

PALACE Theatre
ARTS COMMONS



Halfway THERE

by
Norm Foster

Directed by Mark Mooney

Produced by Anne Mooney

September 15-25 2022



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
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CANADA

SEASON AT A GLANCE

Halfway There

by Norm Foster
Sept 15 to 25, 2022

Finding Hyde

by Sean Brennan
Oct 20 to 30, 2022

Cinderella

(Enchanted Edition)

by Rodgers and Hammerstein
Nov 24 to Dec 4, 2022

Speed Dating for Sperm Donors

by Natalie Meisner
Jan 19 to 29, 2023

The Black Bonspiel of Wullie MacCrimmon

by W.O. Mitchell
Feb 16 to 26, 2023

The Donnellys

by Peter Colley
May 4 to 14, 2023

PALACE
Theatre
ARTS COMMONS



Tickets Available at
palacetheatre.ca

or

leave a message at
519-432-1029

or

email

boxoffice@palacetheatre.ca



Halfway There

By Norm Foster

Director

Mark Mooney

Producer

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HALFWAY THERE was first produced by the Foster Festival in St. Catharines, ON in August, 2016. HALFWAY THERE is staged by arrangement with Pam Winter, GGA, www.ggagency.ca

Run time is 2 hours and 15 minutes.
There will be one 15 minute intermission.

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production or distributing recordings on any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited.

.....CHAIR'S ADDRESS.....

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you back to the Palace Theatre to enjoy the first show in our 22-23 season, *Halfway There*.

This is a wonderful show, one which the talented cast and crew have enjoyed preparing.

It takes many months of teamwork and dedication to bring a show to the stage, beginning with selecting a script. Norm Foster, a Canadian treasure, brings us this work as a wonderful starting point

We at the Palace Theatre Arts Commons are so happy we are finally able to provide you with a fully slated season. It's time to come out of our homes and celebrate live theatre again. We are grateful that you have chosen us as your entertainment destination.

Enjoy the show!

Kelli Gough

Chair, Palace Theatre Arts Commons

.....DIRECTOR'S NOTES.....

Halfway There.

A very appropriate title as LCP begins its 2022 – 2023 season after two and a half years of living sideways. Norm Foster, the author of tonight's work, created a script about people who were in a place where they were surviving (and were comfortable with that) but are aware that they aren't thriving. In some cases, it is an old wound; in some cases, it is a recent upset; in some cases, it is a "groove" that they fell into.

The last years have thrown us all into a milieu where we know we aren't comfortable, but we aren't sure how to get out of it. We sort of know where we are, but we feel like we're "halfway there".

Well, it's time to change; time to get out of our comfort zone and... cautiously, move forward as Canadians do.

We need to laugh at ourselves (the alternative is crying) and Norm has done it again. Enjoy and laugh.

Mark Mooney

Director

..... **CAST**

Rita **Mary Jane Walzak**
Vi **Jan Williams-Hunter**
Mary Ellen **Edie Pedersen**
Sean **Dean Anderson**
Janine **Heather McKinnon**

..... **ARTISTIC STAFF**

Director **Mark Mooney**
Producer **Anne Mooney**
Stage Manager **Amanda Marshall**
Set Design **Heather Meadows**
Lead Builders **Heather Meadows, Diana Peters**
Set Builders **Mark Mooney, Gary Parker**
Set Décor **David Long, Mark Mooney**
Properties **Anne Mooney**
Dance Sequence **Nicole Barnes**
Costumes **the cast**
Lighting Design **Scott Smalley**
Lighting Operators **Scott Smalley, Chris Smalley**
Poster **Matt Butler**
Photography **Ross Davidson**
Program **Doug Weir**

Special Thanks to Gladys Adams & David Long

..... **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We acknowledge the history of the traditional territory on which we witness tonight's performance. We respect the longstanding relationships of the three local First Nations groups of this land and place in Southwestern Ontario.

We acknowledge that the land this building sits on was part of the Chippewa of the Thames First Nation (part of the Anishinaabe), Oneida Nation of the Thames (part of the Haudenosaunee), and Munsee-Delaware Nation (part of the Leni-Lunaape).

..... WHO'S WHO

Dean Anderson (Sean) - Dean wears many hats in the performance community including local television, dinner theater, Improv, and public speaking. He is re-engaging his love for theatre in his current role as Sean Merrit after a short break from the stage. He last performed here at the Palace in a romantic comedy titled *Jan and Jerry*. He is thrilled to be back.

Jan Williams-Hunter (Vi) - Jan is thrilled to be pullin' up a chair at Junior's Diner as Violet in her London Community Players debut. She's so happy to be working alongside such a wonderful cast and crew and is thankful to the team for having her along on this ride to Stewiacke. Jan would like to thank her amazing husband, Allan, their six kids and partners, and nine adorable grandchildren for their excitement and support on this new adventure.

Nicole Barnes (Dance Sequence) - Nicole was born and raised in London, Ontario. She has 30 years of dance experience. Currently, Nicole is a secondary teacher at Catholic Central high school where she continues to pursue her passion for movement and dance education that is accessible to all students. Nicole is a wife and a mother of two beautiful girls, Olivia and Mae. Wishing the cast members of *Halfway There* all the best in their upcoming performances!

Amanda Marshall (Stage Manager) - Amanda is excited to be stage managing again at LCP. She has really enjoyed working on previous shows at this theatre and is so glad to be back again! She began acting at the age of 6 at Binbrook Little Theatre, eventually working backstage and stage-managing. While at York University, she stage-managed a production of *Doctor Faustus* as well as many other small productions. She has been teaching primary French immersion in St. Thomas and London since 2014. She would like to thank her family for inspiring her love of theatre.

Heather McKinnon (Janine) - Heather is excited to be back on stage. She last appeared in Theatre Woodstock's production of *Mom's the Word*. A Theatre Arts Fanshawe Graduate, Heather has always been drawn to the theatre. It feels good to be in a familiar space.

Heather Meadows (Set Design and Lead Builder) – Heather developed a love for the theatre at an early age. She spent her youth acting in community theatres and performing magic shows with her brother, John. Heather has graciously shared her knowledge and theatre skills with LCP since 2017. Special thanks to the crew for all of their dedication and to Lorna for her love and support.

Anne Mooney (Producer) – Anne is so excited to be part of the first show of the first full season AC (after Covid). She has been involved in community theatre for over 35 years and has worked on every job both on stage and behind the scenes. She is a member of the PTAC Board and a Life Member of PTAC and WODL. I love you, Mark.

Mark Mooney (Director) – Mark has been involved with community theatre in southwestern Ontario since the mid 1980s as an actor, director, and designer (sets and lighting). He has created theatre in gymnasiums, museums, art galleries and city parks as well regular theatres. He has directed productions for London Community Players, Theatre Woodstock, Elgin Theatre Guild (St. Thomas), and St. Marys Community Players. He has adjudicated plays for community theatres and high schools across Ontario and into the northern USA. As always, love and thanks to my wife Anne.

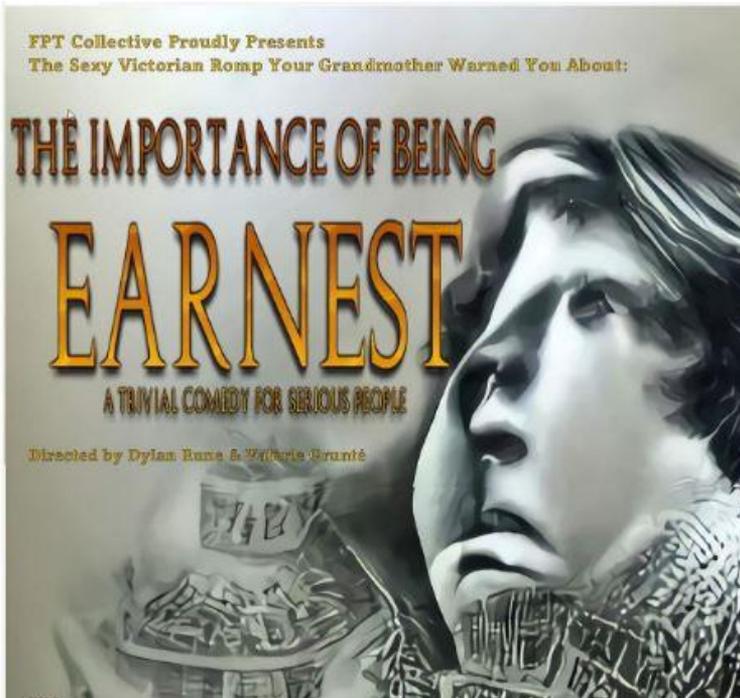
..... WHO'S WHO

Gary Parker (Set Builder) - Gary has been active Member for a couple years as a Main Stage Set Building Team. He has worked on the shows as the Proof, The Inspector calls etc. Also, he has worked on the *Wizard of Oz* and *Picasso*. Gary would like to thank Mark Mooney and Heather Meadows for their mentoring features and Team Building lessons. Thanks to the volunteers at the Palace Theatre for their personal input and joy as well as the set building team for their friendship and guidance.

Edie Pedersen (Mary Ellen) - Edie Pedersen is excited to be on stage in London for the very first time, having recently moved here from the Niagara Region. She comes to us with a long acting resume spanning many, many years. When not acting Edie enjoys painting with alcohol inks, watercolours and acrylics. She lives with her husband Niels and their 3 dogs. She would like to thank Niels for his support and encouragement in all she does. We are pleased to have Edie join us on our story telling journey!

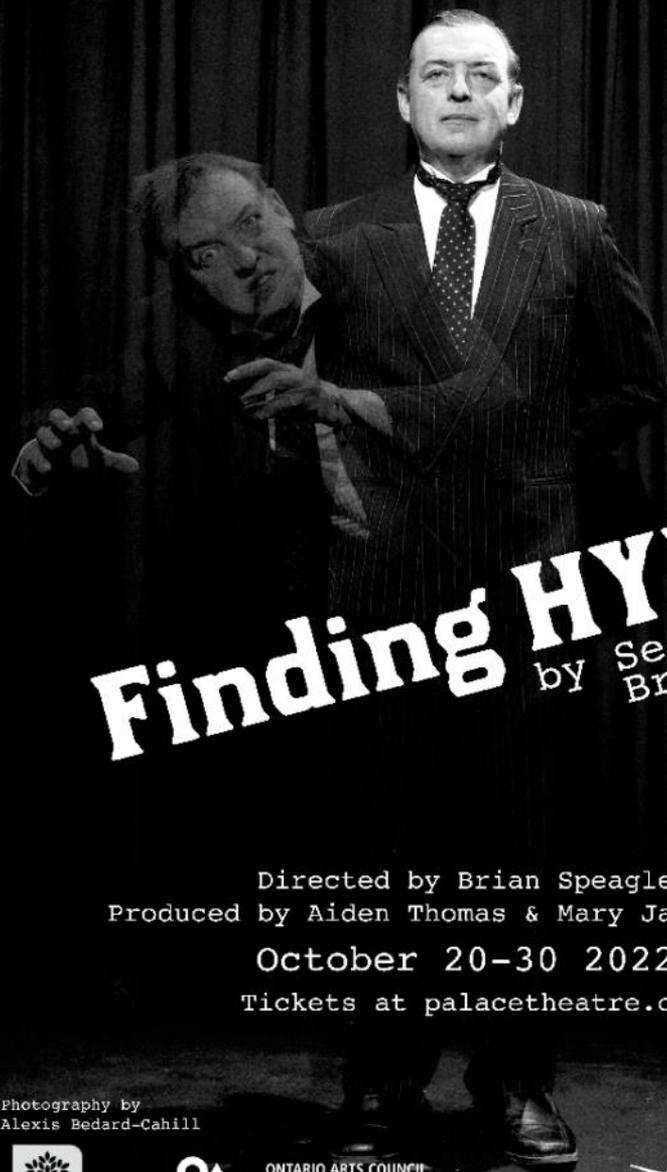
Scott Smalley (Lighting Design and Operation) - Scott has been involved with the Palace Theatre since 2019, when he played Kier Hardie in the New Stage production of *Her Naked Skin*. He has volunteered in various capacities since, designed the lighting for the 2020 LCP production of *You Are Here*, and is excited to see *Halfway There* come to life!

Mary Jane Walzak (Rita) - Mary Jane is a Life Member of LCP and has been involved with the group since 1989. She was last seen on stage as Dorothy Biddle in *The Kitchen Witches*. She is thrilled to portray Rita in this production of *Halfway There*. She would like to thank the wonderful cast for so many laughter-filled moments, Mark for his insightful direction, Anne for her help with so many things on and off stage and my husband, John, for keeping our home-fires burning.



PALACE Theatre

ARTS COMMONS



Finding HYDE

by Sean Brennan

Directed by Brian Speagle
Produced by Aiden Thomas & Mary Jane Walzak

October 20-30 2022

Tickets at palacetheatre.ca



Photography by
Alexis Bedard-Cahill



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