

Laura Rushfeldt This is Laura's first production with Wayawitmayihk Theatre Company and she is thrilled to be one of the first "to move" with this show. She last worked with Karen Towsley as a member of WIT and was last seen on stage as the Paper Bag Princess at Keyano Theatre. Laura hopes you enjoy the show and can see yourself somewhere in the journey on stage.

Anne Marie Szucs This is Anne Marie's third Wayawitmayihk performance. You may remember her as Jelly in *The Attic*, *The Pearls*, and *Three Fine Girls* or as a rambunctious child in *How to Eat like a Child*. Other recent performances include *Dangerous Liaisons* (Keyano's Studio 99), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Keyano Theatre), and *Death of a Salesman* (Keyano Theatre). In her "real life," Anne Marie is a full-time instructor and part-time drama student at Keyano College. She is looking forward to a relaxing summer before starting work on *Balconville* - Keyano Theatre's season opener in the fall. She hopes you enjoy this "moving" performance!!

WAYAWITMAYIHK THEATRE COMPANY

presents



A MOVING SONG

a new play
by **Douglas Abel**

Directed by **Karen Towsley**

Saturday June 15, 2002 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Sunday June 16, 2002 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Keyano Recital Theatre

A Moving Song

Director..... Karen Towsley
Set Designer Karen Towsley / Alan Roberts
Lighting Designer..... Alan Roberts
Music Director Michael Eddy
Costume Designer Hazel Kersey
Technical Director..... Bill Towsley
Stage Manager..... Darlene Mitchell

Cast

Justen Bennett
Nadien Carroll
Georg Gerow
Arlen Konopaki
Harry MacDonald
Lynn Neumann
Laura Rushfeldt
Ann Marie Szucs

Crew

Lighting Operator..... Bill Towsley
Sound Operator Tracy Nunns

Set Construction

Bill Towsley, Dave Balogh

Painting

Bill Towsley, Dave Balogh, Sarah Hilliard, Mel Towsley

Alan Roberts (Lighting Designer) *A Moving Song* marks Alan's 4th lighting design for Wayawitmayihk Theatre and he has loved working on every one. The other three lighting credits include *The Attic*, *The Pearls*, and *Three Fine Girls*, *How to Eat Like A Child* and *Good Night Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*. He has also designed for Keyano Theatre's productions of *Amadeus*, *A Street Car Named Desire*, *Remoka Rink*, *A Wonderful Life* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (twice!) – just to name a few. Alan has created the lighting for Westwood Community High School's production of *Into the Woods* and *Murder in the Cathedral*. Last summer he did the lighting design for PH Productions one woman show – *Tell Me on a Sunday*, by Andrew Lloyd Weber. Some of his other freelance credits include *Billy Bishop Goes to War*, and *Your Wildest Dreams*, for Great West Theatre Company plus *The Other Side of the Pole* for Primestock Theatre.

Alan occasionally moves outside of the world of lighting to see what damage he can do with Set Design and surprisingly has not been lynched by Bill with his set designs for *The Attic*, *The Pearls*, and *Three Fine Girls*, *Good Night Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*, and *Murder in the Cathedral*.

Hazel Kersey (Costume Designer) Hazel has worked with various theatre groups in Fort McMurray, starting with *FM Theatre* live way back in 1978. This is Hazel's second show with Wayawitmayihk and it brings back memories as she has moved over twelve times, some country to country, some town to town and some just down the street.

Justen Bennett is extremely excited to have had a chance to work on his first Wayawitmayihk production. He has loved working with everyone involved in this show and has had an amazing experience. Justen was last seen as Ian MacNeil in *Glace Bay Miner's Museum*. He has just finished his first year in Drama at Keyano College, and plans to continue on in this field at the U of A in the fall. He hopes that you enjoy this production half as much as he has enjoyed being a part of it.

Nadien Carroll This is Nadien's second show with Wayawitmayihk Theatre Company. Nadien is an acting student, a teacher and a mother of two. She would like to thank Karen Towsley and this incredible ensemble of actors for the opportunity to work on this new and original work by Doug Abel. Enjoy the show!

Georg Gerow Georg is a new addition to the Wayawitmayihk Theatre Company, but is no stranger to the stage. You may remember her from last season's *Nonsense*. She loves acting and is thrilled to be a part of this brand new play. As her last kid is moving to Vancouver in September, this show holds a special place in her heart.

Arlen Konopaki Arlen will be saying goodbye to Ft. McMurray as he heads off to university. He has appeared in many Keyano and Cheepiyak Theatre productions and has been a member of the Westwood Improv Team for 3 years. He would sincerely like to thank, from the bottom of his heart, his family, his friends and his teachers for their constant support in everything he does.

Harry MacDonald Hmmm – no costume changes in the wings, the house technician on the sound board, regular stage manager is back in town. The only thing left was to audition for one of the coveted roles in the cast. I mean hey, I can't let a Wayawitmayihk show go up without me, can I?

Lynn Neumann This is Lynn's second appearance with Wayawitmayihk Theatre. After having behaved childishly last June she is enjoying her "moving" experience. Lynn has also performed in *Damn Yankees* with Keyano Theatre and in *Cocktails at Pam's* at interPLAY. When not on stage, Lynn enjoys teaching Grade 4 at Dickinsfield School and singing with the *Honey B's* and *Sweet Nothings*.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

My first traumatic move occurred when I was 9 and almost finished Grade 4. We moved from Rocky River, Ohio to what is now Mississauga, Ontario. I thought I would never again find a friend like Molly and that it was always going to be twenty below! Needless to say I survived. My next big move was to university in Kingston, Ontario. That was a move I looked forward to...I was ready for the independence! I had a great childhood, but I wasn't homesick for a minute. Then, my new husband and I decided to take the plunge and move across the country from every single one of our relatives to start a new life in Ft. McMurray. There were engineering jobs and teaching jobs and a beautiful community theatre at the college...what else could you ask for? Like practically everyone else we never expected to stay so long (it's been twenty-one years), but somehow Ft. McMurray became home. Our children were both born here, went to school here, and will leave for their new independent lives from here! Their moving song is just about to begin!

None of the true stories in this rich, vibrant play are mine...but many of them could be. Almost every scene has brought back long forgotten memories. Some have made me laugh...others caused tears. I'm sure you will relive your own moving stories as you experience this wonderful new work by Douglas Abel. Enjoy the journey.

Karen Towsley

Wayawitmayihk Theatre Company would like to thank the following for their support:

CJOK/KYX98
General Paints
Air Mikisew
Tom Walch
Victoria Shimmons
Fort McMurray TODAY

Bios

Douglas Abel (Playwright) is a playwright, director, stage and television actor, theatre historian and theatre teacher. He is currently a drama instructor and drama program head in the Visual and Performing Arts department at Keyano College. He teaches acting, voice and speech, and theatre history.

Douglas' acting experience is wide-ranging, from the Shaw Festival to children's theatre tours in England and from CBC television drama to a highly successful beer commercial. Recently he has appeared as Dr. Norman Bethune in *Gone the Burning Sun*, and as Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*. His most recent directing credits are for Ibsen's *Ghosts*, Pinter's *Old Times*, and Miller's *The Crucible*. His one-man play about Christopher Marlowe, *To Ride in Triumph*, was produced at the Minneapolis Fringe Festival in August 1999.

Douglas has published articles on theatre history and drama in *the New England Theatre Journal*, *Modern Drama*, *Canadian Drama*, *Canadian Theatre Review*, *Theatre Notebook*, *Theatre History Studies*, and *Elizabethan Studies*, and he writes a regular column for *Theatre Alberta News*.

Karen Towsley (Director) A Drama Teacher and Director at Westwood Community High School since 1986, Karen completed her Masters of Fine Arts in Directing at the University of Alberta in May 2000. Prior to founding the *Wayawitmayihk Theatre Company* she spent many years performing and directing at Keyano Theatre and was a member of the *British Sm'isles* comedy troupe. Besides her many directing projects Karen derives much pleasure from coaching the nationally renowned Westwood Improv Team and is founder of the Alberta Regional Tournament of the *Canadian Improv Games*. Karen served many years on the Board of Directors of Theatre Alberta, including two years as President. Although she is a workaholic, also serving on the Board of Governors of Keyano College, she does hope to find time to act again sometime in the next twenty years.

Darlene Mitchell (SM) This is Darlene's third *Wayawitmayihk Theatre* production and it is as much a pleasure now as it was the first time to work with Karen and such talented actors. Harry has abandoned the tech crew for this production and "hit" the stage instead. Was it something Bill said? Feel free to laugh aloud at adults doing goofy things on stage. You may even shed a tear if one of these moving stories reminds you of one of your own. Ruth, I hope that you brought Kleenex. Enjoy the show!

Bill Towsley (TD) The co-founder of *Wayawitmayihk Theatre Company*, Bill discovered his love of the technical aspects of theatre while attending Thornhill Secondary School. He has remained involved ever since, including the last 16 years as Technical Director of Westwood's *Cheepiyak Theatre*. In addition, Bill has spent countless hours volunteering and mentoring backstage for Keyano Theatre. Bill was the resident stage manager and technical director for *British Sm'Isles* and has often been blamed for the blackout that prevented audiences from seeing the "full" monty. Bill has appeared on stage only once, as Roy in the Keyano Theatre production of *The Odd Couple*.

Mike Eddy (Music Director) Mike is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario with a degree in Theory and Composition. Mike has taught music at Westwood Community High School since 1986. He has been accompanist for over 20 Keyano productions as well as music director for *British Sm'Isles*, Keyano Theatre, *Wayawitmayihk Theatre Company* and *Cheepiyak Theatre* (Westwood)