

# PROGRAMME

SUDBURY PERFORMANCE GROUP

— *Be a Part of the Art* —

# DIVORCE

## SOUTHERN STYLE

By Jennifer Jarrett

This ain't the first time a woman's  
had to pick up the pieces  
and rebuild her life  
and it won't be the last.



A Dinner Theatre Production  
APRIL 9 - 11, 2026  
Thorneloe University



# DIVORCE SOUTHERN STYLE

**Angel Mannisto** – Eleanor Bander | **Philippe Poirier** – Walter Bander

**Lily Plante** – Elizabeth Bander | **Adam Laurenti** – Vince Sigmon

**Hailey St. Amour** – Gretchen Hiller | **Chris de Ste. Croix** – Dr. Fred Abernathy

**Heleene Lohan Cameron** – Elma Blue Williams

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**Director** – Tanya Saari | **Stage Manager** – Elina Jillings

**Assistant Stage Manager** – Lindsay Dainton | **Audio Technician** – Sean Perras

**Set Design + Props** – Rosie Desjardins | **Lighting Technician** – Travis Desjardins

**Programme Headshots** – Amelia Saari | **Programme Editor** – Tanya Saari

**Graphic Designers** – Tara Hawkes & Leo Duquette

**Promotional Video Editing** – Michael Clarke | **Front of House Manager** – Faizan Khan

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**Jennifer Jarrett is the author of DIVORCE SOUTHERN STYLE,  
which was published in 1979 by Dramatists Play Service, Inc.**

An established favorite with stock theatres, this fast-paced, wildly funny farce centers on the zany schemes of a middle-aged divorcee who decides that the time is ripe to get back together with her ex-husband. Divorced for fifteen years, and running low on cash, Eleanor Bander decides reconciliation with her ex-husband (whose second wife died the year before) is her best hope. To lure him within striking range, she tells him that their daughter is about to be married—hinting that it is a forced situation—when the truth is that the daughter is merely engaged again (for the fifth time) to her long-standing fiancé. The ex-husband, Walter, not only arrives but brings along his current flame, a former classmate who was Eleanor's competition from high-school days. As the plot thickens, which it does with growing hilarity, Eleanor's friends and neighbors become involved in the action, culminating in a sur-prise birthday party where the truth, at last, comes out. But Walter is pre-pared to forgive and forget, and falls easily into Eleanor's trap. So easily, in fact, that Eleanor is the one who now has second thoughts—deciding that it is better, after all, to stay single and broke than to resume the bickering that drove her away from Walter in the first place.

## Tanya Saari - Director's Message



Welcome to another fantastic Sudbury Performance Group dinner theatre! If you've seen our shows before, I am so happy you've decided to join us once again! And if you're new—we are thrilled to have you here! With *Old Man Winter* still hanging on to us, what better way to chase off those snowy blues than with laughter and great food?

Most don't know what goes on behind the scenes to mount a production like this. It involves long hours spent planning, rehearsing, memorizing, and organizing. The people you're going to see tonight have worked so very hard to get to this point.

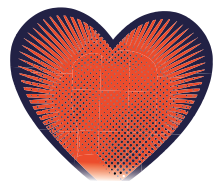
To Angel, Phil, Heleene, Adam, Lily, Chris, and Hailey—thank you! You've all put in the effort and made this show come to life, and for that, I am most grateful. It has been a sincere pleasure to work with all of you!

To our amazing behind-the-scenes crew—Sean, Travis, Rosie, and Lindsay—you help make this world believable, and allow the wheels to turn freely. Thank you. And an extra-huge thank you to Tara Hawkes, for essentially giving us sleep and helping us out. Love you!

To the Sudbury Performance Group board—thank you for allowing me to take the helm yet again. It's pretty comfortable here, I have to admit!

Finally, to my right-hand-gal Elina—you're my favourite person in the whole group, and I love you to the moon and back. (I mean, you're my kid, after all!) It has been a great adventure, traveling with you, and I'd do it again in a heartbeat!

Perhaps even more importantly, thank you to YOU—our audience. Without you in those seats, we couldn't do this crazy thing that we love to do. You're helping to keep the arts alive and breathing in this great city of ours—and we love you for it!



In gratitude,  
*Tanya*

## Elina Jillings – Stage Manager

Elina is super excited to welcome you to *Divorce Southern Style*! While she is relatively new to stage managing, she is no stranger to theatre, both onstage and off. She stage managed Sudbury Secondary School's *Dramatically Yours 2025*, and was Assistant Stage Manager for *Grease*, also at Sud Sec. She has done many different backstage and tech jobs over a few years, both for SPG and Sud Sec. Onstage, she is a Drama major at Sudbury Secondary School, and will appear in their upcoming production of *Twelve Incompetent Jurors*. She would like to give a huge thanks to Travis, Rosie, Sean, and Lindsay, as well as the amazing front of house staff. Without you, this show would not have happened. She would also like to thank the cast, as well as the amazing director Tanya. (Thanks mum!) She hopes you enjoy the show!



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### **Angel Mannisto – Eleanor Bander**

Angel is extremely excited to be portraying the role of Eleanor Bander! Angel recently performed in SPG's October production of *The Savannah Sipping Society*, and most recently, *Jagged Little Pill*! She has also been busy with choreography for both upcoming productions of *School of Rock*, and *Newsies, Jr.* Angel would like to thank Tanya and Elina for entrusting her with the role, along with the rest of the cast, and for all the laughs at rehearsals! It has been a blast! To the audience: "Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to continue my passion as a performer, and allowing us all to do what fills our cups!"

### **Philippe Poirier – Walter Bander**

Phil has been involved in theatre and film for years as a professional performer, acting coach, writer, director, and producer. He received a Bachelor's degree in Theatre Performance from Ryerson Theatre School. His directorial and acting experiences range from classical to contemporary. His most recent theatre credits include his portrayal of Stacey Jaxx in *Rock of Ages* (Sudbury Performance Group), and Pontius Pilate in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (SPG). He's also the President and founder of Porchlight Theatre Company, based in the Sudbury area, which will be launching its sixth season this year. "We hope you enjoy the show, and we'll see you on stage soon!"



### **Lily Plante – Elizabeth Bander**

Lily is an emerging Anishinaabe artist/performer from Wahnapiatae First Nation, and is thrilled to be taking part in *Divorce Southern Style* as Elizabeth Bander. As a recent graduate of Computer Science at Laurentian University, she is currently taking time off to explore a variety of creative endeavors before returning to school in the fall. She has spent several years performing as an improviser, and broadened her horizons to theatre over the last year with Mooncrater Theatre's *Pitch Perfect* shadowcast, and SPG's *Once Upon a One More Time* musical.



### **Adam Laurenti – Vince Sigmon**

Adam is thrilled to contribute his southern twang to this spring's dinner-theatre production, *Divorce Southern Style!* Building on his improv experience with the Espanola Little Theatre, Adam brings a unique blend of expression and sensitivity to his roles. He made his acting debut performing the role of Jeff in SPG's One-Act-Festival production of *Cooking for Love*. Last April, he performed the role of Georgie in *Don't Dress for Dinner*. Most recently, he was cast as Mr. Green in Porchlight Theatre Company's production of *Clue*, and as Prince Charming in SPG's production of *Once Upon a One More Time*. Adam is excited about this new opportunity to work and play alongside friends of the Sudbury Performance Group community.



### **Hailey St. Amour – Gretchen Hiller**

Hailey is excited to appear in *Divorce Southern Style* as Gretchen Hiller, marking her first dinner-theatre production. Calling Sudbury home, Hailey is also a member of the improv troupe, *Who Are These People, Anyway?* and enjoys the unpredictability of unscripted comedy. When she is not performing, Hailey works in administration and design, where things are usually a little less dramatic. Hailey hopes you enjoy the show as much as she has enjoyed bringing Gretchen to life.

### **Chris de Ste. Croix – Dr. Fred Abernathy**

Chris was born and raised in Timmins, Ontario. For 27 years, he has immersed himself in the arts, consistently expressing his passion as an entertainer. From music to comedy and everything in between, he has developed a versatile creative presence. Whether performing on stage or engaging audiences in new ways, Chris brings energy, originality, and dedication to his craft, continually evolving while staying true to his artistic roots.

### **Heleene Lohan Cameron – Elma Blue Williams**

Heleene has previously performed in the SPG One-Act Festivals, first as Nadine in *Dear Ray*, then Barbara in *Dear Mrs. Martin*, and finally, Christina in *Tea with Roger*. This is Heleene's second dinner theatre with SPG, and she's loving playing the role of Elma Blue, a sassy, outspoken, loveable character. She sends Kudos to her fellow cast members, and to the incredible sound/lighting/stage crews, and many thanks to her wonderful director, Tanya! Kudos to VCT! Enjoy the show!

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