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## THE HAUNTING OF MARGARET DULEY

By Berni Stapleton

September 25-29 at the LSPU Hall

**Starring:** Donna Butt, Amy House, Ruth Lawrence  
**With:** Torquil Colbo, Edward Daranyi, Christopher Dunn,  
Mallory Fisher, Marie Jones and Darryl Hopkins

**Directed by** Jenn Deon

**Set & lighting design** by Holly Meyer-Dymny

**Costume design** by Kelly Bruton

**Sound design** by Kathryn Burke

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# The Haunting of Margaret Duley

Written by Berni Stapleton

## CAST

(In order of appearance)

Mary Carew	Amy House*
Margaret Duley	Ruth Lawrence*
Girl	Mallory Fisher
Nelson	Torquil Colbo*
Paul / Pierre	Darryl Hopkins*
Lila / Mme. Dupont	Marie Jones
Walter	Edward Daranyi*
Tryphena	Donna Butt*
Man	Christopher Dunn

\* "The participation of these Artists is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance Opera Theatre Policy (DOT)."

This play began life as a commission for Rising Tide Theatre.

**Scene One - St. John's, 1964**

**Scene Two - St. John's, 1939**

**Scene Three - St. John's, 1939**

**Scene Four - Montreal, 1945**

**Scene Five - London, England, 1953**

**Scene Six - St. John's, 1964**

Total running time is 90 minutes. There is no intermission.

We respectfully acknowledge this territory as the ancestral unceded homelands of the Beothuk and the island of Newfoundland as the ancestral unceded homelands of the Mi'kmaq and Beothuk. We thank those who have walked before us for being stewards of this land.

**PRODUCTION & CREATIVE COMMUNITY**

Director and Producer	Jenn Deon
Set and Lighting Design	Holly Meyer-Dymny
Costume Design	Kelly Bruton
Sound Design	Kathryn Burke
Stage Manager	Krista Blackwood*
Production Manager	Mara Bredovskis
Props Manager	Kate Stenson
Wardrobe Manager	Shane Johnson-Hartley
Assistant Stage Director	Nicole Smith
Scenic Painting	Mara Bredovskis
Associate Producer	Sarah Parsons
Costume Assistant	Erin Whitney
Movement Coach	Lynn Panting
Dance Coach	Vanessa Cardoso-Whelan
Dialect Coach	Marie Jones
Production Assistant	Natalie Haire
Poster Design	Katie Baird

*\* "The participation of this Artist is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance Opera Theatre Policy (DOT)."*

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PerSISStence Theatre Company Inc. is a registered non-profit, governed by a voluntary board of directors

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- Jocelyn Young
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- Natalie Falk
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### Phil Winters - Technical Director

Phil Winters is a musician, nature photographer, and theatre professional in St. John's. Experienced in all aspects of stage craft, he is mainly a lighting designer. He has designed lighting for plays, musicals, and contemporary dance. As a guitarist, he has performed with prominent influential bands Schizoid and BUNG, Liz Band, Fur Packed Action, and Hot Nuts. Current projects are Psychobilly Cadillacs and Jigger. Some of Phil's photos have recently been published in *Stouts, Millers and Forky-Tails: Insects of Newfoundland*. This is his first show with PerSIStence and he hopes it will not be the last!

### MARGARET IRIS DULEY (1894-1968): Literary and Personal Trailblazer and Seeker



Margaret Duley was Newfoundland and Labrador's first novelist of significance. She published internationally to critical acclaim in the late 1930's and early 1940s. She was the first to use a Newfoundland setting - its people, seascapes, landscapes, folklore and culture - as an integral part of wider themes.

Her four novels, namely, *Eyes of the Gull*, *Cold Pastoral*, *Highway to Valour*, and *Novelty on Earth* were published in London, New York, Toronto and Sweden. Today only *Cold Pastoral* (Breakwater Press, 2014) remains in print. Comments from critics such as prose "of exceptional human and artistic beauty" (*New York Times*, 1941) and a story "managed with artistry" (*London Times Literary Supplement*, 1936) were common. Yet Duley received limited attention in the land she loved, partly due to the circumstances of the Depression but also because she challenged many orthodoxies.

The searing losses of World War One led her to question the Christian and imperial certainties of her childhood. She was a spiritual seeker and studied other religions. She was a suffragist and feminist who challenged the sexual double standard and included issues of divorce, abortion and "mansplaining" in her plots. She confronted in life and literature the life choices available to a postwar generation of single women whose male contemporaries lay under the soil of the Somme. All of her novels feature a woman who feels "out of place" for different reasons in both outport and city.

Brilliant, formidably well-read, articulate, witty and dramatic she was as vivid in real-life as her writing. Her voice was finally silenced by Parkinson's dementia. But not quite. Her writing still speaks to another generation.

- Dr. Margot I. Duley

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### Donna Butt - Tryphena Duley

Donna is the artistic and executive director of Rising Tide Theatre. She has contributed to the province's artistic life as an actor, writer, director, dramaturge and producer for 45 years. Donna is a recipient of the Order of Canada and the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador. She lives and works in Trinity where Rising Tide presents Seasons in the Bight, a festival of work that reflects the history, culture and character of our province and features some of our finest artists. In winter Donna travels the highways with the annual Revue. She is honoured to be part of the economic and cultural life of this province, and of its vibrant and dedicated artistic community.



### Torquil Colbo - Nelson Duley

Torquil Colbo hails from St. John's and has been living in Toronto since before the turn of the millennium - where he gets mistaken for Torquil Campbell on a monthly basis. Theatre highlights: *Cripple Billy*, *Cripple of Inishmaan* (North Bay Theatre Company), *Joey Smallwood*, *The Only Living Father* (Theatre Newfoundland Labrador), writer / performer in *Beyond Zebra*, *Blue Blazes*, *Trust Me*, and *Ragnarok*. Selected Film / TV : *Titans*, *Copper*, *Reign*, *Private Eyes*, *The Listener*, *Anne*.



### Nicole Smith - Assistant Director

Nicole Smith is a writer and director based in Cambridge, Ontario. She holds an honours degree in theatre studies from the University of Guelph and has worked as a producer for Pat the Dog Theatre Creation. Nicole is founding artistic producer of Sonderlust, a collective dedicated to the creation of original work and the staging of women's stories. Her work has been supported by the Canada Council, the Ontario Arts Council, the Metcalf Foundation, the Shaw Festival and Canadian Stage. Nicole is over-the-moon grateful to Jenn and the PerSISTence team for the chance to assist with this beautiful premiere, on this beautiful team, in this beautiful province.



### Kate Stenson - Head of Props

Kate Stenson is a multi-disciplinary theatre artist with an MSc in history, and an unhealthy obsession with stationary. Recently returned home from five years in Toronto, she is thrilled to be working with the multi-faceted St. John's community. Select credits: *Shanawdithit*; *Ours* (Opera on the Avalon); *CircusFest 2018 + 2019* (Wonderbolt Circus); *Shakespeare by the Sea Festival 2019*; *PIANOMEN* (Theatre St. John's); *The Boor & The Door* (Team Broken Earth); *Ori* (Bruno Vinhas & Corie Harnett); many weeks as DJ Kate at RuPaul's Drag Race Live with Irma Gerd. Thank you for supporting the arts – we can't do it without you.



**Sarah Stoodley, MHA**  
District of Mount St. Charles 

709-729-3083  
SarahStoodley@gov.nl.ca

I would like to commend the cast and crew for the production of "The Haunting of Margaret Duley". Margaret was an important figure in the Newfoundland and Labrador feminist movement and I applaud the work being done to celebrate her legacy.

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### **Holly Meyer-Dymny - Set and Lighting Design**

Holly Meyer-Dymny is a theatre designer and visual artist based in Ontario. She has designed for opera, theatre, and dance productions with companies such as Hart House Theatre, Opera on the Avalon, Opera

Lyra Ottawa, TOES for Dance, and Smile Theatre. She was an assistant set designer at the Stratford Festival for two seasons.

Selected credits: Set Design - *Into The Woods*, *The Sound of Music*; Set and Projection Design - *Tosca*, *Dead Man Walking* (Opera On The Avalon); Lighting Design - *Cendrillon* (Laurier Opera); Set Design - *Titus Andronicus*, *The Penelopiad* (Hart House Theatre); Production Design - *Anne of Green Gables*, *Sunshine Sketches*, *Gift of the Magi* (SMILE Theatre); Set Design - *Pandora*, *L'Homme et le Ciel* (FAWN Chamber Creative); Set and Lighting Design - *Miss Donnithorne's Maggot* (FAWN/Opera Lyra Ottawa); Set Design Assistant - *The Music Man*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Tempest*, *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Stratford Festival). Upcoming: *Phantom of the Opera* (Opera on the Avalon). More at [hollymeyerdymny.com](http://hollymeyerdymny.com).



### **Sarah Parsons - Associate Producer**

Sarah Parsons is a full-time student at Memorial University, currently finishing a degree in English and philosophy. This past summer, she completed an internship as an assistant director for Perchance

Theatre's production of *Julius Caesar*, which was the last requirement needed for her fulfillment of Memorial's Diploma in Performance and Communications Media. Sarah has worked as a stage manager and production assistant for PerSISTence Theatre for the last two summers, and she is absolutely thrilled to be able to assist with *The Haunting of Margaret Duley*. Sarah is actively engaged in directing, film making, singing, and acting, and recently appeared in the St. John's Short Play Festival's production of *The Boor* by Anton Chekov. Sarah would like to thank Jenn Deon for the opportunity and continued support. May the legacies of strong and talented Newfoundland women live on in the work we do.



### **Edward Daranyi - Walter**

In his past 19 seasons at Stratford, Edward has served as assistant director of *Oklahoma!*, *A Delicate Balance*, *Oliver!*, *Ghosts*, *The Lark*, *Quiet in the Land*, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, and associate director of *King Henry*

*VIII*, *The Donnelly's: Sticks & Stones*, and *West Side Story*. Other directing credits include numerous productions throughout Canada, the US, Central America and Africa. Highlights include working with Teatro Es Artes in El Salvador and their participation in The World Festival of Children's Theatre; and with Shakespeare Link Canada: multi-disciplined adaptations of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Mozambique, and *Montes Numuli* and *Romeo and Juliet*, a hearing/deaf multilingual experiment. Edward has taught with the University of Guelph, the University of Michigan, the National Theatre School of Canada, Humber College, George Brown College, The Centre for Indigenous Theatre, and the National Ballet School of Canada. Edward is a BFA acting graduate of the University of Windsor.



### **Christopher Dunn - Man**

Christopher Dunn is a comedian, actor, singer, and improviser from St. John's. He is the artistic director of Night Out Productions, which showcases top tier local and international comedic talent. Chris recently

completed the six-week Opera/Musical Theatre Intensive at Opera NUOVA in Edmonton, AB. There he performed in a scene study of *Hedda Gabbler*; *Kiss Me Kate* in concert; *The Fairy Queen*; *Midsummer Night's Dream*; and *The Secret Garden*. With Opera on the Avalon include *Sweeney Todd*, *The Sound of Music*, *Dead Man Walking*, and *Into The Woods*. Other recent performances include TaDa's *Jesus Christ Superstar*; Berni Stapleton's *Brazil Square*; and Peter MacDonald Production's *Tarzan*. When he is not singing he can be found at any local comedy show performing stand up. He recently won Runner Up at James Mullinger's Comedy Bootcamp. Christopher also performs improv with the long-standing Stanley Braxton troupe, and he co-runs an annual Comedy Festival of the same name.

**Mallory Fisher - Girl**

Mallory is a theatre creator, director, performer, and gin drinker from Mount Pearl. She divides her time between Toronto and Newfoundland, where she has spent four seasons with Rising Tide Theatre. Her one-woman show *Mad Girl's Love Song* is currently in development with PerSIStence Theatre. She holds an MFA in Theatre Performance Creation from York University and a BFA in Musical Theatre Performance from the Boston Conservatory. Most recently, she has joined the Artistic Fraud team as Associate Producer.

**Darryl Hopkins - Paul / Pierre**

Darryl is an actor and musician, from Newfoundland. He holds a BFA from Sir Wilfred Grenfell College (Memorial University), where, in 2002, he received the Tommy Sexton Award. In the past few years, he has been the recipient of numerous awards for his performance, in Noel Harris' film *Touch*. He has a long list of theatre and film credits to his name. Recent projects include *Between Breaths* by Robert Chafe, *Uncanny Valley* by Ian Vardy and *A Fire in the Cold Season* by Justin Oakey. Hopkins has also started production on a new album of original songs. You can find some of his music at [avalonstanley.com](http://avalonstanley.com).

**Amy House - Mary Carew**

Over the span of her career Amy has been a performer, comedienne, writer, producer and director. Amy recently completed 14 years as Artistic Animateur of RCA Theatre Company at the LSPU Hall. There she was at the heart of the development and production of over 40 original plays by Newfoundland playwrights. A comic with an irrepressible fondness for improvisation, Amy is a much sought-after performer for many special events and private functions. She is currently working in television production with Tyndrum Media Inc. as the host of *From Inside the Circle* as well as Audience Relations and Communications Director.

**Kathryn Burke - Sound Design**

Kathryn is a local actor, musician, producer and sound designer. She has been an actor with Grand Bank Regional Theatre Festival, QVRRDF Fall Musicals, St. John's Players (SJP), Shakespeare by the Sea (SBTS), and Best Kind Productions, co-produced a provincial tour of skc original's *Give Me Back*, and also sits on the V-Day St. John's board, which produces *The Vagina Monologues* annually. Sound design credits: *The Tempest* (SBTS), *A Nice Family Christmas*, *Wit*, *The Maltese Bodkin* (SJP); *Noises Off*, *CLUE On Stage* (Nothing on Productions); and *Original* (PerSIStence Theatre Company).

**Shane Johnson-Hartley - Costume Manager**

Born and raised in St. John's, NL, Shane is happy to be making his debut with PerSIStence Theatre. Shane works regularly spends his summers working as the costumer designer with Theatre Newfoundland and Labrador in Cow Head. He has spent time learning at Grenfell's Technical Theatre program as well at Dalhousie University's Costume Studies program. Shane has also done costume work/design for Holy Heart High School's performance program with shows such as *Miracle on 34th Street* and *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. He is also working as the costume assistant for Opera on the Avalon's upcoming production of *Phantom of the Opera*.

**Tune in to A PerSIStence Podcast!**

**Episode 1.0 - Abortion Services in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada:** A Chat with Noreen Golfman and Rolanda Ryan

**Episode 2.0 - Ahead of Her Times:** Discussing Newfoundland's Margaret Duley with Berni Stapleton and Margot Duley



Tune in at [soundcloud.com/persistencetheatre](https://soundcloud.com/persistencetheatre)





### **Mara Bredovskis - Production Manager**

Mara can often be found hiding in booths and backstages around town. She has worked as a production manager and stage manager (thankfully rarely at the same time) for companies such as Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland, PerSISence Theatre Company, Opera on the Avalon, Perchance Theatre, Resource Centre for the Arts Theatre, White Rooster Theatre, Wonderbolt Circus, Theatre St. John's, and many others.



### **Kelly Bruton - Costume Design**

Since arriving in Newfoundland via Botswana, 25 years ago, Kelly has contributed to the cultural landscape of the province as an artist, educator, filmmaker, activist, mentor, designer and collaborator. She studied at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax, Nova Scotia her birthplace where she graduated with degrees in Fine Art (textiles and sculpture) and Art Education (1991). Travel has enriched her artistic practice over the past 25+ years. She has trekked into mountain ranges Rockies (Canada), Simien (Ethiopia), Himalayas, (India and Nepal), has reached the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro, (Kenya) traveled by water into the Okavango Delta (Botswana), Lake Malawi (Malawi) and Lake Tana (Ethiopia). These incredible encounters with the nature also include intense cultural exchanges with people. Seeking out traditional makers in their local communities continuing ancient and modern textile practices. These intense experiences continue to broaden her cultural and artistic palettes. Kelly's contribution as an Artist for social change in her local community and abroad, includes a decade of service on the Board of Directors for Oxfam Canada resulted in her appointment as Board Chair and as a Board Trustee for Oxfam International. This voluntary work in International Development was inspired by living and working in Botswana in southern Africa. She is currently a Board Director for the Social Justice Cooperative NL, SKS Children's Centre and an Artist volunteer at the Gathering Place.



### **Marie Jones - Lila / Mme. Dupont**

Marie is an AB-born performer, writer and director based in St. John's. Some of her recent appearances include *Other Women Walk* (White Rooster Theatre); *Isle of Demons*, *Women Playing Hamlet* (PerSISence); *West Moon*, *Trinity Newfoundlande Pageant*, *No Man's Land* (Rising Tide); *Twelve Nasty Women*, *Room for a Pony*, *Curved* (Women's Work Festival); *Cookstown* (Salt Teeth Theatre); *Proud*, *Village Wooing* (Double Sure Theatre Co-op); *Leave of Absence* (New Curtain); and *Under Wraps* (Artistic Fraud). Marie holds a BA (Hons.) in Drama from the U of A and is a grad of George Brown Theatre School. *Her Closely*, her first full-length writing devised from letters and diaries of Franz Kafka, will reach the LSPU Hall mainstage in 2020.



### **Ruth Lawrence - Margaret Duley**

Ruth Lawrence works as a theatre and film maker. In 2020, she makes her directorial feature debut with *Little Orphans* (Imagine That Productions). Her first feature documentary, *Circus by Komatik* (Firecrown Productions) was broadcast on CBC in July and can be seen on GEM. She directed The Ennis Sisters' music video *Shine Your Light* (Blue Pinion Films) to mark the 100th Anniversary of the CMHA. She is the artistic director of White Rooster Theatre. Ruth has received a Best Actress Award at the Atlantic Film Festival, the RBC Michelle Jackson Award for Emerging Filmmaker, ArtsNL's Artist of the Year, the Queen's Jubilee Medal, the YWCA Woman of Distinction and WIFT Atlantic's WAVE Award.



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### **Berni Stapleton - Playwright**

Berni Stapleton is a Newfoundland- Labrador writer and performer of unique distinction. Her play *The Pope and Princess Di* is listed on the Playwrights Guild of Canada's "The SureFire List" of top 23 plays from female playwrights in Canada, and her play *Woman in a Monkey Cage* was also long-listed. Berni has been a playwright-in-residence with companies across Canada, and her plays are regularly produced nationally and internationally, including *Offensive To Some, Brazil Square, Our Frances*, and the script for the currently touring production of *No Change in the Weather - a Newfoundland Musical*. Other accolades include The Rhonda Payne award from Arts NL; the Writer's Association of NL award for best work in non-fiction for her contribution to the book *They Let Down Baskets*; and the Ambassador of Tourism award from Hospitality NL. Berni received the 2018 Arts and Letters award for best dramatic script, and was supported by the Canada Council to write her book *Girly Muckle and the Queer Hands*. Her new one woman show is called *Late Lesbians and Other Bloomers*, and Berni is one of the featured performers in Artistic Fraud's *Between Breaths*. Berni was the Artistic Director of the Grand Bank Regional Theatre Festival for 11 years, was dramaturge for and helped devise *transVersing* (Artistic Fraud/Love of Learning), and most recently directed Sharon King-Campbell's play *Original* for PerSIStence Theatre. More at [bernistapleton.com](http://bernistapleton.com).

### *Our Heartfelt Thanks*

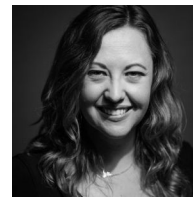
Margot Duley; SJ Arts & Culture Centre admin, costume bank, & backstage crew, especially Karl Simmons; LSPU Hall staff; Sharon Tucker; George Robertson; Janet O'Reilly; Victoria Jamieson; Janet March; Patrick Foran; El Patey; Sharon King-Campbell; Melanie Ozon; Diana Daly; Kevin Woolridge; Parkinson's Dance Group; Nalda Hutton; Robin Lake; Lisa Dodge; Santiago Guzman; Gavin Will; Dave Walsh; Shelly Follett & Krista Griffin; Glenda Dawe.



### **Jenn Deon - Director / Producer**

Jenn is a freelance theatre artist who has worked in St. John's since the early 90's. As artistic director with the Shakespeare by the Sea Festival from 1995-2015, she directed many of its productions over the years.

Recent directing credits include *Isle of Demons* (PerSIStence); *Life Sucks* (Deon-Walsh Productions) and *After The Sirens* (Quills on the Edge). In 2013, Jenn was a recipient of a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for her community involvement, and received the 2018 Woman of Distinction Award for Arts & Culture from the YWCA St. John's. Jenn is also a trainer with the CHRC's Respectful Workplaces in the Arts for the theatre sector in Atlantic Canada. She is a founder of and the producing artistic director with PerSIStence Theatre.



### **Krista Blackwood - Stage Manager**

Krista is delighted to be making her PerSIStence debut! Here at home in Newfoundland, she was the assistant director for *Habib's Unforgettable All Night House Party* (RCA Theatre Company) and stage manager of *Into the Woods* (Opera on the Avalon). Favourite stage management credits elsewhere include *The Candidate* (Citadel Theatre); *The Hockey Sweater: A Musical* (Segal Centre/NAC); *Shakespeare in Love* (Neptune Theatre); *Glenn* (Soulpepper); *The Mill, parts 1 to 4* (Theatrefront); *Anne of Green Gables – The Musical* (The Charlottetown Festival); *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Western Canada Theatre); *The Rocky Horror Show* (Theatre New Brunswick); *Generous* (Tarragon Theatre); and six seasons as an assistant at the Stratford Festival. Thanks to the cast, crew, and the whole PerSIStence team!

### **Books available for sale downstairs**

***Agnes Ayre's ABCs of Amazing Women*, by Jenny Higgins**

***Cold Pastoral*, by Margaret Duley**

***This Is The Cat*, by Berni Stapleton**

**A portion of each sale supports the work of PerSIStence Theatre!**