



MARCH 13-29 '97

THE PHOENIX THEATRE  
UVIC

# Stepping Out

## by Richard Harris

Director.....Linda Hardy  
Choreographer.....Pia Wyatt  
Musical Director .....Robert Holliston  
Assistant Musical Director.....Shannan Calcutt  
Set Designer.....Misha Koslovsky  
Assistant to the Set Designer.....Erin Macklem  
Costume Designer .....Tamara Kucheran  
Assistant to the Costume Designer .....Shanaray Langdon  
Lighting Designer .....Brendan Keith  
Assistant Lighting Designer.....Cameron Stewart  
Sound Designer .....Andrew McCaw  
Stage Manager.....Zoë Sanborn  
Dance Coach.....Jennifer Cassady

### THE CAST

Mavis.....Jennifer L. Cassady•  
Ms. Glenda Fraser.....Shannan Calcutt•  
Lynne .....Victoria Honour•  
Dorothy .....Jill Dodsworth•  
Maxine .....Megan Bunting•  
Andy.....Eve Landers•  
Geoffrey .....Peter Balkwill•  
Sylvia .....Medina Hahn•  
Rose.....Jasmine Lapointe-Turk  
Vera.....Stacy Epp•  
Janitor/Master of Ceremonies .....T. J. Dawe  
Follow Spot Operator .....Heather Libby

Understudies..... Marlis Schweitzer and Sara Topham

• 4th year Acting Specialization Students

The Action takes place in Victoria

The Time is the Present

The Finale takes place in the Future - July 1998

There will be one fifteen minute intermission

"Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French Inc."

# NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

For those of you who might be unaware of the special nature of this production, I would like to take the opportunity to talk about the 4th Year Acting Project, its development and its purpose. I should start by saying that the mandate of the Department of Theatre is clear: we encourage our students to study all aspects of the art of the theatre. However, we also believe that the art of the theatre is best understood through performance. For this reason we have placed acting at the core of our curriculum. All students in the Department are required to take first year acting. Those wishing to pursue further study then go through another selection process and the successful candidates are given permission to register for the two year Acting Specialization program. At this level the students take two years of voice, movement and acting with special workshops in Shakespeare, Molière, Commedia, mask, mime, stage fighting, etc. The workshops vary from year to year depending on the particular needs of the students and the resources available to us in the form of guest artists, and Lansdowne and Orion visitors, as well as the various talents of our own performance faculty.

Prior to 1993, however, being in the Acting Specialization program did not guarantee a student a role in the mainstage season. On the contrary, since we maintain an open casting system in the Department in which all students are free to audition for roles, the competition is very stiff. This is especially true for the women. So in 1993 the performance faculty attempted to modify the situation with our first mainstage 4th Year Acting Project -- Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls*. At that time the entire 4th year acting class was female! And the show, which is all women, was chosen specifically to focus on their needs and give them all a chance to perform in front of a sizable audience.

Since then, we have done a number of other successful projects, and all 4th year acting students have had a chance to look forward to their debut. The ongoing hitch is to find a play to suit the requirements of the class, not only in terms of their personal needs but also in terms of their numbers and composition. Needless to say this year's class poses a real problem. There are nine women and one man. Some have considerable mainstage experience, others none at all. Given the group's love of music, my colleagues chose Richard Harris' *Stepping Out* as an interesting challenge. I agreed to direct it with Pia Wyatt joining me as tap instructor and choreographer. Together we and the class have now come through a very worthwhile exercise in ensemble acting and tap. I want to thank Pia personally for all her hard work and for her generosity in giving so much of her time and expertise to us. Robert Holliston also deserves a very special thank you for volunteering to be our Music Director.

What you are seeing tonight is the result of six weeks of rehearsal and tap workshop. For those students who had never stood up in a pair of tap shoes before we started, it has been an astounding experience. Most importantly it has given everyone a chance to try something out of the

ordinary, as we do not normally teach dance or tap in the Department. For some, the project has taken considerable courage -- which incidentally is what I think *Stepping Out* is about -- to go from the first few tap lessons to the performance in so short a time.

One last word. Not all of our Acting Specialization students go on to careers in acting upon graduation. Most pursue further training in various conservatories and special schools. This is just the beginning of their work. Nonetheless we are proud to say that a good 80% of our graduates from this program are working in the field. Many have gone on to start their own companies, to work in film and television; some have also gone on to the Shaw and Stratford Festivals. Others like Pia, are teaching. You the audience have been instrumental in this process. For some of these students tonight, you are their first mainstage audience. Thank you for being there for them, and for supporting what we do here. Educationally you make all the difference. Enjoy the show.

Linda Hardy  
Director, *Stepping Out*



Linda Hardy, Director for *Stepping Out*

## PRODUCTION TEAM FOR *STEPPING OUT*

Production Manager.....	Gysbertus Timmermans*
Technical Director.....	Steve Vrooman*
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Pamela Bethel, Michelle Monteith
Electrician.....	Sara Korzan
Lighting Board Operator.....	Claire Ostick
Sound Board Operator.....	Carrie Costello
Head of Properties.....	Jeremy Gordaneer
Properties Assistant .....	Margaret Handford
Properties Team.....	Garth Johnson, Aaron Martin, Chris Oliver
Properties Builders.....	Jeff Henry, Erin Macklem
Head of Scenic Construction.....	Charles Procure*
Assistant Carpenter.....	Lance Woolard
Scenic Construction Team .....	Kellie Barnum, Justin Border, Alan Lundy, Nicola Schicchi, Lindsay Walker
Head of Wardrobe/Cutter.....	Karla D. Stout*
Costume Construction Assistants.....	Mairi Babb, Connie Beel, Allison Bottomley, Doris Bottoni, Carrie Costello, Lana Manuel, Michelle Monteith, Amber MacGregor, Elizabeth Reid
Hair Dresser.....	Doris Bottoni
Coordinating Wardrobe Supervisor.....	Marlis Schweitzer
Wardrobe Supervisor.....	Jason Mitchell
Dressers .....	Larissa Beardmore, Stephanie Shaw, Joleen Nolan
Technical Crew for Set, Props, Costumes, Lighting and Ushering.....	Theatre 105 Students
Theatre Manager.....	Bindon Kinghorn*
Assistant Theatre Manager.....	Sandra Guerreiro*
Communications Officer/Program Editor.....	Marnie Crowe*
Photography.....	Don Pierce
Graphic Design.....	Adam Sawatsky, Tamara Kucheran
Front Of House Manager.....	Kim Pinel
Box Office.....	Shannan Calcutt, Kim Pinel, Louise Anderson Gwyneth McIntosh, Amy Benson, Shendah Sebel
Opening Night Reception.....	Michelle Graham, Jasmine Lapointe-Turk
Opening Night Bar.....	University Food Services

\* Theatre Department

**Phoenix Phact:** *Stepping Out* was first produced at the Thorndike Theatre, Leatherhead. Subsequently presented by Bill Kenwright, in association with the Thorndike Theatre, at the Duke of York's Theatre, London on the 18th September, 1984.

# ABOUT THE PLAY

Like all good comedies *Stepping Out* has a serious theme -- one worth examining in our fraught, turn of the century world. It's about courage. It's about facing those obstacles that life throws our way not only with a certain fortitude, but with some degree of panache. Whether it's picking up one's life after the death of a loved one, like Geoffrey; caring for an invalid Mum like Dorothy; dealing with an abusive husband, like Andy or a second marriage and adopted kids, like Maxine; or just plain fighting the battle of the bulge, unemployment and low self esteem, like Sylvia. It takes courage, everyone in the play has his or her own demons to battle. No one is exempt. It sounds like life doesn't it?

Just to make you feel at home, we've set the play in a church hall basement somewhere along Quadra Street in Victoria, B. C. The characters come once a week to this sanctuary for a kind of cummunitas of comfort and solace. They come together through dance to salve their hurts, bind up their wounds and celebrate their strengths. This is an old theme. The ancient Greeks knew all about it -- so did the Celts. They danced their hearts out in a sacred place; they came together in the ritual of the dance to purge their tears through laughter and song, then as our theme song tells us; they picked themselves up, dusted themselves off, and started all over again.

**Phoenix Phact:** In May of this year, Director **Linda Hardy** will be returning to Thailand's Chulalongkorn University where she will be directing a new translation of Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* by Nopomat Veohong.

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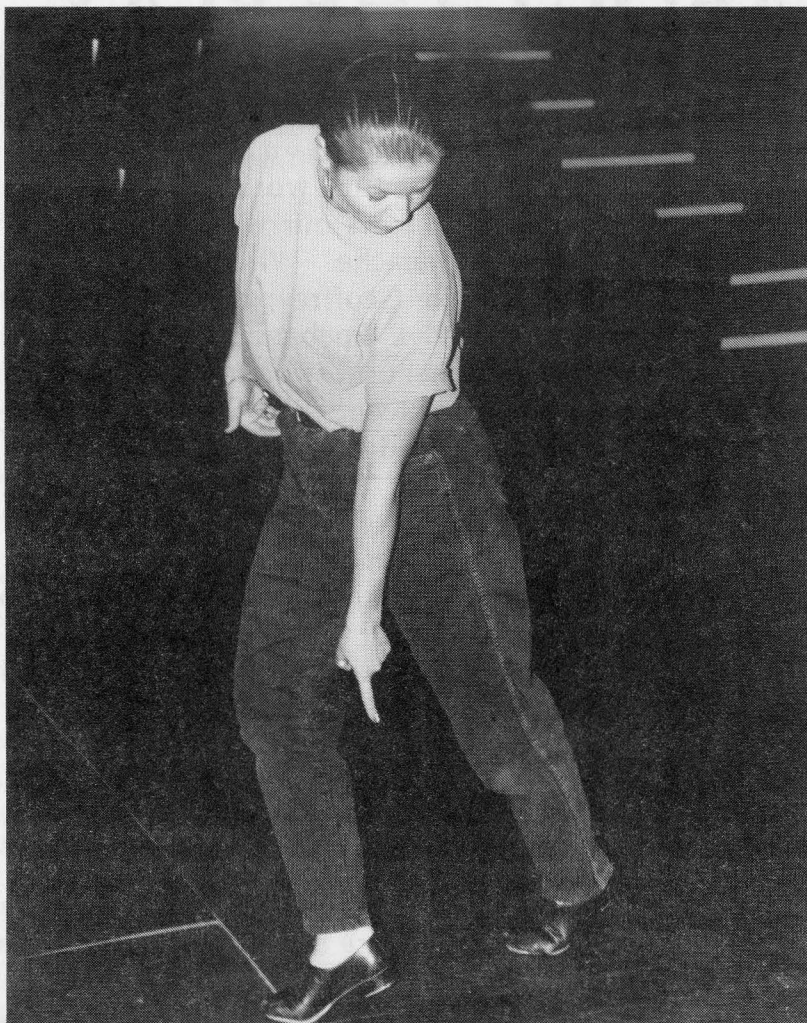
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**Pia Wyatt, Choreographer for *Stepping Out***

**Phoenix Phact:** Pia Wyatt has just completed the choreography for Chemainus Theatre's *Godspell*. Featured in the cast are two former Phoenix students, Jenny Matechuk and Matthew Payne. (There you go Sammy!)



**Ron Johnson**

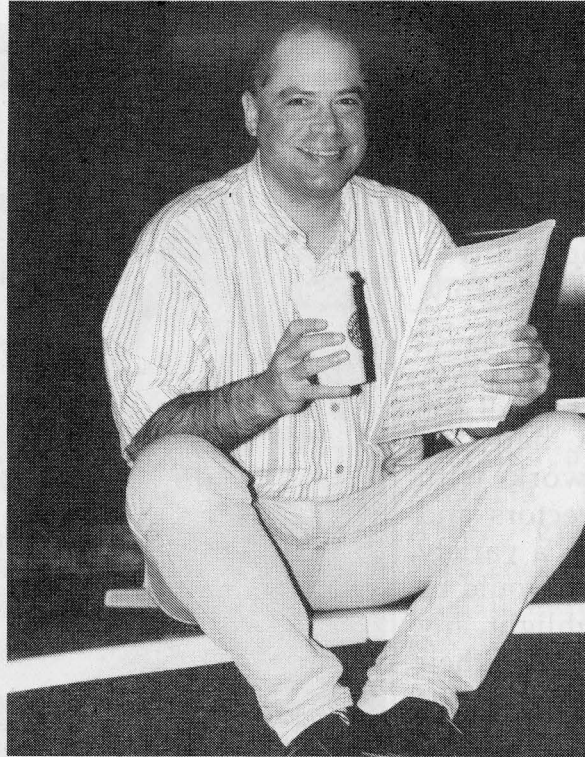
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Robert Holliston, Musical Director for *Stepping Out*



## AN EXTRA SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ROBERT HOLLISTON



The Department of Theatre and members of the production of *Stepping Out* would like to pay special tribute to Robert Holliston for the contribution of time, expertise and support he has so generously provided.

Whether it be coaching a student for an audition, piano lessons for Ms. Fraser, advice on a particular musical piece, music accompaniment for a scene, a noon time show, or a lead on a selection of music, Robert is always there for all of us.

Among his many endeavors, Robert is the choral director and rehearsal pianist for Pacific Opera Victoria and teaches at the Conservatory of Music. He is also a very fine performer in his own right.

We would also like to thank the following for donating their time and expertise for recording the *Stepping Out* music. **Robert Holliston**, piano, **John Wright**, bass, **Richard Lang**, drums, **Tom Marcaccini**, clarinet, **Don McDougall**, trombone.

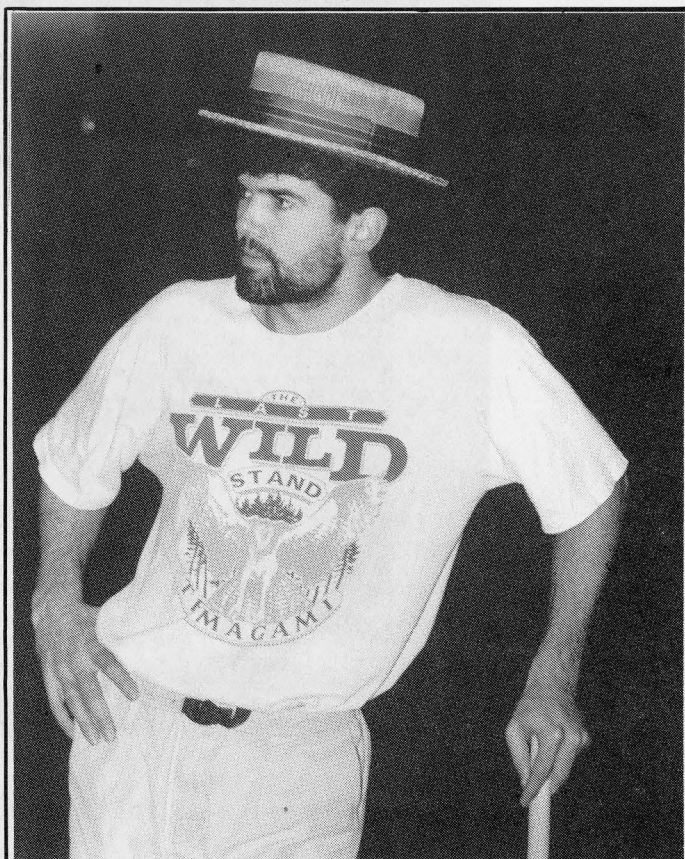
**Phoenix Phact:** Graduate, **Charles Andre** is the current President of Stunts Canada.



## Peter Balkwill Geoffrey

**W**ow, here it is, my first acting bio! I've always wanted one of these, and now I have no idea what to put into it. During my five years at the Phoenix I have had the opportunity to work with faculty, guest directors and fellow students, on a variety of performances. It would be impossible to highlight any single show because in their own way they've all been the best. It has been hard work juggling shows and school work while still trying to maintain an artist's life style (whatever that is). But the days of long hours instilled in me a pattern of hard work, which is essential for a life in the theatre. To me theatre is the school of life and the boundaries are endless. My future ambition is to continue with my training...

for ever.



**Peter Balkwill**

**Phoenix Phact:** 4th year, **Peter Balkwill** (Geoffrey) has just been awarded the Gold Award for best personal presentation in a solo performance and the Platinum Award for best overall Interpretive Award in Canada for 1996. These awards are presented for his work in Kananaski's Country Provincial Parks in Alberta during the Interpretation Canada, National Awards.

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**Megan Bunting**

## Megan Bunting Maxine

**A** native to Victoria, Megan is excited to be a part of the cast of *Stepping Out*. As a teenager Megan performed with the Victoria Operatic Society and with The Victoria Theatre Guild. After graduating from Parkland Secondary School, Megan moved straight into the University of Victoria Theatre Department. She still can't believe she is graduating this year! Megan's plans for the future are to take in some of the world and travel and then hopefully continue with theatre in Vancouver. She has made such great friends here at UVic, and working on this show with them has been the best fun! She is going to miss them all when she leaves. She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she has enjoyed doing it.

**Phoenix Phact:** Mary Kerr has just returned from Totonto where she was designing two new pieces for the Danny Grossman Dance Theatre. One piece is designed around the music of Paul Robeson, the other is entitled *Spiritus*.



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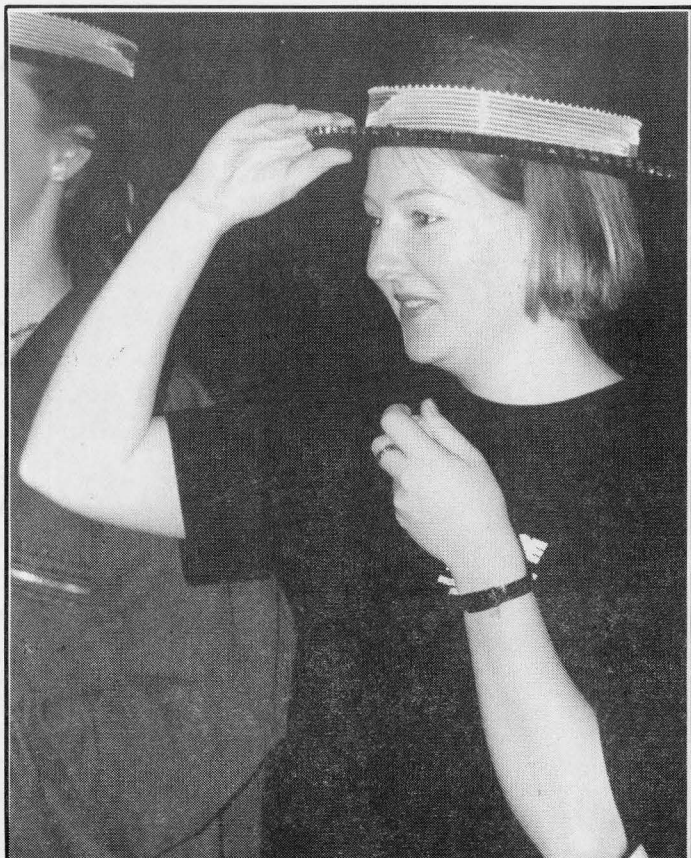
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## Shannan Calcutt

Ms. Glenda Fraser

**W**ow! I can't believe it has been four years already! I can remember looking for room 138 for first year acting. It's incredible to look back and realize how much I have grown, how much we all have. It has been extraordinary to work in such a supportive environment. It will be difficult to say good-bye to my acting class, but I know we're all moving on to greater experiences! I hope we manage to stay in touch! I'm looking forward to entering the 'outside world'. I hope to pursue acting, clowning, mime, commedia, musical theatre, opera, film, children's theatre, drama therapy . . . and the list goes on. I will miss Victoria a lot. I have spent four wonderful years here and have been

lucky enough to perform on different stages: Langham Court, The McPherson Playhouse and The Royal Theatre . Victoria has a marvelous theatre community and has been a great pleasure to be a part of it! I'm not sure which direction fate will take me in next, but I 'm glad it brought me here. I have had the opportunity to become a stronger performer as well as a stronger person. I will leave with new goals and many wonderful memories. I wish my classmates the best in pursuing their dreams! I hope your futures are filled with love, laughter and acting jobs that pay you decent wages! Cheers!



**Shannan Calcutt**

**Phoenix Phact:** Jamie Upton, Om Mogerma, Monica Graham, Milos Repicky, and Shannan Calcutt will be performing in Pacific Opera Victoria's version of *Tosca* in April at The Royal Theatre.



**Jennifer L. Cassady**

**Jennifer L.**  
**Cassady**  
Mavis

After working for two years in children's theatre touring across Western Canada, Jennifer made a stop at the University of Victoria. Dancing her way in with *Cabaret* she now finds herself dancing her way out with a BFA doing *Stepping Out*. Jennifer is pleased to slip her feet back into her tap shoes with passion and a vengeance after their six year absence. Her two most memorable roles here at the Phoenix have been Edna in *Jennie's Story* and Denise in the Phoenix Summer Theatre's *Hush*. She takes her memories and her BFA Acting with her to Calgary in April to continue her theatrical career.

A big thank you to:  
**THE VILLAGE SQUIRES**

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 for *Stepping Out*

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## Jill Dodsworth

Dorothy

Born and raised in Port Alberni, Jill moved to Victoria after tenth grade. Graduating in the French Immersion program from Mount Douglas Senior Secondary School (just up the road), she moved on to University and into the Phoenix Theatre Department. Jill's first acting role was Mrs. Claus in second grade and it's been love ever since. Her favorite Phoenix role was in *Measure For Measure*. She plans to spend some time in Europe next Fall, and after that, who knows? Jill would like to thank her classmates for making her Phoenix experience so special.



Jill Dodsworth

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS FOR *Stepping Out*

The production of *Stepping Out* would like to acknowledge the following for their assistance and generosity;

The Times Colonist, Monday Magazine, CHEK Television, The Saanich News, The Oak Bay News, The Victoria News, Where Magazine, Victoria Boulevard, Shaw Cablesystems, CBC Radio, The Q, CFAX, CJVI, CIOC, CAMO, CFUV Radio Stations, Richard Balomben, Matthew Takoski of the Victoria Diner's Guide, The Martlet, The Ring and The Standard.

Special thanks to Michael Longton and John Fear of Bristol Town Hair Fashions.



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## Stacy Epp Vera

When Stacy gets her BFA  
She'll leave the Phoenix and go away.  
Home to Metchosin for a bit  
Where in the hot-tub she will sit  
For a day, two, at the most a week,  
Then a theatre job she will seek.  
Work, though, it isn't her only plan,  
She intends to marry a wonderful man.  
In August, the wedding thing she'll do,  
But, then, who knows what she'll pursue.  
Maybe she'll get a masters degree,  
Perhaps she'll start her own company.  
Back to t.v. to host the news?  
So many jobs from which to choose!  
She can't predict her new career,  
She knows not how to face her fear.  
There is one thing that Stacy knows,  
She's been lucky to share some shows,  
Some scenes, some tears, some laughter too.  
Things that alone she could not do.  
She's grateful for a group of friends,  
Who make it tough to face the ends.  
So many moments we have shared,  
She's going to be a little scared -  
When those nine people she'll have to leave.  
Megan, Shannan, Sara and Eve,  
Jennifer, Pete, Medina and Jill,  
Victoria - miss them all she will!  
The fourth year class through thick and thin,  
The best of her life these years have been.  
Endings are sad though futures bright,  
Tears will flow coming closing night.



**Stacy Epp**

**Phoenix Phact:** Familiar Phoenix faces are on the television screen these days. **Rebecca Erickson** will soon be seen in *Millennium*, **Allan Franz** and **Peter Lacroix** were just seen in the *X Files* and **Glen D. Barwise** is the photodouble for Fox Mulder aka David Duchovny.

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## Medina Hahn

Sylvia

Ever since I was a little girl, I wanted to be a performer -- first dancing, then singing and finally acting. The last four years have been filled with wonderful opportunities for learning, both on and off stage. I've had the chance to work with a number of talented people on many different levels, who have done nothing but inspire me. Some of my most memorable experiences include Cabaret, An Evening With George Bernard Shaw and The Learned Ladies -- though they all have a place in my heart. As I forge ahead into the future, and further training, I will strive to continue the growth I've started here. In life anything is possible...



Medina Hahn

**Phoenix Phact:** Watch for, **Nicholas Harrison**, one of our two MFA Graduate Directors for P.S.T., playing a small role in the television series *The Sentinel*. He will play Officer Buckley, Rookie Cop, to be shown near the end of March.

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Victoria  
Honour  
Lynne

Victoria began her theatrical studies at Claremont Secondary School under the direction of Matthew Howe. There she performed the roles of Mme. de Voulanges in *Dangerous Liaisons* and Annie Wilkes in *Misery* and Grandma Kunitz in *Lost In Yonkers*. Her community credits include Edith in *Blithe Spirit*, Smitty in *Play On*, Phyllis in *This Happy Breed* and Marquise de Merteuil in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. Her Phoenix credits include Helen in *Love Of The Nightingale*, Marianne #1 in *This Is For You Anna* and Voice in *Footfalls*. Upon completion of her studies at UVic, Victoria will be auditioning for LAMDA and RADA in London, England to pursue her acting studies.



Victoria Honour

**Phoenix Phact:** Graduate, **Edward Belanger** has just completed a successful run in *The Heart As It Lived*, at the Martha Cohen Theatre, Calgary.

**Andrew Petter**  
MLA Saanich South

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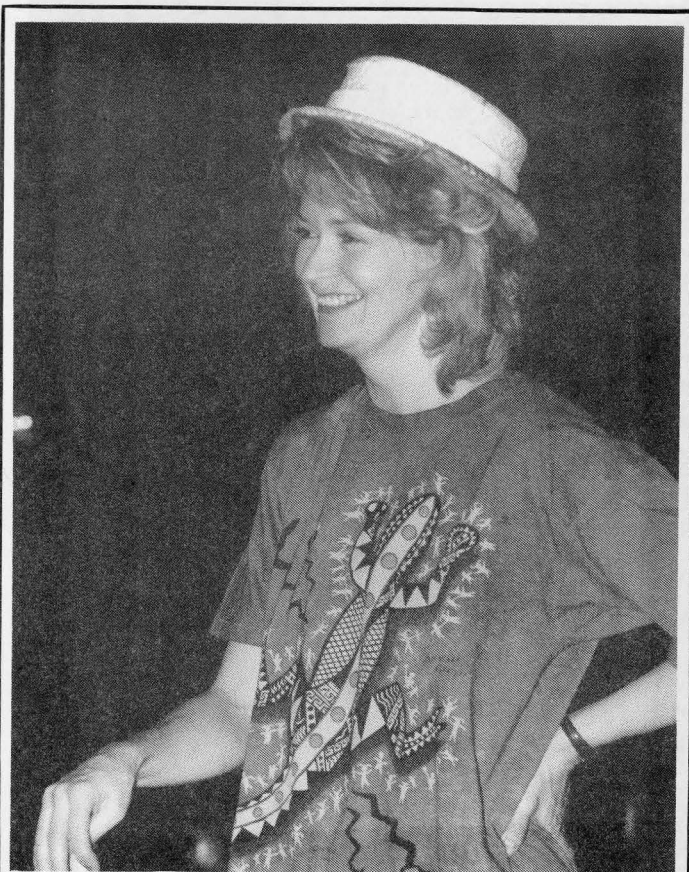
Constituency Assistant: Jim Herring



## Eve Landers

Andy

**E**ve came from Vancouver to attend the UVic Theatre program. She has fulfilled her goal to earn a BFA with a major in acting, acquiring a formal education in theatre history, stagecraft, movement, voice and acting techniques. She is returning to Vancouver after graduation, to pursue a career in the film industry. The skills and knowledge of theatre will only enhance her contribution to film. After all, theatre is where it all began. Learning how to tap dance has been a huge undertaking, but Eve now appreciates it as a great gift and plans to continue tapping. Eve met some wonderful and inspiring people who she will dearly miss. But she is looking forward to 'stepping out', in more ways than one.



**Eve Landers**

**Phoenix Phact:** MFA Graduate **Colin Legge** is touring with Story Theatre throughout Labrador, Newfoundland and New York City.

**Phoenix Phact:** Theatre Student, **Heldor Schäfer** has just recently had one of his plays published in Instant Applause Volume II - Thirty Very Short Complete Plays, entitled 'I Wandered Lonely'



**Jasmine Lapointe-Turk**

**Editor's note:** *Stepping Out* required one more female cast member than the 4th year acting class could provide - Jasmine is in her second year of her BFA Degree.

**Jasmine**  
**Lapointe-Turk**  
**Rose**

**S**tepping Out is Jasmine's first UVic mainstage production as well as her first time in tap shoes. She is very honored to perform with such seasoned actors in her first year at UVic. Jasmine transferred from Capilano College after completing her second year in the theatre program. In her last semester she played Hecuba in *The Woman* and then traveled for months to recover from the whole experience. Her plans are to get a real job and continue tap lessons with Pia Wyatt, when she gets paid.

**Phoenix Phact:** T. J. Dawe who plays the part of the Janitor/M.C. is a 4th year acting graduate.



## Sara Taylor

As her 4th year, final acting project, Sara Taylor will be presenting a one-woman show, *The Girlhood of Shakespeare's Heroines* by Don Nigro during the first week of April.

**M**y fourth and final year at the Phoenix has been frustrating, difficult and extremely rewarding. The biggest thing I have learned is how much more is out there to be learned. I have spent just as much time learning about life as I have about acting. This is the end, but also a new beginning. Thrills from my four years here, have been working with Bill Glassco in *The Learned Ladies*, wearing my fabulous Herodias costume in *Salomé*, and learning how to fence. The most rewarding experiences were working on *Ibsen's Women* with Peter Balkwill, learning from Linda, Jan, John and Kaz, and getting to spend the last two years with the same nine wonderful individuals who make up this year's class. I wish them the best in *Stepping Out*. I would also like to thank the Department for supporting my solo endeavor. And I would like to thank Dick Stille for being my Director. I will be spending my 11th season at Barkerville Historic Town this summer as an interpreter (street performer). Come up and say hi!



Tamara Kucheran, Costume Designer for *Stepping Out*

## Costume Designer - Tamara Kucheran

I guess you could say my theatrical career began at a very early age with my introduction to a magical place - the daycare dress-up corner. However, it would be 20 years before I finally listened to my calling. While my original intention upon entering the Phoenix was to major in stage performance, two years into my acting program, I surprised myself with the realization of an alternative theatrical passion - design.

Since entering the Phoenix, I studied a variety of areas from acting, to props, to lighting and set design, to costume construction. Unarguably, my focus has been costume design and I have been very fortunate to work with two of Canada's top designers. Most recently, I was Assistant Costume Designer to Mary Kerr for *Orpheus In The Underworld*, a large undertaking with a cast and chorus of 39 requiring about 85 costumes. Last fall, I assisted Costume Designer, Debra Hanson in two plays; *God's Country* and *The Learned Ladies*. I've also worked as Costume Designer on student productions including SATCO shows and BFA Directing Projects.

In addition to my Phoenix work, I've been active in Victoria's community theatres. I was Costume Designer for the 1996 Shakespeare Festival presentation of *Romeo and Juliet*. and for Langham Court's production of *The Private Ear* and *The Public Eye*.

Four years ago, I started my acting studies with the performers you will watch tonight. I consider it a privilege to share the stage with them once again.

**Tamara Kucheran**  
4th year, BFA Graduate

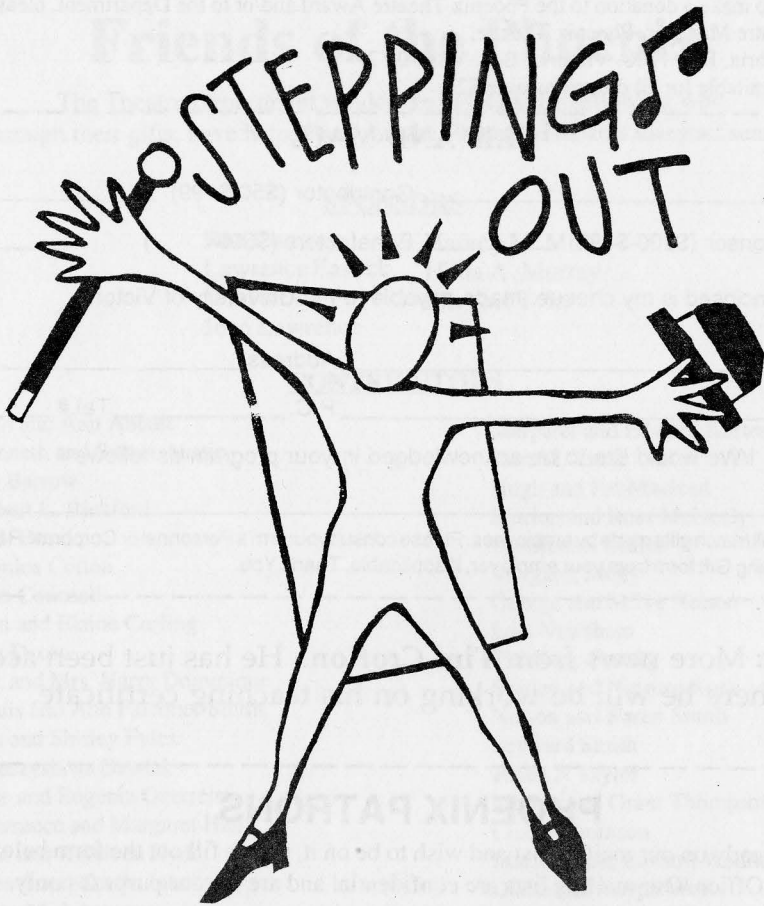
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MURRAY EDWARDS  
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DEBRA HANSON  
LINDA HARDY  
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ALAN HUGHES  
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MISHA KOSLOVSKY  
JANE LEAVITT  
STEPHEN LEWIS  
KRISTIN MIMICK  
ERIKA PATERSON  
RICHARD STILLE  
TIM SUTHERLAND  
TONY VICKERY

**Phoenix Phact:** Graduate, **Maryanne (Chuck) Davies** has been contracted by Pacific Opera to Assistant Stage Manage both *Turn Of The Screw* and *Tosca*



**Phoenix Phact:** Terina Fletcher is working in New York as a theatre production assistant. She will be at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre in London for part of its season, then on to Edinburgh.

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