

BURLE

A Contemporary Thriller by John Muggleton

directed by Julia Lalonde



November 21 - December 7, 2025

Duncan United Church Hall | 246 Ingram Street, Duncan BC

26 YEARS OF QUALITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

1999 - 2000

Educating Rita

A Night with Dylan Thomas

Robbie Burns Night

Whose Life Is It Anyway? (CSSS)

2000 - 2001

The Boys Next Door

A Child's Christmas in Wales

Diary of Anne Frank (CSSS)

Teahouse of the August Moon

2001 - 2002

What I Did Last Summer (CSSS)

On Golden Pond

A Merry Mercury Christmas

Friends, Lovers and Other

Strangers (CSSS)

Shirley Valentine

2002 - 2003

Play It Again Sam

Waiting For the Parade (CSSS)

A Long Way Home (CSSS)

The Odd Couple

The Gin Game

2003 - 2004

I'm Not Rappaport

The Miracle Worker (CSSS)

Tony and Tina's Wedding (CSSS)

Hay Fever

2004 - 2005

The Man With the Plastic Sandwich

Les Belles Soeurs

2006 - 2007

Cabaret Evening

Majority of Two



2007 - 2008

Ballymore Reel

2008 - 2009

Twelve Angry Men

2009 - 2010

Svlvia

2010 - 2011

Our Town

Tapas Night

2011 - 2012

Doubt

Love Letters

2012 - 2013

Maggie's Getting Married

2013 - 2014

Arsenic and Old Lace

2014 - 2015

Tommy Douglas

The Original Cast

2015 - 2016

Shirley Valentine

Rumors

Steel Magnolias

2016 - 2017

Virtual Reality &

The Way of All Fish

Kiss the Moon. Kiss the Sun

Nunsense

2017 - 2018

Mending Fences

Nuncrackers

A Christmas Carol

(w. Shawnigan Players)

A Man For All Seasons

(w. Shawnigan Players)

Anatomy of Gray

2018 - 2019

Deathtrap

Almost, Maine

The Curious Incident of the Dog

In The Night-Time

Beau Jest

2019 - 2020

Vanya and Sonya and Masha and Spike

2021 - 2022

The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery

Vagina Monologues (fundraiser for CWAV)

Quartet

2022 - 2023

Tempting Providence

Mrs. Reynolds & the Ruffian

The Women of Lockerbie

2023 - 2024

The Gravitational Pull of Bernice Trimble

Comfort & Joy

Tartuffe

Lesser Demons

2024 - 2025

The Female of the Species

Constellations

Brontë: The World Without

Burn



Burn has an approximate runtime of 120 minutes with intermission. Please turn off your cell phone and/or any other electronic devices during the show.

SETTING

The Present, in a Canadian City

Act 1: Robert's Loft Apartment

Act 2: The same, one minute later

CAST	VOICES
Robert Adrian Ingham	Paul Erin Butler
David Jordan Lyric	Tara Laura Faulkner
Samira Megan Bourns	
Eve Jessica Mattin	
PRODUCTION CREW	Lighting Designer Kara van Rijn
Director Julia Lalonde	Sound Designer Rien Vesseur
Director Mentor Sylvia Swift	Lighting/Sound Operator Zoe Nickerson
Stage Manager Zoe Nickerson	Costume Advisor
Producer Kathy Yewell	Props Margie Pringle
Set Designer/Lead Set Constructor Lorne Seifred	Photography
Set Construction Luke Downs	Publicity Kathy Yewell, Mony Vesseur,
	Rien Vesseur, Shauna Clinging
Set Load In Lorne Seifred, Luke Downs,	Poster John Muggleton
Margie Pringle, Sylvia Swift, Kara van Rijn,	Programme Duncan PrintCraft Ltd, Kathy Yewell
.Mony Vesseur, Rien Vesseur, Kathy Yewell, Dan Leckey	Front of House Manager Leslie Sanchez

Mercury Players Society President's Message

Welcome to the Mercury Players production of *Burn*, our first production of the 2025/26 season. We are excited to start with a Mystery/Thriller and to be mentoring a new director to help our players to thrive and grow. The rest of our season is:

February- Canadian Wild Flowers by Mary Louise Phillips, directed by Layne Kriwoken

April- Timepiece by Kico Gonzalez-Risso, directed by Mary Louise Phillips

We are continuing with our staged reading series with three more to come in the new year. Our play reading nights happen at Sands Reception on the first Wednesday of each month. We would like your suggestions! If you have a play in mind that you would like us to produce or simply read aloud please leave a note with our front of house volunteers or email me. We also have improv nights on the middle Saturday of each month. Check out our website for more information.

In listening to our audience we are trying things to help make the experience more comfortable with the addition of cushions. We recently had a lighting and a Stage Management workshop. If you are interested in any other types of workshops, let us know. If you have more suggestions, please don't hesitate to connect.

We are still seeking a more permanent space and there are some wonderful initiatives underway in our community. The United Church has been very supportive and we are grateful for all that they do. Do you know of a space? Are you interested in investing? Your help and any contributions would be greatly appreciated. Please contact me (president@mercuryplayers.org) and we can share information.

If you are not already a member, please consider joining us. We have many opportunities to get involved. Please leave your email address if you would like to stay informed.

Enjoy the play!

Sylvia Swift, President of the Mercury Players Society

Thank you for your contributions

Ten Old Books for being our box office;
The Cowichan Valley Citizen and the Cowichan
Valley Voice for their coverage & support;
Duncan United Church for providing us space
to rehearse and present our work;
& Sands Funeral Chapel for hosting our staged
readings and rehearsals.

Special thanks to our fabulous Front of House Volunteers!
We couldn't put on the shows without you.

The Mercury Players Society Board Of Directors

President	Sylvia Swift
Vice President	Layne Kriwoken
Secretary	Zoe Nickerson
Treasurer	Leslie Sanchez
Volunteer Coordinator	Judy Buchanan
Members at Large	Dan Leckey, Rien Vesseur,
Sarah	Kate Knight, Lorne Seifred





I am so excited to be directing the first show of the 2025/2026 Mercury Players season. I wanted to direct this play because I love a good mystery. The elements that come to life in this story, such as friendship, secrets, and storytelling are all so fascinating and fun to explore. How well do we really know our friends? What secrets are they keeping? What kinds of stories do they have inside them? There's so many questions to be asked, and you'll definitely get some answers today!

I've been very honoured to work with an amazing cast during what has been my first ever directing experience. They've made it an absolute delight, and I am so excited for all of you to see how they bring this thrilling tale to life!

This is Julia's fifth Mercury Players production. Directing is a new experience for her and she's so excited to have this opportunity. Some of her previous acting credits include Emily Brontë in last season's *Brontë: The Word Without* and Dorine in *Tartuffe.* Julia loves being involved in community theatre and she'll keep coming back for more amazing opportunities, and she hopes you do too! Enjoy the show!

Zoe Nickerson: Stage Manager

This is Zoe's first time performing not as an actor but as a stage manager and lighting/sound operator. Her previous acting performances include Bronte: The World Without, Back to the 80s, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged, Aladdin: The Panto, Beauty and the Beast, The Dining Room, and Honk. She would like to thank her husband for his limitless love and support. Hope you all enjoy the show!



Kathy Yewell: Producer

Kathy is delighted to help bring *Burn* to the Mercury stage. Since moving to Duncan four years ago, she has performed in Mercury Players' *The Female of the Species* and *The Gravitational Pull of Bernice Trimble*, and in Ladysmith Little Theatre's Beyond Reasonable Doubt. She also produced Mercury Players' *Mrs Reynolds and the Ruffian* and stage managed *Constellations*.

Adrian Ingham: Robert

Adrian has been with Mercury Players for over a decade, usually acting, but most recently directing Constellations. His last acting appearance was playing *Tartuffe*, and before that he played Bill Livingston in The Women of Lockerbie.



Huy ch q'u siem

The Mercury Players acknowledge that for thousands of years the Quw'utsun People have walked gently on the unceded and non-treaty territories where we now gather to share stories.



Megan Bourns: Samira

Megan has participated in many productions ,over many years, with Mercury Players, Shawnigan Players and Langham Court. She has worn many different hats including stage manager, producer and grateful actor! Some memorable experiences: being honoured to be on stage as part of Mercury Players *The Vagina Monologues*; playing Siobhan in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and, most recently, playing Madeline in *The Women of Lockerbie*. She is thankful to be currently working with such a thoughtful and accommodating director and appreciates this amazing cast. Megan would like to thank those important people in her life for their patience while she "plays". Enjoy the show!

Jordan Lyric: David

After having the privilege of being cast in a starring role in Shawnigan Players' hilariously unhinged production of Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* this past summer, Jordan Lyric is now thrilled to join the Mercury Players alongside the talented cast of John Muggleton's *Burn*, playing David. Jordan is a voice actor, writer and educator, with Tourette Syndrome. He works to spread awareness and reduce stigma regarding this complex condition, in classrooms and online.





Jessica Mattin: Eve

Jess (she/her) is thrilled to be a part of *Burn* and has had so much fun playing Eve. Previous credits with The Mercury Players are playing Molly in *The Female of the Species* and playing Ronnie in *Constellations*. Huge shout goes out to director Julia and stage manager Zoë, and the rest of the crew for all that they do. To the rest of the cast, it's been a delight being unhinged with you!

Erin Butler: Paul's Voice

Erin has been in theatre, on and off stage, for about forty years, for better and worse. He was most recently on stage in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and directed *The Gravitational Pull of Bernice Trimble*. *Burn* is the best of both worlds: acting but also being offstage. And a lot less writing in the title.





Laura Faulkner: Tara's Voice

Laura is pleased to (dis)appear in this production of *Burn*. Her last role with Mercury Players was Judy in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, opposite Erin, her fellow disembodied voice. Laura has frequently haunted the Cowichan Valley Shakespeare Festival with The Shawnigan Players, and she has a few directing credits, including *Hamlet* at the Duncan Showroom and *Puss in Boots* here on the Heritage Hall stage. Laura enjoys baroque recorder music, punk rock piano, and bird watching with Myke. Thanks to Julia, Zoë, and the Mercury production team for making the magic happen.

JOIN THE THEATRICAL FUN!



Are you an actor, producer, stage manager, director?

Are you interested in the essential behind-the-scenes stuff or even an eager spectator?

If you have any questions,

email our membership chairperson at membership@ mercuryplayers.org. We'd be delighted to have you as part of our theatre community!

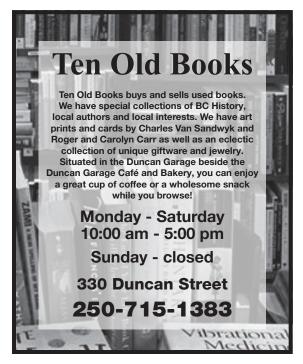
Mercury Players is a local welcoming group of theatre enthusiasts who enjoy presenting a variety of genres of plays — from comedies and musicals to mysteries and dramas and everything in between. The Mercury Players plans 3 live on stage shows and 4 staged readings each theatre season.

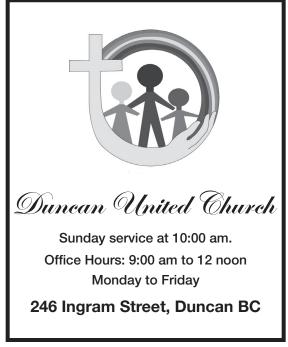
We hold open auditions and invite anyone to audition for a role. Besides acting, there are spaces for people who like to do set design and building, lighting and sound designers, costume designers, and front of house. Almost any position in a theatre production is open to both young or old. From September to June, we hold regular play readings online with Zoom or in person as arranged by the Play Selection Committee.

Yearly memberships are available at the following rates: Individuals \$15, Couples & Families \$25.

Check out our website at www.mercuryplayers.org. You can join online or download a membership form. Look for us on Facebook (Mercury Players Events), Instagram (mercury. players), and watch our website for updates. You can also sign up for one of our mailing lists.

The Mercury Players Society







MERCURY PLAYERS LIVE ONSTAGE 2025-2026

TIMEPIECE

A PLAY BY KICO GONZALES-RISSO

directed by Mary Louise Phillips

APRIL 24 - MAY 10, 2026

