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Casey and Diana

BY NICK GREEN

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FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

This is something of a milestone for me—my final production as Artistic Director of the Belfry. I have no words to adequately thank you—whether you’ve been attending this theatre for decades—or whether this is your first visit. The theatrical journey and the artistic conversation we have shared in this glorious room is the aspect of the job that I have enjoyed the most. It is also what I will miss the most. It sounds like PR jargon to say that “this is the best audience in Canada”—but it’s true—! And because of your openness and engagement, we’ve been able to program numerous plays that don’t appear on many other stages. It isn’t the Belfry that’s brave—it’s the audience—! I don’t expect you to have responded positively to everything I’ve programmed—but I don’t think that’s kept you away—or dampened your curiosity about what we’ll be doing next.

This Canadian play is set in a very unique place at a very specific time—and yet it is not a piece of history. It is a reminder that we need to “show up.”

And so, as we reach the end of our journey together, I thank you from the bottom of my heart—for embracing the arts—and for showing up—!

with all best wishes—



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are finishing up another year, and I am so excited that this script is the finale. It is Michael’s final production as Artistic Director here, and I am delighted we could bring together his dream team for this production. I am so excited to see the finished work. It is a fitting farewell for Michael, whose art and vision are inextricably woven into the fabric of the Belfry. He will be sorely missed.

I am coming up to my fourth year here. It is fascinating how time warps. In some ways Victoria still feels very new to me. And yet the Belfry feels timelessly embedded within me. This has been such a journey! And I am delighted I took that leap.

Thanks to all of you for making the Belfry this enormous success. This is a partnership that is about building and sustaining a Victoria culture, as opposed to merely a theatre. When you buy tickets, volunteer, donate, advocate, spread the word about a show you like, it all contributes to sustaining this critical part of our cultural landscape. You shape the Belfry.

THE BELFRY THEATRE PRESENTS

Casey and Diana



by Nick Green

Cast

Deborah Drakeford	<i>Marjorie</i>
Meghan Gardiner	<i>Diana</i>
Morgan David Jones	<i>Thomas</i>
Liam Ma	<i>Andre</i>
Brenda Robins	<i>Vera</i>
Celine Stubel	<i>Pauline</i>

This performance runs 2.5 hours, including a 15-minute intermission.

This production of *Casey and Diana* is supported in part by a generous gift from Elaine Montgomery & Robert Maitland.

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The Belfry Theatre is a member of the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce, Destination Greater Victoria, and the Professional Arts Alliance of Greater Victoria.

Creative Team

Michael Shamata	<i>Director</i>
Shawn Kerwin	<i>Set and Costume Designer</i>
Alan Brodie	<i>Lighting Designer</i>
Tobin Stokes	<i>Composer and Sound Designer</i>
Jen Swan	<i>Stage Manager</i>
Hannah Abbey	<i>Apprentice Stage Manager</i>
Bonni Baynton	<i>Stage Management Cover</i>
Amanda Lisman	<i>UVIC Director Intern</i>
Nicholas Harrison	<i>Fight Choreographer</i>

Casey House

Casey House opened in 1988, in a Victorian-era house on Huntley Street, in the heart of Toronto's "gay village." It opened when the AIDS epidemic was at its height. Gay men—already stigmatized—were now being treated as "untouchables." The late great June Callwood—founder of Casey House—wanted to create a sanctuary where men with AIDS could have medical care, would not be isolated, and could die with dignity.

The Belfry Theatre is on the land of the Lək'wəḡən People, known today as the Songhees and Kosapsum Nations. The Lək'wəḡən people have been keepers of this land for millennia, and we offer our respect and gratitude for our presence on this territory.

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



CAST



Deborah Drakeford Marjorie

Deb has been fortunate enough to perform in shows across the country from British Columbia to Prince Edward Island! She spent 19 years as a Resident Artist with ARC (Toronto), the last four of which she was the Artistic Director. Deb has also done some film and TV and audiobook recordings, and has been nominated for Dora and Meta awards. Deb is delighted to be working again with Michael Shamata!



Meghan Gardiner Diana

Meghan is a Vancouver based artist whose credits include: *The Effect* (Rumble/Itsazoo), *The Cull*, *The Sound of Music*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *A Christmas Story: the Musical*, *Blood Brothers*, *Evita* (Arts Club Theatre), *How the World Began* (Pacific), *The Boy in the Moon* (NewWorld Theatre), *The Music Man*, *I Lost My Husband* (Gateway Theatre), *Dead Metaphor*, *Urinetown* (Firehall Arts Centre) and *The Last Five Years* (Western Canada Theatre). Television credits include: *The Flash*, *Family Law*, *The Good Doctor*, *Firefly Lane*, *A Million Little Things*, *The L Word*, *Motherland*, *Supergirl*, and several Hallmark movies. Meghan is a YWCA Women of Distinction nominee and has written eleven professionally produced plays, including *Dissolve*, her one woman show that has been touring North America since 2003.



Morgan David Jones Thomas

Morgan is best known for his role in Aaron Sorkin's *Molly's Game* and television credits, including *Designated Survivor*, *Reign*, and *Supernatural*. He was nominated for a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Supporting Performer following the international tour of *A Streetcar Named Desire* alongside Cate Blanchett. As a proud member of the LGBTQI+ community, Morgan holds *Casey and Diana* close to his heart, cherishing the chance to honour those we've loved and lost. Dedicated to those who fought relentlessly for the right to be seen, cared for, and treated as equals.



Liam Ma Andre

Liam is thrilled to make his professional theatre debut with the Belfry. He was recently nominated for a Canadian Screen Award and can be seen recurring in Season 2 and Season 3 of CBC's *Alliance*, and upcoming in the feature film *Karoshi* for Lionsgate, starring Teo Yoo and Cynthia Erivo. Dedicated to my Mom!



Brenda Robins Vera

Brenda is thrilled to be back at the Belfry! Brenda previously appeared here in: *From Alaska, The Children, 4000 Miles, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Other selected theatre: *The Christmas Market* (b current / Studio 180); *A Delicate Balance, Escaped Alone, Noises Off, Home, King Lear, Faith Healer, Blithe Spirit* (Soulpepper); *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Citadel, RMT, Grand Theatre); *Private Lives* (Canadian Stage / Grand Theatre); *The Lion in Winter* (Grand Theatre); *August: Osage County, The Constant Wife* (Citadel); *Doubt, The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (Centaur); *Death and the Maiden, Hedda Gabler* (Vancouver Playhouse). Other: Co-adapted the scripts for *Picture This*, and for the award-winning production of *Parfumerie* (Soulpepper). Member of Shaw and Stratford Festivals. She is the recipient of Dora, Sterling, Jessie and MECCA awards.



Celine Stubel Pauline

Celine is honoured to be here for Michael's Belfry farewell. Theatre highlights: *The Lehman Trilogy, Kindred, Venus in Fur, Proud, And Slowly Beauty, A Christmas Carol* (Belfry). Elsewhere: *The Great Gatsby* (Theatre Calgary), *Oliver* (NAC), *Fire, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Blue Bridge), *Angels in America, The Graduate* (Arts Club), Electric Company's *Studies in Motion* Tour, *Legoland* (Atomic Vaudeville), *All's Well That Ends Well* (Bard on The Beach), *My Three Sisters* (Theatre SKAM). Film and TV: *All in Madonna, Encore, The Cameraman, Arrow, and Eadward*. Celine is a proud Mom, sending love and thanks to her family, and Sam.

CREATIVE TEAM



Nick Green Playwright

Nick is a Dora Award-winning playwright from Toronto, as well as a former student at UVic's Phoenix Theatre for two years (about 100 years ago!). After premiering at the Stratford Festival of Canada in 2023, his play *Casey and Diana* (Toronto Public History Award, Critics Choice Award, Dora Award nomination) has had productions in 13 cities across Canada and the United States. Other credits include *Dinner with the Duchess* (Crow's Theatre, Next Stage Theater); *In Real Life* (book, Theatre Sheridan); *Every Day She Rose* (Nightwood Theatre, Black Theatre Workshop, ZeeZee Theatre); *Happy Birthday Baby J* (Shadow Theatre); *Dr. Silver* (book, South Coast Repertory – Pacific Playwrights); *Body Politic* (Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, winner of Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Play); and *Poof! The Musical* (book, Capitol Theatre).



Michael Shamata Director

Michael has been the Belfry's Artistic Director for the past 18 and a half years. He held the same position at the Grand Theatre in London, Ontario, and at Theatre New Brunswick, which is based in Fredericton and, at the time, toured every production to seven other cities across the province! He is an award-winning Director, a sometime Playwright, an occasional Instructor, and a proud former Stage Manager.



Shawn Kerwin Set & Costume Designer

Shawn's work has been seen across Canada and internationally. Recent work includes set and costume design—*The Lehman Trilogy*, *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes* (Belfry Theatre), *The Turn of the Screw* (Pacific Opera), *The Goat* (Stratford), *Playing Shylock* (Canadian Stage / Starvox), *Between Breaths* (Artistic Fraud), *Sea Sick* (international tour); set design—*Come From Away* (Gander); costume design—*You, Always* (Canadian Stage). She has also designed for Mirvish Productions, Soulpepper, Charlottetown Festival, Signal Theatre, Blyth Festival, Factory Theatre, Theatre Calgary, and others. She is Professor Emeritus of York University's Department of Theatre and Performance.



Alan Brodie Lighting Designer

Alan is delighted to return to the Belfry, where his previous credits include *I Think I'm Fallin': The Songs of Joni Mitchell*, *Salt Baby*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Equivocation*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *The Syringa Tree*, *Mary's Wedding*, *When We Were Singing*, *The Drawer Boy*, *Two*, *Skylight*, *Come Rain or Come Shine*, *Anatol*, and *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid*. Alan is pleased to share the Belfry stage one final time with Michael Shamata, having collaborated many times on plays, musicals and operas across the country. Alan lives in Burnaby with his wife Michele and their dog "Bosco."



Tobin Stokes Composer & Sound Designer

Since the late 80s, Tobin has been privileged to create at the Belfry as a performer, arranger, sound designer, composer, or musical director for many productions. He's even had a couple of very short plays premiere at the annual Spark Festival. Musical projects here have delved into the art of Leonard Cohen, Patsy Cline, Harry Chapin, and two very special, unforgettable co-creating opportunities with the fabulous Michael Shamata, exploring and presenting the work of Joni Mitchell and Gordon Lightfoot. Besides creating for theatre, Tobin composes for opera, orchestra, choir, television, film, dance, and large events.



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Jen Swan Stage Manager

Jen has been part of the Belfry as a stage manager since 1999, and it always feels like coming home. Since 2022 she has been working full time in administration at the Canadian College of Performing Arts, as well as teaching stage management at CCPA and as of this year at UVic. This is her 11th show working alongside Michael Shamata, and she is honoured and thrilled to be a part of this beautiful show with so many friends.



Bonni Baynton Stage Management Cover

A University of Calgary graduate, Bonni brings extensive experience in Stage Management and Production Stage Management having worked with companies such as Calgary Opera, Pacific Opera Victoria, Edmonton Opera, Manitoba Opera, Theatre Calgary, Alberta Theatre Projects, Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, Vertigo Theatre, Lunchbox Theatre, Charlottetown Festival, Neptune Theatre, Chemainus Theatre Festival, and the Belfry Theatre. She also spent many summers as a Faculty Member with the Banff Centre Opera as Theatre program, where she mentored participants in the art of stage management. Prior to moving back to Victoria in the fall of 2023, she held the role of Director of Production with Calgary Opera from 2011–2023. Bonni is excited be working with the Belfry team as Producer and to be given this opportunity to support the Stage Management team in rehearsals.



Amanda Lisman UVic Directing Intern

A director, actor, and educator, Amanda is a graduate of the University of Victoria (BA Anthropology), the University of Alberta (BFA Acting), the Citadel/Banff Theatre Program and the Stratford Festival's Birmingham Conservatory. Her credits include roles with the Stratford Festival, Alberta Theatre Projects, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, the Segal Centre, the Arts Club, Blue Bridge, and the Belfry, and TV appearances on *Suits*, *iZombie*, and *Supernatural*. She teaches acting, voice, and Shakespeare at various institutions, including the Victoria Academy of Dramatic Arts, Lifetime Networks, and the University of Victoria, where she is currently an MFA Directing candidate.



Hannah Abbey Apprentice Stage Manager

Hannah is a Stage Manager and technician based in BC. She is excited to be back at the Belfry for this production after working as Apprentice SM on *1979* and as venue technician for two seasons before that. Hannah has spent much of her time in the last few years running around in the forest as Stage Management at Caravan Farm Theatre for site-specific productions of *A Midwinter Night's Dream* (2025), *Richard III* (2025), *The Bear and The Proposal* (2024), *The Nutcracker* (2023), and *The Wonderful* (2022).

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Latecomers and Re-admission

Latecomers will not be admitted and those who exit during the performance will not be re-admitted but can watch the performance on the monitor in our lobby

Perfume and Cologne

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

Food and Drinks

Only food or drinks that you purchase at the concession are permitted in the theatre.

Lost and Found

Please check with our House Manager if you have lost an item in the theatre.

Lobby Touchscreen

The TV monitor in our lobby is a touchscreen device. By touching the screen, you can delve deeper into each production, learn about the artists who created the show, and much more.

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Alison Bendall	FOH Manager
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Michelle Chowns	FOH Supervisor / Box Office Clerk
Mark Dusseault	Director of Marketing & Communications
Mike Ford	Director of Production & Operations
Ian Gibson	Audience Services Manager
Khushi Harmilapi	Development Coordinator
Keith Houghton	Head Technician & Systems Administrator
Carole Klemm	Head Scenic Artist
Jeff Kulak	Graphic Designer
Carolyn Moon	Venue Technician & Props Assistant
Peter Pokorny	Head of Props & Scenic Carpenter
Dale Pudwell	Master Carpenter
Jenny Robinson	FOH Supervisor / Box Office Clerk
Elena Rozenberg	Director of Finance
Hailey Sabourin	Box Office Clerk
Michael Shamata	Artistic Director
Lara Shepard	Scenic Artist
Susan Stevenson	Director of Development
Isaac Thomas	Executive Director
Deborah Williams	Associate Artist & Flame Facilitator
Golnaz Zad	Box Office Supervisor

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CONTACT:

Susan Stevenson
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