



VENUS IN FUR

By David Ives

September 18 – October 3, 2027

VENUS IN FUR is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Dramatists Play Service. www.concordtheatricals.com



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MARION GRIFFIN
President of the Board

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

We, at Peterborough Theatre Guild, are excited to have you return for our 2026 / 2027 season. Our production forecast is very exciting with thought-provoking themes, a fun-loving musical, drama and comedy. We strive to include Canadian content as much as possible. In fact, our family play, *Which Witch is Which* is written by our very own Beth McMaster, music and lyrics by Monica Palmer.

Peterborough Theatre Guild is supported by a number of organizations which help us fund many of our pressing issues such as technical equipment for sound and lighting, as well as Company Development such as Staged Play Readings and Workshops. The programs offered educate not only our volunteers, but our community who wish to attend. These organizations are mentioned further in the program and we are grateful for their involvement in the Peterborough Theatre Guild.

Our volunteers are a most valuable asset, as are you, our patrons. Without your and their support, we would cease to thrive. So, our most heartfelt appreciation is extended to all as we move forward through the 2026 / 2027 season.

Regards,
Marion Griffin
Your President



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When I first saw *Venus in Fur*, it was a staged reading at the Peterborough Theatre Guild in 2025. Bea Quarrie, who directed the reading, gave no apology for the absolute absurdity and crass behaviour of this two-hander. Instead, she handed over to the female and male actors all her trust to allow their vulnerability and power to come out through the amazing text of play writer David Ives. The audience was left speechless. It was after that viewing, I knew I wanted to bring *Venus in Fur* to a full production for the Peterborough audience. *Venus in Fur* has inspired me as a female director to take the voice of all women and propel it to the Deity realm that we deserve.

It has been a joy and a privilege to understand the voice of a Goddess and with David Ives' brilliant text, realize and bring it to the stage in its full glory of Horror, Humour and Sexual Fury.

Hail Aphrodite!
Lisa Dixon



DAVID IVES AUTHOR

David has been active in the American theatre for 50 years. His shows include *All in the Timing*, *Time Flies*, *Venus in Fur*, *New Jerusalem: The Interrogation of Baruch de Spinoza*, and four verse adaptations of French comedies, as well as radio plays that are available online at PlayingOnAir.org. He collaborated with Stephen Sondheim on Sondheim's last musical, *Here We Are*, which premiered off-Broadway at The Shed in September 2023.

Originally produced by Classic Stage Company, (Brian Kulick, Artistic Director; Jessica R. Jenen, Executive Director).

Originally produced on Broadway by the Manhattan Theatre Club (Lynne Meadow, Artistic Director; Barry Grove, Executive Producer) by special arrangement with Jon B. Platt, Scott Landis and Classic Stage Company, at the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre on October 13, 2011.

CAST

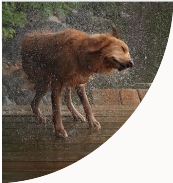
Vanda Carissa Kaye
Thomas John Austin

CREATIVE TEAM

Director Lisa Dixon
Stage Manager Marilyn Robinson
Assistant Stage Manager Taya “Ty” McKeen (they/them, she/her)
Assistant Stage Manager Lyn Braun
Sound Designer and Composer Beau Dixon
Set Designer Erin Brownson
Set Construction John MacMillan-Jones (lead), Dale Brownson (lead), Ben Taylor, Ray Gregg, Brad Rumsey, Barry Kramer
Set Painting Joyce McLean (lead); Kay Gregg; Jayne Martin, Wallace Sterpin
Props Kathy MacMillan-Jones (lead); Franky P.
Costume Design Jayne Martin
Hair and Makeup Shelley Moody
Lighting Designer Don White
Technical Director and Operator John Robinson
Technical Operator Kelly Campbell
Fight and Intimacy Director Mercedes Davy
Photography Heather Doughty – Heather Doughty Photography; Jordan Lyall – Lyall Photography
Curator Kay Gregg

SPECIAL THANKS

The cast and crew would like to thank Roy Craft for his audio technical consultations, Mercedes Davy – Fight and Intimacy Director from The Gentle Blade, DJ for your professionally trained eagle eyes, Gail Campbell & Yvonne MacDougall of Front of House, Tristina Haines and all the talented and dedicated volunteers at the Peterborough Theatre Guild.



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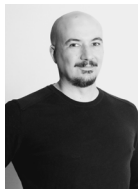


CAST



CARISSA KAYE – VANDA

Carissa moved to Peterborough in 2023 with her loving husband and their three cats, after many theatrical adventures in Hamilton, and a few in Toronto. Since settling in Peterborough, she acted in the ECP's *MacBeth* (2024) as Banquo, and *Twelfth Night* (2025) as Olivia. With the PTG she portrayed Libby in *Opening Night* (2025) and participated in two Ten-Minute Plays, *Tik Tok* (2024) and *Picture Perfect* (2025). She'd like to dedicate this performance to her pet Toad.



JOHN AUSTIN – THOMAS

John's theatrical career spans three decades, not all in a row. His recent stage credits include *Harvey* (Lindsay Little Theatre), *And Then There Were None* (LLT), *Macbeth* (Electric City Players), *How to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse* (Peterborough Theatre Guild), *Twelfth Night* (ECP) and the PTG staged reading of *Pugwash*. Behind the scenes, John wrote the songs and was music director for *The Emperor's New Clothes* (PTG). Like all actors, John is outrageously wealthy and cannot be destroyed by conventional means.

CREATIVE TEAM

BROADWAY PRODUCTION TEAM

The Broadway producers of *VENUS IN FUR* are Jon B. Platt, Scott Landis, MTC Productions Inc., Lynne Meadow, Barry Grove, Jessica R. Jenen, Scott M. Delman, and Classic Stage Company.

Lead producer Jon B. Platt's producing credits include some of the most honored dramatic work in Broadway history: *Angels in America: Millenium Approaches* (Pulitzer Prize Winner), *Perestroika*, *The Book of Mormon*, *Wicked*, *Copenhagen*, *God of Carnage*, *Death of a Salesman* and *Clybourne Park* (Pulitzer Prize Winner). In addition to his 7 Tony Awards, Mr. Platt has received 10 New York Drama Desk Awards and 5 New York Outer Critics Circle Awards, and the Robert Whitehead Award for Distinguished Producing in the Commercial Theatre in 2012.

Tony award winning producer Scott Landis' credits include *The Children's Hour* (West End), *La Bete*, *The Pajama Game* and *Nice Work If You Can Get It*.

Manhattan Theatre Club, led by Artistic Director Lynne Meadow and Executive Director Barry Grove, is one of the nation's leading non-profit theatres producing innovative and diverse work by playwrights at all stages of their careers, at its Broadway and Off-Broadway theatres. Plays that debut at MTC are performed across the country and around the world, and 6 of them have won Pulitzer Prizes: *Doubt*, *Proof*, *Ruined*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Crimes of the Heart*, and *The Piano Lesson*.

Jessica R. Jenen produced *An Evening with Patti Lupone & Mandy Patinkin* and, while Executive Director of Classic Stage Company, produced the world premiere of *Venus in Fur*, as well as *Three Sisters*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Tempest*, among others.

Classic Stage Company is the premiere Off-Broadway theatre dedicated to reimagining the classical repertory for a contemporary American audience.

Scott M. Delman is a private equity investor at DGZ Capital who has co-produced *The Book of Mormon*, *American Idiot*, *Mary Stuart* and *Ragtime*.



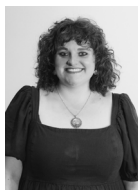
LISA DIXON – DIRECTOR

Lisa lives in Peterborough with her life partner and many dogs. She has three adult kids and sits on two boards that focus on the Arts in her beloved city. She is constantly looking for the truth and only comes close to it when being true to herself. Her main work is as a Culinary Arts professor and a consultant of Food Literacy, Menu + Kitchen Planning. She has directed *297* by Jade O’Keeffe for the 2025/26 season and has been honoured to direct *Venus in Fur* by David Ives as the first play of the 2026/27 season at the PTG.



MARILYN ROBINSON - STAGE MANAGER

In high school, Marilyn never imagined that she would be involved in theatre but then a year later some friends pulled her in to Whispers Dinner Theatre. She values the friendships she has developed since 1984, backstage at Whispers, the PTG, St. James Players, Blue Sky Productions, Trent at 50 and Trent Valley Archives Theatre. Last year she stage managed *291* and *Midnight Madness* and the Ten-Minute Play Festival for the PTG. She was honoured to have been inducted into the Peterborough Pathway of Fame in 2020 for her work in the dramatic Arts.



TAYA “TY” MCKEEN - ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Taya “Ty” McKeen is a queer artist going into her fifth and final year at Trent University for Cultural Studies. Most recently, Ty was the Assistant Stage Manager for *Young Frankenstein*, making this show her second time volunteering here at the PTG. They have also had the pleasure of being the Artistic Play Director with Anne Shirley Theatre, bringing the Trent and Peterborough community *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche* last January. They are thrilled to be working with such a spectacular creative team and cast. They are hoping to gain even more valuable insight into the art of putting on a good show.



ERIN BROWNSON - SET DESIGNER

Erin Brownson is a multi-disciplinary emerging artist based in Toronto. After studying theatre design in school, she has worked on numerous projects, including costume design for *The History of The World* with Aurora Browne and prop design for the short film *A Small Service* by Allegra Fulton. She also recently collaborated with MusicToronto for their *Listen Up!* music arts education program. Erin is thrilled to be working with the PTG again, after assisting with set construction for *291* by Jade O’Keeffe.



JOHN ROBINSON - TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

John started theatre in 1984 at Whispers Dinner Theatre and came to the PTG in September of 1989 to be a lighting operator. Since then, he has helped out in many areas at the PTG including lighting, sound and serving on the Executive. He has worked with the St. James Players off and on since 1986 as well as Blue Sky Productions and helping with the Theatre Arts Program at St. Peters Secondary School. He enjoys mingling and getting to know the audience members in the lobby during intermissions.



KAY GREGG - PAINTER AND CURATOR

An accomplished florist, stylist, and musician, Kay traded in her florist’s knife for a palette knife and began her art life journey. This path has taken her from landscapes in oil to expressionistic works using acrylics and many different elements of mixed media. Kay joined the PTG in 2024 to paint sets in addition to curating local art for exhibitions in the lobby. She has studied with a select number of artists who have guided and inspired her development and has exhibited throughout Ontario.

**DALE BROWNSON - SET CONSTRUCTION**

Dale is a carpenter, designer, and illustrator, with over three decades of experience as a solo problem solver, and in creative team collaborations. In addition to this, Dale is an artist, having had showings of his work in Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax and also here in Peterborough. He has enjoyed adding theatre set creative team work to his repertoire, and hopes to continue that fresh, new direction in the future. Dale enjoys a challenge and will continue to seek out opportunities to apply his experience and skills to help create fun and interesting creative solutions.

**JOHN MACMILLAN-JONES - SET CONSTRUCTION**

John is thrilled to be working with the visionary Lisa Dixon once again. Dale's rough-and-ready set design is evocative of the gritty nature of the play's moral dilemma. Many thanks to the audience for your continued support of PTG.

**FRANKY P. - PROPS**

Fueled by 90s films, vintage clothing, and collective imagination, Franky is a whistler who finds magic in the discarded, the overlooked, and the delightfully strange. If the world ends tomorrow, they'll bring the snacks, organize the potluck, and build something beautiful from the rubble.

**BEAU DIXON - SOUND AND MUSIC DESIGNER**

Composer / Sound Designer credits include *291* and *Zoo Story* (Peterborough Theatre Guild); *Wedding Band*, *Freedom Cabaret: The Spirit and Legacy of Black Music*, *Freedom 2.0: Black Music That Shaped The Dream Of America* (Stratford Festival); *Poison* (Coalmine Theatre); *Beneath Springhill: The Maurice Ruddick Story* (Thousand Islands / Lunchbox Theatre); *Cottagers and Indians* (Tarragon Theatre); *The Shape Of Home: Songs In Search Of Al Purdy* (Crow's Theatre / County Stage); *Kensington: The Musical* (Sheridan College); and *On A Night Like This, The Big Easy, Six String* (Soulpepper Theatre). Other recognition includes recipient of Peterborough's Pathway of Fame, three Dora Mavor Moore Awards, two Toronto Critics Awards, a Calgary Critics Award, and a Betty Mitchell nomination.

**JOYCE MCLEAN - PAINT LEAD**

Joyce has been around Peterborough Theatre Guild for many years helping where needed with set painting. She has lost track of how many shows she has worked on but remembers doing several in the 90s. She enjoys working with talented, creative people and there is always something new to learn or some trick to pass on that will bring the stage to life.

**MERCEDES DAVY - FIGHT AND INTIMACY DIRECTOR**

Mercedes Davy (She/They) is an award-winning, internationally trained Fight and Intimacy Director. She is an MFA student at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS) and graduated from Randolph College for the Performing Arts in 2019. Her business, The Gentle Blade (Fight and Intimacy Direction), brings her blended approach to Violence Design across Ontario and the World. Credits include: *Macbeth* (RCS), *Frankenstein* (Scarborough Players), *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Scarborough Players), *291* (Peterborough Theatre Guild).

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