

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Mothers and daughters...that's been my experience. I have three sisters (no brothers) and two daughters (no sons). Just what is this mother/son relationship about then? Is it different than the mother/daughter bond? Probably, yet as we have laboured with love on this play, it is constantly my own mother I am thinking about.

I picture my mother sitting across the table from her mother who is visiting. They are chatting animatedly, loudly, interrupting each other often. They are telling me a story that I've already heard many times. Looking back, I wonder why this particular story is so important to them both that they tell it again and again. Are they trying to teach me something about life with this story? If so...what? I have a vivid physical memory of my mother. She is washing my little hands between hers. Her hands are incredibly soft.

What lessons about life did I receive from my mother? What have my own two daughters learned from me? I know with certainty that my creativity was nurtured and celebrated as soon as it began to emerge. I am who I am because I was allowed...no encouraged... to be exactly who I am by both of my parents. I hope my two beautiful daughters feel that encouragement from me!

What a woman Michel Tremblay's mother was! What a woman my mother is! It is my hope that as you leave the theatre tonight you will be thinking, with love, about your own mothers and what incredible, complex, ridiculous beings mothers are!

I dedicate *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again* to my mother, Carol Godfrey Stinson Henderson, who is alive and well and gives me the pleasure of her company often.

Karen Towsley

The English language World Premier of FOR THE PLEASURE OF SEEING HER AGAIN by Michel Tremblay, translated by Linda Gaboriau, was first produced and presented by Centaur Theatre Company, September 29, 1998 in Montreal. The production starred Nicola Cavendish and Dennis O'Connor, was directed by Gordon McCall, with set and costume design by John C. Dinning, lighting design by Graham Frampton, and with stage manager Johanne Pomrenski, assistant stage manager Tobi M. Hunt and assistant director Natalie Bonjour.

WAYAWITMAYIHK THEATRE COMPANY

presents

Fun and entertainment for the whole family



**Alexander and the
Terrible, Horrible, No
Good, Very Bad Day**

**Book and Lyrics by
JUDITH VIORST**

**Music by
SHELLY MARKHAM**

Saturday June 14, 2003 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Sunday June 15, 2003 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Keyano Recital Theatre

\$8.00 for Adults, \$5.00 for Children

Tickets available at the Keyano Box Office – Phone 791- 4990.

Director: Karen Towsley

Music Director: Michael Eddy

WAYAWITMAYIHK THEATRE COMPANY

For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again

by

Michel Tremblay

translated by

Linda Gaboriau

Directed by

Karen Towsley

Lighting Designer

Alan Roberts

Costume Designer

Timberley Shorr

Friday January 17, 2003 8:00 p.m.

Saturday January 18, 2003 8:00 p.m.

Thursday January 23, 2003 8:00 p.m.

Friday January 24, 2003 8:00 p.m.

Saturday January 25, 2003 8:00 p.m.

For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again

Director Karen Towsley
 Technical Director Bill Towsley
 Lighting Designer Alan Roberts
 Costume Designer Timberley Shorr
 Stage Manager Darlene Mitchell

Cast

Nana Maralyn Ryan*
 Narrator John Gaunce

*Appearing by permission of Canadian Actor's Equity Association

Crew

Lighting Operator Tracy Nunns
 Sound Operator Bill Towsley
 Running Crew Norm Francoeur
 Nicole Krinke
 Mark Parady
 Ted Shehinsky

Set Construction

Jim Mitchell, Tracy Nunns, Alan Roberts, Mark Parady,
 Bill Towsley

Painting

Tracy Nunns, Alan Roberts, Bill Towsley

Props

Darlene Mitchell, Karen Towsley

*Opening Night Reception sponsored by
 Garrett Gregoraschuk of
 Investors Group*

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 the 4th Wayawitmayihk production that Darlene has had the pleasure of stage managing. This being a character play, at times the stories came fast and furious for all of us. Listen to the words in the stories -- there is something for all of us to learn.

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*.

Alan Roberts (Lighting Designer) For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again marks Alan's 5th lighting design for Wayawitmayihk Theatre and he has loved working on every one. The other four lighting credits include *The Attic*, *The Pearls*, and *Three Fine Girls*, *How to Eat Like A Child* and *Good Night Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* and *A Moving Song*. 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 *Cheepiyak Theatre* including *Into the Woods*, *Murder in the Cathedral* and most recently, *Les Miserables*. Some of his other freelance credits include PH Productions one woman show – *Tell Me on a Sunday*, by Andrew Lloyd Weber, *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. Surprisingly, he 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 especially *Les Miserables*.

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

Alan Roberts, Garrett Gregoraschuk & Investors Group, General Paints, Hazel and Phil Kersey, Keyano Theatre, KYX98/CJOK, Tracy Nunns, Lisa Ruelling, Timmi Shorr, Russell Thomas, The Fort McMurray TODAY, Tom Walch, Amanda Wilson, Melanie Towsley, Ted Shehinski, Westwood Community High School, Ruth Francoeur

Timberley Shorr (Costume Designer) This is Timmi's 3rd production with the Wayawitmayihk Theatre Company. She truly enjoys every experience with Karen and the group she always assembles. This play allows her to recall fond memories of her Baba. She hopes you can find your "pleasure" in this evening's performance.

Maralyn Ryan (Nana) Ms Ryan is delighted to perform in a community that has become her "Northern Spirit", for here, she has found the eloquence and generosity of many talented people. When not working "on the road" she cohabits with partner, photographer, Ted Shehinski. In Fort McMurray, she has directed *Harold and Maude*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Grapes of Wrath* for Keyano Theatre. She has also been active in schools, doing workshops in acting and puppetry. For the past two summers, she has been Artistic Director of a Performing Arts Camp for young people in Fort McMurray, directing her adaptation of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* and *Tom Sawyer on the Athabasca*, an environmental production performed in Heritage Park. Plays for this summer 2003 are in the works.

Ms Ryan founded the St. Albert Children's Theatre and directed there for ten years. For the Citadel Theatre, she directed the International Children's Festival and The Teen Festival of the Arts as well as the Citadel Theatre School, before giving more time to acting.

Selected acting credits include *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Aberhart Summer*, *Tete a Tete*, *Lend me a Tenor* and *A Christmas Carol* for the Citadel Theatre; Vivian Bearing in *Wit* for the Globe Theatre; *A Guide to Mourning* for Alberta Theatre Projects; *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* for Theatre Calgary; *Homeward Bound* for the Grand National/National Arts Centre; *Master Class* for Sudbury Theatre; *Joy* and *Shop at Sly Corner* for the Shaw Festival; *Crackpot* for Prairie Theatre Exchange/ Belfry Theatre and *Thirteen Hands* for the Canadian Stage/National Arts Centre. Ms Ryan has created roles that earned three Sterling Awards for Outstanding Performance and nine nominations.

Ms Ryan would like to affectionately thank John, Darlene, Karen and the committed and talented people who have made this production possible. Thank you to all the cherished friendships I have here, to my daughters in Edmonton, and to Ted for the best chili on the planet!

John Gaunce (Narrator) John is thrilled to be a part of this production. You could have seen John in recent Keyano Theater productions such as *Romeo & Juliet*, where he played the part of Capulet, or as Johnny in *Balconville*. He has also appeared in *How to Eat Like a Child* for Wayawitmayihk Theatre Company, and *The Key to Violet's Apartment*, his one man show for interPLAY. Out of town credits include *The Prisoner of Zelda* with Primestock Theater, *A Night with the Marshalls* at the Edmonton Fringe, and *Who's on First* for the Fernie Arts Society. Working with Karen Towsley is a real joy, and he is honoured to be sharing the stage with someone as wonderful and talented as Maralyn Ryan. This show has been one of the greatest learning opportunities of his recent life. It's also been great...a real pleasure.