

HARLEQUIN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Who Gets to Belong? Larry Shue's Farcical *Foreigner* Comes to Harlequin

Olympia, WA – February 10, 2026 – Harlequin Productions presents *The Foreigner* by Larry Shue, March 6 – 29, 2026 at the State Theater in downtown Olympia. Producing Artistic Director Aaron Lamb will direct.

Larry Shue's The Foreigner proves how easily secrets and prejudices can tip a friendly gathering into something far more dangerous. When a shy Englishman lands at a rustic Georgia lodge, his fear of small talk inspires a harmless fib: he doesn't speak English. When overheard asides set off chaos, Charlie's accidental silence becomes a mirror: what might we learn if we actually listened? In the spirit of screwball mayhem meets rustic intrigue, each new confession detonates laugh out loud chaos. Quiet no more—Charlie's about to speak volumes.

Director Aaron Lamb notes that while *The Foreigner* was written as a farce in 1983, its themes resonate strongly today. "We're living in a time when we've weaponized the idea of the foreigner," Lamb says. "A 'foreigner' isn't just someone from another land; it's anyone we've decided isn't us." Though Shue's comedy was not written as a political statement, Lamb observes that it 'rhymes' with the present moment. Comedy, he suggests, can hold truths that lectures cannot, inviting audiences to laugh while quietly recognizing themselves in those onstage.

Lamb approaches the production as a period piece. By setting the play firmly in its time, he hopes to create space for audiences to observe how each character's reaction to what feels unfamiliar differs - or doesn't - from today's instinct to quickly accept or reject what we encounter. He explains, "Betty is curious. Ellard is eager. Owen and David are afraid. My central question is this: if we can recognize that our reflexive reactions more closely resemble David and Owen's fear, is there opportunity for us to make more room for the curiosity and grace we see in the other two characters?"

Publicity photos: <https://harlequinproductions.org/the-foreigner-publicity-photos/>

The Foreigner show page: <https://harlequinproductions.org/show/the-foreigner/>

Production Information

WHAT: Harlequin Productions presents *The Foreigner* by Larry Shue. Directed by Producing Artistic Director Aaron Lamb.

WHEN: March 6 – 29, 2026

WHERE: State Theater, 202 4th Ave East, Olympia, WA 98501

TICKETS:

Tickets are available online at harlequinproductions.org, by phone at 360-786-0151, or in person 12–5:30 pm, Tuesday–Saturday at the State Theater Box Office.

General admission tickets \$49

Senior 60+/Military \$47

Student/Youths Under 25 \$35

Rush Tickets (2 hours prior to showtime) General \$24.50; Teens/Under 20 \$5

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE:

Opening Night: Friday, March 6 at 7:30 pm

Community Talkback: Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 pm

Closed Captioning: Sunday, March 15 at 2:00 pm

Pay What You Choose: 3 Performances TBA

Audio Described Performance: TBA

Sensory Friendly Performance: TBA

Closing: Sunday, March 29 at 2:00 pm

CATEGORY: Comedy/Farce

AGE RECOMMENDATION: 12 and older with guidance

CAST:

"Froggy" LeSueur.....John Dugaw
Charlie Baker.....Shobhit Agarwal
Betty Meeks.....Lisa Viertel
Rev. David Marshall Lee.....Ben Stahl
Catherine Simms.....Juliette Jones
Owen Musser.....Christian Bolduc
Ellard Simms.....Josiah Rice

Harlequin Productions is a professional not-for-profit theater company in Olympia, WA. We seek to invigorate, educate, and empower our community and all people to feel more, think more, play more, and judge less through the mirror of real live theatre.

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