

***PERSISTENCE**
—Theatre Company—
presents

Isle of Demons by Robert Chafe

*The story of Marguerite de Roberval —
marooned in 1542 on an island off of
Newfoundland for daring to love.*

STARRING

Marie Jones
Allison Kelly
Evan Mercer

DIRECTED BY

Alix Reynolds



www.persistencetheatre.com

APRIL 25 to 28 at 8 PM | APRIL 29 at 2 PM
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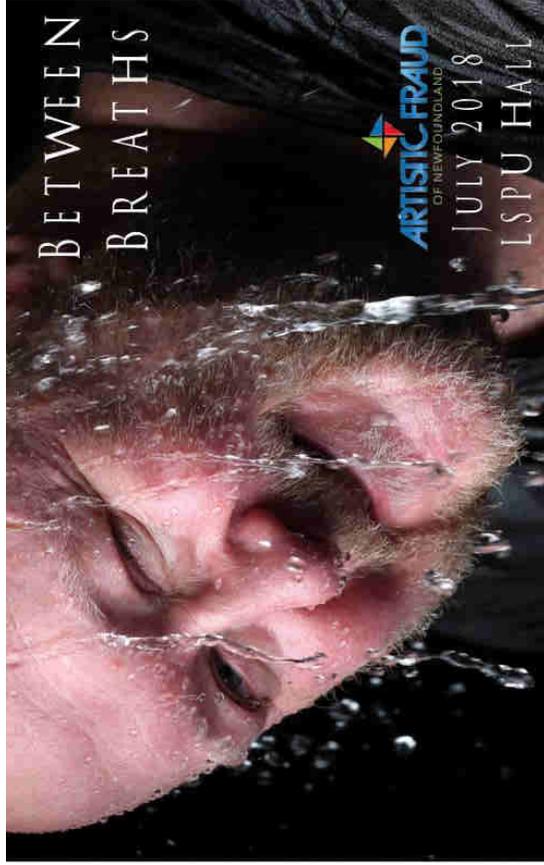


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CCG



ISLE OF DEMONS

by Robert Chafe

Damienne
Eugene
Marguerite

Marie Jones
Evan Mercer
Allison Kelly

Director
Stage Manager
Production Manager
Costume Design
Sound Design
Lighting Design
Set Builder/Painter

Alix Reynolds
Rachel Deal
Mara Bredovskis
Melanie Ozon
George Robertson
Mara Bredovskis
Emily Austin

Isle of Demons was originally commissioned by Theatre Newfoundland Labrador and premiered at their Gros Morne Theatre Festival in 2004.

Isle of Demons is performed by arrangement with Ian Arnold, Catalyst TCM Inc.
www.catalysttcm.com

There will be one 15 minute intermission.

Please silence all mobile devices. No flash photography.

We respectfully acknowledge the province of Newfoundland and Labrador as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk. Today, these lands are home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We would also like to acknowledge with respect the diverse histories and cultures of the Mi'kmaq, Innu, Inuit and Southern Inuit of this province.

EMILY AUSTIN - Set Builder/Painter



Emily Austin is a scenic painter and carpenter based in St. John's. She holds a BFA in Technical Theatre from Grenfell Campus, Memorial University. She has helped build and paint sets for almost every theatre company in St. John's over the past year and a half. She's been working for PerSIStence since their beginning and is thrilled to see the rocks (and the lovely cast members) return to the stage in *Isle of Demons*.

MARA BREDOVSKIS - Production Management / Lighting Design



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 Opera on the Avalon, Artistic Fraud, Persistence Theatre Company, Resource Centre for the Arts Theatre, White Rooster Theatre, Wonderbolt Circus, Theatre St. John's, and many others.

ROBERT CHAFE - Playwright



Robert has worked in theatre, dance, opera, radio, fiction and film. His stage plays have been seen in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and in the United States, and include *Oil and Water*, *Tempting Providence*, *Afterimage*, *Under Wraps*, and *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams* (adapted from the novel by Wayne Johnston.) He has been shortlisted twice for the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama, and he won the award in 2010. 2016 saw the premiere of his first opera, *Ours* (with composer John Estacio), and the release of his first book of fiction *Two-Man Tent* (Breakwater Books). He is the playwright and artistic director of Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland.

RACHEL DEAL - Stage Manager



Rachel is thrilled to be joining Persistence Theatre for their remount of *Isle of Demons*. She is a graduate of the Diploma in Performance and Communications Media from Memorial University. She has been involved in theatre in multiple capacities with companies such as Beothuck Street Players, Peter MacDonald Productions and most recently as stage manager for *The Taming of the Shrew* at Perchance Theatre. She has also been working in film, mainly on the assistant director's teams, for productions including *Republic of Doyle* and season three of *Frontier*.

MARIE JONES - Damienne



Marie is an AB-born performer, writer and director based in St. John's since 2012. Some of her recent appearances include *Women Playing Hamlet* (Persistence Theatre), *West Moon*, *Trinity Pageant*, *No Man's Land* (Rising Tide Theatre), *Room for a Pony*, *Curved* (Women's Work Festival), *Proud*, *Village Wooing* (Double Sure Theatre Co-op) and *Under Wraps* (Artistic Fraud). Marie holds a BA (Hons.) in Drama from the UofA and is a grad of George Brown Theatre School. She'll be back to the Hall May 7 with Darren Ivany's *Cookstown* and will revive Berni Stapleton's *Woman in a Monkey Cage* in late 2018.

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Twitter: @PerSIStenceNL

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You can sign up for our e-newsletter on our website
www.perSIStencetheatre.com

ALISON KELLY - Marguerite



Allison is an actor from Gander. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Grenfell Campus and a Masters of Fine Arts from York University. She has performed with companies across the province such as Rising Tide, Perchance Theatre, Gros Morne Theatre Festival, The Resource Centre for the Arts, and c2c. Film credits include CBC's *Little Dog* and *Republic Of Doyle*, G. Patrick Condon's *Incredible Violence*, and *Riverhead*. Allison has recently spent the winter teaching acting at Grenfell campus.

EVAN MERCER - Eugene



Evan is delighted to get the chance to return to the *Isle of Demons*. An actor from Shearstown, NL, Evan has been fortunate to have worked with many great theatre companies in the province such as Poverty Cove Theatre, Perchance Theatre, Rising Tide, and TNL, among others. Recently he appeared on his debut feature film *Riverhead* for which he was nominated for a Canadian Screen Award in the category of best actor in a supporting role. Evan also appeared as Spam on the recent CBC dark comedy *Little Dog*. Enjoy the skit!

MELANIE OZON - Costume Design



A graduate of the CNA Textile Studies Program at the Anna Templeton Centre in St. John's, Melanie has worked on several productions with such theatre companies as White Rooster Theatre, Theatre St. John's and PerSIStence. In addition to costume design, Melanie is also working on a collection of tales based on life in a vibrant little city on the edge of the world. After much adventure and some living away, for the moment she lives in her native St. John's with her family. She is delighted to be back with *Isle of Demons*.

ALIX REYNOLDS - Director



Alix is a director from St. John's currently residing in Edmonton, AB. A recent graduate of the University of Victoria's MFA Theatre Directing program, Alix is thrilled to be home to work with PerSIStence Theatre.

Upcoming shows include: Shakespeare by the Sea's *Shake it Up* in St. John's (2018) and the Walterdale Theatre's *Leave of Absence* in Edmonton (2019). After stage managing the inaugural production of *Isle of Demons* with PerSIStence in 2017, Alix has been inspired by this dedicated team throughout the process of pushing the show a step further. She would like to thank the actors and crew for being so receptive to her leadership and engaged in the process.

GEORGE ROBERTSON - Sound Design



George has worked as an actor, musician, and sound designer (often simultaneously in two or three of these capacities) with many theatre companies in Newfoundland and Labrador, including Perchance Theatre, RCA Theatre Company, c2c theatre, Rising

Tide Theatre Company, New Curtain Theatre, Open Theatre Company, Kanutu Theatre, Poverty Cove Theatre Company, Shakespeare by the Sea, Beothuck Street Players, Nothing On Productions, and others, as well as appearing in several locally produced film and television projects. He is thrilled to be re-joining a superb cast and crew for this new presentation of Persistence Theatre's inaugural production.

Contact us

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**Lorraine
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A message from our producing artistic director

Welcome to our remounted production of Robert Chafe's *Isle of Demons* - it was the first show of PerSIStence Theatre Company's first season back in September and it feels great to be bringing it to the LSPU Hall as the **finale of an amazing year**. I am so grateful that the talented Alix Reynolds was kind enough to take over the direction of this remount when I recently became unavailable.



We're not simply a theatre company that happens to be feminist – we've built a **feminist organization that uses theatre as its medium**. Recognizing that sexism is pervasive and ingrained, we want to influence a cultural shift through powerful theatrical storytelling .

At PerSIStence our mandate to challenge discrimination and stereotype in all forms through stories where **at least 50 per cent of the text is spoken by female characters** - stories that resonate with the issues of women and girls. We hope to inspire conversation and change as we respond to the persistent and universal need for promoting, understanding and embracing the core beliefs of feminism.

This first year has been a wonderful, terrifying adventure for us. We are proud to have produced four professional productions and **employed 32 professional theatre artists, technicians and designers**. We also hosted two development workshops of new plays written by women that paid another 12 folks for a few days. →



We just closed out our first fiscal year at about **\$100,000 in expenses**. How is that possible? Well, because a lot of hard work from a tremendous group of volunteers and supporters:

- We raised about \$30,000 during our Grit & Grace Gala
- We received about \$30,000 from generous individuals
- We received \$10,000 from corporate sponsors and advertisers
- We received \$5,000 from public grants
- And we made about \$15,000 in earned revenue.

It's more than about money, of course. We've been overwhelmed by the positive welcome our endeavours have received, both anecdotal and formal. Our first inkling was in November, when readers of **The Overcast** voted us the runner-up for Best News to happen in the local arts scene for 2017.

BEST OF THE ARTS

BEST NEWS

Winner: Joel Thomas Hynes Winning Governor General's Award

Runner Up: Formation of Feminist Theatre Group, Persistence Theatre



Then, in January, we were moved and honoured to read the letters that supported our **nomination as Emerging Artist of the Year from Arts NL**. Our chair, Jean Graham, will be attending the awards on our behalf this Saturday in Labrador City to discover the outcome.

And in March, it was a lifetime highlight for me personally to have received the **2018 Woman of Distinction Award for Arts & Culture** from the YWCA St. John's. It is an honour that I believe recognizes the value of a feminist-focused arts organization to our community.



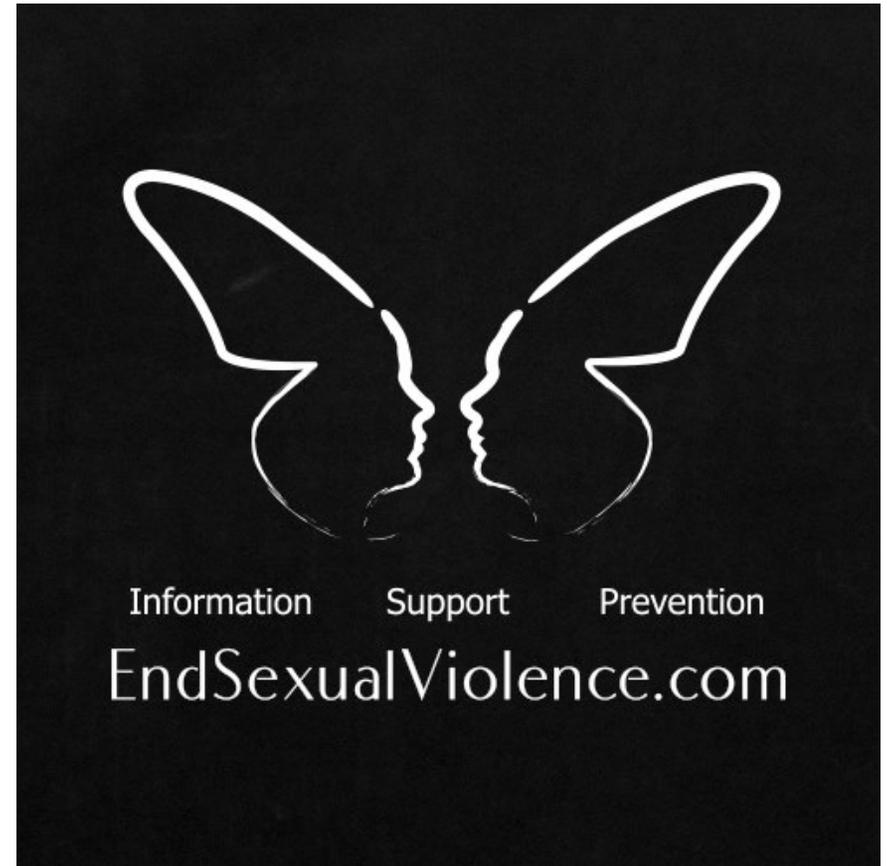
Another key achievement for us was the development and implementation of our *Respectful Workspace Policy*, based on a policy developed by the Canadian Actors Equity Association. The policy articulates our commitment to **safe and respectful workplaces free from personal and sexual harassment or violence** for all those working with us; and support for those who have experienced or witnessed workspace behaviours that do not reflect these standards. You can view the policy on our website.



It really does “take a village” to raise a theatre company and there are many who must share in the pride of all we have achieved to date. In particular, our **voluntary board of directors and advisory PerSISTers** have carried the vision of this company forward on their strong and mighty shoulders - I am so filled with love and gratitude to be able to work alongside them.

Moving forward, we have a great second season planned, building on the support of the community we are proud to serve. We look forward to you joining us - as audience, at fundraisers, as supporters and as friends.

- Jenn Deon, producing artistic director



Our Heartfelt Thanks

Emma Collins; Matt Dines; Dorthy Martin; Suzanne, Danielle, Mike, Robert, Pat and the whole team at the Resource Centre for the Arts LSPU Hall; El Patey; Flora Planchat; Karl Simmons of the Arts & Culture Centre; Berni Stapleton; Dave Walsh; plus to all those who helped for the initial production.

Special thanks to our partners and families.

* PERSISTENCE

— Theatre Company —

Our non-profit work depends on both the spiritual and financial support of the community we serve. We sincerely thank the following who support us through their one-time or monthly donations:

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www.persistencetheatre.com to learn more**

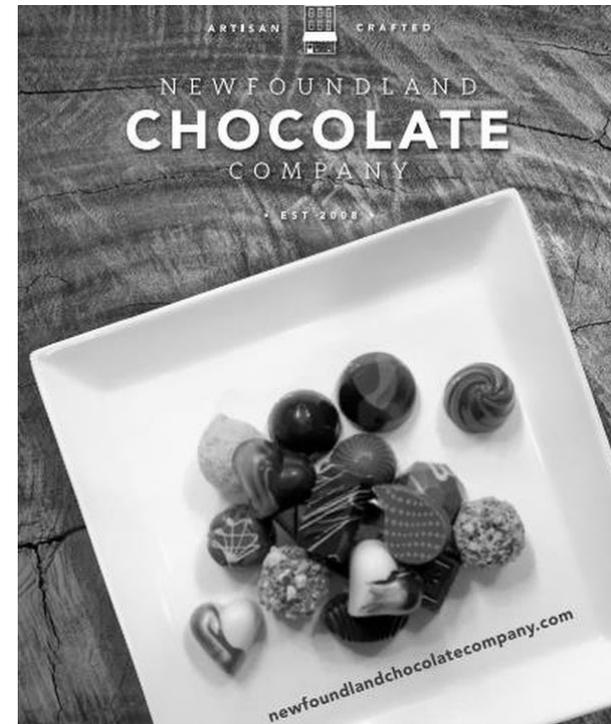


Cathy Bennett
MHA, Windsor Lake



Enjoy the Show!

Phone: (709) 729-3529
Email: CBennett@gov.nl.ca



Call for PerSISTers

We're growing our huddle!

Interested community members of all genders who are interested in supporting our vision, mission and guiding principles in an ongoing fashion are invited to apply to join our board of directors for a two-year term beginning at our AGM in June 2018.



Step One: Send your expression of interest no later than May 13 (Mother's Day!) to info@persistencetheatre.com.

Step Two: We'll follow up by inviting you to join a board member or two for coffee to learn more about our organization and our plans, and to chat about how you might want to be involved.

Step Three: Following the coffee chat, if you determine we are a good fit for how you want to make the world a better place, let us know via **cover letter and resume** why and how you want to be involved. Then we'll follow up and get you started.

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