



KANATA THEATRE PRESENTS



KEN LUDWIG'S  
'T WAS THE  
NIGHT BEFORE  
CHRISTMAS

DIRECTED BY ADAM PELLETIER | DEC. 27 - 30, 2025

"KEN LUDWIG'S 'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS" IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS  
ON BEHALF OF SAMUEL FRENCH, INC. [WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM](http://WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM)

*Originally commissioned by Adventure Theatre, Glen Echo, MD. Michael J. Bobbit, Producing Artistic Director.*

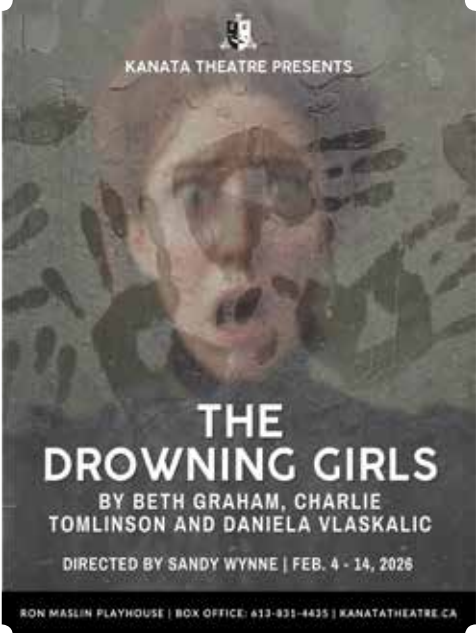
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Bessie, Alice, and Margaret have two things in common: they are married to George Joseph Smith, and they are dead. Surfacing from the bathtubs they were drowned in, the three breathless brides gather evidence against their womanizing, murderous husband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



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Look closely... holiday mice are hiding everywhere in these pages!  
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## Join us at the KT Lounge

*Featured Mocktail - Elf Berry Bliss (non-alcoholic)*

|                         |          |           |        |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|
| 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 |

Drinks only in the auditorium. NO FOOD.



kanata theatre





## CAST

(in order of appearance)



**Amos/Amos of Kansas**

**Emily**

**Uncle Brierly/Sir Guy of Gisbourne**

**Calliope/Britannia Sneed**

**Santa/Wendell Sneed/Mulch**

**Qwynn Butler**

**Lily Langiano**

**Gordon Walls**

**Elena Hurley**

**Brian Derby**



## SYNOPSIS

“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.

## DIRECTOR’S NOTE

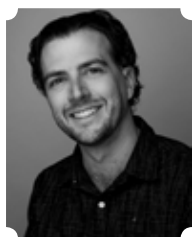
I’ve been incredibly fortunate to direct this year’s Christmas show at Kanata Theatre. I wasn’t sure how I felt directing a holiday play, but after reading the script, I was quickly proven wrong – it promised far more fun and creativity than I expected. Truly, a play for all ages!

The biggest draw was that it’s a Ken Ludwig play. The humour, the 4th wall breaks, the rap music, the sword duels, and other creative aspects inspired many fun ideas for the set, lighting, and sound. The show packs so much into a short run and presented challenges that have been a joy to work on with this talented team.

We hope you have as much fun watching as we did putting this together.  
Enjoy!



## BIOGRAPHIES



**Adam Pelletier (Director)** is thrilled to be directing *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* here at Kanata Theatre for the 2025/2026 season. Since high school, Adam has been active in numerous productions, both on and offstage, at Kanata Theatre and other surrounding theatres in and outside Ottawa. His directing experience includes two full-length shows: *Guys and Dolls* and *Clue: On Stage* with the Mississippi MUDDS, and a handful of one-act shows. He is grateful for the opportunity to work with such a collaborative and fun production team and cast here at KT for the Christmas show.



**Qwynn Butler (Amos/Amos of Kansas)** is over the moon to be making her Kanata Theatre debut! She has previously taken the stage with the Lakeside Players, first joining the fun in *Rapunzel* (chorus) and later bringing laughter as Dozy the Dwarf in *Snow White*. As an avid member of her school's art community, she has also sung in various talent shows and plays. When not on stage, Qwynn enjoys designing and creating her own jewellery and clothing for her small business. An aspiring entrepreneur, she's thrilled to bring her creativity and energy to this magical production. She thanks her family for their constant love and support



**Brian Derby (Santa/Wendell Sneed/Mulch)** is very excited to be a part of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* at Kanata Theatre. He recently worked with KT on *Brighton Beach Memoirs* as Jack Jerome, and at Ottawa Little Theatre on *Romantic Comedy* as Leo Janowitz. He also has been a part of KT's 10-Minute Play festival as an actor and playwright. His play *Kathy's Room* was performed at the 2024 festival. He is a Registered Massage Therapist with an interest in the healing arts and a keen fan of Olympic track and field. He wants to thank his family and dog for supporting his passions. He is truly grateful to Director Adam for casting him in this play.

**Elena Hurley (Calliope/Britannia Sneed)** is honoured and thrilled to be a part of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, her debut play with Kanata Theatre! Previously, she has acted in middle school plays as Wombat Woman in *Adventures of a Comic Book Artist* and Old Tilly Tar in *The Fearsome Pirate Frank*. She would like to thank the cast and crew of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* for being so welcoming and creating such a magical show! Most importantly, Elena would like to thank her parents for all their support, including driving her to rehearsals and running lines with her—"sorry, Dad!"

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.

**Lily Langiano (Emily)** is incredibly thrilled to be a part of this production as Emily! After years of doing shows with a smaller local theatre group, she is very grateful to have her community theatre debut with the Kanata Theatre! She has been a part of many musicals, but some of her favourite previous productions have been *Into the Woods* and *Beauty and the Beast*. When she's not on stage, Lily either has her nose in a book or is on the water, paddling. She would like to thank her parents for always being supportive of her!



**Gordon Walls (Uncle Brierly/Sir Guy of Gisbourne)** is thrilled to make his 24<sup>th</sup> appearance on the Kanata Theatre stage. Audience members will remember him in last year's hit *Baskerville*, playing no less than 8 characters! His credits also include *A Man for All Seasons*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Treasure Island*, *Equivocation*, and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. A multiple nominated and award-winning actor, Gordon has been a fixture of the Ottawa theatre community for the last 36 years and is a past president of Kanata Theatre. He is especially excited to join such a talented cast and crew full of old friends and new.

"'Twas the Night Before Christmas," originally titled "A Visit from St. Nicholas," was first published anonymously in 1823 in the Troy Sentinel. The poem is widely attributed to Clement Clarke Moore, a scholar who reportedly wrote it for his children, though some argue Henry Livingston Jr. was the true author. Regardless of authorship, the poem profoundly shaped modern Christmas imagery. It introduced the vision of a jolly, miniature Santa, his eight reindeer, and the iconic arrival on Christmas Eve. Its rhythmic, storybook style captured imaginations and quickly became a seasonal tradition, read aloud in homes across North America for nearly two centuries.



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# CAST



Elena Hurley



Qwynn Butler



Lily Langiano



Brian Derby



Gordon Walls



# PRODUCTION TEAM



|                          |                                                  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Production Manager       | Chrissy Feldman, Jenny McCracken                 |
| Stage Manager            | Juli Heney                                       |
| Assistant Stage Managers | Tom Duxbury, Brian McCullough                    |
| Choreography             | Les Bunbury                                      |
| Score                    | Kenny Hayes                                      |
| Fight Coordinator        | Adam Pelletier                                   |
| Set Design               | Sally McIntyre                                   |
| Construction             | Jim Mantle                                       |
| Assisted by              | Paul Behncke, Jim Clarke, Elisa Frost            |
|                          | Mike Giovinazzo, Mark Guzewski                   |
|                          | Clyde Le Guerrier, Paul Robichaud                |
|                          | Heidi Roberts, John Van Schouwen                 |
|                          | Arseniy Skvortsov, Kurt Strand                   |
|                          | Elisa Frost, Ilona Henkleman                     |
| Set Painting             | Yolande Akl, Daria Bester, Donna Burlock         |
| Assisted by              | Connor Blow, Fallon Carrier, Chrissy Feldman     |
|                          | Barb Friesen, Noah Haggar, Barbara Kobolak       |
|                          | Nicole MacLaren, Sally McIntyre, Carrie Rickwood |
|                          | Paul Robichaud, John van Schouwen                |
|                          | Miranda Shelly, Sheila Trivisonino               |
| Scenic Artist            | Nicole MacLaren, Sally McIntyre, Tony Walker     |
| Lighting                 | Jim Mantle                                       |
| Assisted by              | Emma Bejan, Bianca Kirkey                        |
|                          | Max & Tina Mestrovic                             |
| Sound                    | Tracey Bourke                                    |
| Assisted by              | Rob Johnstone                                    |
| Costumes                 | Martha Johnstone                                 |
| Dresser                  | Amelia Abell                                     |
| Set Décor                | Sherri Aubry                                     |
| Properties               | Nicole MacLaren                                  |
| Stage Crew               | Yolande Akl, Pete Aubry                          |
|                          | Sloane Butler, John van Schouwen                 |
| Lobby Board Design       | Lucy Sheridan                                    |
| Continuity               | Nancy Cormier, Miriam Fitzgerald                 |
|                          | Nancy & Paul Hough, Ann Williams                 |
| Hair Styling             | Abbey Flockton, Clare Flockton                   |
| Make Up                  | Clare Flockton                                   |
| Assisted by              | Naomi Belknap, Abbey Flockton, Carrie Rickwood   |
| Green Room               | Max & Tina Mestrovic                             |
| Volunteer Liaison        | Kathleen Walsh                                   |

*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.

## AUTHOR

**Ken Ludwig** has had six productions on Broadway and eight in London's West End. His 34 plays and musicals are staged around the world and throughout the United States every night of the year.

His first play, *Lend Me a Tenor*, won two Tony Awards and was called "one of the classic comedies of the 20th century" by *The Washington Post*. *Crazy For You* is currently running on London's West End. It was previously on Broadway for five years, on the West End for three, and won the Tony and Olivier Awards for Best Musical.

In addition, he has won the Edwin Forrest Award for Contributions to the American Theatre, two Laurence Olivier Awards, two Helen Hayes Awards, the Charles MacArthur Award and the Edgar Award for Best Mystery of the Year. His other plays include *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Leading Ladies*, *Baskerville*, *Shewood*, *Twentieth Century*, *Dear Jack*, *Dear Louise*, *A Fox on the Fairway*, *A Comedy of Tenors*, *The Game's Afoot*, *Shakespeare in Hollywood* and *Murder on the Orient Express*. They have starred, among others, Alec Baldwin, Carol Burnett, Kristen Bell, Tony Shaloub, Joan Collins and Henry Goodman.

His book *How to Teach Your Children Shakespeare*, published by Penguin Random House, won the Falstaff Award for Best Shakespeare Book of the Year, and his essays on theatre are published in the Yale Review. He gives the Annual Ken Ludwig Playwriting Scholarship at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, and he served on the Board of Governors for the Folger Shakespeare Library for ten years. His first opera, *Tenor Overboard*, opened at the Glimmerglass Festival in July 2022. His most recent world premieres were *Lend Me A Soprano* and *Moriarty*, and his newest plays and musicals include *Pride and Prejudice Part 2: Napoleon at Pemberley* and *Lady Molly of Scotland Yard*.

His plays include commissions from the Agatha Christie Estate, the Royal Shakespeare Company, The Old Globe Theatre, and the Bristol Old Vic. For more information visit [www.kenludwig.com](http://www.kenludwig.com).





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**Dear Patrons,**

As the curtain rises on this festive production, I want to thank you for joining us to celebrate the magic of live theatre. *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* is a joyful reminder of the power of storytelling to bring people together—something Kanata Theatre has proudly done for more than half a century.

This is my final message as President, and it has been an honour to serve this remarkable community of volunteers, artists, and audiences. Your support keeps the lights shining bright and the stories flowing.

On behalf of everyone at Kanata Theatre, I wish you a warm, laughter-filled holiday season and a wonderful 2026.

**Enjoy the show!**

**Cameron Bishop**

**President, Kanata Theatre**



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### **Holiday Sounds...**

Every great holiday has its soundtrack. From timeless classics to festive favourites, see if you can match the clue to the title!

*[In brackets are the number of letters in each of the words in the titles, e.g., (4) = Noel]*

- |                                                |                                               |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1. Quiet evening (6 5)                         | 7. Hot nuts (9 8 2 2 4 4)                     |
| 2. Sleigh noises (6 5)                         | 8. Wishing a good Dec 25th (4 8 1 5 6 9)      |
| 3. Snow on Dec 25th (5 9)                      | 9. One very cool dude (5 3 8)                 |
| 4. Super snowy place (6 10)                    | 10. Ah, music from above (4 3 6 6 4)          |
| 5. Arrives overnight on Dec 24th (5 5 2 6 2 4) | 11. Now snow has arrived (3 9 2 4 1 3 4 9)    |
| 6. Cervid with scarlet proboscis (7 3 3-5 8)   | 12. A Canadian winter x 3 (3 2 4 3 2 4 3 2 4) |

*Answers inside back cover*

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## Holiday Headcount...

Every great story has a cast—but how many are in the crew? From classic tales to pop culture favourites, see if you can match the number to the name!

*[In brackets are the first initial(s) of each character in the group, e.g., (G) = Gryffindor]*

- A. 5 Inside Out Emotions (J-S-A-F-D)
- B. 7 Paw Patrol Pups (C-M-S-R-R-Z-E)
- C. 4 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (L-D-R-M)
- D. 5 My Little Ponies (TS-RD-PP-R-F)

- E. 7 Smurfs (P-S-B-C-H-J-V)
- F. 4 Hogwarts Houses (G-H-R-S)
- G. 9 Reindeer (D-D-P-V-C-C-D-B-R)
- H. 7 Dwarfs (D-G-H-S-B-S-D)

*Answers inside back cover*

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# 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 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.

DEC 27-30, 2025

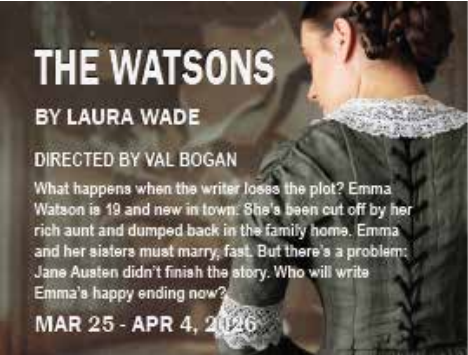
## THE DROWNING GIRLS

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 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.

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

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**Quiz Answers: [Sounds]** 1. Silent Night, 2. Jingle Bells, 3. White Christmas, 4. Winter Wonderland, 5. Santa Claus Is Coming to Town, 6. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, 7. Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire, 8. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, 9. Frosty the Snowman, 10. Hark the Herald Angels Sing, 11. It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas & 12. Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow! **[Headcounts]** A. Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear, Disgust; B. Chase, Marshall, Skye, Rubble, Rocky, Zuma, Everest; C. Leonardo, Donatello, Raphael, Michelangelo; D. Twilight Sparkle, Rainbow Dash, Pinkie Pie, Rarity, Fluttershy; E. Papa, Smurfette, Brainy, Clumsy, Hefty, Jokey, Vanity; F. Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, Slytherin; G. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, and Rudolph; H. Doc, Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy, Bashful, Sneezy, Dopey. **[Mice]** 18 - did you find them all?

## 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](mailto: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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