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by  
**Joan  
MacLeod**

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# Amigo's Blue Guitar

by Joan MacLeod

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director	<b>Linda Hardy *</b>
Set and Lighting Designer	<b>Allan Stichbury</b>
Costume Designer	<b>Nicole Lamb</b>
Sound Designer	<b>Mark Hovey</b>
Stage Manager	<b>Gillian Reiss</b>
Assistant Director	<b>Yasmine Kandil</b>
Assistant Lighting Designer	<b>Eugene Mendelev</b>

## CAST

(in order of appearance)

<b>Carlo Marks</b>	Elias
<b>Fran Gebhard *</b>	Martha
<b>David Conner</b>	Owen
<b>Emma Miller</b>	Callie
<b>Pat McCloy</b>	Sander

Place: An island, a short ferry ride from Vancouver.

Time: 1990

\* with permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association

**There will be one 15 minute intermission**

*Amigo's Blue Guitar* by Joan MacLeod is produced by special arrangement  
with PLAYWRIGHTS GUILD OF CANADA [www.playwrightsguild.ca](http://www.playwrightsguild.ca)

### From the *Director*

Our choice of *Amigo's Blue Guitar* to start our season is in part to honour and welcome our new colleague, Joan MacLeod, to the Faculty of Fine Arts here at UVic. I know I speak for everyone when I say that we are all delighted to have her here. Joan is a playwright with guts and heart who is not afraid to tackle the issues of our time with an honesty and compassion most refreshing in these cynical days. *Amigo's Blue Guitar* is 14 years old but it is as immediate as the day it was written. The refugees have grown in their millions world wide and we Canadians are even more aware of "the privileges, the choices" we have in comparison to so many others. Furthermore, it is a rich play-rich in character and passion and, therefore, a fine vehicle for the school to tackle. This is especially true for the young actors in the roles of Elias, Sander and Callie.

**Linda Hardy**

## Welcome from the *Chair*



### *Welcome to the 2004 - 2005 season of the Phoenix Theatre.*

As one of Canada's premier theatre training institutes, every year the faculty, staff and students in the University of Victoria's Department of Theatre endeavour to choose a season of plays that can create a marriage between:

Our goal of providing exciting training opportunities for our acting, directing, writing, design, history and production students; and, Our desire to entertain you, our loyal supporters.

This year, we believe we have outdone ourselves in meeting these objectives!

First up we will be providing our own form of 'Welcome Wagon' to one of Canada's finest living playwrights, Joan MacLeod. Tonight you will experience her electrically charged 1990's political drama *Amigo's Blue Guitar*. Next spring she will also work with young playwrights from the Department of Writing in our Festival of Innovative and New Drama's Studio Series.

Next we present our production of (what many consider) America's greatest musical, *Guys and Dolls*, featuring an outstanding creative team (including Music Director Don Horsburgh, Choreographer Gwen Dobie, Set and Costume Designer Ed Kotanen and Lighting Designer Michael Whitfield). The thrill of hearing our students sing the wonderful tunes of Frank Loesser already has our department abuzz with excitement.

January brings the premiere of a new work, *Hippies and Bolsheviks*, from one of Victoria's most exciting young troupes - Theatre SKAM (comprised mainly of UVic grads).

Then our MFA Directing candidate, Yasmine Kandil (all the way from Egypt!) will present her first directing project with us, *Fen*, penned by one of Britain's finest living playwrights, Caryl Churchill. And finally, we close with the premiere a new work by Victoria's own (and another UVic grad!) Janet Munsil. *That Elusive Spark* will surely continue the chain of engaging and thrilling new writing by this remarkable talent.

Maybe, like my grandmother, yours suggested the adage "Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue" as the recipe for a successful marriage ceremony? I have since come to believe that this can also be used as the guiding principle behind the union of artistic aspiration and audience expectation in planning any season of plays. I leave it to you to decide which of these qualities you discover in the productions we offer. But whatever you find, I wish our marriage success and sincerely hope that it ends up meeting all your expectations.

**Brian Richmond**

*Thank You,*  
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## Joan MacLeod *Playwright*

Joan MacLeod is really happy to be back living in Victoria after graduating from UVic's Writing Department in 1978. Earlier this year she was appointed to the Department of Writing as an Assistant Professor. She will also work closely with the Department of Theatre on the upcoming Festival of Innovative and New Drama, particularly the staged readings which will be written by Writing students and directed and performed by Theatre students. Joan's plays include *The*

*Shape Of A Girl*, *2000*, *Little Sister*, *The Hope Slide*, *Toronto*, *Mississippi* and *Jewel*. She also wrote the libretto for *The Secret Garden* and has written several scripts for CBC Television. She has won several awards including the Governor General's Award for Drama (for *Amigo's Blue Guitar*), two Chalmers' Canadian Play Awards, the Jessie Richardson Award, Betty Mitchell Award and Dora Mavor Moore Award. For seven seasons she was a playwright-in-residence at Tarragon Theatre in Toronto. *The Hope Slide* was presented in Victoria this summer as part of the Fringe Festival. *The Shape Of A Girl* has been translated into six languages and has been touring since its premiere in 2001 including a stop this month at UVic's University Centre. This season it tours the U.S.A., starting with a run in New York City in January.

### Playwright's Notes

When Brian Richmond asked what play of mine he thought might be suitable for university students I thought of *Amigo's Blue Guitar* right away because three of the parts are for young adults. I think they're challenging parts and so a good learning tool for students.

And then immediately I began to worry. Will the play seem dated? Central America is not nearly as much on the radar as it was when it opened in 1990. Now in part that's good -- today there is a fragile peace in much of Central America although it would be inaccurate to present that part of the world as untroubled. What does date this play is that when it opened there were fifteen million refugees world wide. I don't know what the number is now but I'm sure it's staggering and impossible to tally because we now live in a world where refugees are created every minute. We live in a world where danger doesn't feel far away anymore.

Finally we live in a world where mercy is needed more than ever. For me, that's what this play is about. I hope you enjoy it.

Joan MacLeod

#### IN MEMORIAM

Last month, Canadian theatre lost two giants and UVic's Department of Theatre lost two friends. **Ralph G. Allen**, educator, theatre historian and co-creator of the Broadway hit musical *Sugar Babies*, passed away at age 70 in Manhattan. He was one of the first chairs of our theatre department from 1968 to 1972. **Bill Glassco**, founder of Toronto's Tarragon Theatre and a champion of Canadian drama, was a guest director with us in 1996 for Molière's *The Learned Ladies*. He was 69.



### **Linda Hardy** *Director*

Linda Hardy is a senior faculty member in the performance division with many national and international credits to her name. She has recently returned from Bangkok, Thailand where she directed the premiere of Michel Tremblay's *Les Belles Soeurs* in Thai at Chulalongkorn University's prestigious Department of Drama. She is delighted to be back teaching her favourite courses and to be directing *Amigo's Blue Guitar* in honour of her new colleague in Writing, Joan MacLeod. She's also thrilled to be teaming up with Dave Conner and Fran Gebhard. It's terrific to have professional colleagues as mentors for the students.



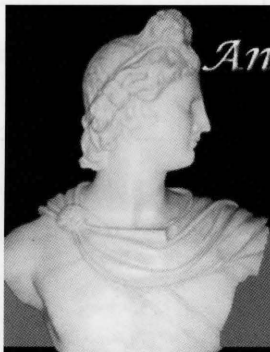
### **Allan Stichbury** *Set and Lighting Designer*

Allan Stichbury has been a faculty member in the Department of Theatre since 1989 teaching scenic design and lighting design. Recent set designs at the Phoenix include *Electra*, *Rodeo Star*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Imaginary Invalid* and *Peer Gynt*. Allan is also active as a professional designer. Internationally he designed the Lighting for *Mr. Lincoln* on Broadway. Recent credits include *Blue/Orange* at the Belfry Theatre and Prairie Theatre Exchange, *Beauty Queen of Leenane* at Alberta Theatre Projects and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* at the Shaw Festival. He has exhibited his work, as part of Canada's National Exhibition, at both the 1995 and 1999 Prague Quadrennials and recently returned from the 2003 Quadrennial. He is the Past President of Associated Designers of Canada.



### **Nicole Lamb** *Costume Designer*

Nicole Lamb is currently in her third year of the Theatre / Writing program at the University of Victoria. She has been involved with past productions at the Phoenix including: *Fever* and *HE Who Gets Slapped* as Assistant Stage Manager, the FIND Festival's Studio Series as Calling Stage Manager, *Wanted* as Assistant Costume Designer and *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* as stage crew. She has been involved with many shows outside of the department including University of Victoria's production of *The Vagina Monologues*, *Excedera* and a number of productions back in her hometown of Chilliwack. She looks forward to stage managing *Hippies* and *Bolsheviks* in the spring.



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### **Yasmine Kandil** *Assistant Director*

Yasmine graduated from the American University in Cairo with a Bachelor of Arts degree specializing in theatre directing in 1998. She co-founded an independent theatre troupe and trained on various improvisational techniques devised by French director Jean Michelle Bruyer. She has travelled to many European and Arab countries as the lighting designer for dance companies participating in various dance festivals. Three years ago she started working on a project to teach drama to street children and youth garbage collectors in Cairo as part of a non-formal education project funded by UNESCO. This summer she continued to teach drama to under-privileged youth of the poor districts in Cairo. Yasmine is presently in the first year of her MFA degree in theatre directing at UVic. In the spring she will direct *Fen* by Caryl Churchill.



### **Gillian Reiss** *Stage Manager*

Finishing up her final semester at UVic, Gillian's way to the light at the end of the tunnel has been paved with many wonderful Phoenix experiences. Selected credits include Assistant Stage Manager for 2003's *Listen to the Wind* and Stage Manager for last season's *Electra*. Out of department work includes Apprentice Stage Manager on *Proof* and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, both at the Belfry Theatre, as well as a summer in Banff as an Assistant Stage Manager for Festival Dance, a highlight of which included D.A. Hoskin's ballet *Configurations of the Body*. Gillian

hopes to spend her post-graduation months earning her remaining Canadian Actors' Equity apprenticeship credits.

The Department of Theatre is very pleased to announce the establishment of two new student awards:

#### **The Sheryl Fjellgaard Bursary** (commencing in 2004)

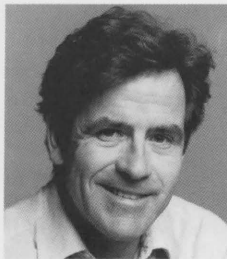
Established in loving memory of Sheryl Fjellgaard (UVic Theatre grad) by her mother-in-law, Mrs. Leona Sherlock, on behalf of Sheryl's daughters, Kayde and Aja, this bursary is for undergraduate students in the Theatre Department with preference given to those in the Acting or Theatre/Writing specialization.

#### **The Gwladys and Gwen Downes Scholarship** (commencing in 2005)

Established by Dr. Gwladys Downes in loving memory of her mother, Gwen Downes, this scholarship has been expanded to replace the Gwen Downes Memorial Book Prize for undergraduate students in the Department of Theatre.

The students, faculty and staff of the Department of Theatre sincerely thank these donors for their thoughtfulness and generosity. The awards will provide much needed financial support and inspiration to our promising students for years to come.

There has never been greater need for student support. As a result, the University of Victoria has launched an ambitious campaign to raise \$50 million from the private sector over the next ten years to fund bursaries, scholarships and fellowships. To find out more, please contact our Development Officer, Peter Brimacombe, at 721-6305.



### **David Conner** *Owen*

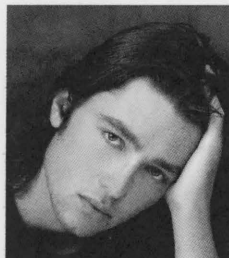
David Conner was born in London, Ontario, studied acting in Montreal and has performed in theatres from St. John's to Victoria. Among his favourite parts are the title roles in *Uncle Vanya* and *Ivanov*, Lyman in *Bus Stop*, Cassius in *Julius Caesar*, Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Bernie in *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*, Ray in *Lone Star* and Colby in a Canadian tour of *Love is Strange*. Oddly enough, in a career that includes almost fifty stage roles, *Amigo's Blue Guitar* marks the first time he has ever played a dad.



### **Fran Gebhard** *Martha*

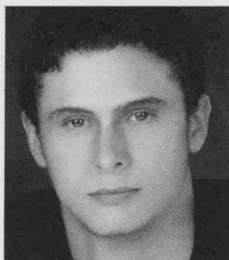
Fran has performed numerous roles in theatres across Canada. She also does regular performances of her one-woman show *Looking For Kitty*. Besides giving workshops for Theatre BC members on a regular basis she has also adjudicated most zone festivals. She will be the guest adjudicator for Theatre Saskatchewan's regional festival in 2005. Fran received her MFA in directing from UBC and is currently teaching acting at UVic. Her recent directing credits include *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *The Affections of May*, *Twelfth Night*, *A*

*Midsummer Night's Dream* and *For The Pleasure of Seeing Her Again*. Film and television credits include *Blue City Slammers* (for which she received a Genie nomination), *The Chris Issak Show*, *Dead Zone* and *Taken*.



### **Carlo Marks** *Elias*

Carlo is in his final year at the University of Victoria. He has previously appeared shirtless in last season's mainstage production of *HE Who Gets Slapped*, *Love & Hate* (for SATCo) and *Legoland* in the McIntyre Studio. He is also interested in Applied Theatre and hopes to work in this field after graduation. Carlo is excited to be working on a production that carries a message which is still relevant today, especially with the refugee crisis in Sudan.



### **Pat McCloy** *Sander*

Patrick is in his second year in the acting program. His past credits include playing a Riding Master in last year's production of *HE Who Gets Slapped* and Fred in the FIND Festival staged reading of *The Island of Women*. Patrick is very excited to be playing his first lead role on the Phoenix Theatre mainstage.



### **Emma Claire Miller** *Callie*

Emma Claire is in her fourth year. Previous Phoenix credits include Baptista in *The Taming of the Shrew* and Diamond Tooth Gertie in *Wanted*. She has appeared in numerous SATCo productions, most recently as Jo in an adaptation of *Low Level Panic*. This summer she played Rosalind in the Victoria Shakespeare Society's production of *As You Like It*.

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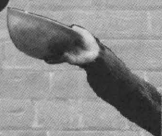
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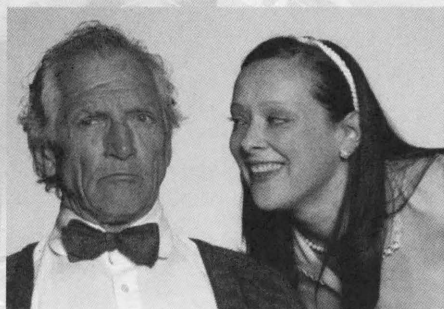
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### Phoenix Students, Faculty, Staff, and Alumni News and Kudos

**Charles Ross** performed his *One Man Star Wars Trilogy* in front of 3,000 fans at the annual Star Wars Fan Film Awards at the behest of the Jedi master himself - George Lucas.....Victoria Fringe Festival devotees also saw Charles this summer performing his other mega-hit, *One Man Lord of the Rings*. Other UVic grads shone at the Fringe: **T.J. Dawe** was back with his new show *Curse of the Trickster*; **Danette Boucher** wrote and starred in her very successful *The Great Love of Queen Victoria*; **Jeff Bryant** stepped up with *Circus! The Musical*; **Britt Small** presented an episode of her new monthly *Atomic Vaudeville Cabaret*; and **Janet Munsil**, the Fringe Festival's uber-talented Artistic Director (who is also writing *That Elusive Spark* for FIND 2005 at the Phoenix in March) teamed up with Britt Small and **Jen Stein** to present *Sideshow*.....Professor **Juliana Saxton** released a new book for high school drama educators titled *Into the Story: Language in Action through Drama*, co-authored with Carole Miller.....Professor Saxton travelled to Ottawa this summer with grad students **Monica Prendergast** and **Cam Culham** to participate in the 5th International Drama / Theatre & Education Association (IDEA) Congress featuring over 1,200 delegates from 72 countries.....Grad **Rhonda Batchelor** opened a bookstore called Lamplight Books.....Current student **John Ellingson** performed in the Northwest Children's Theater musicals of *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Crazy for You*..... Theatre **SKAM** went to SummerKamp with three plays in Victoria: *The Canada Show*, *Lt. Nun and Unity*, directed by **Amiel Gladstone** and starring grads **Kate Braidwood**, **Annette Dreesen**, **Kate Humble**, **David McPherson**, **Celine Stubel**, **Zachary Stevenson**, **Lucas Myers** and current student **Cameron Anderson**.....Sessional instructor **Leslie Bland**, who does double duty as Artistic Director of Kaleidoscope Theatre, directed *Twelfth Night* at the Belfry featuring **Celine Stubel** and **David McPherson**. Leslie also directed *The Pirates of Penzance* for Chemainus Theatre starring **Melissa Young**, **Mitch Pollock** and **Victor Dolhai** with **Sam Whittingham** as the Set and Costume Designer, **Misha Koslovsky** as the Lighting Designer and **Connie Hine** (formerly **Connie Beel**) as the Stage Manager.....Current Student **Jen Braem** directed *Lawrence and Holloman* for the Sunshine Theatre Summer Festival in Kelowna and wrote and directed *Yellow Ribbon* for the one-year anniversary of the Okanagan Mountain Park Fires.....**Erin Karpluk** was in the CBS TV movie *It Must be Love*.....**Kate Humble** spent the summer performing in *I Love you, You're Perfect, Now Change* in Qualicum's Bard to Broadway.....**Emma Miller**, **Marisa Smith**, **Katie Hood** and **Al Newton** were all part of the Victorian Shakespeare Society's summer festival.....**Meg Braem** and **Mack Gordon** performed in *West Side Story* for the Viva Musica Society.....**Lucas Myers** played Semyon in *The Suicide* at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre.....**Jeremy MacLeod** is the new Front of House Manager for the Belfry Theatre.



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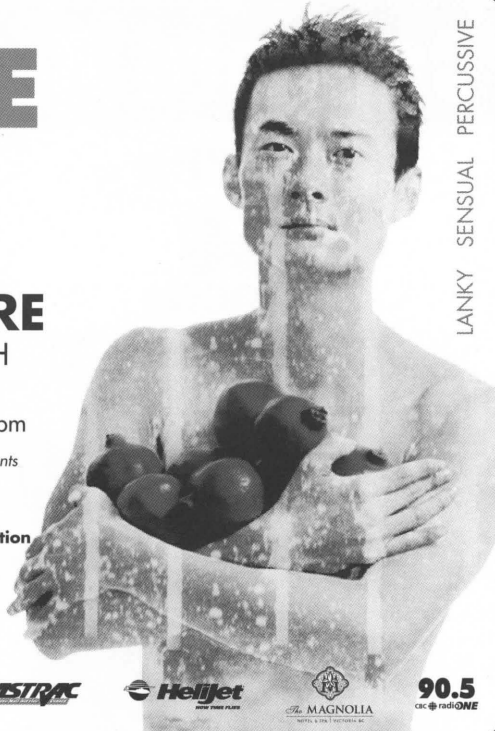
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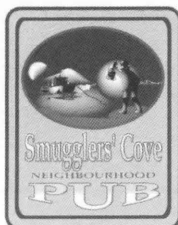
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