

# Picnic

BY WILLIAM INGE

PHOENIX



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# Picnic

by William Inge

CAST  
in alphabetical order

<b>Dallas Ashby</b>	Helen Potts
<b>Aidan Correia</b>	Bomber Gutzel
<b>Lindsay Curl</b>	Millie Owens
<b>Kevin Eade</b>	Alan Seymour
<b>Julie Forrest</b>	Flo Owens
<b>Bethany Heemskerk</b>	Irma Kronkite
<b>Jenson Kerr</b>	Hal Carter
<b>Hayley McCurdy</b>	Madge Owens
<b>Michelle Morris</b>	Rosemary Sydney
<b>Sharmila Miller</b>	Christine Schoenwalder
<b>Markus Spodzieja</b>	Howard Bevans

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director	<b>Peter McGuire</b>
Set Designer	<b>Jonathan Maxwell</b>
Costume Designer	<b>Pauline Stynes</b>
Lighting Designer	<b>Allan Stichbury</b>
Sound Designer	<b>Colette Habel</b>
Stage Manager	<b>Becca Jorgensen</b>
Assistant Director	<b>Jocelyne Lamarche</b>
Assistant Set Designer	<b>Carl Keys</b>
Assistant Lighting Designer	<b>Clare Mathison</b>
Movement Consultant	<b>Jacques Lemay</b>

*Picnic* is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

There will be one intermission during the performance.

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## Director's Notes

Having spent the last many months living with William Inge's *Picnic* in my head and going through stacks of research, I thought I might be ready to direct the play. I was only partly ready. Enter our gifted and inspired company of actors and designers, and our skilled and dedicated production team. Only then did the journey begin in earnest – and what a profound journey it has been!

I've been aware of this play since seeing Jackie Maxwell's Shaw Festival production over a decade ago. I've always felt it was the right play for our students. The play is classic in its form, placing us in one location over a period of twenty-four hours. Our acting company has had the opportunity to discover the complexities of what appear to be simple characters. Our design team has had the challenge of taking us to a small town in Kansas in 1950.

I can't and won't tell you what the play is "about". I *can't* tell you because my perspective on the play shifts when an actor introduces a new dimension to their character, when set designer Jonathan Maxwell introduces an insightful image, when costume designer Pauline Stynes fits a costume on an actor, or sound designer Colette Habel introduces a piece of music. I *won't* tell you because my hope is that you will discover your own meaning of the play and why it's relevant in 2014. Great plays ask important questions. It is my firm belief that Mr. Inge is still asking important and provocative questions through the characters in *Picnic*.

Thank you for coming to the Phoenix to support and celebrate our collaborative and academic endeavours in the Department of Theatre. You are witnessing a shining example of experiential learning at its best.

Peter McGuire

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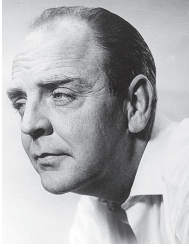
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## About *the Playwright*



The renowned American playwright William Inge (1913-1973) is the author of several successful dramas. Many of his works were influenced by his childhood in the small town of Independence, Kansas. After a string of jobs as a labour worker, teacher, and news announcer, Inge eventually found his way into the world of theatre as a drama and music critic for the *St. Louis Times* in 1943. It was during this time he met Tennessee Williams, and this acquaintance led to him accompanying Williams to a performance of his play *The Glass Menagerie*. Inspired by Williams' work, Inge returned to St. Louis to write a play of his own.

Three months later he completed *Farther From Heaven*. Shortly thereafter Inge went back to teaching as an instructor at Washington University while working on a project that would eventually become his drama *Come Back, Little Sheba*, a play that would earn him the title of Broadway's Most Promising Playwright during its 1950 season. *Picnic* premiered in 1953 at the Music Box Theatre in New York City. This drama in particular was inspired by Inge's childhood in small town Kansas, and it won him a Pulitzer Prize, The Drama Circle Award, the Outer Circle Award, and the Theatre Club Award. Inge's success continued through the 1950s with film adaptations of his plays *Picnic* and *Bus Stop* (the latter of which featured Marilyn Monroe in a starring role) and the premiere of what is considered to be his finest work, *Dark at the Top of the Stairs*. Sadly, this would be Inge's last theatrical hit as *A Loss of Roses*, *Natural Affection* and *Where's Daddy?* were all met with critical disdain and closed early into their respective runs. This turn of events caused Inge to return to his teaching career, only to retire in 1970 and write two novels, *Good Luck, Miss Wyckoff* and *My Son is a Splendid Driver* while becoming increasingly depressed. Inge committed suicide at the age of 60 in 1973 and was buried in his hometown.



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## Creative Team



**Peter McGuire** *Director*

Beginning at Victoria's McPherson Playhouse, Peter has enjoyed a 30-year career in the professional theatre that has included stage management, production management, talent management, administration and producing. He has worked at several major regional theatres including long-term residencies at the National Arts Centre, the Charlottetown Festival and the Stratford Festival. He has toured regionally, nationally and internationally and worked for the Maybox Group of theatres in London's West End. Between 2003 and 2005 he was Associate Conservatory Director at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. Peter currently teaches acting, directing, production, and introductory theatre courses to students from across the campus.



**Jonathan Maxwell** *Set Designer*

Jonathan is a fourth-year design student. Between completing a degree in film in 2005 and returning to school he has worked on hundreds of projects in theatre, film, television and events. Highlights include designing the Finnish premieres of musicals *Honk!* and *Altar Boyz*, directing Jonathan Larson's *Tick, Tick... Boom!* and managing the construction of the Louis Vuitton Helsinki Grand Opening. Other work includes set designing *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Phoenix), adapting Neil Gaiman's short story *We Can Get Them for You Wholesale* (SATCo), and being the assistant director for *Soho Cinders* (a new musical in London's West End) and *Reasons to Be Pretty* (Phoenix).



**Pauline Stynes** *Costume Designer*

After training and a career in tailoring and costuming, Pauline's love of theatre and desire to create beautiful costumes inspired her to return to school for her BFA in Design. She is absolutely honoured to be the costume designer for *Picnic*, her first mainstage production. Pauline was the Wardrobe Supervisor for *Eurydice* (Phoenix) and has also worked on several local professional productions including, *A Christmas Carol* (Belfry), *Let Me Call You Sweetheart* (Belfry), *My Fair Lady* (Blue Bridge), and *Smalltown: A Pick Up Musical* (Theatre SKAM). Most recently she was Head of Wardrobe for the world-premiere production of the opera, *Marilyn Forever* (Aventa Ensemble).



**Allan Stichbury** *Lighting Designer*

Recent productions at the University of Victoria include set designs for *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; *Inside*; *Twelfth Night*; and *Yerma*. Beyond the university, recent credits include set designs for *The Rake's Progress* and *Flying Dutchman* at Pacific Opera Victoria, *The Barber of Seville* at the Vancouver Opera, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* at Theatre Calgary and The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, set and lighting design for *Communion* at Alberta Theatre Projects and lighting design for *God of Carnage* at Theatre Calgary. He has been working with Bangkok University to establish a Student Exchange Agreement and Memo of Understanding with UVic. The first exchange students are now in Bangkok and working on projects. Allan is a past president of Associated Designers of Canada.

## Creative Team



**Colette Habel** *Sound Designer*

Colette is a third-year theatre and writing student making her Phoenix mainstage debut as a designer. Previously, she assisted the sound designer of *The Skin of Our Teeth* (2013, Phoenix Theatre), and was a sound board operator for *Peter N' Chris* and the *Mystery of the Hungry Heart Motel* (2012, Phoenix Theatre). This past year Colette directed and sound designed her adaptation of *Goblin Market* (2013, SATCo) and performed in *Beyond the Clouds* (2013, SATCo). Colette is a founding member of AmpersandTheatre. She would like to thank her Phoenix family (and real family) for their unwavering and frighteningly optimistic support.



**Becca Jorgensen** *Stage Manager*

Becca is a third-year production and management student in the Department of Theatre. When not busy drinking pina coladas and getting caught in the rain, she adds to her list of stage management credits: *Goblin Market* (2013, SATCo), *Beyond the Clouds* (2013, SATCo), *A Play, Or Something Like One* (2013, Victoria Fringe), and *Reasons to be Pretty* (ASM, 2013, Phoenix Theatre). Becca would like to thank anyone who has put up with (or has supported) her these past months. Her next adventure is with Impulse Theatre's third reincarnation of *Wolf in the Mirror*. Becca is a founding member of AmpersandTheatre.

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# Cast



**Dallas Ashby** *Helen Potts*

Dallas is a third-year design student in the department and cannot emphasize her excitement enough at being part of this amazing cast. Having played on stages all her life, recent performances include *The Laramie Project*, *Perfect Wedding*, and *A Shot in the Dark* (Langham Court Theatre), and *Cakewalk* (St. Lukes Players).



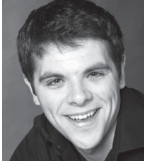
**Aidan Correia** *Bomber Gutzel*

After performing in a number of SATCos (*Act One*, *Mr. Unforgettable*, *Greg Phillips: Alleged Antichrist* and *The Pound*), Aidan is thrilled to ride into his first role on the Phoenix mainstage as Bomber Gutzel the rascally paper boy. Enjoy yourselves. And stay beautiful, world!



**Lindsay Curl** *Millie Owens*

Lindsay is extremely grateful for this amazing opportunity. She has learned more than she could have ever imagined. She would like to thank Peter McGuire and the wonderful cast and crew for constantly encouraging and supporting her; also, her family and friends for showing her true strength and love.



**Kevin Eade** *Alan Seymour*

Kevin is a fourth-year student in the acting specialization. Previous credits include *The Good Person of Setzuan*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, and *The Skin of Our Teeth*. He is sad to say that *Picnic* will be his fourth and final show at the Phoenix. Kevin would like to thank everyone that has supported him, especially the amazing cast and crew that have worked on this show.



**Julie Forrest** *Flo Owens*

This is Julie's final year at UVic. Previous theatre credits include *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *The Good Person of Setzuan* and *Girlhood of Shakespeare's Heroines* (Phoenix Theatre), *TRUNK!* (Kerploding Theatre) and *Girl Rabbi of the Golden West*. She is delighted to be playing the mother once again.



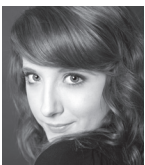
**Bethany Heemskerck** *Irma Kronkite*

Bethany is an acting student excited to be involved in *Picnic*, her first mainstage performance at the Phoenix. Some of her favourite roles from high school include Beth March in *Little Women*, Miriam Goldman in *Beau Jest*, and Grandma Kurnitz in *Lost in Yonkers*.



**Jenson Kerr** *Hal Carter*

Jenson is delighted to be back working with an amazing cast and crew. Past credits include *The Good Person of Setzuan* (2012) and *The Skin of Our Teeth* (2013). Huge thanks to his loving and supportive family and friends for keeping him alive and understanding when he goes M.I.A. to focus on the work.



**Hayley McCurdy** *Madge Owens*

Hayley McCurdy is a fourth-year student specializing in acting at UVic. Previous credits include Sabina in *The Skin of Our Teeth*, Stone in *Eurydice* (Phoenix Theatre), Leigh in *BFA: the Musical* and *Damned Girl* (Victoria Fringe). She has loved every minute working on this production with the cast and crew, and sends her love to her mom and dad!



## Cast



**Michelle Morris** *Rosemary Sydney*

This is Michelle's fifth and final year at the Phoenix. She feels so blessed to be concluding her time here with this gem of a play. She would like to thank all of you for supporting this production and hopes you enjoy an evening of superb theatre. Michelle would like to dedicate her performance to her late father Brendan Morris, without whose love and support she would not have made it this far.



**Sharmila Miller** *Christine Shoewalter*

This is Sharmila's last year in the Department of Theatre. She has loved every minute of working with such a talented and cohesive group and wants to thank everyone for making her last semester one of the best! Sharmila's previous credits include *The Night That The Knight Learned Wrong From Right* (2012 Victoria Fringe Festival), *Beyond the Clouds* (SATCo), and *The Girlhood of Shakespeare's Heroines* (Directed Study).



**Markus Spodzieja** *Howard Bevas*

Markus is a fifth-year student in his third year of the acting program. His previous Phoenix shows include *The Good Person of Setzuan* and *The Skin of Our Teeth*. He is excited to be working on Picnic, and hopes you enjoy the show as much as Howard enjoys a good cigar.

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Assistant to Peter McGuire  
Dance Captain  
Assistants to the Costume Designer  
Coordinating Wardrobe Supervisors  
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Dressers  
Hair and Makeup Coordinator  
Hair Cuts  
Head Electrician  
Electrician  
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Sound Operator  
Props Coordinator  
Assistant Carpenter  
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Scenic Painting Crew  
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**Estee Klue**  
**Victoria Stark**  
**Laura-Jane Tresidder**  
**Rachel Millar, Nicole Steudel**  
**Tannis Perry**  
**Euphemia MacMurchy, Cearamarie (Noreen) Sajalon**  
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**Nick Postle, Laura-Jane Tresidder**

And Theatre 105, 205 and work study students.

Set design and scenic artists supervised by Allan Stichbury.

Costume design supervised by Mary Kerr.

\* guest production artist

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

Burnaby Bag and Burlap Ltd., Henry Baade, D'Arcy Green, Looking Glass Salon

### In Memoriam

**Clara Amanda Hare (June 25, 1932 – October 10, 2013)** A great friend and supporter of the Phoenix Theatre, Clara was a driving force behind the department's early success despite never being an official member of faculty or paid staff. Along with her husband Carl Hare, the first chair of the theatre department, Clara formed one invaluable half of a team that unwaveringly supported the Phoenix for over 20 years by heading up committees, helping out backstage with costumes and makeup and mentoring students.

Her selflessness and kind heart will be dearly missed.



# Scholarship Recipients

**Congratulations to the following Department of Theatre students for their academic achievements.**

## **University Entrance Scholarships:**

President's Entrance Scholarship: *Hana Ruzesky-Bashford, Delaney Tesch*

UVic Excellence Scholarship: *Nicholas Guerreiro, Emma Leck, Tahsis Jensen, Jena Mailloux*

University of Victoria Entrance Scholarship: *Amelia Petscheleit, Emma Bozoian, Victoria Simpson, Shea O'Connor, Desirae Barkman, Cassidy Janzen, Chantal Gallant, Michelle Benard, Pascal Lamothe-Kipnes*

General Undergraduate Scholarship: *Craig Rianne*

Margaret Catherine Seens Scholarship: *Grace Hutchison*

Ethel Dorothy McConnell Scholarship: *Katelyn Hart*

UVic PEA Employees Scholarship, The XV Commonwealth Games Scholarship: *Nicholas Guerreiro*

## **University Renewal Scholarships:**

University of Victoria Revue Award: *Sandra Drag, Freya Engman, Erin Osborne*

UVic Academic Excellence Scholarship Renewal: *Cailey Harris, Brandon Chase Hiebert*

University of Victoria Faculty Scholarship: *Emily Beaudoin, Jennifer Fitterer*

President's Scholarship: *Emily Beaudoin, Jennifer Fitterer, Chelsea Graham, Jack Hayes, Max Johnson, Jocelyn Lamarche, Samantha Lynch, Euphemia MacMurchy, Gillian McConnell, Hayley McCurdy, Amanda Millar, Montana Mills, Victoria Stark, Shayna Ward*

## **Department of Theatre Scholarships**

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## Department of *Theatre*

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**Dr. Sarah Blackstone**

Dean of Fine Arts (Theatre History)

**Bryn Finer** Properties Co-ordinator

**Fran Gebhard** (Acting)

**Sandra Guerreiro** Audience Services Manager

**Linda Hardy** (Acting, Voice)

**Gordon Hedquist** Caretaker

**Adrienne Holierhoek**

Marketing & Communications Manager

**Dr. Mary Kerr** (Design)

**Dr. Allana Lindgren** (Theatre History)

**Peter McGuire** (Directing)

**Timothy O'Gorman** Technical Director

**Catherine Plant** Audience Services Liaison

**Charles Procure** Head of Scenic Construction

**Brian Richmond** (Acting, Directing - On Leave)

**Allan Stichbury** (Design)

**Karla D. Stout** Head of Wardrobe

**Connie te Kampe** Department Secretary

**Bert Timmermans**

Acting Theatre Manager/Production Manager

**Dr. Tony Vickery** (Theatre History)

**Dr. Jennifer Wise** (Theatre History - On leave)

**Jan Wood** (Acting)

**Dr. Michael Booth**, Professor Emeritus

**Giles Hogya**, Professor Emeritus

**Alan Hughes**, Professor Emeritus

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**Leslie D. Bland** **Denis Johnston**

**Barbara Hill** **Dr. Yasmine Kandil**

**Lauren Jerke** **Michael Whitfield**

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**Megan Aberley** **Matthew Gusul**

**Rosario** **Lauren Jerke**

**Arespachochaga** **Aisling Kennedy**

**Shona Athey** **Trudy Pauluth-Penner**

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Daniel Scott  
Mary Jean Smith  
Strauss/Warren  
Rona Sturrock*

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*Anonymous - 24  
Sybil R. Alexander  
Phyllis Allen  
D. P. Barlow  
P. M. Bond  
Sandy Briggs  
Luz Maria Cabrera and Lyle Grant  
Laine Canivet  
Adelaide Chipman  
Kathryn and Ray Colegrave  
Cam Culham  
B. Dawson  
John Ewing  
Arthur Foss  
Joan Gillie  
Darwin Heap  
Colin and Brenda Hood  
Katrin Horowitz/Andy Croll  
Peter Justo  
Marni Lalonde  
Dawn Lang  
Maryl and Don McCay  
Geoff and Ann Machin  
David and Carol Marshall  
Amanda Mills  
Jennifer Nasmith  
Robbie Newton  
Gerald Norman  
Emma Robertson  
Gisela Ruebsaat  
Alan Rycroft  
E. and S. Sanders  
susan@susaning.com  
Edna Steel  
Twinsies  
Joan and Norman Wale  
Liz and Howard Willis  
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