

Cygnnet Productions

Presents



Faith Healer, by Brian Friel
Produced for
Cygnnet Radio Theatre, June 2021

Directed by Louanne Moldovan

Cast, in order of appearance:

Francis (Frank) Hardy.....	Bruce Burkhartsmeier
Grace Hardy.....	Vana O'Brien
Teddy.....	Keith Scales

Bruce and Vana were recorded live in the studio. Keith was recorded virtually from Arkansas.

Crew:

Line Producer.....	Carol Ann Wohlmutter
Music Composer.....	Rody Ortega
Engineer.....	Mike DiNapoli
Editor.....	Damian Staffon

Setting

Throughout the British Isles, ending in Ireland, sometime in the first half of the twentieth century.

Running Time

Approximately 2 hours, not including the companion Conversation with Gemma Whelan, founding artistic director of [Corrib Theatre](#)

Tickets

Faith Healer is free to stream, thanks to generous support from the Ronni S Lacroute Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation.

Synopsis

Throughout the remote, forgotten corners of the British Isles, Frank Hardy offers the promise of redemption to the sick and the suffering. But his is an unreliable gift, a dangerous calling which brings him into conflict with his wife Grace and his manager Teddy.

Though each of the narrators tells essentially the same tale in four soliloquies (Frank speaks first and last), their accounts disagree in ways that leave us dizzy, revealing the fragility of memory and the necessity of stories as a means of survival. The writing is beautiful, supple, rhythmical, charged with the slow, sure throb of despair and enchantment.

Faith Healer Production History—Cygnet Productions

Faith Healer premiered in 1979, in Boston. The first production in Ireland was at the Abbey Theatre in August 1980. The first London production was at the Royal Court Theatre in March 1981.

Cygnet produced *Faith Healer* in 1994, with Ted Roisum as Frank Hardy; Vana O'Brien as Grace Hardy; and Keith Scales as Teddy.

About the Playwright

Brian Friel (1929–2015) was an Irish dramatist and short story writer. Until his death, he was considered one of the greatest living English-language dramatists. He has been likened to an "Irish Chekhov" and described as "the universally accented voice of Ireland". His plays have been compared favorably to those of contemporaries such as Samuel Beckett, Arthur Miller, Harold Pinter, and Tennessee Williams.



Recognized for early works such as *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* and *Faith Healer*, Friel had 24 plays published in a career of more than a half-century. His plays were commonly produced on Broadway in New York City throughout this time, as well as in Ireland and the UK.

In 1980 Friel co-founded Field Day Theatre Company with Stephen Rea. His play *Translations* was the company's first production. With Field Day, Friel collaborated with Seamus Heaney, 1995 recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature. Heaney and Friel first became friends after Friel sent the young poet a letter following publication of his book *Death of a Naturalist*.

Friel was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the British Royal Society of Literature, and the Irish Academy of Letters. He was appointed to Seanad Éireann in 1987 and served until 1989. In later years, *Dancing at Lughnasa* reinvigorated Friel's oeuvre, bringing him Tony Awards (including Best Play), the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play, and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play.

Producer/Director

Louanne Moldovan

Louanne Moldovan is the founder and artistic director of Cygnet Productions, the “literary cabaret” of Portland, Oregon. Cygnet’s mission is to produce entertaining, stimulating works of literature with social consciousness; the company presents dramatic adaptations of literary works as well as producing plays written for the stage.

She is the winner of an Oregon Book Award for Drama in 2004, as coauthor of *Vitriol & Violets: Tales from the Algonquin Round Table*.

She directs for companies including the Civic Theatre Guild and Artists Repertory Theatre. She also directs talent on-set for TV commercials and films.

In Los Angeles, Louanne worked for 20th Century Fox Films, was an acting member of the Company of Angels Theater, and writer and co-leader with the Women's Writing Project at the Los Angeles Theatre Center. She served as an artistic supervisor of the Imagination Workshop, a group of performers working with psychiatric patients to facilitate a creative experience.

For Louanne, theatre is the capricious, beloved stepsister to her divine daughter, Alex.



Guest Conversationalist

Gemma Whelan

[Gemma Whelan](#) is an Irish-born theatre director and educator. She is founding artistic director of [Corrib Theatre](#) in Portland, Oregon, and [Wilde Irish Productions](#) in the San Francisco Bay Area. Gemma has directed more than seventy-five stage productions and is also an award-winning screenwriter, film director, and published novelist.

She graduated from Trinity College, Dublin, and has graduate degrees from UC Berkeley in Theatre and San Francisco State in Cinema. Gemma lives in Portland, Oregon. She is a member of SDC, the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

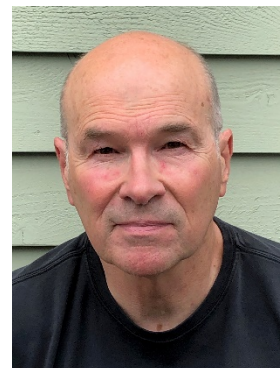


Cast

Bruce Burkhartsmeier, Francis (Frank) Hardy

Bruce Burkhartsmeier is an award-winning stage and film actor with nearly 40 years of experience. He has worked in many theatrical venues in the United States including Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Meadow Brook Theatre, Third Rail Repertory, the Odyssey Theater Ensemble, and Artists Repertory Theatre.

Currently based in Portland, Oregon, he has won three Portland Drammy Awards as Best Actor for his theater performances in *A Noble Failure* (2013), *Shining City* (2008), and *Killer Joe* (1998). He also received a Best Supporting Actor Drammy for his performance as Tilden in Sam Shepard's *Buried Child* (1995). Bruce's film appearances include roles in *Men of Honor*, *Ricochet River*, *Mistaken Identity*, and *Black Circle Boys*. Bruce studied with the estimable Uta Hagen in New York City. Other teachers and mentors over the years have included Geraldine Page, Earle Hyman, and William Hickey.



Vana O'Brien, Grace Hardy



Vana's been a Cygnet company member from the beginning. Just a few of Vana's performances with Cygnet include *Xingu* (the 1999 production as well as 2021); *Cupid Unzipped*; *Tourists*; *Durang, Durang, Durang*; *The Jewish Wife*; *The Way We Live Now*; *Faith Healer*; *Kings and War Music*; *The Seagull*; *Women of Courage*; *Pinter on Pinter*, and Oscar Wilde's *Lady Windermere's Fan*.

A founding member of Artists Repertory Theatre (1981), Vana joined Artists Rep's Southeast Asia Arts America tours in 1991 and 1994, performing in *Driving Miss Daisy*, *The World of Carl Sandburg*, *Three Tall Women* and *A Journey through American Comedy*. One of her favorite productions is Donald Margulies' *Collected Stories*, which she and her daughter Eleanor performed together at CoHo in 2007. Vana trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London.

Keith Scales, Teddy

Born and raised in London, professional theatre artist Keith Scales has acted in more than two hundred plays and directed nearly a hundred, receiving numerous awards. Study Fellowships have taken him to Ireland, Greece, Japan, Prague, the west of England and the south of France in preparation for various theatrical projects. He was awarded the first Masters Fellowship in Theatre by the Regional Arts Council of Oregon. He is a member of AEA, AFTRA, and SAG.

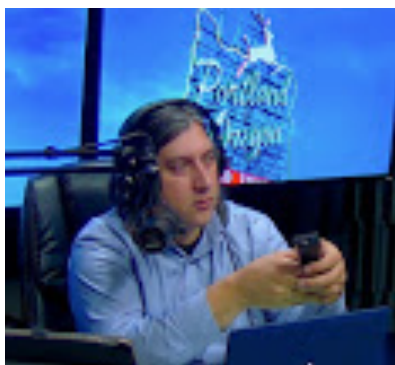
From 1993–2009 Keith served as artistic director of the Classic Greek Theatre of Oregon, for which he wrote line-for-line English versions of sixteen ancient Greek plays. In 2011 Keith relocated from Oregon to Eureka Springs, Arkansas to concentrate on the creation of original works for page, stage and screen. Several of his original works are available on Amazon.com. He also writes under the name Julien Keith.

Keith played Teddy in Cygnet Theatre's full stage production of *Faith Healer* in 1994, and he's delighted to be involved in this radio version.



Crew

Mike DiNapoli, Chief Engineer



Mike is the Chief Engineer for the [Studio at North Rim](#). Earlier in his career, he served as Production Engineer for the Mount Hood Community College Creative Writing Speaker Series and the weekly live broadcasts of Midnight Sunrise Radio and On the Block Radio. He directed the 2014 Pickathon Woods stage, where five of his sets were chosen as NPR Favorite Sessions.

He has helped produce many live-to-broadcast sports, entertainment, and charitable events in the Portland area. He's also traveled the country installing and designing infrastructure systems for radio, television, and telecommunications clients including NBC, AT&T, Time Warner, Verizon, and Comcast.

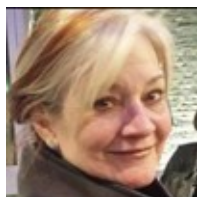
Kathleen Kelly, Social Media & Etc.

Kathleen is a polymath: Freelance photographer, video editor, and graphic creator. She was on the Artists Repertory Theatre marketing team as the Media Specialist until Covid broke the team up. Her charge? To maintain the brand identity of Artists Rep, by conceptualizing and producing show images and videos for each show in the season, and collaborating with the marketing team and freelance graphic designers. She's also a seasoned print media producer, designing print, online, outdoor, and broadcast advertisements, and creating show-related images for posters, postcards, lobby posters, banners, website, press materials, and social media.



Kathleen has longtime experience photographing subjects in portraits, headshots, weddings, and events, and for promotional material. For more information and to see examples of her work, you can visit Kathleen's website, www.kathleenalicekelly.com. Kathleen: "Also, tell your dog I said hi."

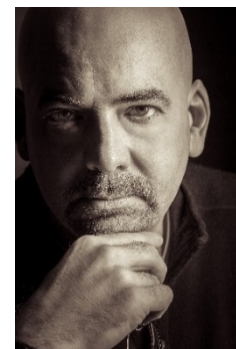
Sherry Lamoreaux, Media Relations



Sherry's been involved with Cygnet since the late nineties, both as a publicist and a coauthor of *Vitriol & Violets*. She was the press officer for Bag & Baggage Productions from 2009–2013. She's also worked as a writer and/or editor for high tech companies including Swan Island Networks, Act-On, and Intel. She's on the board of [PlayWrite](#), a non-profit that pairs theatre professionals with at-risk kids to teach the youth creative skills to manage and surmount trauma. PlayWrite's tagline is "Transforming the lives of 'youth at the edge' through the power of performance in art."

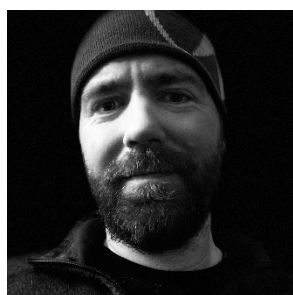
Rodolfo Ortega, Composer & Sound Designer

Rodolfo has designed sound and composed music for some of the most prestigious theatre companies in the United States including The Oregon Shakespeare Festival (*The Tenth Muse*, *Romeo and Juliet*), Denver Center Theatre Company (*The Three Musketeers*, *Romeo & Juliet*), and South Coast Repertory Theatre (*The Monster Builder*). Rodolfo has also written the compositions for *Native Gardens* at Cleveland Playhouse and recently worked on Actors Theater of Louisville's production of *Flex* and *Nicole Clarke is Having a Baby* for the Humana Festival. In addition to being a Resident Artist at Artists Rep, Rodolfo is also an Associate Artist with Santa Cruz Shakespeare (*Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Man in the Iron Mask*, *Henry IV (I & II)*, *Henry V*). His composition for Santa Cruz Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost* drew high praise from the *Wall Street Journal's* reviewer, who called his music "unexpectedly haunting".



For Artists Rep, Rodolfo has designed and composed music for 1984, *La Ruta*, *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart*, *Caught*, *Skin of Our Teeth*, *The Liar*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Exiles*, *Miracle Worker* and *Intimate Apparel*, just to name a few of the over one hundred shows he has done for Artist Rep since 2000. Rodolfo recently won the Prague Quadrennial Competition in Music for his composition for Artist Repertory Theater's *Magellanica*, where he was a featured Artist, in Prague in June 2019. He also works extensively at Northwest Children's Theatre where he has been commissioned to write numerous musicals (*Hansel and Gretel*, *Snow White*, *Pinocchio*, *Peter Pan*, *The Little Mermaid* and *El Zorrillo*). Rodolfo spent 13 years working with Profile Theatre where his credits include sound design and music for *The Blue Door*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, *Lips Together Teeth Apart* and *Master Harold and the Boys*. He has also worked with Portland Playhouse, Oregon Children's Theatre, CoHo Productions, Corrib Theatre and Milagro Theatre. www.rodyortega.com

Damian Staffon, Sound Editing



Damian has been in the production industry for 20 years doing sound and video for live shows, podcasts, corporate events and everything in between. While still in Recording Arts School he started his career in live sound and then quickly became Production Director for multiple high-volume properties. He is currently the Lead Technician for the [Studio at Northrim](#) and Crew Chief for [People's AV](#).

Carol Ann Wohlmuth, Stage Manager

Carol Ann has been the Stage Manager for over 30 plays at Artists Rep, where she is a Resident Artist. In addition, Carol Ann has been a properties artisan, production manager, board operator (and even an accountant) for a variety of theatres in the Portland area over the past 30+ years. These theatre companies include Portland Center Stage, Portland Rep, Stark Raving Theater, New Rose Theatre, triangle productions!, Musical Theater Co, Metro Performing Arts, Northwest Children's Theatre, and Carousel Co. Carol Ann also guest lectures on the topics of Stage Management and making a living in theatre arts at various educational facilities.

