



ALUMNI FIND LOVE & A LIFE TOGETHER IN THEATRE

Couple return to their Alma Mater for classic "The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe"

2014/2015 Season

1 SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

October 9-18, 2014

Adapted from the novel by C.S. Lewis
Featuring UVic Theatre alumni

Mack Gordon (BFA '08)
Kaitlin Williams (BFA '09)

Relive your memories of Narnia in this inventive two-person retelling of the classic tale. (Family theatre appropriate for ages 8 and up.)

Presented by



2 A Midsummer Night's Dream

November 6 –22, 2014

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Fran Gebhard

Shakespeare's romantic comedy gets an edgy spin and a punk rock attitude in New York in the 1970s.

3 Lion in the Streets

February 12 – 21, 2015

By Judith Thompson
Directed by Conrad Alexandrowicz

A lost Portuguese girl observes the troubled lives of her community and finds forgiveness.

4 Amadeus

March 12 – 21, 2015

Written Peter Shaffer
Directed by Chari Arespacochaga
The acclaimed Tony-winning play and Oscar-winning movie about Mozart, music and jealousy.

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Not many of us get to bring our spouses along to work, but for two University of Victoria theatre alumni, working together makes their careers more rewarding.

Mack Gordon (BFA'08) and Kaitlin Williams (BFA'09) met at UVic's Department of Theatre as fresh-faced first-year students in 2004. A decade later –and now married – they return to the stages of the Phoenix Theatre with C.S. Lewis' classic Narnia tale *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, running October 9-18, 2014.

"It's great fun to share the stage with someone you trust completely. It really allows you to take risks that you might otherwise be apprehensive about. I sometimes feel akin to husbands and wives who work in the circus on the flying trapeze; our first safety net is always each other," says Mack. In 2012, the two actors were both cast in Pacific Theatre's seasonal presentation of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and they toured the production across BC last year. This two-person version of the story sees Peter and Lucy, now grown-up, return to the room and the old wardrobe where, years before, their adventures began. Here they relive their memories of Narnia, performing the roles of characters they met along the way, including Mr. Tumnus, the Beaver family, the evil White Witch and the mighty lion Aslan. This imaginative approach is theatrical storytelling at its finest. *"Theatre doesn't get much better than this,"* says blog site gayvancouver.net: *"You simply cannot miss the magic that is happening on stage here in what is a nearly perfect piece of theatre."* With Pacific Theatre's blessings, Kaitlin and Mack are bringing this much-loved production to Victoria and to their Alma Mater.

Mack is an actor for theatre, film, and TV and also works as a director, most recently as the Assistant Director (with director and also-alum Meg Roe) for Bard on the Beach's production of *The Tempest*. He has also written and directed his own plays, including *Debts*, a frightening site-specific work at the Roedde Heritage Museum produced by ITSAZOO. Kaitlin has performed in many Pacific Theatre productions as well as with Touchstone Theatre and Wild Excursions. Her relationship with Pacific Theatre began right out of university when she was selected as their Professional Administrative Apprentice. After three years working as their Community Engagement Manager and in other administrative roles, her acting career is now taking up all her time.

In 2013, the husband and wife duo played fiancés in Pacific Theatre's Jessie-winning production of *The Foreigner*, and this past summer they were historical interpreters performing as a gold rush couple at Barkerville Historic Town. *"Kaitlin and I are so blessed to work together as often as we do,"* says Mack. *"We joke that we are a 2-for-1 package and are always looking out for shows we can do together,"* says Kaitlin.

UVic's Phoenix Theatre opens the season each year by celebrating the success of their theatre graduates with their "Spotlight on Alumni" which presents the work of alumni as part of the mainstage season. It also provides opportunities for class lectures and mentoring of current students. *"We're proud to have been chosen to return to the Phoenix. It's a wonderful chance to reconnect with faculty, meet current students and share what we've learned since we left,"* says Kaitlin.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe performances are as follows:

Public Preview @8pm: October 7 (Followed by talkback session)

Evening Performances @8pm: October 9 (Opening Night), 10 (Q&A lecture), 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18

Matinee Performances @2pm: Saturday, October 11 (with sign language) and October 18

Special Events:

- Tuesday, October 7 @8pm: Public talkback session after the preview night performance.
- Friday, October 10 @7pm: Preshow Q&A discussion with Kaitlin, Mack and professor Jan Wood.
- Saturday, October 11 @2pm: Sign language interpretation with Deaf interpreter Nigel Howard.

Single Tickets: \$16 Student/\$20 Senior/\$24 Adult/\$24 Weekends @ 8pm (Preview \$7.00, available after 5pm)

Season Subscription: \$36 for 3 plays & \$48 for 4 plays. Details & order forms at www.phoenixtheatres.ca

Phoenix Box Office Opens: September 30 in person or by calling: **(250) 721-8000**.