

Coming up in the  
spotlight series



THE PORT THEATRE PRESENTS

# BALLET JÖRGEN

CREATIONS IN ISOLATION

INCLUDES POST-SHOW CHAT IN THE THEATRE

Thursday, October 7, 2021

Show starts at 7:30pm

This program will showcase excerpts from major classical ballets such as *Romeo & Juliet* and *The Nutcracker* along with contemporary creations by Ontario choreographers. Excerpts from the company's smash hit *Anne of Green Gables - The Ballet®* will also be on the program.

The Port Theatre  
125 Front St, Nanaimo  
Tickets: 250.754.8550  
www.porttheatre.com



spotlight  
SERIES

# FLOTSAM & JETSAM

A ROLICKING MUSICAL REVUE

Sunday, September 19, 2021

Show starts at 7:30pm

*A rollicking musical revue set against a multi-media backdrop of iconic images celebrating the people and places of BC's West Coast.*

FLOTSAM & JETSAM  
programme

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome back to the theatre!

The Other Guys are delighted to return to the stage of the Port Theatre to share these songs and stories with you. Since our inception in 2000, The Other Guys have been creating musical productions that celebrate the history of British Columbia. My creative partners Mary Desprez, Tobin Stokes and I were all born and raised on the BC coast and with this show we wanted to focus on the colourful characters, fascinating events, and elements that illustrate our story. The three of us have been blessed to collaborate with an amazing ensemble of performers and an A-list creative production team.

We thank the Snuneymuxw people for sharing this magical place that we all call home. A special thanks to Bruce Halliday and the entire team here at the Port Theatre for welcoming us into their house. Tonight, we are overjoyed to share our love for this coast and live performance with each of you.

Ross Desprez  
Artistic Director  
Other Guys Theatre

## *FLOTSAM & JETSAM: Life on the West Coast*

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Tonight we would like to share with you songs and images based on historical tales from along the coast of British Columbia. Stories that might have been lost in the vast ocean of history or discarded to the elements of time.

In the tradition of folklore we have taken it upon ourselves to translate these tales into songs and pass them on to you in the hope that you might pass them on to somebody else. These are original creations with some being musically adapted from or influenced by other traditional folk songs. We hope you will enjoy.

### SONG LIST

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| BC Coast                | Ross Desprez |
| Island Style            | Ross Desprez |
| Boat People             | Ross Desprez |
| Ferries of BC           | Ross Desprez |
| All Aboard              | Tobin Stokes |
| Foreign Worker's Lament | Ross Desprez |
| Concrete Condo          | Ross Desprez |
| Tug Boat Blues          | Ross Desprez |
| Cougar Annie            | Ross Desprez |
| Tofino's Only Bugle Boy | Tobin Stokes |
| D'Arcy Island           | Tobin Stokes |
| Village of Skedans      | Ross Desprez |
| Swanson Bay             | Tobin Stokes |
| Ripple Rock             | Tobin Stokes |
| Herring Song            | Tobin Stokes |
| Heiltsuk Sal            | Ross Desprez |
| Clayoquot Sound         | Ross Desprez |
| Blue Green Water        | Tobin Stokes |
| Hunker Down             | Tobin Stokes |

**ROSS DESPREZ**  
**(Co-creator / Director)**

Ross is the Founding Artistic Director of The Other Guys Theatre Company. With the support of this company Ross has been able to premiere a wide range of projects from Charles Tidler's poetic drama Tortoise Boy to Tobin Stoke's opera The Vinedressers and his own musicals Sex: the Musical, The Ballad of Jim Pane and Moodyville Tales. For OGT he has also co-created Good Timber: Songs and Stories of the Western Logger and Pete Seeger's The Incomplete Folksinger. Other directing projects include The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged for TheatreSKAM and the Belfry, and Featuring Loretta, Ethan Claymore and The Love List for the Belfry.

As an actor he has appeared in numerous productions at the Belfry Theatre, favorites including: The Collected Works of Billy the Kid (for which he also composed the music), The Three Penny Opera, Lies and Legends: the Musical Stories of Harry Chapin, Pump Boys and Dinettes and Urinetown: the Musical.

In Nanaimo Ross has acted in Hot Flashes and directed The Syringa Tree for Theatre One. He has been an instructor of acting at Vancouver Island University for 25 years and in 2019 co-created an original musical Slugfest with VIU and The Other Guys.

**TOBIN STOKES**  
**(Co-creator / Musical Director)**

Tobin Stokes composes opera, concert music, and music for theatre, film, dance, and more. As a writer (of words) he creates opera libretti, plays, and song lyrics. In theatre he's a regular collaborator as a writer, composer, sound designer, lyricist, musical director, barista, etc.

Pauline, his opera with libretto by author Margaret Atwood, premiered in 2014. Fallujah, his opera with libretto by playwright Heather Raffo, premiered with Long Beach Opera and New York City Opera in 2016. His first opera, The Vinedressers, (words and music) was developed and premiered through Other Guys Theatre and has seen three productions, while his latest, Rattenbury, (words and music) premiered with Other Guys Theatre and Pacific Opera Victoria in 2017.

Tobin's music for children's and adult choirs is performed around the world, and his orchestral music has been commissioned and premiered in Canada. His music has been recorded in Prague, Moscow, Bratislava, and other countries. He has composed music for large events, such as the 2010 Olympics and the XV Commonwealth Games, and for dozens of documentary films broadcast on CBC (The Nature of Things), BBC, and ABC (Australia).

## COLLEEN ECCLESTON (Artist / Musician)

Colleen Eccleston's delightfully eclectic and remarkable career includes actress, rock singer, jingle singer, member of The Ecclestons Band, songwriting and rock and roll professor, traditional singer, but always, and most importantly, a songwriter. Honing that craft since the age of eleven in NFLD, she strings along the human condition with a deep reverence for the magic of language. She delivers with a gorgeous voice equally capable of grit and grace.

Her performing and recording career is extensive and includes 12 albums and hundreds of festivals and concerts all over North America. She has composed for theatre and film and embraces environmental and political songs. She made Celine Dion's short list with her pop song, "All I Ever Wanted". And her song "Dance As You Go" has been covered by James Keelaghan and The Waite Collective in England.

Her latest book, entitled "Outside the Box" is based on her experience as a songwriting instructor and lifelong practitioner of the craft. Born in Alberta, but raised all over Canada, Colleen calls Vancouver Island home and is a treasured part of the West Coast music mosaic.

*"She is a Sparkler,"* says Valdy, 2016

*"One of the best voices in Canada,"* said Mitch Podolak, 2013 Folk Alliance

## **KELT ECCLESTON** **(Artist / Musician)**

Kelt has been performing since he graduated from high school. His first role was that of a 6'4" Linus in You're a Good Man Charlie Brown. After graduating from Theatre School, he worked in Dawson City reciting Robert Service poetry during the day and performing song and dance in the Gaslight Follies Show at night (which was also day). He then spent eight seasons touring throughout North America with the Story Theatre company; playing songs, telling stories and doing improv games for Elementary and High Schools. Switching his focus to music, Kelt performed his original songs with the celtic trio The Ecclestons, recording four CDs, and playing concerts all across Canada and into the United States. In addition to his stage and musical experience, Kelt has also done a considerable amount of work in film, having appeared in too many films and television shows to mention. Kelt has been creating with The Other Guys theatre company for many years, performing in Moodyville Tales, Good Timber, and now in the latest, Flotsam and Jetsam.

## **MARK HELLMAN** **(Artist / Musician)**

This year, Mark Hellman (CAEA, CFM) is celebrating 4 decades of participation in the arts and entertainment industries, education, and community building. He started touring and teaching in 1981, as a founding member of Victoria's acclaimed Story Theatre Company. He has since lived and worked in Montreal (Centaur Theatre, Geordie Productions, Ass'n of Producing Artists), Winnipeg (Prairie Theatre Exchange, MTYP, Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers, St. Norbert Arts Centre), Armstrong, BC (Caravan Farm Theatre), and has been back on the west coast since 1998, where he has worked with/for The Belfry (Ethan Claymore, The Life Inside), Kaleidoscope Theatre (Edward Tulane, House at Pooh Corner), Story Theatre (Mean Old Mackie, Minstrel's Dream), Chemainus Theatre (Countryside Xmas), Theatre SKAM (Smalltown, 7eventy 7even), as well as a number of collaborations with the Other Guys Theatre Co: Moodyville Tales, Good Timber, Flotsam & Jetsam (original run in Victoria), and his solo performance, Pete Seeger's The Incomplete Folksinger, which he has been touring across Canada and the US for the past 5 years. He is very much looking forward to getting back on the road, and is delighted to take part in this very special project. [markhellman.ca](http://markhellman.ca)

## **MARGO MILTON** **(Artist / Musician)**

Margo Milton was born and raised on Salt Spring Island, and grew up in a family of musicians. She recently completed a year at the Canadian College of Performing Arts, pursuing a musical theatre education. She has always had a passion for music and musical theatre, but started her post-secondary education in the sciences, graduating with a B. Sc. in biology from the University of Victoria. However, she has always balanced music with science, by studying cello and being part of choirs such as the Vancouver Island Chamber Choir. She even took a break in the middle of her science degree to audition for, and attend the Victoria Conservatory of Music's Collegium program on cello. Margo was truly bitten by the theatre bug when she became part of her home town's local theatre company, exitStageLeft Productions, on Salt Spring Island. She has appeared in RENT, Spamalot, Beauty and the Beast, As You Like It, as Little Red in Into the Woods, and as Wendla Bergmann in Spring Awakening. She is honoured and excited to be working with The Other Guys theatre company, especially on a show that hits so close to home.

## **SANDY CUMBERLAND** **(Production Coordinator)**

Sandy is thrilled to be the production coordinator for Flotsam & Jetsam. Her career has spanned over 40 years and every province in the country. From her early days in the dance world (Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Judith Marcuse Dance Company, Universal Ballet of Seoul, Korea) through a stretch of freelance work (Theatre Passe Muraille, Muskoka Festival, Stratford Festival) to many years with Pacific Opera Victoria, she has enjoyed a diverse and exciting career in stage management and production. After twelve years based on Gabriola Island, Sandy is happy to be freelancing once again, working with friends, old and new, and making Victoria her home again.

## **CREATIVE / PRODUCTION TEAM**

Rebekah Johnson  
John Carswell  
Peter Pokorny  
Robin Boxwell  
Justin MacFadden  
Mary Desprez

Lighting Designer  
Visuals Designer  
Set Designer  
Production Manager  
Tech Assistant  
Company Manager