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FRINGE



Christmas Eve at the Julibee Motel at the 2016 Hamilton Fringe Festival

Fancy a Lonely Christmas Eve at the Julibee Motel?

Hamilton, Ontario, June 13, 2016 — You don't? But Cassie Frommert does. You'll meet Cassie in John Bandler's psychodrama [*Christmas Eve at the Julibee Motel*](#) at [The Hamilton Fringe Festival, July 14-24, 2016](#).

It's Christmas Eve and Cassie is about to lock up her Julibee Motel. She's behind the check-in counter, reliving one of her daddy's bedtime stories, when an icy rainstorm sweeps Mick Thurson into her lobby. The well-heeled Mick is willing to pay whatever Cassie asks for a room, while Cassie insists her motel is closed for Christmas.

His name is familiar, but she doesn't let on. Instead, she kicks their hard-core banter into an emotional rollercoaster of confessions, threats, and unfulfilled desires. As each of them struggles for control, Mick must decide whether he wants to die; Cassie must decide whether she wants him to live.

Why is Cassie alone in her motel on Christmas Eve? What compels her to relive her father's bedtime story? What calamity is Mick escaping from? And what backstory connects Mick with Cassie?

As Mick vacillates between life and death, and Cassie torments him with her yarns, you'll squirm in your seat. All this at the Players' Guild of Hamilton, 80 Queen Street South.

Opening Friday, July 15, [*Christmas Eve at the Julibee Motel*](#) is part of [The Hamilton Fringe Festival, July 14-24, 2016](#). Tickets \$10 (and a required \$5 Fringe backer button): July 15 @ 9pm, July 16 @ 6pm, July 17 @ 3pm, July 18 @ 9:30pm, July 20 @ 8pm, July 22 @ 4:30 pm, July 23 @ 6:30 pm. Go to www.bandler.com/julibee for further details of this 60-minute show.

Written by McMaster engineering professor emeritus and recipient of a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal John Bandler, and directed by Theatre Ontario's 2013 Maggie Bassett Award recipient Tom Mackan, this original Canadian play features Aimee Kessler Evans as Cassie and James Thomas as Mick.

Director Tom Mackan brings you the show he loved in 2010, "haunted," Tom said, "by the ghosts of new wave cinema of the 50s and 60s." And "Bandler owes a debt to the European film writers of the mid-20th century, a debt to the likes of Renoir, Godard, and even Hitchcock."

Aimee Kessler Evans worked professionally in theatre in the early 90s. Most of her subsequent achievements were in the NYC and NJ piano bar/cabaret scene, where she performed frequently in the early 2000s. A local resident now for three years, she has been seen in several musicals.

Hamilton-born James Thomas, a graduate of McMaster University's Theatre and Film program, has acted in local theatre for 12 years with several groups. He has also worked in commercials, film, and television, including a part in History TV's *Air Aces*.

Professor, engineer, entrepreneur, speaker and author, John Bandler is a Hamilton resident. His fiction includes nine stage plays, a screenplay, and a novel. About his 2012 Hamilton Fringe Festival show, [Gary Smith](#) of The Hamilton Spectator said "reminiscent of Ray Bradbury's science fiction . . . takes us to the edge of toppling humanity." About his 2014 show, [Gary Smith](#) said, "Be warned this one's goosebumps time."

The production team includes Anne Hogan, Daniel VanAmelsvort, Peter Jonasson, and Beth Bandler. See [Christmas Eve at the Julibee Motel](#) for further details.