

<sup>W</sup>**Magnus.**

Theatre

World Premiere

# *On Thin Ice*

By Drew Hayden Taylor

**Feb 12-28, 2026**

Magnus Theatre Mainstage

Sponsored by:



Artistic Director  
Thom Currie

**Magnus**  
Theatre

Executive Director  
Alexis Rowlinson

# ON THIN ICE

*(World Premiere)*

Written by  
**Drew Hayden Taylor**

Directed by  
**Vinetta Strombergs**

Fight Direction by  
**Richard Comeau**

## Cast

**Grace Lamarche as Rachel Wenasswe**

**Danik McAfee as Caleb Wenasswe**

**Scott Carmichael as Rory Lansdale**

**Cailin Stadnyk as Andrea Lansdale**

Set Design **Warden Bémont**

Lighting Design **Kirsten Watt**

Stage Manager **Gillian Jones**

Fight Captain **Danik McAfee**

Production Manager **Rebecca Miller**

Head Carpenter **David A Brown**

Head of Props **Nadia Cheechoo**

Head of Wardrobe **Lisa Macchione**

Scenic Painter **Lauren Waite**

Production Assistant **Tim Walters**

~

**Special acknowledgement to Juno award-winning artist Murray Porter for pre-show music from his album 1492: Who Found Who? Follow him on Facebook for concert updates.**

**Videotaping, mobile video, and audio recording of this production are strictly prohibited.**

**This production of *On Thin Ice* runs approximately 120 minutes including one 15-minute intermission and contains strong language and depictions of violence**

# ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



## Drew Hayden Taylor

Drew Hayden Taylor is a renowned Ojibway writer from Curve Lake First Nation in Ontario who has spent more than 35 years crafting stories that bridge cultures through humour and compelling narratives. With more than 20 plays and 30 books to his credit, he has become a leading voice in what he calls "the contemporary Native Literary Renaissance." His work has graced stages across Canada, the United States, and Europe, earning him numerous

accolades including the prestigious Dora Mavor Moore Award and the Chalmers Award.

Known as a humorist, Taylor's creative range extends into darker, more dramatic territory. His methodical and deliberate creative process involves letting ideas marinate in his mind, developing characters, plot arcs, and structure before ever writing a single word. He builds his characters entirely from the ground up, to create fully realised fictional worlds that serve the needs of each unique story.

Taylor's enthusiasm for theatre stems from the immediate interaction with audiences who have just experienced his work. He treasures the strong and personal reactions that live performance generates, making theatre a particularly meaningful medium for his storytelling. His latest thriller, *On Thin Ice* makes its world premiere at Magnus Theatre from February 12 to 28, 2026. [Read more about Drew Hayden Taylor on his website...](#)

**Meet the Playwright,  
DREW HAYDEN TAYLOR**

**Saturday Feb14  
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Before the matinee performance of "On Thin Ice". Sponsored by Synergy North.

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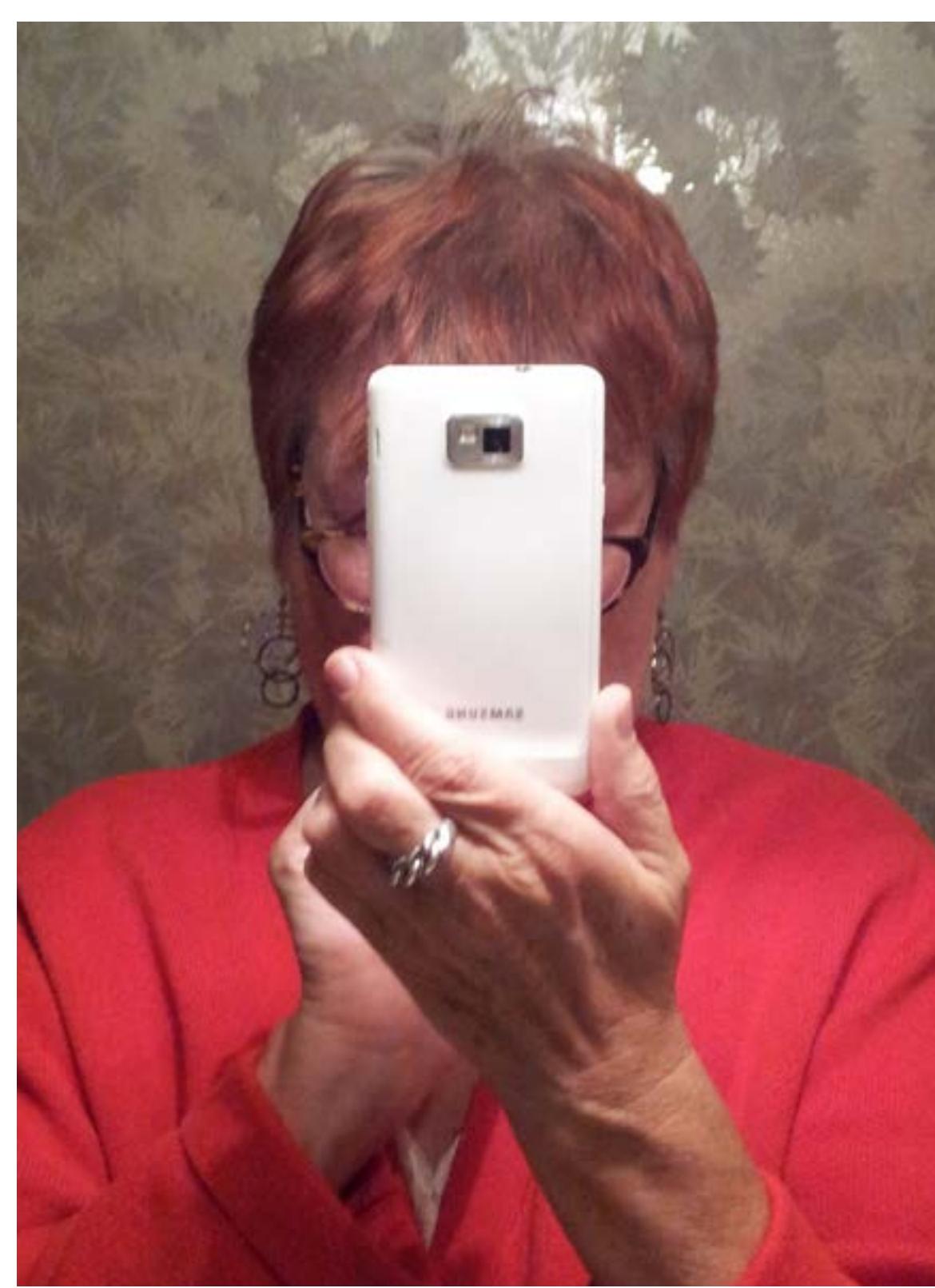


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# THE COMPANY



## VINETTA STROMBERGS (Director)

Vinetta has directed everything from Shakespeare to musicals to original Canadian plays. Her directing credits include many regional theatres, summer theatres and stages large and small. Most recently, she directed The Thanksgiving Play for the Off-Mirvish season and Sir John A. at the Blyth Festival (another Drew Hayden Taylor play). She is delighted to be back at Magnus--the last time was Drew's play

The Berlin Blues or Welcome to Ojibway World. For many years she helped develop First Nations writers and actors through working with Debagehmujiig Theatre on Manitoulin Island and Native Earth Performing Arts in Toronto. Her production of 60 Below for Native Earth garnered 7 Dora Nominations. "A big Miig-wetch to Thom Currie and the whole crew at Magnus, especially 'my right arm' Gillian Jones, and my beautiful cast. Also thanks to my host family Al and Sheena and Hazel. I've had a fabulous time here! Hope you enjoy the show as much as I have."



## RICHARD COMEAU (Fight Director)

Richard is an actor, fight director and a Certified Fight Instructor with Fight Directors Canada. He is a stage combat instructor and resident fight director at the Centre for Indigenous Theatre in Toronto. He's also a fight instructor and company member at Rapier Wit Stage and Screen Combat. His work spans across Canada.

Recent theatre credits include Sir John A: Acts of a Gentrified Ojibway Rebellion

[by Drew Hayden Taylor], Quiet in the Land, Powers and Gloria (Blyth Festival); Women of the Fur Trade, Liars at a Funeral (Magnus); 1939 (Canadian Stage); King Lear, Much Ado, 1939 (Stratford); Crazy Dave Goes to Town (CIT); 1939 (YES! Theatre).

Fight direction credits include Magnus Theatre; Belfry Theatre; Canadian Stage; Soulpepper Theatre; Shaw Festival; Native Earth; YES! Theatre, to name a few. Richard has also performed on set with Disney/Lucas Films, Discovery Channel, and CBC. He's excited to help tell this story and to be a part of another Magnus season.



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

Supporting Magnus Theatre is our way of helping to make our neighbourhood a better place for everyone.

**We're in it together**

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# THE COMPANY

## GRACE LAMARCHE (Rachel Wenasswe)

Grace (she/her) is a theatre artist of mixed Cree/Eastern European descent, based in Toronto.

Select theatre credits include: *Women of the Fur Trade* (Magnus Theatre), *1939* (Canadian Stage/The Belfry), *Weltamultiek* (Paprika Festival), *Skyscraper* (Paprika Festival), *Blood Wedding*, *Cymbeline*, *Per Gynt* and *Engaged* (George Brown Theatre School).

Grace is a graduate of George Brown Theatre School. She is thrilled to be back at Magnus Theatre!

## DANIK McAFFEE (Caleb Wenasswe/Fight Captain)

Danik is a Two-Spirit, Algonquin-mixed and French-Canadian actor and director working across Canada in both French and English. With over a decade of professional experience, Danik is drawn to bold, character-driven storytelling and collaborative processes that centre underrepresented voices on stage.



A graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's Directing Program, Danik trained under acclaimed artists including Jillian Keiley, Micheline Chevrier, Eda Holmes, and Jackie Maxwell. They also hold diplomas in Musical Theatre Performance from Collège Lionel-Groulx and Randolph College for the Performing Arts.

Selected credits include *Come From Away* (Gander, Associate Director), *Les Zinspiré.e.s 12: Le Nombre Sublime* (Théâtre français de Toronto, performer), *Les Zinspiré.e.s 13: À la lumière des treize lunes* (Théâtre français de Toronto, director), *Beautiful Scars* (Theatre Aquarius, Assistant Director—workshop), and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Capitol Theatre, Frank 'N' Furter).

Danik currently serves as Program Manager of the Biindigen Program at Theatre Aquarius, supporting Indigenous artists through creation and mentorship. They are thrilled to join the Magnus Theatre family in the world premiere of *On Thin Ice* as Caleb and are excited to bring this powerful story to life on stage. Follow Danik on Instagram @danikmcafee.

# THE COMPANY



## CAILIN STADNYK (Andrea Lansdale)

Cailin is an award-winning performer whose career has spanned over 25 years across North America. Most known for her work in musical theatre, some of her career highlights have included lead roles in *Come From Away* (Mirvish & Broadway 1st National Tour); *9 to 5: The Musical* (TIP); *The Full Monty* (Neptune); *A Few Good Men* (Drayton); *Mamma Mia!* (Theatre Aquarius); *Footloose* & *Waiting for the Parade* (Chemainus); *Mary Poppins* (WCT/Persephone); *The (Post) Mistress*, *Bittergirl*, *One Man-Two Guvnors*, *Xanadu*, *Company*, *Singin' In The Rain* & *Funny Girl* (all Arts Club Theatre); *Gunmetal Blues*, *The Last Resort*, *Honk! The Musical* & *Anne of Green Gables* (all Globe Theatre); *Les Misérables*, *The Dreamer's Quest* & *Little Shop of Horrors* (all WCT); *The Love List* & *Fiddler on the Roof* (The Playhouse) and many more. TV/Film credits include *Fubar* (Netflix); *Five Days at Memorial* (Apple TV+); *Mayday* (Discovery); *Station Eleven* (HBO) and *Supernatural* (Warner Bros). When Cailin is not performing, she can be found either in the woods with her dog Lolli or designing more theatre-inspired goods for her Etsy shop "Callboard Collective". Big love to Michael! Check out [www.cailinstadnyk.com](http://www.cailinstadnyk.com) or follow her on IG | @cailinstadnyk.

## SCOTT CARMICHAEL (Rory Lansdale)

Scott is happy to be back in Thunder Bay--the city where his father was born. Scott has been seen on the Magnus stage in *Man of La Mancha* and *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*.

Selected theatre credits elsewhere include: *Bright Star* (Mirvish/GTP); *Million Dollar Quartet* (Drayton, Mirvish, Chemainus); *Country Roads: The Songs of John Denver* (Drayton); *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Arts Club, Stage

*West*, *Mayfield*, *WTC*, *TIP*, *Aquarius*, *STC*); *The Ballad of Stompin' Tom* (Capitol, STC); *Grease* (WTC); *Ring of Fire* (Chemainus, TIP); *It's a Wonderful Life* (Chemainus); *ELF the Musical* (Chemainus); *Rainy Day People* (VPP); *The Foursome* (Foster Festival); *The 39 Steps* (Rose Brampton); *12 Angry Men* (Rose Brampton).

Select Film/TV: *Mega Brands That Built America* (History); *Justice for MLK - The Hunt for James Earl Ray* (Discovery); *Marine Disasters* (Discovery); *Final 24* (Next Films); *Motive and Murder* (Cineflix).

Thanks to Cecily for her unfailing love and support.





On Thin Ice by Drew Hayden Taylor, Directed by Vinetta Strombergs, Lighting by Kirsten Watt, Set Design by Warden Bémont, Wardrobe Coordinated by Lisa Macchione. Magnus Theatre, February 12-28, 2026

In this photo: Danik McAfee, Grace Lamarche

Photo by Matthew Goertz

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# BEHIND THE SCENES



## THOM CURRIE (Artistic Director)

Thom Currie is an award-winning director, playwright, dramaturg, actor and producer whose work has been seen across Canada and internationally in cities including Paris, London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Brussels. His directing and dramaturgy credits include over 100 productions, plus over 50 for young audiences.

Thom currently serves as Artistic Director of Magnus Theatre in Thunder Bay, ON—the only professional theatre between Barrie and Winnipeg. He previously held artistic leadership positions at Stephenville Theatre Festival (NL), Showboat Festival Theatre In The Round (ON), Georgian Theatre Festival (ON), and founded ReallyLittleTheatre (INTL).

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# BEHIND THE SCENES

## Kirsten Watt (Lighting Designer)

On Thin Ice marks Kirsten's 23rd lighting design for Magnus, and she's delighted to be back in winter country!

Previous designs for Magnus include: Gaslight, Boeing Boeing, Perfect Wedding, Million Dollar Quartet, Venus in Fur, Night of the Living Dead Live, Doubt, The Hours That Remain, RED, 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.

She studied theatre at the University of Alberta, and lighting design at the National Theatre School of Canada and she resides in Windsor, Ontario.

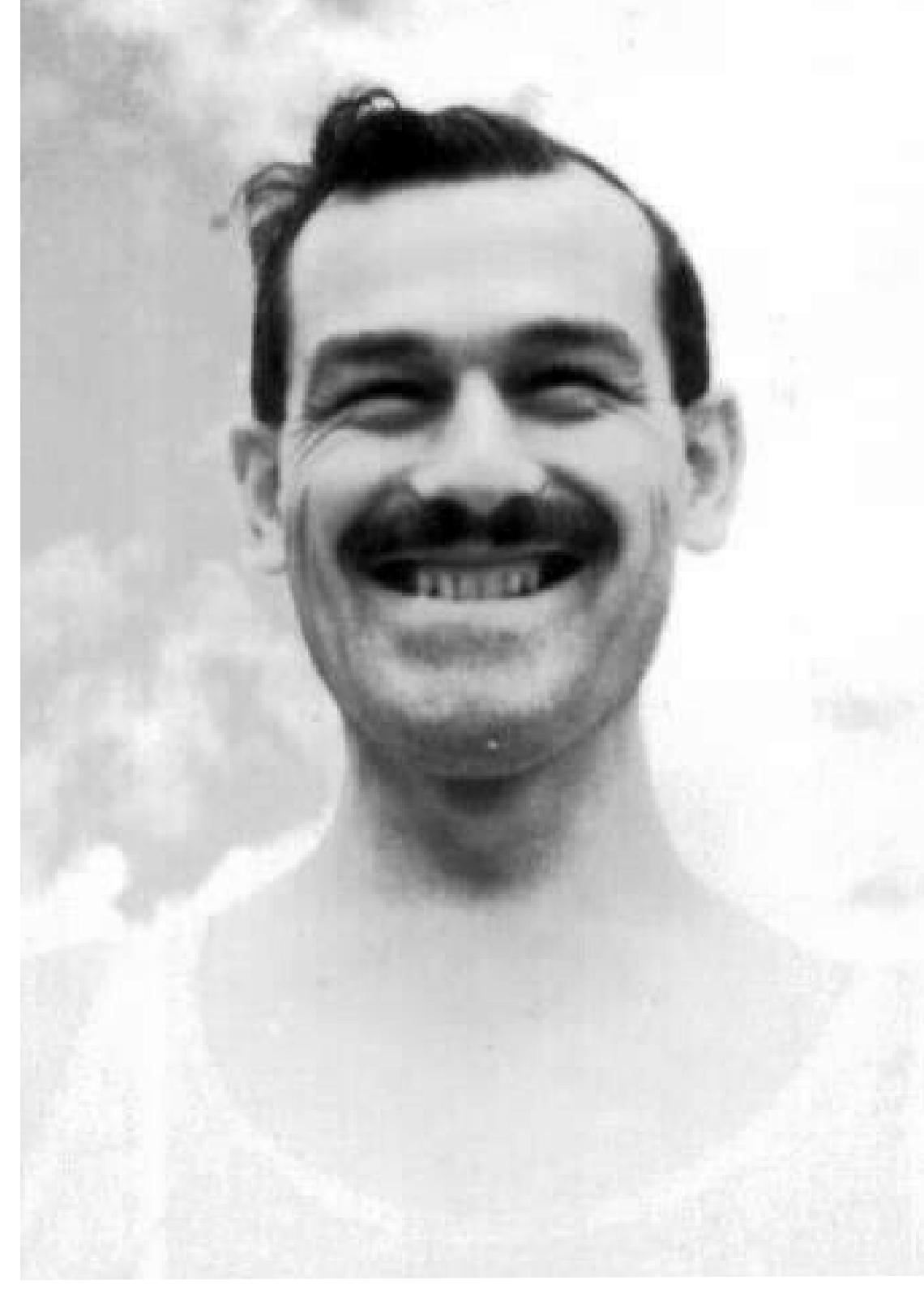
## WARDEN BÉMONT

### (Set Designer)

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 on 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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## REBECCA MILLER (Interim Production Manager)



Rebecca has worked across the country for 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 Grentell Campus at Memorial University of Newfoundland, University of Toronto, National Theatre School of Canada, and University of Lethbridge.

## 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 ney foss uras eager to offer me a job here at Magnus Theatre.

## NADIA CHEECOO (Head of Props)



Nadia Cheechoo is an Indigenous woman from Wik-wemikong, 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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# BEHIND THE SCENES



## LISA MACCHIONE (Head of Wardrobe)

Lisa 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-a-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.



## DAVID A. BROWN (Head Carpenter)

David 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 WALTERS (Production Assistant)

Tim started his journey in professional theatre in 2018 with Magnus on the show "Back in '59" and has been continuously learning and expanding his knowledge in the theatre world ever since. He has worked on productions backstage like "Dock Spider", "Hand to God", "Liars at a Funeral", and "Elf". He's also been the audio / lighting tech on productions like "Home: A Bluegrass Musical", "Mama's

Country Record Collection", "Tell Me On A Sunday", and "Lies and Legends: the Musical Stories of Harry Chapin". Tim is always glad to be back at Magnus Theatre helping create the magic behind the scenes.



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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.



Magnus Theatre engages stagehands and craftspeople who are members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, Its Territories and Canada (IATSE), Local 467.

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**Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber**

**Lyrics by Tim Rice**

**Directed & Choreographed by Julie Tomaino**

**Musical Director Danny Johnson**

**Mar 26-Apr 18, 2026**

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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](mailto:Glenn.Coulson@magnustheatre.com), or call 807-345-8033.

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# Show Your Support for THE ONLY PROFESSIONAL THEATRE IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Magnus Theatre is an important part of cultural life and the economy in Thunder Bay, with **some of the lowest ticket prices for professional theatre in Canada.**

~

**Our programs are:  
Affordable ~ Accessible ~ A great time!**

Fuel professional arts in the North with a gift to Magnus Theatre. **Artists, school tours, mainstage productions, and community access** across Northwestern Ontario is fueled by your support.

~

**Make a Charitable Donation  
Become a Member**

**Take a Seat - Leave a Legacy**

(Name a seat in the Mainstage or Studio Theatre and become part of Magnus history.)

~

For more information, please contact:  
**Glenn Coulson, Director of Development at**  
**[glenn.coulson@magnustheatre.com](mailto:glenn.coulson@magnustheatre.com)**



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# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**Ken Boshcoff  
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**For more information, please contact:**  
Director of Development, Glenn Coulson at [glenn.coulson@magnustheatre.com](mailto:glenn.coulson@magnustheatre.com)

# FUNDING SUPPORT

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For more information, please contact:

Director of Development, Glenn Coulson at [glenn.coulson@magnustheatre.com](mailto:glenn.coulson@magnustheatre.com)

# TAKE YOUR SEAT

IN MAGNUS THEATRE HISTORY



**100 SEATS  
AVAILABLE**

WITH A GIFT OF  
**\$250**

Dedicate a seat in your name,  
in honour of a loved one, or  
to celebrate a business or  
special memory.

Be part of the final act in  
our Next Stage – Curtain  
Call campaign by naming  
a seat in our brand-new  
Studio Theatre.

Your support helps bring this exciting  
new space to life—designed for bold,  
intimate performances and future  
generations of theatre lovers.

**LEAVE YOUR MARK.  
TAKE YOUR SEAT.**

SCAN TO  
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**Magnus**  
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## Which Path is Right for You?

Magnus Theatre is the only professional theatre in northern Ontario, an important part of the cultural life and economy of Thunder Bay and region, and a wonderful way to spend an evening or afternoon. We work very hard to keep our programs affordable and accessible to our entire community, maintaining some of the lowest ticket prices for professional theatre in Canada. As such, we rely on donations and the generous support of our patrons and sponsors to maintain our programming. We hope you will consider a gift to Magnus Theatre, helping to fuel professional arts in the North. Your gifts supports artists, school tours, productions, and community access across Northwestern Ontario.

### Make a Charitable Donation

Fuel bold theatre and outreach with a gift that works for you.

### Become a Member

Membership connects you to the creative heart of Magnus.

### Take a Seat - Leave a Legacy

Name a seat in the Mainstage or Studio Theatre and become part of Magnus history.

**For more information, please contact:**

Director of Development, Glenn Coulson at [glenn.coulson@magnustheatre.com](mailto:glenn.coulson@magnustheatre.com)

# Magnus Theatre

## Staff & Board of Directors



### MANAGEMENT

Artistic Director | Thom Currie  
Executive Director | Alexis Rowlinson

### THEATRE IN EDUCATION

Theatre in Education Director | Jordan Blaxill  
Theatre in Education Instructors | Jenn McCallion  
TYA Tour Coordinator | Shannon Vancook

### MARKETING & PUBLICITY TEAM

Marketing & Publicity Coordinator | Robyn Saxberg  
Social Media Coordinator | Sociable Solutions

### FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

Director of Development | Glenn Coulson

### PRODUCTION TEAM

Interim Production Manager | Rebecca Miller  
Head Carpenter | David Brown  
Head of Properties | Nadia Cheechoo  
Head of Wardrobe | Lisa Macchione  
Production Assistant | Tim Walters  
Scenic Painter | Lauren Waite

### ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Financial Officer | Nadia Kukkee  
Box Office/Office Administrator | Jessica Krasnichuk  
Box Office Representative | Sandra Snider  
Patrons Services Manager | Kait Blake  
Front of House Assistants | Martina Vaillant, Shaya Meilleur, Kaitlyn Harris, Casey Rowlinson  
Bar and Concessions Manager | Jodi Mason  
Facilities Caretaker | Alex Campbell-Belandiuk

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President | Cathy Ridley  
1st Vice President | Scott Hobbs  
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