

Marilyn I. Walker
School of Fine &
Performing Arts

Brock University
Faculty of Humanities

Department of
Dramatic Arts
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brocku.ca/dramaticarts

A Special Invitation to bring your students
for innovative and energizing theatre experiences
presented by the Department of Dramatic Arts at Brock University!

Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)

by Ann-Marie MacDonald

Friday, March 4th at 11:30am

Group tickets start at \$12 each, discounts available

Twice a year our faculty and students present mainstage productions in our new 250-seat theatre. Directed and designed by faculty and guest artists, performed and produced by students in our Honours BA program, these productions offer you an affordable opportunity to engage your students with original performances that examine provocative thematic ideas. Stimulating course-related content will animate and enrich your teaching curriculum. Our faculty and students bring you the very best of their work in professional-level productions distinguished by their verve and energy. This is a great opportunity to enhance your teaching and to bring excitement to your classroom with a visit to our theatre. Join us for our inaugural season in the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine & Performing Arts in our new venue located in downtown St. Catharines, 15 Artists' Common, St. Catharines, ON

Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)

by Ann-Marie MacDonald

Directed by Danielle Wilson
Assistant Direction by Mark Harrigan
Set Design by Nigel Scott
Costume Design by Kelly Wolf
Sound Design by Gavin Fearon

February 26th at 7:30pm

February 27th at 7:30pm

February 28th at 2:00pm

March 4th at 11:30am Student Matinee

March 4th at 7:30pm

March 5th at 7:30pm



It's a comedy in two tragedies! Join us for a wild time travel adventure into two of Shakespeare's best known tragedies where anything can and does happen, including time warps, sword fighting, magic, cross-dressing and the appearance of ghostly wise fools.

The Department of Dramatic Arts of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts is proud to present this play by Canadian actor, novelist and playwright, Ann-Marie MacDonald.



Costume maquettes by designer Kelly Wolf

Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet) was first performed in Toronto in 1988, and went on to be performed nationally and internationally. It has become one of Ann-Marie MacDonald's most popular plays. Winner of the Governor General's Award for Drama, *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* is a feminist re-envisioning of *Othello* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Set in Queen's University in Kingston, overlooked and under-appreciated academic Constance Ledbelly has spent the last ten years ghost writing for a professor while trying to prove her theory that *Othello* and *Romeo and Juliet* were originally comedies written by an unknown author that Shakespeare plundered and made

into tragedies. When she deciphers the ancient 'Gustav Manuscript', Constance is propelled smack dab into the tragic turning points of each play, saving both Desdemona and Juliet from their tragic fates. The result is a topsy-turvy ride through the recesses of her own mind as Constance learns to appreciate her own self-worth, find confidence and discover who she really is.

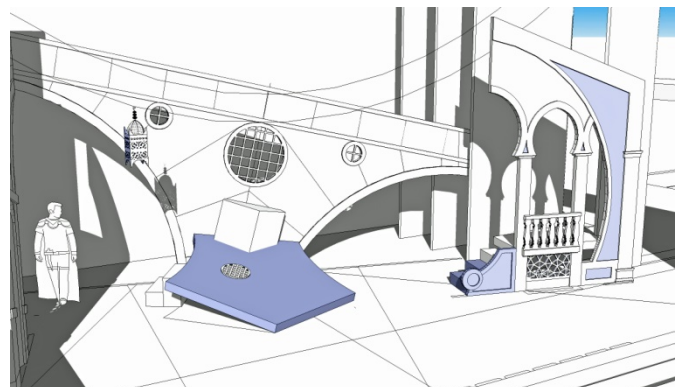
Artistic Direction

"The dark night of the soul comes just before the revelation. When everything is lost, and all seems darkness, then comes the new life and all that is needed." -Joseph Campbell

Many of the themes of the play are entrenched in the philosophy of Carl Jung, who was a Swiss psychiatrist and founder of the school of analytical psychology. He is known for his theory of archetypes, the collective unconscious and his studies of the human psyche.

Constance's journey into the plays of Shakespeare is in fact an exploration of her own psyche. During the play, she reaches the ultimate low point in her life and is forced to look inside herself to find her own sense of strength and self-worth. The characters she meets during her journey are aspects of her personality which she needs to explore in order to find her sense of strength and identity. These aspects are both the good parts and what Jung calls the 'shadow' parts of herself who aren't serving her in a way that is useful.

The set of our play was inspired by Italian artist Giovanni Piranesi who was famous for his etchings of Rome and of fictitious and atmospheric 'prisons'. Our set designer Nigel Scott used these etchings to inspire the feel of the ivy league academic institution, classical architecture, combined with a distorted feel of the dream-like subconscious of Constance's mind.



Set design by designer Nigel Scott



Costume maquettes by designer Kelly Wolf

The play was originally written for five actors to play all sixteen character roles among them with some of the females and males playing opposite gender roles. This is significant because the play also addresses questions of gender roles by commenting on the flexibility of gender identities and the importance of testing and changing their boundaries. Romeo and Juliet both dress in drag to attract Constance, and Desdemona wields a sword and engages in 'manly' sword play, thus blurring the lines of their gender roles. The play re-envisioned the historical attitudes toward men and women and their roles in history and literature.

Curriculum Ties

This production of *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* is suitable for High School-Age audiences and provides an opportunity to enjoy the accessibility of Shakespeare in this comedic re-imagining of two of his famous tragedies while combining both Shakespeare's language with modern and colloquial language. Curriculum connections include The Arts, Canadian and World Studies, Classical and International Languages, English, English As a Second Language and English Literacy Development, Social Sciences and Humanities. This production provides corresponding study in the following curricular subject areas: Gender studies, Women's studies, Medieval and Renaissance studies, Shakespeare studies and Drama studies.



Our students rehearsing stage combat for this production.

Study Guide/School Outreach

For our production, we have created a primer that can be downloaded after February 1st, 2016 at: <http://www.brocku.ca/humanities/departments-and-centres/dramatic-arts/upcoming-events-at-dart-new> and: <http://www.brocku.ca/calendar-events/30016>

Beginning January 15th our senior students will be posting weekly articles about the development of the production to DARTcritics.com. Look for these five posts (including text, image, video and audio) that will appear every five days until the opening on February 26. Give your students a privileged 'backstage' glimpse into the world of the show and the company of actors and artists in the production team at Brock University.

We are pleased to offer a talkback and Q & A after the matinee on March 4th. Contact us for more information.

Student Matinee Booking

The student matinee for *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* is Friday, March 4th at 11:30 am held in the DART Theatre of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine & Performing Arts in our new venue located in downtown St. Catharines. Tickets for the student matinee start at \$12 for each student and teacher. To book your school, please telephone the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre Box Office, 905-688-0722, and reserve your group tickets.

The deadline for reservation by telephone is **Friday, February 26, 2016**. Once you have made your booking through the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, we will confirm your reservation by telephone by **Monday, February 29, 2016**. *Don't delay, seating is limited.*

<p><i>the Mainstage performances are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• appropriate for High School-Age Audiences• may contain mature language and situations• Post-performance Q&A with the actors and creative team are available for both productions.• Teacher Workshops are available• Audience Maximum: (235) in the DART Theatre	<p>Prices:</p> <p>Single Student rate: \$15 Groups rates are available: 10-20=\$12.00 ea; 20-30=\$11.00 ea; 30-40=\$10.00 ea; 40-50=\$9.00 ea; over 50=\$8.00 ea.</p>
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FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre Box Office can be reached by phone at 905-688-0722 (OPAC), by email at boxoffice@firstontariopac.ca, or in person:

FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre Open Monday to Friday, 10AM to 6PM and Saturday,
250 St. Paul Street 10AM to 2PM
St. Catharines, ON (Holiday and summer hours may vary)
L2R 3M2

The Department of Dramatic Arts Theatre is situated at the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts located at 15 Artists' Common in downtown St. Catharines, L2R 0B5. We are adjacent to the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre and the Meridian Centre.

See our website for maps and contact information:
<http://www.brocku.ca/humanities/departments-and-centres/dramatic-arts/contact-us>

