

Larrikin Entertainment presents
the world premier of

THE RESURRECTIONISTS

by Meg Braem



A darkly
humorous
gothic tale of
tragic romance
& anatomical
ambition

Whitehorse
Watson Lake
Atlin
Haines Junction
Dawson City

October, 2021

LARRIKIN
ENTERTAINMENT

Larrikin Entertainment is beyond excited to be presenting the world premiere of
The Resurrectionists.

This darkly humorous gothic tale of tragic romance and anatomical ambition is a
twisted theatrical treat by award-winning playwright Meg Braem.

Kingston, Ontario. 1869.

Magda, stubbornly ambitious and desperate for an education in an era when women were ineligible for university enrolment, disgusted by the impending doom of an arranged marriage to a breathtakingly dull fellow, and suffocating under the oppressive weight of circumstance, strikes a dangerous deal with William, a first-year medical student she catches illicitly collecting his own lab materials in the dead of night.

A clandestine friendship soon develops as their secret trysts propel them towards a seemingly inevitable demise.

Or do they?

Larrikin Entertainment Ensemble acknowledges that we are uninvited guests living and working within the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

We honour and respect the history, culture and languages of the First Peoples of these beautiful lands.

We acknowledge the truth of Canada's historical atrocities and ongoing decimation of the land, languages and cultures of the First Peoples of Turtle Island.

We are grateful for their teachings, stewardship, grace and strength.

Larrikin Entertainment is committed to working and learning with open hearts and minds, and creating theatre that is meaningful to, and inclusive of, First Nations artists, theatre practitioners and audiences.

**Shāw nīthān. Kwāñ ās` chis. Gunalchīsh. Mahsi cho.
Merci. Thank you!**

Environmental request:

Please help us save paper. If you don't plan on taking your program home, please leave it in the box on your way out of the theatre. Thank you!



Meg Braem - Writer's Message

The Resurrectionists explores a transitional time in Canadian Culture; women were on the cusp of being admitted into university, and belief in science would soon rival religion. Death and its rituals would withdraw from public life. History provides context and perspective on today's cultural landscape. Remembering a time when blatant sexism was accepted can encourage a passive and self-congratulatory, "how far we've come." It can also actively ask, "How far have we come?" giving us the chance to examine how gender roles have or have not changed. I began writing this play because I was curious about medicine and current end of life practices. Medicine has succeeded beyond the hopes and dreams of the nineteenth century. Often described as a miracle, how has modern day medicine shaped our culture?

Since starting to write this play, things have changed dramatically. The news cycle is filled with the daily number of Covid cases and heated debates for and against vaccine policies. We are living through a historical time when death has re-emerged and reminded us of its presence. How we deal with death is in direct relationship to how we deal with life. It is possible to forget that behind the graphs and statistics, we are talking about people. We must remember that the story of medicine is the ever-evolving story of us.

Thank you to Larrikin Entertainment, Kat McCallum, Brian Dooley, Kate Weiss, Colleen Murphy, Vern Thiessen, Scott Belyea, Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre, Theatre Calgary, the University of Alberta and the University of Lethbridge. Thank you to the many actors whose input was invaluable to the creation of this piece. And to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and Canada Council of the Arts.

Please note: Due to COVID protocols at the Yukon Arts Centre, this performance will not have an intermission and will run straight through. Run time for the show is 90 minutes.

Katherine McCallum - Artistic Executive Producer's Message



Hey there actual humans sitting in an actual theatre about to watch an actual play with actual actors on stage with other actual actors.

What a ride we've all been on. Bumpy. Isolating. Lonely. Inspiring. Welcome back to the theatre!

I first read this play in January 2020 and, twentyish months later, here we are. I can't thank Meg enough for trusting me with her work - a stranger from the north cold calling, asking "Got any plays I can read?" And Brian, who has been an integral part of this project much longer than I have, who also placed his trust in a stranger and ventured north to share his immense talents.

Thank you to the fund administrators who took all of my teary calls over the past year and a half, and went above and beyond to ensure we had funding in place when we were finally able to use it; to the actors who put their fears, families, and lives aside for two months to make this happen - you're so insanely great!; to our dedicated production crew, stage management team, designers and volunteers who toil unseen to create that which we, the end users, refer to as 'theatre magic'; to my kids who put up with a solidly absent mother when it's showtime; to Simone, who has been an amazing co-producer; and to my partner Andrew, who lends me his shoulders when I can't hold the weight. Producing theatre is a humbling privilege, and working with this team has been an honour. Enjoy the show!

A promotional poster for Nakai Theatre's Creative Fridays! event. The background is a grayscale image of a microscope and a pen nib. The text is overlaid on a white rectangular area.

Nakai Theatre

TOGETHER TODAY

CREATIVE FRIDAYS!

**Drop-in creative time
for high school aged folk**
GUEST ARTISTS EVERY WEEK!

FREE
Starts Friday October 8
5-7:30pm
(snacks at 4:30, space open until 9pm)

@ Yukonstruct
2180 2nd Ave

Brian Dooley - Director's Message

When I first read this story it was titled 'Vital Spirits' and while it may have evolved beautifully and fulsomely into 'The Resurrectionists' it rigorously maintains its original vitality and spirit. Both Meg and I recognized that within this late Victorian world there lay a touching, vital and unique romance. Yet this romance proved to go well beyond conventional amorous glances. It was its attraction to knowledge and its accompanying passion that infected the characters. These qualities gave them both a naïveté and curiosity that proved attractive to me.



The relationships are simple and clear, one might even say uncomplicated, and yet something lies beneath. Unknown pasts that inform behaviour and linger with mystery. These various ingredients contribute deliciously to a good engaging story. Knowing a tour was planned, I wanted to create an impressionistic environment that served both the play's practical and aesthetic demands along with the needs of the actors. With designers Linda Leon and Katherine Kellner, we set out to create a transparency to the story and process of storytelling that would allow for a kinetic presentation dotted with music and movement and light. I was very fortunate to be joined by sound composer and designer Matthew Lien who provided an inspired score that is robust, appropriately moody and beautifully ambient. I consider myself very privileged to have worked with a group of actors and designers who brought a tremendous generosity and availability to both their process and the characters. Their talent and skills as well as their collaborative spirit have made the experience of directing *The Resurrectionists* truly memorable.

Yukon Theatre for Young People
proudly presents

MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL

ALL TOGETHER NOW!

a global event celebrating local theatre

November 12 - 14, 2021

Visit www.ytyp.ca for more info

Crew

Executive Producer	Katherine McCallum
Director.....	Brian Dooley*
Playwright.....	Meg Braem
Dramaturg.....	Kathleen Weiss
Sound Design/Composition	Matthew Lien
Set & Properties Designer	Linda Leon**
Lighting Design/Technical Director	Katherine Kellner***
Costume Design.....	Kaori Torigai & Audrey Sawyer
Stage Manager.....	Evan Stepanian
Assistant Stage Manager.....	John Dagostin
Associate Producer.....	Simone Kitchen
Production Assistant	Ella Peschke
Publicity, Social Media & Marketing.....	Katherine McCallum, Selene Vakharia & Kirsti Wallace
Set Design Assistant.....	Susie Anne Bartsch
Carpentry.....	Al Loewen
Scenic Painting.....	Lea-Ann McNally & Linda Leon
Graphic Design	Tanya Handley
Photography	Manu Keggenhoff

YAC Staff

Chief Executive Officer	Casey Prescott
Director of Programming/Front of House Manager	Michele Emslie
Venue Coordinator & Programming Assistant	Kasey-Rae Anderson
Director of Production	Josh Jansen
Venue Technician	Adam Pope
Venue Technician	Katherine Kellner
YAC Marketing & Development Coordinator	Mike Thomas
Box Office Coordinator.....	Cora Funk-Robitaille
First Nations Consultant.....	Lisa Dewhurst
Director of Visual Arts.....	Mary Bradshaw

* The participation of these Artists are arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance • Opera • Theatre Policy.

** Member of Associated Designers of Canada

*** Appears courtesy of the Yukon Arts Centre's generous contribution

Cast/Performers



Alita Powell - Magda

Alita is a graduate of Canadian College of Performing Arts in Victoria. She has worked with Intrepid Theatre and Atomic Vaudeville, and has toured and worked extensively as an actor and dancer. She is thrilled to be back in her hometown, performing on the YAC stage again. It's been an absolute treat working with this cast, crew, and the whole Larrikin team - grateful doesn't quite cut it. Hope you enjoy the show half as much as we did making it.



Ben Charland - William

Ben has a BFA in Drama from the University of Calgary and a Master of Arts in writing for performance from the University of London. He has worked extensively throughout Canada and the UK. He is also an established playwright and theatre director. Ben must thank his wife, Shelaine, for the chance to be in this production. When they lived in Kingston, Ontario, she brought him on a tour of the Queen's medical building where they learned about actual 19th-century "resurrectionists". And when Ben was playing pretend at rehearsals, Shelaine stayed home with their newborn son, Cavell. Sometimes she even let him sleep at night. She is the woman of his dreams.



Eric Epstein* - George

Eric studied theatre at UBC and was a co-founder of Touchstone Theatre in Vancouver. He trained as an actor and director at East 15 Acting School in the U.K. where he started On The Road touring company. On his return to Canada, he founded the Vancouver Shakespeare Festival. He has worked at theatres across Canada including Western Canada Theatre, Richmond Gateway, Caravan Farm Theatre, New Bastion Theatre, the National Arts Centre and the New Play Centre. In Whitehorse, he has been Artistic Director of the Guild Hall, Frostbite Music Festival, the Yukon Arts Centre and the Canada Winter Games Cultural Festival. His favourite roles include Teach in *American Buffalo* and George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Eric is thrilled to be premiering the role of George in Larrikin Entertainment's *The Resurrectionists*.



Roy Neilson - Tom

Roy is grateful to be part of this eerie ensemble, and performing for Yukon audiences in the flesh. He will not be donating his body to science. Recent credits include: *The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine* (Guild Hall), *3penny Radio Revue* (Nakai Theatre), and *Busted Up: A Yukon Story* (Open Pit Theatre).



Michael Rolfe* - Tomkins

Michael is a writer, improviser, and actor with a passion for comedy and the absurd. When not working in the theatre, he likes to explore his love of film, and was recently featured at the Calgary International Film Festival in the short film *How To Make a Friend*. This is his first production in the Yukon, and it has quickly become one of the most memorable and enjoyable shows of his career. Select credits: *Wynonna Earp* (Syfy Channel), *Hammered Hamlet: Drunk Shakespeare* (The Shakespeare Company), *Jaan* (CTV), and *Between Us* (Handsome Alice Theatre).



James McCullough - Hade

James is thoroughly pleased to be back on stage after the COVID break; especially with this ragtag band of misfits. James is a father/dancer/singer/actor/policy analyst, who likes to play soccer in his spare time. James feels lucky to have appeared in (to name a few favourites) *Chicago*, *Freak Winds*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

Thank you to Katherine for making this happen!



Calvin Laveck* - Andrew

Calvin Laveck studied musical theatre at Sheridan Institute. After living and working in Toronto for 10 years, he's back home! Through the Jenni House Residency, Calvin just wrote a musical with local friend and artist Kevin Mclachlan. His current project is directing and teaching youth with Yukon Theatre for Young People in an upcoming show called *All Together Now!* Calvin is excited for his debut show with Larrikin! He's thrilled to be performing on the Yukon Arts Centre stage with this wonderful play, cast and crew. Enjoy the show!

About Larrikin Entertainment Ensemble

Date of establishment: September 15, 2015

Larrikin Entertainment Ensemble is a non-profit, independent, professional production company dedicated to:

- Producing and presenting professional entertainment of the highest quality in a variety of mediums
- Supporting the employment and career development of entertainment professionals from Yukon, Canada and the international arts community
- Providing mentorship for new and emerging artists, writers and technicians
- Creating and building strong relationships with local, territorial, national and international sponsors, communities, governments and private enterprises
- Embracing and encouraging diversity and inclusion in all aspects of our work
- The dogged pursuit of excellence



Board of Directors

President	James McCullough
Vice President	Rhonda Wildeman
Treasurer	Alexandra Knowles
Secretary	Valerie McCallum
Director	Matthew Lien
Director	Lenore Morris

 Join us for the Guild's 2021-22 season!

A Dinner Party by Christopher Duthie
Nov. 3 > Nov. 20, 2021

WROL (Without Rule of Law) by Michaela Jeffery
Feb. 16 > Mar. 5, 2022

The Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein,
book by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan, music and lyrics by
Mel Brooks, original direction and choreography by Susan Stroman
May 4 > May 21, 2022

 /THEGUILDHALLYUKON

GUILDHALL.CA

We acknowledge the generous support of
the following funders and organisations:



THE CANADA COUNCIL
FOR THE ARTS
SINCE 1957

LE CONSEIL DES ARTS
DU CANADA
DEPUIS 1957



LOTTERIES YUKON



Whitehorse

Yukon



YUKON
ARTS CENTRE



RESIDENCY

NVD



KIAC



Thank you to the following community sponsors:

Northern Vision Development, Yukon Hotels
Manu Keggenhoff Photography • Bearbait Design
K&K Truck Rentals • Wykes Independent Grocer • Air North
Whitehorse Motors • Budget Car Rental • Omni Productions
Meadia Solutions • Tait Trailers • Tangerine Technology
SMRT Popups • Bombay Peggy's • Mobile Maintenance Service

Big thanks to our nightly sponsors:



James McCullough
& Friends



Ron & Kip Veale

Our sincere gratitude to the following individuals for their support and contributions to this production:

The Guild Hall, Brian Fidler, Heidi Marion, Al Cushing, Well Read Books, Jan Stick, Andrew Connors, Ella & Forrest Peschke, the entire Yukon Arts Centre staff, Kirsti Wallace, Selene Vakharia, Colin & Sydney Wolf, Martin Lehner, Trevor Mead Robins, LeeAnn McNally, Wendy Cairns, Matthew Sarty, Alyssa Magun, Heather Keny, Caley Damen, Mark Wykes

**And thank YOU, our audience,
for supporting live entertainment.**

Previous Larrikin productions:

Often I Find That I Am Naked

by Fiona Sprott

Jan 26 - Feb 20, 2016

*L-R | Doug Mayr,
Katherine McCallum
& Jeremiah Kitchen*



Photo: Jamie Jacobson



Photo: GBP Creative

The Syringa Tree

by Pamela Gien

November 8 - 26, 2017

*Katherine McCallum
as Elizabeth*

North of the Sixtieth Parallel - A Zeitgeist Cabaret

A Larrikin Entertainment/Atomic Vaudeville joint • April 16 - 27, 2019



Photo: Archbauld Photography

L-R | Elaine Schiman, Brandon Wicke, Kaori Torigai, Sarah Murphy, Jacob Richmond, Angela Drainville, Kelly Scott, Chris Lovatt, Victoria Kennedy, Grant Waters, James McGeragle, Katherine McCallum, Chris Hine, Graham Rudge, Jeremiah Kitchen, Brenda Barnes, Scott Maynard, Jane Gaudet, Michel Gignac, Britt Small