

NightwoodTheatre

**2024-2025 SEASON**





# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

**-Monique Aura, Oneida Nation**

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



In the spirit and intent of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations, Nightwood Theatre acknowledges the land on which our work is created and where our offices are located is the traditional territory of many Nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit 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 and the Dish With One Spoon Wampum covenant.



# A NOTE FROM NIGHTWOOD

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that we welcome you to Nightwood's 45th Anniversary season - a season that promises three incredible shows, a workshop production, and our annual Groundswell Festival.

This year's productions touch on political engagement, body sovereignty, power, presence, and transformation. Each piece centres on the journey of a solo protagonist willing to share themselves completely as a way to reach out - as an offering. This fiery vulnerability is best summarized in Amanda Wilkin's beautiful words from her play *Shedding a Skin*, "Connection is an act of rebellion". We are very eager to come back together with you.

And speaking of connection, this season also marks the launch of our brand new venue at 877 Yonge Street in collaboration with Tapestry Opera and St. Clare's in January 2025! Nightwood's new home will provide us with a shared office, rehearsal and performance space that we hope will become a beloved hub for artists and audiences alike - we are so grateful for our numerous supporters who have helped us achieve this incredible milestone.

We look so forward to connecting with you this year in the imaginative sphere through our productions, as well as in real life at our new space at 877 Yonge Street!

**With love from all of us at Nightwood,**

**Andrea & Naz**





NightwoodTheatre ●●●

# 2024-2025 SEASON

- **WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME**

October 31 - November 9, 2024

- **GROUNDSWELL FESTIVAL**

November 18 - 21, 2024

- **WHERE THE SPIRITS SIT**

Winter 2025

- **HYPOTHETICAL BABY**

February 23 - March 9, 2025

- **SHEDDING A SKIN**

April 22 - May 4, 2025





# WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME

by Heidi Schreck

Directed by Weyni Mengesha

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 9, 2024  
AT SOULPEPPER THEATRE

A Soulpepper and Nightwood Theatre co-production,  
in association with Necessary Angel and Talk Is Free  
Theatre

Five years after *What the Constitution Means to Me* took Broadway by storm and timed to overlap with the US election, playwright Heidi Schreck re-imagines the play specifically for Canadian audiences in this exclusive and limited run.

Featuring a tour-de-force performance by **Amy Rutherford** as Heidi Schreck, *What the Constitution Means To Me* allows audiences to explore the dynamic relationship between individuals and the foundational principles of their country, sparking conversations around citizenship, rights, and democracy.

Schreck is a wonder who earned her American college tuition by winning constitutional debate competitions across the United States. In her invigorating and hilarious play, she traces the profound relationship between four generations of women in her family and the founding document that shaped all of their lives.



**Soulpepper**  
NECESSARY ANGEL  
THEATRE COMPANY

**TIF**  
TALK IS FREE THEATRE



# GROUNDSWELL FESTIVAL

A Festival of New Play Readings

NOVEMBER 18-21, 2024  
AT BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES

Program Director **Keshia Palm**

Program Associate **Jan Alicia Jennings**

Now in its 39th year, we are proud to support the return of the **Groundswell Festival** of new play readings. Be the first to hear brand new works from our talented 2024 Write From The Hip playwrights: **Kijo Gatama**, **Meara Khana**, **Mily Mumford**, **Pesch Nepoose**, and **Hilary Smith**. Learn more about this year's playwrights [here](#).

**Write From The Hip** is a year-long script development program designed to support new writers. Under the guidance of Program Director **Keshia Palm** and Program Associate **Jan Alicia Jennings**, these 5 playwrights have spent the last year working toward the completion of a full-length play. Don't miss this week of new Canadian plays and professional development opportunities!



The 2024 Write From The Hip playwrights from left to right:  
Kijo Gatama, Meara Khana, Mily Mumford, Pesch Nepoose, and Hilary Smith.



# WHERE THE SPIRITS SIT

by Tamara Podemski  
Directed by Andrea Donaldson

WINTER/SPRING 2025

A Nightwood Theatre Workshop Production

*Where the Spirits Sit* is a musical journey based on **Tamara Podemski's** twelve songs for the twelve moons of the Anishinaabe calendar. Through her soulful melodies and poignant lyrics, Tamara probes the intersection of prayer and performance, asking if it is possible to sing her most deeply personal songs without falling apart.

With a celebrated career spanning over three decades in theatre, music and film, Tamara Podemski has captivated audiences with her compelling storytelling and emotional depth. As an Anishinaabe/Ashkenazi multi-disciplinary performer, Tamara infuses her work with a rich cultural heritage, creating a profound and authentic connection with her listeners. Join Tamara for this one-of-a-kind workshop presentation that promises laughter, inspiration and raw vulnerability.





# HYPOTHETICAL BABY

by Rachel Cairns

Directed by Courtney Ch'ng Lancaster

FEBRUARY 23 - MARCH 9, 2025  
AT 877 YONGE ST.

A Nightwood Theatre production in association  
with The Howland Company

Hypothetical Baby is a time-travelling exploration that grapples with the personal and societal factors that shape our reproductive lives and the intricate relationship between choice, change, and loss.

From the creator of the award-winning Aborsh podcast, **Rachel Cairns** mixes data and drama in this autobiographical work to publicly talk about abortion the way we do privately — with neurotic vulnerability, unflinching honesty, and frank irreverence. This will be our first collaboration with The Howland Company and the inaugural production in our new space.

THE  
HOWLAND  
COMPANY





# SHEDDING A SKIN

by Amanda Wilkin

Directed by Cherissa Richards

APRIL 22 - MAY 4, 2025  
AT BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES

A Nightwood Theatre production in association  
with Buddies In Bad Times

On the 15th floor of a London tower block, a revolution takes place. Myah has ejected herself from a corporate hellscape only to crash-land in the spare room of an elder named Mildred—an evasive auntie with laminated house rules and hidden wounds. But healing takes many shapes, and sometimes it looks like sneaking your roommate's duckanoo.

*Shedding a Skin* is a one-woman buddy comedy for the heartbroken—a series of exquisitely observed, quietly radical scenes that offers a hand to those feeling the weight of the world. Drop your baggage at the door. Connection is resistance.

**Amanda Wilkin's** *Shedding a Skin* is the 2020 winner of Soho Theatre's acclaimed Verity Bargate Award. The play premiered at Soho Theatre, London, in June 2021.



**buddies**  
IN BAD TIMES THEATRE



# SUBSCRIBE & SAVE

Get ready for an unforgettable year of theatre! Nightwood is thrilled to offer exclusive **Season Passes**. With a season pass, you can experience all of our captivating productions at a fantastic value with flexible and convenient booking. Secure your season pass today and immerse yourself in a world of drama, laughter, and inspiration—all season long!

A very limited quantity of passes are available. Head to our website for more information.

**Season Pass shows include:**

**WHAT THE CONSTITUTION  
MEANS TO ME**

by Heidi Schreck



**HYPOTHETICAL BABY**

by Rachel Cairns



**SHEDDING A SKIN**

by Amanda Wilkin



## PASS PRICING

General Season Pass.....\$190.00

Subsidized Season Pass.....\$130.00

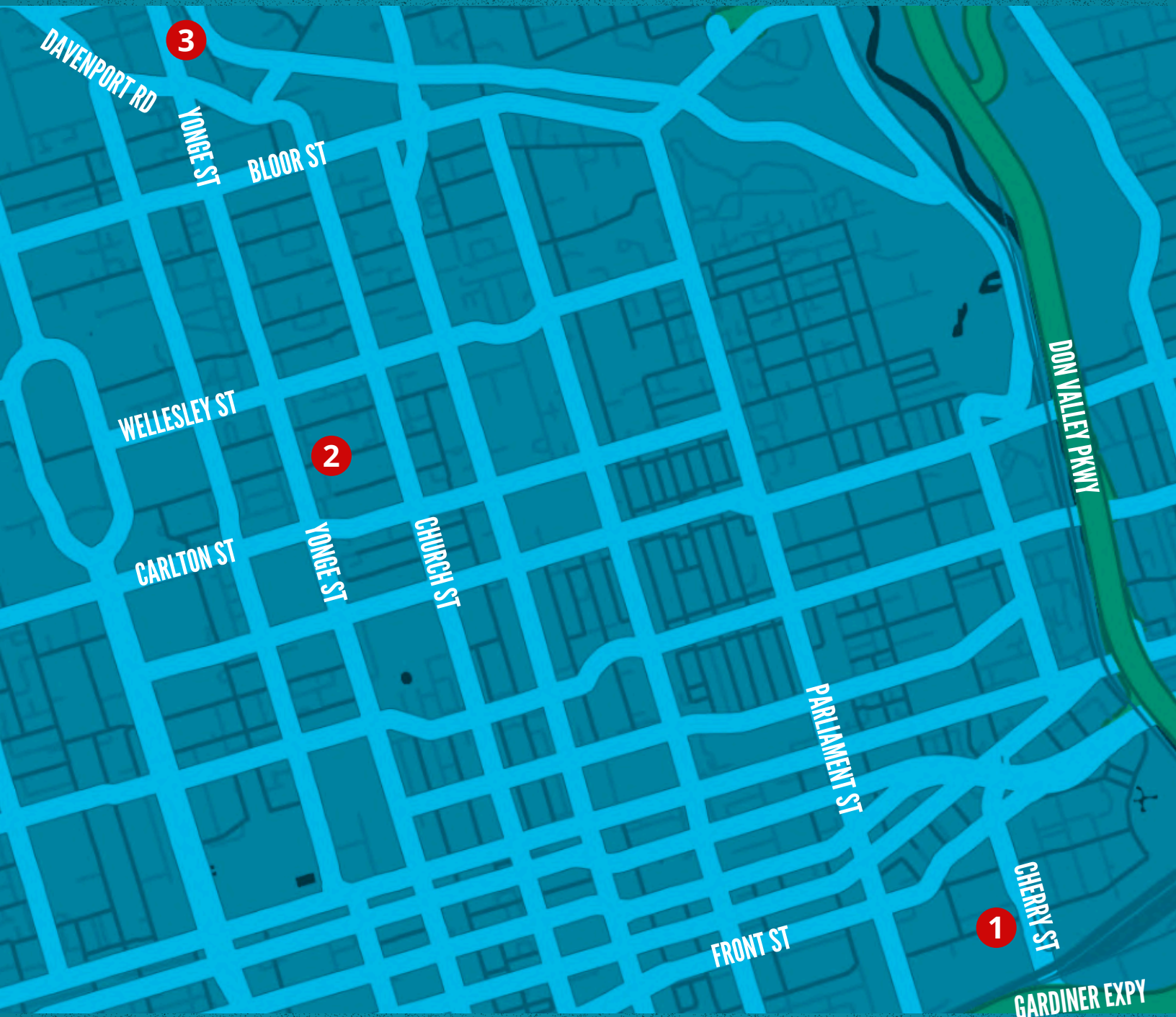
**ORDER NOW**

*Prices include HST*

Photo of Izaad Etemadi by Dahlia Katz



# BOX OFFICE MAPS & INFO



1

## WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME

Soulpepper Theatre  
50 Tank House Lane  
416-866-8666

2

## GROUNDWELL FESTIVAL & SHEDDING A SKIN

Buddies in Bad Times  
12 Alexander St.  
416-975-8555

3

## WHERE THE SPIRITS SIT & HYPOTHETICAL BABY

New home of Nightwood  
877 Yonge St.  
416-944-1740



# NEW SEASON, NEW HOME

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

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

**With abundant support from our partner organizations, elected officials, and community, we are excited to be opening 877 Yonge St at the end of 2024!**

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

**LEARN  
MORE**

**SUPPORT OUR  
CAMPAIGN**



Photo of the exterior of 877 Yonge St



# CELEBRATE 45 YEARS OF NIGHTWOOD

Join decades of audience members, artists, and advocates who have been dedicated to ensuring the future of feminist theatre. Your support will help us celebrate our 45th year of supporting women and gender-expansive artists through our renowned training programs, play development initiatives, and productions.

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

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

## ● Ally \$25-499

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

## ● Collaborator \$1,000-9,999

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

## ● Friend \$500-999

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

## ● Champion \$10,000+

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

**DONATE**



*Good Night Desdemona*  
(*Good Morning Juliet*)  
by Ann-Marie MacDonald, winner of  
the Governor General's Award



*The Penelopiad*, written by Margaret  
Atwood and starring Megan Follows -  
nominated for 6 Dora Mavor Moore Awards



*School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls*  
*Play*, winner of the 2019 Dora Award for  
Outstanding Production and  
Outstanding Direction



# NIGHTWOOD THEATRE IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROSITY OF OUR FUNDER AND SUPPORTERS

## GOVERNMENT FUNDERS



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

Ontario



TORONTO  
ARTS  
COUNCIL

FUNDED BY  
THE CITY OF  
TORONTO

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & NIGHTWOOD INNOVATORS SPONSOR



TD READY  
COMMITMENT



Emerging  
Artists

## 2024/25 PLAY DEVELOPMENT ACCELERATOR SPONSOR

BMO



## FOUNDATION, PRODUCTION AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

ARTS  ETOBICOKE

The Catherine and Maxwell  
MEIGHEN FOUNDATION



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FAMILY  
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Andrew and Lynn Torres Foundation at  
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Kate Amesbury via the Woodlawn Arts  
Foundation

Patricia J. Fleming (FBC) Fund at  
Toronto Foundation

Stanley Shalom Zielony Foundation

The Paul Butler and Chris Black  
Foundation

Shum Vourkoutiotis Fund at the  
Toronto Foundation

Strombergs Family Fund

Sylvia Chrominska Fund



The image shows the front cover of a publication. The background is a black, crumpled paper texture. Overlaid on this is the text 'FEMINIST CONSUMER FEMINIST CULTURE' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in four lines: 'FEMINIST' (top), 'CONSUMER' (second), 'FEMINIST' (third), and 'CULTURE' (bottom). The letters are filled with a light yellow-green color and have a thin blue outline. The text is layered, with some letters appearing to be in front of others, creating a complex, geometric visual effect. The overall design is modern and artistic.

Front & back covers by Michelle Tracey