

CHASE THE ACE

A Comedy By Mark Crawford

October 30 – November 15, 2025
Magnus Studio Theatre



^WMagnus Theatre

Thom Currie
Artistic Director

Alexis Rowlinson
Executive Director

CHASE THE ACE

By Mark Crawford
Directed by Amy Sellors

Featuring Thom Currie



Lighting Design by Rebecca Miller
Set Design by Warden Bémont

Stage Manager | Gillian Jones

Production Manager | Rebecca Miller
Lead Technician | Tim Stephenson
Head of Wardrobe | Lisa Macchione
Head Carpenter | David A Brown
Head of Props | Nadia Cheechoo
Production Assistant | Tim Walters

Chase the Ace was originally produced as a tour of outdoor stages in the summer of 2021. The show opened in a tent on a golf course in Port Dover, Ontario

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited. Approximate run time: 90 mins including one 15-minute Intermission

ABOUT THE SHOW

Mark Crawford

(Playwright) The Hamilton Spectator has praised Mark Crawford's work for blending hilarious comedy with compelling dramatic undertones. As one of Canada's most celebrated playwrights, Mark's



productions have been staged throughout Canada and internationally, including in the United States, United Kingdom, Poland, Australia, and New Zealand. His plays include Stag and Doe, Bed and Breakfast, The Birds and the Bees, Boys, Girls, and Other Mythological Creatures, The New Canadian Curling Club, Chase the Ace, The Gig, and The Golden Anniversaries. His latest work, Ruby and the Reindeer, is set to debut in December 2025. Mark has received nominations for the Playwrights Guild of Canada Comedy Award and the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour, and Scirocco Drama publishes his plays. Beyond writing, Mark has built an extensive acting career, performing on stages nationwide. He trained in theatre at the University of Toronto and Sheridan College, and currently resides in Stratford with his partner Paul.

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AMY SELLORS

(Director) Every opportunity to tell stories is important and rewarding, and so Amy is excited to direct Chase the Ace. Most recently, Amy was the Co-Director of Women of the Fur Trade and Associate Director for Magnus Theatre's hit production of 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, working with legendary Canadian Director/Choreographer Dy Nyland Proctor on *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* and *Old Love* as well as assistant directing *The Owl* and *The Pussycat*.

She stepped into the director's chair at the Stephenville Theatre Festival in Newfoundland, directing the hit family show *Tales of Ti-Jean*, and the classic Canadian musical revue, *Blue Champagne*.

Amy has performed on stages across Canada for over 25 years, and so Magnus audiences will remember her as the wisecracking mom 'Emily' in *Elf – The Musical*, the grieving and somewhat unhinged mom 'Margery' in *Hand to God*, 'Aldonza/Dulcinea' in *Man of La Mancha*, 'Linda' in *Smarty Pants*, and 'Patsy Cline' in *A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline*.

Amy is grateful to have the opportunity to work on this show with this amazing team.

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FEATURING, THOM CURRIE

Thom Currie is an award-winning director, playwright, dramaturg, actor and producer. Thom has worked in theatres across Canada such as Victoria Playhouse Petrolia, Sudbury Theatre Centre, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Stage West (Calgary and Mississauga), Theatre In The Park, Georgian Theatre Festival, Showboat Festival Theatre In The

Round and Magnus Theatre, among many others. His work has also been seen internationally, having directed and performed in cities such as Paris, London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Brussels. His directing and dramaturgy credits include over 100 productions, in addition to over 50 productions for young audiences.

As an actor, some of Thom's favourite roles have included appearances in productions of The Foursome, Perfect Wedding, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Come Blow Your Horn, The Glass Menagerie, Lawrence And Holloman, Storm Warning and The Love List. Thom last appeared onstage at Magnus Theatre in Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol in 2022.

Thom has served as Artistic Director at several professional theatres across Canada. He is currently Artistic Director of Magnus Theatre in Thunder Bay, ON, the only professional theatre between Barrie and Winnipeg. Previous to this, 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 ReallyLittleTheatre (INTL).

In addition to writing the jukebox musicals Back In 59, Mama's Country Record Collection and POP! Goes The Sixties, Thom has written 15 musicals for young audiences, which have been performed across North America and Europe. His rock opera for young audiences, Rock 'N' Fables, has the distinction of having the most in-school performances of any musical in Canadian Theatre history. Thom is the recipient of the Vision TV Over The Fence Award for his television adaptation of his play, The Wish.

Thom has also lectured at University of Toronto, Seneca College and Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University), and has worked as an adjudicator, educator and workshop leader across Canada.

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REBECCA MILLER (Production Manager & Lighting Designer)

Rebecca has worked across the country over the past 33 years with the National Arts Centre English Theatre, Citadel Theatre Edmonton, Shaw Festival Niagara-on-the-Lake, Stratford Festival, Mirvish Productions, and Great Canadian Theatre Company Ottawa. Her productions with Magnus Theatre include *Of Human Bondage*, *We Will Rock You*, and *Elf the Musical*.



At Third Wall Theatre Ottawa, she designed "Top Girls" (Best Design LX Rideau Awards) and "Henry V" (nominated Best LX Design Rideau Awards). Her teaching credits include Grenfell Campus at Memorial University of Newfoundland, University of Toronto, National Theatre School of Canada, and University of Lethbridge.



WARDEN BÉMONT (Scenic Design) Warden has been designing sets, costumes, lights and sound in theatres across Canada since 1991. In addition to multiple designs for Magnus (including *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Only Drunks & Children Tell The Truth*, *Meet My Sister*), some of Ward's favourite designs

include production design on *Peter Pan*, *A Bench In The Sun* (Georgian Theatre), set design *A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline* and *Blue Champagne* (Stephenville Theatre Festival), *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *Back In 59*, *Mama's Country Record Collection* (Showboat Festival) and *Urinetown* (Theatre Aurora). Warden lives in Owen Sound and does his best to speak only in French at home. He is very happy to work with Thom and Magnus Theatre again. Warden feels they have come a long way since *Kleines verlorenes Kaninchen* and *El espantapájaros sentimental* in the early 90s.



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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



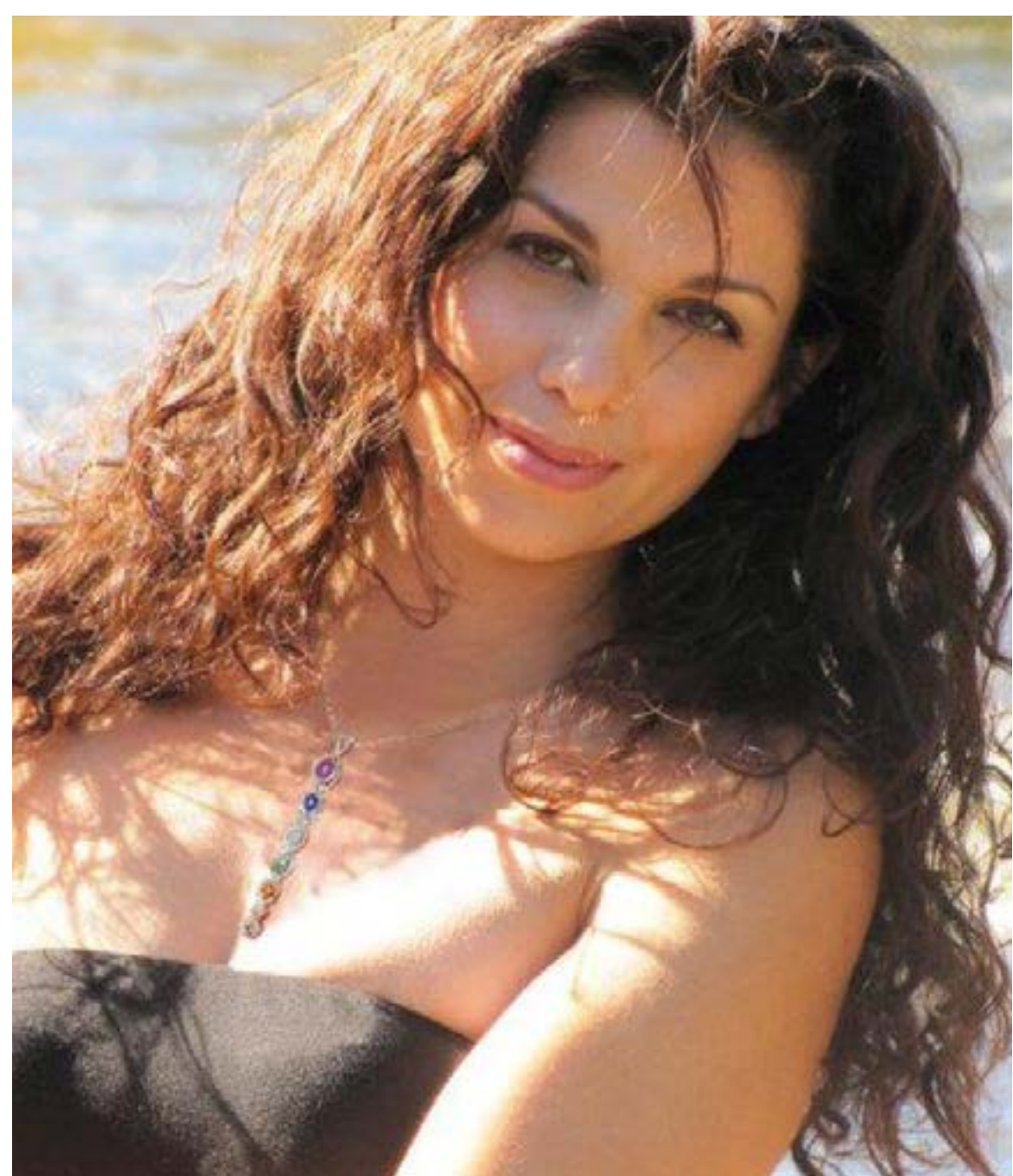
involved in the live arts. In North Thunder Bay, I was born and raised. On a playground is where I spent most of my days. Chillin out max and relaxin all cool, but never shootin' B-ball outside of the school. When a couple of folks who were up to some good, started a rehearsal in my neighbourhood. I worked on one little show and my boss was eager to offer me a job here at Magnus Theatre.



DAVID A. BROWN (Set Design & Head Carpenter) Joined Magnus in 2019 as the Head Carpenter after working as the canoe builder/shipwright at Old Fort William for 40 years. dave wore many hats while at the Fort, building canoes and boats. He has

been involved in many movie and television productions, from an IMAX 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 "The Haunted Fort" building props, animatronic effects and lighting as a licensed pyrotechnician. Dave is getting used to building square and level; he would still like everything to be curved like a canoe or boat.

TIM STEPHENSON (Lead Technician) 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 on set 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 be a part of the team at Magnus Theatre.

NADIA CHEECHOO (Head of Properties/Set Painting) 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.

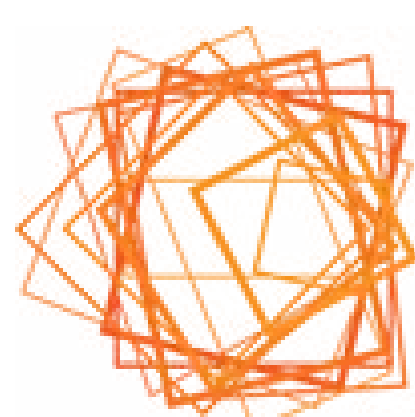


Magnus Theatre is the only professional theatre company between Winnipeg and Barrie, Ontario.

Canadian Actors'



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.



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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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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 as Northwestern Ontario's only professional theatre since 1971. With increased demand for programming and arts spaces, Magnus Theatre continues its' mission to enhance arts possibilities within our community.

The Next Stage Project began to restore, upgrade, and expand the Magnus Theatre facility to meet the emerging needs of the community. So far, the project has seen the addition of a brand-new Studio Theatre, expansion and upgrade of all production facilities, an overhaul of the building HVAC systems, all-new public washrooms, lounge, and youth classrooms, all done while carefully maintaining and respecting the heritage features of the Historic Central School. The project continues, as we endeavour to make our heritage building greener and energy efficient, with plans to replace windows, improve the parking lot, convert stage lighting to environmentally friend LED fixtures and upgrade all hearing-assist systems.

The Next Stage Project has been funded in part by the Government of Canada, FedNor, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, the Trillium Community Building Fund, the Trillium Resilient Communities Fund, TBXI and the Thunder Bay CEDC. The project continues to be supported by many private donors and sponsors who believe strongly that professional arts are an integral part of a strong and healthy community.

If you would like to get involved in supporting Magnus Theatre's Next Stage Project and in strengthening the arts scene in Northwestern Ontario, please reach out to Glenn Coulson, Magnus Theatre's Director of Development at Glenn.Coulson@magnustheatre.com, or call 807-345-8033.

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