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Necessary Angel's *Hamlet*
Necessary Angel Theatre Company

Credits and Biographical Notes

Cast

in order of appearance

Gord Rand | Hamlet
Steven McCarthy | Horatio
Robert Persichini | Ghost / Player King
Laura de Carteret | Gertrude
Benedict Campbell | Claudius
Christopher Morris | Guildenkrantz
Eric Peterson | Polonius
Tara Nicodemo | Ophelia
Mac Fyfe | Laertes / Player Queen

Creative Team

Graham McLaren | Director and Designer
Andrea Lundy | Lighting Designer & Production Manager
Alexander MacSween | Music & Sound Designer
Crystal Salverda | Stage Manager
Sarah Bustard | Assistant Stage Manager
Melanie McNeill | Assistant Costume Designer
Simon Fon | Fight Choreographer
Nathaniel Kennedy | Shop Technical Director
Amanda White | Scenic Painter
Craig Smith | Head Carpenter
Mary Spyraakis | Head of Props
Alice Norton at Alice's House of Big Hair and Wigs | Wig Mistress
Sarah O'Brien | Dresser
Stefan Lenzi | Production Assistant

Hamlet Bios

SARAH BUSTARD | Assistant Stage Manager

For Necessary Angel: Debut

Other: *The Tempest* (Dream in High Park, The Canadian Stage Company); *Tuesdays with Morrie* and *Kindertransport* (Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company); *Madama Butterfly* (Opera Hamilton); *Forbidden Phoenix* and *Touch the Sky* (LKTYP); *The Children's Crusade* workshop (Soundstreams); *In Darfur* (Theatre Awakening at SummerWorks); *blood.claat* (Magnetic North Theatre Festival and Black Theatre Workshop); *Jewtopia* and *Evil Dead, The Musical* (Independent); *The Beggar's Opera*, *Real Estate*, *Storm Warning*, *Trying*, *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl*, *The Music Man* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Hellfire Pass*, *Real Estate*, *Wade in the Water* and *The Goat, or, Who is Sylvia?* (Centaur Theatre Company).

BENEDICT CAMPBELL | Claudius

For Necessary Angel: Debut

Other: Seven seasons at Shaw, including: *The Entertainer*, *In Good King Charles's Golden Days*,

Mrs. Warren's Profession, *An Inspector Calls*, *Mack and Mabel*, *Hotel Peccadillo*, *The Crucible*, *Too True To Be Good*, *Major Barbara*, *Happy End*, *Man and Superman*, *Nothing Sacred* and *The Plough and the Stars*. Elsewhere includes: *Macbeth* (NAC/Citadel); 10 seasons at Stratford, including: *Henry IV*, *Oedipus Rex*, *The Swanee*, *Hamlet*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Alchemist*, *Dracula* and *King Lear* (also at Lincoln Centre); *Lonesome West*, *A Little Night Music* (Canadian Stage/The Grand); *Atlantis* (The Grand); *Saint Joan*, *Old Times*, *Hamlet's Room* (Theatre Plus).

LAURA DE CARTERET | Gertrude

For Necessary Angel: *Half Life*

Other: *Sideman* (Tarragon); *Skylight*, *The Gist* (Manitoba Theatre Centre); *Getting Married* (Shaw Festival); *School for Scandal* (Banff Workshop); *The Rehearsal*, *Digging for Fire*, *Two Rooms* (Paramour Productions, Co-Founder). TV Guest Appearances: *Flashpoint*, *Clean*, *Family Biz*, *Angel's Eyes*, *Puppets Who Kill*, *Queer as Folk*, *Kevin Hill*, *This Is Wonderland*, *The West Wing* among numerous others. Selected Film Credits: *Double Wedding*, *Everything She Ever Wanted*, *The Lesson*, *The Shrine*, *Diary of the Dead*, *Shoot 'em Up*, *The Rocker*, *The Magic Flute*, *Spirit Bear*, *Widow on the Hill*, *Redemption*, *Heartstopper*, *Mean Girls* and Atom Egoyan's upcoming *Chloe*. Laura has narrated numerous documentaries for the NFB and the CBC and voiced cartoons for Nelvana, Decode and Breakthrough Films. She is currently the voice of 'Lady Periwinkle' in *The New Adventures of Babar* – proudly playing opposite her daughter Isabel.

SIMON FON | Fight Choreographer

For Necessary Angel: Debut

Other: Simon Fon has taught thousands of people in stage combat, from coast to coast, over the past 18 years. He is a member of Fight Directors Canada, and holds the title of Fight Master. In theatre, Simon has worked at Canadian Stage, Factory Theatre, Tarragon Theatre, Theatre Passe Mursaille, YPT/Lorraine Kimsa, The Grand Theatre (London) and Theatre By The Bay (Barrie). Simon has also worked on the Dora Nominated *Romeo & Juliet Remixed* with eXpect theatre/Spark productions, and with Robin Phillips on *Mill on the Floss* for Soul Pepper Theatre at the World Stage. He teaches at George Brown College, University of Toronto, York University, University of British Columbia, Centre for Indigenous Theatre, Equity Showcase – Players Academy, Rapier Wit Studio, and Fight Directors Canada National workshops (96, 97, 01, 02, 03, 04).

MAC FYFE | Laertes / Player Queen

For Necessary Angel: Debut

Other: Mac is happy to be back on stage with Necessary Angel's *Hamlet*, after a prolonged foray in the film and television world. Most recent theatre credits include: 'Louis Riel' in *The Saskatchewan Rebellion* (Videocabaret); 'Michael Aleen' in *The Elephant Song* (Stratford Festival); 'Christie Mahon' in *The Playboy of the Western World* (Theatre Junction, Calgary); 'Romeo' in *Romeo & Juliet* (Resurgence Theatre). He is also a member of the Red One theatre collective here in Toronto.

ANDREA LUNDY | Lighting Designer / Production Manager

For Necessary Angel: *The Eco Show, Half Life, Insomnia*

Other: Andrea Lundy is an award winning lighting designer, having been nominated for 19 Dora Mavor Moore Awards, winning 7 times for *The Eco Show, Stories from the Rains of Love and Death, Russell Hill, The Attic, The Pearls and Three Fine Girls, Possible Worlds, Insomnia, and Oedipus*. She has spent four seasons at the Shaw Festival and has worked extensively with Tarragon Theatre, Soulpepper Theatre, Canadian Stage, Necessary Angel Theatre Company, Factory Theatre, Theatre Passe Muraille, and Neptune Theatre among other Canadian companies. She is the Production and Tour Manager for Necessary Angel, teaches at the National Theatre School and is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada. Upcoming productions include *When My Name Was Anna* and *Hamlet* with Necessary Angel Theatre Company.

MELANIE MCNEILL | Costume Design Assistant

For Necessary Angel: Debut

Other: Most recent theatre credits include Costume Designer for *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Birdland Theatre); Set & Costume Designer for *Binti's Journey* (Theatre Direct); Costume Designer for *The Light That Stands Still* (Shadowland Theatre); Set Designer for *Guys and Dolls* (IMC); Costume Designer for *Walking on Water* (Fanshawe College); five seasons with Videocabaret and a bunch of stuff for Mirvish Productions. Film/TV credits include Costume Designer for *Ringtone* (Sweatbox Films Inc), and *Todd & The Book of Pure Evil* (Canadian Film Centre).

ALEXANDER MacSWEEN | Music & Sound Designer

For Necessary Angel: Debut

Other: Born in Montreal in 1964, musician/composer Alexander MacSween has participated in numerous dance and theatre projects. He has worked with Marie Brassard, Marie-Josée Chartier, Brigitte Haentjens, Robert Lepage, and José Navas. As a drummer, Alexander navigates between the worlds of rock, electronic music, and improvisation. He also gives workshops in live sound processing for performing artists at various European institutions and is a part-time faculty member in the theatre department of Towson University in Baltimore, MD. He recently created his first sound installation, *Calice*, for the CitySonics festival in Mons, BE. Alexander's compositions often feature manipulation of the human voice by various technological means.

STEVEN McCARTHY | Horatio / Assistant Director

For Necessary Angel: *The Last Romantics*

Other: Steven McCarthy was born in Sault Ste. Marie and trained at the National Theatre School of Canada in Montreal. Since graduating he has worked extensively in both theatre and in film and television. He was a founding member of Bill Glassco's Montreal Young Company and has collaborated with the likes of Chris Abraham, Richard Rose, Michael Hollingsworth and

Marti Maraden. He has had leading roles in films for Miramax, Columbia Tri-Star, Dreamworks and Shaftesbury. *Revisited*, a play he wrote and staged in collaboration with Michelle Monteith and Christian Barry has recently completed a tour of Canadian and international festivals garnering numerous awards including a Merritt award for McCarthy's lead performance. In 2009 he was nominated for a best actor Dora award for his performance in Theatre Smash's *norway.today*, directed *Three Sam Shepard Plays* set in a dilapidated fraternity mansion and was the sole student accepted into the directing section of the NTS where he is presently studying. Information on the debut Album of his band The ElastoCitizens can be found at www.elastocitizens.com

GRAHAM McLAREN | Director & Designer

For Necessary Angel: Debut

Other: Graham is a Glasgow based theatre artist who has been working in professional theatre for almost two decades. In that time he has created work ranging from totally improvised and devised work to classical texts. He has performed, designed, written, devised, taught, improvised, choreographed, programmed, directed and produced. At the age of twenty-five, he established the internationally acclaimed and multi award-winning touring company, Theatre Babel. His work on European classics has been seen in ancient Greek amphitheatres, black box studios and the main stages of National Theatres and prestigious festivals across the world, (including his Dora Mavor winning production of *Medea* at The World Stage Festival in Toronto). In 2005 he was invited to join Perth Theatre, Scotland, as Artistic and Co-Creative Director. The following year he became the Associate Artist for the company and remained with them until Jan 2008. *Hamlet* marks the first project Graham will create with Necessary Angel as an Associate Artist.

CHRISTOPHER MORRIS | Guildencrantz

For Necessary Angel: Debut

Other: Some recent acting credits include *The Runner* (Human Cargo, Rustavelli Theatre/Tbilisi), *Stones in his Pockets* (Thousand Islands Playhouse), *Descent* (Theatre Passe Muraille), *Return: The Sarajevo Project* (Theatrefront), *Much Ado about Nothing* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Resurgence Theatre), *Winter's Tale*, *Chorus for Disapproval*, *Play about the Baby* (Soulpepper). As artistic director of Human Cargo, Christopher has recently worked in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nunavut, Israel, Palestine, The Republic of Georgia and Petawawa, Ontario. Upcoming / Human Cargo: in December Christopher is directing *Night*, a collaboration with Inuit and Southern Canadian Theatre artists that will premiere at the National Arts Centre in January/2009 then tour to Yellowknife, Inuvik and Whitehorse. In April 2010 Christopher is returning to Pakistan and Afghanistan to direct the second workshop of *Petawawa*, a collaboration between Pakistani, Afghan and Canadian actors about the impact war is having on the families of soldiers in combat.

TARA NICODEMO | Ophelia

For Necessary Angel: Debut

Other: Selected professional theatre credits include *Beyond Mozambique* (FactoryTheatre), *Cringeworthy* (Dora Nomination-Theatre Passe-Muraille), *The Red Devil* (Summerworks 2008), *Dangerous Liaisons & The Diary of Anne Frank* (The Segal Centre), *Hellfire Pass & The Shape of Things* (The Centaur Theatre). Selected film and TVcredits include *The Border*, *A Wake*, *A Love Supreme*, *Web of Lies*, *The Archivist's Handbook*, *Across the River to Motor City*, *The Tracey Fragments*, *Mambo Italiano*, *Tales from the Never Ending Story*, *Angelique & All Souls*. Tara is a graduate of the Stella Adler conservatory in NYC.

ROBERT PERSICHINI | Ghost / Player King

For Necessary Angel: *Half Life*

Other: Nine seasons with the Stratford and Shaw Festivals in works by Shakespeare, Shaw, Brecht, Coward, Moliere and Tennessee Williams, most recently *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Cyrano de Bergerac*; Blyth Festival; numerous performances for CanStage including *The Weir*, *The Stone Angel*, *Amadeus*, *Communicating Doors* and *Blue Dragons*. Other theatres include Soulpepper; The Centaur; Grand Theatre (London); Manitoba Theatre Centre (last winter's *Jitters*); Citadel Theatre; and various new Canadian plays at the Tarragon. Narrator for The Grand Tour-Taflemusik Baroque Orchestra, Aspen Colorado, and Ravinia Music Festival Chicago. Numerous radio plays for CBC and Historica.

ERIC PETERSON | Polonius

For Necessary Angel: *Half Life*, *Clout*

Other: Eric has appeared in *Homechild*, *The Beard of Avon*, *Boy Gets Girl*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, and *Hysteria* (CanStage). His most recent stage credits include *Festen* for the Company Theatre; *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Of The Fields Lately* and *Billy Bishop Goes To War* (co-creator with John Gray) for Soulpepper; and *The Dishwashers* for Tarragon Theatre. Other shows he is proud of include *The Designated Mourner* (Tarragon Theatre), for which he won a Dora Award. His film and television credits include *Corner Gas*, *This is Wonderland*, and *Street Legal*.

GORD RAND | Hamlet

For Necessary Angel: Debut

Other: Gord Rand is a Toronto based actor and writer. He has performed on stages across North America including seven seasons at the acclaimed Shaw Festival. Also: the Stratford Festival, Factory Theatre, National Arts Centre, The Vancouver Playhouse, Theatre Calgary, The Persephone Theatre, The Canadian Stage, The American Conservatory Theater and The Royal Alex – where he won a Dora award for his portrayal of “Uri” – a naked Ukrainian plutonium dealer. Gord tours in the Edinburgh Festival winner *Goodness*, having played Edinburgh, New York, Vancouver and which has just returned from touring Rwanda. He also wrote the Dora nominated plays *Orgy in the Lighthouse* and *Pond Life*. His most recent play was *The Trial of Thumbelina* (Summerworks 2007). His film and television credits include: *The End*, *Regenesis*, *Everest*, *The Cry of the Owl*, *Phantom Punch*, *Roxy Hunter* and *the Myth of the Mermaid*, *The Triumph of Dingus McGraw*, *Mayerthorpe*, *Heartland*, *Durham County* and *Death Comes to Town* (the new Kids in the Hall series). Gord is also a founding member of the award-winning comedy duo Trophy Wives and is completing a documentary about Volcano's tour to Rwanda.

CRYSTAL SALVERDA | Stage Manager

For Necessary Angel: *Half Life*, *Hamlet*, *This Is What Happens Next*

Other: Crystal is thrilled to be working on *Hamlet* again. Over the years Crystal has toured internationally and across Canada and has stage managed for Soulpepper Theatre Company, Harold Green Jewish Theatre, Toronto Masque, Blyth Festival and The Grand Theatre to name a few.