gig will be for OLT in July 2021. Thanks to Tom for his understanding, to Ron for his reminders, and to all at Team Quartet for working in harmony.



MICHAEL KENNEDY (Wilf) is excited to be back at Kanata Theatre after his last experience of being in *Calender Girls*. You may have also seen him in his role in OLT's *Unnecessary Farce,* He has even been seen singing, dancing and shakin' it as a minister gripped by the power of music in *Sister Act.* He hopes you enjoy this wonderful group of people's presentation of *Quartet* and exploration of aging in this humorous but touching play.



MATTHEW MICHEAL LORZ (Young Reggie) originally hails from Chicago. He holds Bachelor and Masters Degrees in Opera and has performed professionally and taught for over two decades. While a Kanata resident since 2013, this is only his second show with Kanata Theatre, having appeared in *A Comedy of Tenors* earlier this season. He would like to thank his fiancée, Melanie Vermeersch, his daughters Ella and Abby, and his mother Elizabeth for their continued support.



PAUL MELSNESS (Young Wilf) is a newcomer to Kanata Theatre and happy to be lending his voice to this wonderful production of *Quartet*. Paul studied music and classical voice privately in Ottawa for many years and performed in several musical productions locally – most recently *Matilda* (Doctor/Escapologiest), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Caractacus Potts), *Grease* (Teen Angel/Vince Fontaine), and *Ragtime* (Tateh) with Orpheus Musical Theatre. Other notable stage credits include *Faust* (Opera Lyra), *The Mikado* and *Trial by Jury* (Savoy Society). Many hugs and kisses to his squishies for their continued love and support.



HOWARD MILLER (Bobby) loves the theatre, movies, and enjoys both singing and acting. His amateur appearances include *Grease* (group retrospective), *Seussical, the Musical* (Horton); *The Princess and the Pea* (the King), *The Headless Horseman* (Old Man); *Aaron Slick from Pumpkin Crick* (Mr. Merridew, the villain), *The Marriage Proposal* (the Suitor), and *Inherit the Wind* (Courtroom Clerk). Off-stage he has been a teacher, union leader, principal, school board superintendent, and most importantly, father of three, grandfather of two, and husband of one.



JANET RICE (Jean) is delighted to be on the Kanata Theatre stage again, and thanks Barbara and the other cast and crew members for creating such a 'harmonious' production. It has been a while since she last appeared on this stage but, in the meantime, she has appeared on many others in and around the Ottawa area – last seen in Perth Studio's entrance to the EODL One Act Play Festival where she was part of the cast that won 'Ensemble' Prize for *A Candle on the Table*. She has also appeared on television in *The Detectives* and *Being Human,* among other productions.



REBA SIGLER (Young Jean) has an ARCT in Vocal Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music and a Graduate Diploma from the University of Ottawa. She loves to perform in concerts, operas, musical theatre, and plays. She was last seen on the Kanata Theatre stage as Mimi in *A Comedy of Tenors*. Reba can often be found doing Hair and Makeup design (*Charlie Brown* with Kanata Theatre, *Bare* with TotoToo), as well as Sound and Lighting at Meridian Theatres at Centrepointe, and hopes to be seen again soon on stage. Enjoy the show!



IAN STAUFFER (Reggie) is privileged, and somewhat intimidated, to portray this complicated character. Confronting old age, especially when one's identity depended upon vocal and physical prowess, has been a challenging journey. All thanks to the insightful Barbara and Ian's talented and supportive co-retirees. Ian last appeared at KT as Henry VIII in *A Man For All Seasons*. He has been very lucky to act on many of Ottawa's stages (and with Arlene in their Perth romp). Much gratitude to *Quartet*'s hardworking crew, especially Barry Caiger, vocal coach. Love, always, to Catherine the Great.



MELANIE VERMEERSCH (Young Cissy) is a professional singer in her first appearance with Kanata Theatre. Most recently, she has performed as a backing singer for The Clint Everson Band and the Steve Groves Trio at the 2017 RBC Bluesfest. As a former student of the Canterbury music program, where she studied voice, she is delighted and grateful for the chance to tackle Verdi's complicated and challenging quartet alongside Matt, Reba and Paul. Many thanks to her fiancé, Matthew Michael Lorz and her esteemed vocal coach, Devon Wastle Thivierge, for their support.



ARLENE WATSON (Cissy) is thrilled to be working with Barbara Kobolak on this fun and fabulous play. Arlene has been performing on and off eastern-0ntario stages for the past 37 years. On stage or backstage, it's sometimes been challenging, sometimes educational, but always enjoyable. Although she loves music, she leans towards tunes from the easy-listening category, but this show has now given her an appreciation for opera! See? Challenging AND educational! Enjoy the show!!

MAXINE BALL (Costume Design) can frequently be found cheerfully emerging from her snazzy car with arms full of clothing, and tape measure slung over her neck, adding pleats and buttons here, discovering antique eyeglasses there, unearthing fancy hats, designing and sewing dresses, and disappearing for minutes into the costume racks to find the perfect item. Among other costume designs, she is the lady behind the beautiful 1940's dresses that so graced *It's a Wonderful Life*. She is so pleased to have helped in this operatic adventure. Heartiest thanks to her assistants, and especially to Saundra Eaves for her invaluable help.

DARLENE BARR (Properties) has been with Kanata theatre since 2008, working behind the scenes on props, dressing the actors or as a producer. She is so excited to be working with Barbara Kobolak once again. She would like to thank her friends and family and the cast and crew for their amazing support.

TRACEY BOURKE (Sound Design) is thrilled to have had the opportunity to do sound design for such a lovely show. Her previous experience includes sound assistant on many previous shows including the latest *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time,* as well as Assistant Stage Manager, Choreographer and Weapons Wench. Her stage appearances include last season's *Silent Sky,* and previous productions *Arsenic & Old Lace, Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, Treasure Island, Radium Girls,* and *Anne of Green Gables.*

JIM CLARKE (Set Design) has been with Kanata Theatre since 2008, initially in props and set construction, but then was convinced to get out on stage in 2010. Since then, he has been involved in over 50 plays, usually, set design and construction, music & sound design, and has been in three Holiday Musicals and two mainstage productions (*Harvey* and *Treasure Island*). Jim will also be directing his third play next season, *The Game's Afoot*, having previously directed KT's *The Odd Couple* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Jim credits his wife and daughter, Kathryn and Emma, for their support, as well as their two Russian Siberian cats.

RICHARD (RIK) CÔTÉ (Lighting Design) is one of the techs without whom no theatre company can operate. An actor when a teenager, he quite happily moved to the world of lights and sound and has lived, it seems, in our technical booth for almost 20 years. Prior to *Quartet*, he exercised his considerable creativity by designing the set, lights and sound of *Madagascar*. He will next spread his wings as the set designer of *Tarzan*, scheduled for next Christmas. Rik has occasionally left his tiny apartment in our tech booth in order to lend his skills to, among others, the Lakeside Players, and the Rural Root Theatre Company. He is delighted to put *Quartet* in the light for you.

RONALD GARDNER (Stage Manager) has acted for Kanata Theatre, Rural Root Theatre and Two Rivers Musical Productions in various productions. He feels as comfortable on stage as he does behind the scenes as producer, stage manager, set builder/designer, and as a board member for KT, RRTC and TRMP. Ron has also directed a number of plays for Kanata Theatre, Rural Root Theatre as well as musicals for Two Rivers Musicals and Lakeside Players and RRTC. He is pleased to have the opportunity to work with Barb on this production.

Kanata Theatre acknowledges with special appreciation the following friends who have provided items or services to the production:

ACE Dry Cleaners • Alan Dean Photography
Tamara Di Maso • Ron Evans Video • Delphine Sullivan

and all KT members who volunteered after the publication deadline.

The cast and crew would like to thank the following KT Members for their support of the production:

Box Office	Anna Filia
assisted by	Mary-Jo Arpin, Jacquie Blair, Rita Brownrigg
	Carol Hussey, Jennifer Kormylo
	Gordon Marwood, Linda Panther
Publicity	Cameron Bishop
Marquee Signs	Paul Behncke
Program	Barbara Rousseau
Photography and Archives	Wendy Wagner
Building Operations	Justin Ladelpha
Technical Operations	Iain McCracken
Lighting	Karl Wagner
Costume Room	Kathryn Clarke
Furnishings and Décor	Helen Weeden, Martin Weeden
Properties	Bev Brooks
Workshop	Jim Clarke

INTRODUCING OUR 2020-2021 SEASON

A Bad Year for Tomatoes by John Patrick
Directed by: Ronald Gardner | September 15 – 26, 2020

Doubt: A Parable by John Patrick Stanley
Directed by: Beverley Brooks | November 3 – 14, 2020

Months on End by Craig Pospisil
Directed by: Clare Flockton | February 2 – 13, 2021

The Game's Afoot (or Holmes for the Holidays) by Ken Ludwig
Directed by: Jim Clarke | March 23 – April 3, 2021

Twelfth Night (or What You Will) by William Shakespeare
Directed by: Jim Holmes | May 11 – May 22, 2021

Kanata Theatre's Holiday Season Show:
"Tarzan"
based on the story, "Tarzan of the Apes" by Edgar Rice Burroughs
and the Disney film,
"Tarzan"Book by David Henry Hwang
Music and Lyrics by Phil Collins
Directed by Diane Côté | December 27-30, 2020

Tickets on sale now -- $85/per person for all 5 regular season shows
Holiday Show -- $15/per ticket.
Holiday Show is not part of the regular season
Details available at the box office or at kanatatheatre.ca
Join us for an evening at the theatre!

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THE RON MASLIN PLAYHOUSE

Located at 1 Ron Maslin Way, just off Terry Fox Drive, the Ron Maslin Playhouse has been the venue for Kanata Theatre productions since May 1996.

The Playhouse is accessible by OC Transpo on Terry Fox Drive, bus stop numbers 6381 and 6382.

The paintings in the foyer are by courtesy of the **Kanata Civic Art Gallery.** For further information or to purchase the art, please call Lauren Henry at 613-592-3393.

The telephone number for emergency calls is 613-831-4436.

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TICKET POLICY

Tickets may be purchased by phone using Visa or Mastercard by calling 613-831-4435 or online at **kanatatheatre.ca**.

Exchanges can be made, by contacting the Box Office, up to 48 hours before the performance time shown on the ticket. A $2 fee/ticket will be applied.

If you are a season ticket holder but are unable to attend a particular play, please don't waste your tickets: do give them to a friend or neighbour, as we are unable to issue refunds. Curtain time is 8 p.m.

Call 613-831-4435 for Box Office hours. Our email address is BoxOffice@kanatatheatre.ca