

# PLAY GUIDE

## PART 1 OF 2

[Part 2: suggested practical lessons and activities; available for downloading at [vancouverplayhouse.com/education-outreach](http://vancouverplayhouse.com/education-outreach)]

CREATED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE PLAYHOUSE TEACHERS ADVISORY BOARD (PTAB)



**MAR. 26 – APR. 16, 2011**

RUNNING TIME: ONE HOUR AND 25 MINUTES, INCLUDING ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

# SUGGESTED THEMES AND SUITABILITY

COMING-OF-AGE | END-OF-LIFE | FAMILY TIES OF DYSFUNCTION | CHILDHOOD | FRIENDSHIP | TELLING THE TRUTH  
| NON-LINEAR STORYTELLING | SUITABILITY: GRADE 6 AND UP

## THE STORY

Poignant, thought-provoking and sharply sardonic *The Trespassers* focuses on the relationship between 15-year-old Lowell and his grandfather Hardy. Lowell is no average teenager and Hardy is no conventional role model. Whether urging the boy to pilfer a neighbour's peaches, arranging his sexual initiation or teaching him the finer points of poker, Hardy is the despair of Lowell's born-again mother, Cash. [more](#)

## SUGGESTED PLAY ACTIVITY [A SAMPLER]

**Type:** post-viewing | **Suitability:** Grade 10+ | **Suggested by:** Dr. Warren McKinnon (UBC, Continuing Education; PTAB Member)

### DIFFERENT "TYPES" OF LIES AND "CARDS"

**Suggested reading: 1st Script Segment – (Act 1, pp. 14 – 18)**

1. On two occasions, Hardy speaks about what stands between two opposites. At the beginning of the play, Hardy says: *"There's something in between lying and not lying. It's called a story."* In this segment, he explains that between *"knowing, and not knowing...lies the sublime,"* namely, *"bluffing...[which] is failing to supply the correct information while purposely misleading the opponent."* **Apart from card playing, in what other areas of life would you find stories spun or games played to purposely mislead an opponent?**

2. On the same theme, Roxy says, *"people think lying is a sin. They think truth is all that matters. Let me tell you a little something about truth. Truth hurts; truth is vindictive and short-sighted."* Then Roxy follows with her truth, *"I was in the escort business; did I ever tell you that?"* **How would a vindictive and short-sighted response to that truth hurt Roxy? How would lying to avoid that hurt be justified?**

For Hardy, lessons about living can be learned from playing cards. *"The thing about cards,"* he says, *"is you get what you're dealt and how you deal with them defines your character."* Later in the play (p. 48), Hardy says that *"A good card blinds you to other possibilities. You get greedy, you think of your hand instead of your opponents...A good hand...lulls me into a false sense of victory...I like a weak hand, it makes me forget about my own potential and makes me focus on the other guy."* Finally, responding to Lowell's acceptance of his *"chemical imbalance,"* and advising him against *"giving over "control" of himself "to an idea,"* Hardy says, *"You know what I said about getting dealt a bad hand. No such thing."* **What kind of cards have Lowell, Cash, Hardy, and Roxy, been dealt in their life and how did they manage their good, bad or indifferent hands? What about the hand you were dealt, was it good or weak? How has the way you handled it defined you as a person?**

**FOR MORE ACTIVITIES VISIT [VANCOUVERPLAYHOUSE.COM/EDUCATION-OUTREACH](http://VANCOUVERPLAYHOUSE.COM/EDUCATION-OUTREACH)**

## FAST FACTS

**NEW!! "Dramatic Discoveries" with UBC resident, Dr. Warren McKinnon:**

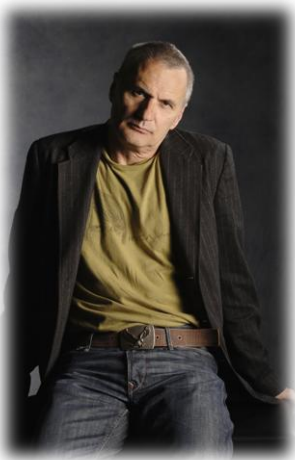
EXPLORE *issues and ideas through a pre-play presentation for "The Trespassers"*

**Wednesday, March 16, 2011, 7pm-8:30pm**

At Tapestry Learning Centre, 3338 Wesbrook Mall

To register call 604 709 0920 or email [dramaticdiscoveries@shaw.ca](mailto:dramaticdiscoveries@shaw.ca)

## CREATORS



**MORRIS PANYCH, PLAYWRIGHT** | Morris Panych is an award-winning playwright, actor and director, directing over 80 productions and writing 20 plays, a number of which have been produced internationally. He co-created and directed the physical theatre piece *The Overcoat* which premiered at the Playhouse in 1998. This production has toured across Canada, was hosted by the Barbican Centre of London's West End, and was part of Toronto's 2003 World Stage Festival. He also directed the film version of *The Overcoat*. In 1994, he was awarded the Governor General's Award for Drama for *The Ends of the Earth* and in 2004 he won the award a second time for *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl*. He was also nominated in 2007 for *What Lies Before Us*.

### YOU'RE INVITED

IN CONVERSATION WITH MORRIS PANYCH

Co-presented with **UBC Alumni Affairs** and the **UBC Faculty of Arts**

We acknowledge support of **The Canada Council for the Arts** and the **Playwrights Guild of Canada**.

**When:** Friday, April 1, 2011 at 12:00–1:00pm

**Where:** Frederic Wood Theatre, 6354 Crescent Road, UBC Vancouver Campus

Join fellow UBC alumni, students and staff as award-winning playwright, actor and director, **Morris Panych**, BFA'77, talks about his play, *The Trespassers*, and shares experiences about his diverse professional career in television, theatre and film.

**Free Admission**

[RSVP here](#) by Thursday, March 31, 2011.

**RON JENKIN, DIRECTOR** | **Ron Jenkin** is a freelance director and the former Artistic Director of Edmonton's Workshop West Theatre. Directing credits include work with Alberta Theatre Projects, Workshop West Theatre, Ghost River Theatre, November Theatre Co., Studio Theatre, Skid, MTYP, Shadow Theatre, Citadel Theatre, and Vertigo Theatre. Ron has won ten Sterling Awards as a director and playwright and received a Betty Mitchell Award for Direction for *The Black Rider* and the 2004 Syncrude Award for Artistic Innovation. Ron was short listed for the 2007 and 2010 Siminovitch Prize in Theatre for Direction.

## THANK YOU TO

our PTAB Members: **DAN** Adrian / Moscrop Secondary; **CHERYL** Causley / Crofton House School; **GARY** Davis, City School; **MURIEL** Densford / Sir Winston Churchill; **ERIN** McGinley/ Moscrop Secondary; **WARREN** McKinnon / UBC, Continuing Studies; **YVONNE** Price / Cloverdale Learning Centre; **HEATHER** Robbie / David Thompson Secondary; **SAL** Robinson, City School; **JOSH** Weiss / Tamanawis Secondary; **STASA** Andric, **MEREDITH** Elliott and **JOHN** McHenry / Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company who play an integral role in the creation of our 2010/2011 Play Guides. Interested in joining our PTAB? Call **604 637 3094**

# GLOSSARY



**Alexander the Great (356BC-June 13, 323BC)** The son of Philip II of Macedon, Alexander the Great was educated by the Greek philosopher Aristotle. He succeeded his father at age 20 and proceeded to conquer most of the ancient world. At the time of his death, his empire stretched from Thrace to Egypt and from Greece to the Indus valley, but it was

poorly organized and collapsed soon after.

**Amphibian** Cold-blooded vertebrate animals that hatch as aquatic larvae with gills and transform into a terrestrial air-breathing adult. Amphibians are divided into three orders: frogs and toads, newts and salamanders; and the limbless caecilians.

**Apostles** The group of 12 disciples chosen by Jesus Christ to preach his gospel, the apostles consisted of Peter, Andrew, James the Greater, John, Thomas, James the Less, Jude/Thaddaeus, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Simon, and Matthias (who replaced Judas Iscariot). St. Paul is also classed as an apostle for his role in spreading Christianity.

**Appendicitis** An inflammation of the vermiform appendix, the vestigial pouch attached to the beginning of the large intestine, appendicitis is usually an acute condition that if left untreated may lead to the appendix rupturing and subsequent peritonitis.

**Bipolar** Bipolar disorder (formerly manic-depression) is a psychiatric condition characterized by radical emotional changes and mood swings.



**Winston Churchill (Nov. 30, 1874-Jan. 24, 1965)** Prime Minister of Great Britain from 1940-45 and 1951-55, Winston Churchill was one of the great public figures of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Though his early career was marred by political and military missteps and he spent the 1930s in the political wilderness, his vitality and determination made him the wartime leader for Britain. A man of many talents, Churchill won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1953.

**Commandments** The Ten Commandments formed the basis of the ethical system for Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Moses is said to have brought them down from Mount Sinai on tablets written by the hand of God following the Israelites escape from Egypt. The first four commandments define the duties towards God, while the last six govern how human beings relate to each other.

**Diabetic** Diabetes is a group of metabolic disorders, though most commonly referring to diabetes mellitus, in which glucose cannot be metabolized by the body's cells and is therefore excreted in the urine. Diabetes insipidus is characterized by excessive urination and extreme thirst, caused by a deficiency of antidiuretic hormone.



**Duke of Wellington (May 1, 1769-Sept. 14, 1852)** Arthur Wellesley, First Duke of Wellington, was a British soldier and statesman, most famous for winning the decisive Battle of Waterloo

against Napoleon. He served as Prime Minister of Britain from 1828-30 and briefly in 1834.

**Ethos** The thought processes characteristic of an individual or group; the guiding beliefs that characterize a community, nation or ideology.

**Jehovah's Witness** A religious denomination founded in the United States in 1872 by Charles T. Russell, the Jehovah's Witness doctrine focuses on the Second Coming of Christ. They are known for their door-to-door evangelism and their opposition to governmental authority in matters of conscience.



**Lenin (April 22, 1870-Jan. 21, 1924)** Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov was founder of the Russian Communist Party and leader of the Russian Revolution. He became a Marxist in 1889 and was exiled to Siberia in 1895. He emerged as leader of the

Bolshevist faction of the Russian Social-Democratic Workers' Party. He took the penname Lenin while in exile in Germany. Lenin returned to Russia in 1917 to lead the October Revolution, which brought the Bolsheviks to power. He was Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars until his death.

**Lithium** A variety of lithium salts are used as a mood stabilizing drug, primarily in the treatment of bipolar disorder. It is generally considered to be more effective in treating mania, but is also used as a prophylaxis for depression. Lithium citrate was an ingredient in the soft drink 7-Up until 1950.

**Menthols** Menthol cigarettes are flavoured with menthol, a substance that triggers the cold-sensitive nerves in the skin, making the smoker's lips and mouth feel fresh and cool. Menthol cigarettes account for 27% of the market in the United States.



**Napoleon Bonaparte (August 15, 1769-May 5, 1821)**

Considered one of the greatest generals in history, Napoleon Bonaparte conquered most of Europe before the disastrous Russian campaign of 1812 decimated his army. Napoleon rose through the ranks of the French army during the

Revolution and became First Consul of France after staging a coup d'état in 1799 and Emperor in 1804. A coalition of European powers invaded France in 1814 and forced Napoleon into exile. He escaped less than a year later and returned to power, but was defeated at the Battle of Waterloo and confined to St. Helena for the rest of his life.



**Joseph Stalin (1879-March 5, 1953)** Born Iosif Vissarionovich Dzhughashvili, Joseph Stalin

seized control of the Soviet Union after Lenin's death by isolating or eliminating all political opponents. He ruled the Soviet Union as General Secretary for nearly 30 years,

leading it to victory in World War II and transforming it into the second most powerful nation in the world in the process, but at the cost of millions of lives through economic deprivation and brutal political repression.

**Thirty-One (card game)** A card game for 2-7 players in which the object is to obtain a hand of 31 points. Players are dealt three cards (aces counting as eleven, face cards as 10 and everything else at face value) and picking up and discarding cards until someone either hits 31 or decides they have an unbeatable hand.

**Trespass de bonis asportatis** A legal action taken to recover damages from a person who has taken goods or property from its rightful owner.

## 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. We fulfill our mission by: 1) Producing first-class theatrical productions of contemporary and modern classical work that engage the greater Vancouver community; providing significant social-cultural experiences for audiences and new and graduate opportunities for artistic expression; 2) Developing new Canadian work that reflects the changing face and perspectives of our community; supporting emerging artists and organizations in the realization of associated and independent productions; 3) Deepening the connection between the audience and the art form through education and outreach

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 who arrive on time.

### **Thou shall sit in your 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 is provided by the 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.

[VISIT VANCOUVERPLAYHOUSE.COM/BLOG](http://VISITVANCOUVERPLAYHOUSE.COM/BLOG)

[BEFORE OR AFTER THE PERFORMANCE]

# PLAYHOUSE EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

**NEW! AUDIO DESCRIBED PERFORMANCES** are part of EarSighted, a season of audio described theatre provided by [Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture](#), made possible with assistance from Canadian Heritage and the City of Vancouver. Audio description begins 15 min. prior to curtain. ***The Trespassers*: Apr. 8, 2011.**

**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. Email submissions are preferred. **For more information contact Meredith Elliott at 604 629 2097 or [melliott@vancouverplayhouse.com](mailto: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. ***The Trespassers*: Apr. 4 & 12, 2011.**

**SALON SATURDAY** Informative and fun, Salon Saturday is presented in the Playhouse Salon 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. **Apr. 9, 2011 with [Max Reimer](#), Artistic Managing Director.**

**PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN MATINEE** This matinee is instrumental in bringing live, professional theatre to everyone in our community regardless of income level. ***The Trespassers*: Apr. 9, 2011.**

**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.

**PREVIEWS** Be the first! We stage four preview performances (not yet media-reviewed), which offer dramatic savings on regular tickets (preview tickets: \$32-\$41). ***The Trespassers*: Mar. 26, 28, 30, 2011 at 8pm.**

**TEA MATINEES** These lively matinees are extremely popular, especially with seniors and students. Tea, coffee and biscuits (complimentary) are served at 1pm; show at 2pm. ***The Trespassers*: Apr. 6, 7, 13, 2011.**

**RENTALS** In addition to our own production work, we share our rehearsal halls and props and costume inventory with our community. **604 872 6622. Rehearsal: ext. # 224. Prop: ext. # 236. Costume: ext. # 320.**

[VANCOUVERPLAYHOUSE.COM](http://VANCOUVERPLAYHOUSE.COM)

Send us feedback and questions regarding our Play Guides | Request a copy of a script (for educational purposes)

Contact: Stasa Andric at **604 637 3094** / [sandric@vancouverplayhouse.com](mailto:sandric@vancouverplayhouse.com)

or Meredith Elliott at **604 629 2097** / [melliott@vancouverplayhouse.com](mailto:melliott@vancouverplayhouse.com)

**SEE YOU AT THE PLAYHOUSE!**

**ALL PERFORMANCES AT HAMILTON & DUNSMUIR**

# 2010/2011 SEASON PRODUCTIONS

## THE FANTASTICKS

**OCT. 2-23, 2010**

Book and Lyrics by Tom Jones

Music by Harvey Schmidt

Directed and Choreographed by Max Reimer

Co-Sponsored by:

[Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel Ltd.](#)



## NOËL COWARD'S BRIEF ENCOUNTER

**NOV. 27-DEC. 26, 2010**

Adapted for the stage by Emma Rice

Directed by Max Reimer

*A co-production with Manitoba Theatre Centre*

Sponsored by:

[The Great-West Life Assurance Company](#)



## THIS

**JAN. 8-29, 2011**

Written by Melissa James Gibson

## DEATH OF A SALESMAN

**FEB. 12-MAR. 5, 2011**

Written by Arthur Miller

Directed by John Cooper

## THE TRESPASSERS

**MAR. 26-APR. 16, 2011**

Written by Morris Panych

Directed by Ron Jenkins

*A co-production with The Belfry Theatre, Victoria*

Sponsored by:

[Hyphen Communications Inc.](#)



SPECIAL PRESENTATION

## MACHOMER

**MAY 11-16, 2011**

Created and Performed by Rick Miller

Directed by Sean Lynch

*A WYRD Production*

Sponsored by:

[TELUS](#)

