

LIFEGUARD - *The Only Job AI Can't Do*, is a solo semi-autobiographical comedy/drama; told by performer /storyteller **Kathryn Haggis**.

This day in the life story starts with Haggis at work lifeguarding a public pool in downtown Toronto. Haggis, a lifeguard turned actor turned lifeguard turned actor once more gives us insight to what a lifeguard does. "Lifeguarding is about life and death. Lifeguards don't look like we're doing very much, that's the best thing about the job. We don't have to do anything until we do and then you can only focus on the job."

Haggis, a gifted story teller, immediately gets people to lean in with a personal story about an incident at The Factory Theatre years ago when lifeguarding skills stole the show.

Kathryn, one of five siblings, channels them to bring her family stories to life. With guidance from director Tracey **Erin Smith**, Haggis brilliantly conjures her parents George and Octavia who owned and operated a bar in Belleville ON. And her head injured sister Vicky, a club swimmer prior to a car accident in nineteen seventy one when Haggis was nine.

We go up highway 62 with her to Rock Lake, a small family owned lake bought before Crown Land where she and her brothers and sisters first learn to swim. On Rock Lake is a small three room cabin with a slanted roof and no electricity, "It was my grandfather's fishing camp, everything smelled like minnows and gasoline".

Most people think of lifeguarding as a young person's first job but Haggis didn't become a lifeguard in her teens. She takes us through her formative directionless years when at twenty three, she takes a job at a busy bar in Minden ON and meets friend and flatmate, Stevie. Stevie is there for the summer to make money for school and buy his girlfriend an engagement ring.

Events take a dramatic turn when she and Stevie go swimming in the powerful Gull River one night after work. The undercurrent not visible from the top of the water takes her friend and almost takes her.

Sad and vulnerable, she moves to Toronto, meets Olympic swimmers Bernie Bredsnider and Bill O'Toole (now Director of Toronto swim club) who encourage her to become a lifeguard and work with them.

First she has to certify but the interviews are fast approaching. She gets the job before the certifications. Swimming isn't a problem but grief is.

Once a certified lifeguard and working with a team of people, her confidence and self esteem start to take flight.

