



NightwoodTheatre

MARCH 13 – APRIL 3, 2016

THE PUBLIC SERVANT

WRITTEN BY JENNIFER BREWIN,
HALEY MCGEE, SARAH MCVIE,
& AMY RUTHERFORD



Photo by R. Amy Rutherford, Sarah McVie, Haley McGee. Photo by Carmen Cheung.

Years ago, deep in the Okanagan, over a campfire conversation, Jennifer said: "There are plenty of songs about miners and farmers and civil rights activists, but where are the ballads to the people who get budgets in on time? What about the people who work behind the scenes, to help us reach policy decisions that have the power to make everyone happier, smarter, kinder or healthier?" And so the seed was planted.

We all headed to Ottawa to interview public servants. They were eager to share their experiences, though many seemed perplexed and at times even suspicious by our interest in their life's work. With copious notes and hours of recordings, we gathered in a derelict government office on Sparks Street and the ferocious process of creation and decision-making began. We played and fought, listened and improvised, we talked in circles – sometimes spending hours exploring an idea only to produce one usable

anecdote or insight. Many of our best ideas happened off the clock. Propositions were made and forgotten, then rediscovered and applied. No decision was ever made without the consent of all creators. It was infuriating and illuminating, but we continued to sing through our discordant ideas.

A motif emerged: "How can one execute meaningful work within a bureaucracy without the support and trust of the people one is striving to serve?" What do we want from our public servants? Some say it is to fearlessly advise and loyally implement, but what happens when that advice is not heard?

It is because of the support of Common Boots Theatre, consulting artists, technicians, stage managers, artistic directors, board members, granting bodies and private donors—all of those who believed in this project before it had a voice—that we are here tonight performing for you.

Thank you for coming to hear our song.

Jennifer Brewin, Haley McGee, Sarah McVie and Amy Rutherford

THE PUBLIC SERVANT

Berkeley Street Theatre Upstairs
26 Berkeley Street
Tue-Thu, Sat: 8pm
Fri: 7pm
Sat & Sun: 2pm
Wed, March 30: 1pm

GET TICKETS

Canadian Stage Box Office
416.368.3110
Online
commonbootstheatre.ca
nightwoodtheatre.net

TWEET US!

#ThePublicServant
@commonboots
@nightwoodtheat

Fill out an audience survey at the end of the show and you could win a gift certificate to the Australian Boot Company. Surveys can be dropped off in the lobby.



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Jennifer Villaverde
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Watt-Simpson
Russell Watson
in Memory of
Tony Wachnuik
Tony Wong
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous

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Ryan Wilson
Philippe and Bill Young
All the public servants
who helped create
this play.

GCTC Great Canadian Theatre Company

JANET WILSON MEETS THE QUEEN

By *Beverley Cooper*

PREVIEWS TUE &
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  #GCTCJanet

THE PUBLIC SERVANT

CREATED BY **Jennifer Brewin, Haley McGee, Sarah McVie** and **Amy Rutherford**

DIRECTED BY **Jennifer Brewin**

STARRING **Amy Keating, Sarah McVie** and **Amy Rutherford**

PRODUCED BY **Common Boots Theatre** (formerly Theatre Columbus)
in association with **Nightwood Theatre**

CAST & CREW

Madge: **Amy Keating**

Lois/Creator: **Sarah McVie**

Cynthia, Various/Creator: **Amy Rutherford**

Directed by: **Jennifer Brewin**

Set & Costume Design: **Anna Treusch**

Lighting Design: **Martin Conboy**

Sound Design: **Michael Rinaldi**

Choreography: **Kate Alton**

Stage Management: **Sandy Plunkett**

Production Management: **Rebecca Vandavelde**

Lighting Design Assistance: **Hugh Martignago**

RUN TIME 80 minutes with no intermission



COMMON BOOTS THEATRE

(formerly Theatre Columbus)

Artistic Director: **Jennifer Brewin**

Company Manager: **Kate Walker**

Artistic Producer: **Jenny Salisbury**

Associate Artist: **Courtenay Stevens**

COMMON BOOTS THEATRE

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Courtenay Stevens

Alexandra Watt-Simpson

Nightwood Theatre 

NIGHTWOOD THEATRE

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Managing Director: **Beth Brown**

Associate Artistic Director: **Michelle Alexander**

Development Coordinator: **Victoria Laberge**

Metcalf General Manager Intern: **Naz Afsahi**

Marketing Coordinator: **Taylor Trowbridge**

Administrative Assistant: **Maha Babeker**

The Public Servant was commissioned and developed by Common Boots Theatre with additional support from The National Arts Centre English Theatre, *undercurrents; theatre below the mainstream*, and The Great Canadian Theatre Company.

Common Boots Theatre (formerly Theatre Columbus) is an active member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA) and engages, under terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

COMPANY BIOS



Kate Alton
CHOREOGRAPHER

Kate is an award-winning dancer and choreographer who has performed on stages around the globe. She is

a former member of Toronto Dance Theatre and is Artistic Director of Crooked Figure Dances. In 2015 Kate created and performed the multi-disciplinary show *THIS DANCE* which was listed among the top five dance shows of 2015 by NOW Magazine. Most recently, Kate co-created and choreographed *Century Song* with Neema Bickersteth and Ross Manson.



Jennifer Brewin
DIRECTOR/CREATOR

Jennifer Brewin specializes in the creation and development of new work, with an emphasis on large-

scale, outdoor performance. She has created new plays for British Columbia's Caravan Farm Theatre, the National Arts Centre English Theatre in collaboration with Ottawa's Experimental Farm, Toronto's Evergreen Brick Works, and at the Canadian National Memorial in Vimy, France, to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Jennifer has directed premiers of works by Marjorie Chan, Martha Ross, Haley McGee, Natasha Greenblatt, Martin Julien, Colin Heath, Sean Dixon and Michele Riml. She has directed at theatres across Canada, including the NAC English Theatre, Great Canadian Theatre Company, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Green Thumb Theatre, Thousand Islands Playhouse, and Factory Theatre. She is a multiaward winning artist, receiving a Jesse Richardson Award (direction), a Dora Award (direction) and the Armstrong Award of Excellence (with colleague Estelle Shook).



Martin Conboy
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Martin has worked nationally and internationally. Recent credits include *RED* set and lighting (Theatre

Aquarius), *Sister Judy* (Arts Club Vancouver), *Moss Park* (Green Thumb Theatre), *Burden of Self Awareness* (GCTC), *Facts* (GCTC, tour of Jerusalem and Palestine), *Big Mama* (NAC Ottawa, Belfry Theatre Victoria), *Orfeo* (Lithuanian State Opera), and *Cranked* (New York). As theatre/Lighting consultant Martin has designed many theatres; GCTC Ottawa, Canadian Aviation Museum's theatre, Algonquin College 700 seat theatre, Arts Court redevelopment. Architectural lighting projects include Roy Thomson Hall, Massey Hall (Toronto) and the Canadian Embassy (Paris). Martin is the co-creator of WW1 projection *Vigil* 1914-1918 *Vigile* in Ottawa, Toronto, Halifax, Fredericton, Edmonton, Calgary, Canada House, Trafalgar Square London, and Belgium. Martin is a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts (RCAA).



Amy Keating
MADGE

Amy is a Dora-nominated actor, and founding member and Company Manager of Outside the

March. Acting credits with OtM include *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play*; *Passion Play*; and *Mr. Marmalade*. Other favourite credits include *Wormwood* (Tarragon Theatre); *I, Claudia* (TiFT); *The Amish Project* (GreenLight Arts); *New Jerusalem* (HGJT); *After Miss Julie* (RedOne Theatre); *Pacamambo* (Canadian Rep); *Loyal Ronin: The Working Girls' Version* (Spotlight Japan, Canadian Stage); *Water Under the Bridge* and *The Forest in My Room* (Carousel Players); *Inside* (Appledor Productions), and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Capitol Theatre). Amy is thrilled to be working with these brilliant and inspiring artists. Thanks to Colin.



Hugh Martignago
ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER

Hugh graduated from the Azreili School of Architecture and Urbanism with his

Bachelors in Architecture in April 2015. He started working with Martin Conboy in October 2015, where he has been performing various tasks, including renderings and drafting construction drawings. Hugh has recently worked on *RED* (Theatre Aquarius) and *Getting to Room Temperature* (Arts Court).



Haley McGee
CREATOR

Haley McGee is a Toronto based actor and writer. She has toured her award-winning solo show *OH*

MY IRMA to Edinburgh, London, Berlin, Amsterdam, NYC, Finland, Mongolia and Kosovo. *OH MY IMRA* debuted in Toronto at Theatre Passe Muraille. Recent acting credits include *Infinity* (Tarragon/Volcano), *The Other Place* (Canadian Stage), *Helen Lawrence* (Canadian Stage/Arts Club/International Tour), *Dead Metaphor* (Off-Mirvish/Cnd Rep), *Moss Park* (Passe Muraille/Green Thumb), *Having Hope at Home* and *Early August* (Blyth), and *The Story* (Theatre Columbus). Most recently, as a writer, she created a new solo, *I'm Doing This for You*, in residence at the Battersea Arts Centre in London, England. Haley was a member of The Second City Conservatory, and she holds a BFA in Acting from Ryerson University.



Sarah McVie
LOIS/CREATOR

Sarah divides her time between teaching, writing and performing. She has worked in many different

styles; from clown to classical, and has had the opportunity to perform works by playwrights such as George F. Walker and Évelyne de la Chenelière. She has appeared on many Canadian stages including the Stratford Festival of Canada, Theatre Aquarius, Caravan Farm Theatre and The Great Canadian Theatre Company and collaborated with some of the finest artists in the country. Sarah is a sessional instructor at Carleton University and works in voice and film. Sarah would like to thank her family for their love and support.



Sandy Plunkett
STAGE MANAGER

A champion of site specific theatre Sandy often finds himself surrendering to various locales. Under the elms,

in the parking lot, and even on the stage. Sandy is the great-grandson of Morley Plunkett of the almost forgotten WW1 Canadian Vaudeville Troupe, The Dumbells. Selected Credits: *The Trouble with Mr Adams* (Tarragon Theatre), *The Fish Eyes Trilogy* (Nightswimming), *Same Same But Different* (TPM/ATP), *Flood Thereafter, This* (Canadian Stage) *Julius Caesar, Comedy of Errors, As You Like it, Titus Andronicus, Macbeth*, (Canadian Stage Shakespeare in High Park) *Gladstone Variations, Yichud (seclusion)*, (Convergence Theatre) *The Silicone Diaries*, (Buddies in Bad Times), *The Turn of the Screw* (DVxT).



Michael Rinaldi
SOUND DESIGNER

Michael Rinaldi has created sound designs for many of Canada's indie and large theatre companies, such

as: Electric Company, Theatre SKAM, Theatre Calgary, The Old Trout Puppet Workshop, Touchstone Theatre, Theatre Replacement, Carousel Players, The Arts Club, The Vancouver Playhouse and more. Recent sound designs include *Seeds* at The Blyth Festival, *Within the Glass* at Tarragon and the *Incredible Speediness of Jamie Cavanaugh* at Carousel Players.



Amy Rutherford
CYNTHIA/CREATOR

Amy was classically trained at The National Theatre School and The Stratford Festival of Canada's

Conservatory. She has since worked in film and TV and with Canada's leading directors and playwrights. She has been nominated for several Dora Mavor Moore Awards, one Calgary Critter and was named one of Toronto's Top Ten Theatre Artists by Now Magazine. Amy has performed internationally; at the Edinburgh Theatre Festival, Rwanda Arts Azimut Festival, The Ricardo Montalban in Los Angeles and at New York's PS122 theatre. Recent acting credits include: *Sherlock Holmes* starring David Arquette, *Infinity* at the Tarragon Theatre, *Rosalind in As You Like It* (Canadian Stage) and Michael Ondaatje's theatrical adaptation of *Divisadero*.



Anna Treusch
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

Anna is a Toronto based Set and Costume Designer, Production Designer and Scenic Painter.

Most recent design credits include, *Up The Garden Path* (Obsidian Theatre), *Shannon 10:40* (Timeshare), *Tails From The City* (Costumes, Common Boots), *Munsch-O-Mania* (George Brown College), *The Dog and the Angel* (Costumes, Theatre Columbus), *Rose's Clothes* (Set, Thousand Islands Playhouse), *The Tin Drum* (UnSpun Theatre, Dora Nomination for Costume Design), *Free Outgoing* (Set, Nightwood Theatre), *Every Letter Counts* (Factory Theatre), *Mary Poppins, Grease* (Set, Theatre St. Johns), *Jewel, Newfoundland Songbook, Mary's Wedding and Canada Rocks!* (Set, Stephenville Theatre Festival), *Stuff Happens, Lord of the Flies, Into The Woods, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, NINE, Penelopiad, Our Town, Little Women* (Set, Randolph Academy). Anna was nominated for the Pauline McGibbon Award in 2013 for Craftsperson and in 2014 for Design. Upcoming: *Violet's The Pilot* (Thousand Islands Playhouse)



Rebecca Vandevelde
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Rebecca Vandevelde is a designer, technician, and

anything-manager who creates interactive installations like Flip the Table and Blanket Fort with Art is Hard, Production Manages for Common Boots Theatre, Writes/Directs/Designs interactive TYA with Cow Over Moon Children's Theatre, and does design + production work with many independent theatres and festivals. She holds a BA in Drama, History and speaking French sometimes from Glendon College at York.

UPCOMING FOR COMMON BOOTS THEATRE

IN DEVELOPMENT: *THE ELECTION* (Working Title)

Written by **Natasha Greenblatt** | Contributing Artists: **Jennifer Brewin, Yolanda Bonnell, Qasim Khan, Anand Rajaram, Courtenay Stevens**



Every election campaign has its paid organizers, central strategists and local tacticians. And then there are the troops: the rank and file, ordinary members, the dedicated volunteers, who knock on doors, distribute leaflets and bang in signs. *The Election* tells their story.

During the general election of 2015, five fearless actors joined local campaigns to witness and participate in democracy's front lines.

Natasha Greenblatt will write a play based on their experiences on the trail. The path to production includes a two-week residency at the Banff Playwrights Colony, up to seven weeks of workshop time with all the artists, a workshop production in a fringe setting. The play will premiere in the fall of 2017 in association with Nightwood Theatre.

THE VICAR OF DIBLEY

By **Richard Curtis** and **Paul Mayhew-Archer**, based on the BBC original program
Adapted for the stage by **Arthur Milner**
A fundraising performance by Toronto Ministers, "The Clergy of Hogtown"
for Comic Relief and Common Boots New Play Development



Common Boots Theatre proudly presents *The Vicar of Dibley*. Now in its third year, this fundraising performance stars ten progressive and impressive clergy from the Toronto United, Anglican and Presbyterian churches. We invite them to perform a play based on the beloved BBC show *The Vicar of Dibley*. The play follows the antics of a new female vicar in a small town. It is a timely story of tradition facing modern times. Common Boots partners with local churches who share our dedication to social justice and believe art to be a compelling ingredient to modern life.

The Clergy of Hogtown, past and present:

The Most Rev. Terry Finlay
The Ven. Gordon H. Finney
The Rev. Anne Hines
The Rev. Will Ingram
The Rev. Dawn Leger
The Rev. Mark MacLean
The Rev. Michael Marshall
The Rev. Naomi Miller

The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls
The Rev. Canon Jennifer Reid
The Rev. Norm Seli
The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair
The Rev. Elliott Siteman
The Rev. Dr. Martha ter Kuile
The Very Rev. Peter Wall
and David MacDonald

OUTDOOR WINTER THEATRE

Winter Theatre December 2016 - Toronto, Ont. /Armstrong, B.C.

Each December, Common Boots Theatre produces an outdoor processional play at Toronto's Evergreen Brick Works. The audience follows the action on foot across the historic site. A choir serenades with seasonal music as actors perform the story. Now in its 5th year, the outdoor winter show has become a unique holiday tradition for families from all corners of the GTA.



Playwright George F. Walker has written the 2016 outdoor winter show as a co-commission with B.C.'s Caravan Farm Theatre. Inspired by Evergreen Brick Works and the winter tradition, Walker's *The Orphan's Dream* follows two best friends who journey through a time tunnel looking to discover why they were abandoned and where they came from. How far back in time do they have to go to find the real answers to these questions? Do any of the people who they come across know. Does the Woman in the horse cart? Does the Hermit? Does Scrooge? Do the Magician and his Apprentice know? Do the Knights in very shiny armor? Or maybe even the Caveman or the DINOSAUR?

COMMON BOOTS THEATRE (formerly Theatre Columbus)



Common Boots Theatre is one of over 250 professional performing arts organizations in the city of Toronto. It is part of a vibrant group of independent theatres that create collaboratively-devised theatre for specific spaces, and one of only a few whose works feature women as central characters and use humour as a primary dramaturgical agent.

Common Boots Theatre's mandate is to create, through a collaborative process, new and original Canadian plays that combine a physical theatre tradition with social and personal issues relevant to our time and place.

Our annual activities include an outdoor winter production, the premier of a new work for the mainstage, and the commissioning and development of up to three new works. We have experimented with audio plays for podcast and aim to include these as a regular creative platform. We connect with the greater community and support professional artists through workshops and special performances.

We create original works that explore the connections between the individual and society, examining and transforming the ties that bind us — our ideas, our fables, our morals and our environment.

Our collaborative work emphasizes the virtuosity of the performing artist with inventive staging and scripted stories. The process evolves organically, through facilitated improvisation.

The space and environment for each production is unique and integral to the art – a winter evening, a proscenium, a warehouse, a black box, or the airwaves.

Built, broken, recreated and refined in the process of performance itself, the resulting play is a living organism that adapts to its surroundings over time. The published play offers a polished spontaneity.

We are driven to show off this country's unbelievable theatrical talent to the public; and to be part of those theatrical events that show off the best of what we are as a community. We are committed to the next generation of theatre artists by providing opportunities to create and develop alongside us, challenging our work to be better and stronger than before. We encourage the voice of women in artistic leadership.

BUILD A CULTURAL LEGACY

Every donation makes a direct impact upon the creativity of this non-for-profit organization. Your donation enables the development of new plays and keeps our ticket prices affordable. To make a direct donation, please go to the Canada Helps button on our website at commonbootstheatre.ca OR get in touch with us. As a registered charity, we can provide tax receipts.

Please contact: **Jennifer Brewin**
Phone: **416.504.0019**
Email jbrewin@theatrecolumbus.ca

Common Boots Theatre (formerly Theatre Columbus) Charitable Number: 124105727RR0001

OUR PLAYWRIGHTS

Our play development program is proud to feature new work by:



Marjorie Chan



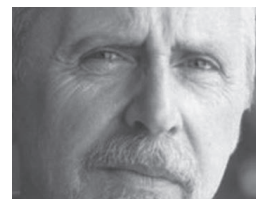
Natasha Greenblatt



Anne Hines



Amanda Nicholls



George F. Walker

NightwoodTheatre  in association with 

APR 19 – MAY 8, 2016

REFUGE

WRITTEN BY MARY VINGOE

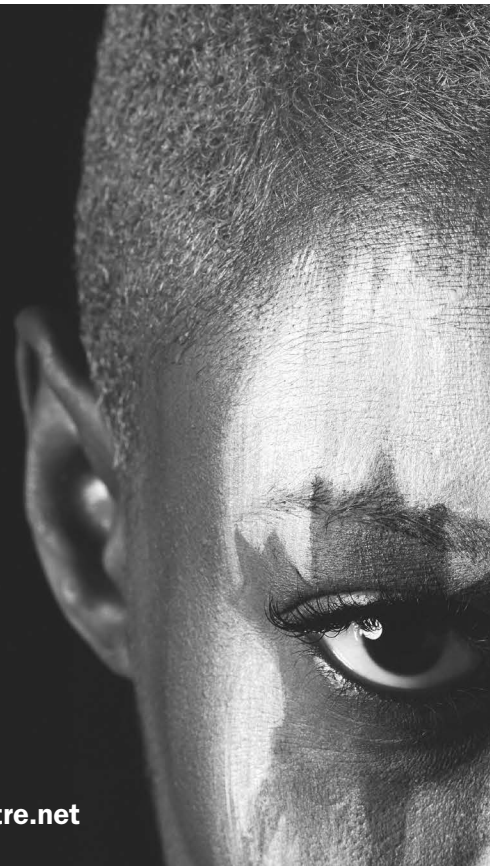
Directed by **Kelly Thornton**
Produced by **Nightwood Theatre** in collaboration with
Canada's **National Arts Centre**

Inspired by the award-winning CBC Radio documentary
Habtom's Path by Mary Lynk, **Refuge** offers a penetrating look
into Canada's refugee system and confronts the heightened
paranoia that can so tragically disrupt our capacity to trust.

TARRAGON THEATRE EXTRASPACE
GET TICKETS

Tarragon Theatre Box Office **416.531.1827** | Online at **nightwoodtheatre.net**

"AN IMPORTANT,
POWERFUL AND
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THE CHRONICLE HERALD



NIGHTWOOD THEATRE

NightwoodTheatre 

The Public Servant is proudly presented in association with Nightwood Theatre. As Canada's National Women's Theatre since 1979, Nightwood has launched the careers of many of the leading theatre artists in the country. We have won Canada's highest literary and performing arts awards and, more than ever, our success proves the need for theatre that gives voice to women and celebrates the diversity of Canadian society. We remain actively engaged in mentoring young women and promoting women's place on the local, national, and international stage.

For more information about Nightwood,
visit **www.nightwoodtheatre.net**

Registered charitable organization No. 12370 9339 RR0001

STAFF

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Beth Brown, Managing Director
Michelle Alexander, Associate Artistic Director
Victoria Laberge, Development Coordinator
Naz Afsahi, Metcalf General Manager Intern
Taylor Trowbridge, Marketing Coordinator
Maha Babeker, Administrative Assistant
Andrea Donaldson, Write From The Hip Program Facilitator
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