

The Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company and Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad present the World Premier of

BEYOND EDEN

JAN. 16 – FEB. 6, 2010

By Bruce Ruddell

Music by Bruce Ruddell and Bill Henderson | Traditionally Inspired Haida Music by Gwaai Edenshaw

Directed by Dennis Garnhum | In co-production with Theatre Calgary



PLAY GUIDE

PART 1: STORY, CREATORS' NOTES, GLOSSARY,...

CREATED BY THE PLAYHOUSE TEACHERS ADVISORY BOARD (PTAB) AND PLAYHOUSE STAFF

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Created to provide you with explorations and insights into this production beyond the actual performance, this Play Guide includes information on its creators and characters, notable quotables and more:

Download suggested practical lessons and activities at vancouverplayhouse.com! As a **teacher**, you can adapt these to your classroom activities before or after your performance. As a **parent**, you can draw on some activities to enhance your child's theatre experience. And, as a **patron at large**, these activities might stimulate your own exploration or offer a new insight into the play. We hope you have fun playing with the facts and ideas presented!

THE STORY of *Beyond Eden* is based on true historical events of the expedition in 1957 led by the young anthropologist and archaeologist Wilson Duff and his Haida friend, Bill Reid.

In the abandoned Haida village of Ninstints stand totem poles. They have stood there for decades. Lewis Wilson and his long-time friend and colleague Max Tomson are on an expedition to rescue these totem poles and save them from their waterlogged, beetle-infested and fragile condition. On their journey both men struggle: Wilson with his authority and resistance to removing the poles; Max to find his place between the white world and his Haida ancestry. **Setting:** The West Coast of Canada, 1957.

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES: BRUCE RUDELL

In 1957 a group of men travelled to a remote island at the southern tip of the Haida Gwaii archipelago to remove Totem poles from the deserted village of Ninstints. *Beyond Eden* is the fictional account of that expedition. The journey of *Beyond Eden* began more than twenty years ago and every inch of the way has been an intense experience. At times, tremendously exhilarating; at times, deeply challenging. In short, everything you would expect of a journey with mythic proportions. A friend once remarked, after a particularly dark period of dealing with some difficult issues around the project, that I was attempting to climb Mt. Everest with a piano on my back. This image has always inspired me to just keep climbing. The places I've been. The people I've met. Many of these people need to be thanked here, publicly and so please read the names below and know that each person on this list has contributed so much to helping me lift *Beyond Eden* on to the stage. Thank you cannot fully express my gratitude to you all. My family; Barbara, Adam, Nicky and Juno. Dennis Garnhum, Tom McCabe, Max Reimer, David Peterson, Janet York, Edgar Dobie, Shari Wattling, Bill Henderson, Bill Reid, Martine Reid, Jon Washburn, David Spencer, Harold Prince, Mo Simpson, Diane Weatherby, Suzanne Little, Martha Lou Henley, John Millerd, Anne Millerd, Nicky Cameron, Carolyn Mouat, Ilga and Mike Dreyfoos, Robin Phillips, Marty Bragg, Roy Surette, Glynis Leyshon, Derek Edenshaw, Gwaii Edenshaw, Guujaaw, Terri-Lynn Williams Davidson, Robert Davidson, David Agler, Judith Forst and Walter Learning. And a special thank you to Theatre Calgary, the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company, S.L. Feldman and Associates and The Really Useful Theatre Company (NY).

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: DENNIS GARNHUM

I studied theatre at The University of British Columbia in a building 100 feet from the impressive MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY. I'd sneak away from class so that I could stand in the presence of the beautiful Totem Poles that were taken from Haida Gwaii. I'm embarrassed to admit that I admired these mainly as pieces of art, not considering enough the painful and controversial history behind this splendor. This musical invites us into this history so that we may better appreciate the true cost of the removal of the Totem Poles.

Last spring I travelled to Haida Gwaii to experience firsthand the people and place that inspired this story. Among many countless memories, I will never forget watching children in an elementary school rehearsing songs in preparation for their school's first Potlatch celebration. I've kept this memory close to me throughout the rehearsals. The tradition and pride of this culture – in this extraordinary corner of Canada – is with me in a delicious way. I am forever grateful to Bruce Ruddell for bringing this project to me and for the way he has infused his passion to everyone who's shared in the execution of this world premiere production. As you look and listen beyond the masks and beyond the poles, listen closely to what it stirs in you. I hope you'll find, as I have, that this part of our history remains complicated: confronting and beautiful all woven as one.

SUGGESTED PLAY ACTIVITY [A SAMPLER]

Type: pre-viewing | **Suitability:** grade 11+ | **Created by:** Yvonne Price, Cloverdale Learning Centre, PTAB Member

“WORD SORT”

The following activity is designed to have students consider how particular situations can be viewed from very different perspectives based on personal, cultural, and historical circumstances.

IRP Key Concepts (Grades 11&12)

Oral Language:

- initiating and sharing responsibilities
- explaining, arguing, and entertaining
- responding to texts personally, critically, and creatively
- demonstrating understanding of diversity

Reading and Viewing:

- identifying and challenging bias, distortion, and contradictions in texts
- analysing and evaluating literary, informational, and visual texts
- explaining and supporting personal connections to texts

The words below may have positive or negative connections for students. In pairs or small groups, have students sort the words into negative or positive columns. Give them a few minutes to do this in their pairs or groups. Then, as a class activity find out which column students have opted to place words. For each word, two or three explanations as to why the word may be positive or negative may be sufficient.

Objectives for students:

- to make personal connections with words
- to hear that others have connections based on their personal experiences
- to hear different perspectives
- to appreciate that words can be interpreted very differently
- to speak and listen cooperatively in a group setting

Teachers may want to point out that the varied connections students make to the words are perfectly valid. We each approach words and situations based on past experience and personal connections.

All of the words in the “Word Sort” appear in the play, *Beyond Eden*. Students may want to listen carefully as they watch the play for how the words are used and how they connect to their own understanding of those words.

SUGGESTED PLAY ACTIVITY SAMPLER (CONT'D)

"WORD SORT" SHEET

remember	forget	disappear
cut down	abandon	preserve
ruin	loot	sacred
take	artifact	totem
insight	appetite	listen
observe	curse	recover
tomb raider	archaeologist	revere

FOR A FULL VERSION OF THIS PLAY ACTIVITY AND MORE ACTIVITIES
VISIT [VANCOUVERPLAYHOUSE.COM/ EDUCATION-OUTREACH](http://VANCOUVERPLAYHOUSE.COM/EDUCATION-OUTREACH)

CREATORS

DENNIS GARNHUM | Director

Dennis has been the Artistic Director at Theatre Calgary since September, 2005. His work there includes *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, Timothy Findley's *The Wars* (Playhouse co-pro), *Of Mice and Men*, *Enchanted April*, *Trying*, *A Christmas Carol* (2006-2009). His work on other stages includes *La Traviata* (Pacific Opera, Victoria); *This Could Be Love* (New York City Musical Festival); *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Shadows*, *The Trials of Ezra Pound* (Stratford Festival); *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Still Life*, *Sorry*, *Wrong Number*, *S.S. Tenacity* (Shaw Festival); *Two Orphans* (Brandeis Theatre Company, Boston); *Rat in the Skull* (Berkshire Theatre Festival); *Down the Main Drag* (ATP playRites '04); *Vinci* (NAC/MTC/Canadian Stage Company); *Skylight*, *Slavs* (Tarragon Theatre); *Closer*, *Three Tall Women* (MTC); *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Of Mice and Men* (MTC/Citadel Theatre); *Of Mice and Men* (Neptune Theatre); *Blue/Orange* (Belfry/PTE); *A Christmas Carol* (Theatre New Brunswick); *Sleuth* (Saidye Bronfmann, Montreal); *The Laramie Project* (National Theatre School). Mr. Garnhum is the recipient of the Sterling Award for Outstanding Director – *Of Mice and Men*.

BRUCE RUDELL | Playwright and Composer

Bruce Ruddell's scores for theatre productions have been heard across the country including the Stratford Festival and The National Arts Centre. Contributed to the arts in Canada and abroad as a composer, conductor, arranger, music director, musician, artistic director and playwright, select performance music credits include *Earthprayers*, opened the 11th World AIDS conference; *The Spirit of Haida Gwaii* (created in association with Bill Reid [texts]) to celebrate his sculptural masterpiece of the same name, performances in Vancouver, Montreal, multiple broadcasts on CBC national radio/CBC television & BRAVO; *The Healing Heart Of The First People Of This Land*, Seattle Symphony/Made In America festival; *Vigil* honouring the murdered and missing women of the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver and *Highway of Tears*, performed by Borealis String Quartet and the Christ Church Cathedral choir/multiple broadcasts on CBC national radio programs. Mr. Ruddell is the recipient of a special jury award at the 2008 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards for his collaborations with First Nations music projects, Eric Harvey award (Charlottetown Festival). Mr. Ruddell has served residencies with The Vancouver Chamber Choir, The Vancouver Bach Choir, The Vancouver Playhouse and The Charlottetown Festival (associate music director for two seasons). Mr. Ruddell has scored more than a hundred film and television projects including more than 20 for the National Film Board. Mr. Ruddell recently produced the *Haida Songs Project*, a comprehensive fourteen CD anthology of the traditional music of the Haida Nation and has composed music for Marie Clement's new play: *The Edward Curtis Project*.

FAST FACTS

Beyond Eden is Bruce Ruddell's first full scale music theatre creation.

GLOSSARY

References: the sources at answers.com



Altamira

A cave in northern Spain, near Santander, Altamira is famous for its prehistoric paintings and engravings, dating

to 14,000-12,000 BC. They were first explored and described in the 1870s by Don Marcelino de Sautuola.

Bella Bella

Also known as Waglisla, Bella Bella is an unincorporated community on the west coast of Campbell Island, off the Central Coast of British Columbia. Home to the Heiltsuk Nation, it is the largest community on the Central Coast north of Queen Charlotte Sound.



Lord Carnarvon

June 26, 1866-April 5, 1923

George Edward Stanhope Molyneux Herbert became the 5th Earl of Carnarvon following his father's death in 1890.

Badly injured in an automobile accident in 1901 and left frail, he was advised to spend winters in Egypt and took up Egyptology as a hobby to pass

the time. He financed excavations in Luxor and eventually partnered with Howard Carter. Under his sponsorship, Carter excavated a number of important tombs, culminating in the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamen. He died soon after the discovery, however, after an infected mosquito bite turned to pneumonia.



Howard Carter

May 9, 1874-March 2, 1939

The British archaeologist most famous for the discovery of King Tutankhamen's tomb, Howard Carter served with the Egyptian Exploration Fund from 1891-99

and was assigned as chief inspector of antiquities for the Egyptian government. He was later introduced to Lord Carnarvon, who held an archaeological concession in Luxor became Carnarvon's chief archaeologist. Together, they spearheaded the successful excavations of the tombs of Amenophis I, Hatshepsut, and Thutmose IV. Just a few days into what was intended to be their final digging season in the Valley of the Kings, Carter discovered the entrance to Tutankhamen's tomb. He died in 1939 of Hodgkin's Lymphoma.



Clovis

A pre-historic Paleo-Indian culture widespread in North America between 9,500-9,000 BC, Clovis culture communities were the earliest known big-game hunters, primarily of mammoth and bison. The Clovis point, a distinctive

chipped stone process, was first excavated in Clovis, New Mexico in the 1930s.

Haida

Northwest coast First Nation, whose homeland stretches over the Queen Charlotte Islands and southern Prince of Wales Island in Alaska, the Haida Nation is made up of two clans, the Eagle and Raven, of which membership is derived matrilineally. The Haida economy was based on fishing and hunting, and were a seafaring nation, whose large dug-out canoes made them fearsome coastal raiders. Haida artists are renowned for their craftsmanship and art, including the carving of totem poles.

Hecate Strait

A wide, shallow strait separating the Queen Charlotte Islands from the mainland of British Columbia, Hecate Strait merges into Queen Charlotte Sound. It is particularly susceptible to storms and violent weather and historically provided a strong defence for the Haida people, who understood its currents and workings.

GLOSSARY (CONT'D)

Juan José Pérez Hernández

~1725-November 3, 1775

Born in Majorca, Spain, Juan Perez was assigned to the Spanish naval base San Blas, on the west coast of Mexico in 1768. In 1773, he was given instructions to conduct an ambitious survey of the Pacific Northwest and formally claim those lands for Spain. His orders were to make landfall at 60° north to establish the Spanish claim to *Nuevo Galicia*, but his ship, the *Santiago*, was ill-suited for inshore navigation. After a month of poor weather and ailing crew, Perez sighted land at what is now known as the Queen Charlotte Islands (which he called Santa Margarita), approximately 5° south of their destination. Returning south, he dropped anchor in Nootka Sound (Surgidero de San Lorenzo), where he tried to make landfall, but was dissuaded by stormy weather. Ultimately, the *Santiago* returned to San Blas without having stepped ashore, but not before becoming the first Europeans to make contact with members of the Haida nation.



Hasselblad

A manufacturer of cameras and photographic equipment based in Gothenburg, Sweden, Hasselblad cameras were

used by NASA on space flights in the 1960s and took the photographs on the first moon landing. The model introduced in 1957, the 500C formed the basis of the company's product for the next four decades.



King Tut

Tutankhamen (1341 BC-1323 BC) was an Egyptian ruler in the 18th dynasty. He succeeded Amenhotep IV (Akhenaton) and was married to Ankhesenamun, the daughter of Akhenaton and Queen Nefertiti. Known as the Boy King, he died around the age of 18, after having ruled nine years. Although

little is known of his actual life and reign, he is among the most famous of the Pharaohs, due to the discovery of his treasure-filled tomb.



Machu Picchu

A pre-Columbian Inca ruin located on a mountain ridge 70km northwest of Cuzco, Peru. A UNESCO World Heritage site, it has become a popular tourist destination, raising concerns about potential damage to the site. It is believed to have been

built by Pachacuti, the first leader of the Incan Empire, around 1440AD as a retreat for Inca nobility.

Masset

A village located on the northern coast of Graham Island in the Queen Charlotte Islands, Masset is the western terminus of the Yellowhead Highway, connected to the mainland via ferry service from Skidegate to Prince Rupert. It actually consists of three separate communities – Atewaas, Jaahguhl, and Kayung.



Ninstints/ Sqa'ngwai

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Ninstints is a Haida village on Anthony Island and part of the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve. It features the largest collection of Haida totem poles in their original locations, which are being allowed to decay naturally as part of the traditional cycle.

Potlatch

A ceremonial feast held by some First Nations groups in the Pacific Northwest, often featuring dancing, speeches and ritual boasting. The host would distribute gifts and wealth to his guests according to their social rank; the greater the generosity, the greater the status and prestige attained by the host. The Canadian government, and later the American government, banned potlatches from 1884-1951.

FAST FACTS

The Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art, located in downtown Vancouver include over 40 pieces of Bill Reid's gold and silver jewelry, Reid's bronze masterpiece *Mythic Messengers*, several of Reid's works that are featured on the Canadian \$20 bill and a full-scale totem pole, carved by James Hart of Haida Gwaii.

GLOSSARY (CONT'D)

Queen Charlotte Islands

An archipelago off the west coast of British Columbia, the Queen Charlotte Islands are made up of approximately 150 islands, the largest of which are Graham and Moresby. The archipelago is separated from the mainland by Hecate Strait and are accessible by ferry from Prince Rupert. Known traditionally as Haida Gwaii, the islands form part of the territory of the Haida Nation, and will be officially named Haida Gwaii by the British Columbia government in 2010.

Trickster

The Trickster is a mischievous or roguish figure in mythology, often depicted as part-human, part-divine, and part-animal. He is an amoral and comic troublemaker, who often brings fire or light to the human world by breaking divine laws or thievery. In Pacific Northwest mythology, the trickster figure is Raven, who helped bring the sun, moon, stars, fresh water and fire to the world.

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THANK YOU TO

our PTAB Members: CHERYL Causley / Crofton House School, CHRISTINA Cuk / Crofton House School, DAN Adrian / Moscrop Secondary, ERIN McGinley / Moscrop Secondary, HEATHER Robbie / David Thompson Secondary, JOSH Weiss / Tamanawis Secondary, KIM Bothen / Capilano University, WARREN McKinnon / UBC, Continuing Studies, YVONNE Price / Cloverdale Learning Centre, MEREDITH Elliott, JOHN McHenry and STASA Andric / Playhouse Theatre Company who play an integral role in the creation of our 2009/2010 Play Guides. Interested in joining our PTAB? Call 604 637 3094.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

The Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company is British Columbia's premier regional theatre company, producing engaging plays of the highest calibre since 1962. Our mandate, as it has evolved with the region's cultural needs, is to be a vital cultural leader in the theatre ecology, describing and shaping our community's perspectives by engaging a wider audience in significant theatre experiences. Our repertoire is contemporary and classic, Canadian and international, reaching deep into our community, across our country and beyond.

We ask that you note the following guidelines to help keep the theatre experience an enjoyable one for all.

THEATRE ETIQUETTE FOR ALL AGES

Thou shalt not arrive late.

This is an insult to performers and annoying to those on time.

Thou shall sit in an assigned seat.

When in doubt, speak with an usher or refer to your admission ticket.

Thou shalt not talk during the performance.

You're not at home watching television.

Thou shalt not rattle candy wrappers.

Sound effects for this production have been chosen by the designers.

Thou shalt not "sing along" with the performers.

Save that for after the show.

Thou shalt not consume food or drinks inside the auditorium.

Performers can hear you just as much as you can hear them.

Thou shalt not place feet on the seat in front, or tap out a rhythm.

The back of the seat in front does not belong to you.

Thou shalt not go "to and fro" from thy seat during the performance.

This disrupts the show for everyone.

Thou shall turn off all that goes beep, ring or buzz.

Accompaniment provided by orchestra only.

Thou shall turn off all texting devices.

We love to twitter, facebook or blog, too, but save it for before or after the performance.



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[BEFORE OR AFTER THE PERFORMANCE]

FAST FACTS

John Man, starring in *Beyond Eden* as Lewis Wilson, is also one of the founding members of the band *Spirit of the West*. Check out the band at sotw.ca!

PLAYHOUSE EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

PRODUCTION CENTRE TOURS As a group, you can book a complimentary guided tour of the 25,000 square foot Production Centre and explore scenery and prop shops, the wardrobe department and rehearsal halls. We recently moved into a new facility on East 2nd Ave., which will be our home until 2011. **Call 604 637 3094.**

E-STAGE: PLAYHOUSE YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS 2010 High school students from across British Columbia collaborate with professional directors and playwrights to develop an eight-minute scene, which is then performed by professional actors on the Playhouse stage. 2010 submission deadline is December 1, 2009. Email submissions are preferred. **Contact Meredith Elliott at 604 629 2097 or melliott@vancouverplayhouse.com.**

TALKBACKS An excellent way to enhance your experience as actors return to stage to offer insights on the show and their work. Select Monday and Tuesday evening performances. ***Beyond Eden*: JAN. 25, FEB. 2, 2010.**

SALON SATURDAY Informative and fun, Salon Saturday is presented in the Salons at 1pm (show at 2pm). This series brings the audience together with a notable speaker to explore some of the underlying themes of the play that follows. Held on the third Saturday of each production. ***Beyond Eden*: JAN. 30, 2010. (Speaker: Bruce Ruddell)**

PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN MATINEE This matinee is instrumental in bringing live, professional theatre to everyone in our community regardless of income level. ***Beyond Eden*: Jan. 23, 2010.**

RUSH TICKETS Available 15 minutes before show time and subject to availability, rush tickets are only \$20 for regular performances and \$30 for the season's musical (*Beyond Eden*).

PREVIEWS Be the first! We stage four preview performances (not yet media-reviewed), which offer dramatic savings on regular tickets (preview tickets: \$30-38). ***Beyond Eden*: JAN. 16, 18, 19, 20, 2010.**

TEA MATINEES These lively, social matinees are extremely popular with our audiences (especially seniors and students) and provide a unique afternoon theatre experience. Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits are served at 1pm, show at 2pm. ***Beyond Eden*: JAN. 27, FEB. 3, 4, 2010.**

RENTALS In addition to our own production work, we share our rehearsal halls, production workshops and props and costume inventory with the community as a whole, providing badly needed resources to other arts organizations and community groups that otherwise wouldn't have access to a venue, shop space or heavily subsidized props and costume rentals. **Call 604 872 6622. Rehearsal: x 224. Prop: x 250. Costume: x 320.**

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We welcome your feedback and questions regarding our Play Guides!

You can also request a copy of a script (for educational purposes).

Contact: Stasa Andric at **604 637 3094** / sandric@vancouverplayhouse.com

or Meredith Elliott at **604 629 2097** / melliott@vancouverplayhouse.com.

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DEDICATED
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JAN. 20,
2010, 1pm