



Classic Courtroom Drama Examines the Quest for Justice at the Huron Country Playhouse in Grand Bend

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – One of the most gripping stories of all time unfolds on stage as the compelling courtroom drama *Twelve Angry Men* examines the complicated quest for justice at the Huron Country Playhouse II in Grand Bend. This profoundly relevant classic plays for three weeks only from **July 18 to August 3**.

The story takes place in Manhattan’s Supreme Court on the hottest day of the year in 1957. Twelve men sequestered in a room must decide whether a Harlem teenager is guilty of the murder of his father, thereby sentencing the young defendant to death. It looks like an open-and-shut case, but as the dozen men try to reach a unanimous decision, Juror #8 plants the seed of reasonable doubt, thereby preventing a quick verdict ... much to the chagrin of his eleven colleagues. Tempers get short, arguments grow heated, and conflict threatens to derail the delicate judicial process as men from all strata of society revisit the evidence, and confront each other's personal biases.

“Few stories are as timeless or relevant as *Twelve Angry Men*,” says **Alex Mustakas**, Artistic Director of Drayton Entertainment. “It reveals the complexities of the judicial process and exposes how personal biases can profoundly alter perceptions of guilt or innocence. Audiences will not only become absorbed in the facts of the case, but also in how the background of each juror affects his way of thinking.”

Veteran director **Marti Maraden** will helm this world-renowned classic. Maraden’s career includes 18 seasons at the Stratford Festival, eight years as the Artistic Director of English Theatre for the National Arts Centre, and numerous Drayton Entertainment productions including the acclaimed production of *The Miracle Worker* earlier this season in St. Jacobs, the stirring drama *The Rainmaker*, the popular comedy *The Birds & The Bees*, and 2017’s hit production of *Death of a Salesman*, starring George Wendt.

Maraden will be joined by Set Designer **Allan Wilbee**, Costume Designer **Jennifer Wonnacott**, Lighting Designer **Louise Guinand**, Stage Manager **Catriona MacFarlane** and Assistant Stage Manager **Kelly Boudreau**.

An all-star cast featuring some of the most renowned professional actors in the country has been assembled for this production.

As the story's primary focal point, **Skye Brandon** takes on the role of nonconformist Juror #8, who is firm in his belief that the jury must look at the situation in a way that is not affected by their preconceived ideas and personal biases. Brandon previously appeared in *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Three Musketeers*, *The Matchmaker*, and *Titus Andronicus* at the Stratford Festival, as well as in *Death of a Salesman* for Drayton Entertainment.

Benedict Campbell makes his Drayton Entertainment debut as the aggressive and intolerant Juror #3, who has no sympathy for the defendant and is annoyed when other jurors want to review the evidence. A distinguished actor, Campbell has appeared on stage for over 40 years with a variety of companies in Canada playing notable roles at the National Arts Centre, the Stratford Festival, and the Shaw Festival, among others.

Brad Rudy causes severe tension among his peers as Juror #10, who, whilst battling a cold, is determined to raise his voice to spew his vehemently bigoted convictions. Rudy has appeared in fifty-five productions over twenty-two seasons at the Stratford Festival, and previously appeared in *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert* and *West Side Story* for Drayton Entertainment.

Jacob James is the sensible and patient Juror #1, who ultimately lacks the leadership skills to facilitate the heated discussion despite being the Foreman of the jury. James has appeared in a number of productions for Drayton Entertainment including *Annie*, *The Foursome*, and *Office Hours*, among others.

Cyrus Lane, **Thomas Duplessie**, and **Terry Barna**, who play jurors two, five and six respectively, evoke men who not only lack confidence but are easily swayed by the more imperious members of the group. Lane makes his Drayton Entertainment debut in this production; he has previously appeared in productions for Soulpepper, Tarragon and Canadian Stage, among other theatre companies across Canada. Duplessie previously appeared in the Drayton Entertainment productions of *The Miracle Worker*, *The Birds & The Bees*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. Barna has appeared in *The Birds & The Bees*, *Shear Madness*, *Bedtime Stories*, *The Love List*, and *The Odd Couple* for Drayton Entertainment.

The dynamics of both the jury and the cast are expanded with **Jeffrey Wetsch** as the cool-headed and rational Juror #4, **Kevin Kruchkywich** as the extroverted, baseball-loving Juror #7, and **J. Sean Elliott** as the ambivalent and smooth-talking Juror #12. Wetsch has appeared in several Drayton Entertainment productions including *Death of a Salesman*, *Tuesdays With Morrie* and *The Rainmaker*. Kruchkywich previously appeared in *Death of a Salesman*, *Office Hours*, *Look No Hans!*, and *Last Chance Romance* for Drayton Entertainment. Elliott has appeared in countless Drayton

Entertainment productions including *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Kings & Queens of Country*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *The Odd Couple*, and *The Affections of May*, among others.

Neil Barclay is Juror #11, who has a deep respect for the judicial system, while **Keith Dinicol** is the fair-minded senior Juror #9. **Omar Forrest** rounds out the impressive cast as the court's Guard. Barclay, who has been a staple actor at the Shaw Festival for over 20 years, makes his Drayton Entertainment debut in this production. Dinicol has appeared in many productions at the Stratford Festival and previously appeared in *My Fair Lady* for Drayton Entertainment. Forrest makes his Drayton Entertainment debut in *Twelve Angry Men* and has previously appeared in *The Lion King* and *The Lord of the Rings* in Toronto, among many other stage and screen credits.

Written by Reginald Rose, *Twelve Angry Men* began as a teleplay in 1954. It won three Emmy Awards that year, including Best Writer for Rose. Film versions have starred such renowned actors as Henry Fonda, Jack Lemmon and George C. Scott. The 1957 film starring Fonda was nominated for Academy Awards in the categories of Best Director, Best Picture, and Best Writing of Adapted Screenplay. *Twelve Angry Men* was eventually adapted for the stage by Sherman Sergel in 1964 for a production in London's West End. Surprisingly, the show did not debut on Broadway until 50 years later at the Roundabout Theatre Company in 2004.

Twelve Angry Men is proudly sponsored by **The London Free Press**. The Media Sponsor is **90.5 My FM** in Exeter. The Design Sponsor is **ReMax Bluewater Realty Inc. Brokerage**. The 2019 Season Media Sponsor is **CTV**.

Regular performance tickets are \$48 for adults, \$29 for youth under 20 years of age. Tickets for select Discount Dates and groups of 20 or more are \$39. HST is applicable to all ticket prices.

Twelve Angry Men runs **July 18 to August 3** at the Huron Country Playhouse II in Grand Bend. The production will then transfer to the Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge from **August 7 to August 24**. Tickets may be purchased in person at any Drayton Entertainment Box Office, by calling the Box Office toll free at **1-855-drayton (372-9866)**, or online instantly at www.draytonentertainment.com.

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