



2023 GROUNDSWELL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 2-5, 2023

A FESTIVAL OF NEW PLAYS

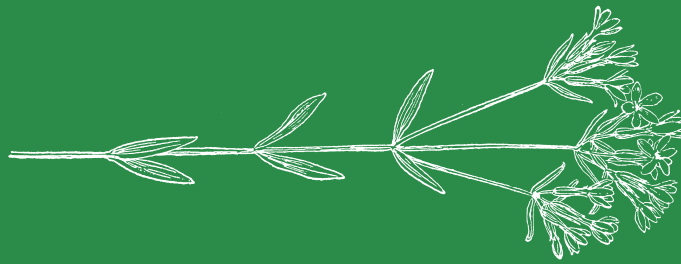
THE 2022/23 WRITE FROM THE HIP PLAYWRIGHTS:

Poonam Dhir, Whitney French, Jan Alicia Jennings,
Lara Lewis, and Maezy Reign

With a reading from a Nightwood commissioned piece by
Yolanda Bonnell

Program Director: Donna-Michelle St. Bernard

Program Associate: Jade Silman



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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 First Nation, 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.

WELCOME TO GROUNDSWELL!



Since 1985, the Groundswell Festival has been a place of 'firsts' for new works. It is an event that embraces process over polish, attracting artists and audiences who want the thrill of experiencing raw works by exceptional creators.

This season we have five public readings from the Write From The Hip emerging playwrights program, two free professional development sessions for the community, and one first public sharing of a commissioned new play.

We are grateful to be the first home for many of these newer playwrights and to surround them with the immense talent this city has to offer with an accomplished array of guest directors and actors to breathe life into their words.

Thank you so much for being a part of Groundswell!

Donna Michelle St. Berard
Program Director

&

Andrea Donaldson
Artistic Director

Nightwood's Write From The Hip playwright unit is generously supported by:



The Eighth Fire pt 1: The Great Migration is generously supported by:



Special thanks to:





ABOUT NIGHTWOOD THEATRE

As Canada's preeminent feminist theatre, Nightwood cultivates, creates, and produces extraordinary theatre by women and gender-expansive artists, liberating futures, one room at a time. Founded in 1979, Nightwood Theatre has created and produced award-winning plays, which have won Dora Mavor Moore, Chalmers, Trillium, and Governor General's awards. To learn more about Nightwood Theatre, please visit nightwoodtheatre.net.

ABOUT WRITE FROM THE HIP

Write From The Hip is a year-long script development program designed to support new writers through mentorship, one-on-one dramaturgy, developmental workshops and readings, all working towards the completion of a full-length play. The program supports women and gender-expansive playwrights who are emerging in craft. Nightwood has gone on to produce a number of the plays developed in this program, including *Lo (or, Dear Mr. Wells)* by Rose Napoli, *Every Day She Rose* by Andrea Scott and Nick Green, *Grace* by Jane Doe and this season's *A Poem For Rabia* by Nikki Shaffeeullah, produced by Tarragon Theatre in association with Nightwood Theatre and Undercurrent Creations.

Banner of the Nightwood 23-24 season shows with illustrations by Lenny Lishchenko, and photos by Dahlia Katz and Lorne Bridgeman.

2023 GROUNDSWELL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2ND

7:00PM | "Curtain Raisers" from
Rebecca Auerbach &
Krystal Kavita Jagoo

Followed by

Hang in There
by Maezy Reign

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

7:00PM | *If I've Sinned, I've Seized*
by Whitney French

30 minute Intermission

8:30PM | *The Eighth Fire part 1:
The Great Migration*
by Yolanda Bonnell

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

7:00PM | "Curtain Raisers" from
Cassandra Marcus
Davey & Brefny Caribou

Followed by

Weltamultiek
by Lara Lewis

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

7:00PM | *Habitat*
by Jan Alicia Jennings

30 minute Intermission

8:45PM | *Where Have all the Filmi
Women Gone?*
by Poonam Dhir

HANG IN THERE

BY MAEZY REIGN

Directed by **MAX CAMERON FEARON**

Performed by **STEPHANIE FUNG, NETA J. ROSE, LILI ROBINSON,
KEIRA MARIE FORDE, PHILIPPA DOMVILLE, VIVIEN ENDICOTT-DOUGLAS**

Stage directions read by **DARNIE TRAN**

Hang in There is the most ridiculous phrase that is thrown around in the mental health industry, you'd think they could come up with something that doesn't immediately make you think of a noose. Follow Brimstone and their friends as they navigate growing up, falling in love, and settling into their own existence. *Hang In There* is a love story between friends and most importantly, it's all based on the truth.

Content Warning: suicide, self-harm

There is discussion of mental illness, intrusive thoughts, self-violence, suicidal ideation, and suicide. Please remember to practice self-care before, during, and after experiencing my work. Be kind to your old scars, and to yourself.



MAEZY REIGN (THEY/SHE) – PLAYWRIGHT

Maezy Reign (they/she) is a biracial multidisciplinary artist, born and raised in Calgary. They work as a playwright, lighting designer and occasional actor. They are determined to create art that has the representation she never saw growing up, like mentally ill, gender diverse, queer, and racialized main characters. Recent projects include *Teen Prophet* (Lunchbox), *Gaslight* (Vertigo), *The F Word* (Downstage and ATP). You can see more of their work at maezyreign.com or @maezy.reign on Instagram!



MAX CAMERON FEARON (THEY/THEM) – DIRECTOR

Max Cameron Fearon is a queer, genderqueer, Mad, and multiply-disabled artist. Their artistic practice centers care and explores how the relationships we form with ourselves and others are shaped by systemic realities. As a director, dramaturge, administrator, and creator-facilitator, Max is interested in collaborative storytelling, magic realism, and community engagement through the arts.

Max is excited to be directing for the Groundswell Festival, having participated in 2022-2023 as WFTH Program Associate, and in 2018-2019 as a Nightwood Innovator. Other companies they've worked with this year include: SummerWorks (Asst. Producer - Programming); Dead Name Theatre (Assoc. Director & Dramaturge - *Into the Woods*); Paprika Festival (Lighting Designer - Design Lab); Theatre of the Beat (Director - *I Love You and It Hurts*); and mentored with Vanessa Porteous through the Canadian Guild of Directors and Choreographers.

You can connect with Max via their website at mcfearon.com, or on Instagram at @mc.fearon.



STEPHANIE FUNG (THEY/SHE) – CHERRY

A performer, writer, director, producer, educator and theatre critic — Stephanie Fung (they/she) is an interdisciplinary performance artist who is particularly influenced by artistry that is indulgent, subversive and counter-cultural.

Since 2021, Stephanie has co-facilitated the Toronto Fringe's New Young Reviewers program and recently participated in Canada's first IBPOC Critics Lab with Intermission Magazine and Stratford Festival. Their publications can be found in the Canadian Theatre Review, Generator TO, Kingston Theatre Alliance, and Intermission Magazine.

With the support of Studio 180 and Buddies in Bad Times, Stephanie is working towards a final draft of their... *[cont.]*

... play *As a former fat kid*, which was initially developed through Nightwood Theatre's Write From The Hip program.

Recent artistic credits include: *Observer Effect* (Theatre Centre); *The Dog Play* (Factory Theatre); *As a former fat kid* (Nightwood Theatre); *The Makers & Shakers Society* (Radioland Media); *Collider* (Single Thread Theatre Company). Learn more at www.stephaniefung.ca

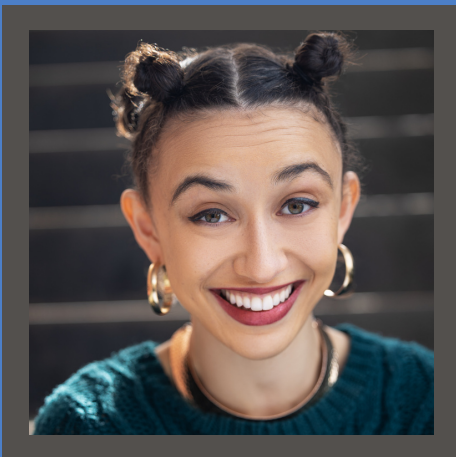


NETA J. ROSE (THEY/THEM) – SKYE

Neta J. Rose is a proud non-binary Ashkenazi Jewish actor, artist, and poet based in Tkaronto. They are a graduate of the Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies at U of T, and were a founding member of Create! Performing Arts in Scotland, now in its 14th year.

Neta's theatre credits include: *Henry G20* (Luminato), *Omnibus Bill* (TACTICS), *The Bonds of Interest* (Odyssey), *The Penelopiad* (Hart House), *Heart of a Dog* (Next Stage), and *The Garden of Alla* (Minmar Gaslight), for which the Toronto Star called their performance "revelatory" (they're not over that yet). They will next be seen on stages across Canada, touring with Theatre of the Beat in *I Love You & It Hurts*.

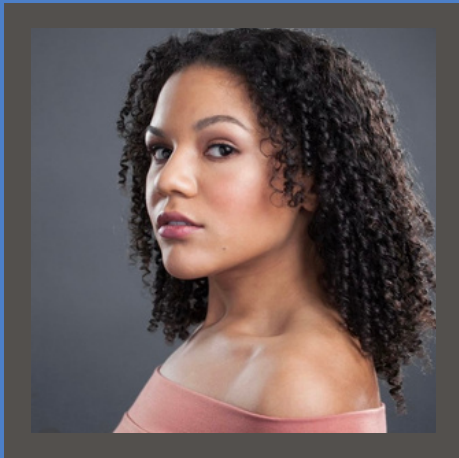
Neta's writing has been published in Salty Magazine and in the "Pandemic Poetry" chapbook by Buddies in Bad Times. They have a new poetry collection coming soon.



LILI ROBINSON (SHE/THEY) – BRIMSTONE

Lili Robinson is a theatre artist, poet and facilitator raised on unceded Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh territories. Lili is passionate about centring voices at the intersections of queerness, Black diaspora, socio-economic diversity and femme identity in their work. Since graduating Studio 58 in 2018, Lili has worked in various roles with companies including Theatre Replacement, Rumble Theatre, Playwrights Theatre Centre, the Arts Club, Electric Theatre Company, the frank theatre, UpintheAir Theatre, ... [cont.]

... New Harlem Productions and the Cultch. Most recently, they've worked as Community Engagement Producer for PTC and for the frank theatre, as Resident Curator at rEvolver Festival, and as a dramaturg for the Parallel Project, supporting emerging BIPOC playwrights to develop new work. In 2019, Lili won multiple awards for her debut play, *Mx*. She's currently working on two new plays, and is grateful to be a 2023 nominee for Playwrights Guild of Canada's John Palmer award.



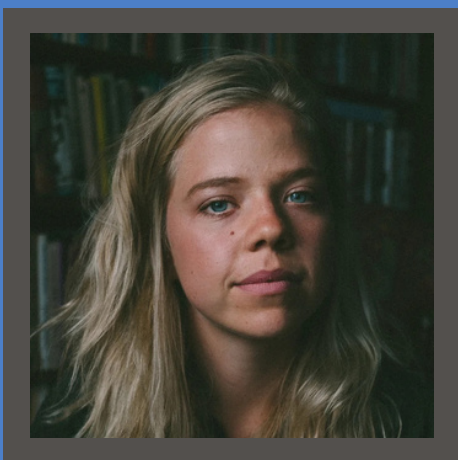
KEIRA MARIE FORDE (SHE/HER) – JUNIPER

Keira Marie Forde is an Ontario-based, professional, multi-disciplinary creator, performer, producer, and arts educator. Keira's work in dance, theatre, and sound creation has been seen on stage and screen across the globe. Keira's recent credits include *Riot* based on the Christie Pits riot with Hogtown Collective, *What's So Funny* with Carousel Players, and *No More News for Nancy* with Alberta-based company Major Matt Mason Collective. As an arts educator, Keira has worked with over seven different theatre for young audience companies across Canada and was selected to be a Peel region school board ambassador for Wellness Wednesday. Keira is fortunate enough to base her creative practice on creating culturally relevant dance and theatre whether that be through her recent residency with Jaberri Dance Theater where she explored traditional Mas characters in Trinidad Carnival or working as the outreach coordinator for the Common Ground Dance festival by Toes For Dance.



PHILIPPA DOMVILLE – BEIGE / CHARCOAL / CHARTRUESE

Philippa has worked as a film and theatre actor, choreographer and theatre creator for the last thirty years. She has played leading roles at both the Stratford and Shaw Festivals, received a Dora nomination for her work in *Time After Time; The Chet Baker Project* and was part of the international cast of the original production of Margaret Atwood's *Penelopiad* at the RSC. She has workshopped and originated roles in over twenty new Canadian plays including that of Procne in the original production of the Governor General Award winning *If We Were Birds*. She is currently on stage at Crow's Theatre in the premier of *The Master Plan* by Micheal Healey and this winter she appeared in Mark Crawford's new play *The Gig* at Theatre Aquarius. She can be seen on Netflix as a series regular in *Damnation* and in the sci fi thriller *In the Shadow of the Moon*. Her theatre choreographic works include *The Tempest* at the Stratford Festival and *The Penelopiad* for The Grand Theatre and with her own company Petit Jeu Philippa created five works of movement theatre to critical acclaim. She is an active member of Artist for Real Climate Action and teaches bodywork and movement for actors/artists.



VIVIEN ENDICOTT-DOUGLAS – LARKIN

Vivien Endicott-Douglas is a Toronto born actor, creator and facilitator. She has performed with the National Arts Centre, Canadian Stage, Tarragon, Nightwood, Crows, Factory, YPT, Summerworks and the CoalMine Theatre. Vivien is the recipient of two Outstanding Lead Performance Dora Award nominations for her work in *Guarded Girls* (Tarragon Theatre) and *Lo or Dear Mr. Wells* (Nightwood Theatre). Her recent TV credits include; *Transplant* (NBC), *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC) and *Fitting in* (TIFF 2023). Vivien was nominated for an ACTRA Award for her work in the feature film *The Shape of Rex*. An alum of the CFC Actors Conservatory, her debut short film *Grandma was a Cowgirl* recently premiered at the Female Eye Film Festival.

IF I'VE SINNED, I'VE SEIZED

By **WHITNEY FRENCH**

Directed by **SEDINA FIATI**

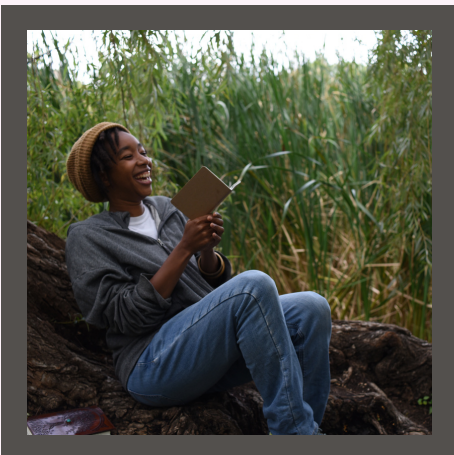
Featuring **MEGHAN SWABY, JIMMY OMINO, STARR DOMINGUE,
EMERJADE SIMMS**

Stage directions read by **MELISSA AVALOS**

Sylvia, in her second trimester, simply can't catch a break.

She's the owner of a Black-owned feminist bike shop and is busier than ever — spring is high season after all, even her sister-friend Clay, honorary aunty-to-be cannot convince her to rest. There's so much to do, including preparing for the QTBIPOC fundraiser spearheaded by the only other employee of the shop: the ever-opinionated Alyssa. For Sylvia, this is more than a fundraiser, it's a memorial for her late maternal figure Freyda. Tensions rise as Sylvie's past and Alyssa's present unearths their politics around reproductive rights but chaos truly erupts when Freyda's biological son shows up unannounced.

Content Warning: abortion, grief and mention of death



WHITNEY FRENCH (SHE/HER) – PLAYWRIGHT

Whitney French is a writer and multidisciplinary artist. She is a self-described Black futurist, middle child, troublemaker committed to centering stories about Black folks and QTBIPOC communities around memory, loss, technology and nature. Her writing has appeared in the Carousel Magazine, ARC Poetry, GEIST, CBC Books and others. Whitney French is the founder of the multi-city workshop series *Writing While Black* as well as the editor of the award-winning anthology *Black Writers Matter*. Additionally, she is the co-founder of the Black queer feminist press Hush Harbour. Currently, she lives in Toronto.



SEDINA FIATI (SHE/THEY) – DIRECTOR

Sedina Fiati is a multi award winning, Toronto based performer, producer, director, creator and activist for stage and screen. Proudly Black, queer and femme, Sedina is deeply invested in artistic work that explores the intersection between art and activism, either in form or structure or ideally both. Sedina holds a BFA in Music Theatre from the University of Windsor and is a proud graduate of Etobicoke School of the Arts. Favourite and recent artistic projects: *The World Goes 'Round* (Nightwood Theatre, director), *Peace Camp* (Children's Peace Theatre, director 2019 - 2021, 2023), *Every Day She Rose* (Nightwood Theatre, co-director), *Switch: The Village* (collective member, QTBIPOC street performance, SummerWorks 2020 - 2023), *Feminist Fuck It Festival* (multidisciplinary festival, co-creator and co-producer), *Tokens* (performer, web series, Canadian Screen Award Winner - Best Supporting Performance). Sedina recently completed 2.5 years as Artist-Activist in Residence at Nightwood Theatre and is a proud founding member of the Black Pledge Collective. Upcoming projects: *Last Dance* (a web series).



JIMMY OMINO (HE/HIM) – OMARI

Jimmy Omino is a Kenyan-Canadian actor/artist trained at Sheridan's Theatre and Drama Studies program. Some past Theatre credits include: "God/Usher" in *Everybody*, "Damis" in *Tartuffe*, "The Cardinal" in *The Duchess of Malfi* (Theatre Erindale) and "Ray Dooley" in *Beauty Queen of Leenane* (Guelph Theatre).

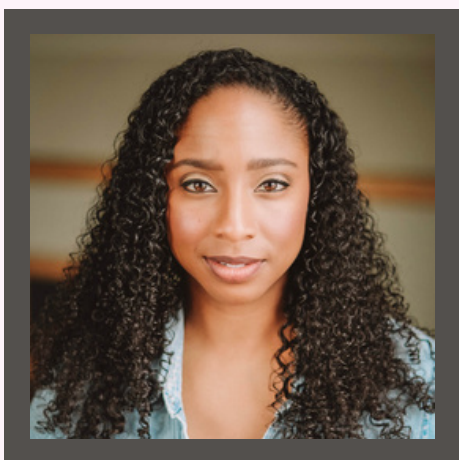
Jimmy also enjoys writing and making music/content for his other artistic endeavors, hoping to be a swiss army knife of art much like Childish Gambino (Donald Glover). He would like to thank Nightwood Theatre and Andrea Donaldson for the opportunity to workshop the unique and special *If I've Sinned, I've Seized*. He would also like to thank Newton Landry for connecting him with great opportunities and artists such as these.



MEGHAN SWABY (SHE/HER) – SYLVIA

Meghan is a first generation Jamaican - Canadian actor and writer based in Toronto. She has performed throughout Canada, US, Mexico and the UK. Some of her favorite projects include: *Prodigal* (Howland Company/Crow's Theatre), *Controlled Damage* (Neptune Theatre/b current), *Calpurnia* (Nightwood Theatre/Sulong Theatre), *Venus' Daughter* (Obsidian Theatre), *In This World* (Roseneath Theatre), *Family Story* (Birdtown and Swanville / Summerworks) and *All Our Happy Days Are Stupid* (Harbourfront Theatre/The Kitchen - NYC). Film/TV: *Condor* (AT&T), *Ghostwriter* (Sinking Ship/Apple TV+) and *Odd Squad Mobile Unit* (Sinking Ship/PBS). She has voiced roles for animated series such as; *Let's Go Bananas* (9 Story Media/Brown Bag), *Kiya and the Kimoja Heroes* (eOne, Disney Jr), *Max & Ruby* (Treehouse) and *Pinkalicious & The Peterrific* (PBS Kids).

Last year, Meghan's play *Venus' Daughter* was published by Scirocco drama. Meghan also co-hosts and produces, *Beneath The Ceiba Tree*, a podcast about Caribbean folklore from a contemporary diasporic lens.



STARR DOMINGUE (SHE/HER) – CLAY

Starr Domingue is a multi-hyphenate artist, scholar and educator from Toronto, Ontario. A 20+ year veteran of stage and screen she has performed all over Canada, the United States and Europe. Selected theatre credits consist of having been an original Toronto company member of *Hairspray*, the stage musical, and the feature film of the same name, multiple productions of *Ain't Misbehavin'* including the 30th Anniversary Broadway Tour culminating in a resident directorship for the European tour, and years performing at Canada's two major repertory companies, the Shaw Festival and the Stratford Festival. Selected television credits include Foursquare's *Fourtone* and Oddsquad's *Puppy Master*. In the past year, Starr achieved her Masters in Theatre while also performing in the musicals *Room* and *Dixon Road* for Mirvish and The Musical Stage Company, respectively. ...[cont.]

... She followed that up with a Dora award nominated role in The Musical Stage Company's *Retold* and was in The Crow's Theatre's Dora award winning production of *Red Velvet*. She is also the creator/producer and host of the digital talk show, The Blacktor's Studio: an online interview series highlighting the journey of actors of Colour who grace the Canadian stage.



EMERJADE SIMMS (SHE/HER) – ALYSSA (AI)

Emerjade Simms is a Jamaican-Canadian actor, storyteller and deviser-director. She is a graduate of the Acting program at the University of Windsor and holds a BFA degree. Emerjade is also a 2016/17 graduate of the Mechanicals program at Factory Theatre. She loves "da kids" and has been a director of Peace Camp at Children's Peace Theatre for the past two years. Select theatre credits (Acting) include *Redbone Coonhound* (Arts Club), *Calpurnia* (RMTC/NAC), *The Mountaintop* (Persephone Theatre), *1851: Spirit and Voice* (Soulpepper/Myseum), *21 Black Futures: Omega Child* (Obsidian/CBC), *Peter Pan* (Bad Hats/Soulpepper), *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play** (Obsidian/Nightwood), *Wounded Soldiers* (4th Line), *The Bird Killer* (Let Me In). Television credits include *Forbidden*, *Fear Thy Neighbor*, *See No Evil* and *Paranormal 911*. Emerjade enjoys napping in her downtime and loves her mom like cooked food. Always take a leap of Faith.

THE EIGHTH FIRE PART 1: THE GREAT MIGRATION

BY YOLANDA BONNELL

Directed by **YOLANDA BONNELL**

Stage Managed by **DYLAN TATE-HOWARTH**

Sound designed by **MIQUELON RODRIGUEZ**

Movement facilitation by **ARIA EVANS** and **YOLANDA BONNELL**

Featuring **ARIA EVANS, HEATH V. SALAZAR, T'áncháy Redvers, CHERISH VIOLET BLOOD, COLE ALVIS, JESSE WABEGIJIG, NICOLE JOY-FRASER, TYLER J. SLOANE**

Stage directions read by **SHAHARAH GAZNABBI**

Accessibility Consultant **JESSICA WATKIN**

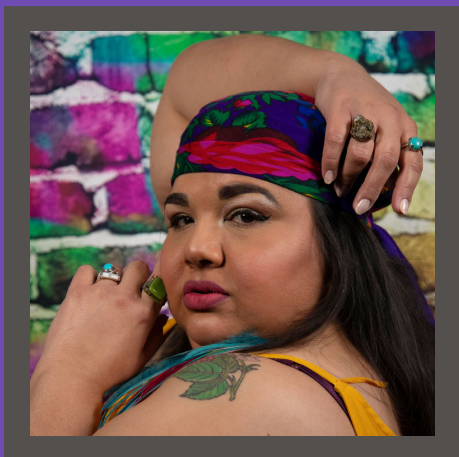
Outside Eye **JOELLE PETERS**

The Eighth Fire pt 1: The Great Migration follows the Anishinaabek on their 500 year migration from the eastern doorway to the shores of “Lake Superior” as part of a prophecy called the 7 Fires. Time collides as these ancestors simultaneously presence themselves to a group of land and water defenders in the future, who are struggling to find hope in a world that is burning. This funny, touching and somewhat meta tale is told in two parts by a chorus of archetypal storytellers, starting with the distant past, taking us full circle to the distant future in the second part, *Bagosenim / Have Hope*. In this offering, you will witness an active reading of part 1

Content Warning: colonial history that may bring up emotions around assimilation and genocide

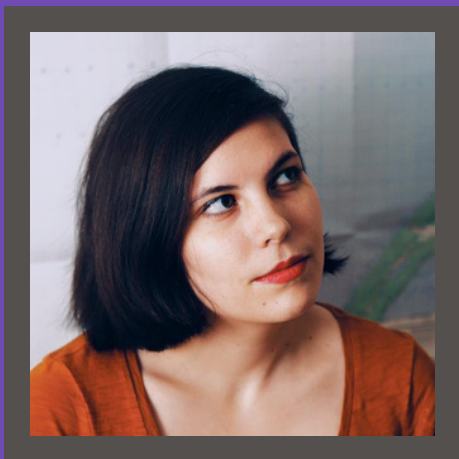
**The Eighth Fire pt 1: The Great Migration* is commissioned by Nightwood Theatre with the support of Kate Amsbury and the BMO Play Development Accelerator

**The Eighth Fire pt 1: The Great Migration* is produced with the support of Ontario Arts Council



YOLANDA BONNELL (THEY/SHE) – PLAYWRIGHT, DIRECTOR & MOVEMENT FACILITATOR

Yolanda Bonnell is a Bi/Queer 2 Spirit Anishinaabe-Ojibwe, South Asian mixed performer, playwright and multidisciplinary creator/educator. Hailing from Fort William First Nation, Ontario her arts practice is now based in Tkarón:to. In February 2020, Yolanda's four-time Dora nominated solo show *bug* was remounted at Theatre Passe Muraille while the published book (Scirocco Publishing 2020) was shortlisted for a Governor General's Literary Award. In 2022, her play *White Girls in Moccasins*, was produced at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre as well as at the frank theatre on Coast Salish Territory. Yolanda was the first Indigenous artist recipient of the Jayu Arts for Human Rights Award for her work and won the PGC Tom Hendry Drama Award for her play, *My Sister's Rage* which was produced by Tarragon Theatre in 2022. Yolanda has taught/facilitated at schools like York University and Sheridan College and proudly bases her practice in land-based creation, drawing on energy and inspiration from the earth and her ancestors.



DYLAN TATE-HOWARTH (SHE/HER) – STAGE MANAGER

Dylan Tate-Howarth is a theatre artist based in Toronto. She works as a stage manager primarily for new and/or devised theatre. Selected stage management credits include *Two Birds One Stone* (Two Birds Theatre); *Italian Mime Suicide*, and *Flashing Lights* (Bad New Days); *Broken Shapes* (The Theatre Centre); and *White Girls in Moccasins* (manidoons collective and Buddies in Bad Times). Dylan is a co-creator of Probably Theatre Collective and co-curator of Probably Poetry.

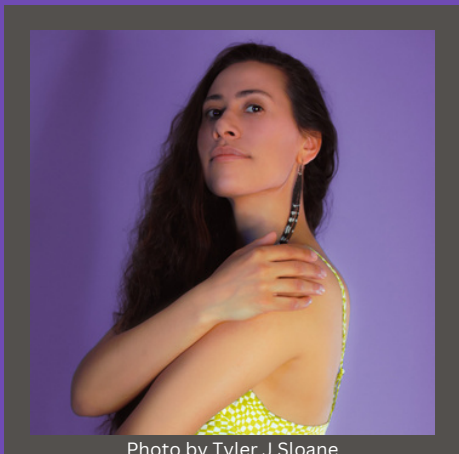


Photo by Tyler J Sloane

ARIA EVANS (THEY/SHE/HE) – NIIYAW, THE BODY / NIA & MOVEMENT FACILITATOR

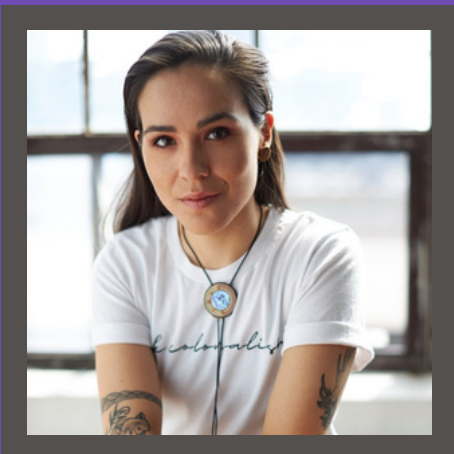
Aria Evans is a queer, award winning interdisciplinary artist who's practice spans dance, theatre and film. As a public speaker, activist and creative leader Aria draws on their experiences of being mixed race. Aria just started a new Assistant Professor teaching position at the University of Winnipeg facilitating movement in... [cont.]

... the Film and Theatre Department and they are a certified Intimacy Coordinator. With a large-scale vision, collaboration is the departure point to the choreographic work that Aria creates under their company POLITICAL MOVEMENT. Advocating for inclusion and the representation of diversity, Aria uses their artistic practice to question the ways we can coexist together. www.politicalmovement.ca



HEATH V. SALAZAR (THEY/THEM) – ANA, THE STAR / ANDI

Heath V. Salazar is a Dora Award-winning multidisciplinary Latinx performer and writer based in Toronto. Named a 'prolific trans artist' by CBC Arts, Heath has developed their career in theatre and film with a focus on projects that center intersectional forms of queer and trans representation. One of their biggest honours to date has been their nomination for LGBTQ Person of the Year from the 2019 Inspire Awards. Through their writing, Heath has completed residencies with The Banff Centre for the Arts, Aluna Theatre, and is currently an Artist in Residence at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. You can catch them on screen in their role as *Arrow* on Season 2 of the award-winning CBC and HBO Max original series *Sort Of*. Most recently, Heath returned from Winnipeg where they originated the role of Dom in Prairie Theatre Exchange's world premiere of *Volare* by Elio Zarrillo.



T'ÁNCHÁY REDVERS (THEY/THEM) – WAY, THE TRICKSTER / BIJOU

T'áncháy Redvers is a Dene & Métis two-spirit writer, creator, and multidisciplinary performer belonging to Deninu K'ue First Nation who has been nationally and internationally recognized for their work and advocacy. T'áncháy co-founded We Matter, a national Indigenous-led multi-media campaign and non-profit dedicated to Indigenous youth hope and life promotion. They are a poet, children's book author, and screenwriter featured in numerous creative, anthology and academic publications. They have... [cont.]

... story edited and written for shows airing on CTV, Netflix, Apple TV+ and PBS Kids. In addition to the over hundred talks, workshops and panels they've delivered across North America and beyond, they are a performance artist and actor with performances spanning ABC, CBC, Paramount+, Pride Toronto, Paprika Festival, and more. T'áncháy is also a member of BIPOC TV & Film's Board of Directors, an organization working to uproot barriers for Black, Indigenous and People of Colour across Canada's screen media industry.



CHERISH VIOLET BLOOD (SHE/HER) – MASHKIKIKWE, THE MEDICINE WOMAN / KIKI

Actor, storyteller, and activist, Cherish Violet Blood is a proud Blackfoot woman whom hails from the Kainai Nation, or Blood Tribe Reserve #148 in Treaty 7 territory located in southern Alberta. Currently residing in Toronto, Ontario, Cherish is a professionally trained and well recognized performing artist with active followings in the national Indigenous and international theatre communities. Cherish has performed all over North America, Australia, New Zealand, and Scotland. Select credits include creator/performer in *Material Witness* (Spiderwoman Theatre La Mama, NYC), creator/performer in *Making Treaty 7* directed by Michelle Thrush in Calgary, AB. The lead role in *Deer Woman*, a new play that has been touring internationally by Tara Beagan, and most recently, awarded the Canadian Screen Award for actress in supporting role for her role in *Scarborough*. As a natural comedian Cherish has hosted many album release parties for artists such as Iskwe, LAL, and Fiver, as well as for community events and numerous fundraisers.

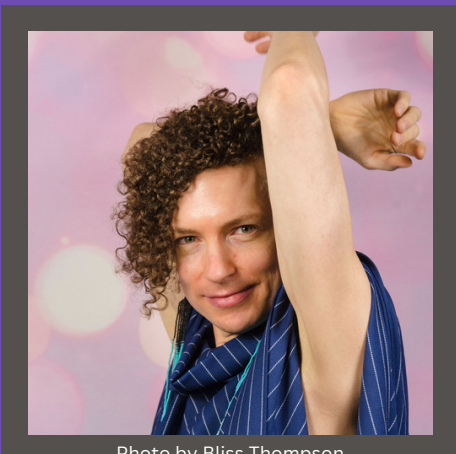


Photo by Bliss Thompson

COLE ALVIS (SHE/HER) – INAKAMIGAD, THE PROPHET/MIK

Cole Alvis is a Turtle Mountain Michif (Métis) artist based in Tkarón:to with Chippewa, Irish & English ancestors. She is one of the leaders of lemonTree creations, manidoons collective, and AdHoc Assembly, and is on the board of the Dancers Of Damelahamid. Previously, Cole directed the Dora-nominated *bug* by Yolanda Bonnell (manidoons collective & Luminato) and, alongside co-director Michael Greyeyes, was Dora-nominated for the Indigenous... [cont.]

... opera *Two Odysseys: Pimootewin / Gállábártnit* (Signal Theatre, National Sami Theatre Beaivváš & Soundstreams). Recently, she directed *Salt Baby* by Falen Johnson (Theatre Aquarius), *Toka* by Indrit Kasapi (lemonTree creations & Theatre Passe Muraille), and co-directed *White Girls In Moccasins* by Yolanda Bonnell (manidoons collective & Buddies In Bad Times Theatre). Next: Cole co-directs, alongside Yvette Nolan (Algonquin), *Three Fingers Back* by Donna-Michelle St. Bernard (lemonTree creations & Tarragon Theatre), and performs in *You Used To Call Me Marie* by Tai Amy Grauman (Savage Society & NAC Indigenous Theatre).



JESSE H. WABEGIJIG (THEY/THEM) – BAWAAJIGAN, THE MESSENGER / BEAN

Jesse is an Ojibway performer, community arts creator, facilitator, dramaturge, director and puppet maker. They are passionately involved in the preservation of Indigenous cultural heritage and maintain a practice as a firekeeper and storyteller. They have had the opportunity to work with many historically significant companies that have shaped both the Indigenous art and public art sector in Canada. They include: Debajehmujig Storytellers, Shadowland Theatre, the National Arts Centre, Paprika Festival, Jumbies Theatre, The Community Arts Guild and MABELLEarts. They have trained extensively with the Centre for Indigenous theatre.



NICOLE JOY-FRASER – ASABIKESHII / WEBBIE

Nicole Joy-Fraser (Tsa'tinée, Nehiyaw, Métis, Euro-Settler) is a Niagara based, Indigi-queer performing artist. For over 20 years she has been storytelling for stage and screen, across Turtle Island and beyond, and has worked with many celebrated companies such as The Stratford Festival, The Shaw, Studio 180, Mirvish, Tarragon, Soulpepper, Theatre Aquarius, The Blyth Festival, Native Earth, The Charlottetown Festival, Talk is Free Theatre, CBC, CBS, BBC and Telefilm. As a proud Bear clan member... [cont.]

... Hand drum carrier and 60's scoop witness, supporting each other through healing and the Indigenous arts continues to be a passion of hers and she is grateful to the Anishnaabeg and Haudenosaunee communities that have been guiding her urban Indigenous journey. Nicole is deeply honoured to be telling this story and collaborating once again with Yolanda's vision; it's decolonization and reclamation. Kinânaskomitin ~All My Relations



TYLER J. SLOANE (THEY/THEM) – NIIYAW / YAWA

As an Anishinaabe (Oji-cree), Chinese, White mixed race Non-binary artist, their work emphasises marginalised voices with an intrinsic intersectional lens and artistic framework. As a trans racial adoptee growing up in a predominantly white community, their desire to represent the beauty of experiencing racialization and queerness to translate it through stories and artistry is inherent.

Select Theatre credits; *My Sister's Rage* (Tarragon Theatre); *Crystalize* (Caminos Festival 2019 - Aluna Theatre); *Switch the Village* (the Switch Collective); *Youth/Elder's Project* (Buddies in Bad Times)

They are currently participating as a Fellow in Why Not Theatre's ThisGen: PROVOKE Producing Fellowship. Beyond, Tyler is a multi-disciplinary artist with a focus in Performance (Performance Art, Burlesque and Drag under the stage name Tygr Willy), Media Arts (Photography and Videography), and Visual Arts (Mural Art, Watercolour, Mixed Media). They premiered an installation (Club Kid Alley) in the '*Transforming Grief: Loss and Togetherness in COVID-19 Pandemic*' exhibition with the city of Toronto, and are currently a participant in the ArtworxTO: Skills for Creative Entrepreneurship Program. Moreover, they recently displayed their 2-Spirit/Indigiqueer photography series '*Light Our Bodies*' at Toronto Fringe Festival's Visual Arts Gallery this past summer. They are set to reignite their show/party Thirst Nation this coming fall 2023/spring 2024 and screen their short film *Club Kid Alley* at ImagineNative in October.



MIQUELON RODRIGUEZ –SOUND DESIGNER

Miquelon Rodriguez is a sound designer, composer, digital content creator, actor, and an emerging director and arts leader based in T'karonto. He was an Apprentice Artistic Director at Factory Theatre under the mentorship of Nina Lee Aquino, and co-curated Pan-Asian works over two seasons at Souleppper Theatre Company. He is a graduate of the Artistic Leadership Residency at the National Theatre School of Canada and has worked with a multitude of artists and companies across Turtle Island.



JESSICA WATKIN – ACCESSIBILITY CONSULTANT

Dr. Jess Watkin finished her PhD at the University of Tronto's Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance studies. Her research focuses on Disability dramaturgy, care-full approaches to performance creation/production, and Disability related activism. She is a Blind artist-scholar living in Toronto, who loves making tactile art and showing up as the Disabled artist in many creative spaces to ensure care is prioritized for all.

WELTAMULTIEK

BY LARA LEWIS

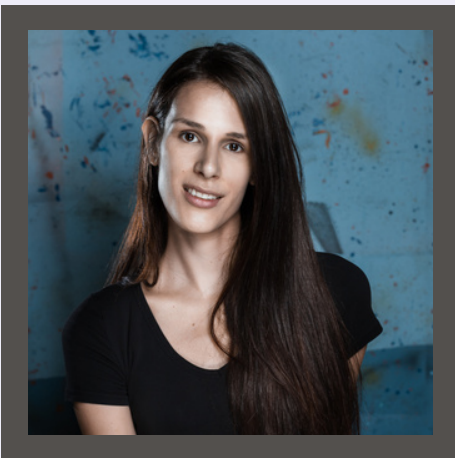
Directed by **SANTIAGO GUZMÁN**

FEATURING **LARA LEWIS, MONICA GARRIDO HUERTA, NETA J. ROSE**

Stage directions ready by **LORNA CRAIG**

On Christine's first birthday without any grandparents, she takes it into her own hands to commune with the spirits of her ancestors. With the help of her friends, her foremothers, and lots of delicious food, she navigates the many stages of grief she feels.

Content Warning: death, grieving, mourning, colonialism, light domestic terrorism



LARA LEWIS (SHE/HER) – PLAYWRIGHT & CHRISTINE

Lara Lewis (she/her) is a queer and trans mixed Mi'kmaw theatre artist living in Kjiptuk (colonially known as Halifax, Nova Scotia). A Libra Sun/Aries Moon/Scorpio Rising, she is also an actor, writer and dramaturge. As an actor, she has worked with Solo Chicken Productions, Theatre New Brunswick, Villains Theatre, Atlantic Repertory Company, and Zuppa. As a dramaturge, she apprenticed under Pam Halstead, Richie Wilcox, and a series of other perfect queens. She has worked with writers from across Atlantic Canada, as well as Ontario, Quebec, and New York. Her first script, a physical performance art piece called I See You, premiered at Mayworks Kjiptuk/Halifax in 2023. At the Theatre Nova Scotia Awards, Lara has been nominated for Outstanding Supporting Actor and won Volunteer of the year, as she sits on altogether too many boards for no money. She lives in a stately transsexual mansion with other art faggots and her cat, Lou.

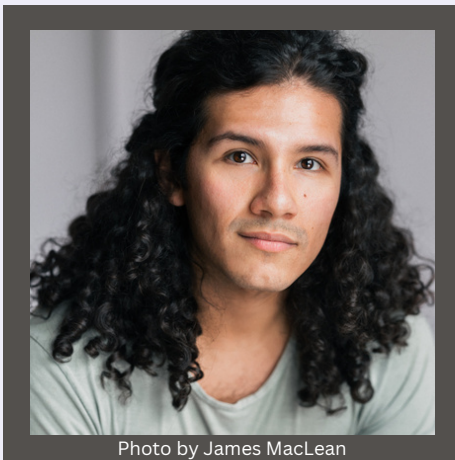


Photo by James MacLean

SANTIAGO GUZMÁN (HE/THEY) – DIRECTOR

Santiago Guzmán is an award-winning playwright, dramaturge, performer, and director originally from Metepec, Mexico, now based in St. John's, NL. He is the Artistic Director of TODOS Productions in St. John's, NL, and the Interim Artistic Director for the pan-Atlantic organization Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre.

Their work has been supported, developed and/or produced by theatre companies and festivals such as TODOS Productions (NL), RCA Theatre Company (NL), White Rooster Theatre (NL), Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland (NL), Poverty Cove Theatre Company (NL), Rising Tide Theatre (NL), Neighbourhood Dance Works (NL), Theatre Newfoundland and Labrador (NL), Eastern Front Theatre (NS), PARC (pan-Atlantic), Ship's Company Theatre (NS), Theatre New Brunswick (NB), Paprika Festival (ON), Stratford Festival (ON), lemontree creations (ON), Boca Del Lupo (BC), Banff Playwrights Lab (AB) and the National Theatre School of Canada's Art Apart Program (QC).

Santiago's work is very gay, very brown, and very real.

www.sguzman.ca

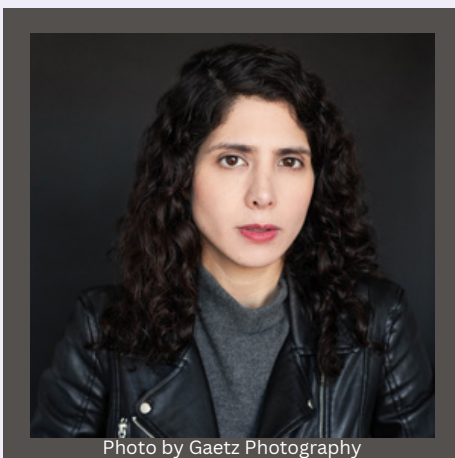


Photo by Gaetz Photography

MONICA GARRIDO HUERTA (SHE/HER) – EM / MALI'MALKIT

Monica Garrido Huerta is a Mexican born and recently Canadian Artist. Her short films premiered at the InsideOut LGBT Film Festival. Her solo show *The Cunning Linguist*, was created at Emerging Creator Unit at Buddies In Bad Times Theatre and won the 2016 Queer Acts Audience Award. It was adapted as an Audio Show for Aluna Theatre's Studio Series and is currently in development. She's part of the ensemble of the Canadian Comedy Award winning show *Sketch Comedy Extravaganza Eleganza*. Monica is the 2018 recipient of the Queer Emerging Artist Award at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. She will be part of the next season of Canadian Stage as part of the ensemble of *Universal Child Care* (Quote Unquote Collective). She is one third of the Latinx Drag King boyband "Boyband the Boyband". She is also a Taurus and wishes you the best.



NETA J. ROSE (THEY/THEM) – SARA / RUTHIE

Neta J. Rose is a proud non-binary Ashkenazi Jewish actor, artist, and poet based in Tkaronto. They are a graduate of the Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies at U of T, and were a founding member of Create! Performing Arts in Scotland, now in its 14th year.

Neta's theatre credits include: *Henry G20* (Luminato), *Omnibus Bill* (TACTICS), *The Bonds of Interest* (Odyssey), *The Penelopiad* (Hart House), *Heart of a Dog* (Next Stage), and *The Garden of Alla* (Minmar Gaslight), for which the Toronto Star called their performance "revelatory" (they're not over that yet). They will next be seen on stages across Canada, touring with Theatre of the Beat in *I Love You & It Hurts*.

Neta's writing has been published in Salty Magazine and in the *Pandemic Poetry* chapbook by Buddies in Bad Times. They have a new poetry collection coming soon.

HABITAT

BY JAN ALICIA JENNINGS

Directed by **SEDINA FIATI**

Featuring **ORDENA STEPHENS-THOMPSON, EMERJADE SIMMS,
TSHOLO KHALEMA, TREMAINE NELSON**

Stage directions read by **MELISSA AVALOS**

Habitat follows the quirky grief journey of Jamaican-Canadian Zee, and what it look's life when grief overshadows one's life. This play highlights the awkwardness, pettiness, and beauty of what it means to have loved and lost someone you truly care about. Using poetry, comedy, and puppetry *Habitat* is taking you through all the feels. Set in the blurry time period of the pandemic, healing gets tricky and often obnoxious! *Habitat* is a loving reminder, you can't get over grief you gotta grab it by the weave and make it your friend!

Content Warning: death, coarse language, racial inequality



JAN ALICIA JENNINGS – PLAYWRIGHT

Jan Jennings is a British Jamaican Ghanian Non-Binary Woman, and Muva. Jan is an artist of many seasonings which include: Playwright, Poet, Art Facilitator, Singer, Songwriter, MC, Dramaturg in Queerness, Grief/Trauma, and Comedian! With a degree in Gender & Women Studies from York University, Jan's activism is rooted in protection of BIPOC Womxn, LGBTQIA+ Community, Children, and advocating for Neurodiverse supports within systems. Everything Jan does aims to celebrate individuality, and the freedom to create art that truly reflects the vibrant colorful world she lives in! Keep a look out for this fashionable quirky soul on her creative journey.



SEDINA FIATI (SHE/THEY) – DIRECTOR

Sedina Fiati is a multi award winning, Toronto based performer, producer, director, creator and activist for stage and screen. Proudly Black, queer and femme, Sedina is deeply invested in artistic work that explores the intersection between art and activism, either in form or structure or ideally both. Sedina holds a BFA in Music Theatre from the University of Windsor and is a proud graduate of Etobicoke School of the Arts. Favourite and recent artistic projects: *The World Goes 'Round* (Nightwood Theatre, director), *Peace Camp* (Children's Peace Theatre, director 2019 - 2021, 2023), *Every Day She Rose* (Nightwood Theatre, co-director), *Switch: The Village* (collective member, QTBIPOC street performance, SummerWorks 2020 - 2023), *Feminist Fuck It Festival* (multidisciplinary festival, co-creator and co-producer), *Tokens* (performer, web series, Canadian Screen Award Winner - Best Supporting Performance). Sedina recently completed 2.5 years as Artist-Activist in Residence at Nightwood Theatre and is a proud founding member of the Black Pledge Collective. Upcoming projects: *Last Dance* (a web series).



ORDENA STEPHENS THOMPSON – THERAPIST / BERNIE

Ordена Stephens-Thompson is a professional actor, who has worked in the theatre, television and film industry for many years. She is a two time Dora nominated actress who's selected theatre credits includes, *Fairview* (Canadian Stage and Obsidian theatres), *'Da Kink in My Hair 20th Anniversary* (Soulpepper/TO Live), *Contraction* (Studio 180 Reads), *Sweat* (Canstage/Studio 180), *Fences* (Grand Theatre), *Harlem Duet* (Tarragon Theatre), *Risky Phil* (YPT), *Other Side of the Game* (Cahoots/Obsidian Theatre), *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf* (Soulpepper Theatre), *How Black Mothers Say I Love You* (Factory Theatre). Selected television and film credits include, *Skymed*, *Christmas at the Drive Inn*, *Ruby and the Well* (seasons 1 and 2), *Kings of Napa*, *Hudson & Rex*, *Salt n' Pepa*, *Grand Army*, *Umbrella Academy*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Designated Survivor*, *da kink in my hair* (tv series, 2 seasons). Ordена is thrilled to be back working in the theatre.



EMERJADE SIMMS (SHE/HER) – ZYTA ZEE

Emerjade Simms is a Jamaican-Canadian actor, storyteller and deviser-director. She is a graduate of the Acting program at the University of Windsor and holds a BFA degree. Emerjade is also a 2016/17 graduate of the Mechanicals program at Factory Theatre. She loves "da kids" and has been a director of Peace Camp at Children's Peace Theatre for the past two years. Select theatre credits (Acting) include *Redbone Coonhound* (Arts Club), *Calpurnia* (RMTC/NAC), *The Mountaintop* (Persephone Theatre), *1851: Spirit and Voice* (Soulpepper/Myseum), *21 Black Futures: Omega Child* (Obsidian/CBC), *Peter Pan* (Bad Hats/Soulpepper), *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play** (Obsidian/Nightwood), *Wounded Soldiers* (4th Line), *The Bird Killer* (Let Me In). Television credits include *Forbidden*, *Fear Thy Neighbor*, *See No Evil* and *Paranormal 911*. Emerjade enjoys napping in her downtime and loves her mom like cooked food. Always take a leap of Faith.



TSHOLO KHALEMA (HE/HIM) – GEE

Tsholo Khalema is a versatile artist. Born in the rich culture of South Africa and nurtured amidst the sprawling prairies of Alberta, Tsholo's artistic journey is a testament to his vibrant upbringing and deeply ingrained ancestral connections. His artistic prowess extends beyond the stage. As the facilitator of the VUKA creation program at Theatre Passe Muraille and marketing manager at Pleiades theatre. For updated information on his artistic journey checkout www.tsholovisions.com



TREMAINE NELSON – DARIUS

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FILMI WOMEN GONE?

BY POONAM DHIR

Directed by **MARJORIE CHAN** 陳以珏

Featuring **UPPEKHA JAIN, ERUM KHAN, HIMANSHU SITIANI, KRIS SIDDIQI, ANGEL GLADY, ANUSREE ROY, ZAARIN BUSHRA**

Stage directions ready by **SARAH YUEN**

Cultural Readers **RADHA S. MENON & ISAAC THOMAS**

Where Have all the Filmi Women Gone (WHATFWG)? follows the most celebrated and controversial Heroines, REKHA, to come out of Filmi—the largest film industry in the world. Across a series of moments, this play examines what happens when women are deemed replaceable. Between memory, witnessing and intimate encounters, *WHATFWG?* unsettles and challenges ideas of reputation, power, and misogyny through the lens of devotion and belief. Using source material (including interviews, news articles and biographies) and blending documentary, hearsay, portraiture, and fiction, *WHATFWG?* blurs the lines between what is, what has been and what may be.

Content Warning: Reference to child sexual assault, trivializing mental illness, mention of suicide, characters dealing with gender discrimination & misogyny, racial microaggressions, and body shaming



POONAM DHIR (THEY/SHE) – PLAYWRIGHT

Poonam Dhir (they/she) is a queer, playwright, poet, Punjabi descendent, and settler currently based in Tiohtiá:ke (Montréal), on the traditional, unceded territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka people. Poonam's work explores identity, trauma, memory and the relationship between belief and belonging. They contemplate themes of migration, displacement and loss. They are the recipient of a 2022 Lambda Literary Fellowship in Playwriting and a finalist for the 2021 PEN Canada New Voices Award, Poetry. They are an Artist-in-Residence at Infinithéâtre. You can read her latest pieces in The Capilano Review, Vallum, Contemporary Verse 2 and PRISM International. Find Poonam online @pnmdhir



Photo by Dahlia Katz

MARJORIE CHAN 陳以珪 (SHE/HER) – DIRECTOR

Marjorie was born in Tkarón:to/Toronto to Hong Kong immigrants. She is thrilled to return to Nightwood Theatre where her plays *China Doll* and *a nanking winter* (with Cahoots Theatre) were developed and produced. As a theatre and opera artist, she works variously as writer, director and dramaturge as well as in the intersection of these forms. She most recently directed *The Chinese Lady* (Studio 180/fu-GEN/Crow's Theatre) for which she received a Dora nomination. Her own writing has been performed in the United States, Scotland, Hong Kong, Russia and across Canada. Marjorie is the recipient of four Doras, as well as the K.M. Hunter Award in Theatre. Her most recent published play, *Lady Sunrise* was nominated for the Governor's General Award. Marjorie is also the Artistic Director of Theatre Passe Muraille, where she places access, community, innovation and collaboration at the forefront of the company's approach. www.marjoriechan.com



UPPEKHA JAIN (SHE/HER) – REKHA

Uppekha Jain is a Canadian actress, TV anchor, writer, dancer and spoken word artist. Her upcoming projects include *Umbrella Academy* Season 4, Jus Reign's *Late Bloomers*, both set to release in 2024 and she is working as the EP and creator of an upcoming show *Item Girls*.

Uppekha is the first Canadian to essay a permanent role on prime time Indian television, in Star Plus' top rated daily drama *Saath Nibhaana Saathiya*. She played the conniving, NRI daughter-in-law, Monika Modi, bent on creating havoc in the Modi household from early 2016 to mid-2017. Uppekha is also internationally known for her viral video #RapAgainstRape (a spoken word piece she wrote & performed), that created worldwide waves shaming rape culture in India. Uppekha was crowned Miss India Worldwide Canada in 2009 and went on to bag the Miss India Worldwide title in 2010. Uppekha is represented by Jessica Martins at Hero Artists.



ZAARIN BUSHRA (SHE/HER) – PUBLICIST

Zaarin Bushra is an award winning actor and filmmaker based in Toronto. She starred in Andrew Chung's *White Elephant* (2020) which earned her the Outstanding Actress in a Feature Film Award at Reelworld Film Festival, and acclaim throughout many festivals in Canada and the US. Her directorial debut *The Legend of Feynlab* (2021) allowed her to blend commercial and narrative filmmaking, and was selected at Think Shorts and Retrospective of Jupiter. Zaarin hopes to use storytelling as an avenue to uplift and amplify people of colour within film.

Beyond acting and filmmaking, Zaarin continually works to implement practices that tangibly aid people of colour in the industry. She has had the pleasure of holding positions at Reelworld Screen Institute and Film Festival, Future of Film Showcase, and Fae Pictures in order to so.



Photo by Gaetz Photography

ERUM KHAN (SHE/HER) – ASSISTANT

Erum Khan is a multidisciplinary artist based in Toronto. She was the recent recipient of the Urjo Kareda Research grant from Tarragon Theatre, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre Queer Emerging Artist Award, and a selected artist for the inaugural edition of the Loughborough Lake Writer's Retreat with Crow's Theatre and Mongrel Media.

Her short films have premiered at The Toronto Queer Film Festival, Breakthroughs Festival, The Toronto Independent Film Festival and The Rendezvous With Madness Festival. Erum's past and current projects include: *Noor* (Generous Friend/The Aga Khan Museum), *elephant* (bluemouth inc.), *patthar ki zabaan* (Rhubarb Festival), *Talk To Me* (Generous Friend), and *Becoming* (Ottawa Fringe Festival, Rhubarb Festival). Erum was a performer and original collaborator in the world premier production of *Concord Floral* (Brubacher/Spooner/Tanahill) presented at The Theatre Centre and then went on to be the Assistant Director for the piece at Canadian Stage and the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival.



HIMANSHU SITLANI – “DIRECTOR” AND VOICES

Himanshu Sitlani is a Dora nominated performer and playwright, originally hailing from Mumbai, India. He co-founded Le Chayim Theatre Productions in Mumbai in 2006 where he eventually made his directorial debut in 2013. Since immigrating to Toronto Canada, Himanshu's been immersed in creating a bridge between creative artists in Canada and India eventually co-founding Nautanki Bazaar in 2019 with Neha Poduval.

In 2021, he wrote and performed in the virtual show 'Stories of a Dish' that was presented at the theatre festivals in Canada, UK (including the Edinburgh Fringe) and India. In April 2022, he co-wrote and performed in 'An IMM-Permanent Resident' as part of Why Not Theatre's RISER Toronto at the Theatre Centre which got nominated for 5 Dora Awards in the Independent Category.. [cont...]

...In June 2022, he was appointed the new Managing Director of Native Earth Performing Arts.



KRIS SIDDIQI (HE/HIM) – HERO AND VOICES

Kris Siddiqi is a renowned comedian, actor, and writer from Toronto. He's received many accolades, including the 2015 Canadian Comedy Award for Best Male Improviser and the 2014 "Best Of" Now Magazine Award. Kris is an alumni of world-famous Second City, joining their Mainstage cast in 2009 and contributing to three revues. His talents expanded into voice work, where he became the voice of Country Music Television, secured principal roles in numerous cartoons, and became a series regular on CBC's *Because News*.

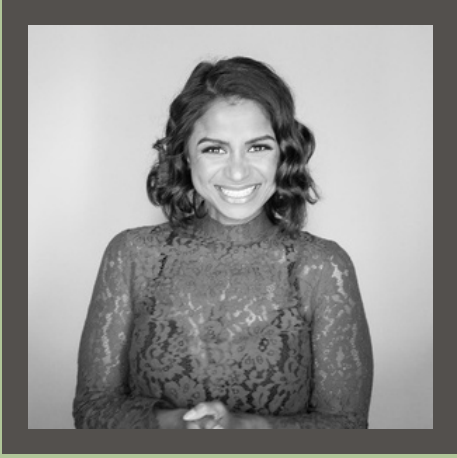
Kris is a versatile performer, captivating audiences with stand-up, sketch, and improv acts across North America. His recent creation, the award-winning miniseries *BIT PLAYAS*, earned him two Canadian Screen Awards and recognition for representing communities of colour.

In the realm of film and TV, Kris has made notable appearances in Netflix's *I WOKE UP A VAMPIRE*, *TITANS*, *MOLLY'S GAME*, *THE BOYS*, *THE CHANGELING*, and *BARONESS VON SKETCH SHOW*.

ANGEL GLADY (SHE/THEY)– ITEM NUMBER



Angel Gladly is a trans woman from Tamil Nadu India. She is the first trans woman that went to Madras University to do an MA in Mass Communication. She is a theatre activist and has worked with French theatre group clowns without border and a South Korean theatre group called TUIDA. She acted in many Tamil movies as well. She worked as a hospital clown in Chennai India for the government hospital. She believes art is the best tool to make a revolution and she is the co-founder of a trans theatre group called Panmai theatre. Performed her piece *brown girl seeking* in Parkdale theatre festival. Her work *brown girl seeking* is published in Canadian Theatre review magazine.



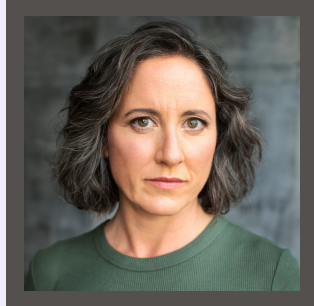
ANUSREE ROY (SHE/HER) – FILMI WOMAN 1 & 2

Anusree is a Governor General's Award-nominated and four-time Dora Award-winning writer, actor, and director. Anusree's plays include: *Through the Eyes of God*, *Sisters*, *Trident Moon*, *Little Pretty* and *The Exceptional*, *Sultans of the Street*, *Brothel # 9*, *Roshni*, *Letters to my Grandma*, and *Pyaasa*. Anusree has worked on *Remedy* (Global TV), *Killjoys* (SyFy), *Nurses S1 & S2* (GlobalTV/NBC), *Transplant S2* (CTV/NBC), *Fanger* (Netflix), *SkyMed* (Paramount+/CBC). She is the recipient of the K.M. Hunter Award, the RBC Emerging Artist Award, The Carol Bolt Award and The Siminovitch Protégé Prize and the finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. Her short films are *The Birthday Party* and *God's Plan* (winner of Best Performance & Best Editing at WIFF). Her new TV pilot *Part-Time Disabled* was selected to be a part of AccessCBC's program, and her series adaptation of *Austenistan* is in development with Unicorn Island Productions and Blink49 Studio. She is an Adjunct Professor teaching playwriting at the University of Toronto.

CURTAIN-RAISERS

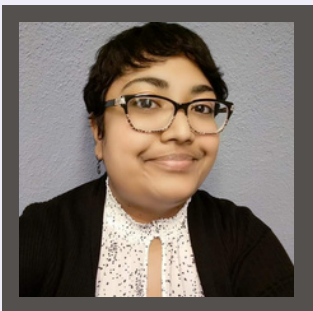
Live Performances October 2

Discount Dave & The Fix by Rebecca Auerbach



When an aging rockstar crashes a backstage party at a Shakespeare Festival, a thrill-seeking young actor is set on a path of self-reckoning.

A provocative blend of truth and fiction, *Discount Dave and The Fix* is a suspenseful, hilarious and harrowing examination of our obsession with celebrity, how addiction can bury our wounds, and what it takes to heal.



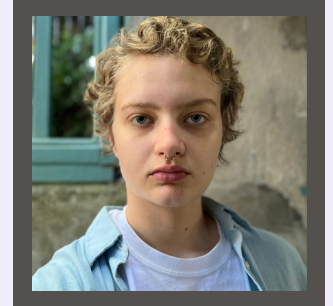
Kill Joy by Krystal Kavita Jagoo

This is an excerpt from my first play, *Kill Joy*, which is a solo show. The title is based on a nickname that draws from my first and last initials, which was initially directed at me as a jab from a model minority who remains employed in the medical-industrial complex. This work is a reclaiming of my narrative based on my experiences as a fat brown queer disabled social worker and settler on Turtle Island.

Content Warning: Discussion of gambling addiction, death, generational trauma, white supremacy, the academic-industrial complex, colonization, anti-Blackness, ableism, police brutality, the medical-industrial complex, model minorities, the nonprofit-industrial complex, and workplace trauma.

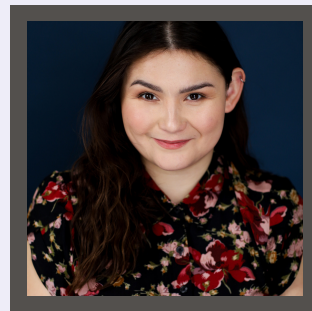
Live Performances October 4

Helen by Cassandra Marcus Davey



The battlefields of the Trojan War. Is that Helen eating that corpse? Hold on, she can explain. A play about bodily autonomy, exploitation, sisterhood, and guts.

Content Warning: descriptions of violence, cannibalism, and attempted kidnapping



Savage is a Word in the English Dictionary by Brefny Caribou

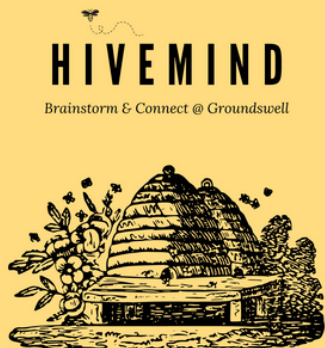
When a young Indigenous woman is asked to give a presentation at her old elementary school for their “Indigenous Studies” unit, she is confronted with the memories of her own school days. When nostalgia and reality collide, she realizes that history doesn’t smell as good as the textbook.

Content Warning: Discussion of phobia, explicit language

WORKSHOPS & GATHERINGS

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4, 2:30PM-4:00PM (ONLINE)

Hivemind: Brainstorm & Connect



Calling creators, playwrights, artist-producers! HIVEMIND is an online event where we invite women and gender expansive folks to bring a burning question (about your work, about your place in the theatre ecology, about absolutely anything industry related). In small groups, participants from the community as well as folks from Nightwood will weigh in and brainstorm together. Part think tank, part meet up, come tap into the feminist-artsworker hivemind to inspire your next steps and maybe make a new connection or two. [Please click here to register!](#)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 4:30PM-5:30PM (ONLINE)

WFTH Info Session with Keshia Palm



An online event where you can hear from the Nightwood team about the **Write From The Hip** program, the selection process and answer any questions you might have about applying.

This moment of collective creation will be facilitated by WFTH's Interim Program Director Keisha Palm, [please click here to register!](#)

To learn more about our upcoming workshops & programming, [sign up](#) for our newsletter!

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Nightwood Theatre

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