



With a burst of optimism—  
and a need to reconnect with our audiences—  
it thrills us to share with you: theatre at the Belfry will be back—!

We'll be producing three outstanding new contemporary plays—  
that explode with pressing contemporary issues:  
refugees and their Canadian sponsors—the voices of Black  
Canadians—and the loving but humorous day-to-day life of  
an older Canadian couple.

Our theatre doors will be opened with caution—to a limited in-  
person audience—  
and our at-home audience will be watching the very same show—  
as we “live-stream” each performance using a ground-breaking  
approach that will provide unique perspectives on the  
performances.

We thank you for your ongoing concern and support—  
we know you love the Belfry—  
we love you too—  
and can't wait to share the glory of theatre with you—live!—  
whether you are in the Belfry or watching at home.

Michael Shamata  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Ivan Habel  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Photo by Jo-Ann Richards, Works Photography



*Created by Joel Bernbaum*

*From Interviews conducted by Joel Bernbaum*

## Real Stories. Real Words.

From the creators of *Home Is A Beautiful Word*—our powerful and  
acclaimed verbatim play about homelessness—comes a celebration  
of brave spirits and human hearts - turning true life into a powerful  
theatrical experience.

Refugees from around the world and their Canadian sponsors—from  
Victoria to Halifax—share their experiences. Their remarkable escapes—and  
their reasons for escaping. Their sponsors experience the flush of good  
intentions—and come face-to-face with the complexity of human nature.  
Triumphs, disappointments and the delicate balance between ideals and  
reality—these are real life stories—in the words and voices of real people.

Joel compiled and edited the interviews for *Home is a Beautiful Word*  
(2014), dramaturged and directed by Michael.

### WHY I CHOSE THIS PLAY

*Home Is A Beautiful Word* was a remarkable experience to work on  
and present to our audiences. *Being Here* promises to be an equally  
satisfying piece of “documentary theatre.” Joel conducted interviews  
across Canada. The stories are wildly varied—but the hearts that beat at  
the centre of each of them are incredibly similar. It is a privilege to put  
these voices onstage—the voices of these refugees and the generous  
sponsors who reached out to help them. —Michael Shamata



## Turning *The Crown* Upside Down.

Actor and playwright Marcia Johnson was inspired to write this play  
after watching an early episode of *The Crown* on Netflix. The play  
premiered in February 2020.

Politics and pop culture collide with unexpected twists as this  
fascinating new play moves between 1952 Kenya—when an anti-  
monarchist cook challenges Princess Elizabeth in the moments before  
she becomes queen—and 2015 London—when a Kenyan-Canadian  
film student clashes with convention and custom while working on a  
TV series about the Royals.

The tension between people and politics—imperialism, prejudice, and  
the irresistible draw of the monarchy—infuses and ignites this exciting  
new play.

### WHY I CHOSE THIS PLAY

I was searching for a play that could address this moment of extreme  
racial tension in which we find ourselves. *Serving Elizabeth* is that play.  
In an immediate response to the popular television series *The Crown*,  
playwright Marcia Johnson argues for inclusion and creates a play as  
contemporary as this morning's newspaper. —MS



*by Jan Wood &  
James Fagan Tait*

## Life's Tiny Moments.

Two Belfry favourites return with a brand-new collaboration. Actor  
Jan Wood, (Mrs. Fezziwig in our production of *A Christmas Carol*) and  
James Fagan Tait (director and co-writer of *21 Ways to Make the World  
Last Longer*) team up to write and star in this charming new play.

Steadily approaching “till death do us part”—a man and a woman—  
through snippets and sketches and little scenes—reveal the moments  
that make up their lives. The mundane and the meaningful. The small  
but profound. The benign and hurtful. And the real—yet unspoken  
love. You will find it deeply funny because it is totally familiar—spot-  
on and touching.

### WHY I CHOSE THIS PLAY

From the moment I heard that Jan and Jimmy were writing this  
play—from the moment I started reading an early draft—and from  
the moment we performed it before an enraptured audience during  
our 2020 SPARK Festival—I knew this was a play that belonged on our  
stage. This long-married couple are so familiar—it is impossible not  
to recognize them in ourselves—and laugh out loud at the reality of  
their relationship. —MS

Get your tickets today!

BOX OFFICE / INFORMATION  
250-385-6815

[tickets.belfry.bc.ca](https://tickets.belfry.bc.ca)

March 9–21, 2021

## Being Here: The Refugee Project

**WORLD PREMIERE**

Created by Joel Bernbaum  
From Interviews by Joel Bernbaum

April 20–May 2, 2021

## Serving Elizabeth

by Marcia Johnson

June 1–13, 2021

## Same Old Same Old

**WORLD PREMIERE**

by Jan Wood & James Fagan Tait

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Belfry Theatre is located on the  
traditional lands of the Lekwungen  
peoples, also known as the Esquimalt  
and Songhees Nations. We extend our  
appreciation for the opportunity to live,  
create and perform on this territory.

### Follow Us



**1291 GLADSTONE AVENUE  
VICTORIA, BC, V8T 1G5**

**ADMINISTRATION  
250-385-6835**

Charitable Registration Number -  
119215549 RR0001. All plays and players  
are subject to availability. All ticket sales  
are non-refundable. Dates and ticket  
prices are subject to change.

**Belfry  
Theatre**  
2021 Spring Season



## Ticket Information

### How to Buy Tickets

**BY TELEPHONE**  
**250-385-6815**

**ONLINE**  
**[tickets.belfry.bc.ca](https://tickets.belfry.bc.ca)**

### This Season

Performances with in-person audiences are limited in size / subject to change according to COVID-19 public health advisories. Each performance will also be streamed live online.

### Season Tickets

If you had season tickets last season, we're offering you a 2021 subscription for just \$60.

This subscription lets you watch each of the three Mainstage performances online through the Belfry ticket site, plus you'll have the opportunity for up to two people from your household bubble to attend as part of the limited in-house audience.

Our in-house audience will be selected by random draws from our 2021 subscribers. Priority will be given to subscribers who have not already been selected to attend. You'll have an opportunity to let us know what day of the week is best for you. Ticket draws will start two weeks prior to each production.

Want to see a show more than once? With your subscription, you can watch every performance, whenever the show is being streamed live online.

### Single Tickets

Tickets to watch an individual livestream performance online are \$25 for non-subscribers.

A livestream ticket may be exchanged to any other performance within the run of the same show, provided the Box Office is given at least 24 hours' notice.

*\*Ticket prices are subject to change without notice. \$60 / \$25 prices include GST. All ticket sales are non-refundable. Season tickets are available exclusively to past season ticket holders until November 30, 2020.*



## What to Expect

Our first priority is the health and safety of our audience, staff, and artists.

Until circumstances and public health guidelines permit us to seat full audiences, only a small number of socially distanced patrons will be admitted into the theatre. We will provide seats for as many of our subscribers as permitted, determined by a random draw. All other patrons will be able to watch exclusive livestream performances via the internet.

If you are chosen to be part of our in-house audience, we will send you instructions in advance about when to arrive and which entrance to use. You will be asked to wear a mask until seated, and to use one of the new hand-sanitizing stations at the building entrances.

Coming to the theatre will be considered a declaration that you are in good health and have not been out of the province within the last two weeks or had recent contact with someone with COVID-19.

When you arrive at the theatre, you will be guided by staff and volunteers who will also be wearing masks. Look for signage and visual aids to keep you safely distanced through our lobby, washrooms, and to your seats.

The bar and concession will be closed for the foreseeable future, but you will have the opportunity to pre-order a drink, which will be waiting for you at your seat.

Only digital versions of our house programmes and Upstage Magazine will be available this season. We will send you links in advance.

We have increased our cleaning schedule, and the lobby, washrooms, and theatre – including the seats – will be cleaned thoroughly before and after each performance.

The Belfry's COVID-19 protocols are posted at [belfry.bc.ca/covid-19](https://belfry.bc.ca/covid-19)

Throughout the fall of 2020 we will offer a series of readings, interviews, conversations, and storytelling evenings. These will be free events exclusively available online. To get the latest news and details please visit [belfry.bc.ca](https://belfry.bc.ca) and be sure to sign up for our e-newsletter.

## Engagement

When we return to the stage, we will be offering you a range of digital engagement tools and ideas you can take part in at any time.

### UPSTAGE MAGAZINE

Sign up for e-news on our website and we will send you a digital version of Upstage. Each issue will provide you with insight into our productions and further enrich your experience.

### B4PLAY

We will livestream our live talk show, B4Play. You can watch the event live (or later) on Facebook or YouTube. We will feature artists from the upcoming show, along with experts from the community.

### PODCASTS

You can listen and download the full audio interviews from each B4Play at [belfry.bc.ca/podcasts](https://belfry.bc.ca/podcasts).

### E-NEWS

If you haven't already, please head over to [belfry.bc.ca](https://belfry.bc.ca) and sign up for our e-newsletter.

## Our Sponsors & Funders

### PUBLIC FUNDERS



### SEASON SPONSORS



### BMO STUDIO THEATRE



### SHOW SPONSORS



### SPONSORS/FOUNDATIONS

Accomplishment Coaching	KPMG
ArtSEE Eyewear	McCall Gardens Funeral & Cremation Service
Boulevard Magazine	Odium Brown Limited
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Caffe Fantastico	Phillips Brewing and Malting Co.
CD Specialty Cleaning & Restoration	RBC Emerging Artists Project
CVTV	Sea Cider
Costa Verde Landscaping	Showcase Awards
Dowell's Moving & Storage	Simply Computing
EAT Magazine	Truffles Catering
Fastrac Printing	Used.ca
The Finishing Store	Vancouver Foundation
FOCUS Magazine	Vessel Liquor Store
Gabriel Ross Furniture	Victoria Foundation
The Joint Pizzeria	Villa Marco Polo
Horne Coupar LLP Lawyers & Notaries	

### 2020 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Andrew Sheret Limited	Peninsula Co-op
The Barraclough Foundation	Anonymous
The Hamber Foundation	

# Belfry Theatre

2021 Spring Season

Live—  
In-person  
or at home.



Season  
Tickets  
**\$60**