

PERSISTENCE
Theatre Company

SHARON KING CAMPBELL'S

ORIGINAL

DIRECTED BY BERNI STAPLETON

November 28th 2018–
December 1st 2018 at 8pm
& December 2nd, 2018 at 2pm

PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP **skc**
WITH *originals*

LSPU Hall, 3 Victoria Street

www.persistencetheatre.com

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ORIGINAL

Written & performed by Sharon King-Campbell

Director	Berni Stapleton
Production Design	Diana Daly
Stage Manager	Jaimie Tait
Production Manager	Emily Austin
Head of Wardrobe	Melanie Ozon
Sound Design & Operation	Kat Burke
Movement Coach	Sara Tilley
Choreography Coach	Corie Harnett
Lighting Operator	Fionn Shea
Poster Design	Katie Baird

The writing of *ORIGINAL* was supported by the Canada Council for the Arts and the City of St. John's. It was workshopped by PerSISStence Theatre in October 2017 as part of the portion of our mandate committed to advancing the work of women playwrights.

Running time is 80 minutes with no intermission.

Please silence all mobile devices. No flash photography.

Please be advised, this production contains description of rape.

We would like to respectfully acknowledge the territory in which we gather as the ancestral unceded homelands of the Beothuk and the island of Newfoundland as the ancestral unceded homelands of the Mi'kmaq and Beothuk.

This production was also made possible through the support of the Resource Centre for the Arts 60/40 Box Office Split Agreement.

A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

"If you resist, you can change your story."

There are three women - weird, otherworldly, not-quite-human creatures - who know the future. Shakespeare wrote these sisters into Macbeth. The ancient Greeks called them the Fates. In Norse mythology they are maidens, but there is a twist: they write the stories, but fate isn't fixed. Your choices influence your future.

Here are three women - old as time, human but undying - on whose stories our culture is founded. Eve, who ate the apple. Pandora, who opened the box. Embla, who carries the burden of life. *Original* is an attempt to reclaim their stories, to tell them in their voices. Maybe, by giving these women a voice, we can change the stories that are told about them and, by extension, the culture that is rooted in them. I believe in the power of stories to change the world.

This piece represents a number of firsts for me as an actor, playwright and storyteller, and I dedicate it to the incredibly supportive theatre and storytelling communities of St. John's that made it possible. Thanks especially to Jenn and to the board of PerSISStence who have believed in this particular story from the beginning. And thanks to you for coming in to share this story with us.

- Sharon King-Campbell

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

Email: info@perSISStencetheatre.com

Mailing: c/o 38 Perlin Street, St. John's, NL A1E 4C2

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In a play with many brilliant lines there is one that stays with me: We open our hearts to each other's stories. This is a play of stories from a storyteller and playwright who has woven a tapestry of things both fantastical and true.

Every day of rehearsal I was, and remain, inspired to continue to write my own story, changing anything and everything I like from moment to moment. We found the fantastical in the ravens that were our audience on the beach. The paradoxical search for the truth in the land of make believe is a life lesson to take a reality check in a world that wants to rush us through our lives.

My friendship and collaborations with Sharon have already filled volumes, as we weave in and out of each other's lives. Where once I was the mentor I now find myself a very honoured colleague. My deepest thanks to Sharon, and to PerSIStence Theatre for making this all possible and for inviting me into the journey.

- Berni Stapleton

Our Heartfelt Thanks

Megan Gail Coles and the Arts & Culture Centre Playwrights' Unit; Christine Hennebury; Tonya Kearley; Marie Jones and the St. John's Arts & Culture Centre; Tim Murphy; Flora Planchat; St. John's Storytelling Circle; Scene and Blurred; and Sara Tilley.

Special thanks to our partners and families for their ongoing physical, mental and spiritual support.



EMILY AUSTIN - Production Management

Emily Austin is a Theatre Artist who works in several different areas of the theatre from set design, scenic painting, and carpentry, to technical direction and production management. Emily holds a BFA in

Technical Theatre Production from Grenfell Campus. Her recent works include *Men of Misfortune* (Resource Centre for the Arts), *Between Breaths* (Artistic Fraud), *Once* (Theatre St. John's) and *Isle of Demons* (PerSIStence Theatre). Emily has been working with PerSIStence Theatre since their very first show and is excited to be back working alongside fantastic women for another season.



KAT BURKE - Sound Design & Operation

Kathryn Burke is an actor, musician, producer and sound designer living and working in St. John's.

Originally from Ontario, she prefers the term NBC – Newfoundlander By Choice. She has been an actor with Grand Bank Regional Theatre Festival, QVRRDF Fall Musicals, St. John's Players, and the Shakespeare by the Sea Festival. She is also on the board of V-Day St. John's, which produces the *Vagina Monologues* each year. Sound design credits include *The Tempest* (SBTS), *Wit* (SJP) and *Noises Off* (Nothing on Productions). This is her first show with PerSIStence Theatre Company and is so pleased to be part of such a powerful, supportive and amazingly creative group.



DIANA DALY - Production Design

Diana is a multi-instrumentalist, performer, designer, storyteller and songwriter. Originally from St. John's, Newfoundland she has spent the last ten years living and working in BC, Montreal and Nunavik. She is the

administrator for DanceNL and the Festival Coordinator for St. John's International CircusFest. A lover of story through song, image, dance and spectacle, Diana has a keen interest in Ethnomusicology and printmaking. Favourite projects that she has created include: The Fogo Island Song Share, the Lhasa de Sela Youth Stage for the →

Montreal Folk Festival, her EP *When Women Kill*, being the "Femme d'Orchestre" for the puppet show *Kate Crackerberry* (White Rooster Theatre and all of the musical experiences with her students in Puvirnituk and Kangirsuk. Diana is one third of the Daly Family Collective where she gets to tell stories about her extraordinary family with her dear friends, Louise Moyes and Anne Troake in the stage show *If A Place Could Be Made*. She is delighted to work on *Original* with these wonderful folks.



JENN DEON - Producing Artistic Director

A freelance theatre artist who has worked in St. John's since the early 90's, Jenn is a founder and currently the producing artistic director of the PerSIStence Theatre Company. As artistic director with the Shakespeare by the Sea Festival from 1995-2015, she directed many of its productions over the years. Recent directing projects include *Life Sucks* (Deon-Walsh Productions), an excerpt from *After The Sirens* (Quills on the Edge/St. John's Shorts), and *Isle of Demons* (PerSIStence). As a performer, Jenn most recently appeared as Mrs. Dunphy in *Brazil Square* (Girl Power). She was a recipient of a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for her community involvement, and earlier this year Jenn received the 2018 Woman of Distinction Award for Arts & Culture from the YWCA St. John's. More at jenndeon.ca.



**SHARON KING-CAMPBELL
- Performer & Playwright**

Sharon King-Campbell is an actor, playwright, storyteller and director. Recent performances in St. John's include *Women Playing Hamlet* (PerSIStence Theatre), *Brazil Square* (Girl Power), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (TaDa!), *Billy Elliot* (Atlantic Light Theatre), *Richard III* (Shakespeare by the Sea), and *Fuddy Meers* (Best Kind Productions). Sharon is a regular teller with the St. John's Storytelling Festival. Her previous plays, *Fighting Fire with Snow* (World's End Theatre Company) and *Give Me Back* (skc originals/ For the Love of Learning), both enjoyed multiple remounts, and →

Give Me Back toured the province in partnership with the Arts & Culture Centres in 2016. Sharon was the 2017 recipient of the Rhonda Payne Award.



MELANIE OZON - Head of Wardrobe

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.



BERNI STAPLETON - Director

Berni Stapleton is a Newfoundland- Labrador writer and performer of unique distinction. Her play *The Pope and Princess Di* was just listed on the Playwrights Guild of Canada Sure Fire 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, The Haunting of Margaret Duley* and *Our Frances*. 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. Recently, 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, and was dramaturge for and helped devise *transVersing* (Artistic Fraud/Love of Learning). More at www.bernistapleton.com.



JAIMIE TAIT - Stage Management

Originally from Vancouver BC, Jaimie moved to Newfoundland four years ago and is now proud to call St. John's her home. Most recently Jaimie stage managed ...float... for Choral Canada and *Tosca* for

Opera on the Avalon. She had the pleasure of working for the St. John's International Circus Festival this fall. Favourite past credits include: *Ours* for Opera on the Avalon, *Offensive to Some* for PerSIStence Theatre, *Betroffenheit* with Kidd Pivot, *Chelsea Hotel: The Songs of Leonard Cohen* for The Firehall Arts Centre, and *All The Way Home* for The Electric Company. Up next Jaimie will be working with PerSIStence Theatre again on the re-mount of *Offensive to Some* in January at the LSPU Hall. Jaimie is a graduate of Studio 58.



SARA TILLEY - Movement Coaching

Sara Tilley's work bridges writing, theatre, and Pochinko clown. She's published two award-winning novels: *Skin Room* (Pedlar Press, 2008), and *DUKE* (Pedlar Press, 2015), and written/co-created twelve

plays. Sara was the artistic director of the feminist theatre company *She Said Yes!* from 2002-2016. She teaches Pochinko clown and neutral mask, and freelances as a movement, voice, mask and character coach for actors. She loves to act, direct, design and puppeteer, and is currently working on both a solo puppet show for all ages, *Hungry Little Shadow*, and *Heart Eyes*, a poetic memoir about chronic illness.

* PERSISTENCE Theatre Company

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

- Alison Carr - treasurer
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- Tera McDonald
- Rowena Ryan
- Jenn Deon - producing artistic director (ex-officio)
- Jean Graham - chair
- Gabrielle Martin - secretary
- Trudy Morgan-Cole
- Amanda Will - vice-Chair

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Visit us downstairs or online at www.perSIStencetheatre.com to learn more

We gratefully acknowledge the support of ArtsNL for our 2018-2019 season, which last year invested \$2.35 million to foster and promote the creation and enjoyment of the arts for the benefit of all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.



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