

Teatro la Quindicina

presents

Pith!

by **Stewart Lemoine**



Starring

Leona Brausen
Jeff Haslam
Davina Stewart

Directed by

Stewart Lemoine

Costume Designer

Leona Brausen

Stage Manager

Ian Rowe

Executive Producer

Briana Buckmaster

Venue #1 MTC - Backstage at the Mainstage
74 Market Ave
(at rear)

**NIGHT
OF THE
LIVING
FRINGE**

JULY 14 - 25 | 2004

www.winnipegfringe.com

Thursday, July 15	1:45 PM
Saturday, July 17	1:45 PM
Sunday, July 18	7:30 PM
Monday, July 19	12:00 PM
Wednesday, July 21	2:00 PM
Thursday, July 22	9:15 PM
Saturday, July 24	12:00 PM
Sunday, July 25	3:15 PM

Tickets are \$8.00 or \$5.00 for Frequent Fringers

Leona Brausen (Nancy Kimble/Costume Designer)

Acclaimed as both an actor and a costume designer, Leona has worked steadily in Edmonton and across Canada for the past two decades. She's an Associate Artist and founding member of Teatro la Quindicina, and has made innumerable appearances in the plays of Stewart Lemoine, most memorably in *Cocktails at Pam's*, *The Vile Governess and Other Psychodramas*, *Damp Fury*, *On the Banks of the Nut*, *The Margin of the Sky*, and *Skirts on Fire*. She's been seen on stages from Vancouver to Montreal, with particularly memorable Toronto appearances in *La Bête* at Canadian Stage and Teatro's *The Glittering Heart* at Factory Theatre. Her costume work has been seen at Edmonton's theatres both large and small and she was the winner of Edmonton's 2000/01 Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Award for her designs for Teatro's *The Hothouse Prince*. At the 2003 Edmonton Fringe, Leona appeared in *The Tunnels of Little Chicago*, a play she co-wrote with Trevor Anderson and Briana Buckmaster. She's also a core company member of *Die-Nasty*, the live improvised soap opera which runs weekly at Edmonton's Varscona Theatre. She'll be seen at this summer's New York International Fringe in *Pith!*

Jeff Haslam (Jack Vail)

Jeff has been working professionally as an actor in Edmonton since 1986 and has also been seen in numerous other major Canadian centres from Vancouver to Toronto. His last Winnipeg appearance was with Teatro's *What Gives?/All Ears* in 1989. Jeff is an Artistic Associate with Teatro la Quindicina, and his recent credits with the company include *Cocktails at Pam's*, *Pith!*, *On the Banks of the Nut*, *Eros and the Itchy Ant*, *The Exquisite Hour*, *Vidalia*, *The Margin of the Sky*, and *Skirts on Fire*. He is also the author of two plays recently produced by Teatro, *Citizen Plate* and *Poki Talks*. Among his other recent acting credits in Edmonton were Luther Billis in *South Pacific*, the title role in *Floyd Collins*, Orin the Dentist in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Felix Ungar in *The Odd Couple*. Jeff is a four time recipient of Edmonton's Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Award for acting. He is also in demand for his voice-over and narration work in radio, television, and film. He's a founder and core company member of the live improvised soap opera *Die-Nasty*, now in it's thirteenth season. He looks forward to appearing with *Pith!* at the New York International Fringe festival this August.

Davina Stewart (Virginia Tilford)

An Artistic Associate of Teatro La Quindicina, she made her debut with the company in 1986 as *The Vile Governess*, a role she reprised in February 2004. Her other recent Teatro credits include *Biting the Butterhorn*, *Vidalia*, *On the Banks of the Nut*, *Cocktails at Pam's*, *Damp Fury*, *Skirts on Fire*, and *Evelyn Strange*. She also appeared with Teatro in Toronto in *The Vile Governess*, *The Glittering Heart*, and *Shockers Delight*. A two-time Sterling Award winner, Davina appeared at the 2003 Edmonton Fringe in *All's Well that Ends Well* and *The Trojan Women*. Among her other favourite roles have been Hedda in *Hedda Gabler*, Agnes in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and Cecily Pigeon in *The Odd Couple*. Davina played a recurring role in the Edmonton-produced television series *Mentors*, and she was also in the television movie *One Hundred Days in the Jungle*. She's a core company member of the improvised soap opera *Die-Nasty*. She looks forward to reprising the role of Virginia this August at the New York International Fringe Festival.

Stewart Lemoine (Writer/Director)

For the past two decades Stewart has been Artistic Director of Edmonton's Teatro La Quindicina, a company devoted to creating new work for a resident company of actors. He's a four-time winner of the Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Award for Outstanding New Play, and he's also won Toronto's Dora Mavor Moore Award for his play *The Vile Governess and Other Psychodramas*. He has written over fifty works for the stage, including twenty premieres at the Edmonton Fringe Festival, which he helped inaugurate in 1982. Among his more notable successes have been *Cocktails at Pam's*, *Pith!*, *Evelyn Strange*, *The Exquisite Hour*, *Shockers Delight!*, and *The Margin of the Sky*. He and Teatro have visited the Winnipeg Fringe on two previous occasions, with *What Gives?* and *All Ears* in 1989 and *Caribbean Muskrat* in 2003. Stewart has also collaborated with Edmonton singer/actress Sheri Somerville on numerous cabaret shows and a recent concert with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. He's actively involved in running The Varscona Theatre, one of Edmonton's busiest theatre venues, where he's the producer of the long running improvised soap opera *Die-Nasty* and the Euro-style variety show *Oh Susanna*. In 2003 his contributions to the arts in Alberta earned him a Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, presented by Lieutenant Governor Lois Hole.

Briana Buckmaster (Executive Producer)

Briana is performing a multiplicity of functions for the *Pith!* tour, but her true vocation is as an actress. She made her professional stage debut with Teatro in *On the Banks of the Nut* in 2001 and subsequently returned in *Poki Talks*, *Vidalia*, *Caribbean Muskrat* (seen at last year's Winnipeg Fringe), and *The Vile Governess and Other Psychodramas*. She's appeared at Edmonton's Citadel Theatre as Rizzo in *Grease*, and appeared with Panties Productions in *Paradise City*. At the 2003 Edmonton Fringe she appeared in *The Tunnels of Little Chicago*, a play she co-wrote with Trevor Anderson and Leona Brausen. For the past two seasons, she's been appearing regularly at The Varscona on the variety show *Oh Susanna* and the improvised soap opera *Die-Nasty*.

Ian Rowe (Stage Manager/ Publicist)

Ian's previous Teatro credits include performing in *Fatty Goes Wild* and stage managing *Vidalia*. He has appeared frequently on-stage at The Varscona, as a regular in Rapid Fire Theatre's *Theatresports* and *Chimprov* and in the improvised soap opera *Die-Nasty*. He wrote and performed in the play *Kimota*, seen at the 2002 Edmonton and Winnipeg Fringe festivals and he also appeared in *Hump* with Panties Productions. Ian has been particularly active in film and video of late. With the Draft Six, he co-produced and appeared in *The Sonic Brooms* and *Turnbuckle* and the latter, which he also edited has recently been contracted for worldwide DVD distribution. Most recently, he edited *When the Pig Looks at the Matchbox* produced by Blue Sky Communications. Ian is also the founder of Edmonton's VOTE! society, which encourages 18-30 year-olds to vote.

Pith! takes place in Providence, Rhode Island in 1931.

The play is performed without intermission.
The running time is 85 minutes.

Poster/Programme Design by Dimensions Graphics

ROSA PONSELLE

Madame Ponselle was born in Connecticut in 1897 to Italian immigrant parents. After several years spent appearing in Vaudeville, she was discovered by talent scouts from New York's Metropolitan Opera and made her debut there in 1918, singing opposite Enrico Caruso in Verdi's *La Forza del Destino* at the age of only 21. Performing almost exclusively at The Met, she was heard regularly in leading Italian and French operatic roles until her premature and somewhat mysterious retirement in 1937. It is unfortunate that the primitive recording techniques of the 20's and 30's could not do her full justice, for all who heard her in person attested that hers was the most astonishingly beautiful voice of the twentieth century. She died in 1981.

Teatro La Quindicina operates with the assistance of Alberta Community Development, Alberta Lotteries, The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, The Edmonton Arts Council, and The Edmonton Community Foundation. We are deeply grateful for the support of these funding agencies.



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TEATRO LA QUINDICINA

Artistic Director	Stewart Lemoine
Administrator	Norma Lock
Artistic Associates	Julien Arnold, Leona Brausen, Jeff Haslam, Sheri Somerville, Davina Stewart
Board of Directors	
President	Laurie Bayda
Members	Pat Barford, Stewart Lemoine, Pat Sherbaniuk, Davina Stewart, Greg Zukiwsky

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Pith! is Published!!

Recently published by NeWest Press, ***A Teatro Trilogy: Selected Plays By Stewart Lemoine*** contains the script for *Pith!* along with two other Teatro favourites, ***Shockers Delight!*** and ***The Margin of the Sky***. Look for it locally at either McNally Robinson location.

For more information about Teatro La Quindicina, visit www.varsconatheatre.com/teatro or e-mail us at teatro@compusmart.ab.ca