

AlvegoRoot Theatre

2022 SEASON



GYROSCOPE

by James Reaney

A Note from Adam



Thank you for joining us for AlvegoRoot's 2022 Season. The past few years have been a galvanizing period for AlvegoRoot. The 2022 Season reflects who we have become and what we aspire to be as a theatre company. Supporting local theatre artists is, as always, at the core of the work we are doing this season. This is a season of creative risks and adventures. We have emerged from the pandemic feeling emboldened to create theatre that excites, inspires and connects us a community. This period has made us ever so grateful that you our loyal audience is with us on this journey. It is good to have you here, thank you for coming.

- Adam C-H, Artistic Director

AlvegoRoot creates work on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples as well as nations both recorded and unrecorded who have been caretakers of this land for time immemorial. These lands are connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum.



London **Arts** Council



London
CANADA

Gyroscope is supported by the London Arts Council through the City of London's Community Arts Investment Program.

Cover: Kydra Ryan as Hilda and Steven Trevor as Greg in Gyroscope.
Photo by Richard Gilmore.

GYROSCOPE

by James Reaney

Cast

in order of appearance

Dan Ebbs - Henry/Nicholas/Professor Puzzle

Patricia Nacamoto - Mattie Medal

Steven Trevor - Greg La Selva

Kydra Ryan - Hilda La Selva

Elizabeth Durand - Agnes Dactyl/Waitress

Artistic Credits

Adam Corrigan Holowitz - Director

Adam Corrigan Holowitz - Designer

Duncan Sizeland - Assistant Director

Yunike Soedarmasto - Dance Consultant

Christina Barber - Running Assistant



**Running Time: 2 Hours and 45 Minutes
with One 15 Minute Intermission**

Setting:

In this play personality and place are forever spinning out of one phase and into another.

The play begins in Henry's Restaurant Café which is more like Henry than you might first suspect. For just as Henry will change into the mycologist Nicholas and then into the astounding Professor Puzzle, so to will the café elasticize into the poet's apartment above, and then balloon into the lab cafeteria, then the YWCA cafetorium and even a combined used clothing store and bookstore.



Elizabeth Durand as Agnes with Patricia Nacamoto as Mattie and Dan Ebbs as Nicholas in Gyroscope.
Photos by Richard Gilmore.

Director's Notes

Gyroscope is a unique James Reaney play. Parts of it feel like a chamber play (with aesthetic whispers of his early plays like *The Easter Egg*), but it also is full of explosive form busting writing that we associate with his major middle period (*The Donnelly Trilogy*). *Gyroscope*, written in 1980-1 is a Reaney play unto itself. It is a synthesis of all Reaney had created up to this point. It is also full of ideas and allusions that were fascinating Reaney, there are elements of intimate autobiography and then there are mythic allusions.

Chief of among these allusions is *The Bacchae*; the story of the militaristic King Pentheus who so desires to infiltrate the female bacchanalia that he risks being torn limb to limb. In the world of *Gyroscope* metaphor replaces literal violence and the outcomes are comic, not tragic. We meet characters that we can relate to in a world that we can recognize. Though these characters have one foot (and all of their ego) in the world of the gods.

I choose this play because, while heady, at the play's core is a question that I believe is brilliantly simple and deceptively complex. How do two people fall in love and become something called "each other". What is "each other"? How do we do the hard work to find balance and connection with a person we love? Hilda and Greg struggle with this in the play, their rivalry is born out of a love and desire to understand the other person. This goes as far as taking on the other's habits, interests, even their clothes. It is an ambitious quest in an ambitious play. It is a quest that goes beyond the capacity of language and at some points Reaney uses that often misunderstood 1960s and 70s poetic form, sound poetry. As you sit down to watch this play I invite you to ignite a desire that Hilda and Greg will find balance in their live...and if they can maybe we all can.

With love... *Adam C-H*



Steven Trevor as Greg and Dan Ebbs as Nicholas. Kydra Ryan as Hilda and Steven Trevor as Greg.
Photos by Richard Gilmore.



L-R Clockwise: Kydra Ryan as Hilda and Steven Trevor as Greg. Patricia Nacamoto as Mattie with Dan Ebbs as Henry. Dan Ebbs as Professor Puzzle. Photos by Richard Gilmore.

Ensemble



Adam Corrigan Holowitz, Founding Artistic Director, 14th Season

2022 Season: Playwright/Director of Slate Sisters, Cy Warman/Co-Playwright of Sweet Marie, Playwright/Director of Heading In All Directions, Director of Gyroscope, Writer/Host of Manor Park Evening Post, Dramaturg/Director of Cambium. Adam works as a dramaturg, director and playwright. Works Adam has directed for AlvegoRoot include: The Bicycle Play, Pirates of Long Point, Fools and Lovers, The Wind in the Willows (playwright), The Boy with an R in His Hand (playwright), Welcome to Bon Echo, Sixty-Seven (playwright), Dominion Day, The Cheese Poet (playwright), The Big Lad, The Angel of Long Point (playwright), Running Rude, Press Cuttings, Colleening (creator), Endgame, Beard, Macbeth, Uncle Vanya and Waiting for Godot. He performed in Tales for a Reaney Day. For Village Opera Adam has directed: John Beckwith and James Reaney's The Great Lakes Suite, Menotti's The Telephone and Shaw's Village Wooing. For Theatre Aezir he directed Gary Kirkham's Falling: A Wake. He was the dramaturg for David Yee's play rochdale (York University/Summerworks). Adam holds a BA Honours from York University where he studied Dramaturgy. He is the recipient of The Iris Turcott Memorial Award for dramaturgy from York University.



Elizabeth Durand, 6th Season

2022 Season: Agnes in Gyroscope and Performer in Cambium.

Previously with AlvegoRoot: Aunt Judy in Pirates of Long Point, Charlotte in Harvest, Badger in The Wind in the Willows, Flora in Welcome to Bon Echo, Uncle John and others in The Boy with an R in his Hand, and eight roles in the ensemble piece Sixty-Seven. Elizabeth is a founder of Theatre Aezir where she recently performed in The Laramie Project and played Carol in Theatre Aezir's Canadian Premiere of A Permanent Image. Favourite roles include Mimi in La Boheme, Freia in Das Rheingold, (Cinnabar Opera Theatre), Monica in Present Laughter and The Queen in Cinderella. Elizabeth is a Vocal Performance graduate of Western and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Ensemble



Dan Ebbs, 4th Season

2022 Season: Henry in Gyroscope and Performer in Cambium.

Previously for AlvegoRoot: Jack in Of Gods and Machines (live play and audio play), performer/co-creator of The Bicycle Play, Admiral Moorhead in Pirates of Long Point, Mole in The Wind in the Willows and Troyer/Browne in Fools and Lovers. Dan Ebbs got his theatre training at Humber College in Toronto the 1980s and was rejected by all of the professional theatres there. Thus he learned his first important lesson in theatre: humility. He considers himself an amateur actor because he does not have an Equity or an ACTRA card, but he acknowledges that the Latin root of the word amateur is 'love'. He is just happy to be on the stage and working with dedicated, creative people and, as long as he can do that, life is good.



Patricia Nacamoto, 2nd Season

2022 Season: Mattie in Gyroscope and Performer in Cambium.

Patricia is delighted to be returning to AlvegoRoot having played Charlie French in The Boy with an R in His Hand in 2018. For the Peanut Gallery Patricia directed Punch Up by Kat Sandler and performed in Seven Stories by Morris Panych. Her work in Oshes Theatre Company as a story teller and theatre artist has taken her around the world including to South Africa.

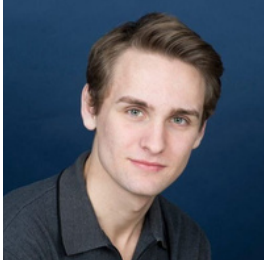


Kydra Ryan, 6th Season

2022 Season: Sylvia Slate in Slate Sisters, Marie/Co-Playwright in Sweet Marie, Hilda in Gyroscope, Performer/Writer of The Manor Park Evening Post.

Past AlvegoRoot credits include: Playwright/Director of Of Gods and Machines, Performer/Director of Tales for a Reaney Day, Josephine in Pirates of Long Point, Performer/Creator of The Bicycle Play, Ratty in The Wind in the Willows, Annie Pixley in Shall Not Be Taken, The Boy with an R in His Hand, Welcome to Bon Echo, and Elsie: Dreams and Sketches. Kydra was Assistant Director for Six Characters in Search of an Author and Timon of Athens both at Fanshawe College.

Ensemble



Steven Trevor. 1st Season

2022 Season: Greg in Gyroscope.

Previous credits include Grease (Jane Davidson-Snider), Spring Awakening (Good Foundation Theatre), Youth and Other Lies (KW Youth Theatre), Elephant Man (KW Youth Theatre), Toys of Society (KW Youth Theatre), Ten November (Good Foundations Theatre), and Midsummer Nights Dream (Good Foundations Theatre). Steven has always found acting to be an in-depth delve into society and himself; a method of learning more about the world around him.

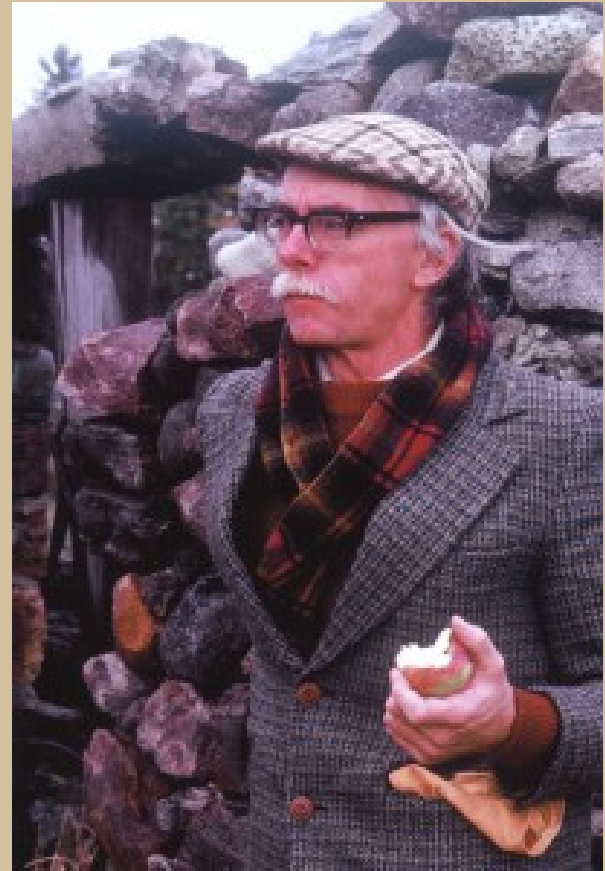
About James Reaney

James Reaney, Canadian poet and playwright, was born on a farm near Stratford, Ontario, on September 1, 1926.

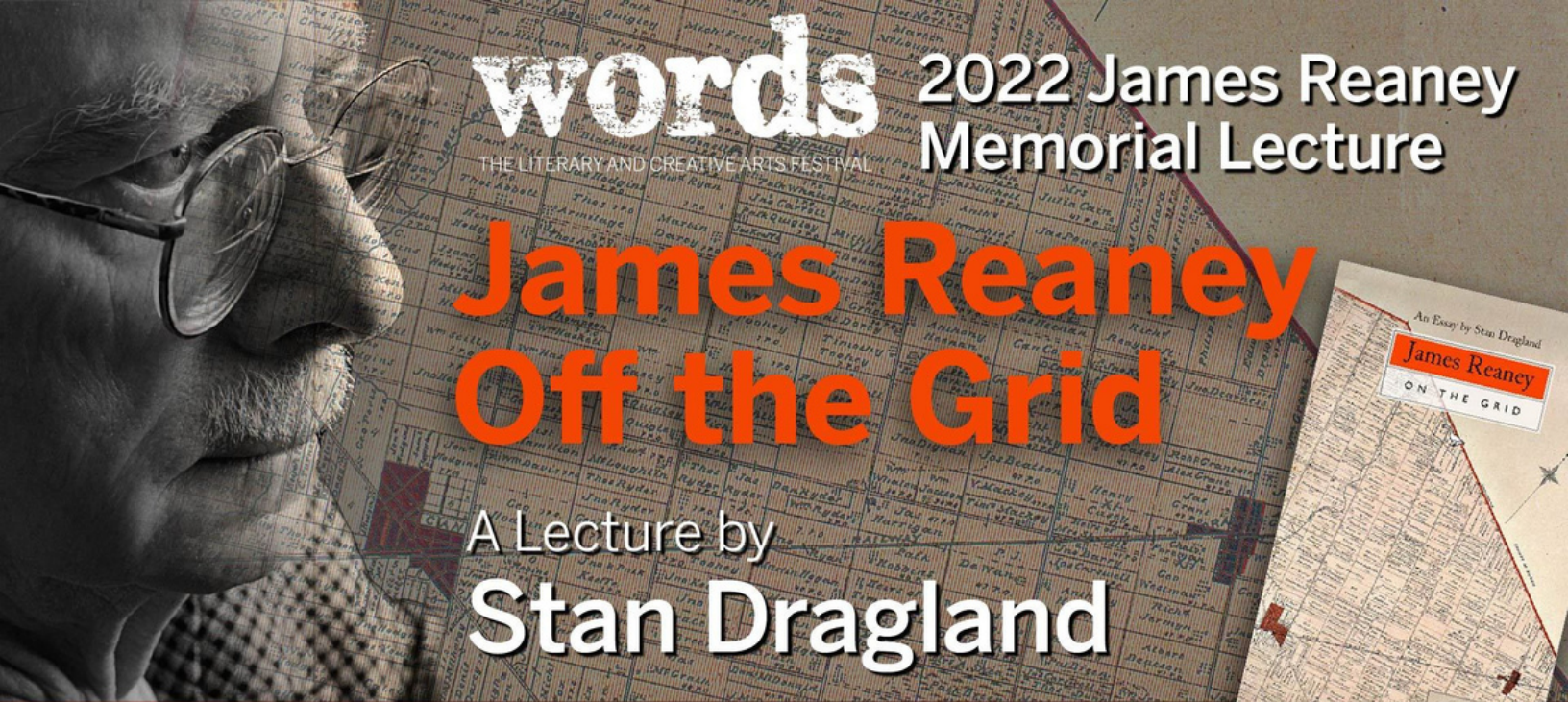
He grew up to become one of Canada's best-known poets and dramatists, enjoying literary success over a period of seven decades. He was also a professor of English at the University of Manitoba (1949-1956) and the University of Western Ontario (1960-1989).

His contributions spanned literary genres, ranging from short stories, poetry, libretti, and drama, to plays and novels for children, along with insightful critical essays on literary practice.

Highly regarded at home and abroad throughout his career, James Reaney's work was recognized with three Governor General's awards, the Chalmers Award for drama, four honorary doctorates and the Order of Canada. He died on June 11, 2008, in London, Ontario.



**James Reaney, 1979.
Photo by Les Kohalmi**



words

THE LITERARY AND CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

2022 James Reaney
Memorial Lecture

James Reaney Off the Grid

A Lecture by

Stan Dragland

Sunday, November 6th ▲ 12:00 pm

Museum London, 421 Ridout Street North

www.wordsfest.ca



Kydra Ryan as Hilda and Patricia Nacamoto in Gyroscope. Photos by Richard Gilmore.

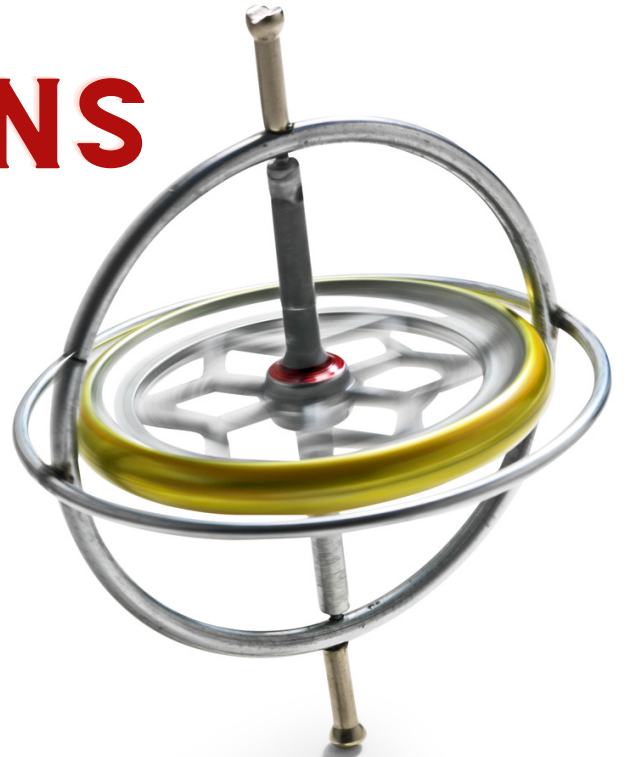
GYROSCOPE CONVERSATIONS

**THREE PODCASTS HOSTED
BY KEVIN HESLOP**

**Episode 1: Original Cast
Member Jan Nickleson and
Adam Corrigan Holowitz**

Episode 2: David White

Episode 3: Jason Dickson



**Join poet Kevin Heslop as he explores the
fascinating world of Reaney's Gyroscope.**

**AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING
MONDAY OCTOBER 31ST**

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)



The Manor Park Evening Post

Afternoon Edition

Sunday November 20 at 3:00 PM

Manor Park Memorial Hall, 11 Briscoe Street West

[CLICK HERE](#)
[TO BUY](#)
[TICKETS](#)



AlvegoRoot Theatre
2022 SEASON

THE MANOR
PARK
MEMORIAL
HALL

Our Deepest Thanks to Our Donors

- Susan Agranove
- Carolyn and Allister Cameron
- Pamela Cameron
- Teresa Corrigan and Stephen Holowitz
- Elizabeth Durand
- Claudia Day
- Dan Ebbs
- Brian Keith
- EJ Lamb
- Joyce and Tom Orchard
- Brownyn Powell
- Susan Wallace and James Reaney
- Susan Reaney
- Ailene Wittstein
- Richard Allan Yake

Special thanks to Elizabeth Durand, Janis Nickleson, Teresa Corrigan, Stephen Holowitz and Sue Parke.

Kydra Ryan as Hilda in Gyroscope.
Photo by Richard Gilmore.



Telling Local Stories, Creating Local Theatre

AlvegoRoot Theatre is based in London Ontario. AlvegoRoot produces plays about London and the surrounding area. AlvegoRoot develops new plays based on local stories and people. With one eye to the world and another on Southwestern Ontario, AlvegoRoot has created a specific style of theatre that carries on the Souwesto theatre and arts tradition. 2022 marks AlvegoRoot Theatre's 14th Season.

Artistic Director - Adam Corrigan Holowitz

Associate Producer - Kydra Ryan



2022 SEASON: THE ROVER CAMBIUM THE MANOR PARK EVENING POST
SLATE SISTERS SWEET MARIE HEADING IN ALL DIRECTIONS GYROSCOPE