

# Paradise Lost

By Erin Shields

FEBRUARY 10-14 \* 7:30 PM \* UNIVERSITY THEATRE



FACULTY OF  
**FINE ARTS**

*Piiksinaasin*

# Territorial Acknowledgement

Oki, and welcome to the University of Lethbridge. Our University's Blackfoot name is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. The University of Lethbridge acknowledges and deeply appreciates the Siksikaitsitapii peoples' connection to their traditional territory. We, as people living and benefiting from Blackfoot Confederacy traditional territory, honour the traditions of people who have cared for this land since time immemorial. We recognize the diverse population of Aboriginal peoples who attend the University of Lethbridge and the contributions these Aboriginal peoples have made in shaping and strengthening the University community in the past, present, and in the future.

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**Paradise Lost** was originally commissioned by the Stratford Festival, Ontario, under Artistic Director Antoni Cimolino and Executive Director Anita Gaffney. **Paradise Lost** is produced by permission of the Playwright and Marquis Literary (Colin Rivers) [www.MQLit.ca](http://www.MQLit.ca).

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**The play runs approximately two hours 45 minutes with one 10 minute intermission.**

**This performance includes fog and haze effects.**

**Video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.**

# Cast

Satan .....	ALEXANDRA CREASER
Adam .....	PARKER HICKERTY
Eve .....	RUBY GAUDET
God the Father .....	GRIFFIN EVANS
God the Son .....	CAIDEN CLINE
Sin/Zephon .....	MADDIE MCKEE
Beelzebub/Gabriel .....	GENEVA MURPHY
Mammon/Uriel .....	JACEY DEMARNI
Astoreth/Urena .....	ALIYAH DEANE
Moloch/Michael .....	MATTHEW DENITTIS
Belial/Raphael .....	CARTER POPIELARZ
Death/Angel Ensemble.....	KC CHASE
Ithuriel .....	REN MAN
Cherub .....	ALIA LUCIANI RENTERIA

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# Creative

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>
Director	Jamie Dunsdon
Set, Props & Projection Designer	Lucy Du
Costume & Makeup Designer	Rebecca Toon
Lighting Designer	Julia Wasilewski
Sound Designer	Gesiah Leyva Gonzalez
Intimacy & Fight Director	Keith Miller
Assistant to Director	Madeline Hvingelby
Assistant to Costume Designer	Autumn Adrian
Assistant to Lighting Designer	Sara Taggart
Production Manager	Betty-Lou Hushlak
Stage Manager	Brooke Jenkins
Assistant Stage Manager	Tavia Jenner
	Alexis Duduman
	Alyssa Bernhart
Fight Captain	Caiden Cline

# About our 24–25 Alumni Season

Welcome to the 2024/2025 Drama Season! This year we are putting the spotlight not only on our current students, but also on some of our many Drama alumni. We have welcomed back former students in a variety of roles over the years (including as staff and faculty!), but this Season we are celebrating alumni as our special focus. The decision to include the play *In Tongues*, written by alumni James Odin Wade, as our second mainstage production, sparked the idea to program alumni involvement across all four productions. Our University Chancellor, Terry Whitehead (BA'94), has been a champion of the Fine Arts through support for a number of awards, such as the Spirit Prize for Indigenous art and the Play Right Prize for playwriting. Terry's support and encouragement as our Season Patron has assisted us in bringing back a number of our graduates, as directors, writers, designers, performers, devisers, and creators. Our former students bring their professional skills and experience to inspire our current students, and together they have worked hard to bring you an outstanding season of entertainment. If you are one of our former students, thank you for being part of the audience! Your support is an important piece in the success of our Drama program, and we are proud to have you join us.

# Director's Note

This is not a morality play. There is no villain, no hero, no moral to the story. This is just a little tale – some might call it an allegory – that will hopefully stir your heart and mind to help you reveal complexity, nuance, and understanding of your own world. This play is just an offer. What you choose to do with that offer is up to you. For me, Erin Shields' retelling of John Milton's 1667 epic poem of the same name offers a conversation between opposing ideas. Structure vs. anarchy. Or perhaps order vs. chaos. Or perhaps creation vs. destruction.

When I first read this play several years ago, it tickled my feminist sensibilities with a female Satan seeking to disrupt a patriarchal God... but at what cost to herself and her cause? Today, I find stronger resonances in contemporary activist culture, the fallen angels resembling any number of failed protestors who feel cast out, disempowered, and rejected. How many times in recent years have I heard my friends say about long-standing systems and structures of authority that the solution is simple: "Let's burn it all down!" It has become a war between those who seek to dismantle, defund, and abolish hierarchies (and the institutions in which they reside) and those who want to uphold traditions and peace even at the cost of individual freedoms. In many ways, these ideas actually become defined in opposition to each other, concepts that cannot exist except in relief to others. Dark becomes defined by the absence of light. Good is the absence of evil. Femininity is the absence of masculinity. Etcetera, etcetera...

I feel it every day. I work in theatre, a craft built on thousands of years worth of tradition and apprenticeship and on the conservation of ancient stories ...a form that is ALSO attempting to be modern, progressive, and radical! The pull between these values is constant.

Half of this play is about gods and angels, but we humans – we “sons of Adam and daughters of Eve” to borrow a phrase – exist in the spaces between these competing ideas, our lives played out on the battlefield between these oppositions.

How are we to find balance, directing, and meaning amidst all that?

We look to stories.

Enjoy.

Jamie Dunsdon,  
Director

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## Set Designer's Note

This is my thesis show, and I'm thrilled to design the set for **Paradise Lost**. What fascinates me most is the relationship between Heaven and Hell—not as opposites, but as a complex and intertwined connection. I explored this idea by using the same elements to create contrast and reassembly, breaking boundaries to challenge the idea of simple division. This project is not just about designing a set—it's about exploring space, balance, and the tension between order and chaos.

My goal is for the design to create an immersive experience, fully supporting the story and becoming an integral part of it. I also hope it offers you a fresh perspective to experience and connect with the story.

Lucy Du,  
Set Designer

# BIOS For Returning Alumni Artists



## **Jamie Dunsdon (BFA'06)**

Jamie is delighted to be back at the University of Lethbridge as part of this alumni season, having spent so many of her formative artistic years in these halls and on these stages. Jamie is now a Calgary-based director, designer, playwright, and creator as well as the Artistic Producer of Calgary Young People's Theatre. She was the founding Artistic Director of Calgary's Verb Theatre, and has also directed for Vertigo Theatre, Theatre Calgary, The Shakespeare Company, The Grand Theatre, The Shaw Festival, and more. Jamie would like to thank fellow alumna Rebecca Toon for bringing this play to her, Dr. Shelley Scott for two decades of support, and the entire cast and crew for their artistry and talent.



Rebecca Toon (BFA: Technical Theatre '06) An award winning professional costume designer for film and theatre, Rebecca's select credits include: Heist, Misery (Vertigo Theatre) The Dark Lady, Brave Girl (Lunchbox Theatre) Midsummer Night's Dream, MacBeth, Richard III (The Shakespeare Company) Avenue Q, Fiddler on the Roof, Chicago (Stage West) Most recent film work includes: Brother, Witches X, The Lily & The Scorpion, Suzy Makes Cupcakes, Gaby Time and What's the Word for which Rebecca was honoured with a CAFTCAD award for Excellence in Costume Design. Emmy Nominated for her work as an Assistant Designer on The Last of Us, Rebecca splits her time between film and theatre.





**Julia Wasilewski** (BA'05/BFA'07) is an Assistant Professor at the University of Lethbridge as well as a Lethbridge-based costume, set, and lighting designer. She holds a Masters degree in Design from the University of Calgary and a BA Drama and BFA Multidisciplinary Arts from the University of Lethbridge. Julia's practice embraces the intersection between traditional design conventions and contemporary renewable approaches in an effort to embrace sustainable theatre-making.

**Keith Miller** (BA/BEd '14) is an alumni of the UofL BA/BEd program of 2014. During his time at the University of Lethbridge he felt a strong pull in the fine arts and was involved in many of the main stage productions (Hamlet, Rocky Horror Show, Neverending Story).



After graduating Keith started teaching and directing, and it was in this new role that he discovered his passion for fight choreography and intimacy directing. Working with professionals from Fight Directors Canada and Intimacy Directing Canada, Keith began transitioning into a backstage role and began working on local theatre as well as independent films. He has worked with Theatre Outre (A Thought in Three Parts, Curing Room, 333) and Shakespeare in the Park (Romeo & Juliet, Hamlet). Keith is very excited to be coming back to where it all started for him and to work on Paradise Lost with other amazing alumni. He'd like to thank all of his professors and teachers throughout the years. Also, a huge thank you to his family (Kate, Mac and Avi) who often have to deal with him jumping around and reenacting all his work.

# Crew

Sound Operator	Keely Evanoff
Lighting Board Operator	Zeth Stewart
Projection Operator	Jocelyn Smith
Running Crew	Kyler Nakama
Running Crew	Jorja Yates
Running Crew	Hunter MacDonald
Fly Crew	Emilia Siemens
Fly Crew	Malia Mix
Head of Wardrobe	Rachel Jensen
Assistant Head of Wardrobe	Sidryn Hodgins
	Maria Balyta Crespo
Dressers	Emma Glover
	Shelby Takats
Costume Technician	Autumn Adrian
	Sidryn Hodgins
Costume & Prop Technician	Aliyah Deane
Stage, Scenery, Props Technician	Matthew Denittis
	Man Fei Wong
Lighting Crew	Palmer Konschuk
	Sara Taggart
	Autumn Adrian
	Gen Matsuzaka
Scenic Construction Crew	Emily Sharp
	Jan Sharma
	Gen Matsuzaka
	Caiden Cline
	Cole Howg

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# Production Staff

Kelly Roberts	Sound Technician
D.A. Smurlick	Stage Coordinator
Mike Takats	Light Technician
Arlene Curran	Scenic Carpenter
Lynn Hopkins	Costume Technician
Patricia Jonzon	Costume Technician
Terek Jonzon	Props Technician

## Department of Drama Faculty

Justin A. Blum, PhD (Chair of the Drama Department)

Lee Burckes, MFA

Nicola Elson, MFA

Gabrielle Houle, PhD (Adjunct Faculty)

Kelly Reay

Betty Hushlak

Doug MacArthur, MFA

Greg MacArthur, (MFA'16)

Shelley Scott, PhD, (BA'86)

Dave Smith, MFA

Aaron Taylor, PhD

Mia van Leeuwen, MFA

Julia Wasilewski, MFA (BA'05/BFA'07)

### Professors Emeriti

Ron Chambers

Lisa Doolittle

Richard Epp

Brian Parkinson

Leslie Robison-Greene

### University Theatre Staff

Kelly Roberts, (BFA'91)

D.A. Smurlick

Mike Takats

Arlene Curran

Patricia Jonzon, (BFA'14)

Terek Jonzon, (BFA'14)

Lynn Hopkins, (BFA'93)

### FFA Dean's Office

Operations Manager:

Amanda Berg, MA (BA/BMgt'04)

Manager of FA Facilities:

Niall Donaghy, MFA

Admin Assistant:

Sarah Hilliard, (BA'10)

Admin Support:

Krystal Ming-Honiwell, MSc

Box Office Coordinator:

Baz Skinner, (BA'16)

### Box Office & Front of House

Grace Abbott

Autumn Adrian

Raine Belanger

Caleb Bell

Indira Brouwer

Finley Dupont

Zachery Elser

Cole Howg

Phoenix Keeler

Charis Legg

Maddie McKee

Emma Naude

Ryan Proctor

Emma Van Bussel

# Thank you

Carson Rafuse, John Federkeil, Mia van Leeuwen

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Cover Design by Lidija Sijacic

*The Spirit and Play Right Prizes will be presented this year at a public event on March 19 at 5:00 PM in W425.*

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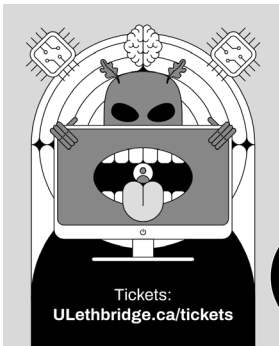
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