



Thursday to Sunday
March 5th to 21st, 2026
Thu, Fri, Sat 7th & 14th 7:30 pm
Sun 8th & 15th 2 pm
Sat 21st 2 pm



by Kristen Da Silva
directed by Randy Burt

Bedford Players Theatre
1408 Bedford Highway
Bedford, NS



Bedford Players Community Theatre
1408 Bedford Highway
Bedford NS

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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:
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There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts.

Our cash-only canteen will be available before the show and during intermission.



presents...



by Kristen Da Silva

Gibson & Sons was first produced by The Oakville Players in November 2016 (Oakville, ON).
Gibson & Sons is produced by permission of the Playwright and Marquis Literary
(Colin Rivers) www.mqlit.ca



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President's Message



President
Elaine Melanson

Welcome to Bedford Players! We're so happy you're here for our production of *Gibson & Sons* by Kristen Da Silva, directed by Randy Burt, which is the second play of our 2025-2026 season.

This is Randy's first venture into directing a play and he has done an amazing job bringing this show to life over the past three months of preparation and rehearsals. I also want to recognize a few other members of the team - Stage Manager Emma Whitley, Assistant Stage Manager Theresa Hanna, and Production Manager Kelly Morrison, along with all of the other volunteers who have given their time, talents, and efforts to make it possible for us to bring this show to you.

Did you know that it takes around 100 volunteers to put on a Bedford Players show, from the initial planning to the cleanup and teardown of the set, the hall and the lobby after the final performance? Without the work of our fantastic volunteers, Bedford Players would simply cease to exist. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to each and every one of them!

If you're considering volunteering at BP, we'd love to have you with us. We have tasks big and small that go into making a production happen, which means there's definitely a place for you at Bedford Players, no matter how much or how little time you can offer us.

To learn more about volunteering at BP, please go to our website bedfordplayers.ca and click on the Volunteering tab. *Everyone* is welcome at Bedford Players!

Now, sit back and get ready to laugh at this wonderfully funny Canadian comedy. Thank you for being here and for supporting Bedford Players! Enjoy the show!

Director's Message



Director
Randy Burt

What drew me to *Gibson & Sons* was not a big theatrical concept or some grand message. It was the rhythm of it. The humour. The way the characters talk past each other, circle the truth, and occasionally trip over it by accident. That kind of comedy does not come from punchlines. It comes from listening, timing, and letting people be human, usually at the worst possible moment.

Gibson & Sons is a comedy, first and foremost. The laughs come fast and easy, but they are doing more than just setting up jokes. The humour lets these characters say things they would never admit out loud, and it gives them room to deal with grief, loyalty, and the fear of letting go of what used to work. Beneath the jokes is a very simple idea: people who care about each other do not always know how to show it, but sometimes they figure it out anyway. Often too late. Sometimes just in time.

This play also reminds us that nobody carries a family, or a business, alone, even when they are absolutely convinced they should. Watching these characters argue, dig in, and occasionally listen has been equal parts funny and familiar. If you see a bit of yourself in any of them, you are not alone. I saw plenty of myself in there too. I am not saying which ones.

After more than twenty years as an actor, stepping into the director's chair for this production was both exciting and, honestly, a little terrifying. Thankfully, this cast and crew showed up ready to work, take risks, and trust each other. They made my first time directing far easier than it had any right to be. Bedford Players continues to be a place where that kind of collaboration happens, and I am grateful to be part of it in a new way.

Thank you for supporting community theatre and for spending your time with us. I hope you leave happy, thoughtful, and maybe a little glad you are not the one running the family business.

Enjoy the show.



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The Cast

In order of appearance

Declan Gibson	Mike Taylor
Harry Gibson	Kyle Grace
Becca Rollins	Trelawney Erwin
Jo Hagman	Karen Shewbridge
Katya Andor	Brianna Crane
Eva Andor	Teagan O'Reilly
Luke Gibson	Tim Barnett
Mrs. Gibson	Lorraine Cantwell

The Play

Time: The present, late summer

Place: The private family quarters in a small-town funeral home in Ontario

Act 1

Scene 1 - Gibson's den - Early afternoon

Scene 2 - Airport - A little later

Scene 3 - Gibson's den - A little later

Scene 5 - Gibson's den - Same day, early evening

Act 2

Scene 1 - Gibson's den - Seconds later

Scene 2 - Gibson's den - Same evening, later

Scene 3 - Gibson's den - The next morning

.

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Cast in order of appearance



Mike Taylor
appearing as
Declan Gibson

Mike's first ever show was on the Bedford Players stage some years ago, so he has a special affinity for this place. Mike has appeared in numerous shows at BP, and several shows at each of Dartmouth Players and Theatre Arts Guild (TAG). He has also appeared in several projects in commercial, film and television. It has been so rewarding to work with such talented and fun loving cast members and the hard working team that has brought this show to life. The volunteer knowledge, talent and enthusiasm at Bedford Players is so very impressive, and is the main reason behind the long time success of BP, along with what is the most loyal fan base of all local Community Theatre groups. A fellow actor called acting in Community Theatre "recess for adults", and it truly is. Enjoy the show!



Kyle Grace
appearing as
Harry Gibson

Kyle was born in the outskirts of Sackville, Nova Scotia. He has been an active member of Bedford Players since late 2022, and has performed in several shows such as *Drinking Habits* and *Murder on the Orient Express*. Since then, he has performed at multiple venues such as the Theatre Arts Guild and the Fringe Festival in Halifax. Kyle will be playing the role of Harry Gibson, the serious yet insecure embalmer of Gibson & Sons. Shout-out to friends and family for their love and support.

Cast in order of appearance



Trelawney Erwin
appearing as
Becca Rollins

Addicted to the stage since her role as the star in a childhood Christmas pageant (not the star of the show---the literal star of Bethlehem), Trelawney Erwin is excited to return to Bedford Players after appearing in *Drinking Habits* in 2023, now taking on Becca Rollins in *Gibson & Sons*. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and has spent over 15 years as a voice actor with The Icebox Radio Theater. Other performance experiences include attempting to entertain unsuspecting vacationers while working aboard cruise ships. Now firmly back on land, she co-runs a company streamlining digital workflows for businesses around Nova Scotia.

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Cast in order of appearance



Karen Shewbridge
appearing as
Jo Hagman

Karen is excited to be working with this stellar cast and crew. The wit and whimsy of the family and friends in this story have provided the cast and crew with some hilarious moments during rehearsals and are sure to entertain everyone who comes to the show. Her recent roles include Diane in *Sealed for Freshness* at Theatre Arts Guild (TAG) and Miss Bunner in *A Murder is Announced* (Bedford Players). Past roles include: Lucille in *The Cemetery Club* (Bedford Players), Sister Robert Anne in *Nonsense*, and Lee in *Marvin's Room* (Dartmouth Players). She was nominated for an ACTRA award for Outstanding Performance Female for her role in the film *Cab Driver*.



Brianna Crane
appearing as
Katya Andor

Brianna is very excited to appear as Katya in the production of *Gibson & Sons* with Bedford Players. Recent performances include Julia/Emma in *A Murder is Announced*. She is thrilled to be working with such a talented cast and creative team. She hopes you enjoy the performance as much as the cast and crew enjoyed bringing it to life.

Cast in order of appearance



Teagan O'Reilly
appearing as
Eva Andor

Teagan is so excited to be working with Bedford Players once again on their production of *Gibson & Sons!* Teagan has always had a love for theatre arts, both on stage and behind the scenes. After teaching and directing youth theatre this past year, and working with Bedford Players during their last production, Teagan is thrilled to be on stage again. Teagan would like to say a huge thank you to the amazing cast and crew for their hard work and dedication in putting this performance together. She hopes you enjoy the show and have as many laughs as she did during rehearsals!



Tim Barnett
appearing as
Luke Gibson

Tim is pleased to return to the stage at Bedford Players Theatre, where he previously appeared as Avery in *37 Postcards* and as Oliver in *Lunch Hour*, both from last season. He was also part of the cast of *Suite Surrender* in November. While much of Tim's acting background comes from film and television, he continues to enjoy the immediacy and collaboration of live theatre. Outside of acting, Tim is a hiker and traveller (next destination being a smaller road trip through New England). He is also an avid movie lover, especially drawn to the classics and horror genre.

Cast in order of appearance



Special Guest Appearance by
Lorraine Cantwell
as
Mrs. Gibson

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,
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Creative Team



Director
Randy Burt

Randy is excited to make his directorial debut with Bedford Players for this production of *Gibson & Sons*. He has spent the past 20+ years performing in theatre and last appeared in Bedford Players' *Suite Surrender*. Randy has also acted in a variety of short films, ranging from drama to comedy, and has co-written and performed in dinner theatre productions. He is thrilled to bring this show to life with a terrific cast and looks forward to sharing it with Bedford Players audiences.



Stage Manager
Emma Whitley

Emma has been part of the Bedford Players family for more than three seasons. Having staged managed last season's production of *37 Postcards*, Emma was overjoyed to be invited to stage manage this production of *Gibson & Sons* by the director, who was her assistant stage manager in *37 Postcards*! Emma also assistant stage managed last season's *A Murder is Announced*, in addition to playing "the dead guy" Mr. Rudi Scherz. Emma has completed several adult Neptune Theatre acting classes. Outside of theatre, Emma enjoys karaoke, spending time in nature (including bringing children camping with Girl Guides of Canada), and self-describes as a "total gearhead" who enjoys driving, detailing her vehicle, and attending car shows.

Creative Team



Assistant Stage Manager
Theresa Hanna

Theresa is excited to be working behind the scenes for the first time as Assistant Stage Manager. She previously appeared on the Bedford Players stage as Phillipa Haymes in *A Murder Is Announced*, which was her first play. She's grateful for the opportunity to learn more about the production process and be part of the team in a new role.

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About the Playwright - Kristen Da Silva



Kristen Da Silva is a playwright, actor and director born in Oakville and living near Toronto, Ontario. She began her writing career in 2014 and has since become one of Canada's most produced playwrights

Best known for her comedic plays including *Where You Are*, *Beyond the Sea*, *Hurry Hard*, *Sugar Road*, *The Rules of Playing Risk*, *By the Light of a Story*, and *Gibson & Sons*, her plays have been on stages across Canada, the United States, and Europe.

Da Silva is a graduate of York University, where she was a founding member of the Vanier Improv Company and company member of Vanier College Productions. She is a two-time recipient of the Playwrights Guild New Comedy Award, and in 2016 won the Stage West Pechet Family Comedy Award.

Da Silva says she loves to write plays and equates the process of playwriting to that of solving a puzzle, where some of the pieces come together easily, but she then has the fun of discovering the characters and storyline, in other words, putting together the rest of the puzzle, over time as she writes. Da Silva particularly loves the joy of sharing the finished product, her play, with others.

She is currently the playwright-in-residence at Theatre Orangeville.

Sources: Marquis Literary mqllit.ca/writers/kristen-da-silva, mulgraveroad.ca/kristen-da-silva, online interview with Hudson Village Theatre on Facebook.



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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 **Ubuntu Grandmothers** and **Souls Harbour Rescue Mission**.



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 *Gibson & Sons* by Kristen Da Silva is **Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia**. They are a non-profit organization that develops and advocates for affordable homeownership. Since 1992, they have partnered with families across the province to build more than 75 safe, quality, and affordable homes.

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



Creative Team Leads

Director	Randy Burt
Stage Manager	Emma Whitley
Production Manager	Kelly Morrison
Assistant Stage Manager	Theresa Hanna
Pre-show Slide Presentation	Michele Gaudet
Set Design & Construction	Stephen Melanson
Props & Set Dressing	Michele Gaudet & Kelly Morrison
Wardrobe	Terri Smith-Fraser
Logo and Poster Artwork	Matthew Goodmanson
Promotional Video Production	Trelawney Erwin
Set Background Art	Teagan O'Reilly

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	Rhea Vardy-MacPhee & Tierney Thibodeau
Hall & Lobby Set Up	Kelly Morrison & Lawrence Baker
Photographer - Headshots	Jay Fisher
Photographer - Rehearsals	Carl Wills
Program	Elaine Melanson
Poster	Kelly Morrison
Program Proofreader	Alexander MacDougall
Poster Distribution	Kelly Morrison
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



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Helen Goyan
Kristina Creamer
Amy Glynn
Elaine Melanson
Linda Goldwater
Josh Law
Leo Weniger
Lillian Goyan
Lorraine Watson
Lynne Isnor
Sandy Mitchell
Alexandra Fraser
Joy Resch
Marina Romeo
Trudy Hahn
Patricia MacLeod
Wanda Sutherland
Lisa Sutherland

Props & Set Dressing

Michele Gaudet
Randy Burt
Emma Whitley

Publicity

Kelly Morrison
Trelawney Erwin

Set Construction & Painting

Beth Spratt
Stephen Melanson
Lorne Morrison
Joe LeBlanc
Slavko Negulic
Peter Hall
Randy Burt
Teagan O'Reilly
Robin Saywood
Emma Whitley
Tim Barnett
Trelawney Erwin

Iron Work

Stephen Rand
Bernie Levy

Hall & Lobby Setup

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

Lighting Design

Stephen Melanson

Technical Operators

Emma Whitley
Brad Morrison
Sanda Knox
Lorne Morrison

Phone Notification

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

Poster Distribution

Lynn Reicker
Joy Resch
Cast & Crew

Pre-Show Slide Presentation

Trelawney Erwin

Wardrobe

Terri Smith Fraser
Sanda Knox
Karen MacDougall
Cast Members

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

THANK YOU!

Bedford Players Executive Council 2025-2026

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Treasurer/Ticketing Liaison	Rhea Vardy-MacPhee
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Jay Fisher (Capture It Photography) for the portraits of Mrs. Gibson and “not Brain Madder”

Bernie Levy and Stephen Rand for iron work providing stability to moving set pieces

Carl Wills Photography for Gibson “family portraits”

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