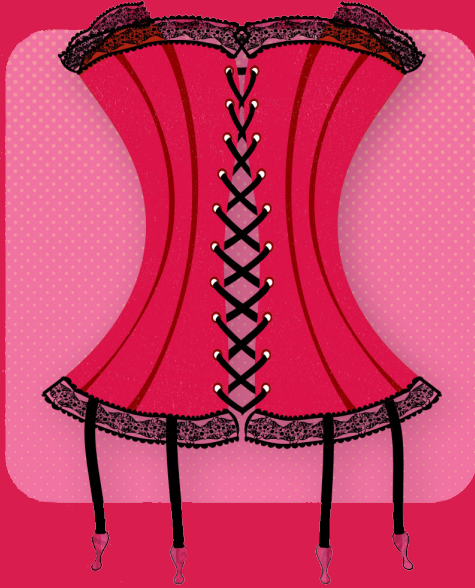


THE *foster*
FESTIVAL
HUMOUR WITH HEART



AUGUST 9 - 20
MANDEVILLE THEATRE

JENNY'S
HOUSE OF JOY
BY NORM FOSTER

land acknowledgement

The Foster Festival would like to acknowledge that the land we gather on is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee people. Acknowledging territory is a beginning and not an ending in terms of our work towards truth and reconciliation. We hope that such acknowledgements will be a stepping stone towards deeper knowledge and sustained relationships with Indigenous people. We actively work towards including an increasingly diverse production team and administration team including Indigenous professionals and communities to create the space for this important truth and reconciliation work to begin and to continue. Thank you.



message from

EMILY ORIOLD
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Thank you for joining us at the beautiful Mandeville Theatre at Ridley College in St. Catharines. The Festival has changed and grown over these past few years as we've re-examined the importance of storytelling and of gathering in a variety of locations to appreciate and experience these stories. This season, we have chosen plays that focus on perspective – Is the grass always greener? What happens when we examine different sides of the same issue? How can we come together to open our hearts and minds to new ideas?

It brings me great joy to share our shows with each of you and feel the care of the community surrounding us. The Foster Festival is committed to finding unique and interesting ways to share in the laughter with our artists, our audiences, and our community for the foreseeable future. Thank you for continuing to support us as we rebuild and redefine what it means to celebrate Canadian Artists, Canadian Arts Workers, Canadian stories, and Canadian Theatre as a whole.

message from

LISA HORNER

DIRECTOR



"I swear I love you girls like you was my own sisters. There is not another person on this entire earth I cherish more than you." – Jenny from *Jenny's House of Joy*

Cherished family. Chosen family. Community. Where do we find support? Where do we find the connections we need so desperately? 1871 was an unkind time for an unmarried, divorced, or widowed woman. Jobs were near impossible to find, money was scarce, and the world had no use for a single 'older woman'. Very difficult choices sometimes had to be made. Brothels afforded these women community, safety, and a little bit of money if they were lucky. If you didn't catch a deadly disease, get pregnant or fall victim to violence, you could find friendship, support and affection under these incredibly difficult circumstances. It was also in this community that a brothel would be taxed and produce enough money to fund the town's entire school system for the year. A 'house of joy' was a common term for a brothel, but looking more closely you see that real joy could exist. In the friendships they created, the jokes they shared and even the occasional fight, these women made their own families. Their chosen ones. As a companion piece to *Outlaw*, produced earlier this season, *Jenny's House of Joy* shows a vastly different yet incredibly important piece of history-the women of the wild west. What a pleasure to spend time with these women. It was my privilege. And thank you for coming back to the theatre, our chosen home. We are so happy to see you. Huge thanks to Emily, and Jamie, my fella Matthew, the incredible team at the Foster Festival, Seren, this glorious group of women who played with me in the hall and of course Canada's own, our Norm Foster.

An award winning actor, director, and teacher, with over thirty years' experience, Lisa had the pleasure of acting in the very first season of the Foster Festival as Vi in *Halfway There*. At last count she has performed in over twenty of Norm Foster's plays beginning with *Opening Night* at the Drayton Festival in 1997. Lisa has been seen on stages across Canada and is known for her performances with Mirvish Productions (*Come From Away*, *Les Miserables*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Kinky Boots*), three seasons with the Stratford Festival, four seasons with the Shaw Festival as well Drayton Entertainment, RMTTC, NAC, and Theatre Aquarius. As a teacher, Lisa has helped students and professionals find their voice and improve their audition technique for the past fifteen years. During the pandemic she trained as a personal support worker, and began to work in the community of Toronto.



DONNA BELLEVILLE - Clara

FOR FOSTER FESTIVAL: *Widow Wonderland*

Donna is delighted to be with the Foster Festival. She resides in Niagara-on-the-Lake and spent 19 seasons as a member of the Shaw Festival. Selected credits at the Shaw Festival include: *Pygmalion, When the Rain Stops Falling, Drama at Inish, Age of Arousal, Devil's Disciple, Coronation Voyage, The Heiress, Magic Fire, Waiting for the Parade, Belle Moral, and A Little Night Music*. She has appeared in over 100 productions in theatres across Canada, including Canadian Stage, Centaur, Neptune, Vancouver Playhouse, Theatre Calgary, and Alberta Theatre Projects. She has appeared in over twenty premieres by such writers as Michael Tremblay, Michael Marc Bouchard and Ann Marie Macdonald.



JULIA DYAN - Frances

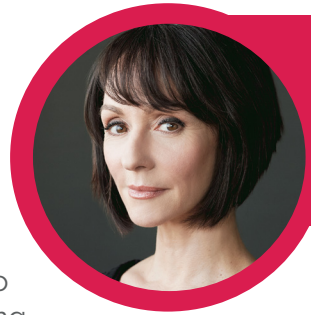
FOR FOSTER FESTIVAL: *Wrong For Each Other*

JULIA DYAN is thrilled to be back at The Foster Festival! She first appeared in the Festival as Nora in *Wrong For Each Other*. Julia is a Toronto-based Actor, Writer, Fight Director, and Stunt Performer. She studied at The Stella Adler Studio of Acting, and attended The Humber Theatre Performance Program. Julia is co-founder of Violence in Motion, a stage combat training facility for actors. Julia lives in Toronto with her partner Jacob, and pup Ripley. THEATRE: *The Birds and The Bees* (Sudbury Theatre Centre), *Wrong for Each Other* (The Foster Festival), *Crees in the Caribbean* (Magnus Theatre), *Komunka* (Hooligans Theatre), *Albertine in Five Times* (Free Prod.). FILM&TV: *The Boys, Orphan Black Echoes, What we do in the Shadows, The Umbrella Academy, Private Eyes, Nurses, Odd Squad, Designated Survivor*.

CATHERINE MCGREGOR - Jenny

FOR FOSTER FESTIVAL: *Lunenburg*

Catherine made her first appearance at The Foster Festival playing Iris Oulette in the Festival's world premiere of *Lunenburg* in 2017 and is now thrilled to be working alongside some cherished long time colleagues (and new friends!) in this the eighth season of the Foster Festival. She first began her long and cherished friendship with Mr. Foster by yelling at him in a bar in Port Dover almost 15 years ago, so she is also grateful that he didn't hold that against her. Catherine spent 15 seasons at the Shaw Festival, and has also appeared at Theatre Aquarius, Neptune Theatre, Buddies in Bad times, Factory Theatre, The City Playhouse, The Ford Centre for the Performing Arts, The Arbour Festival, Lighthouse Festival, Drayton Festival and the Toronto Fringe. Recent years have taken her primarily into the film and television world where she continues to craft a variety of often less than kind characters in horn rimmed glasses.



ZOE O'CONNOR - Natalie

FOR FOSTER FESTIVAL: *Debut*

Born and raised in Bermuda, Zoë is currently based in Toronto, ON. She is a graduate of Sheridan's Music Theatre Bach. Performance Program. When not performing, Zoë can be found working on endless crochet projects. Past credits include: *9 to 5* (Stage West Calgary); *Jersey Boys* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Mamma Mia* (Tweed & Co); *Ghost the Musical* (Starvox Entertainment); *Happy End, Casimir and Caroline* (Theatre Sheridan); *Tiny Tenement of Terrors* (Musical Stage Co./ Theatre Sheridan). Special thanks to my agents at the Talent House, and to my family back home for their unlimited love and support. :)





KELLY J SEO- Anita

FOR FOSTER FESTIVAL: *Debut*

Kelly J. Seo is delighted to be joining her first season with the Foster Festival. Kelly, a theatre graduate of York University, is a Toronto based actor. Recent theatre credits include playing lead roles in *Kim's Convenience* (Thousand Islands Playhouse), *Twelfth Night* (St Lawrence Shakespeare Festival) and Hana Hashimoto *the Sixth Violin* (Thousand Islands Playhouse). Select On-Camera credits include, *The Sanhok Tapes - PUBG Lore Drop*, *Designated Survivor*, and *If I Should Die "The Strangler"*. Her quirky comedic side can be seen in her lead role in the short film, *Lola*. Kelly's face may be recognizable from her commercial work including but not limited to, Spotify, Fitbit, Sephora and most notably Cracker Barrel Cheese. You can keep updated with Kelly at www.kellyseo.com



BECKIE MORRIS - Set Designer

FOR FOSTER FESTIVAL: *Debut*

Beckie is thrilled to be a part of the Jenny's House of Joy powerhouse team! Beckie grew up in the Niagara region and is thrilled to return "home" to join the incredible creators at Foster Festival. Beckie is a scenic designer and production manager working primarily in southern Ontario. Much of her work has been seen on her home stage at Theatre Orangeville. While she designs most of what Theatre Orangeville produces on their mainstage, her work can also be seen on the stages of Lighthouse Festival Theatre in Port Dover, Capitol Theatre in Port Hope, Drayton Entertainment, Neptune Theatre in Nova Scotia, and Victoria Playhouse in PEI. Thanks as always to her beautiful and always supportive family and peers. www.beckiemorrisdesigns.ca

STACY GRAHAM - Lighting Designer

FOR FOSTER FESTIVAL: *Debut*

Stacy is thrilled to be making her debut with The Foster Festival and to be a part of the all-female creative team on this production. Stacy has been the Rental Facility Coordinator at Ridley College for the past 11 years as well as assisting with coordination of their extensive summer camp programmes for youth in Niagara. Before working at Ridley College, Stacy worked in professional theatre including at the Showboat Festival Theatre in Port Colborne for several seasons. She wants to send a special thank you to Doug and Eden, her technical comrades at the Mandeville Theatre.



ALEXA FRASER - Costume Designer

FOR FOSTER FESTIVAL: *The Foursome, Danny & Delilah*

Alexa Fraser is multi disciplinary artist from St.Catharines, Ontario. With a B.Des in Fashion Design from The Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University, 2006), Alexa has worked in the Tailoring Department at the Shaw Festival (2014 and 2015 seasons) and as the Head of Wardrobe for Carousel Players since 2015. Alexa has displayed textile and installation art in many solo and group exhibits, designs and sews costumes for theatre, makes and performs puppets, and teaches textile and puppet making workshops. Recent selected costume design credits include *A Vampire Story*, Brock University DART Winter Mainstage production (2023), *Danny and Delilah* (2023) and *The Foursome* (2022) with The Foster Festival, *Mary Poppins Jr*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Nobody's Children* and *Shrek Jr* with Yellow Door Theatre Project (2022/2023), and *Pop Pop* (2021/2022), *Lig and Bittle* (2020), *The Incredible Adventures of Mary Jane Mosquito* (2017/2019/2023) with Carousel Players. Alexa was thrilled to start teaching wardrobe and props in the winter semester at Brock University's Department of Dramatic Arts of 2023 and is looking forward to returning to DART to teach wardrobe, props and puppets in the upcoming Fall and Winter semesters. She is also looking forward to designing costumes for *Stupid F***ing Bird* for the Brock University DART Fall Mainstage production.



SEREN BROOKE LANNON - Stage Manager



FOR FOSTER FESTIVAL: *Debut*

Seren is so grateful to be working with and learning from these amazing Women every day. Select Theatre Credits include: *Dear Jack Dear Louise, Bar Mitzvah Boy, The Times, They Are A Changin', 25 Questions for a Jewish Mother* (Harold Green Jewish Theatre). *Billie, Sarah, and Ella: Revolutionary Women in Jazz, Where the Blood Mixes, Little Menace: Pinter Plays, The Black Drum, La Bête, A Christmas Carol* (Soulpepper Theatre Company). *Every Brilliant Thing* (Thousand Islands Playhouse), *Girl From The North Country* (Mirvish Productions), *Bang Bang* (Factory Theatre), *Mamma Mia, The Voices of Canada* (The Charlottetown Festival). When not in the Theatre, Seren can be found wandering a bookstore with the largest cup of tea available. Enjoy the show!

DELANEY SMALL Apprentice Stage Manager



FOR FOSTER FESTIVAL: *Debut*

Delaney is thrilled to be working with everyone at The Foster Festival. Select theatre credits include *The Chorines*, and *Turn the Page* (Theatre Sheridan), *An Enemy of the People* (Theatre Erindale), and *Shirley Valentine* (Capitol Theatre). Delaney is a graduate of Sheridan College's Technical Production for the Performing Arts Industry program. She would like to thank her family and friends who have always encouraged her to pursue her passion for theatre.



Production Team

Emily Oriold - Artistic Director
Jamie Williams - Artistic Associate
Edwin Burnett - Technical Director
Abby Malcolm* - Production Assistant
Rebecca Cowan* - Wardrobe & Props Coordinator
Zakk Milne* - Sound Designer & Operator
Luke Huffman* - Junior Carpenter

*Emerging Arts Workers

Thank You!

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Jamie Williams, Artistic Associate
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play development program

We are excited to share that The Foster Festival has newly launched our play development program with the commitment to introducing new Canadian playwrights to Foster Festival audiences starting during our 2024 Season (and beyond).

Submissions have been received from playwrights across Canada. Plays will be shortlisted and Norm Foster will be active in the selection of three (3) plays that will be chosen. These three (3) plays will be workshopped and will receive a public reading during our *Fostered Playwrights Festival* in April 2024. One (1) of the three (3) plays will then be selected to premiere during our 2024 Production Season.

"We at The Foster Festival are very pleased and proud to be undertaking a program to assist playwrights in the development of their work. I was fortunate enough to have several professionals help me along the way in my career, and I found their creative assistance to be invaluable. I hope that any input that The Foster Festival can provide will be of equal value to the next generation of Canadian playwrights." - Norm Foster, Playwright

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THE *foster*
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Donate **\$25 today** to receive a tax receipt and help The Foster Festival with our efforts to rebuild, lift people's spirits, and continue to provide the quality of productions you have grown to love.

With your \$25 donation, in addition to your **tax receipt**, you will receive a **voucher for 2 complimentary concession items** which can be redeemed during your next visit and you will have **first pick at seating for our 2024 season before the general public**. Concession vouchers are valid until the end of our 2024 season.

Questions? Visit our ticket desk at intermission and our friendly staff will be happy to assist you!

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JENNY'S HOUSE OF JOY is staged by arrangement with Pam Winter, GGA, www.ggagency.ca.

JENNY'S HOUSE OF JOY premiered at Lighthouse Festival Theatre in June 2006.



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