

Production Team

Producer *Janice Mayer*
Director *Jerome Black*
Stage Manager *Katherine Cooke*
Assistant Stage Manager *Dianne Haist*
Set Design *Jerome Black*
Set Crew *Ed Anderson, Jeff Baker, Nicki Inch*
Lighting and Sound *Ed Anderson*
Wardrobe *Laurel Candler, Emma Bodner*
Props *Janice Mayer, Dianne Haist*
Production Photography *Jeff Baker*
Box Office *Laurel Candler*
Front-of-House *Janice Mayer*
Program Layout *Jeff Baker*

Thank You!

Ben Phelan, Tom Gonschior and Kevin Hall
Cogeco - YourTV Niagara, Niagara This Week,
St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre,
Garden City Productions and all our volunteers.

Next Season



The Classic Black Comedy
by Joseph Kesselring

The Murder Mystery Musical Comedy
by Norm Foster and Leslie Arden

A Rom-Com with a Twist
by Conni Missing



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NIAGARA

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Donations gratefully accepted in the lobby.



The Drowning Girls

by **Beth Graham**
Charlie Thomlinson
& **Daniela Vlaskalic**



April 28 - May 14, 2023



The Drowning Girls is produced by permission of thearquis Literary (Colin Rivers) www.MQlit.ca

Director's Note

Three tubs, three women.

It seems simple enough, doesn't it?

When I first read *The Drowning Girls*, I was blown away. The way in which the playwrighting team wove together the individual and shared histories of these real-life women and meticulously reconstructed their stories was astounding. Giving voice to Bessie, Alice, and Margaret and elevating them beyond their status as victims was brilliant. That they tackled such a dark and tragic topic with gravity and respect yet with such playful energy was nothing short of magic.

Why drag these brave women from their bathtubs and out under the lights in 2023? Listen closely. In an age when girls and women continue to experience violence and manipulation (not to mention systemic condescension) at an alarming rate, and even as the ghosts of missing and murdered Indigenous women cry out for recognition and action, the issues of the play are as relevant as ever.

Don't be fooled by the frequent twinkles in their eyes or by their playful sense of sisterhood. These three girls have waited over a century to tell you their stories, and tonight they take the stand.

Listen up. - Jerome Black

Welcome to Firehall Theatre! Firehall Theatre is run entirely by volunteers. From box office to sound booth, from stage manager to actor, every aspect of theatre operations is run by people like you - members of the community - who love theatre and get involved. Whether you are a first-time audience member or a long-standing part of the Firehall family, we are grateful for your support. With ticket sales being our main source of income, we continue striving to keep costs to you, our patrons, low. All revenue goes straight into the productions and to maintaining the historic building in which we operate.

Beginning as the Niagara Falls Music Theatre Society, we have been bringing theatre to life in Niagara for over 60 years. Originally using this 1917 fire hall for storage, the Society began performing in the building in 1975. The City of Niagara Falls still owns the structure, leasing it to the Society.

Attend shows! Spread the word! Volunteer! Find out more about our upcoming shows and how you can get involved by visiting firehalltheatre.com.



Firehall Theatre is a not-for-profit, charitable organization.
Donate at CanadaHelps.org



Director

Jerome Black returns to the Director's seat at Firehall, having previously directed numerous productions including *Blithe Spirit*, *RENT*, *Ruthless!*, *Into the Woods*, and *Urinetown*. Onstage for the company he has appeared as Mendel in *Falsettos*, The Cat in the Hat in *Seussical*, George in *Jitters*, and more. Elsewhere in the Niagara region, favourite roles have included Jesus in *Godspell*, Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Tobias in *Sweeney Todd*, and two turns each as Riff-Raff in *The Rocky Horror Show* and the Emcee in *Cabaret*.

Cast



Claire Freel
as Margaret

Claire Freel hails from Niagara. She studied performance at Fanshawe College and has had the pleasure of being in the ensemble of such shows as *Les Belles Soeurs*, *Cabaret*, and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. Other roles include Donna Lucia in *Charlie's Aunt*, Celia in *As You Like It* and Anya in *Three Sisters*. She has worked and performed on stage, Canadian film and television, and overseas. Claire is happy to be back in Niagara and with Firehall Theatre for this production.



Daisy Hollohan
as Alice

Daisy Hollohan is very excited to be in her second Firehall production, hot on the heels of her debut as Mabel Chiltern in *An Ideal Husband*. Her previous credits include Gretl in *The Sound of Music*, Kitty in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, as well as roles in *Heathers* and *All Shook Up*. Currently, she is studying Dramatic Arts at Brock University, St. Catharines. She would like to thank the cast, crew, and audience for their support and is grateful for the opportunity to further her theatre education and experience.



Heidi Nickel
as Bessie

Heidi Nickel is a recent graduate of the Dramatic Arts program at Brock University, St. Catharines. This is her first production with Firehall Theatre. While having passion for being on stage, she has also worked with the Shaw Festival behind the scenes in *Under the Elms*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Gaslight*, *This is How We Got Here*, and *Damn Yankees*. She would like to thank her friends and family for coming out to see this show, and "for all your love and support you've given over the years with my theatre career. Much love to you all". Be sure to see her in an upcoming production titled *Yours Truly*, presented in Toronto this June.

Please note, there is no intermission.