



Persephone's Young Company Presents

The Trials

by Dawn King

December 7 - 10, 2023 | BackStage Stage
Box Office 306-384-7727 | Remai Arts Centre 100 Spadina Crescent East

Persephone Theatre is located on the beautiful lands of Indigenous peoples who have lived here since time immemorial, including the Nêhiyawak, Nêhithawak, Anishinabek, Nakawe, Nakota, Nehinawak, Lakota, Dakota and Dene peoples.

This place is also the homeland of the Métis. At Persephone, we also like to acknowledge the contributions of the Whitecap Dakota and Round Prairie Métis peoples in establishing our city of Saskatoon. Persephone Theatre is located on Treaty 6 territory and is committed to living in good relations with our Indigenous neighbours, in the spirit with which the Treaties were intended.



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by Dawn King

PRESENTED IN THE
THE
BackStageSTAGE

Persephone Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement.

Professional artists are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

Production staff are members of I.A.T.S.E. Local 300.

**No recording devices or photographic equipment are allowed in the theatre.
Video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.**

This theatre operates with the assistance of:

**Frank and Ellen Remai
Foundation**



Canada



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THE JURY (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

ALEX, fifteen Abby Mitchell
AMELIA, thirteen Meghan Doucette
CHRIS, fifteen Macayla Buckmaster
GABI, fourteen Alida Schulhauser
KITTY, seventeen P. Brandon
MAREK, fifteen Cam Leverick
NOAH, sixteen Lex Barry
REN, seventeen Heidi Terfloth
TOMAZ, sixteen Scott Eaton
XANDRA, seventeen Imogen Wallace
YUN, twelve Emily Duong
ZHAN, sixteen Joah Liu

THE DEFENDANTS

DEFENDANT ONE, late forties/fifties Scott Eaton
DEFENDANT TWO, forties Alida Schulhauser
DEFENDANT THREE, late forties/fifties Macayla Buckmaster

CREATIVE TEAM

Director & Young Company Instructor Kristi Friday
Production Coordinator Lauren Griffin
Assistant Stage Manager Gianna Taylor
Technician Tanqueray Strange
Costume Design Young Company
Fight Choreographer Jordie Richardson
Lighting Design Katie Blackburn-Dust
Set Design Rory Jewiss
Sound Design Kristi Friday
Sound Editor Olivia Swerhone-Wick

SETTING:

Sometime in the not so distant future, in a large office building,
once used for another purpose.

This production runs 95 minutes plus 15 min intermission

CONTENT ADVISORY

Recommended for Ages 13+

Mature discussions, Cursing, Life or Death decisions.

The Trials is produced by special arrangement with Berlin Associates'

THANK YOU

Elisabeth Foucalt and the Beavis Fund for supporting Young Company and the Persephone Theatre School Accessibility Fund.

To my colleagues and artist friends for their support: Heather Cant, Breanne Harmon, Rory Jewiss, Katie Blackburn-Dust, Anna Yaworksi, Olivia Swerhone-Wick, Jodi Schellenberg, Skye Brandon, Lorna Batycki, Kody Manson, Jody Longworth, Lauren Griffin, Tanqueray Strange, and Melanie Venderlinde.

Most especially the Young Company students of 2023/24 Term 1 for jumping in and pushing themselves outside of their comfort zones.

SUPPORT LIVE THEATRE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Now in our 49th Season, Persephone Theatre is proud to be a pillar in the Saskatoon Arts Community.

This holiday season, we invite you to support your favourite local artists by making a tax-deductible donation to Persephone Theatre. Your generous donations will go towards continuing to provide professional theatre in Saskatoon, improving and expanding our accessibility programs, and supporting Youth Programming through our many youth theatre initiatives!

All donations of \$49 or more made before December 21, 2023 will be entered to win a Disney's The Little Mermaid Gift Pack, which includes tickets for a family of four!

All donations made before December 31, 2023 at midnight will be entered to win a full size signed poster of Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

My intention for Young Company is that the students feel they are playing characters and telling stories which resonate with their experience. So, when I stumbled upon an article about Dawn King's *The Trials*, I was intrigued. I found a copy and read it. The story and the characters sat with me for several days, made me question the choices I was making in my daily life, and how these choices were contributing to the world around me. I immediately knew I had to select this play.

I didn't give the students much information about what happens in the play because I wanted them to experience it first-hand. At our first table read, their reactions were incredible, from loud gasps to tears.

I am so proud of the students and the work they have put into their characters, challenging themselves and one another, in taking risks – all while cheering each other on. A theatre artist's job is to look deeper than surface level of the story. Each student has contributed to the discussions about the world in which these characters live, what the backstories of their characters are, and why they make the decisions they do – and they have each done so with immense thoughtfulness.

We had several challenging and invigoration conversations about why people in our world have made the choices they have over the years. Their answer was often "because we are human." There was recognition that most of us have been just doing our best in the moment to take care of ourselves and those we love. But there was also recognition that, collectively, we could be making better choices, and demanding our leaders do too.

Theatre is entertainment, but not solely; it is meant to hold up a mirror and ask each of us to reflect and examine how we live in this world. These students have done that, and now invite you to as well. This company of young artists believes this play has the potential to create happiness in the future: by reminding each and every one of us to take care of one another, and this planet we call home. In the days following this performance, the students encourage you to continue the conversations and discussions with one another this play can bring about.

Kristi Friday

DAVID EDNEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

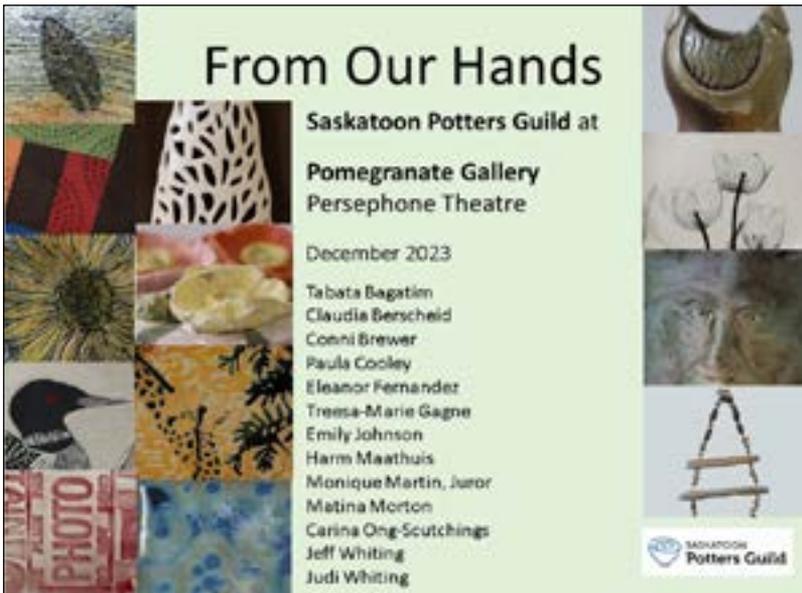
The Edney Community Library is a collection of plays and theatre-related books, hosted at Persephone Theatre, for community use. The Library includes a wide array of items, including: technical books, theory books, contemporary and modern playwrights, Canadian playwrights, Indigenous playwrights, Queer playwrights, playwrights from the Global Majority, and European, British and Greek classical theatre, among others.

All books from the Edney Community Library are free to borrow. You are welcome to stay and enjoy the Tier 2 Lounge while you read, or take the book with you. All we ask is for all books to be returned to the library when finished.

The Library launched in the fall of 2022. It was made possible by an initial donation from David Edney, which was supported with further donations from Phillip Adams, Derek Butt, Heather Cant, Grahame Kent, Yvette Nolan and the Sask Playwrights Centre. It has continued to grow with support and donations from other members of our community. We are so grateful to these folks for helping us bring this resource to our community.

Do you have plays or theatre books you would like to donate to the library? Please contact Grahame Kent, Artistic Associate – Community Building at grahame.k@persephonetheatre.org.

We gratefully accept both books and monetary donations to keep the library well stocked each year with fresh titles.



From Our Hands

Saskatoon Potters Guild at
Pomegranate Gallery
Persephone Theatre

December 2023

Tabata Bagatim
Claudia Berscheid
Conni Brewer
Paula Cooley
Eleanor Fernandez
Tressa-Marie Gagne
Emily Johnson
Harm Maathuis
Monique Martin, Juror
Matina Morton
Carina Ong-Scutchings
Jeff Whiting
Judi Whiting

SASKATOON Potters Guild



YOUNG COMPANY

2024/25

APPLICATIONS OPEN SOON
AGES 14 - 19

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Directors Circle is a special activities group for donors. Get a backstage tour, be the first to see a set, and hear about special effects used in a show. Meet a guest artist and hear about the development of a play from their perspective. Meet the cast and sit in on the first read-through of the script.

A \$1,500 donation provides you and a guest with access to behind-the-scenes Directors Circle activities for 12 months. You can choose to make your gift as a one-time donation or sign up for monthly giving.

If you would like more information about the Directors Circle or monthly giving contact Jory McKay, Development Officer, at jory.m@persephonetheatre.org or by phone at 306-384-2126 ext. 244.

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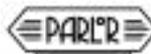
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