



Windsor Feminist Theatre

Illuminating the reality of women's lives and stories through theatre and the arts

Windsor Feminist Theatre and Kelly Daniels present the UK premiere of Judith Thompson's



“WATCHING GLORY DIE”

“Thompson is a treasure of the Canadian stage...”
James Ryan Gobuty, *The Theatre Reader*

“Packing more fact than fiction, *Watching Glory Die* shocks, clarifies and engages.”
Evan Andrew MacKay, *Post City Toronto*

Watching Glory Die takes a bold dramatic leap [...] to forge the kind of visceral lyricism that is the hallmark of Judith Thompson at her most powerful. - *Canadian Stage*

“Watching Glory Die”

Written and Directed by Judith Thompson
Starring: Kelli Fox, Kathryn Haggis, Nathanya Barnett
Lighting Design Collaborator: Kirsten Watt
Stage Manager & Costume Design: Meaghan Carpentier

Assembly Rooms, BallRoom
August 1-25th 2019, 13:50 (75mins)
Previews: 1 - 2 August £10
3 - 25 August (not 7, 13, 20), £13-14

For Tickets: [@assemblyfest](https://www.assemblyfestival.com/whats-on/watching-glory-die) 0131 623 3030

Visit Windsor Feminist Theatre: <http://windsorfeministtheatre.ca/watching-glory-die/>

PR: Miriam Attwood at Storytelling PR
Miriam@storytellingpr.com or 07825 642225

StoryTelling PR

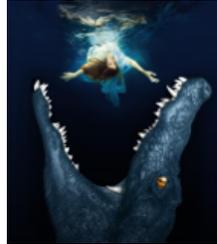
...getting good work seen

Windsor Feminist Theatre and Kelly Daniels Presents

Watching Glory Die

Assembly Ballrooms

August 1-August 25



From Canadian playwright Judith Thompson comes **Watching Glory Die**, a play inspired by the story of Ashley Smith, a teenager who took her own life in October 2007 whilst under suicide watch in custody at the Grand Valley Institution for Women. The attending guards were ordered not to intervene until Ashley was blue, and when they entered 45 minutes later, she was dead. The death was eventually ruled a homicide, the guards punished, but those who gave the orders were promoted.

In the play, Ashley is substituted for Glory, a 19-year-old arrested, like Ashley, for throwing apples at a postman. In her cell, she wrestles with the demons in her head, whilst outside her mother Rosellen believes she can feel the pain Glory is in. The third character in the story is Gail, the prison guard, who tries to tow the line between her conscience and her professional duty.

These complex, affecting intersecting stories raise questions of prison reform, how we treat those with mental health issues, and the cruelty that exists in our society, but so often goes unacknowledged.

Judith Thompson is one of Canada's most important and celebrated playwrights. Her plays *White Biting Dog* (1984) and anthology *The Other Side of the Dark* (1989) won Governor General's Awards, and she has twice won the prestigious Floyd S. Chalmers Canadian Play Award. In 2007 she was awarded the Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts, and in 2012 she was awarded the [Herbert Whittaker](#) Award for Distinguished Contribution to Canadian Theatre by the [Canadian Theatre Critics Association](#). She is also the only Canadian playwright to have won the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, the oldest and largest prize awarded to woman playwrights. Her work has always focused on characters on the fringes of society, and often confronts the horror and violence in modern society. They are regularly performed across Canada in both French and English.

On *Watching Glory Die*, and the inquest that inspired it, Judith writes: "*Ashley simply could not be a "good girl." She could not shut up and do what she was told. She was wild, and reckless, and if she had been a boy, she would have been admired. The artist's job is to throw those crab apples, to unsettle and startle conforming folks, to question everything. That is what Ashley was doing, in her way, and she paid with her life. I am as interested in the guard and Ashley's mother as I am in Ashley. Three women, all ensnared in patriarchal fascism.*"

The character of Gail is played by Kathryn Haggis, whose credits include *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 1* and *2*. Multi-award winner Kelli Fox plays Rosellen, and award-winning slam poet Nathanya Barnett plays Glory.

Web: <http://picdeer.com/windsorfemtheat>

Watching Glory Die

Assembly Rooms, Ballroom

13.50pm (75 mins)

Previews: 1 – 2 August, £10

3 – 25 August (not 7, 13, 20), £13-£14

For tickets; www.assemblyfestival.com @assemblyfest 0131 623 3030 / tickets.edfringe.com

@edfringe 0131 226 0026

WATCHING GLORY DIE

By Judith Thompson



COMPANY BIOS

> ARTISTS

Nathanya Barnett

(Actor/Glory)

Nathanya Barnett is a poet, playwright, and performer. She is a recent graduate of the University of Windsor and an alumni of the Blyth Festival Young Company. She is an award winning slam poet and former Captain of the Windsor Poetry Slam team. While her training has led towards a career in Front of House, she is also excited to be starting an MFA in Play writing and Poetry this coming fall. She is honoured to be playing "Glory" in this production, alongside and under the direction of such Canadian theatre legends.

Kelli Fox

(Actor/Rosellen)

Kelli Fox is an actor/director with more than 30 years' experience on stages across Canada, and in the U.S., including 13 seasons with the Shaw Festival, and 3 seasons with the Stratford Festival. From fall of 2017 to the spring of 2018 she served as Artistic Associate at Globe Theatre in Regina. Kelli has been recognized with a Jessie award (Keely & Du, Arts Club/Canstage), a Dora nomination (Top Girls, Soulpepper), a Capitol Critics Circle award (A Room of One's Own, Shaw tour), a Toronto Critic's Circle award (Penelopiad, Nightwood Theatre), as well as sharing a Dora with the Penelopiad ensemble. She was the 2016 recipient of the Gina Wilkinson Prize recognizing emerging directors transitioning mid-career.



Kathryn Haggis

(Actor/Gail)

Kathryn Haggis is a Canadian actor and writer, living in Toronto ON. After graduating at The Neighbourhood Playhouse Theatre School in New York City, she returned to Toronto and joined The Second City auxiliary touring Company. While at SC in Toronto, Kathryn spent years teaching improv to children, youth and young adults of all abilities. She also enjoyed years of playing Francis, in Sonny Mills' live, episodic, Dyke City, for Buddies in Bad Times Theatre and she treasures being directed by Judith Thompson in Lois Fine's, Freda and Gem's Best of the Week. Kathryn's favourite film and TV credits include playing cousin Marianthi in My Big Fat Greek Wedding (1 and 2), and most recently: Imposter's, on Netflix. Kathryn is currently collaborating on a short film, called Dead On. A lover of all things comedy, Kathryn wants everyone in Scotland to know: her brother married a girl named, Bonnie. :)



Judith Thompson

(Playwright and Director)

Officer of the Order of Canada, Judith Thompson is a Canadian playwright who lives in Toronto, Ontario. She has twice been awarded the Governor General's Award for drama, and is the recipient of many other awards including the Order of Canada, the Walter Carsen Performing Arts Award, the Toronto Arts Award, The Epilepsy Ontario Award, The B'nai B'rith Award, the Dora, the Chalmers, the Susan Smith Blackburn Award (a global competition for the best play written by a woman in the English Language) and the Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award, both for Palace of the End, which premiered at Canadian Stage, and has been produced all over the world in many languages. She has received honorary doctorates from Thorneloe University and, in Nov. 2016, Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.



> ADMINISTRATIVE



Marie Balsom
(Marketing and Communications Director)

Marie Balsom is a Communications Specialist with over eighteen years of experience working in the field of public relations at the post-secondary education level. In her position at Brock University's Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts (MIWSFPA), she created and delivered highly effective communication strategies in the creation of the overall MIWSFPA branding. Leading a team, she managed the direction and tactical implementation of the Brock brand, integrated marketing communications, media relations, public relations, social media, web marketing and community engagement for both the MIWSFPA and the four academic departments/centre within the School. As well, each year, she mentored co-op students from Brock's Goodman School of Business, (as part of their practicum). Marie has a passion for the arts, and currently works as a freelancer in the GTA and Southern Ontario.

Meaghan Carpentier
(Stage Manager and Costume Design)

Meaghan Carpentier is completing her undergraduate degree at the University of Windsor in the Dramatic Arts Honours program. She is exhilarated to be working on this production of *Watching Glory Die* and to have the opportunity to be wearing different hats on this production. She is the stage manager, the costume designer and the assistant scenic designer. Previously for University Players: stage manager (*Love and Information*), assistant designer and scenic artist (*God of Carnage*), SM (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), assistant stage manager (*The 39 Steps*), ASM (*Les Belles Soeurs*), ASM (*Bedtime Stories*), stand-in ASM (*Big Love*), running crew (*Blue Stockings*).



Kelly Daniels
(Producer)

MFA (directing). Kelly Daniels has been a professional theatre artist for 30 years as a director, actor, dramaturge and producer. She spent 13 years on the Canadian Fringe Circuit, and is an alumna of The Shaw Festival Director's Project, where she co-translated and directed the ensemble actors in her own adaptation of George Feydeau's *Hortense a dit: "Je m'en fous!"* Kelly ran a professional theatre company Lyndesfarne Theatre Projects (LTP) for nine years producing, directing (and sometimes acting) in 25 productions, and six festivals. For her work with LTP, Kelly was named (Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year 2010). As an advocate for teaching and mentoring the next generation of artists, Kelly created a young company for children and youth as well as numerous outreach programs for at risk youth and seniors, and professional development workshops with SITI Company and others.



Meghan de Chastelain
(Assistant Director)

Meghan de Chastelain is a Toronto-based actor-creator and a graduate of the University of Windsor's BFA program. Select credits include Assistant Director (Stratford Shakespeare School), Assistant Director (*Romeo and Juliet*); Burloak Theatre Group: *Eliza Doolittle* (*Pygmalion*); *Lost and Found Theatre: Cecily* (*The Importance of Being Earnest*); Theatre Kraken: *Desdemona* (*Othello*) and; the University of Windsor: *Hermia* (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), *Tess* (*Bluestockings*), *Milli* (*Queen Milli of Galt*), *Lady Macbeth* (*Macbeth*) and *Chris* (*Dancing at Lughnasa*). Meghan co-created and produced *Bus Stop To (K)nowhere* and is currently expanding her one-woman show entitled *The Monster Experiment*.





Haley Vincent

(Associate Producer)

Haley Vincent is an actor, writer and producer hailing from Winnipeg, where she obtained her Honours degree in Theatre and Film at the University of Winnipeg. She was last seen at the Toronto Fringe Festival in, The New Play Contest Winner, Women of the Fur Trade as Marie-Angelique. This past year, Haley has been working with Nightwood Theatre as a Young Innovator where she co-produced "Fem-pocalypse: Those That Survived". Haley is excited to be part of the next wave of women creating diverse and meaningful theatre where women have strong and powerful voices. Follow all of Haley's other exciting projects @halesvince.

Kirsten Watt

(Lighting Design Collaborator)

Kirsten is pleased to collaborate with Windsor Feminist Theatre on their production of Watching Glory Die. She has designed lighting elsewhere in Canada for: the Shaw Festival, Drayton Entertainment, the Segal Centre, Centaur Theatre, Théâtre du Rideau Vert, Neptune Theatre, Watermark Theatre, Gros Morne Theatre Festival, Theatre Baddeck, Sudbury Theatre Centre, Magnus Theatre, Thousand Islands Playhouse, Lost&Found Theatre, Carousel Players, Lyndesfarne Theatre Projects, Essential Collective Theatre, Teesri Duniya, Hart House Theatre, George Brown, Theatre Sheridan, University of Waterloo, University of Windsor and Concordia University. Kirsten studied theatre at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and lighting design at the National Theatre School of Canada in Montreal.

