



Thursday to Sunday
November 6 to 22, 2025
Thu-Sat 7:30 pm - Sun 2 pm



a farce by Michael McKeever

directed by Robin Saywood

Bedford Players Theatre
1408 Bedford Highway
Bedford, NS



Bedford Players Community Theatre
1408 Bedford Highway
Bedford NS

 /bedfordplayers
 @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 or silenced.

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...



a farce by Michael McKeever
directed by Robin Saywood

"Suite Surrender" is produced by special arrangement
with Playscripts, Inc.
(www.playscripts.com)

**Special
Olympics**
Nova Scotia



President's Message



President
Elaine Melanson

It's that time again - the opening of another theatre season here at Bedford Players! Whether you're a first timer here at BP or a dedicated returning patron, we're very happy you've chosen to spend time with us.

This show, *Suite Surrender* by Michael McKeeever, is a farce - in the classical sense, that is! Directed by the multi-talented Robin Saywood, this play involves a very high level of physical comedy, letting the actors use choreographed movement to enhance the story line. Believe me, it takes hours and hours of rehearsal in order to get the split-second timing of entrances and exits exact to the millisecond. Given that the talented actors you see on our stage are amateur performers, it's even more amazing to watch them perform these complicated scenes with such precision.

Bravo to director Robin, Stage Manager Amanda Willmore, and all involved in putting on this show!

To everyone who contributed in any way to help bring this production to life, we offer a huge thank you. Bedford Players is entirely made up of volunteers who give generously of their time and talents to bring our audiences top-notch quality theatre. We couldn't do it without each and every one of you!

Our team is excited to put on a fantastic performance for you, our wonderful patrons. Get ready to laugh and enjoy this show! Thank you for supporting community theatre!

Director's Message



Director
Robin Saywood

It was a privilege and an honour to be asked to direct the opening production of Bedford Players' 2025-26 season - *Suite Surrender*.

This is a farce, beautifully written by Michael McKeever, the same playwright of *37 Postcards* fame, which I am sure many of you saw in the fall of 2024.

This is a fast paced, doors opening and shutting, chaos and panic, bodies flying, colourful characters, kind of play.

I have been blessed with an incredible cast who have given 110% and will give you 150%. These people all have day jobs, and yet, in just a little over two months, they are ready to give you superb, side-splitting quality entertainment. They have put up with being pushed and shoved, yelled at, and cajoled by the Director, studied lines in what spare time they have and yet, in spite of all this, they are always smiling (well, almost all the time!). Seriously though, we have had such fun, many laughs and made lasting friendships.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to all my dedicated cast, to the team of volunteers that make all this possible, my production team – many taking on thankless tasks – You are all my heroes.

And to you, the audience, for your support and appreciation. Without you, we are nothing. Enjoy the Show!

Cast

In order of appearance

Otis	Tim Barnett
Francis	Chris Boulter
Bernard S. Dunlap	Randy Burt
Mrs. Everett P. Osgood	Michele Gaudet
Dora Del Rio	Kelly Morrison
Claudia McFadden	Lise Renault
Mr. Pippet	Andrew Davies
Athena Sinclair	Ellen Oldford
Murphy	Teagan O'Reilly

The Play

Setting The Presidential Suite of the Palm Beach Royale Hotel in Palm Beach.
May 1942.

Act 1 Late afternoon in May

Act 2 A few moments later



RGH

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

101-222 Waterfront Drive Bedford, NS B4A 0H3

(902) 466-0053 info@rghca.com

**Personalized corporate tax and financial
solutions designed to help you succeed**

Charlie Robertson, CPA, CA
Principal

Craig Green, CPA, CA
Principal

Cast in order of appearance



Tim Barnett
appearing as
Otis

Tim is thrilled to return to Bedford Players, where he played Avery in *37 Postcards* and Oliver in *Lunch Hour* in 2024-25 season. His background in acting is still mostly for the camera, but stage is making its way up. He can usually be found hiking through the woods (the more lost the better), travelling abroad, or generally geeking out over movies—especially in the horror genre. He's glad to be reunited and working with the team - old and new members alike. Endless gratitude to his family and friends for the support.



Chris Boulter
appearing as
Francis

Chris is excited to be back with Bedford Players. He has performed in many farces and musicals in HRM, Pictou County, and Yarmouth. Favorite shows include *Run for Your Wife* where he played John Smith, *Crazy for You* as Lank Hawkins, *Sorry, Wrong Chimney* as David Tuttle, and *Four Weddings and an Elvis* as Marvin. Chris is a recipient of The Y'ARC's Performer of the Year and is a founding member of RFM Productions. Many thanks to this amazing cast and crew!

Cast in order of appearance



Randy Burt
appearing as
Bernard S. Dunlap

Randy is delighted to return to the Bedford Players stage for his fifth production. He's been performing in theatre for 19 years, which is just long enough to know that if the stage lights go out, you keep acting and hope someone's Nan brought a flashlight. He last performed in Bedford Players' production of *Lunch Hour*. He has acted in a variety of short films; some dramatic, some delightfully odd, all requiring at least one suspicious glance and a dramatic pause. He has also co-written and performed in dinner theatre shows where the punchlines flew faster than a bellhop dodging room service complaints. In *Suite Surrender*, Randy plays the hotel manager: overworked, under-caffeinated, and one diva away from a full-blown breakdown.



Headshots for
People Who
Hate Having
Their Photo
Taken

www.captureit.photography
f @captureit.photog



Proud to support Bedford Players
Enjoy the show!

Cast in order of appearance



Michele Gaudet
appearing as
Mrs. Everett P. Osgood

As well as being Artistic Director at Bedford Players, Michele has appeared in many community theatre productions, most recently as Mitzi in *A Murder is Announced* in June here at BP, and Mattie Fae in *August: Osage County* at Dartmouth Players in 2023. Among her favourite roles are Sandy in *Four Weddings and an Elvis* at BP, Mrs. Debenham in *Rope* at TAG, and Dorothy in *Glorious* at DP. Michele would like to thank Robin and the extraordinary company of *Suite Surrender* for making this experience such a delight, and to you our audience, for your continued and faithful support of Bedford Players. Please enjoy the show!



Kelly Morrison
appearing as
Dora Del Rio

Kelly is so excited to be back on stage! She was last seen at BP in *Murder on the Orient Express* as Greta the missionary, and recently had the pleasure of directing *A Murder is Announced* at BP this past June. Some of her more memorable roles include Polly in *Play On!*, the Clown in *Elephant's Graveyard* (Dartmouth Players), and Mae in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (TAG). She hopes you find this show as funny as the cast and crew do—because as the adage goes, laughter truly is the best medicine. Thanks so much to Robin for the opportunity to play Dora, and to her co-stars and crew for the wonderful camaraderie. Lastly, Kelly would like to send a special shout-out to Brad (her favourite real-life co-star and the best darn scene partner a gal could ask for)—thank you for all your encouragement!

Cast in order of appearance

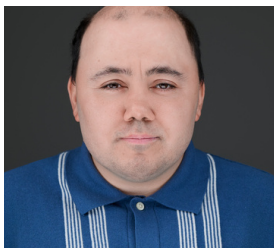


Lise Renault
appearing as
Claudia McFadden

Lise has been performing with community and independent theatres in Halifax for over a decade, but this production marks her début with BP. Select theatre credits include *Sherlock by Wireless*, *Santa Claus the Panto*, *Red Riding's in the Hood*, *Wizard of...Oz?*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *Puss in Boots*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Theatre Arts Guild); *Ibsen Bites* (LunaSea); *The Maid's Tragedy* (Villain's Theatre); *The Mikado* (G&S Society); *Street Scene*, *Susannah*, *Dialogues des Carmélites* (HSOF); *Run for Your Wife*, *Inherit the Wind*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (Dartmouth Players). Also a classically trained singer, she has provided vocal coaching for HWHS musicals *The Addams Family*, *Hairspray* and *Fame*. This diva could not have done this without the support of Jesse.

Our canteen is open before the show starts, and at intermission during each performance. Help support Bedford Players with your purchase of a beverage and a light snack (cash only). All canteen tips are donated to our Charity of Choice,
**Special Olympics
Sackville-Bedford**

Cast in order of appearance



Andrew Davies
appearing as
Mr. Pippet

Andrew is excited to be making his Bedford Players debut as Mr. Pippet. He was last seen in Dartmouth Players' *Glance Bay Miners Museum* and has also appeared in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Twelfth Night*. When he's not acting, Andrew can be found playing the guitar, writing, and obsessing about film.



Ellen Oldford
appearing as
Athena Sinclair

Ellen has been active in Nova Scotia's theatre scene since 2009, with occasional dips into film projects. A lover of the outdoors, she spends her time hiking, ocean kayaking, gardening—and she's completely smitten with her beloved cat, Mr. Jetson. Ellen is delighted to return to Bedford Players for this wild and funny production. "Thank you, Robin, for the opportunity, and heartfelt love and appreciation to the cast and crew for their friendship and hard work on this play. And Patrick, thank you for pushing me out the door to audition. To our audience, you make this worthwhile for us--thank you for supporting local theatre. Enjoy the show, laugh lots!"

Cast in order of appearance



Teagan O'Reilly
appearing as
Murphy

Recently graduated from Acadia University, Teagan is so excited to work with Bedford Players for the first time on their production of *Suite Surrender!* She has always loved theatre and performance arts and after teaching and directing youth theatre for the past year, Teagan is thrilled to be back on stage. Teagan would like to say a huge thank you to her fellow cast and crew for welcoming her into the Bedford Players Theatre community and hopes you enjoy the show!

Thank you for supporting
Bedford Players.

Please let your friends know about us.
Word-of-mouth is our best advertising!



BLINDS / SHADES / SHUTTERS / DRAPERIES / SMART HOME / COMMERCIAL



Gotcha Covered Seeview Blinds and Shutters

902.422.1231 / halifax@gotchacovered.com / gotchacovered.com/greater-halifax

About the Playwright

Michael McKeever



With wit, insight, and a healthy dose of his quirky sense of humour, playwright Michael McKeever continues to entertain audiences throughout America, Canada, Europe, Australia, and around the world with his engaging and entertaining plays.

An award-winning actor and designer, he has been honoured with a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Residence 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.

McKeever has written twenty-six full length plays that have been produced at some of the most prestigious theatres in North America and Europe. Some of his better known works include *Clark Gable Slept Here*, *37 Postcards*, *Suite Surrender*, *Charlie Cox Runs with Scissors*, and *Melt*.

Creative Team



Director
Robin Saywood

Robin has been part of the Bedford Players family since 1994. Prior to that he was very active in Hubtown Theatre in Truro for 10 years, acting and directing. He has visited the stages of Dartmouth Players and Theatre Arts Guild as an actor and Director. Favourite roles over the years have been the lead roles in *No Sex Please We're British*, *Run for Your Wife*, and directing *Rumours* and *Move Over Mrs. Markham*, to name but a few. Robin has also built sets, stage managed and worked Front of House. This time he gets to sit with you all and have a good laugh. One advantage of being the Director is that he gets a free ticket for 11 performances. Sit back, relax, sip a glass of wine, and oh yes, enjoy the show!



Stage Manager
Amanda Willmore

Amanda is thrilled to be Stage Manager for this hilarious production. She has really enjoyed working with the amazing cast and crew. Watching the show come together over the last couple of months and now for you, our loyal and valued audience, to watch it, is something she is so proud to be a part of!

Creative Team



Assistant Stage Manager
Sanda Knox

Our Assistant Stage Manager, Sanda Knox, has been volunteering with Bedford Players for approximately four years. Getting her theatrical start in youth theatre, she has also been involved with TV and film productions since 2018. She fell in love with acting and production, and well as with all the friends she has made on the journey. Enjoy the show, everyone!



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 Sackville Seniors Advisory Council and the Knights of Columbus Council 9404 Bedford.



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 *Suite Surrender* by Michael McKeever is **Special Olympics Sackville-Bedford**. This group, as part of Special Olympics Nova Scotia, is committed to enriching the lives of Nova Scotians with an intellectual disability through sport. Their vision is that sport will open hearts and minds towards people with intellectual disabilities and create inclusive communities, while showcasing their work to tell the world about the talents and abilities of people with ID.

For more information, please visit their website at specialolympicsns.ca



Creative Team Leads

Director	Robin Saywood
Stage Manager	Amanda Willmore
Production Manager	Trevena Trimmer
Assistant Stage Manager	Sanda Knox
Pre-show Slide Presentation	Trelawney Erwin
Set Design & Construction	Beth Spratt
Props & Set Dressing	Trevena Trimmer & Amanda Willmore
Wardrobe	Terri Smith-Fraser
Logo and Poster Artwork	Matthew Goodmanson
Promotional Video Production	Kevin Gerrior

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 Managers	Pat Brinton & Tierney Thibodeau
Hall & Lobby Set Up	Pat Brinton & Lawrence Baker
Photographer - Headshots	Jay Fisher
Photographer - Rehearsals	Carl Wills
Program	Elaine Melanson
Poster	Trelawney Erwin
Program Proofreader	Alexander MacDougall
Poster Distribution	Joy Resch
Telephone Notification Team	Sandy Van der Made
Volunteer Coordinator	Clair Henderson
Volunteer Database Manager	Rose Pearle
Newsletter Editor	Elaine Melanson
Publicity - Social Media	Trelawney Erwin & Kelly Morrison
Website	Alexander MacDougall
Charity Coordinator	Wendy Hutt



OLEX FOOT CARE

Basic, Advanced & Diabetic Foot Care

Shelley Burgess, LPN
olexfootcare@gmail.com

902-229-2592

Production Volunteers

Front of House & Canteen

Tierney Thibodeau
Rhea Vardy-MacPhee
Barbara Cowan
Clair Henderson
Helen Goyan
Jane Thorne
Amy Glynn
Elaine Melanson
Linda Goldwater
Alexandra Degroot
Leo Weniger
Lillian Goyan
Lorraine Watson
Lynne Isnor
Sandy Mitchell
Alexandra Fraser
Joy Resch
Karen Zorec
Peggy Parker

Props & Set Dressing

Trevena Trimmer
Amanda Willmore
Robin Saywood

Wardrobe

Terri Smith Fraser
Sanda Knox
Karen MacDougall
Cast Members

Publicity

Kelly Morrison
Sandy van der Made
Teagan O'Reilly

Set Construction & Painting

Beth Spratt
Stephen Melanson
Lorne Morrison
Joe LeBlanc
Bryn Rowlands
Slavko Negulic
Peter Hall

Hall & Lobby Setup

Knights of Columbus
Bedford Council 9404
Elaine Melanson
Michele Gaudet
Joy Resch
Pat Brinton
Beth Spratt
Rhea Vardy MacPhee
Alexandra DeGroot

Best Boy "Key Grip"

Randy Burt

Lighting & Sound Crew

Duncan MacPhee
Stephen Melanson

Technical Operators

Emma Whitley
Brad Morrison

Phone Notification

Diana Mabbett
Dianne McDonald
Audrey Peake
Rose Pearle
Debbie Saarloos
Sandy van der Made

Poster Distribution

Lynn Reicker
Cast & Crew

Pre-Show Slide Presentation

Michele Gaudet
Trelawney Erwin

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

THANK YOU!

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

Bedford Players Executive Council

2025-2026

President Elaine Melanson
Vice-President Clair Henderson
Treasurer/Ticketing Liaison Rhea Vardy-MacPhee
Secretary Pat Brinton
Artistic Director Michele Gaudet
Member at Large Kelly Morrison
Member at Large Lorraine Cantwell
Member at Large Joy Resch
Member at Large Michael Stack
Member at Large Mike Taylor
Member at Large Amanda Willmore
Member at Large Brad Morrison



Custom Cribbage Boards, handcrafted in Canada and personalized with family names, crests, or logos. A one-of-a-kind gift that will be treasured forever.



Point your phone camera
at this code to see
our past creations



www.WestCoastLasercraft.com

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.

Neptune Theatre for the loan of the
grand piano.

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

Gibson & Sons

by Kristen Da Silva

Directed by Randy Burt

March 5 - 21, 2026



The magic of live theatre

dartmouthplayers.ns.ca

O Boston Tree

by Adam Norton

and Justin Mozel

Directed by Justin Mozel

November 27 - December 13, 2025

Theatre Arts Guild

tagtheatre.com

Winnie the Pooh

by Lindsay Price

Directed by Angela Butler

November 20 - December 6, 2025