



NightwoodTheatre

2022-23 Season

CONSUME
FEMINIST
CULTURE

WELCOME BACK TO LIVE THEATRE!



Illustration of Andrea Donaldson
by Yessenia Rodriguez

For good reason, we're all deeply out of practice with doing, seeing, being with, and being near. I know I've guarded my sense of curiosity and appetite for wonder because of uncertainty. For the last number of years, the limited spaces we've inhabited and the activities we've participated in have numbed our senses and have reinforced a cozy, boring isolation that has protected and comforted us. And despite the continued uncertainty (was anything ever really certain?), and while maintaining many of the practices that keep us safe, I'm ready to be reawakened.

So this year Nightwood Theatre celebrates this awakening with trailblazers – the DIYers – the creator-performers. We open the season in Toronto with a celebration of genderqueerness and feminism in *The Queen In Me*, our sold out smash hit, prior to its tour to the prestigious Belfast International Arts Festival. We then celebrate female bravery with our presentation of *Children of Fire* at Aluna's RUTAS International Performing Arts Festival. We interrogate our relationship to the oil industry in a vivid yet cerebral production of *I love the smell of gasoline*. We blast apart the fetishization of Asian women at pop up venues all across the GTA. And we challenge the pressurized notion of Black excellence in *She's Not Special*. Each of these brand new works offer distinct perspective, inspired theatricality, and instill hope through provocation, intimacy and humour.

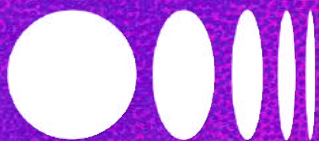
As an artist and as a culture lover, I have an unwavering belief in the importance of creativity and connectivity. I believe that wonder is fundamental to our wellness as individuals and is a key ingredient to the spaces we want to live in. My wish for you, our dear friends/colleagues/patrons out there, is to find ways to rekindle your cultural spark in the ways you need. To be alive to your curiosity. To step out of your 'you' space to see what the incredible artists of this city have been musing on while we were in our cultural slumber. This is the year to investigate what the beautiful dreamers of our city have been enthralled by, and to allow them to enliven your senses once again.

Andrea Donaldson
Artistic Director

THE NIGHTWOOD THEATRE TEAM



The Nightwood Theatre team, top to bottom, left to right: Jessica Watkin, Donna-Michelle St. Bernard, Amanda Lin, Erika Morey, Andrea Donaldson, Naz Afsahi, Sedina Fiati, Teiya Kasahara 笠原貞野 and Taylor Trowbridge.



NightwoodTheatre

2022-23 Season

THE QUEEN IN ME

September 22, 24 & 25, 2022

CHILDREN OF FIRE

October 6, 8, & 9, 2022

I LOVE THE SMELL OF GASOLINE

March 6-19, 2023

LOVE YOU WRONG TIME

April 2023

SHE'S NOT SPECIAL

May 2023

GROUNDSWELL FESTIVAL

November 2022

THE 14TH ANNUAL LAWYER SHOW

June 2023

Cover and back page by Michelle Tracey

Brochure design by Marcia Diaz



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BMO



Emerging
Artists



THE
READY
COMMITMENT

THE QUEEN IN ME

September 22, 24 & 25, 2022

Greenwin Theatre,
Meridian Arts Centre

Created and performed by Teiya Kasahara 笠原貞野

Co-Directed by Andrea Donaldson & Aria Umezawa

A Co-Production by Nightwood Theatre, Amplified Opera,
Canadian Opera Company and Theatre Gargantua

After selling out its world premiere last June, we're thrilled to bring back **The Queen in Me** by interdisciplinary artist **Teiya Kasahara** 笠原貞野 (they/them), accompanied by pianist **David Eliakis** (he/him). Combining comedy, drama, and opera, this electrifying show explores the many ways that race, gender, and sexuality are policed in the opera industry. Through the lens of *The Magic Flute*'s iconic Queen of the Night, the show reclaims space for the multitudes of women, trans, and non-binary individuals excluded from the stage, daring to imagine bold new possibilities for the art form and beyond.

Featuring music from *La Bohème*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Macbeth*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Manon Lescaut*, *Rigoletto*, *Salome*, *Turandot* and *The Magic Flute*.

Catch this stunning new work before it tours to the Belfast International Arts Festival from October 18-20!

Click here to book!

Back by
Popular
Demand!

Touring to
Belfast in
October!

CHILDREN OF FIRE

October 6, 8 & 9, 2022
Theatre Passe Muraille

Created and written by Shahrzad Arshadi
and Anna Chatterton

Directed by Beatriz Pizano

RUTAS International Festival of Performance presents
A Nightwood Theatre production
in association with Aluna Theatre

Children of Fire returns to the stage after its stunning outdoor World Premiere in June of 2022. This powerful piece offers an intimate portrayal of the Kurdish female freedom fighters that hosted **Shahrzad Arshadi** and **Anna Chatterton** in the mountains of Kurdistan in 2018. Co-created with a mix of verbatim theatre and first-person confessional, this play follows the journey and layered relationship across cultures between Shahrzad and Anna, and asks what is at the heart of living bravely as a woman and activist.

Click here to book!

Back by
Popular
Demand!



Photo of Aida Keykhai, Parastoo
Amanzadeh and Nyiri Karakas in
Children of Fire by Dahlia Katz.

I LOVE THE SMELL OF GASOLINE

March 6–19, 2023
Aki Studio

Created and performed by **Claren Grosz**

Directed by **William Dao**

Pencil Kit Productions and Nightwood Theatre
present with support from **Aluna Theatre**

Overhead projection meets performative research essay meets personal narrative as **Claren Grosz** attempts to reconcile her Alberta oil-industry roots with the current environmental emergency. ***I love the smell of gasoline*** was born of a frustration with divisive Canadian politics, rampant hypocrisy, and a lack of team spirit when facing impending doom. What does it really mean to sacrifice and to survive? How can we harness our agency and responsibility in a global crisis?



Photo of Claren Grosz in *I love the smell of gasoline* by Fran Chudnoff.



LOVE YOU WRONG TIME

Created and performed by **Deanna H. Choi**
and **Maddie Bautista**

Directed by **Erin Brubacher**

A **Nightwood Theatre** presentation of a
Bad Muse Collective production

April 2023
Pop-up venues
to be announced

Love You Wrong Time is a hilarious, no-holds-barred song cycle featuring two friends looking for love while contending with the fetishization of Asian women. Using music, true stories, bar games, and stand up, **Deanna H. Choi** and **Maddie Bautista**'s inventive, interactive show serves as a battle cry in the wake of mass violence against Asian femmes, creating a space for rage, grief, tenderness and ruthless comedy.

Photo of Deanna H. Choi and Maddie
Bautista by Erin Brubacher.

SHE'S NOT SPECIAL

May 2023
Tarragon Theatre

Created and performed by **Fatuma Adar**

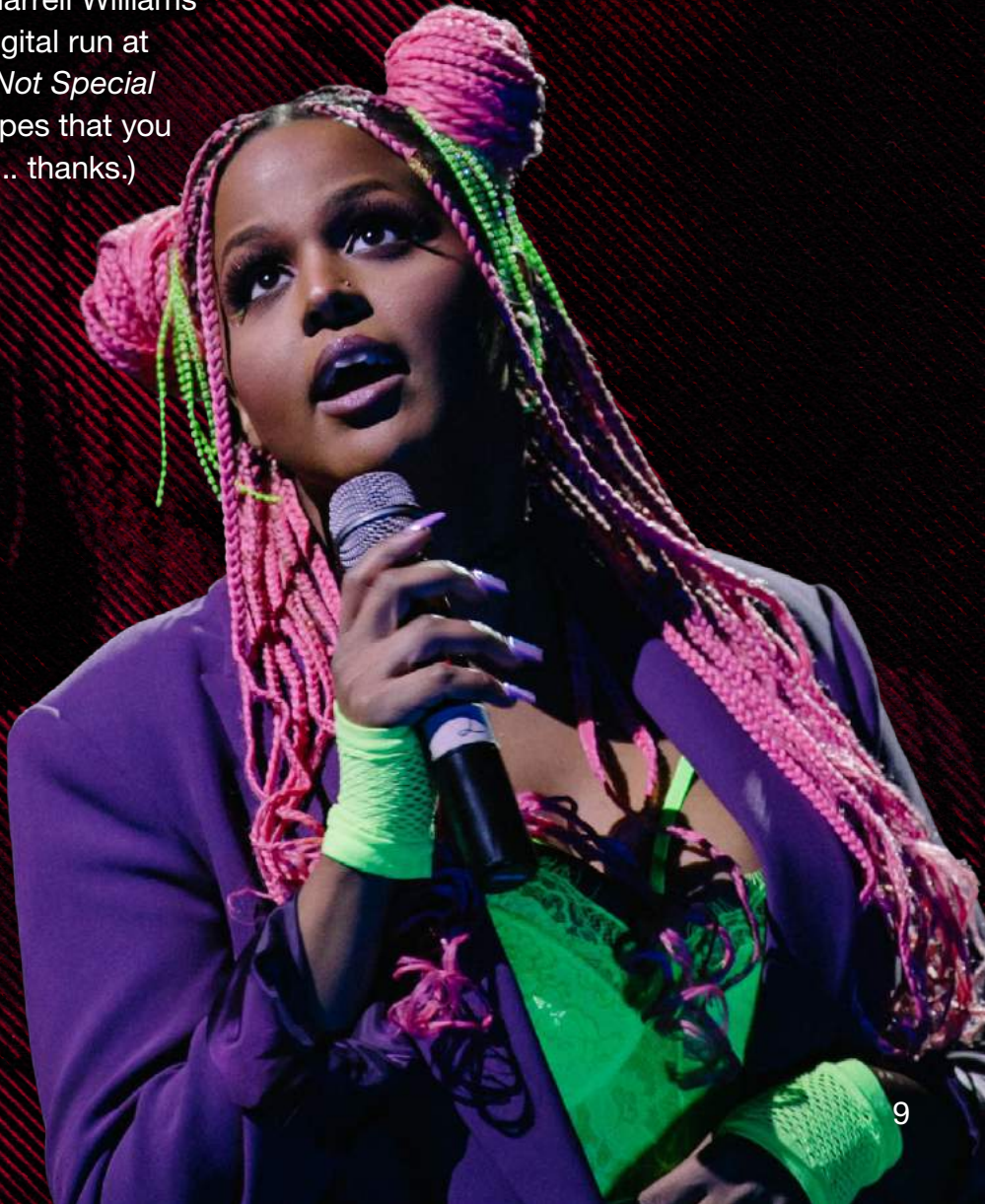
Co-Directed by **Fatuma Adar** and **Graham Isador**

Co-presented by **Nightwood Theatre** and **Tarragon Theatre**

She's Not Special combines musical theatre and comedic storytelling to explore the pressures of Black Excellence. As a Black Muslim Woman (a triple threat!), creator **Fatuma Adar** is on a mission to free you from the clutches of exceptionalism and teach you how to relish in the joys of mediocrity.

Co-Directed by Adar (Playback's Artist to Watch) and **Graham Isador** (The Beaverton, VICE). Adar's music has been described by CBC Arts as "...equal parts Bo Burnham stand-up set and Pharrell Williams club jam." After a critically acclaimed digital run at the Next Stage Theatre Festival, *She's Not Special* returns to the stage LIVE! (Still, Adar hopes that you come with only moderate expectations... thanks.)

Photo of Fatuma Adar in ***She's Not Special***
at Next Stage Festival 2022 by Connie Tsang.



GROUNDSWELL FESTIVAL

November 2022
Aki Studio

Write From The Hip Reading Series

Program Director Donna-Michelle St. Bernard

Be the first to hear brand new plays from our talented 2021-22 *Write From The Hip* playwrights: **Omolola Ajao, Stephanie Fung, Juliet Jones-Rodney, Merlin Simard, and Jillian Welsh.**

Write From The Hip is a year-long script development program designed to support new women/gender-marginalized writers toward the completion of a full-length play. Join us as we celebrate creation, conversation and community at our 37th annual Groundswell Festival!



The 2021-22 Write From The Hip Playwrights from left to right: Omolola Ajao, Stephanie Fung, Juliet Jones-Rodney, Merlin Simard and Jillian Welsh.

JOIN US FOR THE LEGAL EVENT OF THE YEAR!

June 2023
Jane Mallett Theatre
at the St. Lawrence
Centre for the Arts

Now in its 14th year, our annual Lawyer Show showcases the incredible talents of lawyers from all sectors! Join us in June 2023 to see more than 40 members of Toronto's legal community take to the stage, supported by a team of professional directors, designers and vocal coaches—all while raising funds for Canada's flagship feminist theatre.

Bolstered by attention from prestigious media publications and supported by high-profile sponsorships from some of the top players in Toronto's legal community, The Lawyer Show is Nightwood Theatre's main annual fundraiser. The revenue generated from this acclaimed event goes directly toward enhancing our mainstage productions, play development, mentorship initiatives and training programs.

To learn more, contact communications@nightwoodtheatre.net



From left to right: Jennifer Whincup, Christian Baes, David Mills and Tamara Thomas in the 2022 Lawyer Show. Photos by Jeremy Mimmagh.

WE'VE MISSED YOU!

Our community of supporters have always been the beating heart of Nightwood's mission to create a vital home for the creation of feminist art, and this season, we can't wait to celebrate our return to the stage with you.

From intimate pre-show toasts, compelling conversations, and a good-old-fashioned party, we're planning lots of opportunities for us to re-connect alongside this season's programming. Look out for your invitation!

Join Us & Renew Your Support

Pull up a chair and join a dynamic group of audience members, artists and activists who are dedicated to ensuring the future of feminist theatre. Your support will help us launch our return to the stage and usher in the next generation of gender-marginalized artists through our renowned training programs and play development initiatives.

**Click here to
Make a One-Time Gift**

Make It Monthly

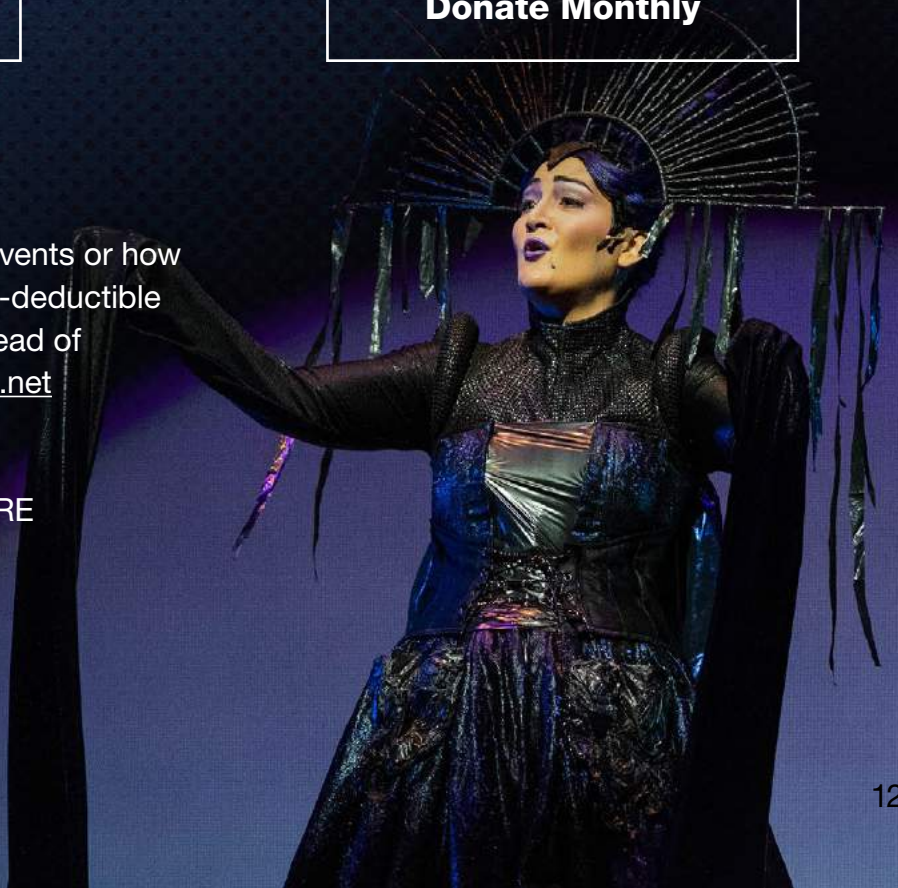
Looking for an easy and affordable way to sustain your support for Nightwood? Monthly donations allow you to give the gift you're comfortable giving through smaller, automatic monthly contributions – perfect for when life gets busy!

**Click here to
Donate Monthly**

Stay in Touch

For more information, upcoming donor events or how to support Nightwood Theatre with a tax-deductible donation, please contact Erika Morey, Head of Development at erika@nightwoodtheatre.net

Registered Name: NIGHTWOOD THEATRE
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ENGAGE BEYOND THE STAGE!

Community is at the centre of all we do at Nightwood and we're always looking to deepen our connection to theatre artists and audiences alike! From our **Nightwood Innovators** program for emerging artist-producers, our **Rising Moon** program for young writers aged 16-19, our **Write From The Hip** playwrights unit, and our free **Creatryx** public writing sessions – there's a wide array of opportunities to foster a deeper relationship to your creativity and our company every season.

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Members of the 2018-19 Nightwood Innovators from left to right: Top row – Max Fearon, Leah Pritchard, Emma Welsh, Haley Vincent, Marina Gomes, Rochelle Richardson. Bottom row – Melissa MacKenzie, Amanda Lin, Jasmine Cabanilla, Brittany Banks, Kai Taddei.

