



Resource Centre for the Arts Visual Guide / Social Story

For:

Seal Slippers: A Hall Family Panto

Showing at the

LSPU Hall

Main Stage

December 12-15 & 18-21, 2019, 7pm

December 14 & 21, 2019, 2pm*



2pm matinee performances are Relaxed Performances



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WHAT IS A PANTOMIME?

A Pantomime is a theatrical show, for the whole family, that involves music, topical jokes, and slapstick comedy and is based on a fairy tale or folk tale, usually produced around Christmas.

A pantomime is a participatory form of theatre, so the actors will be asking for help from the audience (to cast spells for example). But don't worry, you won't have to get up on the stage!

If you would rather listen than participate, that's okay too!





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What is the story of this Pantomime?

The Hall Family Panto is back, this time blending the story of Cinderella and classic teen movies of the 80's, with a dash of the traditional Newfoundland Mummings play mixed in.

It's the night before the big dance and Buttons and his friends must help Cinderella get to the ball – but the Old Hag has plans of her own and you know she's going to do whatever it takes to stop her.





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What is a Relaxed Performance?

A relaxed performance is offered to anyone who would benefit from a more casual theatre environment. This is including (but not limited to) patrons with Autism Spectrum Disorder, a sensory processing disorder, or a learning disability. Everyone is welcome to come to Relaxed Performances.



This holiday run of *Seal Slippers* will feature 2 Relaxed Performances, on **Saturday December 14** at **2 pm**, and **Saturday December 21** at **2 pm**.

A relaxed performance features adjustment to the technical parts of the show to lower the sensory information in the space. This will include:

- The house lights being left on at half – so it is easier to come and go from the theatre for trips to the washroom and breaks in the second space!
- The sound effects and music are set at a lower level – so it is easier on the ears!
- The lights on the stage are set to a lower level – so it is easier on the eyes!



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Let us introduce you to the cast
of *Seal Slippers!*



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Allison is **CINDERELLA!**



Allison Moira Kelly is an actor from Gander, Newfoundland. She has an MFA (acting) from York University. Previously for the RCAT Allison performed in *Drowning Girls*, and *Dedication*. Select theatre credits: *Our Eliza*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Seagull*, *A Servant of Two Masters* (Perchance Theatre); *The Cut Of It* (White Rooster Theatre); *Isle of Demons* (perSISTence); *Eyes of the Gull*, *Saltwater Moon*, *Round Robin* (Rising Tide Theatre); *Almost Baymous 3*, *Yes Yeah* (Halfhandsome); *The Valley* (New Curtain Theatre); *1949*, *Neddy Norris Night* (Gros Morne Theatre). Allison voiced Jane Doe in the podcast *Consent*. She writes and performs with an all female sketch comedy troupe Mom's Girls, and teaches acting at Grenfell Campus. She hopes the show brightens your Christmas!



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Colin is **PRINCE CHARMIN** aka
BLAINE!

Colin Furlong is an actor from Mount Pearl, NL who last worked with RCAT on Megan Gail Coles' *Squawk*, which toured Arts Centres, School gyms, and music rooms all across Newfoundland and Labrador this past spring. Other recent credits include the NL and Canadian tours of *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams* (Artistic Fraud), and the UK tour of *Our Frances* (Theatre Newfoundland Labrador). Colin has spent multiple seasons at the Gros Morne Theatre Festival in Cow Head, as well as at Rising Tide's Seasons in the Bight Festival in Trinity. Colin is thrilled to be part of the Panto again this year and can't wait to hear everyone laughing and playing along! Allez-coosh!



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Rory is **BUTTONS** aka **DUCKIE!**

(and Rory is the Playwright!)



Rory Lambert is an actor and writer who holds a BFA from Sir Wilfred Grenfell College and an Apprenticeship from the Hippodrome State Theatre, Gainesville, Florida. He is most recognizable as the ten-year host of WorkplaceNL and Rogers TV's Who Wants to Save a Life and, more recently, from Anthony Insurance's newest ad campaign. Rory is the Artistic Director of the newly formed King's Point Theatre Project, producing new and exciting theatre in Central Newfoundland. As a writer, Rory has had works produced at Rising Tide Theatre (Trinity), Rebel Island Theatre (Carbonear), Worlds End Theatre (Fogo), The Victoria Playhouse (PEI), the Grand Bank Theatre Festival and, of course, RCA's 2015 holiday family panto, Tangly. He is overjoyed to step back into the zany world of pantomime; a place where he feels right at home.



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Una is **SALMONELLA!**

Una Hill-McMullin originally hails from Wolfville, Nova Scotia but after completing her theatre degree at Grenfell in 2016, she chose to make Corner Brook her home, and now – St. John's. As a recent transplant to the city, Una is beyond thrilled to say that *Seal Slippers* marks her first appearance on the St. John's theatre scene. During the summers she works with the Gros Morne Theatre Festival in Cow Head where she has taken on some of her favourite projects including: *Tempting Providence* (dir. Jillian Keiley and Adam Brake), *Our Frances* (dir. Jeff Pitcher), *Newfoundland Vinyl* (dir. Allison Crowe and Adam Brake), and *Fly Me to the Moon* (dir. Jeff Pitcher). She is very excited for this show and hopes it's everything you want in a Christmas panto and more! Enjoy!



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Deidre is the **OLD HAG** aka **PRINCIPAL HAGNES!**

Deidre Gillard-Rowling is from the Northern Peninsula. She holds a BFA in theatre from MUN and is a founding member of Bare Boards Theatre. From 2002 - 2012 she toured nationally and internationally performing the role of MYRA BENNETT with Theatre Newfoundland Labrador's production of "Tempting Providence", by Robert Chafe. She's worked with theatre companies across the country and the province, including 4 seasons at The Stratford Theatre Festival. She played VIOLET in "Heyday!", Gordon Pinsent's M.O.W, AUDREY in Season 3 of "Republic of Doyle" and is featured as an IRISH NUN in Discovery's "Frontier". She's presently co-writing a NL comedy - drama, "The Storys", with Rory Lambert, a children's book, "Get to Bed", and a screen play, "The Devil's House".



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Paul is **LADY LUNGLEY** aka **THE FAIRY CODMOTHER!**

Paul Ewan Wilson is overjoyed to be back working with RCAT for another fun filled family pantomime. Having grown up in England, he has a love for Panto that goes back to his early youth – he is so happy that Rory, Nicole and RCAT have decided to continue this great tradition and hopes that any children watching, enjoy the show as much we enjoy performing it! Merry Christmas!



RCAT: Tangly Other Theatre: Julius Caesar, Servant of Two Masters, The Seagull, Midsummer Night's Dream, Richard III, Macbeth (Perchance); The Phantom of the Opera (OOTA); Matilda (PMP); We Will Rock You, Rock of Ages (TADA); The Valley, Leave of Absence (New Curtain); Billy Elliot (Atlantic Light); Three Days of Rain (Sweetline); The Big League, House at Pooh Corner, Wimp!, Night Light (Carousel Players); Outlaw (Theatre in Port); Born Yesterday (Melbourne Theatre Company). Film/TV: Frontier (Discovery Canada/Netflix); Republic of Doyle (CBC); Keystone (Circa 16); Before the War (Blue Pinion). Commercials: Don't Travel. Explore. (Marine Atlantic); In Good Hands (Janeway Children's Hospital Foundation). Training: Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne, Australia.



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Horse Chops is **OLD BALL!**

Horse Chops is an emerging actor originally from downtown St John's, created through the Mummings Festival. Mummings and hobby horse traditions are a huge part of Horse Chops life and he is thrilled to be keeping the tradition alive on stage during this fun family panto.

Horse Chops has big dreams, big purple hair and a big heart and he is really looking forward to playing Old Ball in this years Panto! Past credits include: The Mummings Festival.



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How **long** is the show?

Seal Slippers will run for approximately 90 minutes, with a 15-minute intermission about halfway through the show.

An intermission allows the actors and technical team to have a break during the show.

An intermission allows the audience to have a washroom break, refill drinks at the bar, and stretch their legs.

You can come and hang out here – in the Cox & Palmer Second Space – during the intermission!

A member of the technical team will ring the bell when it is time to head back up to the theatre so the show can resume!





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What kind of **sounds** can I expect during the show?

Seal Slippers features lots of music and singing. The songs featured are a mix of popular 80s tunes and Christmas favourites. Don't hesitate to sing along and dance in your seat!

There will also be some sound effects to accompany the story. Such as:

- Thunder claps to accompany The Hag
 - Bird / seagull calls
 - Sounds of Ptery the Pterodactyl
 - A mine explosion

The sound will be at a lower volume during the Relaxed Performances.

The actors will also be asking for audience participation for casting spells, and boo'ing the Hag. The folks sitting near you might respond loudly, but it will only be for a few moments.





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What will the **lighting** be like during the show?

Seal Slippers will feature lots of colourful lights on the stage, which will change as the show goes on.

There may be times when the stage goes completely dark, and there may be times when bright lights flash across the stage. These moments will not last long.

Everyone is invited to grab a magic glow-stick wand for the show, so they will be a-glowin' for the duration of the show.

This show also features Black Lights – which will make white clothing glow in the dark!





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During Relaxed Performances (December 14 & 21) the House Lights (lights over the audience) will be kept on at a low level – just like in the photograph! During moments when the stage goes dark, the room will not be totally dark.

The House Lights being left on also makes it much easier if anyone needs to leave the theatre; to use the washroom, or to take a break in the quiet of the Second Space.





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What will the **costumes** look like?

Costumes are the clothes the actors wear when they are “in character”. This includes everything the actors wear from head to toe, and sometimes even wigs!

The *Seal Slippers* costumes are calling us to remember what folks dressed like in the 1980s – an iconic decade in fashion and pop culture – with a Newfoundland twist.

Can you think of what the actors might wear to help the audience recognize the decade?





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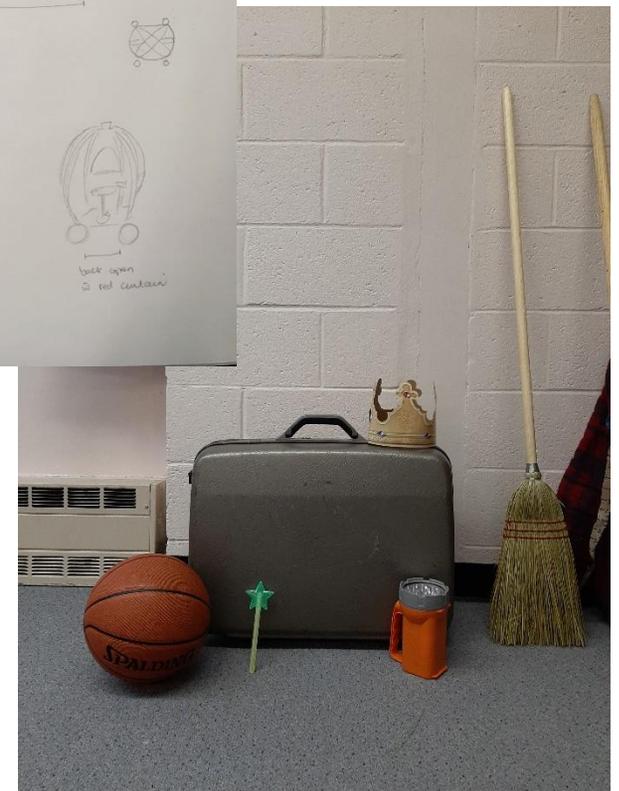
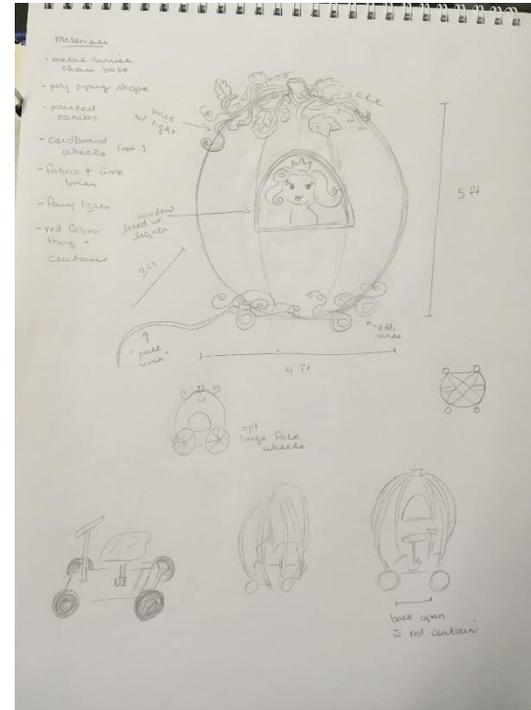
Another element of the show is **Properties** or **“Props”** which are items that the actors use further help the audience enter the world of the play.

Sometimes Props can be found, and sometimes they need to be built; which is why we have two folks working on this department!

For example – in this show, Cinderella’s magical carriage will have to be built, because of its size.

But most things, like the Prince’s suitcase, is a Prop that can be found.

It will be fun to make a list of all the Props you see in the show!





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What will the **Set** look like?

The **set** is made up of physical elements that establish the world of the play. These elements may include furniture, walls, stairs, doors, etc.

The *Seal Slippers* **set** will include:

- Lockers & a Basketball Net
- Christmas Trees of various size
 - A Hearth for Cinderella
- A Disco ball & colourful lights for the ball!



This is the **Set** from the 2017 Pantomime “Tangly”

Designed by Emily Austin



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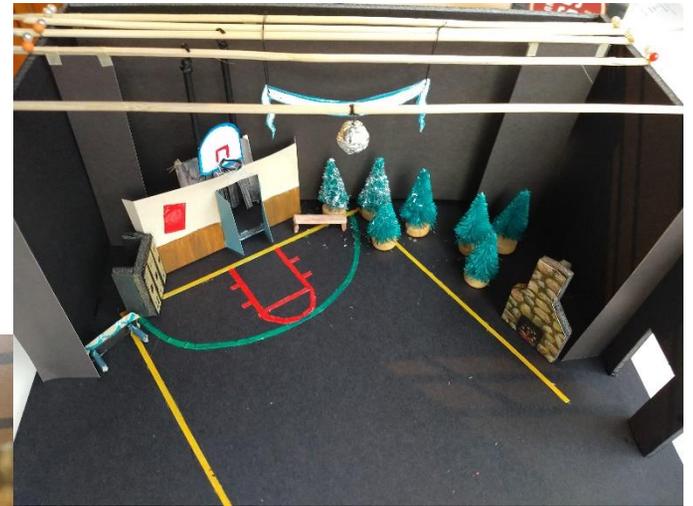
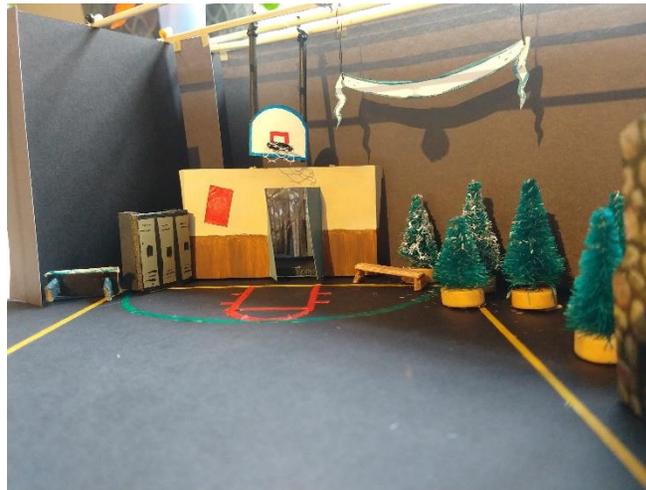
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Our Set Designer built a scale miniature set called a **Maquette** to help the Director and other designers envision what the world of the play will look like. Isn't it neat?

You will be able to see the **Maquette** for yourself at the show; it will be hanging out on our Audience Enrichment table!





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Let us introduce you to the Production Team
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Nicole is the **DIRECTOR**

Nicole Rousseau is a director and performer from St. John's. She holds a BFA (Acting) from Grenfell Campus at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Nicole has directed and performed with many companies in Newfoundland and Labrador and has created independently with many artist collaborators in her community. Directing credits include *Men of Misfortune*, *Tangly*, *The Ogre's Purse* (RCAT); *Krapp's Last Tape* (Independent); *Art* (c2c); *MacBeth*, *Julius Caesar*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (SBTS); *Eli and The Death Curse* (Bare Boards) and artistic collaborations with The Ora Ensemble (m'habiller encore, Rites). Nicole has performed with c2c theatre, Artistic Fraud, White Rooster, She Said Yes!, The Open Actor's Studio and The Gros Morne Theatre Festival. She is the current Artistic Animateur for RCA Theatre Company, a founder of The Women's Work Festival, and a past recipient of the Rhonda Payne Award from ArtsNL.





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Crystal is the **STAGE MANAGER**

Crystal Laffoley is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's Production Design & Technical Arts Program, where she now coaches, and is a co-founder of Mindless Theatrics in St. John's. Some favourite credits include: *Between Breaths*, *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams* National & Provincial Tours (Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland), *Almost Baymous* (Halfhandsome), *Men of Misfortune*, *Tangly* (RCAT), *Give Me Back* Provincial Tours (skc originals/For the Love of Learning Inc.), *Tibb's Eve*, *Chapel Arm* (Mindless Theatrics), and two seasons with Perchance Theatre. She currently works at Resource Centre for the Arts as their Operations Manager.



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George is the **SOUND DESIGNER**

George Robertson has worked as an actor, musician, and sound designer with many theatre companies in Newfoundland and Labrador, including Perchance Theatre, Wreckhouse Productions, PerSIStence Theatre, Rising Tide Theatre Company, New Curtain Theatre, Poverty Cove Theatre Company, Kanutu Theatre, Open Theatre Company, Shakespeare By The Sea, and others. He has also appeared in several locally produced film and television projects. Having done the sound design for RCAT's previous panto, *Tangly*, he's very pleased to be back with a great team for some more festive fun!



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Brian is the **LIGHTING DESIGNER** and **TECHNICAL DIRECTOR**

Brian Kenny is a designer for theatre from Mt. Pearl and is a graduate from The National Theatre School of Canada, The Banff Centre for the Arts, and Sheridan College and is a co-founder of *Mindless Theatrics*. Recent selected credits include: *Dedication* [RCA Theatre Company], *Between Breaths*, *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams* [Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland], *No Change In The Weather* [Terra Bruce], *Come From Away* in concert [Mirvish Productions], *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Billy Elliott*, *Little Shop of Horrors* [The Stratford Festival], *Tibb's Eve*, *Chapel Arm* [Mindless Theatrics], *Marry Poppins* [The Grand Theatre, London], *Once*, *Mamma Mia* [Theatre St. John's], Brian is a member of the board of directors for RCA and is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada.



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Melanie is the **COSTUME DESIGNER**

Melanie Mooney has worked in Canada and the UK as a designer, costume supervisor, stage manager, and arts administrator. Her previous productions with RCA include Brazil Square, Tangly, Men of Misfortune, and Out of the Bog. When she is not in the theatre, Melanie spends her spare time working in film and television.

She is a graduate of Sir Wilfred Grenfell College's Theatre program.



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Laura is the **PROPS DESIGNER**

Laura Williams is so thrilled to be creating part of the creative team for Seal Slippers! Laura graduated in 2010 with a BFA Hons in Acting from Sir Wilfred Grenfell College Theatre in Corner Brook and is currently the Artistic Associate at RCA Theatre Company. Laura has been fortunate enough to work across Canada as an actor with companies such as RCAT, Theatre Calgary, TNL, Rising Tide Theatre. Laura is originally from Essex in the UK and grew up with watching pantomimes at the local theatre in Colchester. Laura loves making all the fun props for this show and is over the moon to have pantomimes on the stage in St John's! Enjoy the show!





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Kate is the **PROPS DESIGNER & BUILDER**



Kate Stenson is a multi-disciplinary theatre artist, with an MSc in history, and an undying love for stickers. This is her first show with RCAT and having grown up on the pantos of the 90s, helping bring the magic to *Seal Slippers* is a holiday wish come true! In the year since moving home, Kate has had the great pleasure of working with Opera on the Avalon (*Phantom of the Opera*; *Shanawdithit*; *Ours*), PerSIStence Theatre (*The Haunting of Margaret Duley*), Theatre St. John's (*Leading Ladies of Broadway*; *Pianomen*); Wonderbolt Circus (*CircusFest 2018, 2019*), Shakespeare by the Sea, and the spectacular drag community of YYT. Upcoming, Kate will be stage managing *9 to 5* with Atlantic Lights Theatre, and is sitting on the CircusFest 2020 committee. Thank you for supporting the arts – we can't do it without you!



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Emily is the **SET DESIGNER**



Emily Austin is a Theatre Artist who works primarily as a set designer, and scenic painter, but also dabbles in other areas of theatre production including scenic carpentry, technical direction and production management. Emily holds a BFA in Technical Theatre Production from Grenfell Campus. Recently she's used her management skills to run the St. John's Shorts and St. John's International Circus Festival. Her recent design work includes *Men of Misfortune*, *Squawk* (Resource Centre for the Arts Theatre), *Between Breaths* (Orchestral Artistic Fraud), *Remnants* (White Rooster Theatre), *Offensive to Some* (Persistence Theatre), *Julius Caesar* and *The Servant of Two Masters* (Perchance Theatre).



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In conversation with the Playwright: Rory Lambert



What do you like about writing Pantomimes?

I love the freedom that comes with writing the Hall Family Panto. I love taking a fairy tale or folk tale, researching it to find those connections to our province, adapting it and molding it and continuing to edit and collaborate with artists in the rehearsal hall. The pace at which it needs to be performed is nearly the same in which it needs to be created, with ideas and influences flying left, right and centre (stage, that is). My major influences are the Marx Brothers, The Three Stooges, Laurel and Hardy, Abbott and Costello and the pantomime is a perfect fit for both slapstick comedy and wit. Mostly I love the freedom to throw as many bad jokes at the wall and see which ones stick; the funny thing is, they don't turn out to be so bad after all.

Most of all, I love the idea of creating a piece of theatre that is multi-generational in appeal. Telling a story that can be enjoyed by a four-year-old and an eighty-four year old. Bringing together a full house of young and old and hearing them laugh together. What could be better than that?



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In conversation with the Director: Nicole Rousseau



What was a fun challenge of directing this show?

It's a pretty fun challenge to make Seal Slippers a play for the whole family to enjoy. That means you have to keep multiple generations and ages in mind when you look at the themes and the comedy in the play. Is there something for the little kids? Will another joke engage the teens? Will their Parents get caught up in the nostalgia of the 80's and will the Grandparents be drawn in by the familiar storylines and traditions of a holiday theatrical entertainment? Most importantly, I look for the points of common ground: will there be times when the whole family can laugh together? That's such a fun discovery, and brings a real sense of achievement, when I look around and see audiences of all ages recognizing a certain theme or idea expressed within the play.



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In conversation with the cast: Allison Kelly



What is your favourite part about being an actor?

I love exploring the actions and feelings of someone other than myself. I also love rehearsal! I love seeing people's processes, and how the show comes together.

What do you love about your character in the Pantomime?

I love that Cinderella has such a massive capacity to love. She is simultaneously fierce and vulnerable. She doesn't shy away from her feelings. She also has an incredible wardrobe!

What is your favourite part of the holiday season?

I love looking at the lights on my Christmas tree, and eating non-stop snacks!



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In conversation with the cast: Paul Ewan Wilson



What do you like about Pantomimes?

I grew up as a kid in England, where Pantomimes are a holiday tradition. I can still remember seeing them - I love the jokes, the mixing of different fairytales with modern references thrown in, as well. I'm so glad that Rory and Nicole decided to bring Pantos to St. John's, with just enough of a Newfoundland twist, but still true to the English tradition!

What do you like about playing the Dame?

This is my second chance to play the Dame in the Hall Panto and I'm loving it - again! She's similar to the Widow Rhubarb in Tangly, but has some different aspects, as well. I don't want to give too much away, but getting to transform into Cinderella's Fairy Godmother is a highlight, so far!

What's your favourite part of the holiday season?

The holiday season for me is all about family. My family and all my in-laws basically move into my mother and father in law's house for the entire Christmas period. It's the one time of the year where we all get to spend some quality time with one another.



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Thank you for taking the time to read through our Visual Guide / Social Story for *Seal Slippers*.

We also have a visual guide for the LSPU Hall available on our website under the Accessibility Section. There you will find pictures & information about the theatre space before you visit us.

If you have any questions about anything you've seen in this guide, please contact our Communications Manager at communications@lspuhall.ca.

We hope you enjoy the show & this holiday season! Allez-coosh!

