

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS
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High Resolution photo: [Loon_press.jpg](#)

Photo Description: A darling on the Fringe theatre circuit, Loon is a breath-taking display of talent and soul-touching passion described as “live action Pixar” and “whimsy with an edge”.

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THE POWER OF LOVE AND WHIMSY UNITE IN THE BREATH-TAKING, INSPIRING LOON!

A man. The moon. A most peculiar love story.

This February 15 and 16, the award-winning **WONDERHEADS** bring a love story like no other to the Rotary Hall Studio Theatre with *Loon*, the tale of a man who falls in love with the moon.

With fantastical, oversized masks, the characters take on an almost cartoonish look while following in the grand traditions of European mask-making and contemporary character mask acting. It’s what WONDERHEADS co-founder Kate Braidwood refers to as “live action Pixar” and “whimsy with an edge,” and an indisputably breath-taking display of talent and soul-touching passion!

“Our masks allow us and our audience to step into really whimsical, imaginative territory,” she says in an interview with *After the House Lights*. “We’ve found that

it's a great way to deliver a deeper message; the cartoonish quality lets us tell a story set just slightly outside of reality, allowing the audience to connect with it on more of a metaphoric level."

"It's fun and accessible," she continues, "But it also lets us connect with our audience's imaginations and hearts in a really powerful way."

Loon comes to the Chilliwack Cultural Centre for two show dates, following the WONDERHEADS smash hit, sold out performance of *Grim and Fischer* in the Rotary Hall Studio Theatre last year. *Loon* has been a darling on the Fringe theatre circuit in Oregon, British Columbia, and Alberta; the Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society is proud to bring it to the stage as 2015's first Fringe series show.

Loon is an enchanting example of everything the WONDERHEADS stand for: a signature mix of light-hearted fun, expressive physical acting, and big questions. What are the boundaries of love and loneliness? How do we overcome the limitations set for us by society, or those we set for ourselves?

"It's definitely a play on words in the title of the show," says WONDERHEADS co-founder Andrew Phoenix. "It's the idea of *la lune*, the moon, but also the idea of a loon - someone who's a little bit crazy."

"But that's what love is," he continues. "Love is all about being just a little bit crazy, and saying the rest of the world doesn't have to necessarily understand it. And that's exactly what *Loon* tries to show."

Andrew says the show sprang out of a desire to build a show around another big theme, following in the footsteps of the award-winning *Grimm and Fischer* - a show about a grim reaper who gets more than he bargains for when he attempts to reap a tenacious granny who isn't quite ready to breathe her last.

"Kate and I were touring *Grim and Fischer*, which is about death, and during that run we actually fell in love," Andrew says with a laugh. "We decided we wanted to build our next show around a similar big theme, and we chose to write one about love."

The result is a heart-warming and breath-taking look at what it means to be in love, and an inspiring lesson in following your heart and dreams. Watching the WONDERHEADS' distinct brand of wordless, physical theatre is a stunning exploration of the capabilities of theatre to portray the subtleties of emotion alongside pure fun.

"I'd give it more than five stars," reads a CBC review. "I'd give it the moon."

We can't help but agree - this stunning display of talent and physical comedy will have you laughing, crying, and sighing along with the lonely Francis. In this strange

and beautiful story, the WONDERHEADS show us that rock bottom is only ever the beginning - and Francis discovers there is nowhere to go but up - and up - and up!

Specializing in mask performance and exquisite visual storytelling, WONDERHEADS Theatre is an award-winning physical theatre company out of Oregon that is ripe with the whimsy and imagination of Pixar and Jim Henson's Muppets, translated into a live theatrical form.

Multi-talented WONDERHEADS Co-Head, Kate Braidwood, is an actor, deviser, teacher, director and is also the professional mask maker responsible for the giant head creations used on stages and in films and classrooms all around the world. Committed to developing joyful, sublime and truly magical work for the stage, she teamed up with her Co-Head, Andrew Phoenix, also an actor, deviser, director and teacher in 2009 and the theatre company the WONDERHEADS was born. Together they bring these amazing characters to life on stage throughout North America, garnering rave reviews and numerous awards.

This beautiful show is a must-see - a return to childhood imagination for all ages, an inspiration to dream big, and a reminder that even the lowest points of our lives can be the beginning of a magnificent journey.

Loon will take to the stage at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre on Sunday, February 15, and Monday, February 16, at 7:30pm. Call the Centre Box Office at 604-391-SHOW (7469) or visit chilliwackculturalcentre.ca to reserve your seats: tickets are \$25.

Loon is proudly sponsored by The Royal Hotel, Myriad Corporation, Prime Signs, the City of Chilliwack, The Chilliwack Times, and the Department of Canadian Heritage.

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Additional Information

[The Wonderheads website](#)

For additional information and to arrange interviews, contact:

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Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Owned by the City of Chilliwack, the Cultural Centre houses two unique performance venues, an art gallery, music instruction studios, arts and crafts studios, meeting rooms, offices, and is home to the Chilliwack Academy of Music and the Chilliwack Art Gallery. Since opening in 2010, over 188,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value exceeding \$2,600,000. The Centre is overseen by The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society on behalf of the City, and boasts The Chilliwack Academy of Music, The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association, The Chilliwack Players Guild, The Chilliwack Symphony Orchestra, and the Chilliwack School of Performing Arts as partners.

Chilliwack Cultural Centre highlights:

- 597 seat performance theatre
- 168 seat recital hall / rehearsal space / dance studio / meeting space
- Chilliwack Art gallery (22-foot high display area)
- 21 music instructional rooms
- Arts and crafts studios
- Storage and Archival Resource Room

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The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society is registered under the British Columbia Society Act as a not-for-profit society (society number S-54973), and is a registered Canadian charitable organization under the Canadian Charities Directorate. (charity number 805742897 RR0001)

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