



KANATA THEATRE PRESENTS



THE WATSONS

BY LAURA WADE

DIRECTED BY VAL BOGAN | MAR. 25 - APR. 4, 2026

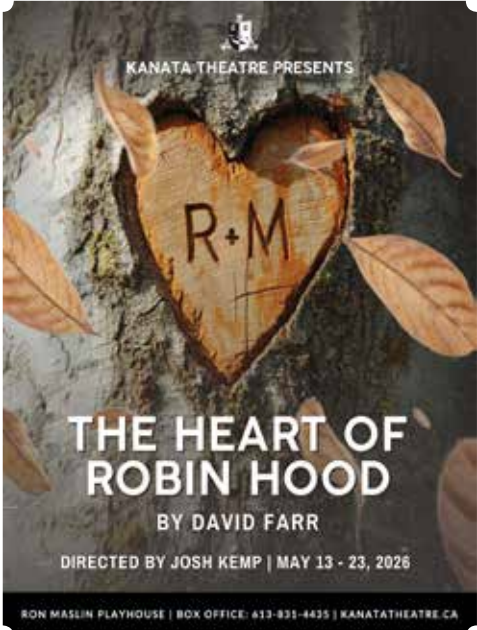
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Robin Hood and his band of outlaws steal from the rich, creating a fear-some reputation amongst those who dare to travel through Sherwood. But they do not share their spoils with the poor and are unloved by the people. It is down to Marion to boldly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



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A Jane Austen Challenge. As you make your way through the lobby, can you identify the seven Jane Austen novels represented in the display frames? [answers on page 10]



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The Watsons.

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Drinks only in the auditorium. NO FOOD.



kanata theatre





CAST

(in order of appearance)

Emma
Elizabeth
Margaret
Mr. Robert
Mrs. Robert
Mr. Watson & Mr. Edwards
Nanny
Tom Musgrave
Lord Osborne
Lady Osborne
Miss Osborne
Mr. Howard
Charles
Mrs. Edwards
Laura
Bertie and Officer
Lt. Samuel Wickham
Captain Beresford
Miss Marianne Phillips
Miss Caroline Ferris
Maid

Lindsey Keene
Mylène Freeman
Olivia Lee Brown
Roy van Hooydonk
Kaye Callard
Matthew McDonald
Susan Monaghan
Cameron Bishop
Dawson Fleming
Arlene Watson
Ashley Reid
Scott Simms
Milo Tibbits
Sharron McGuirl
Naomi James
Robin Castelle
Luna Ember
Laurence Cunnane
Raya Boicey
Heather Cunnane
Nicole MacLaren



SYNOPSIS

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?

The Watsons was first performed at the Chichester Festival Theatre, directed by Samuel West on 8th November 2018.

By arrangement with Knight Hall Agency Ltd.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

With stories of love and life that have remained relevant for more than two centuries, there are few authors more recognizable than Jane Austen.

Although she was first published at the age of 35, Austen was writing long before then. She wrote classics such as *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), and *Emma* (1816).

The Watsons was Jane Austen's first foray into writing. She began the book, put it in a drawer, and never went back to it. In an attempt to finish the 38 pages that Austen left behind, Laura Wade's adaptation builds on the story of the Watsons in a delightfully unexpected way.

Laura Wade isn't the first to build on the Austen canon. While some of the characters in this play might remind you of other Austen mainstays, I can assure you they'll turn into people you've never seen before. *The Watsons* is an homage to the classics, a love letter to the theatre, and a reminder of the enduring impact of creativity.

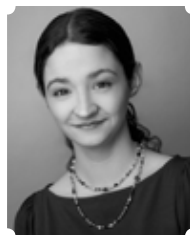
Enjoy the show!

BIOGRAPHIES



Val Bogan (Director) loves Laura Wade, and she loves Jane Austen, so she was hooked on *The Watsons* immediately! Fresh off directing another Laura Wade show last season at Kanata, *The Watsons* gave Val another great script—but this time with 17 more actors! Luckily, the hard work of the amazing cast and crew made this process a breeze. Select directing credits include *Having Relations*, *Home*, *I'm Darling* (Kanata Theatre), *Halfway There*, and *Hilda's Yard* (Ottawa Little Theatre).

Cameron Bishop (Tom Musgrave) is in his fifth appearance on the Kanata Theatre stage, following *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, and *The Girl on the Train*. He is honoured to bring Tom Musgrave to life in this production and thanks Val Bogan for the opportunity to join this talented cast and crew. He dedicates his performance to the memory of his wife, Jo—love you forever, beautiful girl.



Raya Boicey (Miss Marianne Phillips) first stepped into the Ottawa Theatre world in 2022, having recently retired from her time as a national level rhythmic gymnast. In search of a new creative outlet, she found Glebe Community (GNAG) Theatre, starring as Dorothy in their musical production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Since then, she has appeared in several more GNAG Theatre productions, as well as in CMTS' production of *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, as Courtney / A Featured Dancer.



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.



Olivia Lee Brown (Margaret) is thrilled to be back at Kanata Theatre for the first time since her days with KYOS. A lifelong lover of vintage clothing, she feels right at home in the high-waisted world of Jane Austen. She would like to thank her incredible director and crew for putting on this show, her beloved family and friends, and everyone who gave her a ride all the way out to Kanata.

Kaye Callard (Mrs. Robert) is thrilled to be returning to the stage after a long hiatus for her first performance with Kanata Theatre. Trained at U of T and the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute in NYC, she performed in several productions with the Blackhorse Village Players, including Tonia in *Sunday Costs Five Pesos*, and has appeared as an extra in dozens of TV shows and movies. A cosplayer and former makeup artist, Kaye hopes to be able to put her skills to use backstage in future productions.



Robin Castelle (Bertie/Officer) is a transgender actor who is thrilled to be making his stage debut at Kanata Theatre. He is a graduate of the Performing Arts program at Algonquin College, and has spent the last five years pursuing a career in voice acting. He has also performed as a background actor in a wide variety of films and shows in Ottawa and surrounding areas. Robin is looking forward to finally stepping on stage, and he hopes to participate in future productions as well!

Heather Cunnane (Miss Caroline Ferris) is pleased to be making her acting debut with the Kanata Theatre in this production. Heather has always had a passion for theatre and singing and has performed in her high school productions of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Grease*. When she isn't at the theatre she can be found playing her hundreds of board games with her husband. Heather wants to thank her husband and family for their continued support of her debut.



Laurence Cunnane (Captain Beresford) is excited to be in his first play at the Kanata Theatre! He has been a regular audience member for the past three years and is looking forward to being part of the show and seeing the view from the stage. Laurence would like to thank his wife, Heather, for pushing him to be a part of the play, as well as his family for their support in his theatre debut.

Dawson Fleming (Lord Osborne) makes his KT debut in *The Watsons*, though you may have seen him at the Ottawa Little Theatre playing Andy Dufresne in *The Shawshank Redemption* and Avery Sutton in *37 Postcards*. Dawson gives his thanks to his fiancé Lindsey, his friends and family, his grumpy cat Ko, and with all that is left, to you.





Luna Ember (Lt. Samuel Wickham) is gracing the stage after several years away. Her previous theatre experience includes several performances in high school. Since then, Luna has been focusing on film projects, including acting, production, and writing. Most recently, serving as assistant producer and sound designer for the *Lost & Found Cabaret* (Lost Baggage Musical Theatre). She is so excited to be back on stage and to be a part of this amazing cast.

Mylène Freeman (Elizabeth) is delighted to join such distinguished company in her Kanata Theatre debut for this grand production. Audiences may have spotted her at Ottawa Little Theatre as Mary Debenham in *Murder on the Orient Express* and as part of a trio of prosecutors in *Guilty Conscience*. She is grateful to Val for her generous leadership and to the crew and cast for their steadfastness and kind camaraderie.



Roy van Hooydonk (Robert Watson) first appeared at Kanata Theatre as Antonio in *Twelfth Night*. He has been acting on stage since 1965. Notable past roles include Peer Gynt in *Peer Gynt*, Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Leader of the Men's Chorus in *Lysistrata*, The Old Man in *A Christmas Story* and Captain Treville in *The Three Musketeers*. He is also an artist, playwright and musician and had four art shows at Ottawa Little Theatre.

Lindsey Keene (Emma) is an analyst by day and an actor by night. For KT: La Presidente de Tourvel in *Dangerous Liaisons*, Alice in *The Drowning Girls*. At the Ottawa Little Theatre, she played Gillian in *37 Postcards*, Bobbi in *Hilda's Yard*, and Abigail in *The Noble Pursuit*. Other favourites include the Emcee in *Cabaret* and Jack in *Into the Woods*. Much love to the cast and crew that brought this wonderful show to life. Forever and always grateful to her family, friends, Dawson, and Ko. For Grandma, who I know is always in the audience.



Naomi James (Laura) has been performing for as long as she can remember. Naomi is more than thrilled to be working with KT's incredible team and this stunning cast! In fact, her most recent previous production was with the exact same director, production team, and playwright! Her previous theatre experience includes productions with Lost Baggage Musical Theatre, Totally Legit Productions, Pirate Life Ottawa, Toto Too Theatre, and 9th Hour Theatre Company.

Nicole MacLaren (maid) is usually found working behind the scenes painting sets, as Props Designer, Crew Chief, and ASM, Nicole is very pleased to not only join this fabulous crew, but also spend some time on stage with the cast. Previous stage credits include roles in the 2023, 2024, and 2025 Ten Minute Plays, and background roles in KT's *Lettice and Lovage* and *The Spitfire Grill*. Thank you to Val for this exciting opportunity.



Matt McDonald (Mr. Edwards / Mr. Watson) is happy to be returning to the Kanata Theatre stage in *The Watsons*. Having retired from the Canadian Armed Forces as a Retired Infantry Officer, Matthew has gone on to work for Public Safety Canada. He is an indolent impressionist painter and outdoorsman. Past credits include roles in *School House*, *Shatter*, and *Skipper the Penguin* in *Madagascar the Musical*. He sends his love to his children and grandchildren.



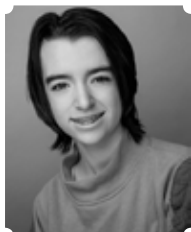
Sharron J McGuirl (Mrs. Edwards) She's back! Seven long years away, but now she's back! Sharron's most recent appearance, 2019, was as a Marilyn in the OLT production of *Ripcord*. Her most recent Kanata Appearance was as Mrs. Lynde in the 2018 production of *Anne of Green Gables* (3rd time casting?). Despite her "many years" she is certainly glad to be back! Many thanks to Val and all her hard-working elves for putting me to work in *The Watsons*.

Susan Monaghan (Nanny) has acted in over fifty roles since acquiring the acting bug in university. Her most recent KT favourites are Lotte Schoen in *Lettice & Lovage* and Sister Alysius in *Doubt: A Parable*. Along with acting, Susan enjoys directing challenges, having directed ten shows for Kanata Theatre alone, and helping out backstage or as a member of the Kanata Theatre Box Office team. She thoroughly enjoys working with this delightful and energetic, Austen-loving cast and crew.



Ashley Reid (Miss Osborne) takes the stage for the first time in over a decade, having previously performed in small stage productions across the city, as well as being cast as the lead role in a web series promoting mental health awareness. Acting has always been a passion, and she is delighted to be a part of this spectacular play and perform amongst outstanding actors. Ashley's interests include, but are not limited to: astrology, media literary analysis, cooking, and repurposing thrifted finds.

Scott Simms (Mr. Howard) is looking forward to his acting debut at Kanata Theatre as the Reverend Mr. Howard in *The Watsons*. Scott is having a wonderful time with this cast and crew and sends a huge thanks to Director Val Bogan and her leadership. This is Scott's third production, and he has appeared in two other productions at Ottawa Little Theatre in 2025: *The Shawshank Redemption*, and he most recently finished playing four different characters in *A Sherlock Carol*.



Milo Tibbits (Charles) has been acting at the Kanata theatre for upwards of six years and has been passionate about acting ever since, whether on stage or volunteering behind the scenes the theatre has become a second home to him. He has starred in several productions at the theatre such as *A Christmas Story* where he played the role of Schwartz. The *Organized KYOS* show along with many others. Milo enjoys visual arts, drawing and painting in his free time. Milo is looking forward to participating in many more upcoming shows.



Arlene Watson (*Lady Osborne*) has been involved in community theatre—onstage and off—since 1983. With the forced shutdown of theatres in 2020, she decided that would be a good time to officially retire. However, the Lady Osborne character in this play called her back, and she's so happy she did! She hopes you will all sit back, relax, and enjoy the show. No, scratch that. She'd like you to sit up, take notice, and enjoy the show!! There, much better!



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kanatatheatre.ca 48 hrs in advance, to exchange tickets
for another performance within the current show.





PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	Shauna Thompson
Stage Manager	Cindy Corrigan
Assistant Stage Managers	Sheryl Bell, Sandra Douville
	Nicole MacLaren, Grant Wilson
Set Design	David Magladry
Construction	Murray Doggett
Assisted by	Don Bell, Val Bogan, Lily Ella Callard, Jim Clarke
	Cindy Corrigan, Dean Flockton, Mike Giovinazzo, Mark Guzowski
	Clyde LeGuerrier, Heidi Roberts, Andy Ruff, Arseniy Skvortsov
	Dan Winters, Kathleen Winters
Set Painting	Elisa Frost, Alana Lavoie
Assisted by	Sharon Barr, Donna Burlock, Fallon Carrier
	Jo-Ann Doxey, Dawn-Heather Ellis, Sofia Galdamez, Sharon Harrison
	Barbara Kobolak, Nicole MacLaren, Ricky MacLaren, Pearson Norton
	Sean Norton, Carrie Rickwood, Francine Robichaud, Miranda Shelley
	Eve Sinhaseni, Sheila Trivisonno, John van Schouwen, Tony Walker
	Sandy Wynne, Christine Zerbin
Lighting	David Magladry
Assisted by	Evan Nearing
Sound	David Ing
Assisted by	Tom Duxbury, Tina Mestrovic, Izore Omorodion
Costumes	Caity Hegger
Assisted by	Maxine Ball, Kaye Callard, Kathryn Clarke
	Saundra Eaves, Laura Young
	Jennifer Barkley
Properties	Jennifer Barkley, David Magladry
Set Décor/Furnishings	Kathleen Walsh, Jennifer Wilson
Continuity	Caity Hegger, Carrie Rickwood, Judit Marten
Hair Styling	Martha Johnstone
Make Up	Assisted by Yolande Akl, Bev Brooks, Clare Flockton, Shauna Gadiant
	Megan LeMarquand, Judit Marton, Liz Nash, Hilary Philebrown
Fight coach	Naomi James, Chris McLeod
Choreographer	Ana Clara Lima
Lobby Boards	Nicole MacLaren
Lobby Displays	Kathryn Clarke, Lucy Sheridan, Kathleen Walsh
Volunteer Liaison	Justine Brown



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

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Quiz answers

A Jane Austen Challenge: (right to left)
*Pride & Prejudice; Sense & Sensibility;
Emma; Mansfield Park; Northanger Abbey;
Persuasion; The Watsons.*

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 CABARET BOOK BY JOE MASTEROFF BASED ON THE PLAY BY CLARE BOYCE ANDERSON AND MUSIC BY JOHN KANDER LYRICS BY FRED EBB DIRECTED BY SARAH HEDGER FEB 3-13, 2027	 MISERY BY WILLIAM GOLDMAN BASED ON THE NOVEL BY STEPHEN KING DIRECTED BY STAVROS SAKIADIS MAR 24-APR 3, 2027	 THE BEAUX' STRATAGEM THORNTON WILDER AND KEN LUDWIG'S ADAPTATION OF THE BEAUX' STRATAGEM BY GEORGE FAUCONNET DIRECTED BY MICHAEL DARRAS MAY 12-22, 2027

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for more information. I'd be happy to answer any questions. Enjoy the show!

Juli Heney, Director Membership and Training



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