

THE MERCURY PLAYERS PRESENT

# BURN

*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

Sylvia

## 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  
Nonsense

## 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

by John Muggleton

*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

Robert . . . . . Adrian Ingham  
David . . . . . Jordan Lyric  
Samira . . . . . Megan Bourns  
Eve . . . . . Jessica Mattin

## VOICES

Paul . . . . . Erin Butler  
Tara . . . . . Laura Faulkner

## PRODUCTION CREW

Director . . . . . Julia Lalonde  
Director Mentor . . . . . Sylvia Swift  
Stage Manager . . . . . Zoe Nickerson  
Producer . . . . . Kathy Yewell  
Set Designer/Lead Set Constructor . . . . Lorne Seifred  
Set Construction . . . . . Luke Downs  
. . . . . Sylvia Swift  
Set Load In . . . . . Lorne Seifred, Luke Downs,  
. . . . . Margie Pringle, Sylvia Swift, Kara van Rijn,  
. . . . . Mony Vesseur, Rien Vesseur, Kathy Yewell, Dan Leckey

Lighting Designer . . . . . Kara van Rijn  
Sound Designer . . . . . Rien Vesseur  
Lighting/Sound Operator . . . . . Zoe Nickerson  
Costume Advisor . . . . . Mony Vesseur  
Props . . . . . Margie Pringle  
Photography . . . . . Mony Vesseur  
Publicity . . . . . Kathy Yewell, Mony Vesseur,  
. . . . . Rien Vesseur, Shauna Clinging  
Poster . . . . . John Muggleton  
Programme . . . . . Duncan PrintCraft Ltd, Kathy Yewell  
Front of House Manager . . . . . Leslie Sanchez

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**BURN is presented by special arrangement with the playwright, John Muggleton**

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



The Mercury Players Society gratefully  
acknowledges the support of the CVRD



### **Julia Lalonde: Director**

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](mailto: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](http://www.mercuryplayers.org). You can  
join online or download a membership form. Look for us  
on Facebook (Mercury Players Events), Instagram ([mercuryplayers](https://www.instagram.com/mercuryplayers)), and watch our website for updates. You can also  
sign up for one of our mailing lists.

The Mercury Players Society

## Ten Old Books

Ten Old Books buys and sells used books.  
We have special collections of BC History,  
local authors and local interests. We have art  
prints and cards by Charles Van Sandwyk and  
Roger and Carolyn Carr as well as an eclectic  
collection of unique giftware and jewelry.  
Situating in the Duncan Garage beside the  
Duncan Garage Café and Bakery, you can enjoy  
a great cup of coffee or a wholesome snack  
while you browse!

**Monday - Saturday  
10:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Sunday - closed**

**330 Duncan Street  
250-715-1383**



## *Duncan United Church*

**Sunday service at 10:00 am.**

**Office Hours: 9:00 am to 12 noon**

**Monday to Friday**

**246 Ingram Street, Duncan BC**



THE MERCURY PLAYERS PRESENT

# CANADIAN WILD FLOWERS

A PLAY BY MARY LOUISE PHILLIPS

Directed by Layne Kriwoken



*FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 8, 2026*

MERCURY PLAYERS LIVE ONSTAGE 2025-2026

# TIMEPIECE

A PLAY BY KICO GONZALES-RISSO

directed by Mary Louise Phillips

*APRIL 24 - MAY 10, 2026*

