



BELLALUNA PRODUCTIONS

Artistic Director Susan Bertoia
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www.bellaluna.ca

BELLALUNA PRODUCTIONS

BellaLuna is a Vancouver-based theatre company that creates physical, comic, socially poignant theatre. Drawing inspiration from current and historical events and with a performance style informed by the traditional masked Italian theatre of Commedia Dell'Arte, our mandate is to produce entertaining work that transcends language barriers and challenges the audience to engage in the performance.

HISTORY

BellaLuna has been bringing an Italian-Canadian perspective to Theatre in Western Canada since 1998 with shows such as "The Best Italian Variety Show - EVER!", the bilingual children's puppet show "Il Piccolo Pesciolino" and "The Return of FUTURISTI" a celebration of futurism.

COMPANY FACTS:

- The name BellaLuna is Italian for 'Beautiful Moon' and the logo is a blue moon (next one is Aug 31, 2012)
- All shows are in English, but often have some Italian in them as well.
- BellaLuna's last play "FUTURISTI" brought the Italian Futurist art movement of the early 1900's to the Frederic Wood Theatre and was nominated for a Jessie Richardson Award for Lighting (Ali Sohrabzadeh).
- "The Best Italian Variety Show - Ever!" premiered at the Italian Cultural Centre and Shadbolt Centre. It then toured across BC and also presented at Granville Island's Winterruption Festival to great acclaim.
- BellaLuna company members hold Jessie Richardson Awards and nominations for performance and are often seen on stages of other Vancouver Theatre companies such as The Arts Club, The Firehall, Axis Theatre and Theatre Replacement (to name a few).
- Favorite Saying: "If they aint' crazy, we don't want 'em!"

CURRENT SHOW: FRESCO

BellaLuna in association With The Italian Cultural Centre returns to Vancouver Stages with FRESCO. Written by Lucia Frangione, and Developed and Conceived by the BellaLuna Ensemble (Susan Bertoia, Aaron Freschi, Stefano Giulianetti and Marco Soriano), this new Canadian play takes place in present day and during WWII and celebrates the resilience, spirit and achievement of B.C.'s Italian Canadian community during a little-known but life-changing period in its history.

FRESCO is directed by James Fagan Tait (The Idiot/PuSh) and performed by BellaLuna members Susan Bertoia, Stefano Giulianetti, Marco Soriano and in his BellaLuna debut, Michael Rinaldi. A stellar design team compliments the project and includes Itai Erdal (Lighting), Flick Harrison (Multimedia), Paul Tedeschini (Sound), Catherine Hahn (Set and Props) and Costume Designer Carmen Alatorre who also designed for BellaLuna's FUTURISTI.

FRESCO premieres at the James Cowan Theatre at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts **March 21-24, 2012** and continues at the Historical Theatre at the Cultch **March 28-31, 2012**. Shows run Wednesday to Saturday at 8pm plus 2pm matinees on Thursdays and Saturdays. Tickets and Info available at www.bellaluna.ca

FRESCO is part of the Italian Cultural Centre's Project A QUESTION OF LOYALTY, which also includes a Book and Museum Exhibition and is funded by the Government of Canada.



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FRESCO: PLAYWRIGHT & CREATIVE ENSEMBLE

FRESCO is a new Canadian play written by award-winning playwright Lucia Frangione, conceived and developed with the BellaLuna Ensemble (Susan Bertoia, Aaron Freschi, Stefano Giulianetti and Marco Soriano).

LUCIA FRANGIONE

Lucia is an internationally produced and award winning playwright and actor, best known for performing in her own works: *Paradise Garden*, *Espresso*, *MMM*, *Cariboo Magi*, *Chickens*, and *Holy Mo. Espresso*, a play exploring her Italian heritage, toured Western Canada and ran for a year at the Jelenia Gorski theatre with a Polish translation then picked up by teatr Powszechny in Warsaw. Her twenty plays have been produced by theatres such as The Arts Club, Belfry, Ruby Slippers, Solo Collective, Chemainus Theatre Festival and Prairie Theatre Exchange. She has been the recipient of two Gordon Armstrong writing awards, the Sydney Risk award and the CAEA Stage West emerging artist award. She is published by Talon books and is a proud member of the playwrights guild of Canada.

SUSAN BERTOIA

Susan Bertoia is a professional theatre artist and teacher. As a performer she has worked with the Arts Club Theatre, Western Canada Theatre, Firehall Theatre, Richmond Gateway and Boca Del Lupo. She has performed and helped devise almost all of BellaLuna's original shows. Outside of BellaLuna her work is extensively movement-based and includes her solo show *Plum and Other Colours* and the all-woman circus CIRQUE POULE. Accolades include a Jessie Award for Outstanding Performance and the Gordon Armstrong Theatre Artist Award. She holds a BFA from UBC and has studied commedia and physical theatre in various institutions abroad. Susan is mom to three fantastic kids. Susan is Artistic Director of BellaLuna Productions.

AARON FRESCHI

As Director of Research and Development Aaron has been delighted to be part of the writing and visioning process for FRESCO. Since taking leave from the film industry working on shows such as *The Watchmen*, *L Word*, *Five Days to Midnight* and *The Butterfly Effect*, Aaron has been studying urban design at SFU's City Program and holds a BA in Political Science from Concordia University. He has been involved in numerous art projects throughout Metro Vancouver and maintains a small professional fine art photography practice. Aaron is father to three beautiful children.

STEFANO GIULIANETTI

Stefano Giulianetti has been working as an actor, teacher and producer for over 15 years. As well as his many shows with BellaLuna, performance highlights include Axis Theatre's renowned plays *The Number 14* and *The Emperor's New Threads*. Stefano has also worked with Chemainus Theatre Festival, Project X, Carousel Theatre, Western Canada Theatre, and Théâtre la Seizième. In 2010, Stefano was welcomed into Cirque Du Soleil's family and is poised and ready to join the world-renown company when the casting opportunity arises. Stefano is Managing Director of BellaLuna Productions and proudly speaks fluent Italian, French and English.

MARCO SORIANO

Since obtaining his BFA from SFU in 1997 and his teaching degree in 1998, Marco has performed on stage, on screen and in the classroom. Most recently, he performed as Father Perez and various other roles in the Arts Club's touring production of *Don Quixote*. Other recent theatre credits include *S.P.A.M.* (Theatre Replacement/HIVE), *Via Beatrice* (Fugue Theatre), *Cyrano* (Arts Club) and *Lumière* in *Beauty and the Beast* (WCT). Other favorites include Theatre Replacement's critically acclaimed *Bio Boxes*, *Angels in America* and *Corpus Christi* (Hoarse Raven), *Shear Madness* (Arts Club), the Emcee in *Cabaret* (DSR) and his work with Boca del Lupo in their summer roving shows. Marco is a founding member of BellaLuna Productions.

FRESCO: DIRECTOR, CAST and DESIGN TEAM

FRESCO will be directed by James Fagan Tait and performed by BellaLuna members Susan Bertoia, Stefano Giulianetti and Marco Soriano as well as Mike Rinaldi in his BellaLuna debut. FRESCO's stellar design team includes Carmen Alatorre (Costumes), Itai Erdal (Lighting), Catherine Hahn (Set and Props), Flick Harrison (Multimedia) and Paul Tedeschini (Sound).

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