



NIKKI  
SHAFFEEULLAH'S

# A POEM FOR RABIA

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

Nightwood Theatre ●●●

UNDER  
CURRENT  
CREATIONS

CO-DIRECTED BY  
CLARE PREUSS AND  
DONNA-MICHELLE ST. BERNARD

**TARRAGON** THEATRE

OCTOBER 17 - NOVEMBER 12, 2023

# Our partners

*A Poem for Rabia* is A Tarragon Theatre production in association with Nightwood Theatre and Undercurrent Creations.

**NightwoodTheatre** 

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 Governors General's Awards.



Undercurrent Creations is a small arts organization that dreams of a big world with joy, possibility, and freedom for everyone. Here in the not-too-distant present, we work toward that end through the creation of new theatrical work, films, and changemaking initiatives. We see artistic creation as a means of fostering community dialogue and transformation at every opportunity – in creation, in sharing with audiences, and beyond. We believe that artistic processes that enable us to better understand ourselves, our communities, our ancestral lives, and our possible futures, is a kind of social justice work: healing and action in one, that moves us all closer to liberation. [undercurrentcreations.ca](http://undercurrentcreations.ca).

# Cast

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**Nikki Shaffeeullah**

Zahra

**Virgilia Griffith**

Sheree/Martha

**Michelle Mohammed**

Betty/Anu

**Adele Noronha**

Rabia

**Jay Northcott**

Jem/Tom

**Anand Rajaram**

Farooq/Ramesh

# Creative team

**Nikki Shaffeeullah**

Playwright

**Donna-Michelle St. Bernard**

Co-Director and Dramaturge

**Clare Preuss**

Co-Director

**Becky Ablack**

Assistant Director

**Sonja Rainey**

Set Designer

**Jawon Kang**

Costume Designer

**Echo Zhou 周芷會**

Lighting Designer

**David Mesiha**

Composer and Sound Designer

**Amani Dorn, Gurkiran Kaur, Andrew Prashad**

Dialect Coaches

**Jack Rennie**

Fight Director

**Sandi Becker**

Stage Manager

**Kayleigh Mundy**

Apprentice Stage Manager

**Intisar Awisse & Sasha Tate-Howarth**

Additional Dramaturgy

**Rachel Penny**

Consulting Creative Producer

# Land acknowledgement

Tarragon Theatre, Nightwood Theatre and Undercurrent Creations acknowledge that we all are a part of a larger ecosystem within our community, Tkaronto, where our theatre lives and operates – and that we also commit ourselves and in turn energize our audiences to continually reflect on and respond to our relationship to the land around us. This country has been cared for by generations of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nations, and the land on which Tarragon rests and is able to share this story has been cherished and protected by, the Anishnabeg, the Haudenosaunee, the Wendat, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Toronto is a word that originates from the Mohawk word “Tkaronto,” meaning “the place in the water where the trees are standing,” which is said to refer to the wooden stakes that were used as fishing weirs in the narrows of local river systems by the Haudenosaunee and Wendat. The paths we still walk today, from Davenport to Dupont, are built on the portage trails first established and walked by Indigenous peoples. It is in the spirit of being on the portage route that we invoke our local Indigenous oral history – though covered up by the industrial progress of Toronto – and maintain that those stories are not lost.

Tarragon is committed to engaging with these communities in meaningful ways that open dialogue, while acknowledging our own history. We look towards a recognition of our shared humanity to create deeper community connection and accountability. Tarragon’s recognition of the contributions and the historic significance of Indigenous peoples to this land is directly connected to our promise to meet the challenge of Truth and Reconciliation. Making our commitment real in our work and through our community building. Please do check out the QR codes in the lobby to find out how you can extend your support.

# Welcome to the show

Thank you for continuing an exciting journey with Tarragon this season!

We hope you will not only be moved this year by the scope of powerful Canadian storytellers and their world premiere productions, but that you will also encourage those around you to be swept up by the impact of theatre in their lives. Live theatre uniquely lends a vision of the here and now, while cherishing the past and looking forward into the future.

We are thrilled to share our next show with you, *A Poem for Rabia* by the incredible Nikki Shaffeeullah and co-directed by Canadian theatre leaders Donna-Michelle St. Bernard and Clare Preuss. Over ten years of development, the epic scope of Nikki's cross-generational new play is as monumental as the women who paved the way for justice and independence for generations after. Though the singular and collective journeys of these people are confronted with many challenges, Nikki asks us to consider lineage and bloodlines as the force that can empower us today. It is a feast for the ancestors and our world alike – together in celebration of our resilience.

We are thankful to our collaborators Nightwood Theatre and Undercurrent Creations for working with us to finally give this piece its long-awaited premiere.

Thank you again for being with us every step of the way and beyond. There is lots more to come!

Bon spectacle!

**Mike Payette and Andrea Vagianos**  
Artistic Director & Managing Director

# Playwright's note

Many years ago, a mentor encouraged me to make a play about Guyana. I tried, and I couldn't. A place is a setting, not a story, I thought. And after all, I am from many places – where I was born (Toronto), where my parents and their parents and their parents and their parents were born (Guyana), and where most of my ancestors are from (India).

A few years later, I participated in an Arrivals Legacy Project workshop, in which artists explore the stories of one's own ancestors. This set me on a path I have been on and off of for the past decade, a path that has taken many forms and has included archival research, conversations with family, workshops with community, trips to motherlands, and life-affirming explorations with fellow artists.

Throughout all of this, I was thinking about the symbiotic relationship between how we connect with ancestors, and how we build a better future. I thought about how some (all?) impossible-seeming goals have actually been done before, and about how writing can facilitate time travel. I made art in prisons and parks, and dreamed with friends about what a future without punishment could look like. I read a reflection by author Suzette Mayr where she says: "I tell you this story as truth about my ancestor even though it is 100 percent fiction." I thought about how history repeats itself. I thought about how a series of places, when collaged together, can start to tell a story.

Like a person, a play is born from the collaboration of many people across time, space, and generations. I am grateful for the very many who have helped nurture *A Poem for Rabia* into existence.

**Nikki Shaffeeullah**

# Directors' note

“All good things must begin.” - Octavia Butler

As we enter into Nikki's story we are reminded that, in our work and in our world, we are at various stages of various processes. We are witness to some change in its seed state and other changes coming to fruition.

The layering of realities in Nikki's nuanced play brings us to vital questions as artists and community members. How can we find value and nourishment in the evolution of those who have come before us while also challenging the present and envisioning ever growing possibilities? Can we inherit the fruits of our ancestors' struggles without the trauma? What is the point of hoping beyond what currently seems possible?

This play lets us see our present as a seed for the future, so that we will contemplate what we cultivate. Good luck with that. We believe in you – in all of us.

**Clare, DM & Becky**

## Special thanks from Undercurrent Creations:

Arrivals Legacy Project, Miriam Fernandes, Ravi Jain, Cristine Khan, Adam Harris Levine, Amina Mohamed, Michelle Mohammed, Betty Moulton, Jackie Omstead, Visali Rajaram, Aaron Ramharak & AceEats TO, Diane Roberts, Afzal Shaffeeullah, Alisha Shaffeeullah, Jasmine Shaffeeullah, Jenny Shaffeeullah, Khalil Shaffeeullah, Sarah Garton Stanley, Sasha Tate-Howarth, Why Not Theatre, Nesha Williams, Michelle Yagi.



# Many Waters

## Lobby art exhibit

**Presented by Undercurrent Creations**

**In partnership with The AMY Project & SASOD Guyana.**

The lobby exhibit features original work created through Undercurrent Creations' *Many Waters* community arts program, including visual art, photography, and poetry by queer/trans Guyanese artists from the Toronto diaspora and in Guyana.

***Many Waters* team:**

Diaspora Artists (Toronto): **Guy Anabella, Shaharah Gaznabbi, Daniel Lyght, Chantele Sitaram, Bethany Sukhnanan**

Featured Artist (Guyana): **Christina Izbaşa**

Program Coordinator: **Morgan Davis**

Writing & Theatre Facilitator: **Michelle Rambharose**

Photography Facilitator: **Roya DelSol**

Producers: **Daniel Carter & Nikki Shaffeeullah**

Program Concept & Curation: **Nikki Shaffeeullah**

Guest Curator (Guyana): **Joel Earl Simpson**

Administration: **Sasha Tate-Howarth**

Special thanks to: **Heather Caplap**

*Many Waters* is made possible with funding from the Toronto Arts Council.

To learn more about SASOD Guyana and to support their important LGBTIQ+ human rights work, visit @SASODGuyana on social media or at [sasod.org.gy](http://sasod.org.gy).

For more information, please visit [undercurrentcreations.ca/manywaters](http://undercurrentcreations.ca/manywaters).





## NIKKI SHAFFEEULLAH

Playwright and Actor, Zahra

For Tarragon: *Half Life*.

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *TomorrowLove* (Why Not Theatre/TMU); *Calpurnia* (RMTC/NAC); *Lilies* (lemonTree Creations/Buddies in Bad Times Theatre/Why Not Theatre); *The Shell* (UTSC); *Lion Woman, Almeida The Glorious* (The AMY Project/Summerworks); *un(earthed)*, *Escape Velocity* (Undercurrent Theatre).

**Selected Film and Television:** *The Lower Plateau*, *Fly Away With Me*, *Purgatory* (forthcoming).

**Selected Awards:** Patrick Connor Award; Canadian Association for Theatre Research Award for Intercultural Theatre, Toronto Arts Foundation's Arts for Youth Award (for The AMY Project). Nominated for: Pauline McGibbon Award, OAF Arts Educator Award, PGC Emerging Playwright Award, Nancy Dean Playwriting Award.

**Other:** Nikki is an artist, facilitator, researcher, and community worker. Her work has included serving as Artistic Director of The AMY Project; Editor-in-Chief of *alt.theatre: cultural diversity and the stage*; and Assistant Artistic Director of Jumblies Theatre. With the National Arts Centre - English Theatre, she conceived, curated and produced *Stages of Transformation*, a multi-year research and creative project exploring how theatre intersects with abolition movements and transformative justice. She is a founding member of Confluence Arts Collective, and is a Fellow of the Salzburg Global Forum for Cultural Innovators.



## VIRGILIA GRIFFITH

**Sheree/Martha**

**For Tarragon:** *Harlem Duet*, *Guarded Girls*.

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *Our Place* (Cahoots Theatre/Theatre Passe Muraille), *Queen Goneril/King Lear* (Soulpepper Theatre Company), *Serving Elizabeth* (Stratford Festival), *21 Black Futures* (Obsidian Theatre Company/CBC Gem), *Iphigenia and the Furies (on Taurian Land)* (Saga Collectif), *Contractions* (Studio 180), *Betrayal* (Soulpepper Theatre), *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (Soulpepper Theatre), *The Wedding Party* (Crow's Theatre), *Other Side of the Game* (Cahoots/ Obsidian Theatre), *Da Kink In My Hair* (Theatre Calgary/ NAC), *Up The Garden Path* (Obsidian Theatre Company).

**Selected Film and Television Credits:** *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Frankie Drake Mysteries*, *Nurses* and *The Expanse*.

**Awards:** Winner of the Dora Mavor Moore award for Outstanding Performance for *Harlem Duet* written by Djanet Sears. Winner of the Meta Emerging Artist Award for *Gas Girls* written by Donna-Michelle St. Bernard. She was also a Dora Mavor Moore nominee for Outstanding Female in an Independent Division for her performance of *Honesty* directed by Jordan Tannahill and a Dora nomination for *Iphigenia and the Furies (On Taurian Land)* (Saga Collectif) written by Jeff Ho and *Our Place* (Cahoots/ Theatre Passe Muraille) written by Kanika Ambrose. She was also a recipient of the Jon Kaplan Legacy Award for Canadian Theatre Performer in 2021.



## MICHELLE MOHAMMED

**Betty/Anu**

**For Tarragon:** *The Hooves Belonged to the Deer* (Assistant Director).

**Selected Theatre Credits:**

**Acting:** Des in *Yerma* (Coal Mine Theatre), Olga in *Orphans for the Czar* (Crow's Theatre), *Villager in Chitra* (Shaw Festival), Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare BASH'd), Devisor/Creator in *Mahabharata* (Workshops) (Why Not Theatre/Shaw Festival).

**Directing/dramaturgy:** *Twice Blessed* (Workshop) (fu-GEN Theatre) by Marissa Orjalo, *The Trick to Walking Backwards* (STRATFEST@Home) by Aria Sharma, Apprentice Assistant Director to Peter Hinton in *Oh What a Lovely War* (Shaw Festival), Assistant Director to Danielle Wilson in *Top Girls* (Brock University).

**Selected Film and Television Credits:** *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC), *Drive* (Live Portrait), *Ruby and the Well* (Shaftesbury), *The Handmaid's Tale* (Gilead 3 Prod).



## ADELE NORONHA

**Rabia**

**For Tarragon:** Debut.

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *Happy Place*, *Brothel #9* (Touchstone Theatre), *The Orchard* (Arts Club), *Jabber* (MTYP), *Inside The Seed* (Upintheair Theatre), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Classic Chic Productions), *Walt Whitman's Secret* (frank theatre) and multiple seasons at Bard on the Beach.

**Awards:** Jessie Richardson Best Actress in Leading Role for *Brothel #9*.



## JAY NORTHCOTT

Jem/Tom

**For Tarragon:** Debut

**Selected Theatre Credits:**

**Director:** *King Lear* (Stratford Festival, Assistant Director), *Cottagers and Indians* (Watermark Theatre, PEI), *Concord Floral* (Randolph College), *Blacktop Sky* (Obsidian Theatre); *Passover* (Obsidian Theatre, Assistant Director).

**Actor:** *Parasite* (Theatre Outré), *Premium Content* (Major Matt Mason, High Performance Rodeo).

**Film/TV:** Contestant on Big Brother Canada 10.

**Upcoming:** *Adventures of Young Turtle* (Persephone Theatre/Expanse Festival), *Seven Methods of Killing Kylie Jenner* (Obsidian Theatre).

**Awards:** 21 Black Futures Canadian Screen Awards. 2022 BEST WEB PROGRAM OR SERIES, FICTION.



## ANAND RAJARAM

Farooq/Ramesh

**For Tarragon:** *Buffoon, Mustard, Much Ado About Nothing.*

**Selected Theatre Credits:** improviser, actor, playwright, director, musician & puppeteer working with VideoCabaret, CORPUS, Second City, Stratford Festival, Canadian Stage, Grand Theatre, Thousand Island Playhouse, Odyssey Mask Theatre, Puppetmongers & others.

**As playwright/director:** Rohinton Mistry's *The Scream*, *Hys Unauthorized Lyfe & Tymes*, *Communist Til Payday*, *Cowboys & Indians*.

**Select Film & TV:** *Miss Sloane, Save Me, Harriet the Spy, Men With Brooms* (tv series), *Suits, Working The Engels, The Jon Dore Show, Majority Rules, You Are Here, Suck, Silent But Deadly, Old Stock, Across The River To Motor City*, Vikram Dasgupta's award-winning *Calcutta Taxi*, Mira Nair's *My Own Country*, Deepa Mehta's *Beeba Boys*, Ken Finkelman's *God & Country*.

**Awards:** Nominated for multiple awards. Winner: Dora Award for Outstanding Performance - *Buffon*. Winner: Dora Award for Outstanding Performance - *Mustard*.

**Other:** He teaches shadow puppetry and is artistic director of DiaspoRadicals theatre & @N@f@N@.



## **DONNA-MICHELLE ST. BERNARD**

**Co-Director and Dramaturge**

**For Tarragon:** *Our Fathers, Lovers, Sons and Little Brothers* (director).

**Selected Theatre Credits:**

**Playwright:** *The First Stone, Cake, Sound of the Beast, A Man A Fish, Dark Love, Roominhouse, Salome's Clothes, Gas Girls, Give It Up, The Smell of Horses, Reaching For Starlight, They Say He Fell, The House You Build.*

**Director:** *The F Word* (Downstage Theatre).

**Selected Film and Television Credits:** *Baroness von Sketch* (story editor), *21 Black Futures* (writer).

**Upcoming:** *Three Fingers Back* (Tarragon), *Diggers* (Prairie Theatre Exchange, Black Theatre Workshop).

**Awards:** Dora Award for Original Play (*Gas Girl*), CATR Patrick O'Neill Award (*Indian Act*), Herman Voaden Playwriting Award, Enbridge PlayRites Award, Three-time finalist for the Governor General Literary Award, nominated for the META, SATA, Siminovitch Prize.





## CLARE PREUSS

### Co-Director

**For Tarragon:** *Infinity* (Assistant Director).

**Selected Theatre Directing Credits:** *Climate Shorts: 14 Short Plays About the Climate Crisis* (Downstage, World Stage Design, University of Calgary), *She Spreads* (Dead Roads Collective), *A Dinner Party*, *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*, *Myth of the Ostrich* (Guild Theatre Whitehorse), *Real Job* (Cardiac Theatre, Downstage, Alberta Queer Calendar Project), *Men Express Their Feelings* (Downstage, Hit & Myth Productions), *Bystander* (Gwaandak Theatre), *White Girls in Moccasins* (Rhubarb Festival), *CAKE* (New Harlem Productions, Theatre Passe Muraille), *Tartan Lady*, *Tuesdays & Sundays* (Sundown Theatre), *L'armoire des ombres* (Theatre Monnot Beirut), *Dead Roads* (Why Not Theatre's Riser Project), *Salome's Clothes* (SummerWorks), *Give It Up* (New Harlem Productions, SpringWorks), *CAKE* (New Harlem Productions, MayWorks, Bayimba Festival for the Arts Uganda).

**Selected Film Acting Credits:** *Mean Girls* (Paramount), *The Prince and Me* (Paramount), *Loser* (Sony), *Urban Legend Final Cut* (Phoenix).

**Upcoming Directing Projects:** *All Good Things Must Begin* (Downstage, Immigrant Council for Arts Innovation, Climate Change Theatre Action), *Beautiful Man* (Downstage, Handsome Alice Theatre, Verb Theatre), *Magnetic Bodies* (Downstage, University of Calgary). Clare is in post production for *Hunt/Peck* - her first short film directing project - written and co-produced by Donna-Michelle St. Bernard.

**Awards:** Clare is a recipient of the Houselighters of the Citadel Theatre Award and has been nominated for the Pauline McGibbon Award, John Hirsch Director Prize, John Hirsch Director Award and twice for the Gina Wilkinson Award.

**Other:** Deep appreciation to Donna-Michelle and Nikki for this co-directing opportunity and to the whole team for their generous approach. Thanks always to Spencer for his playful and iridescent love. Clare is the current Artistic Director at Downstage on Treaty 7 Territory.



## BECKY ABLACK

Assistant Director

**For Tarragon:** Debut.

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *Do You Think You're Better Than Me?* (Co-Creator, Co-Director, Performer; Small Friend Tall Friend/Toronto Fringe Festival/ Hamilton Fringe Festival).

**Selected Film and Television Credits:**

**Actor:** *Ginny & Georgia* (Netflix), *Good Karma Hospital* (Disney+/Tiger Aspect Productions), *Kim's Convenience* (CBC).



## SONJA RAINEY

### Set Designer

**For Tarragon:** Debut.

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *Sweat, This is the Point, What Dream it Was, A Fool's Life.*

**Selected Film and Television Credits:**

Production Designer: *Dada*, Art direction: *Ugly Chickens, The Love Issue, Gay Mean Girls series*, Prop Master: *Hell of a Summer* (TIFF), *Darkside of the 2000s series, Young Arsonists* (TIFF).

**Upcoming:** Production design for: *Purgatory* - short film by Nikki Shaffeeullah and *Dada* - feature film directed by Aaron Poole.

**Other:** I'm honoured & delighted to debuting work at Tarragon with the incredible team of *A Poem for Rabia*.



## JAWON KANG

### Costume Designer

**For Tarragon:** *Redbone Coonhound* (Set design).

**Selected Credits:** Set design for *Mizushobai* (Tableau D'Hôte Theatre); set and costume design for *CRAVING* (Curveball Theatre); costume design for *Armadillos* (Factory Theatre); set design for *Fairview* (Canadian Stage); design assistance for *Of The Sea* (Tapestry Opera and Obsidian Theatre); design assistance for *Choir Boy* (Canadian Stage); set designs for *Mary Stuart*, *Ubu Roi* and *Fefu and her friends* (Directors' Workshop Project/ Stratford Festival); associate set design for *Death and the King's Horseman* (Stratford Festival); costume design for *Venus* (NTS); costume design for *Mother and Child* and *3..2...1* (NTS); design assistance for *21 Black Futures* (Obsidian Theatre and CBC).

**Upcoming:** Set design for *Rocking Horse Winner* (Original design: Camellia Koo, Tapestry Opera); Set design for *This is how we got here* (Persephone Theatre); set design for *Come Home: The Legend of Daddy Hall* (Tarragon Theatre).

**Awards:** 2022 Tyrone Guthrie Award for theatre design study. 2023 Dora Mavor Moore Awards - Nominated for outstanding scenic design and projection design with Frank Donato and Dezmond Arnkværn (*Redbone Coonhound*, Tarragon Theatre).

**Other:** Get well soon bro!



## ECHO ZHOU 周芷會

### Lighting Designer

**For Tarragon:** *My Sister's Rage*, *Benevolence* (Greenhouse Festival), *Mr. Shi and His Lover*.

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *Dragon's Tale* (Tapestry Opera); *The Chinese Lady* (Studio 180); *Benevolence* (Benevolence Collective); *Between a Wok and a Hotpot* (Cahoots Theatre); *The Year of the Cello* (Theatre Passe Muraille); *HMS Pinafore* (Vancouver Opera); *Every Brilliant Thing* (Thousand Island Playhouse); *White Girls in Moccasins* (Manidoons Collective); *Mr. Shi and His Lover*, *I Swallowed Moon Made of Iron* (Music Picnic).

**Upcoming:** *Rocking Horse Winner* (Tapestry Opera).

**Awards:** The Dora Mavor Moore Award for the Outstanding Scenic Design. The Harold Award.

**Other:** Echo is an award-winning, proud Chinese immigrant, Tkaronto-based scenographer working in live performance. In her professional career, she is focused on IBPOC and queer storytelling, and one of Echo's passions is to make live performances as accessible as possible. She has designed for the National Arts Centre, Tarragon Theatre, Studio 180, Buddies in the Bad Times, Theatre Passe Muraille, Thousand Island Playhouse, Frog in Hand, The Theatre Centre, SummerWorks Festival, The Next Stage Festival, etc. Her design works have been presented in Japan and China as well. Echo is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada. [www.echozhoudesign.com](http://www.echozhoudesign.com) For Grandpa. 獻給最親愛的爹爹。



## DAVID MESIHA

Composer and Sound Designer

**For Tarragon:** Debut.

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *15 Dogs* (Crow's Theatre), *Same Difference* (Theatre Conspiracy), *asses.masses* (with Milton Lim, Patrick Blenkarn and Laurel Green), *You Should Have Stayed Home* (live + VR performance - Spiderwebshow), *Foreign Radical* (Theatre Conspiracy).

**Selected Film and Television Credits:** *+-40*, *Spirit Glitch*, *The Mission*, *Toward You*, *The Deluge*, *Suddenly Slaughter*.

**Awards:** Winner: Jessie Richardson Award, Outstanding music composition and sound design for *The Busy World is Hushed* by Pi Theatre. Winner: Jessie Richardson Award, Innovation for *Foreign Radical* by Theatre Conspiracy and Project (X) by Leaky Heaven.

Nominee: Jessie Richardson Award, Outstanding music composition and sound design, *The Humans* by Arts Club Theatre. Nominee: Dora Mavor award for Outstanding Music Composition and co-Sound Design for *Oraltorio* by IFT Theatre.



## **SANDI BECKER**

### **Stage Manager**

**For Tarragon:** *Our Fathers, Sons, Lovers and Little Brothers.*

**Selected Credits:** *The Waltz* (Factory Theatre), *Maggie* (Charlottetown Festival), *Requiem for a Gumshoe*, *Two Weird Tales*, *Space Opera Zero*, *The Harrowing of Brimstone McReedy* (Eldritch Theatre), *Simone Half and Half* (Black Theatre Workshop), *This London Life*, *The Hobbit*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Dreamgirls* (Grand Theatre), *Every Brilliant Thing* (Festival Players), *The Black Drum* (Deaf Culture Centre/Soulpepper), *Romeo and Juliet/Midsummer Nights Dream*, *King Lear/Twelfth Night* (Canadian Stage), *Silence* (Grand Theatre/NAC), seven seasons with Driftwood Theatre Group.

**Upcoming:** *Macbeth: A Tale Told By an Idiot* (Eldritch Theatre).



## KAYLEIGH MUNDY

### Apprentice Stage Manager

**Tarragon:** Debut.

**Selected Credits:**

Stage Manager for *An Incomplete List: Of the Things I'm Going to Miss When the World is No Longer* (2023 Toronto Fringe), and *In Studio* (Sheridan College). Production Assistant for Lighting/Lighting Board Op for *otihew* (Shakespeare In Action), Lighting Board Op for *Urinetown* (Sheridan College).

**Upcoming:** Apprentice Stage Manager for *3 Fingers Back* (Tarragon Theatre).



# Nightwood Theatre Staff

**Andrea Donaldson**

Artistic Director

**Naz Afsahi**

Managing Director

**Charlene Wolf**

Head of Partnerships & Giving

**Ashley Elliott**

Administrator – Operations & Partnerships

**Jade Silman**

Artistic Associate & Head of Communications

**Tiffany Lam**

Metcalf Intern Producer\*

**Angela Sun**

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**Amanda Lin**

Program Director (Rising Moon & Nightwood Innovators)

**Keshia Palm**

Interim Write From The Hip Program Director

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**Chris Mustard**

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\*Made possible through the Metcalf Foundation

# Up next at Nightwood



## ***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.

Playing February 13-25, 2024 at the Berkeley Street Theatre.



## ***Mad Madge***

by Rose Napoli

A Nightwood Theatre production in association with VideoCabaret.

Playing April 9-21, 2024 at The Theatre Centre.

# Nightwood Board of Directors

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Nightwood Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actor's Equity Association. It is a member of the Toronto Alliance for Performing Arts (TAPA) and Theatre Ontario.  
Registered Charitable Number: 123709339 RR0001

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*Donations received since July 1, 2022. Last updated, October 2023. If your name has been misspelled or omitted, please accept our sincere apologies, and don't hesitate to reach out to Charlene Wolf, Head of Partnerships and Giving, at [charlene@nightwoodtheatre.net](mailto:charlene@nightwoodtheatre.net).*

# Tarragon Theatre Staff

**Mike Payette**

Artistic Director

**Jeff Ho**

Associate Artistic Director

**Gerry Egan**

Director of Production

**Leslie Hernandez**

Technical Director

**Carley Melvin**

Assistant Technical Director

**Karen Elizabeth**

Mainspace Technician

**David Mallette**

Extraspace Technician

**Andrew Chute**

Head Carpenter

**Ashley MacDonald**

Head of Props

**Acadia Walsh**

Head of Wardrobe

**Shara-Lee Miller**

Head Scenic Painter

**Emma Walker**

Bookkeeper

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**Monica Bradford-Lea**

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Development Assistant

**Micaela Molina Morales**

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**Amin Shirazi**

Patron Services Representatives

# Up next at Tarragon



## ***Withrow Park***

World premiere  
By Morris Panych  
Directed by Jackie Maxwell

Three people gaze out their living room window as the days pass. Across the street in Withrow Park life goes on – or is it a dream?

November 7 – December 3, 2023 at Tarragon Theatre.

# Up next at Tarragon



## Greenhouse Festival

A exciting festival showcasing brand new works, micro-performances and special presentations throughout Tarragon Theatre.

Artists include: Graham Isador, Guilty by Association, Marium Masood, Shira Leuchter, Animacy Theatre Collective, Pickles Theatre Co., Jesse Wabegijiig, Tan Vu, Alex Cameron, and Art Is Hard.

January 11-13, and January 18-20, 2024.

# Sponsors

## Season sponsor 2023/24



## Government and program support



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lives here.

BMO



BMO is pleased to support the **Tarragon Theatre** and the artists that are captivating audiences with exciting, innovative, and entertaining productions.

We are proud to be the **2023/24 Season Sponsor.**

# Special thanks to



During these extraordinary times, The Slight Family Foundation Theatre Initiative has helped Tarragon invite artists and audiences back to the creation and experience of live performance.

Over two years this initiative is supporting commissions, Tarragon's Indigenous Dramaturgy Circle, artistic process, production and marketing.

Tarragon is thankful for this transformational gift from The Slight Family Foundation.

# Tarragon Theatre Board of Directors

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# Thank you to our supportive donors

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Tarragon is generously supported by the Toronto Arts Foundation Resiliency Fund, created to provide support for artists and arts workers who have suffered significant financial loss throughout the pandemic. The Fund was made possible thanks to donations from the Hal Jackman Foundation and The Slight Family Foundation.

# Thank you Tarragon donors

## The Rose Directing Fund

The Rose Directing Fund, developed to continue Richard Rose's vision of bringing excellence to the creation and development of Canadian theatre by celebrating a professional director each season. We are grateful to the individuals whose gifts to this fund will support the future of directors at Tarragon over the next 10 years.

---

Anonymous (6)	Murray Moore
Gayle Abrams OAZ	Pauline G. Morris
Sherri & William Appell in Honour of	Suzanne Murphy
Elaine Stavro	Jan Noel
W Belcher	Louisa O'Reilly
Anne Bermonte	John & Maire Percy
Ann Black	M Angela Phillips
Terry Boyle & Jim Lawlor	Joan Pierre
Dianne Bradley	Katherine Pollock & Orysia Semotiuk
Naomi Brown	J. Barbara Rose
Adam Bryk & Melony Duranovich	J. Sergei Sawychyn
James Buchanan & Julia Robertson	Skip & Patricia Shand
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Derrick Chua	Brenda & Phillip Silver
Carolyn & Hugh Cleland	Elaine Stavro
Bob Crawley	Stephanie Stavro
Laurence Dabin	Victoria Steele
Brendan Dellandrea & Alissa Lumsden	Oliver Stock
Judy & Richard Ellen	Ross & Ann Stuart
Barbara Fingerote	Kristine & Ivor Thompson
Kathleen Gallagher	Judith Tobin
Steve Garmaise & Sue Rebick	Frank Trotz
Kamala Jean Gopie	Andrea Vagianos & Zis Parras
Kristine Greenaway	Line van Kempen
Jenny Gumbs	Beth Weintrop
Shira Hart	Anne Wessels & Jim Kitchens
Claire Hopkinson	Heather Yamoah
Maureen Jennings & Iden Ford	Dr. Walter Yim
Roseneath Theatre	Hersh Zeifman
Samuel Laredo	In Memory of Eva Saphir
Carolyn McIntire Smyth	In Memory of Graham Ewart
John & Kay McKellar	

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## Individual donors

Tarragon Theatre is extremely grateful for the support of our donors, which allows Canadian stories, education, and community to remain at the heart of our work. Donations to Tarragon allow us to develop meaningful, enriching stories that speak to our audiences today in an environment that welcomes all voices and perspectives within our theatre.

### **Premiers (\$5,000+)**

Anonymous (2)  
James Buchanan & Julia Robertson

### **Ambassadors (\$2,500 - \$4,999)**

Anonymous  
Sherri & William Appell  
Naomi Brown  
Shira Hart  
Don & Marjorie Lenz  
Pauline G. Morris  
Robert Sherrin  
Dr. Elaine Stavro

### **Advocates (\$1,000 - \$2,499)**

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The Estate of Kenneth Charles Dawe

The Estate of Ellen (Helen) Joan Kates

The Estate of Marjorie Eileen Kelley

## Legacy society members

Tarragon Theatre is honoured to recognize the following for committing to support our work of rigorous play development, best possible first productions and Canadian playwrights through their estate plans.

Anonymous (3)

Larry Lubin

Lynne Patterson

David Southen & Susan Carlyle

Sybil Wilkinson

Hersh Zeifman

## Tribute gifts

We are grateful for donations made by family and loved ones.

### **In honor of:**

Sherri and Bill Appell's 50th Anniversary

### **In memory of:**

Annie Buktaw

Robert Fothergill

Colin Krivy

Margaret Stevens

Ronald Youd

# Thank you, enjoy the show

If we have made any errors in the spelling, listing or omission of your name please accept our apologies and contact Courtney Fiddis, Director of Development at: [courtney@tarragontheatre.com](mailto:courtney@tarragontheatre.com)

Thank you to our volunteers!

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Stage Employees of Tarragon are represented by Local 58 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

Tarragon Theatre is an active member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA).

