



RESIDENT ALIENS

BY DON HANNAH

tnb theatre
NEW BRUNSWICK

Resident Aliens **by Don Hannah**

Directed by Natasha MacLellan
Featuring Bridget Bezanson, Deidre Gillard-Rowlings,
Christopher Hunt, and Ryan Rogerson.
Sound Designer | Stewart Legere
Lighting Designer | Leigh Ann Vardy
Set Designer | Andrea Evans
Projection Designer | Christian Ludwig Hansen
Costume Designer | Andrea Ritchie
Stage Manager | Stephanie MacDonald

Theatre New Brunswick is an active member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT).

We engage under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actor's Equity Association.

Please Respect the Performance. The taking of photographs and video is strictly prohibited. Please turn off your cell phones and data devices before the show begins. Thank you.

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Neither one of us felt like we belonged in the place we came from. Even though it's steeped deep into our bones."

Resident Aliens

by Don Hannah

In 1959, Vivian Larsen set off from Moncton in a horse drawn wagon to meet Walt Disney and tell him a mysterious secret. At the same time, a young gay boy growing up in Shediac is beginning to understand himself and the divides that threaten to tear his community, province, and family apart.

Welcome to Theatre New Brunswick

Theatre New Brunswick acknowledges that it carries out its work on the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik, Mi'kmaq and Peskotomuhkati peoples. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which these nations first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with the surrender of lands and resources, but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

We, the staff and members of the board, pay respect to the elders, past and present, and descendants of this land. We honour the knowledge keepers and seek their guidance as we strive to develop closer relationships with the Indigenous people of New Brunswick.

A Message from our Artistic & Executive Director

In *Resident Aliens*, we travel through time to watch two parallel stories unfold on different timelines in the same New Brunswick. Time and place have an enormous impact on the characters in our play, as they do on most of us. And like many of us, our main characters struggle with understanding their place in history, how they fit in. In this play, Don's portrayal of life in a white, late-fifties New Brunswick focuses on tensions between the anglophone and francophone communities that continue to inform and shape colonial, white communities that exist on the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq, Wolastaoquey and Passamaquoddey peoples. *Resident Aliens* is Don's story, but it's also a story of New Brunswick and the generations of settlers who have shaped the province we live in today.

I first met Don Hannah when he cast me in a production of his play, *There is a Land of Pure Delight*. We got to spend a few weeks working together at LiveBait Theatre in Sackville and became fast friends. His career has spanned decades and his words have been spoken on stages across the country. So when I came to TNB and learned he had never been produced by the company, I knew that was something I wanted to make happen. For him, and for you.

Natasha MacLellan
Artistic & Executive Director
Theatre New Brunswick



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A Message from our Chair

Here we are again at the end of another main stage season. It's been an eventful year (I'm looking at you February!) but one rich in rewards, reminders, and reasons to celebrate. Two productions by Canadian playwrights made their world premiere on our stage. We reconnected with audiences around New Brunswick; gave our first performance in Campbellton in two decades; saw the TNB Young Company return to school performances; and overcame numerous hurdles thanks to the help of our kind and supportive family across all corners of this beautiful province. After more than two years spent adapting our programming to meet all the important rules and regulations surrounding the pandemic, it feels like we have finally made our way through the tunnel to meet with a new world full of excitement and creative possibilities. Best of all – you were right there with us the entire time.

On behalf of the TNB Board of Governors, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the theatre for the world premiere production of *Resident Aliens* by Don Hannah, and directed by our very own, incredibly talented Artistic and Executive Director Natasha MacLellan. What a talent. What a story. What a perfect closer to a wonderful season. Enjoy!

Deborah Burns
Chair
Theatre New Brunswick
Board of Governors





New Brunswick has both fuelled and frustrated me my entire life. There are places that have been powerfully beautiful to me since I was a boy... and, while I loved the place, it drove me crazy."

Much like Boy in my play, I grew up in a small English community in an Acadian town, and like him as well, that community was so immediate and all enclosing that I was an adolescent before I fully understood that my small Anglo world wasn't the majority. This state of affairs, of very different worlds sharing the same geographical space, has been a constant factor throughout my writing from *Rubber Dolly*, my very first play, on up through *In The Lobster Capital of the World*, *Running Far Back*, *There Is A Land of Pure Delight*, *Cave Painter*, and now *Resident Aliens*—my New Brunswick related work.



New Brunswick has both fuelled and frustrated me my entire life. There are places that have been powerfully beautiful to me since I was a boy: the Scoudouc River in the woods up our street, the Sainte-Anne-de-Beaumont Chapel near Pré d'en Haut, Cape Enrage, the Tantramar Marsh—and, while I loved the place, it drove me crazy. When I was a teenager in love with books, there was no English bookstore in Moncton, and, apart from two or three dedicated teachers, my twelve years of schooling left a lot to be desired (my Grade 12 English teacher gave me permission to write a book report on *Animal Farm* even though "you probably won't understand it.").

In my small Anglo world, the arts were not ours, they were something that passed through on tour. But my mother played the piano—old popular songs and Eastern Star marches, mostly—and took us to concerts; my father paid for my brothers' piano classes and the art classes I took from Sister Gertrude Godbout (then Sister Leonide) at Notre Dame D'Acadie all through middle and high school. I owe much to the cultural life of L'Acadie—a screening of Jean Cocteau's *Orphée* at U de M, changed me forever.

This play is dedicated to two New Brunswick women I adored, Jenny Munday and Betty Lou Daye. I talked so much over the years about the world of this play to them both. I'd also like to acknowledge two Monctonian Toronto friends, Tom Leighton and the late Dayne Ogilvie, who both loved talking with me about Mrs. Larsen and Bob.

My deep thanks to Natasha MacLellan for commissioning (and directing!) the play, and to the wonderful company of actors and designers who have put it together. Thanks to the TNB staff, who have been so welcoming.

Thanks to the Canada Council for a grant to write about New Brunswick that, eventually, led me to *Resident Aliens*. And thanks to the NB Archives, and the Moncton Public Library for research assistance. The late Mrs George Harrop led me to the Front Page Challenge story forty years ago. A huge thanks to Peter Enneson for his great-great-great-great-grandfather genealogical research.

Thanks to Didi Gillard-Rowlings and Bridget Bezanson for saving the day, and to Christopher Hunt and Ryan Rogerson, who have been onboard since the first reading. For their workshop and dramaturgical skills, my thanks to Ron Jenkins, Mélanie LeBlanc (those photos! merci!), Burgundy Code, Leni Parker, and Wesley Colford, thank-you, thank-you.

My love to my old theatre comrades Joan MacLeod, Ken Garnhum, and Colleen Murphy for their constant affection and support. And to Ryan Griffith and Xavier Gould (aka Jass-Sainte Bourque, aka Chiquita Mère) my deep affection for helping to keep two very different New Brunswicks present in my life - thanks and merci.

And to Doug Guildford, who phoned me more than a quarter century ago, all my love.

-Don Hannah



Don Hannah
Playwright

Don Hannah is an award winning playwright and novelist. His pair of one person shows, *The Cave Painter* & *The Woodcutter*, are published by Playwrights Canada Press, and *Cave Painter* received the 2012 Carol Bolt Award. He was the inaugural Lee Playwright in Residence at the University of Alberta where

he wrote *While We're Young*, which has been produced across the country. He has also had residencies at Tarragon Theatre, Canadian Stage, UBC's Green College, UNB, the Yukon Public Library, and is a fellow of the MacDowell Colony. He has worked as a dramaturge at Playwrights Theatre Centre, the Banff Playwrights Colony, and Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre, of which he is a founding member and honorary lifetime member. His books include *Shoreline*, a collection of his plays, and the novels, *The Wise and Foolish Virgins*, and *Ragged Islands*, both published by Knopf. *Ragged Islands* was awarded the Thomas H. Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award. His latest play, *Resident Aliens*, will be produced by Theatre New Brunswick in the spring of 2023.

Learn more about Don on his website: www.donhannah.info



Natasha MacLellan
Director

Natasha MacLellan's love of new scripts was fostered through Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre where she mentored with Jenny Munday. From there she started Forerunner Playwrights Theatre, which produced new works in Halifax for a decade followed by six seasons as the Artistic Producer of Ship's

Company Theatre. Before she became a full time producer, Natasha worked as an actor, director, teacher and dramaturge. And, she still does those things, when she can.



Bridget Bezanson Mom

Bridget is an actor and musician based in Dieppe, New Brunswick. She has worked in regional theatre in Atlantic Canada and Ontario, including Neptune Theatre, Two Planks and a Passion, Festival Antigonish, Onelight Theatre, the Stirling Festival, Smile Theatre, Shadowpath Theatre, and the Newmarket National Play Festival. From 2014-2015, Bridget was one of the resident artists in the Ontario Shebang Project, a multi-disciplinary artists' collective in partnership with Toronto's Dreamwalker Dance Company.

Other credits include voice work for CBC animation and CBC Radio. A versatile vocalist, she is formally trained in classical and jazz styles, and holds 2 Silver Medals from the Royal Conservatory of Music. Bridget is a published songwriter, a member of SOCAN, and a recipient of a New Talent Grant from FACTOR (Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent on Record). In 2022, she completed a certificate in arts and culture management at the University of New Brunswick. She is excited to work with TNB on this wonderful show. **bridgetbezanson.com**



Ryan Rogerson Dad

Upcoming: Billy Elliott (Neptune Theatre).

Theatre: Elf the Musical, Peter Pan, Bingo (Neptune Theatre); Unity(1918), The Stranger, Schoolhouse, MacBeth, Frankenstein, In This Light, Animal Farm, Nothing Less, Miracle Man, As You Like It, The Crucible, Rockbound, Our Town (Two Planks and a Passion); Dickens Writes a Christmas Carol (Theatre Baddeck); Observatory Mansions (The Villains Theatre); Mamma Mia (Globe Theatre); Cinderella (Torrent Productions); Bull (Coal Mine Theatre); Corker (The Belfry, Theatre Northwest, Eastern Front Theatre). Film/TV MWashington Black (Disney); Diggstown (CBC); Murdoch Mysteries (CBC); Killjoys (SyFy/Temple St.). Awards: Merritt Award, Outstanding Performance Supporting Actor, As You Like It.



**Deidre Gillard-Rowlings
Mrs. Larsen**

Deidre Gillard-Rowlings (Didi) is from The Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Memorial University of NL. She's a founding and active member of Bare Boards Theatre whose mandate is to create contemporary theatre with Spartan and inventive methods. With this ad-hoc company she's co-produced 11 productions, with truly frugal budgets. She spent a year in South Korea teaching ESL from 1998-99. For ten years (2002 - 2012) she had the privilege of touring nationally and internationally with Theatre Newfoundland Labrador's production of "Tempting Providence", by Robert Chafe, proudly performing the role of pioneer nurse, Myra Bennett. She's worked with theatre companies all across the country including four seasons at Ontario's Stratford Theatre Festival. She's active in film and television as well, having landed principal roles in CBC's Republic of Doyle, Gordon Pinsent's M.O.V. Heyday!, Christian Sparkes' Hammer, Discovery's Frontier, City TV's Hudson and Rex, as well as many independent shorts.

She's currently co-writing a Newfoundland based soap opera, The Stories, a children's book entitled, Tickle Bridge Christmas, and a screenplay, Pit of the Stomach. She owns a little homestead in Gros Morne National Park which she and her partner are renovating with the aim of developing an artist's retreat. For the past four years Didi's worked as a casting director for CBC's Son of a Critch and Little Dog; SyFy's SurrealEstate and Astrid and Lilly Save the World; and Frenchkiss Pictures' TV series Maroni. She is thrilled to make her debut at TNB.

A promotional poster for a play. On the right, a man with a beard and a yellow shawl holds a glass of milk. On the left, text is arranged in yellow boxes against a dark background.

tnb theatre
NEW BRUNSWICK

TAKE D MILK, NAH?
BY JIVESH PARASRAM

APRIL 13-15
OPEN SPACE THEATRE
65 WHITING ROAD



Christopher Hunt Boy

Christopher is a Calgary-based actor and is honoured to be in this fine company of artists for Resident Aliens. This is his first time working in New Brunswick.

Toronto appearances include 1979 (Berkeley St Theatre), GLORIOUS!, 7 Stories, La Bête, Tartuffe (CanStage) and Two Weeks With the Queen (YPT - Dora nomination).

Earlier this season, he appeared in Driving Miss Daisy (Stage West) and Little Women (Theatre Calgary).

Other recent appearances include: CLUE (Vertigo Theatre), The Wedding Party (ATP), Dracula: The Bloody Truth (Theatre NorthWest) and Waiting for Godot (Black Radish Theatre).

Christopher has received eight of Calgary's Betty Mitchell awards for his acting over the years, most recently for Theatre Calgary's Twelfth Night. He was also humbled to receive the 2018 Harry & Martha Cohen Award for significant and sustained contribution to the Calgary theatre community. For over 35 years, he's performed for theatre companies large and small, in Calgary and across the country. He also occasionally works as a director, adjudicator and writer, and enjoys playing a bit of guitar, mandolin and clawhammer banjo. Christopher is excited to get home to his family, including new grandsons Theo and Hayden.



Andrea Evans Set Designer

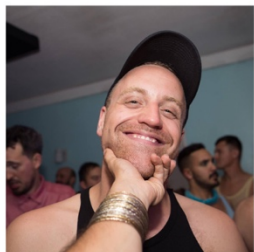
Andrea Evans proudly holds a BFA with Honours from York University where she studied Theatre Production and Design. With nearly 20 years' experience, she has worked as a set designer, scenic painter, and props builder for numerous theatres throughout Ontario and

the Atlantic provinces. Andrea has worked for theatre companies such as the National Ballet of Canada, Saint John Theatre Company, the Chester Playhouse, Tarragon Theatre, and many others. For two seasons, Andrea worked as an assistant designer at the Stratford Festival. She has also been a guest artist / instructor at numerous high schools teaching stagecraft and design. Andrea has been nominated two times for Toronto's Dora Awards and the proud recipient of a Dora Award for Outstanding Set Design.



Christian Ludwig Hansen **Projection Designer**

Christian (He/Him) is a theatre creator and performer with special focus in collaboration, puppetry, stage combat, and projection design. He is from Northern Friesland by the German-Danish border and now lives in Kijipuktuk/Halifax. He is a recent graduate from the Acting program at Dalhousie.



Stewart Legere **Sound Designer**

Stewart Legere is a multidisciplinary artist situated between Kijipuktuk/Halifax and Tkaronto/Toronto. He is the Co-Artistic Director of The Accidental Mechanics Group and Associate Artistic Director of ZUPPA. His performances have been presented at theatres and festivals across Canada and internationally. He is a vocalist with orchestral pop outfit The Heavy Blinkers, and a solo singer/songwriter ("Quiet the Station" - 2017, "To the Bone" - 2020). He composes music and sound for theatre and film. An avid and passionate collaborator, his work is fascinated with vulnerability, intimacy, the destruction of persona and the celebration of performance. He is currently an artist-in-residence at The Theatre Centre in Toronto.



Stephanie MacDonald **Stage Manager**

Stephanie is a multiple award winning actor who makes her home in Halifax Nova Scotia, and is branching out to Stage Management. Previous Stage Management credits include the world premiere of The Outside Inn at Festival Antigonish (Nova Scotia) and Bryden MacDonald's Whale Riding Weather at The Halifax Fringe Festival. Special thank you to Karen Bassett, Louisa Adamson, Christine Oakey, Ingrid Risk and Natasha MacLellan.



Andrea Richie
Costume Designer

Andrea was born and lives in K'jipuktuk (Halifax). Her foundation in theatre is costume design and producing. She was a long-time member/designer with The Irondale Ensemble Project. For over a decade, she designed and built costumes for all of the ensemble's work.

In theatre, dance and performance art she has worked with a wide range companies and productions, including Ship's Company Theatre, One Light Theatre, Zuppa Theatre, Hear Here Productions/Mocean Dance, San Family Productions, Forerunner Playwrights Co-op, Theatre New Brunswick, Neptune Theatre, Keep Good Company Theatre, among others. Her focus is in the Maritimes, in sharing stories for this time and place.



Leigh Ann Vardy
Light Designer

Leigh Ann has designed lights for theatres across Canada. Recently she designed The Neverending Story (Stratford, NAC), The Third Colour (Prairie Theatre Exchange), Secret Life of a Mother (Theatre Centre, Crows Theatre), and The Colour Purple (Neptune Theatre),

The God That Comes (2b), Between Breaths (Artistic Fraud). Her work has been seen throughout Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and the US.

Leigh Ann is a teacher and coach at National Theatre School of Canada.

Thank you Don Hannah for your beautiful play.

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**BEHIND
THE PLAY**

A PODCAST FROM THEATRE NEW BRUNSWICK

tnb THEATRE NEW BRUNSWICK
theatre school

ENDOWED BY *The Stephen Graham Bird Trust*

The Little Prince

April 18-19

Fredericton Playhouse | 7:30 p.m.

By Rick Cummins and John Scoullar from
the book by Antoine de Saint Exupéry.



Featuring the students of TNB Theatre School's Senior Acting program.
Scan the QR code to learn more about this production.
Tickets can be purchased at the Fredericton Playhouse box office tnb.nb.ca.

tnb THEATRE NEW BRUNSWICK
theatre school

ENDOWED BY *The Stephen Graham Bird Trust*

ROSE

A New Musical

Music and book by Mike Ross. Lyrics and book by Sarah Wilson.

April 21-22

Fredericton Playhouse | 7:30 p.m.



Featuring the students of TNB Theatre School's Senior Musical Theatre program.
Scan the QR code to learn more about this production.
Tickets can be purchased at the Fredericton Playhouse box office tnb.nb.ca.

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2022-2023**

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General Manager

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Naomi McGowan
Theatre School and Admin Assistant

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Performances

Resident Aliens

March 22 (Pay What You Wish Preview)

March 23 | Open Space Theatre | Fredericton, NB

March 24 | Open Space Theatre | Fredericton, NB

March 25 | Open Space Theatre | Fredericton, NB

March 26 | Open Space Theatre | Fredericton, NB

March 28 | Theatre Restigouche | Campbellton, NB

March 29-30 | Empress Theatre | Moncton, NB

March 31 | W.C.O'Neill Arena Theatre | St. Andrews, NB

April 1 | Carleton North HS | Florenceville-Bristol, NB

April 2 | Motyer-Fancy Theatre | Sackville, NB

Coming Up

Playwrights Panel

April 12 | Picaroons Roundhouse | Fredericton, NB

Take D Milk, Nah?

April 13-15 | Open Space Theatre | Fredericton, NB

The Little Prince (TNB Theatre School)

April 18-19 | Fredericton Playhouse, Fredericton, NB

Rose - A New Musical (TNB Theatre School)

April 21-22 | Fredericton Playhouse, Fredericton, NB

Tickets

Tickets for all season performances can be purchased through the **Playbill and Tickets** section of our website **tnb.nb.ca**

