

GRADE
9+



Photo by Kenneth Locke



ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

GRACIE

BY JOAN MACLEOD

A CO-PRODUCTION WITH THE BELFRY THEATRE, VICTORIA

DIRECTED BY VANESSA PORTEOUS

STUDENT MATINEE | 11:30am
WEDNESDAY, March 15, 2016

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ConocoPhillips
Canada



ABOUT THE PLAY: SYNOPSIS, CHARACTERS AND SETTING

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SYNOPSIS

Gracie’s world is full of faith and family, but as a fifteen year-old girl born into a polygamous community, she feels increasing pressure to conform. Will she dare to take the leap and step into the outside world? In this stunning new show for one actress, we see the world through Gracie’s eyes. A gripping and tender story about growing up unusual.

A note from our Artistic Director about the play:

“Joan MacLeod is one of Canada’s foremost playwrights. Her writing feels like the tide coming in. Gentle at first, it gradually sweeps you up, leaving you moved and changed. ATP is proud to have launched three of her plays: The Shape of a Girl, Another Home Invasion, and The Valley, all of which went on to national acclaim. I’m thrilled to direct Gracie, and honoured to work with the Belfry Theatre in Victoria, Joan MacLeod’s hometown. An exciting collaboration, a play of national significance, and a deeply human story.”

-Vanessa Porteous, Artistic Director

NOTE: *This play is a work of fiction, inspired by Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (FLDS) communities in Canada and the U.S. Gracie, and all other characters and the events mentioned in the play, are works of fiction as well.*



SETTING

The events of the play occur between 2000 through 2007. The action of the play takes place primarily in a polygamous FLDS (Fundamentalist church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) community in the mountains of British Columbia.

STYLE

This play is performed by one actor. Throughout the play we relive the memories of the young protagonist, Gracie. The play occurs over the span of Gracie's life from age 8 to age 15. Gracie is sharing her story with the audience through the combination of monologues of memories and the re-enacting of moments by depicting the other characters in her story.

CHARACTERS

GRACIE- Gracie is fifteen years old. She wears an ankle length cotton print dress, typical of the FLDS dress requirements, her dress is worn and dirty. She wears running shoes, and has her hair pulled back off her face and a long braid that is growing ragged. Gracie has an accent at the beginning of the play suggesting she was born in the southern United States. As Gracie grows older her accent diminishes but never leaves her.

Gracie was born in to a polygamous community in the United States of America in 1992. At the age of eight, she and her family moved to a new FLDS community in British Columbia, Canada, for her mother's third marriage as the eighteenth wife of a man named Mr. Shelby. Her eldest sister (Celeste) is to be the first wife to Mr. Shelby's son, Jamie. Gracie's family consists of an older brother, Billy, and two older sisters, Celeste and Marie. After moving to Canada her mother has two new children with her new husband, a boy named Justin and a girl named Emma.

Gracie is devoted to her family and to her religion. She is reluctant to question what she is taught, even when her instincts lead her to believe it is wrong. Her family is the most important thing to her. Gracie diligently and willingly fulfils her family duties. She assists with the care of her younger siblings and niece. Towards the end of the play we see Gracie's struggle with finding her independence and desire to express her own free will in conflict with her loyalty to her family and her faith.

