



HOW TO WIN, LOVE, OR DIE IN THE 18TH CENTURY

Director Fran Gebhard directs her favourite play to mark the Phoenix's 50th

Mainstage Season

Les Liaisons Dangereuses

Presented by our Alumni Sponsor
iA Financial Group

November 10 – 26, 2016

By Christopher Hampton

Based on the novel by Choderlos de Laclos

*A chilling tale of sensual decadence and revenge
among the French aristocracy.*

Directed by Fran Gebhard

Set Designer Barbara Clerihue

Costume Designer Graham McMonagle

Lighting Designer Eryn Griffith

Sound Designer Aidan Dunsmuir

Fight Director Jacques Lemay

Vocal Coach Lindy Hardy

Stage Manager Anna Marie Anderson

... 50th Anniversary continues next spring

Gut Girls

February 9 – 18, 2017

By Sarah Daniels

Directed by Alix Reynolds (MFA Candidate)

*Brash, unrefined women toil in Victorian-era
slaughterhouses and struggle for emancipation.*

The Inspector

March 9 – 18, 2017

Written Nikolay Gogol

Directed by Linda Hardy

*This 19th-century Russian satire about greed and
corruption is adapted to today's political landscape.*

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Underneath gorgeous layers of silk, taffeta, gauze and lace stockings lie the vengeful schemes of the aristocrats of a dying Empire. To the rich and bored, seduction becomes a sport – and sex is a weapon.

Fran Gebhard directs her all-time favourite play, ***Les Liaisons Dangereuses***, written by acclaimed playwright Christopher Hampton, who adapted his own play for the 1988 Oscar-winning film, *Dangerous Liaisons*. Running from November 10 - 26, 2016, this is the first mainstage show of the Phoenix Theatre's **50th Anniversary Season**.

Set in pre-revolutionary France and based on the 1782 epistolary novel by Choderlos de Laclos, the story centers around the wealthy widow the Marquise de Merteuil and her social manipulations. She challenges her former lover the Vicomte de Valmont to prove his seductive powers by playing games at the expense of their lovers' reputations. How could Valmont know that he would fall madly in love with one of his conquests? Merteuil is always a step ahead and never reveals her true motives in this game of lust and manipulation.

"Christopher Hampton's work is beautifully written, poetic. It's like contemporary Shakespeare and offers our students a challenge, with compelling characters that present us with multiple facades which create complex relationships that our actors have to mine. It also gives our design students a sumptuous time period to explore," says Gebhard.

Gebhard's vision of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* attempts to pull back the layers on these façades. MFA design student Graham McMonagle brings his years of experience in ballet to create intricate costumes that are inspired by the 18th century, but they also demonstrate the character's social standing by using specific motifs to allude to their true motives. The same layered effect applies to the minimalist set design by Barbara Clerihue, who found inspiration in the idea of sheets being pulled off a bed. The final design sees this "bedding" transformed into a labyrinth of drapery. After a career in stage management and the military, Clerihue is now in her fourth year in the design program. MFA lighting design student Eryn Griffith will illuminate the layered drapery to create different spaces, allowing them to either reveal characters or create clandestine encounters. Third-year student Aidan Dunsmuir draws on quartet and chamber music from the 1700s to place us into the time period.

Director Fran Gebhard has brought great success to the Phoenix and the community in previous years, including her 1970's adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Phoenix (2014) and Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre's summer production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* (2016), which was so successful it was held over! Christopher Hampton's career spans from the stage, to translations, to Hollywood movies. At the age of 20, he was the first resident dramatist/literary manager for Royal Court Theatre and he was the youngest writer to have staged a production there. His work includes many stage plays including *Sunset Boulevard* (with Andrew Lloyd Webber), *The Talking Cure*, *Appomattox*, *Rebecca*, and *Stephen Ward the Musical*. He has translated the work of Henrik Ibsen, Moliere, and Yasmina Reza (*God of Carnage*) and written screenplays for *Atonement*, *A Dangerous Method*, and *The Thirteenth Tale*. *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* has been produced world-wide, and a revival starring Janet McTeer and Liev Schreiber is currently running on Broadway. Other film adaptations include the teen drama *Cruel Intentions*.

The opening of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* also marks the beginning of the Department's **50th Anniversary Alumni Reunion** weekend, from November 11-13. All UVic Theatre alumni are invited to come reminisce with old friends, faculty and staff over a weekend of various events. A special 50th Anniversary website outlines reunion details and other events, and features an interactive timeline history of the department listing all productions, faculty and selected alumni at www.phoenixtheatres.ca/50th. The 50th Anniversary Season continues in the spring with ***Gut Girls***, by Sarah Daniels, directed by MFA Candidate Alix Reynolds in February; and Nikolay Gogol's political satire, ***The Inspector***, directed and adapted by Linda Hardy. Season packages start at \$39.00 for 3 plays. Details at www.phoenixtheatres.ca

Public Previews @8pm: November 8 & 9

Evenings @8pm: (Tuesdays - Saturdays) Nov. 10 (opening), 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18 (preshow lecture), 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26

Matinee @2pm: Saturday, November 26

Preshow Lecture @7pm: Friday, November 18 with Director Fran Gebhard and Costume Designer Graham McMonagle

Single Tickets: \$15 Student, \$20 Senior, \$25 Adult, \$26 Weekends@8pm, (Preview: \$8.00 after 5pm on show day)

Phoenix Box Office Opens: November 1 for sales in person, or over the phone at **(250) 721-8000**.