

AlvegoRoot Theatre  
2023 SEASON 15TH ANNIVERSARY



# The Lawyer of La Salette

Created by Adam Corrigan Holowitz & Kydra Ryan

# A Note from Adam



This year we are celebrating our 15th Anniversary Season! We are forever grateful for the brilliant support of and engagement with the theatre we create for you, our community. Our audience is big hearted and always ready for adventures into new theatrical realms. With this in mind we are creating a season unlike any we have ever done before, with new stories brought to the stage with originality and verve. What remains constant as always, is that we are telling local stories, supporting local artists and creating wholly unique local theatre. You are a big part of the work we do and you are a big part of the celebration. - *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.*



Cover: Kydra Ryan, Adam Corrigan Holowitz, Stephen Holowitz, Jessica Pereira in The Lawyer of La Salette. Photo by Richard Gilmore

# The Lawyer of La Salette

Created by Adam Corrigan Holowitz & Kydra Ryan

## Cast

*in order of appearance*

**Jessica Pereira**

*Sue / The Fox / Neil McAlpine / Mary / Patrick*

**Stephen Holowitz**

*Sound Operator / Musician*

**Kydra Ryan**

*Buster Easton / John / The Miller / The Lady*

**Adam Corrigan Holowitz**

*Richard Donohue - The Lawyer of La Salette / Duncan*

## Artistic Credits

**Adam Corrigan Holowitz - Creator**

**Kydra Ryan - Creator**

**Stephen Holowitz - Music Director**

**Design by the Ensemble**

**Setting: The Present, a Barn in La Salette Ontario**

**Running Time: 1 Hour & 25 Minutes**

**No Intermission**

# Artist's Notes

The period of time in which an artwork is created is an undeniably great influence on the kind of art it will be. But I find equally important are the sometimes serendipitous meetings with an eclectic assortment of art (stories, music, plays, visual art etc.) which I encounter during the creation process of a play. I consider the creation period of a play, to begin with the first encounter with an inspirational source. This sometimes happens years before the pen is put to paper (or finger to keyboard). Often I do not even know at first that the creation of a new play has begun with such an encounter. But the ideas start to percolate, and then the catalyst for the creation process really picks up speed when encountering further influences, which contrast, complement and conflict with that first piece of inspiration.

When it comes to *The Lawyer of La Salette* the creation of this play goes back a very long way. Starting when I first learned that my Great-great Grandfather was known as The Lawyer of La Salette. Not a real lawyer but someone known for giving good counsel in Norfolk County. Next, I encountered the inspiring story of Neil McAlpine and how he saved his community in Fingal Ontario from the economic ruin. Then there were chance meetings with an array of old brilliant and biting folk songs. Then I recalled misty tales of my Great-great-great Grandmother's journey from Ireland. These influences came together as Kydra and myself created this piece for this year, a time when the cost of living is climbing and many are encountering food insecurity. These old tales offer a lot for our times.

**-Adam Corrigan Holowitz**

# Artist's Notes

Whenever I get a chance to write a play that tells a story close to home, I get a little giddy (home is Norfolk County where La Salette is). I try to believe that once you leave home you can never go back. Home becomes a memory. And while I love my home, I feel alien returning to it now that all of my friends have either moved away or moved on with their lives. But my Dad is still there, and my Grandma and they remind me I will always have a place in Norfolk. I hope the heart of my home can be felt in this play and I hope to continue to tell the stories of my home for years to come.

This play has also connected me to a piece of my heritage I didn't realize I knew anything about before: Ireland. There's a bit of dialogue in the show: *"How much do you know about the Great Irish Famine?" "As much as everyone else." "So nothing."* And it was true. I knew absolutely nothing about Irish history. At the same time I was writing this play, I was also taking Irish accent classes. Seeing the charts on the rapid decline of Gaelic in less than 200 years, seeing English become the dominant language, and then connecting that with my new understanding of the effects of the famine, I felt hollow.

Storytelling, theatre, that is what keeps these memories alive, it's all we have to stop from repeating history. This show is just another story amidst the stories we tell, it's an idea. Sadly, it's ending deviates from the current reality of the world, but we remain ever hopeful.

**-Kydra Ryan**



Adam Corrigan Holowitz as the Lawyer of La Salette in  
The Lawyer of La Salette.  
Photos by Richard Gilmore.



Adam Corrigan Holowitz, Jessica Pereira, Kydra Ryan  
in The Lawyer of La Salette. Photos by Richard Gilmore.



# Music in this Production

**The Fox Went Out On a Chilly Night - *Traditional***

**What's the Catch - *by Stephen Holowitz***

**The Terror Time - *by Ewan MacColl***

**The Fields of Athenry - *by Pete St. John***

**The Farmer's Toast - *Traditional***



Kydra Ryan and Jessica Pereira.  
Photo by Richard Gilmore.



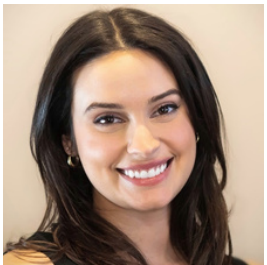
# Ensemble



## **Adam Corrigan Holowitz, Founding Artistic Director, 15th Season**

**2023 Season: him in february, Director of The Fig Tree, Director of Lawrence Station, Co-Creator/The Lawyer in The Lawyer of La Salette.**

Adam works as a dramaturg, director and playwright. Works Adam has directed for AlvegoRoot include: Gyroscope, Slate Sisters (playwright), The Bicycle Play, Pirates of Long Point (playwright), 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.



## **Jessica Pereira, 1st Season for AlvegoRoot.**

**2023 Season: Fox/Neil McAlpine in The Lawyer of La Salette.**

Jessica is thrilled to be making her debut with AlvegoRoot Theatre this summer in the premiere production of The Lawyer of La Salette. Jessica is a graduate of Western University's Speech-Language Pathology program and has previously studied performance at Dean Armstrong Acting Studios in Toronto. Past theatre credits include The Phoenix Lottery (Theatre Aezir), Exit Laughing (Elgin Theatre Guild), Pride and Prejudice (London Community Players) and Anne of Green Gables (Theatre Orangeville).

# Ensemble

**Kydra Ryan, Associate Producer, 7th Season**

**2023 Season: her in february, Mary in Lawrence Station, Playwright/The Miller in The Lawyer of La Salette, Dramaturg for The Fig Tree.** Past AlvegoRoot credits include: Hilda in Gyroscope, Sylvia in Slate Sisters, Marie/Playwright in Sweet Marie, 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.

**Stephen Holowitz, 11th Season for AlvegoRoot.**

**2019 Season: Composer/Music Director for The Lawyer of La Salette and The Manor Park Evening Post.** Stephen has worked musically on many of AlvegoRoot's productions, favourite projects include Composer/Music Director of Colleening and The Wind in the Willows. Music Director for The Cheese Poet, The Angel of Long Point, Sixty-Seven, The Big Lad and Beard. Stephen frequently plays with Denise Pelley. He composes with Oliver Whitehead on works such as the River Suite, Brush Strokes Decorating a Fan (words by James Reaney) and Colleening.



**Kydra Ryan as Buster in The Lawyer of La Salette.**  
**Photos by Richard Gilmore.**

# Our Deepest Thanks to Our Donors

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- Richard Allan Yake



Stephen Holowitz in *The Lawyer of La Salette*.  
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. 2023 marks AlvegoRoot Theatre's 15th Anniversary Season.

**Artistic Director - Adam Corrigan Holowitz**

**Associate Producer - Kydra Ryan**



2023 SEASON: **FEBRUARY THE FIG TREE THE MANOR PARK EVENING POST**  
**LAWRENCE STATION PUT YOUR RECORDS ON THE LAWYER OF LA SALETTE**