

Tempting Providence

TESSA FORSEY Among the various roles in Tessa's life, her favourite is playing "mom" to her five-year old daughter, Sloane. Tessa teaches English and Drama at CSS and enjoys staying active in her spare time. *Tempting Providence* is Tessa's fourth play at The Pinnacle Playhouse and, by far, her biggest challenge yet! She feels truly blessed to be part of this production and credits the success of the play to their passionately perfectionist Director, incredible crew and hard-working fellow actors.

BEN RODGERS This is Ben's first time treading the boards at the Belleville Theatre Guild. Previously drawn to musical theatre and opera, performing in such classics as *Sound of Music*, *Les Miserable* and *Il Barbiere Di Siviglia* Ben had a role in a short play called *Theatre of War: Ghosts and Mirrors* in the Hamilton Fringe Festival in 2016. Having been "Screeched in" at Trapper's Pub on George Street, St. John's, hiked the East Coast trail to Cape Spear and tasted some fine partridge berry jam, Ben hopes he is ready to walk to Parsons Pond as Angus this evening.

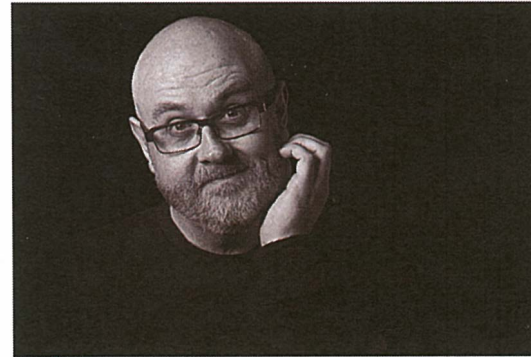
BARB GRENIER has been acting and singing since she was a youngster; this is her fourth production with the Belleville Theatre Guild. She has graced the stage in *Rumours* and most recently in *The Sting*. While she feels most at home in comedic roles, playing Woman has been a personal challenge. She is very proud of this production and the incredibly talented cast and crew who worked on it. As an honorary Newfoundlander, a title bestowed upon her by her dear friend and accent coach Debbie Slaney of St. John's, she has had such fun bringing this wonderful story to life.

COLIN LEONARD's real acting career began soon after his 2011 arrival in Belleville as Mr. Hardcastle in *She Stoops to Conquer*. Prior to that Colin had acted in a series of dinner theatre productions at his local church in Dartmouth, NS. His appreciation and understanding of the art and craft of acting grew with every performance including *Jitters*, *Bedtime Stories*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *And Then There Were None* and *Leading Ladies*. *Tempting Providence* continues that growth, performing on a dynamic stage, using a minimum of props.



BARB GRENIER · COLIN LEONARD · TESSA FORSEY · BEN RODGERS

Photos: Ashley Taylor Media



ROBERT CHAFE

Photo: National Arts Centre

ROBERT CHAFE

is a St. John's based playwright whose work has been seen across Canada, the UK, and Australia. He is the author of eighteen stage scripts and co-author of another ten. He is Artistic Director and playwright for Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland.

Two of his plays (*Tempting Providence* and *Butler's Marsh*) were shortlisted for the Governor General's Award for Drama. His play *Afterimage* won the award in 2010. *Tempting Providence*, directed by Jillian Keiley and produced by Theatre Newfoundland Labrador premiered in the summer of 2002 in Cow Head, Newfoundland and went on to tour extensively throughout North America, Europe and Australia.

His work, *Oil and Water*, premiered in St. John's in a sold out run in February 2011, and has toured nationally, which included the National Arts Centre in 2014.

Between Breaths currently on tour, follows the story of Dr. Jon Lien, an animal behaviourist at Newfoundland's Memorial University who saved over 500 whales from fishing nets.

He has been a guest instructor at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, and the National Theatre School of Canada. His first book of short fiction, *Two-Man Tent*, was released in 2016.

"If you want to be happy, just create something. Creation is the path to human fulfillment. And when I read that, that really resonated with me. Ever since I was a kid I wanted to be a creator of some kind."

Robert Chafe



DAVID BLACKWOOD in his Port Hope, Ontario studio, 1985
Photo: John deVisser

DAVID BLACKWOOD

is one of Canada's most respected visual storytellers. His narrative work reflects the legend, toughness and landscape of Newfoundland. Born in 1941 in the outport community of Wesleyville to a family with a long seafaring history, he was awarded a Government of Newfoundland Centennial scholarship to study at the Ontario College of Art. By the age of twenty-three one of his etchings had been purchased by the National Gallery of Canada. Blackwood's work may be found in virtually every major public gallery and corporate art collection in Canada, as well as in major private and public collections around the world, including the collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy. Blackwood's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally with over 90 solo shows.

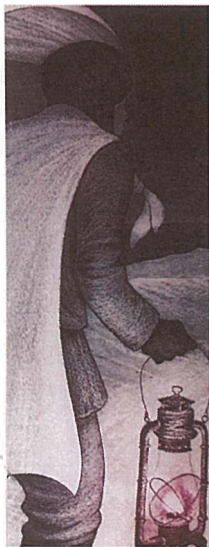
He has been the subject of two major retrospective exhibitions and the National Film Board's 1974 Academy-Award nominated documentary film BLACKWOOD.

In 2000, the Art Gallery of Ontario announced the creation of the Blackwood Research Centre within the Marvin Gelber Print and Drawing Centre. In 1992 the Blackwood Gallery, named in his honour, was officially opened at the Erindale campus, now known as The University of Toronto in Mississauga.

Blackwood was awarded the Order of Canada in recognition of his ongoing and important contributions to the cultural life and heritage of our country, a decade later, he was awarded the Order of Ontario.

David Blackwood currently lives and works in Port Hope, Ontario, and maintains a studio in Wesleyville, Newfoundland.

• with files from davidblackwood.com



Lone Mummer
Approaching
1976



Outward Bound for
the Labrador
1985



Passage
1984



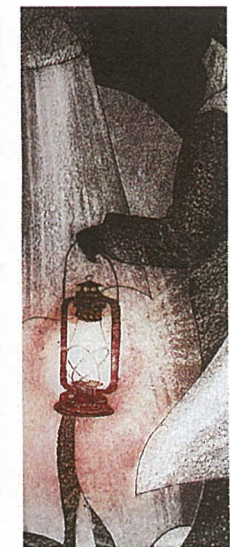
Two killicks on a stage head
1985



Passage
1984



Outward Bound for
the Labrador
1985



Mummer group from
Pound Cove
1975