

THE SHADOW IN THE WATER

*A Tale of Love, Loss, & **Sharks***



Script by David Elendune

Directed by Ian Case

Victoria Fringe 2021 - Metro Theatre - Running Time 60 minutes
Sep 8: 6:00pm; Sep 9: 8:30pm; Sep 10: 6:00pm; Sep 11: 8:30pm; Sep 12: 6:00pm

We respectfully acknowledge this performance takes place on the traditional & unceded territories of the lək'wəŋən peoples, now known as the Songhees, Esquimalt, & WSÁNEĆ peoples.

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES: 'Shadow' is the most scrutinized script I have yet written. Over the past eighteen months it has been through feedback sessions at the Belfry & Langham Court, as well as several independently hosted workshops. It was originally conceived as a historical play focused on the 1916 New Jersey Shore shark attacks, reputedly the real-life inspiration behind Jaws. However, during the early stages of the creative process my wife, Jane, was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. And so, the writing of 'Shadow' quickly evolved into a way for me to attempt to channel my grief; an intimate exploration of how we struggle to come to terms with the ephemeral nature of our existence. Jane's death made me go to places I had previously deemed off-limits in my writing - places I needed to go, but not ones I'd choose to revisit in a hurry. However, as much as this play is my elegy to Jane, it is also a rallying call to live life, and strive for future happiness in the face of whatever adversities may befall us... *'So smile in the room, & cry in the corridor. For it's another beautiful day in Hell'.*

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: I first stumbled upon David Elendune when Janet Munsil suggested that I would be a good director for a writing project called A Bucketful of Bees. It was a Sherlock Holmes pastiche with bits of Dr. Who, James Bond, and Tolkien. When I read it, I knew I needed to meet this guy. Since that time he's become one of my closest friends, and I've worked on a number of his pieces over the years – adaptations of 1984, James Bond, Winnie the Pooh, & Frankenstein.

David is a fantastic writer - and as much as I love his homages to the works, stories & characters that we both love - I often nagged him to write something that wasn't an adaptation and that perhaps tapped into more personal themes. It was a point of friction for us. David and I have a rare friendship in that we're able to disagree – sometimes vehemently – and still find a way to get along. We've had to develop tools and rules – mostly around how we work together on shows – almost like a long-married couple. But we've always been able to find our way back to friendship and how best to serve the theatre that we've both committed so much of our time to.

Shadow in the Water is born of grief and love. It transcends its historical and pop culture roots and touches on deeply personal themes – love, loss, life and death. These are themes both David and I are intimate with. In the past 5 years, Heather and I have cared for 3 parents through illness and death. My mother's final illness and passing took place in parallel with Jane's. Through that time, David and I spent time together supporting each other and finding ways to distract and console each other.

So how does a close friend approach a play written by his best friend that deals with such personal and traumatic events? I suppose with love, kindness and a lot of care – much the same as how we looked after each other through Jane and my mother's illnesses and deaths.

Shadow is an ensemble piece with a cast of anywhere from 5-10 actors. As a director, that's my wheelhouse. COVID meant I couldn't approach Shadow the way I normally would, instead forcing me to move much of the ensemble work of the play into a virtual format while looking for ways to ensure that what happened on screen was still a part of the living world. What you're about to watch is the result of a lot of trust given to me by the playwright, the producer and the cast and crew who participated in both the filmed and live portions of this play. For their trust and talent, I am deeply grateful.



DAVID ELEDUNE: WRITER... Mostly a playwright, sometimes a director, David is a Canadian & English author of high concept intelligent entertainments whose writing has won awards in England, America, & Canada. His previous Victoria Fringe shows include *Sherlock Holmes & The Curse of Moriarty*, *Leer*, *Winnie The Pooh & Tales of 100 Acre Wood*, *Ian Fleming's Casino Royale*, *Good Night Uncle Joe* (all Outpost 31). Other local shows include *Frankenstein* (Theatre Inconnu), and *One Nine Eight Four* (Giggling Iguana).



IAN CASE: DIRECTOR... My interest in theatre began as a child when Dad built a puppet theatre and mum sewed gold curtains for it. In 1984, I walked out of the RSC in Stratford on Avon and knew theatre was my calling. I studied to be an actor at UVic. My first pro-gig was with Theatre Inconnu in 1991. That first summer with Inconnu, I was asked to direct a show. Turned out, I wasn't terrible at it and it kinda stuck. Of course I wouldn't have been able to do any of this without the love and support of my family and more often than not, the many friends I've made along the way.



WENDY MAGHAY: MARY... A long time Victoria actor, Wendy has performed with companies that include Bēma Productions, SNAFU Dance, Theatre Inconnu, Outpost 31, Vino Buono, Theatre Skam, and the Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival (where Wendy works as actor & company mentor). Wendy's performances in the Victoria Fringe Festival helped earn Pick of the Fringe Drama Awards in both 2016 and 2017.



ROSEMARY JEFFREY: SHARON... Rosemary is excited to return as a Fringe festival participant in this magical show. Prior Fringe shows include, *Horowitz and Mrs Washington* - Bēma Productions & *Effie and the Vampire Slayer* - Dragon Monkey Theatre. Currently a participant in the BIPOC Arts Leadership Training Program, she is also a collaborative partner of Attitude Theatre Society in Victoria, and looks forward to engaging new audiences, and giving voice to diverse narratives.

The play commences on July 20th 1969 - Early Evening – In the tired & messy living room of an average suburban home – Brevard County – Florida.

FILM CAST: Janine Fitzpatrick - Young Mary ; Cam Culham - Freddy ; Nolan Fidyk - Jakob ;
Connie McConnell - Mother ; Kenneth J. Yvorchuk - Father & M2 ; Christina Patterson - Michelle ;
Tenyjah McKenna - Betty ; Melissa Taylor - Woman ; Vuk Prodanovic - M1 & Newspaper boys ;
David Elendune - Customer.

CREW: David Biltek - Producer ; Sylvia Lindstrom - Stage Manager ; Mike Byrne - Videos ;
Caroline Mackenzie - Costumes ; Theo Sherman - QLab & Lighting Designer ;
Jason King - Audio Editing ; Hannah Case - Storyboard ; David Elendune - Publicity & press ;
Dave & Wendy Cornock - Archive recording.



We would like to thank the following: Janet Munsil ; Langham Court Theatre ;
Michael Shamata, Kevin Kerr, and Belfry Theatre ; Emily Case ; Clayton Jevne and Theatre
Inconnu ; Rebekah Johnson & Blue Bridge Theatre ; Mike Figursky and The Farquhar at UVic ;
Heather Gropp ; Sarvin Esmaeili ; Doug Lyngard & DL Sound ; The Victoria Fringe volunteers
and staff ; Intrepid Theatre and the Intrepid Team ; Osiris de Korte ; Our various friends, pets,
families, and lovers who indulge us in our passions ; And finally: you, for coming out tonight
and supporting live theatre.

If you enjoyed this show please consider making a donation to The Victoria Hospice.

<https://victoriahospice.org>