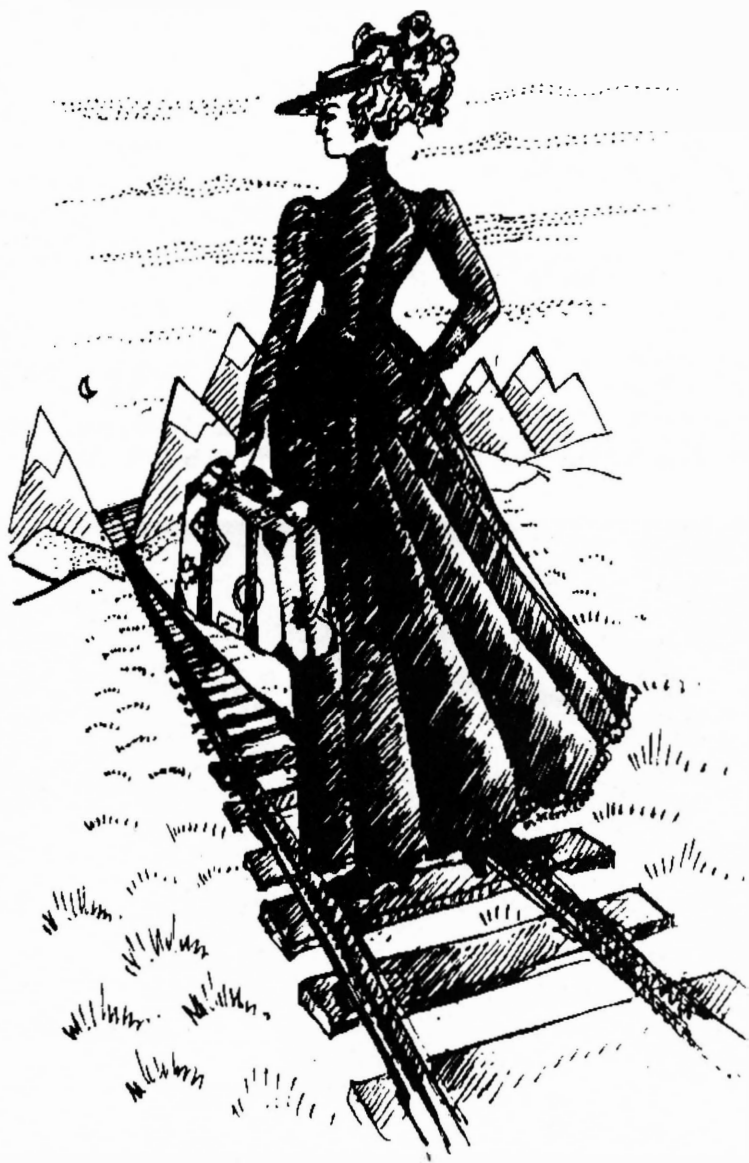


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John Murrell's

Farther West



February 10 - 26, 2000

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Directed by Ned Lemley

March 2 - 18, 2000

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Left to Right: Michelle Addison, Robin Collins, Director, Michael Boucher

Director's Notes

Playwrights, when tackling complex issues, provoke. **Farther West** is nothing short of such a provocation. It asks of us as an audience many things, perhaps foremost, to re-evaluate our most fundamental notions of equality when it comes to personal relations between men and women. Is there still a chasm between theory and practice? What is the dividing line? If so, why does it continue to exist? And, who is ultimately in control?

As our agent provocateur, John Murrell sets this play in a time where the dividing line is firmly defined along with the colonial appendages of an 'old world' morality. To counterpoint this, Murrell chooses the brothels of the west as a sexual arena – the place where morality and hypocrisy collide - where power is determined and meted out between the sexes.

May Buchanan, Murrell's iconoclastic central character, spearheads this challenge of the old order, not out of sheer rebelliousness, but out of a basic and natural impulse to survive on her individual terms. She asks not to be treated differently but, quite simply, the same as a man. Nothing more, nothing less. Her challenge appears to violate a code of conduct that runs deep into the heart of this time. But is Murrell speaking of then or now? The nature and extent of the reaction May encounters is perhaps the most striking revelation of Murrell's exploration. Is he off the mark?

Coincidentally we began our first rehearsal on the eve of the tenth anniversary of the Universite de Montreal massacre. The themes of that incident, its perpetuator and this play resonate in a manner that appears to be more than coincidental.

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Michael Boucher *Guest Director*



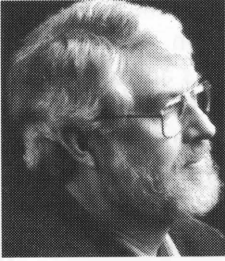
Mr. Boucher's credits span twenty years of directing and producing for film, television and his first love theatre. His notable credits include *Memoir* at Theatre New Brunswick with Viola Leger as Sarah Bernhardt, *Forever Yours Marie-Lou* at Theatre Calgary, *Not About Heroes* and *Salt Water Moon* at the Belfry, *Macbeth* at Western Canadian Theatre Company, *Bouncers* at The Arts Club and *Lion in Winter* at the National Arts Centre. One of his most pleasurable successes was working with the late Oscar winning Sandy Dennis collaborating on the Neil Simon's female version of *The Odd Couple* in its Canadian premiere. He was the artistic director of Toronto's World Stage Festival featuring Robert Lepage's *Needles and Opium*., Robert Wilson along with international works from Ireland's Druid Theatre Company to Ki Yi m'Bock of the Ivory Coast. He premiered the English version of Michel Marc Bouchard's *Tale of Teeka* produced by Theatre des Deux Mondes for the Toronto International Children's Festival as its artistic director. His film credits include mentoring with Arthur Hiller and workshopping Thom Fitzgerald's Gemini Award winning screenplay *The Hanging Garden* as the director of Praxis Centre for Screenwriting. He currently resides in Vancouver with his family where he is creative head and program manager at the Knowledge Network. Michael is a recurring lecturer at Simon Fraser University's School for Contemporary Arts. He is a former graduate of UVic's Theatre Department.

Kate Jamin *Set & Costume Designer*



Kate comes to her studies from a background of textile and fibre work. Inspired by the stitchery of her two grandmothers, she has spun and woven, printed and painted, draped and tailored many a metre of fabric. From her base, before university, in Nelson, B. C. she costumed Capitol Theatre productions including *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Godpell*, six English pantomimes, and Cranbrook productions of *I Do, I Do*, *Man of La Mancha* and *Hello Dolly*. She has spent three summers as part of the wardrobe team at the Banff Centre, working with designers Vivian Frowe and Sue Lepage. Her Phoenix credits include costumes for *Maupassant! Maupassant!* (co-design) and *Dogg's Hamlet*, *Cahoot's Macbeth*, and props for *The Maltese Bodkin*. Her set and costumes were seen this past summer in the Victoria Fringe in the dance theatre piece *Transfigurations* and she has just completed a six week internship as design assistant to Mary Kerr for the Citadel Theatre's production of *Into The Woods* in Edmonton. Her next big step is graduation in June and she would like to thank her very supportive family, five almost all grown up children and a husband who gets younger at heart every day.

Michael Whitfield *Guest Lighting Designer*



Michael Whitfield comes to the University of Victoria with an extensive background in lighting design for Theatre, Opera, and Ballet. At the Stratford Festival, where he is resident lighting designer, he has created the lighting for over 100 productions including last season's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Tempest*, and *The School for Scandal*. His work has also been featured over the years at many of Canada's regional theatres. His lighting for *Proposals* was seen last year at the Manitoba Theatre Centre before the production transferred to Toronto's

Royal Alexandra Theatre. Among recent opera credits are *Wozzeck* for the San Francisco Opera, *Don Giovanni*, *L'Elisir D'Amore* and *The Golden Ass* for the Canadian Opera Company, and *La Traviata* for Opera Ontario. His designs for dance include ballets for the Finnish National Ballet, The American Ballet Theatre, The National Ballet of Canada, and very recently *The Nutcracker* for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Michael Whitfield worked with Brian Macdonald to create the original lighting design for *Madama Butterfly* which played recently in Victoria at the Royal Theatre. The Phoenix is honoured to have Michael design the lighting and work with the students on the Phoenix production of *Farther West*.

Mike DiMambro *Sound Designer*



A great philosopher once said that those who dance are considered insane by those who can't hear the music. This being said, if one wishes to make a show 'dance', one must select music that fits the tone and the mood of the play. Designing sound for this production has been a rewarding journey, allowing me to explore alternate music as well as alternate sounds to compliment it. This show has become an experiment for me in the field of digital processing and reproduction, using those techniques to help the audience better identify with the characters. While the

sound is different and tends to even be eccentric at times, it provides a window into what the characters are feeling and who they really are.

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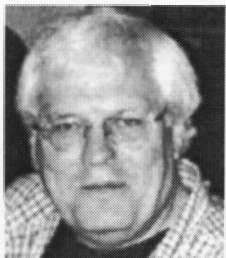
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John Murrell *Playwright*



John Murrell was born in Texas, but lived for many years in Calgary where he completed his education. A renowned playwright, director, teacher, mentor and arts advocate, John Murrell is one of Canada's most frequently produced playwrights. He was playwright in residence with Alberta Theatre Projects from 1975 to 1976, Associate Director with the Stratford Festival from 1977 - 1978, and head of the Banff School of Fine Arts Playwrights Colony in 1986. In 1988 he was appointed head of the Canada Council's Theatre Section. His plays have been translated into

more than 15 languages and performed in more than thirty-five countries around the world. Nationally and internationally recognized as translator of plays into English, his credits include *The Seagull*, *Uncle Vanya*, and *The Cherry Orchard* by Anton Chekov, *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmund Rostand, Sophocles' *Oedipus The King*, and most recently Carol Frechjette's *La Peau d'Elisa*. His version of *The Cherry Orchard* was produced at the Stratford Festival in 1998, and his *Uncle Vanya* at the Shaw Festival in 1999. Murrell's own plays include *Death in New Orleans*, *Memoir*, *New World*, *Bajazet*, *Waiting For the Parade*, *Farther West*, *Power In the Blood* and *The Faraway Nearby*. His play, *Farther West* won the Floyd E. Chalmers Canadian Play Award in 1987, Mr. Murrell is currently the Artistic Director/Executive Director of the Theatre Arts Department at the Banff Centre for the Arts.

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Creative Team

Director
Set & Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Stage Manager

Michael Boucher*
Kate Jamin
Michael Whitfield
Mike DiMambro
Alison Mayert

Assistant to the Director
Assistant to Designer (Costumes)
Fight Coach
Choral Arrangement

Salimah Kassam
Heather Libby
Jeffrey Fisher
Kristin Nowosad

* by kind permission of Knowledge Network

There will be one 15 minute

Farther West by John Murrell is produced by

John Murrell's

Farther West

The Acting *Company*

May Buchanan	Michelle Addison
Violet Decarmin	Rebecca Henderson
Seward	Peter McGuire
Nettie McDowell	Celine Stubel
Babcock	Fred Jamin
Lily Reeves	Kristin Nowosad
Ross	David Brown
Thomas Shepherd	Robin Collins
Raglan	Andrew Bosch
Hanks	Chris Sterling

Farther West *Time Line*

Act I

Scene	1	Rat Portage, ONT	1886	summer	afternoon
	2	Calgary, NWT	1888	spring	morning
	3	Calgary, NWT	1888-89	winter	morning
	4	Calgary, NWT	1889	summer	afternoon
	5	Nose Creek, NWT	1890	autumn	evening

Act II

Scene	6	Sheep River, NWT	1891	summer	afternoon
	7	Calgary, NWT	1891	autumn	morning
	8	Vancouver, BC	1891-92	winter	afternoon
	9	Vancouver, BC	1891-92	winter	evening (same day)
	10	English Bay, BC	1891-92	winter	evening (same day)

Intermission

permission of the playwright.

Production Team

Production Manager	Bert Timmermans*
Technical Director	Steve Vrooman*
Assistant Stage Managers	Jennifer Horlacher, Krista Robinson
Assistant to the Production Manager	Warren Busby
Electrician	Karen Goddard
Lighting Board Operator	Jason Donaldson
Sound Operator	Jasmine Lemon
Head of Scenic Construction	Charles Procure*
Assistant Scenic Carpenter	Chris Sterling, Aaron Thom
Properties Supervisor	Denise deMontreuil*
Properties Co ordinator	Rob Hunt, Mandy Wood
Scenic Painters	Kate Jamin, Heather Libby, Karen Goddard
Head of Wardrobe/Cutter	Karla D. Stout*
Co ordinating Wardrobe Maintenance Supervisor	Erin Fitzpatrick
Wardrobe Maintenance Supervisors	Patrick duWors, Juanita Hufnagel
Hair and Makeup Co ordinator	Lara Depauli
Dressers	Charlane Simpson, Lindsay Froland, Rebecca Mulvihill, Tanner Harvey
Running Crew	William Wells, Randi Vesteroy
Theatre Manager	Bindon Kinghorn*
Assistant Theatre Manager	Sandra Guerreiro*
Communications/Program	Marnie Crowe*
Communications Assistants	Leslie Gottleib, Patrick Tuckey
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Very Special Thanks to: Tempo Trend and Bob & Carol Dent

.....

We Have A Winner!

The lucky winner of the Air Canada Raffle was Ingrid Paulsen, avid Phoenix supporter and journalist for the Saanich News. Ingrid hasn't yet decided where or when she will use her winnings, but she says it will likely be somewhere warm.



L to R Phoenix Student, Heather Shippitt and Air Canada Raffle winner, Ingrid Paulsen.

The Katherine and Murray Edwards Award

More good News! The proceeds from the Air Canada raffle, ticket sales from the the fundraiser, *Christmas Crackers* plus miscellaneous donations have accumulated enough funds to create a new student award, The Katherine and Murray Edwards Award.

Thank you everyone who contributed to this award.

Congratulations



Phoenix Theatre



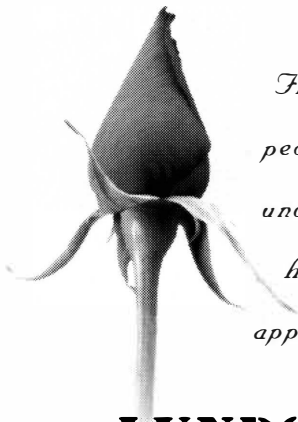
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Robert Holliston, Music Consultant

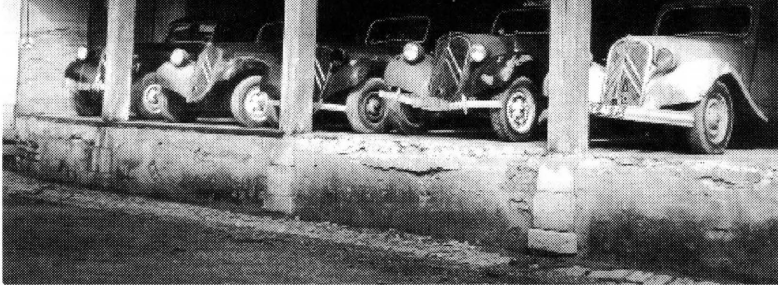
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Peter McGuire
Tim Sutherland
Sakalas Uzdavinyas
Tony Vickery

Phoenix Phacts

• Former Phoenix Student **Roark Critchlow** has not renewed his contract with the daytime television show, *Days of Our Lives* (Dr. Michael Horton). He intends to concentrate on the production of another new film. • Langham Court Theatre's recent production of Pinter's *Betrayal* featured **Paul Terry** and **Heldor Shafer** in the cast. **Chris Oliver** was technical director. • **Ed Belanger** is part of this season's Alberta Theatre Project's ensemble casting. For the Fall repertory season he performed in *Così* and *15 Seconds* and the Christmas show *The Gift of the Magi*. • As a part of her course work, fourth year student **Robina Cook** was part of the backstage running crew for the Belfry Theatre's production of *Sylvia*. • **Nicholas Harrison** created the Kendo Choreography for the recent film *Snow Falling On Cedars*. • **Robert Mitchell** who has been on tour with Story Theatre for many years has come off the road to become the Artistic Associate for the Company. Artistic Director is still **Jim Leard** who has taken a position this semester with the Theatre Department teaching Acting for non-theatre majors. Robert has also been appointed the theatre reviewer for CBC Victoria. Kudos Robert! • On tour with Jim Leard's Story Theatre will be former Phoenix Students, **Michelle Monteith**, **Greg Tees**, **Michael Rinaldi** and **Matthew Payne**. • **Florence MacGregor** has been cast as Lady Stanley in The Stratford Festival's forthcoming production of *Elizabeth Rex*. • **Ron Ulrich**, Guest Director of last season's production of *The Maltese Bodkin* has recently been appointed Artistic Director of Neptune Theatre in Halifax. • **Monica Prendergast** Catherine MacNeill/Mother in *The Glace Bay Miners' Museum* is the Theatre Arts Coordinator for The B. C. Festival of the Arts.

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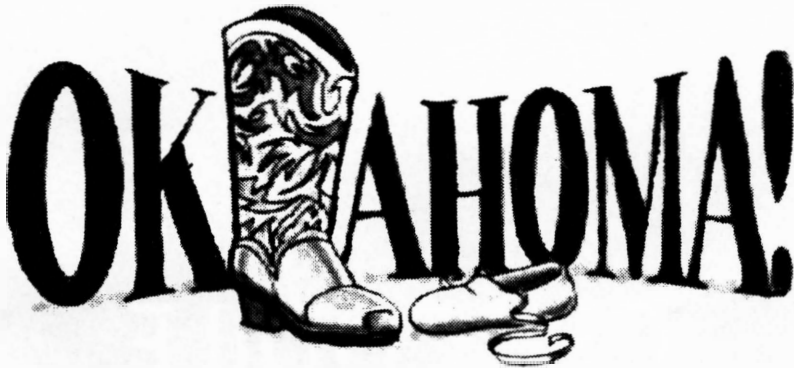
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Director: Drew Kemp • Choreographer: Sandra Walton

Musical Director: Eileen Cooper

March 1 - 4 & 7 - 11 at 8:00 p.m.

Oak Bay High Theatre, 2101 Cadboro Bay Rd., Victoria

Adults.....\$12.00 Information

Students/Seniors.....\$9.00 598-3361

Website: <http://oakbay.sd61.b.c.ca/~theatre/>

be scene.

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