

2024-2025 SEASON



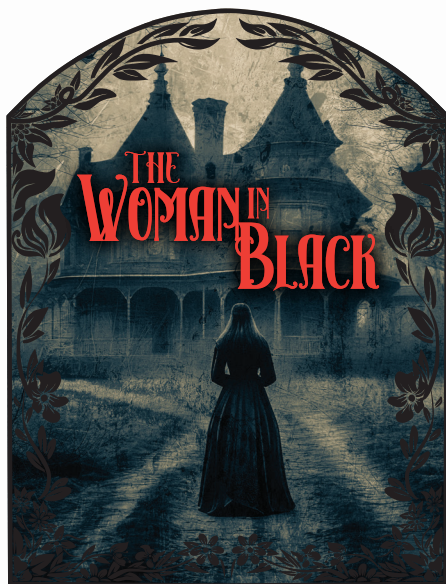
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THE WOMAN IN BLACK

A ghost play

Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt from the book by Susan Hill
By permission Concord Theatricals

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The action of this play take place in a
small Victorian theatre in 1901.

**WARNING: Jump Scares,
flashing lights, fog effects**



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Please see the Front of House
People to borrow hearing
assistance equipment.



PHOTOGRAPHY?

Please refrain from using cameras
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in the theatre as copyright
regulations do not allow this.



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Cell phones & pagers
must be turned off
during a performance.



SCENT-FREE?

Please refrain from using
scented products in the theatre
for the health & well-being
of your fellow patrons.

DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

“You then, for the purpose of the reading, become me?”

“Quite so. And you, for the purpose of the performance, you draw on your remembrance, to be the people that you met, those that played their parts in your story.”

From the first time we read *The Woman in Black*, gathered with a small group of friends who met monthly to help us choose a script, we knew we had found something special. One older man, whose traumatic memories won't let him rest; one younger man, with the skills to help him tell his story and be rid of it at last. They meet to rehearse together on a small Victorian stage, and are soon carried away on the tide of the tale, taking the audience right along with them. We immediately knew we wanted to share this play, and were thrilled and honoured to be chosen as NTG's spring production and entry for the North Island Zone Festival.

As our young actor reminds us, theatre is an art acquired with tears and time, not to mention teamwork. Many talented and dedicated people helped us bring this show to life, and without their valuable contributions, the production you are about to see would have been much poorer. We are deeply grateful to each and every one.

And so, join us now, as two men work together in hopes of banishing an old ghost. Let us draw on your emotions and your imagination as we journey to a neverland. And for the sake of your health and reason, don't look too closely at the shadows...

– Shannon and Laura

THE CAST



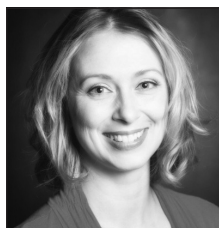
ACTOR | Robert Atkinson

Robert is very happy to be back on stage at the Bailey. His last appearance here was as a director for last season's opening play Ripcord. He is very excited to be playing a variety of parts in this spooky production of *The Woman in Black*. Robert knew that someday his addiction to horror movies would pay off! Robert hopes that you are startled, amused and entertained. He would like to thank his castmates and the incredible machine that is the Nanaimo Theatre Group. Have fun!!



ACTOR | Jon Faris

Jon is very happy to be working with Laura and Shannon in their co-directorial debut. The script has many interesting challenges, and he has found it very rewarding to explore with such a talented and enthusiastic team. Jon has previously appeared on stage at the Bailey Studio in *All In the Timing* (2024) and *Robin Hood and His VERY Merry Men* (2018). He appreciates this opportunity to take on the rather different role of Mr. Arthur Kipps, haunting survivor.



JENNET | Janna Logan

Janna is excited to be taking part in another thrilling production with Nanaimo Theatre Group. Now entering her eleventh year of playing with the mid-island's theatre community, Janna has enjoyed working both on stage and behind the curtain. Every production is an adventure that has left its own mark upon her heart! And she seems to have a penchant for festival shows; past participation includes *Bus Stop* (Props Team), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (as Miep Geiss), and the award winning *The Half-Life of Marie Curie* (as Domestic Help). She hopes that *The Woman in Black* leaves you enthralled!



KIPPS | Jake Rysz

Jacob Rysz is very excited to get back on stage after taking a year off to spend time with his fiancée and the rest of his family. Jake has always wanted to act in a thriller and is enjoying being a part of something that will, with no doubt in his mind, terrify and unsettle the audience.

THE CAST



JENNET | Amanda Wagner

Amanda is excited to be working on another project with NTG, with another exceptionally talented group of directors, actors and crew. Most recently she appeared as Barbara Grant in Perfect Arrangement with NTG, and previous to that as Barb in the world premier of Longing with Echo Players. A former student of Gastown Actors Studio, Amanda is fulfilling her life-long dream of being an actor. In theatre, we are story-tellers. I invite you to be drawn in and participate in our story, our gift to you.

HENRY IRVING: ENGLAND'S FIRST FAMOUS ACTOR

Sir Henry Irving (1838–1905) was an English stage actor in the Victorian era. He took complete responsibility (supervision of sets, lighting, direction, casting, as well as playing the leading roles) for season after season at the West End's Lyceum Theatre, establishing himself and his company as representative of English classical theatre. In 1895 he became the first actor to be awarded a knighthood, indicating full acceptance into the higher circles of British society.

Interesting facts about Henry Irving:

- Bram Stoker was his ardent supporter, and is even said to have based the character of Dracula to Irving!
- His stepson said of him, "Let me state at once, in clearest unmistakable terms, that I have never known of, or seen, or heard, a greater actor than was Irving."
- In 1887, the Exeter Theatre Royal fire claimed the lives of 186 people, and injured dozens more. Irving was one of the first high-profile people to donate to the relief fund for survivors and orphans. Moreover, this event inspired him to develop the "Irving Safety Theatre" principles. These principles included making the theatre site isolated, dividing the auditorium from the back of house, a minimum height above street level for any part of the audience, providing two separate exits for every section of the audience, improved stage construction including a smoke flue, and fire-resistant construction throughout. Which of these features do you see at the Bailey Studio?

THE CREW



DIRECTOR | Laura Buechler

Laura has been an NTG member for 10 years, with roles in Alice in Pantoland, The Foreigner, and Good People. She is excited to co-direct this show with her friend Shannon, and she hopes that you get really scared! Heartfelt thanks to an excellent cast and crew, to Chris for his unending patience and support, and to you our audience for supporting live theatre in our community!



DIRECTOR | Shannon Reimer

Shannon has been a member of NTG for the past 30 years and in 2015 was awarded a life membership to the club. She directed The Three Musketeers in 2015 and was last seen on stage as Hook in the 2024 Christmas Pantomime, Mother Goose. She is excited to co-direct this show with her friend Laura, and she hopes that you don't get too scared.



PRODUCER | Sandee Phillips

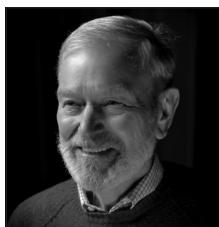
Sandee has been a member of Nanaimo Theatre Group since joining in 2019. Prior to that she had theatrical experience in high school, the Duncan Musical Society and radio CKAY in Duncan. With NTG, she has helped out as a producer, lighting operator, front of house, concession, painting crew and ASM. She is also the chair of the Play Reading Committee. She was producer for this season's opening show Perfect Arrangement. She is very excited to help support another amazing show as producer with such a talented group of people. Relax and enjoy the show!



STAGE MANAGER | Nikita Towe

Nikita is a Life-Member of NTG and currently serves as Vice President on the Executive Committee. Recent stage management credits include Island Summer Theatre Festival 2024 (Artist's Collective Theatre), Knight of the Bat 2023 (Western Edge Theatre), and The Half Life of Marie Curie (2023), Legoland and Never Swim Alone (2022), and Good People (2018) with NTG.

THE CREW



SET DESIGNER | Jolyon Brown

This is the simplest set of the four Jolyon has designed this season. However, the complexities of having it suitable for a small cast, in an old-fashioned theatre setting, and making sure it can be demountable, fit into a 24' long truck and then fit the two other possible theatres he hopes to be visiting (as he is SURE the show will win the North Island Zone Festival!), made it an interesting challenge! Thanks for asking me, Shannon, and thanks Michael for your construction expertise!



SET DRESSING | Lisa Eckert

Lisa has been involved in theatre since a young age, from writing to directing, acting, producing and more. For the past 20 years, she has been primarily set designing and set dressing. Most recently, she designed the set for All in the Timing. She is happiest when using her imagination to create sets and dressing for shows. "Haunting thrift shops, hunting for stuff is so much fun!" The challenge of course is finding the period appropriate items. She hopes you have a "haunting" time watching this show!



SET PAINTING LEAD | Jeanne Ackles-Cardinal

Jeanne has been a lead painter for 16 years and specialty set painter for over 25 years at Qualicum Beach Village Theatre for ECHO Players and Bard 2 Broadway. NTG was introduced to Jeanne's skill through her work in Qualicum Beach and embraced her willingness to contribute to our productions. This will be her seventh production with us. Thanks, Jeanne!



LIGHTING DESIGNER | Edward Gueulette

Ed joined Nanaimo Theatre Group in 1979 at age 14! He has done lights and sound for many NTG shows and has also helped stage manage, produce, and assistant direct with the group. In 2019 he took on the executive position of President. Most recently he designed the lighting for DADS! The Musical. This show presents some interesting challenges and stylistic opportunities. He is happy to work with Doug and Nikita in the booth again and the rest of this talented cast and crew as well as to go on the road again!

THE CREW



PROPERTIES LEAD | Sam Caul

Sam has been a theatre nerd since the dawn of time. She graduated with a theatre diploma in 2020 during the start of COVID-19. Despite the challenges along the way, she has managed to dip her toes into almost every role that theatre can offer. She is so thankful for the opportunity to head a department and is grateful for her hard-working and knowledgeable team.



COSTUMES LEAD | Joanne Swain

Joanne is pleased to be dressing the cast in this production of *The Woman in Black*. With NTG's extensive wardrobe stock, she was able to pull outfits from the inventory. Joanne has worked on several past productions with NTG, including pantos and various period productions. She enjoys researching the costumes worn back in the day. Thank you to Sheridan Burt for co-leading this production, and to the costume team of NTG for agreeing to be onsite for any wardrobe emergency that may arise. Best team ever!



MAKEUP & HAIR DESIGNER | Brittany Gueulette

Brittany is very excited to be involved in yet another fantastic production here at NTG, having experienced a variety of roles both on and off stage. She is happy to get back to her roots in makeup design, putting that diploma from Vancouver Film School to work. She hopes you enjoy the show and thanks you for coming!



CONSTRUCTION LEAD | Michael Armstrong

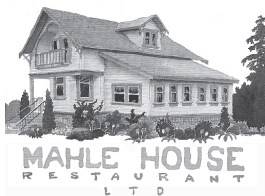
Michael is an actor, playwright, and director. He has also built houses for over forty years. He has built several sets for NTG as well as other theatre companies on Vancouver Island. He is delighted to have worked with Jolyon Brown again on this one.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Laura Buechler
Director	Shannon Reimer
Director Mentor	Ian Matthews
Producer	Sandee Phillips
Stage Manager	Nikita Towe
Assistant Stage Manager	Tanya Lebens, Nicole Darlington
Dialect Specialist	Sheila Coultish
Set Designer	Jolyon Brown
Set Construction Lead	Michael Armstrong
Set Construction Helpers	Jolyon Brown, Neil Leslie, Edward Gueulette, Kristal Atkinson
Set Dressing	Lisa Eckert
Set Painting Lead	Jeanne Ackles-Cardinal
Set Painting Helpers	Libba Innes, Kristal Atkinson, Jolyon Brown, Mariann von Holstein-Rathlou
Lighting Designer	Edward Gueulette
Lighting Operator	Cindy Williams
Sound Designer	Doug Blackmore
Sound Operator	Grace Smiley
Special effects Technician	Edward Gueulette
Properties Lead	Sam Caul
Properties Helpers	Janna Logan, Vanessa Jones, Kristal Atkinson
Costume Lead	Joanne Swain
Costume Helper	Sheridan Burt, Kye Wennerberg
Makeup & Hair Designer	Brittany Gueulette
Front of House Manager	Tatjana Hayes
Concession Manager	David Bourne
Box Office Manager	Meg Matthews
Marketing	Joan Roszmann

SPECIAL THANKS

Janice Bell, Sheila Coultish, Sheila Fremont-Male,
Jonathan Greenway, Janet Hepples, Melissa Kahan, Jan Leslie,
Nicolle Natrass, Garrett Reimer, Francesca Reside, Wendy Wulff
All concession and front of house volunteers!



Stephen & Tara Wilson

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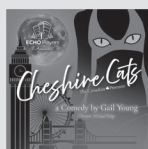
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