



SIERRA

STAGES

THE  
DROWNING  
GIRLS

by  
Beth Graham,  
Charlie Tomlinson  
& Daniela Vlaskalic

directed by  
Sharon Winegar



Tickets & Information

**sierrastages.org**

530.346.3210



PRESENTS

# “THE DROWNING GIRLS”

by

**BETH GRAHAM, CHARLIE TOMLINSON & DANIELA VLASKALIC**

**STARRING**

TRISH ADAIR    KATE HAIGHT    ALEXIS ZENDEJAS

**SET & COSTUME DESIGN**  
TERESA SHEA

**TECHNICAL DIRECTOR**  
CASEY BURKE

**LIGHTING DESIGN**  
HUNTER REED

**SOUND DESIGN**  
DANNY MCCAMMON

**MAKEUP ARTIST**  
JAY BARKER

**STAGE MANAGER**  
HOLLI HIRAOKA - HURST

**PRODUCER**  
MICHELE NESBIT

**MUSIC**  
ARI RAMPY

**DIRECTED BY**  
SHARON WINEGAR

**ASSISTANT DIRECTED BY**  
CHASE CONEY

*The Drowning Girls* premiered at Alberta Theatre Projects on March 6, 2008, as part of the Enbridge playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays

Thank you to Sierra Stages 2023 Season Business Sponsors



To Ken Getz for everything, always.

# THE CAST

## IN SPEAKING ORDER

Bessie ..... KATE HAIGHT  
Alice ..... ALEXIS ZENDEJAS  
Margaret ..... TRISH ADAIR

TRISH ADAIR also plays Henry, Alice's Mother, Mrs. Blatch, Sergeant Reid, Knowles, the Conductor, and Miss Brighton.

KATE HAIGHT also plays George, Caroline, John, Dr. Billings, Mrs. Rapley, Amelia, Marks, and Sergeant Page.

ALEXIS ZENDEJAS also plays John, George, Henry, Mrs. Tuckett, Mrs. Crossley, Jane, Inspector Neil, and Mr. Bodkin.

# THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director ..... SHARON WINEGAR  
Assistant Director ..... CHASE CONEY  
Stage Manager ..... HOLLI HIRAOKA-HURST  
Assistant Stage Manager ..... PAIGE CARTZDAFNER  
Scenic Designer ..... TERESA SHEA  
Technical Director ..... CASEY BURKE  
Lighting Designer ..... HUNTER REED  
Costume Designer ..... TERESA SHEA  
Sound Designer ..... DANNY MCCAMMON  
Makeup Artist/Special FX ..... JAY BARKER  
Music Associate ..... ARI RAMPY

Props Manager ..... JILLINE HENDERSON  
Mic Operator ..... JESSICA WERMES  
Backstage Crew ..... LEO HILL  
Master Builders ..... CASEY BURKE  
Master Electricians ..... CASEY BURKE, HUNTER REED  
Carpenters ..... CASEY BURKE, EVAN NESBIT, HUNTER REED  
Tub Wrangler ..... MARK MIXSON  
Poster Design ..... DANIEL NOFSINGER  
Photography & Program Design ..... HEIDI GRASS  
Production Photos ..... DAVID WONG  
House/Tix Managers ..... VALARIE & JOHN BUSH,  
SHARLA CARTZDAFNER, HANNAH CHAMBERLAIN, AUDREY DELGADO,  
JILLINE HENDERSON, ANDI KRAUSE LAURA LEBLEU, and TOM WOLFE  
Executive Director ..... MICHELE NESBIT

Special thanks to MARY BAIRD, MITCH FITZHUGH, MARION JEFFREY, BEN MILNER, TIM MURRAY & SPD

***The Drowning Girls is presented in 1 act with no intermission.***

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

# ABOUT THE CAST



**Trish Adair (Margaret)** is pleased to return to Sierra Stages. Trish has been seen in the Nevada County theatre scene frequently in the past 24 years. She is the head of the theatre department at Casa Roble High School in Orangevale. Some of her favorite roles include Blanche from *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Martha from *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, Corine from *Gideon's Knot*, which won her an Ellie for Best Actor in a dramatic role, and an opportunity to perform in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. Trish had the honor of playing Beadle in *Sweeney Todd*, and Margerie in *Hand to God* in Sacramento. Trish would like to thank her family and friends for putting up with this insane passion she has for the stage. Her baby grandson Hudson is the new man in her life.



**Kate Haight (Bessie)** is thrilled to be on stage again for her tenth full production with Sierra Stages. Some of Kate's favorite roles include Claire in *Fuddy Meers* (Upstart Theater), Velma in *Chicago*, Ulla in *The Producers*, Sponge in *James and the Giant Peach*, Kate Monster/Lucy the Slut in *Avenue Q* and Elvira in *Blithe Spirit* (all Sierra Stages productions). Kate can also occasionally be seen on stage at Off Broadstreet. When not on stage, Kate can be found either wrangling her beloved seventh graders at Yuba River Charter School or laying on her couch surrounded by small dogs. Kate would like to dedicate her performance to the memory of Laci & Conner Peterson.



**Alexis Zendejas (Alice)** is thrilled to be in her first ever Sierra Stages production! She's been acting on and off most of her life here in Nevada County. Some of her credits include playing Hedy in *It's A Disaster*, Anna in *Emma*, Pamela in *The 39 Steps* and Wendy in *The Angry Housewives*. She would like to thank her Husband Victor for being her ultimate hype man and always being willing to help her memorize her lines. Lastly, she would like to dedicate her performance to the memory of her father Richard, who is responsible for her obsession with this silly yet incredibly fulfilling hobby.

# ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM

**Sharon Winegar (Director)** has been involved in local theater for over 40 years She has also worked with the Berkeley Repertory Theatre, the Sacramento Theatre Company, Sonoma County Repertory Theater, Sonoma Arts Live, the Sierra Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare Napa Valley, the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, and the Maxim Gorky Theatre in Vladivostok, Far Eastern Russia. Sharon directed *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Hand to God*, and *The Bridges of Madison County* for Sierra Stages.

**Chase Coney (Assistant Director)** is an enthusiastic local artist who is grateful for the opportunity to assist and learn from director Sharon Winegar on this unique production. He has appeared in over 20 productions, notably as The Mastiff in *The Moors* with Sierra Stages, Eugene in *Biloxi Blues* with Legacy Productions, and Jerry in *The Zoo Story* with Quest Theatreworks. He has also produced and directed *The Strange Case of Dr. Jeckyll and Mr. Hyde*, as well as an original adaptation of *Rope*. He would like to thank his partner Ariel for coping with his inability to decline a project.

**Holli Hiraoka-Hurst (Stage Manager)** has been involved in theatre since she was a lot younger, on stage and off. She has worked with companies like Foothill Theatre, Music Circus, Motherlode Stage Company, CATS, etc. She is excited to be stage managing again and is grateful to Sierra Stages for the opportunity to work with so many amazingly talented people.

**Casey Burke (Technical/Lighting Director)** is a triple threat; actor, comedian and handyman. You may have seen him on-stage; most recently as Nicely-Nicely Johnson in *Guys & Dolls* with Sierra Stages, or performing stand-up comedy around town. But usually he can be found backstage. He is the Technical Director for the Nevada Theatre and often gets wrangled into helping build sets and hang lights. He and his beautiful wife Heidi have worked on every Sierra Stages show this season and are running away to Argentina to catch up on their sleep.

# ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM

**Michele Nesbit (Producer)** is excited to close the curtain on her first successful season as Executive Director of Sierra Stages with this delightful show. Since 2015, Michele has taken great pleasure in acting, producing, directing and writing for local theatre. Her next project will be producing season 2024 for Sierra Stages!

**Teresa Shea (Set Designer/Costume Designer)** with a lifelong love of theatre and art, and degrees in Fine Arts and Performing Arts Design/Technology from the Art Institute of Chicago and California Institute of the Arts, brings her design talents to the diverse worlds of theatre, dance, film, video, fashion, sculpture, photography and education. She has received several awards for her designs, including 2 Ellys, a Rose Parade Tournament Trophy Award and an LA Ovation Award. Her most recent designs include Sets for Sierra Stages *Sweeney Todd* and *Guys and Dolls*, as well Set and Projections for CATS *The Great Leap*.

**Hunter Reed (Lighting Designer)** is an actor and stage technician with decades of accolades on & off stage. He began trading the boards in Equity at age 9 and is currently the Theater Manager & Technical Director at Colfax High. He owns a farm with his lovely wife Christi, where they raise cows, chickens, pigs .. and their two little performers August and Nori!

**Danny McCammon (Sound Director)** is excited to be a part of such a unique and challenging show. He has appeared onstage and served behind the scenes in local productions for a decade or so. Enjoy!

**Paige Cartzdafner (Assistant Stage Manager)** is very excited to be working on her fourth production with Sierra Stages! She's been doing technical theatre work since she was 14, with experience in Stage & Backstage Management, Lighting Operation, Costume Assistance, and more. On top of a full theatre schedule, she is studying to become a certified dog trainer and volunteers her time working with shelter dogs at Sammies Friends! She is so thankful to all of the wonderful individuals who have helped her on her theatrical journey through the years!

**Jilline Henderson (Prop Manager)** most recently was stage manager for the CATS production of *The Great Leap*, and previously worked with them on the wonderfully funny play, *Chinglish*, as well as their sumptuous production of *M. Butterfly*. Her list of Sierra Stages shows includes: the epic musical *Sweeney Todd*, the intimate *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *The Bridges of Madison County*, *The Thanksgiving Play*, *Cabaret*, *Hand to God*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *Blithe Spirit* and *Guys and Dolls*.

**Jay Barker (Makeup Artist)** Jay has dabbled in Special FX as a hobby for much of his life, and has provided makeup and practical FX locally for *Dracula*, *Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *Fuddy Meers*, the short film *Hell Week*, and assisted with *Evil Dead: The Musical*. He can act, too.

**Ari Rampy (Music Associate)** is a multidisciplinary artist and creator. She holds a Masters in Devised Performance from The Pig Iron School and University of the Arts, and has been making theatre for over 20 years. Recent roles include Rose in *The Flick* (Shotgun Players in Berkeley), and being Arthur's mom. Her first theatre job took place in this very room, when she was 11.

**Leo Hill (Stage Crew)** is a college freshman currently pursuing a career as a theatre technician. His specialties are in electrics and lighting but is willing and able to do anything as long as he doesn't have to interact with the general public. He has worked for Sierra Stages as the stage manager for *The Revolutionists*, as crew on *Guys and Dolls*, *The Moors*, *Sweeney Todd*, and has also worked on a multitude of Bear River Community Theatre Productions.

**Jessica Wermes (Crew Mic Operator)** is stoked to be back in the theatre with her second Sierra Stages production! She is often found behind-the-scenes as a set designer, stage hand and assistant stage manager. She also enjoys being on stage and performed in the musicals *Crazy For You* and *Working*. She has sung in many concert bands and choruses and even made her way to the Carnegie Hall stage. She is extremely grateful for the community she's found in this beautiful part of California, and is looking forward to future collaborations.

**Ariel Elliott (House Manager)** is thrilled to have joined the Sierra Stages production team. She is a born and raised Nevada County local, who's been performing here since she was 12. Ariel has a AA-T in Theatre Arts from Sierra College. You may have seen her most recently in *Joy Luck Club* as Rose Hsu. Last year she directed the stage reading *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* for Sierra Stages. Ariel is pursuing her Native American Studies degree to help keep her own culture alive. She hopes to be a fluent speaker and story keeper.

## SIERRA STAGES IS A NONPROFIT, TAX-EXEMPT COMMUNITY THEATRE.

Sierra Stages has been bringing professional-level community theatre to Nevada County for 15 years.

We incorporated in October 2008, and received tax-exempt status in March 2009. Our mission is to enrich the cultural life of Nevada County by providing high-quality, affordable, and accessible performances for everyone.

Now in our 15th season, we have presented or co-presented 45 full productions at the Nevada Theatre, Off Center Stage, Miners Foundry Cultural Center, The Center for the Arts, and outdoors at The North Star House:

**Side by Side by Sondheim, The Sound of Music, How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying, She Loves Me, Into the Woods, Babes in Arms, Lend Me A Tenor, A Grand Night for Singing, Marry Me A Little, Old Explorers, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Death of a Salesman, I Want It All: A Broadway Revue Celebrating Women, The Music Man, Assassins, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Avenue Q, Closer Than Ever, Company, Proof, Peter Pan, You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, The Producers, Falsettos, The Cripple of Inishmaan, The Last Five Years, Little Shop of Horrors, Dead Man's Cell Phone, End Days, Chicago, Ordinary Days, A New Brain, Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach, You Can't Take It With You, Hand to God, Cabaret, The Thanksgiving Play, Blithe Spirit, The Bridges of Madison County, Tiny Beautiful Things, Sweeney Todd, The Moors and Guys and Dolls.** We also have co-presented eleven seasons of Theater by the Book play readings with the Miners Foundry—more than 53 play readings and cabarets over ten years!

We strive for quality in all aspects of our productions, while working with local actors, directors, designers, technical staff and musicians. The members of our board of directors are Erin Beatie, Valarie Bush, Heidi Grass, Laura LeBleu, JR Lewis, Keith Porter, Kirsti Powell, and Hunter Reed. Our executive director is Michele Nesbit.

# 2023 Season Sponsors

Thank You to Our Contributors and Members - we are grateful to you!

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## **Production Staff (\$200-\$249)**

Reinhold Ernst, Joe & Clydene Hohenrieder, Ray & Cathy Shepherd

**Stage Manager (\$100-199)** Kendall Baldrige, Cicely Brookover, Larry & Mary Anne Dulmage, Gwen Eymann, Elizabeth Hammond, Mark Hotels, Barry & Bonnie Howard, Monroe Lovelady, Jeffrey & Susan Mason, Doug Morgan, Detlef & Thelma Osburg, Ronnie Paul & Jeff Kane, Bob and Cheryl Riopel, Joann Ryan, Carole Schreier, Judy Seabridge, Thomas Taylor, Barbara Thomas, Jeanne Thies, Mick & Kat Tuttle, Diane Walker

**Friend (\$50-99)** Lee Auerbach, Marlene Becker, Margaret A Brewer, Helen Cavanaugh, Catherine Chase, Tom Clark, Vince Dallugge, Patrick Delaney & Mark Hotsenpiller, Catherine Diamond, Jeanette Dunckel, George & Janet Dunstan, Timothy Geckle, Hindi Greenberg *in memory of Ken Getz*, Elizabeth Hammond, Holli Hiraoka, Mark Hotsenpiller, Theresa Houtman, David Imgrund, Michelle Jewel, Susana Knox, Azriel & Michael LaMarca, Debra Lindh, *In memory of Ken Getz* - Liz Lydic - *California Community Theatre*, Carol Mattis, John & Susie Monary-Wilson, Nancy Morehouse, Sid Page, Joyce Pierce, Leanne Regan, Gordon Sakaue, Paul Schierenberg, Henry Shires, Janet & Rawlin Trimble, Miranda & Chris Wensel, contribution *in honor of Meg Christianson, Anonymous in memory of Ken Getz*

**Cast Member (\$ Incalculable)** Special thanks to every cast member for donating their valuable time and often real cash for snacks. And thanks to Sierra Stages for their generous cast-snack donation fund.

*Our list reflects gifts received after October 1, 2022 and as of September 12, 2023. We apologize in advance for any errors or omissions; please contact us at [info@sierrastages.org](mailto:info@sierrastages.org) so we can acknowledge you properly.*

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# Scrooge

*says it's never too early to  
plan for Christmas!*



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## ROBERTA FRANK THEATRE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

**IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE OUR 2023 RECIPIENT IS LEO HILL!**

In 2015, Sierra Stages established an annual scholarship in memory of local musician and actress Roberta Frank. The scholarship recognizes and provides financial assistance to deserving local high school students who wish to pursue a degree in theatre, technical theatre, or music or musical theatre. Sierra Stages is proud to be able to offer this scholarship to graduating local high school students with a proven interest in any of the theatre arts.

For more information, talk to the scholarship coordinator at your local high school or call Sierra Stages at 530.346.3210

SIERRA  
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Tickets & Information

[sierrastages.org](http://sierrastages.org)

THANK YOU ERIN & DAN THIEM

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## ONCE & AGAIN

**JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF SIERRA STAGES' GREATEST HITS  
AND A SNEAK PEEK AT WHAT THE FUTURE MAY BRING!**

Our Once and Again Musical Revue will feature some of your favorite performers singing your favorite songs from past shows such as Cabaret, Sweeney Todd, Chicago, Guys and Dolls, Bridges of Madison County, and more. This event is both a sentimental journey and a look into the future, with new songs from shows we're considering for our 2024 season ... or maybe even the future...

Music direction is provided by Ken Hardin of InConcert Sierra, with performances by familiar faces such as Casey Burke, Christi Colombo, Micah Cone, Heidi Grass, Kate Haight, Jonathan Hansard, and Kenny Miele.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
PERFORMANCES ARE NOVEMBER 1 AND 6 ONLY.**

**SIERRA  
STAGES**



**THEATER BY  
THE BOOK**

**IS BACK!** JOIN US AT THE MINER'S FOUNDRY THIS FALL.  
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**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SIERRA STAGES!**

You can keep the good karma going by making a tax-deductible donation or volunteering for a production. People like you keep our performances alive, so we hope to see you (and your friends) in the theatre for the next show!

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“Devised theatre” is an integral part of my early acting experiences. A cast and its director take a short story or an historical event and improvise scenes and dialogue to flesh out the narrative. It’s all very 1970’s – the years I studied drama at UC Berkeley. Back then, it was trendy to develop original projects based on stories such as Herman Hesse’s *Siddhartha* and Thomas Mann’s *Mario and the Magician*. In recent years, I loved going to the local “Nugget Fringe Theater Festival,” with its magicians, stand-up comics, improv teams, and devised theatre productions performed in unusual venues around town, including a hotel bathroom, the back of an auto body shop, an upstairs closet in a former mortuary.

When I learned that three Canadian actresses and their director had devised a play based on “The Brides in the Bath,” a true crime story from Edwardian England, I was fascinated. And, when I read that they had taken the project “on the road” to the Canadian Fringe Festival, I was hooked. Fringe? Devised Theatre? Three actresses playing 22 different roles? Perfect! After eyeing *The Drowning Girls* for a few years, I proposed that Sierra Stages mount a production. When I learned that we would stage it in St. Joseph’s Chapel, I was thrilled. We would do the show in the round, with the audience surrounding the stage. The unusual environment would perfectly replicate the Fringe experience: going to a strange, new venue, witnessing a unique performance, participating in an exciting event. Welcome to Sierra Stages’ version of *The Drowning Girls*. - **Sharon Winegar**

