

# CREATIVE TEAM

DONNA SPENCER | Director



Donna Spencer is the Artistic Producer of the Firehall Arts Centre. Her many theatre directorial credits include *Reflections on Crooked Walking*, *Yellow Fever*, *Mary's Wedding*, *House and Home*, *Social Studies*, *Refuge*, *The Yoko Ono Project*, *The Unnatural and Accidental Women*, *Reading Hebron*, *Mom Dad I'm Living With a White Girl*, *Only Drunks and Children Tell the Truth*, *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*, *This is How We Got Here* and many others.

She is the winner of the Jessie Richardson Outstanding Direction Award for *Urinetown*, the Musical and for *Reading Hebron*. She was honored to receive the City of Vancouver's Mayor's Arts Award for Theatre, and the British Columbia Community Achievement Award for her work in dance and theatre. An advocate for inclusivity in the performing arts she created one of Canada's first culturally diverse theatre production programs at the Firehall in 1985. She was recently awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal for her work in the arts.

BILL COSTIN | Musical Director and Piano



Since *Forever Plaid* at the *Starlight Theatre* in the 90's, Bill Costin has been part of Vancouver music and theatre. He accompanied Miriam Margolyes in "*Dickens' Women*" (The Cultch). He has also worked with Michael Buble, Jim Byrnes, Dal Richards, Denis Simpson, Ruth Nichol, Cailin Stadnyk, David Marr, Laurie Murdoch, Tom Pickett, and of course, Jennifer Bishop in benefits and shows with Arts Club Theatre, Firehall Arts Centre, Vancouver Moving Theatre, Gateway Theatre and SFU Cultural Programs.

He recently accompanied Beverley Elliott in "*Sink Or Swim*" in New York City, and is pleased to be the Musical Director for *Reflections on Crooked Walking*.

## LAURA ROSS | Choreographer



Select choreography credits include: *Elf: The Musical* (Assoc. Choreographer/ Arts Club), *Pride and Prejudice*, (White Rock Players), *M is for Music* (VSO), *A Christmas Carol* (Pacific Theatre), and *Back to Broadway* (Burstin' with Broadway). TV/Film choreography highlights: *So Glad You Came* (Time to Shine Prods), *Send Us Smokes* (Awkward Alien Prods) and *Bedbugs: A Musical Love Story* (Shadow Arts Prods) and she most recently worked with Greta Lee on Calvin Klein's 2024 Fall campaign.

Laura has worked as a performer at theatres across the country and as dancer on tv productions like Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist and Riverdale.

Laura-Ross.com

## BARBARA CLAYDEN | Costume Design



Barbara Clayden has been designing costumes for over 45 years. Starting her design career with Tamahnous theatre, a Vancouver-based experimental theatre company of the 1970's, Barbara has been largely self-taught in the art of theatre design. She enjoys the collaboration with other artists that working in theatre has to offer. She has designed for both small and large theatre companies and worked in numerous Costume Departments in film with IATSE 891.

Selected works in the last few years include: *Lysistrata 2018*, *Coriolanus 2019*, *Hamlet 2024* (Bard on the Beach), *East Van Panto 2018-20* (Theatre Replacement), *Beauty and the Beast 2017*, *Kinky Boots 2021*, *Jersey Boys 2024* (Arts Club Theatre). She has been nominated for over 15 Jessie Richardson Awards and won 8 for Outstanding Costume Design. Barbara holds a BA in Fine Arts from the University of British Columbia.

## REBEKAH JOHNSON | Lighting Design



It is a pleasure to be back at The Firehall Arts Centre! Past credits include *This is How we Got Here*, and *Stuff Happens* among many others over the years. Other recent designs include *The Last Five Years* and *Miss Julie* for Blue Bridge Theatre, *A Doll's House Part 2* for Western Gold Theatre, *Snow White* for Carousel Theatre and *Jeeves* for Chemainus Theatre. In the summers she is the Production Manager for The Guild Festival in Scarborough, ON.

Rebekah lives in the beautiful Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island, traditional territory of the Coast Salish People, and home to the Cowichan Tribes.

## JESSICA BOURNIVAL | Stage Manager



Born in Laval, QC and raised in Maple Ridge, BC, Jessica is a local Stage Manager. Her previous credits include: *Sexy Laundry* on tour (Arts Club), *Home*, *Theatrum* (HipBang!), *The Tempest Project* (Music On Main), *Parifam* (VACT), *Ceci Est Une Histoire D'amour*, *Le Soulier* (Théâtre la Seizième), *Th'owxiya*, *Quelqu'un T'aime* *Monsieur Hatch* (Axis). Assistant Stage Manager credits: *Bunny*, *Fairview* (The Search Party), *Sexy Laundry* (Arts Club). Apprentice credits: *Henry V*, *Romeo and Juliet*

(Bard on the Beach); *Made in Italy*, *The Twelve Dates of Christmas* (Arts Club). Jessica is a graduate of the Bishop's University's Drama Program.

## CASSANDRA BOURCHIER | Apprentice Stage Manager



Cassandra (she/her) is a queer neurodivergent theatre artist of Métis and Settler heritage. Originally from Treaty 6 and 7 territories, she is currently based on the lands of the Coast Salish peoples. She holds a BFA in Acting, with a minor in Visual Arts from UBC. Her recent performance and production work has centered around stories that explore identity and heritage. She has produced, directed, acted, and choreographed. She is grateful to the Firehall for supporting her in her first SM apprenticeship. Select SM credits: *Juggle Me Not*, *Frog Belly Rat Bone* (Axis Theatre).

## JETHRO ALLEN-MARTIN | Technical Director



Jethro Allen-Martin is a technician and technical director. He is an alumni of Vancouver Island University's technical theatre program and is now based in Vancouver. They have lived and worked in the city in a variety of roles for the past six years. Jethro is very excited for the opportunity to be a part of this production, and to work and play at the Firehall Arts Centre.

## RILEY HARDWICK | Sound Design



Riley Hardwick (he/him) is an actor, improviser, and Jessie Award-winning sound designer. He has worked with Green Thumb, VACT, Savage Society, Rumble, Arts Club, Globe Theatre, and more. Riley is a graduate of Studio 58 and performs regularly at The Improv Centre.

## GABRIELLE MARCOLIN | Production Assistant



Gabrielle has worked on several productions as a Production assistant, dresser, stage manager and assistant stage manager. Her experience includes shows such as *Little Women* (Chemainus Theatre Festival), *Lumberjacks in Love* (Chemainus Theatre Festival), *The Foreigner* (Chemainus Theatre Festival), *Miracle on 34th St* (Chemainus Theatre Festival), *The Picture of Dorian Grey* (Vancouver Island University), *Into the Woods* (Vancouver Island University), *Chicago* (Schmooze

Productions) and various theatrical festivals on Vancouver Island and throughout the mainland. Gabrielle is pleased to make her debut at the Firehall Arts Centre with *Reflections on Crooked Walking*.

## JASON DE COUTO | Keyboard II



Jason de Couto is a professional Vancouver, B.C. musician focused primarily on piano and keyboards. He works with a variety of musicians, ensembles, and multi-disciplinary artists in an array of styles and genres. He holds degrees from UBC, SFU and Capilano University, and is currently also a high school music teacher working at Argyle Secondary in the North Vancouver School District.

## BUFF ALLEN | Drums



Buff Allen has had many many years of experience playing drums and percussion in jazz, rock, movie and television soundtracks, and theatre, performing in everything from seedy nightclubs to churches, to recording studios, to restaurants, to grand 200 year old theatres (just came back from Berlin, where that theatre dates back to circa 1821.)

In the theatre world, Buff has played in Peter Pan, *Chorus Line*, and Arts Club productions--*Only in B.C.*,

*Only in Vancouver*, *Time to Sing*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Six Women Want To Know*, *Blues in the Night*, *Reflections on Crooked Walking*, *Threepenny Opera*, *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well* and *Living in Paris*, *Suds*, *Cookin' at the Cookery*, *Altar Boyz*, *Blood Brothers*.

## RENE WORST | Bass



Having worked with a diverse group of musicians such as Chet Baker, David Bowie, Freddie Hubbard and Aerosmith, Rene Worst is a virtuoso on both electric and acoustic basses.

As a producer and session artist, he has worked with Juno award nominated Skywalk (a band he co-founded), Mythos and jazz singer Jennifer Scott.

Rene is an in demand workshop facilitator, teaching worldwide.

## STEPHANIE ELGERSMA | Puppet Design and Consultation



Stephanie is a London/Vancouver actor, puppeteer, and puppet maker/director. As a puppet maker, she has worked for Wilton's Music Hall, The Old Vic, Birmingham Rep, Disney Paris, and Nick Barnes Puppets (UK), as well as The Cultch, Brock University, Ghost River Theatre, Carousel Theatre, and the National Arts Centre (CA). Puppet direction has included Blackheath Halls Opera (UK), Savage Society, Studio 58, and Carousel Theatre (Vancouver). She is now based in Vancouver where she

builds and directs puppets for theatre, and teaches puppetry at Studio 58.  
[stephelgersma.com](http://stephelgersma.com)