

53rd

McMaster Stratford
Shakespearean Seminar Series

Monday, July 9 - Saturday, July 14
2012

PROGRAM INFORMATION PACKET





McMaster Stratford
Shakespearean Seminar Series



Dear Friends,

As the year comes to a close, I can't help but reflect on what a great year 2011 was at McMaster. I eagerly look forward to 2012 as it promises to be another exciting year especially as McMaster celebrates its 125th anniversary.

I am looking forward to another great year at the Stratford Seminar Series, a program that has become a highlight in our event offerings.

The line-up of plays this year looks great and I think you will enjoy the selections. This year we will return to The Best Western where we will be having our Monday night dinner as well as daily lunches. We will continue to give people the opportunity to enjoy the variety of cuisine in Stratford by having dinners together as a group on Monday and Friday night, our Friday night dinner will again be at the award winning Church Restaurant.

Seminar highlights will once again include: top priced theatre tickets; lectures by theatre scholars; symposia with Festival actors, directors and staff and the choice of weekday, weekend and weeklong packages.

Speaking of registration, to make the registration process as convenient as possible, participants will be able to register on-line again this year. Please visit www.mcmaster.ca/ua/alumni

In an effort to save postage costs, we will not be mailing out this information packet to participants who have provided us with their email address. PDFs can be downloaded at your convenience at the following link: http://www.mcmaster.ca/ua/alumni/programs_education_stratford.html. If you would still like us to mail you a copy, just give us a call and we will be happy to send it to you.

A very special thanks to Dr. Graham Roebuck, our academic director, for his continued commitment to the program as well as insightful notes on this year's program included in this package. I am confident that after reading Graham's notes you will want to pick up the phone and register for the series.

We are always happy to answer any of your questions. You can reach us by calling: 1-888-217-6003 or by email at alumni@mcmaster.ca

Looking forward to seeing you in Stratford in July!

Karen McQuigge,
Director, Alumni Advancement



Tentative Itinerary

Date	Time	Performance	Location
Monday, July 9	2:00 pm- 5:45 pm	Seminar registration	The Parlour, Best Western
	3:00 pm	Archives Tour	*meeting place TBA
	6:00 pm	Welcome Reception followed by dinner	The Parlour, Best Western
Tuesday, July 10	9:30 am	Lecture: Dr. Graham Roebuck on <i>Wanderlust</i>	Knox Church
	10:45 am	Talk: Dr. Arthur Kinney on <i>Cymbeline</i>	Knox Church
	12:00 pm	Lunch	The Parlour, Best Western
	2:00 pm	<i>Cymbeline</i>	Tom Patterson Theatre
	8:00 pm	<i>Wanderlust</i>	Tom Patterson Theatre
Wednesday, July 11	8:45 am	Post-performance Discussion – <i>Cymbeline</i> – Dr. Kinney	Knox Church
	9:30 am	Lecture: Cynthia Toushan, Stratford Festival on <i>42nd Street</i> /Choreography	Knox Church
	10:45 am	Talk: Dr. Peter Cockett on “Famous Victories of <i>Henry V</i> ”	Knox Church
	12:00 pm	Lunch	The Parlour, Best Western
	2:00 pm	<i>42nd Street</i>	Festival Theatre
	8:00 pm	<i>The Matchmaker</i>	Festival Theatre
	Thursday, July 12	9:30 am	Talking Theatre
12:00 pm		Lunch	The Parlour, Best Western
1:30 pm		Viewing of <i>Anonymous</i> , (movie)	The Parlour, Best Western
4:00 pm		Talk: Dr. Peter Cockett – “ <i>Anonymous</i> : Who Wrote Shakespeare?” Q&A	The Parlour, Best Western
6:00 pm		Registration Weekend Group	TBA
8:00 pm		<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>	Avon Theatre
Friday, July 13	9:30 am	Lecture: “The Untold Story on the War of 1812” with Cdr. Bob Williamson ‘62	Stratford Golf & Country Club – refreshments at 9:00 am
	10:45 am	Talk: Dr. Patrick Deane on <i>Henry V</i>	Stratford Golf & Country Club
	12:00 pm	Lunch	The Parlour, Best Western
	2:00 pm	<i>The War of 1812</i> – optional for everyone (limited number of tickets available) – SOLD OUT	Studio Theatre Annex
	5:00 pm	Dinner	The Church Restaurant
	8:00 pm	<i>Henry V</i> – opening night (may not be A+ tickets for this performance)	Festival Theatre
Saturday, July 14	8:45 am	Post-performance Discussion – <i>Henry V</i> - Dr. Deane	Knox Church
	9:30 am	Lecture: Dr. Gayle Gaskill – “A Scotch Jig, a Measure, and a Cinquepace: Honor’s Choreographies in <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> ”	Knox Church
	10:45 am	Actor Discussion Groups	Knox Church
	12:00 pm	Lunch	The Parlour, Best Western
	2:00 pm	<i>Hirsch</i> (optional for weeklong)	Studio Theatre
	8:00 pm	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Festival Theatre
Sunday, July 15	9:00 am	Post-performance Discussion – <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> –Dr. Gaskill	The Parlour, Best Western

For more information on the performances, visit the Festival’s website at: <http://www.stratfordfestival.ca/>
To register, go to: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/ua/alumni/>

Program Details

McMaster Alumni Receive
\$50 CREDIT
toward program



2012 Seminar Prices

WEEKDAY SEMINAR

\$663 CDN
\$86 HST

\$749 CDN

WEEKEND SEMINAR

\$751 CDN
\$98 HST

\$849 CDN

The weekday price includes all Seminar activities Monday evening – Wednesday evening, two lunches, a welcome reception, dinner, and theatre tickets for four performances.

The weekend price includes all Seminar activities Thursday evening – Saturday evening, two lunches, dinner on Thursday and Friday night, theatre tickets for four performances.

WEEKLONG SEMINAR

\$1061 CDN
\$138 HST

\$1199 CDN

The weeklong price includes all Seminar activities Monday evening – Saturday evening, five lunches, a welcome reception, dinner on Monday night, dinner on Friday night, and theatre tickets for seven performances.

MEALS

All of our lunches and Monday night dinner will be at The Parlour, Best Western, right in the heart of town. The Friday night dinner will be at The Church Restaurant. If you have any dietary needs, please let us know of such needs when you send in your registration form.

SEATING

All of the seats we are given from the Festival are top priced excluding Friday night (opening night). We have been promised the very best seats, despite continued intense demand for tickets in the coming season.

We attempt to provide a variety of seats for each member, and can usually accommodate special needs. Please let us know your particular requirements, such as Hearing Assistance Receivers, or your wish to be seated with particular friends. These requests **must** accompany your registration form.



Program Details

Friday, July 13, 2012 – Stratford Seminar Series One-Day Program



FRIDAY ONLY*

\$155 CDN

\$20 HST

\$175 CDN

If you can't join us for the whole week but would like a chance to sample the Stratford Seminar Series experience, you may want to register for our Friday only offering, which is new for 2012. You will enjoy refreshments upon arrival at the Stratford Golf and Country Club followed by an informative lecture on the, "Untold Story of the War of 1812" to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the war. Dr. Deane, President and Vice-Chancellor, McMaster University will then give a lecture on *Henry V*, the opening night performance you will see that evening. You will also enjoy lunch at the Golf and Country Club and dinner at the award winning Church Restaurant.

Friday Only Itinerary

Time	Performance	Location
9:00 am	Fresh fruit, granola bars, yogurt, coffee, tea and juice upon arrival	Stratford Golf & Country Club
9:30 am	Lecture: "The Untold Story on the War of 1812" with Cdr. Bob Williamson '62	Stratford Golf & Country Club
10:45 am	Talk: Dr. Patrick Deane, President & Vice-Chancellor, McMaster University on <i>Henry V</i>	Stratford Golf & Country Club
12:00 pm	Lunch Baked sandwiches lunch buffet	Stratford Golf & Country Club
5:00 pm	Dinner	The Church Restaurant
8:00 pm	<i>Henry V</i> – opening night (may not be A+ tickets for this performance)	Festival Theatre

* Note: \$50 Credit for McMaster Alumni is not offered with this option and transportation is NOT included

Notes from Academic Director



Welcome to the McMaster Stratford Shakespeare Seminar of 2012 -- number fifty-three of this great, unbroken tradition! It is also a milestone for the Festival, which celebrates its 60th year. Congratulations, Stratford! May we all continue to flourish.

At the time of writing these notes several of the wholly new stage scripts are currently unavailable – indeed, they are works in progress, evolving in rehearsal. I’ll guess at what directions they will likely take and prepare myself to be surprised. It’s stimulating to have brand new works in the mix with old favourites. And the old, of course, have the power to surprise and engage us anew with fresh interpretations and inventions.

First the Shakespeare – three for the 2012 season – which we shall see in Seminar Week. The rarest of them is *Cymbeline*, last staged in 2004 and once before in 1970. In the First Folio, 1623, the sole source for subsequent editions, it is titled a “Tragedie.” Modern scholarship joins it with *Pericles*, *The Winter’s Tale* and *The Tempest* as a late romance, breathing the characteristic mythical, healing quality of those plays. Shakespeare takes much of his plot concerning King Cymbeline from Holinshed’s chronicle in which this legendary figure is presumed to have ruled Britain toward the end of the Roman settlement, with references to real historical figures, Julius Caesar and Caesar Augustus. But in other respects, especially the plot relating to Iachimo, the “poisonous tongued Italian”, the villain, it feels like a sixteenth-century revenge play. There is also the powerful motif of sleep resembling death that reminds us of *Romeo and Juliet*. In short, it plays with a great variety of moods and modes of drama, including comedy. Less familiar to modern audiences than most of Shakespeare, it is an intriguing and fascinating piece.

The director is Antoni Cimolino who rises brilliantly to such challenges and is so well tuned to the possibilities of the Tom Patterson Theatre space. The plum role of Imogen goes to Cara Ricketts who played Maria in 2011’s *Twelfth Night* and was a hit as Ruth in *The Homecoming*. Yanna McIntosh is the ruthless Queen, Tom McCamus is Iachimo, and other principals are Geraint Wyn Davies (*Cymbeline*), Graham Abbey (*Posthumous*), John Vickery (*Belarius*), Mike Shara (*Cloten*) and Brian Tree (*Pisanio*). This fine cast of veteran talent in the leading roles is joined by E. B. Smith, in only his second season, as Guiderius, who initiates the hauntingly beautiful song (it has been with me since childhood), “Fear no more the heat o’ th’ sun” Unforgettable.

Notes from Academic Director (continued)

Much Ado About Nothing, last staged in 2006, is a perennial favourite. The battle of the sexes theme – this “merry war betwixt Signior Benedick” and Beatrice – has always been current. Shakespeare’s take on the standard narrative, exemplified in the conventional relationship of Claudio with Hero (his first enquiry is about her dowry) is Benedick’s and Beatrice’s aversion to the stultifying norm. And to each other, as it seems. The standard, stifling, consequence of marriage is not for them. But what does love lead to? Perhaps Shakespeare says, in a Socratic spirit, “the unexamined marriage is not worth enduring.”

The Benedick-Beatrice/ Claudio-Hero stories have antecedents in the 16th century and earlier. Shakespeare makes them glisten anew with his witty verbal delights. And he adds his own inventions, including the inimitable constable Dogberry (probably acted in Shakespeare’s company by Will Kempe.)

The production is directed by Christopher Newton, the presiding spirit of the hugely successful Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the-Lake for many years. Welcome to Stratford, Mr. Newton. He has a superb cast and, in Santo Loquasto, a gifted designer for the Festival Theatre Stage. His cast includes Ben Carlson and Deborah Hay (a great star at Shaw) in the leads, with James Blendick (Leonato), Juan Chioran (Don Pedro), Gareth Potter (Don John), Tyrone Savage (Claudio). Richard Binsley, returning to Stratford after thirty years for his second season playing Dogberry, and Bethany Jillard, who has performed so well in recent seasons, playing Hero, take the other meaty roles.

Henry V concludes the epic sweep of the so-called Second Tetralogy (*Richard II*, *Henry IV, Part 1*, *Henry IV, Part 2*) also called the “Henriad” and the “Great Tetralogy.” It is a fascinating and controversial conclusion. Henry’s political triumph in uniting his disparate people – Welsh, Irish, English – and his military prowess winning a famous victory over France, has often been understood as Shakespeare’s patriotic celebration of Christian kingship and an affirmation of England’s imperial destiny. The Chorus describes him as “the mirror of all Christian kings,” yet, in soliloquy before the battle of Agincourt, Harry deconstructs the art of kingship to mere “ceremony”, Machiavellian stage management. Some read the play as a dark critique of militarism and ecclesiastical manipulation. And of regal glory: the final lines remind us that all Henry had achieved in France was lost in the next reign.

Henry is played by Aaron Krohn who made his mark in his debut last season as Lenny in *The Homecoming*. The cast includes many favourites of the Seminars, seasoned veterans: Ben

Notes from Academic Director (continued)

Carlson, Juan Chioran, Lucy Peacock, Tom Rooney, Randy Hughson, Gareth Potter and, making a welcome return, Keith Dinicol. The director is Des McAnuff.

Thornton Wilder (1897-1975) is the author of *The Matchmaker* (1954), a rewritten version of the *The Merchant of Yonkers* (1938), which had been a Broadway failure. Tyrone Guthrie prompted the rewriting that went on to be a Broadway success in 1955, following success at the Edinburgh Festival and the West End. Subsequently it morphed into another hit – *Hello, Dolly!* (1963). Prior to Wilder's version the story was dramatized by Austrian playwright, Johann Nestroy (the "Austrian Shakespeare", 1801-62) on which Tom Stoppard's farce *On the Razzle* (1981) is based.

The director is Chris Abraham who directed *The Little Years* in the 2011 season. For *The Matchmaker* he moves to the Festival Theatre with designer Santo Loquasto. The leads in this very strong cast are Tom McCamus, Seana McKenna, Laura Condlin, Mike Shara and Geraint Wyn Davies. The supporting cast is similarly distinguished: Cara Ricketts, Andrea Runge, John Vickery (Titus Andronicus in 2011), Skye Brandon, in his fourth season, and Chick Reid who played Alice in *The Little Years*.

Gary Griffin's Stratford debut was the acclaimed production of *West Side Story*. His fourth season sees him direct *42nd Street* at the Festival Theatre – musical theatre about, well, musical theatre, a backstage musical. A small-town girl seeks fame in the big city, etc. It took an unusual path to Broadway, where it won a Tony in 1980: from a novel by Bradford Ropes – who had worked as a chorus dancer on Broadway – it became a movie, nominated for an Academy Award for the Best Picture in 1934 about a dictatorial director trying to mount a musical in the depth of the Depression. Interestingly, the West End production started Catherine Zeta Jones's career, when, as a chorus member, she understudied the show's star, and duly seized her chance.

Cynthia Dale makes a welcome and very popular return to Stratford to play Dorothy Brock. Sean Arbuckle, Kyle Blair and Naomi Costain, in her seventh season, are the senior members of a cast that contains eight young artists making their debuts and several in their second season. It seems just the right show for musical and dance aspirations. Who knows which stars will be born on *42nd Street*? The choreography is by Tracy Flye who also worked on *West Side Story*, the musical direction by Rick Fox (5th season) and the set design is by long-time friend of the Seminars, Doug Paraschuk.

Notes from Academic Director (continued)

There's a lot of buzz about the return of G & S to Stratford. Veteran theatre goers will recall the superb productions of the early '80s choreographed by Brian Macdonald. In 2012 Ethan McSweeney directs *The Pirates of Penzance* on the Avon stage. His previous work at Stratford was the stylish *Dangerous Liaisons* (2010). As G & S is very adaptable, inviting fresh invention, there are high expectations of this production.

Posterity has a higher opinion of Gilbert's wonderful comic verse devising absurdities carried forward to "logical" conclusions, of fantasy worlds of inverted social order, his "Topsy-Turvydom", than he did. He had once aspired to practise law but, "I am a doggerel bard," he lamented. He first collaborated with Sullivan in 1871, whose musical genius lies, in part, in his high-spirited spoofing of grand romantic opera. G. K. Chesterton thought that in the remote future the laughter G & S arouse "will still be heard when all the voices of that age are silent." Freshness is all.

Pirates opened in New York in 1879 and next year in London. Following the great success of *H.M.S. Pinafore* there was fear that it would fail. It didn't and this sometimes quarrelsome duo continued to create sublime comic opera. Frederic is played by Kyle Blair, Mabel – daughter of the Modern Major-General – by Amy Wallis, making her debut, Pirate King by Sean Arbuckle, Ruth by Gabrielle Jones and Sergeant of Police by Steve Ross. The Musical Director is Franklin Brasz who worked on Stratford productions of *Evita* and *Kiss me, Kate*.

"A bunch of the boys were whooping it up in the Malamute saloon . . ." If you have ever been stirred, or thrilled, by the ballads of Robert Service, *Wanderlust* is the show for you. It is for me – but, I can tell you so little about it, a work in progress, written and directed by all-round man of theatre, Morris Panych. I think he has the title from a Service poem, "The wanderlust has lured me to the seven lonely seas." Service is a rich vein of theatrical ore and full marks to Panych for sensing that the time is right for a revival of this extraordinary character's life and work. The "Canadian Kipling" he was called, the voice of the Yukon and the Klondike gold rush. But he was also much more. He led an amazingly adventurous life and became – almost overnight – the most read poet of the 20th century with his *Songs of a Sourdough* (Toronto, 1907).

At age 41 he enlisted for service in the Great War, but, rejected because of varicose veins, he became a stretcher bearer at the Front and an ambulance driver until his health collapsed. He wrote powerful poems - he would say "verses" – for, like W. S. Gilbert, he was regarded by the high-toned literary establishment as a doggerel poet. "Verse, not poetry is what I was after . . . something that the schoolboy would spout and the fellow in the pub would quote," he said of his

Notes from Academic Director (continued)

work. There is so much more about Service to be discovered and enjoyed: we will do so at the Seminar. Meanwhile, we know that the cast is Robin Hutton as Louise, Robert's romantic interest while he was working in a bank, the redoubtable Tom Rooney is Robert Service, Randy Hughson is Mr. McGee, Dan Chameroy is (dangerous) Dan McGrew and Lucy Peacock is Mrs. Munsch. Wonder what she gets up to?

Still in theatrical *terra incognita*, to me, is *The War of 1812* – a work in progress – that launches a satirical treatment of the war between the U.S.A. and Canada, whose anniversary it is. So who won the war, then? This will be mounted in a rehearsal space of the Studio Theatre – such as that in which we met with playwright John Mighton last year. The author, Michael Hollingsworth, also the director, adds this “episode” to his continuing project, *The History of the Village of the Small Huts: 1812-1815*. The performers are the VideoCabaret Ensemble. This looks as if it will be a most unusual theatre experience. Costuming, I gather, will be an important element, and the designer is highly reputed Astrid Janson. An innovation at Stratford not to be missed.

Hirsch, at the Studio Theatre, created and conceived by Alon Nashman and Paul Thompson, is a celebration of the life of John Hirsch, man of the theatre and Artistic Director of the Stratford Festival from 1981-85. Robert Cushman in *The National Post*, November 30, hailed Hirsch as “Canada's greatest director.” That's quite a claim, but he is, and was, certainly controversial. There is a recent biography, *A Fiery Soul: The Life and Theatrical Times of John Hirsch*. He was a Holocaust refugee who, almost by chance, came to Canada and, somewhat against the grain, chose Winnipeg as his refuge. His time at Stratford was stormy – to say the least. The show, a one-hander by Alon Nashman, I'm informed, is a “riotous taste” of the hero's life.

See you in Stratford,

Graham Roebuck,
Academic Director



McMaster Stratford
Shakespearean Seminar Series



Accommodations

You are responsible for booking your own accommodations; they are all on a first-come first-served basis. For your convenience, we have made group bookings at the The Best Western, in the heart of town, where we will have daily lunches. To reserve a room, call the hotel: 1.877.728.4036. Please make sure you say you are part of the "McMaster Group" for the discounted rate.

Other suggested accommodations in Stratford are Mercer Hall and Bentley's Inn. You may also visit the Festival's website, www.stratfordfestival.ca/visitor, for other housing options. You can also call the Festival's Accommodations Office at 519.271.4040 x2428

Completing this form and either mailing or faxing it will reserve your place in this year's Seminar. *Please note: payment in full must be made prior to June 1, 2012*

Participant Contact Information

First Name _____ Last Name _____
 Address _____ City _____
 Province/State _____ Zip/Postal Code _____
 Country _____ Home Phone _____ Email Address _____

Registration Information

<input type="checkbox"/>	WEEKLONG Seminar	\$1199 CDN		_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>To opt out of lunches with the group on Tuesday through Saturday</i>	deduct \$100		_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Archives Tour - Mon. July 9, 3:00 p.m. *</i>	add \$8		_____
	<i>* Space is limited</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	WEEKDAY Seminar	\$749 CDN		_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>To opt out of lunches with the group on Tuesday and Wednesday</i>	deduct \$40		_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	WEEKEND Seminar	\$849 CDN		_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>To opt out of lunches with the group on Friday and Saturday</i>	deduct \$40		_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	FRIDAY only [‡]	\$175 CDN		_____
	[‡] Note: \$50 Credit for McMaster Alumni is not offered with this option			
<input type="checkbox"/>	OPTIONAL Show for everyone – <i>The War of 1812</i> – Fri. July 13, 2 p.m. **	add \$45.20		_____
	<i>** Please note there is a limited number of tickets (General Seating)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	OPTIONAL Show – <i>Hirsch</i> – Sat. July 14, 2 p.m. †	add \$61.02		_____
	[†] For weeklong, included in weekend (A Seating)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	I require a hearing device for all performances	add \$2 per show		_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a McMaster Alumnus/a	deduct \$50	=	_____
			SUB-TOTAL	_____
			DEPOSIT	- _____
			TOTAL	= _____

- Enclosed is a cheque/Visa/MasterCard/American Express for \$100 for my non-refundable deposit fee.
 Enclosed is a cheque/Visa/MasterCard/American Express to cover my total Seminar fee.

*Please make cheques payable to **McMaster University** and in **Canadian funds***

Credit Information (if applicable)

Visa MasterCard American Express
 Card #: _____ Expiry Date: _____
 Signature of Card Holder: _____

Additional Information

This is my first time participating in the McMaster Theatre Seminar
 I would like to sit with _____
 I have special dietary requirements
 Please specify: _____

McMaster Contact Information

*Office of Alumni Advancement, McMaster University, Alumni House
 1280 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON L8S 4K1, Canada ♦ 1-888-217-6003 ♦ stratford@mcmaster.ca*

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