Between The Lines

The Members of 4th Line Theatre Newsletter
Fall 2026

Managing Artistic Director's Message



Dear Members, Donors and Friends,

IT IS DIFFICULT to know how to begin this letter.

For more than three decades, Robert Winslow and 4th Line Theatre have been inseparable. Robert dreamed this theatre into existence on his family farm and for so many of us who have spent our lives working alongside him, it is impossible to imagine 4th Line without him.

I am struggling to imagine it.

I have spent much of my artistic life at 4th Line, working beside Robert—directing his plays, arguing about plays, talking endlessly about plays, solving impossible problems, watching the weather, welcoming thousands of people to the farm and, year after year, figuring out how to make something extraordinary happen in a field in Millbrook.

His sudden death has left an enormous hole in our lives and in this theatre.

So here is what I know - What began with Robert's *The Cavan Blazers* in 1992 grew into one of Canada's most distinctive theatrical experiences. And it will continue.

We will continue making theatre at the Winslow Farm. This is what Robert wanted. It is what Janette Froncz Winslow wants. And it is what all of us at 4th Line want.

In 2027, we will celebrate our 35th anniversary, and the entire season will be dedicated to Robert and his extraordinary artistic legacy.

I know Robert would be very pleased by the season we have planned. He gave it his approval before his passing.

In July, we will present the world premiere of *Waiting for Gainey* by Courtenay Stevens and Paul Braunstein—a funny, moving and sometimes unflinching look at the history of hockey in small town Canada, at young Canadian hockey players and the parents who will do almost anything to help them achieve the dream of making it to the big leagues. It is a love letter to Canada's national sport. And yes, there will be skating onstage at the farm, in July!

Then in August, we head to the Wild West with Maja Ardal's *The Legend of Pearl Hart*. Pearl was a Canadian-born (Lindsay, ON to be exact) outlaw who became one of the most notorious women of the American frontier. The play is bold, funny and theatrical, and it gives us the opportunity to create the kind of spectacle that has always been part of 4th Line's DNA. There will even be a horse, or two, onstage.

There is another lovely connection between these two plays: Maja Ardal and Paul Braunstein are mother and son. Two generations of Canadian playwrights will help us celebrate 35 years of telling Canadian stories.

Throughout the summer, we will also celebrate Robert himself—his plays, his ideas, his history and the remarkable community he created. We will gather to read, talk, make music, tell stories and remember.

Robert believed deeply that the stories of this place mattered. He believed that history belonged to ordinary people and that their lives deserved to be put onstage. He believed audiences would drive down a country road, sit outside under the stars and listen to those stories.

He was right.

I wish more than anything that Robert was going to be here to celebrate this milestone with us. But I also know that the best way we can honour him is to keep doing the thing he loved.

So that is what we are going to do.

The barn doors will open. The actors will arrive. The audience will gather. We will watch the weather. We will tell Canadian stories on Robert's farm.

And we will carry Robert's extraordinary vision forward—together.

With love and gratitude,

Kim Blackwell
Managing Artistic Director
4th Line Theatre

GIVE THE GIFT OF SUMMER!



Photo by Tristan Peirce Photography.



Waiting for Gainey

Written by Paul Braunstein & Courtenay Stevens
Directed by Kim Blackwell
June 29 - July 24

The Legend of Pearl Hart

Written by Maja Ardal
Directed by Anita La Selva
August 3 - August 28

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, SHARE THE 4TH LINE THEATRE EXPERIENCE WITH YOUR LOVED ONES!

Purchase a 2027 summer season **gift certificate** before **December 25th, 2026** and save $2 per ticket!
(applies to single ticket gift certificates for regular performance nights only)

Save even more with a 2027 Season Subscription ($12 savings overall)
when you purchase gift certificates for both summer season shows at the same time.

Ensure your preferred choice of dates when the box office opens for MEMBERS ONLY
between February 1st – February 8th, 2027.

2026 Season Feedback

"What makes 4th Line Theatre so very special is that it transforms local history into theatre that feels rooted in the community while speaking to universal themes."

- Paula Citron, ludwigvan



Schoolhouse, 2026. Photo by Wayne Eardley, Brookside Studio.



Wild Irish Geese, 2026. Photo by Wayne Eardley, Brookside Studio.

Schoolhouse

"Nearly two decades after its premiere, Monica Dottor's reimagining of *Schoolhouse* is not merely a successful revival; it is the reaffirmation of a modern Canadian classic."

- Paula Citron, ludwigvan

Wild Irish Geese

"This uplifting tale of perseverance and resilience against the wilderness of Canada, and the founding of the area in which the show is taking place, gives audiences a whole new appreciation for the place they call home."

- Janine Marley, A View From the Box

Become a Volunteer! 4th Line Theatre is where Art and Community meet



"Over the past two summers that I've spent at 4th Line Theatre, many friends and family have said "Wow. I can't believe you work all summer as a volunteer." And to that I always responded "Work???" Because to me, and many of my fellow actors, it was the highest privilege and joy to learn, grow and play together as a community at 4th Line Theatre. Community is often the first word that comes to mind when describing 4th Line. On my first ever day of rehearsal I was greeted by the biggest ray of sunshine that is Indigo Chesser - a local teenager who has spent many summers at 4th Line. So big in fact was her smile, that I was SURE she was being sarcastic, but no, it was just my first example of how eager and welcoming my 4th Line peeps were and are. Never have I met a group of people more passionate about art and play than the people at 4th Line Theatre. Before I came to 4th Line I had never done a real show before and 4th Line has taught me everything that I know about theatre. At 4th Line, you get to work alongside professional actors and directors who act like mentors to the younger or less experienced actors. This exchange of theatre wisdom, to me, is the 4th Line magic. You learn script analysis, accents, how to take direction, stage managing and everything else in between in the blink of an eye, because of how seamlessly and lovingly 4th Line does it. And that is what 4th Line brings to the table. A love of community, learning and most of all theatre."

~ Hazel Evans

AREAS FOR WHICH volunteers are needed include acting, backstage, front of house, bingo, regional ambassadors and administrative support.

- At Delta Bingo in Peterborough. (This position is only open to volunteers 18 years of age and over).
- For those with creative talents we require back stage costume and set building.
- Regional ambassadors promote 4th Line Theatre in their local towns and areas distributing posters and other promotional materials.
- Administrative support is needed year round in our office, including reception duties and assisting with campaigns.

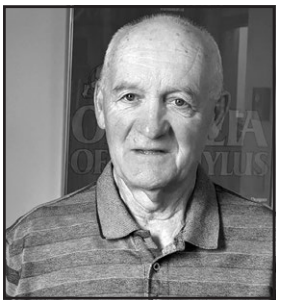
Please contact our Box Office for details. If you are interested in learning new skills, applying existing ones or getting more involved with 4th Line Theatre activities, please email us at admin@4thlinetheatre.on.ca

Finally, we would like to thank all our volunteers whose dedication and commitment helped make our 2026 Season a great success.

Bingo Volunteers Needed!

Make a meaningful impact by becoming a 4th Line volunteer at Delta Bingo in Peterborough (Must be 18+). Contact the box office to learn more!

Honouring Robert Winslow



THE MANY TRIBUTES honouring Robert Winslow, and so many that are eloquent in various places across the nation, are a clear indication of his enormous impact as a theatre creator, playwright, director, actor, friend and guiding creative spirit. My tribute is modest, if no less felt, and comes from a somewhat different perspective.

I was doing research as a professor of Canadian theatre when I first learned of Robert Winslow. Drawn by my interest in small theatres, I saw *The Cavan Blazers*, coincidentally on a night when eight regalia-clad Orangemen and their flag sat in the front row. The performance in those men's presence painted a picture of historical Orange violence and confirmed for me that 4th Line was a unique theatre that spoke directly and frankly to its audience community and that its playwright, actor, director and Theatre co-founder was an important Canadian voice. Little did I know then that I would eventually become a long-time 4th Line Theatre board member, even a sometime performer (as a Crown Attorney I lost a boxing match to Rob, my opposing Defense Attorney in *Beautiful Lady, Tell Me*) and a person who could call Rob a friend. It is an honour to do so.

My views about theatre, and beyond that, my understanding of our history and even issues about how to live meaningfully, have been influenced by Rob's creativity and wisdom. The fact that we shared a love of the Montreal Canadiens fit right in. To create a theatre that is already over 30 years old, and will continue as his heritage, places Rob in the forefront of Canadian cultural contributors. A body of work that includes writing 18 plays, all staged, with at least three others in the wings, directing a further two dozen and acting in many more, is in itself more than remarkable. That he has taught hundreds of students at Trent University and fostered more than a generation of theatre artists, young and old, and has mentored people like Kim Blackwell and Lindy Finlan who will continue to lead 4th Line is beyond outstanding.

4th Line Theatre is like a family. It is that way for those who work there; it seems that way for its audience and it has been like that for me as a board member. Rob has been the gentle but firm progenitor with a great vision. I will miss him; my fellow board members will miss him, the Theatre, the community and countless others will miss him but his legacy will live on."

- Richard Plant

Save the Date!

FALL

- **November 2, 2026:** Box Office Opens for 2027 Gift Certificate Sales
- **November 11, 2026:** Salon Reading Series - *Shelley's Shadow* by Brad Fraser
- **November 28, 2026:** 4th Line Country Christmas concert at Wesley Hall, New Canadians Centre

WINTER

- **December 25, 2026:** Office closure for Christmas holiday
- **January 4, 2027:** Box office opens after Christmas holiday closure
- **January 14, 2027:** Salon Reading Series- *The Death Dinner Party* by Kim Blackwell
- **January 23, 2027:** Community Volunteer Auditions for 2027 Season
- **February 1, 2027:** Box office opens to MEMBERS ONLY for ticket sales and gift certificate redemptions
- **February 8, 2027:** Box office opens to the public for ticket sales and gift certificate redemptions

SPRING

- **March 24, 2027:** Seniors Theatre Program Public Performance at the Cavan Monaghan Community Centre
- **April 2027 - Dates TBD:** Artist Talks – Kim Blackwell in Conversation With…

SUMMER

- **June 4, 2027:** Celebration of Robert Winslow's Life & Career
- **June 23, 2027:** Annual General Meeting
- **June 29 – July 24, 2027:** *Waiting for Gainey* written by Paul Braunstein & Courtenay Stevens
- **July 3, 2027:** *Waiting for Gainey* Opening Pre-Show Gala Dinner & Post-Show Party
- **July & August 2027:** Winslow Wednesdays at the Farm
- **July & August 2027:** Artist Talks & Festival Fridays at the Farm
- **July 31, 2027:** Members' Invited Dress Rehearsal
- **August 3-28, 2027:** *The Legend of Pearl Hart* written by Maja Ardal
- **August 5, 2027:** *The Legend of Pearl Hart* Opening Night Party

Updates available at **4thlinetheatre.on.ca**



A round of applause! Sponsors and funding agencies play an important role in 4th Line Theatre's activities. We could not do what we do without their financial support.

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GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
Canada Council for the Arts
Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario
Government of Ireland - Emigrant Support Programme
Government of Ontario - 2026-27 Seniors Community Grant Program
Government of Ontario - Summer Employment Opportunities Program
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming - Experience Ontario Program
Ontario Arts Council - An Ontario Government Agency
Ontario Arts Foundation Endowment Fund
Service Canada - Canada Summer Jobs Program
Township of Cavan-Monaghan - Community Improvement Plan Program

FOUNDATION SUPPORT
Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough
The Gainey Foundation
The Lloyd Carr-Harris Foundation
The Peterborough Foundation
The Takla Foundation

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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FOLLOW US ON

4th Line Theatre is a charitable not-for-profit!
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