

Belfry 101

Introducing young people to theatre

THE PROGRAMMES

Belfry 101, Belfry 101 Onstage (formerly Belfry 101 Intensive) and Belfry 101 Offstage (new) are three unique programmes offered by the Belfry Theatre for students in grades 11 & 12.

BELFRY 101

Belfry 101 is a series of five, 3 hour-long interactive workshops on Thursday evenings beginning at 4:30 pm, each coupled with a show. This series is geared for students with an interest in the arts. Belfry 101 students attend and discuss each play, meet with guest artists, take part in specially designed workshops, and improvise scenes based on themes and images from the plays. Through observation, discussion and participation, these students are encouraged to develop their artistic and critical faculties.

BELFRY 101 ONSTAGE

Belfry 101 Onstage provides an additional focus on the creative process, including playbuilding and performance. **In addition** to the Thursday workshops outlined above, on the following Saturdays from 10am-12pm the Onstage group meets to discuss and debrief the play plus brainstorm scenes based on their responses to the play. These scenes will be explored and used in the playbuilding process that happens during the Spring Break Onstage workshop. Belfry 101 Onstage culminates with a public performance in March 2010 as part of the Belfry's SPARK Festival. You must be available for rehearsals every day during Spring Break in March 2010.

BELFRY 101 OFFSTAGE

This new programme provides mentorship in stage management, design, technical and / or playwrighting. **In addition** to the Thursday workshops outlined in Belfry 101, the Offstage programme is tailored to the interests and needs of the students. Offstage students may participate backstage and in the stage management control booth, have one-on-one time with Belfry technicians, learn about design from our guest artists, and be mentored as playwrights by the artistic staff at the Belfry. These additional mentoring sessions with artists are scheduled at mutually agreeable times and are subject to availability. You must be available for rehearsals every day during Spring Break in March 2010.

MEETING THE ACTORS

One of the great things about all three Belfry 101 programmes is that you get to meet and ask questions of the actors involved in the shows you see. The actors will come in and watch your work and participate in the workshops with you whenever possible.

PRICE

The workshops are free, however, you will be required to buy a discounted season ticket package for the five plays - it will cost you \$79.80 (includes GST).

DINNER

Pizza and drinks are provided free of charge during the Thursday workshops. Students in the Onstage and Offstage groups will need to bring their own lunch for the sessions during Spring Break.

Belfry 101 is generously supported by Thrifty Foods, RBC Foundation, & The Joint Pizzeria & Deli

TIME COMMITMENT

Belfry 101 will require students to commit to 30 - 40 hours from September to May. The Onstage and Offstage programmes require students to commit to 70 - 90 hours over the same period of time, including Spring Break.

AUDIENCE ADVICE

Some of our plays deal with mature themes and subject matter and may contain strong language and/or partial nudity. We need to know that you and your parents are comfortable with you seeing these plays. Reading copies of the plays are available at the Belfry's Box Office - you and your parents are welcome to read them in our lobby.

COURSE CREDIT

You may be able to claim course credit for your participation in either course. Contact the guidance counsellor at your school for more information.

QUESTIONS

Contact Erin Macklem at the Belfry 250-385-6835 (associate@belfry.bc.ca) or Kate Rubin, Belfry 101 Coordinator, (katerubin@telus.net) should you have further questions.

THE PLAYS

September 15 – October 18, 2009

Bordertown Café

by Kelly Rebar

"...humorous, human, touching and recognizable..." Hamilton Spectator

Bordertown Café is a funny, big-hearted slice of Canadiana. Having grown up in a greasy spoon on the Alberta – Montana border, 17 year-old Jimmy has a big decision to make. His absent father wants him to come and live with him in the States. His single mother, Marlene, trapped in a life of missed opportunities, can't seem to say the words "don't go". Marlene's gregarious American mother won't shut up, and her quiet farmer dad refuses to tell Jimmy what he should do. Tensions rise, tears flow, and one gawky teenager suddenly becomes a young man.

B101: Thursday, October 15
B101 Onstage: + Saturday, October 17

November 10 – December 13, 2009

The Year of Magical Thinking

by Joan Didion

"Remarkable. It will break your heart." The New York Times

The leading lady of the Stratford Festival and one of Canada's most renowned actresses, Seana McKenna stars in this one-woman tour-de-force. Based on Joan Didion's best-selling memoir, *The Year Of Magical Thinking* captures the compassion, humour and bewilderment of a fiercely intelligent woman whose world lurches suddenly from the ordinary to the unimaginable. This magnificently written meditation on grief – a place none of us know until we reach it – is also a celebration of family, filled with a luminous belief in the power of the human spirit to overcome heartbreak and to endure.

B101: Thursday, November 26
B101 Onstage: + Saturday, November 28

January 19 – February 21, 2010

Where the Blood Mixes

by Kevin Loring

(Playwright in Residence at the National Arts Centre)

"...a major accomplishment..." Georgia Straight

"What a joy to witness...a genuinely great piece of theatre..." Vancouver Sun

Irreverently funny and brutally honest, *Where the Blood Mixes* is an extremely moving story of loss and redemption. Floyd and Mooch, raised in residential schools, must confront their personal demons when Floyd's daughter Christine returns to Kumsheen after twenty years, to discover her past and her family. Her arrival is the catalyst that unleashes a flood of memories and secrets about a painful chapter in Canadian History. *Where the Blood Mixes* takes us beyond the headlines to a deeply personal story about humanity and survival.

B101: Thursday, February 4
B101 Onstage: + Saturday, February 6

March 10 -March 14, 2010

Tiny Apocalypse

by Camille Gingras

Rough House [Vancouver, BC]

Directed by James Fagan Tait
Starring Cherise Clarke

A meltdown at the office becomes an exquisite theatrical miniature.

B101: Thursday, March 11

April 13 – May 16, 2010

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Music and lyrics by William Finn, Book by Rachel Sheinkin, Conceived by Rebecca Feldman

"Can you spell irresistible?" New York Times

In this charming, clever and sweet-natured musical comedy, six precocious, quirky and neurotic children, in the throes of puberty, compete for the title of spelling bee champ. Overseen by grown-ups who barely escaped childhood themselves, these youngsters learn that winning isn't everything, and that losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser. The show's Tony Award-winning creative team has fashioned the unlikeliest of hit musicals out of the unlikeliest of heroes: angst-ridden, overachieving outsiders, for whom a spelling bee is the one place where they can stand out and fit in at the same time.

B101: Thursday, April 29

Belfry 101 Dates at a Glance

| Show | Thursday 4:30 – 10:30 ish | Saturday* 10 - noon |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Bordertown Café</i> | Oct 15 | Oct 17 |
| <i>The Year of Magical Thinking</i> | Nov 26 | Nov 28 |
| <i>Where the Blood Mixes</i> | Feb 4 | Feb 6 |
| <i>Tiny Apocalypse</i> | Mar 11 | N/A |
| <i>Rehearsals for B101 Live!</i> | Mar 8 – 14 * (performance Mar 14)* | |
| <i>...Spelling Bee</i> | Apr 29 | N/A |

*Onstage students must be available for these dates.

Belfry 101 Application Form

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

POSTAL CODE

TELEPHONE (HOME)

EMAIL

How do you prefer to be contacted: Phone Email

SCHOOL

GRADE

PARENT'S NAME

TELEPHONE (WORK)

TEACHER'S NAME

EMAIL/TELEPHONE (WORK)

SESSION

Which programme would you like to take? Belfry 101 Belfry 101 Onstage Belfry 101 Offstage

Do you have a special interest in Acting Playwriting Stage Management Other: _____

Please tell us why you are interested in the Belfry 101 programme

MEDICAL

Do you have any allergies we should be aware of? _____

Do you have any medical conditions we should be aware of? _____

PERMISSION (required)

Parent's Signature

I understand the financial and time commitment involved in this course and agree to my child's participation.

Student's Signature

I understand and agree to the time commitment involved in this course and agree to attend all workshops and rehearsals, on time and prepared.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Successful applicants will be notified the week of October 5th, 2009. We will arrange for payment once you have been accepted.

Please mail your completed form to:
Belfry 101, Belfry Theatre
1291 Gladstone Avenue, Victoria, BC, V8T 1G5

Or fax it to: 250-385-6336

Students must be in Grade 11 or 12 as of September 2009.

Students must be available for all of the sessions as outlined on page 2 of this application. Students in Belfry 101 Onstage will also be required to rehearse throughout the Spring Break (March 8 - 14, 2010).