

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

The Province of Alberta has just released its 10-year Strategy to End Gender-Based Violence. Read the document and regularly ask your MLA what progress is being made..

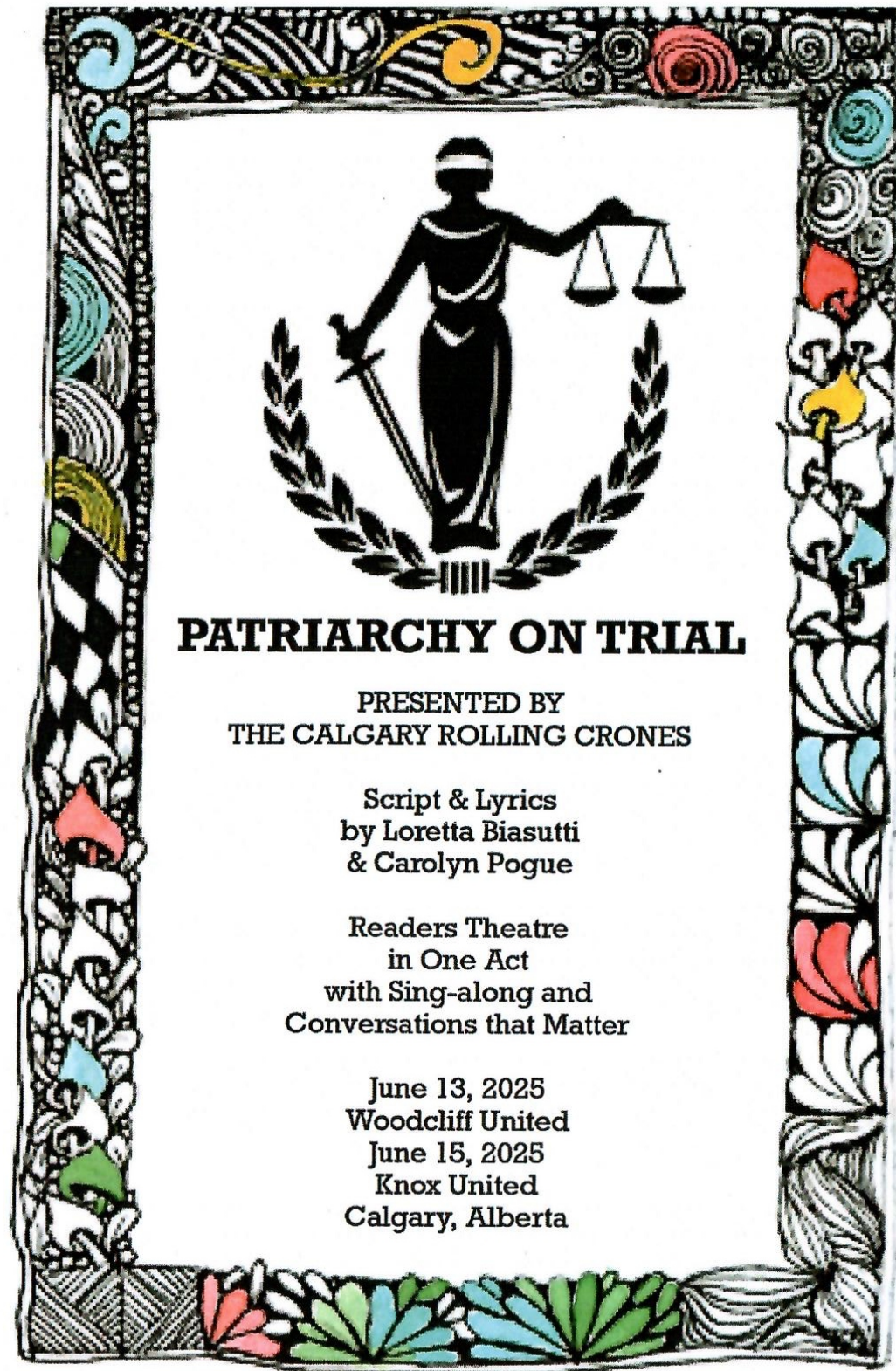
The Canadian Women's Foundation was awarded the 2023 Governor General's Innovation Award for the Signal for Help, a simple hand sign to alert onlookers of a person seeking help when experiencing abuse. Learn the sign to recognize a person seeking help when experiencing abuse.



Speak to your elected officials whenever you see policies enacted that promote social and economic inequality. Or, run for office yourself!

Support women's emergency shelters, the Women's Centre of Calgary, and other like organizations.

Join the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good, a non-partisan, non-profit alliance of congregations, unions, schools and community groups representing more than 35,000 people. They seek to effectively address Calgary issues to shape a just and compassionate city.



The Calgary area, called Moh'kins'tsis by the Blackfoot people, where the Bow and Elbow Rivers meet, is a place of confluence where the sharing of resources, ideas and opportunities naturally come together. Indigenous peoples were stewards of this land long before settlers arrived here. This is the ancestral territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy, the Îethka Nakoda Wicastabi First Nations, and the Tsuut'ina Nation. The City of Calgary is also homeland to the Otipemisiwak Government of Métis Nation of Alberta, Districts 5&6. Wherever our ancestors come from, we are all Treaty people, with an obligation to work together to sustain this precious land.

THANK YOU to our hosts, Woodcliff United Church and Knox United Church, who graciously donated space to make our presentations possible.

Front of House: Victoria Tirmizi
Sharon Woodhouse
Sophie Gervais

Sets and Props: Karen Motyka
Carolyn Pogue

Programme: Loretta Biasutti
Carolyn Pogue

Poster Design and Logo: Chris Clark

Musical Arrangements: Vallerie Ross

Script and this programme are available for free download here:
www.carolynpogue.ca or <https://beyondourimage.com/>

proposed a strategy to accelerate gender equality as essential to global development. (WB Gender Strategy 2024-30)

HAPPY FACT

Acts of kindness activate the same brain reward pathways as food or sex. So, go ahead and indulge in kindness!

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Books:

Witches, Midwives, and Nurses: A History of Women Healers (2nd Edition). by Barbara Ehrenreich

Lessons in Chemistry. by Bonnie Garmus

Why Does Patriarchy Persist? by Carol Gilligan and Naomi Snider

The Patriarchs: The Origins of Inequality. by Angela Saini

21 things you might not know about the Indian Act: Helping Canadians Make Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples a Reality. by Bob Joseph

On the net:

Hidden in plain sight: Women face subtle forms of discrimination and bias in the workplace. (the conversation)

Smash the patriarchy: 8 ways to do it with love and compassion. (koolkanya)

How Patriarchy Hurts Men Too (Next Gen Men)

Loretta J. Ross: Don't call people out - call them in. (How to communicate positively with people whose opinions are different than ours.) (TED talk)

Videos/Movies:

Haudenosaunee – Women and Governance. (youtube)

Kristen Sollée: Witches, Sluts, Feminists. (Youtube)

Elizabeth Lesser: When Women are the Storytellers, the Human Story Changes. (Youtube)

Robin Buckley: Why I gave my teenage daughter a vibrator. (TED talk)

Hysteria (2011). A comedy set in the Victorian era, loosely based on how the medical management of female dissatisfaction led to the invention of the vibrator.

FACTS AND FIGURES THAT MAY SURPRISE YOU

Men have higher rates of substance abuse and are less likely to seek out mental health support.

In 2009, men died by suicide at a rate that is 3X that of women, an average of 50 men per week. (Statistics Canada – Suicide Rates: An Overview)

Mental health in men is rated as better by those who have someone to count on, or who rarely or ever feel lonely. (Statistics Canada: Men's Health: How are Canadian Men doing?)

Between 2018-2022, an average of one woman or girl was violently killed every 48 hours. Indigenous women and girls disproportionately experience physical and sexual assault. (Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability, 2022)

Up until 1983, a man could rape his wife without being charged with a crime. (On Canada Project).

The expression "Rule of Thumb" derives from an English law that allowed a husband to beat his wife with a stick so long as it was no thicker than his thumb.

More than 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM). It is mostly carried out on girls between infancy and age 15. (World Health Organization-Female Genital Mutilation)

Women earned an average of 11% less per hour than men in the period 1998-2011.

(Statistics Canada – Pay gap, 1998-2021)

"What's odd is how so many scholars even today try to dismiss evidence of working, independent women or powerful women rulers and warriors in the ancient record. It is almost as though history doesn't make sense to them unless women are powerless and invisible." — Angela Saini

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) ranking of 41 countries, Canada has the seventh-worst gender pay gap. (OECD Data-Gender Wage Gap)

For every 100 men promoted to a manager role in 2022, only 87 women had the same outcome to their request. (Women in the Workplace report, based on research from 276 companies in Canada and USA)

Why do digital assistants like Alexa have women's voices? Reinforcing the idea that women are naturally used to assist and to serve?

The World Bank, an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to developing nations for their economic advancement, has

PLAYWRIGHTS' NOTES

When we set out in 2023 to write a play about the patriarchy, we resolved to discuss hard truths about violence against women, domination over people's bodies, and restriction of opportunities. In our 2024 premiere production run, we played to nearly 500 people and donated about \$2500 towards social justice projects. We were encouraged by the positive response to our message, with feedback such as "[it was] entertaining, and a learning experience," and "I am moved to make a difference."

Our goal to have the message spread more widely was realized through several independent presentations of the play, over three provinces.

This remount has slight additions to reflect current realities, and a new song to end the evening. It is taking place at the time of the G7 Leaders' Summit being held in the Kananaskis. When these representatives from seven of the world's "advanced" economies meet to discuss and coordinate on global issues, it is up to each of us to demand that greater inclusion and compassion be included in their deliberations.

Loretta: What a joy it has been as a member of the Calgary Rolling Crones, working with like-minded older wise women (and younger crones-in-waiting!), to bring this play to life. And I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to create alongside Carolyn. Our unlikely partnership has led to a deep friendship and determination to continue to explore new projects. There is much work to do to create a more equitable society. Yet, I remain optimistic that small ventures, such as our play, might spur folks to take action on causes they care about. So, we encourage you to laugh and sing along with us as we delve into the ugly truths about patriarchal systems.

Carolyn: Working with Loretta has been a wonderful experience. We began this collaboration soon after I visited to Salem, MA in spring 2023 to see firsthand how the witch trials of the 1600s are remembered today. At the memorials to the people killed there, I left tiny red dresses with information about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada. I believe that those of us who can speak out, must. More than ever, we need to embody and encourage all that is good in the human spirit. We were writing through heartbreaking summer wildfires and very challenging provincial and international landscapes. But, as composer Leonard Bernstein wrote after JFK's assassination, "This will be a reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before." And so we will.

At our age, we no longer take ourselves so seriously, but we are dead serious about provoking conversation and spurring folks to act for change.

Loretta Biasutti Carolyn Pogue

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Narrator
Court Clerk
Eve Anonymous
Emma Amethyst
Jane Doe
Musicians
The Jury—you, the audience

It begins with a dream...

A woman dreams she is in a courtroom and finds an obelisk in it. Examining the obelisk symbols, she realizes what the trial is about: the patriarchy. *Finally.*

The patriarchy has gone way too far. Three witnesses will testify: Eve, of The Garden of Eden fame, Emma Amethyst, a time-travelling healer and herbalist, and Jane Doe, an overwrought working mom in today's world.

It will be up to you, the audience/jury, to pass judgement, to sing-along with a few feisty songs, and finally, to join a conversation about *your* dream for the future.

THE CALGARY ROLLING CRONES

Loretta Biasutti (Co-Playwright, Emma Amethyst) is a grandmother, a former Raging Granny and a longtime activist for peace, social justice and public education. She is concerned about the current lack of civil discourse in the public sphere. When she is not rabble rousing, Loretta seeks joy in family, friends and cooking.

Cheryle Chagnon-Greyeyes (Eve Anonymous) retired as Administrative Coordinator from The Native Centre, University of Calgary, and was the Leader of the Green Party of Alberta from 2018-2019. She is a Traditional Knowledge Keeper, Educator and Cree Elder from Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, Saskatchewan, mother of two and Kokum (grandmother) to five beautiful grandchildren.

June Churchill (Crone Emerita), 79, has embraced the Conscious Aging movement (what are the purposes and new tasks of becoming an Elder.) She is active in Calgary Association of Life Long Learners including the Hags and Crones group. She is enjoying the social consciousness discussions and happy to be in this play highlighting that Patriarchy is still creating stumbling blocks to an equal opportunity society.

NOTES ON NAMES AND TERMS

Are you wondering who we are referring to in the "I am Working in the Kitchen" song? You are not alone. We chose just a few of the women throughout history whose accomplishments in science and the arts have been ignored, minimized, or co-opted by males. It is time to raise up these women's names; finally, some female artists and scientists are receiving long-delayed recognition. We encourage you to search for names of other forgotten or overlooked women in history.

Katherine Johnson, mathematician 1918-2020

-In her work at NASA, she verified the calculations that allowed the USA to send astronauts into space.

Alice Ball, chemist 1892-1916

-She discovered a breakthrough in the treatment of leprosy.

Rosalind Franklin, chemist 1920-1958

-She took the first x-ray of DNA, and described the double helix structure at the same time as Watson and Crick.

Maud Lewis, artist 1903-1970

-During her lifetime, Maud sold her vibrant folk art paintings for five dollars each. She is now recognized as a Canadian treasure.

Harriet Powers, art quilter 1837-1910

-She interpreted Bible stories, local legends and celestial events into appliquéd pictorial quilts.

Hedy Lamarr, inventor 1914-2000

-She was more than a glamorous screen star of the 1930s-40s. She co-invented spread-spectrum technology, which forms the basis of WIFI, Bluetooth, and GPS.

Why is the healer named **Emma Amethyst**, you ask? The name Emma means "all-embracing healer" and the amethyst gem has been associated with healing and wisdom for millennia.

Why do we unapologetically call ourselves **Hags and Crones**? Aren't those insulting terms for older women, suggesting that they are ugly and malicious? We reclaim these words, to embrace their archetypal meaning as wise women. We refuse to be demeaned and ignored simply because we are old.

What does Eve mean when she mentions the **Doctrine of Discovery**? In the 15th century, the Popes of the time authorized the conquering of any land populated by non-Christians. The world is still suffering from the effects of such colonization.

The life-size cardboard cutouts are of **Annie Kenney and Christabel Pankhurst**, British suffragettes who endured imprisonment and hunger strikes in the early 1900's, in their demand for women's voting rights.

Jane Sings: I am Working, Always Working *

Tune: I've Been Working on the Railroad (Traditional, 1800s) Lyrics: Biasutti, 2023

I am working, always working,
All the live-long day.
I am working, always working,
For sub-standard pay.

I am working in the kitchen,
In the nursery too.
But when I want to work the board room
Challenges ensue.

Women gotta know.
We all gotta know.
Women gotta toot their ho-o-orns.
Catharine and Alice,
Rosalind and Maude
Harriet and Hedy Lamarr.

Can't you hear the voices calling?
"Please give me my due!"
All those names that I'm recalling,
Wo-men strong and true.

Scientists are working in the labs-oh.
Artists are working in the halls.
Women forgotten and refuse-ed;
Names that we should know.

Singin' fee, fie, fiddly-i-o
Fee, fie, fiddly-i-o-o-o-o
Fee, fie, fiddly-i-o —
Give us what you owe!

*Don't recognize some of these names? See **NOTES ON NAMES** to learn more.

Narrator Sings: If Patriarchy's Guilty

Tune: If You're Happy and You Know It (Traditional) Lyrics: Biasutti, 2023

If patriarchy's guilty, clap your hands (clap, clap)
If patriarchy's guilty, clap your hands (clap, clap)
If patriarchy's guilty, if patriarchy's guilty, if patriarchy's guilty,
Clap your hands (clap, clap).

Let's all work together, clap your hands (clap, clap)
Let's all work together, clap your hands (clap, clap)
Let's all work together, make the planet so much better,
If patriarchy's guilty, clap your hands. (clap, clap).

Marcia Gervais (Jane Doe) is a lucky girl with a big heart who spreads love in this world as a Sister, Auntie, Step Mom and Wife. I believe in the practices of gratitude and meditation. When not working to cultivate employee wellbeing, Marcia can be found enjoying coffee with loved ones on or near the city's pathways.

Shannon Hutchison (she/her) (Understudy) is a passionate photographer and the visionary owner of Beyond Our Image, a groundbreaking social change enterprise. Through compelling visual campaigns, storytelling, volunteer opportunities and transformative workshops, Shannon works to foster connectivity within workplaces and communities, weaving a tapestry of positive change and understanding.

Marcia Jenneth Epstein (Court Clerk) is a music historian, singer, composer, and recently retired U of C professor using some newly acquired free time for volunteer work in arts and community building. She especially appreciates In-Real-Life initiatives that combine these areas.

Carolyn Pogue (Co-Playwright, Narrator) is a Calgary grandmother, Crone, author and lifelong activist. She was a founder of the Calgary Women in Black peace vigil group, and enjoys presenting workshops on writing and social change. www.carolynpogue.ca

Vallerie Ross (Musician) is a music educator and a Saskatchewan wheat farmer. She is a mother and grandmother, whose greatest delight is time with her grandchildren. Vallerie is a long-time activist, a devoted yogini, and a vintage feminist.

"Feminism has fought no wars. killed no opponents. It has set up no concentration camps, starved no enemies, practiced no cruelties.

Its battles have been for education, for the vote, for better working conditions, for safety on the streets, for childcare, for social welfare, for rape crisis centres, refugees, reforms in the law. If someone says, "Oh. I'm not a feminist," I ask, "Why? What's your problem?" — Dale Spender

SING ALONG WITH US!

Eve Sings "It Had to be Me"

Tune: It Had to be You (Jones & Kahn, 1924)

Lyrics: Biasutti, 2023

It had to be me. —
The blame is on me. —
I talked to the snake
I ate from the tree
The blame is on me.

Sure, Eden was great, —
With nary a chore. —
But give me a break
A bit of a bore
I hungered for more.

It had to be me. —
The blame is on me. —
It's knowledge I craved
So call me depraved,
Don't. Blame. It. On. Me!



Emma Sings: My Best Healing Things

Tune: My Favourite Things (Rogers and Hammerstein, 1959)

Lyrics: Biasutti, 2023

Ginkgo and willow and ergot and chamomile
Basil and feverfew, mint, flax and yarrow.
Herbs that I find near rivers and springs...
These are a few of my best healing things.

When the dog bites,
When the bee stings,
When the baby's due,
I simply provide all my care and my love
And I will be there for you.

We are considered a challenge to power
Of men in the clergy and newly-trained doctors.
"Sex with the devil!" is their explanation
For skills we perfected in each generation.

They say, "witch-es"
They say, "e-vil"
But we're **wo-men** true.
We are mistrusted by powers-that-be,
But someday we'll Get. Our. Due!

Emma Sings: Leave My Wrinkled Face Alone
(Pogue, 2023)

Leave my wrinkled face alone.
I love all the lines it's grown
You can cut and paste your own face
Stitch a bum up in its place —
But leave my wrinkled face alone.

Leave my lovely breasts alone.
I don't need your silicone.
I don't want your pokey wire
To lift them ever higher
I like how my breasts have grown.

Leave my labia alone.
Your opinion is over-blown
Whether smooth or long or bitty
I think they're very pretty.
I'm fond of the ones I own.

Everyone Sings: “We Demand a Better Way”
Way”

Tune: La Cucaracha (traditional corrido)

Lyrics: Biasutti, 2025

We’ve all **agreed** on
A verdict **here** now.
But there’s more that we must do.

We all **have** a
Part to **play** now:
Act with boldness through and through.

We must **all** fight
To make **things** right,
And we need to start today.

Write or **protest**,
Act with **kindness**,
And demand a better way.

WE.DE.MAND.A.BET.TER.WAY!