

 Magnus
Theatre



GASLIGHT

BY **JOHNNA WRIGHT** AND **PATTY JAMMIESON**

DIRECTED BY **THOM CURRIE**

SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 12, 2024

Artistic Director
Thom Currie

^WMagnus Theatre

Executive Director
Alexis Rowlinson

GASLIGHT

BY JOHNNA WRIGHT AND PATTY JAMIESON

THE COMPANY

LAURA DEL PAPA
JAMIE MAC
JO-ANN WAYTOWICH
OLIVIA MCINNIS

Bella Manningham
Jack Manningham
Elizabeth
Nancy

THOM CURRIE
ADAM PARBOOSINGH
KIRSTEN WATT
KATE GEORGE
JAMIE MAC
GILLIAN JONES
NICHOLAS PALINKA
TIM STEPHENSON
LISA MACCHIONE
NADIA CHEECHOO
DAVID BROWN
TIM WALTERS

Director
Set Design
Lighting Design
Costume Design
Fight Director
Stage Manager
Production Manager
Technical Director
Head of Wardrobe
Head of Props
Head Carpenter
Production Assistant

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Playwrights and Marquis Literary (Colin Rivers)
www.MQlit.ca**

**This adaptation of Gaslight was originally produced
at the Shaw Festival Theatre, Ontario 2022**

**The videotaping or other video or audio
recording of this production is strictly prohibited.
Approximate run time: 135 mins including
ONE 15 minute INTERMISSION**

GASLIGHT

PLAYWRIGHTS' NOTES

Gaslighting. We hear that word a lot recently. You're told that what you're seeing and hearing – what you think you know – simply isn't so. Are your eyes being opened to reality? Or is someone deliberately making you doubt what you know to be true?

The expression comes from Patrick Hamilton's play, *Angel Street*, which was adapted for film in the 1940s as *Gaslight*. It's a great, suspenseful story: the mysterious dimming of the lights; the seemingly loving and debonair husband; the dark secret that lurks beneath; the fragile and neurotic woman whose reality is being upended.

We love a good thriller, but like many stories from this era, Hamilton's *Angel Street* can be difficult for a modern audience to navigate because it is based on some dated ideas about how women operate. It's frustrating to see Bella, the heroine, so easily dismissed. In *Angel Street*, a police inspector explains the mystery to her while she reacts with surprise and dismay. Bella does a lot of listening in the play, but doesn't have the opportunity to take much action.

Still, the idea at the centre of *Angel Street* is compelling, and Bella's struggle resonated for us in so many ways that we thought it could have meaning for others as well. Would it be possible to reimagine *Angel Street* as a story about Bella's strength and resourcefulness?

Our version starts off much the same as the original. But part way through something changes, something that puts Bella at the heart of a story many of us are living right now, in one way or another. No spoilers here, but in this version there is no police inspector. No one is coming to save Bella. The question is, can she find the strength to save herself?

—Johnna Wright & Patty Jamieson, 2022



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Johnna Wright (Playwright) has always been drawn to theatre for the chance to tell a story that moves and connects people, both to each other and to the storytellers. The daughter of director John Wright and novelist L.R. “Bunny” Wright, she grew up and began her career in Western Canada. In 1990 she and her sister, actor/producer Katey Wright, were co-founders of Vancouver’s Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival (now Canada’s largest Shakespeare festival outside of Stratford). Johnna’s most recent project with Bard on the Beach was an acclaimed adaptation of ***All’s Well that Ends Well***, set in India on the eve of Partition, co-created and co-directed with Rohit Chokhani. Johnna received her BA in Theatre from UBC, and MFA in Directing from the University of Alberta. With collaborator Aaron Bushkowsky, she then co-founded and ran Vancouver’s Solo Collective Theatre, premiering more than 25 new works by Western Canadian playwrights over nine years.



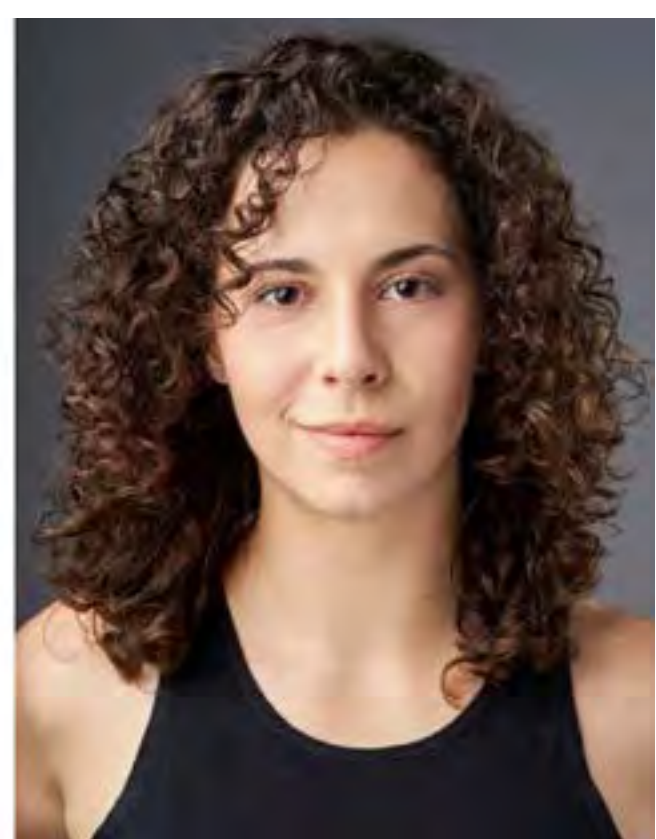
Patty Jamieson’s (Playwright) career as an actor/singer/dancer/musician and teacher has taken her to theatres across Canada, the U.S and Germany. Notably, she has been a member of the Acting Ensemble at the Shaw Festival, Canada’s second largest repertory theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, for 26 seasons. There she has played roles in over 60 plays including ***Ragtime, The Importance of Being Earnest, The Light in the Piazza, The Sea, Sunday in the Park with George, Sweeney Todd, Rope, Happy End, Cabaret, The Women, Major Barbara,*** and ***Pygmalion***. Patty and Johnna continue to collaborate on various

writing projects with an interest in bringing out voices that have often not been heard. They are extremely grateful for the support of their families, Playwrights Guild of Canada, Shaw Festival Artistic Director, Tim Carroll, and their hardworking literary agent, Colin Rivers.



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.



Laura DelPapa (Bella) is a Montrealer at heart, based in Petawawa, I am so happy to be back in Thunder Bay! A huge thank-you to Magnus Theatre for having me again. Select credits include: ***Liars at a Funeral***,

A Christmas Carol (Magnus Theatre), ***Ghost - The Musical*** (Starvox Entertainment), ***The Mask Messenger*** (Faustwork Mask Theatre), and ***Paw Patrol - Race to the Rescue*** (Canada & Francetours - Nickelodeon). No biography of mine is ever complete without acknowledging my incredible mother - Mum, thank you for making it out! I love you so much. Enjoy the show, everyone!

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Jamie Mac (Jack/Fight Director) is honoured to make his Magnus Theatre debut! He has performed 8 seasons at the Stratford Festival, as well as at many theatres across Canada including the National Arts Centre, Blyth Festival, GCTC, Canadian Stage, Stage West, Two Planks & A Passion and more: In Film & Television you can see him in ***Painkiller***, ***What We Do In The Shadows***, ***On The Count Of Three***, ***Murdoch Mysteries***, ***Republic Of Doyle***, and ***Life With Derek***. Jamie is proud Newfoundlander, and has fallen in love with the sites, hikes, and wonderful people of Thunder Bay.



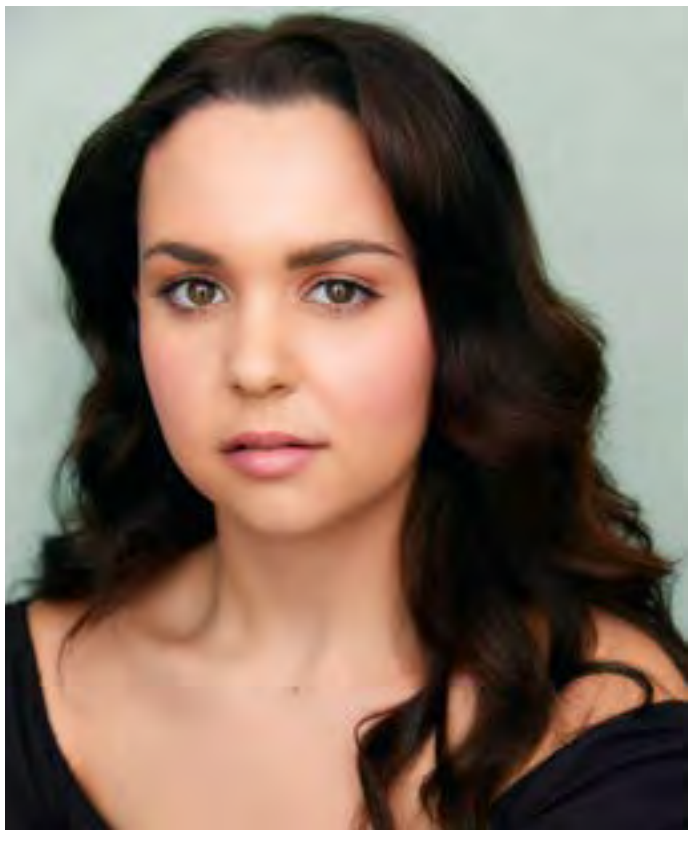
Jo-Ann Waytowich (Elizabeth) has announced her retirement from theatre 5 times, and each time she has been lured back to the stage! Apparently, she can't say NO! Instead, Jo-Ann chooses to say YES to all that life offers; and what has been offered is the opportunity to work with an amazing group of actors, a stellar director, a tremendous artistic team and a wonderful new Canadian play. Retirement can wait! Jo-Ann has had a wonderful life in the theatre. For over 25 years, she toured and performed her 7 "***Ivanka***" plays, traversing the country and working in amazing theatres across Canada and the United States. While too numerous to list, she's also had the good fortune to work as an actor in other productions, both at Magus Theatre and across Canada. Jo-Ann's latest project, ***Home: A Bluegrass Celebration*** featured music from the bluegrass tradition and an all local, over-the-top-talented group of musicians. Jo-Ann gives thanks to all those who have walked beside her and supported her throughout the years. Her biggest gratitude goes to her husband Clyde, who has truly had to hang on for the ride!

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THUNDER BAY'S RADIO STATION



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Olivia McInnis (Nancy) is so elated to be back at Magnus. Previously, she has been seen on the Magnus stage as Alice in ***The Drowning Girls*** and Bittle in ***Lig and Bittle***. She currently lives in Vancouver where she has worked closely in the Canadian film industry. As a graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts NY, she is thrilled to be back on stage. Much love and thanks to my family, friends, and agent Siobhan at Trisko Talent. Xo



Adam Parboosingh (Set Design) is thrilled to be designing the scenery for ***Gaslight***. In recent years at Magnus Theatre, he designed the scenery for ***Liars at the Funeral***, and 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 scenery for Rainbow Stage's ***Ma Buhay! A New Musical***, 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.



Kirsten Watt (Lighting Design)

- ***Gaslight*** marks Kirsten's 21st lighting design for Magnus, and she's delighted to be back after a 5-year hiatus! Previous designs for Magnus include: ***Boeing Boeing***,

Perfect Wedding, ***Million Dollar Quartet***, ***Venus in Fur***, ***Night of the Living Dead Live***, ***Doubt***, ***The Hours That Remain***, ***RED***, ***The Little Years***, and ***Hockey Mom***, ***Hockey Dad***. Kirsten has designed elsewhere for: the Shaw Festival, Mayfield Dinner Theatre, Drayton Entertainment, the Segal Centre, Centaur Theatre, Théâtre du Rideau Vert, Neptune Theatre, Watermark Theatre, Gros Morne Theatre Festival, Theatre Baddeck, Sudbury Theatre Centre, Thousand Islands Playhouse, Green Light Arts, Lost&Found Theatre, Carousel Players, Lyndesfarne Theatre Projects, Essential Collective Theatre, Teesri Duniya, Korda Artistic Productions, Hart House Theatre, George Brown Theatre School, Theatre Sheridan, St. Clair College, University of Waterloo, University of Windsor and Concordia University. Kirsten studied theatre at the University of Alberta, and lighting design at the National Theatre School of Canada. She resides in Windsor.



Kate George (Costume Design) is a Theatre Designer from Winnipeg, MB and when not designing she also works in costume production for dance and stage. Recent design credits include

The Magic Flute (LOC), ***The Sound of Music*** (RMTC), ***Something Rotten!*** (MTYP), ***Midsummer Night's Dream*** (SIR). Kate is thrilled to be working in Thunder Bay for the first time and would like to thank the Magnus Theatre for inviting her down. Enjoy the show!

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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 tent again.



Nicholas Palinka (Production Manager)

is excited to be celebrating his ninth season at Magnus Theatre. He 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.



David A. Brown (Head Carpenter) joined Magnus six 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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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.



SOCAN is a performing rights society that licenses the public performance and communication of the world's repertoire of copyright-protected musical works in Canada and then distributes royalties to its members and affiliated international societies.

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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, our Director of Development at development@magnustheatre.com or (807)-345-8033.

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