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April 16–May 19, 2013

LET ME CALL YOU SWEETHEART

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by **Bruce Ruddell**
Music and lyrics
by **Bill Henderson**

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A Belfry Theatre World Premiere

Let Me Call You Sweetheart

Book and Lyrics by Bruce Ruddell

Music and Lyrics by Bill Henderson

Starring

Nicola Lipman	Nora Chase
Alec Willows	Murray Sullivan

Elizabeth Duncan	The Girl
Vincent Gale	Rupert Chase
Megan Leitch	Claudia Chase
Donna Soares	Lilly

Karel Roessingh	Accompanist
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Director	Michael Shamata
Musical Director	Bill Henderson
Designer	Susan Benson
Lighting Designer	Ereca Hassell
Piano Arrangements	Karel Roessingh
Choreographer	Jessica Hickman
Stage Manager	Kim Charleen Smith
Assistant Stage Manager	Ben Cheung
Assistant Lighting Designer	Simon Farrow

Let Me Call You Sweetheart is approximately two hours including one intermission.

Let Me Call You Sweetheart was developed at the Belfry Theatre, Victoria, BC. The Belfry Theatre acknowledges the participation of the following artists in the development of *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*: Elizabeth Duncan, Vincent Gale, Kimberly Harvey, Karin Konoval, Brian Linds, Marina Lagaçe, Brad L'Écuyer, Megan Leitch, Nicola Lipman, John Mann, Karel Roessingh, Alec Willows and Jan Wood.

The use of video or audio recording devices is strictly prohibited at all times.

Let Me Call You Sweetheart is generously sponsored by

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The Belfry Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

Please enjoy the performance.

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A Note from the General Manager



Todd Hirsch, Chief Economist of ATB Financial, published an op-ed piece in the *Globe & Mail* outlining why the arts are a pivotal investment by governments and corporations in the health, growth and sustainability of our communities. In it, he points particularly to creating vibrant cultural communities. He postulates the most important reason the arts should be supported is: "To become the creative, innovative and imaginative citizens that our companies and governments want us to be, Canadians need to willingly expose themselves to new ideas. A vibrant arts and cul-

ture community is the easiest way to make this possible." The article also quotes American neuroscientist Gregory Berns: "To see things differently than other people, the most effective solution is to bombard the brain with things it has never encountered before." Dr. Berns encourages a willingness to expose oneself to new experiences in order to get the brain to fire its creative neurons. I believe vibrant professional contemporary theatre is one excellent way to "bombard" our brain with new ideas.

As a company, we endeavour to make the theatrical experience enjoyable, entertaining, provoking, challenging and memorable. Theatre should be a series of surprises: laughter, sorrow, shock, fear, relief, joy. The theatre is home to the sharing of experiences, to being unsettled or content, to engage and entertain. We invite you to be part of the creative energy of the Belfry, to expose yourself to the many things our contemporary theatre produces.

As you read this, it will either be pre- or post-provincial election. This is not a call to arms about the election, but rather a call to you as a patron to vocally support sustainable government funding for your arts and cultural community. It is a call to encourage corporate and private support for the arts as a pillar of our strong and growing communities. Most importantly, it is a call to you to continue to support the Belfry, to take risks with us and explore new perspectives with some of the country's finest artists on our stage.

Ivan

Quotes and paraphrasing are or derived from Todd Hirsch's article;

"The economic imperative for investing in arts & culture". The *Globe & Mail*, 27-Mar-2013



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Artistic Director's Notes



Thank you so much for joining us tonight and throughout this season. It's been a great ride! Starting with Jackie Richardson in *Big Mama!*, and continuing on through the excitement of *Red*, the emotion of *A Christmas Carol*, the singular facets of *Speaking in Tongues*, the delicacy of *Helen's Necklace*, a remarkable SPARK Festival, a six week run in Toronto of our award-winning production of *And Slowly Beauty*... and now – the cherry on the top of the sundae – the world premiere of a new musical by Victoria's Bruce Ruddell and Salt Spring Island's Bill Henderson.

Let Me Call You Sweetheart invites us to see senior citizens – people like our parents – through the lens of budding romance, and to see new love through the eyes of our parents. It's a frightening prospect. The people we knew and took for granted suddenly have new lives, new priorities, new objects of affection. Are they just being foolish? And where does that leave us? It's a situation that makes for an extremely contemporary story.

It is also a very personal story. Many of you will identify with aspects of this play. Indeed, there was much discussion during rehearsals of mothers and fathers and pills and facilities and canes and walkers and care givers... realities for a lot of us here tonight. For some reason, that list rarely includes words such as partner or boyfriend or lover. When it does, the world is either scandalized or condescendingly bemused. Our preconceived ideas and narrow definitions of old age make it easy for us to lose sight of the needs and emotions of the very people for whom we care the most.

Bruce and Bill have done a wonderful job, and I hope this sweet piece resonates with you. Enjoy the romance and the music, and we'll see you back at the Belfry for a great new season!

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Audience Information

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Please turn off your cellphones and pagers when you enter the theatre. If you need to be contacted in an emergency, please leave your name and seat number with our House Manager.

Latecomers & Re-admission

The Director of each production designates moments in the show when the seating of latecomers will cause the least amount of distraction for actors and audience members. Should you leave the theatre, our House Manager will not be able to reseat you until one of these breaks.

Babes in Arms

The Belfry is proud to produce adult contemporary theatre. Our productions are not suitable for children 10 and under, including babes in arms.

Recording Devices

No cameras or recording devices are permitted in the theatre.

Audience Advisories / Running Times

We make every effort to advise you of strong language, subject matter or extreme technical effects (strobe lights, fog). Please look for signs at the entrances to the theatre. Advisories and running times are available at the Box Office as of the first preview.

Food & Drinks

Please feel free to take only food and/or drinks you've purchased from the Belfry bar into the theatre. Our goodies are packaged so that they don't make a lot of noise and disturb your fellow audience members.

Perfume & Cologne

Please refrain from using perfume and cologne when you come to the theatre. Some of our patrons are highly allergic to scents.

Thank you for your consideration.
Enjoy the performance.

Musical Numbers

All songs by Bill Henderson and Bruce Ruddell, unless otherwise noted.

Act I

Spring - Nora

I'm The Woman - Nora

*Red Red Robin** - Murray & Nora

The Old Old Songs - Murray & Nora

Photographs - Murray

Strangers To Me - The Girl

Rainbow - The Girl

Swing With Me - Murray

*Let Me Call You Sweetheart***
- Murray & Nora



Act II

I Heard Angels - Murray & Nora

Good Times Are Overdue - Murray

On My Own - The Girl

I Heard Angels - Murray & Nora

Sun Sinkin' Low - Nora & Murray



**Red Red Robin* by Harry M. Woods (1926)

***Let Me Call You Sweetheart* by Leo Friedman
and Beth Slater Whitson (1910)

Photo Credit: (Top to bottom, order of appearance)
Alec Willows, Nicola Lipman, Donna Soares and
Megan Leitch in rehearsals for *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*.

Rehearsal Photography by Peter Pokorny

Acting Company



Nicola Lipman

Nora Chase

Recent credits include *High Society*, *Another Home Invasion*, *Black Comedy* (Jessie Award), *Boeing-Boeing* for Arts Club, *All the Way Home* (Jessie Award) with Electric Company, *No Great Mischief*, *Scorched*, *Humble Boy*, *simpl* (Dora Award) at Tarragon Theatre, *December Man*, a Citadel/Canadian Stage/Centaur Theatre co-production, and *Doubt* for Theatre Aquarius. Other theatres include ATP, playRites Theatre Festival, Theatre Calgary, Mulgrave Road, MTC, Neptune, National Arts Centre and Ships Co. Niki is a graduate of UBC and the National Theatre School and is a 2012 recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal. Upcoming: *Driving Miss Daisy* at the Arts Club.



Alec Willows

Murray Sullivan

Alec started his career at the Shaw Festival in the early 1970's, and has performed across Canada and the US. Highlights include the national tours of John Gray's *Rock and Roll* and appearances in Chicago and New York with the Flying Karamazov Brothers' acclaimed productions of *Juggle or Die* and *The Comedy of Errors*. His most recent Victoria appearance was in *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Blue Bridge). Other recent credits include *True West* and *Frost/Nixon* for the Vancouver Playhouse, and *It's a Wonderful Life* for the Arts Club. Alec has starred in two TV Series, *Airwaves* and *Max Glick*, and the Canadian film comedies *Harmony Cates* and *Tokyo Cowboy*. He plays drums in Vancouver with the rock band *China Repair*. Look for their new CD.



Vincent Gale

Rupert Chase

Vincent Gale previously appeared at the Belfry in *God of Carnage*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *The Real Thing* and *The Cryptogram*. Selected theatre credits include *Dangerous Corner*, *True West*, *Vincent in Brixton*, *The Caretaker*, *Proof*, *The Relapse* (Vancouver Playhouse), *Charley's Aunt*, *Tons of Money* (Theatre Calgary), *A Line in the Sand* (Tarragon Theatre), *The Glass Menagerie* (Gateway Theatre), *Waiting for Godot*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *7 Stories*, *Glengarry Glen Ross* (Arts Club Theatre), *John and Beatrice* (Persephone) and *The Real Thing* (Manitoba Theatre Centre). Selected film and television credits include *Bates Motel*, *Fringe*, *Queer as Folk*, *Battlestar Gallactica*, *Supernatural*, *The Final Cut*, *Firewall*, *Bye Bye Blues*, *Fathers and Sons*, and Bruce Sweeney's *Dirty*, *Last Wedding* and *American Venus*. Vince has received 4 Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards, a Gemini nomination for the mini-series *Major Crime*, an AMPA for Best Actor, and the Genie in 2002 for his performance in *Last Wedding*.



Megan Leitch

Claudia Chase

Megan is thrilled to be on the Belfry stage. Recent credits include *Scar Tissue*, *The Penelopiad*, and *August: Osage County* for the Arts Club, and *Top Girls* for the Vancouver Playhouse. Other favourite shows include *The Score* for the Electric Company, *Toronto*, *Mississippi* for Touchstone Theatre, two seasons in playRites at Alberta Theatre Projects, *Romeo and Juliet* at the Citadel Theatre, and *King Lear* for Necessary Angel. Megan has charmed live snakes, been cloned, thrown over bridges, shot at, and poisoned in over 40 various TV shows and films. She wouldn't be here without the support of her wondrous family, Michael and Chloe.

Creative Team



Donna Soares

Lilly

Donna is delighted to be spending her spring in Victoria and making her Belfry Theatre debut. As an actor, she has worked with companies such as Theatre Replacement, Vancouver Playhouse, Persephone, Presentation House, Elbow Theatre, Ruby Slippers, Boca del Lupo, Rumble, Firehall, Gateway, Newworld, Pi and Théâtre la Seizième. She has also provided project coordination for: Mammalian Diving Reflex, Projet in Situ (Lyon), Theatre Replacement and Progress Lab. Donna is a graduate of Studio 58 and UBC and the recipient of the 2009 Stage West Equity Emerging Theatre Artist Award.

Elizabeth Duncan

The Girl

Elizabeth is excited to be back at the Belfry after appearing in *The Life Inside* in 2010. Credits include Louisa in *The Sound of Music*, Baby June in *Gypsy*, Mary Rogers in *Will Rogers' Follies*, Amaryllis in *The Music Man*, Chip in *Beauty and the Beast* (Victoria Operatic Society), Annie in *Annie* (Peninsula Players), and Alice in *Alice in Wonderland* (Centrepointe Ballet). This summer, she will appear with Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre as Laurie in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. Elizabeth studies voice with Ingrid Attrot at the Victoria Conservatory of Music. She lives in Oak Bay and attends Glenlyon Norfolk School.



Karel Roessingh

Piano Arrangements / Accompanist

Karel Roessingh is a composer, arranger, producer and musician who has written scores for over five hundred television episodes, and many award-winning films, documentaries, and promotional videos. As well as performing on countless recordings for other artists, he has produced more than fifteen of his own recordings, including several for the Canadian Naturescapes series which have been distributed world-wide, two jazz trio CDs and many solo piano CDs, the latest three of which were released in November 2008. In 2011 he produced Canadian folk legend Valdy's latest CD. He has performed with symphony orchestras and rock, jazz, folk, show and country ensembles throughout the world, from small-town bars to concert halls and battleships to cruise ships. In addition to his career in music, Karel has also been heavily involved in his home community of the Highlands, where he lives with his wife, artist Brenda Alexander-Roessingh. He has served two terms as Mayor and is currently in his third term as Councillor. In 2011 and 2012, he chaired the Victoria Public Library Board, is a founding board member of the Island Biodiesel Co-op, and a board member of the Metchosis International Summer School of the Arts.



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Creative Team



Bruce Ruddell

Playwright / Lyricist

Previously at the Belfry, Bruce was Music Director and Arranger for *Urinetown: The Musical*, and began development for his musical *Beyond Eden*. As a Playwright/Composer, Bruce created *Beyond Eden* (Theatre Calgary/The Vancouver Playhouse/The 2010 Cultural Olympiad) with director Dennis Garnhum, and *The Pied Piper* (Carousel Theatre) with director Roy Surette. Bruce has been the Composer in Residence for the Vancouver Chamber Choir (twice), the Vancouver Bach Choir, Charlottetown Festival (Eric Harvie Award), and the Vancouver Playhouse. He was also Associate Music Director at the Charlottetown Festival (two seasons). In 2008, Bruce received a special jury prize at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards. He would like to dedicate this work to Audrey Pearson, a gentle, kind and beautiful soul who tripped the light fantastic, to Barb for her constant inspiration, and thanks to Bill Henderson for so many happy collaborations.



Bill Henderson

Composer / Lyricist / Musical Director

Although best known for his work with *Chilliwack*, Bill created songs and scores for theatre productions well before that time. Originally mentored by Joy Coghill in the early 1960's, he wrote numerous songs and scores for her productions including *Grass and Wild Strawberries* with The Collectors in 1969. In 1990, after a couple decades of rock, Bill received a Genie Award for the swing-styled *When I Sing* from Anne Wheeler's movie *Bye Bye Blues*. Through the 1990's Bill made music for several TV productions including *Sesame Street*, and is now delighted to have worked with Bruce Ruddell creating early 20th century styled songs for *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*.

Michael Shamata

Director

Michael is Artistic Director of the Belfry Theatre, where he has directed *A Christmas Carol*, *Red* (a co-production with the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre), the English language premiere of *And Slowly Beauty...* (co-production with the National Arts Centre), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (co-production with the Arts Club Theatre/Jessie Award for Outstanding Direction), the Canadian premiere of *The Year of Magical Thinking* (which subsequently toured to the Tarragon Theatre in Toronto and the National Arts Centre), Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing* and Ann-Marie MacDonald's musical *Anything That Moves*. His west coast directing credits also include *Glengarry Glen Ross* starring Eric McCormack (Arts Club), *I Am My Own Wife* and *The Music Man* (Vancouver Playhouse), and *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Winter's Tale* (Bard on the Beach). He has directed at most of the major theatres across the country, including the Stratford Festival, Soulpepper and Canadian Stage, and his work has been seen in every province in Canada. His productions have won awards for Outstanding Production in Toronto (*A Little Night Music*), Vancouver (*Fiddler on the Roof* and *Spelling Bee*) and Ottawa (*Kilt*, *And Slowly Beauty...*). Michael is the former Artistic Director of both Theatre New Brunswick and the Grand Theatre in London, Ontario.



Creative Team



Susan Benson

Designer

Susan Benson is delighted to be working with Michael Shamata again, for whom she designed costumes for *A Little Night Music* for the Grand Theatre, London, Ontario, winning one of her 9 Dora Mavor Moore Awards. Her work has been seen in productions for many companies in Canada, Australia, the US and the UK such as the San Francisco Opera, New York City Opera, National Ballet of Canada, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Canadian Opera Company, The Banff Centre and the Australian Opera Company. For many years she designed for the Stratford Festival and was Head of Design for John Hirsch. Some of the productions included *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Maggie Smith, *A Long Day's Journey into Night* with Jessica Tandy and a number of musicals in collaboration with Brian Macdonald including *The Mikado*. She is the recipient of many awards including the Banff Centre National Arts Award for her contributions to the arts in Canada and an honorary membership in Canadian Actor's Equity for her contributions to the theatre in Canada. She has taught and lectured in many schools across Canada and the US including the National Theatre School, The Banff Centre and Carnegie Mellon University. She now lives and paints on Salt Spring Island.



Erecia Hassell

Lighting Designer

Erecia has worked as a lighting designer with theatre companies across Canada, including the Shaw and Stratford Festivals. For the Belfry Theatre Erecia has designed *Anything that Moves*, *Glorious!*, *Unless*, and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Other selected design credits include *The 39 Steps* (Chemainus Theatre Festival), *The December Man* (Prairie Theatre Exchange/Green Thumb Theatre/Citadel Theatre), *Albertine in Five Times* (Shaw Festival), *Semele* (Pacific Opera Victoria), *Guys & Dolls* (MTC/Citadel Theatre/Theatre Calgary), *Written on Water* (Canadian Stage/NAC), *Quiet in the Land* (Stratford Festival), *Copenhagen* (Theatre Calgary), *His Majesty* (Shaw Festival). Erecia is the recipient of a Dora Mavor Moore Award.



Jessica Hickman

Choreographer

Jessica Hickman works in a variety of artistic mediums. She is a dancer, choreographer, actress, director, teacher, and producer. She currently lives in Victoria, BC, but she often travels to the Yukon to continue her work as the Co-Artistic Producer of Open Pit, a not-for-profit physical theatre company. Aside from collecting old stamp sets, doing puzzles, and playing banjo, Jessica teaches contemporary and jazz dance at The Canadian College of Performing Arts. Favourite choreography credits include *Chicago* (Guild Theatre), *A Christmas Carol* (Belfry Theatre), *White Christmas* (VOS), *Countryside Christmas* (Chemainus Theatre Festival), and *Nowhere Near* (Open Pit). Enjoy the show! www.jessicahickman.ca

Creative Team



Kim Charleen Smith

Stage Manager

Kim has been stage managing for over 20 years and continues to be grateful for the opportunities her work brings to her life. This includes returning to the Belfry for her fifth season and a recent tour in Japan with the Canadian play *2 Pianos, 4 Hands*. She is a graduate of the Technical Theatre and Design programs at both Vancouver Island University and the National Theatre School of Canada. Her professional career began at the Canadian Stage Company in Toronto with *The Dream in High Park*, followed immediately by the Canadian premiere production of *The Phantom of the Opera* for Livent Productions, also in Toronto. Kim worked at Livent on several musicals in Toronto and tours of both Canada and the US. She has stage managed at the Vancouver Playhouse, Theatre Calgary, Opera Hamilton, Pacific Opera Victoria, on the motor vessel "Monarch of the Seas", and was the Resident at Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Kim has also taken her theatre training to the world of sport having worked on the Pan Am Games in Winnipeg, the World Weightlifting Competition in Vancouver and the Vancouver 2010 Olympics.



Ben Cheung

Assistant Stage Manager

Ben is a graduate of UBC's BFA Theatre Design and Production program. He is overjoyed and thankful that the Belfry family is willing to put up with his mischievous shenanigans once again! His stage management highlights include *A Christmas Carol*, *Speaking in Tongues* (Belfry), *Love in Public* (SFU), *Fresco* (BellaLuna), *Aesop's Fables* (Carousel), *The Wizard of Oz* (Carousel), *Munsch Mia* (Carousel), *Best Before* (PuSh Festival), *Billy Bishop Goes To War* (UBC, Persephone, Belfry, Arts Club), *High School Musical* (Viva Musica), and *Always... Patsy Cline* (Viva Musica). Other theatre credits include *Blackbird* (Rumble), *Seussical: The Musical*, *Love You Forever*, *More Munsch*, and *The Hobbit* (Carousel). He's continually grateful to every brave soul who ventures to join him on his theatrical journey. Enjoy the show!



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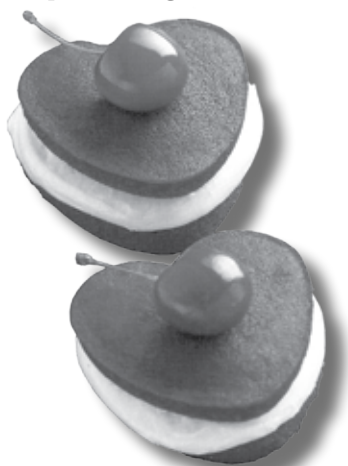
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June 12 - 29

2 for \$20 Preview and 2 for \$30 Tuesdays

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Up next at the Belfry

Catch one or all of these great events in the coming weeks - many of them are free!

Afterplay

April 23 - 27

May 14 - 18

During these weeks of performances of *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*, we invite you to stick around for a short facilitated discussion about your experience with the play.

Talkback Thursday

April 25

Following the 8pm performance of *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*, join the actors from the show and your fellow audience members for a Q&A session. Ever wonder what the actors are thinking? This is your chance to ask!

Belfry @ the Library

This season the Belfry Theatre is partnering with the Greater Victoria Public Library. Join us for a casual lunchtime chat at a branch near you. Meet one of the artists from the production of *Let Me Call You Sweetheart* and learn about the play from a local expert. For dates visit belfry.bc.ca



Wingfield Summer Comedy

- Letter from Wingfield Farm
- Wingfield's Progress
- Wingfield's Folly

*by Dan Needles, directed by Douglas Beattie
starring Rod Beattie*

July 30- August 25

This summer we'll reprise the first three episodes of Canada's most enduring one-man comedy series, all of which premiered at the Belfry. Join Walt, Freddie, Don, The Squire, Willy and Dave for an incredible summer evening - or three!

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SHOWTIMES AND DATES

FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS	SUNDAYS
MAY 24 & MAY 31	MAY 25 & JUNE 1	MAY 26 & JUNE 2
at 7:00 PM	at 2:00 PM	at 2:00 PM

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45
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SHOWS!

BUDDY

by Holly Story
featuring Zachary Stevenson
January 22 - April 13
Rock 'n Roll Musical



DELICIOUS LIES

adapted from Molière's *Scapin*
April 26 - May 18
Physical Comedy/Farce



GOOD TIMBER

Cheminus Theatre Festival presents
The Other Guys Theatre Company
May 22 - June 1
Rollicking Musical Revue



SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

screenplay by Betty Comden and Adolph Green
songs by Nacio Herb Brown and Arthur Freed
June 14 - August 25
Broadway Musical



A PRETTY GIRL
A Shayna Maidel

by Barbara Lebow
September 13 - 28
Drama



DRACULA

from the play by Hamilton Deane
and John L. Balderston
October 11 - November 9
Mystery/Drama



IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE


based on the Frank Capra film
November 22 - December 23
Holiday Musical



MUNSCH TO SAY

based on the stories by Robert Munsch
July 20 - August 25
KidzPlay

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“Art is an adventure
into an unknown world,
which can be explored
only by those
willing to take risks.”

— Mark Rothko, RED

OLIVER BECKER IN RED

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

No other group is as important to the success of the Belfry as you, our audience. Please join our growing group of friends, believers and devotees by making a donation to our Annual Fundraising Campaign. Every donation, large or small, makes a dramatic difference to the work we do!

Visit **belfry.bc.ca/donate**
or call **250-385-6815** for more info

Belfry Theatre

A company is known
by the company it keeps

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There are many reasons why companies choose to partner with the Belfry and why our corporate supporters renew their support year after year. From banks to boutiques, businesses that contribute to the Belfry demonstrate their commitment to our community and the arts, while receiving recognition that lasts long after the lights go down.

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Bravo!

2012-2013 Fundraising Campaign

The following individuals have invested generously during our fundraising campaign to raise funds in support of ongoing Belfry Theatre operations.

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The Estate of Shirley Dawson
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Patrick Stewart
Anonymous (1)

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Our thanks to the 156 Believers
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As of April 2, 2013

** New Donor

* Donor moved up a category

Bravo!

The Belfry Theatre gratefully acknowledges the financial support of The Canada Council for the Arts, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Province of British Columbia through the British Columbia Arts Council and the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, and the Capital Regional District Arts Development Office.



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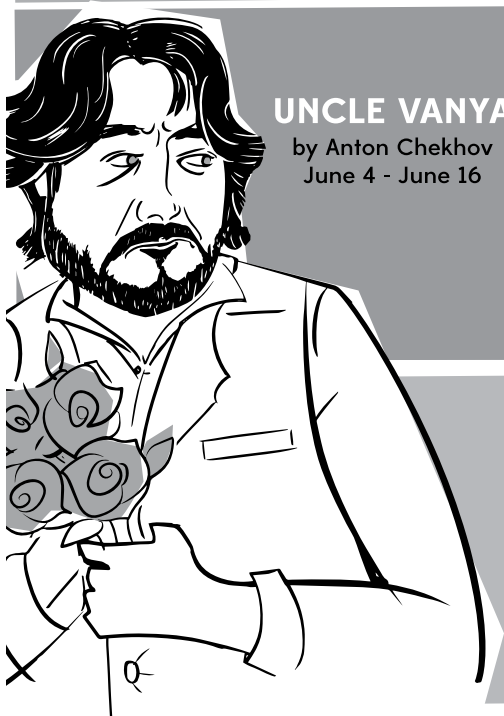
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comedy

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romance

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satire

FEBRUARY 4 – MARCH 9, 2014

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intrigue

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