



UVIC ALUMNI ARE MAKING HISTORY

Telling stories on stage and in film, from Victoria to Barkerville and beyond

2017-18 Season

Spotlight on Alumni West

Two plays about BC trailblazers and the quest for gold that changed their lives.

Lady Overlander **The Fred Wells Show**

October 12-21, 2017

Presented by Histrionics Theatre Company
with
Danette Boucher (Theatre BFA '89 & MA '11)
James Douglas (BA English '00)

"West" pairs two riveting stories about two BC pioneers' quest for gold: from one woman's 1862 cross-country journey (while pregnant!), to a man's perseverance that brought prosperity to BC during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Presenting Sponsor:



Mainstage Plays

The Madwoman of Chailot

November 9-25, 2017

By Jean Giraudoux, Adapted by Maurice Valency
Directed by Conrad Alexandrowicz

Crimes of the Heart

February 15-24, 2018

By Beth Henley
Director Peter McGuire

The Comedy of Errors

March 15-24, 2018

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Jeffrey Renn (MFA Candidate)

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Two UVic alumni are making history – literally – every day.

Donning hoops, petticoats, bonnet and a classic Victorian cotton dress, actor and playwright Danette Boucher's "office" looks like a 19th-century ghost town, albeit bustling daily with tourists from across Canada. In truth, Barkerville Historic Town is one of BC's most frequented and important heritage sites. Together with her husband, actor, director and filmmaker James Douglas, Danette has spent decades telling the stories of Barkerville's past, and they are now both part of the park's artistic and management team.

Danette and James' passion for history also led them to create Histrionics Theatre Company to better tell their favourite dramatic stories from our past. They return this fall to their own histories and their old stomping grounds at UVic's Phoenix Theatre (where Danette did two degrees and James got his start in acting) for the Department of Theatre's 2017 Spotlight on Alumni to present **West**, running from October 12 – 21, 2017.

West pairs two of Danette's riveting stories about two BC pioneering spirits, each on their own quest for gold. **Lady Overlander** is a dramatic first-person account of the legendary Catherine O'Hare Schubert who – while pregnant! – walked from Winnipeg to Kamloops in 1862 in search of a new life in a tantalizing new land. **The Fred Wells Show** is a fascinating but little-known true story from another BC gold rush. During the gloom of the Great Depression, Fred Marshall Wells, an introverted yet charismatic American prospector with a penchant for pancakes, struck gold! The ensuing 1930s Cariboo Gold Rush saw thousands of fortune seekers flock to the town that was named in his honour, saving countless BC families from poverty.

"I have always been drawn to the complex stories of BC's history," says Boucher. "Every small story is part of a bigger one. BC's history is like the best book I've ever read, and it never ends. There is always more and more to discover – the beautiful, the painful, the unexpected."

While audiences may learn about BC's history, take note: these are not boring history lessons! *"I wish it was longer ... I wanted more,"* said Plank Magazine of Danette's *"simple and poignant piece of storytelling."* The Winnipeg Free Press also called Danette's work *"stellar"* and wished *"if only history class had been this much fun!"*

Although they both attended UVic's Department of Theatre (twice!), remarkably the couple didn't meet until they worked together in Barkerville. *"The Phoenix is a special place for us both. Because of it, we have common experiences, common friends – many of whom joined us in the filming of "The Doctor's Case" this spring,"* says James of the Sherlock Holmes film (based on a Stephen King story) that he directed in April on location at Barkerville, Craigdarroch Castle and Emily Carr House. James recently applied to submit the final film to the Sundance Film Festival.

The Phoenix Theatre's 2017-18 season continues with Jean Giraudoux's **The Madwoman of Chailot** (November 9-25), a poetic fable about a whimsical "Countess" and rag-tag groups of artists, vagabonds and dreamers who take back their Paris neighbourhood from corrupt businessmen after oil is discovered. The spring brings Beth Henley's Pulitzer Prize-winning dark comedy, **Crimes of the Heart** (February 15-24, 2018), about three sisters who reunite at their granddaddy's Mississippi home. The season closes with Shakespeare's **The Comedy of Errors** (March 15 - 24, 2018) where the mistaken identities of two pairs of twins leads them into mystery and mayhem during (in this staging) a Day of the Dead parade in Mexico.

The public is encouraged to join us for our free **Preshow Lecture, Friday, October 13 at 7pm** with Danette and James about their diverse careers in theatre and film. Performances for **West** are as follows:

Public Previews @8pm: Tuesday and Wednesday, October 10 & 11

Evenings @8pm: (Monday - Saturday) October 12 (opening), 13 (preshow lecture), 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21

Matinee @2pm: Saturday, October 21

Preshow Lecture @7pm: Friday, October 13 with Danette Boucher and James Douglas

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

Phoenix Box Office Opens: October 3 for sales in person, or over the phone at **(250) 721-8000**. Open Monday through Saturday from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Season Subscriptions: Available now for only \$39 or \$52, get a 3 or 4-show package.