



proudly presents

LOOKING

By Norm Foster

Directed by
Sandy Mitchell



November 2nd - November 18th
Thursday-Saturday at 8pm and
Sunday matinees at 2pm



Tickets at Ticketpro.ca
bedfordplayers.ca



Ticketpro

"Looking" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Bedford Players
1408 Bedford Highway
Bedford NS

📷 bedfordplayers_theatre

f Bedfordplayrs



Please ensure cellphones and other devices that may disturb patrons or actors are silenced or turned off. Use of cellphones while actors are onstage is prohibited.

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recording of this production and distributing recordings or streams in any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the author's rights, and actionable under North American copyright laws.

For more information, please visit <https://concordtheatricals.com/resources/protecting-artists>

President's Message— Michael Stack



Welcome to the 2023/2024 season at Bedford Players. We are so happy to have you join us. We are excited to open our 2023-2024 season with *Looking* by Norm Foster. We are grateful to the Director, Sandy Mitchell, for bringing this wonderful production to our stage.

To our talented cast, crew and volunteers - our heartfelt thanks for bringing us your best. This production would not be possible without your hard work and commitment. We are profoundly grateful for your contributions. And our sincere thanks to you, our valued patrons. Without your unwavering support, community theatre at Bedford Players is not possible. Your presence and enthusiasm make the magic happen.

We invite you to join Andy, Matt, Nina, and Val as they navigate the pitfalls of looking for love in middle-age. Sit back and enjoy the show!

A business card for Lauren Burke, Owner/Candlemaker of Burning Flame Candle Co. The card features her name in a large, black, cursive font at the top. Below the name is the company logo, which includes a flame icon and the text "BURNING FLAME CANDLE CO. STAY LIT". To the right of the logo, it says "OWNER / CANDLEMAKER" and "STAY LIT". At the bottom, there are contact details: a website icon for "burningflame.ca", an email icon for "info@burningflame.ca", a location pin icon for "275 Rocky Lake Dr, Suite 19 Bedford, NS", and a phone icon for "902 219 1716". The entire card is enclosed in a thin orange border.

Our Canteen is open before curtain up and at intermission during each performance of this show!

Help support Bedford Players with your purchase of a beverage and a light snack.

All Canteen tips are donated to our Charity of Choice.

Did You know...?

Bedford Players Theatre consists entirely of volunteers!

If you're interested in volunteering with the theatre, either behind the scenes or on stage, please contact volunteer@bedfordplayers.ca
All are welcome!

Welcome to Parkland West Bedford

Imagine a community designed for your perfect day—from quality dining and exceptional service to social events and more, choice is always on the menu. Offering a full continuum of lifestyle options ranging from apartments to All-Inclusive and Supportive living, Parkland invites you to age in place among friends.



Book a tour today!

Contact Beth MacLellan at **782-503-1017**

experienceparkland.com/westbedford



Parkland[™]
RETIREMENT LIVING
WEST BEDFORD

Director's Message — Sandy Mitchell



Hello and welcome to the start of our 41st season here at Bedford Players! I'm delighted to be kicking it off with *Looking* by Norm Foster, one of Canada's finest playwrights. You might remember BP's presentations of *Maggie's Getting Married* and *The Love List*, or perhaps you recently enjoyed the rendition that our sister community theatre, TAG, presented of *On A First Name Basis*, all wonderful comedies by Norm Foster. When I first saw *Looking* a few years ago at CentreStage theatre in Kentville, I immediately thought it was a play that our BP audiences would enjoy. Judging by the amount of fun the cast and crew have had during rehearsals, you definitely won't be disappointed! This play takes place before online dating sites had become the norm, when the only choice was to search the classified ads in the hope of finding true love!

This is my very first foray into directing, and it's been a most enjoyable experience. I hope you agree that this is the perfect cast for this show. I also had a "dream team" to work with behind the scenes, especially my Stage Manager, Amanda Willmore, who always had my back and gave 110% every time.

To all of you attending our performance, thank you for your patronage, for without you, we are nothing. If you enjoyed the play, please tell your friends; there's no better advertising than 'word of mouth'. Now, sit back, relax, laugh loudly, and enjoy this very funny comedy.

Synopsis of the Play

Looking is the story of four middle-aged singles who are seeking relationships while navigating life's pitfalls.

Andy and Matt are long-time buddies looking for sure-fire ways to meet women. Val and Nina are best friends forever looking to meet men. Val is an O.R. nurse, Andy is in the storage business, Nina is a police officer, and Matt is the host of a morning radio show. Val agrees to meet Andy at a bar, and Nina and Matt are coaxed into joining their friends for support. Their relationships progress through the following weeks, setting off laughable plot twists and an unexpected hookup.

Cleverly written, touchingly funny, witty and insightful, *Looking* shows us we don't always get what we set our sights on, but what we end up with can be an unexpected surprise.

One of Norm Foster's "best, most enduring and endearing plays", *Looking* was first produced at the Victoria Playhouse in Petrolia, Ontario, in June 2005.

Play synopsis adapted from <https://www.concordtheatricals.com/p/2412/looking>

The Setting

The Time & Place: The play takes place in 2005 in a variety of venues over the course of a couple of months.

ACT I

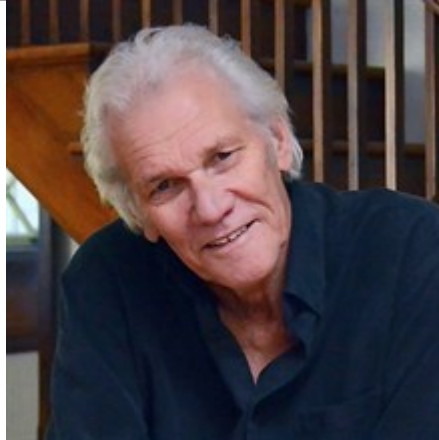
September 2005 at the Players Sports Club

ACT II

A month later at a pub called The Private Dick

There will be a 15-minute intermission between acts.

Meet the Playwright—Norm Foster



Norm Foster has been called Canada’s preeminent comic playwright. He is the most produced playwright in the history of the country and he receives, on average, an astounding 150 productions of his plays each year. It has been said that on any given day of the year, there is a Norm Foster play either in rehearsal or in performance somewhere in the world.

Foster is widely praised around the globe for his ability to write what he describes as “plays about ordinary people just trying to get by in life”. Those plays have earned him such accolades as “Foster’s stage writing remains one of Canada’s greatest theatrical treasures,” and “one of the funniest writers of intelligent comedy in Canadian theatre today”.

Not limiting his efforts only to writing, Foster also appears on stage as an actor several times each year.

Norm Foster has over 65 plays to his credit, including *The Foursome*, *The Melville Boys*, *Wrong For Each Other*, *The Love List*, *Outlaw*, *Lunenburg*, *Old Love*, *Looking*, *Halfway There* and *Mending Fences*.

Foster’s plays are known mainly for their comedic qualities, but they are not without their serious moments as well. As

Meet the playwright—Norm Foster

Foster himself has said, “I find it far more satisfying if I can make an audience laugh and feel a little heartache within the same story”.

He is the recipient of the Los Angeles Drama-Logue Award for his play *The Melville Boys*, The Beverly Hills NAACP award for his play *The Motor Trade*, and in 2009 Foster was a finalist for the Ontario Premier's Award For Excellence In The Arts.

Norm Foster was made an Officer of The Order of Canada in 2016 for his outstanding contribution to Canadian arts and culture. He is a long-time resident of Fredericton, New Brunswick.



THE *art* OF *music* LIVES HERE

Grand Pianos

Digital Pianos

Upright Pianos

Hybrid Pianos

Doctor Piano

Piano Sales, Services & Moving
1658 Bedford Highway, Unit 20, Bedford, NS
902-455-0880 | info@doctorpiano.ca
www.doctorpiano.ca

YAMAHA

The Cast (in order of appearance)

Andy..... Bryn Rowlands

Matt.....Randy Burt

ValMarina Romeo

Nina Katherine Tufts

Bar Patrons.....Alan Hollett, Wendy Hutt,
Bonnie Matthews, Patrick McGuire, Ellen Oldford,
Tim Taverner



**Bedford Players Theatre asks you
to please support our wonderful
sponsors, whose ads you see
throughout this program!**

The Cast (in order of appearance)



Bryn Rowlands (Andy) Bryn is very happy to be involved in this play with his long time buddy Sandy (Mitchell), his gifted fellow actors and superb crew. You might have seen Bryn onstage last at Bedford Players as the Sheriff of

Nottingham in *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*. He will also be directing the next BP production, *Unassisted Living*, which will open this coming March. He recently directed the critically acclaimed *August: Osage County* at Dartmouth Players last spring. Bryn often coordinates the set construction for our shows, and the set you see on this stage is an example of the designs he likes to dabble in. Enjoy!

Randy Burt (Matt) Originally from Stephenville NL, Randy has been involved in both community and professional theatre since 2006. Past productions include *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Clue*, *No Exit*, *The Birthday Party*, *Tuesdays With Morrie*, *Here on the Flight Path*, *Lie, Cheat and Genuflect*, and *Maggie's Getting Married*. Randy has also performed in numerous short films and as background in several TV series. Randy currently sits as Member at Large on Bedford Players' Executive Council and was previously Vice-Chair of Stephenville Theatre Festival.



The Cast (in order of appearance)



Marina Romeo (Val) New to the stage, Marina has always had a passion for live theatre and acting. She is excited for the opportunity to participate in a stage production at Bedford Players, and to live out one of her lifelong dreams. Marina has a great love of family and is thankful for their support and encouragement. Enjoy the show!

Katherine Tufts (Nina)

Katherine is excited to be back treading the boards with this fabulous cast! She was last seen at Bedford Players as Jessica Logan in *Jitters*. Her most recent show was with Dartmouth Players, as Barbara in *August:*



Osage County. Katherine has also had the opportunity to play professionally with The Villains Theatre and Shakespeare By The Sea, where she earned a Merritt nomination for best supporting actor (female) for her portrayal of Emilia in *Othello*. Katherine thanks her family for their love and support.

The Creative Team



Sandy Mitchell (Director) Sandy has been involved with Bedford Players for twenty plus years and decided that, before she hangs up her hat or ‘pops her clogs’, she ought to have a go at directing, since she’s tried everything else! As an actor, Sandy was last seen in BP’s *Cocktails with*

Mimi as Mrs. Dody DeVries, and in *A Fine Monster You Are*, playing the curmudgeonly old housekeeper. Her two favourite roles were in *Bedroom Farce* and *The Mousetrap*. However, her all time favourite role has to be entertaining children for twenty years as Chuckles the Clown.

Sandy would like to thank the fine actors and crew who made this adventure possible and enjoyable, including her directorial advisor Bryn Rowlands and her long suffering stage Manager Amanda.

Amanda Willmore (Stage Manager)

This is the first time Amanda has been a Stage Manager and she has really enjoyed working with this amazing cast and crew. You might recognize Amanda from her roles at BP in such shows as *Cocktails with Mimi*, *A Fine Monster You Are*, and *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*, to name a few. She has also appeared in a couple of stage productions at the Halifax Fringe Festival and has even tried her hand at co-writing a script for a short film.



Watching the show come together over the last few months and now to have you, our loyal and valued audience, here to watch it, is something she is so proud to be a part of. Enjoy the laughs and emotions that this Norm Foster play brings!

The Creative Team



Sanda Knox (Assistant Stage Manager) Sanda is a disabled actor who lives in the amazing Halifax/Dartmouth area. She has had a love for theatre and film since she was a young girl. Sanda is so excited to be joining the team at Bedford Players as the

Assistant Stage Manager for *Looking!* Hope you enjoy the show!

Photo credit: Sanda Knox

Two fun facts about *Looking*

- The setting of this play covers a variety of venues over the course of a couple of months. Clever set design and skillful lighting transport the audience from the gym to the pub, from the radio station to various front doors, and of course, back to the pub!
- During this play, reference is often made to jazz singer Holly Cole. By coincidence, Ms. Cole, who is a Halifax-born, award winning performer, is appearing at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium with Symphony Nova Scotia this December 1st and 2nd in *Home for the Holidays with Holly Cole*.

Pssst...See page 14 of this program for your chance to win two free tickets to that concert!

SYMPHONY NOVA SCOTIA

Home for the Holidays with
HOLLY COLE
AND SYMPHONY NOVA SCOTIA

DECEMBER 1, 2023 7:30PM
 DECEMBER 2, 2023 7:30PM
 The Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, Halifax

Featuring
 Greg Burton, conductor
 Holly Cole, vocals
 Symphony Nova Scotia

Celebrate the holidays with Symphony Nova Scotia and Halifax-born, award-winning jazz singer Holly Cole, who warms up the season with favourite holiday songs and her rich, vivacious vocals.

TICKETS: \$40 & UP • 902.494.3820 • symphonynovascotia.ca

Win tickets to see Holly Cole in Concert!

We're giving away two tickets to the December 1st concert of *Home for the Holidays with Holly Cole* to some lucky Bedford Players patron!

To enter the ticket draw, place your name and phone number on a paper ballot and deposit it into the marked box in the lobby. **One entry per patron.**

Draw will take place November 19th and the winner will be notified by phone. Good luck!

Supporting Our Community

For each of our productions, Bedford Players donates tickets to local not-for-profit organizations to sell. The tickets, usually for the opening weekend, are sold at regular prices with all proceeds going to the organization. We thank TicketPro for recognizing this contribution and providing these tickets with no service fees.

Fundraising support for this production is given to **The Stephen Lewis Foundation—Grandmothers to Grandmothers** and the **Nova Scotia Nature Trust**.



Along with our fundraiser groups, Bedford Players selects for each production a **Charity of Choice** from causes close to our members' hearts. The selected charity receives \$1 from every ticket sold along with patron donations and tips from our canteen.

The Charity of Choice for *Looking* by Norm Foster is **Friends of Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Society**. This group was formed and incorporated in 2018 to expedite the process of the formation of one of Canada's largest urban wilderness parks. More information about their work and about the group can be found at bluemountainfriends.ca



Creative Team Leads

Director	Sandy Mitchell
Stage Manager.....	Amanda Willmore
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Sanda Knox
Producer	Alexander MacDougall
Lighting & Sound Design	Stephen Melanson
Pre-Show Slide Presentation	Alexander MacDougall
Props.....	Trevena Trimmer
Set Construction & Painting.....	Bryn Rowlands & Beth Spratt
Set Dressing	Michele Gaudet & Trevena Trimmer
Wardrobe	Terri Smith-Fraser
Hair & Make-Up.....	Bonnie Matthews & Ellen Oldford

Administrative Team Leads

Artistic Director	Michele Gaudet
Technical Director	Stephen Melanson
Ticketing Liaison	Alexander MacDougall
Sponsorship Coordinator.....	Joy Resch & Bonnie Matthews
Canteen Manager.....	Michael Stack & Michael Taylor
Front of House Manager.....	Pat Brinton & Ann Merritt
Front of House Volunteer Coordinator....	Rhea Vardy-McPhee
Hall & Lobby Setup.....	Pat Brinton & Lawrence Baker
Headshot Photographer	Jay Fisher
Rehearsal Photographer	Carl Wills
Poster & Program Editor.....	Elaine Melanson
Program Proofreader	Karen Waterfield
Poster Distribution	Stephen Melanson
Telephone Notification Lead	Sandy van der Made
Volunteer Coordinator	Sandy Mitchell
Volunteer Database Manager	Rose Pearle
Newsletter Editor	Elaine Melanson
Social Media Leads.....	Sandy Mitchell, Karen Waterfield, Stephen Melanson, Elaine Melanson
Website	Alexander MacDougall
Charity & Fundraising Liaison.....	Wendy Hutt

Production Volunteers

Front of House & Canteen

Sandi Corbin
Barbara Cowan
Kristina Creamer
Denise Dreimanis
Linda Finnie
Linda Goldwater
Helen Goyan
Lillian Goyan
Clair Henderson
Lynne Isnor
Rose Anne Kennedy
Elaine Melanson
Peggy Parker
Joy Resch
Kandy Simpson
Lisa Sutherland
Leo Weniger

Set Construction & Painting

Joe LeBlanc
Duncan MacPhee
Stephen Melanson
Sandy Mitchell
Slavko Negulic
Joy Resch
Tristen Veneer

Hair & Make-up

Cast members

Wardrobe

Terri Fraser Smith
Cast members

Music & Sound Effects

Stephen Melanson

Lobby Transformation

Elaine Melanson
Ann Merritt
Peggy Parker
Beth Spratt

Hall Transformation

Cast & crew members
Members of the
Knights of Columbus
Council 9404:
Lawrence Baker
Daniel Leblanc
Bryden MacKinnon
John Roberts
David Smith

Phone Notification

Diana Mabbett
Marie MacIsaac
Dianne McDonald
Rose Pearle
Debbie Saarloos

Poster Distribution

Sandy Mitchell
Lynn Reiker
Joy Resch
Amanda Willmore
Cast & Crew

Stage Crew

Cast members
Tim Taverner

Lighting Crew

Barbara Cowan
Duncan MacPhee
Stephen Melanson
Andrew Shipley
Brad Stevens
Bryn Rowlands

Technical Operators

Kevin Gerrior
Duncan MacPhee
Emma Whitley

Props

Michele Gaudet
Trevena Trimmer

Set Dressing

Michele Gaudet
Trevena Trimmer

Promotions

Kevin Gerrior
Stephen Melanson
Sandy Mitchell

*And others whose
names
may have been
omitted due to
publishing deadlines.
THANK YOU!*

posters printed by



Bedford Players' Executive Council

President.....Michael Stack
Vice-President..... Alexandra French
Past President..... Elaine Melanson
TreasurerAlexander MacDougall
Secretary Pat Brinton
Artistic Director Michele Gaudet
Member at Large.....Amanda Willmore
Member at Large.....Ann Merritt
Member at Large.....Mike Taylor
Member at Large..... Randy Burt
Member at Large.....Joy Resch
Member at Large/Church Liaison..... Fred French



**Headshots for
People Who
Hate Having
Their Photo
Taken**

www.captureit.photography

  @captureit.photog



Proud to support Bedford Players
Enjoy the show!

We appreciate...

All Saints Anglican Church, Wardens, Pastors, Church Secretary, Caretaker and Parishioners for their on-going support and for our wonderful rehearsal and performance venue.

Halifax songstress Holly Cole and Symphony Nova Scotia for their generous donation of a concert poster and two free tickets to the December 1st performance of *Home for the Holidays with Holly Cole*

Media Voice Productions for the loan of radio props

Our **Sponsors** who are found throughout this program. Please support them with your patronage!

Our many **Volunteers** who work diligently to make our productions a huge success. Their time, talents and efforts are greatly appreciated by all.

You—**Our Patrons**—who make it all worthwhile!

THANK YOU

Coming Soon...



Unassisted Living

two hilarious one-act plays
by Halifax playwright JL Allen

Directed by Bryn Rowlands

**Selected dates February 29-
March 16, 2024**



A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Tamara Smith

**Selected dates November 17-
December 3, 2023**

Theatre Arts Guild

tagtheatre.com

Santa Claus—the Panto

by Diana Kimpton

Directed by Kimberly Charron

**Selected dates November 23-
December 9, 2023**

Mader's Roofing

Flat & Asphalt Shingle Roofing



*"Let Mader's recover
your investment"*

902 492-2868

ALL TYPES MASONRY SERVICES

Mader's Roofing Ltd

Larry Mader

Bus: 902 492-2868

Fax: 902 864-1557

Cell: 902 830-4236

P.O. Box 254

Lower Sackville, NS,

B4E 2Z6

www.madersroofing.com

info@madersroofing.com