### Holly's influence reached far and wide

#### **BUDDY FROM B5**

As a musician, Sowers is hoping to get plenty of young people out to the show so they can learn how today's music was influenced by Holly.

"I really hope that the younger generation will get a better understanding of what kind of music inspired music today," he said. "You listen to Buddy Holly and you hear so much of the stuff he pioneered in bands like John Fogerty, the Beatles even, going back earlier, Johhny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis. Those guys all took that sound and made it their own. It just inspired what I would call the greatest generation of music between the 50s and the 80s."

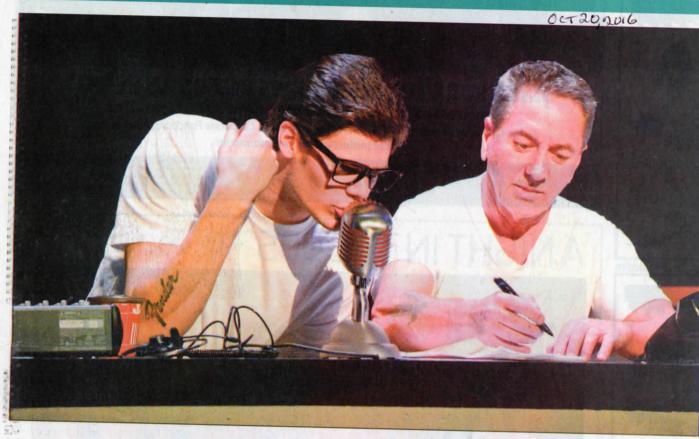
Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story runs Oct. 20-22 and 27-29 at the North Peace Cultural Centre. For more information, call 250-785-1992.



**ALEISHA HENDRY PHOTO** 

Stevi Eby (left) plays Maria Elana Santiago, whom Buddy Holly (Mike Sowers Jr., right) married after a whirlwind romance, in Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story.

## Arts & Culture



ALEISHA HENDRY PHOTO

Mike Sowers Jr. (left) plays Buddy Holly, while Denis Szalai plays Hipockets Duncan in Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story opening Oct. 20.

## 'OK boys, let's rock and roll..' Stage North mixes music, theatre to bring the life and times of Buddy Holly back to life

ALEISHA HENDRY

ahendry@ahnfsj.ca

The birth of modern rock and roll comes alive on the stage in the latest offering from Stage North.

Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story is, as the title suggests, the story of the rock music pioneer in glasses and the voice behind classic hits That'll Be The Day, Peggy Sue, Everyday, and Maybe Baby.

Mike Sowers Jr. plays the title role, his first ever as an actor, and has welcomed the challenge.

"It's been a really fun character to get into and it's remarkably easy because he's a lot like myself in a lot of areas. It was basically finding out where I could fit into his life," he said.

"Buddy Holly is a very driven young man, he has a lot of ambition, a lot of dreams a lot of goals, as you'll see in the play he'll actually stop at nothing to achieve those dreams."

The show has the unique task of bringing together the local theatre and music communities, which director Blair Scott said has been a great experience.

"I just think that Fort St. John is just ripe with so much talent," he said. "The music scene is just insane right now, it's the most exciting I've ever seen it. I've been here 20 years and it just blows my mind."

With 56 people in the show—the majority of which didn't know each other when rehearsals started-it's been an interesting journey seeing it all come together.

"You just put all these people together and watch this amazing magic that happens. It blows my mind," said Scott.

See BUDDY on B6

## Arts & Culture

## Carnage puts parents under the microscope



ALEISHA HENDRY PHOTO

The crew of Stage North's season premiere *God of Carnage* certainly looks more happy than its cast. The show opens Sept. 22 at Evangel Chapel, and it promises to deliver the laughs.

#### Stage North opens season with God of Carnage Sept. 22

#### ALEISHA HENDRY

ahendry@ahnfsj.ca

Jesse McCallum has been a director for many years.

While the Eagle Vision Video Production cinematographer and editor has had plenty of experience in film, the upcoming Stage North production of *God of Carnage* will be his theatrical directing debut, a challenge he's looking forward to.

"It's a wonderful play. It's a dark comedy that definitely treads into dark territory," he said.

God of Carnage follows the aftermath of a schoolyard fight between two boys, one of which had two teeth knocked out by the other. The boys' parents decide to have a meeting to talk about the incident.

"The parents try to discuss things in a civilized manner and try and figure

out what the best course of action is going to be going forwards," said McCallum.

The two couples are Michael and Veronica, played by Kevin Smith and Alyssa Pedersen, and Alan and Annette, played by Rob Brown and Kelsey Dawley. Michael and Veronica are a middle class family while Alan and Annette are considered the wealthy upper class.

"There's definitely some class clashing going on," said McCallum.
"Essentially these people should not be in this room together."

As one would expect from a comedy, the so-called civilized discussion takes a childish turn as the show goes on.

"Finger pointing, yelling, shouting, and that's before the rum gets broken out," said McCallum.

See CARNAGE on B6

#### \$20 Adult Admission \$17 Students & Seniors

Tickets available at the Cultural Centre

Marc Joseph Menswear

& www.npcc.bc.ca





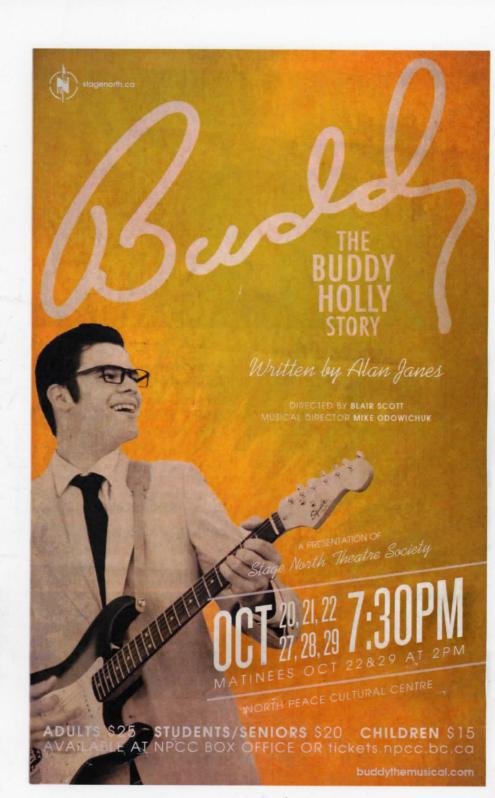
Stage North Presents

# God of CARNAGE





September 22, 23, 24 7:30pm - 10:00pm Evangel Chapel



#### DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



It never ceases to amaze me.

That is what I would say about Community Theatre and, in this particular case, Stage North. You have an idea of a show that you want to do. You roll the idea around in your brain for a period of time, run it by a few people, then, you make the decision to pitch it. Is there risk involved? You bet there is. Whether it is a cast of one or a cast of 40, there is always a risk in finding the right people to make it all work.

The timing seemed right for me to do "Buddy" now. Fort St. John's music scene is currently thriving, there are open mic nights at various venues throughout the city and surrounding area, there are live shows at the North Peace Cultural Centre, Lido Theatre, as well as other venues. There are numerous bands presently churning out music at any one of the various places throughout the city. So what better time to bring theatre and live music together, and with the two disciplines, try to make a show that Fort St. John will never forget.

This is where the amazing parts come in. You take a group of 45 people, give or take a few, who, for the most part, have no idea who each other is. We have painters, business managers, mill workers, sandwich makers, finance managers, medics, retirees, and labourers, people from all walks of life. You bring all these people together and watch the bonding, the sense of team that develops, the magic that happens, and the friendships made, all in such a short period of time. All with one goal. To bring you, the audience, the greatest show we can give you. That to me is AMAZING. I hope you enjoy Stage North's version of "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story."



Blair Scott, Director Vice-President, Stage North





Since 1977, Stage North Theatre Society has been the gateway to the best in live theatrical entertainment in Northeast B.C. As a volunteer-based non-profit organization located in Fort St. John, we have a core group of more than 60 members who create a variety of dramatic presentations each year. We offer opportunities for residents of all ages to develop confidence and skills in presentation, learn about all aspects of community theatre, and assist other groups in the region with staging productions.

You can get involved anytime! We are always looking for actors, directors, set designers, costumers, stage managers, prop makers and more. Volunteers with and without theatre experience are welcome.

TO BECOME INVOLVED, EMAIL: EXECDIR@STAGENORTH.CA



BUDDY HOLLY | Mike Sowers
JOE | Aaron Eady
JERRY | Skyler Rowsell
TOMMY | Sean Cullen
HIPOCKETS | Dennis Szalai
MARIA ELENA | Stevi Eby
NORMAN PETTY | AJ Zabinsky
VI PETTY | Dana Pedersen
BIG BOPPER | Skyler Rowsell
RITCHIE VALENS | Joel Primeau
MURRAY DEUTCH | Kevin Smith
DECCA PRODUCER | Kyle Behrens
ASST. DECCA PRODUCER | Chase Koop

HAYRIDERS | Breana Harrison, Joel Primeau, Nick Baccante, Don McLean, Anthony Desfosses, Sean Cullen

JINGLE SINGERS | Jessalyn Aitken, Breana Harrison, Holly Ulrich

**DECCA BAND I** Nick Baccante, Don McLean, and special guest

**APOLLO PERFORMERS |** Jeffery Harrison, Igo Ebikomboere, Tami Adeleke, Nkere Ezekiel, Patrick Fredericks

DJ AT APOLLO | Chase Koop
CLEAR LAKE BAND & SINGERS | Dana

Pedersen, Sean Cullen, Nick Baccante, Don McLean, Anthony Desfosses, Simon Wolford, Becky Gaal, Katie Matthews, Aaron Eady, Skyler Rowsell, Jessalyn Aitken, Holly Ulrich

MC AT CLEAR LAKE | Jacob Chmelyk SHIRLEY | Jessalyn Aitken ANTHEM SINGER | Jessalyn Aitken ENGINEER | Chase Koop ENGLISH DJ | Aaron Eady

DJ WCLS, DJ WWOL, DJ WDAS, DJ KSPT I
Chase Koop

ANNOUNCERS | Chase Koop PEGGY SUE | Bronwyn Hall

FANS & PHOTOGRAPHERS | Justin Lawson,

Aurora Jordan



DIRECTOR | Blair Scott
GUEST DIRECTOR | Chalene Scott
MUSICAL DIRECTOR | Mike Odowichuk
PRODUCER | Twyla Jordan
STAGE MANAGER | Teela Gould
ASST. STAGE MANAGER | Bronwyn Hall

SET DESIGN | Bronwyn Hall

SET CONSTRUCTION | Bronwyn Hall, Dennis Szalai, Mike Sowers, Ty Nielson

PROPS MASTER | Suzanne Lawson

PROPS I Jordan Lawson, Mona Gould, Ty Nielson, Lisa Maclean

**COSTUMES** | Heather Truscott

**COSTUME HELPER | Kyoko Merrett** 

MAKE UP | Stevi Eby, Breana Harrison, Lisa Maclean

MOVEMENT COACH | Emry Mika
PROJECTION | Ty Nielson
VIDEO EDITING | Lisa Maclean
SOUND | Oliver Hachmeister, Jim Webster
LIGHTING DESIGN | Leighton Taylor, Oliver Hachmeister
LIGHTING | Leighton Taylor

**RUNNING CREW I** Joel Primeau, Jacob Chmelyk, Jordan Lawson, Ty Nielsen, Lisa Maclean, Chantelle Bowen, Kevin Merrett, Keith Merrett, Alex Collins, Tammy Hrab





#### STEPHEN MACADAMS

LAW CORPORATION

#### LAWYER & NOTARY PUBLIC

- Residential and Commercial Real Estate Transactions
- Corporate and Commercial Law, Mergers and Acquisitions

Tel: (250) 785-1924 • Fax: (250) 785-6630

#101-10343 100 Ave • Fort St. John, BC • V1J 1Y8 • www.maclawcorp.com

PROUD SUPPORTER OF COMMUNITY THEATRE

#### BLAIR SCOTT, Director

After a four year hiatus from theatre, Blair returned to Stage North this past spring and directed "Outlaw" by Norm Foster. It was during directing that show he realized how much he had missed the theatre and all the people involved. He made the decision during that time to pitch Stage North to do "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story." So here he is, back in the director's chair for one more time. Blair lives in Fort St. John and is the General Manager of AAA Safety. Blair has been involved with Stage North since the fall of 1997 when he took on the role of the evil Jonathan in "Arsenic and Old Lace"



since that time he has directed and acted in many shows. Some notable plays he directed are; "Melville Boys," "The Good Game," and Fuel," which went on to Theatre BC's Mainstage. Acting aredits include; Horton the Elephant in "Seussical," Howie in "Rabbit Hole," and Commissioner Dreyfus in "Pink Panther Strikes Again." When not working or doing theatre, Blair enjoys watching TV and spending quality time with Rhonda. He would like to take this opportunity to thank the cast and crew for all their hard work and the fun we have had in the making of "Buddy." Also would like to thank the love of his life Rhonda, as well as his children Zac and Chalene, for all their love and support. Would also like to thank Chalene for her work on "Buddy" while she was here for a holiday. Enjoy the show.



#### WIN BUDDY HOLLY'S GUITAR

GUITAR RAFFLE | TICKETS \$5

Tickets available before each performance and during intermission in the NPCC lobby

FIRST PRIZE:

Guitar used by Stage North's Buddy Holly! \$200 value, generously donated by Systems

SECOND PRIZE:

Family pack of tickets (4) to Wizard of Oz. \$100 value

THIRD PRIZE:

Dinner at Good Ole Dayz. \$50 value, donated by Good Ole Dayz

DRAWING:

Oct. 29 at 9:30pm, North Peace Cultural Centre

#### MIKE ODOWICHUK, Musical Director

You may have seen Mike acting as an inebriated porter in last year's production of "MacBeth," or in a number of other roles in past Stage North productions. He said yes to the chance to be involved as musical director for "Buddy" as an opportunity to share his love of the songs that he remembers hearing as a preschooler listening to his older brother's 45s. Mike has been bowled over by the talent and commitment shown, especially by the young musicians in this production.



#### TWLYA JORDAN, Producer

Twyla has a long, dark history of hanging out in the shadows of theatres, talking to ghosts and learning the secrets of the trade. Since her return to small town life seven years ago, she has joined forces with Stage North for several productions. Usually credited as Stage Manager or Producer, Twyla has been known to fill any role backstage that comes up along the way. If she had to choose a favourite show so far it would be, without a doubt, this one. She is honoured to be part of this journey, back to the roots of rock and roll, surrounded by so many talented musicians, performers, and arew. A



big thanks to the man who brought us all together and made it all possible, Blair Scott. She hopes you all enjoy it as much as she has. Let's get ready to rock and roll!

#### TEELA GOULD, Stage Manager

Teela has proudly been involved with Stage North on and off for 14 years. She has been involved with every aspect of the backstage world and was very excited for the new challenge of working with the extremely talented musicians you are about to see. Some Stage North productions she has been involved with include: "Outlaw," "Pride and Prejudice," "The Miracle Worker," "Chicago," "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," "Seascape" and her first with Stage North "Of Guys and Men." A very BIG thank-you goes out to the backstage team behind Buddy Holly including our unflappable leader



Blair Scott. This is a HUGE production of which 45+ people have been involved with, thank-you all for your commitment to this production. To all of the musicians and actors on stage tonight, "let's rock and roll it"!

#### BRONWYN HALL, Asst. Stage Manager

When I heard that Blair Scott was doing The Buddy Holly Story and Teela Gould was his Stage Manager I asked if I could design/build the set and Assistant Stage Manage. After working with them building the Outlaw set last spring, I was eager to team up with them again. I have loved learning from these exceptionally talented and experienced people. Set design/building combines my love and experience in construction with my passion for live theatre. This has been an amazing experience. The dedication of Dennis Szalai and Mike Sowers who pitched in to help with the set, as well as



bring these iconic characters to life, has been fantastic. The majority of people involved on this production both on and off the stage have really outdone themselves. The rehearsals are so much fun and impossible to sit still through. I hope you enjoy watching this performance as much as we have enjoyed creating it. Thank you Blair for allowing me to work with you to help bring your vision to the stage. Thank you Teela for showing me the ropes and for your tireless efforts.

#### SUZANNE LAWSON, Props Master

Suzanne first became involved in Stage North when her daughter was cast in "James and the Giant Peach". That was her first introduction to backstage, set & props. Things progressed from there. Suzanne has been involved with props, set and backstage crew for "Taming of the Shrew", "Alice, A Musical", "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily", "Pride and Prejudice", & "Macbeth". This season finds Suzanne working on several productions, "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story", "The Wizard of Oz" and she will be producing "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress". Suzanne thoroughly



enjoys all the people she has met through Stage North over the years and looks forward to the upcoming season, and many more to come.

#### YOUR COOPERATION IS APPRECIATED







PLEASE, NO CELL PHONES OR PHOTOS DURING THE PERFORMANCE

PLEASE TEXT OR PHONE YOUR FRIENDS PRIOR TO THE SHOW, OR, BETTER YET, INVITE THEM ON DOWN! PLEASE TURN OFF OR MUTE YOUR PHONE AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES FOR THE DURATION OF THE PERFORMANCE.

#### HEATHER TRUSCOTT, Costumes

Heather has always loved costumes. As a small child she had her own Tiddle Trunk and by high school she was helping out with costuming for the school musicals. Her children have always enjoyed the 'dress up' clothes that have been available. She has helped with costuming the local high school musicals even after her kids weren't in them (that took 15 years). Her dedication to costumes includes turning one of their rooms into a costume room to accommodate the many costumes she has built over the



years. This production has been a challenge with 2 weddings and 2 funerals plus many other trips but she hopes she has been able to capture the feel of the 50's and the birth of the Rock and Roll era.



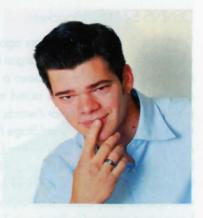
#### **COMING SOON TO THE NORTH PEACE CULTURAL CENTRE:**

Montreal Guitar Trio, Nov. 3 | Terri Clark, Nov. 5 | Gord Bamford, Nov. 19



#### MIKE SOWERS, Buddy Holly

Mike is an accomplished singer, songwriter and musician. He has been playing music in Fort St. John and surrounding area for the last eight years. Having never done theatre before he is very excited for this new challenge. Speaking of new challenges, he also wishes he could arrive on time every once in a while! Mike hopes that you enjoy this production as much as he enjoyed being a part of its creation. So please, sit back and relax, and let us take you back to the fifties. Cheers!



#### AARON EADY, Joe

Aaron has been an avid patron of the theatre since moving to Fort St. John, and has participated in Stage North productions of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" and Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice". He is also a guitar teacher at Simply Music, and is raising an army of birds in his spare time. For science.



#### SKYLER ROWSELL, Jerry

Skyler is a local multi-instrumental musician who has been regularly performing since 2009. It has been a while since Skyler was on stage acting. The last play he performed was "The Pajama Game" in 2009 presented by North Peace Secondary School. Since then he has been a part of an award winning band 56 Collective. He can also be seen in another band, The Boreal, and other local bands when called upon. He is excited to share the stage



with all the very talented people with Stage North and "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story". He hopes you enjoy the show as much as he has.

#### DENNIS SZALAI, Hipockets

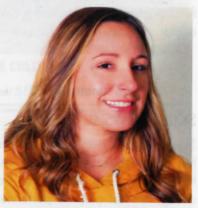
I met Dennis Szalai many years ago while on an exploratory trip to the planet Zargon III. During our talk I found out that he has been a Stage North member for 34 years, has acted in around 30 plays, won three Best Actor Awards, has been on the Board, served as Festival Stage Manager, set construction assistant for a Western Canada Lotto Draw and was on the design board for the North Peace Cultural Centre. He also spent several years with Spontaneous Combustion improv group. He



has a great passion for Theatre and great respect for all of those that came before and all those that will follow. "Buddy" gave him the opportunity to work with Blair again, he thanks you. And he is amazed with the super talented and hardworking crew. To the cast he says, thank-you also for your hard work and many hours, your dedication was exemplary. Please enjoy the show, and remember, even if love made a fool of you, maybe baby, think it over, every day, because it's so easy to rave on and we are all just learning the game.

#### STEVI EBY, Maria Elena

Stevi is a local theater geek, and has been for a few years. She met her boyfriend in theater, so that's neat. She loves being proposed to in plays (twice in "Pride and Prejudice"), since she gets to wear fancy dresses and in reality, she is a spinster with two cats, who knows far too many Harry Potter references. Stevi was thrilled to land the part of Maria, the first non-typecast- evil role she has had in a while. Previously a Murderer in "Macbeth", Vivienne in "Legally"



Blonde" and Merry Murderess in "Chicago". Upon rehearsals, she has now been deemed the Yoko Ono of the Buddy Holly Story. Alas, the tradition of evil continues, and will continue into 2017 with the "Wizard of Oz" in February. This play has been an amazing experience, working with familiar faces and also meeting new ones. Congrats to all involved and thank you!

#### JOEL PRIMEAU, Ritchie Valens

Joel moved here two years ago to work for the oil and gas commission. He has been a musician for several years, playing fiddle and singing backup vocals for different bands, as well as singing/playing guitar at open mic nights. Joel recently started writing and performing his own music and hopes to form a band in the near future, with the ultimate goal of releasing an album. This is the first time he has been involved with theatre, and will likely not be the last.



#### DANA PEDERSEN, Vi Petty

Dana has been involved in the fine arts in Fort St. John since 1993 playing piano in the yearly local festivals. She eventually went on to do her Bachelor of Music at the University of Victoria and found her love of theatre through her cousin's theatre company SNAFU Dance and the local opera POV. After travelling around for a few years after graduation she ended up back in Fort St. John and immediately got involved in Stage Norths production Pride and Prejudice as a stage



hand. She has now participated in the previous two Vagina Monologues, Stage North's production of "Macbeth" and "12 Angry Jurors". Dana looks forward to many years working with Stage North and the arts community in Fort St. John.

#### JACOB CHMELYK, MC at Clearlake

Three years ago, Jacob's best friend convinced him to join the acting class at NPSS, and he hasn't stopped acting since. You may recognize him as Bert from the North Peace Secondary School production of "Mary Poppins" last year. This will be his first role with Stage North, and he's more than excited for everyone to see it. Enjoy the show!.



#### SPECIAL THANKS

STAGE NORTH would like to thank the following people and organizations who helped bring this production to the stage:

Good Ole Dayz, AAA Safety, Systems by Trail, Sew It Yourself Shop, Tapping Into Talent, Long & McQuade, Milano for Men Grande Prairie, Coca Cola Refreshments Dawson Creek, Northern Vision Care, Autographics Trim & Signs, Rhonda Brown, Christina McGhghy, Marcel & Debbie Kristoff, Sue Popesku, Don & Jane Gothard, Jenn Merrett, Skyler Rowsell, Mike Sowers, Danielle Layman, Don McLean, Rob McConkey, Chris Adams, Chalene Scott, Denise Bahm



Dream big. Share bigger.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW! Want \$40,000 cash or a 2016 Ford Escape to park in the driveway? Or how 'bout a 5-day elk hunt excursion, or 7-night Disneyland vacation? Look no further!

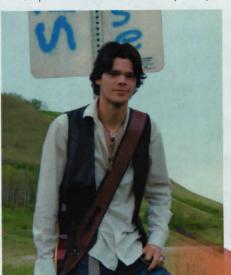
TICKETS: 3 for \$100 or 1 for \$40 | CONTACT: Sue Popesku at spopesku@shaw.ca



#### **TRANSFORMATIONS**

Becoming a character is more than just learning lines and movements. This becomes more evident when you are portraying a character from a different time period, and in the case of "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story," characters who were real people and have been captured in film for the world to see. The actors on stage tonight had the unique, yet challenging, opportunity to research the lives and looks of the people they are representing. They have gone to great lengths to make these musical legends come back to life on the stage, and some have even lost great lengths to make this happen, as seen below.

(Top: Mike Sowers as Buddy Holly | Bottom: Aaron Eady as Joe B. Mauldin)



BEFORE

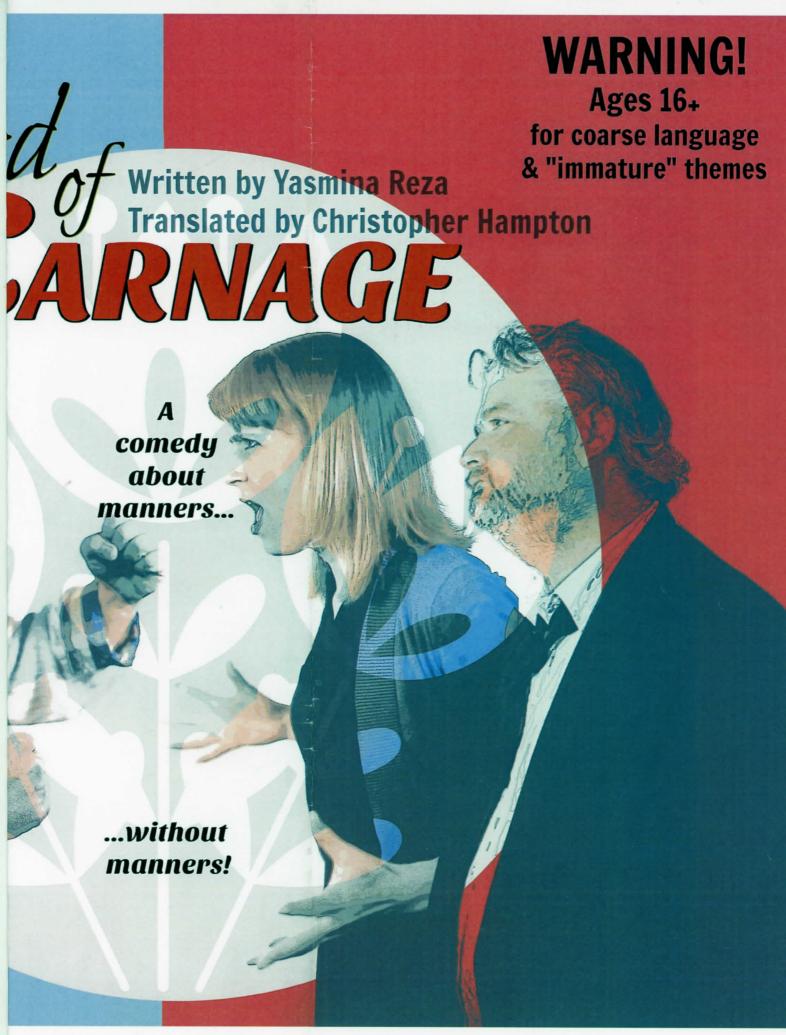


AFTER









Stage North's first ever performance at the

**Evangel Chapel** 

10040 101 Ave

SEPTEMBER 22, 23, 24 7:30pm - 10:00pm

Tickets \$20

\$17Students & Seniors

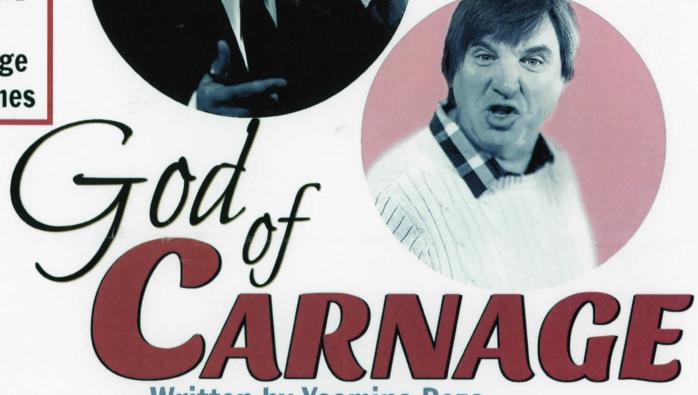
Available at the Cultural Centre Marc Joseph's Menswear & www.npcc.bc.ca A comedy about manners...

...without manners!



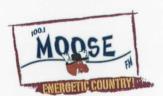


Ages 16+ for coarse language & "immature" themes



Written by Yasmina Reza
Translated by Christopher Hampton













STEPHEN MACADAMS
LAW CORPORATION





