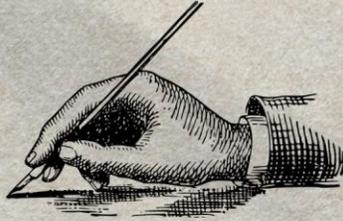


PROUDLY PRESENTED BY
WINDSOR FEMINIST THEATRE

Letters to Grace



AN INTER-ARTS EVENT HONOURING NURSES

WRITTEN BY:

Marty Gervais

COMPOSED BY:

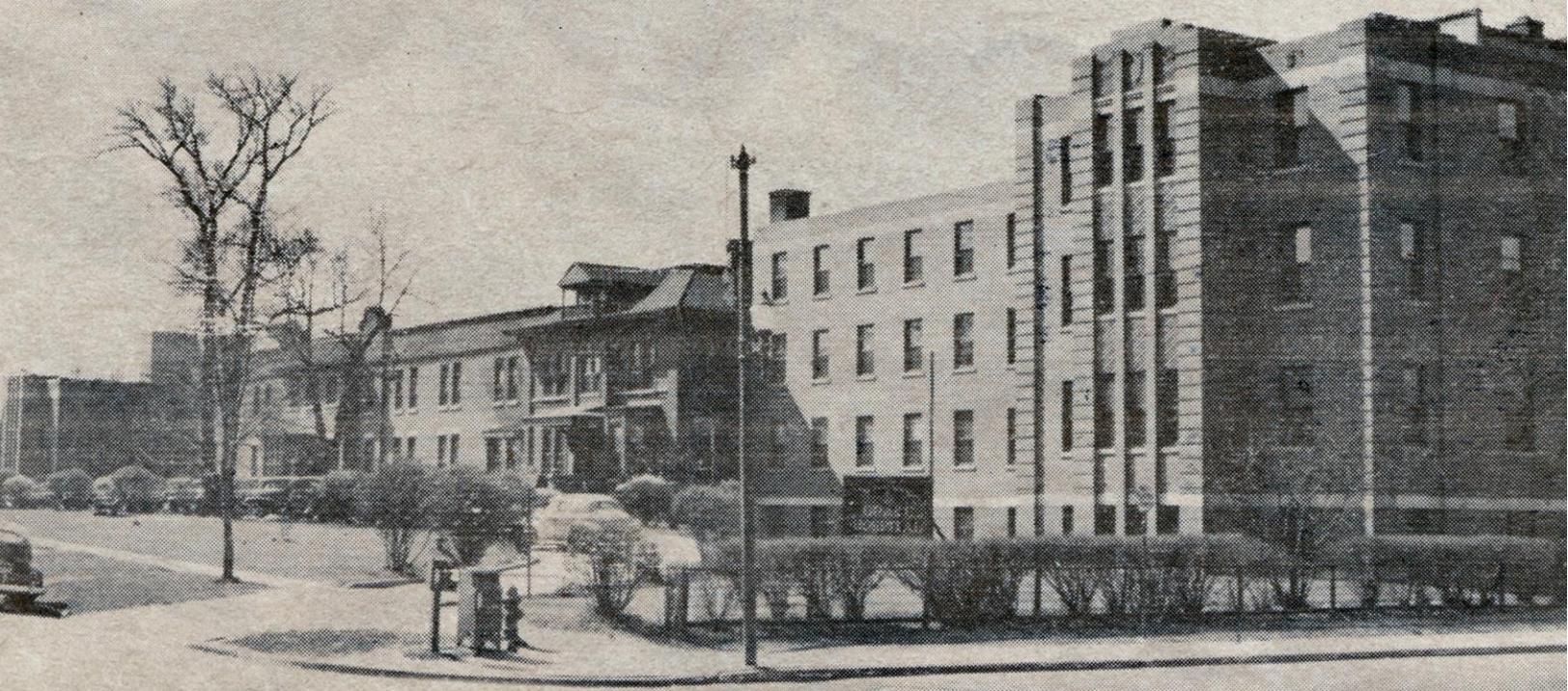
Jeff Smallman

DIRECTED BY:

Patricia Fell

MUSIC DIRECTION BY:

Nadine Deleury



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

We all knew producing this show would be a challenge, starting as we did during the Gray Lockdown period of the COVID-19 crisis. What we couldn't have known was how quickly and easily this group of talented individuals would embrace Zoom rehearsals, telephone line runs with understudies, web based research, and costume fittings in a tiny house! What united us was the motivation to tell this incredible story of Windsor's past, and present, honouring the graduate nurses of the Salvation Army Grace Hospital, and their many adventures. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with this company, together unravelling the history of these dedicated individuals, and bringing them to life. Thank you, Grace!

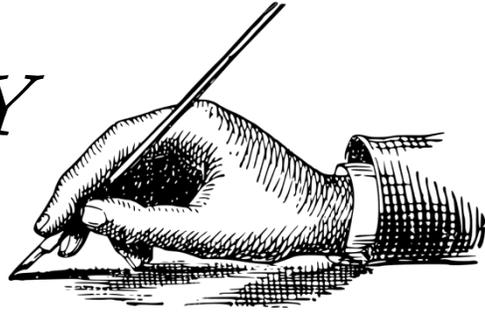
Patricia Fell

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Directing the musical side of *Letters to Grace* meant to decide first, on the composer. Marty Gervais and I had a great experience working with Jeff Smallman on *Pat & Emilia*, a few years ago, and agreed he would be best to ask. I let Jeff decide on the instrumentation, and then approached musicians who work in Windsor (mostly with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra). Scheduling live rehearsals under the current restrictions has been challenging as instrumental rehearsals would not work on Zoom. But with everybody's flexibility, plus the sharing of recordings of rehearsals to people who were absent, we are confident the music will be delivered at the highest level. The music will enhance very effectively the stories of these nurses, as they unfold.

Nadine Deleury

THE COMPANY



Valerie Bonasso
Sherry Bondy
Lindsay Bondy-Norris
Sophie Bouey
Elise Gervais
Alexandra Hagen
Jonah Hall
Nikki Hillis-Walters
Nicole Hutchinson
Jolie Katembo
Trevor Malcolm
Rebecca Mickle
Jamie Osborn
Shannon Pitre
Kianna Porter
Elena Reyes
Ninia Sotto
Jasmine St. Rose
Michael Stone



First Grace Graduating Class 1923
courtesy of the HDGH archives

Music Ensemble

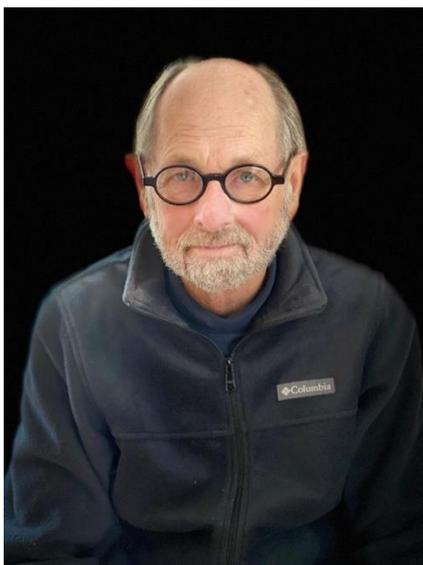
Liesel Deppe
Samuel Fraser
Vanessa Mio
Florin Simioanca
Nadine Deleury



Grace Hospital, circa 1920s
courtesy of the HDGH archives

Writer & Composer

Marty Gervais (Windsor's poet laureate emeritus) & Jeff Smallman



Marty Gervais is an award-winning poet, a former journalist and writer of historical books on Windsor. He is the recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal and the prestigious Harbourfront Festival Prize, and the author of *The Rumrunners*, a Canadian bestseller. His book, *Amazing Grace*, the story of Grace Hospital, was published in 2020.



Jeff Smallman is a prolific and versatile Canadian composer. Having begun writing at the age of 8, he now has over 200 works in print. Jeff graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 1987 with an honours degree in Theory and Composition, having studied with Alan Heard and Gerhard Wuensch.

Equally at home composing for voice or instruments, Jeff's style relies heavily on the Romantic/Impressionist musical language, with hints of modernism thrown in. Several of his pieces have either won national competitions or been finalists in international competition, and many others have been included in conservatory and festival settings. His works continue to be heard around the world. Jeff was admitted to the Canadian League of Composers in 2004, and in 2017 was accepted as an Associate Composer of the Canadian Music Centre.

Artistic Direction

Nadine Deleury (also music direction) & Patricia Fell (also stage direction & design)



Nadine Deleury, is a professional cellist, retired from first chair of Michigan Opera Theatre orchestra. In Windsor she has produced or been part of many different projects, including the mounting of the chamber opera *Pat & Emilia* (by Gervais and Smallman). She plays with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra.



Patricia's career as a professional artist for more than 30 years has embraced award winning design for the theatre, education, and the promotion of social justice issues. Her extensive background in community based arts initiatives place her in an educated position from which to project a unique and achievable production outcome. Her body of work includes experience in design for the theatre, installation art, performance art, production management, and all levels of theatre administration. Patricia is excited to direct *Letters to Grace*, and work with this unique community of collaborators.

Captain/Major Gladys Barker (Kianna Porter, understudy: Jasmine St. Rose)



Kianna Porter is an activist who loves telling stories through art. She looks forward to the future of art & is grateful to still be working when she can, during these times. She is hopeful and wishes everyone peace, love, health and happiness. She has been working with WFT since 2011 and is super excited to tell the story of the Salvation Army nurses in *Letters to Grace*.



Jasmine is a performer currently working in the logistics field. She is happy to be a part of meaningful, creative projects whenever possible. Jasmine has a history with WFT in different roles and is quite enthusiastic about the opportunity to return and be involved with this production of *Letters to Grace*.

Verna Card (Elise Gervais, understudy: Ninia Sotto also Ruth L. Dunn)



Elise is so pleased to have found her way back to the Windsor Feminist Theatre after moving away 20 years ago to pursue acting classes in Toronto with Equity showcase Theatre's Players Academy. Elise lives in Hamilton Ontario and works as a Toddler Montessori teacher. She loves spending her days living in the moment with the under two set and observing young humans become themselves! Elise is so happy to be involved with the production of Letters to Grace and to resurrect the voices of these resilient and resourceful women from our hometown who went out and became important members of other communities around the globe.



I'm thrilled to be part of this daring Covid-19 pandemic project. I have crafted my own stage in the world of adult ESL education for almost 25 years. I've always had a keen interest in art, music and theatre. Many thanks to my partner (Teajai Travis), and organizations such as the Windsor Feminist Theatre, for the encouragement and support for novices such as myself to get involved and work with marvelous local artists, musicians and creative revolutionaries. Though done distantly, I look forward to the magic that is to come in the collaboration and convergence of talents as we deliver Letters to Grace.

Captain Winnifred Hearn

(Lindsay Norris, understudy: Shannon Pitre also Margaret Finch)



Lindsay is honoured to pay tribute to all nurses in this production of *Letters to Grace*. She has had the pleasure of working with Windsor Feminist Theatre many times before, on beautiful Pelee Island. Lindsay has been involved in live theatre since the age of 8. She has played such roles as The Narrator (Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat), Miss Hannigan (Annie), Susan (Company), Violet (9 to 5 the Musical), and Diana (Next to Normal). She graduated from the University of Windsor with a Bachelor of Arts, and a Bachelor of Education, and now teaches a combined grade 2/3 class for the Greater Essex County School Board. Lindsay has two beautiful children that she loves to share her passion for the arts with. Lindsay would like to thank her family and friends, especially her husband, for supporting her in all her wild dreams and endeavors.



Shannon Pitre is a Canadian actor and creator from Goderich, Ontario. Having graduated with her BFA in Acting in 2019, Shannon has since been involved with Tall Tale Theatre in developing their original show, *Commedia Noir*, as well as working with local communities in Huron County in various artistic endeavours. While Covid-19 has prevented Shannon from exploring certain avenues, she is excited to continue developing as an artist in all mediums as we strive to grow, learn, and adapt the best we can.

Gertrude Sutherland

(Jolie Katembo, understudy: Alexandra Hagen also Doris White)



Jolie Katembo is an aspiring choreographer, actor and musician. She has over a decade of professional experience in the arts. Her community involvement is well known as she advocates for young black artists and takes part in many events around the region. After graduating from St. Clair College in performing arts she went on to share her talents with all of Windsor-Essex county.



Alexandra Hagen is pleased to be a part of Letters to Grace. She is very glad in times of uncertainty she can put her skills to the test with not only being onstage but backstage in a stage management role. Alex graduated from Walkerville Collegiate Institute and during that time she starred in The Laramie Project as well as Rhinoceros. She has also taken part in other opportunities around the Windsor-Essex county such as onstage with Bloomsbury Stage House Productions as Miss Casewell in Mousetrap, and backstage with Arts Collective Theatre for Hair and The Wiz. She hopes you all enjoy this important piece of theatre.

Helen Palmer (Jasmine St. Rose, understudy: Sophie Bouey also Edna Schmidt)

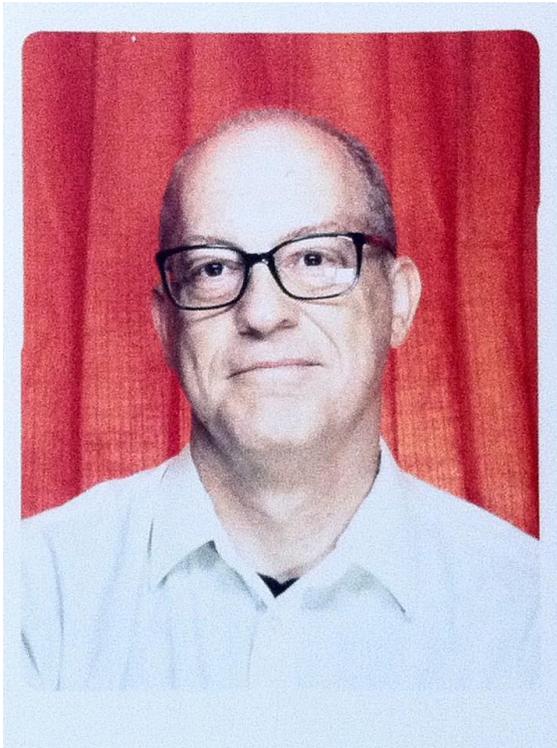


Jasmine is a performer currently working in the logistics field. She is happy to be a part of meaningful, creative projects whenever possible. Jasmine has a history with Windsor Feminist Theatre in different roles and is quite enthusiastic about the opportunity to return and be involved with this production of Letters to Grace.



Sophie is currently a third year BFA Acting student at the University of Windsor. She is thrilled to work with Windsor Feminist Theatre again and honoured to be a part of this original tribute to the Grace Hospital and the inspiring people behind it.

Dr. F. S. Brien (Michael Stone, understudy: Trevor Malcolm)
Windsor, March, 2019.



Michael Stone is a professional musician living in Windsor, Ontario. He is originally from Anderdon Township and is a graduate of the University of Windsor School of Music. As a performer, he is comfortable in many different styles and genres. He is a trombonist with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, the Majestic Bass Quintet, Windsor Light Music Theatre, and has performed with many other groups in the Windsor and Detroit area, including The Locals, Blood, Sweat & Brass, The Soul Delegation and Huladog. He is also an experienced educator, teaching trombone, euphonium and tuba at the University of Windsor School of Creative Arts. Michael is also a composer, arranger and transcriber. Most recently he transcribed and arranged the music for the musical *The Wiz*, performed by Artist Collective Theatre (ACT) in



Trevor Malcolm (Actor/Musician), past winner of a Palme D'Or, Trevor's career as a performer, composer, and band leader has had a chameleon-like intrigue stretching from punk rock, to orchestral and electro-acoustic work; this speaks volumes to his collaborative ability. Trevor possesses a unique insight into the world of music which transposes into greater participatory performance art. His reputation as a musician's musician has garnered a professional respect that translates as enthusiastic agreement to participation from artists who would otherwise be unattainable.

Flora Higdon (Rebecca Mickle, understudy: Elena Reyes also Mary Ellis)



Rebecca S. Mickle is a singer and actress from Amherstburg, ON. She received her Bachelor of Music in Classical Voice from The University of Windsor and her Master of Music in Classical and Operatic Performance from Wayne State University. Her favourite roles include The Beggar Woman [Sweeney Todd] with Cardinal Music and Korda Artistic Productions, and Giselle [Pry it from my Cold Dead Hands] with Post Productions. She is ecstatic to be performing this touching new work with Windsor Feminist Theatre. When she isn't performing you can find Rebecca reading, writing, and playing with her two cats, Diablo and Snickers.



Elena Reyes is a queer Latinx performance and theatre-based artist, hailing from the University of Windsor's BFA Acting program. London born and raised, and 4-time Brickenden Award Nominee; most recognized for their role as Medium Alison in Calithumpian Theatre's Canadian Premiere of Fun Home in 2017. Recently: Alicia in Thank You For Your Labour by Marcus Youssef, directed by Mitchell Cushman via The Stream You Step In with University Players Windsor and Outside The March. Up Next: Milagrosa Maria, a solo performance written and directed by Elena with University Players Windsor. As a lover of historical narratives, Elena is grateful for the opportunity to bring life into Letters to Grace with Windsor Feminist Theatre.

Flute: Liesel Deppe & Bassoon: Samuel Fraser



Flutist Liesel Deppe is a member of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra in Ontario, as well as a freelance musician and teacher in southwestern Ontario. She lives in Stratford, where she is actively involved in the local music scene, notably with the chamber music series, INNERchamber. Liesel has played with many ensembles and orchestras in South Africa, Europe, the United States and Canada. A highlight of her career was playing and touring with the Jeunesses Musicales World Orchestra in Europe and Israel. She also appeared as a soloist with the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Orchestra in 2011, and with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra in 2008, 2012, 2015, and 2016.



Sam Fraser, the principal bassoon of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, is an active performer in Toronto and southern Ontario. Regionally, he has performed with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Canadian Opera Company, Niagara Symphony Orchestra, and the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, and additionally he has performed with a number of groups in the United States. Born in Toronto, he received his Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music and his Master of Music degree from the University of Maryland, where he was the recipient of a chamber music fellowship. When not playing music, Sam likes to go for walks, catch up on Netflix and eat hamburgers.

Violin: Vanessa Mio & Viola: Florin Simioanca



Vanessa has spent summers touring with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada; participating in the Casalmaggiore International Festival in Italy; teaching in Tuscany for a Professional Teachers Workshop alongside Mimi Zweig; and studying at the Banff Centre for the Arts with the Très Chic Piano Trio (Chamber Music Residency for Pre-Formed Ensembles). Recent performances have included concerts with the Penderecki String Quartet, the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Orchestra, and the Windsor Symphony Orchestra.



Florin Simioanca, has enjoyed a national and international career performing in Europe, Asia, the United States and Canada. A Romanian native, he is a graduate of the "George Dima" Academy of Music in Cluj, Romania where he completed a double major in viola performance and pedagogy. Simioanca has played with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, Windsor Symphony Orchestra, Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra, Lima Symphony Orchestra and in 2002 he was a member of the Colorado Music Festival Orchestra. In 2012 he was a guest principal violist with the Adrian Symphony Orchestra, in Adrian, Michigan. In June 2012 he performed the European Premiere of David Gillingham's double viola and cello concerto with the Arad Philharmonic Orchestra in Arad, Romania.

SPECIAL THANKS



Supported by the City of Windsor's Arts, Culture & Heritage Fund (ACHF)

HÔTEL-DIEU GRACE
HEALTHCARE
foundation



Windsor Endowment
FOR THE ARTS

Special thanks to each individual who helped make this project a reality!