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Globe provides an evening of theatrical magic

BY JOE COUTURE, LEADER-POST MARCH 9, 2013

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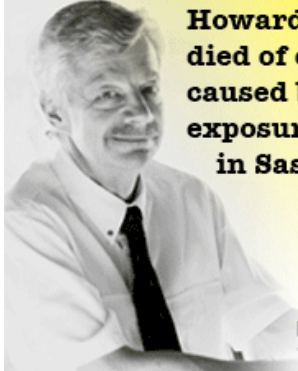
From left, Lucy Hill as Jane Bennet, Daniel Maslany as Mr. Bingley, Nathan Howe as Mr. Darcy and Lauren Holfueur as Elizabeth Bennet are featured in the Globe Theatre production

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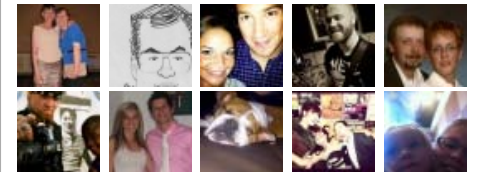
Howard Willems died of cancer caused by asbestos exposure on the job in Saskatchewan.

Howard Willems
1952 - 2012

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of Pride and Prejudice

Photograph by: Darrol Hofmeister, Sharpshooter Graphy , Leader-Post

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Where: Globe Theatre

When: Until March 24

It's the 200th anniversary this year of the first publication of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and currently on the main stage at Regina's Globe Theatre is an ambitious and impressive production of the classic story.

The script was adapted by Christina Calvit from Austen's novel and the Globe Theatre's play is directed by Marti Maraden, an accomplished artist whose resume includes 18 seasons at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, and whose directing acumen was demonstrated to Globe patrons with last year's excellent *The 39 Steps*.

Globe artistic director and CEO Ruth Smillie took a few moments when introducing Thursday's opening night show to lead the audience in applauding Maraden for her efforts. After watching *Pride and Prejudice*, it becomes even more apparent that such recognition is well-deserved.

With a large cast, an even larger set of characters, lots of locations to depict and numerous other complexities, one might expect putting on this production of the well-known tale of romance to be a rather daunting task, particularly in the Globe's in-the-round format.

But Maraden successfully oversees a talented artistic team in meeting the challenge and creating a thoroughly engaging and highly entertaining experience for Regina theatre-goers. Although a long work, at two hours and 30 minutes plus intermission, the audience's attention is maintained with lots of theatrical magic.

The music by composer Stephen Woodjetts is certainly a big part of that. The set, by designer Charlotte Dean, is minimal in the usual style of the Globe, but effectively helps shape the world of *Pride and Prejudice*.

In an earlier interview, Maraden noted that highly regarded designer Emma Williams brought in some of the costumes from a major costume house in England, describing them as "exquisite and very authentic" - apt words for the apparel. The lighting, by designer Louise Guinand, provides "wonderful atmosphere," as Maraden also foretold.

The team also includes dance instructor Johanna Bundon - there are a number of well-co-ordinated dance scenes in the play - as well as assistant director Judy Wensel, stage manager Lisa Russell, assistant stage manager Amanda Smart and apprentice stage manager Anita Posterino.

The cast is of course essential to *Pride and Prejudice* working well and its members also contribute mightily to keeping the audience fully involved for the show's duration.

Maraden worked with many of the members of the 16-person cast last year through the Globe's Conservatory Actor Training Program.

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Lauren Holfueer, starring as Elizabeth Bennet, is wonderful in the role. Nathan Howe - who earlier this season on the Globe's stage gave a memorable performance as Toto in the Wizard of Oz - is excellent as Mr. Darcy.

The other recent Conservatory graduates in the cast are Nathan Coppens (Colonel Fitzwilliam/Mr. Hurst/Mr. Denny), Bernadette Green (Mrs. Hurst/Mrs. Gardiner), Chris Hapke (Mr. Wickham), Alexandria Hartshorn (Lydia Bennet), Dakota Hebert (Charlotte Lucas), Jenna-Lee Hyde (Caroline Bingley/Mrs. Phillips/Lady Catherine de Bourgh), Rebecca Lascue (Mary Bennet) and Christina Persson (Kitty Bennet/Miss de Bourgh). All are impressive performers, some acting as multiple characters in the show.

The other cast members - all accomplished actors who give great performances in their roles in the play - are Kelli Fox (Mrs. Bennet), Michael Hanrahan (Mr. Ben-net), Lucy Hill (Jane Ben-net), Daniel Maslany (Mr. Bingley), Gordon S. Miller (Mr. Collins) and Geoffrey Whynot (Sir William Lucas/ Mr. Gardiner).

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