

109TH SEASON



HOW TO KEEP A SECRET

THE MYSTERY OF EVE

CANADIAN GHOST STORIES

A CONTEMPORARY THRILLER

HOW TO BE A SUCCESSFUL HORROR WRITER

# BURN

BY JOHN MUGGLETON

MAY 4 – 21, 2022

DIRECTED BY VENETIA LAWLESS



OTTAWA  
LITTLE  
THEATRE

400 KING EDWARD AVE.  
BOX OFFICE: 613.233.8948

[ottawalittletheatre.com](http://ottawalittletheatre.com)

# WELCOME BACK

On behalf of all the volunteers working in every role in this theatre, we welcome you back to **your community theatre** with open arms and open hearts. After more than two years of darkness, the lights are back on, the music is playing, and the stage is set for entertainment. Our message at this point couldn't be simpler: Thank you!

Thank you for coming back.

Thank you for putting a *Little Theatre* in your lives again.

And thank you for all your generosity and support over the past two years!

To say we wouldn't be here without you - the donors, subscribers, ticket buyers, and volunteers who are the heart and soul of this theatre - would be an understatement. As we open the doors to our seven show 2022 season, we promise that we will do everything we can to show our appreciation for your support by providing you the best live theatre experience each and every time you return to the OLT!

We've made some changes we've made to make your OLT experience that much better:

- This year - and into the future - we'll run a production season from Spring, right through Summer and end our season in December.
- Paper tickets are a thing of the past. This season you'll have a much more personalized experience with membership cards or customized programs in place of tickets.
- We've renovated and upgraded some technical equipment and improved the air quality to enhance your experience
- We've added a bathroom near the Besserer entrance

Please note, although we **do not require** that our patrons be vaccinated in order to attend and enjoy our shows, all OLT staff and volunteers (including cast and crew) are vaccinated against COVID-19. Also masks are **not required** in our theatre but if you are more comfortable wearing one, please feel free to do so.

Bottom line: We are open again and we couldn't be more delighted to welcome you back into the "house!"

Enjoy the show!

*With thanks,*

*The Ottawa Little Theatre Board of Directors*

# Thanks to our Donors and Supporters

The Ottawa Little Theatre has been sustained thanks to generous donations from our theatre community. Every person on this list has donated - many often - whatever they could to help us keep the building operational, and to help us keep our hope alive. We dedicate the 2022 season - with endless appreciation - to all of these wonderful folks.

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# BURN

A CONTEMPORARY THRILLER | BY JOHN MUGGLETON

## Cast

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*(in order of appearance)*

Robert.....	Josh Sparks
David.....	Riley Stewart
Samantha.....	Linda Webster
Eve.....	Joey McDougall
Tara (voice recording)/understudy.....	Judy McCormick
Paul (voice recording)/understudy.....	Stavros Sakiadis

## Synopsis

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Three long-time friends have had little contact since the death of the fourth member of their close-knit group, a best-selling horror writer. Now his estranged daughter has brought them all together again - but why?

## Setting

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Robert's Loft, Present Day

*There will be no intermission | N.B. Adult content*

*Please plan to stay after the performance for a Talk Back with playwright John Muggleton and the cast and crew. The bar will remain open and you will have an opportunity to purchase a signed copy of the script.*



**WEST**  
1722 Carling Ave.  
**728-1775**

**EAST**  
1452 Cyrville Rd.  
**745-1273**

Welcome back to theatre! The last 2 years have been hard on all of us for so many different reasons. I hope that your return to live theatre gives you something to feel optimistic about - something akin to normalcy perhaps.

Our show *Burn* has been on quite a journey. We began rehearsals in 2019 and we made it all the way to our Preview performance before lockdown in March of 2020. We thought it would be a few weeks, then a few months, and now it's been a few years. As the pandemic evolved, we saw the opportunity to regroup and turn the stage lights back on in December 2021. Sadly we had to say goodbye to two of the original cast members - Carolyn Côté and Mike McSheffrey - who created beautiful versions of Samantha and David in the 2020 version of the production. Fortunately, we were able to recast their roles with the actors you see today who have created very different versions of their characters - equally compelling to watch. Going through this process was a great reminder of the individuality each actor and designer brings to a production. While the script is the same, every person involved gives something unique and special to their part.

This version of *Burn* is the fifth version I have had the pleasure of seeing/being a part of. Each production has been innovative and clever; each director and actor have discovered new surprises in interpretation and delivery. I have loved them all.

I am so proud of my friend John's playwriting abilities that I want the world to see his work. I am excited to say that we are planning to bring *Burn* to the largest arts festival in the world this August - the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. We hope that you can participate in some of the events we have planned as fundraisers throughout the run of the show; and that you will follow us on social media as we travel there.

Thank you for supporting us in our efforts to share John's writing with the world! **#burnthefringe**

This production is dedicated to our own Calendar Girl, Megan Duncan. To paraphrase a line in that wonderful show: Wherever light was, no matter how weak, she found it. And that's such an admirable thing. And such a lesson in life.

*Venetia Lawless, Director*

This play is being produced with permission  
from the playwright, John Muggleton.

Director	Venetia Lawless
Associate Director	Lisa Dunn
Assistant to the Director	Lay MacKay (2020) / Caroline Bieber (2020-2022)
Stage Manager	Ian Fraser (2020) / Stephanie Haines (2022)
Set Design	Geoff Gruson
Lighting Design	Cole Clemenhagen
Lighting Technician	Barry Sims
Sound Design	Lindsay Laviolette
Video Design	Lindsay Laviolette (2020)
Costume Design	Karena Boychuk (2020) / Venetia Lawless, Jeanne Gauthier (2022)
Property Design	Jeanne Gauthier, Barbara Merriam
Set Dresser	Geoff Gruson, Venetia Lawless
Hair/Makeup Design	Sondra Rogers (2020) / Linda Webster (2022)
Lighting Operators	Larry Davies, Don Douglas, David Hoffman
Sound Technicians	Lindsay Laviolette, Jacky Duong, Victoria Wong
Props Crew	Phoenix Baker, Doug Cowie, Carrie de Greef, Charlotte Mooder, Monica Gubersky, Jeremie Javosky, Bob McKellar, Marlene Spatuk and Ann Marie Snell
Book	Margaret Harvey-O’Kelley, Kimberly Duncan (2020) / Judy McCormick (2022)
Volunteer Liaison	Janet Uren
Front of House Volunteer Coordinator	Kevin Schneider
Production and Portrait Photography	Maria Vartanova (2020)
Promotional Video	Tina Prud’homme (2020)
Construction Crew	Tom Pidgeon, David Magladrey, Brody Raymond
Scenic Artist	Carolyn Boer

## Special Acknowledgements / Thanks

**Book Cover Design Posters:** John Muggleton | **Vocal Coach:** Chris Ralph  
**Movement Coach:** Alianne Rozon | **Fight Coordinator:** Geoff Gruson

Special thanks to Jesse Campbell and The Fireplace Centre for the loan of the beautiful fireplace set piece.

Following a two-year hiatus between the original 2020 Production of *Burn* and the 2022 Production some members of the *Burn* Family were not able to return. We wish to acknowledge and thank the following cast and crew from the 2020 Production: Cole Clemenhagen (Lighting Design), Steve Love (Video – Paul), Michael McSheffrey (David), Carolyn Côté (Samantha) & Karena Boychuk (Costume Design).

**Josh Sparks - Robert:** For the past few years Josh has acted only in John Muggleton plays, last appearing in *An Act of Grace* at the Gladstone. His Muggleton exclusivity contract is expiring in August. His future credits may include *Cold Comfort*, *Swimming at Night*, *Black Water* and *Dead Eyes...* that's a joke. It's great to be a part of the first play on stage after the long lockdowns. Welcome back!

**Riley Stewart - David:** Riley Stewart studied Theatre and English at the University of Ottawa. As an actor, he has worked with numerous local companies, including the National Arts Centre, the Great Canadian Theatre Company, Third Wall and Vision Theatre. He performed for six consecutive seasons with Odyssey Theatre, and in 1992 was invited to join the National Art's Centre's Playwright's Circle, where he developed the full-length musical *Exhibit A*. Riley's favorite roles have included Angelo in *Measure for Measure*, Arlecchino in *The Green Bird*, Joe Pitt in *Angels in America* and Ernest in *The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine*. His film and television credits include *In Strict Tempo*, *Kevin Spencer*, *Untalkative Bunny*, the Comedy Network's *Last Band on the Planet*, YTV's *Freaky Stories* and the CBC's *Michael*, *Tuesdays* and *Thursdays*. Riley currently lives in Ottawa.

**Linda Webster - Samantha:** Linda is beyond thrilled to be back doing theatre and working with such incredibly talented people and is so excited to be reopening OLT with this amazing show *Burn*. Linda was last seen on stage as Kate in *Dancing at Lughnasa* at the Gladstone with Three Sisters in March of 2020. Previous OLT adventures include Letty Blacklock in *A Murder is Announced*, Linda in *Move Over Mrs. Markham*; Nurse Ratchet in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*; and Bev and Kathy in *Clybourne Park*. Linda would like to thank her friends and family, with a special thanks to you, our audiences, for coming back to live theatre; you make it all possible!!

**Joey McDougall - Eve:** Joey (known around town as Big Jo) is an Ottawa-based writer and actor. She received a Bachelor of Theatre from Bishops University. She is thrilled to be back performing at OLT in the creepy role of Eve. Recent acting credits include: Benita - *Love and Human Remains*; Mary Bailey - *It's a Wonderful Life*; Sylvia - *Move Over Mrs. Markham* and Laurel - *Torch Song Trilogy*.

**Judy McCormick - Tara (voiceover)/Understudy/Book:** Judy McCormick was last heard on the OLT stage in *Calendar Girls*, where she played Cora. Other roles include Jenny in *Jenny's House of Joy*, Alice in *The Tomorrow Box*, Carlotta in *The Cherry Orchard*, Marcy in *Ravenscroft*, Wanda in *Catholic School Girls* (note the period costume trend here!), and more one-act Fringe Festival and summer Shakespeare productions than she can remember. Thanks to Venetia, Caroline and the cast of *Burn* for letting me hang out with you!

**Stavros Sakiadis - Paul (voiceover)/Understudy:** Stavros is happy to be back at Ottawa Little Theatre and in the role of Paul. He was last seen on stage as Louis/Benjamin in *Ripcord*. Thank you to the wonderful cast and crew for bringing this story to life, my friends, family and students for their continued support. Enjoy the show!



**Venetia Lawless - Director:** Venetia is so pleased to have the honour of directing *Burn* at the OLT. *Burn* is the 8th OLT show as director - previous forays include and *An Act of Grace* (Best Production, Eastern Ontario Drama League One Act Play Festival), *A Murder is Announced*, and *Calendar Girls*. When not directing, Venetia is performing (*Dead Accounts*, *Other Desert Cities*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, *Savannah Sipping Society* and *Enchanted April* (Linden House), and making friendships that she carries close to her heart that will last a lifetime. She is grateful to be part of such a vibrant volunteer organization where she is able to create and grow. Love and thanks to her partner in theatre and in life - GG xo

**Lisa Dunn - Associate Director:** Lisa has enjoyed putting her dark creepy side to work during this production. She has filled many roles at OLT such as deputy stage manager, associate, and assistant director. Lisa is grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside the brilliant Venetia Lawless. She is looking forward to Co-Directing *Miracle on 34th Street* this holiday season.

**Caroline Bieber - Assistant to the Director:** Upon moving to Ottawa 12 years ago and giving up her career in television production to work for the Government, Caroline decided to look into volunteering at the little theatre on the corner near her apartment in hopes of staying in touch with her creative roots. She is forever grateful that little theatre turned out to be here. Thank you to the OLT community for being such a special and kind place filled with many of the world's greatest humans. Caroline's past shows at OLT as AD: *Trying* (2011), *Dangerous Liaisons* (2012), *Sabrina Fair* (2015), *Calendar Girls* (2016), *Old Love* (2017) and *A Murder is Announced* (2019). Thank you to Venetia for the invitation to join her on this show's journey...little did we know it would take three years to finally get to opening night!

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A DRAMA  
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BY DAVID AUBURN

DIRECTED BY SARAH HEARN

**JUNE 8 – 25, 2022**

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In cold war America, the most influential newspaper columnist of them all is admired, feared, and courted by the Washington elite. But his political gamesmanship might be about to catch up on him. Adult content.



**Stephanie Haines – Stage Manager:** Stephanie Haines is pleased to be a part of this original production. Her previous engagements as stage manager include OLT's *Memory of Water* representing at the Eastern Ontario Drama League Festival in Belleville, where it won several awards including Best Ensemble Team. Stephanie has also acted in a number of plays, including *Third Person Singular* (Village Players, Toronto), *Curved* (Gateway Theatre, North Bay), *The Odd Couple* (Scarborough Theatre), and *Molly's Veil* (Goya Theatre). Stephanie is enjoying being on the other side of the figurative 'lens' lending support to an extremely gifted group of actors and a kick-ass crew. Break a leg everybody!

**Geoff Gruson – Set Design:** A Cornerstone inductee in 2015, with over 40 years of volunteering at the OLT in almost every capacity. He has worked on over 90 shows at OLT - acting and directing, assistant to the director, fight director, scenic designer, the Board of Directors, the Operations Committee, Artistic Committee, and the Season Planning Committee. In 2007, he received the prestigious Audrey Ashley Award from the Capital Critics Circle for 'outstanding work on community and professional stages and contribution to theatre in Ottawa.' Last on stage in *Gaslight* in 2019 and last directed *Unnecessary Farce* (2019). Miles of smiles to ARMP!

**Barry Sims- Lighting Technician:** Barry has been a lighting designer for several years and has been involved on OLT productions such as *Towards Zero* and *Pardon Me Prime Minister*. He was also the lighting designer for *Torch Song Trilogy* for Tototoo Theatre and *Tick Tick Boom* for Orpheus as well as lighting various shows in Manotick and at The Gladstone Theatre. He is also behind the scenes on many OLT shows helping where he can and enjoying every minute of it. Thanks to the Director for the opportunity to work on *Burn*.

**Lindsay Laviolette – Sound Designer:** Lindsay is excited to return to this project and to be designing sound for *Burn* after a two-year hiatus. Normally, Lindsay makes on-stage appearances, but she loves the challenge of working behind the scenes. She feels fortunate to be working with such a talented cast and crew on another John Muggleton show (previously Associate Director and Stage Manager for *An Act of Grace* at the Gladstone). Outside of this production, Lindsay is a proud member of OLT's Board of Directors and a high school Drama and Media Arts teacher. She would like to thank Venetia for bringing her on board and IG for his love and support.

**Jeanne Gauthier – Props/Costume Designer:** For Jeanne, joining the theatre all started with set dressing on *Dr. Cook's Garden*, 9 years ago. Since then, being Props Designer or Costume Designer on many plays now includes *Burn*, *Unnecessary Farce*, *Clybourne Park* and many more, which gave her the chance to work with great casts and crews!

**Barbara Merriam – Props Designer:** Barbara is so pleased to be working on another OLT show, this time with the talented Co-Props Designer, Jeanne Gauthier, the outstanding Director, Venetia Lawless, along with a terrific cast and crew. Working on a show is an opportunity to be there at the beginning with auditions as well as, be there at the end with opening night and the run! Enjoy this wonderful show.

**John Muggleton – Playwright:** A small role in OLT's 1991 production of *Born Yesterday* led to a 30-year career as an actor, director, drama instructor and playwright. Over the years John has performed in eleven OLT productions including *Dangerous Liaisons*, *Drinking Alone*, *Emerald City*, *Wrong Turn at Lungfish* and *Greetings* to name a few, and in 2011 directed *The Long Weekend* by Norm Foster, where it picked up several awards. John has also performed and produced shows elsewhere, such as the Gladstone, in shows such as David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross* (Best Production 2015 Capital Critics Awards), and *Speed-The-Plow* (Outstanding Male Actor nomination Prix Rideau Awards, Best Actor nomination Capital Critics Circle Awards) and most recently in his own award-winning play *An Act of Grace*. In addition to Ottawa theatre work, John also worked in television in Toronto for six years and was an original cast member of *Second City's Tony & Tina's Wedding* in Toronto, where he played various characters in over 650 performances. A member of ACTRA, The Canadian Actors Equity Association and the Playwrights Guild of Canada, John is a proud recipient of the Audrey Ashley Award for longstanding dedication to the Ottawa theatre community.

Nominated as Best New Play of 2017, *Burn* has since been, and continues to be, produced across Canada, and the US, and this March saw its UK debut. *An Act of Grace*, John's second play, was Ottawa Little Theatre's entry at the Eastern Ontario Drama League Festival in 2018 and was awarded Best Production, Best Ensemble, The People's Choice Award and the Adjudicators Award for Outstanding Achievement in Playwriting. Having *Burn* produced at OLT is particularly special for John seeing as his mother, Jean, acted on this very stage in the 1950's. Having *Burn* come home to OLT is one of his life's great moments.

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# BURN

A Canadian Play  
by John Muggleton



burnthefringe



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We invite you to take some time to visit our Spotlight Gallery, located in the north lobby on the house-right side of the theatre. We are dedicating this space to showcase the talents of our volunteers, audience

members, and donors in mixed media arts. Our goal is to shine a spotlight on someone you may have been sitting next to as a subscriber, or watching on stage, or been served by, who has some hidden talent you may not have been aware of. We are surrounded by so many talented people here at OLT, we wanted to use this space to exhibit their works. If there are pieces you are interested in purchasing, the details on how to contact the artists directly are included in the exhibit.

During the run of *Burn*, we are pleased to display the work of Phil Lawless, father of *Burn* director Venetia Lawless (because OLT really is a family!)

Throughout this season we will bring you a selection of works by many more artists from our community. We will be looking for new exhibits to share over the coming seasons so if you have a hidden talent you'd like to share, please contact Venetia Lawless at [volunteer@ottawalittletheatre.com](mailto:volunteer@ottawalittletheatre.com) to inquire about exhibiting your own works.

In the meantime, enjoy the art!

## Thanks to season sponsors

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Special thanks to this season's Ottawa Little Theatre Sponsors

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*For information on how to become an Ottawa Little Theatre sponsor, contact [president@ottawalittletheatre.com](mailto:president@ottawalittletheatre.com)*

## OLT Staff

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While the Ottawa Little Theatre is almost entirely volunteer run, we are fortunate to have a small and dedicated staff committed to maintaining the day-to-day operations of our theatre

Technical Director ..... Tom Pidgeon  
 Technical and Production Support ..... David Magladry  
 Box Office Supervisor ..... Ian Fraser

**All performances:** Please plan to stay after performances for a Talk Back with the cast and crew. The bar will remain open after the performance and you will have an opportunity to purchase a signed copy of the script.

**Burn in the Edinburgh Fringe Fest:** Our production of *Burn* is hitting the road to perform at the 2022 Edinburgh Fringe Festival! If you would like support our efforts to bring the play to Scotland, here are a few ways to do so:



- Purchase a copy of *Burn* signed by the playwright, John Muggleton\*
- Donate your loose change to the "Pennines for Pounds" coin drive in the lobby\*
- Plan to join us for the Fringe Preview in Wakefield, Quebec on July 22-23 at Centre Wakefield La Pêche - ticket information will be shared on our Facebook page and at ottawalittletheatre.com when they are available for purchase.

## ***And if you liked the show, tell your friends!***

*\*Proceeds will be split between supporting the Ottawa Little Theatre (especially post-COVID) and our Burn in the Edinburgh Fringe Fest fundraising.*

## **Box Office**

613.233.8948 | info@ottawalittletheatre.com | Opens at noon daily

### **Performance Times**

Wednesday to Saturday evenings: 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday matinees: 2:30 p.m.



Tickets can also be purchased online anytime!

**Visit: ottawalittletheatre.com**



### **ENJOY SPACIOUS SEATING IN OUR LICENSED AUDITORIUM**

*Please visit ottawalittletheatre.com for up to date information about the Ottawa Little Theatre's public safety guidelines.*

# 2022 SEASON!



A CONTEMPORARY THRILLER

## BURN

BY JOHN MUGGLETON  
DIRECTED BY VENETIA LAWLESS

MAY 4 – 21, 2022



A DRAMA

## THE COLUMNIST

BY DAVID AUBURN  
DIRECTED BY SARAH HEARN

JUNE 8 – 25, 2022



A COURTROOM MYSTERY

## WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

BY AGATHA CHRISTIE  
DIRECTED BY GEOFF GRUSON

JULY 13 – 30, 2022

A CONTEMPORARY COMEDY

## THE SIEGEL

BY MICHAEL MITNICK  
DIRECTED BY GREG HANCOCK



AUG. 17 – SEPT. 3, 2022

A NORM FOSTER COMEDY

## ON A FIRST NAME BASIS

BY NORM FOSTER  
DIRECTED BY BARBARA KOBOLAK



SEPT. 21 – OCT. 8, 2022

A MYSTERY

## HOLMES AND WATSON

BY JEFFREY HATCHER  
DIRECTED BY ALAIN CHAMSI



OCT. 26 – NOV. 12, 2022

A CHRISTMAS CLASSIC COMEDY

## MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

BY MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY THEATRE  
DIRECTED BY LISA DUNN & JOSH KEMP



NOV. 30 – DEC. 17, 2022



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