



**NightwoodTheatre**

**2023-2024 SEASON**





# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To acknowledge this land on which we stand is to acknowledge truth. To acknowledge truth is to acknowledge connection and disconnection. To acknowledge connection and disconnection is to acknowledge the Nations who care for our mother. To acknowledge our mother is to acknowledge truth. To acknowledge truth is to acknowledge that truth is at the forefront of the conversation.

**-Monique Aura, Oneida Nation**

(Shared with permission. Originally posted to [Whose Land](#))

In the spirit and intent of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations, Nightwood Theatre acknowledges the land on which our work is created and where our offices are located is the traditional territory of many Nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples, and is home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

We acknowledge them and any other Nations who care for the land (acknowledged and unacknowledged, recorded and unrecorded) as the past, present, and future caretakers of this land, the traditional territory named Tkarón:to, the Mohawk word for "the place in the water where the trees are standing." The treaty for this particular parcel of land (Treaty 13), collectively referred to as the Toronto Purchase, applies to lands east of Brown's Line to Woodbine Avenue and north towards Newmarket.

We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples on this land. We commit ourselves to addressing and disrupting the systems of oppression and the colonial forces that undermine, distort, or erase the vital role of Indigenous peoples in our world, and recognize stewardship as a shared responsibility of all those who reside in a territory, as is the spirit of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreements.



# A NOTE FROM NIGHTWOOD

For over four decades, Nightwood has offered a respite from the status quo - and it is our mission to live up to the demands of our brave and discerning audiences that come back year after year. It is our belief that we are affirmed and strengthened by seeing ourselves - and the futures we want to build - on stage. Despite this world that has shaped many of us to be demure, this season's creators are demanding a place, and finding soft and bold ways to stake their claim, to matter and be heard.

Our 2023/24 season uplifts stories that are looking back to look forward. Join us for the vividly epic A Poem for Rabia which spans centuries, the lush choral protest in Universal Child Care, and the hilarious yet moving contemporary-period mash up in Mad Madge.

Artists have the immense job of painting the futures they know we can inhabit, and the uncanny ability of willing those realities to materialize. We're so proud of the prophetic artists of this season who have harnessed their joy, distemper, love and immense talent exploring what it means to be alive in this moment.

- Xo Andrea and Naz, on behalf of all of us here at Nightwood



Photo by Eden Graham



# THE QUEEN IN ME - *On Tour*

September 20-30, 2023

# GROUNDSWELL FESTIVAL

October 2-5, 2023

# A POEM FOR RABIA

October 17-November 12, 2023

# UNIVERSAL CHILD CARE

February 13-25, 2024

# MAD MADGE

April 9-21, 2024

# LOVE YOU WRONG TIME - *On Tour*

2023-2024



2023-2024 SEASON



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada



FUNDED BY  
THE CITY OF  
TORONTO



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO


an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



Emerging  
Artists



THE  
READY  
COMMITMENT

ARTS  ETOBICOKE



T·Y·W·F The Youssef-Warren  
Foundation



# GROUNDWELL FESTIVAL

A Festival of New Play Readings

October 2 - 5, 2023  
Aki Studio Theatre

Program Director **Donna-Michelle St. Bernard**  
Program Associate **Jade Silman**

Be the first to hear brand new plays from our talented 2022-2023 Write From The Hip playwrights: **Poonam Dhir, Whitney French, Jan Jennings, Lara Lewis, and Maezy Reign**. Learn more about this year's playwrights [here](#).

**Write From The Hip** is a year-long script development program designed to support new writers toward the completion of a full-length play. Don't miss this week of new Canadian plays and professional development opportunities!



The 2022-23 Write From The Hip playwrights from left to right:  
Poonam Dhir, Whitney French, Jan Jennings, and Lara Lewis, Maezy Reign.



# A POEM FOR RABIA

October 17 -

November 12, 2023

at Tarragon Theatre

A Tarragon Theatre  
production in association with  
**Nightwood Theatre** and  
**Undercurrent Creations**

by **Nikki Shaffeeullah**  
Co-Directed by **Clare Preuss**  
and **Donna-Michelle**  
**St. Bernard**

An epic journey across time, oceans, and tectonic shifts in political history. A Poem for Rabia weaves the stories of three queer women from the same bloodline: Zahra, a disillusioned activist in 2053, navigating a Canada that has just abolished prisons; Betty, in 1953 British Guiana, caught between her new secretarial job at the Governor's office and the growing national independence movement; and Rabia, an Indian domestic worker in 1853, abducted by colonial 'recruiters' and sent sailing from Calcutta to the Caribbean on an indentured labour ship.

**Nightwood Theatre** is proud to premiere A Poem for Rabia after its development through the **Write From The Hip** program.

Photo of Nikki Shaffeeullah by Dahlia Katz

**TARRAGON** THEATRE **UNDER  
CURRENT  
CREATIONS**





# UNIVERSAL CHILD CARE

Created by **Quote Unquote Collective** commissioned by **BroadStage, Santa Monica**, in association with **Nightwood Theatre, Why Not Theatre** and **The National Art Centre's National Creation Fund**, presented by **Canadian Stage**.

CanadianStage

QUOTE  
UNQUOTE

**February 13-25, 2024**

**at Berkeley Street Theatre**

Playwrights: **Akosua Amo-Adem, Vicky Araico, Seiko Nakazawa, Amy Nostbakken, Norah Sadava, Stephanie Sourial**  
Director: **Amy Nostbakken**  
Choreographer: **Orian Michaeli**  
Designers: **André du Toit, Matt Smith, Lorenzo Savoini, Michelle Tracey, Christine Urquhart, potatoCakes\_digital**  
Composer: **Amy Nostbakken**  
Musical Director: **Alex Samaras**  
Performers: **Joema Frith, Monica Garrido, Gemaine Konji, Alex Samaras, Fiona Sauder, Norah Sadava, Takako Segawa, Anika Venkatesh**  
Producer: **Jenna Harris**  
Stage Manager: **Tara Mohan**

Witness the sheer power and force of the unaccompanied human voice in the newest work from Quote Unquote Collective. Part concert, part theatre play (and self-consciously neither of those things), the ensemble screams about the lack of affordable child care and growing inequalities while illuminating different approaches to child care around the globe.

Photo of Lennox Eveleigh, Monica Garrido, and Rosie Bretz by Lorne Bridgman





# MAD MADGE

**April 9-21, 2024**

**at The Theatre Centre**

By **Rose Napoli**  
Directed by **Andrea Donaldson**  
A **Nightwood Theatre**  
Production

Commissioned by  
**Kate Amesbury**

If you draw a line from Kim Kardashian way, way back, you'll land on Margaret Cavendish, fiction writer, philosopher, designer, scientist, the OG Jack-of-all-Trades and master of none. And though she doesn't know how to spell, with the help of a bastard brother, an unruly Queen, and a weepy musketeer, Margaret learns that it is possible to have it all. Paying homage to Jane Austen and Tina Fey in the same breath, this laugh out loud contemporary / period mashup suggests that perhaps our hunger for unbridled attention is not so shallow, after all.

Photo of Rose Napoli by Dahlia Katz





Created and performed by

**Teiya Kasahara** 笠原貞野

Co-Directed by

**Andrea Donaldson & Aria Umezawa**

Accompanied by **David Eliakis**

Photo of Teiya Kasahara 笠原貞野 by Dahlia Katz

# THE QUEEN IN ME

**September 20-30, 2023**

at The National  
Arts Centre

The **NAC English Theatre** presentation of the  
**Theatre Gargantua/Amplified Opera/Canadian  
Opera Company/Nightwood Theatre** co-production.

Approaching the climax of one of the world's most famous arias, the Queen of the Night abruptly breaks the fourth wall to speak out against the monochromatic strictures that keep opera rooted in the standards of the past. Combining comedy, drama, and plenty of opera, this vibrant show by interdisciplinary artist Teiya Kasahara 笠原貞野 (they/them) gives a voice to the Queen of the Night, who explores how the rigid conventions of race, gender, and sexuality in opera prevent one of the greatest art forms from reaching its kaleidoscopic potential.

# LOVE YOU WRONG TIME

**2023-2024** in Vancouver  
& others

Conceived, Composed and  
Performed by **Deanna H. Choi** and  
**Maddie Bautista**

Directed by and Created with **Erin  
Brubacher**

**Vancouver Asian  
Canadian Theatre**  
in association with  
**Nightwood** presents a  
**Bad Muse Collective**  
production.

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

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.

Recent winner of **2 Dora Awards**  
with **5 nominations**





# SUBSCRIBE & SAVE

Nightwood is bringing back **Season Passes**, the best deal to access our electric season of unforgettable theatre.

In addition to tickets for our 3 powerful shows, Season Pass holders also get:

- Flexible and convenient booking
- Major savings on our entire season



Season Pass shows include:

<b>A Poem for Rabia</b> by Nikki Shaffeeullah	<b>Universal Child Care</b> by Quote Unquote Collective	<b>Mad Madge</b> by Rose Napoli
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**General  
Season Pass**

**\$135.60**

**Arts Worker, Senior,  
Under 30 Pass**

**\$84.75**

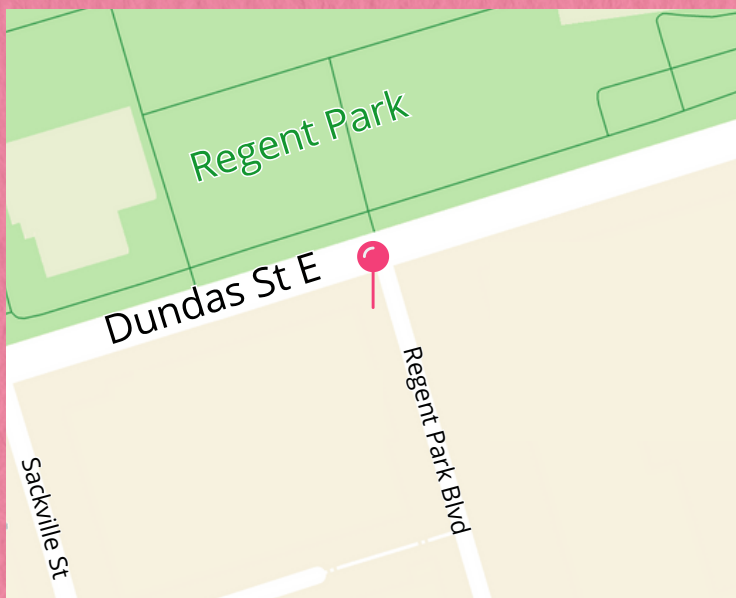
**ORDER NOW**

Our Season Passes offer an unbeatable price to see our whole 2023-2024 line-up. A very limited quantity of passes are available. Head to our website for more information.

*Prices include HST*



# SHOW VENUE MAPS



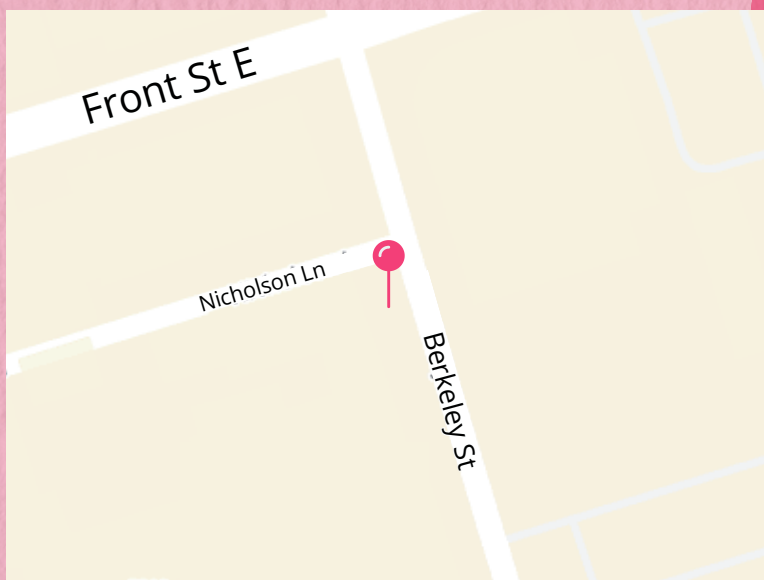
## **Groundswell Festival - October 2-5, 2023**

Aki Studio Theatre  
585 Dundas St. E.  
Box Office: 416-531-1402



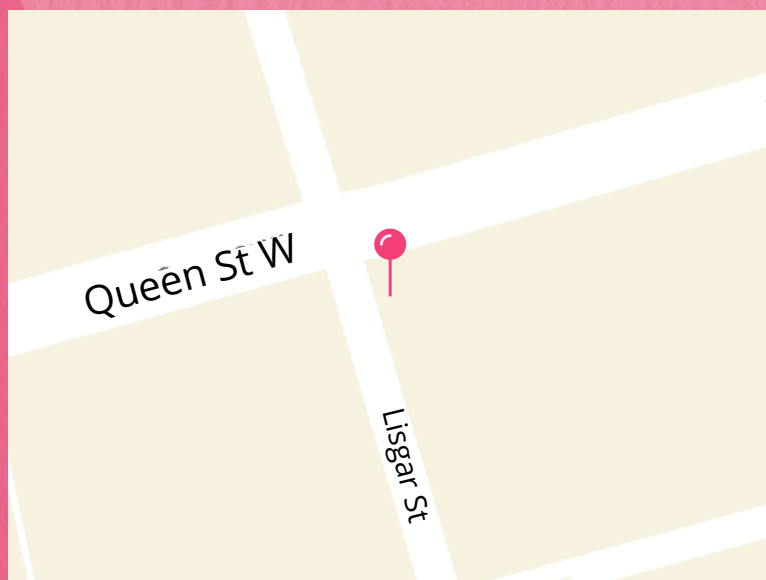
## **A Poem for Rabia - Oct 17-Nov 12, 2023**

Tarragon Theatre - Extra Space  
30 Bridgman Avenue  
Box office: 416-531-1827



## **Universal Child Care - Feb 13-25, 2024**

Canadian Stage - Berkeley Street Theatre  
26 Berkeley Street  
Box office: 416-368-3110

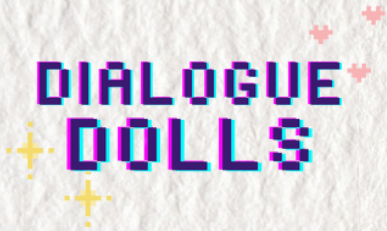


## **Mad Madge - April 9-21, 2024**

The Theatre Centre - Franco Boni Theatre  
1115 Queen St W  
Box office: 416-538-0988



CREATRYX



# ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

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! We are proud to offer the following opportunities:

- **Creatryx** - Our popular online writing room
- **Dialogue Dolls** - A new playwriting unit for IBPOC trans women & trans femmes
- **Nightwood Innovators program** - Emerging artist-producers training, supported by TD Ready Commitment
- **Play Development Accelerator program** - Helping plays to get from the page to the stage, supported by BMO Financial Group
- **Rising Moon program** - Mentorship for young writers aged 16-19
- **Write From The Hip** - Our year-long script development program for exceptional emerging theatre creators, supported by RBC Emerging Artists

Head to our website to see other funding opportunities including OAC Recommender Grants, and the Louise Garfield Award.



# SUPPORT FEMINIST THEATRE

Pull up a chair and join a dynamic group of audience members, artists and advocates who are dedicated to ensuring the future of feminist theatre. Your support will help us launch our next season and support women and gender-expansive artists through our renowned training programs, play development initiatives and productions.

When you join our family of donors, you support some of the most talented theatre professionals in the country. We need supporters like you to make this work happen!

We invite you to explore our new range of donor levels and find the perfect fit for your giving priorities!

## Ally \$25-499

- Tax receipt for the full amount of your donation
- Recognition on our donor page

## Friend \$500-999

- Tax receipt for the full amount of your donation
- Recognition on our donor page
- Advanced notice for pre/post show chats

## Collaborator \$1,000-9,999

- Tax receipt for the full amount of your donation
- Recognition on our donor page
- Advanced notice for pre/post show chats
- 2 Tickets to a Nightwood Theatre Production

## Champion \$10,000+

- Tax receipt for the full amount of your donation
- Recognition on our donor page
- Advanced notice for pre/post show chats
- 2 Tickets to Opening Night for each show
- 2 tickets to an annual donor event

**DONATE**

Nightwood Theatre is a registered charity and offers tax receipts for all donations.

Registered Charitable  
Organization No.  
123709339 RR0001



# HELP OUR NEW HOME

Nightwood Theatre and Tapestry Opera are building a new collaborative space. We are poised to create a new vibrant arts community and an innovative partnership with the affordable housing organization St. Clare's. Just north of Yonge and Bloor, the new facility will be a bold step towards establishing the centre of Toronto as the next great destination for artists and audiences, and as an inspired space designed by Hilditch Architects.

While Toronto experiences a drought of arts venues, Tapestry and Nightwood are creating a stable and exciting new arts complex in the heart of Toronto, close to public transit access. The new space includes a 6,500 square foot facility including a 2700 sq foot performance hall, rehearsal studio, greenroom and shared office spaces.

To contact us regarding recognition for donations in support of 877 Yonge St, please email Charlene Wolf, Head of Partnerships & Giving, at [charlene@nightwoodtheatre.net](mailto:charlene@nightwoodtheatre.net).

**SUPPORT OUR**  
**CAMPAIGN**

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Photo of our first 877 Announcement Launch by Dahlia Katz



CONSUMPTIVE  
**CONSUME**  
FEMINIST  
**CULTURE**  
CULTURE

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