

PROGRAMME

SUDBURY PERFORMANCE GROUP

— Be a Part of the Art —

ONE-ACT FESTIVAL

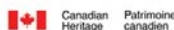
March 21, 22, 23, 2024

3 plays! 3 directors! 3 casts!
1 entertaining night at the theatre!



SUDBURY
PERFORMANCE
GROUP

College Letters by Dailyn Rodriguez
Strawberry Fields by Kevin Brofsky
Dear Mrs. Martin by Kate Aspengren



SUDBURY PERFORMANCE GROUP PROUDLY PRESENTS OUR 2ND ANNUAL

ONE-ACT FESTIVAL

Directors

Tara Hawkes, Stéphanie Charbonneau, Tanya Saari

Stage Manager – Nancy Beland

Sound Technician – Sean Perras | **Lighting Design** – Shelby Lebeau

Cast Photography – Heather Hodgkinson

Set Painting – Libby Michie, Nancy Beland, Tara Hawkes, Tanya Saari

Props + Costumes – Cast & Crew

Front of House Volunteer Coordinator – Chanda Grylls-Mahaffy

Graphic Designer – Tara Hawkes | **Programme Editor** – Tanya Saari

College Letters by Dailyn Rodriguez

In a college dorm room, a self-described cynic and an “air head” with a seemingly perfect life battle over the mail, love, and nearly everything else. It’s a miracle they haven’t killed each other – but even more miraculous, they become best friends.

Strawberry Fields by Kevin Brofsky

Edith Warren of Plant City, Florida, meets Vera Samuels, famous New York daytime television talk show hostess, in a diner to discuss an interview. Edith became the subject of controversy when her son was killed in a strawberry field, apparently a bias murder because he was gay. Edith has agreed to the interview, but is having second thoughts due to the finger pointing she has experienced, which includes the waitress serving them this day. Vera has to convince her to go on television and can only do that by revealing something personal and career damaging about her own life.

Dear Mrs. Martin by Kate Aspengren

Barbara Martin is surprised when her new cleaning woman, Gloria, begins writing her personal notes and stories about her son or about her trips to her psychic and her belief in an afterlife. Barbara gets caught up in the letter writing and a warm friendship develops between these two women from different social and economic spheres. When Barbara’s husband dies unexpectedly, it is Gloria who is able to provide support and understanding. Told through Barbara’s and Gloria’s letters, Dear Mrs. Martin is a play about friendship, family, grief and hope.



Nancy Beland - Stage Manager

Nancy has been part of a number of productions with SPG. Along with stage managing, she is also a member of the board of directors. She is thrilled to again be part of the One-Act Festival, and has had a great time working with three talented directors, and the amazing casts. She hopes you enjoy the festival. She would also like to thank her family for giving her the freedom to be part of the theatre community. Thank you for being a part of the art.

Tara Hawkes - Director, *College Letters*

The season of new roles continues! Tara went into the 2023-2024 season with the goal of taking on new titles within SPG. Mission accomplished! This past December, she co-choreographed our production of *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, and tonight, you see her debut production as a director for our second annual One-Act Festival! She has truly enjoyed the challenge and felt well-prepared for the job, having stage managed many shows over the past decade with talented directors at the helm. She is grateful to her friend and stage manager, Nancy, for the encouragement and assistance, and her hard-working cast—Jess and Ash! She's very proud of the dedication you've shown to this show and to making these characters come to life. She's grateful for taking this journey with each of you. Bravo, friends! A shoutout to her fellow directors, Tanya and Steph—break legs to you and your casts! You've worked so hard! To our audience—thank you for joining us. Your support of local theatre is what keeps us going. We appreciate you. Sit back and enjoy your evening! We are happy you're here.



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

Sudbury Performance Group would love for you to "be a part of the art"!

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

SUBMIT A VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM



Stéphanie Charbonneau
- Director, *Strawberry Fields*

Stéphanie is excited to be joining Sudbury Performance Group in her directorial debut. Previous acting credits include: *Romeo & Juliet* (YES Theatre), *Les Aveugles* (Théâtre aux Quatre Vents), and *Martyr* (Théâtre aux Quatre Vents). This piece—*Strawberry Fields*—explores the devastating consequences of hating someone for their sexual orientation, their race, their ideals. The staging was done to show solidarity for the Palestinian people as they continue to suffer under the most horrific crimes of oppression. Nothing will change unless the victims and their privileged allies stand up against this oppression and demand change.

Tanya Saari
- Director, *Dear Mrs. Martin*

Tanya is happy to be back in the director's chair once again, after last year's phenomenal event! It is always a learning experience to sit on the other side of the table, and taking on a project like this requires an exceptional team. So, in that regard, she would like to give a huge thank you and congratulations to her two lovely leading ladies, who took this challenging and daunting script and gave it breath and life. Barbara and Gloria will live on, fully dimensional and in our collective memories, as a reminder of the power of friendship and kindness in the face of tragedy. It is always a pleasure to work with petite powerhouse Nancy, who is a constant source of support and friendship. Finally, a virtual high five to directors Tara and Stéphanie, for sharing the journey. She thanks the audience for supporting community theatre: "Without you, we can't do what we love. So, thank you! And enjoy the festival!"



Meet the Cast of College Letters



Jessica Sawicz - Elvira

Jessica is thrilled to be doing another show with Sudbury Performance Group. Jessica has been involved in past SPG shows such as, *The Miss Magnolia Senior Citizen Beauty Pageant*, *The Perfect Wedding*, *Chicago*, and *Godspell*. Playing Elvira has been a blast, and has brought up a lot of memories of her own college years, so it's been an enjoyable show to perform. She also wanted to say thank you to Ashleyanne, Tara, and Nancy, for making the rehearsal process so enjoyable. Hope everyone enjoys the festival!

Ashleyanne Banton - Charlotte

Ashleyanne is excited to be working with a wonderful and supportive group of people on this project. She has spent many hours in theatres as a volunteer, spectator, crew, and now as a performer. She thanks her family and friends for the support in this adventure, and wishes everyone a wonderful weekend of fun and enjoyment.



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Meet the Cast of *Strawberry Fields*



Kandis Mantysaari - Vera

Kandis is so grateful to be a part of this festival and production. She has been involved with numerous SPG shows as an actor, and most recently, director. She would like to thank Stéphanie for the opportunity and her wise guidance, Nancy for being awesome, and her cast mates for the beautiful journey. She hopes this show helps spark reflection, conversation, and understanding.

Brigitte Labby - Edith

Brigitte, from Sudbury (Azilda) has also lived in Edmonton. This is her first time on stage—as an actor, anyhow. She participated in a pageant for women age 50+ two years ago. She has two beautiful daughters, ages 28 & 20. She works for a local MP, but can also be described as an ambitious entrepreneur, for she is a cupcake connoisseur, an artist (painter), and an instructor! She enjoys photography and history, and spending time with her puppy, Benji!



Joël Giroux - Waiter

Joël got bit by the acting bug back in 2007, playing a prince in a community theatre production of *The King & I*, and he's been hooked on it ever since. He's performed and studied in English, French, and Clown, at the now-defunct theatre programs at Laurentian University. He is thrilled to work with the team of creatives at Sudbury Performance Group for the first time in this One-Act Festival!



Max Trainor - Jacob

Max is a 20-year-old performer who will be playing Jacob in *Strawberry Fields*. He is very excited to bring the character to life. Max has loved working with everyone who has helped bring this show to the stage, and he hopes that you enjoy the show!

Tyler Dokis - Michael

Tyler is an indigenous musician and actor from Dokis First Nation, Ontario. At 23 years of age, he has had a passion for the performing arts for the majority of his life. He previously played Ezekiel Cheever in Porchlight Theatre Company's *The Crucible*, as well as Robert Lambert in SPG's *Boeing Boeing*.



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Meet the Cast of Dear Mrs. Martin



Heleene Lohan Cameron - Barbara Martin

Heleene is back with SPG after having performed as Nadine in *Dear Ray* last year! Some past productions include *Harvest* (Valley Community Theatre/La Gang A Popa), and *Kitchen Witches* (VCT). Most recently, she was Mrs. Alexander in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* (YES/STC). Some film/TV credits include, *The Protector*, and *Purgatory Jack*. She also appeared in an episode of *Children Ruin Everything!* Heleene wishes all the best to the talented performers this evening, especially to her amazing cast mate! Many thanks to her Director, Stage Manager, and to the incredible backstage and tech crews!

Theresa Anderson-Butcher - Gloria

Embodying Gloria is Theresa's first foray into acting since high school—which was a while ago, to be honest. As a staff trainer for exciting subjects like records management, conflict of interest, and privacy, Theresa had to reach deep to ensure her learners were engaged. Gloria is the perfect starting character for Theresa to dabble in theatre, as there are several similarities between the two personas. Theresa thanks SPG for giving her an opportunity to walk onto a different stage at this stage of her life.



Tanya Saari - Hilary/Self-Help Tape

Tanya is a professional voice actor, who can currently be heard on the animated series, *Rabbit Girl and Friends*, airing on Eastlink Community Television.
www.tanyasaarivoice.com

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