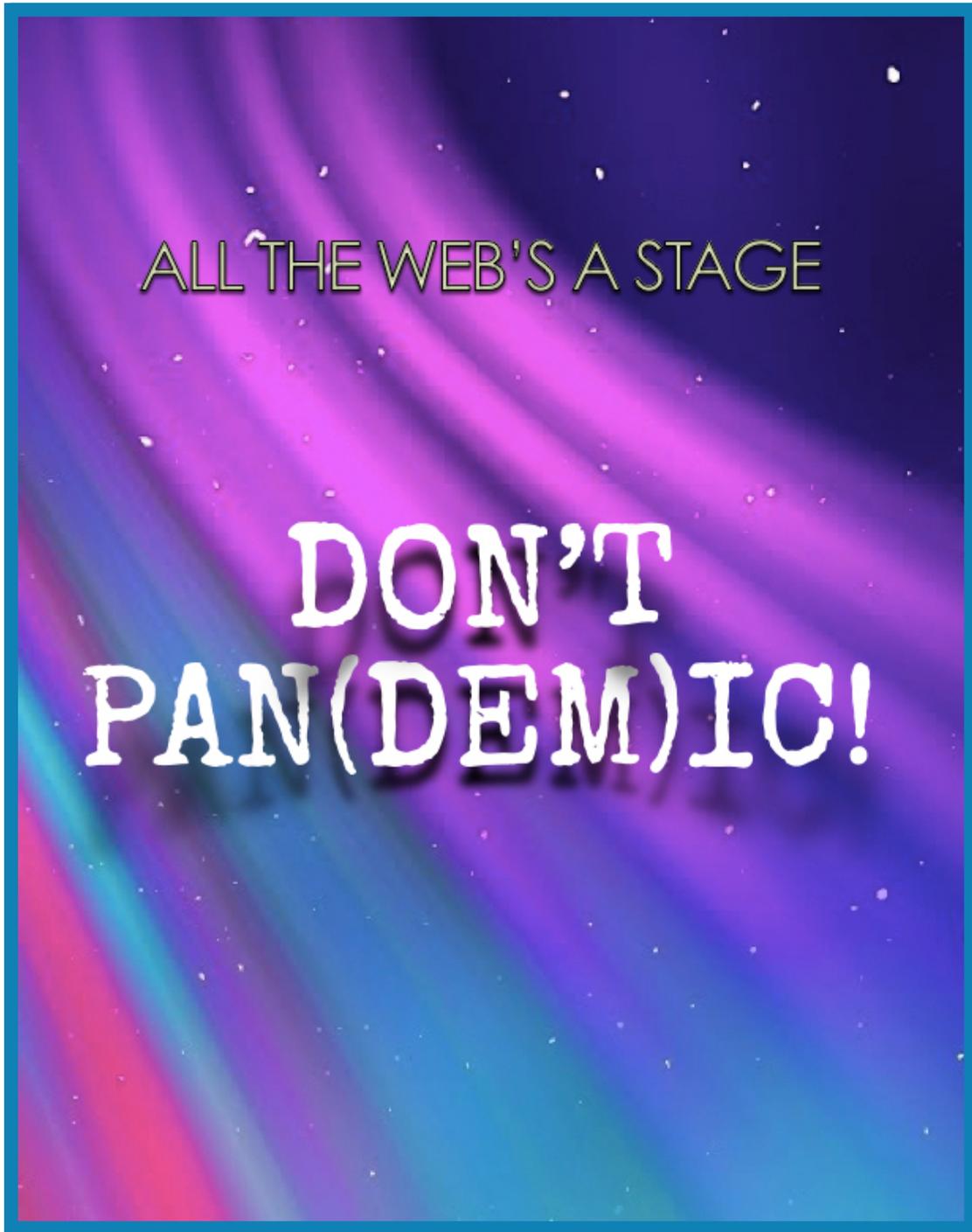
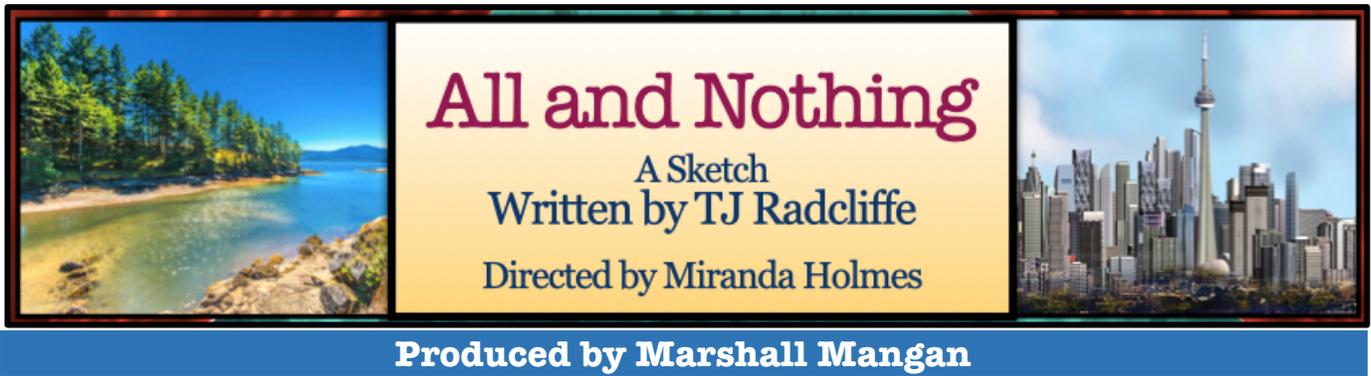


# GABRIOLA PLAYERS



Three live online performances of two new pandemic-themed plays.

**September 17, 18 & 19 at 7pm (PDT)**



Alan and Emma, a couple who moved from Toronto to the gulf islands last year (and are weathering the pandemic with sailing and walks in the woods), catch up with friends from the city. Daisy, a healthcare worker, is currently in quarantine in a hotel, whilst her husband Chris, at home in their tiny Toronto condo, has watched his plans to open a massage therapy practice go up in socially distanced smoke.



### **CAST**

(Clockwise from top left) **Jennefer Laidley** as Daisy, **Scott Rivers** as Chris, **Donna Deacon** as Emma, and **Dave Innell** as Alan.

### **Notes from the cast and crew**

**Donna Deacon** (Emma): I've been involved in many memorable stage productions with Gabriola Players but this is my first foray into the magical world of live theatre via Zoom! We're jumping into new and exciting territory by going "online" and I have the great good fortune of playing Emma in Tom Radcliffe's bitingly funny *All and Nothing*. It's the best cure for pandemic isolation anyone could ask for. Thanks to Tom, Miranda and the cast for the opportunity to play.

**Miranda Holmes** (director): It's lovely that so many theatre companies have, during these dark times, been making their past production available to view online. It's been great to see shows from Broadway or London's West End which I would otherwise have never seen. That said, there is nothing quite like *live* theatre. That gulp of anticipation (and fear) as the lights go down and the spotlights come up. I'm so grateful to Tom for coming up with the idea for these live Zoom performances and for writing *All and Nothing*. It's been great to work with him and Dave and Donna again and to work with Scott and Jennefer for the first time. You're going to love (or perhaps hate?) these characters as much as I do.

**Dave Innell** (Alan): It was a pleasure to work collaboratively on a theatre project in these challenging times, while respecting the various protocols and guidelines to ensure everyone stays safe. I would like to thank my castmates Jennefer, Scott and Donna, Miranda for her advice and guidance and Tom Ratcliffe for his words and his technical wizardry with this new medium. I hope you enjoy the shows.

**Jennefer Laidley** (Daisy): While digging deep to find my inner Daisy, I marvel at how similar my real life experience has been to that of Emma and Alan. I therefore apologize profusely to all my Toronto friends, while annoyingly reiterating my feelings of being "so lucky" and "so blessed" to have moved to Gabriola. I do need a decent pandemic haircut, however, so go ahead and feel smug about that.

**TJ Radcliffe** (playwright and stage manager): I wrote *All and Nothing* while reflecting on how the pandemic has hit some of us much harder than others, as I heard from friends across the country how their lives were being affected--or not--in different ways. It was originally meant to be a short film, but talking with Ray I realized that live theatre was going to be a difficult challenge for some time to come, and that Zoom webinars offered a potential medium for "virtually live" performances. I suggested the idea to my fellow Gabriola Players board members, who jumped at the chance to try something new. Having proposed the idea, it seemed only fair that I be the one to scout the way up the learning curve as stage manager for the show, which has been a fascinating experience. Some things that seemed like they ought to be simple turn out to be impossible, some things that I worried about a lot are actually simple... once you find the magic Zoom setting amidst the dozens of others. The whole process has involved a lot of experimentation and discovery, and I'm deeply grateful for the enthusiasm, understanding, and commitment from the cast, crew, and directors as we have encountered problems and overcome them together.

**Scott Rivers** (Chris): So excited to be a part of the first Gabriola Players online production, *All and Nothing*, a witty topical play whose production itself illustrates the theme: coping if not thriving by all means necessary during a global pandemic. A true joy to work with all the wonderful folks involved, and a way personally for me to find purpose and community during a difficult time.

### **Our thanks for their support to**



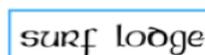
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# SYD'S COSMIC SLUMP

Written by Ray Appel Directed by Lesley Hazeldine  
Produced by Marshall Mangan

Comedian Syd has been offered a great opportunity – the chance to perform a stand-up routine as part of a nationally televised variety show. Problem is, Syd can't think of anything funny to say, what with a pandemic raging and his father Max isolated in his care home. Chilled Uncle Larry advises going with the flow, but the flow's dried up.



## CAST

(Clockwise from top left) **Kerry Woodrow** as Larry, **Ray Appel** as Syd, **Wendy Philipps** as Yolanda and **Joe DiCara** as Max.

## Notes from the cast and crew

**Ray Appel** (playwright and Syd): I love painting on canvas, but I found myself in the early days of the pandemic stuck. Totally stuck. I couldn't paint, and I didn't really want to. I was worried and I talked with some of the other artists on the island who felt the same way, so I decided to channel my creativity into another project - a play! The whole process has been really exciting for me. This, my first play, went through many changes, particularly early on. I had a lot of support from a couple of writers who asked me the right questions as I was creating and crafting it. The creative process

really motivated and kept me going during the early days of the pandemic. It's been a fantastic experience to watch the actors take what I've written and make it come alive. They continually amaze me as they add little nuances and motivations to their various parts. Once again, I'm grateful to be part of the Gabriola Players and all that this entails, particularly as we are venturing into new territory!

**Charlie Cheffins** (sound): When I was asked to run sound for these two plays I was doubtful. Would it be too much of a challenge to synchronize the SFX with the action on multiple screens? But as soon as we began rehearsals my misgivings disappeared. Zoomthespianism works just fine, and, as I am invisible to the audience, I don't have to wear pants.

**Joe DiCara** (Max): When playwright Ray Appel invited me to audition for his delightful and witty play, I wonder why he thought I would be the perfect fit for the role of Syd's father Max, a cranky old guy who, in the midst of a pandemic, yells at the stupid people on TV, yells at telemarketers, and flirts with older women in his care home? Maybe Ray just "sensed" that I've always had a fondness for earthy Yiddish characters. And to tell you the truth I do relate to Max in so many ways. Thanks Ray for this timely and funny play and inviting me to be part of it. And thanks to Lesley Hazeldine for her sensitive and thoughtful directorial insights.

**Lesley Hazeldine** (director and Receptionist): When I read Ray's script, I found his view on Covid-19 in the early days spot on. But what intrigued me most, was despite the fact that we were all in isolation, there was still an opportunity to reach out to family and friends via Zoom. As humans we need to interact even if we cannot physically be together. Ray's play reveals just how resilient we all are and how we can grow and be stronger in the face of adversity. It has been an honour to direct and a tremendous learning curve for me. Zoom and I are now on a first name basis.

**Wendy Phillips** (Yolanda): I've dabbled in past Gabriola Players productions as a lamb, a vicar's wife and a lusty housekeeper. And now I'm happy to join the virtual cast of Syd's *Cosmic Slump* in the role of Yolanda, agent to the stars and wannabe social influencer. Thanks to Lesley for the opportunity to work with the gang, and shout out to headliner and new playwright Ray Appel.

**Kerry Woodrow** (Uncle Larry) Working on this production has been a wonderful experience. Having the opportunity to collaborate with everyone involved to bring Ray's story to life has injected light into our world at this challenging time. I've noticed that when an acting troupe actually likes each other the resulting performance tends to resonate more – so with that in mind I expect the audience's experience to be as wonderful and fun as we are having working together.

