



Thursday to Sunday
November 7 to 23, 2024
Thu-Sat 8pm - Sun 2pm



By Michael McKeever

Directed by Elaine Melanson

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.
(www.playscripts.com)

Logo & Poster Art: Sayre Street Books
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Bedford Players Theatre
1408 Bedford Highway
Bedford, NS



Bedford Players Community Theatre

1408 Bedford Highway

Bedford NS



/bedfordplayrs



@BedfordPlayers

To advertise in our program contact:

programs@bedfordplayers.ca

The use of cameras, cell phones, and all recording devices is prohibited in the theatre. Please ensure cell phones and other devices that may disturb patrons or actors are turned off.

Bedford Players Community Theatre consists entirely of volunteers. If you're interested in volunteering with the theatre, please contact:

volunteer@bedfordplayers.ca

There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts.

The canteen will be available before the show and during intermission.



Presents...



By Michael McKeever

Directed by Elaine Melanson

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President's Message



Interim President
Elaine Melanson

Hello and welcome to Bedford Players! Whether you're a long time patron or a first time visitor to our theatre, we're very happy to have you here.

It's hard to believe that we're already beginning our 42nd season as Bedford's community theatre. We continue to strive to bring you the highest quality shows possible and our season opener, *37 Postcards*, a comedy by Michael McKeever, is sure to fit the bill. The cast and crew are raring to go to bring you a wonderful performance!

Did you know that it takes about 100 volunteers to put together a show at Bedford Players? And they all do it out of the goodness of their hearts. No one at BP receives any monetary compensation for the time, talent, and hard work they put into our theatre productions and other activities. Volunteers are the backbone of our theatre and without them, we simply would cease to exist. Thank you to each and every volunteer, from those who lead on our Executive Council to those who help with even the smallest of tasks! You are indeed amazing.

If you're curious about getting involved with BP, please check out the Volunteering section of our website bedfordplayers.ca or speak to one of our volunteers in the lobby or canteen. We'd love to have you join us as part of the Bedford Players family!

Thanks for being here and supporting Bedford Players – enjoy the show!

Director's Message



Director
Elaine Melanson

I'm so excited to be directing Bedford Players' production of *37 Postcards* by Michael McKeever! This play marks my third time as a director here at BP. Previously I directed the comedy *Cocktails with Mimi* by Mary Chase in the spring of 2019, followed by the 10-minute play *Bank Withdrawal Symptoms* by Jim Gustafson in the summer of 2021, the latter as part of a Covid-shortened Bedford Days celebration.

The first time I came across the script for *37 Postcards* was during one of our Bedford Players monthly play reads last spring. I went from laughing hysterically to being so emotionally touched by this play that I immediately told our Artistic Director that I wanted to direct it this season. The playwright, Michael McKeever, describes it best when he says that *37 Postcards* is "a wonky play with a whole lot of heart".

I want to give huge, heartfelt thanks to each and every one of the BP volunteers who has worked so long and so tirelessly to bring *37 Postcards* to life. What you see on stage is the final product of many, many hours of time, talent, and energy, given to BP as a labour of love. Volunteers, your passion and enthusiasm are incredible!

Those same huge and heartfelt thanks go to you as well, dear patrons. I don't have the words to express our gratitude for your ongoing support of our community theatre tucked away here in a small corner of Bedford. I hope you howl with laughter and your heart is touched by this show. Enjoy!

Cast

In order of appearance

Evelyn Sutton Lorraine Cantwell
Aunt Ester Katherine Tufts
Avery Sutton Tim Barnett
Gillian Moore Heather MacPherson
Stanford P. Sutton Mike Taylor
Nana Robin Saywood

There's a moose on the loose!



Can you spot the moose on the set of **37 Postcards**? Play along and, if you find it, shhh! Don't spill the beans!

What does a moose have to do with our play, you might ask? You'll find out during the show.

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Proud to support Bedford Players
Enjoy the show!

Cast



Lorraine Cantwell
appearing as
Evelyn Sutton

You may remember Lorraine from several Bedford Players productions including *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, *Unassisted Living*, and the Agatha Christie mystery, *Murder on the Orient Express*. She is now beyond thrilled to once again be part of another Bedford production, *37 Postcards*, this time in the role of Evelyn, the distracted yet always well-meaning lady of the house. Lorraine notes that it has been so much fun to watch this production come to life under the skillful work of Elaine Melanson, the director, along with that of the absolutely wonderful cast that she has brought together in this fabulous play! Lorraine hopes that you will all enjoy this funny, yet poignant, production just as much as she does.



Katherine Tufts
appearing as
Aunt Ester

Katherine is excited to be back treading the boards with this wonderful cast! She was last seen on the Bedford Players stage as Nina in *Looking*. Over the past 12 years, she's had the pleasure to have performed in several productions with both The Bedford Players and The Dartmouth Players. Katherine has also had the opportunity to perform 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.

Cast



Tim Barnett
appearing as
Avery Sutton

Hailing from Prince Edward Island, *37 Postcards* marks Tim's return to performing on stage after over twenty years. Tim's background is in film and television. His past credits include *Trailer Park Boys* and *Lemon Squeezy* (directed by Kevin Hartford) along with a multitude of local short films in the Halifax region. When not acting, Tim can usually be found on a bike, planning around his next travel destination, or flocking with others to a movie theatre. He is humbled and honoured to be working alongside an incredibly talented cast. He would like to thank the Bedford Players Community for the opportunity and warm welcome.



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Cast




Heather MacPherson
appearing as
Gillian Moore

Heather got her start in community theatre by helping with Front of House and has had the great fortune to work both in front and behind the curtain on a number of shows over the years. Her last on-stage role was in Tartuffe at Dartmouth Players, and her last Bedford Players appearance was as Stage Manager for Four Weddings and an Elvis. She is beyond grateful to be back and working with this amazing team of artists. Much love to Grant for holding down the fort and tagging in for a lot of extra puppy walks.

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Cast



Mike Taylor
appearing as
Stanford P. Sutton

Having appeared in several productions on the BP stage (*Rumors, The Love List, Octogenarians of Anarchy*, to name a few) Mike is grateful to be returning to the stage where his love of theatre started. He has appeared in many shows on the Dartmouth Players and Theatre Arts Guild stages as well. He feels fortunate to be able to play the delightfully oblivious Stanford in this hilarious and heartwarming story. Enjoy the show you are about to experience, and thank you for supporting Bedford Players.



Robin Saywood
appearing as
Nana

Great to be back on stage of Bedford Players. Robin's theatrical journey started some years ago in Truro with the Hubtown Theatre, then to Bedford Players with a few visits to Dartmouth Players stage and the T.A.G. stage, acting, directing, building the odd set here and there. With his last role as Lefty a grumpy, 86 year old man, from there he has grown into an even grumpier old woman, "The Matriarch" Nana. What fun this is. Many thanks to Elaine, our director, for casting me in such a fun role, it has been a wonderful ride along with such a wonderful cast and crew. As always, sit back and enjoy and be prepared for a roller coaster ride.

The Play

Time The Present

Place The main room of the upper-class Sutton family home in Darien, Connecticut

Act 1

Scene 1: Morning

Scene 2: Around 10 pm, the same day

Act 2

Scene 1: Just after midnight, the next day

Scene 2: Late morning the same day

Scene 3: Mid afternoon

Scene 4: About one hour later

There will be a 15-minute intermission between acts.



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The Author



Michael McKeever

With wit, insight and a healthy dose of his quirky sense of humor, Mr. McKeever continues to entertain audiences throughout America, Europe, Canada, Australia, and Russia. He has been honored with an NEA Residency Grant, and has been a three-time finalist for Humana Festival's nationally renowned Heideman Award. He is the recipient of eight Carbonell Awards, four Silver Palm Awards, and three Florida Individual Artist Fellowships. He is also an award-winning actor and designer. He is a founding member of the award-winning Zoetic Stage in Miami. He resides in South Florida and is a member of the Dramatists Guild and Actors' Equity. For more information, visit www.michaelmckeeperplays.com.

From <https://www.playscripts.com/>

Did you know...?

Bedford Players Theatre consists of 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!

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Creative Team



Director

Elaine Melanson

Elaine has been a regular with Bedford Players for over 10 years. Although this is her third foray into directing a play here at BP, you might recognize her better as an actor in past BP productions of *Welcome to Paradise* (Evelyn), *The Cemetery Club* (Ida), *Sex Please, We're Sixty* (Mrs. Stancliff) and *Habit of Murder* (Sister Vivian), among others. Elaine also enjoys working behind the scenes at the theatre, whether it's painting stage walls, scanning tickets, serving coffee or being a part of the Bedford Players Executive Council. In her spare (?) time, she is involved in the film, TV and voiceover world. Elaine is exceptionally grateful for being given the chance to direct *37 Postcards* here in the theatre that is such an important part of her life, among friends that have become like family. It's been a wild ride, dear hearts! Tons of love to Steve for his support of my crazy hobby. Enjoy the show, everyone!

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Creative Team



Stage Manager

Emma Whitley

Emma got the theatre bug in elementary school, where she played one of the “boys” in *Oliver!* and a flying monkey in *The Wizard of Oz*. Having completed many Neptune Theatre School adult performance classes, Emma has been on stage several times, but as an adult recognized she preferred behind-the-scenes roles. At Bedford Players, Emma has been a tech (lights and sound) operator for 3 shows during our 2022-2023 season and Assistant Stage Manager of *Unassisted Living* (2024). Emma would like to thank all the directors, stage managers, producers, actors, and others she’s worked with who have helped her become the SM she is now.



Assistant Stage Manager

Randy Burt

Randy is excited to be doing Assistant Stage Manager duties for the first time with Bedford Players. Over the past 18 years he has performed in community theatre in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland & Labrador. Randy has also performed professionally with Stephenville Theatre Festival for two seasons. Randy was last seen as Matt in Bedford Players' production of *Looking*. He has also co-written and performed in several dinner theatre shows.

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 Bedford Grandmothers: The Stephen Lewis Foundation—Grandmothers for Grandmothers, and Feed Nova Scotia.



**Stephen Lewis
Foundation**

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 *37 Postcards* by Michael McKeever is the Cobequid Health Centre Foundation. The Foundation's mission is to inspire a strong spirit of giving to promote the advancement of healthcare closer to home. They desire to make the community a better place to live by providing quality healthcare for all.



**Cobequid
Health Centre
Foundation**

Creative Team Leads

Director	Elaine Melanson
Stage Manager	Emma Whitley
Assistant Stage Manager	Randy Burt
Production Manager	Stephen Melanson
Light & Sound Design	Duncan MacPhee
Pre-show Slide Presentation	Michele Gaudet
Set Design, Construction, & Painting	Elaine Melanson, Bryn Rowlands, & Beth Spratt
Props & Set Dressing	Amanda Willmore & Trevena Trimmer
Wardrobe	Terry Smith-Fraser & Sanda Knox
Hair	Alexandra French & Joy Resch
Make-up	Alexandra French
Logo and Poster Artwork	Neil Ericson
Set Background Artwork	Debbie Morrison

Administrative Team Leads

Artistic Director	Michele Gaudet
Technical Director	Duncan MacPhee
Ticketing Liaison	Rhea Vardy-MacPhee
Sponsorship Coordinator	Bonnie Matthews
Canteen Manager	Joe LeBlanc
Front of House Manager	Rhea Vardy-MacPhee
Assistant Front of House Manager	Tierney Thibodeau
Transportation	Bruce Colborne
Hall & Lobby Set Up	Knights of Columbus - Bedford
Photographer - Headshots	Jay Fisher
Photographer - Rehearsals	Carl Wills
Program	Alexander MacDougall
Poster	Neil Ericson
Program Proofreader	Elaine Melanson
Poster Distribution	Stephen Melanson
Telephone Notification Team	Sandy Van der Made
Volunteer Coordinator	Sandy Mitchell
Volunteer Database Manager	Rose Pearle
Newsletter Editor	Elaine Melanson
Social Media	Elaine Melanson & Sandy Mitchell
Website	Alexander MacDougall
Charity Coordinator	Wendy Hutt
Promotional Video Recording	Kevin Gerrior
Publicity	Stephen Melanson & Kelly Doney Morrison

Production Volunteers

Front of House & Canteen

Lynne Isnor
Clair Henderson
Lillian Goyan
Helen Goyan
Barbara Cowan
Joy Resch
Marie Savoie
Jane Thorne
Ann Merritt
Kim Shaw
Linda Goldwater
Rose Anne Kennedy
Amanda Willmore
Kristina Creamer
Susan Garland
Joan Eager
Wendy Hutt
Sandy Mitchell
Lisa Sutherland
Michele Gaudet
Rhea Vardy-MacPhee

Props and Set Dressing

Crystal MacMillan
Amanda Willmore
Trevena Trimmer
Sharon Costey

Transportation

Bruce Colborne

Poster Distribution

Sandy Mitchell
Amanda Willmore
Scott Christensen
Lynn Reicker

Set Construction & Painting

Lorne Morrison
Debbie Morrison
Joe LeBlanc
Beth Spratt
Bryn Rowlands
Slavko Negulic
Scott Christensen
Sanda Knox
Elaine Melanson
Stephen Melanson
Joy Resch

Hall Setup

Lawrence Baker
David Smith
Bryden MacKinnon
Brad Walker
Daniel LeBlanc
Don Murray
Tony Nicholson

Lobby Setup

Joy Resch
Michele Gaudet
Beth Spratt
Rhea Vardy-MacPhee

Lighting Crew

Kevin Gerrior
Duncan MacPhee
Stephen Melanson
Lorne Morrison
Sanda Knox

Technical Operators

Sanda Knox
Duncan MacPhee
Brad Morrison
Lorne Morrison

Music

Inspire Music

Hope Music

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Phone Notification

Diana Mabbett
Dianne McDonald
Rose Pearle
Debbie Saarloos

And others whose
names may have
been missed due to
publishing deadlines.

THANK YOU!

Bedford Players Executive Council

Interim President Elaine Melanson
Vice-President Alexandra French
Treasurer/Ticketing Liaison Rhea Vardy-MacPhee
Secretary Pat Brinton
Artistic Director Michele Gaudet
Technical Director Duncan MacPhee
Member at Large Fred Fench
Member at Large Ann Merritt
Member at Large Joy Resch
Member at Large Michael Stack
Member at Large Mike Taylor
Member at Large Amanda Willmore

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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.

Habitat for Humanity Restore for the loan of some set furnishings.

St Margarets Bay Lions Club for the loan of a Walker.

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!

Upcoming...



bedfordplayers.ca

Lunch Hour

by Jean Kerr

Directed by Lorraine Cantwell

February 27 - March 15



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On Air

by Rachel Franco

Directed by Joanne Arbuthnott

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The Little Mermaid Panto

By Wayne Miller

Directed by Kimberly Charron

November 21 - December 7