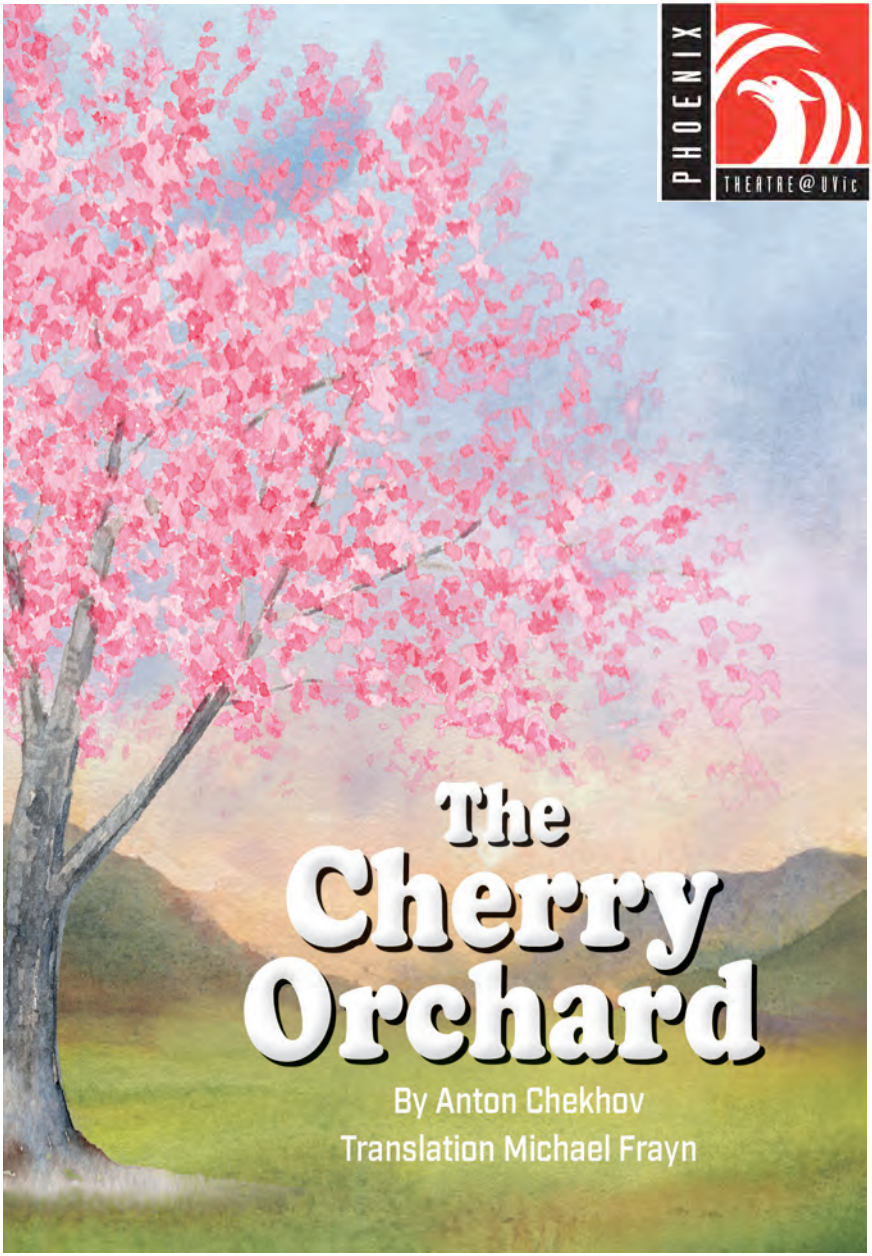

Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French Inc..

November 12-21, 2026

Directed by Carmen Aguirre

UVIC

THE CHERRY ORCHARD

By Anton Chekhov | Translated by Michael Frayn

THE CHERRY ORCHARD (Frayn) is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

CREATIVE TEAM

Director ..... **Carmen Aguirre**
Set Designer ..... **Carmen Alatorre**
Costume Designer ..... **Olivia Mazari**
Lighting Designer ..... **Logan Swain**
Sound Designer ..... **Gordon Geddes**
Choreographer ..... **Jacques Lemay**
Stage Manager ..... **Alexa Rojas Ponce**

CAST

Dunyasha ..... **Aeron Elcheshen**
Lopakhin ..... **Zaafir Devji**
Yepikhodov ..... **Henry Kim**
Firs ..... **Hayden Telford**
Anya ..... **Meera Phagura**
Ranevskaya ..... **Gabrielle Blake**
Charlotta ..... **Simran Kang**
Varya ..... **Emiliia Baranova**
Gayev ..... **Percy Rutt**
Simeonov-Pishchik ..... **Kaden Fleming-Holmes**
Yasha ..... **Nai'a Fellingham**
Trofimov ..... **Anton Matsigura**
Station Master/Passerby ..... **Kiannah Brown**
The Postmaster ..... **Kay Sammis**
Servant / Party Guest ..... **Eva Auger**
Servant / Party Guest ..... **Lenard Madey**
Servant / Party Guest ..... **Lila Maxwell**

There will be one 15-minute intermission

ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

DIRECTOR – **Carmen Aguirre**



When UVic approached me to direct *The Cherry Orchard,* I was honoured, overjoyed, and terrified. Chekhov's writing is so profound, complex, tragic, and funny; I knew that the only way to proceed was to surrender and be humbled by it.

I have asked the students to risk it all when diving into this magnificent play. Because that's what the writing demands. We have approached the work with rigour, discipline, and the utmost respect. *The Cherry Orchard* is an intimate epic that tackles themes of enormous social change—a timely lens through which to look at the present. I hope you will be as moved by the play as I have been in serving this masterpiece.

Bio: Carmen is an award-winning theatre artist and author, and an Electric Company Theatre Core Artist. She has written and co-written over twenty-five plays and the international bestsellers *Something Fierce: Memoirs of a Revolutionary Daughter* (2012 CBC Canada Reads winner) and *Mexican Hooker #1 and My Other Roles Since the Revolution*. Her play *Fire Never Dies: The Tina Modotti Project,* which she also directed, premiered in Vancouver in 2025 to a sold-out run and rave reviews. *The Consent Club*, her adaptation of Molière's *The Learned Ladies* and a satire on the gentrification of the Me Too movement, will premiere in Vancouver in 2028. Next up, she will be directing Matthew Lopez's *Somewhere* at The Grand Theatre in London, Ontario.

Carmen has over eighty film, television, and stage acting credits, including her Leo-nominated lead role in the independent feature *Bella Ciao!*, a series regular on the Showtime series *Endgame*, and memorable roles in *Riverdale*, *Family Law*, the Sundance-winning feature film *Quinceañera*, and *Best in Show*. She is the recipient of the 2011 UBCP Lorena Gale Woman of Distinction Award, the 2012 Langara College Outstanding Alumna Award, the 2014 Betty Mitchell Award for her outstanding theatre performance in *The Motherfucker with the Hat*, the 2014 Latincouver Art and Culture Award. She was also named one of the 10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians by the Canadian Hispanic Business Alliance in 2014. Carmen is a graduate of Studio 58. carmenaguirre.ca

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We acknowledge and respect the Lək̓ʷəŋən (Songhees and Xʷsepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Jacques Lemay *Choreographer*



Mr. Lemay is a celebrated Producer/Director/Choreographer/Fight Director and Educator. An award-winning director/choreographer, his creative works span the full gamut of theatrical and television productions, including operas, ballets, symphony concerts, musicals, multicultural productions, royal galas, variety shows and special events, both nationally and internationally. He has been a member of the creative teams at the Phoenix on over 21 productions, including directing and choreographing *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, roles he will assume again for the Phoenix's spring production of *Curtains* the Musical. He has founded training programs for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Confederation Centre of the Arts and is the Co-Founder/Managing Artistic Director of the Canadian College of Performing Arts. He currently serves on the board of directors of Pacific Opera Victoria. He is the recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal and a member of the Order of Canada.

Carmen Alatorre *Set Designer*



Originally from Mexico, Carmen has a Licenciatura (BFA) degree in Art History and earned her MFA degree in Theatre Design at the University of British Columbia (2010). She is currently based in lək̓ʷəŋən and WSÁNEĆ Territories (Victoria, BC). With over 100 design credits, some of her recent costume designs were seen in companies such as Arts Club Theatre Company, Bard on the Beach, Globe Theatre Regina, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Citadel Theatre, Milwaukee Rep Theater, Chicago Shakespeare Theater and Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, D.C. Carmen is an Assistant Professor in Performance Design at the University of Victoria. She is also a recipient of five Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards. For more information, visit: carmenalatorre.com.

Olivia Mazari *Costume Designer*



Olivia is a self-directed theatre student, a clothing enthusiast, and a dedicated creative. She is overwhelmingly grateful to be gifted with the opportunity to costume design this show. It has been a true joy to explore the world of *The Cherry Orchard* through imagery and symbolism. Olivia is delighted to work for Carmen Aguirre after several years making renderings for her plays in class. She has been enthralled with the language of costume design since age 11, and began sewing at 13. Aside from costuming, she acts, creates art, learns languages, and will soon graduate with a Theatre Major and History Minor. From drag shows to SATCos to *The Cherry Orchard,* Olivia will continue to pursue her many passions post-graduation and until the end.

Logan Swain *Lighting Designer*



Logan is a storyteller striving to make a difference in the world by telling stories that value truth and honesty while remaining playfully curious. Logan is Métis with Scottish, English, and European heritage. Select professional credits include Sound Design for *The Fiancée* (Chemainus Theatre Festival, 2023), *Bury The Hatchet* (Culture Den Society, 2022), Production Design for *A Waste of Stage Time* (Theatre SKAM, 2025), Set & Lighting Design for *It'll Come To Me* (Theatre SKAM, 2021). Previous mainstage credits at the Phoenix include Lighting Design for *In My Day* (2026), *Our Town* (2025), Sound Design for *The Waste Land* (2022), *Trojan Women* (2019), *The Madwoman of Chaillot* (2017), and Co-Set Designer for *Othello* (2019). Logan is Artistic & Managing Director of Victoria's Theatre SKAM.

Gordon Geddes *Sound Designer*



Gordon Geddes is a fourth-year theatre major studying sound design at the Phoenix Theatre, while also working on a music minor. This is Gordon's third mainstage sound design at the Phoenix Theatre, after 2025's *Our Town* and 2026's *A Sudden Violent Burst of Rain*. Throughout his time working on *The Cherry Orchard*, Gordon has taken a historical approach to the audio elements in this play, prioritizing historical accuracy in the soundscapes, sound effects, and compositions designed within the timeless classic of *The Cherry Orchard*.

Alexa Rojas Ponce *Stage Manager*



Alexa (she/her) is a fourth-year student in the department of theatre here at the Phoenix. She is pursuing a career in stage management. She worked as a student on *Twelfth Night* as Props Assistant Stage Manager and on *A Sudden Violent Burst of Rain* as Deputy Stage Manager. Outside of the Phoenix, she has worked on multiple festival stages, international business conference stages, as well as working as a stage manager for *Finer Further, Faster*, at the One Act play festival.



Gabrielle Blake *Ranevskayay*

Gabrielle is a performance-focused student in the Theatre Department at the University of Victoria. She is thrilled to be performing in the first Mainstage production of the Phoenix Theatre's 2026/2027 season. Her recent roles include Scythe in *The Greatest Riff in the World* (SATCo) and One/Lily in *A Sudden Violent Burst of Rain* (Phoenix Theatre).



Meera Phagura *Anya*

Meera (she/her) is a third-year acting student making her mainstage debut after being in *Stepping Out of the Frame* (SATCo) in 2024. She is grateful for the opportunity of getting up on the big stage and having a powerful impact on those coming to see this story be brought to life.



Emiliia Baranova *Varya*

Emiliia is a Ukrainian actress and third-year Theatre student at UVic. Her previous roles include the Snow Maiden and Thumbelina, and she has participated in *Becoming Stone: Mineral Manifest* (MFA). She is delighted to make her first UVic mainstage appearance as Varya in *The Cherry Orchard*.



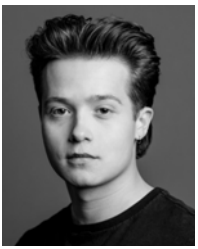
Percy Rutt *Gayev*

Percy is a third-year acting student at the Phoenix Theatre. He is endlessly grateful and thrilled to partake in this Chekhov classic! He was previously seen in *Our Town* and *In My Day*. Other credits include *Circus Performers (Semi) Anonymous* (SATCo) and *Ask The Oracle* (timetheft theatre).



Zaafir Devji *Lopakhin*

Zaafir (he/him) is a third-year acting focused theatre student, and he is excited to be working on *The Cherry Orchard.* His past credits include *In My Day* and *Kayden vs. The Closet Monster.*



Anton Matsigura *Trofimov*

Anton is delighted to be continuing his third year at the Phoenix Theatre! Anton has worked with various companies across Calgary, including Calgary Young People's Theatre, Mind the Gap Collective, and Black Radish Theatre. Anton is thrilled to be able to work on Chekhov's final timeless classic and hopes that you enjoy *The Cherry Orchard*.



Kaden Fleming-Holmes *Simeonov-Pishchik*

Kaden (he/him) is a fourth-year trans performance student who is thrilled to be performing in *The Cherry Orchard*. His past Phoenix credits include *The Killing Game* (2025) and *In My Day* (2026).



Simran Kang *Charlotta*

Simran is a Phoenix student and couldn't be more thrilled to show Charlotta Ivanona's magic tricks at this season's first show! Simran is currently in her 5th and final year of her BFA in theatre with a focus in performance and a large love for applied/community building through the arts.



Henry Kim *Yepikhodov*

Born in Korea, Henry is a second-year theatre student at the Phoenix Theatre at the University of Victoria. He is thrilled to make his theatre debut through this production of *The Cherry Orchard* and looks forward to continuing to grow as an actor.



Aeron Elcheshen *Dunyasha*

Aeron is a third-year theatre student who is excited to participate in her first Mainstage production. Previous productions include *Wedding Cheese Weekend* (SATCo), *Cinderella* (Royal Canadian Theatre Company), and *Annie Jr.* (Schools Out productions). She hopes you enjoy this heartfelt and beautiful piece as much as she has while working on it. Enjoy the show!



Hayden Telford *Firs*

Hayden is a fourth-year Acting student. You may have seen him in last year's production of *A Sudden Violent Burst of Rain* (2026). Hayden is honoured to work with such an amazing team of people. Enjoy the show!



Nai'a Fellingham *Yasha*

Nai'a is a third-year acting student at Phoenix Theatre. They have previously worked backstage on *The Killing Game* and *A Sudden Violent Burst of Rain*. Nai'a is very excited to make their Phoenix debut! Welcome to our orchard.



Kiannah Brown *Passer-by*

Kiannah has been in plays/musicals such as *12 Incompetent Jurors* (juror #11), *Clue* (Mr. Green), A*lice in Wonderland* (Duchess), and *Little Women* (Aunt March). She stage managed/directed *Clue*, assistant stage managed *Alice in Wonderland*, and assistant stage managed the Phoenix production of *The Salty Scent of Home*.



Kay Sammis *Postmaster*

Kay is a third-year acting focus and is excited for their mainstage debut and to deliver you a good time as your Postmaster! Previous credits include: *Cinderella* (Edinburgh Fringe 2024), *Becoming Stone: A Mineral Manifest* (Phoenix MFA 2024), and *Circus Performers (Semi) Anonymous* (SATCo 2026).



Eva Auger *Party Guest/Servant*

Eva (she/her) is a second-year acting student who is thrilled to make her Phoenix Theatre debut! Select credits include *Hamlet, The Addams Family, Much Ado About Nothing, Julius Caesar* (KPAS), *Newsies, The Drowsy Chaperone* (Belmont Secondary Theatre), and T*he Fast Runner* (Fezziwig Studios). She hopes you enjoy the show!



Lenard Madey *Party Guest/Servant*
Lenard is a second-year student in the theatre minor program at the Phoenix Theatre. *The Cherry Orchard* marks his first show at the Phoenix. He is grateful to work with such an awesome cast and crew for his first show!



Lila Maxwell *Party Guest/Servant*
Lila (She/Her) is a second-year Performance student at the University of Victoria's Phoenix Theatre. She is excited to dive into the world of this play and explore the work of Anton Chekhov. Previous credits include: *Kayden vs. the Closet Monster* (SATCo).

Coming Next

The Wolves **Feb 4-14**
Directed by Amanda Lisman
Friendship,competition & growing up on and off the field.



Curtains **Mar 4-20**
Directed & Chorographed by Jacques Lemay
A Musical Comedy Whodunit.



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The theatre faculty, staff and students would like to thank the following for their support of the Phoenix Theatre's 2026-27 season.

Donations made between April 1, 2026-Nov 4, 2026

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Carolyn Glover
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Colin & Brenda Hood
G. Houle
Jane Hutchinson
Gwen Isaacs
John Johnston
Susan Johnston
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Rhonda Korol
Daniela Lorenzi
Don Lovell
Chris Lowe
Darlene Lumgair
Gord & Janet Macatee
Beatrice & Ian McCall
Maryl & Don McCay
Dave McKercher& Kevin Attewell
John McLean
Fiona Manning
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Tax Receipts are available for all donations over $10

PRODUCTION TEAM

Operations & Production Manager	**Timothy O'Gorman***
Production Stage Manager	**Alexis Dunn**
Deputy Stage Manager	**Elliot Petersen**
Assistant Stage Managers	**Mich Partridge (Costumes), Griffin Hunt (Props)**
Stage Management Mentor	**Jennifer Swan***
Intimacy Coordinator	**Nicolle Nattrass****
Magician Consultant	**Joseph Culpepper****
Clown Consultant	**Treena Stubel****
Speech/Voice Coach	**Laurel Thomson***
Technical Director	**Simon Farrow***
Assistant Technical Director	**James Thurmeier***
Show Electrician	**Isaac Alexander**
Lighting Design Supervisor	**Rebekah Johnson***
Assistant Lighting Designer	**Lucy Bannard**
Lighting Programmer	**Ferris Smart**
Lighting Board Operator	**Kat Macfarlane**
Sound Design Supervisor	**Simon Farrow*, James Thurmeier***
Sound Playback Operator	**Sophie Hoskins**
Assistant Set Designer	**Katrina Hayes**
Head of Scenic Construction	**Gregory Smith***
Stage Carpenter	**Lucy Bannard, Ferris Smart**
Assistant Carpenter	**Jesse Seymour**
Fly Operators	**Jesse Seymour, Daniel Wamboldt**
Stagehand	**Adrianna Rosso**
Lead Scenic Artist	**Hana Ramsay****
Scenic Artists	**Katrina Hayes, Jenna Purnell****
Head of Properties	**Molly Somers***
Senior Properties Coordinator	**Kirby Young**
Head of Wardrobe/Cutter	**Katri Tahvanainen***
Costume Design Supervisor	**Carmen Alatorre***
Assistant Costume Designer	**Megan Martin**
Coordinating Wardrobe Supervisor	**Rheanna Finnigan**
Wardrobe Supervisors	**Georgia Levitan, Wilbur Neufeld Handley**
Guest Cutter & Stitcher	**Alice Hawes****
Costume Shop Assistants	**Syrus Maaker, Moss Orser, Jamie Ulmer**
Hair & Makeup Coordinator	**Anna Compton**
Hair & Makeup Assistant	**Eden Lockhart**
Dressers	**Calvin Critchlow, Harper Gordon, Sienna Seaborn, Echo Veasey**
Marketing & Communications Mgr.	**Bernadette McKelvey***
Marketing Assistant	**Adrianna Rosso**
Marketing Team	**Callie Derry, Sierra Legge**
Audience Services Manager	**Sandra Guerreiro***
Asst. to the Audience Services Mgr.	**Julian Woodgate***
Asst. to the Audience Services Mgr.	**Brionne Wilson**
Front of House Mentor	**Brionne Wilson**
Front of House Managers	**Silas Olsen, Emma Pearson**
Box Office Assistants	**Mya Blackburn, Harry Mullin Maddie Steel, Elaina Wiens**
Box Office Staff	**Kaitlyn Bergeron, Gabby Blake, Tarn Blakely, Coco McElroy, Mikan Munson, Savannah O'Heany, Katie Stevenson**

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