



MELODIE HULL, DIRECTOR

Q1. Why The Fighting Days by Wendy Lil?

I love history and appreciate its significance to the way we live today. I loved this script when I first read it long ago. I revisited it last year and was really impressed how many of the core themes of the play still resonate today. I am so pleased and honoured to receive CCT's Production Committee's support to direct it this Season.

I played Fighting Days' famous Canadian suffragist and politician, Nellie McClung some years ago with the Vagabond Players in New Westminster. It was an honour to portray someone so iconic, so important to the establishment of women's equality and rights in Canada. Nellie McClung is not the lead in this play, but it is her vision and her relationship with others that creates a foundation for their own vision of the future and their perceived roles in that. People who are catalysts for change always intrigue me.

Q2. What does this bring to the community?

The Fighting Days speak to all of us who are interested in the rights of people and their ability to find their voice. The play helps us explore our concerns over where society is at and where it is headed. It also provides an opportunity for reflection and celebration of an important time in Canada— not only the suffragist movement, but the advent of World War I and its effects on families. The audience can step back in time and experience that.

Q3. Do you see any hurdles coming your way?

I am not sure yet. I have some excellent people on board who are bringing a variety of skills and talents. In that regard, I feel encouraged. It is still a long way out to this February production. I am really pleased to have Gordon Sheridan as my Producer.

My one current hurdle however is casting the role of Nellie McClung. This is a role for a strong, determined woman who can inspire us all. We're holding a special audition, September 9th, 6:30 – 9 pm at the Stage Door. Please come out!

Q4. What are you most excited about?

Trying something new. I love a challenge. Love it!

I am excited about having both well-known actors and a few newcomers to CCT in this show. They're all fabulous.

I am also excited about bringing living history to the stage at Cranbrook Community Theatre. I want to keep history alive! And I am excited to think the audience will feel inspired by the story such that they'll want to talk a lot more about the ideas and issues in the coming days.

