

INVITATION to AFA MEMBERS

**ORGANIZED CRIME PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS**

KEEP SWEET: A Polygamy Musical



Photo Credit: Benjamin Laird Arts & Photo

Staged Reading at Auburn Saloon, 115 9th Ave SE, Calgary

**Tuesday, August 28 at 7 pm
Wednesday, August 29 at 7 pm**

Our story takes place in Abundance, Alberta, where two American teenagers have crossed the border to join Prophet Waylon's sect. The American boy falls for the youngest of the Prophet's daughters, who is coveted by the Prophet's son. In a community where celestial marriages are determined by revelations to the Prophet, will anyone get to be with the one they love? And at what cost?

CONTACT: Alice Nelson, Artistic Director *Organized Crime Productions*
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CREATIVE TEAM

Book by Alice Nelson

Music by Stephen Delano

Lyrics by Alice Nelson and Stephen Delano

Directed & Dramaturged by Kevin McKendrick

Cast: George Smith, Hannah Kerbes, Taryn Craig, Adam Schlinker, Cassidy Waring, Aaron Zeffer and Holleay Rohm

KEEP SWEET: A Polygamy Musical

On August 28 and 29th we will be performing a staged reading of the new tragicomedy *KEEP SWEET: A Polygamy Musical* at the Auburn Saloon

KEEP SWEET is inspired by the true stories from the polygamous sects in British Columbia, Utah, New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. The main research focuses for the musical are the stories of the polygamy life-style and the entrapment felt by women and their children. The Canadian sect is connected to the sect in Arizona run by the former Prophet, Warren Jeffs. Warren's actions over the past twenty years have had an effect on the Canadian sect causing raids, new laws, and the escape of many women and children. It takes a whole village to raise a child, but in the case of the sects, the dictators are in charge of the fate of the children. *KEEP SWEET* is a fictional account of the role of the community in the well being of their children.

Our story revolves around a young girl of thirteen years, Mary Ann, who lives in a sect with her polygamous family. She has received word that she has been chosen to marry the son of the Prophet. Mary Ann, however, falls in love with an American boy, Leon. As they can never be together, they must struggle to understand the world they have been born into. If the ill-fated lovers try to go against the demands of the Prophet, they risk being ex-communicated from their sect or worse; they lose their place in the Celestial Kingdom.

The staged reading of *KEEP SWEET* will showcase Calgary's musical theatre artists and provoke a dialogue for the further development of a brave, new, creative full-length musical. Following the reading, there will be a facilitated discussion with the audience, creating an opportunity for the community to express their thoughts and feelings on this controversial topic.

Bios of Creative Team

Alice Nelson- Producer & Playwright

Alice Nelson is an Actor, Playwright, Director, Puppeteer, Improviser and Clown based in Calgary, Alberta. She holds an MFA in Ensemble Created Theatre from Dell'Arte Physical Theatre School in California and a BFA from the University of Lethbridge.

This summer, Alice has the pleasure of joining CLUNK Puppet Lab to tour *How I Became Invisible* at the Puppet Up! Festival in Ontario. In August, Alice's company, Organized Crime, will perform a staged reading at the Auburn Saloon of her new co-created Musical, *KEEP SWEET: A Polygamy Musical*. Next up, Organized Crime will be performing *Land of Dream*, a clown show about chasing the American Dream, at the Motel Space in December 2012.

Last season, Alice was selected as Lunchbox Theatre's Emerging Director. Her credits at Lunchbox Theatre include directing *Mockingbird Close* and assistant directing *Perils in Paris*, *Last Christmas*, *Super 8* and *Whimsey State*. She also directed Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* for Morpheus Theatre, *Sleeping Beauty* for Loose Moose Theatre and *The Boy's Own Jedi Handbook* for Empress Theatre.

Alice has also written and toured several shows, including three solo shows: *Swashbucklers*, *Local Celebrity* and *Elephant*. She co-created and toured *RAUNCH: The Rise of Female Chauvinist Pigs* and was commissioned by Empress Theatre to write an original clown show, *The Worry Wart*.

Alice teaches with artist-in-residency companies and frequently leads workshops in clown, melodrama and improv. Her passion is supporting Clowns Without Borders and raising awareness of their amazing international work!

Stephen Delano- Music Composer & Musical Director

Stephen Delano is a music director, teacher and singer based in Edmonton. He currently teaches at Strathcona High School where he serves as Musical Director for all major school productions (*Legally Blonde*, *Les Miserables*), alumni Fringe shows (*Spring Awakening*) and directs all five of the school's choirs including the Contemporary a cappella choir and Men's Choir. He also teaches Singing in Theatre for the Citadel Theatre's Robbins Academy. Stephen has MD'd productions of *Annie*, *Cabaret*, and *Chicago* for various theatre groups as was the MD for an original production of *St. Aggie's '84* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2010. He is delighted to be in Calgary working on *Keep Sweet!*

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Kevin McKendrick- Dramaturge & Director

Kevin has spent his entire working life in the arts. For over 35 years he has served as a performer, administrator, director and educator. Selected directing credits include: RACE, SPEED THE PLOW, EVIL DEAD: THE MUSICAL, THE LIEUTENANT OF INISHMORE, THE FULL MONTY, THE PILLOWMAN, URINETOWN (Ground Zero Theatre/Hit and Myth), FROZEN and THE TRESTLE AT POPE LICK CREEK (Sage Theatre), MURDER IN GREEN MEADOWS (Vertigo), GOOD, BOY GETS GIRL, THE GOOD LIFE, and ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD (Theatre Junction), and OEDIPUS (Pumphouse Theatres). Kevin has been nominated for nine Betty Mitchell Awards in either directing or stage fighting. He has also worked at Theatre North West (Prince George), Persephone Theatre (Saskatoon), Western Canada Theatre (Kamloops), Fringe Theatre Adventures (Edmonton) and Damfino Theatre (Vancouver). Kevin will next direct A STEADY RAIN for Ground Zero Theatre/Hit and Myth Productions. Kevin would like to thank his partner Leslie for all of her love and support; and he sends his love to daughter Jesse at the University of Victoria.

FUNDERS & SPONSORS:



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