

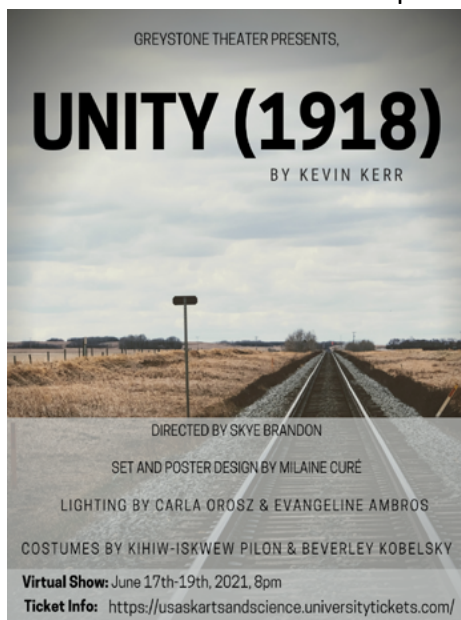
# GREYSTONE *Gossip*

Volume 4, Issue 2

June 2021

Welcome to the Spring 12021 edition of *Greystone Gossip*, the newsletter for Greystone Theatre at the University of Saskatchewan.

While it has been a crazy year living in the pandemic, we are excited to move forward and are eager to welcome students back onto campus, this fall. A shout out to all of our faculty, staff, and students who tackled the steep



Poster design by: Milaine Curé

learning curve to adapt to online drama education and virtual theatre productions!

We are also excited to be hosting our 75th Anniversary celebration online to mark this major milestone in our department's history. A schedule of events can be found in this newsletter

As part of the 75th Anniversary, Greystone Theatre is pleased to be able to present a live-streamed production of *Unity (1918)*, written by Canadian playwright Ken Kerr and directed by U of S alumnus Skye Brandon. Flip to page 4 for more information!

Like *Gordon Winter* (see page 2), *Unity (1918)*, our third and final production of 2020-21, will focus on life in Saskatchewan. But while the action now shifts back to the pandemic of 1918, stay tuned as our Greystone team moves into its third adventure with producing theatre during the pandemic of 2020-21.



Poster design by: Emily Rempel

The drama department is also pleased to announce the list of 2020-2021 graduates. Congratulations to all of our grads!

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# Gordon Winter

Gordon Winter (loosely based on Saskatchewan Cree activist, David Ahenakew) is an RCMP hero, a life-long champion of First Nations rights - and a bigot. When his frustration at a public meeting over the current chiefs' unwillingness to press the federal government for reforms boils over into a Nazi-inspired racist and homophobic rant, a reporter captures it - and Winto goes from hero to zero overnight.

Where *Under Milk Wood* (Dylan Thomas), saw individual cast members performing at home, acting within their ZOOM windows,

our on-line production of Kenneth T. Williams' 2011 play, moved in a completely different direction. It used media to enhance Williams' questioning of the power of media to reduce complex human beings to simple, consumable, and ultimately disposable images. As Leze Pewapsconias, one of only six cast members, told the *Sheaf*, the play was an "amalgamation of multimedia". The play integrated prerecorded video and live-streamed content as well as animation and puppetry. It was an excellent opportunity for everyone involved to challenge and expand their skillsets.

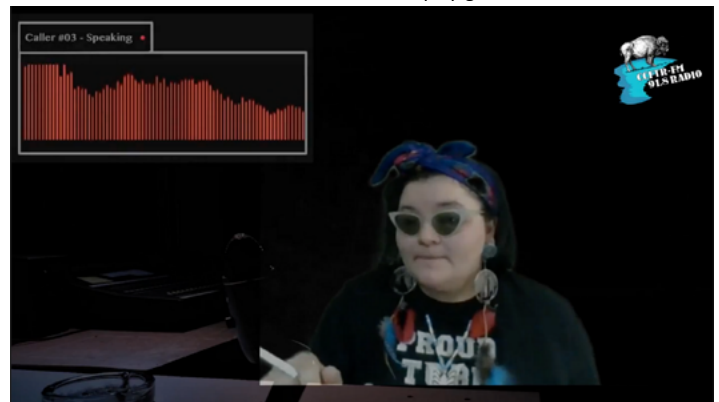
*Gordon Winter* challenged both cast and audience members with its topics and questions like "Is it right to condemn a man based on just one moment of his life"? As Penny Cadrain, contributor at *Media Indigena*, writes, the play "crackles with truly uncomfortable truths about the limits of free speech, racism, human fallibility and the limits of our willingness to accept fallibility".

Header photo: Animation of Christopher Krug-Iron as Gordon Winter.

References:  
<https://thesheaf.com/2021/03/31/the-story-of-a-bigotted-hero-greystone-theatre-puts-on-its-second-play-of-the-year/>  
<https://mediaindigena.com/guilty-a-review-of-kenneth-t-williams-play-gordon-winter/>



Cast and Crew of *Gordon Winter*



Raven Dallman as Jasmine Rain hosting her radio show.



Animation of Lorena Arias as Shalini in her apartment.



Leze Pewapsconias (Cynthia) and fellow cast members discuss *Gordon Winter* at the bar.



1945 - 2020

## DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA

Welcome to June – and to the final celebrations of our 75th anniversary season. Whether you “performed” in Act I (1945-1970), Act II (1971-1995), or Act III (1996-2020), please check out and savor our series of lectures, reunions and special events to celebrate seventy-five years of creating theatre together in Saskatchewan - and to talk with the students and faculty who will be taking us forward into Act IV (2021-) Also please join us for the

final play in our 75th anniversary season: Kevin Kerr’s poignant and haunting *Unity (1918)* as directed by alumni director, Skye Brandon. We dedicate this production to those in Saskatchewan who faced a global pandemic in 1918 with courage, resilience, and resourcefulness – and to those who have repeated that extraordinary feat a century later in 2020-21. We salute you all! We also dedicate this production to drama department members,

past, present, and those to come. It has been my privilege over the past 30 years to come to know some of the “actors” from Act I, to be a part of Acts II and III, and to see the start of Act IV. Whatever comes next -Excelsior! And I trust that come 2045, we will all find a way to meet here again - virtually, spiritually, in memory or in the flesh – to raise a toast to completing our first century and to starting the next.

### ***Unity (1918)***

In fall of 1918, the small town of Unity, Saskatchewan prepares to welcome home its “boys” from the war. Unbeknownst to the community, a silent invisible companion is coming back with them: the Angel of Death...

Although separated from us in time by over a century, one can’t help but draw parallels between the experiences of the residents of Unity in 1918 and our own experiences in the COVID-19 pandemic. While not identical, one can relate to characters living

in quarantine with sealed borders and the fear of the unknown.

On a lighter note, the John Mitchell building welcomed the cast and crew back in for rehearsals, despite the need to continue mask wearing and social distancing.

Join us for live-streamed performances of *Unity (1918)* June 17, 18, and 19, 2021 at 8:00 pm.

Tickets for *Unity (1918)* go on sale June 1, 2021. To order tickets, please go to:  
<https://usaskartsandscience.universitytickets.com/>  
or call (306) 966-5188 (we ask that you leave a message and your call will be returned)



DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA

# Schedule of Events

For a more indepth description of each event, please visit:

<https://artsandscience.usask.ca/drama/anniversary/events.php>.

All events will be held online and are free unless otherwise noted.

## Tuesday, June 1, 2021

7:00 PM

Opening Event/Ceremonies  
*Join U of S dignitaries and guest alumni to launch our month of celebrations!*

## Thursday, June 3, 2021

7:00 PM

“In the beginning....” Drama in Saskatoon and the University of Saskatchewan 1907-1945”  
*Discover the theatre scene at the university and in Saskatoon before Greystone Theatre.*

## Saturday, June 5, 2021

2:00 PM

Act I 1945-1970: “Hits!, Misses! Triumphs! Disasters!: Our first 25 years”  
*Join us for a panel discussion and reunion as we recall the Hangar building, Emrys Jones, Walter Mills, and others.*

## Thursday, June 10, 2021

7:00 PM

“Greystone Theatre: Remembered in Photos”  
*Walk with us down memory lane as we view a selection of photos from Greystone’s history.*

## Saturday, June 12, 2021

2:00 PM

Act II 1970-1995: “Hits!, Misses! Triumphs! Disasters!: Our second 25 years”  
*Learn more about the places and faces that helped us through the next quarter century in this panel discussion and reunion.*

7:00 PM

Act III 1995-2020: “Hits!, Misses! Triumphs! Disasters!: Our Last (though not final) 25 years”  
*Come along for this panel and reunion as we celebrate the last quarter century and the people who make the drama department what it is today.*

## Thursday, June 17, 2021

5:00 PM

Preshow discussion before opening show of *Unity (1918)*  
*Join us to explore the parallels between the pandemic of 1918 and the one we find ourselves in today.*

8:00 PM

*Unity (1918)* Performance (Opening Night)  
Cost: \$20 adults / \$10 students  
*Live stream presentation from Emrys Jones Theatre,*  
TICKETS on sale June 1, 2021

## Friday, June 18, 2021

2:00 PM

Greystone Trivia: Games, Diversions, Chats  
*Play some game and learn some trivia before you enjoy the show!*

8 PM

*Unity (1918)* Performance  
Cost: \$20 adults / \$10 students  
*Live stream presentation from Emrys Jones Theatre.*  
TICKETS on sale June 1, 2021

## Saturday, June 19, 2021

2:00 PM

Act IV 2021 - : “Infinity and Beyond!: Beginning our next 25 years!”  
Introductions, Announcements, Awards  
*Where do we go from here? Join us to welcome in the next 25 years!*

8:00 PM

*Unity (1918)* Performance and post-show talk-back  
Cost: \$20 adults / \$10 students (Incl. performance and talk-back)  
*Live stream presentation from Emrys Jones Theatre.*  
*Showing also features closing remarks and a welcome to the next 75 years!*  
TICKETS on sale June 1, 2021

# Around the Department

## Past Events

### Pe kiyokake ekwa achimoostahwinahn - an Indigenous Theatre Conference.

(March 31 - April 8, 2021)

Organized by director, Deneh'Cho Thompson, in conjunction with Gordon Winter, this on-line conference included a keynote address by Maria Campbell, a talkback session with playwright Kenneth T. Williams, and talks by Indigenous artist/scholars from across Canada and in the United States.

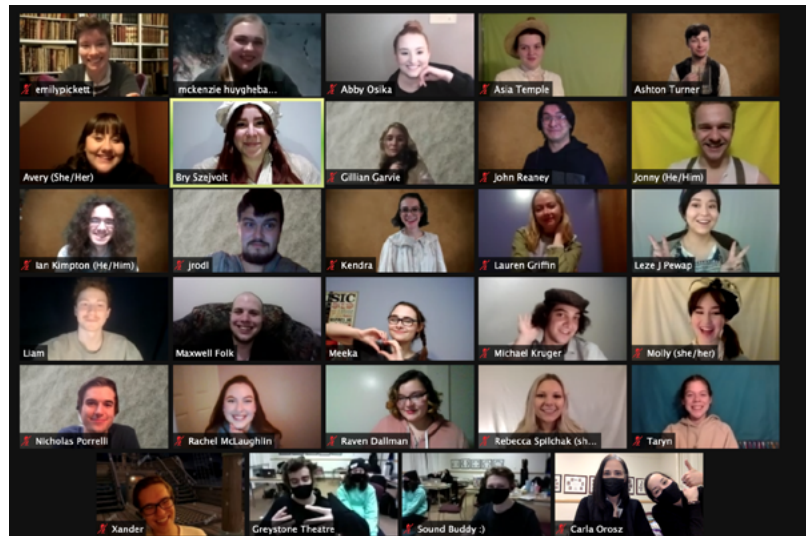
### Saskatchewan Theatre Design Festival.

(April 30 - May 9, 2021)

Organized by Carla Orosz, Damien James Webb, and Kathy Allen, this on-line festival highlighted the work of current students, alumni and instructors affiliated with the USask Drama department, and professional designers from Saskatchewan, Alberta, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Maryland (USA).

## 2021 - 2022 Shows

Stay tuned for next year's line up!



Cast and Crew of *Under Milk Wood* via Zoom.

## Transitions

### Outgoing:

- Moira Day (leave and retirement)
- Carla Orosz (sabbatical 2021-22)
- Jessica Klein (Vice-Dean's office)

### Incoming:

- Greg Marion – Music (Acting Head of Drama, 2021-22)
- Ken Mackenzie (faculty)
- Shannon Blanchet (faculty)
- Amy Gerein (office coordinator)

# Congratulations Class of 2021!

## BFA (Honours) - Design

Judith Schulz

## BA - 4-year

Xiao Yu (Henry) Zhang

## WTP Certificate

Paige Francoeur

## BFA (Honours) - Acting

Paige Francoeur

Emily Heinek

Bobbi-Lee Jones

Chloe Mallinson

Emily Rempel

Winner of Walter Mills Award for Outstanding Graduate

## B. Ed (Drama Major)

Kyler J. Bueckert (BFA-Acting 2018)

Meagan L. Kernaghan

Christopher S. Krug-Iron

## B. Ed (Drama Minor)

Madison Ens

Brenna Lisa Vevang

Have an amazing summer! Stay safe and we will see you in the fall!