A woman’s relationship to her body is undeniable.

YERMA

by Federico García Lorca
translated by Ursula Rani Sarma
director Mercedes Bátiz-Beníét

Managing Artistic Director Caleb Marshall
Director of Education & Programming Heather Burns
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Since March, we have all had to forge a way forward. Our work changed overnight, and we could look back at our own naivete in the ‘before time’ with a longing nostalgia. Perhaps once in a generation there is an event that so deeply impacts the very nature of life on this planet that it becomes their defining moment.

As a society we have had to forge a way forward. As educators we have had to forge a way forward, as education is essential to our future. As live performers, we are working to forge a way forward in an industry that was the first to close and will be the last to fully return; and yet ‘live performance’ is so crucial and necessary to expressing our very soul and the struggles we confront.

Our season theme is not rebuilding or reshaping our world. That sounds too easy. It is also not simply “time to start over” or “the dawn of something new”, as if it’s all happening whether we choose to participate or not. No, it’s forging a way forward, because it is hard work. It’s as hard as bending metal and will put the full strength of our human endurance to the test.

The choices we make now, how we choose to stay safe and yet forge ahead, will define us for decades. Our choices will determine if the next generation is prepared to lead when their time comes. They need education, art and expression, and we need stories told that both inspire and motivate, while reflecting our reality and choices back to us.

This season takes us from familiar isolation and frustration to disobedience, the emergence of free-will and self-determination, and ultimately, for all our characters – and all of us.... the need to adapt.

We look forward to exploring these themes with you this year. In-person or from a distance, the power of storytelling is not diminished.

Caleb Marshall
Managing Artistic Director
Welcome to our first production of the 2020-21 season. More than ever before, we are so grateful to be sharing this experience with you. When we looked ahead to the present from the “socially distanced” and isolated worlds we found ourselves in in the late spring, it was truly a deep hope in our hearts that guided us. We set the course for our season with the belief that there would be a way for our students to continue to create and produce live theatre in person. Our “Company C” Studio Ensemble assembled in mid-September and have not looked back once, embracing all the new ways of being, creating, and working together in space.

We have had the honour of having Mercedes Bátiz-Benét direct and guide for our students through Yerma. She introduced them to the world of this poignant and thought-provoking piece. The music, themes, characters, and story, rooted in the Spanish culture, carry us to a time and place far from our modern day. They have challenged all of us, artistically and productionally, to deliver this young woman’s deeply personal story to you in an authentic way.

Thank you so much for continued investment and interest in the students at CCPA and the work, stories and characters they are bringing to life. We look forward to sharing the path of this next year with you, our audience, as we “forge a way forward” through an uncharted, yet still inspiring and artistically rich, journey.

Heather Burns
Director of Education & Programming
From the Director

It has been an enormous pleasure to work with these fine young theatre makers. Their indomitable dedication is inspiring, and it’s been a privilege for me to introduce them to Yerma, a true masterwork of the world stage. I believe it’s vitally important for all of us, young or old, to engage deeply with other cultures, and one of the most potent ways we can do that is through the arts, where we speak to each other at the deepest level we can muster. Through Lorca’s poetic text, we are able to access another time, another place, another people – but through that poetry we are also driven to a deeper realisation, that there is a fundamental similarity between us all. As much as we might dress ourselves up in a million different costumes, we share the brute reality of our bodies, the surging cycles of birth and death that stretch backwards to humanity’s dawn and beyond. That Lorca situates womanhood so centrally in this narrative is what makes this play unique, and what connects it with a deeper tide than politics or war: the tide that bore us all to the shore of life, and will take us back to emptiness, in the end.

Thank you for joining us.

Mercedes Bátiz-Benét
Director

Mercedes Bátiz-Benét is a Mexican-Canadian multi-disciplinary artist, writer, and award-winning director. She was born and raised in Mexico and in 1997 she moved to Canada. She holds a BFA in Creative Writing in both poetry and drama, and a BA Honours in Philosophy from the University of Victoria. Productions of her work include Faust: Ignis Fatuus (FaustFest International Festival), Shining Through, Lágrimas Crueles (Teatro Salvador Novo in Mexico City), With Open Arms, El Jinete - A Mariachi Opera, Cruel Tears/Lágrimas Crueles, a Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre and Puente Theatre co-production, and as co-writer, The Secret Sorrow of Hatchet Jack Macphee for The Caravan Farm Theatre in BC, The Erotic Anguish of Don Juan with the Old Trout Puppet Workshop, The Umbrella, an Old Trout Puppet Workshop and Puente Theatre co-production, and Puente Theatre’s Gruff. In 2014, Mercedes won the Canadian Stage Award for Direction at the SummerWorks Festival with her play El Jinete - A Mariachi Opera, and in 2015 she was chosen as the Distinguished Alumna of the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Victoria. She is the poetry, fiction, and non-fiction editor at Bayeux Arts, and the artistic director of Puente Theatre.
The Canadian College of Performing Arts and “Company C” Studio Ensemble present

YERMA

by Federico García Lorca
translated by Ursula Rani Sarma

director
choreographer / student business manager
composer & music director
music mentor / guitar tracks / livestream assistant
additional compositions (Yerma)
stage manager
assistant stage manager
set design
scenic artist
sound design
projection design
lighting design
costume design
props
student marketing / box office / front of house
production assistant

Mercedes Bátiz-Benét*
Jaime Butler
Kianna King
Pedro M. Siqueira
Niah Davis
Ella Daly
Kelsey Launier
Josephine Kay & Tessa Thompson
Carole Klemm
Niah Davis & Elan Miller-Jeannotte
Niah Davis & Sammy Radelfinger
Nathaniel Exley & Sammy Radelfinger
Emily Dehod & Emily Pugsley
Nathaniel Exley & Elan Miller-Jeannotte
Danica Charlie
Eleanor Kschischang

Managing Artistic Director
Director of Education & Programming /
Studio Ensemble Program Advisor
Studio Ensemble Production Manager

Caleb Marshall
Heather Burns
R.J. Peters

Content Advisory
Sexually explicit content, violence, strong language, fog.

Yerma is approximately 2 hours and 25 minutes in length, including two 10 minute intermissions.

This version of Yerma was first presented in the Courtyard Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse on 5 March 2011. This production of the play is amateur.

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Company Bios

Jamie Butler  
*Ensemble*

Jaime Butler is originally from Sechelt, BC. She is overjoyed to return to CCPA as a part of this year's Company C. Some of her recent credits include: *West Side Story*, *The Crucible* (CCPA), and *Electric Fire* (PNE). Jaime is delighted to share these incredible pieces of theatre alongside her fellow castmates. And of course, Jaime would like to thank her family, always.

Danica Charlie  
*Ensemble*

From Victoria, Danica is a twenty one year old actor who is grateful to be back in person at CCPA to further her education. She is elated to be working on three incredible productions, and grateful to have been given the opportunity to portray Satan in the western Canadian premiere of *Paradise Lost* this season. She hopes you enjoy what Company C has been able to accomplish.

Ella Daly  
*Stage Manager*

Ella is a performing artist and creator born in beautiful Victoria, BC. She is honoured and privileged to have this opportunity to perform and create as a part of Company C in the midst of a global pandemic. Ella is overjoyed to continue learning with her favourite group of people. She would like to thank her fellow castmates, mentors, and directors for their support, passion, and courage.

Niah Davis  
*Yerma*

Niah is a twenty year old Victoria based actor and singer. She's been training in the arts since she was eleven, mainly in singing, stage theatre and dance. Past credits include: Ariel (*Little Mermaid*), Amy March (*Little Women*), Maria (*West Side Story*), Abigail Williams (*The Crucible*), and Les (*Newsies*). It's incredibly exciting to be a part of Company C this year to develop her craft more. She hopes you enjoy the shows.
Company Bios

Emily Dehod
Ensemble

Emily Dehod is an actor, dancer, and singer from Kelowna, BC. In her second year, Emily had the pleasure of acting in her first play at CCPA, playing Iago and Tybalt in the very fantastical play *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*. She is now excited to be a part of three more shows with Company C and hopes you will join the excitement and escape the quarantine for a while!

Nathaniel Exley
Juan

Nathaniel found the performing arts later in life and fell in love with it. He has always been interested in books and writing, and getting to bring those stories to life is immensely important to him. The arts as an outlet for opinion and personal expression is important to him and should be to society. Nathaniel is proud to get to work on three true masterworks.

Josephine Kay
Maria

Josie is from Penticton, B.C. She has loved the arts since she was little, so pursuing her education at CCPA has been a dream come true. She came to the school with some voice training and a willingness to learn, and will be leaving as a more well-rounded artist with the ability to sing, dance, act, and so much more. She thanks you for your support!

Kianna King
Ensemble

Kianna is twenty years old and was born in Calgary, AB. After graduating from high school she moved to Victoria to pursue a career in the arts here at the college and is so excited to be a part of Company C this year. She has always had a deep love for music and acting, and hopes that this year she can bring that love to others and help make the world a brighter place.
The 20-21 Company

Year I

Gina Bayliss
Isabella Blackwell
Shania Cabilao
Victoria Callin
Maya Chow
Benjamin Cooper
Phoenix Crawford
Elle DeCorby
Dustyn Forbes
Maxwell Gallagher
Ursula Grant
Evelyn Havens
Elizabeth Hilderman
Paris Iverson
Brayden Lord
Rain Mahendra
Michaela McLean
Lara Mullings
Jeanne Marie N’Gotta Amani
Yaoimin Pena
Amanda Reyes
Kaylee Ross
Jessica Sandoval-Arias
Jeremy Sinclair
Sian Spiller-Tisserand
Devon Walker
Brandon Wong

Year II

Alison Bendall
Statia Benny
Madeline Codling
Elizabeth Fehr
Sara Gargaro
Natasha Glass
Jaren Guerrero
Jean Hart
Mirs Hicks
Cooper Hiebert
Hannah Kinch
Mackenzie Langdon
Leo Livora
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Jaime Butler
Danica Charlie
Ella Daly
Niah Davis
Emily Dehod
Nathaniel Exley
Josephine Kay
Kianna King
Kelsey Lauzier
Elan Miller-Jeannotte
Emily Anne Pugsley
Sammy Radelfinger
Tessa Thompson
Company Bios

Kelsey Launier  
**Ensemble**

Kelsey Launier is twenty four years old, and a proud member of this year’s Company C. She took a passion to acting while growing up in Oliver, and has pursued the arts for 7 years out of high school. You may recognize her from her role as Constance in *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* last year. She’s so excited to work with her cohorts on bringing Victoria breathtaking shows, inside and out.

Elan Miller-Jeannotte  
**Ensemble**

Originally from Fort St. John in Northern BC, Elan grew up performing and training in community arts programs and shows. Her recent CCPA credits include Estella in *West Side Story*, Desdemona in *Goodnight Desdemona...* and Finch in the digital production of *Newsies*. Elan is very grateful for the opportunity to participate in Company C during these “unprecedented times” and share these beautiful stories.

Emily Anne Pugsley  
**Dolores / Female Mask**

Emily spent most of her life dancing in the Shuswap area of BC. She came to CCPA in 2018 and very soon re-established her love of theatre and dance. In 2019, she had the pleasure of playing Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible* and played a shared role of Katherine Plumber in our online production of *Newsies*. Emily is thrilled to embrace her roles this year and the new challenge of taking on Stage Manager in *Paradise Lost*.

Sammy Radelfinger  
**Victor / Male Mask**

Sammy is a twenty year old performer born and raised in Sooke, B.C. He is tickled pink with enthusiasm for this year’s season. Sammy is looking forward to working closely (but not too close) with his dear peers and the incredibly talented guest artists. Past credits include Race (*Newsies*), Tony (*West Side Story*), Putnam (*The Crucible*), Danny (*Grease*), Jeffrey (*Godspell*) and Lad #7 (*Tommy*).
Tessa Thompson  
*Old Woman*

Tessa is from Langford, BC. Growing up, her life was filled with music and visual art, but theatre is what stole her heart. She loves Company C because you learn about all aspects of theatre. Her goal after college is to be a stage manager. Tessa’s acting credits include *West Side Story, Middletown,* and *Working: the Musical* (CCPA); her stage managing credits include *Cabaret* (Royal Bay High), and *Goodnight Desdemona...* (CCPA).

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Founded in 1998, the Canadian College of Performing Arts offers three unique conservatory style post-secondary training programs, where emerging artists receive intensified, rigorous skill-based alternatives to academically oriented university programs. The curriculum is built on equal respect for all disciplines, and the belief that collaboration, partnership and community are the essence of theatre. We believe cultural leadership is cultivated through mentorships, community rooted volunteerism and fostering new creation.

We measure success by preparing a student to be a motivated self-employed business and an inspired artist, whose voice will better illuminate the human condition when they confidently enter the profession.

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