

For Immediate Release
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Two of Edmonton's First Photographers Share their Loves and Lives

MAA & PAA Theatre brings the storied lives and iconic photographs of Gladys Reeves and Ernest Brown in **The Unmarried Wife**. Between them, Reeves and Brown captured or preserved most of what we think of as Edmonton's past, and shared a passion that lasted four decades – even though he remained married the entire time. **The Unmarried Wife** comes to the Roxy Theatre for a media preview on **Tuesday, August 4th** and premieres at the 2009 Edmonton Fringe Festival.

The Unmarried Wife is by Karen Simonson and David Cheoros, and stars Mark Anderako and Heather D. Swain. The production combines Reeves and Brown's own letters and photographs with original material to convey a sense of the pair's complex relationship and their contribution to Alberta's history.

The Unmarried Wife follows the relationship between Edmonton photographers Ernest Brown and Gladys Reeves. Brown began in the photographic business in Edmonton in 1904. Gladys began as his assistance in 1905. They had a shared passion for photography and history, and their open extramarital status defied conservative morality. Brown's photographic legacy is found at the Provincial Archives, and has shaped how we view Alberta's past.

MAA & PAA is dedicated to bringing exciting stories from Alberta's past to the stage. The company is an ongoing partnership between archivist and historian Karen Simonson, and theatre artist David Cheoros, with the ongoing support of the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Past projects include *Letters from Battle River: The Adventures of Dr. Mary Percy Jackson* and *Respecting the Action for Seduction: The Brownlee Affair*.

The Unmarried Wife has been developed and produced with the assistance of the Edmonton Arts Council and the Provincial Archives of Alberta. **The Unmarried Wife** is one of nine productions hosted by MAA & PAA Theatre at the Strathcona Public Library.

The Unmarried Wife previews at the Roxy Theatre (10708 – 124 Street) at 6:30pm on Tuesday, August 4th (all tickets \$10, available at 780.453.2440). During the Edmonton Fringe, the production runs at the Strathcona Branch, Edmonton Public Library (8331 – 104 Street).

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For photos and more information
www.maapaa.ca
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MAA & PAA Company Bios

Mark Anderako (Ernest Brown)

Mark is pleased to debut with MAA & PAA Theatre in his 16th Fringe production. He has been performing for Edmonton audiences for over 25 years and his recent theatre credits include *Hamlet* (Walterdale), *The Elephant Man* (Studio Theatre) *365 Days/365 Plays* (Theatre Yes), *Get Away* (Theatre Yes), and *Bash: The Latter Day Plays* (Edmonton Fringe) for which he was nominated for an outstanding performance Sterling award. His film and TV credits include *The Virginian*, *Truman Capote's In Cold Blood*, *Lonesome Dove*, *Heart of the Sun*, *Mentors* and a recurring role in *Jake and the Kid*. Thanks MAA & PAA for adopting me into your family!

Heather D. Swain (Gladys Reeves)

Heather D. Swain is an actor, writer and street performer who splits her time between Edmonton and London (yes, England). She has worked with Azimuth Theatre, Theatre Network, Fringe Theatre Adventures, Company of Sirens, and extensively in film and television. She is currently writing a series of illustrated medium-short stories entitled *Bedtime Stories of Adults*.

David Cheoros (Director)

David studied theatre at the Universities of Waterloo and Victoria. David has been the festival director at the Edmonton Fringe for a few years, and also taken shows to festivals across Canada, and in Washington, Indianapolis and Adelaide. He's also been Executive Director of the Film and Video Arts Society, Co-Producer (with Pamela Anthony) of the Comedy Arts Festival, and General Manager of Theatre Network. David is the Executive Director of the [Edmonton Literary Festival](#), and hopes that you join the fun in October.

Karen Simonson (Playwright)

Karen studied history at the University of Alberta and Archival Studies at the University of Manitoba. She has a lifelong passion for photography, and is happy to be combining her passions for photography and history in one play. Karen is the Reference Archivist at the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

Schedule of Fringe Performances:

Fri Aug 14	6:45
Sat Aug 15	7:45
Mon Aug 17	12:45
Tue Aug 18	10:15
Wed Aug 19	4:45
Thu Aug 20	Noon
Sat Aug 22	4:15
Sun Aug 23	Noon