

APPASSIONATA
The Cast

JAN RUBÊS (Ferdinand)

Jan Rubês has appeared in numerous feature films, including his Oscar worthy portrayal of the Amish grandfather in Paramount Pictures' *Witness* starring Harrison Ford, *Dead of Winter*, *One Magic Christmas*, *Something About Love* (Genie nomination), *The Outside Chance of Maximilian Glick*, *Class Action*, *Mighty Ducks II*, *Deceived*, *Roommates*, *Mesmer*, *Serving in Silence*, and *Never too Late*.

Jan's television credits include: *Charlie Grant's War* (Gemini Nomination), *E.N.G.*, *Street Legal*, *Life Goes On*, *Crossings*, *The Day Granddad Died* (Gemini Nomination), *Two Men* (Genie Award), the Shari Lewis award winning TV special *Lambchop and the Phantom of the Studio*, *ER*, and *X-Files*. He recently completed the mini-series *Our Fathers* in which he played Pope John Paul.

Jan's efforts have been recognized with multiple accolades: The Queen's Jubilee Medal in 1978, The Canadian Centennial Medal in 1967, the 1991 Earl Grey Award for lifetime achievement in television, an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters from the University of Guelph, an Honorary Citizenship of Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Sydney N.S, and the Order of Canada in 1996.

COLOMBE DEMERS (Sonia)

Colombe Demers lives and works both in French and English in Toronto and across the country. She is co-founder and shares the artistic directorship of theatre company "This is a Bird," which premiered its production of *The Long Valley: Ballads* by John Steinbeck this fall, as part of the Soulpepper season.

Recent credits include *The Long Valley* (This is a Bird/Soulpepper), *Chekhov Longs...In the Ravine* (Theatre Smith-Gilmore/Yukon Arts Centre/RCA), and the title role in *Hedda Gabler* (Saidye-Bronfman).

Other credits include *The Shape of Things* (Manitoba Theatre Centre/Citadel), *Lady M* in *Macbeth* (Festival of Classics), *A Flea in her Ear* (Soulpepper), *Soirée Tchekhov* (TFT/Nouvelle Compagnie Théâtrale), *L'Ecole des Femmes* (TFT), *King Lear*, *Amadeus* and *The Little Foxes* (Stratford), *You Can't Take it With You* and *Lady Windermere's Fan* (Shaw), *The Game of Love and Chance* (Pleades) *Counter Service* (Tarragon), *The Rehearsal* (Paramour Productions) and *Romeo and Juliet* (Canadian Stage). Colombe was nominated for two Dora Awards and a Sterling Award.

Film and television appearances include *The Age of Dorian* (Cherry Pie Productions), *Louis Braille* (Protocol), *Murder at the Mendell/Deadly Appearances* (CTV/Shafsbury Films), *Francoeur* (TFO) and *Appassionata* (Buffalo Gal Pictures).

She also performed in German in *Stacheldraht*, written and composed by Canadian composer Otto Joachim, with La Société de Musique Contemporaine du Québec.

Upcoming is a return of *Chekhov Longs* at the Factory Theatre in Toronto and in China.

Nicky Guadagni (Dr. Eckhardt's Assistant)

Originally from Montreal, Gemini award winning actress Nicky Guadagni was classically trained in London at the prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Nicky's film and television credits include: *Blue Murder* (Gemini Award), David Cronenberg's *Crash*, *Queer as Folk*, *Inside the Squamish Five* (Gemini nomination), *Turning to Stone* (Gemini nomination), *Due South*, *Major Crime* (Gemini Award), *Beautiful People*, *Bookey's Mark*, *This is Wonderland* and was a mainstay of the repertory company that performed on the TV series *Nero Wolfe*.

Nicky also wrote and performed *In the Wings* based on the book by Carole Corbeil at the Theatre Passe Muraille. She coaches acting at the University of Toronto and has directed at The National Theatre School and George Brown School.

Darcy Fehr (Walter Gramatté)

Winnipeg artist Darcy Fehr does it all: he acts, directs, produces and teaches. Darcy's television performance credits include ABC's *Category 7: The End of the World*, *2030 CE*, *Inside the Osmonds* and *Falcon Beach*. Darcy has also worked with Guy Maddin on multiple projects performing in: *The Saddest Music in the World*, *Cowards Bend the Knee*, *Fuseboy* and *Hospital Fragment*.

Darcy has produced four theatre productions: *Here Before You Go* (Eugene O'Neill), *Anaesthesia*; *The Loss of Sensibility*, *The Garden or Still Alive with Insects* and *Brave Hearts*. Darcy has also performed in numerous Manitoba Theatre Centre and Prairie Theatre Exchange Productions.

Marc André-Hamelin (Pianist)

Born in Montréal Quebec, Hamelin is internationally renowned for his effortless musical virtuosity and refined pianism - many regard him as the supreme technician of the instrument.

Winner of the 1985 Carnegie Hall International Competition of American Music, Marc-André Hamelin began his piano studies at the age of five and was nine years old when he won the top prize in a Canadian Music Competition.

Well established in both North America and Europe, Marc-André Hamelin has given numerous recitals internationally. Festival appearances have included Bad Kissingen, Belfast, Cervantino, La Grange de Meslay, Husum Piano Rarities, Lanaudière, Ravinia, La Roque d'Anthéron, Ruhr Piano, Scotia (Halifax), Singapore Piano, Snape Maltings Proms, Turku and Ottawa Strings of the Future, as well as the Chopin Festivals of Bagatelles (Paris), Duszniki and Valldemossa. Following the success of his 1994 Wigmore Hall series *Virtuoso Romantics*, Marc-André Hamelin appears regularly in both the Wigmore Hall Masterconcert Series and the International Piano Series at

London's South Bank Centre. He plays annually in the Herkulessaal in Munich and has given a series of six recitals in Tokyo entitled '200 Years of Pianism with Marc-André Hamelin'.

His recording of the complete Godowsky *Studies on Chopin's Études* won the 2000 Gramophone Instrumental Award.

He has been made an Officer of the Order of Canada and a Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Québec (Order of Quebec).

Megumi Masaki (Pianist)

Award winning Megumi Masaki has established herself as an international artist renowned for her warmth and rapport with audiences and her superb musicianship. Her multi-faceted career as acclaimed soloist, chamber musician, champion of Contemporary music, pedagogue and writer has taken her across Canada, the USA, England, Ireland, Germany, Cyprus, Japan, China, Taiwan and the Phillipines. She is the recipient of numerous scholarships and awards from the Canada Arts Council, Manitoba Arts Council and the British Council. Masaki was recently awarded the Willi-Daume Prize from the German National Olympic Committee for her project "Music and the Olympic Games." Masaki performed at the 2002 Winter Olympics and performed live interpretations of figure skating champions with Stars on Ice 2003. She is co-founder of the annual Waterford Summer Music Festival at the Waterford Arts Institute where Masaki acts as Artistic Co-director, Conductor and Coach.