



**THE BOOK OF SPELLS.  
A LOVE STORY**

Created and Told by Jan Andrews and Jennifer Cayley

**PRESS KIT**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**BIOS**

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

**IN THE PRESS**

**PICS AND SOUNDS**

Photo: Alan Dean

e-mail: [2.women productions@gmail.com](mailto:2.women productions@gmail.com)  
mail: 288 Theresa Lane • RR # 2 Lanark, ON • K0G 1K0  
phone: 613-256-0353

**2** women  
productions

stories. for adults.

Please add to all Theatre Listings

**The Book of Spells. A Love Story** ▶ **PRESS KIT**

**(2wp) two women productions**

**THE BOOK OF SPELLS. A LOVE STORY**

**WHERE LIFE AND LITERATURE COLLUDE AND COLLIDE**

**Created and Told by Jan Andrews and Jennifer Cayley**

March 15 For Immediate Release

**2wp (2 women productions)** is delighted to announce that **The Book of Spells. A Love Story** will be coming back to Peterborough, Saturday April 2nd. This show has now appeared here twice before and returns by popular request. The performance is a Benefit Fundraiser for **Peterborough Women's Events Planning Committee (WEC)** and is supported by Peterborough's own **Public Energy**. The benefit also serves to launch 2wp's upcoming season of storytelling shows for adult audiences. The show on April 2 will be followed by a celebratory reception with refreshments provided by local food and drink specialists **The Olde Stone Brewing Company, Hot Belly Mamas** and **Brio Gusto**.

**THE BOOK OF SPELLS. A LOVE STORY** has just returned from Melbourne, Australia, where it was presented as part of **Midsumma**, one of the world's most prestigious GLBT Arts Festival's. The show investigates what happens when two women, well into their middle years, cast caution to the wind and begin sharing a life together. Believe us, it's not all "happily ever after" as Jan Andrews and Jennifer Cayley know well, for this is the story of their relationship.

**2wp** is working hard to bring high quality adult storytelling to communities in Eastern Ontario including Peterborough. Its upcoming season features Marta Singh in **LANDSCAPES OF SILENCE** on April 15, and Dan Yashinsky in **TALKING YOU IN** on May 12. **2wp** is delighted to be performing in the new Market Hall Theatre. **LANDSCAPES OF SILENCE** deals in the ways in which families hold their secrets, beginning in Marta's case with the fact that one of her uncles was heavily involved in atrocities perpetrated by the Argentinean government of the 1970s. Dan tells of the birth of his son and of a time when only rhymes and stories seemed to offer any hope that a child might grow up knowing more than the beep of medical machines. This is a *canta storia* in which Dan will be accompanied by jazz guitarist, Brian Katz.

**The Peterborough Women's Events Planning Committee (WEC)** is excited about this collaboration and grateful for 2wp's willingness to assist in its work. The committee supports a wide diversity of initiatives including: the Reframe Film Festival, International Women's Day, the December 6th Remembrance for women killed by violence, the Person's Day Breakfast, and the Peace Petition.

Venue: St. John's Anglican Church, 99 Brock Street, Peterborough, Ontario

Date: Saturday, April 2nd 2011, 7:30pm - doors open at 7pm

Tickets: \$15/ pay what you can for students/unwaged

Advance Tickets: **Titles Bookstore**, 379 George Street North, **YWCA**, 216 Simcoe St.  
**KWIC**, Environmental Sciences Building, East Bank, Trent University, Rm B101  
**WEC**: Kathryn Langley, 705-742-5834, kathrynlangle@gmail.com

Contact: Jennifer Cayley [2.women.productions@gmail.com](mailto:2.women.productions@gmail.com)  
RR # 2, Lanark ON K0G 1K0  
613-256-0353

**back  
to front  
page**

### **Jan Andrews**

Widely-recognized as a storyteller who touches her audiences with the depth and power of her work, Jan has traveled extensively, telling stories at festivals and in concerts across Canada, in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. A committed member of the Canadian storytelling community, she was the first president of Storytellers of Canada-Conteurs du Canada and founded the organization's StorySave project. She also served as Artistic Director of two long-running Ottawa storytelling series (one at the Fourth Stage of the National Arts Centre). Previous collaborations with Jennifer include founding an arts education organization and producing and performing in complete tellings of The Iliad, The Odyssey and The Mahabharata. Jan tells everything from folktales to literary stories, from epic to personal tales. She is also the author of classic books for young people. Always a ground-breaker, she was the first Storyteller/Writer in Residence at the Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture at the University of Manitoba.

A wealth of other information about her is to be found at: [www.janandrews.ca](http://www.janandrews.ca)

### **Jennifer Cayley**

Jennifer has been telling stories professionally for nearly two decades. Career highlights include: performing at the Talk Story Festival in Hawaii; appearing at the Fringe at the Annual Conference of the National Storytelling Network in St. Louis; touring The Book of Spells to Wales and Ontario; making regular appearances at the Ottawa StoryTellers National Arts Centre series; collaborating with Jan in producing epic pieces. Jennifer believes passionately that stories are important to all of us as we struggle to understand the shape and meaning of our lives. Her aim is always to make the profoundly simple contact between teller, story and listener richly alive. She is dedicated to bringing traditional stories to young people and works in schools settings through Prologue to the Performing Arts ([www.prologue.org](http://www.prologue.org)), MASC ([www.masconline.ca](http://www.masconline.ca)) and the Ontario Arts Council's Artists in Education Program. Building on her years as an award winning arts administrator at MASC, she is currently developing a career that seeks to use the power of traditional stories to facilitate organizational change.

**back  
to front  
page**

### Book of Spells Tour/2009: Audience Comments

"We were literally spellbound, and I could tell by the audience's rapt attention that the teller's art had also worked its powerful magic over the whole place. I felt quite privileged to have heard your skillful, generous and courageous performances."

"Thank you for being brave enough to love each other, suffer through the process, sustain each other, thank you for being courageous enough to share this."

"I was so invested in your personal stories, that your Book of Spells stories became for me about trying to unravel the links between your lives and then subsequently my own."

"I found the entire evening incredibly engaging, and found myself interacting with the work on multiple levels. I have been thinking a lot about "performativity" and what makes an evening of liveness sing for me - and I think it has to do with seeing the vulnerable teller simultaneous to seeing the story that they are weaving. I had forgotten about the power of simplicity in telling. Thank you for reminding me."

"It was perfect. Your sense of the power of story to frame and sustain; the description of your relationship--the deep passion, the voids we want that passion to fill, the hope of love and the failure and despair, the 'getting on' with gentle anticipation."

"I found the stories from Sara Maitland both wonderful and with lovely reverberations. Then your interweaving and framing of the stories with your own experiences so honestly told, made them even more powerful allowing space for my own connections with your stories and your journey."

"Your journey was so engrossing that time flew. It was a beautiful orchestration and the sequencing from one to another was so skillfully done. I enjoyed it tremendously."

"Thank-you for your performance. It was one of the most moving storytelling pieces I ever expect to see."

"Wonderful presentation on life, love and history."

"Wow what a grand performance you gave last night. I enjoyed every minute of it. I loved the images in those literary stories. Loved the weaving and interweaving of the voices."

"Excellent work...thank you for sharing your story with us...the details may change from couple to couple, but many of the challenges are the same, aren't they?"

**back  
to front  
page**

## JAN ANDREWS & JENNIFER CAYLEY TELL AMAZING STORIES

Ottawa storytellers Jan Andrews & Jennifer Cayley were telling amazing tales of their own lives & love, brought together by a passion for literature, at The Arts Project last week & said how storytelling hardly ever gets reviewed. So I said, "Well, I can try."

Early in their two-voices & several storied evening A Book of Spells, Jan Andrews & Jennifer Cayley recalled their astonishment, in early days, to think they might be lesbians. Both were married, one unhappily, one in a perfect marriage.

Their penchant for discussing books - Doris Lessing, Timothy Findley, Jane Rule & more are mentioned - over dinners out, had led to passionate discussions loud enough to still other diners' conversations . . . & eventually to love & a period of what sounds like bone-chilling hate & love again. Understated abandon. Intelligent love. Always the best romance tales.

That is their story & it is interwoven with the centrepiece of A Book of Spells, two stories by British writer Sara Maitland. The first, Angelmaker, is told from the point of view of the witch in Hansel & Gretel. She is revealed as a powerful, solitary figure in the forest whose confectioned cottage is an abortion clinic/fertility clinic among other things. The witch encounters Gretel again & again as the little girl of the fairy tale grows into a woman in the modern world. This was told by Jan Andrews, whose voice & inflections convey beautifully arrived at sense & calm insight.

Jennifer Cayley told the second Maitland story, In Praise of Unknown Women & Our Mothers Who Begat Us. Her voice & storytelling style conveys more wide-eyed wonder, passion turning from anger to love rather than irony on the way . . . which was appropriate to the story. It tells of a young girl who encounters two everyday life witches & learns about her own magic & flies over the other London to prove it.

The Arts Project is undergoing extensive renos (it still has a fine Sunfest-tied art exhibition in the main space ongoing). The result is that the place is damn cold of a night.

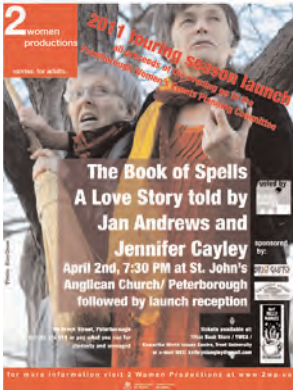
The two storytellers and The Arts Project folks contrived to overcome this. As the storytellers wryly observed, their own story can't really have a surprise ending. There the two of them are, deciding to take their show on the road & see what crowds storytellers can pull. That's a hill still to climb, there were may be 20-25 of us @ TAP on Saturday.

Magically & realistically, their own reconciliation seems to have begun over an empty book-case . . . & they now have their own non-confectioned dwelling in the forests of Eastern Ontario to keep it real.

So that's my attempt at a review. I suggested coming back for The London Fringe - which didn't seem to light a bonfire or switch on a bulb - & they were off to Kitchener, where they had hoped to be part of other gay & lesbian events, that didn't seem to be happening. But it might down the road. The storytellers deserve another hearing on a warmer night with a bigger crowd if they touring this way again.

"Stories of Magic Realism by Sara Maitland" it says on the poster. The realism is, for me, in the good bones of the old stories retold by somebody who loves them & the magic is in the beauty of the human voice, when it's telling a story it loves about somebody it loves.

James Reaney: London Free Press, London Free Press Blog: Feb. 9/2009



download the poster:

letter size ▶ pdf

tabloid size size ▶ pdf



download the photo

▶ low res jpeg ▶ high res jpeg



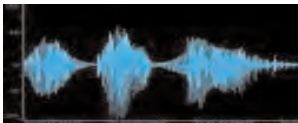
download Jennifer Cayley photo

▶ jpeg



download Jan Andrews photo

▶ jpeg



listen to Book of Spells sound bite

PICS &  
SOUND

**back  
to front  
page**