



KANATA THEATRE PRESENTS



# DEATHTRAP

BY IRA LEVIN

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL GAREAU | SEPT. 10 - 20, 2025

*DEATHTRAP* is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, L.L.C, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com))

RON MASLIN PLAYHOUSE | BOX OFFICE 613-831-4435 | [KANATATHEATRE.CA](http://KANATATHEATRE.CA)

A troubled young parolee yearning for a fresh start follows her dreams to Wisconsin, only to find a small town with a gritty heart aching with longing and regret. Unexpectedly discovering the healing power of community while working at the Spitfire Grill, Percy reawakens the entire town's capacity for rebirth, forgiveness and hope.



Scan or click here for tickets

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KANATA THEATRE PRESENTS

# THE SPITFIRE GRILL

MUSIC AND BOOK BY JAMES VALCO  
 LYRICS AND BOOK BY FRED ALLEY  
 BASED ON THE FILM BY LEE DAVID ZLOTOFF

DIRECTED BY CLARE FLOCKTON | NOV. 5 - 15, 2025

\*THE SPITFIRE GRILL® IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS. WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM

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Artisanal Butter Tarts	\$3.00	Beer	\$7.00
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Soft Drinks	\$2.00	Spirits	\$8.00
Coffee/Tea (self-serve) Donation		Cocktails	\$8.00

Refreshments may be taken into the auditorium





## CAST

(in order of appearance)

**Sidney Bruhl**

**Myra Bruhl**

**Clifford Anderson**

**Helga ten Dorp**

**Porter Milgrim**

Tim Mabey

Chrissy Hollands

Jesse Lalonde

Jenny Pfitzer

Rob Johnstone

## SYNOPSIS

Ira Levin's classic comedy-thriller, *Deathtrap*, is the story of a washed-up playwright who finds a chance to rise to the top once more, a shot he'd be willing to kill for. Sidney Bruhl hasn't written a hit play for 18 years when he receives a script from a former student, Clifford Anderson, that's a guaranteed success. His wife, Myra, suggests the two men could collaborate. Sidney jokes that it would be just as easy to murder the young man and steal the script for his own. Clifford arrives later that evening. No one—not even the visiting psychic—can predict where the dark events of the night will go. Who is innocent? Who only *seems* innocent? *Deathtrap* is a sharply funny play full of twists and turns that should keep you on the edge of your seats. Is anyone really safe when a man sees a clean shot at success? This show holds the record for the longest-running comedy-thriller on Broadway.

## SETTING

All of the action takes place in the Bruhl home in Westport, Connecticut, throughout the month of October, 1978.

### Act I

Scene 1: An afternoon in early October

Scene 2: That evening

Scene 3: Two hours later

### Act II

Scene 1: Morning, two weeks later

Scene 2: Night, a week later

Scene 3: Afternoon, a week later

**Warning: Please be aware that gunshots will be heard during the performance.**





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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE



I have always loved a good theatrical challenge, and *Deathtrap* is fraught with challenges. Not only is it a complex thriller with lots of twists and turns, but it has been great fun figuring out how to suspensefully misdirect the audience so that they question who is actually telling the truth and what is really happening. If we succeed in keeping you on the edge of your seats, all the while playing amateur sleuth, with the odd giggle thrown in, then our hard work was worth it. I am indeed most honoured and thankful to have had such an incredible team of individuals, both cast and crew, lending their time and talents to this show. I couldn't have done it without them. *Deathtrap* may have been written almost 50 years ago, but I'm sure you will agree that its entertainment values have not lost any of their clout.

## BIOGRAPHIES



**Michael Gareau (Director)** Michael Gareau has been involved with local theatre since 1971. His directing debut for Kanata was for *Anne of Green Gables* in 2017. Recent Kanata Theatre directing credits include *A Comedy of Tenors*, *The Savannah Sipping Society*, *Ken Ludwig's Baskerville*, a *Sherlock Holmes Mystery*, as well as 2 of Kanata's 10-Minute Plays. He has also directed more than 20 major musicals for Orpheus Musical Theatre. Michael is extremely proud to have been acknowledged

with numerous Best Director and Best Production nominations by the Ottawa Capital Critics Circle. His productions of *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, both garnered Best Director and Best Show nominations and his productions of *Into the Woods*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Avenue Q* won Best Show Awards. He is, however, most proud of his Audrey Ashley Award for Lifetime Achievement in directing. Thanks to each and every member of the *Deathtrap* cast and team for making this a very rewarding experience!

**Tim Mabey (Sidney Bruhl)** has appeared in nine previous Kanata productions, including *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Brick), *Rabbit Hole* (Howie), *Comedy of Tenors* (Tito and Beppo) and *Doubt* (Father Flynn). His most recent role was Alan in the 2023 Phoenix Players production of *God of Carnage* at the Gladstone, and he is looking forward to being back on stage in Kanata. As always, he would like to thank his wife Jennifer and daughter Samantha for their unwavering support, along with all the friends that come to the performances, some of whom claim to come voluntarily.



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

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**Chrissy Hollands (*Myra Bruhl*)** first appeared on the Kanata Theatre Stage as Annelle in *Steel Magnolias*. She has since appeared in several other productions, including Becca in *Rabbit Hole*, Maggie in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Grace in *Bus Stop* and most recently as Sonia in *Vania, Sonia, Masha and Spike*, for which she won a Capital Critics Theatre Award for Best Actress. When not on stage, Chrissy can be found volunteering with sound, make-up, front of house and in the servery.



**Jesse Lalonde (*Clifford Anderson*)** graduated from Algonquin College's Theatre Arts program in 2015. He has acted and performed the role of stage manager for a variety of theatre companies around Ottawa, including Eddie May, ASNY, OLT, and Live History. In 2022, he moved to Kanata Theatre, where he met his future wife, Reba, during the run of *Opening Night*. They now have two lovely daughters, Katherine and Evelyn. He most recently acted in Kanata Theatre's 2023 run of *Glorious!*

as Cosme.

**Jenny Pfitzer (*Helga ten Dorp*)** is thrilled to be on the Kanata Theatre stage once more. Previously, she appeared in Kanata Theatre's *Baskerville*, *Almost Maine*, *The Savannah Sipping Society* and *Mosquito*. Jennifer has also enjoyed a variety of roles in Perth, Almonte, Carleton Place and Merrickville. They include *Les Belles Soeurs*, *Old Love*, *Sister Act*, *The Almonte Radio Show*, *Cemetery Club* and *Jenny's House of Joy*. When not on stage, she enjoys graphic design, hiking, gardening, cooking and reading, along with playing cards and board games with friends and family.



**Rob Johnstone (*Porter Milgrim*)** was last on stage for Kanata Theatre as St. Clair in *Glorious!*. Other select acting credits for Kanata Theatre include Richard in *Opening Night*, 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*. For Walterdale Playhouse: Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Select directing credits for Kanata Theatre: *Sinners* and *Pygmalion*. Watch for him at the Gladstone in February as Moriarty in *Sherlock Holmes and the Locked Room*.



**PhonicEar On-Wave** hearing assistance systems can be picked up at the cloak room. These receivers permit control over listening volume levels through a 3.5 mm plug headset or T-Switch hearing aid loops.

## PRODUCTION TEAM



The Alvin Theatre Presents

Production Manager  
Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Managers  
Set Design  
Set Construction  
Assisted by

Shauna Lee Thompson  
Christy Bindhardt  
Sheryl Bell, Cindy Corrigan  
David Magladry  
Jim Clarke

Set Painting  
Assisted by

Cindy Corrigan, Dean Flockton  
Elisa Frost, Mike Giovinazzo  
Clyde Le Guerrier, Mark Guzowski  
Gordon Harrison, Heidi Roberts  
Paul Robichaud, Arseniy Skvortsov  
Elisa Frost, Sharon Harrison  
Agnes Bejan, Emma Bejan  
Joy Forbes, Gordon Harrison

Lighting  
Assisted by

Ilona Henkelman, Barbara Kobolak  
Nicole MacLaren, Paul Robichaud  
Miranda Shelley, Alyssa Tofinetti  
Sheila Trivisonno, Ray Wang, Sandy Wynne  
David Magladry  
Yolande Akl, Emma Bejan  
Rob Puchyr, John Van Schouwen  
Anthony Rumsey

Sound/Projections  
Assisted by

Mike Hogan  
Laurie Hogan  
Maxine Ball

Costumes  
Set Décor  
Assisted by

Ilona Henkelman  
Jim Clarke, Elisa Frost, Nicole MacLaren

Properties  
Assisted by  
Crew

Nicole MacLaren  
Miranda Shelly  
Yolande Akl, Elisa Frost, Emilie Gurnick  
Ilona Henkelman, Nicole MacLaren, Miranda Shelly  
Nicole MacLaren

Lobby Board Design  
Continuity

Denise Angus, Nicole MacLaren, Kathleen Walsh  
Arlene Watson, Petra Watzlawik-Li

Hair Styling  
Make Up

“The rules are simple: Lie. Deceive. Survive.”

Carol Walkey  
Martha Johnstone

Publicity Liaison  
Volunteer Liaison

— The New York Stage Journal  
Jane Pick  
Clare Flockton

**A special thank you to everyone's generosity who has helped to make this a standout production.**

We also thank all other Kanata Theatre volunteers who helped make this production possible but are not listed here, including publicity, marketing, box office, signage, front of house and KT lounge, operations, and more.



Kanata Theatre gratefully acknowledges the City of Ottawa for its partnership in replacing the roof of the Ron Maslin Playhouse. Special thanks to **Don Bell**, Director of Building Operations, for driving this project forward, and to Kanata South Councillor **Allan Hubley** for his active involvement and advocacy as a member of the theatre's Building Resource Committee.

Need a gift idea?



How about Kanata Theatre gift certificates!

Welcome back to Kanata Theatre for our 57th Season! It is a privilege to kick off this exciting year with *Deathtrap* by Ira Levin, a devilishly clever thriller that has captivated audiences since its Broadway debut in 1978. As I enter my final months as President of this wonderful theatre company, I am especially proud of the creativity, dedication, and teamwork that bring our productions to life. I am grateful to our remarkable volunteers, cast, crew, and production teams who make each show possible, and to you, our audience, whose enthusiasm keeps our theatre thriving. I invite you to enjoy tonight's twists and turns and to join us for the rest of our season: *The Spitfire Grill*, *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, *The Drowning Girls*, *The Watsons*, and *The Heart of Robin Hood*. Learn more, and get your tickets, at [KanataTheatre.ca](http://KanataTheatre.ca).



Cameron Bishop  
President, Kanata Theatre

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**Written by?**

Can you identify the 5 novels written by Ira Levin? For extra points, can you guess how many of these 5 were made into films and the authors for the other 4 titles?  
(answers on page 9)

*A Kiss Before Dying*  
*Misery*  
*Rosemary's Baby*

*The Stepford Wives*  
*Gone Girl*  
*This Perfect Day*

*The Boys from Brazil*  
*Fahrenheit 451*  
*American Psycho*

## Who did the Whodunnit?

Can you unscramble the titles of the following 'whodunnits' from a novel, stage and screen? The clue is in parentheses. Can you also match them to the author/director?

*(answers on the next page)*

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. DEHORNS EXPORTER MUTINEERS (A killing on a luxury train)                      | Alfred Hitchcock   |
| 2. ANNE RENEWED THE THRONE (Ten strangers on an island)                          | John Buchan        |
| 3. THE FISHHOOKS BE UNTRAVELLED (A ghostly dog & a cursed family)                | Harper Lee         |
| 4. ACTS ENFLAME HOTEL (A tough detective, a missing statue, and a femme fatale)  | Agatha Christie    |
| 5. A PROUST THEME (A murder in a remote manor)                                   | Arthur Conan Doyle |
| 6. TIMING BACKDOOR KILL (A lawyer defends an innocent man)                       | Agatha Christie    |
| 7. WORN A WIDER (A man spies on his neighbors)                                   | Dorothy L. Sayers  |
| 8. RUM ARDOR FILMED (One phone call too many)                                    | Agatha Christie    |
| 9. TINT ALISON HERE (A church bell holds the key to murder)                      | Dashiell Hammett   |
| 10. ENTRY HINTS EPITHETS (A man is framed and then pursued)                      | Agatha Christie    |
| 11. DETONATOR THROAT LIGHTWEIGHT (A hacker & journalist dig into family secrets) | Alfred Hitchcock   |
| 12. AH INDOLENT THEE (A glamorous murder on a luxury cruise)                     | Stieg Larsson      |



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## More Than a Backdrop...

Set design is a vital element of any theatre production, shaping the visual world in which the story unfolds. It provides the audience with immediate context—time, place, and atmosphere—while supporting the director's vision and enhancing the actors' performances. A well-designed set helps establish mood, underscore themes, and guide the audience's emotional journey. It also supports practical needs, such as entrances, exits, and scene transitions, ensuring smooth storytelling.

Set design entails conceptualization, sketches, and models, followed by detailed plans for construction. Designers collaborate with the director, lighting and costume designers, and technical crews to ensure the set integrates seamlessly with other design elements. This process includes choosing materials, colours, and textures that reflect the narrative, and solving logistical challenges like space constraints and safety. Ultimately, set design transforms the stage into a believable and engaging environment, turning abstract ideas into tangible, immersive worlds that bring the play to life.

## A Moment on Stage: Lawless's 1983 Design for *Deathtrap*

Like the current set designed by Dave Maglady, the 1983 Kanata Theatre production of *Deathtrap* featured an evocative set design by Phillip Lawless that heightened the suspense of the thriller. Lawless transformed the stage into Sidney Bruhl's Connecticut home, a space that exuded both sophistication and menace. What made the design especially striking was the inclusion of farm implements—scythes, sickles, and other rustic tools—hung alongside theatrical memorabilia and antique weapons. This choice gave the room a more sinister edge, suggesting danger lurking in the ordinary.

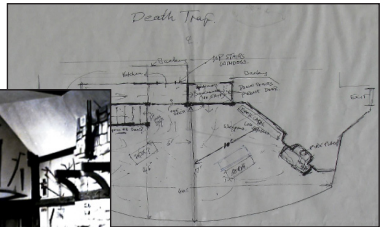


Inception

Curtains!



Design





## Houdini's Mirror Cuffs: A Legendary Escape

Houdini's Mirror Handcuffs are among the most famous restraints in escapology history. Presented to him in 1904 by London's *Daily Mirror*, the cuffs were custom-made by a locksmith who claimed they were escape-proof. Houdini accepted the public challenge and, after over an hour of suspenseful effort at the London Hippodrome, freed himself to thunderous applause. Rumours persist that the escape was staged or the cuffs were gimmicked, though no conclusive evidence has surfaced. The Mirror Cuffs became a symbol of Houdini's unmatched skill, showmanship,

and ability to blur the line between illusion and reality. Today, the original cuffs are preserved in private collections and museum displays, embodying Houdini's enduring mystique and mastery of escape.

The paintings in the foyer are by courtesy of the

### Kanata Civic Art Gallery

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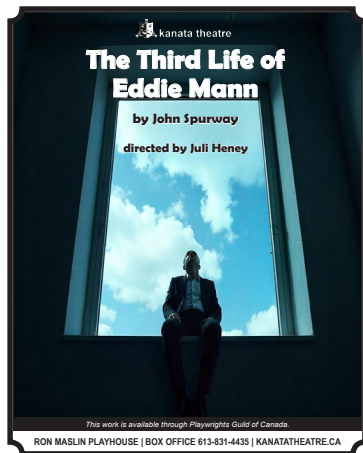


The EODL One-Act Play Festival celebrates theatre with compelling performances by Eastern Ontario groups, showcasing original voices, creative direction, and vibrant storytelling.

This year, Kanata Theatre is presenting *The Third Life of Eddie Mann*—a sweet, funny play about life and the interconnectedness of people.

*"Eddie Mann is not having a good day. He was a happy high school teacher for 31 years until forced to retire. Now, he's a financial advisor just fired by his last client and standing on the ledge of a hospital looking down. Here he meets Angel."*

The festival runs in Merrickville, Nov 7-9, 2025.



**Quiz Answers:** [Whodunnits] Agatha Christie: 1 *Murder on the Orient Express*; 2 *And Then There Were None*; 5 *The Mousetrap*; 12 *Death on the Nile*. Arthur Conan Doyle: 3 *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Dashiell Hammett: 4 *The Maltese Falcon*. Harper Lee: 6 *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Alfred Hitchcock: 7 *Rear Window*; 8 *Dial M for Murder*. Dorothy L. Sayers: 9 *The Nine Tailors*. John Buchan: 10 *The Thirty-Nine Steps*. Stieg Larsson: 11 *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*.

[Novels] Ira Levin: *A Kiss Before Dying*[M]; *Rosemary's Baby*[M]; *The Stepford Wives*[M]; *The Boys from Brazil*[M]; *This Perfect Day*. Stephen King: *Misery*. Gillian Flynn: *Gone Girl*. Ray Bradbury: *Fahrenheit 451*. Bret Easton Ellis: *American Psycho*. ([M]=Movie)

# 2025-2026 Season

## DEATHTRAP

BY IRA LEVIN

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL GAREAU

Sidney Bruhl, a successful writer of Broadway thrillers, is struggling to overcome a string of failures and a shortage of funds. A possible break in his fortunes occurs when he receives a script from a student—a thriller that he recognizes as a potential Broadway smash. His plan is to offer collaboration to the student for co-credit. Or is it?

SEPT 10-20, 2025

## THE SPITFIRE GRILL

MUSIC AND BOOK BY JAMES VALCO  
LYRICS AND BOOK BY FRED ALLEY  
BASED ON THE FILM BY LEE DAVID ZLOTOFF  
DIRECTED BY CLARE FLOCKTON

A troubled young parolee yearning for a fresh start follows her dreams to Wisconsin, only to find a small town with a gritty heart aching with longing and regret. Unexpectedly discovering the healing power of community while working at the Spitfire Grill, Percy reawakens the entire town's capacity for rebirth, forgiveness, and hope.

NOV 5-15, 2025

## Ken Ludwig's 'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

DIRECTED BY ADAM PELLETIER

"'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse." But wait! A mouse is stirring - because Santa missed his house last year. Before you can say "Merry Christmas!", we're off on the wild adventures of a mouse, an elf, and a spunky little girl who just won't take no for an answer.

DEC 27-30, 2025

## THE DROWNING GIRLS

BY BETH GRAHAM, CHARLIE  
THOMLINSON AND DANIELA VLASKALIC  
DIRECTED BY SANDY WYNNE

Bessie, Alice, and Margaret have two things in common: they are married to George Joseph Smith, and they are dead. Surfacing from the bathtub they were drowned in, the three breathless brides gather evidence against their womanizing, murderous husband by reliving the shocking events leading up to their deaths.

FEB 4-14, 2026

## THE WATSONS

BY LAURA WADE

DIRECTED BY VAL BOGAN

What happens when the writer loses the plot? Emma Watson is 19 and new in town. She's been cut off by her rich aunt and dumped back in the family home. Emma and her sisters must marry, fast. But there's a problem: Jane Austen didn't finish the story. Who will write Emma's happy ending now?

MAR 25 - APR 4, 2026

## THE HEART OF ROBIN HOOD

BY DAVID FARR

DIRECTED BY JOSH KEMP

Robin Hood and his band of outlaws steal from the rich, creating a fearsome reputation amongst those who dare to travel through Sherwood. But they do not share their spoils with the poor and are unloved by the people. It is down to Marion to boldly protect the poor and convince Robin that he must listen to his heart if they are to save the country.

MAY 13-23, 2026

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All tickets are non refundable. Please contact [boxoffice@kanatatheatre.ca](mailto:boxoffice@kanatatheatre.ca) 48 hrs in advance, to exchange tickets for another performance within the current show.



## MEMBERSHIP

Since 1968, Kanata Theatre has been part of the community. What began as a small group of theatre-loving friends producing plays in neighbourhood schools has grown over 57 years into a vibrant, diverse company proud to bring quality live theatre to audiences.

Today, with over 600 members and top-notch technical resources, our core remains the same: volunteerism. We are entirely volunteer-run, with no paid staff. Producing, directing, lighting, sound, set design and construction, lounge and box office staffing, and maintaining our treasured building are all handled by people who simply love theatre.

I invite you to become an active member—not just a patron. You can play a role, in any capacity you choose, in bringing plays to life. It's a wonderful creative outlet with many rewards.

Please contact [membership@kanatatheatre.ca](mailto:membership@kanatatheatre.ca) (or scan the QR code) for more information. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Enjoy the show! Kathleen



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[G]old, [S]ilver

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The Ron Maslin Playhouse is built on and Kanata Theatre operates on the unceded territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin peoples, the stewards of this land for millennia.