



CRANBROOK COMMUNITY THEATRE

Since 1964

# THE MAN IN THE BOWLER HAT

BY  
**A.A.  
MILNE**

# THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND

BY  
**TOM  
STOPPARD**



DIRECTED BY  
**BOB MCGUE**

DIRECTED BY  
**KYLE  
STOOSHNOV**

**FEBRUARY 21, 22, 23\*/27, 28**

**MARCH 1, 2\*/6, 7, 8, 2025**

**SHOWTIMES AT 7:30 PM - \*MATINEES AT 2:00 PM**

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CRANBROOK COMMUNITY THEATRE

Since 1964

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# Director's Notes & Bio

One word in the title is easily overlooked yet colours every interaction: "Real" – first used as a subtle jab at Agatha Christie's long-running stage play *The Mousetrap* as Stoppard parodies its isolated manor, repeated radio announcements and questionable detective character. "Real" takes Stoppard's 1968 play a step beyond mere parody of popular source material. The first thing that most audiences see in Stoppard's stage direction, is "their own reflection". He mirrors the present day but not real reality, only its reflection. From Aristotle's mimesis to Hamlet staging his own *Mousetrap* and holding "a mirror up to nature" (*III.ii*), the idea of theatre reflecting reality continues to stir up debate. Even the two critics sitting in the audience are distorted reflections of the playwright Stoppard who was a theatre critic early in his writing career.

What about the inner play set in the drawing room at Muldoon Manor? The swamps and deadly seaside cliffs are unreal yet these details remain outside the drawing room. Lady Muldoon, Mrs. Drudge and Simon Gascoyne are stock characters from any typical murder mystery, yet something about the inner world of the play gives them a deeper sense of reality. According to climate activist Naomi Klein, such doppelgängers reveal our own doubles: "who and what we cannot bear to see" (*Klein, 2024, p. 322*). Recreating the 1977 Cranbrook Community Theatre production, we attempt to capture the conscience of our East Kootenay audience in this inner play. Soon both critics and the audience get pulled into this deeper reality.



*Kyle Stroschne*

Director of *The Real Inspector Hound* by Tom Stoppard

BIO: Kyle moved to Kimberley in December 2022 to start work at College of the Rockies after completing his graduate studies in drama education and educational technology at the University of British Columbia. The first play that he directed was Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra* for the Vancouver International Fringe Festival in 2000. Next, he lived and worked in Kanazawa, Japan at the start of his educational career and was surprised to find this city a centre for traditional Noh theatre as well as a neighbour to the international theatre festival at Togamura, Toyama hosted by famed stage director, Tadashi Suzuki.

'The Man in the Bowler Hat' by A.A. Milne was first staged by Cranbrook Community Theatre in 2004 and directed by Nikole Spring.

I have directed this play twice, both times with high school students and often wondered what it would be like with adults.

So, I put together a stellar crew including my amazing producer, Elizabeth Ross, our stunning costumer, Sandy Kay, our lead technician, William Nicholson, and Stephanie Moore who has every prop conceivable (*just try and stump her...I dare you*). Then Sandy Ashby, thankfully, stepped up to be our stage manager.

These individuals have a great deal of experience with CCT productions and always do a fantastic job of keeping me tuned up.



I knew the qualities I wanted in my actors and the people I chose fit those qualities to perfection.

In short, sit back and allow us to take you on a terribly exciting adventure!

*Bob McCue*

Director of The Man in the Bowler Hat by A. A. Milne

Bob McCue as MAGNUS in 'The Real Inspector Hound' and MAN IN HAT in 'The Man in the Bowler Hat'

BIO: This is Bob's 21st CCT production. Bob feels comfortable whether he is on stage or sitting in the director's chair. Ironically, he is doing both for this production. So...who is the real Inspector Hound? Who is that man in the bowler hat? All will be revealed. Get ready for a wild and crazy ride. One thing that **excites** Bob is an opening night. That is when all your questions are answered. Is this funny? Is this production all we think it is? How will the audience react? These are questions that can only be answered with an audience. This opening night is no exception. Enjoy!





## *Cast of The Real Inspector Hound*

Moon .....	Arielle Leslie
Birdboot .....	Jerrod Bondy
Mrs. Drudge .....	Heather Heikkinen
Simon .....	Ben Phillips
Felicity .....	Tessie Ward
Cynthia .....	Jennifer Inglis
Magnus .....	Bob McCue
Hound .....	Niki Kaufman

## *Cast of The Man in the Bowler Hat*

John .....	Brad McCue
Mary .....	Nikki Van Boeyen
Hero .....	Navy Gross
Heroine .....	Avery Tomlin-Banks
Villain .....	Andrew Weitzel
Man in the Hat .....	Bob McCue
Bad Man .....	Ben Phillips

## *The Crew:*

Director .....	Kyle Stooshnov, The Real Inspector Hound
Director .....	Bob McCue, The Man in the Bowler Hat
Producer .....	Elizabeth Ross
Stage Manager .....	Sandy Ashby
Assistant Stage Managers .....	Seojung Bae, Lorraine Harvey & Eve Sperling
Costumes .....	Sandy Kay
Costume Assistants .....	Heather Begin & Dana Morrison
Properties/Set Decorator .....	Stephanie Moore
Poster .....	Patrick Baranowski
Photography .....	Martin Ross
Lighting & Sound Design .....	William Nicholson
Technical Operators .....	William Nicholson, Sanjay Fisk
Set Construction .....	Kelly Reekie & Scott Edmonstone
Scenic & Set Painters .....	Kirsten Taylor, Elizabeth Ross, Bob, McCue, Kyle Stooshnov, Sandy Ashby, Tessie Ward, Ben Phillips, Avery Tomlin-Banks & Stephanie Moore

Elizabeth has been given the opportunity to be involved in many areas of music, theatre and musical theatre since moving to Cranbrook in 1985. She has performed with M3 Productions, Stageworks, Symphony of the Kootenays and Cranbrook Community Theatre as an actor and singer. With CCT, Elizabeth has directed two shows and this is her third foray into producing.

Elizabeth is actually an **unexpected surprise**. When her mom went to the hospital to have her seventh baby, her sister was born, but then the Doctor said, "**Surprise** Mrs. Elsinga, you are having another baby!" Elizabeth was born seven minutes after her identical twin sister.



Elizabeth Ross Producer

## The Crew



Sandy Ashby  
Stage Manager



Stephanie Moore  
Props/Set Decor



William Nicolson  
Sound/Light Design & Operation



Scott Edmonstone  
Set Construction



Dana Morrison, Sandy Kay & Heather Begin  
Costumes



Martin Ross  
Photography







Arielle Leslie  
as MOON in  
'The Real Inspector Hound'

Arielle is appearing in her second CCT production, most recently being cast as Mrs. Cratchit/Adult Belle in 'A Christmas Carol'.

She is **excited** to step back onto the CCT Stage.

Something **unexpected** for her was being transferred to the Kootenays last February and she wouldn't change a thing.

Aside from acting, you can hear Arielle in the mornings on Wild 104.7 or see her with her nose in a book.

She hopes you enjoy the show!



In preparing for the role of 'Birdboot', Jerrod found the process of channeling his inner theatre critic to be a humbling experience and he wants his fellow cast members to know that they all show brilliant promise!

As well, Jerrod is **excited** to be engaged to his beloved Rhoda and is planning to tie the knot sometime in the near future!



Jerrod Bondy  
as BIRDBOOT in  
'The Real Inspector Hound'



Following her acting debut in 'A Christmas Carol', Heather was thrilled to join the cast of 'The Real Inspector Hound' in the role of 'Mrs. Drudge'. As she delved into the character, Heather discovered that Mrs. Drudge was far more complex of a character than initially apparent.

Heather's approach to Mrs. Drudge reflects her philosophy that life is full of **surprises** and **unexpected** twists. She believes that people and situations often have hidden depths, much like her character in the play.

By taking the time to understand, listen, explore, and remain open to experiences, Heather finds that each day brings **unexpected surprises** and opportunities for growth.



Heather Heikkinen  
as MRS. DRUDGE in  
'The Real Inspector Hound'





Tessie Ward  
as FELICITY in  
'The Real Inspector Hound'

Tessie started her theater journey in CCT's 'Don't Dress for Dinner' and has been in some amazing productions since, including 'Jesus Christ Superstar', 'Clue', and 'Rocky Horror Picture Show'. Tessie has come to love theater! No matter how bad a day is, rehearsals and shows can always turn it around.

Something **surprising** that's happened to Tessie was her **unexpected** move to Cranbrook. She thought she'd live here for a few months but it's been over two years. Tessie has come to love this community with its thriving art scene, the friends she has made and the incredible mountain view. When you grow up in the prairies, a sunset over the mountains never gets old.



Jennifer Inglis  
as CYNTHIA in  
'The Real Inspector Hound'

After a two-year hiatus, Jennifer is happy to be back on stage working with this amazing cast and crew. Her last time on stage was CCT's show 'Almost, Maine' although you may remember her from past shows such as 'The Diary of Anne Frank', 'On Golden Pond', 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof', and 'Enchanted April', to name a few.

She is always pleasantly **surprised** by the calibre of talent in Cranbrook and by the community's support of local arts and culture.



Benjamin Phillips  
as SIMON in 'The Real Inspector Hound'  
and the BAD MAN in  
'The Man in the Bowler Hat'

Ben is **excited** to be a part of both 'The Real Inspector Hound' and 'The Man in the Bowler Hat' and having previously acted in CCT's production of 'A Christmas Carol' earlier this season.

Once Ben was traveling abroad in Albania. He dove into a shallow pool, hitting his head on the bottom. He thought he had only concussed himself and was **surprised** to learn he had broken his neck! This turned his trip into an **exciting** and **unexpected** detour to Germany for emergency spinal surgery. Ben is happy to report that he made a complete recovery, allowing him to act before you today.





Niki Kaufman  
as HOUND in  
'The Real Inspector Hound'

This will be Niki's third play with this theater group. She always finds it is such a fun experience and an honour to work with all the amazing people who make these plays a reality.

Niki was **surprised** by a trip to England, Wales, and Menorca last summer. It was a fabulous experience and one that Niki doesn't think can be topped.



Brad McCue  
as JOHN in  
'The Man in the Bowler Hat'

Brad McCue is back in action for another Cranbrook Community Theatre show! Brad was most recently seen on the CCT stage last fall in Patrick Baranowski's hilarious (and colourless) 'Don't Dress for Dinner'. Brad also has fond memories on the Key City Theatre stage in Brenda Burley's musical masterpieces 'The Addams Family', 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and 'Cabaret'.

In his life, theatre has brought Brad the most **excitement**. Brad took an extended break from theatre from 2012 to 2021 to move about Alberta for some reason, but coming back to Cranbrook and engaging with his local theatre has been the most rewarding adventure of his life.



Nikki Van Boeyen  
as MARY in  
'The Man in the Bowler Hat'

Nikki Van Boeyen is thrilled to be back onstage for her third production at Cranbrook Community Theatre. She made her CCT debut last year in 'Don't Dress for Dinner', followed by 'Clue'. Nikki is **excited** to work with director Bob McCue again and continue her lifelong passion for theatre, which began in Grade 10 at Mount Baker on the set of 'The Beauty and the Beast'. This led her to study theatre at the University of Lethbridge.

When not performing, she stays busy behind the scenes—recently serving as Production Manager and Lead Set Builder for 'The Addams Family' at Key City Theatre. Up next, she's taking on the role of Producer for CCT's season finale, 'The Cemetery Club'.





Navy Gross  
as the HERO in  
'The Man in the Bowler Hat'

Navy Gross is so **excited** for you to see him on the stage! He just recently was cast as the lead in Mount Baker's production of 'Footloose'. As this will be his first lead role, he is insanely pumped, while also ready to blast 'The Man in the Bowler Hat' out of the park! He loves this show and the people in it. So have fun and relax, because you're not the one who has to perform!



Avery Tomlin-Banks  
as the HEROINE in  
'The Man in the Bowler Hat'

Avery's recent shows include CCT's 'Pippin' and Key City Theatre's 'The Addams Family'.

After a gap year full of amazing theatre experiences, Avery is **excited** to study drama and psychology at the University of Lethbridge in the fall.



Andrew Weitzel  
as the VILLAIN in  
'The Man in the Bowler Hat'

You may recognize Andrew from his recent roles as 'Bob Cratchit' and 'Old Joe' in CCT's 2024 production of 'A Christmas Carol'. Other roles Andrew has played include 'Gary' in 'Noises Off' and 'Nino' in 'Mambo Italiano' (Langham Court Theatre, Victoria, BC).

The most **exciting** thing that's ever happened to Andrew is moving from Victoria to the Village of Canal Flats with his fiancée, Kira (2022).

Here, Andrew has become a proud father, a village councilor, the treasurer of the Canal Flats Wilderness Club, the village's old-timers hockey goalie – and a grateful member of CCT.

The Columbia Valley has provided unmatched support, friendship, adventure and community for both Andrew & Kira.

*Coming Next ... April/May 2025!*



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## The Studio Stage Door

### 11 – 11th Avenue South, Cranbrook BC

Originally built in 1909 as a Masonic Temple, the building was designed by Thomas Daltry Sedger (1860-1941), an English architect who lived in Esquimalt, BC for 49 years.

By 1973, the local Masons could no longer afford to heat the building and offered it for sale. Because the only prospective buyer wanted to demolish it to build a parking lot, the Cranbrook Community Theatre Society (CCT) lobbied the City of Cranbrook to get involved and purchase the building. This movement, spearheaded by Bud Abbott and Cornel Sawchuk, resulted in the successful purchase by the City, who then turned stewardship of the building over to the CCT.

The building has been distinct areas. The main Studio, is utilized local groups for the educational purposes well as individual all kinds. The upper auditorium known as primarily by the Theatre for their live this space is so acoustics so good, that it is also a favourite venue for both local and touring musical entertainers and film presentations.



segregated into two floor, known as The regularly by numerous performing arts, diverse and church services as private celebrations of floor is an 83 seat The Stage Door. Used Cranbrook Community dramatic productions, intimate, and the

By actively preserving and renovating, the CCT was able to have the structure deemed a heritage building of British Columbia in 1989.

Over decades of stewardship, the building has seen thousands of students and hundreds of theatre and musical presentations and events. The CCT members and volunteers have invested a great many hours of time and, as of 2021, more than one million dollars on the upkeep and renovation of this much-loved building.

Cranbrook Community Theatre members remain very grateful that the City had the foresight to rescue the building and are very proud of their efforts to maintain such a handsome heritage structure for residents and visitors to use and enjoy.