

Nice While It Lasted

By Dan Puglas

A Reconciliation Theatre Production

NICE WHILE IT LASTED
COMING OF AGE ON A BURNING PLANET
BY DAN PUGLAS
RECONCILIATION THEATRE PRODUCTION
FEATURING: WHITLEY DUNN / DAN PUGLAS / JESSE WILSON | DIRECTED BY: TOM ROKEBY

RECONCILE YOUR CANADA DAY!
JULY TOUR OF NATIONS:

- SNUNEYMUXW/NANAIMO JUNE 28-JULY 1 AT OV ART CENTER
- KOMOKS/COURTENAY JULY 4 AT THE SID WILLIAMS THEATRE
- WEI WAI KUM/CAMPBELL RIVER JULY 13 AT RIVERCITY STAGE
- QVALICUM JULY 14 AT QVALICUM FIRST NATION HALL
- QWUTSUN/COWICHAN JULY 20TH AT DUNCAN UNITED CHURCH
- LEKWUNGEN/VICTORIA AUGUST 2-4 AT LANQHAM COURT THEATRE

MORE INFO 

 CITY OF NANAIMO
THE HARBOUR CITY

 BRITISH COLUMBIA

 Reconciliation Theatre

Art by Dan Puglas and Jesse Woodward

NICE WHILE IT LASTED by Dan Puglas tells the story of Hunter, an indigenous 20-something male, and his return to his home community after years away in the city. He encounters resistance from friends both old and new in his quest to reconnect with his traditional culture. His attempt to return home again comes to a head as fire-season threatens the very survival of the community he loves.



Logo by Sir Daniel Puglas

Reconciliation Theatre Society was founded by Tom Rokeby and Daniel Puglas as a playreading circle. The circle met during covid, outside at the South Wellington Art Farm, on traditional Snuneymuxw territory. Once live events returned, we wanted to share the stories, and the creative relationships, our Playreading Circle had nurtured. Our mission... Although we strive to produce great theatre together, first and foremost we value the wellness that accompanies our creativity, and the community that we build in doing so. From curated playreading circles, to small venue live stagings, to full productions in modern venues, Reconciliation Theatre aspires to partner with community organizations to foster literacy, identity and wellness through storytelling.

For more information about what we do, upcoming productions and becoming an active member, email us at reconciliationtheatresociety@gmail.com or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/reconciliationtheatre>

Director's Message

Directing an original script is at once a limitless opportunity, and a tightrope without a net. Directing an original script for someone that you care about, however, brings an emotional commitment to the process that drives you to work harder and care more about a production than ever before. Somewhat akin to caring for a friend's child, one feels honoured to be asked and excited for the new adventure, but then mom leaves and reality sets in. You don't know this child and all their intricacies and character details. In fact no-one short of the parent-playwright really does. Proceeding with an abundance of caution and care, you commit yourself to learning as you go, listening carefully to the child so you can best care for and nurture them. At moments you will be looking at the clock hoping mom comes home early, but more often than not you are witness to authentic moments of artistic creation; a line, a laugh, a connection that has never existed before this moment in time, anywhere, ever.

Nice While it Lasted lands a lot of important messages, but the one that resonates profoundly for me is the playwright's urging us to fully embrace those original moments everyday. Resist the temptation to chase an ideal or image "out there" and live right here, right now, in deep appreciation of the beautiful people who share authentic, never-before experienced connections with you everyday. Thanks for the reminder Dan.

Enjoy the show,

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Tom Rokeby

Director

CAST

Dan Puglas(he/him) as HUNTER



The Kwakwaka'wakw artist, Dan Puglas is the current President of Reconciliation Theatre, as well as Former Co-Artistic Director for Western Edge Theatre . Self Proclaimed jack of all trades when it comes to theatre, there isn't much that Dan couldn't at least try to do. Writer, Actor, Director, Designer would be the stuff he specializes in.

In recent years, he's been keeping really busy, acting in shows like Drew Hayden Taylors, Berlin Blues, Sam Shepards, True West. As well as directing shows like Jesse Wilson's "A Different Killset", Keith Barker's "This Is How We Got Here".

As a recipient of a grant from Native Earth Performing Arts, it makes be proud to be able to call myself a writer, as I have written, and am also acting in my most recent production of "Nice While It Lasted" which will be produced by Reconciliation Theatre,

with other projects under my belt, like "Mourning in Room 243" Which was debuted by Western Edge New Waves Festival, and "A Conversation in the Night" which was debuted at the Nanaimo Fringe Festival.

Art tends to keep my brain in check, and my heart on the right path. During the rough times throughout my life, I have been able to rely on writing, and performing to keep me sane. All I can hope to do is to inspire other people to become artists, so that they might have an outlet to navigate through the hard times.

Jesse Wilson(he/him) as ELI



Jesse Wilson was born and raised on Snuneymuxw territory, where he graduated from Vancouver Island University's Theatre Diploma program while also earning his Bachelor's degree in

Creative Writing. Ever since, Jesse has performed for audiences in just about every theatre from Ladysmith to Qualicum. He is excited to be back with Reconciliation Theatre after an unforgettable experience performing Reinhardt Reinholtz in last summer's Island tour of Drew Hayden Taylor's "The Berlin Blues". Since then, Jesse has appeared with Nanaimo Theatre Group in "Leading Ladies", "I Want to be an Astronaut" as part of the Port Theatre Discovery Series, and was a featured playwright at the Winter Writers' Workshop and Showcase at the OV Arts Center. Jesse is proud to be putting his passion for theatre into a cause as important as reconciliation, and seeing his friend's words come to life.

Whitley Dunn(she/her) as WILLOW



Whitley Dunn is excited to officially return to acting and bring Nice While it Lasted's Willow to life.

During her hiatus from acting, Whitley immersed herself in various creative pursuits. She recently completed her Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Creative Writing and a minor in Journalism at VIU this spring. While also contributing to Western Edge's stage readings (I Feel Everything as Violet and Poetry in Motion as Lenore), stage-managing In a World Created by a Drunken God, and helping organize their 2022 New Waves Festival.

Whitley has been passionate about acting since her first class at Kismet Theatre Academy. She knew the stage was where she belonged, so it was a no-brainer for her to get her theatre diploma from VIU. She's worked with Western Edge and Echo Players and is excited to add Reconciliation Theatre to her list. You may recognize her from Western Edge's Extended Wings as Mads or Echo Players' Hay Fever as Sorel Bliss.

CREW

Tom Rokeby(he/him)... Director



Tom is a settler on Snuneymuxw territory. His family left Germany generations ago to settle in India and following that, Turtle Island. He divides his time between his role as Artistic Director of Reconciliation Theatre, and being a trustee on the Nanaimo Ladysmith School Board. He is grateful to have found so many creatives that want to be part of a journey of Reconciliation, for his wife Lisa and children Franklin and Carmanah for their love and support, and for the Snuneymuxw people, the stewards of the land we live on, since time immemorial.

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Bryce Crichton(he/him)... Stage Manager/Operator



Bryce is going into his third year as a technical theatre student at VIU Malaspina Theatre. Where he has worked on

shows such as One-Acts, She Kills Monsters, Puffs. He has also worked on past projects with Reconciliation Theatre such as Berlin Blues, The Halloween Spooktacular, and The Winter Writers Workshop.

Damon Mitchell(he/him)... Stage Manager



Damon discovered his love for acting and theatre when he joined Bulldog Theater at John Barsby Community School. Since then, he has appeared in numerous productions from VIU's Theatre program, to Western Edge, to our very own Reconciliation Theatre Society. This time around he will be off stage as the Stage Manager for this production, and is very excited to help bring Dan Puglas' show to life.

Michelle Hall(she/her)... Production Manager



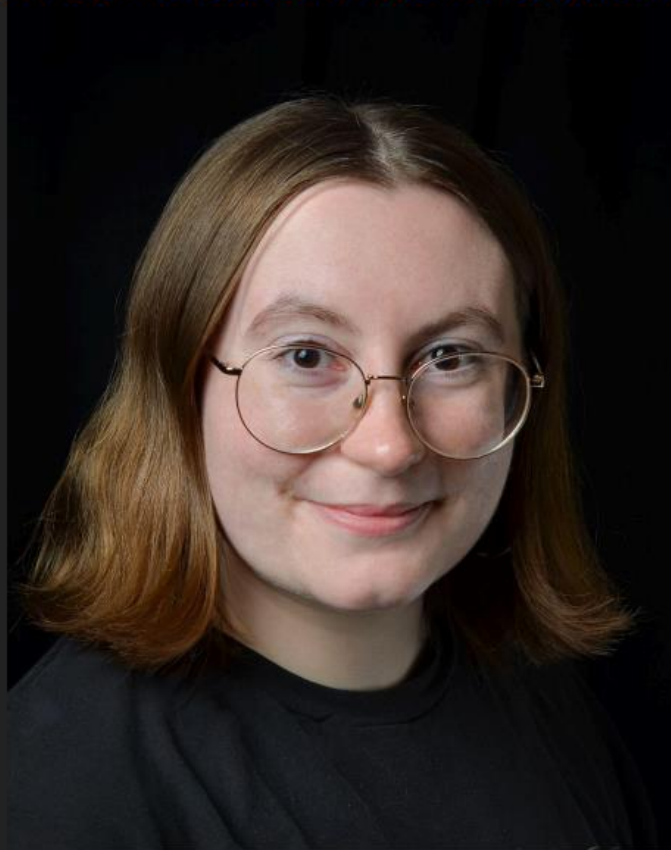
Michelle has been a theater fan her entire life, taking part in various productions in highschool. She is thrilled to be re-entering the theatre world now that her schedule allows her too. She previously joined Reconciliation Theatre in their production of 'One Lane Bridge' and took part in The Winter Writers Workshop that was also hosted by Reconciliation Theatre. She looks forward to being able to continue to grow and experience the beauty theatre has to offer.

Justin Macfadden(he/him)... Lighting Designer/Operator



Justin has been involved in Theatre his whole life, starting off at Port Alberni's Capitol Theatre when he was 8 years old. You may have seen Justin performing around town in his band "Sturdy Lemon", or darting around with an iPad at Western Edge's "Knight of the Bat" or "Drag Queens on Trial," but this is his first crack at lighting design in a long while. Justin is honoured to be involved in another great local production, and he hopes you all enjoy the show!

Sam Caul(she/her)... Costume Designer



Hey! I'm Sam. I've been in the theatre scene since 2018, where I started my journey at VIU in the Theatre program. After graduating during COVID, my prospects were limited, but since

the world opened back up, I've been all over the place! I've directed, costumed, done props, set designed- you name it! Thank you to Reconciliation Theatre for having me! It's been a blast! :)

Sylvia (Sierra) Clark(she/her)... Properties Manager/Set Production



Sierra's passion for theater began when she joined Bulldog Theater in grade eight, since then she has found it is a great relaxer and way to escape reality momentarily, or face those same real-life issues from a different perspective. Most recently

Sierra played the role of 'Samantha' in "One Lane Bridge" and took part in The Winter Writers Workshop as both an actor and organizer.

She is grateful to be able to continue working with Reconciliation Theatre and is hopeful for what its future holds. Lastly she would like to thank the Snuneymuxw people whose land she resides on for sharing their culture with her as she continues to learn and grow.

Thank you for joining us!

Snuneymuxw Nation for stewarding these lands since time immemorial

Reconciliation Theatre Society board and membership for your leadership and support of the production of Dan's original script

City of Nanaimo's Downtown Economic Revitalization Fund for supporting RTS and our efforts to bring people, prosperity and pride to downtown Nanaimo

Ministry of the Attorney-General Anti-Racism Initiatives Fund for supporting RTS and our efforts to foster understanding between communities.

Native Earth Performing Arts for supporting Dan's journey as an emerging playwright.

Robin Boxwell and Malaspina Theatre at Vancouver Island University for your constant support of RTS, your graduates and the Nanaimo theatre community.

Nanaimo Association for Community Living for supporting RTS with rehearsal space and transportation

Quality Foods Harewood for supporting RTS with rehearsal space

South Wellington Art Farm for supporting RTS with rehearsal space and lumber

Vancouver Island Regional Library for supporting RTS with audition space,

Kymme Patrick and Theatreworks for supporting RTS with staging and technical equipment

Nanaimo Theatre Group for supporting RTS with costumes

Inclusion BC for inviting RTS to present at your 2024 provincial conference

School District 69/Kwalikum Secondary for inviting RTS to perform for your students

Sid Williams Theatre, Rivercity Players, Qualicum First Nation, St. Mary's Parish Ladymith, Duncan United Church

and Langham Court Theatre for partnering with RTS to bring Dan's play to communities across Vancouver Island.