**Mom’s the Word: Talkin’ Turkey**

Created by and starring the Mom’s the Word Collective: Jill Daum, Alison Kelly, Robin Nichol, Barbara Pollard, & Deborah Williams.

World Premiere

October 27, 2022–January 1, 2023

Granville Island Stage

Running time: approx. 2 H (including intermission)

**Starring:**

**Jill Daum** jill

**Erla Faye Forsyth** standby

**Alison Kelly** ali

**Robin Nichol** robin

**Barbara Pollard** barbara

**Deborah Williams** deb

**Colleen Winton** standby

**Creative team:**

**Wayne Harrison** director

**Anna Kuman** choreographer

**Pam Johnson** set designer

**Barbara Clayton** costume designer

**Darren W. Hales** lighting designer

**Cande Andrade** projection/sound designer

**Caryn Fehr** stage manager

**Ronaye Haynes** assistant stage manager

**Caitlin Hayes** piano

**Production sponsor:** Helijet

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# WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to the first show of our Granville Island Stage 2022/23 season (we’ve already kicked off the season at our Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage and our Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre). And what a way to start, with return of BC’s beloved Mom’s the Word Collective, debuting a new play, Mom’s the Word: Talkin’ Turkey. We’re so proud that this is an Arts Club Silver Commission, and we give thanks to donors Stan and Kathy Hamilton and Bonnie Mah, whose generosity keeps our commissioning program vibrant. Look out for two more Silver Commissions at our theatres this season: Forgiveness by Hiro Kanagawa, adapted from Mark Sakamoto’s book, at the Stanley from January 12, and The Cull by Michele Riml and Michael St. John Smith right here at Granville Island from January 26.

The original Mom’s the Word premiered on this stage, after taking its first steps as part of the Vancouver Women in View Festival in 1995. It played for five sell-out seasons at the Arts Club before growing into a worldwide phenomenon that has since played on five continents and delighted millions of audience members. It proved so popular that a second show, Mom’s the Word: Unhinged, premiered at the Granville Island Stage a decade later. That was followed by a combined version of these two plays, Mom’s the Word: Remixed, which premiered here in 2009. In 2017, Moms the Word: Nest 1⁄2 Empty premiered here, and now we welcome Mom’s the Word: Talkin’ Turkey. The Mom’s the Word Collective—Jill Daum, Alison Kelly, Robin Nichol, Barbara Pollard, and Deborah Williams—has been a major part of past seasons at the Arts Club, and we know that we have become a stronger company for it. These “Moms” have been a great inspiration to us all, and we’ve had the joy of being able to spread that love around Canada and see their work take root in 19 other countries —so far! They really are a home-grown success story, and we celebrate that with them. We are just so proud that the Arts Club has been an instrumental part of their amazing journey and they an instrumental part of ours. So sit back and enjoy—for you are in very good hands.

Ashlie and Peter

**Ashlie corcoran** artistic director

**peter cathie white** executive director

The Arts Club gratefully acknowledges Play Patron The Boivie Family Fund.

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Arts Club Theatre Company would like to acknowledge that this production takes place on the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, in particular the xwməθkwəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlili̓ lwə̓ taʔɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations. We are honoured to live, work, and play on this land together.

PLAYWRIGHTS’ NOTE

We have been together since 1993. We began writing out of desperation but continued because it was more fun than therapy. Our shows include Mom’s the Word (1995), Mom’s the Word 2: Unhinged (2001), Mom’s the Word: Remixed, a combo of 1 & 2 (2011), and Mom’s the Word: Nest 1⁄2 Empty (2017). Our first show was launched at the Women in View Festival but all the rest have premiered at our beloved Arts Club Theatre Company. Mom’s the Word and her incarnations have been translated into ten languages and played in over 19 countries, including a run in London’s West End. It is currently touring the UK. Over two million people have seen MTW, uniting parents around the globe. And now we’re back home on the Granville Island Stage with our outstanding director Wayne Harrison at the helm.

Mom’s the Word: Talkin’ Turkey tackles this wonderfully dangerous time of the year, because no matter what kind of family you’re from, Christmas is a ride. And, if we’re honest, it’s Mom who usually finds the mittens, packs the hot chocolate, and hauls the sled up the hill. No matter how you feel about the season, we wish you a merry time with us; please tuck your napkin under your chin, put on your tissue crown, and join us at the table!

**The Mom’s the Word Collective: Jill Daum, Alison Kelly, Robin Nichol, Barbara Pollard & Deborah Williams.**

THE COMPANY

**CANDE ANDRADE** projection/sound designer

For the Arts Club: Santaland Diaries (debut, 2012); Forget About Tomorrow, The Mountaintop, Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery, Disgraced, It’s a Wonderful Christmas-ish Holiday Miracle

Other Theatre: Recent credits include, video editing: Project Element (Vancouver International Children’s Festival); Done/ Undone (Bard on the Beach); IndigE-girl Comedy (Misko Way); Grand Acts of Hope (Mortal Coil/Coastal Wolf Pack); Autumn Strawberry (Mochizuki Studios); Artificial Eden (SFU); Same Old, Same Old; Taking Shakespeare; The Refugee Project (Belfry Theatre); Body Parts (Tara Cheyenne Performance). Recent theatre design credits include: White Girls in Moccasins (The Frank); Six of One (Studio 58); White Noise (Savage Society/Firehall); Clean/ Espejos (Neworld); DYMISH (Theatre Replacement); Pathetic Fallacy (The Chop); and pre-pandemic: Anywhere But Here (Electric Company) and House and Home (Firehall)

**BARBARA CLAYDEN** costume designer

For the Arts Club: Matka King (debut, 2003); recent favourites: Kinky Boots, Disney’s Beauty and the Beast

Other Theatre: *Lysistrata*, *Coriolanus* (Bard on the Beach); *East Van Panto* (Theatre Replacement 2018–20)

Other: 21 time Jessie Award nominee and eight-time winner.

**JILL DAUM** jill/playwright

For the Arts Club: Whose Life Is It Anyway (debut, 1981); Present Laughter, Dancing at Lughnasa, Mom’s the Word, Mom’s the Word 2: Unhinged, Mom’s the Word: ReMixed, Mom’s the Word: Nest 1/2 Empty

Film & TV: Family Law

Other: Jill is a graduate of the Studio 58 acting program and a two-time Jessie Award winner. Her latest play, Forget About Tomorrow, premiered at the Belfry Theatre and the Arts Club.

**CARYN FEHR** stage manager

For the Arts Club: during the past four seasons: Dolly Parton’s Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol, Beneath Springhill, Buffoon, The Shoplifters, A Thousand Splendid Suns, The Great Leap, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Once, Forget About Tomorrow, Million Dollar Quartet

Other Theatre: most recently: Yellow Fever (Firehall Arts Centre); Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes, Same Old, Same Old, Forget About Tomorrow (Belfry Theatre, Victoria)

Other: Caryn has toured with productions throughout Canada and to Ireland and during her 36-year career has worked with many theatre companies in Vancouver. She is a recipient of the Mary Phillips Prize, a Jessie Award for behind-the- scenes achievement

**ERLA FAYE FORSYTH** standby

For the Arts Club: Mom’s the Word: Nest 1/2 Empty, It’s a Wonderful Life

Other Theatre: The Cake, Outside Mullingar, Doubt, Driving Miss Daisy (Pacific)

Other: A graduate of Studio 58, Erla Faye has performed in numerous Vancouver productions over the years, including The Foreigner and How to Write a New Book for the Bible for which she received Jessie Richardson Awards.

**DARREN W. HALES** lighting designer

For the Arts Club: as Sound Designer: Bordertown Café, 6 Women with Braindeath or Expiring Minds Want to Know, The Dishwashers, Hockey Mom Hockey Dad, The Graduate; as Lighting Designer: It’s Time To Sing, Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged), Company: The Musical, Becky’s New Car (tour), Don Quixote (tour), The 39 Steps (tour); as Associate Lighting Designer: Private Lives, Mary Poppins

Other Theatre: Darren is the resident Production Designer for Lord Byng Secondary School’s Theatre Company, with recent designs for 9 to 5: The Musical, The Doctor in Wonderland, Moby Dick: The Musical, Curtains: The Musical, and Young Frankenstein: The Musical. Darren also designs lighting for St. George’s School, York House School, McNair Secondary, and Killarney Secondary. Additionally, Darren designs for DSR Productions, with recent shows that include Silence of the Lambs: The Musical, Night of the Living Dead, and Evil Dead: The Musical. Darren is the Arts Club’s Head Electrician for the Granville Island Stage. All his love to his family, and his partner, Isaiah.

**WAYNE HARRISON** director

Wayne Harrison has been working with the Mom’s the Word Collective for over twenty years now, producing and/or directing their works everywhere from Winnipeg to London’s West End. Quite a few of these have premiered at the Arts Club Theatre. He is the former Artistic Director of Sydney Theatre Company, where he directed over fifty productions. Wayne has also directed long-running productions for the Las Vegas-based Spiegelworld. His production of Absinthe at Caesar’s Palace is now in its twelfth year.

**RONAYE HAYNES** assistant stage manager

For the Arts Club: Miss Saigon (debut); recent favourites: Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberly, Bed & Breakfast, Once, Disney’s Beauty and the Beast, It’s Snowing on Saltspring, Boeing, Boeing, 2 Pianos, 4 Hands, Forget About Tomorrow, Million Dollar Quartet, Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story

Other Theatre: Classic Country Roads, The Magician’s Nephew, I & You (Chemainus Theatre Festival); Elephant & Piggie’s “We are in a Play” (Carousel Theatre for Young People); The Secret Garden, Art, Brighton Beach Memoirs (Gateway Theatre)

Other: Ronaye thanks you...yes YOU...for coming back to theatre and supporting us! We are thrilled to share this show with you!

**PAM JOHNSON** set designer

For the Arts Club: Mom’s the Word: Nest 1⁄2 Empty, Bakersfield Mist, Saint Joan, Master Class (as Costume Designer), Intimate Apparel, Mom’s the Word: Remixed, Mrs. Dexter and Her Daily, Age of Arousal, Mom’s the Word: Unhinged, Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris, Memory of Water, All My Sons, Under the Influence, Side by Side by Sondheim, The Visit, Blues in the Night, Closer than Ever, Drinking in America, Denis Anyone?, World’s Greatest Guy (as Director)

Other Theatre: Shaw Festival, Bard on the Beach, Centaur Theatre, Studio 58, Belfry Theatre

Other: Seven Jessie Awards, IDI Award, 2012 PACT Career Achievement Award. Retired Design instructor from Studio 58.

**ALISON KELLY**  ali/playwright

For the Arts Club: Mom’s the Word, Mom’s the Word 2: Unhinged, Mom’s the Word: ReMixed, Mom’s the Word: Nest 1/2 Empty, The Day Before Christmas (2016/2017)

Other: Alison is an actor, writer, and teacher. As one of the original creators/ performers of the Mom’s the Word series, she has been in all five of the shows. Other plays include Conversations with My Mother (co-written, S. Kaser), which premiered at The Gateway Theatre in 2014. Alison teaches at the Vancouver Film School and Studio 58. Her first book, Granville Island ABC: A Family Adventure, was released in May and has gone on to become a best-seller. Her next book is due to be released in spring 2024.

**ANNA KUMAN** choreographer

For the Arts Club: The Producers (debut 2008), Mary Poppins, Red Rock Diner, Hairspray, White Christmas, Godspell, Mom’s the Word 3: Nest 1⁄2 Empty, Matilda

Other Theatre: direction & choreography credits: Expo 2020 Dubai; Matilda (RMTC/Citadel); CIRCLE GAME: Reimagining the Music of Joni Mitchell (Firehall/ Persephone/Arts Club tour); Rio 2016 Paralympic Opening Ceremony; American Idiot, Jesus Christ Superstar, Spring Awakening, Rocky Horror (FCP)

Other: MFA in Movement Direction & Teaching from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama; incoming Program Director of the Arts Club Musical Theatre Intensive; Anna is thrilled to be back with the Moms—especially since becoming a first-time Mom herself to a son named Enzo. www.annakuman.com

**ROBIN NICHOL** robin/playwright

For the Arts Club: Mom’s the Word, Mom’s the Word 2: Unhinged, Mom’s the Word: ReMixed, Mom’s the Word: Nest 1/2 Empty

Other: Robin has been acting, directing, stage managing, and writing for a lot of years. She holds a BFA from UVic and an MFA from UBC and has been teaching acting and directing for the theatre program at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops since 2004. Mom’s the Word, in all its incarnations, has been an unceasing source of great joy, public humiliation, and improved mental health since it all started in 1994. Much thanks to my honest and talented Mom, sisters, my extraordinary children, and my supportive and long-suffering husband, without all of whom this never would have happened!

**BARBARA POLLARD** barbara/playwright

For the Arts Club: Mom’s the Word, Mom’s the Word 2: Unhinged, Mom’s the Word: ReMixed, Mom’s the Word: Nest 1/2 Empty

Other: After 48 years on the professional stage, Barbara now divides her time equally between film and the live stage. Her last outing, pre-pandemic, was in the Arts Club’s joyous production of The Sound of Music. Since then, she has made two Hallmark Movies (Good Morning, Christmas and A Kismet Christmas) and stars as the “surprising” and evil villain Melissa Montgomery in the Netflix top- rated series Virgin River. Barbara’s next projects will find her in Sally Stubbs’ play Our Ghosts and the feature film Champions, with Woody Harrelson, which will premiere next March. Barbara is the proud mother of two wonderful humans, Emma and Desmond.

**DEBORAH WILLIAMS** deb/playwright

For the Arts Club: School for Wives (debut, 1988); favourites: Clybourne Park, Becky’s New Car

Other Theatre: favourites: Hir (Pi Theatre); Taking Off (Belfry Theatre); Fly Me to the Moon (Theatre NorthWest); After Jerusalem (Solo Collective); James and the Giant Peach (Carousel Theatre for Young People); Everyone (Caravan Theatre)

Other: Deb is a multi-award-winning performer, director, and playwright.  
As Artistic Producer of The Flame, she creates events and teaches personal storytelling workshops locally and, thanks to Zoom, around the world.  
Deb is a graduate of Studio 58 and a community builder, creating festivals and celebrations wherever she lands.

**COLLEEN WINTON** standby

For the Arts Club: Stepping Out (debut 1988), Dames at Sea, Calendar Girls, The Black Rider, Noises Off, Kinky Boots, and one performance of Gypsy!

Other Theatre: Select: The Unnatural and Accidental Women (NAC Indigenous Theatre); Sweeney Todd (Snapshots, Jessie & Ovation Awards for Mrs. Lovett); Glengarry Glen Ross (Classic Chic); Daisy in Driving Miss Daisy; Marilla in Anne of Green Gables (Theatre Calgary); Hello, Dolly! (RCMT)

Film & TV: Family Law, Lost in Space, Man in the High Castle, iZombie, Van Helsing, You Me Her, and a host of Hallmark movies

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# BOARD & STAFF

**Our board and staff lists are available upon request.**

**Contact info@artsclub.com**

The Arts Club Theatre Company is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT), The Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance, and the BC Alliance for Arts and Culture, and operates under the jurisdiction of Canadian Actors’ Equity Association.

Pre-Production personnel and stage crew are members of Local 118 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, and guest services staff are members of Unifor 3000.

The Arts Club Theatre Company, one of the largest not-for-profit theatre companies in the country, is the principal gathering place for the theatrical arts in British Columbia. The organization is dedicated to the advancement of local artists telling stories from around the globe and, in particular, those of our region. From this, we believe that culture expands, an understanding of differences is nurtured, and art bursts forth. The Arts Club was founded in 1964 and is currently led by Artistic Director Ashlie Corcoran and Executive Director Peter Cathie White.

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