

## PERFORMERS

Oliver Denny  
Dean Trusk  
Jenny Trusk  
Helen Denny  
Hank Trusk  
Frannie Trusk

Paul Love  
Joseph Lauria  
Amber Dawn Vibert  
Kristi Lauria  
Craig Martin  
Jane Hickey

### From the Director

George F. Walker is arguably one of Canada's best-known playwrights with over 35 plays to his name, along with several television series. He originally answered an advertisement for new playwrights posted by Factory Theatre in the early 1970s, and his writing started a new era in Canadian plays. Until then, most Canadian plays dealt with a rural existence set in the western prairies. Walker turned that on its head by writing about urban characters of whom many were based on the people he grew up with in Toronto's east end. He still loves to write about the poor and the marginalized in society and shows them to be heroes in their own lives. Often they are slightly comic heroes who don't quite know what to do and often do the wrong thing or the right thing by accident. His latest work, although still urban in nature, no longer references Toronto specifically (although our production is set there), and his themes and characters now echo the lives of urban poor and the rapidly failing middle class of any major metropolis. *DEAD METAPHOR* deals with the plight of returning soldiers who, having served their country, now struggle with PTSD and lack of meaningful work. What can you do when your main skill is killing people from a distance?

Walker's works have always been political but *DEAD METAPHOR*, although written long before the 2016 U. S. Presidential election results, certainly foreshadows such a political aspirant in the role of Helen, the play's right-wing politician.

*DEAD METAPHOR* is a scathing political comedy about the collision of values between left and right, rich and poor, male and female. It is a Walker trait that his female characters are often much smarter than the males around them - and often far more deadly. Having a former sniper as the main character certainly sets up a comedy of a darker nature.

Audience members are warned the language in this play is very harsh and at times blistering. The play will cause you to question your beliefs about right and wrong. Given Walker's penchant for the ambiguous, audiences will leave with plenty to discuss at intermission and after the performance, with one major question on everyone's mind. No spoiler alerts here, but suffice it to say the conclusion deals with a very current social issue at its heart.

The running time of this performance is approximately 125 minutes plus a 20 minute intermission.

## PRODUCTION

Producer  
Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Manager  
Set & Special Prop Design  
Assisted by  
Lighting Design  
Sound Design

Costumes  
Props Assistant & Stage Crew  
Set Construction

Set Decoration

Sound Operation  
Lighting Operation  
Assisted by  
Voice Recording  
Facebook Administration  
Photographic Art  
Front of House

Carolyn Wilson  
Tracy Magee -Graham  
Debra Eckstein  
Melanie Baker  
John Lunman  
Phil Ireland  
Elius Caruso  
Carolyn Wilson  
the Company  
Cassandra Smith  
Melanie Baker  
Alex Filipovski  
Joel Tomlinson  
Christy Chase  
Lela Filipovski  
Jeff Kellar  
Tracy Magee-Graham  
Joe Szekeres  
Gillian Woodhouse  
Elius Caruso  
Katie Lunman  
Jillian Hickey  
John Lunman  
Laurie Scattergood  
Phil Ireland  
Christy Chase, Jeff Kellar  
Deborah Lobban, Sheri Pereira  
Joan Taylor, Gillian Woodhouse

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*DEAD METAPHOR* was first produced in the U.S. by the American Conservatory Theater, San Francisco in February 2013 and was first produced in Canada by Canadian Rep Theatre & Mirvish Productions, Toronto in May 2014.