

**Cast and Creative Team**  
*Old Man and The River*,  
2016 Production  
Theatre Direct Canada

*A heart-warming tale told through inventive puppetry!*

# Old Man and the River



**Lynda Hill, Director and Co-Creator**

Lynda is a professional theatre director, dramaturge, arts educator and arts leader with a passion for the creation and development of new work, new artists and new audiences.

Lynda Hill has led the organizational and artistic direction of Theatre Direct since 2001. She has commissioned numerous new plays for the company and guided the successful production of 19 productions, 12 of which were original commissions including *And, By The Way Miss....*, *Beneath the Banyan Tree*, *Binti's Journey*, *Sanctuary Song* and most recently, *Old Man and the River*. The company's productions have been seen by thousands of young people across the country in schools, theatres and international festivals.

In 2006, she initiated and oversaw Theatre Direct's project to establish a permanent home as anchor tenants of the Artscape Wychwood Barns, a revitalization of former streetcar repair barns in the heart of a thriving neighbourhood of young families and schools. Since 2009, the company, moved from seasonal touring to year-round programming including the presentation of their original work, guest productions, community and education programs.

Lynda is a mother of two children, Tessa aged 15 and Quinn, aged 17, who, along with her partner James Roy, live in Toronto's West end.



**Thomas Morgan Jones, Co-Creator**

Thomas has worked across Canada and internationally as a director, playwright, dramaturg, instructor, and movement coach. His productions have received eleven Dora Mavor Moore Awards and eight nominations, he received the 2011 Dora Mavor Moore Guthrie (Stratford Festival), and has been nominated twice for the John Hirsch Award (2008 & 2011) and for the Pauline McGibbon Award.

He has collaborated with companies including: Theatre Direct, The Stratford Festival, Theatre Passe Muraille, Cahoots Theatre Company, Theatre Rusticle, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Carousel Players, Modern Times Stage Company, Theatre Jones Roy, Project Humanity, Young People's Theatre, The Magnetic North Theatre Festival, The CULTCH, The Charlottetown Festival, Cia Enviezada (Brazil), and many others. As an educator he has taught with the Stratford Festival's Birmingham Conservatory (four seasons), Sheridan College, the University of Guelph, the University of Guelph-Humber, The Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts, The Playwrights Guild of Canada, CBC's *Triple Sensation*, The Paprika Festival, Theatre

Rusticle's Gym, Theatre Direct, The Charlottetown Festival, Cahoots Theatre Company, and many other professional companies in addition to elementary and secondary schools.

He holds a B.A. from the University of Guelph, an M.A. from the University of Toronto, and has trained with SITI Company in NYC/Madrid/Paris, and The Suzuki Company of Toga (SCOT) in Toga, Japan and Italy. He is currently the artistic director of Theatre New Brunswick ([www.tnb.nb.ca](http://www.tnb.nb.ca))



### **Kelly Wolf, Set and Costume Design**

Kelly Wolf is a Set and Costume designer who is interested in exploring ways that design can augment the theatrical experience. She has designed for many theatres across Canada ranging from small independent companies to the major festivals.

Recent designs include: *Waiting Room* (Tarragon), *Quiver* (Theatre Aquarius Studio) *Commercials for Hamilton* (Hammer Theatre-Staircase) *The Old Man and the River* (Theatre Direct) *Midsummer Night's Dream* – costume (Citadel Theatre), *Sound of Music* – set (Drayton) Designs for Stratford Festival and seven seasons at the Shaw Festival, Theatre Calgary, Citadel Theatre (Edmonton), Blyth Festival, Factory Theatre, The Grand Theatre, CanStage, MTC.

Recent designs for Sheridan College: *Legally Blonde* (sets) *In the Heights*, *Spring Awakening*, Humber College: *2<sup>nd</sup> Year TYA collective*, *Caucasian*

*Chalk Circle*, Instructor at Brock University, Kelly is a graduate of York University (BFA) and the University of Toronto (MA) as well as the Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design. Member of ADC.



### **Nicky Phillips, Original Music**

Nicky is thrilled to have written the music for *Old Man And The River*. She has a long history with Theatre Direct, having worked there as an actor, an educator, an administrator, and now a composer! Nicky now lives in New York where she is a composer and lyricist. She is a member of the BMI-Lehman Engel Advanced Musical Theatre Workshop, an alumna of the Johnny Mercer Songwriters Project (mentored by Lin-Manuel Miranda) and a graduate of the Ryerson Theatre School. She is the recipient of the Jean Banks Award for Outstanding Achievement in Musical Theatre (BMI). Most recently, she was

selected for Prospect Theatre's 2015 Musical Theatre Lab, *Stagefright*. Her work has been showcased at 54 Below, The Laurie Beechman Theatre and The New York Theatre Barn. She has had writing residencies with CAP21 and the Human Race Theatre Company. She was honored to have written an original song for Colm Wilkinson. The song was presented to Colm at "Music of the Night" -a tribute to Colm Wilkinson.

Musical Theatre work includes: *Becoming Tussaud*, *In Flanders Fields* (Lunchbox Theatre & Smile Theatre) and two new musicals in development. Original music for Theatre includes: *The 39 Steps*, *The Penelopiad* and *Jane Eyre* (all at The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre). Upcoming: composing original music for *Buyer and Cellar* at Alberta Theatre Projects. Check out [www.nickyphillips.com](http://www.nickyphillips.com)



### **Jennifer Lennon, Original Lighting Design**

Selected design credits include: *Bombay Black*, *Banana Boys*, and *Age Of Arousal* (Factory Theatre), *The Twelve-Pound Look* (Shaw Festival), *Better Angels: A Parable* (Call Me Scotty Productions), *Stupidhead! A Mucisal Cmoedy* (Disorganized Productions), *We Walk Among You* (Artichoke Heart), *The Container* (The Container Collective), and *Unknown Soldier* (Architect Theatre / lemonTree Creations). As lighting and technical director: *A Rare Mix* (Toronto Dance Theatre). As assistant lighting designer: Stratford Festival (three seasons) and Shaw Festival (three seasons.) Jennifer is a graduate of York University.



### **Eric Woolfe, Puppetry**

Mr. Woolfe is an actor, playwright, puppeteer and magician. His award winning company, Eldritch Theatre has presented the critically acclaimed *Madhouse Variations*, *The Babysitter*, *The Strange & Eerie Memoirs of Billy Wuthergloom*, *Dear Boss*, *Grendelmaus*, and *Sideshow of the Damned*. Some of his other work includes *The Comedy of Errors* (Humber River Shakespeare), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Canstage), and Timon in Disney's *The Lion King*. His film and TV credits include *Murdoch Mysteries*, *New York Minute*, *Anonymous Rex*, *Doc*, *Due South*, *Traders*, *Beyblade*, and most notably, George Romero's modern zombie western masterpiece, *Survival of the Dead*.



### **Mike Petersen, Puppetry and Performer**

Mike Petersen's career began on Jim Henson's *Fraggle Rock* in 1984. Since then he has performed across Canada, throughout the U.S. and in Japan, Australia, Nigeria, Britain, Singapore and Poland with such companies as Mermaid Theatre, Neptune Theatre, Festival Antigonish, Kaleidoscope Theatre, the Edinburgh Puppet Company, Poland's Teatr Arlekin, and Theatre Beyond Words. Film and television credits include *Fraggle Rock*, *Labyrinth*, *Black Harbour*, *Emily of New Moon*, and the award-winning CBC pre-school series *The Mighty Jungle*. Mike created and performed in *As You Puppet* at YPT, and also played host "Papageno" in a series of classical music concerts for children called *Music & Truffles* with Anton Kuerti. He appeared opposite Kevin Spacey in the feature film *Casino Jack* and acted with Dean Cain in the Hallmark Christmas special *The Case for Christmas*.

Most recently, Mike completed 65 episodes of *Toopy & Binoo Vroom Vroom Zoom* (now airing on TreeHouse), and he is a proud member of Theatre Direct's Dora Award nominated ensemble for the tabletop puppet play, *Old Man and the River*.



In his developing role as a teacher of puppetry, Mike has worked alongside Graham Whitehead at Mermaid Theatre, Allen MacInnis at YPT, Lynda Hill at Theatre Direct, Eric Woolfe at Eldritch Theatre, Ann & David Powell at Puppetmongers Theatre, and Seanna Kennedy, director of the first Canadian production of *Avenue Q* at Lower Ossington Theatre, Toronto.



### **Andrew Young, Performer**

Andrew works as an Actor, Director, and a Puppeteer. He is a Humber theatre performance graduate with a strong passion for puppetry, clown, and non-verbal storytelling. Andrew has created and developed new shows that have traveled across the country from Montreal to Yellowknife, Toronto to Victoria. He directed the award-winning show *Paleontology* (one of CBC's top ten must see Fringe Show of 2014). Andrew has performed in Les Trois Jours de Casteliers International Puppetry Festival, Nuit Blanche North, Fresh Ideas in Puppetry Festival, SummerWorks,

Night of Dread, and Fringe Festivals across Canada. When he isn't traveling he can often be found hiking in the woods or continuing to follow his passion of woodworking. Selected credits: *Snack Music* (SNAFU/Next Stage Theatre Festival/Fringe Festivals), *We Walk Among You* (Artichoke Heart), *To The Last Cry* (Theatre Lab), *Unjustly* (Shadow of a Doubt Collective/Festival Players of Prince Edward County), *The History of Battle* (My Brother the Changeling/Wild for the Arts), *Snow Show No Show* (My Brother the Changeling), *Give up the Ghost* (Slumgum and QuaQua), *We Few They Many* (Paper Plaid).



### **Ingrid Hansen, Performer**

Raised by gregarious Danish immigrants, Ingrid loves talking to strangers. A Co-Artistic Director of SNAFU Dance Theatre, she tours across the country with SNAFU performing *Snack Music*, *Little Orange Man*, and *Kitt & Jane: A Survival Guide to the Near-Post-Apocalyptic Future*. Outside of SNAFU, she has created and performed with Corpus Theatre, The Quickening, Theatre Direct, and Atomic Vaudeville. For the past seven years, Ingrid has built an ongoing collaboration with the inmates at William Head on Stage Prison Theatre, including co-directing *The Prison Puppet Project* with Peter Balkwill in 2013. On TV, she is a lead puppeteer and voice actor for four seasons of *Tiga Talk* on APTN. She sometimes roams the country teaching workshops for adults, children, actors, dancers,

puppeteers, and prison inmates. Recently, she trained to become a Firefly artist with Theatre Direct, and pioneered a new object-puppetry show for kindergarten classrooms called *Lost & Found*, of which children said, "It's magic", and "She's a witch!" Right now, she is collaborating on some puppetry magic for *Table Top Tales*, a new puppet show set to premier for Toronto audiences this may at the WeeFestival!



### **Kira Hall, Performer**

Kira Hall was born and raised in Yellowknife, NWT, and is an honours graduate of the Canadian College of Performing Arts. Her critically-acclaimed solo show *Paleontology* has toured to ten cities across Canada and holds awards for Best Solo Theatre Performance (Montreal Fringe), Favourite Drama (Victoria Fringe), and Talk of the Fringe (Vancouver Fringe). She also recently created puppetry for the Cecilia String Quartet's *Xenia Concert Series*. Selected theatre credits: *Buncha Munsch* (Actors' Colony Theatre), *We Walk Among You* (Artichoke Heart Collective), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Stage West), Kate/Lucy in *Avenue Q* (Lower Ossington Theatre, premiere Canadian Cast), Chippy/Morris in *The Friend Ship*, Spark in *Friends in Need, Friends Indeed!* (Suitcase Theatre). Selected film credits: *Farm is a Four-Letter Word* (Made to Order Prod.), *Snow* (Ryan Couldrey Prod.), *No Strings Attached* (Splinter Unit). More information can be found on her website, [kirahall.com](http://kirahall.com).



### **Charlene Saroyan, Stage Manager**

Charlene is delighted to be rejoining Theatre Direct after Stage Managing the successful run of *Beneath the Banyan Tree*. Charlene has been a Stage Manager for over fifteen years and a few of her favourite theatre credits include; *Singing in the Rain* (The Capital Theatre) *Horror Story* (Youth Theatre Montreal), *Wired* (Green Thumb Theatre), *School Daze*, *Survive The Great Outdoors*, *Nothing But Trouble* (Theatre Beyond Words) *The Nutcracker*, *Othello*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, *Mozart Requiem*, *Carmen* (Alberta Ballet) *Our Town*, *Waiting for Godot*, *The 39 Steps*, and *Moonlight and Magnolias* (Sudbury Theatre Centre), *The Wizard of Oz* (MPP). Charlene sends Thanks to Lynda and love to her wonderful friends and family for their never ending support.