



KANATA THEATRE PRESENTS



THE SPITFIRE GRILL

MUSIC AND BOOK BY JAMES VALCQ

LYRICS AND BOOK BY FRED ALLEY

BASED ON THE FILM BY LEE DAVID ZLOTOFF

DIRECTED BY CLARE FLOCKTON | NOV. 5 - 15, 2025

Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the New York Premiere of "The Spitfire Grill" Off-Broadway in 2001. "The Spitfire Grill" received its World Premiere production by the George Street Playhouse, November 5, 2000, David Saint, Artistic Director, Michael Stotts, Managing Director.

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

*'Twas the night before showtime,
and all through the stage; Not a
creature was stirring — not even
backstage. The costumes were
hung by the dressing rooms with
care; In hopes that the actors soon
would be there...*

But wait! Something is stirring at
the theatre — and it's a festive
treat for the whole family!

Join us this holiday season for the
rollicking adventures of a clever
mouse, a mischievous elf, and a
fearless young girl with a will of her
own.



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Coffee/Tea (self-serve)	Donation	Cocktails	\$8.00

Drinks only in the auditorium. NO FOOD.





CAST

(in order of appearance)

Percy Talbott

Joe Sutter

Hannah Ferguson

Caleb Thorpe

Effy Krayneck

Shelby Thorpe

The Visitor

Ensemble

Gillian Doiron

Ryan Mendoza

Maureen Quinn McGovern

Shawn Batten

Julie Heath

Shannon MacDonald

Arseniy Skvortsov

Sandra Douville, Nicole MacLaren

Sonya Monaghan, Kurt Strand

SYNOPSIS

The Spitfire Grill tells the heartwarming story of Percy Talbott, a young woman just released from prison, who seeks a fresh start in the small town of Gilead, Wisconsin. She lands a job at the only eatery in town—an aging diner run by the crusty but kind Hannah Ferguson. Business is slow, and Hannah has long dreamed of selling the grill, but there are no takers.

When Percy suggests raffling the grill off with an essay contest, the townspeople have much to say. As the contest entries pour in, secrets come to light, wounds begin to heal, and the community slowly rediscovers hope, compassion, and the beauty of second chances.

With a folk-inspired score that blends warmth, humour, and poignancy, *The Spitfire Grill* is a heartfelt celebration of renewal, forgiveness, and the power of human connection.

Warning: Includes adult themes, including a discussion of domestic and sexual violence, the loss of a child, and implied physical abuse.

“THE SPITFIRE GRILL” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com





DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Welcome to *The Spitfire Grill*—a heartfelt story of redemption, resilience, and the power of second chances. Set in a small town searching for renewal, this musical reminds us that healing often begins in the most unexpected places. With its rich score and deeply human characters, *The Spitfire Grill* celebrates the quiet strength of community and the courage it takes to begin again. I am honoured to share this journey with such a dedicated cast and crew, and I hope this story touches your heart as much as it has touched ours. Thank you for joining us—enjoy the show!

BIOGRAPHIES



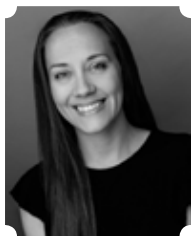
Clare Flockton (Director) is thrilled to return to the director's chair for this exciting production of *The Spitfire Grill*. Clare has previously directed *High School Musical*, *Fairy Tale Ending*, and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, each one bringing unique joy and challenges to the stage. Her work with Kanata Theatre has been defined by creativity, collaboration, and a deep commitment to community theatre. Clare is passionate about creating magical experiences that inspire both cast and audience alike. She is especially proud to bring *The Spitfire Grill* to life and looks forward to many more stories to tell.

John McGovern (Musical Director and keyboards) is beyond thrilled to finally arrive at *The Spitfire Grill* after many years of musical direction with various community theatre groups. Highlights from 1976 to now include *Falsettos*, *Gypsy*, *Cabaret*, *Company*, *The Secret Garden*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Orpheus Musical Theatre), *Les Miz* (ASNY), and *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (TotoToo). John was co-creator with Michael Gareau of the Orpheus 100th Anniversary show, *The Spirit of Orpheus* (2007). He is very grateful for the musical talents of the Spitfire Band and has enjoyed the warm welcome to KT from Clare, Kathleen, and all the team. And yes, "something's cookin'" at *The Spitfire Grill*.



Shawn Batten (Caleb Thorpe) is excited to make his musical debut with Kanata Theatre! While he typically enjoys the magic of the theatre from behind the scenes, this opportunity to perform has inspired him to step into the spotlight. Shawn is eager to explore the world of musical theatre and looks forward to learning from his fellow cast members. With dreams of blending his behind-the-scenes passion with performance, he hopes to take on various roles in future productions.

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Gillian Doiron (*Percy Talbott*) started her acting career in Cobourg with the Victorian Operetta Society and Northumberland Players. After a brief break from the stage, she returned in Peterborough with St. James Players, Showplace Players, and the Peterborough Theatre Guild. She has continued her theatre experience in Ottawa with Orpheus, ASNY, and Lost Baggage. She is excited to be in her first Kanata Theatre production!

Some of her favourite roles include Sophie in *Mamma Mia*, Mary Poppins in *Mary Poppins*, Rumpleteaser in *Cats*, Johanna in *Sweeney Todd*, Roxie in *Chicago*, and Angie in *The Prom*!. Gillian thanks her husband, family, and friends for their continued support and encouragement.

Julie Heath (*Effy Krayneck*) is thrilled to be back on the Kanata Theatre stage performing with this incredibly talented cast and crew. Favourite recent roles include Mrs. Shears/ Mrs. Gascoyne in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Kanata Theatre), and Mrs. Brill in *Mary Poppins* and Mrs. Gloop in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Orpheus Theatre). When she is not on stage, you can find Julie in her Grade 5 classroom, school library, or doing jigsaw puzzles at home. She is extremely grateful to her husband, Jason, and her Lennoxville and Turnbull families for their love and support. Looking forward to steaming open some letters and spilling the tea in Gilead!



Shannon MacDonald (*Shelby Thorpe*) is excited to take part in her first Kanata Theatre production. She has performed in several community theatre productions over the years in Ottawa and Peterborough, including productions with Lost Baggage Musical Theatre, Rural Root Theatre Company, Orpheus Musical Theatre, and the Saint James Players. Her most notable role was Ellie Greenwich in *Leader of the Pack*. Shannon would like to thank her husband and kids for their

support.

Maureen Quinn McGovern (*Hannah Ferguson*) first appeared with Kanata Theatre in *Having a Wonderful Time, Wish You Were Her* wearing a “costume of leaves” which highlighted rather than hid her many assets, delighting all viewers beyond thirty feet. She’s also performed roles in the 2023 and 2024 Ten-Minute Play Festivals. She has been in numerous productions with Orpheus, Ottawa Little Theatre, TotoToo, Company of Musical Theatre, and the Confidential Musical Theatre Project.

Favourite roles to date: Anne and Mrs. Lynde in *Anne of Green Gables*, Roxie Hart and Matron Mama Morton in *Chicago*, Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, Madame Dubonnet in *The Boyfriend*, Clairee in *Steel Magnolias*, and Stella in *Cloudburst*. Maureen thanks Clare for the opportunity to be a part of this beautiful production.





Ryan Mendoza (Joe Sutter) is so stoked to be in his first show at Kanata Theatre. He recently performed in *The Music Man* with Orpheus Musical Theatre as a member of the barbershop quartet and was also seen in *Guys and Dolls* as Nicely Nicely Johnson with Lost Baggage Musical Theatre. Ryan was also the 1st place winner in the Ottawa Pinoy Pop Star singing competition back in Sept. 2024. When not on stage, Ryan enjoys cooking and composing hip-hop music productions. He sends thanks to the cast and crew for an amazing experience, and a special thank you to his partner Venus & family/friends for the constant support.

Arseniy Skvortsov (The Visitor) is glad to continue treading on Kanata Theatre's stage after appearing for the first time as Major Domo in *Dangerous Liaisons*. Before crossing the Atlantic, he portrayed Justinian in *Poisoned Tunic*, Merluiche in *Trap for a Lonely Man*, and Fyodor Ilyich in *Three Sisters*. Arseniy is deeply grateful to KT for reconnecting him with his passion, be that via constructing sets, spewing fog, or acting.



Band

**Corey Thomas, Ronan Karson,
John McGovern, Fred Schmidt, Tom
Kobolak, Steve Smith**



Ensemble

**Nicole MacLaren, Sandra Douville,
Kurt Strand, Sonya Monaghan**



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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.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	Kathleen Walsh
Musical Director	John McGovern
Stage Manager	Chrissy Feldman
Assistant Stage Manager	Sheryl Bell, Tracey Bourke, Ilona Henkelman
Set Design & Construction	Dean Flockton
Assisted by	Michael Barclay, Paul Behncke, Jim Clarke
	Elisa Frost, Mark Guzowski, Gordon Harrison
	Clyde Le Guerrier, Paul Robichard, Heidi Roberts
	Arseniy Skvortsov, Kurt Strand, Daniel Winters, Sandy Wynne
Set Painting	Sharon Harrison
Assisted by	Donna Burlock, Clare Flockton, Joy Forbes
	Elisa Frost, Gordon Harrison, Barbara Kobolak
	Nicole MacLaren, Paul Robichaud, Alyssa Tofinetti
	Shiela Trivisonno, Kathleen Walsh, Sandy Wynne
Lighting	Anthony Rumsey
Assisted by	Emma Bejan, Julie Dustin, Tina Mestrovic
	Robert Goodman, Anastasia Ricketts, John Van Schouwen
Sound/Projections	Joel Agnew
Assisted by	Bill Horsman, Tom Duxbury, Rob Johnstone, Jim Mantle
Costumes	Kathryn Clarke
Dresser	Maxine Ball, Shirley Manh, Jane Pick
Set Décor	Sandra Douville
Assisted by	Jessica Grass, Kurt Strand
Properties	Nicole MacLaren, Miranda Shelley
Assisted by	Yolande Akl, Daria Bester, Barbara Friesen
	Ilona Henkelman, Chrissy Hollands, Elisa Frost, Emilie Gurnick
Vocal Coach	Lorraine McInnis
Audition Accompanist	Allison Houston
Musicians	Ronan Karson, Tom Kobolak, John McGovern
	Fred Schmidt, Steve Smith, Corey Thomas
Lobby Board Design	Nicole MacLaren
Continuity	Diane Burke, Nancy Cormier, Miriam Fitzgerald
	Nancy and Paul Hough, Ann Williams
Hair Styling	Sonya Monaghan
Assisted by	Carol Walkey
Make Up	Martha Johnstone
Assisted by	Bev Brooks, Shauna Gadiant, Chrissy Hollands
	Liz Nash, Hilary Philebrown
Green Room	Laurie Hogan
Publicity Liaison	Jane Pick
Volunteer Liaison	Charles Henderson

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.

The Heartbeat of a Musical...

A musical is a form of theatre that blends songs, dialogue, acting, and often dance to tell a story. Unlike plays, the music is central—it expresses emotions, develops characters, and moves the plot forward. Within this art form, the musical director plays a vital role. They teach vocal parts, shape harmonies, and ensure the score reflects the show's vision. Working closely with the stage director, they guide rehearsals, coach performers, and adapt arrangements to suit the cast. More than a teacher, the musical director inspires confidence and unity, ensuring the music and story flow together seamlessly on stage.



Dear Patrons,

Welcome to Kanata Theatre and thank you for joining us for *The Spitfire Grill*. This moving musical celebrates resilience, community, and the power of second chances. I'm continually inspired by the talent and dedication of the cast, crew, and creative team who have worked so hard to bring this story to life on our stage. Thank you, as a patron, for supporting community theatre and for sharing in this experience with us. Whether you're a longtime subscriber or attending for the first time, I hope tonight's performance leaves a lasting impression.



Enjoy the show!

Cameron Bishop

President, Kanata Theatre

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Visit kanatatheatre.ca to purchase tickets.



Meet me at the Diner...

From quick cameos to central hangouts, diners have played a starring role in movies and TV, setting the scene for both iconic moments and everyday conversations. Can you guess the movies/TV shows titles from the clues below and match them to the corresponding diner?

[In brackets is the # of words/letters, e.g., WWII flying BBQ (3 8 5) = The Spitfire Grill]

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Upscale LA address (8 5 5) | Monk's Cafe |
| 2. Good times (5 4) | The Restaurant at the End of the Universe |
| 3. Buzz again with mail (3 7 6 5 5) | Double R Diner |
| 4. Dual summits (4 5) | Soul Food Cafe |
| 5. Dime novels and penny dreadfuls (4 7) | Grace's Diner |
| 6. George's and Elaine's alum (8) | Bronto Burger |
| 7. US street art (8 8) | Arnold's Dine-In |
| 8. Such 'nautical nonsense' (9 11) | Mel's Dine-In |
| 9. Sparks on impact (3 11) | Jack Rabbit Slims |
| 10. Fodor's interstellar manual (3 11 5 2 3 6) | The Peach Pit |
| 11. Greyhound terminus (3 4) | Twin Oaks Cafe |
| 12. Colourful fraternal pair (3 5 8) | The Krusty Krab |



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A HOLIDAY TREAT

Stuff your stockings with tickets to the holiday show - **'Twas The Night Before Christmas**. Only \$15



GIFT CERTIFICATES

Unsure which play to choose? You can buy a gift certificate instead, and they can decide for themselves.

A SPECIAL GIFT

Get tickets for **The Drowning Girls** (a haunting theatrical thriller), **The Watsons** (fiction collides with reality), or **The Heart of Robin Hood** (a darkly funny, action-packed adventure). For the extra special someone, get a subscription for all 3 plays for \$66 so they can see them all.

DONATE

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information!**

**FEATURED COCKTAIL:
*Shoot the Moon***

A bold mix that
aims high—and
lands among
the stars.



chrome accents, neon lights, and counter seating becoming iconic features.

Many diners were run by Greek and Jewish immigrants, whose influence shaped diverse menus. Today, diners remain a symbol of comfort food, 24-hour service, and quintessential American culture.



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The American diner traces its roots to the late 19th century, when lunch wagons served quick, inexpensive meals to factory workers and late-night laborers in cities like Providence, Rhode Island. By the early 20th century, these mobile wagons evolved into stationary, prefabricated diner cars, often built to resemble railroad cars.

The 1920s–1950s marked the golden age, with

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Quiz Answers: [Diners] 1. Beverley Hills 90120 (The Peach Pit), 2. Happy Days (Arnold's Dine-In), 3. The Postman Always Rings Twice (Twin Oaks Cafe), 4. Twin Peaks (Double R Diner), 5. Pulp Fiction (Jack Rabbit Slims), 6. Seinfeld (Monk's Cafe), 7. American Graffiti (Mel's Dine-In), 8. SpongeBob SquarePants (The Krusty Krab), 9. The Flintstones (Bronto Burger), 10. The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (The Restaurant at the End of the Universe), 11. Bus Stop (Grace's Diner), 12. The Blues Brothers (Soul Food Cafe)

2025-2026 Season

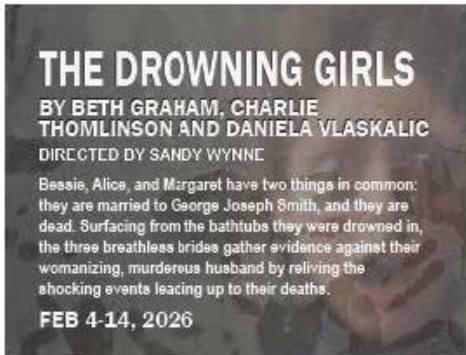


Ken Ludwig's 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

DIRECTED BY ADAM PELLETIER

"'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 Sarta 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.

DEC 27-30, 2025

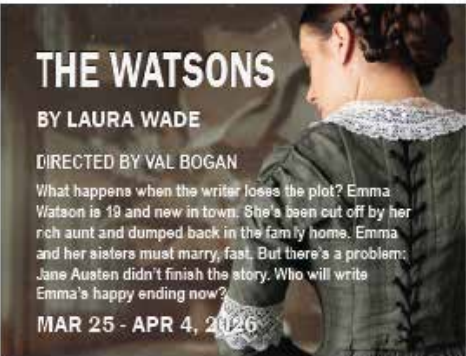


THE DROWNING GIRLS

BY BETH GRAHAM, CHARLIE THOMLINSON AND DANIELA VLASKALIC
DIRECTED BY SANDY WYNNE

Bessie, Alice, and Margaret have two things in common: they are married to George Joseph Smith, and they are dead. Surfacing from the bathtub 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.

FEB 4-14, 2026



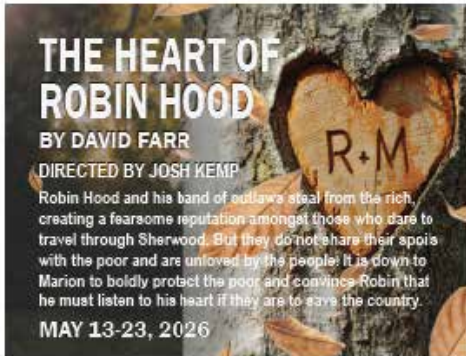
THE WATSONS

BY LAURA WADE

DIRECTED BY VAL BOGAN

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?

MAR 25 - APR 4, 2026



THE HEART OF ROBIN HOOD

BY DAVID FARR

DIRECTED BY JOSH KEMP

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.

MAY 13-23, 2026

Experience the magic of live theatre at Kanata Theatre — where great entertainment meets unbeatable value!

Grab a 3-play subscription for the rest of our 2025–2026 season for \$66 and save \$24 over regular tickets.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas tickets are sold separately for \$15.

Purchase your tickets here: www.kanatatheatre.ca.

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All tickets are non-refundable. Please contact boxoffice@kanatatheatre.ca 48 hrs in advance, to exchange tickets for another performance within the current show.



If you have suggestions or comments about this program, let us know at programs@kanatatheatre.ca. We would love to get your feedback!

MEMBERSHIP

Since 1968, Kanata Theatre has been part of the community. What began as a small group of theatre-loving friends producing plays in neighbourhood schools has grown over 57 years into a vibrant, diverse company proud to bring quality live theatre to audiences.

Today, with over 600 members and top-notch technical resources, our core remains the same: volunteerism. We are entirely volunteer-run with no paid staff. Producing, directing, lighting, sound, set design and construction, lounge and box office staffing, and maintaining our treasured building are all handled by people who simply love theatre.

I invite you to become an active member—not just a patron. You can play a role, in any capacity you choose, in bringing plays to life. It's a wonderful creative outlet with many rewards.

Please contact membership@kanatatheatre.ca (or scan the QR code) for more information. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Enjoy the show! Kathleen



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for millennia.