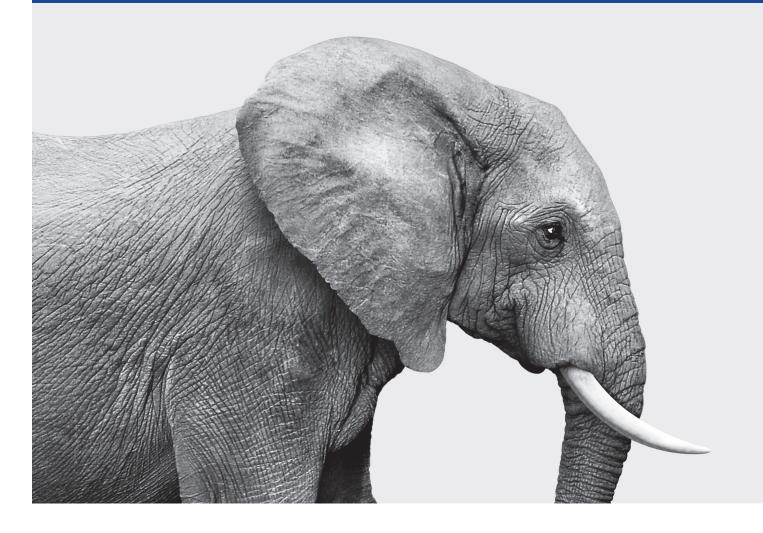


March 24 - 27, 2021





# **iA Financial Group is proud to support** the University of Victoria Phoenix Theatre





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## Problem Child By George F. Walker

## **CREATIVE TEAM**

Director
Set Designer
<b>Costume Designers</b>
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Livestream Director
Stage Managers

Fran Gebhard Cassie Holmes Yi Misty Buxton & Rachel Macadam Simon Farrow Quinn Haberlin Branden Sugden Jamie Anderson & Sophi Murias

## CAST

(in order of appearance)

Wednesday, March 24 at 8pm | Friday, March 26 at 8pm

R.J.	Dawson Rutledge
Denise	Julie McGuire
Phillie	Justin Little
Helen	Sarah Michelle Lang

Thursday, March 25 at 8pm | Saturday, March 27 at 8pm

R.J.	Aidan Guerreiro
Denise	Davey Elliott
Phillie	Ted MacRae
Helen	Esme Laidlaw

Presenting sponser



PROBLEM CHILD was first produced by Rattle Stick Productions (New York), September 1997; and Factory Theatre (Toronto), November 1997. Author's Agent: Great North Artists Management/ 350 Dupont Street/Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5R 1V9

We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and <u>W</u>SÁNEĆ 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. We invite you to read more about Indigeneity and Fine Arts.



## Welcome from the Chair

The art of theatre requires the gathering and collaboration of many artists: directors and designers to dream up a vision of what will be realized on stage; skilled crafts people and technicians to build sets, props and costumes; actors to embody the stories to be told; and so many others that connect and communicate with the other essential part of the theatre equation—you, our audience.

Over this past school year, the Department of Theatre has slowly, carefully, and safely developed ways to create theatre following sanitizing, distancing, and masking guidelines. However, we have greatly missed sharing our work with our audiences to make this vision complete.

Tonight, we are thrilled to rectify this situation in the only way

that is possible right now, through livestream technology. Barely practiced a year ago, it is now a lifeline to our audiences. We are indebted to the University of Victoria for supporting us on this journey as the department purchased fundamental gear and implemented new technology. We are also thankful for contributions from Anne McLaughlin, a generous donor, and iA Financial Group, our long-time sponsor. Their support allowed us to acquire additional equipment and raise our livestream presentation to a professional quality for our viewers.

Since the equipment arrived last fall, faculty and staff have been busy instructing our students in the art of livestreaming. Learning about camera angles, livestream switching, video editing, and other tech skills, our students will have an advantage in today's world and exciting new competencies that will reframe their futures. While livestreaming is the only way we can get our performance to you today, in the future, it will continue to be a key part of the department's outreach when we return to our seats in the theatre. Even as our ideas of theatre evolve around us, we're proud to continue offering our students one of the best theatre educations in Canada.

With so many challenges over this unprecedented year, we're thankful for our audiences—for your understanding as shows got cancelled, your patience as plans were changed, and your loyalty and support as we explore new avenues to share our work with you. We are looking ahead with anticipation to our 2021/22 season, but need just a little more time before we can announce it to you. Please watch for this information coming to your inbox later this spring.

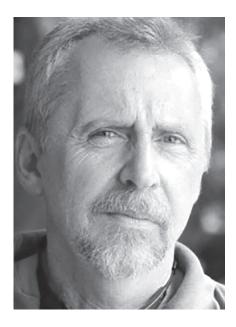
Thank you for joining us on this journey, both tonight as you sit and watch in your homes, and next season, when we hope that you can return to the Phoenix in person.

Dr. Anthony Vickery Chair, Department of Theatre

## About the Playwright

George F. Walker is one of Canada's most prolific and popular playwrights who has written more than 30 plays and several screenplays for award-winning Canadian television series. Part Kafka, part Lewis Carroll, Walker's distinctive, gritty, fast-paced tragicomedies illuminate and satirize the selfishness, greed, and aggression of contemporary urban culture.

Among his best known plays are *Filthy Rich* (1979); *Zastrozzi* (1977); *Theatre of the Film Noir* (1980); *Criminals in Love* (1984); *Better Living* (1986); *Nothing Sacred* (1988); *Love and Anger* (1989); *Escape from Happiness* (1991); *Tough!* (1993); *Suburban Motel* (1997, a series of six plays set in the same motel room, including *Problem Child*); *Heaven* (2000); *And So It Goes* (2010); and *Dead Metaphor* (2013).



Since the early 1980s Walker has directed most of the premieres of

his own plays. His plays have been presented in more than 700 productions across Canada, the United States, and around the world; they have been translated into French, German, Hebrew, Turkish, Polish, Hungarian, Romanian, Spanish, Portuguese, Czech, and Japanese.

During a ten-year absence from theatre, he wrote mainly for television including the series **This is Wonderland, The Line,** and **Living in Your Car.** Awards and honours include the Order of Canada, two Governor General's awards, five Dora Mavor Moore Awards, nine Chalmers Canadian Play Awards, and the Governor General's lifetime achievement award.

## **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:



Drew Hayden Taylor Playwright, Novelist, Filmmaker and Journalist

## Thursday, April 1, 12:30pm

#### FREE ZOOM LECTURE

## Canoeing Down the River of Contemporary Storytelling...

Drew Hayden Taylor talks about the changing face of Indigenous literature, its origins, its trajectory, and his unexpected journey through it.







## Notes from the Director

The ban on live performance, and restrictions on face-to-face teaching, have taken a toll on all of us—staff, faculty, and students alike. Our patrons have suffered as well! But as you know, "the show must go on." So, we are delighted to be able, through streaming, to present a virtual performance of George F. Walker's play **Problem Child**.

We rehearsed in face-masks and practised our social distancing to the letter. Our staging and blocking had to adjust to these protocols accordingly. A daunting challenge? Yes! Different? Certainly. But we've loved every minute. We're natural-born theatre-makers, and neither hell nor high water, nor even a

global pandemic, can stop us from carrying out our work with joy.

Thematically, Walker's play resonates strongly with many of us today. A young couple is caught in a kind of limbo, waiting, in a low-rent motel room, for a social worker, and the government system in general, to return their young daughter to them. For the past year we, too, have been in limbo, waiting inside, sometimes in similarly confined spaces, for our lives to be returned to us. Set in the late 1990s, the play speaks to us today in unexpected ways. Walker explores what it's like to be subject to a system that favours the privileged—another theme that's taken on new urgency during the pandemic.

Yet despite the seriousness of the social questions it raises, the play is, in fact, a comedy. I've been a fan of George Walker's work for years, and directing this play with a dedicated team of talented staff, faculty, and students has brought me great pleasure. What you'll be seeing on the stream is the work of the four actors who appear on stage; what you won't experience in the same way is the work of the designers (for set, costumes, lighting, and sound), the builders of the sets and costumes, the stage managers and technicians, the streaming teams, camera operators, box office and communications personnel. Together, this backstage army of artists and craftspeople numbers about seventy-five. Together, under challenging conditions, we have worked long and hard and are proud to bring you **Problem Child.** No, it's not really theatre, and it's not TV either, but it is a sincere practice of our art-form during a pandemic. We hope you enjoy it.

## Distinguished Alumni Talk: Supporting IBPOC Voices

Join Puente Theatre artistic director Mercedes Bátiz-Benét (Writing '02) as she discusses the vital need to increase IBPOC participation in Victoria's arts community, and shares some of Puente Theatre's new initiatives.

Free webinar: 12–1pm Monday, March 29 Register at bit.ly/3kLjUxA



## **Creative** Team





Director

Fran acted on stage and in front of the camera for many years before turning her attention to directing. She received her MFA in directing from UBC in 2001. For UVic, she has directed 7 Stories, The School For Scandal, Crackpot, Wreckage, Midsummer Night's Dream and Les Liaisons Dangereuses. Favourites for other theatres include As You Like It, For The Pleasure of Seeing Her Again, Much Ado About Nothing and The Importance of Being Earnest. Fran has had a long association with the development of new Canadian work, and served as the Program Head of the Playwrights Colony at the Banff Centre for many years. Acting is Fran's first love and her most memorable roles include: Brutus in Julius Caesar, Lady Wishfort in The Way of the World, Elizabeth in **Richard III**, Joanne in Norm Foster's **Jupiter in July**, and Martha in Joan MacLeod's Amigo's Blue Guitar. She regularly performs her one-woman show Looking For Kitty and has hosted her own radio and TV talk shows. Film and TV credits include appearances on The Chris Isaak Show, Stephen King's Dead Zone, Friday's Curse and Moment of Truth. She played Bette Davis' daughter-in-law in A Piano For Mrs. Cimino and was nominated for a Genie award for her work in **Blue City Slammers**. Fran also performed in **As You Like** It and The Fantasticks during Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre's inaugural season. Teaching has become a focus in Fran's life – she loves sharing her passion for theatre with the next generation of talented and energetic theatre professionals.

## **Cassie Holmes**

## Set Designer

Cassie is a fourth-year production and management student and is excited to be set designing her first mainstage production at the Phoenix Theatre. Past design publication: **The White Plague** (Prague Quadrennial Common Design Project 2020). Past Stage Management credits include **Imagine That** (SATCo, 2020), **Children's Hour** (Phoenix Theatre, 2020), **Knife Skills** (SATCo, 2019), **The Addams Family Jr.** and **The Music Man Jr.** (Kay Meek Conservatory, 2019). Cassie also sits on the board of directors as the Production Manager for the White Rock Youth Ambassadors Program and helps write, produce, direct, stage manage and design their live events.

## Yi Misty Buxton

## Costume Designer

Misty is a fourth-year costume design student and is excited to be one of the Costume Designers for this production of **Problem Child**. While at the Phoenix, she has been involved in various roles in several productions. She was previously the Costume Designer **Comic Potential**, Assistant to the Costume Designer on **Othello**, Makeup Coordinator on **The Drowsy Chaperone**, Wardrobe Supervisor on **Trojan Women**, and as a Dresser on **Crimes of the Heart** (Pheonix). Misty hopes after graduation she will be given a chance to work for a small theater company where she can do both costume design and/or construction.

## Rachel Macadam

## Costume Designer

Rachel is a fourth-year design student in the Department of Theatre, with a focus on set and costume design. This is her first mainstage design at the Phoenix, and she is grateful it was able to come to fruition. Select credits include: *Are We All Dead* (Costume & Puppet Designer, SATCo), *Death by Horoscope* (Set Designer, SATCo), *Indulgence, Hey There, Mr. Moon* (Production Designer, SATCo) as well as being an assistant to the costume designer on Othello (Phoenix Theatre).







## **Creative** Team











## **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; Love and Information** (Phoenix).

## **Quinn Haberlin**

## Sound Designer

Quinn is a fourth-year self-directed student who enjoys sound designing, playwriting and acting. This is his design debut at the Phoenix and has previously sound designed such SATCo shows as *Imagine That, Power In Silence* and *Spin The Bottle*. He also made his Phoenix acting debut as Feldzieg in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. He hopes this production can fulfil everyone's desire for theatre in these unique times.

## 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).

## Jamie Anderson

## Stage Manager

Jamie is a third-year theatre student at the Phoenix. She is pursuing a degree in Production and Management, with a double major in Writing. In theatre, Jamie works primarily as a stage manager but is also interested in props, playwriting and costume design. Previous Phoenix credits include **Othello** (2019, Props ASM), and **The Drowsy Chaperone** (2018, Dresser). Elsewhere: **Little Bird** (Starry Starry Skies); **This Room Has 72 Lovers, Are We All Dead?** (SATCo); **Anomie** (Winnipeg Fringe Festival). Thanks to her brother Conor, for cooking many late-night suppers after rehearsal.

## Sophi Murias

### Stage Manager

Sophi is in her fourth and final year at the Phoenix. She works in several areas of theatre, including stage management, directing, acting and stage combat. During the summer, Sophi teaches theatre to kids and teens! Phoenix credits include: *The Children's Hour, Othello, Trojan Women*. Elsewhere: *Death by Horoscope, Breakwater* (SATCo); *The Fan, Macbeth, The Three Musketeers, Village of Idiots, A Midsummer Night's Dream* (CYPT); *Mary Poppins, Peter Pan* (Storybook Theatre); *The Chip on Your Shoulder, A Tale of Two Shoulders* (Cannonball Festival). Thanks to Vanessa and Logan for their ongoing support, and to Bert and Peter for their mentorship.

## Cast For Performances on March 24 & March 26, 2021



## Sarah-Michelle Lang (Smitchy) Helen

Smitchy is a second-year performance student. She is thrilled about this opportunity to work with such wonderful people. Some credits include **Spin the Bottle** and **The Next Colour Blue** (Satco). She is honoured to be making her mainstage debut and grateful for all those at home watching and supporting her!



## Justin Little

## Phillie

Justin is a fourth-year actor at the Phoenix. He would like to thank his friends and family for their everlasting support. Since you're viewing from home, you might as well crack a drink. After all, it's what Phillie would want. Previous credits include: **Othello** (2019) and **Comic Potential** (2020).



## Julie McGuire

Denise

Julie began her acting journey when she worked on **Problem Child** in her first year. She is delighted to once more play Denise in her final Phoenix show. Julie thanks her parents for their support, her peers for their enthusiasm, and Fran for granting her a wonderful "full circle".

## Dawson Rutledge R.J.

Dawson is a fourth-year theatre major in the performance focus. **Problem Child** is his third main stage at the Phoenix. Other credits include **Othello, The Childrens Hour** (phoenix), and the CW's **Riverdale**. He'd like to thank all his peers and professors for their support over the course of his degree.



## Faculty Concert Series: Music for Silent Film

School of Music piano professor Bruce Vogt performs improvised soundtracks to silent comedy classics by Buster Keaton & Harold Lloyd. Broadcast via the School of Music's livestream channel.

> March 28 & April 4 livestream.com/somlive

## Cast For Performances on March 25 & March 27, 2021



## Davey Elliott Denise

Davey Elliott is in their fourth and final year of studies at the Phoenix. Their past performance credits include **Othello** (Phoenix) and **The Next Colour Blue** (SATCo). In addition to being an actor, Davey is a passionate musician and songwriter.



## Aidan Guerreiro R.J.

Aidan is in the final semester of his Theatre and Political Science double major. He is overjoyed to be able to perform such a wonderful play alongside such wonderful people. You may recognize Aidan from *Comic Potential, 7 Stories* or *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Phoenix).



## Esmé Laidlaw Helen

Esmé is in her fourth year of the performance focus. Select credits include *Oink, Oink* (SATco), *East of Berlin* (The Belfry Theatre) and *Othello* (Phoenix). She is delighted to work on this final project with her classmates and thanks everyone involved.



## Teddy MacRae Phillie

Teddy is in his fourth year of the performance focus. Pheonix credits include **Othello, Comic Potential**, and **Drops in a Broken Fountain**. Offstage, Teddy is Blue Bridge Theatre's venue technician. He would like to thank you for supporting theatre in this difficult time and hopes you enjoy the show!



## **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 **Props Assistant** Assistant to the Costume Designer Wardrobe Supervisors/Dressers **Guest Makeup Consultant** Assistant to the Lighting Designer Head Electrician Assistant Head Electrician Show Electrician Lighting Operators **Assistant Sound Designer** Assistant to the Sound Designer Sound Operators Livestream Show Caller Livestream Switcher Livestream Camera Operators Livestream Audio Engineer Livestream Audio Consultant Assistants to the Livestream Director **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 **Megs Schneider** Kaitlyn Alderson, Georgia Sherman **Bonnie Burton, Taylor Cormack Monica Arthurs\*** Gracia Joulie Amy Bell, Brock Keeler, Mackenzie Matthews Brianna de Jong Hannah Abbey Nichelle Friesen, Caelan O'Gorman Jessica Pratt\* Sloane Vasko **Emily Campbell Emily Trepanier** Syrah Khan Lauren Lypkie, Mackenzie Matthews Ariel Pretty Sophie Groves **Brooke Hogeweide, Kaylee Cavanagh Meas Schneider Kornel Danis** Rowan Watts, Owen McIntosh **Christopher Stewart Miriam Dumitra Emily Campbell, Emily Trepanier** Sydney Hunt, Kye McInnis Sydney Ell, Miranda Hatch, Iris Listeš Segall **Ashley Richter, Louey Sumners** Kevin Eastman Vanessa Wood Alison Roberts Hannah Farquhar, Klara Kopeinigg, Katie Lacroix, Laura Motz Roan Foshaug, Carter Gulseth, Nathan Harvey, Sophia Radford, Taylor Williams, Landon Wong, Vanessa Wood

And Theatre 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 Michael Huston and David Broome, UVic Fine Arts

Theatre Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the following students for their academic achievements last year (2019/20).

#### **Entrance Scholarships**

Ailsa & Roger Bishop Entrance Scholarship in Theatre: *Joel Black, Jaeden Walton* 

UVic Entrance Scholarship: Sierra Alexander, Anissa Bertoni, Andrea Blair, Haley Christenson, Garrett Clayton, Santana Cusano, Megan Conway, Lilian Doucet, Lauren Fisher, Matthew Gordon, Nicole Harney, Zachary Jordan, Tiffanie Leger, Analiese Lohr, Carson Loughridge, Annie Lucas, Marina McLaren, Justin Quattrocchi, Kayleigh Rigg, Carson Schmidt, Trystin Simon, Brigit Stewart, Akari van den Driesen, Jaeden Walton, Adam Yates-Laberge, Fenja Young UVic Excellence Scholarship: Olivia Bechtold, Zoe Bechtold, Kiera Byrnes, Kaya Crawford, Lily Davies, Siobhan Davies, Kiera Epp UVic Transfer Scholarship: Ariel Pretty

TD Insurance Meloche Monnex Scholarship: Alison Roberts

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Valentine Barrow Scholarship in Theatre History: *Taylor Williams* Sarah Blackstone Scholarship in Theatre: *Alison Roberts* Clio Book Prize in Theatre History: *Sarah Hunsberger, Bryan McNair* Lynne Conway-Wilson Memorial Bursary: *Darby Thorogood* Muriel Conway Memorial Scholarship: *Aidan Guerreiro* Crestview-Chelsea Theatre Award: *Miriam Dumitra* Lawrence Eastick Bursary: *Brodie Needham* Percy H. Eliot Memorial Scholarship in Theatre: *Corina Fisher* Finlayson Award: *Brock Keeler* Trish Grainge Scholarship: *Christopher Stewart* Katherine E. & Murray D. Edwards Scholarship in Theatre: *Bryan McNair* Gwladys & Gwen Downes Scholarship in Theatre: *Sophie Groves, Klara Kopeinigg, Rowan Watts* Audrey St. Denys & M.E. Johnson Scholarship: *Naomi Duska* 

#### **Department of Theatre Scholarships**

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Phoenix Theatre Graduate Student Travel Award: Atefeh Zargarzadeh SSHRC Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship: Dennis Gupa University of Victoria Graduate Award: Priyanka Chatterjee, Mary Clerihue, Devon Goldie, Arash Isapour, Vjosa Mala,



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