

kanata theatre

presents

Private Lives



by Noël Coward

Directed by Susan Monaghan

** Please note: All smoking during the play is simulated.*

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French Inc.

There will be one intermission. Coffee, soft drinks and desserts are available.

Please be considerate: ensure that pagers and cellular phones are turned off.

The use of any media capture device during the performance is prohibited by law.



kanata theatre

44th SEASON 2012 - 2013

Mary's Wedding



By Stephen Massicotte

It is the eve of Mary's wedding. But it is 1914 and the world is headed into the uncertainty of war. A poignant story of innocent first love and the vicissitudes of fate.

November 6-10 & 13-17

Directed by Wendy Wagner



kanata theatre



RON MASLIN PLAYHOUSE

Box Office 613.831.4435

BoxOffice@kanatatheatre.com

www.kanatatheatre.com

ROALD DAHL'S WILLY WONKA

Music and Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse & Anthony Newley

Adapted for the stage by Leslie Bricusse & Timothy Allen McDonald

Based on the book **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** by Roald Dahl

Directed by Clare Flockton

December 27 & 29 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

December 28 at 7 p.m. & December 30 at 1 p.m.

See Box Office for further details.

CAST

Shelley Jean Harrison	Sybil
Ian Stauffer	Elyot
Don Mounteer	Victor
Beverley Brooks	Amanda
Joy Forbes	Louise

SETTING

Act 1: Hotel terrace, France, 8 p.m., 1930's

Act 2: Amanda's Paris flat, 10 p.m. a few days later.

Act 3: Amanda's Paris flat, 8:30 a.m. next morning.

THE PLAYWRIGHT



Sir Noël Peirce Coward (16 December 1899 – 26 March 1973) was an English playwright, composer, director, actor and singer, known for his wit, flamboyance, and what *Time* magazine called "a sense of personal style, a combination of cheek and chic, pose and poise".

Born in Teddington, a suburb of London, Coward attended a dance academy in London as a child, making his professional stage début at the age of eleven. As a teenager he was introduced into the high society in which most of his plays would be set. Coward achieved enduring success as a playwright, publishing more than 50 plays from his teens onwards. Many of his works, such as *Hay Fever*, *Private Lives*, *Design for Living*, *Present Laughter* and *Blithe Spirit*, have remained in the regular theatre repertoire. He composed hundreds of songs, in addition to well over a dozen musical theatre works (including the operetta *Bitter Sweet* and comic revues), poetry, several volumes of short stories, the novel *Pomp and Circumstance*, and a three-volume autobiography. Coward's stage and film acting and directing career spanned six decades, during which he starred in many of his own works.

At the outbreak of World War II, Coward volunteered for war work, running the British propaganda office in Paris. He also worked with the Secret Service, seeking to use his influence to persuade the American public and government to help Britain. Coward won an Academy Honorary Award in 1943 for his naval film drama, *In Which We Serve*, and was knighted in 1969. In the 1950s he achieved fresh success as a cabaret performer, performing his own songs, such as "Mad Dogs and Englishmen", "London Pride" and "I Went to a Marvellous Party".

His plays and songs achieved new popularity in the 1960s and 1970s, and his work and style continue to influence popular culture.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"...the moment I switched out the lights, Gertie (Gertrude Lawrence) appeared in a white Molyneux dress on a terrace in the south of France and refused to go away until 4:00 a.m. by which time "Private Lives", title and all, had constructed itself." Thus was the fruit of Noël Coward's sleepless night in a suite at the Imperial Hotel in Yokohama, 1930.

Here in the 21st century, where casual is king, the uncompromising elegance of Coward; his life, his work and his contemporaries, still has wide appeal. Not that a dysfunctional couple like Amanda and Elyot would top anyone's list as first choice for next door neighbours, where Elyot maintains his philosophy of 'Some women should be struck regularly, like gongs' (Amanda of course gives a good as she gets); and a difference of opinion can escalate into furniture throwing.

Still, today we've all but lost the talent for good verbal repartée. One silly little word, still bleeped from our television sets is heard endlessly as a verb, noun, adjective and adverb. In Coward's world even the insults are elegant. It's downright refreshing to hear the chauvinistic and vain Elyot denounced as 'that unprincipled roué' rather than suggesting he behaves in an un-filial way towards his mother!

I am sincerely grateful to the crew and cast for their hard work and dedication in putting together this most enjoyable comedy.

BIOGRAPHIES

SUSAN MONAGHAN (Director) discovered her love of Theatre at Dalhousie



University in the '70s. Over the years she acted in various community and semi-professional groups from Halifax to Vancouver. In 1998 she settled happily with Kanata Theatre, and was first seen on the Ron Maslin stage as one of Edward Albee's *Three Tall Women*. Among her KT directing credits are *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*, *Here on the Flight Path* and *Out of Sight*. . . *Out of Murder*. Her most recent stage appearances were as Dolly the chef in *The Kitchen Witches*, and Dawn the midwife in *Having Hope at Home*. When not on stage, Susan can be found working at front of house, or assisting with make-up, props, or stage management.

BEV BROOKS (Amanda) is performing in her second Noel Coward play. She previously played Joanna in OLT's 2010 production of *Present Laughter*. Beverley's most recent Kanata Theatre appearance was in 2009 as Lily in *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*, also directed by Susan Monaghan. During her 21 years with KT, she has contributed to countless productions either by working behind the scenes, directing or acting. She directed last season's espionage production *Pack of Lies*. Selected acting credits include: Maureen (*Beauty Queen of Leenane*), Kate (*Dancing at Lughnasa*), Jean Brodie (*Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*), Arkadina (*The Seagull*), and Shakespeare's Titania. Beverley is grateful to KT for the many directing and on-stage opportunities which allow her to explore and express her odder "right-brain" creative tendencies.



JOY FORBES (Louise) is delighted to reappear on the Kanata Theatre stage after appearing in *How the Other Half Loves*, *Bedroom Farce*, *Jill* and other plays over the years. Since 1979, she has helped backstage with makeup, costumes, props, furnishings, continuity, and the servery. Joy is an award-winning French teacher at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Barrhaven. She enjoys writing and directing musicals for her students and the community, and is the author of the book "Perseverance Pranks & Pride – Tales of the One-Room Schoolhouse".



SHELLEY JEAN HARRISON (Sybil) was last seen by Kanata Theatre audiences as Ava in *Friends*, *With Benefits*. Her other KT appearances have included Dierdre in *I Hate Hamlet* and Catherine in *The Heiress*. In her eighth turn on this stage she is having a "heavenly" time on honeymoon with this "lovely" group of people. She can never say enough thank yous to her family and friends for always being her best audience.



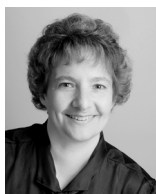
DON MOUNTEER (Victor) is pleased to be making his Kanata Theatre debut. He is no stranger to the theatre, having been involved both behind the scenes and on stage in many community and university productions in southern Ontario including *Godspell*, *Guys and Dolls* and *I'll Be Back Before Midnight*, but *Private Lives* marks his first production this century! Don would like to thank Susan and his fellow actors for their support and hopes that everyone enjoys the show.



IAN STAUFFER (Elyot) continues his exploration of matrimony which he began at KT in *Maggie's Getting Married*. His journeys have taken him to the OLT, Orleans Young Players, Tara, Tototoo, Vintage Stock, the GCTC, the OSSD and More Theatre (2009 EODL, Best Actor). He has tried his hand at writing scripts for the Fringe and the 'lawyers' play' project (GCTC). Next up: producing his latest work, *Still Looking for Paradise*, a fundraiser for The Ottawa Mission. A huge thank you to Susan and the talented cast and crew of *Private Lives*. And love, always, to Catherine for her boundless support.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A hearty welcome to all our patrons for the opening show of our 44th season. Kanata Theatre has a wide range of plays to entertain you this year, from Noël Coward's battle of the sexes which you will see this evening to Georges Feydeau's classic French farce, *A Flea in Her Ear*, which closes our season next May.

If you are not a current season ticket holder, you might want to consider purchasing a subscription once you've seen tonight's show. A subscription means you will save on the ticket price and receive a discount on our December family show *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*. Please see staff in the Box Office for further details or call 613-831-4435 and leave your name and number.

We look forward to sharing an exciting season of comedies, dramas and family musicals with you!

All the best,

Wendy Wagner
President, Kanata Theatre

Kanata Theatre acknowledges with special appreciation the following friends who have provided items or services to the production:

Ron Evans

Lisa Mounteer Photography

Alan Dean Photography

Mat Ashton

Peggy Laverty

All KT members who volunteered after the publication deadline.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Manager	Catriona Malcolmson
Stage Manager	Gwendy Tolley
Assistant Stage Managers	Julia Lamperd, Sandra Quirt
Set Design	Rom Frigon
Set Design Consultant	Dorothy Shaw
Construction Coordinator	Rom Frigon
assisted by	Paul Carrier, Barry Fortey
	Tony Francis, Earl McLaughlin
Set Painting	Lisette Martins
assisted by	Julia Adams, Mark Bazerman, Sean Behncke
	Adele Hay, Ron Hay, Alex Henkelman
	Kim Hobbs, Joanna Huang, Carolyn Johnstone
	Barbara Kobolak, Catriona Malcolmson
	Karoline Pagé, Susan Phillips, Sarah Roberts
Scenic Artists	Margrit Cattell, Dorothy Shaw
Set Décor/Furnishings	Lisette Martins
Set Décor Seamstress	Jackie Frigon
Costume Designers	Marilyn Valiquette, Brenda Parr, Eufon Williams
Dressers	Kathryn Clarke, Nancy Cormier
Sound Design	Gerry Thompson
assisted by	Lorraine Gorman
Board Operators	Jandra Drodge, Alex Truelove
Lighting Design	Alan Quirt
assisted by	Ron Francis
Board Operator	Rik Côté
Piano Music Performed by	Lorraine Gorman
Choreographers	Kendrick Abell, Tracey Nash
Properties	Nihan Kavaslar
assisted by	Cecille Gagné, Patrick Kay
Continuity	Anna Lisa Bloom, Julie Clayton, Kim Hobbs
Stage Crew Chief	Margaret Jones
assisted by	Clint Carrigan, Jaden Carrigan, Margrit Cattell
	Issam Elayoubi, Alex Henkelman, Joanna Huang
	Doug MacDonald, Sarah Roberts
Make-up	Bev Brooks, Shelley Harrison
Hairstylist	Carol Walkey
Green Room	Chris Rosebrugh, Krista Carrigan, Diane Côté
assisted by	Ella Carrigan, Emilie Côté
Publicity	Susan V. Phillips
Programme	Wendy Wagner
Box Office	Gordon Marwood
Refreshments	Nancy Baker, Whynn Bosnich
House Manager	Don Lillico

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the House Manager.

Did you enjoy the show?

Would you like to enjoy more plays?

Bring today's ticket stub to the Box Office
and get the rest of the season at a special rate:

Four plays for \$60!

Offer valid until October 6, 2012.