

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

*What, then, are the special ways of women? I have found in seeking to answer this question a bottomless well of possibility.*

*Shekhinah Mountainwater*

It has been a privilege and an honour working with the six women who have shared in the creation of this performance piece. We have collectively laughed, cried, held back the tears, and sat in silence. I have been entrusted with the personal stories of these courageous, intelligent, vulnerable women...stories that left me both sad and hopeful...and I have laughed until I cried as we got carried away *talking dirty*...oh, the delicious power in saying the unsayable! I dedicate this, the seventh *Wayawitmayihk* production, to them...to Darlene, Lori, Lisa, Terri, Ruth, and Georg...may they continue to have happy, healthy vaginas for many years to come!

My one regret is that, due to the necessary timing of this production within my very hectic life, we could not take part in *V-Day*. *V-Day* is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. *V-Day* is a palpable energy, a fierce catalyst promoting change around the world. Happening on or near February 14 every year, *V-Day* is celebrated in cities and on campuses worldwide. This year there are over 2,000 *V-Day* events taking place at over 1,000 locations around the world. Each event includes *The Vagina Monologues* by Eve Ensler with a new monologue written each year. In addition, each organizing committee plans a variety of supporting events from art shows and rallies to marches and concerts. Proceeds from each event are donated to local and global organizations dedicated to empowering women. I encourage you to visit [www.vday.org](http://www.vday.org) to learn more about *V-Day*, about *The Vagina Monologues*...about women.

Please stay for a short time after the performance this evening. We would love to chat...answer your questions ...hear your stories.

*What are we saying about our bodies  
if we can't say vagina?*

*Eve Ensler*

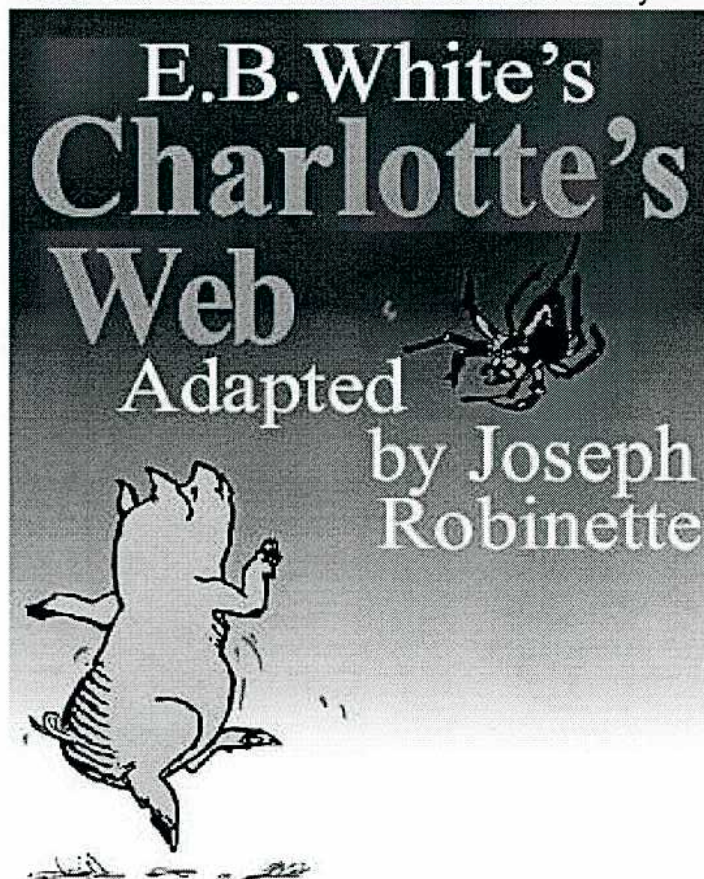
Karen Towsley

Coming soon: Look for us on the web at  
[WWW.WAYAWITMAYIHK.CA](http://WWW.WAYAWITMAYIHK.CA)

## WAYAWITMAYIHK THEATRE

presents

Fun and entertainment for the whole family



Presented by special arrangement with the  
Dramatic Publishing Company, Woodstock, Illinois.  
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Saturday June 12, 2004 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Sunday June 13, 2004 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Keyano Recital Theatre

\$10.00 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

### The Vagina Monologues

by  
Eve Ensler

Directed by  
Karen Towsley

Lighting Designer  
Alan Roberts

Costume Designer  
Timberley Shorr

Friday January 23, 2004 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday January 24, 2004 8:00 p.m.  
Thursday January 29, 2004 8:00 p.m.  
Friday January 30, 2004 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday January 31, 2004 8:00 p.m.

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Produced off-Broadway by David Stone, Willa Shalit, Nina Essman, Dan Markely/Mike Skipper, and the Araca Group. Originally produced by HOME for Contemporary Theatre and Art at HERE Randy Rollison, Artistic Director; Barbara Busackino, Producing Director in association with Wendy Evans Joseph.



# THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

Bios

Director  
Technical Director  
Lighting Designer  
Costume Designer  
Stage Manager

Karen Towsley  
Bill Towsley  
Alan Roberts  
Timberley Shorr  
Darlene Mitchell

## Cast

Ruth Francoeur  
Georg Gerow  
Terri Mort  
Lisa Ruelling  
Lori Ryan

## Crew

Venue Technicians

Tracy Nunns  
Alan Roberts

### TALKBACK

Please stay in the theatre after the show for a chance to talk to the actors ... ask questions, make comments, share.

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

Alan Roberts, Garrett Gregoraschuk & Investors Group, Jane Hebblethwaite, Keyano Theatre, KYX98/CJOK, Tracy Nunns, Timmi Shorr, Russell Thomas, The Fort McMurray TODAY, Tom Walch.



**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 has served many years on the Board of Directors of Theatre Alberta, including two years as President. Upcoming creative projects include *The Sound of Music* for Keyano Theatre, *There's A Better Way* for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, *Charlotte's Web* for Wayawitmayihk Theatre Company and exploring *Twelfth Night* at Theatre Alberta's *Artstrek 2004*.

**Darlene Mitchell (SM)** Darlene is proud once again to act as stage manager for the Wayawitmayihk Theatre Company. She continues to be amazed at how the actors, through Karen's direction, transform the words on a page into a wonderful production. This production is more than stories about female parts. This February 14th, Darlene will be celebrating V-Day (Violence Against Women Day) along with Eve Ensler. When not volunteering for theatre, the Canadian Cancer Society, interPLAY, or Club 63 North, you can find Darlene hard at work in the Utilities Dept. at Syncrude.

**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 18 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)** *The Vagina Monologues* marks Alan's 6<sup>th</sup> lighting design for Wayawitmayihk Theatre and he has loved working on every one. The other five lighting credits include *The Attic*, *The Pearls*, and *Three Fine Girls*, *How to Eat Like A Child* and *Good Night Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*, *A Moving Song*, *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again* and *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. 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*.

**Timberley Shorr (Costume Designer)** This is Timmi's fourth production with the Wayawitmayihk Theatre Company. She also did costume design on *Good Night Desdemona*, *Good Morning Juliet*, plus *The Attic*, *The Pearls and Three Fine Girls* and *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again*. She is a costume volunteer for Keyano Theatre since 1992, working on such productions as *Hello Dolly* and most recently *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Working with Karen and this talented group of actors has been a wonderful experience. Her critique of this play is that it will make you squirm a little, think a lot, pull at your gut and make you laugh till you cry. You will leave with a greater appreciation of what it means to be a woman.

**Ruth Francoeur** Since arriving in Ft. McMurray 10 years ago from Ontario, Ruth has been an active community theatre member. Previous performances with Wayawitmayihk Theatre have included: *How To Eat Like A Child* and *The Attic*, *The Pearls and Three Fine Girls*. She has also performed in many Keyano Theatre productions, most recently in *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *Noises Off*. Ruth can be found playing at The HUB Family Resource Centre during the day. She is the proud mother of three awesome and talented grown children as well as grandmother of one amazing and gifted grandson. The *Vagina Monologues* have been an incredible and challenging journey and she is grateful for the opportunity to travel in the company of such a talented and unique group of women. Special thanks to Darlene for all her support and encouragement!

**Georg Gerow** Georg is a local flight nurse and actor, and is very excited to be here tonight performing in this marvelous piece of women's literature. Georg has been acting in Fort McMurray for over 12 years. You may remember her from shows such as *How to Eat Like a Child*, *Noises Off*, *Nonsense*, *The Odd Couple*, and many others. She hopes you enjoy the show, and that it affects you as profoundly as it did her.

**Terri Mort** Terri has been jumping in and out of the lime light since she was eleven and played Peter Pan in a little Welsh church production. Since then, her stage characters have ranged from middle aged Cape Breton women to "Sweet Transvestites". This is her second Wayawitmayihk Theater Company production, her first being *Alexander and the Terrible Horrible No Good Very Bad Day*. Other performances have included a plethora of Keyano Theatre productions, British Sm'Isles shows, and actor's exercises from Lethbridge University where she graduated in Dramatic Arts. Terri is finally starting to get comfortable saying the 'V' word, although as you will soon see, her stage characters have no trouble with that. She would like to thank the wonderful cast, stage manager and director for providing hilarious anecdotes and inspiration through out this, "unique, beautiful, fabulous" production.

**Lisa Ruelling** In darkness Lisa has spent most of her life. Now it is time to come into the light. Grasshopper left only to return after 15 long years to stand before the Director of her fate. Not with paint, as is usually her gig, but with words and stories to which she naturally takes. Not private only, but for all to partake. (Lisa has hasn't been on stage since high school with Karen, but now she's back).

**Lori Ryan** Lori has lived and worked in many parts of the world but is now proud to call Fort McMurray home. This is Lori's first time hitting the stage and she is very excited to be sharing this experience with such a wonderful group of women. She wants to thank everyone for their support and encouragement and hopes to continue having fun in the theatre.