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Magnus
Theatre

Liars at a Funeral

a hilarious new comedy
by Sophia Fabilli

May 9 - 25, 2024



Artistic Director
Thom Currie

^W
Magnus
Theatre

Executive Director
Alexis Rowlinson

Liars At A Funeral

a hilarious new comedy by Sophia Fabilli

THE COMPANY

RICHARD COMEAU	Quint/Cam
LAURA DEL PAPA	DeeDee/Mia
DEBRA HALE	Evelyn/Leorah
SWEENEY MACATHUR	Wayne/Frank
BARBARA SAXBERG	Mavis
THOM CURRIE	Director
ADAM PARBOOSINGH	Set and Prop Design
REBECCA MILLER	Lighting Design
ANIKA BINDING	Costume Design
GILLIAN JONES	Stage Manager
AMY SELLORS	Assistant Director
NICHOLAS PALINKA	Production Manager
TIM STEPHENSON	Technical Director
LISA MACCHIONE	Head of Wardrobe
NADIA CHEECHOO	Head of Props
DAVID BROWN	Head Carpenter
TIM WALTERS	Production Assistant

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited. Approximate run time: 125 which includes ONE 15 minute INTERMISSION



At Tbaytel, we believe the arts enhance quality of life and are a key part of building more vibrant communities.

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Sophia Fabiilli (Playwright) is a playwright, actor, director, and educator. As an award-winning playwright, her works include: ***The Philanderess*** (The Second City Award for Best New Comedy, 2015), ***Liars at a Funeral*** (Ellen Ross Stuart Opening Doors Award, 2018), and her newest project, ***Why It's Impossible to Raise a Girl***. Recently, she directed ***Every Brilliant Thing*** at the Thousand Islands Playhouse (2022) where she served as the Associate Artistic Director for three seasons. She's also a graduate of the Bell Media Prime Time TV Writing Program at the Canadian Film Centre and completed her Bachelor of Education at Queen's University.



Thom Currie (Director) is a director, playwright, dramaturg, actor and producer who has worked in theatres across Canada and Europe and is currently Artistic Director of Magnus Theatre in Thunder Bay.

Prior to Magnus, Thom was Artistic Director of the Stephenville Theatre Festival (NL), Managing Artistic Director at The Showboat Festival Theatre In The Round (ON), Artistic Director of The Georgian Theatre Festival (ON) and Founding Artistic Director of Really Little Theatre (INTL). Thom has directed over 100 productions in his career, in spaces ranging from arenas in Regina to third floor walk-up apartments in Paris.

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Richard Comeau (Quint/Cam) is an actor, fight director, and is proud to be the first Indigenous person to become a Certified Fight Instructor with Fight Directors Canada. He is beyond thrilled to be making his Magnus debut in this super fun and funny piece! Later this fall, Richard will reprise the role of Joseph in **1939** at Canadian Stage and Belfry Theatre. Theatre credits include ***King Lear, Much Ado About Nothing, 1939, Hamlet-911*** (Stratford Festival); ***1939*** (YES Theatre); ***Crazy Dave Goes To Town*** (Centre for Indigenous Theatre). Film/TV credits include ***Star Wars Battlefront II: Official Rivals*** (Disney/Lucas Films); ***Extraordinary Canadians: Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont*** (CBC/PMA Biographies). Fight Direction credits include Shaw Festival, Soulpepper, Native Earth, YES, etc. For Tashana and all my relations. Miigwetch!

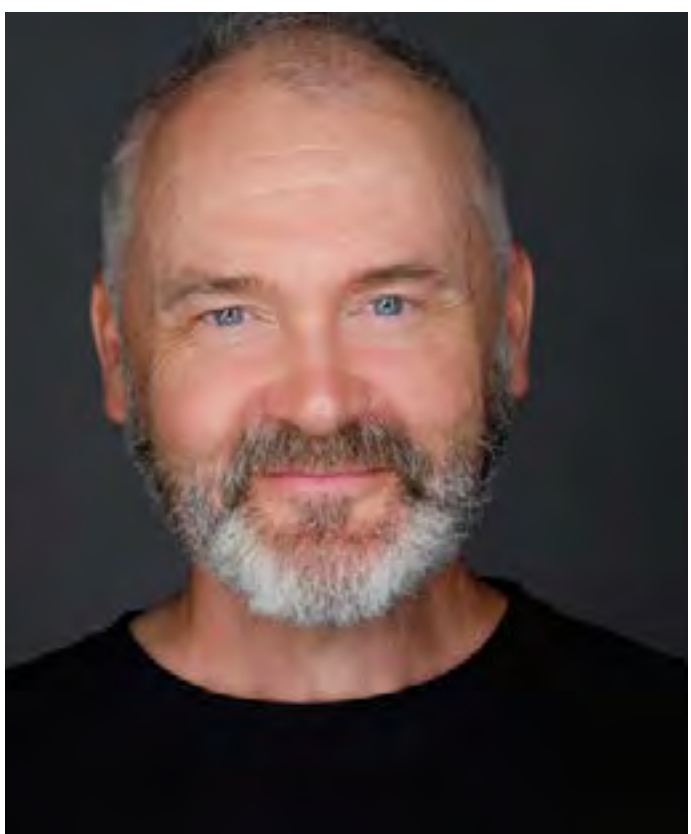


Laura Del Papa (DeeDee/Mia) is thrilled to be back at Magnus Theatre and she feels incredibly fortunate to work with such a fantastic cast and crew! Select credits include: ***A Christmas Carol, Tagged, Nighlight***

(Magnus Theatre), ***Ghost - The Musical*** (Starvox Entertainment), ***The Mask Messenger*** (Faustwork Mask Theatre), ***Daisy Amazed Me*** (Thousand Islands Playhouse), and ***Paw Patrol - Race to the Rescue*** (Canada & France tours - Nickelodeon/Life Like Touring). Mum: Thank you for everything you have done for me and continue to do... like flying to Thunder Bay to see this show! I love you so much!



Debra Hale (Evelyn/Leorah) was previously at Magnus Theatre with the following productions including ***Freedom 85***, a multi-character 2 woman show (Toronto/NYC/Ontario tour), Emma in ***Storm Warning*** and Constance in ***Goodnight Desdemona***. Other theatre roles include Constance in ***Affairs of State*** (Classic Theatre Ottawa) Susanne in ***Where You Are*** (Premiere – Th. Orangeville), Alice in ***Sexy Laundry*** (1000 Islands Playhouse/Port Hope), 3 women in ***Here On the Flight Path*** (Orillia/Alberta), many farces at Upper Canada Playhouse. TV/Film: ***Pocket Dial Murder*** (Lifetime), ***Christmas by Design*** (Hallmark), ***Titans*** (Netflix), ***Murdoch Mysteries*** (CBC), ***Seven in Heaven*** (Netflix). Upcoming: ***The Sweet Delilah Swim Club*** at Lighthouse Theatre this summer.



Sweeney MacArthur (Wayne/Frank) has been in some shows and this is another one! Thanks to Magnus for having me back. Love this town, love this theatre!



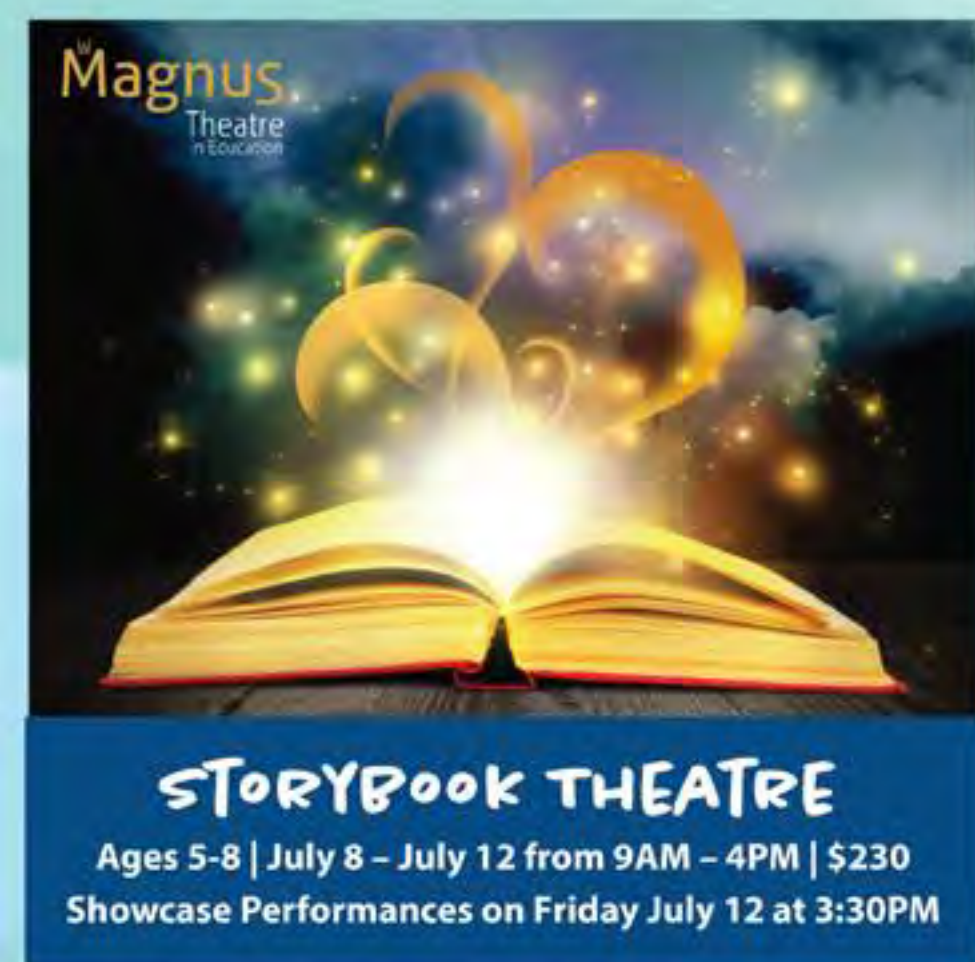
Barbara Saxberg (Mavis) is thrilled to be making her first professional appearance on the Magnus Theatre stage. It was a performance several years during the 10X10 Short Play Festival at Magnus that prompted

her return to acting as a profession. Since then, she's appeared in lead and principal roles in film and television, most recently in Lifetime Network's ***Would You Kill For Me? The Mary Bailey Story*** and in a soon-to-be-released short, ***The Space Left Behind***. Barbara worked professionally as an actor during her 20s and 30s before embarking on a 25-

year career as a journalist with the CBC where she won multiple awards for her radio documentaries. She has often commented that restarting an acting career in the midst of a pandemic may have not been the best timing, but she's delighted that at this stage in life she has been able to return to the life, proving it's never too late to follow a dream. On a personal note, Barbara is a proud mom of two, stepmom to three, and grandma to eight. She is surrounded by a large, funny extended family. And she's lucky to have a partner who makes her laugh every day and lets her know she is loved.



Magnus Theatre in Education
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STORYBOOK THEATRE
Ages 5-8 | July 8 – July 12 from 9AM – 4PM | \$230
Showcase Performances on Friday July 12 at 3:30PM



SPY ACADEMY
Ages 9-12 | July 15 – July 19 from 9AM – 4PM | \$270
Showcase Performances on Friday July 19 at 3:30PM



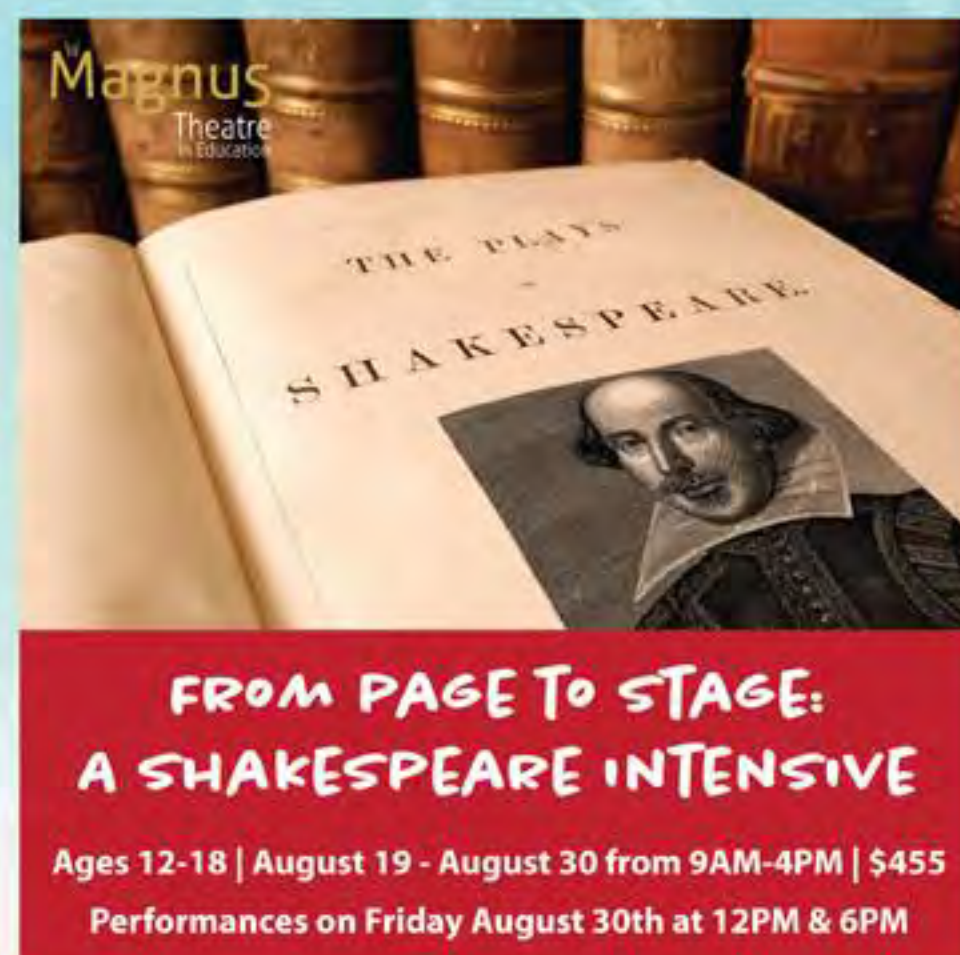
IMAGINATION ISLAND
Ages 5-8 | July 22 – July 26 from 9AM – 4PM | \$230
Showcase Performances on Friday July 26 at 3:30PM



TIME TRAVEL THEATRE
Ages 9-12 | July 29 – Aug 2 from 9AM – 4PM | \$270
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Ages 6-12 | Aug 12 – Aug 16 from 9AM – 4PM | \$250
Showcase Performances on Friday Aug 16 at 3:30PM



**FROM PAGE TO STAGE:
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Performances on Friday August 30th at 12PM & 6PM

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Adam Parboosingh (Set and Prop Design) is thrilled to be designing the scenery for *Liars at the Funeral*. In recent years at Magnus Theatre, he designed the lighting for *Salt Baby* and *Lunenburg*. Adam is an associate professor in the Department of Theatre and Film at the University of Winnipeg where he teaches theatre design. Some of his more recent productions include designing the lighting for Prairie Theatre Exchange's *The Year of Magical Thinking*, scenery for Theatre Project Manitoba / Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's *Among Men*, Winnipeg Jewish Theatre's *Pals*, Shakespeare in the Ruin's *Twelfth Night*, Dry Cold's *The Prom* and *Yaga* at RMTC. He designed the lighting for WJT's *Narrow Bridge* and *Sick and Twisted's Antigone*. Other productions include designing scenery and lighting for UW's *Stupid Fucking Bird*, lighting for UW's *The Drowning Girls*. Adam's ongoing support comes from his wife Tamara and three kids (Mackenzie, Keaton and Harrison) and dog, Coco. He is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada.



Rebecca Miller (Lighting Design) is a Lighting Designer and a Stage Manager based in Ottawa. Since graduating from the National Theatre School of Canada in Montreal she has worked across the country. As a Lighting Designer for Magnus Theatre: *The Birds and the Bees; It's A Wonderful Life, the Radio Play; The Rocky Horror Show; We Will Rock You; Of Human Bondage*. Selected productions include: Stephenville Theatre Festival; **God of Carnage**, **Top Girls** *Rideau Award for Best Design, **Henry V** *nomination for Rideau Award (Third Wall Theatre), the CAPPIES Gala for 11 years,

National Arts Centre 40th Anniversary Gala, various National Arts Centre Orchestra POPS concerts. Selected Stage Management credits with Co-Productions between the National Arts Centre English Theatre and the Citadel Theatre, the Vancouver Playhouse and Mirvish Productions.



Anika Binding (Costume Design) is an emerging multi-faceted theatre artist, born and raised in Winnipeg. She studied at the University of Winnipeg's Theatre program, and recently graduated with a BA

Honours in Theatrical Design, with specializations in lighting and costume design, stage management, and directing.

Recent credits include stage managing *Something Rotten!* for the Manitoba Theatre for Young People's Musical Theatre Company, designing costumes for *Stupid Fucking Bird* and lights for *From Up Here* the University of Winnipeg, and apprenticing in lighting and projection design for multiple shows with The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, including *among men*, *The Mountaintop*, and *The Lehman Trilogy*.

Upcoming projects she's excited for include costume and lighting design for *Miss Shakespeare* through Winnipeg Studio Theatre, and stage management and production design for *40 Below* by What If Theatre, to be presented in the Winnipeg Fringe Festival!

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Gillian Jones (Stage Manager)

This is my bio all about how, my life got flipped turned upside down and I'd like to take a moment before the show starts to tell you how I became involved in the live arts. In North Thunder Bay, I was born and raised. On a playground is where I spent most of my days. Chillin out max and relaxin all cool, but never shootin' B-ball outside of the school. When a couple of folks who were up to some good, started a rehearsal in my neighbourhood. I worked on one little show and my boss was eager to offer me a job here at Magnus Theatre. Nice to be back in the theatre again.



Amy Sellors (Assistant Director) is

proud to have assistant directed *Liars at a Funeral*. While Amy is more often seen on the stage, she began her directing career over 10 years ago at the Showboat Festival Theatre in Port Colborne, ON. Amy was honoured to have assisted legendary Canadian Director/Choreographer Dy Nyland Proctor on *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* and *Old Love*. Also at Showboat, Amy assistant directed *The Owl and The Pussycat*. Her favourite directing experiences are at the Stephenville Theatre Festival in Newfoundland. Amy directed the hit family show *Tales of Ti-Jean*, and the classic Canadian musical, *Blue Champagne*. Being on the directing team helps Amy to broaden her skills as a theatre professional and for *Liars at a Funeral*, also her flower arranging skills.

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Tim Walters (Production Assistant) didn't start his journey in theatre from a young age, but he did perform in a production of *Hairspray* at St. Ignatius Highschool as a handful of smaller characters, and in another

local production of ***Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*** playing the accordion. Those productions introduced him to the wild, wacky, and hectic world of live theatre. He first started working with Magnus Theatre in 2018 on the production of ***Back in '59*** as a sound tech assistant under Jean-Paul De Roover of Blueprints Audio. He has done a little bit of everything while working at Magnus, building sets, hanging lights, pitching the new saddle-span tent, running sound, controlling cameras, working backstage, and playing accordion on stage. Tim has been involved in several past productions at Magnus including: ***Back in '59, Rocky Horror Picture Show, A Christmas Carol, SHOUT, Home: A Bluegrass Celebration, Man of La Mancha, Dock Spider, Hand to God, and Mama's Country Record Collection.*** Tim is very grateful to be continuously called back to work with the great community at Magnus Theatre. When not working with Magnus he is a private accordion teacher, performer, composer, and free-reed aerophone instrument repairer.



Nicholas Palinka (Production Manager) is the current Production Manager at Magnus Theatre and would like to thank Dave, Nadia, Lisa and Tim for your hard work throughout the season. Nadine, thank you for your

support - without you I wouldn't have been able to have a career in the arts. If you've read this far, thanks and enjoy the show!



Tim Stephenson (Technical Director) is a production award winning graduate from the Ontario Institute of Audio Recording Technology. In the years since graduation he has worked as an Audio Technician at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium setting up some of the biggest shows to come to Thunder Bay.



Lisa Macchione (Head of Wardrobe) is a passionate devotee of the performing arts and all things adornment. In 1999 she graduated from Seneca College's Fashion Arts program and has had the opportunity

to use her skills in costuming to work onset of local films, historical reenactments, as well as her own performance art. Researching characters, creating one of kind pieces, and the spark of a thrift store treasure hunt are what she enjoys most. She is thrilled to join the team of creative crew and cast at Magnus Theatre.



Nadia Cheechoo (Head of Properties) is an Indigenous woman from Wikwemikong, Ontario. She is back at Magnus Theatre, adding yet another position to her repertoire. She has had previous props experience

working in film, but this is her first time in this position at Magnus. With carpentry and wardrobe already under her belt, she's ready to continue honing old and new skills. Then she plans to carry those skills into future shows, theatres, and film projects. Magnus Theatre has been a major stepping stone in her career as an artist, and she hopes to continue to share her skills with them and others.

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David A. Brown (Head Carpenter) joined Magnus five seasons ago as the head carpenter after working as the canoe builder /shipwright at Old Fort William for 40 years. Canoe and boat building were his main jobs but Dave wore many hats while at the Fort and has been involved in many movie and television productions. From an “I-Max” production in the early 1980’s to many commercials and print productions. Appearing in National Geographic and the National Enquirer in the same year. He was heavily involved in “Haunted Fort” building many props, animatronic effects and enjoys lighting things up as a “licensed pyrotechnician.” Dave enjoys the new challenges at Magnus and is getting used to building square and level, he would still like everything to be curved like a canoe or boat.

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MEET THE MUSICIAN KATHERINE NEMEČ

Katherine has been a local performer in Thunder Bay since 2015. She began her music journey in high school, starting out by playing in various bands with friends, performing in local all ages shows, and participating in school choirs, stage band, and musicals. Katherine went on to obtain her Bachelor of Arts (Music) and later Bachelor of Education, mixing her singer-songwriter stylings with classical training.

Now, Katherine is often found performing acoustic gigs around town and in local theatre; most recently seen as Judy (9 to 5) in the collaboration between Badanai Theatre and the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra. This year, she decided to spread her wings and take on a new project - recording her own EP full of original songs, entitled 'Glow'.

Her songwriting tells the story of love and loss with a musical complexity that is engaging and rewarding to listen to. With influences ranging from pop, country, rock and R&B Katherine's musical stylings are sure to resonate with audiences no matter their walks of life.



MEET THE PHOTOGRAPHER DAN LLOYD

After a near death incident, you literally see the world in a new way. With renewed appreciation for all things large and small, photographer Dan Lloyd continues to find healing in the beauty of his hometown of Thunder Bay through his photography

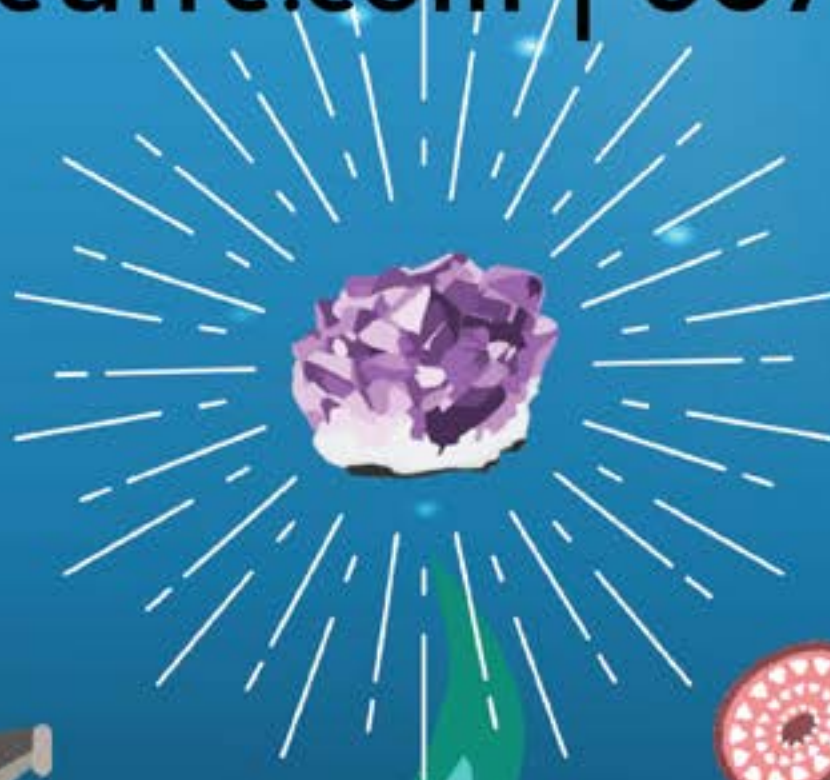
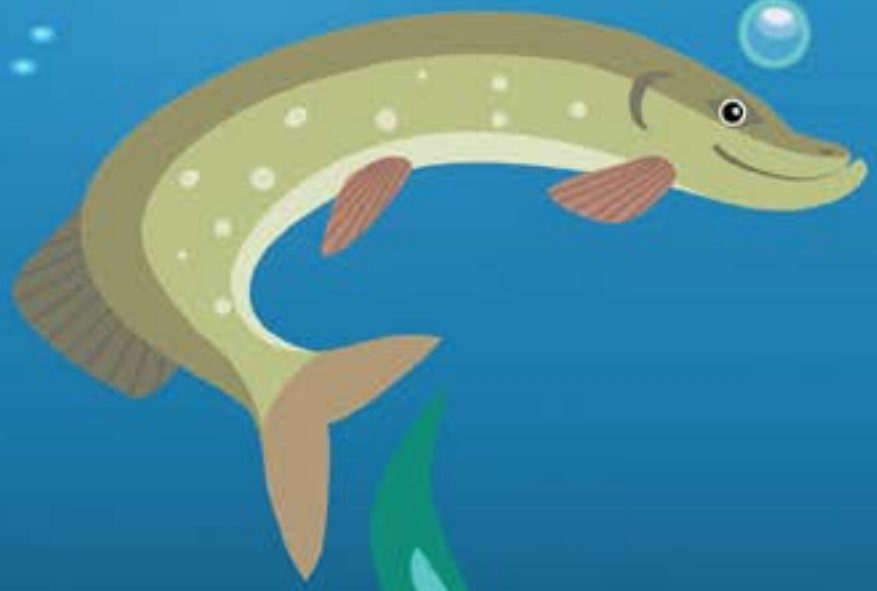
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June 7th - 7:30pm,

June 8th - 2:00pm and 7:30pm

Magnus Theatre Mainstage

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Magnus Theatre is the only professional theatre company between Winnipeg and Barrie, Ontario.



Artists engaged in Magnus Theatre productions are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association, a national association representing artists working in theatre, opera and dance from coast-to-coast-to-coast. Equity's membership includes performers, directors, choreographers, fight directors and stage managers.



Magnus Theatre is a proud member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres. PACT is a member-driven organization of professional Canadian theatres which serves as the collective voice of its members for the betterment of Canadian professional theatre.



Associated Designers of Canada is a national, professional non-profit arts service organization dedicated to representing the interests of set, costume, lighting, projection and sound designers working in the live performing arts in Canada.



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Magnus Theatre is thrilled to announce The Next Stage project!

Magnus Theatre has thrived in its first 50 years as Northwestern Ontario's only professional theatre. Demand is growing exponentially for both programming and facility rentals, but upgrades are vital to extending possibilities within the community. The Next Stage is a major infrastructure project launched to restore, upgrade, and expand this unique facility to meet emerging needs of the community and to maximize Magnus Theatre's impact as a cultural and economic force.

The project will see the addition of a 125-seat Studio Theatre, expansion of the Production Shop, renovations to the Lounge, and building improvements and retrofit, all while maintaining the Heritage features of the Central School building.

The Next Stage project has been supported in part by the following sponsors and we cannot thank them enough for helping make this possible. This project is funded [in part] by the Government of Canada, proudly supported by FedNor, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, the Trillium Community Building Fund, the Trillium Resilient Communities Fund, the Thunder Bay CEDC, and TBXI.

Want to get involved in supporting Magnus Theatre's Next Stage? Reach out to Glenn Coulson, Director of Development glenn.coulson@magnustheatre.com

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Head of Wardrobe – Lisa Macchione

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Financial Officer – Shaveh Moores
Accounting Clerk - Harneet Kaur
Interim Administrative Assistant - Madison Steadwell
Box Office Representative – Sandra Snider
Front of House Manager/Volunteer Coordinator – Jerron Fuchihara
Front of House Assistants - Jasmin Fisher, Shaya Meilleur
Bar and Concessions Attendant - Ashley Perry

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Nadia La Russa
Vice President – Cathy Ridley
Second Vice President - Scott Hobbs
Past President – Warren Mouck
Treasurer – Meagan Ellis
Secretary - Neil McCartney

DIRECTORS

Greg Alexander
Susan Aris
Gerald Buckrell
Elliott Cromarty
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