

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS
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High Resolution photo: [Foreigner.jpg](#)
Photo Description: Actor John Voth in The Foreigner
Photo Credit: Emily Cooper

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THE FOREIGNER: ONE WHITE LIE, A PILE OF SECRETS, AND A KNEE-SLAPPING COMEDY YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

The Foreigner is a hilarious comedy of cultural confusion and madcap hijinks - and you won't want to miss this hysterical production when it hits the Chilliwack stage!

The Arts Club on Tour brings Pacific Theatre's award-winning production of *The Foreigner* to the Chilliwack Cultural Centre on March 11 in a side-splitting show sure to have audiences smiling all the way to the end.

When Charlie finds out the truth about his wife - who may or may not be dying, but has definitely been unfaithful with 23 "friends" - the last thing he wants to do is talk about it. He decides to escape to a remote fishing lodge in the Tilghman County in the southern US, and poses as a foreigner who speaks no English to avoid conversation at any cost!

What starts out as a harmless ruse for some peace and quiet soon becomes more complicated. Since his fellow lodge guests assume Charlie can't understand a word they're saying, they'll spill all sorts of secrets in front of him - with uproarious

results!

In no time at all, Charlie becomes privy to an unannounced pregnancy, a false fiancé, and a Ku Klux Klan plot - and has no idea what to do about it!

This hilarious comedy is also a heartwarming tale of human connection. Despite his best efforts, the sweetly charming Charlie finds himself drawn into the patchwork community of the fishing lodge - and quickly becomes determined to use his foreigner ruse for good.

“It’s easy to see why *The Foreigner* is a favourite for audiences,” says director **Evan Frayne**. “It’s a tale of tolerance, friendship, and the magic of kindness.”

This **Pacific Theatre** production cleaned up at Vancouver’s **Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards** last year, with **John Voth** (Charlie) earning Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Lead Role and two other cast members awarded trophies for outstanding supporting roles. After all, “The role of Charlie involves a sweet gentleness that cannot be taught in acting school,” **VancouverScape** notes - and **John Voth** hits the perfect mark between shy and good-hearted in his portrayal of Charlie.

Everyone agrees that *The Foreigner* is a smash hit, boasting a dynamite cast framed perfectly by a clever set and thoughtful costume design. All elements combine flawlessly to immerse the audience in the microcosmic world of a Georgia fishing lodge.

“Evan Frayne brings together seven real pros that make all the antics over-the-top fun,” says critic **Jo Ledingham**. “For all its silliness, *The Foreigner* celebrates caring and decency, goodness and tolerance... It’s a guaranteed giggle.”

“Charlie and his Tilghman County hosts slowly turn their focus from their own seemingly insurmountable problems into helping and growing with each other,” **Frayne** says. “Charlie’s plight is one that we can all relate to: how does one acquire personality? What must it be like to tell a funny story? To arouse laughter, anger, respect? To be considered wise?”

This ultimately moving play about an unlikely community is a hugely funny comedy - and delivers its clever banter with a generous dash of heart. As Charlie says, “We - all of us - we’re becoming - we’re making one another complete, and alive.”

At the end of the day, you can’t argue with a protagonist whose main goal is to foil an evil KKK plot to hijack a quaint vacation spot. When he manages to heal his broken heart, find his courage, and discover his voice at the same time, it simply makes a recipe for success - and a heartwarming combination of comedy and cultural connection.

The Foreigner plays at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre on March 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the HUB International Theatre. Tickets are \$30 for students, \$32 for seniors, and \$35 for

adults. Call 604-392-SHOW (7469) for more information, or visit the Box Office or website at www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca to purchase tickets.

The Foreigner is generously sponsored by the Chilliwack Times, Fortins Home Hardware, the Department of Canadian Heritage, and the City of Chilliwack.

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Additional Information

<http://artsclub.com/shows/on-tour/>

<http://pacifictheatre.org/season/2013-2014-season/mainstage/the-foreigner>

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, more than 220,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value exceeding three million dollars. 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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Chilliwack Academy of Music

Chilliwack Players Guild

Chilliwack School of Performing Arts

Chilliwack Symphony Orchestra and Chorus

Chilliwack Visual Artists Association

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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