

PLACE DES ARTS

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Place des Arts' Summer Theatre Troupe presents

The Emperor's New Threads



By Peter Anderson & Melody Anderson

Produced by special arrangement with the Playwrights Guild of Canada

placedesarts.ca • 604.664.1636 • 1120 Brunette Ave., Coquitlam

Summer 2026 Showtimes

Friday, July 24, 7pm

Saturday, July 25, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 7pm

Sunday, July 26, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 7pm

Wednesday, July 29, 2pm at Coquitlam Public Library City Centre Branch

Thursday, July 30, 2pm at Coquitlam Public Library City Centre Branch

Friday, July 31, 7pm

Saturday, August 1, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 7pm

Sunday, August 2, 2:30pm

The Crew

Director.....**Michael Fera**

Production Stage Manager.....**Hana Lowey**

Costume Designer.....**Olivia Etey**

Set and Props Designer.....**Scott Zechner**

Original music.....**Scott Jeffrey**

The Cast



L to R: Richard Mikkelsen, Bradley Mah, Hannah Flett, Maya Asuncion-Brown, Charlie Balser, Jacob Strocel, Centre: Hattie Watts, Front: Taehui Lee.

Director's Notes

It is a joy to welcome you to our production of *The Emperor's New Threads* by Melody and Peter Anderson.

This delightful retelling of the classic folktale is a wonderful choice for our company of eight emerging teen actors. It provides every performer with meaningful opportunities to develop their craft, embrace physical comedy, and create memorable characters while working together as a true ensemble. Watching young artists grow in confidence, creativity, and collaboration has been one of the greatest rewards of this production.

For our audiences, *The Emperor's New Threads* offers something special for everyone: young children will delight in the colourful characters, humour, and playful storytelling, while families can enjoy the timeless message together. Beneath the laughter lies a story that feels remarkably relevant in 2026. In an age when appearances, trends, and public opinion can so easily shape our choices, this play reminds us of the importance of honesty, courage, critical thinking, and being willing to speak the truth—even when it isn't the popular thing to do. These lessons continue to resonate across generations. Theatre has a unique ability to bring people together through shared imagination, laughter, and reflection. My hope is that today's performance inspires conversations long after the curtain falls and reminds us all that authenticity is always more valuable than pretending to be something we are not.

This production would not have been possible without the incredible dedication of our creative crew. My sincere thanks go to our designers, Olivia Etey and Scott Zechner, whose talent and imagination helped bring this world to life, to Scott Jeffrey for the delightful music composition and to our outstanding stage manager, Hana Lowey, whose organization and calm leadership kept everything running smoothly.

Finally, heartfelt thanks to the entire staff at Place des Arts, especially Jessie Au, for their unwavering support, encouragement, and commitment to nurturing young artists. We are so grateful to share this experience with all of you. Enjoy the show!

-*Michael Fera*

Michael Fera – Director

Michael is thrilled to be back again this summer, directing for Place des Arts' Summer Theatre Troupe, a program that is near and dear to his heart.

Michael has been working as an actor, director, producer and an arts administrator for over 40 years. He has received a number of Jessie Richardson Theatre Award nominations (Significant Artistic Achievement and Outstanding Production) and is a recipient of the 40 Under 40 'Business in Vancouver' Award. For the past

17 years Michael was the Program and Events Coordinator at Place des Arts but recently retired.

Favourite directing credits include *Seventeen* (Western Gold Theatre), *Salt-Water Moon* for The Arts Club on Tour, *A Christmas Carol*, *Kindertransport*, *A Boston Marriage* (United Players, UP), *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Corpus Christi*, *Balthazar* and the *Mojo Star*, *Tartuffe*, *three heads talking*, *The Herbal Bed*, *The Belle of Amherst*, *Tony n' Tina's Wedding* (Seattle, Winnipeg, Edmonton), *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Maids*, *Macbeth*, *Life After Hockey*, *Teechers*, *Molly Sweeney* and *Medea*.

Hana Lowey – Production Stage Manager

Hana Lowey is a technical production student at Sheridan College with a focus in stage management and design. This will be her fourth year with the Summer Theatre Troupe, first as an actor and now a technician. She has previously worked on *In Real Life* and *Legally Blond* at Sheridan College, *Mean Girls* at Gleneagle Secondary, as well as last year's STT performance, *Munsch at Play*. Hana is honoured to be a part of the team and hopes you enjoy the show!

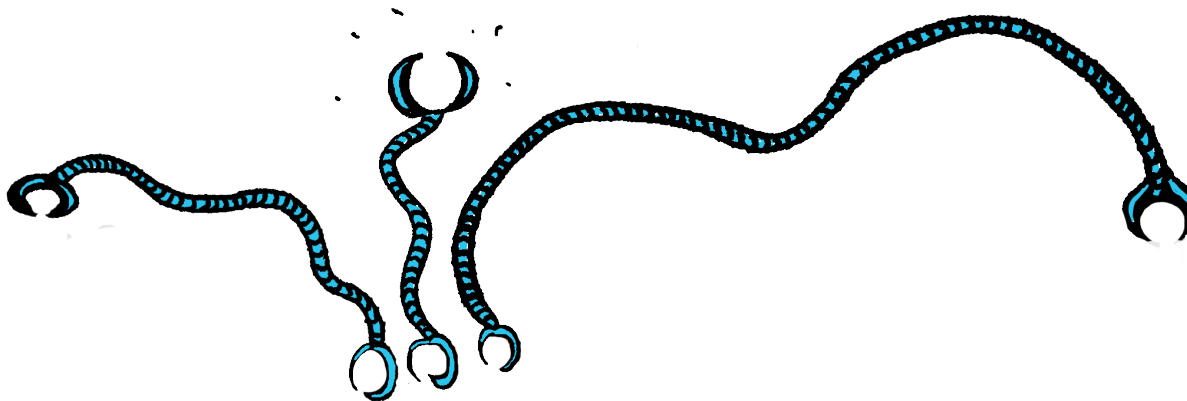
Olivia Etey – Costume Designer

Olivia Etey is thrilled to be a part of *The Emperor's New Threads*. Her costume design credits include *Steampunk Alice in Wonderland* (The Drama Class), *The Lion*, *The Witch & The Wardrobe* (The Drama Class), *Alice in Wonderland* (Beyond the Stage), *Wizard of Oz* (Beyond the Stage), and *Neverland* (Beyond the Stage). She is a Canadian playwright and the creator of the Or Festival, a 10 minute play festival in Vancouver that seeks to create a bridge between the Deaf and Hearing Theatre Communities in Canada. She graduated from UBC with a double major in Creative Writing and English Honours.

Her play *Woman Against Gravity* shall celebrate its world premiere at the Victoria FRINGE Festival this summer. She hopes you enjoy this fabulous production and thank you to Place des Arts for having her!

Scott Zechner – Set & Props Designer

Scott is a Vancouver-based Technical Director and Drama & Theatre Production teacher. For the past decade Scott has been guiding students from prekindergarten through to Grade 12 as they explore, integrate and embrace all elements of technical theatre. Production design highlights include *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, *The Neverending Story* (St. George's School), *The IT* and *Concord Floral* (Mulgrave School). He holds a BFA in Design & Theatre Production from UBC.



Charlie Balser – Palace Door/Teacher/Tinker

Charlie is a passionate actor who has developed a love for bringing memorable characters to life while continuing to learn about acting through theatre, improv and stagecraft. He has been a member of the Place des Arts' Theatre Youth Ensemble for 3 years where he has played the roles of the henchman, Davey Cricket and Willy Weasel. He also participated in some of his school's plays, where he has played the roles of Santa and Alex. After a short break

from acting, Charlie is excited to be able to work again and grow alongside his fellow actors in this year's Summer Theatre Troupe!

Maya Asuncion-Brown – Child/Cook/Gardener

Maya is an eager actress who loves to work on the stage and is excited to return to the Summer Theatre Troupe 2026! She is actively involved in her school's musical theatre program and attended Vancouver Young Actors' School as well as Place des Arts' Coquitlam Youth Theatre (now called Youth Theatre Ensemble). Some of her past performances include, *Seussical the Musical Jr.* (Summit Middle School), *Who Killed Kevin?* (Summit Middle School),

Once Upon a Pine; the Adventures of Pinocchio (Place des Arts), *The Thirteen Little Pigs* (Place des Arts), *Guys and Dolls* (Pinetree Secondary), and *The Wind in the Willows* (Place des Arts).

Hannah Flett – Felix

Hannah is super excited to be a part of the Summer Theatre Troupe this year! This is her first year in the troupe but does theatre at her school. Hannah is very passionate about theatre and loves listening to musicals in her free time. Hannah is looking forward to learning and developing her skills, and bringing her character to life!

Taehui Lee – Aide/Narrator/Minister

Tae is thrilled to be an actor in *The Emperor's New Threads* this summer, and to work outside of her high school theatre department. This is her twelfth production so far with others including *She Kills Monsters*, *Love & Information*, and *Mamma Mia! The Musical*. In her free time, she enjoys reading books and writing plays, and hopes to continue the arts in the future.

Bradley Mah – Big Brother/Shopkeeper/Baker

Bradley is a 16-year-old student who is thankful and excited to participate in this year's production. He has performed as Kurt in *The Sound of Music* for the Arts Club Theatre and as young Billy in *Under Milkwood* for Vital Sparks Theatre. Bradley has also played Roy in a short film called *Maundy* by Adriana Marchand and numerous roles in student films. He has been trained in dance, voice, and musical theatre at Vancouver Performing Stars, Arts Umbrella, Shoreline Studios, Vancouver Young Actors School

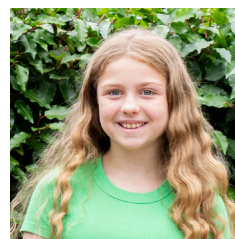
and LeBlanc School of Acting. Thank you to the full cast and crew for all their support and Place Des Arts for this experience!

Richard Mikkelsen – Cornelius

Richard has gone through multiple years in what's now Place des Arts' Youth Theatre Ensemble—most recently as Mr. Toad in a production of *The Wind in the Willows*—and is a well-rounded performer as a result, but this is his first time in the Summer Theatre Troupe. He has high hopes for *The Emperor's New Threads* and wishes especially for young audiences to be inspired by seeing theatre in action.

Jacob Strocel – Emperor

Jacob recently graduated from Gleneagle Secondary School where he portrayed the role of Billy Flynn in their production of *Chicago*. Now, he takes his talents to Place des Arts for their summer production of *The Emperor's New Threads*.

Hattie Watts – Cobbler/Fishmonger/Councillor

Hattie is super excited to be in the production *The Emperor's New Threads*. She is 13 years old and has been doing theatre since she was 9. Past productions include: *Our Town* (as Rebecca Gibbs), *The Jungle Book* (as young Mowgli), *Hawaiian Myths And Legends* (as the sun and the chief of the menehune), *Legends of Asgard: Sibling Rivalry* (as Gudrun) and more! Aside from theatre, she also works in film and tv and is represented by Lloyd Talent. In her spare time she enjoys: competitive gymnastics, swimming,

and making bracelets!

ACTING, THEATRE, MUSICALS, OH MY!



Place des Arts has a variety of stage acting and performance classes for children, teens and adults taught by highly skilled professionals in the field. From beginner classes to our performance training company, our programs help aspiring actors and triple threats build skills and develop performance confidence. Check the guide by scanning the QR code for classes throughout the 2026/2027 season!



Acting 101

Discover how to express yourself freely and confidently, through improvisation, scene study and various drama exercises and games. Develop performance skills while exploring new acting techniques and styles. Family invited to a final informal showcase.

Adult Musical Theatre

Dance, sing and act in this lively class! Through games and exercises, learn valuable terms, etiquette, character development, coordination and storytelling. Using popular musical theatre material and routines, combine your skills and find out what it takes to be a performer! Family invited to a final informal showcase.

Acting 102

Big characters, bold choices, and lots of stage time! Students sharpen their skills through dynamic theatre games, exciting scene work, and deeper character exploration. Ideal for those who have completed Acting 101 or have prior experience. Family invited to a final informal showcase.

Adult Theatre Ensemble

Join a supportive theatre class that covers the basics of acting, led by a professional director. You'll engage in creative exercises and script work, culminating in an in-class presentation on the final day. Suitable for all levels!



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