

# LOVE & INFORMATION

By Caryl Churchill

PHOENIX



THEATRE@UVIC

February 25 - 27, 2021



University  
of Victoria

# Love and Information

By Caryl Churchill

## CREATIVE TEAM

<b>Director</b>	Jan Wood
<b>Set Designer</b>	Brock Keeler
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Hailee Friesen
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	Simon Farrow
<b>Sound Designer</b>	Miriam Dumitra
<b>Livestream Director</b>	Branden Sugden
<b>Stage Manager</b>	Aura Magnien

## ENSEMBLE CAST

Kaelan Bain  
Paul Cridge  
Carter Gulseth  
Holly Hamilton  
Tabatha Hamilton  
Ryan Kniel  
Geneva Noppers  
Sophia Radford  
Jane Rees  
Christopher Salt  
Zoe Salvin  
Andrew Shepherd

“Love and Information” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals  
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

LOVE AND INFORMATION was first presented by The English Stage Company at  
The Royal Court Theatre in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs, London, England  
on 6 September 2012. The US premier was presented at New York Theatre Workshop,  
New York on 19 February 2014, directed by James McDonald.

*We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands,  
and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.  
We are grateful to be on this land and are committed to UVic's ongoing work of decolonizing and Indigenizing the  
campus community—both inside and outside the classroom.*



## Notes from the Director

### ***Love and Information:***

Lucy Kirkwood said of her fellow playwright, Caryl Churchill, “[Her] work is notable for its economy, not because she has less to say but because her craft is such that she can pack more into a line of dialogue than most of us can express in a whole scene.” It is this economy and insight into the human condition that drew me to Churchill’s play.

***Love and Information*** is a series of over seventy scenes ranging in length from a single line to a few pages. Most are written for two characters with no information regarding their relationship or history. There are over 100 characters, none recurring. There is no plot but simply a flow of scenes of people engaged in daily life.

As you view this livestream, I welcome you to willingly take on the perspective of a voyeur. Imagine, from the isolation of your bubble, that cameras allow you to randomly view footage from other’s lives unfolding in cafes, grad lounges, galleries, kitchens, dorm rooms, and bedrooms. I invite you observe the information transmitted and the love expressed in daily life; make no judgements, form no narrative, simply allow the scenes to hurtle by. And to feel, as one character observes, “like [you’re] in the front seat of a roller coaster” which is, after all, the most exciting place to be.

### ***Love, Information and Covid:***

***Love and Information*** was chosen before the pandemic began and Covid-19 has definitely impacted the production. We have chosen to present approximately one third of the play to avoid overburdening the participants. The production adheres to all protocols including daily Covid self-assessments, physical distancing, mandatory masks, and maximum occupancies. The pandemic has limited our ability to cast broadly, to design freely, and to work to extremity. It has also prevented our audience from attending live performances.

There have, however, been irrefutable benefits in altering our model of production. Most significantly, we have gained time. We have had time to converse and create a document to support of a respectful rehearsal environment. Time has allowed us work minutely; to focus on each detail of text and scene study, of design, of production. We have added the resources to livestream and been afforded the time to teach these new skills. And we have had time to reflect on the process along the way. These have been the silver linings.

In a world where most interactions happen virtually, where we can find ourselves invested more in reality television than in reality, and where we have embraced the Alone Ranger as our alter ego, it is good to know that theatre is still possible. And necessary.

I am grateful, despite the present pandemic, to be gathering together to create, to practice and to share an art form that has, and will continue to survive famine, war and plague. We are in this together and we are stronger as a result.

Jan Wood

## About the Playwright

With over 50 plays for stage and radio to her name, the prolific Caryl Churchill is considered by many other writers as our greatest living playwright. She is known for pushing boundaries, both in rethinking traditional theatrical forms as well as creating works that are compelling calls to action on a number of subjects, including feminism, abuses of power and sexual politics.

Born in London, England in 1938, Churchill emigrated to Canada after the second World War but returned to England in 1956 to attend Oxford University. While raising her family in the 1960s and 1970s, Churchill wrote radio dramas and television plays for the BBC. In 1972, her play **Owners**, a two-act, 15-scene play about obsession with power, was her first work to be produced in London. From 1974-5 she served as the Resident Dramatist at the Royal Court Theatre.



Churchill has won multiple Obie Off-Broadway Awards, including for **Cloud 9** (1981), a farce about sexual politics; **Top Girls** (1982), a play about women losing humanity to gain power; **Serious Money** (1987), a comedy about excesses in the financial world; as well as the Obie for Sustained Achievement Award (2001). Churchill is known for experimenting with non-traditional techniques and theatrical forms, including **Hotel** (1997), a choreographed opera or sung ballet set in a hotel room; **This Is a Chair** (1999), a surrealistic short play; and **Love and Information** (2012), a play with over 100 characters in dozens of unrelated scenes that leaves audiences questioning the choices that they make and how they affect the truly important things in their lives.

Now into her 80s, Churchill continues to be exceptionally productive, having written nine plays in the past five years.



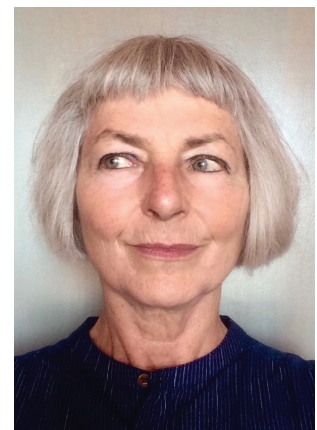
**Donna-Michelle St. Bernard**  
*Playwright, Director, Dramaturg*  
Thursday, February 25 @3:30pm



## Artists in Conversation

**LIVE ZOOM CONVERSATIONS**  
– ABOUT THEATRE, FOR THEATRE STUDENTS –  
with DR. SASHA KOVACS

Email [PNXrsvp@uvic.ca](mailto:PNXrsvp@uvic.ca)  
to receive zoom link.



**Shawn Kerwin**  
*Designer*  
Monday, March 22 @3:30pm

## Creative Team



**Jan Wood** *Director*

Jan has been teaching in the Performance Focus at UVic's Department of Theatre since 1996. Previously, she trained and worked as a professional stage actor for 15 years, working in Calgary, Edmonton, Stratford Festival and Blyth Festival. Local audiences may have seen her work at the Belfry Theatre (***A Christmas Carol, The Life Inside, Half Life and Reverberations***). She has also performed at Blue Bridge Theatre (Kate Keller in ***All My Sons*** and Aline Solness in ***The Master Builder***). The last show she directed for the Phoenix was ***Trojan Women*** in 2019. In June, she will be featured in ***Same Old Same Old*** at the Belfry Theatre, a play she co-wrote with James Fagan Tait. She is married to Brian Linds, an actor and sound designer. They have two children.



**Brock Keeler** *Set Designer*

Brock is a third-year student in the department focusing his studies in stage management and design. This is his first-time set designing a mainstage production at the Phoenix, and he is grateful for this opportunity. Brock most recently worked as an ASM on ***Comic Potential*** (Phoenix). Previous design credits include co-lighting design on ***Knife Skills*** (SATCo), assistant set design on ***Fake News*** (Graduate Project), and assistant lighting design on ***Breakwater*** (SATCo). Brock would like to thank everyone who has supported him throughout the design process. Enjoy the show!



**Hailee Freisen** *Costume Designer*

Hailee is pleased to be completing her final year at the Phoenix with a mainstage design. She is an interdisciplinary theatre artist whose select credits include costume assistant on ***The Children's Hour*** (Phoenix), ***The Coyotes, Law of the Land*** (Caravan Farm Theatre). She has also performed in ***Trojan Women*** (Phoenix) and directed ***Hamlet*** (SATCo).



**Simon Farrow** *Lighting Designer*

Simon is currently the Assistant Technical Director for the Phoenix Theatre and is excited to be taking on the lighting design for this show. In addition to his role at UVic, Simon has a love of lighting for live music and is often found lighting concerts at the Charlie White Theatre in Sidney. Select design credits include ***21 Ways to Make the World Last Longer*** (Runaway Moon Theatre), ***The Addams Family*** (Kaleidoscope), ***The Flick*** (ITSAZOO), ***Down Dangerous Passes Road*** (Tank Top Theatre), ***Sea of Green*** (Star Star Theatre), ***You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown; Good Person of Setzuan*** (Phoenix).

## Creative Team



### Miriam Dumitra *Sound Designer*

Miriam Dumitra is a third-year student specializing in tech and design. She can often be found several dozen feet off the ground, hanging lights for the department, or hidden behind a laptop, creating playlists and soundscapes for fun (and for class). A random sampling of her skills: sound design, writing, website construction, and blacksmithing. Phoenix credits include **Comic Potential** (lighting board op), **Othello** (musician, alto recorder), and **The Drowsy Chaperone** (spotlight operator). SATCo credits include **Hey There, Mr. Moon** (sound designer) and **Death by Horoscope** (sound designer). Miriam is the 2020 recipient of the Megan Newton Memorial Award in Theatre.



### Branden Sugden *Livestream Director*

Branden is a director, actor, playwright, and dramaturg in his third year at UVic. He is excited to be taking on the task of bringing Phoenix productions from the stage to your homes. His previous experience on the Phoenix mainstage includes acting in **Othello** and **Comic Potential**, as well as operating the lighting board for **The Children's Hour**. Other selected credits include **Hey There, Mr. Moon** (director, SATCo); **This Room Has 72 Lovers** (actor, SATCo); **Huck Finn** (actor, Storybook Theatre); **ARCA-45672** (actor, produced by Claire Scherzinger); **Grounded** (assistant director, Calgary Young People's Theatre).



### Aura Magnien *Stage Manager*

Aura is a third-year production and management student. Since childhood, she has spent her time both onstage and backstage - singing, dancing, acting, designing and stage managing on a variety of productions. Her most recent stage management credits include **The Children's Hour** (ASM-Phoenix), **Ngaii Duk** (SATCo), **Of the Flesh** (B.F.A. project), **3:59am** (PlayWorks Festival), and **Speak Out** (Victoria School of the Arts). Aura wishes to thank her mother, Marie for always encouraging her and supporting her to dream big and live vibrantly. She has loved working on Love and Information, and deeply admires everyone in the cast, crew, and creative team.

A promotional poster for the play 'Problem Child'. The background is a dark, wood-paneled room with a bed, a desk, and a lamp. A woman with long dark hair is seen from the back, holding a teddy bear. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

They took her child  
but she won't let them  
take her dignity.

By George F. Walker  
**PROBLEM  
CHILD**

Directed by  
Fran Gebhard

MARCH  
24-27, 2021  
Livestreamed Performances

PHOENIX  
THEATRE@UVIC

## Cast



### Kaelan Bain

A third-year Theatre major in the performance focus, Kaelan is honoured to be a part of Love and Information! Past Credits include: **Kansha** (Intrepid Theatre), **Arca-45672 Podcast** (UVic), **Aladdin** (Missoula Theatre), and **A Caribbean Sleeping Beauty** (TCFAF).



### Paul Cridge

Paul is a third-year student in the performance focus at UVic. Performance credits include: **Othello** (Phoenix) and **Death by Horoscope** (SATCo). Graduated from Camosun College in 2016 with his diploma in Computer Science, Paul transferred to the Phoenix in 2018 and discovered his love for acting. Enjoy the show!



### Carter Gulseth

Carter is, quite frankly, exhausted. Because of this momentous history we're living through, Carter is deeply grateful for the privilege of working with such lovely, gracious, talented people on this warm, very human piece of theatre. He will remember these moments of sanctuary fondly whenever he thinks on this crisis.



### Holly Hamilton

A third-year Theatre major in the performance focus, Holly is thrilled to be in her first mainstage at the Phoenix. Previous credits include **Ghost Girl** (Miscellaneous Productions) and **Lord of the Flies** (The Only Animal). Holly is also active in many other artistic fields including writing, modelling, and puppet-making.



### Tabatha Hamilton

Tabatha is a third-year Theatre major in performance. She thanks her parents for the constant support and being her biggest fans. Select credits: **Big Daddy Lives or Don't Say the F Word** (BFA Project), **Spin the Bottle**, **The Next Colour Blue**, and **A Cobbler's Rhyme** (SATCo). She hopes everyone has a safe and uneventful year.



### Ryan Kniel

Hailing from South Surrey, BC, Ryan is a third-year student of the performance focus program here at the Phoenix. Previous credits include **Comic Potential** (Phoenix), **Knife Skills** (SATCo), **Our Town** (Peninsula Productions), and **The Secret Origin of Mojo Man** (VISTA Festival). He hopes you enjoy the show!

## Cast



### Geneva Noppers

Geneva is an actor, comedian, writer and a big fan of cheese. You may recognize her from the Phoenix's production of ***Comic Potential*** (2020). She has written two recently produced plays: ***This Room Has 72 Lovers*** (SATCo) and ***The Next Colour Blue*** (SATCo).



### Sophia Radford

Sophia is a third-year student studying Performance in the Department of Theatre. Selected acting credits include ***Othello***, ***The Children's Hour*** (Phoenix), and ***Hey There, Mr. Moon*** (SATCo). She is grateful for the opportunity to continue creating theatre alongside this truly inspiring team.



### Jane Rees

A third-year Theatre major in the performance focus, Jane is delighted to be a part of Love and Information! Past credits include: ***The Children's Hour*** (Phoenix), ***The Next Colour Blue*** (SATCo), ***Blink*** (Puente Theatre's "WorldPlay" Festival), and ***The Crucible*** (Langham Court Theatre).



### Christopher Salt

Chris is a third-year Theatre major in the performance focus. Previous acting credits include ***Spin the Bottle*** (SATCo), ***Cyrano de Bergerac***, and ***The Cagebirds***. He is excited to be making his Phoenix debut in ***Love and Information*** and is thankful to everyone's work making this show happen.



### Zoe Salvin

Zoe is a third-year Theatre major in the performance focus. Credits include ***Ngaii Duk***, ***Hey There, Mr. Moon*** (SATCo) and ***The Children's Hour*** (Phoenix). She is excited to be creating theatre, even in the midst of world chaos, and especially with such a hardworking cast and crew.



### Andrew Shepherd

Andrew is a third-year performance student in the Department of Theatre. He has previously acted in ***Hey There, Mr. Moon*** (2019) and ***Death by Horoscope*** (2019). He is excited to say that ***Love and Information*** will be his first appearance in a mainstage production at the Phoenix Theatre.



# Production Team

BFA Set & Costume Designer Supervisor  
BFA Stage Manager Supervisor  
Senior Assistant Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Managers (Costumes)  
Assistant Stage Managers (Props)  
Guest Scenic Carpenter  
Head Scenic Painter  
Scenic Painting Crew  
Assistant to the Costume Designer  
Wardrobe Supervisors/Dressers  
Guest Makeup Consultant  
Assistant to the Lighting Designer  
Head Electrician  
Assistant Head Electrician  
Show Electricians  
Lighting Operator  
Sound Operator  
Assistant to the Sound Designer  
Livestream Show Caller  
Livestream Switcher  
Livestream Camera Operators  
Livestream Audio Engineer  
Communications Assistants  
Marketing Team

Project Phoenix Editors  
Programme Editing & Layout  
Assistant to the Audience Services Manager  
Front of House Mentor  
Front of House Management Team  
Box Office Staff

**Patrick Du Wors**  
**Peter McGuire**  
**Olivia Reid-Friesen**  
**Grace Carmichael, Aldana Padron**  
**Amy Bell, Jerry Lesperance**  
**Tom Barritt\***  
**Gracia Joulie**  
**Amy Bell, Brock Keeler, Mackenzie Matthews**  
**Parker Feenstra**  
**Emily Schuler, Sarah Shepherd**  
**Jessica Pratt\***  
**Emily Trepanier**  
**Emily Campbell**  
**Sloane Vasko**  
**Lauren Lypkie, Mackenzie Matthews**  
**Syrah Khan**  
**Sophie Groves**  
**Ariel Pretty**  
**Olivia Reid-Friesen**  
**Jadyn McGregor**  
**Joel Black, Kornel Danis**  
**Christopher Stewart**  
**Sydney Hunt, Kye McInnis**  
**Lauren Alliston, Sarah-Michelle Lang,**  
**Adrianna Tonn**  
**Ashley Richter, Louey Sumners**  
**Kevin Eastman**  
**Vanessa Wood**  
**Sydney Hunt**  
**Madi Collins, Roan Foshaug, Jenny Robinson**  
**Roan Foshaug, Carter Gulseth, Nathan Harvey,**  
**Sophia Radford, Taylor Williams, Landon Wong,**  
**Vanessa Wood**

And Theatre 105, 205 and work study students. \* guest production artist

**The Department of Theatre would like to thank the following  
for their support of this production:**

Campus Hair Designs, Acacia Lee, Brian Linds and  
Michael Huston and David Broome, UVic Fine Arts.

# Department of Theatre *Faculty and Staff*

**Dr. Anthony Vickery** (Theatre History) Chair  
**Conrad Alexandrowicz** (Performance, Movement)  
**Carolyn Choo** Properties Coordinator  
**Dr. Warwick Dobson** (Applied Theatre-On Leave)  
**Patrick Du Wors** (Design)  
**Michael Elliott** (Performance & Voice)  
**Simon Farrow** Assistant Technical Director  
**Fran Gebhard** (Performance)  
**Sandra Guerreiro** Audience Services Manager  
**Adrienne Holierhoek** Communications Manager  
**Katri Tahvanainen** Acting Head of Wardrobe  
**Dr. Yasmine Kandil** (Applied Theatre)  
**Mary Kerr** (Design-On Leave)  
**Dr. Sasha Kovacs** (Theatre History)  
**Dr. Allana Lindgren** (Theatre History) Acting Dean  
**Peter McGuire** (Directing)  
**Timothy O’Gorman** Technical Director  
**Catherine Plant** Receptionist / Undergrad Secretary  
**Brian Richmond** (Performance, Directing)  
**Dr. Kirsten Sadeghi-Yekta** (Applied Theatre)  
**Connie te Kampe** Department Secretary  
**Bert Timmermans** Operations & Production Manager  
**Jan Wood** (Performance)

**Adjunct Professors**  
Dr. Christopher Balme  
Jacques Lemay  
Trudy Pauluth-Penner  
Michael Whitfield

**Emeritus Professors**  
Dr. Sarah Blackstone  
Linda Hardy  
Dr. Giles Hogya  
Dr. Alan Hughes  
John Krich  
Juliana Saxton  
Allan Stichbury  
Dr. Jennifer Wise

**Sessional Instructors**  
Carmen Alatorre  
Leslie D. Bland  
Jessica Hickman  
Dr. Clayton Jevne  
Tamara Kucheran  
Amanda Lisman  
Monique Mojica  
Trudy Pauluth-Penner  
Guillermo Verdecchia

## The Orion Lecture Series in Fine Arts

Through the generous support of the Orion Fund in Fine Arts, the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Victoria, is pleased to present:

### Diane Roberts

Founding Artistic Director,  
The Arrivals Legacy Project

Tuesday, March 2, 12:30pm

FREE ZOOM LECTURE  
**The Arrivals  
Legacy Project:**  
Weaving new ways  
of knowing



### Ravi Jain

Founding Artistic Director,  
Why Not Theatre

Monday, March 8, 12:30pm

FREE ZOOM LECTURE  
**Asking Why Not?**  
Challenging assumptions  
& unlocking possibilities.



# Friends of the *Phoenix*

The Department of Theatre faculty, staff and students would like to thank the following for their support of the Phoenix Theatre's 20/21 season (April 1, 2020- February 1, 2021).

## **\$1000+**

*Anonymous – 2*  
*Estate of Roger Bishop*  
*Mrs. R.G. Lawrence*  
*Anne McLaughlin*  
*In Memory of Dr. Marion Porath*  
*Terry J. Waller*

## **\$500 - 999**

*Anonymous – 1*  
*Mavis Begg*  
*Michael & Debbie Cridge*

## **\$150 - \$499**

*Anonymous – 3*  
*Nansi Blenkiron*  
*Duncan & Lynda Cameron*  
*Denny Gelinis*  
*Geoff & Linda Giles*  
*Herb & Phyllis Girard*  
*Katrin Horowitz*  
*Robert Howell*  
*Audrey Johnson*  
*Dr. Mary A. Kennedy*  
*Matthew Lees & Krista Wallace*  
*Chris & Anne Lynch*  
*Erik Lythgoe*  
*Bob & Diana Macdonald*  
*Sharon Molnar*  
*Ruth Mossop*  
*George Murphy*  
*Marilyn Ottenhof*  
*In memory of Dr. Marion Porath*  
*Paul Ramsey*  
*Rzeplinski-Broër*  
*Ann Strother*

## **\$75 - \$149**

*Anonymous – 20*  
*Martin & Judy Bergbusch*  
*David Black*  
*Judith Carder*  
*L. & N. Douglas*  
*Katherine Ellis*

*Chris Gainor & Audrey McClellan*  
*Liz Gobin & Frank Thompson*  
*Linda Graham*  
*Susan Halsall*  
*Allan & Elisabeth Haythorne*  
*Kaitlin Jeffery*  
*Nancy Kenyon*  
*Alexis Kuss*  
*Dr. Oliver & Helen Lantz*  
*Helen Lindholm*  
*Barb MacDonald*  
*Marie McKee*  
*Anne McLaughlin*  
*Roberta Mason & Colin Wilson*  
*Anthony & Catharine Moses*  
*Bill/Coline Neilson*  
*Katy Nelson*  
*Margaret Robertson*  
*Christopher Russell*  
*Colin & Ann Scarfe*  
*Sarah & Mary Jean Smith*  
*Peter & Mary Spurr*  
*Michael Stevens*  
*Gordon Switzer*  
*Aby Tannas*  
*Jim & Karla Thomson*  
*Jane Whitely*

## **\$25 - 74**

*Anonymous – 36*  
*Gwen Anholt*  
*John Archibald & Martha McGinnis*  
*Joanne Atkins*  
*S.K.B.*  
*Don & Audrey Bailey*  
*Sue & Gord Bailey*  
*Chris & Diane*  
*Gail & Patrick Boulger*  
*Jane Browning*  
*Laine Canivet*  
*Tim & Donna Cheesman*  
*Donna Dippie*

*Charmaine Elgood*  
*Roberta & Bob Enwright*  
*Nancy Fischer*  
*Ken Gibbard*  
*Eric Grace*  
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*Alice Haberlin*  
*John Johnston*  
*Lynne Johnstone*  
*Beena Kashyap*  
*Carol & Daniel Kenway*  
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*John McLean*  
*Sharon McMillan & David Robertson*  
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*Penelope Parker*  
*Tim Pelton*  
*Susan Quinton*  
*L. M. Richdale*  
*Pauline Rittenhouse*  
*Dave & Irma Rodenhuis*  
*Brian & Maureen Shields*  
*Lois Steeves*  
*Gerry Taylor*  
*Reg & Judith Terry*  
*Gordon Webster & Ruth McDonald*  
*Barbara Underhill*  
*Marilyn Van Imschoot*  
*Carol von Hagen*  
*Susie Wilson*  
*Lynne Young*

## **UNDER \$25**

4

## *Dear Phoenix*

Thank you for your hard work and dedication through this strange and difficult year. We hope this production of *Love & Information* not only helps mitigate some of your stresses, but also showcases the vitality and perseverance of this art form we all love.

We have all done our part to bring this show to life, be it as an actor, designer, technician, stage manager, educator, custodian, front of house manager, marketing team, production manager, carpenter, wardrobe manager, camera operator, or director. Everyone should be proud of their commitment to making this happen.

For those of you who cannot be with us in the building right now, we hope this production demonstrates just what our talented department is capable of when we work together to overcome adversity.

Please enjoy the show.

Dr. Anthony Vickery  
Chair, Department of Theatre