

SCORPIO THEATRE  
PRESENTS

# CONVENTIONAL LUNACY

A new farce by Dan Gibbins      Directed by Matt Pickering  
October 9-17, 2015



citrus photography



## Cast

Rory .....	Darcy Wilson
Yvonne.....	Chelsea Millard
Katie.....	Emma Gallaher
Nessa.....	Tawni Barton
Mick.....	Martin Kirkley
Autumn Slade .....	Stephanie Morris
Tom Wilson .....	Hamish Crawford
Trey.....	Patrick Fitzsimmons
Helena Wilson.....	Deborah Ferguson
Emily.....	Angela Reeves
Det. Juliet Spencer.....	Keri Bauer
Lance.....	Dan Gibbins

## Crew

Producer .....	Daisy Pond
Assistant Producer .....	Ryan Beck
Director .....	Matt Pickering
Assistant Director .....	John Knight
Stage Manager .....	James Ravenhill
A/Stage Manager .....	Diane Edwards
Set & Lighting Design .....	Patrick Fitzsimmons
Sound Design .....	Patrick Murray
Costumes.....	Tawni Barton
Properties & Set Dec.....	Ian Pond
Box Office Manager .....	Joey Sayer
Lobby Display.....	Charlotte Nixon

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

If you enjoyed our production, consider nominating us for a CAT Award at:

<http://www.calgary-acts.com/nomination.php>.



# Where are the show programs?



## Scorpio's Gone Green!

It is common practice in theatre to include a show program for each performance that includes information about the cast, production team, the company and our sponsors. The programs are usually two pages (folded in half and presented as a 4 page bi-fold) meaning that the average production, with middling ticket sales, will require 800 printed pages.

That's over 2400 printed pages per season and that's just not GREEN!

Information on this production and the company in general will be proudly presented in our lobby displays, which we hope will be more entertaining, visually appealing and add more to your theatre experience than some stuffy old program anyway.

If you have a thought or opinion on this new policy, or anything else you've seen at Scorpio, we encourage you to fill out one of our audience survey forms (available in the lobby and at the box office) or, by all means, email me personally at [aconrad@scorpio.ca](mailto:aconrad@scorpio.ca) I'd love to hear your feedback!

Thank you for your patronage, and enjoy the show!

Aaron Conrad  
Artistic Director  
Scorpio Theatre Society

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTES – Matt Pickering**

I was pretty excited when Aaron Conrad approached me and asked if I would direct *Conventional Lunacy*, Dan Gibbins' brand new farce. I remember participating in the first script workshops for this piece, and was immediately impressed with the pace, snappy dialogue, and hilarious shenanigans Dan offered up. Anyone who knows me well knows that when I'm not yelling at power tools, I love telling stories and cracking wise at the world around me.

I have been in several productions with Scorpio over the years, some serious, some comedic, but I really believe that comedy is where my heart finds home. Comedy is so complex; there are so many factors that have to align perfectly for a truly funny joke, sight gag or situation to land successfully. It takes keen writing with attention to detail to pay off great comedy, and great actors with impeccable timing to create the magic on stage. As for myself, I have always had a deep appreciation for the absurd – situations that often play out in a farce that carry devastating dramatic ironies that I can't help but laugh at.

Dan Gibbins has direct line to my funny bone, because as he sets up jokes, he always pays them off – often with crippling consequences. I love the classic farce format that puts ordinary people attempting to achieve a goal, (in this case a events company trying to simultaneously conduct a high society wedding and a sci-fi fantasy super con for 50,000 people on the same day) and creates extraordinary, hilariously impossible obstacles to prevent them from doing so. *Conventional Lunacy* is a show that generates and feeds off its own “tizzynado” of chaos, and carries with it a frenetic energy that pulses and keeps the characters in constant turmoil. During the rehearsal process, I often found myself shaking my head at the sheer absurdity these characters have to endure, and how I could constantly up the ante for them.

When I look at a show, I try to look at each character's individual stakes, and how that motivates action and comedy. The tremendously talented cast of this show has brought those stakes to the surface, and their tireless effort to keep pushing to the outer boundaries of pure comedy has kept me on my toes, and has made me nearly fall out of my chair laughing at times. I like to think that I add my own particular flare for the silly to the mix here, but as I said, without the right combination of funny people around me, I'd be nowhere right now. I can get the giggles just sitting here thinking about some of the ridiculous things you are about to see, and I'm so excited to sit in an audience and listen to your reactions, because I believe comedy is a feedback loop – we deliver the comedy, the audience repays in laughter, and that generates energy that cycles back to us and so on.

Directing this show has been one of the great highlights of my life, and my tenure with Scorpio Theatre to date, and I can't wait to see what preposterous challenges they set for me in the future. I would like to thank my wonderful cast and crew for a fantastic rehearsal process, Scorpio Theatre for the faith and opportunity to direct a show, my wife Kate for her endless patience with my constant absenteeism, and most of all you, gentle audience member; we are able to do what we do because you make it possible with your support, enthusiasm and laughter. I hope you enjoy *Conventional Lunacy* as much as I do, and laugh so hard you pee just a little.





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## CAST

### **Tawni Barton (Nessa/Costume Design)**



Tawni is so excited to be a part of ensemble in *Conventional Lunacy*. This is Tawni's third production acting with Scorpio Theatre. Other works include *Who Knows* and *Frost/Nixon*, as well as *And Then the Lights Went Out* put on by Workshop Theatre. Tawni was presented with some personal challenges over the summer, but that hasn't stopped her from putting everything she has into this part.

### **Keri Bauer (Det. Juliet Spencer)**

Keri Bauer is not new to performance; she has been in Band and is currently singing Tenor in Cum Vino Cantus. However, this is her first full roll on stage after a full year backstage in Scorpio Theater productions. She is excited to be working with such a talented group of people, from cast to crew. Expect to see her more in the future. Keri would like to thank Scorpio for giving her this opportunity to broaden her horizons.



### **Hamish Crawford (Tom Wilson)**



Hamish Crawford has previously appeared in *The Beaux' Stratagem* and Scorpio's *Frost/Nixon*. He has written a Sherlock Holmes pastiche novel, *The Best and Wisest Man* (available online and at Pages on Kensington) and a story in the *Doctor Who* anthology *The Temporal Logbook* (available at lulu.com). In *The Beaux' Stratagem* he played the romantic lead and now he plays a groom, so logically his next role should be a divorcé having a mid-life crisis.

### **Deborah Ferguson (Helena Wilson)**

This is Deborah's debut with Scorpio Theatre. She has recently been seen in StoryBook's *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, Cappuccino's *Into the Woods*, Urban Curvz' *Trojan Women and the Bundle*, and Theatre Transit's *Cabaret*. Deborah is an actor, director, and educator. She has acted in Calgary, Edmonton, and Ontario. Past favourite roles include Maddie in *Toronto Mississippi* and Frau Scheider in *Cabaret*, and Locolus in *Timon in Athens*. Thanks to the wonderful welcoming cast and crew of Scorpio, and Dan, the writer of this gem.



## **Patrick Fitzsimmons (Trey)**



Patrick Fitzsimmons has been working with Scorpio Theatre since Spring 2007 and is delighted to be back for another great show. He wishes to offer his sincerest thanks to the cast and crew of this show for a wonderful run. It has been a privilege.

## **Emma Gallaher (Katie)**

Having just finished training at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Hollywood, California, Emma just couldn't stand the constant sunny weather and moved back home to good, cold Calgary where she fell in love with the stage in the first place. Acting for this nerdy redhead is (almost) more important than oxygen. Some of her favorite past roles include Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*!



## **Dan Gibbins (Lance/Playwright)**



Dan Gibbins has been lurking around Scorpio since he founded it... 15 years ago? Has it been that long? Good god. Well, here he is again, premiering another new play while the afterglow of his smash hit *Blood of the Red Queen* is still fading. Dan loves this show, adores this cast, but at any given moment, he's probably thinking about *Love Song* which he's directing at the end of the season.

## **Martin Kirkley (Mick)**

This is Martin's first time on stage, so please be gentle! Martin was inspired to audition for *Conventional Lunacy* after watching the brilliantly put together show, *Blood of the Red Queen*. He would like to thank the cast and crew for their angelic levels of patience and support in preparing for this role. It has been his absolute pleasure to watch everyone in rehearsals as everyone continues to inspire Martin. He would also like to thank his family for all their support



### **Chelsea Millard (Yvonne)**



Chelsea is so thrilled to be involved with this show! You may remember her from *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Janet Van de Graaf) with Cappuccino, *Spamalot* (Tim the Enchanter) or *Brigadoon* (Meg) with FRC, or most recently directing Scorpio's previous show, *Blood of the Red Queen*! This is her first time working in a farce, and she couldn't have had more chaotic fun! She invites you to sit back, relax, and enjoy the shenanigans!

### **Stephanie Morris (Autumn Slade)**

Stephanie Morris loves her Scorpio family and is delighted to be back onstage working with some of her favorite people. Most recently she was nominated for her portrayal of Alice in Scorpio's *Blood of the Red Queen*. She has acted for stage and camera for almost 20 years. She is also a writer, dancer, burlesque performer and has experience in voice acting and broadcast journalism. Thank you to my family and my supportive husband Joel. xoxoxoxoxoxo



### **Angela Reeves (Emily)**



Angela is very pleased to finally have the opportunity to work with the wonderful Scorpio Theatre group and to bring the role of Emily to the stage. She was last seen in the role of Muriel in Strathmore Theatre Players' production of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Previous acting roles also include Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Liffey Players and Beatrice in Strathmore Theatre Players' *Much Ado About Nothing*. She also directed *Lend Me a Tenor* with Strathmore Theatre Players. Angela would like to thank the cast and crew of *Conventional Lunacy* for this wonderful experience and for being so welcoming and fun to work with on this production. xoxo

### **Darcy Wilson (Rory)**

Darcy absolutely loves the crazy group of people that comprise the *Conventional Lunacy* group. It has been a laugh riot to work on and hopes that you have half as much fun watching the comedy as Darcy has had rehearsing it.



## Who is Amazi-Girl?



Amazi-Girl is Amber O'Malley's superhero alias in the Walkyverse and Dumbing of Age continuities. Her major superpower? Immunity to criticism. As Amazi-Girl, she patrols her university campus on a nightly basis, going after bullies, vandals, and students flouting the dry campus rule. Find out more at [dumbingofage.com](http://dumbingofage.com).

## Scorpio's 2015-16 Season

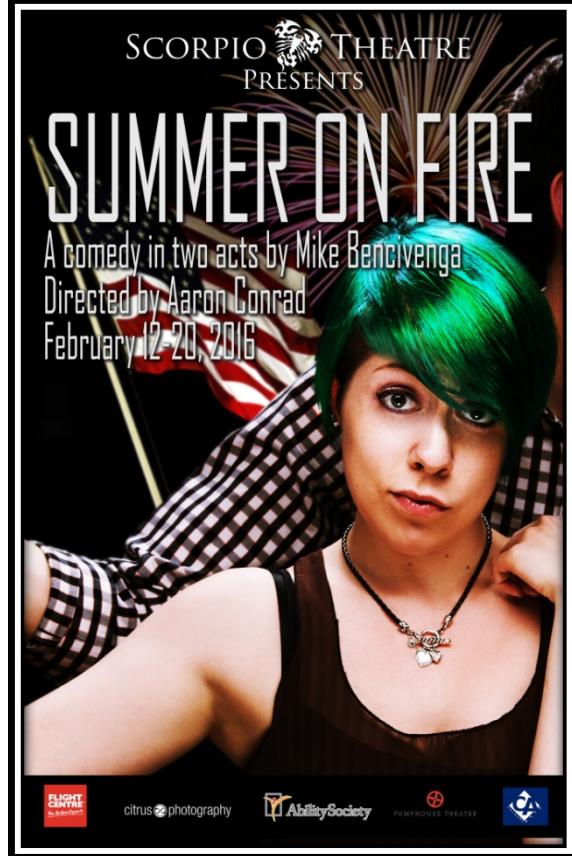
SCORPIO THEATRE PRESENTS

**CONVENTIONAL LUNACY**  
By Dan Gibbins Directed by Matt Pickering October 9-17, 2015

**SUMMER ON FIRE**  
By Mike Bencivenga  
Directed by Aaron Conrad  
February 12-20, 2016

**LOVE SONG**  
May 27 - June 4, 2016  
Directed by Dan Gibbins  
By John Kolvenbach

# Coming up next for Scorpio Theatre:



Gwynn Simmons is a folk music star on the rise, about to embark on her first national tour. But when the house that she and her girlfriend have booked for a long weekend get-away is double booked by infamous right-wing media hatchet man Frank Flanagan and his estranged wife, the weekend descends into rivalries of politics, ideologies, lifestyles, and lovers. Passions flare, alliances are forged and broken, and no one leaves unchanged.

GWYNN SIMMONS (25) - A singer/songwriter on the verge

MAXIE FLEISCHER (27) - Gwynn's activist lover

FRANK FLANAGAN (60) - A conservative TV star

FAY BOROSHENKO (55) - Frank's Ex-wife and magazine writer

DALE LAWLESS (45) A liberal political advisor

TERRY KLEIN (35) Frank's producer and right hand man

Auditions will be held Monday, November 2 & Tuesday, November 3 - 7:00-10:00 pm  
Callbacks will be the afternoon of Saturday, November 7.  
Book your audition time by emailing [bookings@scorpio.ca](mailto:bookings@scorpio.ca).

## CREW

### **Tawni Barton (Ensemble/Costume Design)**



This is Tawni's second season as the Costume Mistress for Scorpio. She has learned so much over the past year and is eager to go above and beyond with future projects. This production has presented her with yet another unique set of challenges but she has not shied away from it. Go big or go home seems to be her motto these days. Challenge accepted.

### **Ryan Beck (Assistant Producer)**

Ryan is excited to be joining the Scorpio family. Some of his work includes – *Jennie's Story* (Walterdale Theatre), *Lobby Hero* (Mob Hit Productions), *The Duchess of Malfi* (Mob Hit Productions), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Mob Hit Productions), *Therac 25* (Ground Zero), *Mamagorka* (Maple Salsa Theatre), *Cloud Tectonics* (Maple Salsa Theatre).



### **Diane Edwards (A/Stage Manager)**



Diane is very pleased to be a part of this production. Her first experience with Scorpio was helping backstage on *Blood of the Red Queen*. She's enjoyed her new position working with cast and crew on *Conventional Lunacy*, and looks forward to the next time!

### **Patrick Fitzsimmons (Set and Lighting Design)**

Patrick Fitzsimmons has been working with Scorpio Theatre since Spring 2007 and is delighted to be back for another great show. He wishes to offer his sincerest thanks to the cast and crew of this show for a wonderful run. It has been a privilege.



## **John Knight (Assistant Director)**



John is thrilled to be working with Scorpio Theatre again this season. He would like to thank his loving and supportive wife Eva. Selected directing credits: *Count of Monte Cristo*, *I Don't* (Mob Hit Productions) *Persephone*, *Romeo & Juliet* (Full Circle Theatre), *Seymour the Stegosaurus* (Storybook Theatre).

## **Patrick Murray (Sound Design)**

Pat loves to make noise. So it's only fitting that his latest challenge has been raising a young daughter. Judging by how things are going, it won't be long before she makes her debut in one of his designs. Actually, today is that day as she makes her appearance as a background babbler. See if you can pick it out!



## **Matt Pickering (Director)**



Matt is thrilled to be directing *Conventional Lunacy* for the first show of Scorpio Theatre's sixteenth season. This show is his first full directing role with Scorpio, but his other credits include *Cry Havoc 2*, *Reservoir Dogs*, *Who Knows* (AD), *Frost/Nixon* and a guest directing slot on *Cry Havoc 3*. He is very proud of his hardworking and hilarious cast and crew, without whom his dream of directing would not have come true. Enjoy the show!

## **Daisy Pond (Producer)**

Daisy is proud to be a part of another great Scorpio show. From working as a lighting op, an ASM, a Stage Manager to the company's Executive Producer, she's been involved in many aspects of many wonderful shows with this merry band of misfits. Thank you to a great cast and crew for all your hard work!



### Ian Pond (Props/Set Dec)



Ian is happy to again work with Scorpio as props master. As a change of pace from his role as the company's Graphics and Media Director, Ian was last seen on-stage in Scorpio's *Cry Havoc 3* for which he received the CAT Award for outstanding stage fight choreography. Ian is also the co-executive producer of the hilarious webseries *Writers Circle* which you should totally check out at [www.writerscircleseries.com](http://www.writerscircleseries.com).

### James Ravenhill (Stage Manager)

James is excited to be in his debut production with Scorpio Theatre. Previous credits include: *9 to 5 The Musical*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Front Row Centre Players); *Les Miserables* and *The Wizard of One* (Storybook Theatre); *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* (Cappuccino Musical Theatre). James would like to thank the incredible cast and crew of this show for welcoming me into the fold. It has been a pleasure working with each of them.



Scorpio Theatre would like to congratulate its Artistic Director, **Aaron Conrad**, and his wife **Rebecca Conrad** on their recent marriage. All the best and much love to you!



For their continued support,  
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Scorpio Theatre would also like to thank THWOMP, all our volunteers, friends, family, and fans for their continued support.