

HAPPY SPRING!

I hope you all had a great Easter break and are ready to head into the homestretch for the school year! I enjoy meeting and talking with many of you as I walk around the neighbourhoods, at the various markets, and at local events. If you see me out and about, please stop and say hi. I love discussing local and provincial issues with you all. If my office can help in any way, please reach out.

CAPTIVE WILDLIFE PROTECTION ACT

Along with my colleague MPP Lucille Collard, I will soon be introducing a new bill to protect wild animals in Ontario. The current regulations leave many animals vulnerable, in abusive, unclean, and unsafe environments. Requiring that roadside zoos be licensed and inspected is the first step to safe and ethical treatment for these animals.

SHOP LOCAL - ELBOWS UP!

I encourage you all to check labels, shop local, shop Canadian, and support our small businesses. I am so grateful to those who have reached out to invite me to their shops. I am always happy to promote Kanata-Carleton businesses – which do so much to support our local economy.

SOCIAL MEDIA**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/karenmccrimmon.ca>

Instagram:

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I Hate Hamlet: a play an audience can love

Kanata Theatre ends season with 'a love letter to theatre'

BY NEVIL HUNT

I Hate Hamlet. It may sound like Shakespeare, but it's not.

The play delivers swordplay, dancing, laughs and a famous ghost – and that's why it will likely be a hit with Kanata Theatre audiences later this month.

The comedy by Paul Rudnick was originally produced on Broadway, where it opened in 1991.

Set in John Barrymore's untouched circa 1930s apartment in New York City, I Hate Hamlet follows successful television actor Andrew Rally as he struggles with the challenges of taking on the dream role of Hamlet, for the stage.

Rally, who is played by Josh Sparks, is at a loss when it comes to playing the classic lead role, so he summons the ghost of the late John Barrymore, who guides him.

"It has magic in it," Kanata Theatre director Stavros Sakiadis said of the play, calling it "a love letter to theatre."

He said he first discovered I Hate Hamlet when he was in his second year of drama school.

"I thought, 'This play is really cool. It's hilarious.'"

When he saw the Kanata Theatre was planning to stage the play, he applied to be the director and wrote his vision



Nevil Hunt photo

I Hate Hamlet is set in John Barrymore's New York City apartment and features the late actor in ghost form.

for the show.

"I wanted to bring in the Elizabethan era: the costumes, the suit of armour, the swords and the music."

The impressive set for I Hate Hamlet comes with a stained glass window, armour and a fireplace with swords mounted above the mantel, just within reach of both humans and ghosts.

Sakiadis spent part of a recent rehearsal going over choreography challenges

associated with actors bearing swords.

"You do it in your head," he said of planning the steps, and then, using a sword, walked the combatants through the scene, using his mind's eye.

I Hate Hamlet will be performed at the Ron Maslin Playhouse on the evenings of May 7 to 10, and May 13 to 17. There is a matinee on May 11. Tickets can be purchased at kanatatheatre.ca or by emailing boxoffice@kanatatheatre.ca.

kanatatheatre.ca.

nhunt@ottawavoice.ca

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Out of Sight, Out of Murder

COMMUNITY VOICE STAFF

The Rural Root Theatre Company is excited to present its spring 2025 production, Out of Sight, Out of Murder, a

witty and suspenseful mystery comedy by Fred Carmichael.

The play will run from May 20 to 25 at the Constance and Buckham's Bay Community Centre, at 262 Len Purcell Dr.

Tickets are available now at ticketsplease.ca or by calling 613-485-6434. To learn more about the company, visit www.ruralroot.org.

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