

# THE WORLD PREMIERE OF HEAD

## What inspired playwright Debbie Patterson's creation?

"I was listening to CBC radio in my car when I heard the song "Try Me Good King". The music was by Libby Larsen and the text came from a letter allegedly written by Anne Boleyn while she was imprisoned in the Tower of London awaiting her execution. I was struck by what it would mean for a mother of a young child (the future Queen Elizabeth I) to know that she would die and leave her child alone. Although she was officially convicted of committing treasonous infidelity, in reality Anne's crime was failing to give birth to a son. I felt compelled by her story, as a mother, as a woman.

And I am not alone in this. Since embarking on this journey scores of women have shared with me their own fascination with Anne Boleyn. The cruelty of her circumstances speak to our own deeply rooted fears: not so much our fear of dangerous and cruel men as our fear of our own bodies and their capricious betrayals. Even a woman as powerful as the Queen of England could not protect herself from her own body's failings.



Yet in the past four years while I've been writing this play I have lost three close family members and my notion of the betrayal of the flesh has broadened. We are all betrayed by our strong, young bodies, which grow old and weak, hinder our movements, give us pain: despite the constant care and nurturing we give them. For me, Anne's courage in accepting that betrayal and facing death with grace is a ray of hope in this universal and timeless human struggle.

Which is why I decided to make this play a musical! Such weighty issues cannot be addressed without humour and the unbridled joy of song.

Just as we cannot conceive of the night without knowledge of the day, joy is the shadow behind our despair. The thrill of love and sexual attraction, the satisfaction of ambitions realized, the unparalleled pleasure of hearty laughter: these make the struggle worth all our efforts. I hope you can come share this joy with us in the lush beauty of the Conservatory."

Debbie Patterson

PLAYWRIGHT/COMPOSER

## HEAD

Playwright/Composer ..... Debbie Patterson  
Director ..... Arne MacPherson  
Costume Designer ..... Brian Perchaluk  
Light Design ..... Craig Redden/Q1  
Set Design ..... Eric Bossé  
Music Director ..... Greg Lowe  
Vocal Director ..... Patricia Rabson

## CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Sarah Constible  
James Johnston  
Samantha Hill  
Richard Hurst  
Steven Ratzlaff  
Miriam Smith  
Marina Stephenson-Kerr  
Cory Wojcik  
Melanie Whyte