

HOW THE WEST WAS ONE

An original comedy by

The Leaping Thespians

Written and directed by Karen White and Leigh Burrows

The Details

“How The West Was One” playing March 23-26 and March 30-April 2, 8pm at The Cultch Lab, 1895 Venables Street, Vancouver. Tickets \$17 in advance and for students, seniors, and Theatre BC members; \$20 at the door. March 23 is a preview night with 2 for 1 tickets (*plus service charge on this date only). Tickets at www.leapingthespians.ca, <http://tickets.thecultch.com>, and by phone 604-251-1363.

Synopsis

The year is sometime around 1860. The small dusty town is a fictional Bridesville, bearing no resemblance to the real place near Osoyoos, BC. Copper, silver and gold were in the hills all around these parts as Prospector, the regular at the town saloon, will tell you. Miss Kitty, the saloon owner, organizes a Blackjack game with plans to swindle enough money to pursue her dreams of making Bridesville more than a speck on the map. All is turned upside down when Miss Kitty's founding daughter, Ramona, falls in love with a fair damsel who arrives in town. The blackjack game draws many unexpected guests with guns and a whole lot of stink eye. Get out your chaps and leave your guns at the door for this Western comedy!

A Word from writer and director, Karen White

As a child I was crazy for horses. I watched lots of Westerns growing up, often just to see a few horses gallop on and off the screen. Given that, the interest in cowgirls seemed natural. Later I watched Westerns to see those brief moments of cowgirls in all their guises. I love the world of Westerns so I hope that comes through our spoofing.

When we wrote ‘Once Upon a Lesbian’ last year, we fell in love with the characters in the Western sketch, felt they had a lot of potential for further exploration. When a group of us began writing last spring, Leigh Burrows and I quickly lit on the idea of expanding the Western and letting it spread out in whatever way it wanted. We revisited Miss Kitty, the Prospector,

Hustler and Outlaw, and added two young lovers, Ramona and Gillian. We knew we needed a shootout on the main street and a card game in the saloon. From there, the characters themselves seemed to work out the rest.

Be sure to check out our trailer for the show at www.leapingthespians.ca

A Word from writer and director, Leigh Burrows

It's quite a new feeling walking around wearing the director's pants. I'm still grappling with when to let an actor breathe to make discoveries on their own and when to simply tell them what to do.

If I deliver my ideas as only suggestions it promotes a lot of play with the actors during the rehearsals. This is what makes our group different than many others. Our actors have a lot more pull in what happens in our scenes, as opposed to what happens with other theatre groups. I feel this way of collaboration creates rich and dynamic scenes from many brains rather than just one (or in our case, two). And because we wrote this play, if we hit a snag with a line or a plot thread, we just change it. This way the actors have some control over what their characters say.

Initially I was not to be an actor in this play. I was looking forward to seeing our show in seats with the rest of the audience. But with some unexpected changes with our actors, the best thing for the play was for me to step up and act. This play is extremely fun to do. As an actor, there's nothing better than swaggering around looking tough with a gun... and a toy stick horse. We are only just beginning our rehearsals and the play is already hysterical. I can't wait to see what this play is like when it's done. I hope you enjoy it.

Crew

Directors:	Karen White, Leigh Burrows
Producer:	Karen White
Technical Director:	Kelly O
Costumes:	Karen White, Leigh Burrows
Set Design:	Karen White, Leigh Burrows
Publicity:	Stephanie Kemp
Original Sound:	Shelley O'Hagan Gimbel, Brian Gimbel
Songs and Lyrics:	Lory White

Cast

Miss Kitty:	Eroca Zales
Gillian/Townsfolk:	Deloris Piper
Ramona:	Kiri McGuire
Prospector:	Nancy Painter
Outlaw/Working Girl:	Terry Lynn Boyle
Hustler/Betsy:	Leigh Burrows

Who Are The Leaping Thespians?

The Leaping Thespians are an award winning woman's theatre company bringing stories of lesbians' lives to Vancouver audiences. The company debuted in Nelson in the 1990's and has performed in Vancouver, Kamloops, Nanaimo, and Prince George. In 2007 The Leaping Thespians performed "Women4 Women: A Play in Cyberspace" in Theatre BC's Greater Vancouver Zone Festival and won Best Production, Best Sound Design, Best Director, and Best Original Concept. In 2008 they performed "8x10 Glossy" in Theatre BC's Greater Vancouver Zone Festival and won Best Production, Best Director, Best Actress (Leigh Burrows), Best Sound Design, Best Lighting Design, People's Choice Award, and Judges Choice (Eroca Zales).

For more information on the show please contact Stephanie Kemp at 778-231-2076 or

leapingthespians@hotmail.com.

Be sure to check out www.leapingthespians.ca

Leaping

Thespians



World Premiere

Adult Content



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An original western comedy

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