



THE MERCURY PLAYERS PRESENT

CANADIAN WILD FLOWERS

A PLAY BY LOUISE PHILLIPS

DIRECTED BY LAYNE KRIWOKEN

Duncan United
Church Hall

246 Ingram Street
Duncan BC

Feb 20th –
Mar 8, 2026



A TRUE STORY OF ART, RESILIENCE,
AND A MOTHER'S DARING

27 YEARS OF QUALITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

2025 - 2026

Burn
Canadian Wild Flowers
Timepiece

2024 - 2025

The Female of the Species
Constellations
Brontë: The World Without

2023 - 2024

The Gravitational Pull of Bernice Trimble
Comfort & Joy
Tartuffe
Lesser Demons

2022 - 2023

Tempting Providence
Mrs. Reynolds & the Ruffian
The Women of Lockerbie

2021 - 2022

The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate
Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery
Vagina Monologues (fundraiser for CWA) Quartet

2019 - 2020

Vanya and Sonya and Masha and Spike

2018 - 2019

Deathtrap
Almost, Maine
The Curious Incident of the Dog In The Night-Time
Beau Jest

2017 - 2018

Mending Fences
Nuncrackers
A Christmas Carol (w. Shawnnigan Players)
A Man For All Seasons (w. Shawnnigan Players)
Anatomy of Gray

2016 - 2017

Virtual Reality & The Way of All Fish
Kiss the Moon, Kiss the Sun
Nunsense

2015 - 2016

Shirley Valentine
Rumors
Steel Magnolias

2014 - 2015

Tommy Douglas
The Original Cast

2013 - 2014

Arsenic and Old Lace

2012 - 2013

Maggie's Getting Married

2011 - 2012

Doubt
Love Letters

2010 - 2011

Our Town
Tapas Night

2009 - 2010

Sylvia

2008 - 2009

Twelve Angry Men

2007 - 2008

Ballymore Reel

2006 - 2007

Cabaret Evening
Majority of Two

2004 - 2005

The Man With the Plastic Sandwich
Les Belles Soeurs

2003 - 2004

I'm Not Rappaport
The Miracle Worker (CSSS)
Tony and Tina's Wedding (CSSS)
Hay Fever

2002 - 2003

Play It Again Sam
Waiting For the Parade (CSSS)
A Long Way Home (CSSS)
The Odd Couple
The Gin Game

2001 - 2002

What I Did Last Summer (CSSS)
On Golden Pond
A Merry Mercury Christmas
Friends, Lovers and Other Strangers (CSSS)
Shirley Valentine

2000 - 2001

The Boys Next Door
A Child's Christmas in Wales
Diary of Anne Frank (CSSS)
Teahouse of the August Moon

1999 - 2000

Educating Rita
A Night with Dylan Thomas
Robbie Burns Night
Whose Life Is It Anyway? (CSSS)

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. Situated 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

Mercury Players Society President's Message

Welcome to the Mercury Players production of *Canadian Wild Flowers*, our second production of the 2025/26 season. We are excited to showcase the writing of one of our members and to celebrate our Canadian roots.

Look out for the final production of our season April 24-May 10, *Timepiece* by Kico Gonzalez-Risso, directed by Louise Phillips. That production will also compete in the South Island Zone Theatre Festival with 4 other shows in a week long event held at Ladysmith Little Theatre. Be sure to check it out May 11-16.

We are continuing with our staged reading series, play reading nights and Improv. Check out our website for more information.

If you are not already a member please consider joining us. We have many opportunities to get involved.

Enjoy the play!

- Sylvia Swift, President of the Mercury Players Society



A special thank you to Chemainus Theatre, Cowichan Musical Society, Driftwood Theatre, Langham Court, and Michelle Iclef for their help with costumes.

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.

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.

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 |

Special thanks to our

fabulous Front of House Volunteers!

We couldn't put on the shows without you.



The Mercury Players Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the CVRD

CANADIAN WILD FLOWERS

A PLAY BY LOUISE PHILLIPS

DIRECTED BY LAYNE KRIWOKEN

Canadian Wild Flowers 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

1865 to 1868, Upper Canada a.k.a Canada West a.k.a. Ontario

The years depicted in this play coincide with the formalization and expansion of policies that displaced Indigenous peoples, restricted their rights and movement, and forcibly separated children from their families. While settler families were building lives, businesses, and cultural legacies in what became Canada, Indigenous communities were being systematically targeted by state policies whose harms continue to impact families intergenerationally and structurally today.

The struggles portrayed by the characters in this play - illness, loss, gendered limits, and economic hardship and more - are real and meaningful. At the same time, these experiences existed within a landscape of unequal access to safety, mobility, family preservation, and social power. Holding these truths together invites us to consider how different histories unfolded simultaneously, and to sit with the tensions between one family's journey and the broader colonial context in which it was unfolding.

CAST

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Agnes Moodie Fitzgibbon | Laura Interlandi |
| Susanna Moodie | Mary Louise Phillips |
| Catharine Parr Traill | Wendy Wearne |
| Brown Chamberlin | Jordan Lyric |
| Bridget | Elena Wright-Fossett |
| Doctor Roy | Max Bethel |
| Lovell | Rien Vesseur |
| Ellis | Rob Foell |
| Maime Fitzgibbon | MacKenzie Ralfs |
| James Fitzgibbon | Quinn Conway |
| Cherrie Fitzgibbon | Aria Interlandi |
| Alice Fitzgibbon | Willow Interlandi |

PRODUCTION CREW

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Director | Layne Kriwoken |
| Stage Manager | Sylvia Swift |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Kennedy Noelle |
| Producer | Sarah Kate Knight |
| Set Design | Sylvia Swift, Layne Kriwoken |
| Set Construction ... | Dan Leckey, Sylvia Swift, Luke Downs |
| Lighting Designer | Zoe Nickerson |
| Lighting/Sound Operator ... | Kara van Rijn / Dan Leckey |
| Props | Deborah Jones |
| Costumes | Mony Vesseur |
| Costumes Assistant | Shannon Roome |
| Backstage Assistant | Katie Conway |
| Photography | Mony Vesseur, Rien Vesseur |
| Poster | Jazmyn Mari (<i>Feather Fox Arts</i>) |
| Front of House Manager | Leslie Sanchez |



Layne Kriwoken: Director

This is Layne's third season with Mercury Players and he's a better person for it! Seriously, he recommends all of you get involved with this inspiring group! It's been an honour to bring Louise Phillips' tender script to the stage for more people to experience and enjoy. Based on a true story from a pivotal time in Canadian history makes it even more meaningful. It has been a delight to work with this large cast, ranging from young children to seniors. Working collaboratively with these actors, he has seen how choices manifest and change which has been an edifying and rewarding experience. We are honoured to present this interesting and entertaining evening of Canadiana story telling. This story is an encouraging reminder that in difficult times, determined talented people - though often disadvantaged - can persevere and even prosper when facing systemic prejudices.

Sylvia Swift: Stage Manager

Sylvia has truly enjoyed working with this adaptable and creative team. Such dedication. You may have seen her onstage in *Lesser Demons*, *Tartuffe*, *Tempting Providence* and *Quartet*. Behind the scenes, she has been set designing and directing. Her latest accomplishment was winning Best Production at the Theatre B.C.'s mainstage Festival for *Bronte: The World Without*. Enjoy!



Kennedy Noelle: Assistant Stage Manager

Kennedy is in grade 11 at Frances Kelsey Secondary School. She has been in one musical, *Rock of Ages*, with Francis Kelsey Theatre, as well as stage managing two previous shows. She is super excited for her first show with the Mercury Players as assistant stage manager!



Sarah Kate Knight: Producer

This is Sarah Kate's first time producing, and it has been a great learning experience. She loves working with Layne and Sylvia on anything, and helping bring Louise's beautiful play to life has been fantastic! Sarah Kate has also been working hard as a Kit Kat girl in her concurrent show, *Cabaret*, in Ladysmith (shameless plug).



Mary Louise Phillips: Susanna Moodie / Playwright

As actor: most recently, Mary Louise played Scrooge in *A Tiny Christmas Carol* for Chemainus Theatre; Mrs Reese in *The Farndale...Murder Mystery*, Jean in *Quartet* and Sylvia in *Lesser Demons* for Mercury; earlier, she took on the roles of Madame Arcati in *Blithe Spirit* for Driftwood Players in Gibsons; and Miss Lavish in *A Room with a View*, Lady Julia in *Waste*, and Mrs Jarley in *The Old Curiosity Shop* for United Players in Vancouver. Mary Louise directed *Comfort and Joy* and *Mrs Reynolds and the Ruffian* for Mercury. She was commissioned to write and direct *siyaya: Our Families, Our Stories, and Voices*, both for the Sechelt Arts Festival. *Canadian Wild Flowers* had its first production for Driftwood in 2018. Crofton resident Mary Louise dedicates this play to her beloved husband and best friend David, Rest In Peace.

Laura Interlandi: Agnes Moodie Fitzgibbon

Laura is grateful to be back on stage for the first time in 14 years. Before parenthood and a career pivot into human services, she was an actor with credits at The Belfry, Opera Hamilton, Drayton, and more. She trained at LAMDA in the UK and continued studying improv and acting while living in Toronto and New York City. Her proudest creative milestone is sharing this stage with her daughters.



Wendy Wearne: Catharine Parr Traill

Wendy has been involved in productions in the mid-island region for close to three decades. Whether treading the boards herself or working behind the scenes, she feels there is no greater honour than telling another's story. Most recent acting credit: *Yaga* in Western Edge's production of *Yaga*. Most recent Directing credit: *Animal Farm* (V.I.U.) This is her first production for Mercury Players, but hopefully not her last. As Catherine would say: "Hope on - Hope ever."

Jordan Lyric: Brown Chamberlin

Jordan is so pleased to be back on stage with the Mercury Players after appearing alongside the talented cast of *Burn* this past fall. Jordan started acting in the summer of 2025 when he appeared with the Shawnigan Players in Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* in the role of Antipholus of Ephesus. Jordan returned to work with the Shawnigan Players over the holiday season for their pantomime, *Santa in Space*.



Elena Wright-Fossett: Bridget

Elena is a grade nine student at Quamichan Middle School. She has shown a strong interest in theatre from a young age and loves acting. When she's not on stage, Elena enjoys creative activities, spending time with friends, and continuing to improve her skills as a performer. She'd like to say thanks to her biggest supporters: her mom and younger sister. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Max Bethel: Doctor Roy

This is Max's first full production with the Mercury Players, and he couldn't be more excited. You may have seen him in the staged reading of *Design for Living* with the same amazing director. Max was also just in *Cinderella the Musical* with CMS as Lord Pinkleton. In the future, Max is hoping to turn one of the children's books he's written into a play, so keep an eye out!



Rien Vesseur: Lovell

Rien has been an ardent enthusiast actor and director with the Mercury Players for the last 12 years or so. He is very glad and grateful for the role of Mr Lovell the publisher, a kind and supportive character, who despite his Irish roots is a fervent supporter of the Canadian cause. He thanks Layne and Sylvia and the rest of cast and crew for this wonderful experience.

Rob Foell: Ellis

Joni's words never more relevant: "We are stardust/billion year-old carbon. We are golden/caught up in the devil's bargain. And we've got to get ourselves back to the garden." (Woodstock, 1969) Rob is thrilled to be here: in *Canadian Wild Flowers*, with Mercury Players, at Duncan United, in the Cowichan Valley, on Vancouver Island, in British Columbia Canada - of Earth.



MacKenzie Ralfs: Maime Fitzgibbon

Mackenzie has been doing theatre for just over a year now. She has had so much fun playing the role of Maime. She was involved in the staged reading of *Canadian Wild Flowers* last year and is so happy to be invited back. It has been a very fun process and experience exploring her character, working with her fellow actors, and watching this production develop.



Quinn Conway: James Fitzgibbon

Quinn is very excited to be performing with the Mercury Players. He is in grade 7 and this is his first performance outside of school. When not in school, he enjoys art in all forms, music, working out, and being active in sports. He loves doing things with his friends like airsoft and calisthenics. He has always loved animals - he has a dog and a cat but wishes for more animal friends.



Aria Interlandi: Cherrie Fitzgibbon

Aria has been participating in theatre for the past few years. She has played Snow White, Captain Hook, a feminist Pink Crayon, and Young Wednesday. She also sings, plays the drums, and likes sports such as field hockey, basketball, volleyball and rugby. Her favourite theatre shows are *Wicked*, *Hamilton*, *Legally Blonde*, *Chicago*, and *Six*.



Willow Interlandi: Alice Fitzgibbon

Willow has been in theatre since kindergarten, including school plays, Shawnigan Kids Theatre Troupe, and the staged reading of *Canadian Wild Flowers* last year. Past roles include Barbaloot Bear, Lost Boy, Blue Crayon, and Dopey. She would love to be a voice actor in the future. When she is not acting, she likes hanging out with her friends or her two dogs.

JOIN THE THEATRICAL FUN!

Are you an actor, producer, stage manager, or 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 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*



THE MERCURY PLAYERS PRESENT A STAGED READING

Maternal Combustion

A play by Dyanna Jacklin

Directed by Jess Mattin

Friday, March 27th-7PM

The Sands Chapel

TIMEPIECE

A PLAY BY KICO GONZALEZ-RISSO

directed by Mary Louise Phillips

APRIL 24 - MAY 10, 2026

