



GORDON SHERIDAN, PRODUCER

Gordon remembers when he was offered the role of producer with mixed feelings. "When Melodie offered me the chance to produce this play, my automatic response was 'yes.' Truthfully, my love of theatre would have made me say yes to any play, but when she told me which play I was filled with a sense of excitement--surely--but also of heavy responsibility. The Fighting Days, which I was familiar with from a Canadian lit course I taught back in Ontario, is such an important Canadian play, that I did not want to do it injustice."

Sheridan embraced the challenge of producing a show for Cranbrook Community Theatre knowing that it has a long-standing history and is a downtown Cranbrook landmark.

"There was even more responsibility, just based on where the show was being produced!" He laughs. "The shows there are not just shows--they're traditions. If you've ever been in the lobby of The Studio Stage Door, you know all about their past shows because there's this amazing library of posters all lovingly hung and preserved. You can feel the history. Up there you can find Neil Simon and Arthur Miller and William Shakespeare!"

Asked if he do it all again, Sheridan mused on the experience. "Would I do it again? [laughs] I haven't even finished this one yet! Seriously thought I'd have to think about it. As a business owner and family man, it is a huge commitment. Luckily, I had my family close by. My wife Rhonda is lead on properties and has three speaking roles in the play; and my son Parker spent many nights, nose in book, in the audience. I can't say it was easy either--but yes, I would do it again. I've learned so much. My wife and I want our son growing up in the theatre, amongst creative, hard-working people."

"I have been an English and History teacher and have a healthy interest in both fields. This play covered so much of what made the early part of the 20th century so important to the creation of the modern world we live in today. The Great War and the Suffrage Movement were stepping-stones for what we have achieved as a species. Admittedly, and as sure as we are still human beings, there is still struggles and a long way to go to achieve total equality; but we're closer now because the women saw injustice and fought it. This play works on so many levels."

If you love history, if you love women's issues, if you love great local actors turning out breathtaking performances then you will not want to miss The Fighting Days!

