



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 Windsor 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
July 23 - 27, 2019 at the Hatch Studio Theatre, Jackman Dramatic Art Centre,
University of Windsor
401 Sunset Ave (Patricia Road and Wyandotte Street West) in Windsor, ON N9B 3P4

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

Media contact: Marie Balsom cell: 905.964.7646; mariebalsom2@gmail.com

"Watching Glory Die" to Premiere at the Jackman Dramatic Art Centre

Windsor, Ontario, July 3, 2019. . . Windsor theatre-goers are about to experience a world-class production written and directed by renowned Canadian playwright and Officer of the Order of Canada, Judith Thompson. ***Watching Glory Die*** will premiere in Windsor at the Hatch Studio Theatre, Jackman Dramatic Art Centre, University of Windsor, from July 23 – 27, 2019.

The play was inspired by the true story of Ashley Smith, who died by suicide at Grand Valley Institution while guards were ordered not to interfere. Thompson performed it as a one-woman show originally, and has revised the play for three actors. The play explores three women who are bound together in a heart-breaking, and riveting tale of survival. Ashley spent 1000 days in segregation - two thirds (three years) of her four and a half years. She was misdiagnosed, treated horrifically and completed suicide in October 2007, which would later be ruled a homicide.

Judith Thompson has twice been awarded the Governor General's Award for drama, and is the recipient of many other awards including the Walter Carsen Performing Arts Award, the Toronto Arts 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.

Watching Glory Die, will star Kelli Fox, multi-award winning Canadian actress with more than 30 years-experience on stages across North America, including 13 seasons with the Shaw Festival, and three seasons with the Stratford Festival. Kathryn Haggis, of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* fame, and a well-known Canadian actor, stand-up comedienne, and writer, will also be featured. The production will introduce Nathanya Barnett, an emerging artist, recent University of Windsor graduate and award-winning slam poet in the role of "Glory."

Director, Judith Thompson states, "Watching Glory Die is my theatrical exploration of the ways in which women are deeply connected to each other through different forms of incarceration and their valiant attempts to break free. A mother, a correctional officer, and a child, all imprisoned in their own way by the state, strive to make true contact through seemingly impossible, barriers. Though the seed of the play was inspired by the tragic death by incarceration of Ashley Smith in 2006, this is not an issue play about women in prison. This is a play about the female spirit that refuses to be tamed, a spirit that will never ever surrender."

Inspired by Pat Noonan, the founder of Windsor Feminist Theatre in 1972, Kelly Daniels is dedicating this production posthumously to this most amazing community stalwart, activist, and humanitarian. "It was Pat Noonan who said I should do this play with WFT. I listened to her, and here we are," stated Daniels. The closing night performance will be the prequel to the Tribute to Pat Noonan organized by Laurie Komon and taking place at the Welcome Shelter for Women and Families, one of WFT's partnering non-profits, along with Maryvale, Crossroads, and Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital.

Daniels has also developed an experiential learning internship in which company members will mentor 16 emerging artists (current and graduates) from the University of Windsor and community, in the various aspects of producing theatre on both local and international stages.

Tickets for the Opening Night performance and Gala, on July 23rd @ 6:30 pm, can be purchased for \$100 by contacting Kelly Daniels at watchingglorydie@gmail.com Includes: Pre-show Q&A with Senator Kim Pate and guests, performance, and post-show reception at Mare Nostrum Restaurant on campus, including meet and greet with cast, creative team, and Judith Thompson. A \$50 charitable donation receipt will be issued.

General Admission tix, July 24th – 27th @7:30 pm, are \$20 each, and can be purchased online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/watching-glory-die-tickets-60317341793>

Watching Glory Die runs at The Hatch Studio Theatre, Jackman Dramatic Art Centre, University of Windsor, 401 Sunset Ave (Patricia Road and Wyandotte Street West) in Windsor, ON N9B 3P4.

This production is proudly presented by Windsor Feminist Theatre (WFT) and Kelly Daniels.

Recommended for ages 12+ with mature subject matter and coarse language.

Media Call: Tuesday, July 16, 2019 from 2:30 – 3:30 pm, held at the Hatch Studio Theatre, Jackman Dramatic Art Centre, University of Windsor, 401 Sunset Ave (Patricia Road and Wyandotte Street West) in Windsor, ON N9B 3P4.

Media Kit: <http://windsorfeministtheatre.ca/watching-glory-die-media-kit/>

Contact: Marie Balsom, Communications & Media Relations, at mariebalsom2@gmail.com or 905.964.7646.

*"A community that values and celebrates women's stories expressed through the arts."
Windsor Feminist Theatre's Vision Statement*

With generous support from Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the City of Windsor and the University of Windsor Alumni Association

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WATCHING GLORY DIE

By Judith Thompson

COMPANY BIOS



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.





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.

