



KANATA THEATRE PRESENTS

# THE DROWNING GIRLS

BY BETH GRAHAM, CHARLIE TOMLINSON  
AND DANIELA VLASKALIC

DIRECTED BY SANDY WYNNE | FEB. 4 - 14, 2026

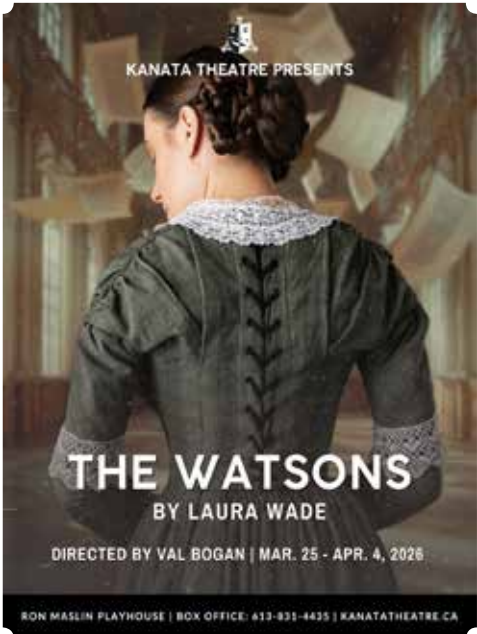
RON MASLIN PLAYHOUSE | BOX OFFICE: 613-831-4435 | KANATATHEATRE.CA

What happens when the writer loses the plot? Emma Watson is 19 and new in town. She's been cut off by her rich aunt and dumped back in the family home. Emma and her sisters must marry, fast. But there's a problem: Jane Austen didn't finish the story. Who will write Emma's happy ending now?



Scan or click here  
for tickets

Enjoyed the show?  
Tell us what you thought  
[programs@kanatatheatre.ca](mailto:programs@kanatatheatre.ca)



 **Tea & Toast**  
ELDERCARE PLANNERS  
**Turning Difficult  
Decisions Into  
Confident Choices  
with Eldercare  
Guidance.**



Learn more about  
our services  
[TeaAndToast.ca](http://TeaAndToast.ca)  
613.698.1319

 **When you  
support local,  
local supports  
you.**



**Stittsville Home Hardware Building Centre**  
6001 Hazeldean Road 613-831-7775  
(Save 5%, give 5% - for details go to  
[www.kanatatheatre.ca/promotions](http://www.kanatatheatre.ca/promotions))

# Join us at the KT Lounge

## Featured Cocktail — Bathtub Gin Fizz

|                         |          |           |        |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|
| Artisanal Butter Tarts  | \$3.00   | Beer      | \$7.00 |
| Munchies™/Smartfood®    | \$3.00   | Wine      | \$8.00 |
| Soft Drinks             | \$2.00   | Spirits   | \$8.00 |
| Coffee/Tea (self-serve) | Donation | Cocktails | \$8.00 |

Drinks only in the auditorium. NO FOOD.



**kanata theatre**





## CAST

(in order of appearance)

**Bessie**

**Alice**

**Margaret**

**Kate Jordan**

**Lindsey Keene**

**Megan LeMarquand**

## SYNOPSIS

Materializing from the hereafter, three breathless brides bear testament and relive the shocking events leading to their tragic demise at the hands of a murderous Edwardian opportunist – their husband.



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Contemporary reportage of the 1915 Brides in the Bath case in Britain often placed the perpetrator in the spotlight while portraying the female victims as senseless and gullible. *The Drowning Girls* creatively re-focuses the lens and allows the women to energetically reclaim their stories, and, as stars of the show, tell them in gripping (and dripping) detail often tempered by humour.

It is hoped that red flags, identified in retrospect by the drowning girls, are recognized by our audiences as having modern equivalents in gaslighting, catfishing, and romance cons. It would be gratifying if thoughtful discussion about societal expectations, the desire to be loved, and susceptibility to manipulation and exploitation is provoked after experiencing this unconventional roller coaster of a play.



**PhonicEar On-Wave** hearing assistance systems can be picked up at the cloak room. These receivers permit control over listening volume levels through a 3.5 mm plug headset or T-Switch hearing aid loops.



## BIOGRAPHIES



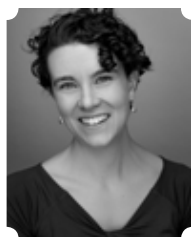
**Sandy Wynne (Director)** is no stranger to Kanata Theatre and has enjoyed playing various roles on stage and back stage for close to 30 years. Her Kanata Theatre directing credits include *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *The 39 Steps*, *4000 Miles*, and *Proof*. It is her great honour to have been selected to direct this unique, evocative telling of the drowning girls' tragic tale. The creative energies of cast and crew as well as their willingness to explore, experiment, and evolve as a team, made directing this production a true delight.

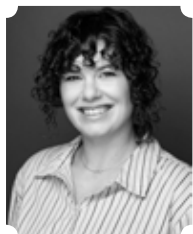
**Shauna Cronin (Assistant Director)** is thrilled to be the Assistant Director for *The Drowning Girls*, a ghostly retelling that's both innovative and provocative. A dedicated KT member, Shauna recently appeared in *Almost, Maine* and *The Melville Boys*. Shauna is a big fan of the 10-minute plays and has acted in *Love Is Gold* and authored *Lessons in Loss*. Offstage, she is keen to support all things KT, whether prompting, helping front of house, or providing makeup support for KT Kids! Transitioning to the production team for this haunting show has been a rewarding journey. She is grateful to the talented cast and crew, and hopes the audience finds this performance truly captivating.



**Lindsey Keene (Alice)** is an analyst by day and actor by night. For KT: La Presidente de Tourvel in *Dangerous Liaisons*, and, coming up next, Emma in *The Watsons*. At the Ottawa Little Theatre, she played Gillian in *37 Postcards*, Bobbi in *Hilda's Yard*, and Abigail Bliss in *The Noble Pursuit*. Other favourites include the Emcee in *Cabaret* and Jack in *Into the Woods*. In her rare spare time, she serves on the Gladstone Theatre's Board of Directors. Much love to every person who gave their time and talents to this very special production. Forever and always grateful to her family, friends, Dawson, and Ko. For Grandma, who she knows is always in the audience.

**Kate Jordan (Bessie)** is delighted to be making her Kanata Theatre debut in the only play in which her swimming experience has come in handy. Fans of Ottawa theatre and/or murder may remember Kate as Greta Ohlsson in the OLT'S *Murder on the Orient Express* (2024). Kate is grateful to the cast and crew of *The Drowning Girls* for their generosity and creativity as well as to the real Bessie Mundy for the honour of giving her breath again—for a time. May we do these women justice and work toward a world in which no one is forced to make desperate choices because of discriminatory circumstances. Thank you for being here and for becoming a part of this story.





**Megan LeMarquand (Margaret)** was a Toronto-based actor and vocalist for over a decade when she decided to relocate to Ottawa to be closer to family. She is a graduate of the George Brown Theatre program and her favourite credits include Inez in *No Exit* (FOH Productions), Mrs. Patrick in *A Man of No Importance* (Musical Stage Co.), and Natalie in *Next to Normal* (Aurora Theatre). Since coming to Ottawa, Megan has appeared as Stella in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Ottawa Little Theatre), and, most recently, as Merteuil in *Dangerous Liaisons* (Kanata Theatre). She is thrilled to join this amazing cast and crew to bring this multifaceted reclamation of women's voices to the stage. She thanks her husband for endlessly supporting her crazy dreams.

This year, Chrysalis House celebrates its 20th year of operation. For two decades, the shelter has been steadfast in supporting women on their journey to safety, empowerment, and improved quality of life. Kanata Theatre patrons are warmly invited to support this important work through donations during the run of *The Drowning Girls*, helping Chrysalis House continue to provide care, stability, and hope to women in our community.



## A Disturbingly Common Script

### Dr. Hawley Crippen (1910)

Murdered his wife, Cora Crippen, and fled to Canada with his mistress.

One of the first criminals caught via wireless telegraph, making it a media sensation.

Like *The Drowning Girls*, the case reflected anxieties about trust and deception within marriage.

### Frederick Henry Seddon (1911)

Poisoned his elderly female lodger, Eliza Barrow, for her insurance.

Like Smith in *The Drowning Girls*, he appeared respectable and his crime shocked Edwardian society.

The trial reinforced public fascination with “respectable” murderers hiding behind domestic civility.

### Black Widows of Liverpool (c. 1880)

Catherine Flannagan and Margaret Higgins killed several people (including relatives) for insurance.

Their case showed how poverty and lack of female agency could turn the domestic sphere deadly—a mirror image of Smith's male-on-female exploitation.

### Bluebeard of Paris (1910s)

Henri Landru wooed and murdered at least 10 women during WWI, promising marriage or protection.

Burned their bodies in his stove.

Tried and executed in 1922.

His crimes inspired numerous plays, films, and crime stories, much like George Joseph Smith's.

---

## PLAYWRIGHT BIOS

**Beth Graham (Playwright)** is a playwright, actor, and dramaturg. Her plays have been professionally produced across the country and internationally (United States, UK, Australia, New Zealand, and Turkey). Her play, *The Gravitational Pull of Bernice Trimble*, was a finalist for the Governor General's Award and a recipient of the Gwen Pharis Ringwood Alberta Literary Award. Her other plays and collaborations include *The Drowning Girls* (co-writer), *Weasel*, *Pretty Goblins*, *Dora Maar: The Wicked One* (co-writer), and *Mermaid Legs*. She is a former Lee Playwright-in-Residence at the University of Alberta and Dramaturg-in-Residence at Workshop West Playwrights Theatre.

**Charlie Tomlinson (Playwright)** is a teacher/director/actor who lives in St John's, Newfoundland. He is the former artistic director of c2c theatre. He has worked at theatres from Newfoundland to the Yukon and has taught in Ontario, Alberta, and Newfoundland.

**Daniela Vlaskalic (Playwright)** is a multiple award-winning actor and playwright, and has worked extensively across Canada. Along with her own work, she has a long history of collective and collaborative creation, most notably the play *The Drowning Girls*, which has received over 200 productions worldwide. Daniela's plays include *The Fox* (premiered at Here for Now Theatre, 2023) and *Sleight of Mind* (premiered at Western Canada Theatre, 2022). Daniela has co-written several plays including *Mules*, *Comrades*, and the multiple award-winning play *The Drowning Girls* (co-written with Beth Graham and Charlie Tomlinson). *The Drowning Girls* has received multiple productions nationally and internationally, and is published by Canada Playwrights Press. Daniela also performed and co-wrote *Dora Maar: The Wicked One* (co-writer Beth Graham) in both Calgary at OYR's High Performance Rodeo (Spring Edition) and Edmonton's Workshop West Theatre. As an actor, Daniela has appeared across the country with many of Canada's theatres: Stratford Festival, National Arts Centre, Canadian Stage Company, Drayton Entertainment, Theatre Orangeville, Tarragon Theatre, Theatre Aquarius, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Theatre Calgary, ATP, Citadel Theatre, Globe Theatre, Vancouver Playhouse, Belfry Theatre, and many more. Film and Television credits include *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC), *Private Eyes* (Global), and *The Truth About the Harry Quebert Affair* (Muse Productions). Daniela lives in Toronto and Calgary.

*The Drowning Girls* premiered at Alberta Theatre Projects on March 6, 2008, as part of the Enbridge playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays.

*The Drowning Girls* is produced by permission of the Playwright and Marquis Literary (Colin Rivers) [www.MQlit.ca](http://www.MQlit.ca)

|                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Please be considerate: ensure that mobile devices are turned off. The use of any media capture device during the performance is prohibited by copyright law. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



## PRODUCTION TEAM

|                               |                                          |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Production Manager            | Paul Behncke                             |
| Stage Manager                 | Anne-Marie Smith                         |
| Assistant Stage Managers      | Sheryl Bell, Terry Leonard               |
| Set Design & Construction     | Heidi Roberts                            |
| Assisted by                   | Paul Behncke, Jim Clarke                 |
|                               | Murray Dogget, Dean Flockton             |
|                               | Elisa Frost, Mike Giovinazzi             |
|                               | Mark Guzowski, Gordon Harrison           |
|                               | Kasey Kirkey, Clyde Le Guerrier          |
|                               | Paul Robichaud, Arseniy Skvortsov        |
|                               | Kurt Strand, Sandy Wynne                 |
|                               | Sally McIntyre                           |
| Set Painting                  | Donna Burlock, Jo-Ann Doxey              |
| Assisted by                   | Elisa Frost, Sharon Harrison             |
|                               | Kasey Kirkey, Barbara Kobolak            |
|                               | Paul & Francine Robichaud                |
|                               | Amy Rawding, Miranda Shelley             |
|                               | Sheila Trivisonno, Sandy Wynne           |
|                               | David Magladry                           |
| Lighting                      | Emma Bejan, Anthony Rumsey               |
| Assisted by                   | Laurenne Tynski                          |
|                               | Tracey Bourke, Mike Bosnich              |
| Sound                         | Yolanda Akl, Mike Hogan                  |
| Assisted by                   | Laura Young                              |
|                               | Isabella Redgate                         |
| Costume Design & Construction | Catherine Gilbert, Caitlin Hegger        |
| Assisted by                   | Paul Behncke, Andre Dupuis               |
| Tubs & Showers                | Michael Gareau, John van Schouwen        |
|                               | Tiara Wallace                            |
| Properties                    | Monique Ecroyd                           |
| Assisted by                   | Jessica Grass                            |
| Movement Consultant           | Jane Pick, Lucy Sheridan, Kathleen Walsh |
| Lobby Displays                | Nancy Cormier, Lorraine Gorman           |
| Continuity                    | Petra Watzlawik-Li, Ann Williams         |
|                               | Carol Walkey                             |
| Hair Styling                  | Martha Johnstone                         |
| Make Up                       | Anissa Stambouli                         |
| Assisted by                   | Aimee Smith                              |
| Green Room                    | Barb McNally                             |
| Volunteer Liaison             |                                          |

We also thank all other Kanata Theatre volunteers that helped make this production possible but who are not listed here, including publicity, marketing, box office, signage, front of house and KT Lounge, operations, and more.

For 57 seasons, the volunteers of Kanata Theatre have been bringing theatre to life in our community. As the saying goes, "it takes a village", and there are so many people in our village. People designing sets, sewing costumes, moving scenery, lighting, applying make-up, opening doors, rehearsing and performing, and of course, most importantly, you, the people in our audience. The people buying tickets, bringing friends, and enjoying each performance. Thanks for being part of our community; we wouldn't be here without you.



**Rob Johnstone, President, Kanata Theatre**



**Welcome to Buster's Bar & Grill**

420 Hazeldean Road - 613-836-7007

[www.bustersbarandgrill.ca](http://www.bustersbarandgrill.ca)

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

@bustersottawa

*Get 20% discount on show dates with valid ticket stub!*



Can you guess the famous stories, plays, and films where marriage, trust, and appearances prove dangerously deceptive — written by these authors?

Henrik Ibsen, Patrick Hamilton, Susan Glaspell, Jean Genet, Daphne du Maurier, Charlotte Brontë, Robert Browning, J.B. Priestley, Arthur Miller, Margaret Atwood, Sophie Treadwell, Felicity Morris, Nev Shulman & Paul Rudnick.

*[Numbers represent letters per word in each title, e.g., The Drowning Girls (3 8 4)]*

1. Abode for tiny people (1 5 5)
2. Dim illumination (8)
3. English desserts (7)
4. The help (3 5)
5. Daphne's girl (7)
6. Rochester's governess (4 4)
7. Final Duke's partner (2 4 7)
8. DI comes knocking (2 9 5)
9. Melting pot (3 8)
10. Dystopian servant's story (3 9 4)
11. Outlined objects (3 5 6)
12. Monotonously robotic (8)
13. Flammable drifter (3 6 8)
14. Whiskered swimmer on TV (7 3 2 4)
15. Caine's sib's relative's principles (5 6 6)

*Answers inside back cover*

The paintings in the foyer are by  
courtesy of the

**Kanata Civic Art Gallery**

For information or to purchase  
the art, please contact

**kanatacivicartgallery**

**@gmail.com**

*Water in lobby supplied by*



In 1900, medicine was largely a man's world. Women were often seen as too emotional or delicate for serious medical study, their minds thought unsuited to science. Female patients, meanwhile, were frequently dismissed or misdiagnosed—especially when their symptoms defied easy explanation. “Hysteria” became a catch-all label for women's pain, grief, or resistance. Access to medical training was limited; most universities barred women entirely or restricted them to nursing and midwifery. Those who persisted, like Elizabeth Garrett Anderson or Florence Nightingale, faced ridicule and exclusion. The result was a profession that not only treated women unequally but also defined their health through the lens of male authority and moral judgment.





**INNOVATION**  
REALTY LTD

**Chrissy Hollands**  
SALES REPRESENTATIVE  
(613) 862-4791  
[chrissy@paoloandchrissy.com](mailto:chrissy@paoloandchrissy.com)

**Paolo Hollands**  
BROKER  
(613) 791-3900  
[paolo@paoloandchrissy.com](mailto:paolo@paoloandchrissy.com)



## The Alchemy of Paint and Perspective

Set painting is theatre's quiet conjurer, transforming flat surfaces into believable worlds through colour, shadow, and perspective. A painted floor can appear tiled, worn smooth by years of use, or cold and echoing beneath bare feet, even when no real tiles exist. Through carefully suggested grout lines, highlights, and shadows, set painters create the illusion of depth and texture, extending the stage far beyond its physical limits. These painted details shape mood and place, helping the audience accept a bathroom, a street, or a palace as real. At its best, set painting disappears into the story, letting imagination do the rest.



This season, that magic deserves a heartfelt thank you. Across *The Drowning Girls*, *Deathtrap*, *The Spitfire Grill*, and *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, the paint crew took on big sets, tight timelines, and very different visual worlds — and made each one sing. These are busy people doing extraordinary work, creating beauty that supports every moment on stage. Their brushstrokes may fade into the background, but their contribution to our theatre is anything but invisible.



See your company name  
here and support Kanata  
Theatre

**Interested in advertising  
with Kanata Theatre?**

**Contact us at [programs@  
kanatatheatre.ca](mailto:programs@kanatatheatre.ca) for more  
information!**





**KAREN**  
McCrimmon  
MPP Kanata-Carleton

Constituency office:  
555 Legget Dr. Kanata  
Suite 109 K2K 2X3

[kmccrimmon.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:kmccrimmon.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)  
613-599-3000

## The World Tilts...

In 1900 Britain, women lived under strict limits — expected to marry, serve, and stay silent. They couldn't vote, sit in Parliament, or easily escape unhappy marriages. A husband legally “owned” his wife's home, income, and often her children.

Working women earned a fraction of men's wages, while middle-class women were told education made them unfeminine. Yet, cracks were forming in this old order. New universities began opening their doors, women like Millicent Fawcett demanded the vote through peaceful protest, and Emmeline Pankhurst's WSPU was about to shake the system with bold defiance. By the turn of the century, a quiet revolution was stirring — the fight for equality had begun, and it would soon change Britain forever.



Experience the very best in live theatre with Kanata Theatre's 2025–2026 season — a lineup of outstanding productions that will entertain, inspire, and delight. Exceptional performances, affordable prices, and a welcoming atmosphere await you.

Visit [kanatatheatre.ca](http://kanatatheatre.ca) to purchase tickets.



# 2025-2026 Season

## THE WATSONS

BY LAURA WADE

DIRECTED BY VAL BOGAN

What happens when the writer loses the plot? Emma Watson is 19 and new in town. She's been cut off by her rich aunt and dumped back in the family home. Emma and her sisters must marry, fast. But there's a problem: Jane Austen didn't finish the story. Who will write Emma's happy ending now?

MAR 25 - APR 4, 2026

## THE HEART OF ROBIN HOOD

BY DAVID FARR

DIRECTED BY JOSH KEMP

Robin Hood and his band of outlaws steal from the rich, creating a fearsome reputation amongst those who dare to travel through Sherwood. But they do not share their spoils with the poor and are unloved by the people. It is down to Marion to boldly protect the poor and convince Robin that he must listen to his heart if they are to save the country.

MAY 13-23, 2026

**Experience the magic of live theatre at Kanata Theatre — where great entertainment meets unbeatable value!**

Grab a 3-play subscription for the rest of our 2025–2026 season for \$66 and save \$24 over regular tickets.

Purchase your tickets here: [www.kanatatheatre.ca](http://www.kanatatheatre.ca).

The Kanata Theatre is wheelchair accessible. Please call the Box Office at 613-831-4435 to secure wheelchair seating.

All tickets are non-refundable. Please contact [boxoffice@kanatatheatre.ca](mailto:boxoffice@kanatatheatre.ca) 48 hrs in advance, to exchange tickets for another performance within the current show.



**Quiz Answers:** 1. A Doll's House (Henrik Ibsen, 1879), 2. Gaslight (Patrick Hamilton, 1938), 3. Trifles (Susan Glaspell, 1916), 4. The Maids (Jean Genet, 1947), 5. Rebecca (Daphne du Maurier, 1938), 6. Jane Eyre (Charlotte Brontë, 1847), 7. My Last Duchess (Robert Browning, 1842, poem), 8. An Inspector Calls (J. B. Priestley, 1945), 9. The Crucible (Arthur Miller, 1953), 10. The Handmaid's Tale (Margaret Atwood, 1985), 11. The Shape of Things (Neil LaBute, 2001), 12. Machinal (Sophie Treadwell, 1928), 13. The Tinder Swindler (Felicity Morris, 2022), 14. Catfish: The TV Show (Nev Shulman, 2012) & 15. Adam's Family Values (Paul Rudnick, 1993)

## CITY OF OTTAWA



**Ottawa**

110 LAURIER AVENUE WEST  
OTTAWA, ON K1P 1J1

(613) 580-2752

ALLAN.HUBLEY@OTTAWA.CA  
WWW.COUNCILLORALLANHUBLEY.CA

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MY  
SOCIAL MEDIA, WEBSITE AND MORE



**ALLAN HUBLEY**

CITY COUNCILLOR,  
KANATA SOUTH - WARD 23

## MEMBERSHIP

Love the magic of live theatre? You can help make it happen! Since 1968, Kanata Theatre has been a vibrant part of the community. What began as a small group of theatre-loving friends producing plays in neighbourhood schools has grown into a 700+ member organization proudly bringing quality live theatre to audiences. We couldn't do what we do without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. Take a look in your program at the many roles it takes to run a production, then add all those working front of house, running the KT Lounge, and caring for our treasured building.

Our productions come to life thanks to the passion of volunteers like you. Whether you enjoy greeting guests, helping backstage, building sets, or assisting with costumes and props, there's a place for your talent here. No experience? No problem. We'll provide the guidance — just bring your enthusiasm. Please contact [membership@kanatatheatre.ca](mailto:membership@kanatatheatre.ca) (or scan the QR code)

for more information. I'd be happy to answer any questions. Enjoy the show!

Juli Heney, Director Membership and Training



Find us on Facebook at  
**Kanata Theatre**  
Follow us on Instagram  
**@KanataTheatre**



## Kanata Theatre Gives Special Thanks to Our Season Sponsors

Bob & Nancy Cormier [G]  
Dorothy Beak (dedicated to Tony & Dorothy Beak and Family) [G]  
Susan Monaghan [G]  
Eufron Williams (in memory of Kaitlin Williams) [G]  
Andre & Anne-Marie Dupuis [G]  
Don & Sheryl Bell [G]  
Bob & Jean Sheridan (in memoriam) [GG]

[G]old, [S]ilver

## Become a Friend of Kanata Theatre!



Scan or click here to support to  
Kanata Theatre or go to  
<https://kanatatheatre.ca/support-us/>



The Ron Maslin Playhouse is built on and Kanata Theatre operates on the unceded territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin peoples, the stewards of this land for millennia.