

THEATRE INCONNU PRESENTS

Queen Maevie



By Judith Thompson
Directed by Diana Budiachenko

"Profoundly moving" - ONTARIO STAGE

Feb 19 to Mar 8



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We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia

www.theatreinconnu.com

We acknowledge with respect that this show is produced on the ancestral territories of the lək̓ʷəŋən peoples, known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, as well as the W̱SÁNEĆ peoples, whose traditional relationship with the land continues today.

Queen Maeve

by Judith Thompson

directed by Diana Budiachenko

Cast (alphabetically)

Nolan Fidyk	Jake
Karmen McNamara	Georgia
Gloria Snider	Queen Maeve
Deirdre Tipping	Siobhan

Production Team

Diana Budiachenko	director, set designer
Andrea Eggenberger	stage manager
David Roland	choreographer
Petra London	props designer
Clayton Jevne	set construction/painter, co-lighting designer
Kevin Stinson	sound designer, co-lighting designer
Jason King	projection designer
John Varszegi	composer
Richard Patterson	running crew
Steven Aleck	running crew
Jennifer Pritchard	box office volunteer
Robert Randall	poster & program cover

Clayton Jevne is the artistic director & general manager of Theatre Inconnu

Very Special thanks to: Linda MacNaughton & Dean Farrell

A fog machine will be used for short periods in this show.
The fog is water-based, and is completely non-toxic.

**The show is about two hours long,
including a 15 minute intermission**

Content warning:
references to drug addiction, suicide, and domestic violence

Queen Maeve is produced in arrangement with Great North Artists Management Inc.
350 Dupont St., Toronto Ontario

Director's Notes by Diana Budiachenko

Queen Maeve is a story about an ordinary woman who has fought her inner battles—some visible, some hidden—and refuses to be forgotten. Judith Thompson's fierce writing takes us into a world where reality and imaginary collide, past and present blur, where love and pain exist side by side, and where trauma—drug abuse, domestic violence, regret—refuses to stay buried. But Maeve's journey isn't just hers. It belongs to anyone who has wrestled with regret, searched for strength, or longed for redemption. In this surreal world, memories surface and recede, truths refuse to stay buried, and—despite the darkness—love and humor remain.

At the heart of our production is a boat, a vessel of memory. It carries Maeve through shifting tides of the past, fighting the current. Like all of us, she is shaped by where she has been...

As you watch, I invite you to lean in. To listen. To feel. And perhaps, to even recognize a piece of yourself...

Judith Thompson

Judith Thompson is Canadian theatre royalty. She burst onto the scene in 1980 as an emerging playwright with *Crackwalker*. Two of her other more lauded works are *White Biting Dog* and *Lion in the Streets*. Apart from her two Governor General Awards, she is also the recipient of the Order of Canada, the Walter Carsen Performing Arts Award, the Dora, the Chalmers, the Susan Smith Blackburn Award, and the Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award (for *Palace of the End*). She has received honorary doctorates from Thorneloe University and Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Judith currently teaches playwriting at Guelph University.

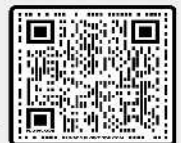
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The Company (alphabetically)



Steven Aleck is a **Nuu Chah Nulth** visual artist and has been helping to paint sets and crew for Theatre Inconnu since 2012. Shows include: *The Walworth Farce*, *Kafka the Musical*, *In the Next Room*, *The Golden Dragon*, *Antigone*, *Jocasta Regina*, *Trad*, *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*, *East of Berlin*, *Subway* and *Commencing*. Steven has also painted the set for Langham Court Theatre's *The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs*.



Diana Budiachenko is a Ukrainian director, educator, and volunteer. A graduate of Kyiv University of Culture's Theatre Directing program, she moved to Canada in 2022. She has worked as an assistant director at the Belfry Theatre (*Vigil*, *Yaga*) and as a Ukrainian accent coach (*Yaga*, Touchstone Theatre). Recently, she co-directed *A Dictionary of Emotions in War Time* with Karmen McNamara and directed *Ravenscroft* (Langham Court Theatre). *Queen Maeve* marks her Theatre Inconnu debut, and she is grateful for the opportunity.



Andrea Eggenberger is a Victoria-based multidisciplinary artist. She's grateful to have the opportunity to stage manage *Queen Maeve* (and even learn a bit of Gaelic!) Her recent performance credits include: *Nina* in Theatre Inconnu's *Stupid F***ing Bird*, *Chava* in Bema Productions' *The Fiddler on the Roof*, *Dream Sarah* in *The Dream Book* (premiered in 2022 Short Circuit Film Festival), *Van's Sister* in Theatre Inconnu's *Dog Sees God*, and *Tara* in *Starry Starry Skies' A Buffie Parody Musical*.



Nolan Fidyk is a Victoria local and has been enmeshed in the theatre and film world from a young age. He is a graduate of the Studio 58 Acting program out of Langara College in Vancouver, and his most recent credits include; *Erik Arndt* in *Survivors*, *Wendy Kout* (BEMA productions), *Roland Maul* in *Present Laughter*, *Noel Coward* (Langham Court.), and *Dr. Hull* in *Vision Disturbance*, *Christina Masciotti* (Theatre Inconnu.) Nolan is grateful to be back on the Inconnu stage and thanks his cast mates and creative team!



Jason King. Photographer and videographer for Camosun College by day, Technical Director for Langham Court Theatre as well as Stage Manager and projection designer for Ballet Victoria by night, he also finds time to create sound and projection designs for other productions. Projects this season have included *Ravenscroft* for Langham Court Theatre, "39 Steps" with First Impressions Theatre, *Cinderella: A Magical Pantomime* with the Deep Cove Stage Society, and *Anastasia: The Musical* with the Yavapai College Performing Arts Department (Prescott, Arizona).



Petra London has been doing theatre for longer than they care to admit. Active in Victoria theatre as a child and teen with Four Seasons Theatre Victoria Onstage Society, and Grassroots Theatre, and later in Calgary with Workshop Theatre and Calgary Arts Academy. Returning to Victoria in 2023 Petra has taken their hobby of building cosplays and props back up with Langham Court Theatre's *Ravenscroft* and now with *Queen Maeve* and Theatre Inconnu.



Karmen McNamara (she/her) is a performer, director, designer and videographer who has been active in theatre communities across Western Canada since 1993. She recently co-directed the world premiere of *A Dictionary of Emotions in Wartime*, with Diana. Favourite credits include *Cabaret*, *Excess Unwanted Growth*), *How I Learned to Drive*, *Zanna Don't*, *The Laramie Project*, and *Dog Sees God*. Karmen is delighted to be making her Theatre Inconnu debut, and would like to thank the team for their warm welcome.



Richard Patterson - started acting in theatre in Toronto 50 years ago. After Toronto Richard split his time between Edmonton and Victoria, getting to play Macduff and a tightrope walker challenging Niagara Falls (*Blondin*) on tour, and a pirate in *Pieces of Eight* and a Clown at the Citadel Theatre and on tour in California. Eventually Theatre Inconnu offered Richard some of the best characters he's ever had. Richard helps around Inconnu and is on the board, and is working with great friends.



Jennifer Pritchard - had a successful career as a counsellor in Winnipeg, following which she moved to Victoria and began to pursue her love of theatre. For many years her sunny smile has welcomed patrons to Theatre Inconnu.



David Roland - Formerly a soloist with the Berlin Ballet, Mr. Roland danced leading roles in the classics and works by Balanchine, Béjart, Van Manen, Nureyev, and Panov. His choreographic experience spans musicals, operas, dance theatre, original ballets, and Ballet Victoria's inaugural *Peter Pan*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Peter and the Wolf*. Presently he is 1st Character Dancer/Founding Member of Ballet Étoile Canada.



Gloria Snider has been involved in community theatre in Victoria since 1990 with groups such as VOS, Langham, Four Seasons and Attitude. Shows with Inconnu include *If We Were Birds*, *Age of Arousal*, *Trad* and most recently *Witch*. She wishes to thank every one of the talented people involved in this production for their support. Being over 80 and learning Queen Maeve's lines was a challenge. Special thanks to husband Kevin for putting up with her theatre addiction.



Kevin Stinson - It's a pleasure as always to work on an Inconnu show. I think this is my 11th sound design for Theatre Inconnu. Previous sound and/or projection design/engineering here were *This Much I Know*, *Significant Other*, *Stupid Fucking Bird*, *Pepe*, *Witch*, *East of Berlin*, *Best of Friends*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Crumble*, *Trad*, *Age of Arousal*, *Bad Jews*, *If We were Birds*, *In the Next Room* and *Kafka the Musical*. As an actor, I have appeared in Theatre Inconnu's productions of *Witch*, *If We Were Birds*, *Macbeth*, *The Comedy of Errors* and *Chantecler*.



Deirdre Tipping - Deirdre is pleased to be working with old friends and new here at Theatre Inconnu. You may have seen her here in *Black Rider*, *Trad*, *Witch* or *Age of Arousal* or more recently at Langham Court Theatre's *Present Laughter*. You might even see her painting sets at St. Luke's. Deirdre is very grateful for all the support she receives from family and friends in her theatrical endeavours.



John Varszegi came from the film industry, where he produced 130 films and won several international awards. After the pandemic he continued his devotion to the performing arts as fight choreographer, sound designer and music composer. His latest works: *Significant Other* at Theatre Inconnu and *Now and Then* at Langham.

Apply your admission to a 2025 4-Show Subscription Pass

Theatre Inconnu celebrates Season 38 as we give voice to four
amazing playwrights

Up-coming shows in 2025 include:

FEB 19 - MAR 8

Queen Maeve by Judith Thompson - This new play by Governor General Award winner Thompson is a searing, often hilarious tale, featuring an ordinary woman in a drab nursing home who, when triggered, transforms into Queen Maeve, Irish Warrior Queen, confronting her cherished grandson, and her complicated, dramatic daughter. The play asks the questions: Is forgiveness ever impossible? Will we know when we need to make amends? Is it ever too late to find true empowerment? Judith Thompson is one of Canada's most cherished playwrights and this is a Western Canadian premiere of her new work.

"profoundly moving... serves to reconcile us with our own mortality."

Ontario Stage

8 pm: Feb 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27 & Mar 1, 5, 6, 7, 8

2pm: Feb 22 & Mar 1, 8

Apr 30 - MAY 17

Bacon by Sophie Swithinbank - This is the Canadian premiere of this recent multi-award winning British play that took London by storm in 2023. Year 10's first day back at school: Mark is new and too scared to make friends. Darren is out of control and too scary to make friends. Worlds apart, but more similar than they realize, the pair form a complex and manipulative relationship. And before they know it, they're embarking on a dangerous experiment that will alter the course of their lives. Sophie Swithinbank's play Bacon is an unflinching and unexpectedly humorous look at masculinity, sexuality and power, through the dizzying lens of youth.

"utterly compelling... beautiful to watch"

The Stage

8 pm: Apr 30 & May 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17

2 pm: May 3, 10, 17

SEPT 17 - OCT 4

The Moors by Jen Silverman - A young governess arrives at a remote manor after exchanging semi-romantic correspondence with one mysterious Mr. Branwell. But when the door opens, the only residents of the house seem to be Branwell's two sisters, a maid (or maybe two maids?) and a lovelorn mastiff. And no man to be found, or child to be cared for. The Moors is a dark comedy about love, desperation, and visibility. It is an inspired, whimsical satire that both embraces and sends up the gothic musings of the Brontë sisters. Silverman is a young American playwright with numerous awards, including the Yale Drama Series Award.

"great imagination... eminently entertaining."

The Guardian

8 pm: Sept 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 27 & Oct 1, 2, 3, 4

2 pm: Sept 20, 27 & Oct 4

NOV 25 - DEC 13

Armstrong's War by Colleen Murphy - After suffering an injury during a military tour of Afghanistan, Michael, a young soldier, is recovering in the rehabilitation wing of a hospital. The last thing he wants is to spend time with a twelve-year-old girl, but Halley, a spirited Pathfinder and self-described "reading fiend," is eager to earn her community service badge. The pair is at odds from the start, but they find a shared interest in The Red Badge of Courage, the classic American Civil War novel, which spurs them to reveal their own stories. As their friendship grows, uncomfortable truths are exposed and questioned, redefining the meaning of courage and heroism. Murphy is a titan in Canadian theatre and is a 2-time Governor General Award winner.

"a story about finding strength through friendship, it's a fine 90 minutes" ***Toronto Star***

8 pm: Nov 25, 26, 27, 29, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13

2 pm: Nov 29 & Dec 6, 13

THEATRE INCONNU

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www.theatreinconnu.com

A modest increase in admission prices for 2025

For more than a decade, Theatre Inconnu has resisted increasing ticket prices, so that our shows can remain affordable to as many people as possible.

In 2024 we suffered an unprecedented cut to our annual provincial funding, which will pose on-going challenges in 2025 in keeping an already minimally funded theatre company alive.

We have decided to add \$2.00 to our ticket prices starting in 2025, in an effort to keep active as part of the Victoria performing arts community.

Starting in 2025, single regular admission price will be \$16, and single senior/student admission price will be \$12.

We will still be offering special pay-what-you-wish performances and half-price preview performances for those who would otherwise not be able to afford to see our shows.



**Scan this code to sign-up for our newsletter
or go to www.theatreinconnu.com**

Theatre Inconnu remains enthusiastically committed to inclusivity, and we strive to reflect the diversity of our community in our work. We welcome all prospective theatre artists and other volunteers to reach out to become involved in our activities!