

**NORTH GRENVILLE  
COMMUNITY THEATRE**

**PRESENTS**

# **BLOODY MURDER**

**BY ED SALA**

**MAY 23, 24, 25 7:30 P.M.**

**MAY 26 1 P.M.**

**BRUNCH @ 11 A.M.**

**URBAN DALE THEATRE  
NORTH GRENVILLE  
MUNICIPAL CENTRE**



## Message from the Director

The play *Bloody Murder* has a little bit of everything. It starts out with familiar ground for the aficionado of the good old British drawing room mystery. Our favorite stereotypes start the intrigue, and we can see that everyone could be a suspect! Who will be the first victim? The pompous British Major? The wealthy Dowager? But wait. We have seen this all before, time after time, is it just - déjà vu?

Ed Sala, the author, has worked for years as an actor in movies and on television. For example, he appeared on the TV mystery series *Matlock* in 3 episodes, playing 3 entirely different roles. Keep that in mind as you watch this play. He takes us on a voyage that soon crosses over into the mind of the playwright as the plot develops. Is it a mystery? A comedy? Or simply absurd?

The twists make *Bloody Murder* a play that actors often say they especially enjoy. Why? Maybe because the story lets them break a few rules, and even mess around with the fabled - Fourth Wall. Remember - this is a story. As the bodies pile up, keep in mind that it is all just pretend!

### North Grenville Community Theatre Needs You!!

Backstage, on-stage, and all points in between.  
Get involved by emailing [president@ngct.ca](mailto:president@ngct.ca)

## THE CAST

### Alyson Reid - Lady Somerset

Alyson joined Theatre Night in Merrickville in 1989. She has played a variety of roles in TNIM productions; a homicidal woman in *Veronica's Room*, a ghost in *Blithe Spirit*, and a less-than-ethical corporate spin-doctor in *The Perils of Persephone*. A highlight for Alyson was portraying the orphaned Angie in *Paper Trail*, a role that won her one of her three acting awards. Alyson revels in playing nuanced characters and works to uncover the depth in each portrayal. For years, she shared her knowledge and love of performance with the Merrickville Pathfinders, mixing the fun of acting with learning the value of character skills in everyday life. Alyson is honored to be part of the *Bloody Murder* cast and

looks forward to many years with the North Grenville Community Theatre.

### **Dee Sheppard - Jane**

In her theatrical debut, Dee plays the role of Jane in *Bloody Murder*. Acting has always been her dream from as far back as she could remember. A recent resident of Kemptville, she decided to inquire about possible community theatre opportunities. When The Community Theatre Expo Workshop ad popped up on social media, it was as if fate stepped in. She attended the workshop, met some fabulous people, and auditioned for a role for this play with North Grenville Community Theatre and got a part! Dee has loved learning with the NGCT cast and crew of *Bloody Murder* and she is beyond grateful for this amazing opportunity.

### **Jasmine Churchill - Emma Reese**

Jasmine Churchill is a very (self-proclaimed) influential actor. She is in grade 11 at South Carleton High School, where she recently competed with their drama club in the National Theatre School Dramafest. She won two awards: an award of excellence in acting at the regional level, and an ensemble award with the rest of the club for writing and creation (they wrote the whole thing themselves!) at the regional level. This is all to say: "I'm a very cool and influential, award-winning actor."

### **Al Billiald - Devon Tremaine**

After residing in Merrickville for a few years and with no theatre experience, he auditioned for Theatre Night in Merrickville's production of "*Harvey*" in 2002. Completing this initial small acting role gave him the interest to continue and he was fortunate to participate in 21 various sized acting roles in as many productions with TNIM, culminating with the lead acting role in "*Deathtrap*" in 2022. In most productions over those 20 years, he was also assisting off-stage in various production capacities.

Since moving to Kemptville a few years ago, Al participated with North Grenville Community Theatre's production of "*The Death of Me*" in 2023. He commented that: "Amateur Community Theatre provides not only great, local & live entertainment for the audience, but a chance for participants to learn and grow as an individual. It provides great teamwork, camaraderie, and fun!"

### **Tom Insley - Major Quimby**

Tom nearly failed public speaking in 8<sup>th</sup> grade due to stage fright. However, facing his fears head-on, he joined his high school drama club the following year. Discovering just how addictive a live audience can be, he subsequently performed as Benny Southstreet in *Guys & Dolls* (1984), Hugo Peabody in *Bye Bye Birdie* (1987), Pontius Pilate in *Barabbas & Pilate* (2003), and Howard in *Moon Over Buffalo* (2006), interspersed with supporting appearances in the musicals *Oliver!*, *Oklahoma*, and *Funny Girl* along the way. Tom was also an extra in John Candy's last completed film, *Canadian Bacon* (he's in the scene at the hockey game).

### **Kevin Cockell - Charles**

Sparked by a casual expression of curiosity regarding community theatre that chanced to fall upon receptive ears, Kevin has embarked on a voyage of discovery and learning with the North Grenville Community Theatre. The cast and crew of *Bloody Murder* have been wonderfully supportive throughout. Side activity in the NGCT workshop on Molière's *Le Malade Imaginaire* (including the opportunity to read the roles of Le Notaire and Béralde) has added a certain "je ne sais quoi" to the experience. *Bloody Murder* is Kevin's first full theatrical undertaking.

### **Alisa Insley - Mr. Woo, Chief Inspector Phelps, El Gato**

Alisa has been participating in theatre since the age of four and is excited to take part in the production of *Bloody Murder*. Previous roles included various characters in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Ceili in Molière's *Scarnel* and Hermia in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This is her first time performing with the North Grenville Community Theatre group and coincidentally is acting with her father, Major Quimby.

### **Larisa Christensen - The Countess, The Motorist and The Nun**

Larisa has been involved in Community Theatre for several years, both in the limelight and behind the scenes. She has previously participated in several North Grenville Community Theatre and ITR productions and is thrilled to be appearing back in Kemptville as part of the troupe again. Larisa feels honored to be working alongside such a wonderful and talented cast and crew for the company's spring feature. We've had a lot of fun and laughter in rehearsals and hope you will share it too.

## THE CREW

### **Steve Wendt - Director**

Steve has been directing plays in the region for about 10 years. He is currently the group's President, elections take place annually, memberships are only ten bucks. Talk to Steve if you want to get involved with NGCT, on stage or behind the scenes. People will ask Steve: "Why even bother with community theatre"? His reply is that the activity exercises fundamental human behaviors that harken back to our distant past, when we dramatized events around the campfire. Grrr. It's raw humanity. Everyone needs the stage, and that includes the audience as well as the ones who create the illusions.

### **Robin Churchill - Assistant Director/Stage Manager**

Robin is happy with her role of assistant director/stage manager for *Bloody Murder*. She has learned a lot about directing from Steve as well as from the cast and crew and is having fun with the backstage choreography of stage managing now. *Bloody Murder* is one of the funniest storylines she has seen, and it never gets old, no matter how many times she has viewed it. She hopes audiences get as many giggles from the twisted plot as she does.

### **Catherine Potts-Halpin - Set Design and Decoration, Costumes, Graphics**

Catherine has been designing sets and making props and costumes since her university days. In this capacity she is mainly concerned with visual magic, that part of the art that delights the eye and supports the story. Of course, this actually involves messing around with paint and power tools and poking through dusty thrift shops! So, it's a lot of blood, sweat and tears - and teamwork. She would be happy to show interested individuals a bit about this part of the craft, from script analysis to stage carpentry.

### **Terry Watkiss - Sound and Light Technician**

Terry has been involved behind the scenes doing sound and lights for more than thirteen years in North Grenville, North Gower, Smiths Falls and Perth. He has also performed in traditional stage plays, radio plays and murder mysteries in those same locations. In 2021/2022 he was the technical director for the *Outerbridge Clockwork Mysteries* series in Smiths Falls with illusionists Ted and Marion Outerbridge and in 2023 he

was the technical director for the EODL One Act Festival in North Grenville. Terry says: “Working with the talented pool of people, whether behind the scenes or on the stage, has opened me to completely new and different ways of thinking and interacting with the world.”

**Dominic Churchill - Sound and Lights**

Dominic has been involved in NGCT since the age of 12. Since then, he has been an assistant tech, helped build stages, acted in a number of plays and washed many a dish for shows. This is Dominic’s first time being responsible for designing the sound and lighting for a full-length play, although he was responsible for it in NGCT’s production of *Death of Me* in 2023. Dominic is a third-year student at the University of Ottawa and Secretary to the Eastern Ontario Drama League.

**Debbie MacGillivray - Producer**

Initially only wanting to work behind the scenes when five years ago she joined the Kemptville Players (now known as NGCT) Debbie took on increasingly larger roles until finally she took on the role of Amber in “Bob’s Your Elf”. She also played Edith in “Blithe Spirit”. She has produced several KPI/NGCT productions preferring the administrative aspect of producer over directing. She may tread the boards again at some point in the future.

**PRODUCTION TEAM**

Director	Steve Wendt
Asst Director/ Stage Mgr.	Robin Churchill,
Producer	Debbie MacGillivray
Set Construction	Catherine Potts-Halpin, Jason Churchill, Mike McCoy
Set Design	Catherine Potts-Halpin
Set Painting	Catherine Potts-Halpin
Graphic Artist	Catherine Potts-Halpin
Wardrobe	Catherine Potts-Halpin
Choreography	Jeannine Philpott
Prompter	Lee Gaw
Tech Design & Programming	Terry Watkiss

Sound Design	Dominic Churchill,
Sound Operations	Peter Hatherell
Lighting Operation	Bryan Hamilton
Properties	Catherine Potts-Halpin, Cathie Raina,
Hair/Makeup	Suzy Potts, Diana Fisher
Front of House	Debbie MacGillivray, Sandy Wendt
Videography	John Wilberforce
Photography	Anna Rochon
Ticket Sales	Richard Pickard

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THORTON WILDER'S  
**OUR TOWN**



URBANDALE THEATRE  
NORTH GRENVILLE MUNICIPAL CENTRE  
NOVEMBER 20, 21, 22, 24

North Grenville Community Theatre will produce  
“*Our Town*” in the fall of 2024. Directed by Darrell Nunn, Volunteers are welcome!

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