

Unity (1918)

by Kevin Kerr

An evocative examination of what happens when a deadly virus arrives in a remote, small town.

A CapU Theatre Department livestream production
from The BlueShore at CapU, March 9-12, 2021



UNITY (1918) By Kevin Kerr

Unity (1918) was developed as part of Touchstone Theatre's Playwright in Residence Program during the 1999/2000 season, and was originally produced by that company in March 2001 at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre.

ARTISTIC TEAM

Director	Bob Frazer
Assistant Director	Delaney Gilmour
Costume Designer	Tiffany Bishop
Set Designer	Brian Ball
Lighting Designer	Bryan Kenney
Sound Designer and Composer	Daniel Tessy

THE CAST

Beatrice Wilde	Emma Leduc
Sissy Wilde	Lili Martin
Mary/ Nurse	Halle Penner
Rose/ Widow	Katie Chaisson
Doris/ Widow	Trinity Valera-Mertineit
Sunna	Kaila Kondo
Stan/ Plaque Doctor	Jacques Gimbreek
Hart	Dallen Brodowski
Michael/ Body	Michael Ian Murphy
Glen/ Body/ Soldier	Cecil MaCrae
Fred/ Chaperone	Sasha Rhodes
Ted/ Body/ Alan	Rasul Vays

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	Mark "Sparky" Lawrence
Technical Practicum Supervisor	Mat Herrmann
Props and Paint Supervisor	Heidi Wilkinson
Stage Manager	Zain Khudhur
Assistant Stage Manager	Emily Turner
Lighting Operator	Liam White
Sound Operator	Owen Jones
Video Operator	Miles MacLeod

CARPENTERS, PROPS, PAINT AND LIGHT CREW

Stephanie Barclay
Ian Both
Reid Collinson
Zain Khudhur
Claire Fabian
Owen Jones
Sabrina Lam
Kendra Lynn
Miles MacLeod
Jiho Park
Sarah Rosner
Emily Turner
Kevin Wilk
Liam White

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Why *Unity (1918)* right now? Why watch a show on stage about the deadly Spanish Flu when we are living in our own deadly pandemic? Maybe because *Unity (1918)* is about more than disease and death. It speaks of humanity. Resilient humanity. Turbulent humanity. Beautiful humanity... an echo for today. We tell stories on stage to give space for people to laugh, cry, and get angry together. We walk away arguing the issues, laughing with our friends and loved ones about the content, and maybe even growing into better people. We watch *Hamlet* so we can understand that for over 400 years we have contemplated life and death. We watch *Wit* even though we all have connections to cancer. We enjoy *Romeo and Juliet* because it reminds us that we loved once, or if lucky, still.

All these stories make us better because they connect us to humanity. Kevin Kerr has written a play that is bigger than the Flu. It's about life. Love. It's funny. Like *Hamlet*, *R and J*, and *Wit*, *Unity (1918)* reminds us that we are human.

So why *Unity (1918)* right now? Maybe because we get to see ourselves in it and know we are not alone in the world. We get to connect to the people who went through their 1918 version of COVID-19 and we understand that we have always had hope, loss, and love. We fight on with courage just like they did over 100 years ago.

We learn that this moment in time will end and life will go on.

I suspect that 100 years from now our future selves will be fighting some new version of a flu. Maybe someone will have written a play about COVID-19 that is as brilliant as Kevin's play, and audiences in 2121 will see themselves and understand they have never been alone. Just like we might discover tonight. Have fun tonight. This year has been tough enough. Tonight doesn't have to be.

– Bob Frazer

ARTISTIC TEAM

Bob Frazer - Director

Bob Frazer is an acclaimed and nationally recognized actor. Since graduating from Studio 58 in 1994, he has worked consistently in theatre, film, and TV. His work has been honored with 10 Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards for performance. His lead performance in the feature film *The Cannon* was awarded the prestigious UBCP/ACTRA Award in 2018. He has participated in many aspects of the entertainment industry including directing, script development, acrobatics, dance, and writing but has spent most of his time in the performing field. A regular contributor at Bard on the Beach, he has played most of Shakespeare's leading roles including Hamlet, Richard III, Petruchio, Iago, and Macbeth. He is a faculty member at Capilano University, where he teaches acting, Shakespeare, Meisner, and Realism.



Kevin Kerr - Playwright

Kevin Kerr is a playwright and founding member of Vancouver's Electric Company Theatre with whom he's collaborated on the creation of more than a dozen full-length productions, including *Brilliant!*, *Studies in Motion* and *Tear the Curtain!* A four-time recipient of the Jessie Richardson Award for Outstanding Original Play, Kevin's other plays include *Skydive*, *Spine* (both for Realwheels Theatre), *The Remittance Man* (Sunshine Theatre), *Secret World of Og* (Carousel Theatre for Young People), and *The Night's Mare* (Caravan Farm Theatre). He received the Governor General's Literary Award for *Unity (1918)*. In 2019 he wrote and directed a suite of *Virtual Reality Installations* as companion pieces to Electric Company's production of *The Full Light of Day*. He lives with poet Marita Dachsel and their three children as visitors on the territory of the Lekwungen Nation (Songhees and Esquimalt) and teaches playwriting and screenwriting at the University of Victoria's Department of Creative Writing.



Brian Ball - Set Designer

Born and raised in Newfoundland, BC-based Brian Ball completed his BFA in Visual Arts from Memorial University, where he also fell in love with the world of theatre. After completing his BFA he moved to Victoria, BC, to complete his MFA in Theatre set and Costume Design at UVIC (Victoria). Ten years ago he has returned full-time to his original love of theatre set, and costume design, and has worked on many projects across Canada; as well as teaching costume design at Vancouver Island University (Nanaimo). Brian is very happy to be designing for Capilano University again!



Tiffany Bishop - Costume Designer

This California-born artist is effervescing with joy to be on the Capilano team. For the past six years she has been the assistant Head of Wardrobe with The Arts Club Theatre Company. Previous designs include *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de lune* at the Kay Meek Centre; *Les Miserables* and *The Farnsworth Invention* for Keyano Theatre in Fort McMurray, AB, and *Run for your wife*, *The Odd Couple*, *Ladies Night in a Turkish Bath*, *The Taffetas*, *The Mouse Trap*, *Smoke On The Mountain*, *Frog and Toad*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *Queen Of Bingo* at Allenberry Playhouse in Pennsylvania, U.S.A.



Bryan Keeney - Lighting Designer

Bryan is a Vancouver-based designer and has worked across Canada doing set, lighting, and projection design. Recent credits include: *Forget About Tomorrow* (Arts Club), *Griffin and Sabine*, *Taking Off*, *Mom's The Word* (Belfry Theatre), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (University of Victoria), *Only Drunks and Children Tell The Truth* (Fire Hall Arts Centre), *Peter and Starcatcher*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Capilano University), *Miss Understood* (Frank Theatre), *The Patron Saint of Stanley Park* (Halifax Theatre for Young People), *Trojan Women*, *Steel Magnolias* (Douglas College), *Boeing Boeing* (Keyano Theatre).



Daniel Tessa - Sound Designer and Composer

Daniel Tessa is a sound designer, composer, recording artist and multidisciplinary theatre artist centered in Vancouver, BC. Notable credits include sound design/original music for *Hamlet* (BlackSpear Productions), directing for *Eight Ways to Fate and All* by Bryan Wade (Cascadia Project), and sound design, music and direction for *Submerged* by Nicola Wanless (UBC Creative Writing). Between theatre gigs and teaching Sound at Capilano University, he can be found delighting the internet with his music project DELICATESSY.



Delaney Gilmour - Assistant Director

Delaney is grateful to be a part of keeping theatre alive in the midst of this pandemic and has had a wonderful time collaborating with the cast and crew to make this production possible. Last year she had the pleasure of playing The Princess Who Wouldn't Laugh alongside various other roles in *The Secret in the Wings* as well as directing the original script *Show Girl* in the Tom Cone Festival of New Plays. Delaney will be graduating from the Acting for Stage and Screen program at Capilano University this April.



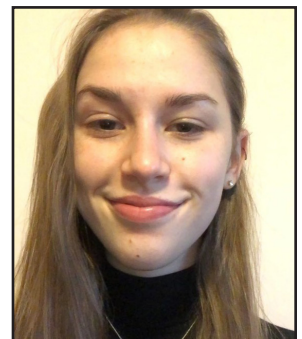
Zain Khudhur - Stage Manager

Zain is excited to be stage managing his last production at Capilano University. He is a second-year student of the Technical Theatre program, and he is patiently waiting for graduation this April. This is his first time being a stage manager but his previous ASM credit include: *The Secret in the Wings* at the BlueShore at CapU, and *Crazy for You* Singing in the Rain and Cabaret at the Royal City Musical Theatre.



Emily Turner - Assistant Stage Manager

This is the first production Emily has worked on at Capilano University. She is a first-year student of the Technical Theatre program. Her previous credits as a stage manager include: *She Kills Monsters* and *Ash Girl* at Mount Boucheirie Senior Secondary School.



THE CAST



Emma Leduc - Beatrice Wilde

Emma is ecstatic to be making her debut as Beatrice at the BlueShore at CapU, where she also performed in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. She has enjoyed learning from her teachers, such as P. Lynn Johnson, and it's been wonderful to work with such a strong cast and director.



Lili Martin - Sissy Wilde

Lili Martin is so grateful to be part of this show and excited for everyone to see how much we all love it. This is her third and final performance on the Blueshore stage, while attending Capilano. Lili thanks everyone who shares their time and love in her life. Thank you.



Halle Penner - Mary / Nurse

Halle graduates from the Musical Theatre program this spring and is honored to be making her CapU Theatre debut in this powerful (and timely) Canadian story. Most recently, she played Wendla in *Spring Awakening* (Arbutus Studios). She'd like to give a massive thanks to the cast and crew for this wonderful experience!



Katie Chaisson - Rose / Widow

Katie Chaisson is thrilled to be playing Rose in *Unity (1918)*. This is Katie's first show on the Blueshore stage, after previously playing Penny Quince in *A Mid Summer Night's Dream* in Arbutus Studio. Katie will be graduating from ASAS this spring.

Trinity Valera-Mertineit - Doris / Widow

Trinity Valera-Mertineit is a third year Musical Theatre student at Capilano University. She is so incredibly excited to be a part of *Unity 1918*. Her previous credits include *A Chorus Line* (Exit 22) and *Spring Awakening* (Arbutus Studio). Trinity wants to thank Bob, her family, the faculty, and the cast for all their support.



Kaila Kondo - Sunna

Kaila is a third year student in the Acting for Stage and Screen program and is excited to venture into the industry following her graduation in April. She is thrilled to be performing in live theatre and would like to thank everyone involved in this production. Her previous credits include *7 Stories* (BlueShore at CapU), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Arbutus Studio).



Jacques Grimbeek - Stan / Plague Doctor

Jacques Grimbeek is a third-year student at Capilano University. He is honoured to bring the role of Stan to the stage in their production of *Unity (1918)*. The role of Stan stands in stark opposition to Jacques' previous high-status roles of King Theseus in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Person in Monster*.



Dallen Brodowski - Hart

Dallen Brodowski is excited to portray Hart in CapU Theatre's production of *Unity 1918*. This will be his first show on the BlueShore stage. Previously he played Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, at the Arbutus Black Box. Dallen will be graduating the ASAS program this April.





Michael Ian Murphy - Michael / Body

Michael is very excited to take to the BlueShore stage in *Unity 1918* in the role of Michael after the unfortunate cancellation of *A Chorus Line* last year where he played Zach. Thank you to everyone who helped get me here.



Cecil MacRae - Glen / Body / Soldier

Cecil MacRae, originally from Prince George, is a third-year Acting for Stage and Screen student at Capilano University. When he is not on the stage, he can be found riding his motorbike and exploring the Vancouver area. Cecil is really excited for you all to see the show



Sasha Rhodes - Fred / Chaperone

This is Sasha's second appearance on the BlueShore stage. He has previously appeared in *Comedy in Errors*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Secret in the Wings* and Arbutus Studio's *As You Like It*. He has also appeared in the short film *Blood Pays Blood and the Hollow*. Sasha will be graduating in April with an Acting for Stage and Screen diploma and looks forward to the opportunities the rest of the year will bring.



Rasul Vays - Ted / Body / Alan

Rasul Vays, originally from Russia, is a third year Acting student at Capilano University. Rasul is grateful to be able to perform amid the circumstances of today's world. He is excited to be a part of *Unity 1918* and to share the stage with his fellow castmates.