



2025

January 23 - February 2

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare
(Abridged) (Revised) (Again)
A riotous comedy
by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield

May 1-11

Waiting for The Parade
A drama
by John Murrell

September 18-28

Other People's Money
A romantic comedy-drama
by Jerry Sterner

March 20-30

Holmes and Watson
A Mystery
by Jeffrey Hatcher

July 3-13

Stepping Out
A rollicking comedy
by Richard Harris

November 27-December 7

The Lion in Winter
A classic comedic drama
by James Goldman

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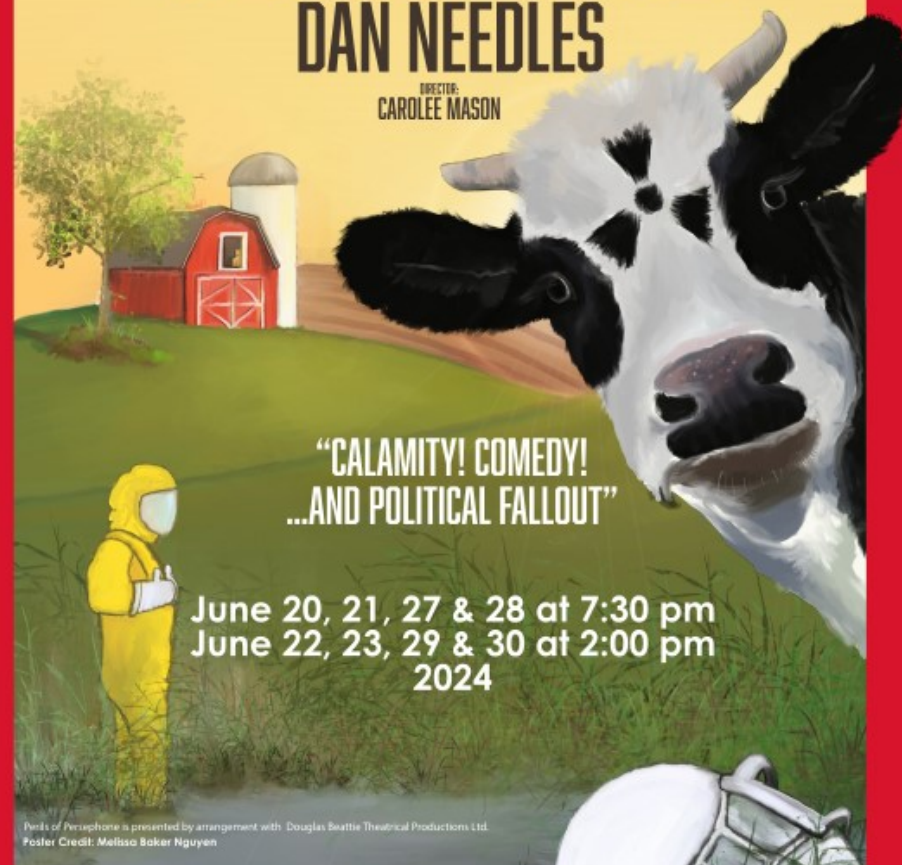
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STUDIO THEATRE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

THE PERILS OF PERSEPHONE

DAN NEEDLES

DIRECTOR:
CAROLEE MASON



Perils of Persephone is presented by arrangement with Douglas Beattie Theatrical Productions Ltd.
Poster Credit: Melissa Baker Nguyen

The Studio Theatre
studiotheatreperth.com



63 Gore St. East
In historic Perth, Ontario

Cast

Marj Currie.....Christine Erdos O'Mally
Orval Currie.....John Kenny
Wendy CurrieChrystine Williams
Eldon CurrieMike Erion
Francis HinkleyJoshua Gallant
Henry BurfordDavid Bird
Skip FullerLara Klymko
Reporters/First Responders/
MoE Officials.....Alan Humphreys, Brent Maguire

Mise-en-Scene

Summer 1989 , on the drought-stricken century farm of the Currie family in Persephone Township, Ontario

Director's Notes

The Perils of Persephone premiered at the Blyth Summer Festival in 1989. The comedy highlighted rural Ontario's concerns of the day. Farmers were troubled by ongoing drought and fears for a future plagued by 'global warming'. Rural communities saw threats to agriculture and the rural way of life from Queen's Park's changing development priorities.

Playwright Dan Needles points out that the play's charm is in its timeless themes. When a supposed disaster occurs in the sleepy Township of Persephone, reporters, government officials and political operators race from Toronto to the scene for the photo op.

On its 35th Anniversary, *The Perils of Persephone* still resonates with rural issues. Not much has changed — although today a media frenzy is more likely to be in the form of a viral video.

Dan is well acquainted with the old city versus country divide, having grown up in Toronto but eventually choosing to raise sheep and write from his farm in Grey County. His perspective on Queen's Park is authentic; he served at the legislature as a parliamentary assistant to a rural MPP for many years. Government spin and damage control are strategies he has known first hand.

Dan's clever script has inspired us, with its hilarious contrasting of broad comedy and subtle social commentary. His sympathetic portrait of farm life, and his sly jabs at the city types who "take charge", ring true. We hope you'll nod — and laugh — at your own recollections as we share our photo album of 1989. Enjoy!

Carolee Mason

The Production Crew

Cindy Deachman (Sound Execution, Asst. Stage Manager)

I have lived in Perth/Tay Valley since 1976 having worked as a law clerk and in municipal government. My backstage career began with PDCI Drama Club, then with Perth Community Choir and Trinity College Dramatic Society, U of T. Studio Theatre shows include *The Tomorrow Box*, *Scrooge*, and *The 39 Steps*, *Perils of Persephone* reminds me of my mother's stories growing up on the farm, while embodying the nuances of current municipal politics. Thanks to my family as always.

Liz Krivonosov (Special Effects Consultant/Wardrobe Specialist)

Liz never imagined that working with radioactive materials, as a consulting engineer, would lead to a place on the production team for this play. Although recently retired, she is now playing with hazmat suits, again. This is her second backstage role with Studio Theatre Perth. She was Assistant Stage Manager on *Ethan Claymore's Christmas* in 2023.

Geoff Mason (Technical Advisor & Lighting Design/Execution)

Geoff retired 16 years ago from a very fulfilling career at Perth Collegiate. He had a brief foray into theatre during his high school days in Sudbury, but has been immersed in theatrical endeavors since meeting Carolee. He has worked on Studio Theatre shows as a set builder and lighting technician and hopes to continue these rewarding experiences with future productions. Thank you to those involved in *Perils of Persephone* for including me in this madcap adventure.

Coming This Fall

October 17— 20

Laugh Out Loud

Two One-Act Plays by Richard Turtle

November 28— December 8

Winter Wonderettes

By Roger Bean

John Kenny (Orval Currie) John is returning to the stage after a 40-year hiatus for a career with the Toronto Fire Department, where he was, in fact, a hazardous materials specialist. He is thrilled to have discovered a new theatre home at Studio Theatre Perth where he can collaborate with talented, like-minded people to bring stories to life. "To survive, you must tell stories" – *Umberto Eco*. Live. Create. Tell the story. Repeat.

Lara Klymko (Skip Fuller) Lara lives and works in Perth, has been a theatre kid all her life - most recently as Simon in *Jesus Christ Superstar* - and is happy to back at the Studio Theatre. Thank you!

Brent Maquire (Reporter/First Responder/MoE Official) Brent has been living in Perth with his family for 8 years. He worked at Heritage Bikes before taking some time off to be a stay-at-home dad for his 3 kids. He's been involved with the many local theatre groups and got hooked playing the villain in the musical *Sister Act* at Studio Theatre. He recently appeared in *Jesus Christ Superstar* with the Orion Theatre Company. He is loving to be in a non musical production again for *Perils of Persephone* with this fantastic group of people.

Chrystine Williams (Wendy Currie) Chrystine is thrilled to be working with this amazing group of humans. After spending most of her life in the theatre, she took a nine year hiatus to raise her babies. She's recently returned to the stage with roles in *The 39 Steps*, *Tempting Providence* and *Lady Susan* at The Studio Theatre. She would like to thank the cast and crew for the joy and hard work they bring to table and her family for their support.

Special Thanks

Station Theatre

Tay Valley Reuse Centre

Ann and Gord Munroe, John Clement, Barb Keith, Don Badour
Brian Perkin, the voice of **KCOW**

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Production Team

Director/Designer.....	Carolee Mason
Producer	Robert FeDuke
Asst. Director/ASM	Janice Reid
Stage Manager	Becky Bellamy
Special Effects Consultant	Liz Krivosov
Set Construction.....	Reiner Silberhorn, John Hodges, Geoff Mason, Michael Erion, Alan Humphreys, Jeff Colver, Ross Dickson, Andrew Hickey, John Kenny
Set Painting	Fiona Bladon, Michael Erion, Wenda Veldman, Manon Guerin, Joe Nieforth, Linda Lilley, Carolee Mason
Wardrobe	Wendy Coombs, Rosalie Williams, Carol Franklin
Wardrobe Specialist	Liz Krivosov
Properties	Terri Henderson, Kathy Cooke, Madge Jeffrey
Props Maker	Donna Sproule
Lighting Design/Execution	Geoff Mason
Sound Design.....	Michael Valois
Sound Execution	Cindy Deachman
Publicity	Kat Watring Ellis
Writer.....	Jane Stott
Photographer	Len Modderman
Poster	Melissa Baker Nyguyen
Program	Penny Silberhorn
Front of House	Liz Theobald & Team
Box Office Manager	Annemarie Polis & Team

PLEASE NOTE!

This show contains loud noises and flashes of bright light

The Director/Designer

Carolee Mason

Carolee is a Perth based drama educator who can't seem to retire. Carolee began acting in *Robin Hood* in grade four. Ultimately, she chose directing and design for her creative outlets. After hundreds of productions in educational and professional settings, she recently directed *Scrooge* and *The Thirty Nine Steps* in Perth. She has directed, designed and adjudicated across Ontario since 1990, thanks to Geoff, Caitlin & Courtney — supported by Becky, Janice, Cindy and her students!!

The Producer

Robert Hawkins FeDuke

Bob never thought he would have the opportunity to watch and learn how the magic unfolds with each performance - thank you Studio Theatre. Now producing his 9th play, he is grateful to Carolee and her amazing cast and crew for the opportunity to be involved in this wonderful production.

The Assistant Director/ASM

Janice Reid

Janice has retired, a second time, from a high-tech career in Ottawa, during which she was also actively involved in the Perth theatre and music community. Her theatre origins date back to primary school, singing and acting in productions created by her big sister. *The 39 Steps* was the latest Studio Theatre production on which she worked with Carolee and Becky and is happy to be part of the team again!

The Stage Manager

Becky Bellamy

Becky is an owner of two local businesses. She has worked in theatre since PDCI drama club days and regularly stage manages at Studio Theatre with 'the team'. She always enjoys seeing it all 'come together' for opening night. Thank you to her family, for all your support on the home front.

The Cast

David Bird (Henry Burford) David immigrated to Perth from the UK in 1989 and started acting on local stages in the 1994 PCC production of *Oklahoma*. Since then he has appeared in or directed dozens of plays from many genres. He is grateful to STP, Barndoor Productions and Perth Community Choir for the opportunities to play such a rich range of roles. None of this would have been possible without the support and encouragement of his wife Marilyn, who has often costumed him and occasionally appeared with him on stage.

Christine Erdos O'Mally (Marj Currie) Christine designs houses by day, and thrives as theatrical characters by night. She cut her teeth with RAPA (Russell), ITR (Manotick), Greeley Players, and locally with Barn Door Theatre (Perth), and Station Theatre (Smiths Falls). Christine landed in this wonderful community of fellow actors in Persephone Township, and finds herself very much 'at home'. In her first lead, her then much younger daughters forgot what she should 'break' for good luck, so they said 'die, Mummy, die'. Thank you, girls, for your unending love and support.

Mike Erion (Eldon Currie) Mike is happy in retirement to devote time and energy toward artistic pursuits such as theatre and music. He caught the acting bug in 1983, in Perth, playing the role of Henri Lelievre in David Jacklin's *The Last Dead Man*. This is his third play here following parts in *Scrooge* and *Jane Austen's Lady Susan*. Eldon Currie is his most challenging role so far and he is delighted to be working with a strong cast under the expert direction of Carolee and her team.

Joshua Gallant (Francis Hinkley) Josh is a proud Perth resident, actor and musician who can also be found slinging lumber for local builders. Since his memorable role as Russian #3 in *Fiddler on the Roof* he has been a mainstay in Perth theatre most recently seen in *Matilda* and *The 39 Steps*. He is full of gratitude to his ever-loving wife Liz for her continued support while he sings sad songs and soliloquies.

Alan Humphreys (Reporter/First Responder/MoE Official) Fresh from Amsterdam, where he produced *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Alan is happy to be back in Ontario in tiny Persephone. Especially happy to be back on stage with such a wonderful cast and crew. You are in for a treat even if half as much as we enjoyed making it! Thanks to all who made this happen and to you for supporting your community theatre.