



kanata theatre
56TH SEASON



I HATE HAMLET

BY PAUL RUDNICK

DIRECTED BY STAVROS SAKIADIS | MAY 7 – 17, 2025

Originally produced by Jujamcyn Theatres, James B. Freyberg, Robert G. Perkins, Margo Lion. Original production directed by Michael Engler.

RON MASLIN PLAYHOUSE | BOX OFFICE 613-831-4435 | KANATATHEATRE.CA

**The KT Kids present
Finding Nemo Kids**

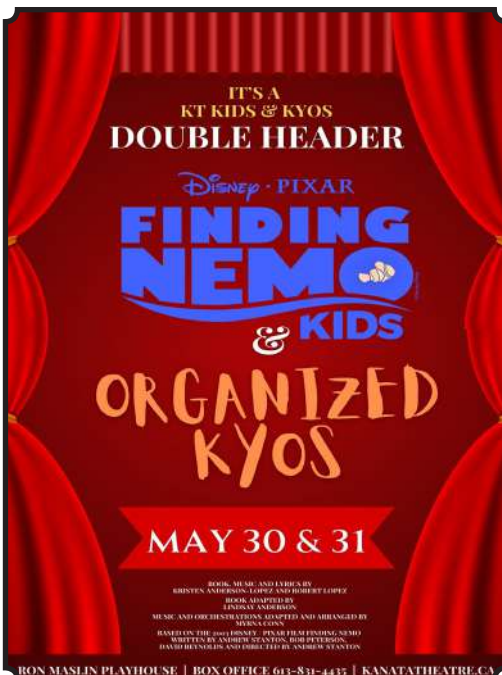
Dive into the magic of *Disney and Pixar's Finding Nemo* in this enchanting musical stage production!

Organized KYOS

Get ready for a whirlwind of creativity in *Organized KYOS*, an exciting showcase by Kanata Youth on Stage. This dynamic performance features a mix of scenes, skits and monologues, with most of the content created by the KYOS youth themselves.



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Join us at the KT Lounge

(south end of the lobby)



Featured Cocktail - "Ophelia - to drink, or not to drink..."

Artisanal Butter Tarts	\$3.00	Beer	\$7.00
Munchies™/Smartfood®	\$3.00	Wine	\$8.00
Soft Drinks	\$2.00	Spirits	\$8.00
Coffee/Tea (self-serve) Donation		Cocktails	\$8.00

Refreshments may be taken into the auditorium



kanata theatre





CAST

(in order of appearance)



Felicia Dantine

Andrew Rally

Deirdre McDavey

Lillian Troy

John Barrymore

Gary Peter Lefkowitz

Sir Tin-a-Lot

Les Bunbury

Josh Sparks

Shirley Manh

Juli Heney

Chris Cottrell

Adam Pelletier

Himself



SYNOPSIS

I Hate Hamlet is a comedic play by Paul Rudnick that follows Andrew Rally, a successful TV actor who has just moved to New York after being cast as Hamlet in Shakespeare in the Park. The problem? Andrew hates Hamlet and feels completely unqualified for the role. His anxieties grow when he encounters the ghost of legendary actor John Barrymore, who is determined to coach him in the art of playing the melancholy Dane. As Andrew struggles with self-doubt, a skeptical girlfriend, and the temptation of a lucrative Hollywood deal, he must decide whether to embrace the challenge of Shakespeare or take the easy way out. Full of witty dialogue, larger-than-life characters, and theatrical charm, *I Hate Hamlet* is a hilarious exploration of art, ambition, and the ghosts, both literal and figurative, that haunt us.

SETTING

John Barrymore's former apartment near Washington Square, New York.
Present day.



PhonicEar On-Wave hearing assistance systems can be picked up at the cloak room. These receivers permit control over listening volume levels through a 3.5 mm plug headset or T-Switch hearing aid loops.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE



At its heart, *I Hate Hamlet* is a love letter to the theatre, its challenges, its magic, and its eternal struggle against the lure of fame and fortune. Andrew Rally's journey mirrors that of so many artists, torn between commercial success and artistic fulfillment. Paul Rudnick's sharp, witty script reminds us that Shakespeare isn't just for scholars; it's alive, vibrant, and deeply human. As Andrew wrestles with Hamlet, the past, and his own fears, we're reminded that great art demands courage. With Barrymore's ghost guiding the way, this play invites us to laugh, reflect, and maybe even reconsider the Bard. I hope you enjoy this celebration of theatre, ambition, and the joy of taking risks.

BIOGRAPHIES



Stavros Sakiadis (Director) is thrilled to return to Kanata Theatre to direct *I Hate Hamlet*. He holds a BFA in Acting from the University of Windsor and has performed with various companies, including Third Wall Theatre, A Company of Fools, Odyssey Theatre, OLT, Shakespeare By the Sea, and the Ottawa Shakespeare Festival. Select roles include Valmont (*Dangerous Liaisons*), David (Burn—Edinburgh Fringe), Thomas Cromwell (*A Man for All Seasons*), Felix Ungar (*The Odd Couple*), and Fawcett (*The Noble Pursuit*). A drama teacher, director, and fight choreographer, selected directing credits: *The Noble Pursuit* (OLT—winner of best direction with Broadway World), *The Three Musketeers* (OLT), and *A Year in the Death of Eddie Jester* (Kanata Theatre). Enjoy the show!



Kathleen Walsh (Assistant Director) is very happy to be a part of bringing *I Hate Hamlet* to the stage. Previously she directed productions of *My Narrator*, Kanata Theatre's submission to the 2024 EODL One Act Play Festival, and *The Death of Me* part of KT's 2021 season. Thanks to the cast and crew for bringing so much energy and to Stavros for his generous spirit.



Les Bunbury (Felicia Dantine) is excited to make her Kanata Theatre debut in *I Hate Hamlet*. With an undergraduate degree in Theatre from Queen's and an MA in Dance from York, Les has dedicated much of her career to producing and choreographing for youth casts in Toronto. Her credits include *Hairspray*, *Lord of the Flies*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *Ch(aos)oreography*. Les is currently serving on the advisory committee for GNAG50, reading Scott Fitzgerald, and is busy choreographing the life of Sloan and Brie.

Please be considerate: ensure that mobile devices are turned off. The use of any media capture device during the performance is prohibited by copyright law.



Chris Cottrell (John Barrymore) is delighted to debut at Kanata Theatre and reunite with director Stavros, who also directed him in *The Three Musketeers* (OLT-2017). He's particularly excited to tackle the comedic challenges and dramatic flair of John Barrymore. Audiences may remember him most recently as Joe Alsop in *The Columnist* (OLT-2022). A graduate of the University of Windsor's Theatre Arts Performance Academy, Chris brings a wealth of training and passion to the stage. He ignites that same passion in his high school students, sharing the transformative power of theatre. He hopes you'll be as captivated by this production as he is!



Juli Heney (Lillian Troy) is thrilled to be back on stage at Kanata Theatre. A long-time lover of all things theatre, she has been known to dabble in farce, dramas, comedy, murder mysteries, melodramas, one-acts, Shakespeare, and more! Iambic pentameter is her love language, so she is especially thrilled to be trying out a new accent in this Shakespeare-adjacent romp.



Shirley Manh (Deirdre McDavey) has been performing in Ottawa since 2011: on stage, behind microphones, and in front of cameras with TACTICS, the Gladstone, OLT, Orpheus, and more. Highlights: playing Gwendolen Fairfax in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Kitchener-Waterloo Little Theatre) and winning an award for acting at the recent EODL One-act Play Festival. This is her 5th KT production, having just appeared in *The Girl on the Train*. Her love of performance is rivalled only by her love of referring to herself in the third person. Offstage, Shirley is a leadership development coach and a published writer. Mommy loves you, Periwinkle!



Adam Pelletier (Gary Peter Lefkowitz) is thrilled to be on stage a second time at Kanata for *I Hate Hamlet*, as the final show of the season, and a love letter to theatre. His most recent shows on stage were Dennis in *Mauritius*, Gary Fluck in *Hilda's Yard*, and Sam Byck in Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins*. With the Mississippi Mudds, Adam has directed *Guys and Dolls*, *A Candle on the Table* and *Clue: On Stage*. Adam would like to thank his family and friends for their constant support.



Josh Sparks (Andrew Rally) first appeared on the KT stage decades ago in *The Jungle Book musical*. Since then, he has acted on several stages around the city. Recent credits include *The Noble Pursuit* and *On the Farce Day of Christmas*. He last appeared in Kanata as the title character in *A Year in the Death of Eddie Jester*. Many actors dream of playing Hamlet. Josh's dream has been to pretend to be a person who gets cast as Hamlet. With this play, he can tick that achievement off his list.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	Catriona Malcolmson
Assistant Director	Kathleen Walsh
Stage Manager	Chrissy Feldman
Assistant Stage Manager	Sheryl Bell, Clare Flockton, Kaitlynn Ford
	Sumeyra Ulas
Fight Choreography	Stavros Sakiadis
Weapons Supervisor	Chrissy Feldman
Assisted by	Amelia Abell
Dance Choreography	Tracey Bourke
Set Design & Construction	Heidi Roberts
Assisted by	Michael Barclay, Paul Behncke, Enver Dokuzoguz, Dean Flockton
	Mike Giovinnazzo, Clyde Le Guerrier, Mateo Guitard, Mark Guzowski
	Elena McIntosh, Amy Rawding, Paul Robichaud, Arsenii Skvortsov
	Grant & Sarah Wilson, Dan Winters
Set Painting	Elisa Frost, Barbara Kobolak
Assisted by	Yolande Akl, Agnes & Emma Bejan, Donna Burlock, Fallon Carrier
	Goodness Chimaobi, Joy Forbes, Gordon & Sharon Harrison
	Bryna Hawdur-Johnson, Ilona Henkelman, Fran Johnson, Savita Krishnan
	Sue Leger, Nicole MacLaren, Sally McIntyre, Paul Robichaud
	Sheila Trivisonno, Eve Sinhaseni, Sumeyra Ulas
Set Décor	Sandra Douville
Assisted by	Jennifer Barkley, Nicole MacLaren, Kurt Strand
Knight Armour provided by	Lorraine Gorman
Sound	Mike Hogan
Assisted by	Tom Duxbury
Jingle Composer	Kenny Hayes
Lighting	Anthony Rumsey
Assisted by	Shawn Batten, John van Schouwen
Electronic Lighting Effects provided by	STEAM-fx Collective
Costumes	Maxine Ball
Assisted by	Sandra Eaves
Properties	Nicole MacLaren, Miranda Shelly
Assisted by	Julia Janzen
Stage Crew	Amelia Abell, Yolande Akl, Lochlan Blow, Sandra Douville, Elisa Frost
	Émilie Gurnick, Julia Janzen, Nicole MacLaren, Miranda Shelly
Continuity	Diane Burke, Jill Doherty, Miriam Fitzgerald, Nancy & Paul Hough
	Petra Watzlawik-Li, Ann Williams
Hair Styling	Carol Walkey
Make Up	Martha Johnstone
Assisted by	Bev Brooks, Liz Nash, Hilary Philebrown, Anissa Stambouli
Lobby Display Design	Nicole MacLaren
Green Room	Laurie Hogan
Volunteer Liaison	Charles Henderson
Publicity Liaison	Jane Pick

Clipart images designed by Freepik

We also thank all other Kanata Theatre volunteers that helped make this production possible who are not listed here, including publicity, marketing, box office, signage, front of house and servery, operations, and more.

Dear Patrons,

Welcome to Kanata Theatre! We're delighted to have you join us for *I Hate Hamlet*, the final production of our 56th season. This clever comedy brings the spirit of legendary actor John Barrymore to the stage—literally—as he attempts to coach a reluctant young actor through Shakespeare's most famous role.



As always, thank you for supporting Kanata Theatre. It's because of audiences like you that live theatre continues to thrive in our community - and next year promises to be just as exciting! Our 57th season kicks off on September 10th with *Deathtrap*, Ira Levin's brilliantly twisted thriller packed with suspense, dark humor, and shocking twists. Secure your 5-Play Subscription now for the best value and a full season of unforgettable theatre.

Enjoy the show!

Cameron Bishop, President, Kanata Theatre



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"Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him..."

Can you guess the eight well-known actors
playing Hamlet?
(answers on page 9)



Join us at Kanata Theatre for the best in theatre entertainment
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Kanata Theatre's **2025-2026** season.

Singing, Santa, soap suds & Jane Austen...

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"Though this be madness, yet there is method in't."

Can you match the actors, cities, dates and review comments?

(answers on the next page)



Laurence Olivier	Stratford	1930	d) known for his athletic and fiery portrayal
Richard Burbage	Paris	1899	a) key figure in the early performances of the play
David Tennant	London	2008	g) sardonic and volatile, with a graceful quality
Henry Irving	London	1600	b) known for his powerful and dramatic style
Richard Burton	London	1937	e) known for his cold recitation of Hamlet's lines
Michael Sheen	London	1989	i) set in a mocked-up psychiatric institution
John Gielgud	London	1964	c) maybe the greatest Hamlet of the 20th century
Daniel Day-Lewis	London	2009	f) brought a unique intensity to his Hamlet
Sarah Bernhardt	Broadway	1874	k) manly and resolute, but nonetheless thoughtful
Jude Law	London	2011	h) can a handsome film star pull off Hamlet

"There are more things in heaven and earth..."

The front of house staff are the unsung heroes of the theatre. Although they may not contribute to a production directly, they are integral to keeping the lights on and providing the best possible experience for our patrons. We thank everyone who worked "up top" for this season!

To the Box Office, Publicity, House Managers, Greeters, Cloakroom Attendants, Ushers, Servery & Champagne Crew - 50+ for each production, many of whom work multiple shifts for each run...

Adam P, Adele M, Allison H, Alyssa M Amy M, Andra S, Andre D, Andrew S, Angela M, Ann W, Anne-Marie D, Arsenii S, Ava F, Ayse K, Barbara K Barbara M, Barrie K, Ben P, Betsy C, Blixa M, Bob A Brian M, Cameron B, Carolyn W, Cate C, Cathy C, Cathy G, Cerys L, Chandra vT, Chisholm P, Christine L, Dale W, Dana M, Danica C, Daria B, Diana L, Diane B, Don B, Don L, Donna B, Doreen M, Doug C, Elisa F Elizabeth R, Emi H, Emma C, Eve S, Evelyn A, Gordon W, Grant W, Griffin P, Ilona H, Jadds Y, Jamie C, Jane P, Janet R, Jason B, Jenefer H, Jenn W, Jenny P, JF H, Jim M, Jonathan R, Juli H, Julia J, Julie H, Justine B, Karen F, Kathleen W, Kelly G, Kenny H, Leo C, Les B, Linda P, Lindsay E, Lise M, Lori B, Lucy S, Malcolm L, Marianne W, Mariia L, Martha J, Martin H, Mary H, Matthew W, Max M, Megan L, Michael C, Michael G, Michelle S, My-Lien B, Nandeesh K, Nicole M, Pamela J, Pat M, Patricia C, Paul B, Paul S, Petra W, Rebecca F, Rob J, Roger S, Sandy B, Sarah H, Scarlett S, Selvam S, Seth D, Sharon H, Shayne B, Shelagh M, Sheryl B, Simon L, Stefania W, Sumeyra U, Susan M, Tara S, Tina M, Tom K, Tonya H, Tristan vT, William M, Wyatt A & anyone who was missed...

We have a lot of fun, so why not become a member & volunteer too!

Purchase your tickets here: www.kanatatheatre.ca.

The Kanata Theatre is wheelchair accessible. Please call the Box Office at 613-831-4435 to secure wheelchair seating.

For general enquiries email info@kanatatheatre.ca.





“Goodnight, sweet prince...”

Edwin Thomas Booth (1833-93) was considered by many to be the greatest American actor of the 19th century.

On November 26, 1864, he began a production of Hamlet at the Winter Garden Theater in New York City, running for 100 consecutive nights and known as the “hundred nights Hamlet.” The record lasted until John Barrymore broke it in 1922, playing the title character for 101 performances.

Edwin had 2 brothers, also actors, with whom he appeared in Julius Caesar in 1864—Edwin played Brutus, Junius played Cassius, and John Wilkes played Marc Antony. This was the only occasion on which they shared the stage.

The following year, on April 14th, 1865, John Wilkes Booth infamously assassinated Abraham Lincoln at the Ford Theatre in Washington, DC. In the aftermath, Edwin had to abandon the theatre temporarily, making his return to the stage at the Winter Garden Theater in January 1866. He again played Hamlet, which would eventually become his signature role.

Coincidentally, Edwin had saved Lincoln’s son, Robert Lincoln, from falling under a train a few months prior to Lincoln’s assassination.

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Quiz Answers

Quiz 1: A-John Gielgud, B-David Tennant, C-Richard Burton, D-Ben Kingsley, E-Laurence Olivier, F-Henry Irving, G-Michael Redgrave, H-Sarah Bernhardt

Quiz 2: London: Laurence Olivier, 1937, d); Richard Burbage, 1600, a); Henry Irving, 1874, b); Michael Sheen, 2011, i); Daniel Day-Lewis, 1989, f); John Gielgud, 1930, c); Jude Law, 2009, h). Stratford: David Tennant, 2008, g). Broadway: Richard Burton, 1964, e). Paris: Sarah Bernhardt, 1899, k).



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“Though this be madness, yet there is method in’t...”

John Barrymore debuted as Hamlet on Nov 16, 1922 at the Sam H. Harris Theater, moving away from the traditional “Sweet Prince” persona and creating a character filled with danger and sexuality. The performance was hailed as one of the greatest in New York with a run of 101 shows.

During this time in New York city, he lived at an apartment at 132-134 West 4th Street. The same apartment where Paul Rudnick wrote this play and the setting for the play.

Click or scan here to see what it looks like now!




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 WATER AT ITS BEST

“To be, or not to be...”

By the late 1930s, Barrymore often forgot his lines. However, in the 1941 RKO film *Playmates*, cast & crew applauded because he didn't need cues.

Click or scan to listen to Barrymore recite the famous Hamlet soliloquy.



5TH ANNUAL
10-Minute Play FESTIVAL
 August 1 at 7:30
 August 2 at 2:30 & 7:30
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 Get your tickets at the door
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2025

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kanata theatre



kanata theatre

57TH SEASON OF QUALITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

2025-2026 Season

DEATHTRAP

by Ira Levin

September 10-20th 2025

Sidney Bruhl, a successful writer of Broadway thrillers, is struggling to overcome a string of failures and a shortage of funds. A possible break in his fortunes occurs when he receives a script from a student—a thriller that he recognizes as a potential Broadway smash. His plan is to offer collaboration to the student for co-credit. Or is it?

A troubled young parolee yearning for a fresh start follows her dreams to Wisconsin, only to find a small town with a gritty heart aching with longing and regret. Unexpectedly discovering the healing power of community while working at the Spitfire Grill, Percy reawakens the entire town's capacity for rebirth, forgiveness and hope.

THE SPITFIRE GRILL

Music and Book by James Valcq
Lyrics and Book by Fred Alley
Based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff
November 5-15th 2025

KEN LUDWIG'S 'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

December 27-30th 2025

"'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse." But wait! A mouse is stirring - because Santa missed his house last year. Before you can say "Merry Christmas!", we're off on the wild adventures of a mouse, an elf, and a spunky little girl who just won't take no for an answer.

Bessie, Alice, and Margaret have two things in common: they are married to George Joseph Smith, and they are dead. Surfacing from the bathtubs they were drowned in, the three breathless brides gather evidence against their womanizing, murderous husband by reliving the shocking events leading up to their deaths.

THE DROWNING GIRLS

by Beth Graham, Charlie Tomlinson & Daniela Vlaskalic
February 4-14th 2026

THE WATSONS

By Laura Wade

March 25-April 4th 2026

What happens when the writer loses the plot? Emma Watson is 19 and new in town. She's been cut off by her rich aunt and dumped back in the family home. Emma and her sisters must marry, fast. But there's a problem: Jane Austen didn't finish the story. Who will write Emma's happy ending now?

Robin Hood and his band of outlaws steal from the rich, creating a fearsome reputation amongst those who dare to travel through Sherwood. But they do not share their spoils with the poor and are unloved by the people. It is down to Marion to boldly protect the poor and convince Robin that he must listen to his heart if they are to save the country.

THE HEART OF ROBIN HOOD

by David Farr

May 13-23rd 2026

MEMBERSHIP

Kanata Theatre is celebrating its 56th anniversary this season. Since 1968 a lot has changed. Growth has been exponential and the diversity now present in our community has enriched our membership. One thing that has not changed is the commitment to volunteerism that Kanata Theatre members embody. Kanata Theatre is completely volunteer run; from directors and producers to lighting designers and box office agents. Consider joining our vibrant membership and playing a part in bringing quality live theatre to audiences.

You can offer as much time as suits your lifestyle and you will be rewarded with a creative outlet that is fun and fosters great friendships.

Contact Kathleen Walsh Director, Membership and Training for more information at: membership@kanatatheatre.ca or scan or click the QR code



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We have updated the program! If you love it or hate it, or have suggestions or comments please let us know at programs@kanatatheatre.ca. We would love to get your feedback!

Scan or click for more information about Kanata Theatre's upcoming show season!



TICKET POLICY

The box office opens 1.5 hr prior to show times. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.kanatatheatre.ca.

Tickets are non refundable. Please contact the ticket office at 613-831-4435, 48 hrs in advance, to exchange tickets for another performance within the current show.

The Kanata Theatre is wheelchair accessible. Please call the box office to secure wheelchair seating.

The Ron Maslin Playhouse is built on and Kanata Theatre operates on the unceded territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin peoples, the stewards of this land for millennia.