

# The Departure Train

A New Play By Michelle Tocher  
With Director Nicole Arends

## An Elegantly Staged Reading

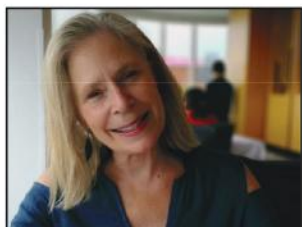
Sunday, December 2nd, 2018 (1:00-5:00pm)

The Gladstone Hotel Ballroom - 1214 Queen Street West, Toronto

After she dies at 87, Audrey Doyle boards a train and takes a journey back through time. Guided by a mysterious conductor who knows the rules of the afterlife, Audrey is offered a close look into her relationships with her two daughters, her best friend and her husband. As she reenters critical moments in her life, she undergoes a profound transformation that redeems her spirit and enables her to move on. In this poignant and heart-warming play, we are taken on the ride of a lifetime to experience the intimate depths of one woman's life and her afterlife.

Special Thanks: Cathy Landolt (Event Manager), John Scully (Photographer), Gilles Gagnon (Videographer), Daryl Vineberg (Sterling Studio), Paula Wing, Julien Hutchinson, Lisa Applegath, Sunday Muse

If you would like to connect with us regarding *The Departure Train*, please contact:  
Michelle Tocher ([michelle.tocher@rogers.com](mailto:michelle.tocher@rogers.com)) or Nicole Arends ([nicolearends@yahoo.ca](mailto:nicolearends@yahoo.ca))



### Michelle Tocher - Playwright

Michelle Tocher is a storyteller who is interested in expressing the spiritual and mythic dimensions of human life. In addition to performing and facilitating storytelling experiences, she has produced several short films and has authored five books, including *How to Ride a Dragon: Women with Breast Cancer Tell Their Stories*. *The Departure Train* is her first play. Website: [michelletocher.com](http://michelletocher.com)



### Nicole Arends - Director and Dramaturge

Nicole has been directing plays for over 20 years. She looks for projects that help us see the world in a new light, examining how to make spirituality theatrical, and in blurring the line between audience and performance using site specific and immersive theatre methods. Select directing credits include *The Hope Slide*, *Cloud Tectonics*, *Hamlet*, *Collected Stories*, *Foxfinder*, *Evidence to the Contrary*, *Yeats in Love* and *The Makeover Show*. Upcoming: *Impressionism* by Michael Jacobs. Website: [nicolearends.com](http://nicolearends.com)

## Cast:



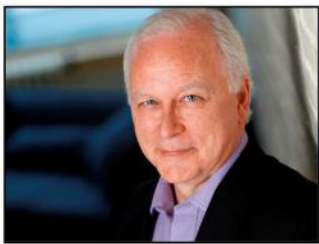
### Susan Q Wilson\* - GHOST AUDREY

Since returning to the thespian world in 2010, Susan Q Wilson has appeared in 22 stage productions, 24 films, and a web series. Stage highlights include Jean Rhys, *After Mrs. Rochester* (Alumnae Theatre), Dowager Countess, *Uptown Abbey* (Mysteriously Yours); and First Witch, *Macbeth* (Hart House Theatre). Screen highlights include Phyllis in *Zaide* with Howard Jerome and Jake Epstein (Dir: Mike Fly) and Beatrice in *A Cloud to Walk On* (Dir: Adam Pedersen), for which she won the 2016 Best Lead Female award from International Online Web Fest. Website: [susanqwilson.workbooklive.com](http://susanqwilson.workbooklive.com)



### Ruth Danziger - AUDREY

Ruth Danziger is a storyteller and multidisciplinary artist. She is a frequent teller at the Toronto Storytelling festival and editor of two collections of stories. Ruth has participated in several multidisciplinary events including *Love Stories from the Mahabharata*, as actor/narrator/vocal performer in two electroacoustic pieces composed by Wende Bartley and with the Bill Gilliam Art Ensemble. She is a founding member of the improvisational voice collective Hathorah which performed at Nuit Blanche for several years. Ruth regularly hosts storytelling circles at Whychwood Barns.



### **Rick S Jones\* - CONDUCTOR**

Rick Jones is a theatre jack-of-many trades, having worked as an actor, singer, dancer, writer, composer, sound designer, choreographer and occasional producer. He is also frequently seen in Toronto-based TV and film productions. He has performed with Alumnae Theatre, Stage Centre, Etobicoke Musical Productions, Stephenville Festival, and in various Toronto Fringe productions, where his musicals *Seeking Refuge* (Paul O'Sullivan Prize), *Millennium Madness Sale*, and *Life in the Raw* (co-writer) were produced to critical acclaim.



### **Pamela Barker - PAT**

Pamela Barker has been involved in theatre since she was a teenager. In recent years she has been a member of The NAGS community theatre group and The Alumnae Theatre, where she has performed in several play readings. This past spring Pamela directed *A Canticle of Light* by KT Bryski with Missed Metaphor Productions - the theatre company she started with a small group of theatre buddies. Currently, she is working on two original one-act scripts and hopes to produce them next year. Pamela lives with her partner, Norm, and their three cats.



### **Erica May/Wood\* - MEGAN**

Erica is an actor, teaching artist and theatre maker. She is Co-Artistic Director of RealSpace Theatre and is currently personally working on The Harshad Project.

[www.realspacetheatre.com](http://www.realspacetheatre.com)  
[www.theharshadproject.com](http://www.theharshadproject.com)



### **Jean Sheppard - ELEANOR**

For many years, Jean Sheppard taught academic English at an independent school for girls in Toronto. After leaving teaching in 2012, she earned an MFA in creative writing from the University of British Columbia and now works as a freelance writer, editor, writing teacher and retirement coach. Website: [jeansheppard.com](http://jeansheppard.com)



### **Dan Giverin\* - Multiple Roles**

Daniel Giverin studied theatre at Concordia University in Montreal. Among his most memorable performances were : Pato Dooley in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (directed by Ben Barnes, AD of Dublin's famous Abbey Theatre); the one-man show *A Night in November* ( directed by Peter Hinton); and, of course, his own one-man show based on the life and writings of the Irish poet William Butler Yeats. He also plays 1<sup>st</sup> violin with the Summerhill Community Orchestra.



### **Naomi Peltz - Multiple Roles**

Naomi Peltz is an actor, singer, and improviser. She studied at the Randolph Academy and Second City. Credits Include: *Guys & Dolls*, *Obeah Opera*, *On the Rocks*, and *Evidence to the Contrary*. This past year Naomi has had the opportunity to live and work abroad, first in China followed by Italy. This fall she is happy to be back in Toronto, workshopping *The Departure Train*, and producing a new play, *Benefits Lapsed*. She can't wait to see what adventures the future holds.



### **Judith Johns Fiore - Stage Directions**

Judith began her theatre career in Winnipeg, with roles in various companies. The highlight was playing Miss Forsythe in the Manitoba Theatre Centre's production of *Death of a Salesman*, directed by Kurt Reis and starring Thomas Hill. Name dropping aside, Judith eventually went into another career, and has only recently returned to her first love. She is married to actor Dom Fiore, is the mother of two amazing humans, Adrian and Juliana, and surrogate mother to her adorable dog Lulu.

\* The participation of these Artists are arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the **Dance Opera Theatre Policy (DOT).**"