It fills my heart to bursting to once again perform these songs, these poems. It has also been a strange experience, rehearsing this material. I lost a dear friend this past fall, an unexpected and difficult loss, and I’m finding that this show brings him to mind almost constantly. Sometimes this is painful, more often it is a warm and welcome reminder that those who have died are not lost to us. They are with us, vibrating in the spaces we create for them.

I am grateful to be sharing this space with you.

Years ago, I was lucky enough to be in the first workshop of Spoon River. It wasn’t really a show yet, just poems, songs and music stands, but we could feel that it was something. We held a performance in the rehearsal hall and afterwards a man from the audience said to me “Your face, when you were watching that older couple sing to each other, you were so enthralled”. He was right. I loved every moment of that workshop, but what sent shivers down my spine was the song that is sung by William and Emily, about loving so deeply that dying together after a long life is the natural, perfect ending. Oh, to have that!

Later I watched the full production, and saw how Masters’ words were transformed by Mike Ross’ music and by Albert Schultz’ direction to become an invigorating celebration of living. I danced in my seat, and took away the show’s toe-tapping exhortation to grasp life, to relish it fully as long as I have it.
CREATIVE TEAM

SPOON RIVER

CAST

Alana Bridgewater  
Oliver Dennis  
Raquel Duffy  
Hailey Gillis  
Stuart Hughes  
John Jarvis  
Richard Lam

Courtney Ch’ng Lancaster  
Jeff Lillico  
Diego Matamoros  
Michelle Monteith  
Miranda Mulholland  
Gregory Prest  
Jackie Richardson

Mike Ross  
Paolo Santalucia  
Brendan Wall  
Daniel Williston  
Sarah Wilson

PRODUCTION

Albert Schultz  
Adaptor, Director

Mike Ross  
Adaptor, Composer, Arranger, Music Director

Ken MacKenzie  
Set & Lighting Designer

Erika Connor  
Costume Designer

Jason Browning  
Sound Designer

Kelly McEvenue  
Alexander Coach

Andrea Nann  
Movement Coach

Diane Pitblado  
Dialect Coach

Robert Harding  
Production Stage Manager

Sarah Miller  
Assistant Stage Manager

SOULPEPPER PRODUCTION

Andrew Leeke  
Technical Director

Jacqueline Costa  
Assistant Technical Director

Sarah Noyes  
Head of Wardrobe

Phil Atfield  
Joanne Lamberton  
Barbara Nowakowski  
Cutters  
First Hand

Gulay Cokegerzem  
Jacqueline Robertson-Cull  
Natasha Swiercz  
Emma Zulkoskey  
Andy DeVries  
Bill Stahl  
Sewers  
Head of Hair & Makeup  
Dressers  
Head Carpenter  
Carpenter

Paul Boddum  
Head Scenic Artist

Lisa Nighswander  
Head of Properties

Greg Chambers  
Props Builder
Our much-loved, award-winning *Spoon River* returns once again. Whether this is your first experience, or you have passed this way before, you are welcome here. This show reflects the heart and soul of what we do, and it’s a brilliant example of two of our core values: growth and change. It began as an intimate mini-concert and evolved through careful, buoyant collaboration into a main stage marvel that has played to sold-out houses and rapturous ovations. Last summer, Albert Schultz and Mike Ross took this production out East, re-imagined and reshaped it as a touring show, and audiences at Charlottetown’s Confederation Centre Theatre embraced it instantly. This summer, *Spoon River* will cast its particular enchantment on 42nd Street, as part of Soulpepper’s very first New York City season at The Pershing Square Signature Center.

The source of this freewheeling musical is *Spoon River Anthology* by Edgar Lee Masters, a book of poems that created a sensation when they were published a hundred years ago. Masters wanted to honour the “faithful, tender-hearted souls” he remembered from his small town youth in the Midwest. His central acknowledgement – that we are all passing by, one after another – was resonant then and is still resonant today. The ordinary lives chronicled here are full of complex feelings, passionate loves, and heartbreaking losses, which, while earth-shattering to those who live them, go unnoticed by history.

One of the thrills of *Spoon River* is the way it puts the truth of these so-called small lives front and centre. Characters speak – and sing – in their own tart, idiosyncratic voices. And Masters’ words and Ross’ music are a match made in heaven: it is not at all unusual for audience members to purchase the soundtrack of this show before they go home. But in the end perhaps the secret of what makes this fluid, surprising adaptation soar is the way it calls us “passerby” but treats us like family.

Thank you for coming. Feel free to pass by any time.

**AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY**

Edgar Lee Masters was born in 1868. After a “scrappy and unmanageable” childhood, he was called to the bar in 1892, and maintained successful dual careers as a lawyer and writer all his adult life. His literary masterpiece, *Spoon River Anthology*, was published in 1915, to huge critical and popular acclaim. He died in 1950 and was buried where he grew up in Petersburg, Illinois, among some of the people he’d immortalized in *Spoon River*. 

**NEW YORK SERIES**

**SEE SPOON RIVER IN NEW YORK CITY!**

Join us in July for
*Soulpepper on 42nd St: Canada Crosses the Border*

FOR SOULPEPPER: Salons, Global Cabaret Festival.

OTHER THEATRE: Shrek, Wizard Of Oz (Grand Theatre); Hairspray (Charlottetown Festival); We Will Rock You (Mirvish). FILM & TELEVISION: Hannibal, Dino Dan, Lost Girl, Mysticons (Upcoming). OTHER: Gemini nomination for Gospel Christmas (CBC), Women's Blues Revue, Johnny Reid. Love to NLM and Tanisha.


FOR SOULPEPPER: Noises Off, Of Human Bondage, Spoon River, The Odd Couple, The Heidi Chronicles, Spoon River, Fool For Love, The Dumb Waiter, The Zoo Story. OTHER THEATRE: Ross Petty’s pantomime (10 years); The Rocky Horror Picture Show, Little Shop of Horrors (Canadian Stage); Tequila Vampire Matinee, Rochdale (Theatre Passe Muraille). OTHER: Graduate of the University of Regina.

OLIVER DENNIS RESIDENT ARTIST, SOULPEPPER 2017: Of Human Bondage, Spoon River.

FOR SOULPEPPER: Over 85 productions in 19 seasons.


RAQUEL DUFFY born in Charlottetown P.E.I., raised in Dartmouth N.S.


FOR SOULPEPPER: (Selected) It’s a Wonderful Life, Noises Off, The 39 Steps, The Heidi Chronicles, The Odd Couple, The Just, The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine, Accidental Death of an Anarchist, Idiot’s Delight, Angels in America, Tartuffe, Co-creator: Alligator Pie. OTHER THEATRE: The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs (Tarragon); Stratford, ATF, Neptune, TNB, Eastern Front, Festival Antigonish, Charlottetown Festival. OTHER: Seven Dora nominations, Dora Award (Alligator Pie), Robert Merritt Award (Mary’s Wedding), nominations for Miss Julie, I Do I Do. Tyrone Guthrie Award (Stratford). Graduate of the Soulpepper Academy.


ROBERT HARDING born and raised in Lewisporte, Newfoundland. SOULPEPPER 2017. Production Stage Manager. Stage Manager: Of Human Bondage, Spoon River. FOR SOULPEPPER: It’s a Wonderful Life, The 39 Steps, The Odd Couple, The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine, Marat/Sade, The Dybbuk, Accidental Death of an Anarchist, Spoon River, Of Human Bondage, The Norman Conquests, The Barber of Seville. OTHER THEATRE: Once On This Island (Acting Up Stage/Obsidian); The Best Brothers, Communion, A Beautiful View, How it Works, Past Perfect (Tarragon); Stuff Happens (Studio 180/Mirvish); Parade (Acting Up Stage/Studio 180); Diviadero: A Performance, This Is What Happens Next (Necessary Angel).

STUART HUGHES FOUNDING MEMBER, RESIDENT ARTIST SOULPEPPER 2017: Of Human Bondage, Spoon River. FOR SOULPEPPER: (Selected) Director: The Odd Couple, High Life, American Buffalo. Actor: Incident at Vichy, The Gigli Concert, Twelve Angry Men, The Crucible, Spoon River, Euridice, Marat/Sade. OTHER THEATRE: Stuff Happens (NAC); Shaw (six seasons); Oedipus, King Lear (Stratford); Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. Director: Yankee Tavern (Grand); Othello (NAC); The Misanthrope (Tarragon). FILM & TELEVISION: (Selected) Remedy, Blood and Water, The Listener. OTHER: Dora Awards – The Collected Works of Billy the Kid, On The Verge (Tarragon); The Time of Your Life (Soulpepper). 2004, Soulpepper Artistic Director’s Award.


COURTNEY CH’NG LANCASTER born in Antigonish, N.S. SHEN FELLOW, RESIDENT ARTIST, SOULPEPPER 2017: Of Human Bondage, Spoon River. FOR SOULPEPPER. Assistant Director: The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine. Actor: Spoon River, Blood Wedding, Incident at Vichy, The Dining Room, Euridice, Of Human Bondage, Marat/Sade, Alligator Pie, Idiot’s Delight, The Barber of Seville, The Royal Comedians, The Crucible, Death of a Salesman. OTHER THEATRE: (Selected) The Flood Thereafter (Canadian Stage); As You Like It (BlueBridge); Pride and Prejudice (Citadel); 52 Pick-Up (Co-Director, Howland Company). OTHER: Founding Member, The Howland Company; Graduate of UBC, the Citadel/Banff Theatre Program, the Soulpepper Academy & Loran Scholar.


DIEGO MATAMOROS born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and raised in Toronto, Ontario. FOUNDING MEMBER, RESIDENT ARTIST, DRUMMOND-DORRANCE FELLOW, SOULPEPPER 2017: Cage, Spoon River. FOR SOULPEPPER: Mr. Matamoros has performed in every season since the company's inception including major roles in plays by Shakespeare, Chekhov, Molière, Ibsen, Samuel Beckett, Harold Pinter, Tom Stoppard, and Ferenc Molnár, among others. OTHER THEATRE: Roles in more than 30 productions for various theatres across Canada and the US.


MICHELLE MONTEITH born in Paisley, Scotland, raised in Port Coquitlam, B.C. SOULPEPPER 2017: Of Human Bondage, Spoon River. FOR SOULPEPPER: It's a Wonderful Life, The Heidi Chronicles, Euridyce, Parfumerie, Of Human Bondage, Angels in America, The Odd Couple, Ghosts, Waiting for the Parade. OTHER THEATRE: Butcher (Theatre Centre,
Why Not Theatre, ATP; Waiting Room, The Valley, Little One, Ubuntu, Generous (Tarragon); The Lesson (Modern Times); Blasted (Buddies); The Mill (Theatrefront); Hamlet, Night (NAC); Caesar and Cleopatra, Love’s Labour’s Lost (Stratford); The Russian Play (Various); Revisited (2B, co-creator); The Glass Menagerie (various); The Diary of Anne Frank (Neptune). OTHER: Two Dora Awards, Toronto Critics’ Award.


JACKIE RICHARDSON born in Donora, Pennsylvania, and raised in Richmond Hill, Ontario. SOULPEPPER 2017: Spoon River and Soulpepper Concerts. FOR SOULPEPPER: Concerts over a 10-year span. OTHER THEATRE: Ain’t Misbehavin’ (Dora); Cookin’ At the Cookery (Dora); Big Mama! The Willie Mae Thornton Story (Jessie Award, Capitol, Belfry); Crowns; St. Carmen of the Main; Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God. FILM: Turning
ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES


PAOLO SANTALUCIA born and raised in Toronto, Ontario. SOULPEPPER 2017: Of Human Bondage, Spoon River. FOR SOULPEPPER: The Heidi Chronicles, The Dybbuk, Of Human Bondage, Idiot's Delight, Great Expectations, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, The Crucible, The Royal Comedians, Dirt. OTHER THEATRE: Hamlet (Driftwood Theatre); Mustard (Tarragon Theatre); Armstrong’s War (Canadian Rep); 52 Pick-Up (Howland Company). OTHER: Soulpepper Academy Graduate; two Dora Awards.

ALBERT SCHULTZ born in Port Hope, Ontario, and raised in Okotoks, Alberta. FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR. SOULPEPPER 2017. Co-Creator & Director: Spoon River, Manhattan Concert Cycle. Director: Of Human Bondage. FOR SOULPEPPER: Creator: Frankly, Sinatra; Co-Creator (with Mike Ross) Spoon River (Toronto Critics’ Award Best Musical). Executive Producer: Kim’s Convenience (CBC TV). Director (Selected): It’s a Wonderful Life, Spoon River (Toronto Critics’ Award, Dora nomination), The Dybbuk, Marat/Sade (Dora nomination), Of Human Bondage (Dora Award – Director and Production; Toronto Critics’ Award), Angels in America (Toronto Critics’ Award Best Production), The Crucible (Dora nomination, Best Director, Best Production), Death of a Salesman, Chorus of Disapproval (Dora nomination), Absolutely Chekhov (Dora nomination, Best Production). Actor: The Norman Conquests, The Fantasticks, Glengarry Glen Ross, The Guardsman, The Odd Couple, Uncle Vanya, The Threepenny Opera, Our Town (Dora nomination), Three Sisters, The Real Thing, Hamlet, Platonov,
BETRAYAL, DON CARLOS. FILM & TELEVISION: Shades of Black, Street Legal, Side Effects (Gemini nomination), Going Home (Gemini nomination). OTHER: Order of Canada; Governor General’s NAC Award; Gemini Award; Joan Chalmers National Award for Artistic Direction. Honorary Degrees from Queen’s and Bishop’s Universities.

Brendan Wall

Sarah Wilson

Daniel Williston
Born in St. Albert, Alberta and raised in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Soulpepper 2017: Spoon River. For Soulpepper: Rose (A Concert Presentation), Accidental Death of an Anarchist, Barber of Seville, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Death of a Salesman, Royal Comedians, The Crucible. Other theatre: Kinky Boots (Toronto and Australian casts), Peter and the Starcatcher (WCT), Avenue Q (Stage West), Evil Dead: The Musical (Starvox). Film & Television: Heroes: Reborn, Dark Matter, Gangland Undercover, Copper, Lost Girl. Other: Graduate of the Soulpepper Academy, Graduate of St. Lawrence College Music Theatre Performance.
Soulpepper is a community of artists who are a part of your community. They are your neighbours, and a reflection of the city we live in.

Soulpepper is a teller of stories. Through plays, music, artistic exploration, and creation, Soulpepper shares the art and ideas from the most compelling voices of our time.

Soulpepper is a home. A place of belonging and inclusion for artists and audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Thank you for being a part of Soulpepper, you belong here.
1 MONTH, 5 STAGES, 10 REMARKABLE SHOWS, 65 CANADIAN ARTISTS AND YOU!

In July of 2017, Soulpepper will host a month-long festival in New York City at the Frank Ghery-designed Pershing Square Signature Center, on 42nd Street. This festival, opening on Canada Day, will be the largest concentration of Canadian artistic expression in NYC during Canada’s 150th anniversary.

Featuring several of Soulpepper's most critically acclaimed productions including, *Of Human Bondage*, *Kim's Convenience*, *Alligator Pie* and *Spoon River* as well as a wide array of concerts and other events, Soulpepper will cross the border in July with over 65 artists showcasing our uniquely Canadian artistry and talent.

Soulpepper on 42nd Street will plant the seeds for future international collaborations and the sharing of Canadian stories around the globe. This tour has been made possible by the generous support of our donor community and special friends of Soulpepper who believe that the world needs more Canada!

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Assistant Technical Director
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Production Manager

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Assistant Head of Wardrobe
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Carpenter
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Thanks to our wonderful legion of Young Centre volunteers for their continued support!
In 2006, I moved from Charlottetown to Toronto to be a part of the first Soulpepper Academy, unsure what the future had in store. If you would have told me that a decade later, I’d be taking shows that I helped create to New York City, I’d have thought you were nuts. New York is and has always been the aspirational centre of the world for all people working in the theatre.

During my time in the Academy, I had the opportunity to learn from teachers who challenged me as an artist and provided me with opportunities as a storyteller and creator. The Academy also provided me a group of willing collaborators, artists who were also finding their creative voice, who over time have become family. Together, working with Albert and this remarkable company, we created works like *Alligator Pie*, *(re)Birth*, *Of Human Bondage*, and *Spoon River*.

Around a year ago, Albert shared Soulpepper’s plans for a residency in New York City and to be told that these shows were what Albert considered at the ‘heart’ of who Soulpepper was as a company and how he wanted to share our work with the world, was like a dream.

Being a child of the ‘70s I often imagine being an awkward 12 year old and having the impossible opportunity of watching my life on the television; a big wooden box with rabbit ears. In that imaginary moment, the story on that television was me getting ready to go to New York with my closest friends and bringing four shows that I helped create, and I can’t quite believe that this gets to be my life.

Soulpepper has given me such a wonderful opportunity, something for which I am eternally grateful. From getting selected for the Academy, to the wonderful response, you, the Soulpepper audience have given these productions, and now to take these works to 42nd Street. Thank you – I’m thrilled to share *Spoon River* with you again in Toronto and hope you’ll all join us in New York this July to be a part of this dream come true.

Mike Ross,
Slight Family Director of Music,
Co-Creator & Composer of *Spoon River*. 
THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

SOULPEPPER

Soulpepper is an active member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT), the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA) and Theatre Ontario, and engages, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists who are members of Canadian Actors’ Equity Association. Scenic Artists and Set Decorators employed by Soulpepper are represented by Local 828 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

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