



THEATRE ANYWHERE



presents

*Your Affectionate
Brother*



BY KEVIN LONGFIELD

BASED ON THE LETTERS OF WILLIAM WALLACE

CAST AND CREW:

EILEEN LONGFIELD (MAGGIE)

Eileen is an Olympic Fringe athlete, having been training for five-star gold shows since age 11, achieving bronze in the last two play heats she competed in. She has now split her talents and enters two shows this year. She is confident that all the years of training will pay off, and she will achieve five-star gold with both shows. She is also competing at the Swift Current Fringe Olympics with *Red Plaid Shirt*.

KEVIN LONGFIELD (PLAYWRIGHT AND DIRECTOR)

Kevin's last Fringe play, *Going Down the River*, is in the anthology *Canadian Mosaic*. During the first production, the Berlin Wall fell, and during the next, Nelson Mandela was freed. Anyone wanting peace in the Middle East should consider mounting a production. It's a lot cheaper than Patriot missiles, without the nasty after effects. His book, *From Fire to Flood, A History of Theatre in Manitoba*, won the Margaret McWilliams award for local history.

GARY MCKENZIE (WILLIE)

You might have seen Gary in the pages of *Style Manitoba*, or at the University of Manitoba's Black Hole, or perhaps in some independent film. This is his first Fringe experience.

AMANDA WOWRYK (STAGE MANAGER)

Amanda is a theatre and drama student at the University of Winnipeg, and took part in *The End of the House of Bernarda Alba* and *Twelfth Night*. She was also the apprentice stage manager for SIR's *Romeo and Juliet*. This is her first Fringe show.

DIANE LONGFIELD (COSTUMES AND SANITY)

Diane's skill with a needle and thread most recently went to use making the capes McNally-Robinson staff used for their "Harry Potter Night." She has lost count of the number of hours she has spent putting together costumes for her family's stage productions.

BRIAN LONGFIELD (SOUNDSCAPE)

B. PAT BURNS (DRAMATURGY AND TEXT COACH)

THANKS TO:

Neil Longfield for proofreading and moral support, Mallie Boman for the staging concept, Hope MacIntyre and Sarasvati Productions for staging a reading of an excerpt of this play, Alex Janusz for chopping wood, the Manitoba Association of Playwrights, Brandon University, University of Winnipeg, Karen Haughian, Debbie Patterson, Wanda Bretecher, Fringe volunteers and staff, especially Emily Drake.

HISTORICAL NOTES

When the Wallaces arrived in Manitoba, it was a “postage stamp” province: the area they settled in first was not yet part of Manitoba. The boundaries extended to include their land just after they arrived. The Wallaces eventually left their land in Grand Valley and moved to the Shellmouth area near the Saskatchewan border.

The temperatures mentioned in the text are in the Fahrenheit scale that William Wallace and most Manitobans used until the 1970s. The minus-four day he mentions in the text is therefore minus 20 in our degrees. With very few exceptions, all William’s dialogue comes directly from his letters.

The cabin that the Wallaces built, and of which William speaks so proudly in his letters, would have occupied almost exactly his half of the stage. They built a bigger one after they moved to Shellmouth, but had to dismantle and move it when they discovered that there was no well nearby.



WHAT HAPPENED TO WILLIAM?

Although he lived through some hard times, William Wallace’s patience eventually paid off. His farm enterprise eventually prospered, and he became secretary-treasurer of the Shellmouth municipality, and, later, postmaster. A local history in 1942 described him as one of the “most respected citizens.” His musical endeavours also bore fruit: eventually he became organist and choirmaster for his Presbyterian church. He also sang in the Anglican Church choir, which scandalized some more conservative parishioners in his home church, as did his plan to run socials to pay off the debt owed for the schoolhouse. Neither he nor his brother Andrew ever married. William Wallace died in 1945, aged 84 years.



WHAT HAPPENED TO MAGGIE?

Unfortunately, none of Maggie’s correspondence survived, so her dialogue is pure conjecture. Her reluctance to join her brother is evident, but she obviously had her reasons. For one thing, she married a fellow teacher, John Bond, in 1890. She did not agree to join her family until after separate visits from Andrew and Willie early in the 20th century, and an exploratory visit she and John made in 1902. She was president of the Ladies’ Aid in her church for many years. Maggie died childless at age 86 in 1948. Thanks to her, William’s letters survive in the archives of Brandon University.



LOVE THEATRE?



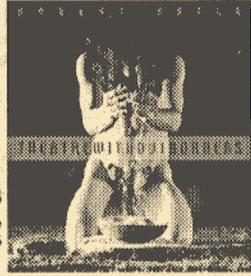
FROM FIRE TO FLOOD

A History of Theatre in Manitoba
by Kevin Longfield
ISBN 0921833792, \$19.95

Signature Editions

THEATRE WITHOUT BORDERS

by Robert Astle
ISBN 0921833784, \$22.95



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If you enjoyed our production, you might also like to see Emerald City's *A Perfect Emily*, written by Brian Longfield and produced and stage managed by our Maggie, Eileen Longfield. It plays at Venue 10, the Chinese Cultural Centre.



On July 26 Wanda Bretecher has kindly agreed to fill in as our stage manager. She is the stage manager of Persnickety Players' *After-dinner Story* by Shakespeare in the Ruins' Kevin Klassen, playing at Venue 9, Backstage at the Warehouse. You should see his play: Kevin won the Harry Rintoul award last year for *Aftertaste*.



Our billets, FDLT, have a great show called *JOB II* at PTE's mainstage. They sold out *JOB I* last year.



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