Mary’s Wedding

by Stephen Massicotte

Directed by Melanie Keller

Scenic Design
Angela Weber Miller°, USA

Original Music & Sound Design
Christopher Kriz°, USA

Lighting Design
Michael McNamara°, USA

Costume Design
Rachel Lambert°

Props Design
Sophia Briones

Dramaturgy
Joseph Pindelski

Stage Manager
Colleen Layton, AEA

Production Assistant
Sarah West°

The world premiere of Mary's Wedding was presented as a part of the 2002 playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays at Alberta Theatre Projects. The playwright acknowledges the assistance of the Banff Playwrights Colony—a partnership between the Canada Council for the Arts, The Banff Centre, and Alberta Theatre Projects.

First Folio Theatre is in residence at Mayslake Hall on the grounds of the Mayslake Peabody Estate, Oak Brook. The Estate is owned and operated by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. This program is provided by First Folio Theatre, a not-for-profit organization.

The 2017-18 Season is Sponsored by Alan & Susan Becker

This program made possible in part by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council (a state agency). Additional Support Provided by the Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; The Saints; Hinsdale Bank & Trust. Capacity-building support has been provided by the Arts & Business Council of Chicago.

Opening – March 31, 2018
CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Mary/Sgt. Flowerdew.................................................................Heather Chrisler°
Charlie ......................................................................................Debo Balogun

°Denotes First Folio Artistic Associate

UNDERSTUDIES

C. Jaye Miller (Mary/Sgt. Flowerdew); Eric Elierson (Charlie)

This production includes the use of gunshots, water-based haze, and strobe lights.

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First Folio Theatre is a member of the League of Chicago Theatres and Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre. First Folio Theatre is a professional theatre employing members of the Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

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On March 31, 1918, Lt. Gordon Muriel Flowerdew died in a field in France. That death lies at the heart of Mary's Wedding. It serves as the source material for many facts and events in this play; it displays the selfless spirit that many soldiers still possess; it illustrates the folly and horrors of war.

Stephen Massicotte discovered the story of Lt. Flowerdew while studying Canadian military history. Coming from a family of military men, and himself a junior cadet with the Canadian Air Force, Massicotte's natural interest in the stories and traditions of military life led him to a history of Canada's legendary Lord Strathcona's Horse regiment – a highly decorated military division that has distinguished itself since its founding in the Boer War. The plight of Flowerdew and the Strathconas during World War I – a war where they played a decisive role in the defeat of the allied German forces – juxtaposes noble military traditions with horrific wartime realities.

At the outbreak of war in 1914, the world emerged from an unparalleled period of scientific and industrial innovation. It resulted in weapons unlike any in human history. No prior war possessed the killing capacity of World War I and it changed war forever, with toxic gas, rapid fire machine guns and hulking tanks making bayonets, rifles and cavalry charges increasingly obsolete. The regimental drills and parades which had inspired so many men had become quaint relics; industrialized warfare introduced the idea of victory through mass death, reducing the human toll of fighting to a mere numbers game.

The dehumanizing tactics of modern warfare that were pioneered in World War I infuse the dreamy world of Mary's Wedding with a sharp critique: war is not poetic. War is hell, especially for the play's central couple, Charlie and Mary. Drawn purely from his imagination, Massicotte places these two innocents in a dream play where war's trauma shatters their young lives. It reminds us, as we observe the centennial years of “the war to end all wars,” of the sacrifices made by soldiers like Lt. Gordon Muriel Flowerdew and the terrible burdens war places on young lives.
First Folio has received 5 Joseph Jefferson Awards, 36 Joseph Jefferson Nominations, and 2 After Dark Awards

1997 - The Tempest
1998 - A Midsummer Night’s Dream
1999 - The Taming of the Shrew
2000 - Romeo and Juliet; Much Ado About Nothing
2001 - Macbeth; As You Like It
2002 - Antigone; Twelfth Night*
2003 - The Comedy of Errors
2004 - Hamlet; A Midsummer Night’s Dream ‡; Staged Reading Series (Indoor space premiere)
2005 - The Importance of Being Earnest ‡; The Taming of the Shrew; A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court
2006 - Private Lives ‡; The Tempest; The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe ‡
2007 - Angel Street*; Richard III ‡; The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe
2008 - Jeeves Intervenes ‡; Driving Miss Daisy ‡; Much Ado About Nothing (2 Jeff Nominations, 2 After Dark Awards); The Passion of Dracula
2009 - Design for Living, A Moon for the Misbegotten - Jeff Award, Macbeth, The Castle of Otranto
2010 - Jeeves in Bloom ‡; Will Rogers: An American Original; Twelfth Night ‡; The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe
2011 - Blithe Spirit ‡; The Woman in Black; Romeo and Juliet ‡; Tea at Five*
2012 - Unnecessary Farce*; The Turn of the Screw (2 Jeff Awards); The Merchant of Venice; Shylock and His Daughter; The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe
2013 - Jeeves Takes a Bow; Underneath the Lintel ‡; Cymbeline: A Folk Musical (2 Jeff Awards); The Rainmaker ‡
2014 - Rough Crossing ‡; Salvage ‡; The Merry Wives of Windsor; The Gravedigger ‡
2015 - Laughter on the 23rd Floor*; Love, Loss, and What I Wore*; The Winter’s Tale*; The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe‡
2016 - Jeeves at Sea*; Fooling Buddha; A Midsummer Night’s Dream*; Dr. Seward’s Dracula
2017 - Captain Blood‡; Silent Sky‡; As You Like It*, The Man-Beast
2017 - Women in Jeopardy!

*Jeff Recommended
‡Jeff Nominated

More information can be found at www.firstfolio.org
CAST

**Debo Balogun** (Charlie) is thrilled to be making his First Folio debut. Chicago theatre credits include *The Fair Maid of the West* (Oak Park Festival Theatre), *Bobby Pin Girls* (Nothing Without a Company), and *Moon Man Walk* (Definition Theatre Company). A world of gratitude to Melanie, David, and Heather for trusting him. Special thanks to his friends, family, mentors, and Micaela for their constant love and support. He is represented by Gray Talent Group.

**Heather Chrisler** (Mary/ Sgt. Flowerdew) is delighted to be returning to First Folio where she is an Artistic Associate and has been in *Captain Blood* as Arabella Bishop and *The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe* as Virginia Poe. She has most recently been seen in Chicago as Jaycee in Rebecca Gilman’s *Twilight Bowl* in Goodman’s New Stages Festival, Helen in *Machinal* at Greenhouse Theatre Center (Chris Jones’ Top Ten Performances of 2017), Chorus in *Her Majesty’s Will* at Lifeline Theatre, Natalie in *good friday* at Oracle Productions (Jeff Nomination Best Ensemble), and Diana in *All’s Well That Ends Well* at Stage Left Theatre, among others. Regionally Chrisler has been seen as Senga in *Dancing Lessons* at Riverside Theatre in Iowa, Juliet in *Romeo & Juliet* at Door Shakespeare in Wisconsin, Elise in *The Three Musketeers* at The Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park in Ohio, and Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* at The Monomoy Theatre on Cape Cod, among others. Her most prominent television work is in Chicago P.D. on NBC. She holds a Masters of Fine Arts from Ohio University, and is represented by Shirley Hamilton Inc.

**Eric Elierson** (u/s Charlie) is thrilled to be returning to First Folio after understudying *Captain Blood* and *Silent Sky* last season. Other recent credits include *Julius Caesar*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Seagull* (Michigan Shakespeare Festival), *Romeo & Juliet*, *Macbeth* (A Crew of Patches), *The Nerd* (Williamston Theatre), and the world premiere of *Campfire* (The Ringwald Theatre) by First Folio resident playwright, Joe Zettelmaier. Thank you to Melanie and David for this awesome opportunity, and much love to Mordin who remains the greatest corgi in the cosmos.

**C. Jaye Miller** (u/s Mary/ Sgt. Flowerdew) is so happy to be working with First Folio for the first time! Chicago Theatre: *The Good Fight* (Babes with Blades), *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (Emerald City), *For Annie* (The Sound), *Arcadia* (u/s, Writers Theatre), *Crimes of the Heart* (Oil Lamp Theater), *You Never Can Tell* (Remy Bumppo Theatre), and *Bachelorette* (u/s, Profile’s Theatre). TV credits: *In an Instant* (ABC). Graduate of Oklahoma City University.
Mary's Wedding

PRODUCTION STAFF

**Melanie Keller** (*Director*) previously directed *Silent Sky* and *The Amish Project* for First Folio. As a member of Signal Ensemble, she directed the Jeff nominated production of *The Drowning Girls*. Other directing credits include projects with Irish Theatre of Chicago, Fraud and Phony, WildClaw and Chicago Dramatists. Melanie's First Folio acting credits include *Women in Jeopardy*, *Salvage*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Turn of the Screw*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Private Lives*. Acting credits with Signal Ensemble include *East of Berlin* and *The Russian Play* (Jeff Award for Best Actress), *The Weir* (Jeff Nomination for Best Supporting Actress), *She Stoops to Conquer* and *Much Ado about Nothing*. Additional acting work includes *Lady Macbeth* last summer with Oak Park Festival, a season at the Stratford Festival of Canada, seasons at Lakeside Shakespeare and the Michigan Shakespeare Festival and productions at The Goodman, Northlight, Peninsula Players, Chicago Shakespeare, Shakespeare Project of Chicago, Artists’ Ensemble and Strawdog Theatre, among others. She has appeared on Chicago Fire, and in the short film *UberEx*. She recently became the new Associate Artistic Director at First Folio and hopes to continue the legacy of her friend and mentor, Alison C. Vesely.

**David Rice** (*Executive Director and Acting Artistic Director*) is Co-Founder (with his late wife Alison C. Vesely) of First Folio Theatre, where he has produced over 60 productions which have earned 36 Jeff Nominations and 5 Jeff Awards. He is also a playwright specializing in adaptations, whose works include the upcoming *Shrew’d!* as well as *Captain Blood*, *Cymbeline: A Musical Folk Tale* (Jeff Awards – Original Adaptation and Original Music), *The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe: A Love Story* (Jeff Nomination – Original Adaptation), *The Castle of Otranto*, and Dean Monti’s *Why Dogs Don’t Talk*. Onstage at First Folio he has been seen as Sandor Turai in *Rough Crossing*, H.C. Curry in *The Rainmaker*, and Knuckles McCann in *Jeeves Takes a Bow*, amongst others. David has worked at numerous Chicago theaters in the last 35 years, including the Paramount, Marriott’s Lincolnshire, Briar Street, and Candlelight. Trivia lovers may be interested to know that David was a four-time winner on *Jeopardy!* David is a proud member of both the Dramatists Guild and Actors Equity Association.

**Stephen Massicotte** (*Playwright*) was born in Trenton, Ontario, and spent his earliest years living on various Canadian Forces bases in Canada and Europe. For the most part, he grew up in Thunder Bay, where he developed his interests in reading, film, and art. He studied graphic design at Cambrian College, and later, theatre at the University of Calgary. After graduating with a BFA in Drama, he stayed in Calgary to work as an actor, helping to found Ground Zero Theatre and The Shakespeare Company. With the Fringe Festival circuit success of his play, *The Boy’s Own Jedi Handbook*, Stephen began to focus on playwriting. In 2002, *Mary’s Wedding* premiered at Alberta Theatre Projects and has gone on to have more than a hundred productions in Canada, the US, New Zealand, and the UK. In the years following, Stephen has continued to write for the theatre, as well as opera, film, and fiction. His play *The Oxford Roof Climber’s Rebellion* is the winner of the Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama at the Alberta Literary Awards and the Carol Bolt Award for Drama. *The Clockmaker* won a Betty Mitchell Award for Outstanding New Play and the inaugural Toronto Theatre Critics’ Association Award for Best Canadian Play. He currently lives in New York City.

**Noreen Agency** (*Press Representative*) is a full service PR, Social Media, Marketing, & Ad agency. National Tours: *The Singalong Wizard of Oz*, C.S. Lewis’ *THE SCREWTAPES*
LETTERS and THE GREAT DIVORCE, Celtic Thunder, and Sphinx Virtuoso. Numerous concert engagements at arena theaters representing such artists as Prince, Jerry Seinfeld, Fleetwood Mac, Wynonna Judd, Louis CK, The Beach Boys, Jewel, and Andre Rieu. Clients have also included Sesame Street Live, the World Tour Olympic Superstars, the Champions Challenge (McEnroe, Bjorg, Agassi), Barney Live!, the Highland Games, the Apollo Chorus, and the Harlem Globetrotters. Additionally, they represent regional theaters including the Marriott Theatre, Stage 773 and First Folio. Other corporate clients include Hyatt Hotels, Massage Envy, and Le Meridien Hotels. www.heronagency.com

SOPHIA BRIONES (Props Design) is happy to return to First Folio for the first time since designing for The Passion of Dracula. Other Prop Design credits include Christmas Schooner, Avenue Q, Addams Family and Bunny Bunny at Mercury Theater. Sophia served as the Prop Mistress at Drury Lane from 2008-2014. She now resides at Roosevelt University as the Props Designer and also occasionally seen painting props at Chicago Shakespeare Theater.

CHRISTOPHER KRIZ (Original Music and Sound Design) is a composer and sound designer based in Chicago. Previous First Folio designs include: Turn Of The Screw (Jeff Award), The Madness Of Edgar Allen Poe (Jeff Nomination), Silent Sky (Jeff Nomination), Captain Blood, Woman In Black, The Gravedigger, and many others. Some recent and upcoming Chicago credits: Red Velvet (Chicago Shakespeare), The Magic Play, Carlyle (Goodman Theatre), Constellations, Monster (Steppenwolf Theatre), Savior (Chicago Symphony), Roz and Ray, Hand To God, The House That Will Not Stand (Victory Gardens), Gem Of The Ocean (Court Theatre), Paradise Blue, Sunset Baby (Timeline Theatre), Hang, Born Yesterday, Pygmalion, The Life Of
Galileo (Remy Bumppo), Pilgrims, A Life Extra Ordinary, Good For Otto (The Gift Theatre), The Columnist (American Blues Theatre), Time Is On Our Side, Bright Half Life, The Temperamentals (About Face Theatre). Recent regional credits: Roz and Ray (Seattle Repertory Theatre), Sticky Traps (Kansas City Repertory Theatre) and many summer seasons at Peninsula Players. Kriz has been honored with 14 Jeff Nominations and 3 Jeff Awards. Kriz is a proud member of United Scenic Artists 829. To hear more of his work, please visit www.christopherkriz.com

Rachel Lambert (Costume Design) is happy to be back at First Folio having previously designed Women in Jeopardy, The Man-Beast, Silent Sky, The Winter’s Tale, Cymbeline, Merchant of Venice, and Romeo & Juliet (Jeff nomination) among many others. Her other Chicago design credits include The King of Hell’s Palace (Goodman Theatre- New Stages); Twist Your Dickens (The Second City); Mothers and Sons (Northlight Theatre); Puff: Believe It Or Not, Henry IV, The Life of Galileo, and Travesties and Northanger Abbey (Jeff nominations-Remy Bumppo Theatre); A Swell In The Ground (The Gift); Time Stands Still (Buffalo Theatre Ensemble); The Merry Widow, Die Fledermaus, Magic Flute, Gianni Schicchi (DePaul School of Music); Jesus Hopped the ‘A’ Train, A Perfect Ganesh, Intimate Apparel (Jeff nomination), After the Fall (Eclipse Theatre); Rose (Greenhouse Theatre); Next to Normal (BoHo Theatre); My Name Is Annie King (Underscore Theatre); The Drowning Girls (Signal Ensemble); and American Myth (American Blues Theatre). Regionally she has designed for Peninsula Players and the Texas Shakespeare Festival.

Michael McNamara (Lighting Design) has designed numerous productions with First Folio including The Turn of the Screw for which he won the 2012 Joseph Jefferson Award for Lighting Design-Midsize Venue. Michael’s designs have also been seen at a variety of other Chicagoland companies including Shattered Globe, Remy Bumppo, Eclipse, and Theatre at the Center. For eight years he was an Assistant Lighting Designer with the Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center. He has been an Associate and Assistant Lighting Designer for many national and international opera companies including Portland (OR), Seattle, Los Angeles, Dallas, San Diego, Atlanta, the Canadian Opera Company (Toronto), and The New Israeli Opera (Tel Aviv). Michael is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Purdue University and the co-author of Designing with Light: An Introduction to Stage Lighting. He is also a member of United Scenic Artists - Local USA829.

Angela Weber Miller (Scenic Design) most recently designed the set for Women in Jeopardy here at First Folio, where she has earned six Jeff nominations: Captain Blood, The Gravedigger, Salvage, Rough Crossing, Jeeves in Bloom, and A Moon for the Misbegotten. On the indoor stages she has designed over thirty shows, including The Man-Beast, Silent Sky, Dr. Seward’s Dracula, Fooling Buddha, Jeeves at Sea, multiple visits with Edgar Allan Poe, Laughter on the 23rd Floor, Jeeves Takes a Bow, Tea at Five, The Woman in Black, Blithe Spirit, and The Castle of Otranto (which included a fountain of blood). On the outdoor stage, she has created weather-proof designs for a dozen years, including A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Winter’s Tale, As You Like It, Cymbeline, The Merry Wives of Windsor, The Rainmaker, The Merchant of Venice, Romeo and Juliet, Twelfth Night, and Macbeth. Elsewhere in Chicago, she designed The Heavens are Hung in Black at Shattered Globe Theatre; The Bar Show for the Chicago Bar Association; Spamalot, On Golden Pond, A Christmas Memory, Ring of Fire (recently remounted at the Mercury Theatre), Godspell, What a Glorious Feeling, Making God Laugh, Jolson and Co., Over the River and Through the Woods and Gigi at Theatre
at the Center; My Manana Come at Teatro Vista; Cabaret, Rose Marie, and Yeoman of the Guard at Light Opera Works; Seascape at Remy Bumppo (Jeff Award); A Class Act at Porchlight Music Theatre; and Route 66 at Paramount. She has designed at a number of other Chicago area theatres and worked for several years at Chicago Scenic Studios as a designer of “corporate” theatre. Angie is a proud member of United Scenic Artists. www.angiewebermiller.com

Joseph PinDELSki (Dramaturgy) is very pleased to be part of Mary’s Wedding. Other Chicago dramaturgy credits include: Venus in Fur, Other Desert Cities, Crowns (Goodman Theatre), The Drowning Girls (Signal Theatre), Taste (Red Theater Chicago), The Sweeter Option, Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom (Strawdog Theatre Company), and The Glass Menagerie (Steppenwolf Theatre Company – Next Up 2012). He has additionally worked with American Repertory Theater, NYU-Tisch School for the Arts, Inverse Theatre Company, and Harvard University. As an arts administrator and producer, Joe has worked with The American Pops Orchestra, Goodman Theatre and is currently an artistic curator for The Den Theatre. He earned his MFA from the American Repertory Theater/ Moscow Art Theatre School Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University and BA from the Catholic University of America.

Colleen LAYton (Stage Manager) is excited to work with First Folio again, where she previously worked as dramaturg on Silent Sky. Recent credits include She Persisted (The Drama League), The Amish Project (Oak Park Festival Theatre), and Ideation (Jackalope Theatre Company). Other credits include work with Forbidden Broadway, Sideshow Theatre Company, Eclipse Theatre Company, and the Goodman Theatre. Colleen is a proud member of Actor’s Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers.

Sarah West (Production Assistant) is a proud Artistic Associate at First Folio. Managerial credits include Women in Jeopardy, As You Like It, Silent Sky, Captain Blood, Dr. Seward’s Dracula, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Amish Project, Jeeves at Sea, The Madness of Edgar Allen Poe, Laughter on the 23rd Floor, The Gravedigger, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Salvage, Rough Crossing, The Rainmaker, Unnecessary Farce, Searching for Peabody’s Tomb and Macbeth. Other credits include Mary Poppins (Mercury Theatre) and 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Capital City Theatre.) She is a proud graduate of North Central College with degrees in Theatre and Business Management & Entrepreneurship. There some favorite productions were A Story of Us, The Threepenny Opera, and Phèdre. She would like to thank her family for always being so supportive and involved in her career.
Lydia Berger Gray was just seen as Jo in Women in Jeopardy here at First Folio. She is looking forward to a few projects with ShawChicago and lives in Uptown with her husband, artistic associate Christian Gray and their kitty, Bertie (yes, named after the Jeeves play character).

Heather Chrisler – See Cast Biography

Amy Creuziger is currently directing Whistling in the Dark, A Sherlock Holmes Adventure, by Margaret Raether, adapted from the work of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, at Rochelle Township High School.

Kate Danziger is keeping busy as First Folio’s Managing Director and mom to a very active toddler.

Joe Foust has been commissioned, along with co-writer John Maclay, by First Stage theater in Milwaukee to write another original play for them with based on Greek mythology. He will also be performing the one-man show The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey at American Blues Theater this coming season.

Kyle Gettelman is busy building sets and raising a family in Iowa these days, but he still gets back to First Folio occasionally to help construct one of Angie’s designs…which is what he did for this show!

Michael F. Goldberg is currently spending time with his family when he is not jetting around the world on special missions for the CIA.

Christian Gray will return to First Folio in fall of 2018 to reprise the role of Poe in The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe: A Love Story.

Elsa Hiltnner is busy with her family and with designing projects for her other home company, Collaboraction, including their recent Peacebook.

Shelley Holland is teaching Stagecraft for Theater and Performing Arts Department at Governor’s State University.

Christopher Jensen is busy raising his kids with his wife Cindy and running the technical theater program at West Chicago H.S.

Michael Keeffe has been playing keyboards for Beautiful, at the Cadillac Palace Theatre amongst other gigs for Broadway in Chicago.

Christopher Kriz – See Staff Biography

Rachel Lambert – See Staff Biography

Kevin McKillip is currently shooting the first 5 episodes of the new comedy “The Art of Motivation” as motivational speaker Thomas Duncan (Punch Films).

Michael McNamara – See Staff Biography

Angela Weber Miller – See Staff Biography

Hayley L. Rice is busy drumming up future directing gigs, including directing Henry V for First Folio in the summer of 2019.

Rene Ruelas has just finished his fourth major motion picture, and looks forward to renting another one soon.

Nick Sandys recently directed Puff: Believe It Or Not for Remy Bumppo, where he is the Producing Artistic Director. He spent the New Year in Texas directing a revival of Strauss’ Elektra at Houston Grand Opera. He also recently recorded Bram Stoker’s Dracula and Shakespeare’s Sonnets for Amazon Classics/Brilliance Audio. Up next, fight stuff in various Chicagoland locales.

Cassy Schillo just opened Joseph at Drury Lane and is in preproduction for South Pacific there. Recently you may have seen her work at First Folio designing props for As You Like It. Jeff Nominations in properties design for First Folio’s Salvage and Drury Lane’s Death Trap. Catch more of her work at Drury Lane and First Folio to come!

Sarah West – See Staff Biography

Joseph Zettelmaier is happily working away in the frozen tundra of Michigan. In January, his play Our Lady of Poison premiered at Williamston Theatre, and his comedy Northern Aggression is running at Tipping Point Theatre in April. Between those, he directed Lee Blessing’s Eleemosynary at Schoolcraft College.
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