

**A Contemporary Theatre Seattle 1981**

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# **BILLY BISHOP GOES TO WAR**

*by John Gray, with Eric Peterson    July 2-July 25*



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*by John Gray, with Eric Peterson July 2-July 25*



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## A Contemporary Theatre



Gregory A. Falls  
Producing Director

Phil Schermer  
Production Manager

Louise Campion  
Cummings  
Administrative Manager

# BILLY BISHOP GOES TO WAR

written and composed by  
**JOHN GRAY**  
in collaboration with  
**ERIC PETERSON**

July 2 - 25, 1981

Director	Robert Loper
Set Designer	Scott Weldin
Costume Designer	Nanrose Buchman
Lighting Designer	Donna Grout
Technical Director	Phil Schermer
Stage Manager	Michael Weholt

## THE CAST

Billy Bishop, Upperclassman, Adjutant  
Perrault, Officer, Sir Hugh Cecil, Lady St.  
Helier, Cedric, Doctor, General John Higgins,  
Tommy, Lovely, Helene, Albert Ball, Walter  
Bourne, Officer, General Hugh M. Trenchard,  
Servant, and King George V

all portrayed by Thomas Hill

Piano Player David Colacci

All the characters and incidents in Billy Bishop Goes to War are based on fact.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Produced on Broadway by Mike Nichols, Lewis Allen and The Vancouver East Cultural Center.  
First presented in the United States by Arena Stage, Washington, D.C.

# The Company

**THOMAS HILL** (Billy Bishop) appeared at ACT in 1976 as "Nick" in *The Time of Your Life*, and he directed our productions of *A Thurber Carnival* in 1966 and *The Great Divide* in 1967. He was a member of the original Seattle Repertory Theatre company, where he both directed and acted, and recently appeared there as "Sid Davis" in *Ah, Wilderness!* His other Rep credits include "Willy Loman" in *Death of a Salesman* and the title roles in *King Lear* and *Galileo*. Among his Broadway credits are *The Shadow Box* and *Sly Fox*. He has appeared with the Manitoba Theatre Centre, Yale Repertory Theatre, Arena Stage, Cleveland Playhouse, and other major regional theatres, and has appeared in numerous films, most recently *The Postman Always Rings Twice* and *True Confessions*. Mr. Hill has served on the faculties of Yale University, Carnegie-Mellon University, and the University of Washington.

**DAVID COLACCI** (Piano Player) appeared on the ACT mainstage as "Charles Lang" in *The Water Engine* and, for two years, played "Fezziwig" in *A Christmas Carol*. He is a three-year veteran of The Young ACT Company, playing major roles in *The Odyssey*, *The Forgotten Door*, and *A Wrinkle in Time*. Recently David played "Feste" in *Twelfth Night* and "Hughes" in the world premiere of *Back to Back* at The Empty Space Theatre. His other area credits include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *South Pacific*, and *The Odd Couple* at the Cirque Theatre Restaurant.

**DIRECTOR ROBERT LOPER** is a veteran of many seasons at ACT. His directing credits include *Buried Child* last season, *Otherwise Engaged* in 1979, *The Shadow Box* in 1978, as well as our productions of *In Celebration*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Cole Porter Revue*, *Old Times*, *The Boys in the Band*, *Under Milk Wood*, and *Desire Under the Elms*. Mr. Loper also is well known as a director and actor with The Seattle Repertory Theatre, The Empty Space, and the Oregon Shakespearean Festival where his production of *Death of a Salesman* currently is running. He is a member of the faculty of the School of Drama at the University of Washington.

**PLAYWRIGHT & COMPOSER JOHN GRAY** is a native of Nova Scotia and trained as a director at the University of British Columbia, where he received his M.A. in 1971. He has directed more than sixty productions and composed music for at least twenty more. His scripts and scores for *Billy Bishop Goes to War* and another musical, *18 Wheels*, both were Chalmers Award finalists and have made him one of Canada's top-grossing playwrights. His newest musical, *Rock and Roll*, was produced in Ottawa earlier this year.

**ERIC PETERSON** collaborated with John Gray to create the character of *Billy Bishop*. Peterson, a native of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, is one of Canada's leading actors. He was chosen best actor of the 1979-80 season by the Toronto Globe & Mail and, in New York, won the 1980 Clarence Derwent Award for his performance as *Bishop*.

**SET DESIGNER SCOTT WELDIN** received his M.F.A. in design from the University of Washington. In addition to his design for *Getting Out* this season, his work was seen on our mainstage for *Buried Child* and *Artichoke* last season and for *Otherwise Engaged* the previous year. Scott has designed for Conservatory Theatre Company, Poncho Theatre, The Cirque, and The Empty Space, and he is now Designer and Technical Director for the Drama Department of Seattle University. His many honors include a First Prize in Theatre Crafts Magazine's "Innovative Technical Theatre Practices Competition."

**COSTUME DESIGNER NANROSE BUCHMAN** designed our production of *Getting Out* this season. She spent two seasons as resident designer for the Alaska Repertory Theatre and recently returned there to design *On Golden Pond*. She designed *Bingo*, *Boseman and Lena* and *Vanities* for The Seattle Rep's 2nd Stage and was their assistant costume designer in 1976-77. Nanrose has also designed for Intiman, The Empty Space, and the Palace Theatre. In New York, she designed *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* at Cafe La Marna. She also served as assistant to the set designer for the PBS television series *Decades of Decisions*.

**LIGHTING DESIGNER DONNA GROUT** is a graduate of the University of Washington School of Drama. Her lighting design credits include *The Primary English Class*, *Getting Out*, *Medal of Honor Rag*, and *The Price* for The Group's 1980-81 season at the Ethnic Cultural Theatre.

While at ACT, she has designed *Buried Child*, *A Wrinkle in Time* and two productions of *Seattle Eclectic*. Donna is at present serving a second season as ACT's assistant lighting designer.

**TECHNICAL DIRECTOR PHIL SCHERMER** is also ACT's Production Manager. In the past sixteen years, Phil's lighting designs have included *Custer*, *Catholics*, *Wings*, *Fanshen*, *The Water Engine*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Club*, *The Shadow Box* and many others. At The Empty Space, his lighting was seen in *American Buffalo*, *A Prayer For My Daughter*, *Heat and Dusa*, *Stas*, *Fish and Vi*. He has designed lighting for The Seattle Rep and its 2nd Stage as well, plus sets for ACT's productions of *Fire!* and *Butterflies Are Free*.

**STAGE MANAGER MICHAEL WEHOLT** came to ACT in 1971 as an apprentice. Since then he has stage-managed and acted in several productions here, including *Plaza Suite*, *Makassar Reef*, *The Water Engine*, and the first Young ACT Company tour of the western United States. He appeared in productions of *Loot*, *Macbeth*, and *Three Sisters* at the University of Washington, from which he graduated *cum laude* with a degree in playwriting and literature. Michael also appeared in *Cabaret* and *The Lover* at Western Washington State College.



# Staff

## A Contemporary Theatre

P.O. Box 19400, Seattle, WA 98109  
 Located at 1st Ave. W. & W. Roy St.  
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 Administrative Offices: 285-3220

**Gregory A. Falls, Producing Director**

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 Assistant to Production Manager..... Karen Rains  
 Music Director..... Stan Keen  
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 Production Stage

Manager..... Eileen MacRae Murphy  
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 Assistant Lighting Designer..... Donna Grout  
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Technical Production Assistants... Nancy Provence  
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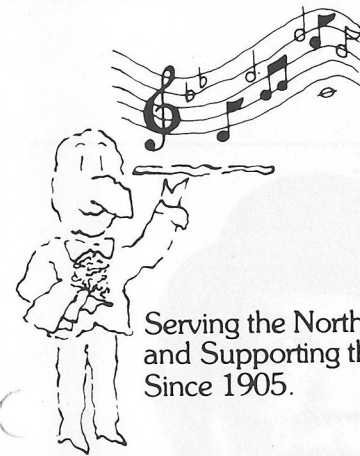
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## SPECIAL THANKS

ACT wishes to express its appreciation to the Canadian Consulate General in Seattle for its assistance in bringing *Billy Bishop Goes to War* to our mainstage. Special thanks go to The Honourable John R. Sharpe, Consul General, and to Public Affairs Officer Joy Daniels.

ACT gratefully acknowledges support by the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency); the Washington, King County, and Seattle Arts Commissions; and PONCHO. In addition, we thank regional businesses which generously support ACT through contributions to the Corporate Council for the Arts (CCA).

**POST-PLAY DISCUSSION:** A free informal discussion of *Billy Bishop Goes to War* will take place in the theatre on Sunday, July 19th, following the 2:30 p.m. matinee. You and your guests are invited to participate, along with members of the company and a guest speaker.

KUOW-FM and the Washington State Commission for the Humanities will present a special program on ACT's production of *Billy Bishop Goes to War* on Sunday, July 12th, at 7:00 p.m.

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