

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS &
CULTURAL CENTRE SOCIETY
9201 Corbould Street, Chilliwack BC V2P 4A6

Contact: Ann Goudswaard, Marketing Manager
T: 604.392.8000, ext.103
E: ann@chilliwackculturalcentre.ca
W: www.chilliwackculturalcentre.com



February 4, 2013

High Resolution photo: [The39Steps_large.jpg](#)

Photo Description: Shawn Macdonald, Diana Coatsworth, David Marr in the Arts Club Theatre Company's 2010 production of *The 39 Steps*

Photo Credit: David Cooper

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HITCHCOCK MEETS HILARIOUS!

CHILLIWACK, BC – Take an alluring and mysterious woman... add an accusation of murder, a missing finger, and a mad dash to foil foreign spies, and you have the riotously funny show *The 39 Steps*. At The Chilliwack Cultural Centre on **February 25 at 7:30pm**, this fantastic, gut-busting, witty take on the classic Alfred Hitchcock movie is a show that will have you rolling in the aisles with laughter. A brilliant comedic adaptation by Patrick Barlow, *The 39 Steps* reenacts the 1935 film nearly verbatim, but with only four actors! Whether it is by changing hats or postures, the physicality and vocal talent of the four performers is astounding as they hysterically transform from one character to another, making for wildly comedic entertainment. You won't be able to take your eyes off of them!

Part juicy spy novel, part Monty Python, **The 39 Steps** preserves the brilliance originally created by the master of suspense, Alfred Hitchcock in this Tony award-winning show that kept Broadway rollicking for years. Hailed by the **New York Post** as “the most entertaining show on Broadway,” it ran for a stunning 771 performances and was nominated for six Tony Awards, winning two of them. **The 39 Steps** will keep you guessing and laughing. Little wonder it was nominated for Best Play! “A rollicking riot of fun” says Peter Birnie of The Vancouver Sun.

The 39 Steps started as a World War I espionage novel by Scottish author John Buchan. It became an Alfred Hitchcock film in 1935. Then it was adapted for the stage and opened in London as a hit comedy, ran on Broadway and is now coming to Chilliwack! A thrilling show for all ages, Patrick Barlow’s brilliant adaptation, based on the novel and the classic film, promises to entertain and leave you smiling long after the curtain falls. “Audience members were crying with laughter” said Colin Thomas, The Georgia Straight.

Four incredibly talented actors morph into over 150 zany characters in this tongue-in-cheek adaptation that just might give you vertigo! One actor (Jay Hindle), only plays the main character Richard Hannay; one female actor (Diana Coatsworth) plays the three female love interests; and two actors (Shawn Macdonald, David Marr) perform the rest of the cast of over a hundred, including the occasional inanimate object. This is a fast-paced romp through the story of Hitchcock’s film that makes a very funny transposition of the film onto the stage that you won’t soon forget.

The bored main character, Richard Hannay makes eyes at a mysterious woman only to return to his London home later where the woman is discovered dead. Thrown headlong into a run for his life, a mysterious spy organization alternately pursues and is pursued by him, from London to Scotland and back again. Both hindering and helping him is the beautiful, classy dame Pamela who, despite her best efforts, ends up shackled, literally, to a man she thinks is a murderer. Meanwhile, the police and the spy organization are closing in on Richard. With the use of simple props and flexible set pieces the stage will transport audience members from urban London to the rustic hills of Scotland, with all the various methods of travel needed to get there.

With an atmosphere of cold mists, steam engines and the thrill of a mystery we witness a love story unfold as this ludicrous and playful farce moves at a breakneck speed. "Absurdly enjoyable! This gleefully theatrical riff on Hitchcock's film is fast and frothy, performed by a cast of four that seems like a cast of thousands" states The New York Times.

Join this cast for an infectiously good time on February 25 at 7:30. Tickets available at The Centre Box Office 604-391-SHOW(7469).

The 39 Steps is generously sponsored by Barton Hub, SK Sanitary, Hames and Associates Consulting, Garrison Crossing, BMO, UFV Alumni Association, Sutton Group Showplace Realty, The Chilliwack Progress, The City of Chilliwack, Department of Canadian Heritage and the British Columbia Arts Council.

Additional Information

Based on the classic film by **Alfred Hitchcock**, which itself is based on the book of the same title by **John Buchan**, the play first saw the light of day in 1995. Asked by Edward Snape of the production company *Fiery Angel*, **Patrick Barlow** adapted the script using Hitchcock's film as his starting point, as it is more inherently dramatic. After a tour the show came to the Tricycle Theatre in London in August 2006 and was so successful it gained an immediate transfer to the West End, where it is still running. The show then transferred to Broadway and ran for over two years before moving Off-Broadway to the New World Stages.

[Art Club Theatre website](#)

ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB The Arts Club Theatre Company, now in its 49th season, is the largest theatre company in Western Canada. It offers professional theatre at three venues—the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, Granville Island Stage, and Revue Stage—as well as on tour throughout the province. Website: artsclub.com Blog: blog.artsclub.com Twitter: @theArtsClub Facebook: facebook.com/ArtsClub

For additional information and to arrange interviews, contact:

Ann Goudswaard, Marketing Manager
T: 604.392.8000, ext. 103
E: ann@chilliwackculturalcentre.ca

Contact the Centre Box Office in person
(Mon-Fri, 9:30am-9:00pm, Sat & Sun, 9:30am-5:00pm)
by phone at 604.391.SHOW(7469)
or online at www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca.

Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Since opening the Chilliwack Cultural Centre September 2010, over 44,800 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value exceeding \$750,000. The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society, whom oversees operation on behalf of the City of Chilliwack, are pleased to be on target for their initial projected budget and overall use projections for the Centre.

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

Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society Board of Directors

Patti Lawn - President

Clint Hames - Vice President

Neil Clark - Treasurer

Dave Stephen - Secretary, Past-President

Directors at Large

Michael Audet

Scott Birch

Marie Goldfinch

Michael Hamilton-Clark

Ralph Jones

Joy St. John

Ex-Officio

Jason Lum

Gord Pederson

Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society Partners

Chilliwack Academy of Music

Chilliwack Players Guild

Chilliwack Visual Artists Association

#