



**Resource Centre for the Arts
Visual Guide / Social Story**

For

The Heart Play by Marie Pike

Showing at the

LSPU Hall Main Stage

February 22nd at 8pm

February 23rd at 8pm (Pick your Price)

February 24th at 8pm (Live Streamed and Live Described)

February 25th at 2pm (Relaxed Performance)

In this 70-minute comedy, Venus develops a black hole in her 2-dimensional world after losing her Nan. Unable to rid herself of the hole, it continues to grow throughout her interactions with others until one day she wakes up inside the hole and is confronted by her colorful, raging heart. Dying to live, Venus's heart revolts against her templated world, forcing her to unpack all of her relationships, including the most important one of all: the relationship she has with her heart. Desperate to hide her heart from others, Venus struggles to accept the parts of herself that make her magically whole.



Inside the Building

The box office is right inside the door of the building. There is a small foyer that may be busy before the show. We also have the Cox & Palmer Second Space downstairs with a place to buy a drink and have a seat. This is also the place to come and relax if you need some quiet time during the show.

Our main theatre is upstairs at the LSPU Hall. If you don't want to take the stairs, we also have a lift (elevator) that can take you up to your seat. If you would like to take the lift (elevator) upstairs, please let the Box Office know when you arrive, and we can have an usher take you up. The lift (elevator) is slow moving and it only takes a few moments to get to the theatre.

There will be ushers throughout the lobby who can answer your questions and give you directions. An usher will tear your ticket as you enter the lobby and give you a program which will tell you more about the actors and information about the play.

The theatre doors will open about 30 minutes before the show begins. If you arrive earlier, there are some seats where you can wait in the Cox & Palmer Second Space until the doors open.





Let us introduce you to
the Cast & the Crew of

THE HEART PLAY



Marie Pike – Playwright, Director

Marie Pike is an artist living in Mount Pearl, Newfoundland. Since 2017, her short stories have appeared in the Humber Literary Review, as part of the English Literature curriculum at Memorial University, and on the CBC and CHMR airwaves. In September 2019, Marie wrote, performed, and produced her first short play, Garden by Mattel in the St. John's Short Play Festival. Following her first production, Marie was awarded mentorships with NL playwrights Robert Chafe and Sara Tilley. In 2021, Marie began a multi-disciplinary artist collaboration called Grand Trine with NL artists Andrya Duff and Megan Allison. Since that time, Grand Trine has publicly presented movement work at Neighbourhood Dance Works' 2022 First Look series, theatrical work at the 2021 St. John's shorts, and an art installation at CB Nuit 2022.

Presently, Marie is BOD chair at NL's arts and literary journal Riddle Fence.

[Image Description: Marie has white skin and a beauty mark fixed above her upper left lip, brown almond-shaped eyes, and medium-length, naturally straight, brown hair parted down the middle, gently framing her face. She's wearing a tight-fitting black, long sleeved turtleneck sweater and is pictured from the waist up, in front of a light grey backdrop, somewhat smiling at the observer. Photo credit: Ritche Perez..]





Bob Stamp – Lighting Design

Originally from St. John's, Bob moved back home in 2021 after nearly 40 years away. Throughout his career in stage and screen, he has worked in numerous capacities including designer, director and producer. As a lighting designer, Bob has accumulated hundreds of credits for projects ranging from theatre, dance, concert production and television to exhibits and special events.

[Image Description: A Black and White photo with a blurred background of Bob, a 62 yr old white man with gray hair standing with arms folded.]





Shauna Gilpin - Sound Designer

Shauna Gilpin (She/Her), known artistically as Cleo Leigh, was born and raised in Newfoundland. She has been heavily involved in the electronic music scene in St. John's, since 2018, immersed in DJing, producing, and sound design. From co-owning the renowned nightclub Lavi Séks to the most recent creative endeavour, STÄMPT, the exclusive "private members club". Shauna is a passionate creative and entrepreneur. She is also a co-owner of the globally recognized techno label SÉKS TAPES. With a penchant for modular synthesis, giving her a unique and eclectic approach to sound design, her tracks have appeared on labels like YUNGDUMB and Nodding Heads. Shauna's musical journey has taken her across the country and international venues.



[Image Description: Shauna is a mixed female, 30 years old, blue shirt, black and blonde hair, blurred white background.]



Grace Pike – Costume Designer

Grace Pike is a retired teacher living in Mount Pearl. She has been sewing since the age of 11, and designing clothing and costumes for her children and their friends since forever. Her latest work was creating costumes for Grand Trine Presents Neptune presented at the 2021 St. John's Short Play Festival.

[Image Description: Grace is a white woman in her seventies with blue eyes, glasses, and a white-blonde bob hairstyle. She's wearing a red jacket with a multi-colored scarf and is standing in front of a clothing rack.]





Colleen Best – Set Design

Colleen Best worked as a set designer on *The Heart Play* in July of 2023. She is Marie Pike's sister and loves working on projects together. When they were younger, Colleen would design and sew the clothes, and Marie would model them. Working as a full time Executive Coordinator, Colleen loves to sew, knit and be creative in her spare time.

[Image Description: Headshot of a dark haired 40 year old white woman wearing a headband and grey v-neck sweater. Mouth slightly open, smiling with her hazel eyes. Photo taken outdoors with a few blurred trees in the background.]





Lisah Nsanzugwanko – Stage Management

Lisah Nsanzugwanko is an International Student at Memorial University, in her final year as a Communication Studies major with a Sociology Minor. Throughout her time in St John's she has immersed herself in the vibrant theatre and film industry of St. John's, New foundland. Lisah is a Writer, Director and Stage Manager for both Theatre and Film. A passionate advocate, she weaves a vibrant mosaic of narratives, learning more and celebrating the richness of Black culture and history. Lisah's focus is empowerment, representation, and an unwavering pursuit of truth, leaving a mark both on and off the stage.

[Image Description: Lisah is a black person in her 20s, she has brown skin, black hair and brown eyes. She is wearing a cream blouse in front of a brown background.]





Bridget Wareham – Actor [Venus]

Bridget Wareham (she/her) is an actor from St. John's Newfoundland. A graduate of Memorial University, The National Theatre School of Canada and The Toronto Metropolitan University. She now lives and works in St. John's. She works in theatre, film, television, voice over, dance and recently, has been expanding her teaching work. Some of her credits include: Eli And The Death Curse (RCAT), Offensive To Some (NewfoundlandArtistX), Cassius in Julius Caesar (Perchance Theatre), voicing Ursula in Teletoon's 2015 George Of The Jungle, playing Dr. Karma Poole on CityTV's Hudson and Rex, Lauralee on ABC/Global's Rookie Blue, Katie in Hallmark's My Christmas Guide and Emily in Lifetime's Who's Stalking Who?. She is thrilled to be back bringing this play to life!

[Image Description: Bridget is a white woman with blue eyes and brown curly hair. She is wearing a rose button up shirt and is standing with her arms crossed in front of a grey backdrop.]





Wendi Smallwood – Actor [Heart]

Wendi Smallwood is a St. John's based writer, director, producer, and actor. She has performed & directed with many local theatre and film companies. She is the founder and artistic director of SW|FT and writer/performer of the one-woman shows Barely Mary and Resurrecting Mary. Wendi was a Toronto Dora Mavor Moore Award nominee for her performance of Sandy in Judith Thompson's Crackwalker and is a past recipient of the Rhonda Payne Theatre Award from ArtsNL. She is thrilled her 'heart' will once again be beating the boards with the cast and crew of The Heart Play.

[Image Description: Wendi is a white woman in her early 60s with reddish-brown hair and blue-green eyes. She is wearing a buttoned up golden tan suit jacket and is standing against a maroon background.]





Andrya Duff – Actor [Boss, Friend, Heart Strings]

Andrya is a multi-disciplinary artist who has created and performed works across North America.

[Image Description: A black and white photo of Andrya, a white adult with long light brown hair, thick full bangs, and light eyes. Andrya is wearing a dark turtle neck and is standing in front of a grey wall.]





Ian Foster – Actor [Babe, Doc, Heart Strings]

Ian Foster is a Grammy award wanting musician and filmmaker from St. John's, NL. He has toured internationally since 2006, and his films and film scores have appeared in festivals like TIFF and The Calgary International Film Festival, amongst others. His latest release, *Close to the Bone*, is a film/music album hybrid project that can be found at closetothebone.ca. Other work is available at ianfoster.ca.

[Image Description: Ian is a white person in his early 40s with short white hair, blue eyes and glasses. He is wearing a black leather jacket and scarf and is standing outside on a sunny day.]

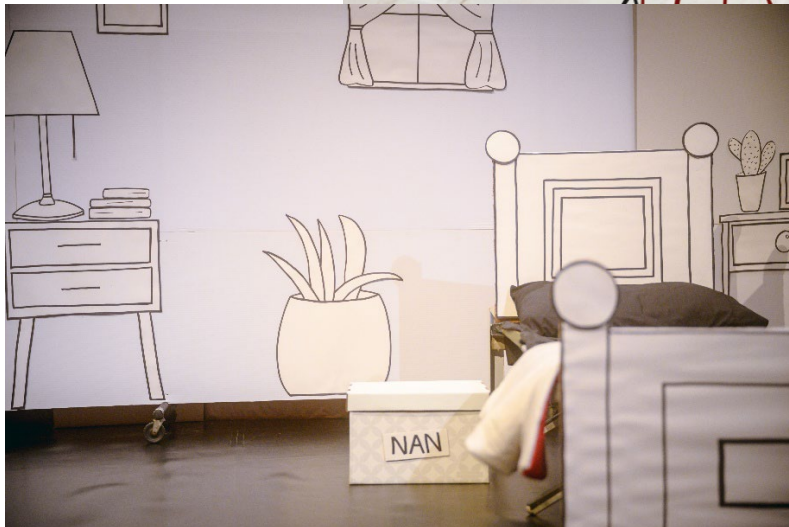




One Character smokes cigarettes a few times throughout the show. This is done using herbal cigarettes.

There is one scene in The Heart Play that features flashing lights.

Neither of these elements will be used for our Relaxed Performance on February 25th at 2pm.



Sample photos of props, Set Design by Colleen Best, and Lighting Design by Bob Stamp – Venus's room.



Sample photo of Set Design by Colleen Best, and Lighting Design by Bob Stamp – The Black Hole



Production photo – actor Ian Foster as Doc examines the black hole with a medical instrument.





Production photo – actor Wendi Smallwood as The Heart gestures to boxes labeled “Essions” – “Supression, Obsession, Repression, Depression” while Ian Foster as The Heart Strings plays electric guitar.



Thank you for taking the time to read through our Visual Guide / Social Story for The Heart Play.

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

<http://lspuhall.ca/accessibility/>

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

We hope you enjoy the show & thank you for choosing Resource Centre for the Arts for your night out!

[Image Description: The front of the LSPU Hall is shown, with spotlights shining over it. The building is green, with white and pink trim. It is nighttime and is dark outside.]

LSPU Hall Box Office

3 Victoria Street, St. John's, NL A1C 3V2 Phone: (709) 753-4531 ext 200

Resource Centre for the Arts Theatre Company (RCAT)

3 Victoria Street, St. John's, NL A1C 3V2 Phone: (709) 753-4537

