

**THEATRE INCONNU
PRESENTS**

**CANADIAN
PREMIERE**

"Utterly compelling"
- THE STAGE
(London)

bacon

By Sophie Swithinbank

Directed by Don Keith

April 30 to May 17



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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 Lək'wəŋən peoples, known today as the Xwsepsum and Songhees Nations, as well as the WSÁNEĆ peoples, whose traditional relationship with the land continues today.

Bacon

by Sophie Swithinbank

directed by Don Keith

Cast (alphabetically)

James Johnson
Dawson Rutledge

Darren
Mark

Production Team

Don Keith	director, set designer
Sylvia Hosie	asistant to the director
Georgia Tooke	stage manager
Emme Sait	stage manager
Andrea Gregg	assistant stage manager, lighting designer
Ryan Kniel	sound designer
John Varszegi	fight choreographer
Jarrett Lobley	composer of pre-show & intermission music
Richard Patterson	running crew
Steven Aleck	running crew
Robert Randall	poster & program cover design

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

Very Special thanks to: Auction organizers: Mary Jane Crawley & Laurie Rubin,
Technical set-up assistant: Matt Ehrler

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

Content warning:

This production contains: distressing or potentially triggering themes, depictions of physical and sexual violence, references to self-harm and abuse.

Bacon is produced in arrangement with Cutis Brown
15 Regent St, London, UK
www.cutisbrown.co.uk

Director's Notes by Don Keith

Welcome to the Canadian Premiere of *Bacon*. At first, I was uncertain whether I could direct *Bacon*. Now I am very captivated with the script; its ideas and brilliant writing. I am so very delighted with the two male actors who have tackled the script with talent, perceptiveness, and love. Dawson and James have been generous and creative, and totally dedicated to bringing Bacon to you. Also, the very dedicated and supportive production team have been a joy to work with. Thank you all, especially Sylvia Hosie, who has provided great insights. I want you to enjoy the play as much as we have.

Sophie Swithinbank

Sophie Swithinbank is a playwright whose work includes: *Surrender*, *Bacon* (winner of Soho Theatre's Tony Craze Award), *Circle Game*, *Even In Arcadia* (long-listed for the Verity Bargate Award), *The Fellowship*, *Where There Is Smoke, Come Inside*, and *The Superhero*. Sophie Swithinbank teaches playwriting at the University of Northampton.

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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*.



Sylvia Hosie: Retired from a lengthy professional career, this is Sylvia's ninth adventure with Inconnu Theatre. Former Inconnu credits: *Significant Other*, *The Black Rider*, *East of Berlin*, *Witch*, *Crumble*, *Schweik*, *Age of Arousal*, and *Dance of the Werewolf*. It is always both challenging and a pleasure to work on scripts that Clayton discovers.



James Johnson: Every stage experience introduces opportunities, challenges and artistic fulfillment. James is grateful for the friendships made along this journey. When he's not on acting, Mr. Johnson can be found hiking, dancing, cooking and talking your ear off about gardening (if you'll listen). Why do we need theatre? Theatre makes us feel more together, that is to say: less alone. Thanks to my family for all your love and support. Special shout out to the Movie Knights! And the Boogie Boys!



Don Keith (BA, MA-Directing) has developed a reputation for producing challenging and diverse productions. He has designed many sets at St Luke's Players and Langham Court Theatre where he directed *Doubt*, *Heroes*, *Noises Off* and *Present Laughter*. For Theatre Inconnu he has directed *The Good Soldier Schweik*, *Crumble*, *East of Berlin*, *Bull*, and last season, *Significant Other*. Don is a great supporter of the Arts in Victoria, and he enjoys his work as a Tour Guide when not directing or designing.



Ryan Kniel is a designer, actor, improviser, and writer based in unceded Lək̓ʷəŋən Territory. He's joyous in his return to designing another show for Theatre Inconnu, having previously designed and performed in *Sisters* last season. Some of his other recent designs have included *Game: Play* (The Secret Shark Collective), *Abandoned* (Between Words Festival), and the sci-fi podcast *Hey There, Mr. Moon*.



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, a tightrope walker challenging Niagara Falls (*Blondin*) on tour, 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



Dawson Rutledge: Originally from Prince George British Columbia, Dawson studied acting at the University of Victoria's Phoenix Theatre. Previously he was Jacob in Blue Bridge Reps *Saltwater Moon*. Recently Dawson performed at the 2024 Fringe Festival in *Nothing Crazy's Gonna Happen* as Cam, which went on to win favorite dramedy and favorite Ensemble. You may also recognize him from Kaleidoscope Theatre's *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*.



Emme Sait is an actor and writer from Yorkshire, UK. Her recent theatre credits include: Sheila Birling in *An Inspector Calls*, Cassie in *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley*, and Daphne Stillington in *Present Laughter* (Langham Court Theatre). Having directed and written for the stage, she's excited to take on a new challenge: stage management! *Bacon* marks her first production with Theatre Inconnu, and she's grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such a brilliant cast and production team.



Georgia Tooke is an artist and actor from Banff, AB who's moved as far west as possible to escape winter. Falling head over heels for all things theatre, this past year has taken her from lighting and sound operating to working on-stage as Gillian Ravenscroft in *Ravenscroft* and Mrs. Elizabeth Darcy in *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley* (Langham Court Theatre). And now, adding "Stage Manager" to the list, she is honoured to work with this ridiculously talented cast and crew at the incredible Theatre Inconnu.



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. His latest works: *Witch* at Theatre Inconnu and *An Inspector Calls* at Langham Court Theatre.

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

Remaining shows in 2025 include:

Apr 30 - MAY 17

Bacon by Sophie Swithinbank

Directed by Don Keith

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

Directed by Angela Henry

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

Directed by MOrgan Gadd

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

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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.



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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!