4THINE THEATRE

2023 SUMMER SEASON

KIM BLACKWELL, MANAGING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | ROBERT WINSLOW, FOUNDER

The Tilco Strike

Written by D'Arcy Jenish
Dramaturgy by Kim Blackwell
Directed by Cynthia Ashperger
Musical Direction by Justin Hiscox
Costume Design by Korin Cormier
Set Design by Esther Vincent
Fight Direction by Edward Belanger

June 27 - July 22

Production sponsored by The Gainey Foundation,
The Pyle Group Wealth Management - CIBC Wood Gundy*

The Cavan Blazers

Written by Robert Winslow
Directed by Kim Blackwell
Musical Direction by Justin Hiscox
Costume Design by Korin Cormier
Set Design by Kim Blackwell
Fight Direction by Edward Belanger
Choreography by Rachel Bemrose

August 1 - 26

Production sponsored by Miskin Law



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Photo: The Cavan Blazers, 2001, by Wayne Eardley - Brookside Studio.

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The Michael Evans & Heather Gardiner Foundation

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The Glen Colborne Fund toronto community foundation

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



I AM THRILLED TO WELCOME YOU to the Winslow Farm for our 31st summer season. We are beginning our fourth decade of producing large-scale epic original work in this stunning outdoor space, with the return of a beloved classic and a world premiere production.

As I write this, I am looking forward to this summer's plays, one which harkens back to the beginning of the theatre, and one that captures the spirit of the new plays we are constantly developing.

We begin this season, in June, with the world premiere of D'Arcy Jenish's *The Tilco Strike*. D'Arcy is a renowned Canadian journalist and writer of non-fiction books, on topics which range from the Montreal Canadiens to the FLQ and the October Crisis. He has now turned his incisive journalistic eye to the story of the 35 women at the Tilco Plastics Factory, in Peterborough, who decided to stand up for themselves against their bosses and fight for equity.

These women's struggle, and indeed the entire history of the Peterborough labour movement, is on display in D'Arcy's gripping play. The piece explores what happens when people become deeply entrenched in their positions, to the point where there is no bridging the gap between two sides. Peterborough during this period was a factory town, with well over 50 labour unions. *The Tilco Strike* captures this storied time in Peterborough's labour history.

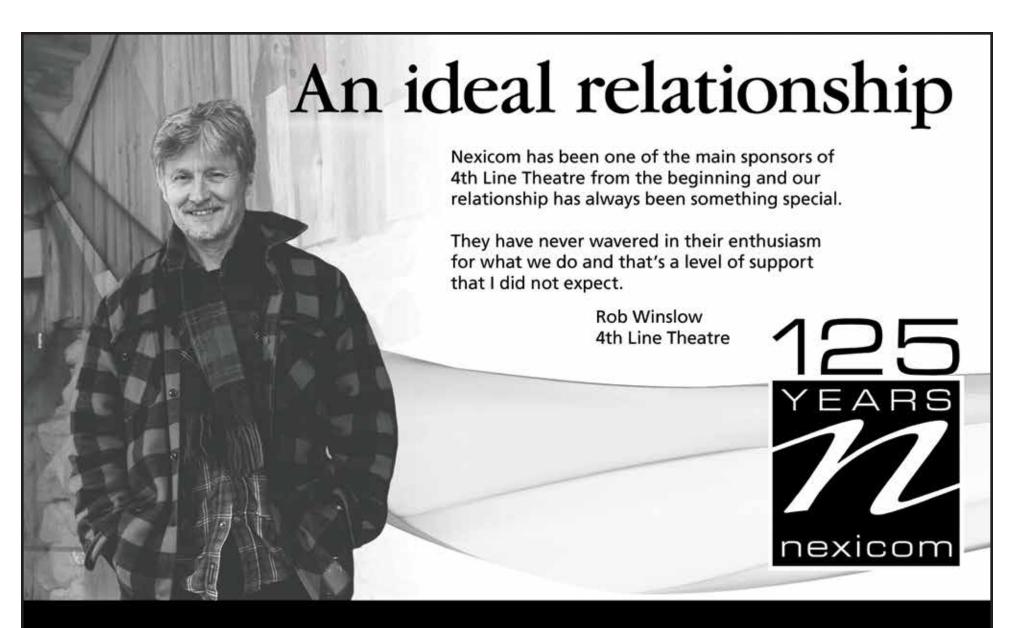
If you are joining us in August, you are in for a real treat, with the return of *The Cavan Blazers*. This foundational play, written by Robert Winslow, will be back on stage with a cast of 50 actors, horses, chickens and burnings. This is the premiere play which opened the theatre in 1992 and started us on our unique and dynamic history. The piece brings audiences to 1850s Cavan, and explores one man's dream of a community free of hate and fear. Unfortunately, his plans meet the worst kind of resistance.

Most of our plays explore the extraordinary, inside the ordinary lives of regular people, and how truly special our lives are. We celebrate the dreamers, the believers, the passionate amongst us.

As I look ahead to the next 20 or even 30 years, I am thinking of the countless untold stories still to explore. Please check out the list of plays in development in this house program. There are going to be plays which excite, entertain and educate you. Most especially we are committed to continue to find the little known stories of the first people of Canada; the unknown stories of the settlers to this place; and we will continue to ruminate on injustice in all its many forms.

Kim Blackwell Managing Artistic Director

- Placewell



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THE TILCO STRIKE

Tuesday to Saturday, June 27 – July 22 at 6 p.m.

Production sponsored by The Gainey Foundation and The Pyle Group Wealth Management - CIBC Wood Gundy**



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Writer
Dramaturge
Director
Directing Intern

Musical Direction & Original Compositions

Costume Design

Korin Cormie

Set & Props & Sound Designer

Fight Direction Fight Captain

Production & Site Operations Manager Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Manager

Apprentice Assistant Stage Manager Technical Director & Head Carpenter

Production Assistant Production Assistant

Production Assistant

Site Coordinator

Assistant to the Costume Designer

Costume Builder Wardrobe Manager

Props Builder & Scenic Painter

D'Arcy Jenish
Kim Blackwell
Cynthia Ashperger**
Marla Brennan*
Justin Hiscox
Korin Cormier
Esther Vincent
Edward Belanger*
M. John Kennedy*

Jeff Braunstein
Rachel LaChanse
Kelsey Powell
Ashlyn Olsen
Stephen English
Jamie Hueston
Amir Parsa
Carly Webb
Brenan Bailey**
Eish van Wieren
Avelyn Waldman
Tina Sourani
Emma Gray

- Appears with the permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association
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- + Participants in the Epic Women's Directing Project
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(L to R): Sarah McNeilly, Ellyse Wolter, Laurin Isiekwena, Sierra Gibb-Khan & Katherine Cappellacci, *The Tilco Strike*, 2023. Photo by Wayne Eardley, Brookside Studio.

CAST (ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Bill Downer, Keith Brown, Officer, Steelworker Belle's sister, Whitten daughter

Downer Daughter

Gladys

Lil Downer

Theresa Butcher

Huey Webster, Dissenter, Steelworker

Molly Curtis

Bud Clarke, Crown Attorney, William Grant, Officer

Donald Harwood, Officer

Roy Abrams, Drummer

Donald Tripp, Denny, George McImoyle, Judge

Belle Merritt

Harold "Dutch" Pammett

Garnett Tellier, Officer

Flossie Whitten

Arnie, Bill Mulders, Wally, Strikebreaker, Steelworker

Vic Skurjat

Mr. Whitten, Stan McBride,

Strikebreaker, Officer, Steelworker

Mrs. Brioux, Scab

Verna, Bob Sherriff, Scab

Gertie Rajsky, David Archer

Margaret Tellier, Fred Harrison, Waitress

Rita Brioux

Musicians

Austin Anonsen Cailleach Beaton Skye Beaton Rebecca Birrell Katherine Cappellacci* **Gillian Coons** Michael Field Sierra Gibb-Khan **Matt Gilbert** Jason Gray* **Justin Hiscox** Mark Hiscox Laurin Isiekwena M. John Kennedy* **Darius Maliha-Evans** Sarah McNeilly Kelsey Powell Nathan Simpson

Peter Spasov
Renate Spasov
Carmel Warman
Hilary Wear
Lindsay Wilson
Ellyse Wolter
Austin Anonsen,
Michael Field,
Justin Hiscox,
Mark Hiscox,
Kelsey Powell,
Lindsay Wilson

The entire company plays various townsfolk, patrons, strikers and factory workers. This is a work of fiction based on actual events.



L to R): Sierra Gibb-Khan, Katherine Cappellacci, Sarah McNeilly, Ellyse Wolter & Laurin Isiekwena, *The Tilco Strike*, 2023. Photo by Wayne Eardley, Brookside Studio.



PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES

OVER THE COURSE OF MANY SUMMERS, I have spent pleasant evenings enjoying first-rate productions at 4th Line Theatre. Although I was living in the GTA, I was drawn to 4th Line due to its proximity to Peterborough where I had spent some of my formative years and where I had family and friends. But despite all those evenings at the Winslow farm, I never imagined that, one day, I would be writing a play to be performed there. However, a funny thing happens from time to time when you've had a long career as a journalist and author. You spend years and years looking for and chasing good stories. Occasionally, one finds you.

And so it was with *The Tilco Strike*. While researching a history of Trent University to commemorate Trent's first 50 years, I interviewed the distinguished historian Joan Sangster. Professor Sangster referred me to the paper she had written on the 1965-66 strike at Tilco Plastics. Upon reading it, I knew the story of the strike was a natural fit for 4th Line.

For a start, it is local history. Equally important, it takes us back to a time when manufacturing was the cornerstone of the local economy. Major industrial enterprises such as Canadian General Electric and Outboard Marine Corporation employed thousands while smaller operations like Brinton Carpet, Domtar Packaging and Tilco Plastics provided gainful employment and a steady income. A powerful labor movement, comprising 54 trade unions, represented blue collar, hourly workers in Peterborough's many mills, plants and factories.

The Tilco Plastics local of the Textile Workers Union of America, formed to represent 35 poorly paid women, would have brought the number to 55 but...well, that's what tonight's show is all about.

Writing the script was a multi-year process. It involved multiple drafts, several rounds of revisions, readings of the script at the Winslow Farm in August 2018, a five-day workshop in March 2020 and two stalled years due to COVID-19.

But, at last, here we are. I am grateful to Managing Artistic Director Kim Blackwell for her guidance and excellent advice throughout, to Director Cynthia Ashperger and the cast for bringing the story to life and to Robert Winslow for giving us all such a wonderful place in which to enjoy first-rate live theatre.

Enjoy the show.

- **D'Arcy Jenish**, May 2023

Thank you to all of the actors who have helped workshop *The Tilco Strike*:

Maja Ardal, Cynthia Ashperger, Kailea Banka, Kim Blackwell, Lindy Finlan, Maggie Grant, Cassandra Guthrie, Angel Haines, Mark Hiscox, Tom Keat, Vlad Khaimovich, Scott Kuipers, Christian Lloyd, Allister MacDonald, Tatyana Mitchell, Jade O'Keeffe, Kelsey Powell, Andrei Preda, Grace Thompson, Steven Vlahos, Greta Whipple, Robert Winslow.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

WE ALL NEED TO SURVIVE AND MOST OF US do so by getting paid wages for our work. Our pay is also a measure of respect from our employers. *The Tilco Strike* is a story about such wages and that respect. While this narrative is immediately propelled forward by numbers it is also about values such as fairness, rights, equity and courage. The pursuit of these values requires awakening, passion, sacrifice, struggle, determination, resilience, strength, justice, solidarity and unity (to name but a few). The realization of these values doesn't come easily. Accordingly in our creative process we were inspired by stark images such as "teeth grinding," "grinding metal," "lighting strike," "a chemical reaction," "rapid fire," "swarming insects" and "a descent into reality."

Our author D'Arcy Jenish has written a well-researched epic play about an explosive time in the Peterborough community; a chronicle of a working class struggle that happened in these here parts. The cost and the risk of standing up for their rights was great to our strikers. So much so that this account of a 1965 strike transforms itself into an "everyday opera" as one of our cast members cleverly quipped it.

And boy did those girls and guys have guts! They stood up for what they believed in and as a result Ontario unions are standing on their shoulders today. Still, the unions everywhere are under attack and sadly our story is incredibly current. Recent events in Ontario with the CUPE support workers' strike are uncannily akin to the events that take place in our play. The "notwithstanding clause" that was being invoked to stop those workers from striking is so very similar to the injunction ordered against our Tilco strikers.

I love working at 4th Line Theatre and this will be my fourth show at the farm (twice as an actor and twice as a director). The complexity of directing a show of such scope and size, with a cast that ranges in age and experience is a thrilling challenge to a director. When combined with the tangible reality of the Farm and the nature that surrounds provides an absolutely unique, expansive environment and conditions for the artistic creation.

4th Line has an undeniably strong community, artistic direction, mandate, stories, talent and audience! My gratitude goes to Kim's leadership, the whole artistic and management team, the exceptional cast and crew of wonderful and talented acting professionals and to the incredibly dedicated volunteers. This particular experience has been made even sweeter and special by having the opportunity to make art with a number of current students and graduates from my three decades of teaching acting in the performing arts.

In closing I am delighted that you will witness this important moment of bravery in Canadian labour history, feel the dilemmas faced by this tight knit 1960s Peterborough community and hopefully join in the rousing songs of solidarity.

Thank you for coming to the Farm and enjoy the show!

- **Cynthia Ashperger**, June 2023

Funding for the development of this play provided by the Ontario Arts Council's Recommender Grants for Theatre Creators Program.

SONG LIST

Act Naturally (1963) - Words and music by Johnny Russell and Voni Morrison

Alexander Prologueton - Words by D'Arcy Jenish (2023), Rhythmic Vocal Lines and Industrial Percussion Lines set/composed by Justin Hiscox (2023)

Alexander Epilogue - Words by D'Arcy Jenish (2023), Rhythmic Vocal Lines and Industrial Percussion Lines set/composed by Justin Hiscox (2023)

Bread And Roses - Words by James Oppenheim (1911), Music by Caroline Kohlslaat (1917)

Hold The Fort - Words and Music by Philip P. Bliss (1870)

The Tilco Song (My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean) - Words by Bill Woodbeck and Mike Gahagan (1965-66), Music: Traditional Scottish Folk Song

Solidarity Forever - Words by Ralph Chaplin (1915) Music: 'John Brown's Body' by James E. Greenleaf (1856)

We Shall Not Be Moved - Early 19th Century Spiritual/Hymn

Which Side Are You On? - Words and Music by Florence Reese (1931)

(ALL MUSIC arranged by Justin Hiscox, whether you like it or not.)



THE CAVAN BLAZERS

Tuesday to Saturday, August 1 – August 26 at 6 p.m.

Production sponsored by Miskin Law



Writer Director Directing Intern Musical Direction & Original Music Compositions Costume Designer Set Designer Choreographer Fight Director Dialect Coach Sound Designer Dance Captain Fight Captain

Production & Site Operations Manager Stage Manager Assistant Stage Manager Technical Director & Head Carpenter Assistant to the Director **Production Assistant Production Assistant Production Assistant** Horse Wrangler Site Coordinator Assistant to the Costume Designer Costume Builder Wardrobe Manager Props Builder/Scenic Painter

Robert Winslow Kim Blackwell **Shelley Simester+ Justin Hiscox Korin Cormier** Kim Blackwell **Rachel Bemrose Edward Belanger* Melee Hutton Esther Vincent** Sierra Gibb-Khan **Robert Morrison**

Jeff Braunstein Emily Brown** Gailey Monner** **Stephen English** Sierra Gibb-Khan+ **Jamie Hueston Amir Parsa Carly Webb Ken Houston Brenan Bailey**** Eish van Wieren Avelyn Waldman **Tina Sourani Emma Gray**

CAST (ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Patrick Maguire, Justice of the Peace Ann Maguire Dane Swain John Knowlson, Justice of the Peace Richard Staples Thomas Rutherford William Grandy John Coe Richard Coe Martha Cooney Father Phelan William Powers Mary Quin Constable Hutchinson

William Armstrong Elijah Coe Alicia Maguire Maggie Maguire Justice Swain Justice Huston Bridgit O'Hanrahan Siobhan Lally Theresa Lally Charles McCarty Coleen McCarty Taidy Cooney **Neve Cooney** Nicholas Cooney Kathleen Collins Keivan Collins Maureed Passmore Widow Harkness Harkness boy Lizzy Thorn

Protestant Children

Catholic Children

King William of Orange

Horse Riders

Baby Collins

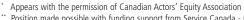
Musicians

JD "Jack" Nicholsen* Katherine Cullen* Colin A. Doyle³ **Robert Winslow* Kelsey Powell Mark Hiscox Robert Morrison** Josh Lambert **Logan Coombes** Julia Scaringi **Matt Gilbert** Michael Field **Caoimhe MacQuarrie Zack Radford Evan Tsimidis Justin Hiscox Deirbhile MacQuarrie Indigo Chesser Phil Stott** Ian McGarrett Siobhán MacQuarrie Michelle Chesser Venessa McCraken Thomas Fournier** Sierra Gibb-Khan

Zach Newnham Saoirse MacQuarrie **Brogan McKellar Andria Fisher** Peter Dolinski Mikayla Stoodley **Linda Gendron** Eli Fisher Adrianna Mallov **Ken Houston**

Lily Cullen Jasper Chesser, Cadence Fisher, Ayla McCracken-Reed Riordan MacOuarrie. Darragh O'Connell Franny Galvin-Hynes, Ken Houston, Lindsey Partridge,

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PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES

THIRTY YEARS AGO THIS JUNE we were just beginning rehearsals for the remount of *The Cavan Blazers*, which had premiered the summer before in 1992. I remember thinking how great it was to be able to do the play a second time. And lo and behold the play came back in 1996, 2001, 2004, and 2011 for our 20th anniversary season. I directed all but one of those six productions. Kim Blackwell directed me as Patrick Maguire in 2004 and she is back at the helm for the seventh incarnation of the theatre's founding play.

I have often asked myself why the play is so popular. I think it is a combination of relevance and entertainment. Although based on/inspired by local history the play is action-packed and I hope far from boring. Having grown up in Cavan Township I also had an ear for the way local residents talked and otherwise expressed themselves. I couldn't get enough listening to old timers tell their tales of the Blazers. I think that familiarity with the place of my birth helps to give the play an authentic feel. I still remember how my grandmother pronounced 'carrots' 'cahrts' and 'wash' warsh'. And she often called me 'clean crazy'. I also traveled to Ireland in 1981 at the height of the 'Troubles' there to do research for the play. That helped me greatly to experience the intensity of the hatred between Protestants and Catholics. And the continued relevance of the play? Unfortunately, the kind of sectarian conflict portrayed in the play continues to this day in various parts of the world. It may not be Protestant against Catholic but there are still many examples of one group against another. When the play was first performed 31 years ago the war in Yugoslavia was raging. Today? Well, pick one.

I would like to say a final word about a fellow who connected with me a few years ago and wanted to play a small part in *The Cavan Blazers* this time around. Sadly, he passed last year. This was Patrick Scollard, son of Leo Scollard, the first person I interviewed in my research period in 1982. I'd like to dedicate this production to Patrick and Leo. I hope we do you proud, ye sons of Ireland.

- **Robert Winslow**, June 2023

15 Minute Intermission

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I AM THRILLED TO WELCOME YOU to the Winslow farm this evening, and for you to experience Robert Winslow's seminal work *The Cavan Blazers*. This play is the foundational production of this theatre and it is the play by which all others have been measured and developed over the past three decades.

The Cavan Blazers and Robert's original vision for it, is the reason this theatre creates epic, historical plays on this beautiful farm. The play has a cast of 50 actors - a combination of both professional and dedicated community volunteers. This combination is the basis of the art we have created here from day one.

The Cavan Blazers allowed the development of a form of theatre unique to this country - professional and community actors onstage together.

The scope of *The Cavan Blazers* set an early precedent at 4th Line, we have been able to allow playwrights and directors the ability to create sweeping large-scale works. While in other places, theatre companies have been constrained by financial pressures and look for the best four-person play, or the best two-person play, or the very best solo show. Here at 4th Line we have encouraged writers to dream big and create plays without numbers limitations. And in exchange we have received the gift of plays which capture the energy and stories of entire communities.

The Cavan Blazers is the prototype play which examines an important settler story, in this case settlers from Ireland. Two groups of people, who share common language, from the same country, who are pulled apart by a belief in the vastness of their differences. These Irish immigrants - some Protestant, some Catholic - came to Canada to escape the persecution and violence of their homeland. Both groups came to places like Cavan Township, in search of peace. But these factions were put on a collision course, as they brought the hatred from their homeland here to Canada, ultimately leading to an eruption of violence here as well.

The story inside *The Cavan Blazers* is one as old as time and as modern as the recent conflicts in Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Ukraine. *The Cavan Blazers* is a cautionary story of what can happen when people become entrenched in a way of thinking and then are unable to free themselves from that thinking.

I am very glad to have the opportunity to work with this incredible company of designers, actors and technicians to breathe life into this important play. Thank you for joining us on the journey.

- Kim Blackwell, June 2023

SCENE BREAKDOWN

Cavan Township, Province of Upper Canada - Spring through Summer, 1854

ACT II

ACT I Scene One The Barn Raising In the Woods Scene Two Scene Three Confessional **Scene Four** The Widow Harkness, The Elopement, The Tollgate **Scene Five Business** is Business **Scene Six** Count Your Chickens Scene Seven Ann and Patrick **Scene Eight** Priest on the Road **Scene Nine Bloody Reception**

Scene One Donnybrook
Scene Two Ann and Dane
Changing Blad

Scene Three Chopping Block, Hit and Run

Scene Four Up in Arms Scene Five The Fool

Scene Six Tarred and Feathered Scene Seven Return to Sender

Scene Eight Escalation: A woods. A road. A blacksmith's shop.

A barn. By the roadside.

Scene Nine Warsaw

Scene Ten By the Rising of the Moon

Scene Eleven The Burning Scene Twelve In the Ashes

PROGRAMME NOTES

There will be a gunshot fired during the performance.

A Justice of the Peace in the early days of Upper Canada wielded significant political power. With the rise of the township councils in the 1840s, that power was reduced to embrace a strictly judicial function.

Orange a. Of the extreme Protestants in Ireland, esp. in Ulster whence ~ism n; ~man, member of political society formed in 1795 to support Protestantism in Ireland; ~man's day, 12 July in N. Ireland as holiday on anniversary of battles 1690 and 1691.



FESTIVAL FRIDAYS AT THE FARM

ENJOY AN OUTDOOR FESTIVAL EVERY FRIDAY EVENING BEFORE THE SHOW

DATE	4:00 PM TO 4:30 PM TALK	4:30 PM TO 5:15 PM TALK	FOOD/ARTS & CRAFT VENDORS*
June 30th	Cynthia Ashperger – Director, The Tilco Strike	A conversation with Joan Sangster, author, historian and Vanier Professor Emeritus at Trent University, on working women and the labour movement.	Black Honey, Pastry Peddler, Rare Culinary Arts Studio, Back Kitchen Pottery
July 7th	M. John Kennedy – Actor, The Tilco Strike	A conversation with Dave Warda, President of the Peterborough Labour Council, on the history of the Peterborough Labour Council and labour and unions in Peterborough.	Black Honey, Pastry Peddler, Rare Culinary Arts Studio, Back Kitchen Pottery, Autumn River Designs
July 14th	D'Arcy Jenish – Playwright, The Tilco Strike	A conversation with Tracey Germa, labour activist and past head of the Integrated Arts Program at PCVS and Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School, about her journey from high school drama teacher to her full-time work in OPSEU.	Black Honey, Pastry Peddler, Rare Culinary Arts Studio, Back Kitchen Pottery, Autumn River Designs
July 21st	Korin Cormier – Costume Designer, <i>The Tilco Strike</i> & <i>The Cavan Blazers</i>	A conversation with John Boyko, author, historian, Lakefield Town Councillor and retired history professor from Lakefield College School about the rise of Peterborough as a major factory and union town in the middle part of the 20th century.	Black Honey, Pastry Peddler, Rare Culinary Arts Studio, Back Kitchen Pottery, Autumn River Designs
August 4th	Robert Winslow – Founder & Playwright/Actor, <i>The Cavan Blazers</i>	A conversation with Michael Eamon, President of Trent University's Traill College, professor and historian of print culture in early Canada, about the history of the 19th and 20th century diaspora of Irish immigrants to Canada.	Black Honey, Pastry Peddler, Rare Culinary Arts Studio, Back Kitchen Pottery, Autumn River Designs
August 11th	Esther Vincent – Set Designer, The Tilco Strike; Sound Designer, The Tilco Strike & The Cavan Blazers	A conversation with Fran Fearnley, the owner of ZimART's Rice Lake Gallery. An avid art collector and former journalist, Fran travels to Zimbabwe to buy the work directly from the artists.	Black Honey, Pastry Peddler, Rare Culinary Arts Studio, Back Kitchen Pottery, Autumn River Designs
August 18th	Katherine Cullen – Actor, The Cavan Blazers	A conversation with Michael Epp, Director of Trent University's MA & PhD Cultural Studies Program and Associate Professor in English Literature and Cultural Studies, about the Irish issue, Irish Republic history and the catholic and protestant conflict in Ireland and beyond.	Black Honey, Pastry Peddler, Rare Culinary Arts Studio, Back Kitchen Pottery, Autumn River Designs
August 25th	Mark Hiscox – Actor/Musician, The Tilco Strike & The Cavan Blazers	A conversation with Mike Towns, former owner of the Towns General Store, author and local historian, about his life and work in Douro, Ontario as the proprietor of the community's general store.	Black Honey, Pastry Peddler, Rare Culinary Arts Studio, Back Kitchen Pottery, Autumn River Designs

LOCAL MUSIC SHOWCASE

ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS before the show from 4 pm to 5 pm, we will feature music under the tent in the picnic area recorded by local songwriters and musicians. Pre-purchase a charcuterie snack box, grab some BBQ, or bring your own food and enjoy the summer scenery while listening to local tunes in our picturesque farm setting.

Local Music Showcase is proudly sponsored by Long & McQuade Musical Instruments



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Delicious summer fare from one of Peterborough's favourite cafés. Serving Chicken Power Bowl (GF) and Vegan Bowl (GF + Vegan). Vegetarian options available.

Pastry Peddler

Offering an assortment of delectable sweets from Millbrook's favourite café.

Rare Culinary Arts Studio

Featuring Vietnamese classics - Banh Mi sandwiches, Thit Nuong (Grilled pork and rice noodles) and spring rolls.

*ARTS/CRAFT VENDORS

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IN MEMORIAM



KAREN BECKER

A long-time 4th Line donor, Karen was born in Picton, Ontario, where she grew up on a nearby farm and was a bright and determined child who put a high value on education despite the limited career choices for women in the 1950s. Karen worked as a teacher, a Registered Nurse, and a real estate professional. Karen will be

missed by her loving husband, family and community.



IIM HISCOX

Long-time 4th Line supporter and attendee, beloved husband for 50 years to Helen Louise Lang, loving father of Justin Hiscox, Sarah Hiscox (Autumn Smith) and Mark Hiscox. Jim's helpfulness, gentleness, warmth and humour will be missed by many.





JOE & BETTY LUNN

Long-time Millbrook residents, St. Thomas Anglican Church members and 4th Line theatre attendees, Joe & Betty generously donated their time, stories, memories of their lives in Millbrook and even some Orange Order regalia to

the theatre to help develop and present plays. They will be missed by their family, friends and church family.



DOROTHY GLADYS PYLE

There are angels among us who spend their lives without wings, only to earn them when they leave this world. Gladys was one of such angels, and those who knew her are blessed to have shared a place in her heart. Gladys could always be counted on for her dry English humour. With the ability to stand her ground against anyone, she

was a resolute and strong woman who carried herself with grace.

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MARY RIDGE

Long time elder of the Millbrook community, former employee of Westclox, Peterborough, for 47 years and theatre-supporter who did not miss a 4th Line show, Mary generously offered her stories and wisdom to aid in the development of several plays. She is missed by many.



LYELL SHIELDS

A long-time theatre supporter and attendee, Lyell spent many years working in fashion and film, capturing important moments all around the world, from protests in Brazil to Christmas morning in the Millbrook Valley. He was a proud activist and outspoken feminist, with an open mind and a vibrant heart. His laughter, style and

joie de vivre will be missed by many.



JOHN SPENCER

Long-time theatre supporter and attendee, John will forever be remembered by many for his overflowing generosity, unshakeable sense of humour and unrivalled work ethic. He will be greatly missed by all those who have experienced his warmth and kindness.



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Biographies (in alphabetical order)



Cynthia Ashperger,
Director - *The Tilco Strike*Dr. Cynthia Ashperger works
as a director, actor, producer,
writer and pedagogue. For
4th Line Theatre: *The Great*Shadow (director); Who Killed

Snow White? (actor); The Berlin Blues (actor). Selected directing credits: The Women by Clare Booth Luce; George Kaplan by Frédéric Sonntag; Tales from the Vienna Woods by Ödön von Horváth; Tender Napalm by Philip Ridley; Martin Chuzzlewit by Charles Dickens adapted by Michael Hollingsworth; Peace by Aristophanes adapted by Velina Hasu Houston; and A Summer Day by Jon Fosse. Her rich forty-year acting career in theatre, film and TV includes Canadian Screen Award and Dora Award nominated performances. Cynthia has been one of the principal acting teachers at the School of Performance at Toronto Metropolitan University since 1994 and was appointed Director of the Acting Program between 2004 and 2019. A renowned teacher of Chekhov Acting Technique, she has lectured and directed nationally and internationally in Australia, Croatia, England, Finland, Germany, Holland, Japan, Korea and Serbia.



Brenan Bailey, Site Coordinator - *The Tilco Strike*, *The Cavan Blazers* Brenan Bailey is excited to be working and contributing to his first production at 4th Line. Brenan has been

involved and passionate about theatre for a large portion of his life. He has worked on multiple local theatre productions and has acted in a few of them as well. He is currently enrolled at Trent University in Film and Media Studies, where he is pursuing his passion in hopes of working in the film industry in the future.



Rachel Bemrose, Choreographer - *The Cavan Blazers*

Rachel received training at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and the Quinte Dance Centre among other companies and

studios. She was a part of the Mac Dancers modern dance troupe and a choreographer for the McMaster Musical Theatre Company while she studied Kinesiology. Rachel examined the learning styles of dancers while completing her Masters of Science. She currently choreographs for local community theatres and is the head of the dance program at Lakefield College School where she teaches curricular dance and runs the LCS dance company. Her most recent credits include Something Rotten, Anything Goes, Chicago, and Mamma Mia! She is thrilled to be back at 4th line this summer. Her past shows at 4th Line included The Cavan Blazers (2011) and St. Francis of Milbrook (2012). Rachel loves sharing her passion for dance with students and adults of all ages and abilities.



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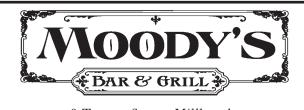
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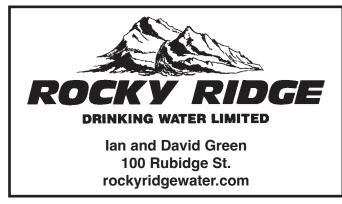


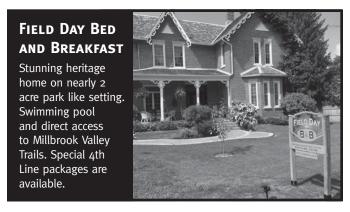


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CREATIVE & PRODUCTION

Biographies (in alphabetical order)



Kim Blackwell, Managing Artistic Director; Dramaturge -The Tilco Strike; Director, Set Designer - The Cavan Blazers Kim Blackwell is 4th Line Theatre's Managing Artistic Director and is a veteran 4th

Line director/producer—2023 marks her 30th season with 4th Line Theatre where she has directed 27 productions including 15 world premieres. Selected credits include: Artistic Director (2014 - Present), Artistic Producer (2009 - 2014), Artistic Associate (2001-2009), directing: Wishful Seeing (2022); The Verandah Society in Residence at 4th Line Theatre (2021); Bedtime Stories & Other Horrifying Tales co-playwright as well (2020); The Fool of Cavan: A Christmas Caper, Bloom: A Rock 'n' Roll Fable (2019), The Other: A Strange Christmas Tale (2018), The Shadow Walk of Millbrook (2016, 2018), Who Killed Snow White? (2018), The Hero of Hunter Street (2016), The Bad Luck Bank Robbers (2015, 2016), The Real McCoy (2013), Queen Marie, St. Francis of Millbrook (2012), The Berlin Blues (2011), The Right Road to Pontypool (2009, 2010) Schoolhouse (2007, 2008), The Art of Silent Killing, That Summer, Crow Hill, The Cavan Blazers, Attrition, Gimme That Prime Time Religion and many development workshops. She directed plays across Canada and the US. Her play A Daughter had its world premiere in 2020 as a part of the Open Spaces Theatre Festival and was selected to be a part of the International Rural Women's Studies Conference hosted by University of Guelph in 2021. Kim was inducted into Peterborough's Pathway of Fame in September 2016. In 2020 she received Toronto theatre critic Lynn Slotkin's Jon Kaplan Mensch Award. Kim recently joined the Playwright's Guild of Canada. Kim is working on her first solo, full-length play for 4th Line, The Lost Souls.



Edward Belanger, Fight
Director - *The Tilco Strike*, *The Cavan Blazers*Edward has had the great
pleasure of working as 4th
Line's Fight Director since
2004! Other 4th Line shows

include: The Cavan Blazers (2004, 2011), A History of Drinking in Cavan, Carmel, Who Killed Snow White?, Wounded Soldiers, The Bad Luck Bank Robbers, The Winslows of Derryvore, Schoolhouse, The Art of Silent Killing and Doctor Barnardo's Children. Edward is a high school drama teacher in Toronto. Highlights include productions of Mamma Mia!, The Laramie Project, Our Town, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Outsiders and Schoolhouse. Acting credits include: Dane Swane in The Cavan Blazers; Orlando in As You Like It (Dream in High Park); Mamma Mia! (Mirvish Productions); Mary's Wedding (Prairie Theatre Exchange); Mercutio in Romeo and Juliet (Regina's Globe Theatre); The Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz* (London's The Grand Theatre); and Mozart in Amadeus (Edmonton's Studio Theatre). Edward is a CAEA Fight Director and trained with Fight Directors Canada.

Biographies



Jeff Braunstein, Production & Site Operations Manager -The Tilco Strike, The Cavan Blazers Jeff has been working as a theatre professional for over 50 years in Canada and the

U.S. as a performer and director. He worked extensively in theatre, television and film. He worked last summer at 4th Line and is pleased to be back for this season. Jeff has worked at Talk is Free Theatre in Barrie as production manager for the past five years on numerous productions. Jeff is also the Founder and Artistic Producer of Asterix Productions, a corporate communication company producing live musical theatre and videos for major corporations across the world. Jeff was the President of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association for six years and prior to that was also vice president for six years. Jeff was the President of PAL Canada for two terms which has eight chapters from Halifax to Vancouver. Jeff is a resident of Bala, ON.



Marla Brennan, Directing Intern - The Tilco Strike Marla has been performing for live audiences since 2007 as an actress, juggler, musician and puppeteer. Highlights from her career include touring

throughout Canada with Faustwork Mask Theatre (2011-2015), performing with the Canadian Opera Company (2012) and most recently working as an Artist-in-Residence with the Toronto District School Board. She splits her time between Oshawa and Los Angeles where she performs her original act The Juggling Chef. The Tilco Strike is Marla's first experience assistant directing.



Emily Brown, Stage Manager -The Cavan Blazers Emily is a recent graduate from the University of Guelph with a BA in theatre. She is now working as a stage manager and assistant stage

manager in and around Toronto. Emily is very excited to get the chance to work with 4th Line Theatre once again this summer! Emily's previous credits include: Lion In The Streets (University of Guelph), Carmel (4th Line Theatre), Blackberry (Red Beti Theatre) and Romeo and Juliet (Sunbeam Theatre)



Korin Cormier, Costume Designer - The Tilco Strike, The Cavan Blazers Korin Cormier absolutely loves to bring character visions to life through costume manufacturing.

She can create a wide variety of pieces from scratch, but is also excellent at sourcing those perfect pieces to create an immersive experience for audiences. Her background work has involved creating custom pieces for circus performers, outfits/props for roving characters and matching pieces for dance groups. She is currently expanding her textile



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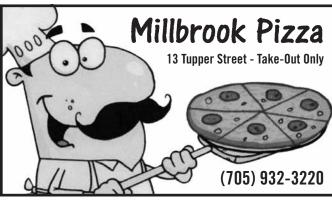


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Biographies

knowledge in the Fashion Design diploma at Seneca College. @ladylavenderslune



Stephen English, Technical Director/Head Carpenter -The Tilco Strike, The Cavan Blazers Stephen is delighted to be working with 4th Line Theatre in the role of

Technical Director/Head Carpenter, and to once again be working in Canada. He holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Drama from the University of Oklahoma and has worked continuously since then, on theatrical production. As a professor, designer and technical director he has taught technical theatre classes and designed or worked on over 115 productions in both the United States and Canada. He wants to encourage the community to continue to attend, and invest in local arts. It has been said, "The health of a community can be measured by the health of its arts".



Sierra Gibb Khan, Actor -The Tilco Strike; Assistant to the Director/Actor - The Cavan Blazers Sierra Gibb-Khan is ecstatic to join 4th Line Theatre's 2023 summer season. Sierra is a

Peterborough local and is currently a third-year student at Sheridan College in the Honours Bachelor of Music Theatre Program. A graduate of Lakefield College School '20, Sierra appeared in productions Damn Yankees, Mamma Mia! and Chicago. She trained competitively at Premiere Studio of Dance and studied music with Melody Thomas Music Studio.



Emma Gray, Props Builder/ Scenic Painter - The Tilco Strike, The Cavan Blazers Emma has just graduated from Sheridan College. She is proud to have gained her diploma in the Technical

Production for the Performing Arts Industry program. Specializing in paint and props, Emma has developed skills as a member of the production crew and during field placement that allow her to pursue her passion of building art. She has had the pleasure of working on shows such as Concord Floral (2021), Head Over Heels (2022), Twelfth Night (2022), Urinetown (2023), and Jesus Christ Superstar (2023) at Sheridan.



Justin Hiscox, Musical Director/Composer/Actor -The Tilco Strike, The Cavan Blazers Justin Hiscox is a composer and multi-instrumentalist. He provides music direction for

4th Line Theatre, TimberBeast Productions (Gravenhurst), and The Anne Shirley Theatre Company (Trent University). He acts as music supervisor for the Thomas A. Stewart Musical Theatre Program and has

Biographies (in alphabetical order)

also music directed for The Peterborough Theatre Guild and St. James Players. Justin studied composition with James Tenney and Free Experimental Improvisation with Casey Sokol at York University. Justin is a conductor at Peterborough New Horizons Bands, is the leader of Otis And The Honeylambs (a traditional New Orleans Jazz Band) and is the founder of Davy Jones' Locker, Canada's first and loudest seashell choir.



Ken Houston,

Horse Wrangler/Actor - *The Cavan Blazers*Ken has appeared in several shows with 4th Line and got his start as a riding extra in the 2011 production of *The Cavan*

Blazers. He is very excited to be back. Previous shows include: St. Francis of Millbrook, Wounded Soldiers and The Bad Luck Bank Robbers.



Jamie Hueston, Production Assistant - *The Tilco Strike*, *The Cavan Blazers* Jamie, who is originally from Ottawa, moved to this area to work for the Ministry of Natural Resources. He then

went on to work for Fisheries and Oceans Canada. He has been volunteering at the Mount Community Centre where he has helped with many construction projects. He is looking forward to utilizing his technical skills to help with this year's productions.



D'Arcy Jenish,

Playwright - *The Tilco Strike* D'Arcy Jenish grew up in southeastern Saskatchewan, attended high school in Peterborough and graduated from the University of

Western Ontario with a degree in English. He began his journalism career at small town newspapers in southwestern Ontario, then returned to the West in 1979 and became a Senior Editor at Alberta Report in Edmonton. In November, 1986, he joined Maclean's, Canada's National Newsmagazine, as a senior writer. He has written for the Globe and Mail, National Post, Toronto Star, The Walrus, Toronto Life and Legion magazine. He was commissioned to write a history of Trent University to commemorate Trent's 50th anniversary. Jenish is the author of seven works of historical non-fiction. His histories of the Stanley Cup, the Montreal Canadiens and the NHL were national bestsellers. Doubleday Canada published his latest work, The Making of the October Crisis: Canada's Long Nightmare of Terrorism at the Hands of the FLQ, in September, 2018.



Rachel LaChanse, Stage Manager - *The Tilco Strike* Rachel LaChanse is a performer, creator and student of the arts, born and raised in Ontario. She is pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre

at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of



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CREATIVE & PRODUCTION

Biographies (in alphabetical order)

Performing Arts (CCPA) in Chicago, Illinois. She most recently served as the Stage Manager for CCPA's production of *Gloria*, and as the Swing for CCPA's production of *42nd Street*. Rachel is excited to be returning to 4th Line Theatre for her second summer to deliver her best for *The Tilco Strike*.



Sara Mayfield, Event & Marketing Coordinator - *The Tilco Strike*, *The Cavan Blazers*Sara Mayfield is a performer, writer, theatre producer and founder of Painted Fern

Productions. She is known for writing the book and co-writing the music of the queer pop/rock musical *The Girl Next Door*, and *Tabletop Tiddies*, a Dungeons and Dragons podcast and stream, currently in its 4th season. Sara has a degree in Musical Theatre from Capilano University, Level 8 RCM Voice, Level 3 RCM Piano, and is a level 8 cleric in her home D&D game.



Gailey Monner,
Assistant Stage Manager The Cavan Blazers
Currently a student with the
Virtual Learning Centre,
Gailey began volunteering with
4th Line in 2018. During last

year's summer season, they worked as the Front of House Apprentice and later Front of House Manager. They are eager to be involved in the arts and community productions and have taken dance most of their life, favouring tap and musical theatre. They are currently working towards getting their Associate Diploma in piano after playing for thirteen years.



Amir Parsa, Production
Assistant - *The Tilco Strike*, *The Cavan Blazers*Amir Parsa is a skilled
theatre professional with a
Bachelor's degree in Drama.
He has extensive experience

in directing, puppeteering, puppet-making, lighting design, and set design. Amir's love for theatre is evident in everything he does - whether he is performing on stage or working behind the scenes. He is a friendly, positive, and dedicated team player who brings passion and energy to every production he is a part of.



Kelsey Powell, Assistant Stage Manager/Actor -The Tilco Strike; Actor - The Cavan Blazers Kelsey is thrilled to return to 4th Line Theatre for their 8th summer season. They

live in Peterborough with their two cats, Saku and Seven. They believe in the power of art to communicate and transform and they hope that you leave the theatre entertained, energized and more connected to our ancestors and all of your fellow humans. They dedicate this season of work to those who have struggled throughout the years for justice and light. Solidarity forever.

Biographies (in alphabetical order)



Shelley Simester, Directing Intern - *The Cavan Blazers* Shelley is so happy to be part of this year's season at the beautiful Winslow Farm! Acting Credits: *Queen Marie*, *The History Of Drinking In*

Cavan, Bloom: A Rock 'n' Roll Fable, The Great Shadow (4th Line Theatre); Lysistrata And The Temple Of Gaia, Steel Magnolias, Man of La Mancha, Evangeline, Pirates Of Penzance, Sweeney Todd, Elf, Rocky Horror Picture Show, Beauty and the Beast, The Wizard of Oz (The Citadel Theatre); The Music Man at The Stratford Festival.



Tina Sourani, Wardrobe Manager - *The Tilco Strike*, *The Cavan Blazers* Tina Sourani is a multidisciplinary artist with a Master's degree in Dramatic Literature. With a background

in costume design and wardrobe management, writing, directing, light design, and set assistance, Tina has been actively involved in the world of film and theatre since 2012. Her artistic journey has taken her from Iran to Canada, where she continues to explore new avenues of creativity and immerse herself in diverse art forms and cultures.



Eish van Wieren, Assistant to the Costume Designer - *The Tilco Strike*, *The Cavan Blazers*Eish Van Wieren (they/them) is a white (Dutch/UK) transnonbinary transdisciplinary

theatre practitioner, performer, playwright, mask maker and costume designer originally from Mohkinstsis/Calgary and currently based in Tkaranto/Toronto. The wonders of plants, animals and magic, along with the horror of their dysmorphia, inform their creation of creatures, stories and masks. They are interested in using the wonderful to explore the dreadful. Eish is passionate about staging trans/queer stories while building teams that reflect the stories on stage. Eish is an alumni of Playwright's Workshop Montreal Young Creator's Unit 2021-2022, Tarragon Theatre's Extended Young Playwriting Unit 2021 and a current member of the Nightwood Innovators 2022-2023. Their work has been supported by the Canada Council, Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council. Theatre Outre. Buddies in Bad Times, Playwright's Workshop Montreal, Theatre Outre, Swallow-a-Bicycle, Nightwood Theatre and more.



Esther Vincent, Set Designer/
Sound Designer - The Tilco
Strike; Sound Designer - The
Cavan Blazers
Esther Vincent is an artist
and arts worker. Esther
has worked in the arts as a

creator, mentor, technician and administrator for over thirty years. Her work has taken her across Canada and the US. She has enjoyed learning from artists and arts workers from



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Biographies

Biographies (in alphabetical order)

diverse communities and disciplines and loves sharing what she knows. Her primary modes of expression are photography, writing and design for theatre. Her garden is also a creative pursuit. You can see her photography at evmustang.ca



Avelyn Waldman, Costume Builder - *The Tilco Strike*, *The Cavan Blazers* Avelyn Waldman is the proprietor of Just A Simple Tailor, provider of repairs, alterations and custom

garments to Peterborough. She has designed costumes for *The Real Inspector Hound* (Theatre on King); and *Meeting at Thebes* (Public Energy). This is her first season with 4th Line and she is excited about the technical work of building costumes for *The Cavan Blazers* and *The Tilco Strike*.



Carly Webb, Production
Assistant - *The Tilco Strike*, *The Cavan Blazers*Carly is excited to enter
her 4th season at 4th Line
Theatre, this time as a
production assistant! A long

time member of the Peterborough theatre scene, selected credits include: Rent, Sweeney Todd, The History of Drinking in Cavan, Who Killed Snow White? and Wishful Seeing. When she is not strutting across the stage with her favourite suitcase, Carly can be found in the classroom teaching Social Sciences.



Robert Winslow,
Founder; Playwright/Actor The Cavan Blazers
As one of Canada's leading
theatre artists, Robert
Winslow has written or
co-written 17 of the original

plays that have been presented environmentally at the 4th Line Theatre since 1992 and has directed and performed in many of them. An established theatre artist, he has been involved in theatre for 45 years as a playwright, actor, director and/or artistic director. Mr. Winslow has performed in theatres across Canada, the U.S. and Britain since 1982, including the Blyth Festival, Edmonton's Theatre Network, Northern Lights, Citadel Theatre, Catalyst, Nexus Theatre and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. In 1988, he founded an improvisational theatre company, East City Productions, in Peterborough, Ontario and began directing and writing for the stage. His first full-length play, The Cavan Blazers, was staged as 4th Line Theatre's first production in 1992 and later published by Ordinary Press. The production has been mounted six times and continually performs to capacity audiences. Additional writing credits include Gimme That Prime Time Religion, Cavan Casanova, Two Rounds and a Square, Fair Play, The Bell of Batoche, The Orchard, Crow Hill: The Telephone Play, The Winslows of Derryvore, Doctor Barnardo's Children, The Last Green Hill, Welcome Death, Wounded Soldiers, The History of Drinking in Cavan and Carmel, all for 4th Line.



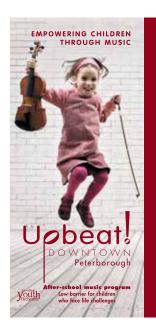


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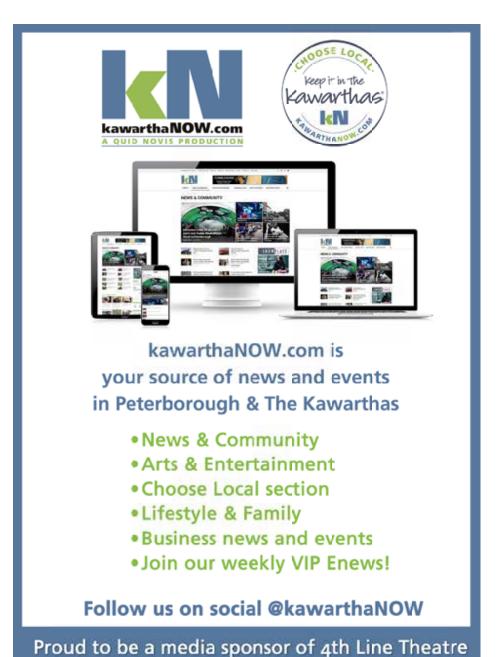




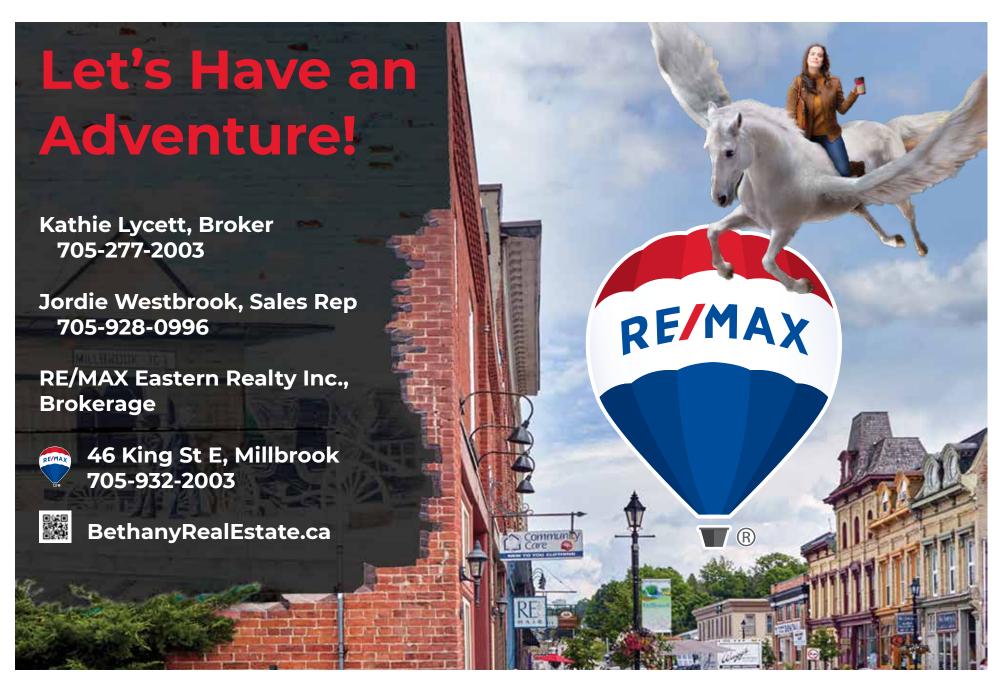


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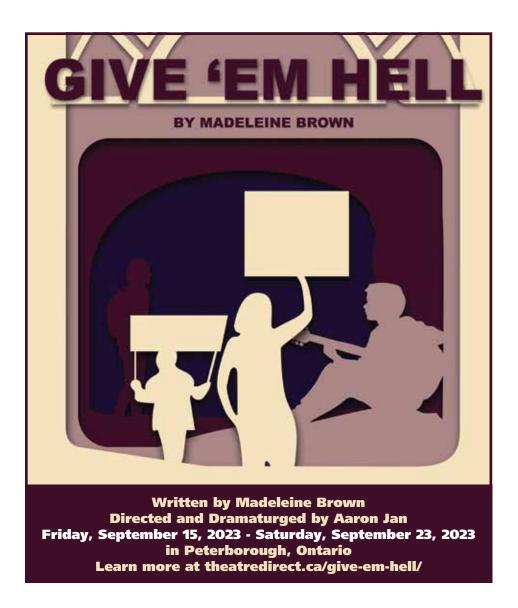
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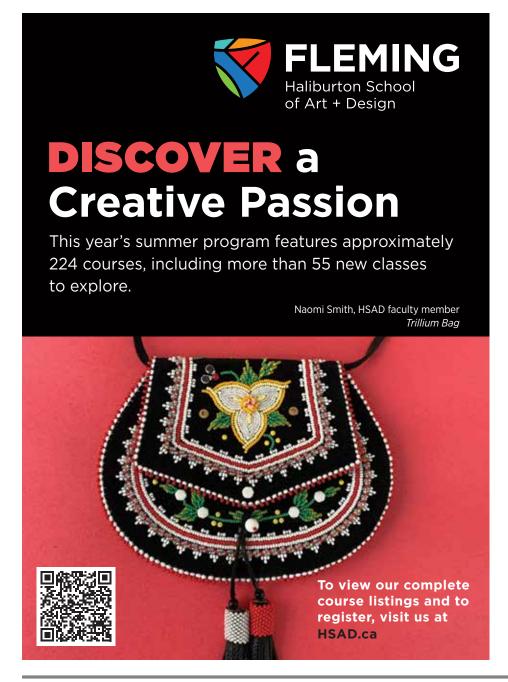




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C A S TBiographies



Austin Anonsen, Actor - The Tilco Strike Austin Anonsen is a Toronto born and raised actor. He

grew up playing sports and studied psychology at Toronto Metropolitan University

before transitioning into a career in acting. He got his start studying acting with Cynthia Ashperger and has just returned from studying acting and improv in Los Angeles. Austin is very excited to perform in this production, as this is his first role on stage.



Rebecca Birrell,

Actor - The Tilco Strike Rebecca is thrilled to make her 4th Line Theatre debut this summer. She began her theatre training at the University of Waterloo

before going on to Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance in England where she completed her Masters in Collaborative Theatre Making. Recent credits include: Last of the Red Hot Lovers (Burloak Theatre Group), Waiting for Godot (Knockout Theatre Company), Present Laughter (Knockout), Macbeth (The Potluck Collective) and Taming of the Shrew (The Shakespearience Group).



Katherine Cappelacci,

Actor - The Tilco Strike Katherine is thrilled to be making her 4th Line Theatre debut in The Tilco Strike. She is an actor, singer, and creator from Toronto who

works in theatre and film/TV. Recent theatre credits include Screwball Comedy (Globes Theatre, winner of Entertain This Thought's Outstanding Comedy Category); Pop! Pop! (Carousel Players); Indisposable (Grandview Theatre); performing in and directing AMoment in the (Secret) Garden (The Musical Stage Co/4Score Productions.); The Haunting of Hungerford House (Tweed & Company); and That's Amore (Globus Theatre). Katherine also wrote and produced two virtual short plays during the pandemic - a clown piece called DAY 55 (Toronto Fringe) and When I See You (EmerGENce Theatre). Recent TV credits include "Pretty Hard Cases" (CBC Gem); "I Woke Up a Vampire" (Netflix). Katherine has a BFA in acting from Toronto Metropolitan University and plays piano, guitar and French horn. When not on stage, she is backcountry camping or writing about theatre as an online regional editor for The Theatre Times.



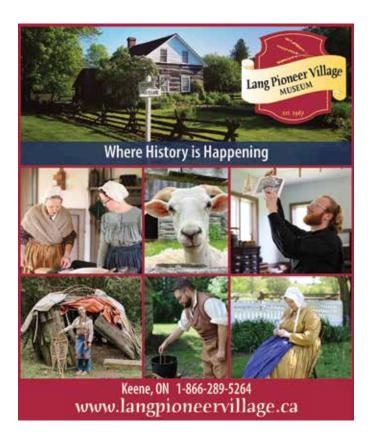
Katherine Cullen, Actor - The Cavan Blazers Katherine is a founding

member of Outside The March theatre company. Select theatre credits include Mr. Marmalade, Passion

Play, Vitals (Dora nomination - Outstanding Performance); The Prince of Homberg (Talk Is Free); Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play (Outside The March); *TomorrowLove* (OTM; My Entertainment Theatre Award, Best



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Biographies

Supporting Actress); The Nether (Studio 180 and The Coal Mine; (Dora nomination Best Ensemble); Trojan Girl (Factory/Outside The March). Katherine has also performed her show Stupidhead! A Musical Comedy (Theatre Passe Muraille), which she co-created with Musical Composer Britta Johnson. Stupidhead! was nominated for a Dora Award for Outstanding New Play. Select TV/Film credits include "Fahrenheit 451" (HBO), "The Handmaid's Tale," "A Simple Favor" (Dir. Paul Feig). She is thrilled to be a part of 4th Line's The Cavan Blazers along with her husband, Colin and daughter Lily!



Colin A. Doyle,

Actor - The Cavan Blazers Colin A. Doyle is an awardwinning actor in TV, film, radio and theatre. He has toured all over Canada, the United States and Europe.

Recent theatre credits: Baskerville (Thousand Islands Playhouse); Fairview (Canadian Stage); Three Sisters (Howland Theatre); The Antipodes (Coal Mine Theatre); The Great Shadow, Bombers: Reaping the Whirlwind (4th Line Theatre); The Ministry of Mundane Mysteries (co-creator); The Flick (Outside the March and Crow's Theatre, Toronto Theatre Critics Award). Film/TV: "5 Days in Memorial," "American Gods," "Titans," "Murdoch Mysteries," "Grand Army," and "FANGBONE!" (ACTRA Award nomination). He is thrilled to be back doing what he loves most to do. Thank you to Kim, Lindy, Robert and the entire 4th Line cast and crew, Rae Ellen, his pals, parents, agents and his favourite co-stars, his wife Katherine Cullen & daughter Lily.



Jason Edmunds,

Musician-The Cavan Blazers Jason Edmunds is a multiinstrumentalist. He plays fiddle, mandolin, guitar and other string instruments. He is a composer, performer,

teacher and producer. Jason loves all music but mainly creates in the realms of Celtic music, bluegrass and eastern European folk music. He spends his free time teaching his three children how to play music as 'The Edmunds Family Band.' He likes to unwind by camping and canoeing in the summer or cross-country skiing in the winter.



Thomas Fournier,

Actor - The Cavan Blazers Thomas is a Toronto based actor/singer/director/ playwright and a graduate of the TMU School of Performance's BFA Acting

program. Past roles include: Shane Donegal in The Great Shadow at 4th Line Theatre (2022); Jerry/Dale in *Indisposable* at the Grandview Theatre (2021); King in Street Hamlet at Emergence Theatre (2020); Jamie in The Last Five Years at Why Not Theatre Kelowna (2019); Hedwig, Hedwig and the Angry Inch at the Fred Skeleton Theatre Company (2018).

Biographies (in alphabetical order)

Thomas would like to thank his family for their endless support.



Matt Gilbert, Actor - The Tilco Strike,
The Cavan Blazers
Matt Gilbert has been an actor with 4th Line Theatre and in the Peterborough area for many years. He continues

performing to this very day. In the future he plans on continuing this pursuit.



Jason Gray,

Actor - *The Tilco Strike*Jason has performed in theatre, television, radio, voice and sketch comedy. Jason also teaches privately. Selected performances include: *The*

Foursome (Foster Festival); Talking Heads
(Precisely Peter Productions); The Tempest
(Dream In High Park); King Arthur (Toronto
Masque Theatre); The True Tragedy of Richard
III (Shakespeare and the Queen's Men Project);
Henry VIII and Macbeth (Stratford Festival).
Selected television performances include:
"Five Days at Memorial," "Chateau Laurier,"
"Reign," "Played," "Nikita," and "Flashpoint."



Mark Hiscox, Actor - The Tilco Strike,
The Cavan Blazers
Mark has been involved with
4th Line Theatre every year since 1999. Mark is an actor, conductor, musician and lover

of Caribbean culture. He was honoured to be inducted into Peterborough's Pathway Of Fame in 2016. Mark wishes to thank Kim, Lindy, Robert, Janette, and his loving family for their endless support. Mark would like to dedicate this 4th Line season to his dad, James Hiscox, who passed away earlier this year.



Laurin Isiekwena,
Actor - *The Tilco Strike*Ebelechukwu Laurin
Isiekwena is a Trent
University student in her
third year in Business
Administration and Sociology,

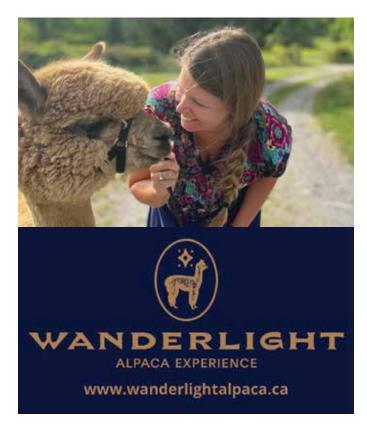
specializing in criminology and socio-legal studies. In addition to being a poet, she is also a spoken word artist. After winning the Charlie Earle Memorial grant in February of 2021, she became more prominent in the art world. She has been featured in Peterborough Currents and also highlighted as one of the artists on EC3s spotlights on black artists in Peterborough. She is currently one of five artists participating in 4th Line Theatre's first Interdisciplinary Residency Program. She is the president of an organization of her own called Urithi Black Academic Mentorship Program which is an organization dedicated to black youth in the Peterborough, Kawartha and Lakefield communities, providing them with opportunities to explore their strengths, talents, leadership, and academic potential within a safe, encouraging environment. Most recently, Laurin appeared as Tituba in the



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Biographies (in alphabetical order)

Peterborough Theatre Guild's production of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. Other credits: *The Revolutionist* as Marianne, *Concord Floral, The Wolves, Innocence Lost* and more. As a writer, Laurin enjoys the art of storytelling through poetry and spoken word. She uses poetry as a form of therapy and hopes to help others do the same.



M. John Kennedy,

Actor - *The Tilco Strike*Originally from Peterborough,
M. John is now Head of
the Acting Program at the
Randolph College for the
Performing Arts in Toronto.

He is delighted to return to 4th Line Theatre after having such a blast playing Tyrone Power in *The Great Shadow* last summer (2022). This fall he can also be seen in *Give 'Em Hell* (about the closing of PCVS). Other recent theatre includes: *Fireside Munsch***, *A Number, Macbeth, 39 Steps, Hamlet, Hound of the Baskervilles, Romeo and Juliet*, and *Treasure Island** (*Dora Award nomination for Best Performance). Recent television includes "Noel Next Door," "Bury the Past," "Ollie," "Mrs. America," "11/22/63," "The Strain" and "Murdoch Mysteries." Audiobooks include "Tell Me When You Feel Something," "Escape Plans" and "The Colonial Hotel."



Sarah McNeilly,

Actor – *The Tilco Strike*Highly attuned to processes,
Sarah McNeilly is a
multidisciplinary artist who
lives and works on the
traditional and treaty territory

of the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg. Primarily a performer (actor, dancer, musician), a writer (playwright, poet, copywriter, journalist), and an academic (BAH Cultural Studies, MA Theory, Culture, Politics), Sarah's art blurs the lines between theory and practice. She has created original theatre works for numerous festivals and venues. Sarah recently performed her debut solo script, *Titty Cakes: A Recipe for Radical Acceptance*, for sold-out audiences during breast cancer awareness month.

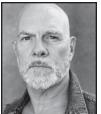


Robert Morrison,

Actor – The Cavan Blazers
Robert Morrison (he/him)
is an actor, director and
the artistic director of A
FRONT COMPANY (@a.
front.company). Selected

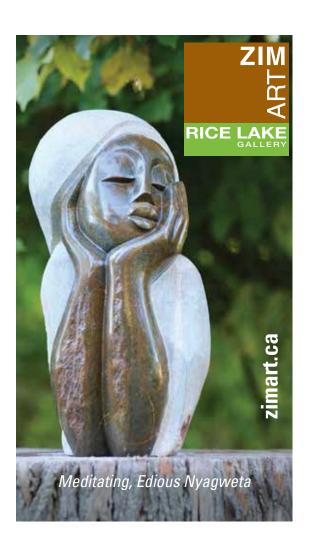
acting: The Great Shadow (4th Line); Insert Clown Here (Parlous); Spring Awakening (TMU+Soulpepper); Fight or Flight, Noise (Verb); The Outsiders (StoryBook); Titus (Shakespeare Co./Hit & Myth); Much Ado (Theatre Calgary); Wooers' Woods (CICF); DNA (Hoodlum); Safehouse (Seven Starving Artists). Selected directing: The world premieres of POOL PARTY & SKYSCRAPER; and the world premiere, tour and upcoming Next Stage production of ECHO, The Zoo Story (A Front Company); Any Night, No Exit (Cannonball); Unity 1918 (CYPT). Instagram: @RobertMorrison

C A S TBiographies



JD "Jack" Nicholsen, Actor - The Cavan Blazers An emerging director and an award-winning stage actor, with a career spanning 30+ years, Jack has appeared in theatres across Canada and

internationally and has appeared in over 50 roles for film and television. He was a founding member of and songwriter for the 1991 Juno Award-winning band The Leslie Spit Treeo and is currently a founding member of the musical groups The Cameron Family Singers and Regal Road. At 4th Line Theatre Jack has appeared in Bloom: A Rock 'n' Roll Fable, Carmel, The Fool of Cavan: A Christmas Caper, Bedtime Stories & Other Horrifying Tales and Wishful Seeing. Also at 4th Line he was co-creator and co-director of Christmas Comes to Mind: A Night of Story & Song in which he was also a performer. He is thrilled to be back for another season working with the extraordinary team of theatre artists. Coming up, Jack will be paying tribute to the great Hank Williams with his band Regal Road on August 30th at The Sergeant's Mess Hall, Base 31 in Picton, ON.





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Julia Scaringi,

Actor - The Cavan Blazers Julia works as a corporate and commercial actor with roles in short films "The Spread," "Omobella Palace" and "The end of S*x." Her stage

performances include Our Town (Lyndesfarne Theatre Company); That Ugly Mess (In The Soil); The Infinity Machine (The Theatre Centre); The Great Shadow (4th Line Theatre). Julia also works as an arts educator because she believes that theatre, music and dance should be accessible to everyone. Lead with love, always.



Nathan Simpson, Actor - The Tilco Strike Nathan is an actor, based in Oshawa. He is a recent graduate of Toronto

TMU include Polynices in Antigone Lives and Yurii in *The Division*. Outside of TMU, Nathan's recently played the roles of Christian in Cyrano and Walker in The Ends of the Earth (Theatre On The Ridge). Nathan is very excited for his debut with 4th Line Theatre!



Hilary Wear,

Actor - The Tilco Strike Hilary Wear is a theatre artist and a lifelong learner, currently training in both QiGong and Anishinaabemowin. She is

glad to be at 4th Line this summer and given the opportunity to play and learn with other theatre professionals and volunteers. She loves to write and perform situation-specific text and/or movement-based pieces and collaborates in co-creations and devising for theatre. Hilary is an accredited Therapeutic Clown working in geriatric and pediatric healthcare settings.



Ellyse Wolter,

Actor - The Tilco Strike Ellyse Wolter is thrilled to be joining the cast and crew in this new show, The Tilco Strike, in between her busy schedule, completing a BFA

in Acting at Toronto Metropolitan University (formally Ryerson University). Her previous theatrical and onscreen background work includes companies such as the Stratford Festival, Drayton Entertainment, NBS, SYFY/ USA network and CBC.



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4TH LINE IN THE COMMUNITY

BEHIND THE SCENES, on stage, in the office and as our ambassadors, our volunteers' contributions are invaluable and we thank them for adding to the vibrancy and quality of our season's productions. Consider joining our not-for-profit hub of activity – be part of the team by becoming a 4th Line Theatre volunteer today! Visit 4thlinetheatre.on.ca/volunteer-opportunities to find out about how you can get involved.

At Delta Bingo

Bev Breeden Trudy Dewey Glenda Vandermeulen Karen Whalen Debbie Youngman

At the Farm -**Chair Crew**

Gillian Coons Bria Cahorn Travis Cahorn Chris Inglis Cody Inglis Kaicey Muma Samantha Muma **Janet Surkos**

At the Farm -**Front of House**

Elaine Bruer Chris Coons Dennis Howlettt Susan Howlett Cindy Lorusso Cathy McIntyre Peter Spasov Michelle Towns

Regional **Ambassadors**

Darlene Mack Kelsey Powell

2023 Billeters

Angela Burley Simone Georges Maria Harvey Anne Lloyd Shiela McHugh Renee Paul Andrew Todd Traill College Pat Young



The Tilco Strike - Volunteers (L to R): Renate Spasov, Peter Spasov, Carmel Warman, Skye Beaton, Cailleach Beaton, Gillian Coons, Darius Maliha-Evans, Michael Field. Not Pictured: Lindsay Wilson.



The Cavan Blazers - Protestants - Volunteers (L to R): Back Row: Cody Inglis, Ian McGarrett, Phil Stott, Adrianna Malloy; Front Row: Darragh O'Connell, Dierbhile MacQuarrie, Riordan MacQuarrie,

Eli Fisher, Indigo Chesser.

4TH LINE IMPLEMENTS a four-phase New Play Development

HOW OUR PLAYS ARE DEVELOPED

Program that supports the research, creation and workshopping of projects destined for production. Often works are in development for three years before they are presented on the Winslow Farm stage.

PHASE 1: Seeding

Playwrights receive "seed" funding to begin work with community members through reminiscences, soundings and/or interviews.

PHASE 2: Breaking Ground

4th Line's seeded writers further develop their work through a workshop with a director and actors for Breaking Ground where the public is invited to hear the work.

PHASE 3: Commissions

Once a playwright completes Breaking Ground, the project is considered for commissioning to create a first draft.

PHASE 4: Intensive Development and Production Workshops First drafts selected for presentation are further developed in workshops.

New play development is critical to the success of 4th Line Theatre. The main aim of this program is to match professional playwrights to our theatre's particular aesthetic, thereby providing Canadian artists with a challenging, supportive and exciting creative experience, and in the process promoting regional cultural development and the creation of high-quality scripts for our audience.

THE BEVERLY CRAIG BURSARY FOR YOUNG ARTISTS

THE BEVERLY CRAIG BURSARY FOR YOUNG ARTISTS is awarded annually to a member of the theatre's youth company who embodies Beverly Craig's keen interest in history and the arts. Beverly Craig is a long-time 4th Line patron and arts enthusiast. Beverly is a United Empire Loyalist and has been actively involved in the Ontario Genealogical Society for decades.

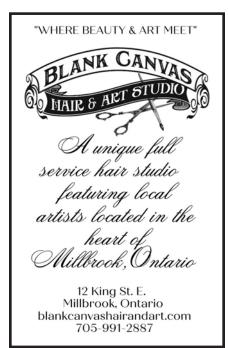
The inaugural Beverley Craig Bursary for Young Artists in 2023 has been awarded to Indigo Chesser. Shortlisted - Gillian Coons, Darragh O'Connell, Zack Radford.



The Cavan Blazers - Catholics - Volunteers (L to R): Back Row: Mikayla Stoodley, Linda Gendron, Peter Dolinski, Venessa McCracken, Andria Fisher, Cadence Fisher, Caoimhe MacQuarrie, Saoirse MacQuarrie, Michael Field, Brogan McKellar; Front Row: Zach Newnham, Michelle Chesser, Lily Cullen, Jasper Chesser, Siobhan MacQuarrie, Ayla McCracken-Reed.



The Cavan Blazers - Blazers - Volunteers (L to R): Josh Lambert, Logan Coombes. Not Pictured: Zack Radford, Evan Tsimidis.





SEEDING PLAYS

4TH LINE THEATRE, Canada's premiere outdoor theatre company, has made its mark on Canada's theatre industry as a producer, promoter and cultivator of new work with relevant local themes for 30 seasons. "We are thrilled that so many of Canada's

best playwrights have been seeded as a part of our New Play Development program," says Managing Artistic Director Kim Blackwell. "Our goal is to strategically invest in ideas, stories and artists who are developing innovative and transformative theatre."

IN DEVELOPMENT

Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz: The Farmerettes by Alison Lawrence Based on the book "Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz" by Bonnie Sitter and Shirleyan English. During the Second World War when farms were short of labourers, groups of young women kept Ontario farms afloat. These women, known as Farmerettes, planted, hoed and hand-weeded fruit and vegetable crops for long hours. It was part of a provincial program to replace male labour in the agricultural sector and allowed young women to do their part to support the war effort. A co-production with the Blyth Festival.

Jim Watts: Girl Reporter by Beverley Cooper

Based on the experience of the only Canadian woman ever recognized as a member of the MacKenzie-Papineau battalion, who fought in the Spanish Civil War. There is a local connection in the piece to a man named Jim Higgins who also fought in the Spanish Civil War and then settled in Peterborough. Higgins's daughter recently released his memoir of his life as a union organizer.

Wild Irish Geese by Megan Murphy

Wild Irish Geese will examine the 1825 migration of 2,500 Irish Catholic settlers to the region. Commonly known as the Peter Robinson settlers, the Irish immigrants were escaping brutal poverty, hoping for a better life in Canada. This project is proudly supported by The Hickey Family Bursary.

Eleanor by Ian McLachlan and Robert Winslow will be the fourth play in the Barnardo Children series of plays. It follows Walter White as a man in his early 60s and the woman, Eleanor, who comes to live with him on the farm and acts as a housekeeper for him.

Cirque du Noël by Kim Blackwell and Lindy Finlan

This is a new play in development for Christmas 2024 which will focus on a small family-run circus in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

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The World of Pearl Hart by Maja Ardal

Born in Lindsay, Ontario in 1871, Pearl Hart was the first woman tried and convicted of stagecoach robbery in the U.S. Pearl's journey takes her from small town Ontario through Chicago's World's Fair, Buffalo Bill's Wild West shows and the rough mining frontiers of Arizona. Her trial, imprisonment and wild escapades (disguised as a boy) made her a notorious celebrity of the times.

The Lost Souls by Kim Blackwell

The play explores the 'lives' of the people who are buried at the Zion Line Cemetery. The piece will follow several inhabitants, as they exist in an afterlife of sorts. The exploration of the piece includes the notion that these people disappear even more, once there is no one left alive who will remember them.

Waiting For Gainey by Paul Braunstein and Courtenay Stevens The piece celebrates Millbrook and the area's love affair and storied history with the beloved Canadian winter sport of hockey.

The Intruder by Maja Ardal

A work about the mysterious death of a female soldier in Afghanistan and the broader subject of women in the military.

Courage by Robert Winslow

A new play by Robert about a Jewish uprising during WWII.

Scoop by Herbie Barnes

This play will examine the 60s scoop of Indigenous children from their families and placement in adoptive situations with white families across Canada and beyond.

Millbrook High! by Robert Winslow

An exploration the stories of the Millbrook High School from its opening until the late 1970s.

Queen of Canada by John Gregory and Paul Ledoux

What happens when the self-proclaimed 'Queen of Canada' shows up in Peterborough, ON with the goal of arresting the local police force for perceived COVID-related crimes? As the 'Queen' hands out sardines and cut veggies to her devoted followers and wraps herself in her invisibility cloak, this satirical play delves into the polarization of a modern Canada. Gregory and Ledoux are exploring the people who used to occupy the fringes and their move to the spotlight and mainstream attention. How did the pandemic and globalization spur fringe beliefs from the sidelines to the centre?



Follow us on Facebook, or visit our web site 4thlinetheatre.on.ca for New Play Development updates.



EMERGING VOICES PROGRAM

4TH LINE'S PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

"When I was first asked to write about my experience as a 4th Line volunteer actor, I was not sure where to begin. That's because it's so hard to put into words something that has become one of the best and most influential experiences of my life so far. Let me start by saying that 4th Line, and more specifically the actors and production/creative team I spent my summer with, have become my family in the truest sense of the word. We support each other and care deeply about each other and that has continued even after we wrapped up for the season. In fact when I was playing Matilda this past summer, my 4th Line Family (that's what I call them) came to see me perform, many from great distances which meant the world to me. For those of you reading who don't know me, I'm 11 years old and when I was at 4th Line Theatre, it felt like I was getting a master class in theatre from each person I had the privilege to work with. Imagine, a university level education at 11. Wow! How lucky am I? I'm so grateful for the opportunity to have been a 4th Line Theatre volunteer and sincerely hope that this is just the beginning. Who knows, maybe someday I'll be lucky enough to be performing there as a professional actor."

- Indigo Chesser, October 2022

RURAL COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS have always played a major role in 4th Line Theatre's iconic history. From the first play at the Winslow Farm in 1992 to our 2019 production of *Bloom: A Rock 'n' Roll Fable*, community actors have not only captured the authentic voices in the plays but have allowed the theatre to create epic productions for over two decades. The goal of 4th Line Theatre's **Emerging VOICES Program** is to highlight and recognize the crucial role people play within their community and give voice to their ideas and stories. 4th Line plans to continue to involve young and old community members interested in arts, culture and heritage, and empower them to take an active role in the creation of art by providing opportunities within their own community through its **Emerging VOICES Program**.

VOICES stands for:

Volunteer opportunities unique in the nation - linking young people to the company's professional artists and community elders;

Outreach in providing an immersive and integrated experience working with our renowned artistic team in a rural, artistic setting;

Innovation and experimentation resulting in productions that entertain, educate and enthrall and created through our unique artistic processes;

Community commitment to encourage rural youth to participate in the arts and develop their own voices and stories;

Education that allows participants to gain an understanding and insight into the history of their community; and

Skills developed through practical, hands-on application that young people rarely have access to.

THE EMERGING VOICES
PROGRAM IS GENEROUSLY
SPONSORED BY:















Each year 4th Line Theatre distributes free ticket coupons to students studying history, drama and the environment in our regional schools. 4th Line wants to encourage young people to attend theatre and gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of their funders and sponsors for making this program possible.







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Megan Murphy Playwright-in-Residence

PHOTOGRAPHY

Wayne Eardley Brookside Studio

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Rob Wilkes Big Sky Design

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SPECIAL THANKS

St. Thomas Anglican Church, Carol Rogers, Arthur Rogers, Chris Inglis, Cody Inglis, Boris Khaimovich, My Mechanics Newcastle Auto Inc., Tristan Peirce, Dan & Susan Finlan, Ben Smythe, Marla Brennan, Heather - Millbrook Foodland, Doug & Christena Lewis, Lee Bolton - More to come!

4TH LINE THEATRE STAFF

Kim Blackwell Managing Artistic Director
Robert Winslow Founder
Lindy Finlan General Manager
Timmi Brady Manager of Marketing and Development
Sarah De Vouge Box Office Manager
Emma Hale Artistic Administrator
Annette Nadeau Bookkeeper



(L to R): Robert Winslow, Kim Blackwell, Lindy Finlan, Annette Nadeau, Sarah De Vouge, Timmi Brady, Emma Hale.

The Gainey Foundation is a proud Production Sponsor for

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We're Growing Plays at The Winslow Farm

4TH LINE'S ARTISTIC VISION is encapsulated in the phrase "theatre that matters to audience and artists alike." The interweaving of community stories and professionalism is at the heart of the organization's aesthetic. In 1992, the company began with the dramatic tale of conflict between two groups of Irish settlers to the region. Since *The Cavan Blazers* premiered, the company has developed into a major regional attraction whose mission and mandate are safeguarded by the support of our committed members and donors. Donations from individuals comprise 10% of the company's overall revenue annually.

We encourage you to join us on the journey.

To learn more about the benefits of being a 4th Line Donor, please call Sarah De Vouge at 705-932-4501, email sarah@4thlinetheatre.on.ca, or visit our website at 4thlinetheatre.on.ca.

ABOUT 4TH LINE

Our Mandate

To preserve and promote our Canadian cultural heritage through the development and presentation of regionally-based, environmentally-staged, historical dramas.

Our Mission

To develop and present original Canadian works of artistic excellence that explore regional themes, history and heritage, and to present these works in a politically responsible and culturally sensitive manner. Through this process we seek to encourage innovation and experimentation resulting in productions that entertain and educate.

Our Artistic Vision

Commitment to local culture and history, artistic exploration and excellence, authenticity of presentation, innovative staging, community involvement, development of regional artists, and exploration of an environmental theatre aesthetic are the key guiding artistic principles of 4th Line Theatre.

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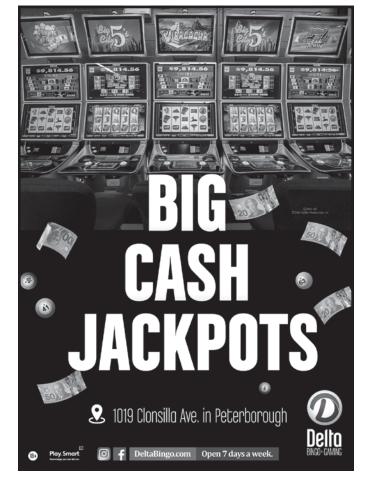
Robert Winslow - Ex Officio

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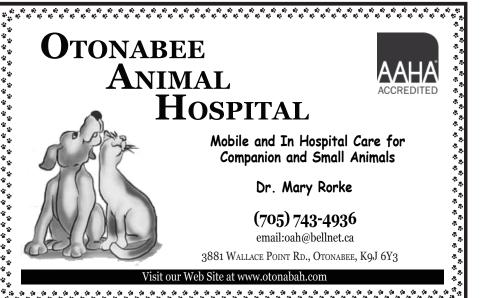
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TO THE FUTURE

A CAMPAIGN TO BUILD THE FUTURE OF 4TH LINE THEATRE

What?

Setting the Stage for the Future of 4th Line Theatre with our first ever endowment fund to honour our 30th Anniversary. With the support of the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough, we plan to raise and invest at least \$50,000 to support future generations of 4th Line Theatre youth.

Consider making a donation to our 30 to the Future Fund.

Why?

With 30 years of creative excellence behind us, our challenge is to prepare for the next 30 years, by building our **30 to the Future Fund**. This campaign is designed to provide sustainability by further supporting and expanding our theatrical programs, allowing for flexibility in uncertain times and providing innovative, collaborative and resonant programming for decades to come.

Your gift will help protect 4th Line Theatre's legacy for generations to come. You will be helping to provide scholarships, apprenticeships and honorariums, as well as theatre and public speaking training for regional young people.

How?

Call 705-932-4501 to talk to Sarah about how you can donate today.

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Welcome to Cavan Monaghan!



Left to Right: Councillor Gerry Byrne, Deputy Mayor Ryan Huntley, Mayor Matthew Graham, Councillor Lance Nachoff, Councillor Nels Edgerton

On behalf of Council and Staff for the Township of Cavan Monaghan, I want to congratulate 4th Line Theatre on four decades of fantastic theatre performances.

We are so fortunate to have such a celebrated theatre company right here in our own community.

Our history and heritage is a unique story to tell and no one does it better than 4th Line Theatre.

If this is your first time visiting, I would like to welcome you to our charming community. While you are here, I encourage you to take the time to explore and experience what we love about this community.

Life grows naturally here in the Township of Cavan Monaghan come explore something fresh and unspoiled. Our rich mix of heritage downtown, diverse local arts and culture and flourishing farmlands makes living or visiting something exclusive to this area.

> Sincerely Matthew Graham Mayor

988 County Road 10, Millbrook, ON L0A 1G0
Phone: 705-932-2929 Email: services@cavanmonaghan.net

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