

Conceived and developed by Abigail Killeen

Written by **Rose Courtney**

Adapted from the short story by Isak Dinesen

WHAT IF ONE MEAL **COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE?**

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9th Hour Theatre Company Presents:



THE ARTISTIC TEAM

SHAUNA AKKERMANS (Director) | JENNIFER BARKLEY (Properties Designer) | ANA CLARA BOUFFARD LIMA (Choreographer) | DON DOUGLAS (Lighting Designer) | GEORGE DUTCH (Artistic Consultant) | JONATHAN HARRIS (Artistic Director) | KATIE IRVINE (Dramaturge) | EVELYN JOST (Costume Designer) | IAN MCMULLEN (Ensemble Captain) | KELTIE NEWMARCH (Music Designer)

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

MANU ACOSTA (Show Photography) | SHAUNA AKKERMANS (Lighting Hang Assist) | SHANNON AU (Production Coordinator, Rehearsal Assistant) | ZACHARIAH AU (Rehearsal & Properties Assistant) | GRAHAM BARKLEY (Carpenter) | JENNIFER BARKLEY (Back Stage Manager) | OLIVIA CHODNICKI (Make-up) | ADRIENNE DAVID (Rehearsal Assistant) DON DOUGLAS (Technical Director, Lighting Op) | DARREN EMERY (Rehearsal & Properties Assistant) | JENNIFER (JENNA) HENRY (Assistant Stage Manager) | JONATHAN HARRIS (Producer) | EVELYN JOST (Hospitality) | SANJIV KALRA (Assistant Producer) | SUSAN MARRINER (Graphic Designer) | IAN MCMULLEN (Lighting Hang Assist) | JENNIFER PARENT (Publicity Manager, Production Assistant, Assistant Stage Manager) | ESTHER SANGALI (Front-of-House) | TINA SEGRETO (Production Manager, Front of House Manager, Volunteer Coordinator, Hospitality Coordinator)

THE ENSEMBLE CAST

ADAM BARROWS | ANA CLARA BOUFFARD LIMA | TOM CHARLEBOIS | JACK DILLABOUGH | BREANNA DOYLE | LOGAN INDEWEY | SARAH MCKAY | IAN MCMULLEN | KELTIE NEWMARCH | LAVINIA SALINAS

This production is approximately 90 minutes with no intermission. Please turn off cell phones and electronic devices prior to the beginning of the performance. The video and/or audio recording, and any unauthorized photography of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.

GREETING FROM THE DANISH AMBASSADOR TO CANADA

It is a great pleasure to see *Babette's Feast* come to life here in Canada — one of Danish author Karen Blixen's most beloved stories, and one that continues to speak to audiences around the world. Though written more than seventy years ago, its message of generosity, openness, and shared humanity remains as relevant today as ever.

In the original story of Babette, a French refugee finds a new home in a small Norwegian village, in the Oscar winning film from 1987, the setting is moved to coastal Denmark. This beautifully captures the idea that hospitality and understanding can cross any border. Her famous feast does more than delight the senses — it brings people together, bridging differences through the simple yet profound act of sharing a meal.

That spirit of connection resonates deeply with the friendship between Denmark and Canada. Our countries are neighbours in the north, with a recent land border, and in addition to geography, we have much common ground: a belief in openness, democracy, equality, and the value of community. Whether in politics, culture, or cuisine, we both understand that collaboration and curiosity enrich us all.

Since Karen Blixen's time, Denmark has undergone a remarkable culinary transformation. Once known mainly for its simple, traditional fare, Danish cuisine has flourished through a spirit of openness and curiosity, evolving into a New Nordic Cuisine. At its heart, this evolution reflects the same spirit that Babette brought to her feast — generosity, creativity, and the belief that we grow richer when we welcome new ideas to the table.

Here in Canada, where cultures and cuisines from every corner of the world meet, *Babette's Feast* feels particularly fitting. It reminds us that openness to others — to new ideas, new flavours, and new perspectives — strengthens the fabric of our societies

As you enjoy this performance, I hope you will be inspired not only by Blixen's timeless storytelling, but also by the enduring values that Denmark and Canada hold in common

Bon appétit, velbekomme, and thank you for joining us in celebrating this beautiful story — one that speaks to all of us.

NIKOLAJ HARRIS

Danish Ambassador to Canada



9th Hour Theatre Company was founded in 2009 and became a registered Canadian charity in 2012. Babette's Feast will be the company's 33rd production, having worked with over 300 different artists and volunteers from across the continent. The company has a mandate to engage theatre and the performing arts in order to explore, examine, and artistically express questions, ideas, and stories relating to faith, spirituality, and the human experience. With an emphasis on physical theatre, a collaborative creative process, and an ensemble approach to telling stories, oth Hour strive to challenge its artists and audiences with the big questions of life raised from the art, and seek to unpack the rich themes and emotional landscape of these stories. Like any theatre company, the artists and volunteers that work with 9th Hour come from a variety of faith or religious backgrounds (or none at all), and have a multitude of beliefs, world views, and wide ranging expressions of spirituality. As such, the various and diverse opinions, beliefs, and perspectives of all people are respected and appreciated, thus informing a robust view of humanity's relationship with faith and the many facets of this manifestation, and therefore enriching the artistic process and understanding of the stories that are told.

FUNDRAISING

Over the past 7 years, 9th Hour has been able to raise a total of almost \$24,000 for 5 other local charities through the communal experience of theatre. Keeping with the company's tradition of what's called "Tipping the Show", and in the spirit of the story of *Babette's Feast*, 9th Hour will raise money after every performance for local charities that work to reduce poverty and homelessness in the nation's capital.

Week one of performances (November 6-9th) will focus on In From the Cold, an initiative of Parkdale United Church that provides opportunity for those experiencing poverty or other challenges, to come "in from the cold" and get together in relationship with others while exploring the mystery and privilege of giving and receiving in the context of safety, loving hospitality, respect and dignity.

Week two of performances (November 12-15th) will focus on the Westboro Region Food Bank, a ministry of All Saints Westboro Anglican Church, where the community is committed to feeding their neighbours who are most vulnerable to food insecurity. Operating over 40 years, they offer support to their neighbours by providing staples like cereals and grains, canned vegetables and meats, as well as milk, eggs, and breads.

"I'm so proud of our work. It's such a pleasure to be able to make a difference in our local community by providing opportunities for others to connect and engage with art and the beauty it expresses, to foster relationships and inclusive creative spaces, to materially help those in need, and all the while exploring big ideas and themes of faith, spirituality, and human flourishing through the multi-disciplinary practice of theatre."

- JONATHAN HARRIS (Producing Artistic Director)

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

"It is always an honour to get to be in the rehearsal room where the magic of a play coming together happens, to watch the characters take their first breath and the actors relax into the show. *Babette's Feast* has been a particular joy to pay witness to, and to hold space for.

The playwrights included "This play is dedicated to strangers in foreign lands, for their courage and their gifts." in the published script of this show. This dedication echoes the themes of embracing The Stranger (and her powerful gifts!) that comes up in this story. I feel the call to honour this dedication for our production, as it is a universal truth that humans are creatures meant to live in community. To turn to each other in challenging times, and see each other's gifts and strengths.

A piece of historical context for Babette that I feel is important to include is that she fled Paris in May of 1871 after the fall of the *Paris Commune*. The Paris Commune was a working-class civilian led occupation of the city of Paris after "The Communards" killed two French Army Generals. This allowed the civilian occupation to run Paris, and attempt to establish a new government after decades of constant changes. It lasted a brief two months when the national French Army marched on Paris in what's known as the *semaine sanglante* (bloody week) where they executed 10,000-15,000 of The Communards, taking approximately 43,000 prisoners. After Paris was seized back under the control of the French Armey, there was a mix of pardoning, trying and executing, exiling and putting prisoners into forced labour. This was the Paris that Babette was fleeing.

She arrives in Berlevaag, having seemingly run from Paris straight to this small town in Norway where we find ourselves for this tale. I find sitting in the centre of this story a tale of hope. Emily Dickinson wrote a poem, "Hope" is the thing with feathers":

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -That perches in the soul -And sings the tune without the words -And never stops - at all -...."

Even when we can't hear the song of hope, the song continues to play, and one day we will hear it sing again. I believe *Babette's Feast* sings us a piece of that song."

SHAUNA AKKERMANS

Director

"I first heard about Babette's Feast 15 years ago from one of my favourite authours Brennan Manning. At the time I hadn't seen the Oscar award winning movie so thought nothing more of it, only that Manning was pointing to something profound, and that I was moved by it. Years after that, a friend of mine invited me over to watch the movie. I was once again moved, this time more permanently altered by the depth of beauty the story contained. A couple years ago, I was delighted to discover a new play adaptation of the story. Upon reading it, I was again moved deeply and reminded boldly by Babette herself that "a great artist is never poor". I knew then that I had to bring this story to the stage, and I knew that Shauna Akkermans would be an excellent choice to direct it. To all great artists out there who feel poor or poor in spirit, take Babbette's words for yourself that "a great artist is never poor."



SHAUNA AKKERMANS | Director

Shauna is a director, stage manager, clown and performer. She studied theatre at Bishop's University and has completed Baby Clown at One North Clown and Creation. 9th Hour credits include performing in *The God Committee* as part of Gleanings 2025, part of the directing team for the development of the original theatrical work *Frankenstein A.I.* (2025), Associate

Director of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (2024), Assistant Director for *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* (2023), as well as Assistant Director and voice of "The Youth" in the original audio drama *Beauty Will Save the World* (2024). Shauna works diligently to create a courageous space in the rehearsal hall where actors can take full-body risks and do the dangerous work of making theatre.



JENNIFER BARKLEY | Properties Designer, Back Stage Manager Jennifer is excited to once again be joining 9th Hour for another inspirational production. You may have seen some of her previous work on stages around Ottawa, including Five Alarm (OLT, 2025); 37 Postcards (OLT, 2025); Home, I'm Darling (Kanata Theatre, 2025); The Hunchback of Notre Dame (9th Hour, 2024); Stag and Doe (OLT, 2024); Just Say the Word (Artbeat

Theatre Group, 2024); *Mary Poppins* (Orpheus, 2023). When not brainstorming new projects, Jennifer keeps busy with various local theatre and community organizations, including Stage Crew at Meridian Theatres at Centrepointe and the Ottawa Jazz Festival; as well as assisting local rabbit rescues with fundraising and education events. Special thanks to Don for all the love and support and to her parents for their incredible well, and storage, of stuff (er...potential props).



DON DOUGLAS | Technical Director, Lighting Designer

This is Don's third production with 9th Hour, the previous being Lighting Designer for *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Don is originally from Dundas Ontario, and is a retired Technical Writer. Don has created lighting designs for Outerbridge Magic, Orpheus, Les Petits Ballet, TotoToo, Kanata Theatre, ASNY, Suzart and Lakeside Players. Don's recent

lighting work include: Beautiful: The Carol King Musical (Orpheus), and Cinderella (Les Petits Ballet). His next design will be The Nutcracker with LPB in December. Don is also a lighting technician with Carleton University and Meridian Theatres at Centrepointe. Don thanks Jennifer Barkley for her support through all his "bright" ideas.



JENNIFER (JENNA) HENRY | Assistant Stage Manager

By day, Jenna is a project coordinator at Ottawa's largest longterm care home. Outside of work she volunteers at a small independent high school as theatre director and producer. She is a frequent backstage volunteer with Orpheus Musical Theatre and is happy to be assisting with her first 9th Hour production. Jenna studied philosophy with a focus on the dignity

THE ARTISTIC & PRODUCTION TEAM - con't

of the human person and the relationship between Beauty and the moral life; 9th Hour has been a delightfully unexpected meeting point of her passions. Favourite directing credits include Antigone and 12 Angry Jurors.



KATIE IRVINE | Dramaturge

Katie is thrilled to be returning for her second production with 9th Hour Theatre Company, having previously been part of the development of the original theatrical work *Frankenstein A.I.* in 2025, and performing as Fra Michael in 2024's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. They graduated from York University in 2020 with an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in Per-

formance Creation and Research, a Minor in English, and a two-year academic specialization in New Play Dramaturgy, then from St. Lawrence College with an Ontario College Advanced Diploma in Music Theatre Performance. Katie wants to thank their family, friends, and partner for their continued support as she pursues her passion for the performing arts.



EVELYN JOST | Costume Designer

Evelyn has been immersed in the performing arts for decades and has been involved with the company since it's origins in 2009. Evelyn first helped direct and performed in the company's premiere production *Telling The Story* in 2010, followed by performing in the ensemble of *Eyes Upon the Cross* in 2011. She then went on to be Assistant Director for *The Secret Gar*-

den presented at The Gladstone Theatre in 2012. Since then, she's been Hospitality Coordinator for several 9th Hour productions as well as assisting with Front-of-House. Evelyn is pleased to once again be part of the company's artistic team working on such a beautiful story with timeless and relevant themes.

SHANNON AU | Production Coordinator

Shannon has always wanted to work backstage. Now she has! She is excited to be part of 9th Hour Theatre Company's latest production of *Babette's Feast*. She previously acted as Production Assistant for the development of the company's recent original theatrical work *Frankenstein A.I.* (2025), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (2024), 9th Hour's original audio drama *Beauty Will Save the World* (2024), and was Assistant Stage Manager for *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (2023). She would like to thank the cast and crew for their time and dedication in putting this production together. Shannon also sends her love and gratitude to her family: Victor, Zachariah and Mary-Beth, for their endearing support as she pursued this opportunity.

GEORGE DUTCH | Associate Artistic Director

George studied Acting at Simon Fraser University with internationally renowned theatre director Gunduz Kalic during the 70s; then joined Kalic's ensemble in northern Australia for 5 years where he taught a performance class in a university theatre program. In 2024, George adapted Mary Shelley's novel into a play *Frankenstein A.I.* which was further developed by 9th Hour in 2025. Throughout

2020-24, he provided editorial and dramaturgical support for the original audio drama *Beauty Will Save the World*. George also played 'Sigmund Freud' in the Canadian premiere of *Freud's Last Session* (2013) and 'Screwtape' in *The Screwtape Letters* (2014), nominated for 'Best Production'. George thinks theatre should investigate big ideas related to the role of culture in shaping everyday practices of living.

JONATHAN HARRIS | Producing Artistic Director

Jonathan is a versatile performing artist, athlete, director, writer, and musician inspired by stories that elevate our thinking and stir our souls. As a colleague of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres, some directing credits include *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (2024), *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, (2018 & 2023), *Godspell* (2018), *The Secret Garden* (2012), and *The Screwtape Letters* (2014), nominated for best director and best production. Other credits include Set Designer for *Halo* (2020), *Prodigal Son* (2017), and *Children's Letters to God* (2011), as well as playing C.S. Lewis in the Canadian premiere of *Freud's Last Session* (2013). Jonathan is devoted to art that promotes human flourishing and ongoing nuanced conversation about complex ideas and contemporary issues.

JENNIFER PARENT | Production Assistant, Publicity Manager

Jennifer is new to the theatre world, and began volunteering with the company in 2025, assisting with Front of House during Gleanings: Crime and Punishment, Frankenstein A.I. and The God Committee. She is excited to take on more responsibilities in multiple production roles for Babette's Feast. With a love of watching theatre productions and musicals, she decided to assist behind the scenes. With over 25 years of administrative experience within the federal government, she is excited to use her administrative skills in a creative space. Jennifer enjoys planning events, singing, the arts and spending time in nature.

TINA SEGRETO | Production Manager, Front-of-House Manager

Tina first became involved with the company in 2018, and worked on the productions of *Godspell* (2018), *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (2018), and Halo (2020). Since then, she has managed the original work development and final production of the musical audio drama *Beauty Will Save the World* (2021, 2022, & 2024) as well as the stage productions of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (2024) and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (2023). She has spent over 20 years working as a project manager in both the private and public sector. Tina was born and raised in Ottawa, met her life long partner at Ridgemont High School and together they have raised their own two children back in the neighborhood where their story began.

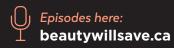
Beauty Will Save the World

a musical audio dramo



Beauty Will Save the World is a spiritual allegory for our time, suitable for the whole family. The story is a thoughtprovoking cautionary tale about the importance of passing on beauty to the younger generation.





Telling The Story



ADAM BARROWS | Ensemble Cast

Adam is proud to be performing in his first show for 9th Hour. He could be seen on the Gladstone stage last season as Michael Shaun-Hastings in *Late Company* (Elevator Theatre Company) and as Richard in *The Lion in Winter* (Phoenix Players). He also played Zach in Lost

Baggage Musical Theatre's recent production of *A Chorus Line*. He has been a professor of English Literature at Carleton University since 2009.



ANA CLARA BOUFFARD LIMA | Ensemble Cast, Choreographer

Ana Clara is an actor, dancer, and choreographer. She holds a BFA in Acting from the University of Ottawa, where she appeared in numerous productions such as: *Life is a Dream* (Estrella), *Elsie Piddock Skips in Her Sleep* (Young Elsie), and *The Possibilities* (Various). Recent roles in-

clude: *DNA* (Lou), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Venus, Quasimodo), and 12 (#8). She is also a resident artist at the GCTC, alongside the 100 Watt Youth Company. Ana Clara is a professional Highland dancer and dance teacher at Brocadie Dance, and an Associate member of the SDTA.



TOM CHARLEBOIS | Ensemble Cast

Tom is no stranger to the Ottawa theatre scene or to the company. 9th Hour credits include Porfiry in *Crime and Punishment* as part of Gleanings (2025), Mr. Beaver in the musical *Narnia* (2014), Father Christmas in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* (2018), as well as part of the ensemble casts for *Prodigal Son* (2017), and the musical

Godspell (2018). In addition to the stage, Tom's voice is also recently featured as "The Grandpa" (narrator) in the brand new audio drama *Beauty Will Save the World* (2024), an original work developed and produced by 9th Hour Theatre Company.



JACK DILLABOUGH | Ensemble Cast

Jack is an Ottawa local actor. He has been in various local productions in the city over the years, including *Drinking With Plants* as The Cop, and *Odds And Ends* as Bodies. When he's not on stage, he is sailing the 7 seas at Pirate Life Theatre, and walking the town in spooky style at Haunted Walk! This is Jack's first ever production with 9th Hour,

and he couldn't be more excited and proud to be a part of this wonderful cast!



BREANNA DOYLE | Ensemble Cast

Breanna is a recent graduate of the University of Ottawa Department of Theatre's acting conservatory. Still new to Ottawa, this is her first project with 9th Hour. You may have seen her as Queenie in *Small Talk* (2025), First Mina in *The Child* (2024), or Juliet in *Five Days in Verona* (2023). She would like to thank her beloved family and friends.

Besides theatre and acting, Breanna loves indie films, Byronic heroes, and tabby cats.



LOGAN INDEWEY | Ensemble Cast

Logan is an Ottawa-based performing artist who is a two-time alumni of Algonquin College, graduating with honours from the Performing Arts and Scriptwriting programs. He aspires to establish a career in the Canadian performing arts industry and is grateful for 9th Hour's aid in that journey. He has previously played the roles of The

Officer in 9th Hour's original audio drama Beauty Will Save The World, Nine-Inch Nils in Buysexual, Captain Phœbus de Châteaupers in The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Deric in Sell The Children, Joe Clark in the 1979, and AdamAI in 9th Hour's original theatrical work Frankenstein A.I.



SARAH MCKAY | Ensemble Cast

Sarah is an Ottawa based actor and singer who has been working in the region since 2023. She is thrilled to be part of the fabulous team on *Babette's Feast*. Other 9th Hour credits include development of the original work *Frankenstein A.I.* (2025), playing "The Expert" in the original audio drama *Beauty Will Save the World* (2024) and being on stage

in the ensemble of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (2024). Offstage, Sarah has recently taken on Assistant Stage Management in productions at the Ottawa Fringe Festival and Ottawa Little Theatre. She also dabbles in dance, playwriting, and theatre creation.



IAN MCMULLEN | Ensemble Cast, Ensemble Captain Ian is an energetic theatre creator and actor originally from New Brunswick, and has acted, produced and directed in Ottawa for the past eight years. In 2019 Ian produced and directed the Rideau Award Winning ExDEMONators at the Ottawa Fringe Festival. Ian's 9th Hour credits include the

development of the original theatrical work *Frankenstein A.I.*, Pierre Gringoire in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (2024), Mr. Tumnus in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (2023), Assistant Director of *Halo*

(2020), and Peter Pevensie in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (2018). In addition to theatre, Ian is a lover of the outdoors and can be found in the woods hiking, biking and paddling.



KELTIE NEWMARCH | Ensemble Cast, Music Designer Keltie is excited to return to 9th Hour Theatre Company for *Babette's Feast*. With 9th Hour, she previously performed as a puppeteer in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and contributed to script development and performance in the company's original theatrical work *Frankenstein AI*. Other theatre credits include *Samson and Delilah* and *Anne of*

Green Gables. Keltie enjoys exploring meaningful stories through theatre and cherishes the collaboration that comes from building a show and sharing live performance with artists and audiences alike.



LAVINIA SALINAS | Ensemble Cast

Lavinia is a physical, dance, and musical theatre actor. She's been engaged in several writing, physical theatre, and body movement activities, including Fringe Festival Toronto In *Sundry Languages* (2017) and *Multiple Choices* (2019). She was in *Tarzan* and *Gloria* with Kanata Theatre and *Milonga Night* (2022) with Ottawa's Fresh Meat

Festival as well as part of a development series in 2023 by Tactics with her *Milonga Night*. 9th Hour credits include development of the original theatrical work *Frankenstein A.I.*, *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* (2023), and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (2024). When Lavinia is not acting, she's doing yoga, singing or dancing tango.

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