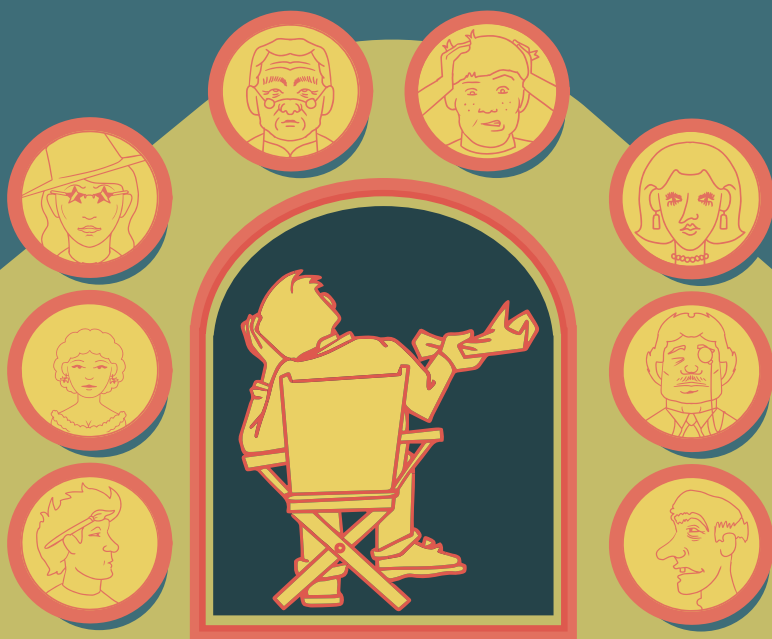




kanata theatre

OPENING NIGHT

BY NORM FOSTER



Directed by Brian McManus



kanata theatre

THE SAVANNAH SIPPING SOCIETY

Written by:

**Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and
Jamie Wooten**

**Directed by
Michael Gareau**

Dates: May 10 - 21, 2022

RON MASLIN PLAYHOUSE | BOX OFFICE: 613-831-4435 | KANATATHEATRE.CA



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CAST

Jack Tisdale	ROSS LONG
Ruth Tisdale	MARY ELLEN VICE
Richard Hyde-Finch	ROBERT JOHNSTONE
Cilla Fraser	MEGAN LeMARQUAND
Michael Craig	TOM KOBOLAK
Clayton Fry	IAN STAUFFER
Libby Husniak	SHIRLEY MANH
Tom Delaney	JOSEPH DONAHUE

SETTING

Location: The Charles Killian Theatre Noir repertory House, mid 1980s at a production of *Whisper on the Wind*.

Act One, Scene One – The VIP lounge twenty minutes prior to curtain.

Act One, Scene Two – Moments before the curtain rises in the theatre.

Act Two, Scene One – During the interval in the VIP lounge.

Act Two, Scene Two – A few minutes prior to the curtain of the second act.

Act Two, Scene Three – About fifteen minutes later at the stage door.

SYNOPSIS

On the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary, Ruth, wanting to rekindle spontaneity in her marriage, got tickets for the opening night of *Whisper on the Wind*. Her husband Jack, however, would be happier watching the World Series. Cilla, whose biological clock is ticking, is hoping for more commitment from her partner Richard, who is hoping his show doesn't crash and burn. Young Tom, a novice actor, is wondering if he'll ever get a part. Michael is worried he'll never get a part again. And young Libby is certain she is destined for fame following her big opening, while Clayton worries his best work is behind him.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Opening Night is set in the 1980s; a period of real nostalgia for me when I had a young family and a future that was full of possibilities. It was also a great time for comedy on TV. As *The Carol Burnett Show* came to an end, the airwaves were dominated by sitcoms such as *Barney Miller* and the *Golden Girls*. *Opening Night* was written the year *Seinfeld* came out.

Now coming out of what has been a rough stretch for all of us, what could be more relaxing than a farcical calamity? Making light of our worst fears is a most natural human response to the trials and tribulations of everyday life. So sit back and enjoy a little *schadenfreude*. As they say at Readers' Digest, "laughter is the best medicine".

<i>Opening Night</i> was originally produced at The Piggery Theatre in North Hatley, Quebec, in 1989. <i>Opening Night</i> is staged by arrangement with Pam Winter, GGA, www.ggagency.ca.
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COVID-19 AND KANATA THEATRE

Kanata Theatre is thrilled to have you back to enjoy our productions.

To keep everyone safe, and ensure we all stop the spread of COVID-19, we ask you to please comply with Ottawa Public Health and Ontario Ministry of Health guidelines while in the theatre.

Being COVID Wise will help keep patrons and theatre volunteers safer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wear a Mask



While within the Ron Maslin Playhouse, and during the show, please wear a mask or face covering that covers your mouth, nose and chin.

Stay Two Metres Apart



While this may not be completely possible within the theatre during the performance, as much as possible, ensure that you keep two metres (six feet) apart in the hallways and foyer.

Exercise Proper Hand Hygiene



Proper hand sanitizing helps prevent the spread of not only COVID-19 but other germs as well.

Thank you very much for your efforts to help keep our community healthy!

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

Ace Dry Cleaners • Alan Dean Photography • Ron Evans
and all Kanata Theatre members who volunteered after
the publication deadline.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	Catriona Malcolmson
Production Manager Assistant	Michelle Makitra Robb
Stage Manager	Jesse Lalonde
Assistant Stage Managers	Sarah Edwards, Arlene Watson
Set Design	Christy Bindhardt
Construction Lead	Ron Gardner
assisted by	Paul Behncke, Sean Behncke, Jim Clarke, Elisa Frost, Dave McIntyre, Harold Swaffield, Tony Walker
Set Painting Lead	Shauna Lee Thompson
assisted by	Atiya Hussain, Safa Hussain, Barbara Kobolak, Sally MacIntyre, Colleen Robillard, Sheila Trivisonno, Tony Walker
Furnishings/Décor Lead	Christy Bindhardt
assisted by	Denise Angus, Jim Mantle, Sandy Wynne
Lighting Design	Bill McLaughlin
assisted by	Don Douglas, Simon Helliwell, Jim Mantle
Sound Design	Mike Bosnich
assisted by	Mike Hogan
Properties Lead	Sandra Douville
assisted by	Emmett Workman, Susan Sinchak
Butter Churn construction	Heidi Roberts
Costume Design	Peggy Laferty
Seamstress	Saundra Eaves
Make-up	Martha Johnstone
assisted by	Clare Flockton, Hilary Philebrown, Michelle Makitra Robb
Hair Design	Reba Sigler
Continuity	Denise Angus, Ilona Henkleman, Michelle Makitra Robb, Ann Williams
Stage Crew Lead	Shauna Lee Thompson
Stage Crew	Shawn Batten, Elisa Frost, Chris Ingley, Jim Mantle, Susan Monaghan, Janet Rice, Kurt Strand, Ian Wheeler
Green Room Lead	Laurie Hogan
Green Room Assistant	Carolyn Penney
Program Editor	Don Douglas
House Manager	Anna Seguin

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

BIOGRAPHIES



BRIAN McMANUS (Director) has been active in local community theatre since the early 1980s. He started directing for The Valley Players of Almonte with *Rumours* in 1991, followed by *Steel Magnolias*, *The Foursome*, and *Looking*, which won two Eastern Ontario Drama League awards for best actor and best youth participation (sound) in 2010. With the Mississippi Mudds, he directed *Noises Off*, which won a Capital Critics award for Set Design as well as *The Fox on the Fairway* and *The People versus Mona*. He joined Kanata Theatre in 2016 and was one of the directors for the 2018 presentation of *Nunsense*. With rehearsals on hold during Covid, he wrote a 10-minute play, *Le Monde Me Manque*, which was presented earlier this season. Brian is truly grateful to be working in such a beautiful room with such a fine team.



JOSEPH DONOHUE (Tom Delaney) is excited to return to the Kanata Theatre stage. He was last seen on stage in *It's a Wonderful Life – The Radio Show* and has performed in a multitude of shows with Kanata Theatre Kids and KAOS. Outside of theatre, Joseph has many hobbies including playing guitar, volleyball and basketball. He is thankful for the opportunity to work with such a talented cast and grateful to fellow cast members for being so welcoming and inspiring.



ROBERT JOHNSTONE (Richard Hyde-Finch) was last seen on stage for Kanata Theatre in *Operation Mincemeat*. Other select acting credits for Kanata Theatre include Dr. Dorn in *The Seagull*, Lloyd Dallas in *Noises Off*, Martin the Elder in *Ethan Claymore*, Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Silvius in *As You Like It*, Kolenkhov in *You Can't Take It With You*, Leon Tolchinsky in *Fools*, Eric in *And A Nightingale Sang*, and Charley in *Charley's Aunt*. Acting credits for Waltherdale Playhouse include Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Select directing credits for Kanata Theatre include *Sinners* and *Pygmalion*.



TOM KOBOLAK (Michael Craig) has been active in Kanata Theatre since 1990. Tom was last seen in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, narrowly escaping two sweet little old ladies bent on poisoning him. His last two directorial adventures were *Il Menu della Colazione*, masterfully written by Mary Ellen Vice, and before that, *It's a Wonderful Life – The Radio Show*. Tom expects to return soon to directing the dark, moody plays that so closely reflect his personality. He waits impatiently for spring and the roar of motorcycle engines. Many thanks to Brian for his help and for introducing vengeance by Bugs Bunny.



MEGAN LeMARQUAND (Cilla Fraser) was a Toronto-based actor and vocalist for over a decade when she decided to relocate to Ottawa to be closer to family. She is a graduate of the George Brown Theatre program and her favourite credits include Natalie in *Next to Normal* (Theatre Aurora); Mrs. Patrick in *A Man of No Importance* (Musical Stage Co.), and Inez in *No Exit* (FOH Productions). Most recently she appeared as Stella in *A Streetcar Named Desire* at Ottawa Little Theatre. Megan made her debut with Kanata Theatre as Cassie in *The Death of Me*, and is thrilled to be back.



ROSS LONG (Jack Tisdale) is proudly making his Kanata Theatre debut. He has been seen on stage at the NAC as 'Jack' with Salamander Theatre production of *Get Up Stand Up*, and 'L'Éveillé' in the NAC workshop of *The Barber of Seville*. Ross has been seen on stage in dozens of plays throughout the city. Most recently he played 'Carlsson' in the Ottawa Little Theatre production of *Of Mice and Men*. Ross is a former instructor at The Ottawa School of Speech and Drama. He Attended George Brown, and Carleton University respectfully. Ross is so happy to be back on stage in a production bringing much needed laughs to a very deserving public.



SHIRLEY MANH (Libby Husniak) is delighted to return to Kanata Theatre, having appeared in *Vanya, Sonia, Masha & Spike* (2018) and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (2020). Beyond Kanata Theatre, Shirley has been on stage, behind microphones, and in front of cameras with TACTICS, Theatre Kraken, Ottawa Little Theatre, Orpheus Musical Theatre, MoonDog Theatre; with fond memories of playing Gwendolen Fairfax in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Kitchener-Waterloo Little Theatre). Her love of performance is rivalled only by her love of referring to herself in the third person. Offstage, Shirley is a published writer and a leadership development coach and consultant.



IAN STAUFFER (Clayton Fry) is very happy to be working with such a dedicated cast and crew. Many thanks to Brian for giving him a chance to continue to play at Kanata Theatre. Ian was last seen on this stage as the egomaniacal Doctor in *The Death of Me*. This is his 7th show at a theatre which has always been welcoming, both in its volunteers and patrons. Since the last century, Ian has been lucky to also frolic at the Ottawa Little Theatre, the Gladstone, GCTC, Centrepointe, the Shenkman, and not to be forgotten, the dining room at the old Palisades Retirement Home. He is keenly looking forward to *Quartet* finally being under the lights at Kanata Theatre in 2023! When not involved in litigation (for others), Ian has written four plays and his first book, *The Quickbeam Chronicles*. A sequel is planned. As always, none of these extracurricular activities could happen without the love and support of Catherine.



MARY ELLEN VICE (Ruth Tisdale) is a retired high school Drama and English teacher. This is her second show with Kanata Theatre. Her performance credits include *It's a Wonderful Life – The Radio Show* (Tilly - KT), *Sister Act* (Mother Superior - Orpheus), *Avenue Q* (Lucy - Tototoo) and *Les Miserables* (Ensemble - ASNY). Her most exciting creative adventure was writing a 10 Minute Play, *Il Menu della Colazione*, and seeing it brought to production through Kanata Theatre in 2021. Mary Ellen and her husband Larry are proud parents of four rascally sons and two daughters-in-law!

TICKET POLICY

Due to Covid-19, the Box Office is closed to in-person traffic. All tickets may be purchased online only at **kanatatheatre.ca**.

No exchanges will be accepted at this time. Nor will we be accepting past credits for this show.

If you are unable to attend a particular performance, please don't waste your tickets: do give them to a friend or neighbour, as we are unable to issue refunds. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m Tuesday to Saturday.

Contact the Box Office at boxoffice@kanatatheatre.ca or call 613-831-4435.



Find us on Facebook at
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The paintings in the foyer are by courtesy
of the

Kanata Civic Art Gallery

For further information or to purchase the
art, please call Therese Boisclair at
613-218-0677.

Ron Maslin Playhouse is
accessible by

OC Transpo:

Route 88/167 stops in front
of the Playhouse.

The bus stop numbers for
the Playhouse are 6381
and 6382.

Many of our volunteers and patrons have
allergies. Please be courteous and refrain
from wearing scented products.



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.

Kanata Theatre's telephone number for emergency calls is 613-831-4436.