

We gratefully acknowledge that we are on the traditional and unceded territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθkwəyʻəm (musqueam), skwxwú7mesh (squamish), and səlílwəta?t (tsleil-waututh) first nations. We deeply thank them for so generously allowing us to live, work, and play on their beautiful lands.

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#### A NOTE FROM DIRECTOR ~ CHRIS KING

I've had the privilege of knowing Kyle for over two decades. He's a gifted trumpet player and a talented musician. When he approached me to collaborate on this project, I took a moment to think. Typically, new works undergo years of workshops and revisions before reaching an audience. Our timeline was tight, and the clock started ticking from the very beginning.

Working on a new theatre production is a rare privilege. The opportunity to shape a new work, right from its inception, is a truly magical and unique experience for an artist. It demands full attention, time, and patience. The sea has always revealed personal stories to us when the tide recedes. I was born and raised here in Vancouver, so the concept of a musical set in an 1890s West Coast port town resonated deeply with me. I was happy to come onboard.

In May, we held a small workshop and did our very first readthrough. There was an undeniable energy in the room. The actors' smiles and wide-eyed reactions to the opening chords of "Sinking Ship" was a clear signal that we had something special. The dedication the actors displayed in shaping both the narrative and the characters was immediate—a sign that they sensed the same thing I did.

Our current point in the show's development is like planting your boot straight in the mud. It explores themes of identity and belonging. What is home when you're uncertain about who you are? Can you leave when you are the sanctuary that others seek? The show continues to evolve, revealing more and more about itself.

What you see before you tonight is the culmination of numerous talents, time, and commitment. The journey to bring this production to life has been supported by a remarkable team of artists. Without each one of them, this show would not have been possible. Kyle's talented songwriting and weaving together of this narrative has been incredible to witness. I am grateful for the trust he and the Whiskeydicks have placed in me, to bring this show to life for the very first time.

Thank you to Kyle A, Pat, Mike, Sam, Kyle H, Glenn, Mark, Jack, Shelley, Colin, Lindsay, Stefie, Tim, Charlie, Mandy, and Finnley for coming on this journey.

Sit back, relax, and enjoy the journey that is about to unfold before you. This is just the beginning—more awaits.

By Chris King

#### A NOTE FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR ~ KYLE AXFORD

I adapted the poem "Sinking Ship" by Robert Louis Stevenson into a drinking song and thus began the journey of Trials and Tribulations of Whiskeydick. This song aptly starts the musical as we discover that there was a survivor. This idea is what created the inspiration for the story and the rest of the music that was written over a 4 year period. Johnny Brown was written shortly after, as I wrote about a character lost in a strange town as a castaway. I fell into a rabbit hole researching the Hudson's Bay Company, my family's connection to the HBC Ruby, and other nautical stories of the Pacific Northwest, that ultimately gave life to characters and our mysterious port town location. I love telling stories through music, and the Whiskeydicks are the perfect musical group to share these with an audience. Christopher King is the perfect director to bring these stories to life, and I have been fortunate to perform in musical theatre shows with him over the years.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this production happen, it could not have come together without such an amazing team.

By Kyle Axford

# The Whiskeydicks Present THE TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS OF WHISKEYDICK

Conceived and written by Kyle Axford

Directed by Chris King

Additional material by Chris King

1890-1910 - Takes place in a Port Town—Tavern

# Prologue Act 1 — Music

"Then we drank *Whiskey*" Written by Patrick Ernst
"Then we drank *Whiskey*" Written by Mike Bell
"Shanananai-Ninainaihey" Written by Patrick Ernst

"Drinking Song" Written by Dave Kornas &

Patrick Ernst

#### ACT 1

"Sinking Ship" Captain, First mate, Richard,

Crew

"These are my drinkers" Ruby

"Johnny Brown" Richard, Old Salts

"Lighthouse" Ruby

"You couldn't see me" Ruby, Richard

"Boire Le Monde" Richard, French Traveler,

**Old Salts** 

#### There will be a 15-minute INTERMISSION

## Prologue Act 2 — Music

"Big Red Witches Curse" Written by Patrick Ernst

## ACT 2

"Ships passing in the night" Old Salts

"Heave Away" Richard, Old Salts "Break my fall" Richard and Ruby

"Back to the sea" Recruiter, Richard, Old Salts

"Youthful Reckless Haze" Richard, First Mate, Old Salts

"On My Way" Richard and Ruby

#### **CAST MEMBERS**

Tim Howe Recruiter/Captain/French

Traveler

Lindsay Warnock Ruby
Colin Sheen Richard
Charlie Deagnon Old Salt 1
Jennifer Suratos Old Salt 2
Stefie Gomez Old Salt 3

#### **CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM**

Director Chris King

Music Director Kyle Axford

Stage Manager Mandy Huang

Assistant Stage Manager Finnley O'Brien

Set Designer Glenn MacDonald

Lighting Designer Mark Carter

Lighting Assistant Leighton Taylor

Sound Engineer Curtis Quinn

Audio Visual Recording Engineer David Spidel

Movement Consultant Shelley Stewart Hunt

Produced by Chris King, Kyle Axford,

Patrick Ernst & Mike Bell

This production engages under the terms of the INDIE 2.2, Canadian Actors' Equity Assoc.

Making electronic or other audio/visual recordings of this production is strictly prohibited and is actionable under international copyright law.

#### **BIOGRAPHIES**

## Tim Howe—Recruiter/Captain/French Traveler



Tim Howe is a professional stage and film actor as well as a musician located in Vancouver and graduated from the University of the Fraser Valley's theatre program. Recent stage credits as Ensemble in 'THE SOUND OF MUSIC [Arts Club 2019/2022], Cliff in CABARET [RCMT], Jasper in THE ALIENS [Sticks and Stones], Khashoggi in WE WILL ROCK YOU [TUTS] and film credits on ARROW, THE TWILIGHT ZONE, iZOMBIE, A MILLION LITTLE

THINGS. Tim is a recipient of an Ovation award as an 'Outstanding Performer' for his work as a cast member and musician in 'A BROADWAY HOLIDAY' at the Gateway Theatre, December 2021.

# Lindsay Warnock—Ruby



Lindsay Warnock is a SATA and Jessie-Award nominated actor, singer, and sportscaster based in Vancouver, BC. She is also a trained pianist and composer who has not only music-directed and composed for theatre companies such as CircusWest, Arts Club Theatre, and Studio58, but also composed her first hour-long contemporary ballet called *In Colour*, which premiered at the Evergreen Cultural Centre in 2014. As a singer,

Lindsay has been fortunate enough to sing in multiple touring bands and ensembles over the years in genres ranging from Country/Rock to Classical, Gospel to Jazz. Lindsay has spent the better part of the last decade performing professionally onstage for theatre companies across Canada. Her select theatre credits include Kw'a'tel in Th'owxiya the Hungry Feast Dish (Axis Theatre), Deb in Elf the Musical (Persephone Theatre), April in Company (Raincity Theatre), Mary Lou Sokoloff in Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story (The Globe Theatre), Charlotte in A Little Night Music (Gateway Theatre), The Student in The Arts Club's Godspell, Lydia Bennett in Pride and Prejudice (Chemainus Theatre Festival) and Princess Fiona in Theatre Under the Stars' Shrek the Musical.

When she's not in a theatre, you can see her as Head MC of The World Famous Grouse Mountain Lumberjack Show where she has performed over 1500 shows. It was there she was first introduced to the world of Loggersports and now she can be seen on TV travelling across Canada and the world as the Host of TSN's STIHL TIMBERSPORTS CANADA.

#### Colin Sheen—Richard



Colin Sheen is a graduate of Capilano College. He's performed in theatres across Canada. Some credits include: The Fantasticks (Vancouver Playhouse), Gypsy, Next to Normal, Hairspray (Arts Club,) Footloose, (Drayton,) All Shook Up (Chemainus/Gateway), American Idiot (Uncle Randy Productions.) Colin is currently practicing as a Registered Massage Therapist. Thanks Mom, Pops,

Court and Synth for everything, love ya.

# Charlie Deagnon—Old Salt 1



Charlie is a Vancouver based actor and a graduate of Capilano University's musical theatre program. He is excited to go back to his pub punk roots with this show and can't wait for y'all to come along for the ride. Select credits include Shrek (Shrek the musical: Align Entertainment), Lonny (Rock of Ages: Renegade Arts), Nathan Detroit (Guys and Dolls: Fighting Chance Productions), Barfee (Spelling Bee: Fighting

Chance Productions)

#### Jennifer Suratos—Old Salt 2



Jenn is a Vancouver-based actor, director, and educator. As a performer, she has worked with companies such as Gateway Theatre, Pacific Theatre, and Circle Bright Productions. Last summer, she portrayed Oz in We Will Rock You for Theatre Under the Stars. Other recent favourites include Sour Kangaroo in Seussical the Musical (Align), Jenny in Company (Raincity Theatre), Ardelia in Silence the

Musical (Down Stage Right Productions), and Pilate in Jesus Christ Superstar (URP). Past production credits include Guys and Dolls for Fighting Chance Productions (director) and Ghosts for United Players (assistant director). Jenn is very happy to be swigging whiskey with this talented bunch. Huge thanks and congrats to Chris King, for pouring his whole heart into this project.

#### Stefie Gomez—Old Salt 3



Stefie Gomez is an actor born and raised in Mexico. She is an AMDA graduate (Diploma in Performing Arts), she holds a Bachelor in Music Composition, and a Diploma in Performing Arts Teaching; she is the founder of Fidartes in Mexico City. Favourite credits include We Will Rock You (TUTS), Air of Paris (directed by Oscar Bonfiglio), The Meeting (By Hugo Luna) and Verdi Ritrovatto (directed by Phillip Von Reutter). Stefie is grateful to have the support

of her family and friends and is thrilled to join the cast of Trials and Tribulations of Whiskdick.

## Chris King - Director



Chris is an award winning music director and performer. He prides himself on taking on many different jobs in the theatre world. Chris has performed, directed, and music directed for over 25 years in Vancouver. He most recently has been focusing on TV and Film composing <a href="https://www.duophonik.com">www.duophonik.com</a> and as an actor on camera having been featured in many commercials over the last year including Masterclass, Advil, McDonald's, RAM and many more. Chris is thrilled

to be a part of this incredible new show. Thank you to Kyle, Pat, Mike, Glenn, Mark, Jack, Shelley, Colin, Lindsay, Steffi, Tim, Mandy, Finnley for coming on this journey. Special thank you and love to Jennifer Suratos for all her support behind the scenes and also on the stage! You are appreciated!

## **Mark Carter – Lighting Designer**



Most recently designed lights for Chemainus Theatre's production of Gaslight. Other lighting designs for United Players' Hedda Gabler, Silent Sky, Amphitruo, and The Thursday Night Bridge Circle. Other design credits include: The Wizard of Oz (St. George's), Sizzlin' Summer, RESPECT! and Making Spirits Bright (VMC). Next up Mark will be

designing **Gaslight** for Western Canada Theatre and then directing **The Wizard of Oz** in October with C.T.O.R.A. Mark is the founding Artistic Director of **DSR Productions** as well as the owner of **Vanstage Productions**.

## Mandy Huang—Stage Manager



Mandy is a Vancouver-based stage manager holding a B.A. in Theatre Studies and Sociology from UBC. She started her stage management journey with UBC theatre and hasn't looked back since! Some favourite stage management credits include: The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical (CTORA), Naked Radio (Chemainus Theatre Festival), Soldiers of Tomorrow (Elbow Theatre), Anne of Green

Gables (Gateway Theatre), Peter Pan Goes Wrong (Arts Club), Made in Italy (Arts Club), The Wait List Experiment (Some Assembly Theatre). Mandy would like to thank her family and partner for their unwavering support.

## **Shelley Stewart Hunt – Movement Consultant**



Shelley has been continuously active in the performing arts since childhood. She played the role of Rumpelteazer in the 2nd national touring production of *CATS* and had a featured role in ABC-TV's *Bye Bye Birdie*. In fall of 2020 Shelley was thrilled to be a core ensemble dancer in the 1<sup>st</sup> season of the Apple TV musical series *Schmigadoon!* 

Select choreographic highlights include: *The Sound of Music* (Arts Club Theatre Co. 2019 & 2022); *Elf the Musical* (Persephone) *Into the Woods, She Loves Me* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *The Duchess,* (Ruby Slippers); *25<sup>th</sup> Annual...Spelling Bee* (WCTC); *Mamma Mia!,* (TUTS). From 2004 to 2021, Shelley was an active faculty member in Capilano University's Musical Theatre Diploma Program, where she served as a choreographer and a tap, jazz and musical theatre instructor. In 2016 Shelley joined the faculty of Studio 58 at Langara College where she teaches tap, movement and has choreographed numerous musicals including *A Chorus Line and The Rocky Horror Show.* 

## Glenn MacDonald—Set Designer



Glenn trained in all aspects of the theatre at the Manitoba Theatre Centre in Winnipeg. He has worked as an actor, Stage Manager, Production Manager and Designer for theatres across Canada and in the US including The Vancouver Playhouse, Arts Club Theatre, Stratford Festival, Charlottetown Festival and Studio Arena Theatre (Buffalo, NY). He co-produced Torch Song

Trilogy at the Cultch, worked in Production Management for Expo '86 Entertainment Department, Stage Managed the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Calgary Winter Olympics and was Operations Director for BC's MUSIC '91. He also works in television and film in set decoration and has over 100 Jericho projects to his credit. He sits on the Board of Trustees of PAL Vancouver.

He is the recipient of the 2016 Jesse Richardson Award for Outstanding Set Design for the production of Annapurna. Glenn most recently designed sets for Collected Stories at the Revue Stage (Granville Island) for Log House Productions, No Man's Land for Smoking Gun Collective, The Woman in Black for Famous Artists at JAC and The Ballad of George Boivin, Funny Money, The Triumph of Love, Opening Night and The Importance of Being Earnest for Western Gold Theatre, where he has been General Manager since 2012. Glenn is thrilled to be back at the Jericho Arts Centre.

# Finnley O'Brien - Assistant Stage Manager



Finnley (she/her) is an emerging stage manager and recent graduate of UBC, where she received a BFA in Theatre Production. Select credits include Matilda, The Prom (APM, TUTS), Hedda Gabler (SM, United Players), Oil (SM, UBC), Endgame, Parliament of the Birds (ASM, UBC), and We Will Rock You (ASM, TUTS). Huge thanks to the Whiskeydick team for having her on board. Cheers!

## Jaclyn Bumbala - Costume Designer



Sprouting in the unceded traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinabe Nation (Ottawa, ON), Jack Bumbala (They/Them), graduated from The Canterbury Dramatic Arts Program before rooting down in Vancouver, BC where they finished their "formal" education at Studio 58 (production). Credits include: Costume Designer for the "Expressions Theatre Festival" (Arts Umbrella),

Assistant Director for "In My Day" directed by Shawn MacDonald and Assistant Director for "My Little Tomatoe" directed by Cameron Mackenzie. Leaping forward Jack strives to translate their love of learning and observation, through directing and the creation of their own work.

#### THE WHISKEYDICKS



Sam Cartwright, Kyle Axford, Mike Bell, Patrick Ernst & Kyle Hagen

Celtic-World-Party-Folk-Rockers - The Whiskeydicks brew fiery fiddle, titillating trumpet, giddy guitar, busty bass, delicious drums, and a quaffable quartet of voices to tell legends of good times past and infuse classic songs in ways one would never imagine.

Since their humble beginnings busking their original tunes outside a Vancouver liquor store in 1st year music school, for money to burn at said liquor store, The Whiskeydicks have showcased their contagious enthusiasm and eclectic sound at festivals such as Woodford Folk Festival in Australia, the Southeast Alaska State Fair, Celtic Fest Vancouver,

Galway Bay Irish Music Festival in Washington State, PaddyFest Havasu, Sunstroke Festival in Whitehorse, ScotFest BC, Harmony Arts Vancouver, Whistler Beer Festival, and on tour from Hawaii to Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Chicago, and Florida.

"If Gogol Bordello and the Corb Lund Band got drunk, hooked up and then nine months later popped out a little whippersnapper, that baby would probably be The Whiskeydicks. That is to say this BC-by-way-of-Whitehorse band combine various elements of Celtic, country, rock and Roma music and filter them through punk sensibilities and a rowdy disposition." – Ty Trumbull of Exclaim! Magazine.

#### Patrick Ernst - Fiddle, Vocals



Patrick co-founder of The Whiskeydicks (with Mike Bell in 2001), grew up playing violin in Whitehorse Yukon where his passion for music and composition flourished he moved to Vancouver BC in 2001 where he took private lessons from Nancy Dinovo, Bill

Coon, Ihor Kukurudza, Paul Louchkow and Ron Samsworth for his DIploma in Classical music and a BA in Jazz studies from Capilano University.

Patrick has since used his influence in world music, jazz and celtic music to compose a catalogue of original compositions which he performs with the Whiskeydicks on a regular basis.

Patrick has also been playing Mariachi music on a regular basis since 2004 with Mariachi Los Dorados where he took part in many international Mariachi festivals in Guadalajara and took part in the Guiness book of records "largest mariachi band" in 2011.

# Mike Bell - Lead Vocals, Guitar, Accordion, Piano



Mike began piano at 5, obtained his degree in piano and composition from the University of British Columbia, and has performed over 2000 shows as a multi-instrumentalist across Canada, US, and Europe. He co-founded the Whiskeydicks in 2001, has composed and arranged for the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Plastic Acid Orchestra, Turning Point Ensemble, and Black Dog String Quartet. He is the founder, lead singer, guitarist, pianist, and composer for his own

symphonic-rock project, The Living Orchestra, who have also received a Canada Council for the Arts grant to begin recording a concept album to be released in 2024. http://mikebellmusic.com

## Samuel Cartwright - Drums



Sam's interest in the drums began at a very early age. However, it wasn't until after playing the piano and the tenor saxophone during elementary school that, at the age of 13 the drums became the focus of Sam's attention. A solid high school band program launched him into the Capilano College Jazz Studies program. Not only did the college environment provide a

network of musicians; many of whom are an integral part of Sam's musical world today, it provided the opportunity to play with some great players, such as Cedar Walton, Kristin Korb, Rob McConnell, Jean-Michel Pilc, Karen Young, Ed Thigpen and Jimmy Heath to name a few. Around the city of Vancouver, Sam enjoys playing with Bruno Hubert, Chad Makela and the Zoë Trio. As a versatile musician Sam also holds the throne in various rock-pop groups, and enjoys playing progressive rock with his own band A Ghost to Kill Again. Whether touring across Canada as part of a musical theatre production or touring internationally with independent rock groups, Sam is looking to make a career doing what he loves. http://drumstracks.ca

# Kyle Axford – Lead Vocals, Trumpet & Guitar



Kyle is a Canadian singer, songwriter and multiinstrumentalist and has performed locally and internationally from a very young age. He has been writing music for multiple genres for many years, including Orchestral Music, Chamber Music, Rock/Pop, Folk, Wind Ensemble, Choir and Jazz and has one solo album released under Calico Thief (*Peasant Songs of Tanager Hill 2010*). Kyle was also a Judge for the Juno

Awards in 2018. As a trumpet player he has enjoyed performing as a freelance artist in a variety of ways including chamber ensembles, orchestras (Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra, Kamloops Symphony, The Legend Of Zelda: Symphony of the Godesses, Cirque Música, Plastic Acid Orchestra, and the Vancouver Trumpet Consort), pop/rock bands, salsa, mariachi (Mariachi Los Dorados, Mariachi Tabasko) and over a dozen theatre productions (including *Into The Woods, Les Miserable, Music Man, Fiddler on the Roof, Joseph and the Amazing* 

Technicolour Dreamcoat, the Wizard of Oz, Bye Bye Birdie, Once Upon a Mattress, and My Fair Lady). Kyle holds a Bachelors in Music Performance (Brandon University B.Mus), an education degree from UBC (B.Ed), and a Master's Degree in Curriculum and pedagogical studies from UBC (M.Ed), and is currently a band/choir director at Burnaby Mountain Secondary School and has been teaching for 16 years.

## Kyle Hagen – Bass, Performer



Kyle is an active and passionate bass player and instructor based in Vancouver. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Jazz and Contemporary Music from Vancouver Community College and plays electric and upright bass in every genre of music, especially heavy metal, jazz. Classical and world music. Kyle's career has

given him opportunities to record and perform across Canada, USA, Europe and Turkey with countless bands and artists such as Simon Collins, Sinned, Aggression, Lache Cercel's Roma Jazz Ensemble and various cover and tribute bands.

## **UPCOMING SHOWS FOR THE WHISKEYDICKS**

## 30 Aug - 01 Sept 2023

 Vancouver BC Pacific National Exhibition // Coca Cola Stage and Revel District, 2901 E Hastings 1:30-2:15, 2:30-3:15 Venue Site

## 09 Sept 2023

Lynden, WA Lynden Whiskey Walk 655 Front St 6-7:30pm

## 30 Sept 2023

Penticton BC Tickleberry Festival //OK Falls// 1-5 pm Venue Site

#### 20 - 22 Oct 2023

 Ocean Shores WA Galway Bay Irish Music Festival 880 Point Brown Road

# Go to Whiskeydicks.ca for more information.

Check out our new album "Live in the Sky' featuring many songs from tonight's show.

#### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

A Special Note of Appreciation to our Sponsors:

Studio Brewing \*Kathryn McKinney

Beatriz Rodriguez Michel Den Boer

Liberty Distillery \*Lisa Simpson

Andy Smith Raymond Prior

Please know that none of this would be possible without the generosity of the Canada Council for the Arts and a grant for the development of Canadian Artists.

Thank you to our community partners, Global BC, Corus Entertainment, Western Gold Theatre, PAL Studio Theatre, Metro Theatre, volunteers from Tuesday, plus, assistance from Diane Smithers, Bryan Davies, Adam Turpin, Jackie Dunnett, Lauren Carley, Owen Carley, Finn Carley, Daniel Tucker, Lynne Axford, Adam Henderson, Burnaby North Secondary Drama Department and YOU, the Audience.

Without your support there would be no theatre!







