

Saviour

PROPOSAL

By the John Petropoulos Memorial Fund

For 6 Alberta Fundraising Performances of the *Saviour* Play in October 2014

*Fiction must stick to the facts and the truer the facts
the better the fiction – so we are told.*

— Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

Snapshot

On September 29th, 2000, Cst John Petropoulos of the Calgary Police Service stepped through a false ceiling and fell to his death during the investigation of a break and enter complaint at a warehouse. There was no safety railing in place to warn him – or anyone else – of the danger. The complaint turned out to be a false alarm; there was no intruder in the building. He was 32.

Thirteen years later, John's widow, Maryanne Pope, has written a play, entitled *Saviour*, about the factual circumstances that lead to John's fall and the fictional exploration of what John's response might have been to his easily preventable death.

The John Petropoulos Memorial Fund, a registered charity based in Alberta, Canada exists to promote the message that the public has a role – and a responsibility – in helping ensure emergency responders make it home safely to their family after every shift.

By staging a 3-day run of *Saviour* in Calgary, Alberta and a subsequent 3-day run in Edmonton, Alberta an estimated \$130,000 could be raised for the JPMF, which would be a significant step towards financial sustainability. Of equal importance would be the awareness raised about the need for making sure one's place of work is safe for *everyone*.

Ultimately, however, the *Saviour* production will be a powerful, fast-paced, engaging and entertaining theatrical experience for the audience. The script has been in development for over a decade and is now ready to stage as a professional performance.

Saviour Play

Synopsis

Sam, a police officer, steps through a false ceiling while searching a warehouse and hits his head. As he succumbs to his injuries, it is the soul of the dead writer, Virginia Woolf, who takes him to the moment of his pending brain-death. Meanwhile, on the other side of the stage, Sam's wife, Adri, wakes up to her new life as a young widow, as Sam's Sergeant, Tom, guides her through the first three months of grief. Based on factual events, *Saviour* is a theatrical exploration of the grieving process and the elusive nature of peace as the mind struggles to accept the unacceptable.

Characters

Sam: male, stocky, gruff, police officer, early thirties, married to Adri
Adri: female, early thirties, extroverted, clerical worker, aspiring writer
Virginia Woolf/nurse: female, late fifties, author, suffered from depression, died 1941
Tom: male, forty, police officer, Sam's Sergeant, compassionate

Setting

The stage is divided in half, symbolizing the two sides of the brain. The right side represents intuition; the left reason. Likewise, the right side of the stage is the spiritual realm; the left side is the physical world.

Stage right is bare. On stage left is a circular, rotating platform divided into three parts: Sam & Adri's living room, their bedroom (ICU in Act 2) and a hospital waiting room. There are doors in between each room, as well as a door from the living room that leads to a front porch, so when the actors exit the living room via this door, they end up on stage right.

Running Time

- *Saviour* runs for approximately 2 hours plus a 20 minute intermission

Script

- The *Saviour* play script (110 pages) is available to read upon request

Market/Audiences

- General theatre patrons (estimate approx 20% of audience)
- JPMF community, friends and family (20%)
- Police community (15%)
- Grief groups, psychologists, palliative care, etc (10%)
- Occupational health & safety community (10%)
- ICU/Trauma/medical personnel community (5%)
- Brain injury awareness community (5%)
- Spiritual/religious community (5%)
- Writing/arts community (5%)
- Corporate sponsors (5%)

Timeframe

- *Saviour* will be staged on Oct 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2014 in Calgary
- *Saviour* will be staged on Oct 8th, 9th and 10th, 2014 in Edmonton

Ticket Sales

- For a sold-out 3-day run in Calgary at the Martha Cohen Theatre, approximately 1200 tickets would need to be sold (400 per night)
- Likewise with the Westbury Theatre in Edmonton

Event Details

There will be one gala performance in Calgary and one in Edmonton – with appetizers, chocolate fountain, etc and a silent auction.

Budget

- The estimated cost to produce the 6 performances of *Saviour* is \$150,000
 - Detailed budget available upon request

Projected Profit

- The estimated projected profit for the JPMF from the 6 performances is \$130,000
- These revenues will come from a variety of sources:
 - Ticket sales
 - Refreshments/bar
 - Silent auction (one night in each city)
 - 50/50 draws (all three nights)
 - Raffle of large prizes (all three nights)
 - Corporate sponsorships
 - Individual donations
 - Sale of JPMF merchandise (*A Widow's Awakening* books, t-shirts, mugs, memorial pins, Boots DVDs, etc)

Potential Sources of Funding (to cover expenses of \$150,000)

- Community Initiative Program grant (AB Lottery Fund): \$75,000
- Corporate and Stakeholder sponsorships: \$45,000
- Other grants: \$25,000
- JPMF fundraising drive: \$5000

Background

John Petropoulos Memorial Fund

The JPMF was started by several of John's police recruit classmates shortly after his death. The Fund is now a registered charity based in Alberta. The purpose of the JPMF is to raise *public* awareness about workplace safety issues facing emergency responders and

provide people with tangible tips they can implement in their workplaces and on the roads that will help minimize the risk emergency responders face on the job.

The Fund has produced five 30-second Public Service Announcements that have aired on TV over 1 million times. The Fund's 10-minute educational video, entitled *Put Yourself in Our Boots*, is being used in workplace safety presentations across North America. The JPMF also has a Safety Presentation Program whereby professional speakers deliver safety presentations at conferences, companies, schools and other organizations.

***Saviour* play script**

Playwright Maryanne Pope first started writing the *Saviour* play script under the guidance of Clem Martini at the University of Calgary's Playwriting course in 2003. Over the past decade, the script has undergone more than 25 rewrites and has received two readings by professional actors. Since 2004, Maryanne has worked closely with the Alberta Playwright's Network in developing the script. Please see attached for the letter of recommendation from the APN's Executive Director, Trevor Rueger.

The script won the 2006 Julia Young Memorial Prize for Playwriting and an Honorable Mention in the Discovery Category of the 2007 Alberta Playwriting Competition.

Maryanne Pope

Maryanne Pope is the author of the creative non-fiction book, *A Widow's Awakening*. She is the Board Chair of the John Petropoulos Memorial Fund and the Founder and CEO of Pink Gazelle Productions Inc.

In addition to books and play scripts, Maryanne also writes screenplays, articles, short stories, blogs and essays. Maryanne was the Executive Producer of the John Petropoulos Memorial Fund's *Put Yourself in Our Boots* safety video as well as the documentary, *Whatever Floats Your Boat...Perspectives on Motherhood*. Maryanne's current creative projects include her upcoming book, *Barrier Removed; A Tough Love Guide to Achieving Your Dreams*, the *God's Country* screenplay and *The Widows* play.

Contact Information

Maryanne Pope

Board Chair, John Petropoulos Memorial Fund

www.jpmf.ca

Cell (778) 678-4496

maryanne@jpmf.ca

Ian Wilson

Managing Director, John Petropoulos Memorial Fund

Cell (403) 891-4269

ian@jpmf.ca