



2024 GROUNDSWELL FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 18-20, 2024

A FESTIVAL OF NEW PLAY READINGS

THE 2023-24 WRITE FROM THE HIP PLAYWRIGHTS:

Kijo Gatama, Meara Khanna, Mily Mumford,
Pesch Nepoose & Hilary Smith

Interim Program Director: **Keshia Palm**

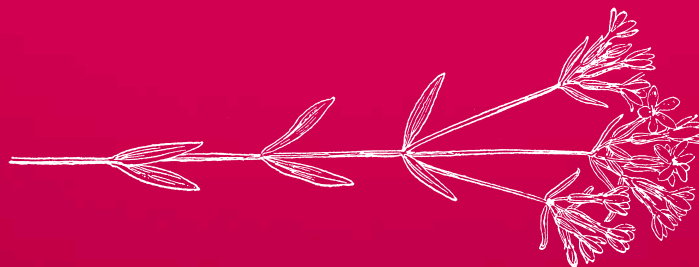
Program Associate: **Jan Alicia Jennings**

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, 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. At Groundswell, emerging women and gender expansive playwrights get to test their writing in front of an audience a few hours after throwing a director, playwright, and handful of actors together in a room for a short, intense workshop process. It's the culmination of Write from the Hip, a several-month-long playwriting unit, and in true rough-and-tumble, wild west fashion, the festival draws artists and audiences seeking the thrill of experiencing raw works by exceptional creators.

This season's Groundswell offers four public readings of excerpts from this year's cohort, a talkback with the playwrights, curtain raising readings and performances from artists in Nightwood's orbit, and a free workshop intending to provoke, inspire, and spur the creative writing process.

The playwrights and their work represent a broad array of aesthetic, genres, curiosities, identities, experience. Together, they form a beautiful constellation of stories expressing varied and distinctly feminist worlds.

Thank you for being part of this year's festival. We hope you are provoked, inspired, and spurred to action!

Keshia Palm

Interim Program Director

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



Nightwood Government Funders:





Banner of the Nightwood 24-25 season shows.

Top L to R: WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME, Nightwood's 45th Anniversary Logo, WHERE THE SPIRITS SITS;

Bottom L to R: HYPOTHETICAL BABY, THE QUEEN IN ME, SHEDDING A SKIN

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 *A Poem For Rabia* by Nikki Shaffeeullah, which went to production in 2023 by Tarragon Theatre in association with Nightwood Theatre and Undercurrent Creations.

2024 GROUNDSWELL FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

7:00PM | "Curtain Raisers" from
Rakhee Morzaria &
Thalía González

Followed by
"The Forage"
by Kijo Gatama

8:30PM | Talkback & Drinks

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

7:00PM | "Curtain Raisers" from
Srutika Sabu &
Laurel Marie Munro

Followed by
"Involuntary
Parenthood"
by Hilary Smith

8:30PM | Drinks

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

7:00PM | "Gremlin"
by Meara Khanna

8:00PM | Playwrights' Platform

9:00PM | Drinks

To learn more about our upcoming
workshops & programming, sign up
for our newsletter!



STAY CONNECTED WITH
NIGHTWOOD THEATRE



FESTIVAL EVENTS

NOVEMBER 18TH WFTH PLAYWRIGHTS TALKBACK

If you love Reunion Episodes, Behind-the-Scenes content, Director's Cuts, or want to learn more about the playwrights from this season's Groundswell, don't miss the first time all five WFTH playwrights gather in the same room for a very special IRL conversation in front of a live audience (you)! Stick around after the reading to hear the playwrights talk about their scripts, writing process, creative inspirations, and curiosities. Moderated by Interim Program Director **Keshia Palm**, featuring **Hilary Smith, Kijo Gatama, Meara Khanna, Mily Mumford**, and **Pesch Nepoose**.

NOVEMBER 20TH PLAYWRIGHTS' PLATFORM

Wrapping up our festival celebrations, we are holding our first Playwrights' Platform! Stacked with Nightwood program alum, the Playwrights' Platform will host writers as they boldly explore snippets of their recent work. Come get a taste of all of their pieces and help us send off the 39th annual Groundswell Festival with flare! **Meet the line-up on Page 26-27**

Great
performances
live here.

We are proud to support **Nightwood Theatre** and the artists that are captivating audiences with exciting, innovative, and entertaining productions.

BMO is pleased to support the **Play Development Accelerator Program**.



THE FORAGE

BY KIJO GATAMA

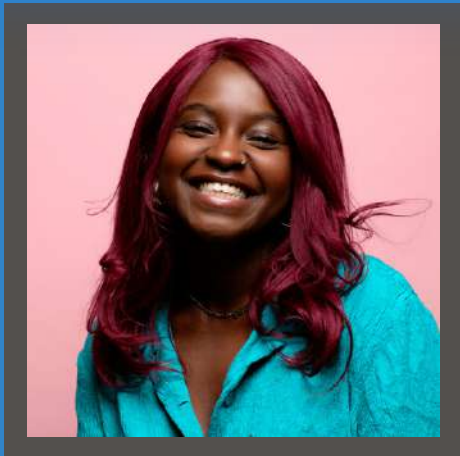
Directed by **Mumbi Tindyebwa Otu**

Performed by **Walter Borden, Virgilia Griffith, Tarique Lewis, daniel jelani ellis, and Natasha Mumba**

Workshop Shadow / stage directions read by **Keira Marie Forde**

What could possibly go wrong when your family's medical history is blank, suspicions of it are disregarded as happenstance or curses or a good tale to discuss at family dinner reminiscing about that "crazy" uncle that mysteriously passed away? This play embarks on a deeply emotional journey exploring family, heritage, and health, shedding light on rarely discussed topics in African households. Mumbi's revelation of an irreversible hereditary condition during a checkup unravels generations of untold medical history. Who is in her corner?

Content Warning: Adult Language



KIJO GATAMA (SHE/THEY) - PLAYWRIGHT

I'm Kijo Eunice Gatama, a multidisciplinary artist and emerging producer based in Amiskwacîwâskahikan (Edmonton, Alberta). I co-curate and produce for Here, for: Fear Collective, Edmonton's first fear-focused theatre and film festival, which emphasizes IBPOC artists (2020-present), and RECHIQUE. As a playwright, I explore folklore and queer Afro-Canadian experiences. My recent works include the short story *Mango of the Dead*, featured at the A Thousand Faces Festival (2022), the workshop production of *Hyena's Trail* at Nextfest (June 2023), and *A Tale of Two Bundles* at the Thou Art Here: Immersive Theatre Program (2023). I graduated with a BFA in Acting from the University of Alberta. When I'm not performing or writing, you'll find me in my mother's kitchen.



Photo by roya delsol

MUMBI TINDYEBWA OTU (SHE/HER) – DIRECTOR

Mumbi is an acclaimed theatre creator and director raised in Kenya and Victoria, BC and based in Toronto. She is the Artistic Director of Obsidian Theatre, Canada's leading creator for Black Art as well as Founder / Artistic Director for the experimental theatre company IFT (It's A Freedom Thing Theatre) Theatre. Selected directing credits, *Three Sisters* (Obsidian / Soulpepper), *Is God Is* (Obsidian / Canadian Stage / Necessary Angel) *Cast Iron* (Obsidian/Factory), *21 Black Futures* (Obsidian/CBC Arts), *Trout Stanley* (Factory Theatre), *Sizwe Bansi is Dead*, *The Brothers Size*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (Soulpepper Theatre), *Post Democracy* (Tarragon Theatre), *We are Proud to Present* (UofT Scarborough), and *Oratorio: A Theatrical Mixtape for* (Obsidian Theatre / Soulpepper). Upcoming: *Flex* (Obsidian / Crows).

Mumbi is also the recipient of many awards including a Canadian Screen Award, a Dora Award, a Toronto Theatre Critics Award, a Pauline McGibbon Award and a Mallory Gilbert Protege Award



WALTER BORDEN (HE/HIM) – One / Ancestor / Nappy

For the past half century, Walter Borden has been an acclaimed actor, playwright, poet and teacher. Along the way, he has performed on stages across Canada.

Mr. Borden's play *Tightrope Time* was published in 2005 and his CD, *Walter Borden Reads The Sonnets Of William Shakespeare* has received great critical praise. Mr. Borden is a recipient of; the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee medal; the African-Nova Scotian Music Association Heritage award; the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Achievement award; and the Portia White Prize. He is also an inductee into the Dr. William P. Oliver Wall of Honour Society. Mr. Borden became a member of the prestigious ORDER OF CANADA, Canada's highest civilian honour, in 2006.



TARIQUE LEWIS (HE/HIM) – Two / Receptionist / Ancestor

Tarique is a Canadian actor born in Toronto. Tarique is a recent graduate of Toronto Metropolitan University, where he earned a BFA in Performance Acting. Tarique is an actor, writer, designer, and a passionate artist.



Photo by Denise Grant Photography

VIRGILIA GRIFFITH (SHE/HER) – Three / Aunty / Ancestor

Virgilia Griffith is an actor based in Toronto. Winner of the Meta Emerging Artist Award for *Gas Girls* written by Donna Michelle St. Bernard. Winner of the Dora Mavor Moore awards for Outstanding Performance for *Harlem Duet* written by Djanet Sears. She was also a Dora Mavor Moore nominee for Outstanding Female in an Independent Division for her performance of *Honesty* directed by Jordan Tannahill. Selected credits include: *Rosmersholm* (Crow's Theatre), *Three Sisters* (Obsidian Theatre / Soulpepper Theatre), *Our Place* (Cahoots / Theatre Passé Muraille), *Queen Goneril / King Lear* (Soulpepper Theatre), *Serving Elizabeth* (Stratford Festival), *21 Black Futures* (Obsidian Theatre Company / CBC Gem), *Contractions* (Studio 180), *Guarded Girls* (Tarragon Theatre / Greenlight Arts), *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).



Photo by Kristina Ruddick

NATASHA MUMBA (SHE/HER) – Mumbi / Doctor

Natasha Mumba is a Zambian born, Toronto based multi-disciplined artist. Her acting credits include: *School Girls, or the African Mean Girls Play* (Obsidian/Nightwood); *Henry V*, *The Adventures of the Black Girl*, *Dracula* (Shaw Festival); *Silver Arrow* (Citadel); *Trout Stanley* (Factory); *Measure for Measure*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (Canadian Stage); *Middletown* (Crows); *Millennial Malcontent* (Tarragon). FILM & TELEVISION: *Handmaid's Tale* (MGM); *The Last of Us* (HBO); *Y: The Last Man* (FX); *Beacon 23* (AMC); *Matlock* (CBS); *Five Days At Memorial* (APPLE+). Natasha previously served as the Apprentice Artistic Director and participated in the Directing program at Factory Theatre with the generous support of the Metcalf Foundation. Her Directing credits include; *Three Sisters* (Assistant director - Soulpepper); *Vierge* (Factory); *Lady Sunrise* (Assistant Director - Factory); *The Water Gun Song* (YPT). She is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada. IG: @Tashamum



Photo by roya delsol

DANIEL JELANI ELLIS (HE/HIM) – Four / Eddie

daniel jelani ellis is a Tkaròn:to-based artist and arts worker raised in Jamaica by a village of theatre artists, poets, and educators. His art practice is Afrocentric and celebratory, working in performance-installation, playwriting, dub poetry, and acting. danjelani is especially passionate about arts-based community organizing for social justice. Graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada, danjelani has been resident artist at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre and BAND (Black Artists' Network in Dialogue) Gallery and Cultural Centre, and is currently in residency at The Theatre Centre. He is a Siminovitch Theatre Foundation Emerging Artist grant recipient in playwriting. He is currently the artistic producer at Obsidian Theatre, Canada's leading culturally-specific theatre company centering the Black voice.



Photo by @TonyxTones

KEIRA MARIE FORDE (SHE/THEY) – Workshop Shadow / Stage Directions Reader

Keira Marie Forde is a multidisciplinary performer, creator, and community arts producer who has been working in culturally relevant pedagogy and arts for over nine years. Keira's artistic contribution has focused on amplifying stories for people in Toronto who are under the Youth category (under 30) through various works as a performer, producer, sound artist, arts educator, and coordinator. Keira's recent performance credits include Suitable Climate with B Current for Summerworks, The Christie Pits Riot based on the Christie Pits Riot with Hogtown Collective, What's So Funny with Carousel Players, and her original digital work titled No More News for Nancy with Alberta-based company Major Matt Mason Collective. In 2023-2024, No More News For Nancy recently went through further research supported by The Creative Catalyst program at The NIA Center for the Arts.

INVOLUNTARY PARENTHOOD

BY HILARY SMITH

Directed by **Bryn Kennedy**

Performed by **Alice Snaden, Johnathan Sousa, Karl Ang, Sochi Fried, Nancy Palk, and Avery MacDonald**

Workshop Shadow / stage directions read by **Avery MacDonald**

Darcy is a single woman in her late thirties who lives far away from her family and feels increasingly isolated from her peers. Then she gets pregnant by a guy she doesn't know well. When she decides to keep the baby, he refuses to let her choices affect his. She brings him a co-parenting agreement, he responds by suing her. This story is based on the 2017 Ontario Court of Appeal case, PP v DD.

Content Warning: Sexually explicit scenes, profanity/mature language



HILARY SMITH (SHE/HER) - PLAYWRIGHT

Hilary Smith is a writer and recovering lawyer living between Toronto and the UK. Hilary studied drama and english at the University of Bristol (in England) and law at Queen's University. Her work is preoccupied with questions of class, conformity, dating, and the way legal systems shape behaviours and attitudes. She is returning to life as an artist after spending over a decade as, variously, a development assistant, producer, law student, and a corporate lawyer. Don't ask her about the novel she's writing.



Photo by Jaclyn Vogl

BRYN KENNEDY (SHE/HER) – DIRECTOR

Bryn is a director, actor, spreadsheet planner, life-long learner and community builder. Her favourite directing credits include a new interpretation of *VITALS* by Rosamund Small (Nominated Outstanding Solo Performance, My Entertainment Awards), *BENEATH THE BED* by Gabriel Golin (sold-out at the Toronto Fringe Festival), Schiller's *MARY STUART* (Stratford Directors Workshop Projects), and *JANE* by Camille Intson (Tarragon Greenhouse Festival and Pantheon Projects workshop). She assistant directed *A BEAR AWAKE IN WINTER* (Canadian Stage Workshop & Next Stage Theatre Festival), *HAMLET* (Stratford Festival), and *WITHROW PARK* (Tarragon Theatre) and apprentice directed *NATASHA, PIERRE & THE GREAT COMET OF 1812* (Crow's Theatre / Musical Stage Company). You can visit her website, which she worked very hard on, at brynkennedy.com.



Photo by Kristina Ruddick

ALICE SNADEN (SHE/HER) – Darcy O'Sullivan

After four years away from the theatre, Alice is incredibly honoured and grateful to the Groundswell Festival for inviting her into this workshop reading. Alice has worked in film, television, and theatre across Canada. Alice was born in London Ontario, grew up dancing in Windsor Ontario and then went on to train as an actor at The National Theatre School of Canada in Montreal. Selected theatre credits include *Annie (Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes / Tarragon Theatre)*, *Emmy (A Doll's House Part 2 / Belfry Theatre)*, *Iphigenia (Wedding at Aulis / Soulpepper Theatre)*, *Tehila (Mikveh / Harold Green Jewish Theatre)*. Selected film and television credits include; *Avatar; Frontiers of Pandora, Murdoch Mysteries, Alias Grace, Frankie Drake, Moon Dog, The Things You Think I'm Thinking*. Above all, her most beloved piece of her biography is the credit of her role as mother to Selah. For him, the world.



KARL ANG (HE/HIM) – Will McMahon

Karl is utterly delighted to be bashing new words around with Nightwood. Let us keep gathering and creating and lifting up our voices. Previously with Nightwood: *Mad Madge*



Photo by David Cooper

JOHNATHAN SOUSA (HE/HIM) – Pete Diaz

Selected credits: SHAW 2024: *Candida* and *Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart*, *The Doctor's Dilemma*, *Desire Under the Elms*, *The Devil's Disciple*. Stratford festival: Cassio in *Othello*, Earl Williams in *The Front Page*, Rugby in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Lieutenant in Robert LePage's *Coriolanus*, Amedeo in *Napoli Milionaria!*, Hotspur in *Breath of Kings: Rebellion*, Charlie Valere in *Tartuffe*, Canadian Stage; *Breathing Corpses*, and *Yerma* Coal Mine Theatre. FILM/TELEVISION: Alessandro in *Frankie Drake Mysteries*, *Reacher*, *The Good Doctor*, *Rookie Blue*, Global TV; leading roles in *The Threat Next Door*, *Animal Project*, *Relative Happiness*, *What We Have*, *Kidnap Capital*. TRAINING: Ryerson Theatre School (2010), Norman Jewison Canadian Film Centre Actors' Conservatory. AWARDS: Lou Taube Memorial Award, 2013 Toronto International Film Festival Rising Star, John Hirsch Memorial Award. INSTAGRAM: @Jsous29.



Photo by Sam Gaetz

SOCHI FRIED (SHE/HER) – Kaitlyn Nowak / Susannah

SOCHI FRIED grew up in New York City and Ottawa, and is now based in Toronto. Primarily a stage actor, she is currently appearing in Coleen MacPherson's *Erased* at Theatre Passe Muraille. Recent theatre credits include: *Candida*, *The Mystery of the Human Heart*, *The Game of Love and Chance*, *The Apple Cart* (Shaw Festival); *The Great Shadow* (4th Line Theatre, Millbrook), *Consumption Patterns* (Next Stage Fest.), *The Life & Death of Fred Herko* (Rendezvous With Madness), *Rosalynde (or As You Like it)* (Driftwood), *Measure for Measure* (Shakespeare Bash'd), and *Crossing Delancey* (The Alliance, Atlanta). Her TV / film credits include: "Murderbot," "Transplant," "Star Trek: Discovery," "American Gods," "The Hot Zone," Guest of Honour (dir. Atom Egoyan). She is a graduate of the Citadel / Banff Centre Professional Theatre Program, Toronto Metropolitan University Theatre School, and The American Musical and Dramatic Academy. Sochi also narrated *A Student of Weather*, by Elizabeth Hay, for Penguin Random House Canada.



NANCY PALK (SHE/HER) – Líobhan O'Sullivan / Justice Patel

Nancy has been acting in Toronto for over forty years. She last performed in *Withrow Park* (Tarragon), *Brementown* (Next Stage), *The Prodigal* (Howland). She is a founding member of Soulpepper Theatre (*Queen Goneril*, *King Lear*, *August Osage County*, *Testament of Mary*, *Angels in America*, *Ghosts*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *Hamlet*, *A Winter's Tale*). Nancy has performed across Canada at The Belfry, The Citadel, Theatre Calgary, MTC, Tarragon, NAC, Centaur, Stratford, Shaw, and in NYC for Theatre for a New Audience, and The Public. She has taught at Coal Mine, NTS, Humber, George Brown, Tarragon, Soulpepper, ESA. Film/TV credits include: *How To Work A Crowd*, *Catch and Release*, *The Other Half*, and *Rogue*.

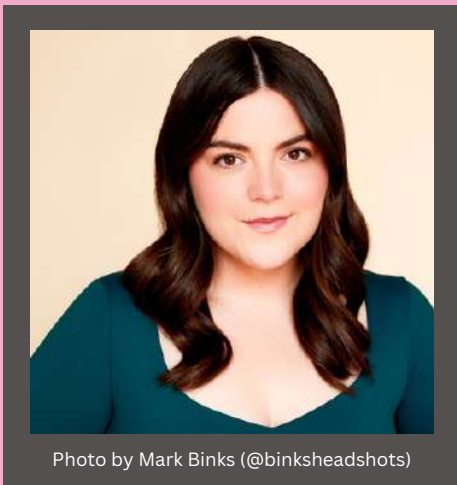


Photo by Mark Binks (@binksheadshots)

AVERY MACDONALD (SHE/HER) – Court Clerk / Nurse & Workshop Shadow / Stage Directions Reader

Avery MacDonald is an actor and writer based in Toronto. A graduate of the University of Windsor's BFA in Acting program, she is a storyteller & general merrymaker who loves re-examining historical narratives while making people laugh. Most recently, she shared her play *Twenty Something Teenage Girl* (working title), examining guilt, religion and love, at the State Festival, run by Half-Blind Owl. Recent acting credits include: *The Velveteen Rabbit* (Rule of Three - winner of Best of Fest, Guelph Fringe Festival 2024) and *Romeo & Juliet* (Sunbeam Theatre Co.). When not writing or acting, Avery can be found hanging out with her cat Toni while drinking overpriced lattes.

(Hosted as In-House Workshop)

MALADAPTIVE

BY MILY MUMFORD

Directed by **Keshia Palm**

Performed by **Camila Farah, Iris Rhian, Donna-Michelle St. Bernard, Frankie Bayley, Isabelle Ellis, and Philippa Domville**

Workshop Shadow / stage directions read by **Oliver Pitschner**

Cooper is a very smart, very messy writer and academic who is dealing with debilitating burnout after a late-stage ADHD and autism diagnosis. Amy, who appears to be a character in a book Cooper is writing, is a high school freshman, dealing with the realization that she is queer... and also a werewolf. The two are linked in ways that transcend worlds and memory, and both have something to teach the other. “Maladaptive” is a retelling of the changeling myth, exploring queer, trans and disabled perspectives on love, belonging and the lengths we go to protect our own personal “normal.”

Content Warnings: Self-harm, ableism, discussions of homophobia, transphobia, parental abuse, sexual violence



MILY MUMFORD (THEY/THEM) – PLAYWRIGHT

Mily Mumford is a writer/director for film and theatre focusing on social justice oriented science fiction and horror. They were recently part of the Arts Club Emerging Playwright's Unit (Vancouver, 2019) and a playwright's associate with Playwright's Theatre Centre (Vancouver, 2021-2024), and developed their sci-fi series *Nostalgica* with the Warner Brothers Canada Access Writer's Program in 2022. They have a BSc. in biopsychology (UVic) and an MSc. in Interactive Technology (SFU).



Photo by Pascal Lamothe-Kipnes

KESHIA PALM (THEY/THEM) – DIRECTOR

Keshia Palm is a storyteller seeking to spark connection and conversation through live, shared experiences in thoughtful and inclusive art/spaces — as Actor, Director, Dramaturge, Producer and Playwright, depending on the day. You would have seen them last on stage as Anya in *The Cherry Orchard* (Modern Times Stage Company), Wen's Understudy in *The Year of the Cello* (Theatre Passe Muraille + Music Picnic), or giving a preshow speech for the Paprika Festival, where they played Artistic Producer for 3 seasons. They spend a lot of time on zoom supporting emerging playwrights — as a freelance dramaturge, and as the Interim Program Director of Nightwood Theatre's Write from the Hip. Productions they recently helped get onstage from offstage include dramaturging *WHITE MUSCLE DADDY* by Raf Antonio (Buddies in Bad Times Theatre + Pencil Kit Productions), directing *Radium Girls* (York University), and *SEPH* (RISERx Why Not Theatre + Toronto Metropolitan University). @keshiapalm // keshiapalm.com



Photo by Calvin Thomas

CAMILA FARAH (SHE/HER) – Dayna

Camila Farah is a queer Brazilian-Canadian actor, singer and costume designer. She is a Randolph College for the Performing Arts graduate. Credits as a performer include: *Smokeville* (Alumnae Theatre); *Love You To Death* (Small But Mighty); *The Storyteller* (No Strings Theatre); *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche* (Unit 6 Collective); *Elephant and Piggie's: We Are in a Play*; *The Princess and The Pea*; *Cinderella*; *Rapunzel* (TYT Theatre); *Ghost Light* (Za Hughes); *SAMCA* (Spindle Collective); *Sunshine Boy, A Dispute* (Randolph). Follow her musical and fabric adventures on Instagram: @camilafarah.



Photo by Julianna McGuirl

IRIS RHIAN (all pronouns) – Amy

Iris Rhian is an emerging actor and playwright from the United States and Canada. Iris trained at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where they developed a passion for performing brand new plays. In New York, Iris was a regular workshop actor for Clubbed Thumb's Winterworks Festival and performed at numerous independent theatre centres such as Dixon Place, The Tank, and Fort Greene Park. As a writer, Iris is committed to community engagement, and recently completed a two year fellowship in Boston writing interview-based plays for local youth. Last month, Iris's play "Baby" was a part of Talk Is Free Theatre's "I Do, I Don't, I Dare!" Festival.



Photo by Graham Isador

DONNA-MICHELLE ST. BERNARD (SHE/HER) – Therapist

Donna-Michelle St. Bernard aka Belladonna the Blest is an emcee, playwright and agitator. Her theatrical performances include *Sound of the Beast* (Theatre Passe Muraille), *The Only Good Indian* (Pandemic Theatre), *Civil Debates* (Praxis Theatre), *Roominhouse* (New Harlem Productions), *Juneteenth* (Native Earth / LMDA), *Red, Black and Ignorant* (Native Earth / Sheep No Wool). DM is an associate artist at lemonTree Creations, artistic director of New Harlem Productions and creator of the 54ology.



Photo by Dahlia Katz

FRANKIE BAYLEY (THEY/HE) – Cooper

Frankie Bayley is a queer neurodivergent theatre artist based in so-called "Toronto." They are a collaborative artist who enjoys creating art that pushes artists and audiences to expand their understanding of our world and what we owe to each other. He particularly values theatre that gives space to marginalized voices, especially those of queer, trans, disabled, and racialized folks. Since graduating from Queen's in 2020, they have worked in stage management with Two Planks and a Passion and Crossroads Theatre Company and as an actor with Pencil Kit Productions and EveryBODY On Stage. Some recent credits include: Gustavo in *White Muscle Daddy* (Pencil Kit Productions / Buddies in Bad Times) and Omar/Pontius Pilate in *Anansi v. God(s)* (Black Theatre Workshop's AMPlified program).



Photo by Samantha Gaetz

ISABELLE ELLIS (SHE/HER) – Nix

Isabelle Ellis is an actor, playwright, and director based in Toronto. Recent theatre credits include: *Horseplay* (Paprika Festival), *ECHO* (A Front Company / Edmonton Fringe), as well as several appearances with Panoply Theatre Collective. Film/television credits include: *Gen V* (Amazon / Sony Pictures) and *Haunted Museum* (Discovery+). Upcoming: *Cruel Intentions* (Amazon / Freevee). She is thrilled to be working with the incredible team behind the Groundswell Festival, and is grateful to be able to witness these debuts of new feminist theatre. She loves scary stories, knitting sweaters, and telling tall tales.



PHILIPPA DOMVILLE (SHE/HER) – The Mother

Philippa has worked as an actor and theatre maker for over 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'. She has helped workshop and originate over twenty new Canadian plays including a leading role in the original production of the Governor General Award winning 'If We Were Birds' by Erin Shields. She can be seen at Soulpepper in Michael Healey's Dora award winning 'Master Plan', and on Netflix in 'Damnation', and 'In the Shadow of The Moon'.

Philippa has co-created six original works of movement theatre with her company Petit Jeu, and choreographed 'The Tempest' at the Stratford Festival and 'The Penelopiad' at The Grand Theatre.



Headshot by Georgia Major

OLIVER PITSCHNER (HE/HIM) – Workshop Shadow / Stage Directions Reader

Oliver Pitschner is a playwright, director, and arts administrator based in so-called Toronto. He is the founder of Ghost Tower Theatre Company, an independent company in its first year exploring themes of youth culture, the family unit, fate, religious fundamentalism, and transgender liberation. Ghost Tower's flagship production *The Other Paris* went on to a sold out run at the Red Sandcastle Theatre earlier this spring. He is an arts administrator, currently working for the Toronto Fringe Festival. His wide variety of artwork experiences outside of the Fringe include digital marketing for Fall for Dance North, community consulting for Theatre Passe Muraille, set design interning for Buddies in Bad Times, and essay writing for Xpace Cultural Centre. He is currently working on his messy queer audio drama collaboration with Around + Out Theatre Company, and can usually be found cooking his friends dinner or out dancing to post punk.

GREMLIN

BY MEARA KHANNA

Directed by **Michelle Mohammed**

Performed by **Farhang Ghajar, Jakob Ehman, Hume Baugh, Mercy Cherian, Caroline Gillis, Rouvan Silogix, and Pamela Sinha**

Workshop Shadow / stage directions read by **Sanskriti Marathe**

Maya is a mid-twenties malcontent and chronic people pleaser, whose opposing qualities are an emotional ticking time bomb. After a mental breakdown in Dollarama goes viral online, she is subjected to racism, isolation and court appointed anger management therapy. Gremlin illuminates Maya's journey with accepting all the parts of herself that she's been taught to resent.

Content Warnings: Suicide/self harm, mental health discussions, racism, coarse language



MEARA KHANNA (SHE/HER) – PLAYWRIGHT

Meara Khanna is a multidisciplinary artist and writer. Born and raised in Mississauga, Meara has been immersed in story telling her entire life. She previously developed her first play in Tarragon Theatre's Young Playwright's Unit, and recently had the pleasure of joining the Reelworld Institute's Emerging 20 Program. Meara works in scripted television and lives in Toronto. When she's not writing, you can find her napping in a park or watching reality TV.



Photo by Kristina Ruddick

MICHELLE MOHAMMED (SHE/HER) – DIRECTOR

Michelle Mohammed is an artist, actor, and director. She is currently Metcalf Intern Associate Artistic Director at Why Not Theatre and was an Artistic Associate at Suitcase in Point from 2020-2023. Select Acting Credits: Betty & Anu in *A Poem for Rabia* (Tarragon Theatre / Nightwood Theatre), 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), *Drive* (Live Portrait), *Ruby and the Well* (Shaftesbury), *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC). Select Directing Credits: *Man-Man* (Why Not Theatre), *He Won't Marry Me* (Port Hope Festival), Assistant Director of *The Hooves Belonged to the Deer* (Tarragon Theatre), *Twice Blessed* (Workshop) by Marissa Orjalo, Assistant Director of *Oh What a Lovely War* (Shaw Festival), Assistant Director of *Top Girls* (Brock University), Dramaturgy in *The Trick to Walking Backwards* by Aria Sharma (STRATFEST@Home). michellemohammed.com



Photo by Tyler Hayward

FARHANG GHAJAR (HE/HIM) – Therapy Attendee / Ned

Selected Theatre: *The Seagull* (Soulpepper); *Coriolanus*, *The Front Page*, *Napoli Milionaria!*, *Othello*, *The Tempest*, *Twelfth Night* (Stratford Festival); *Mad Madge* (Nightwood); *Bremen Town*. Upcoming Theatre: *People Places and Things* (Coal Mine). Film/TV: *Reacher*, *Star Trek: Discovery*, *Capture Kill Release*, *Ghostwriter*, *A Higher Loyalty*, *Man Seeking Woman*, *Pretty Hard Cases*, *Dark Matter*. Training: Meisner (John Riven), Advanced Shakespeare (Kristin Linklater), The Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Theatre (Stratford Festival).



Photo by Jordan Probst

JAKOB EHMAN (HE/HIM) – Ash

Jakob is a Toronto based theatre artist. Recently: *Roberto Zucco* at Buddies in Bad Times, *Cock* touring with Talk is Free Theatre, four seasons at the Stratford Festival.
jakob@ehman.com



Photo by Pierre Gautreau

HUME BAUGH (HE/HIM) – Pete

Hume Baugh has been an actor for 41 years. He trained at LAMDA. His credits include the Stratford and Shaw Festivals, Canadian Stage, Tarragon, TPM, Factory, Buddies, Platform 9, Theatre Rusticle, Threshold Theatre, Shakespeare in the Rough (and In the Ruff), Young People's Theatre, Optic Heart Theatre, Driftwood, Blue Ceiling Dance, One Little Goat, Grand Theatre, Theatre Kingston, Ecce Homo, and Eldritch, among others. He is the author of *Crush*, *The Girl in the Picture Tries to Hang Up The Phone*, *Assassin*, and *Drinking and Stealing*. Most recently, he has appeared in workshops of Curtis Campbell's *Drag Queen Storytime*, Ajahnis Charley's *My Gay-Ass Black-Ass Life*, and Jay Northcott's *Merqueer*.



Photo by Dahlia Katz

MERCY CHERIAN (SHE/HER) – Maya

Mercy has worked as an actor / improviser at Mixed Company. At TPM, she emerged in the dystopian world in "Life Assignment", co-wrote, and performed an intensely reflective piece in *We the Men*, and directed the sold-out production of *Matt and Ben*. As a director, she also worked on the dark comedy *Spike Heels*, and the dark drama *Ninety*. In 2018, she, along with the cast of *Hogtown* was nominated for a Dora Award. Collaborating with Douglas Coupland in *Nuit Blanche*; along with writing and performing more personal pieces: life with her dad in *HerStory Counts: Love Between the Lines*, and life with mom in Cahoots' Hot House Production: *When Meen means More Than Just Fish* will remain in her heart forever. She is delighted to be surrounded by all the wonderful artists at Nightwood, and is thankful, in particular to the people involved with *Gremlin*.



Photo by Guntar Kravis

CAROLINA GILLIS (SHE/HER) – Ida

Caroline recently spent the summer at the Blyth Festival appearing in *Saving Graceland* and *The Trials of Maggie Pollock*. Previously she was seen in *Queen Maeve* (Here for Now Theatre) and *Draw Me Close* (Soulpepper Theatre / NFB). She has appeared in theatres across Canada from Mulgrave Road to the National Arts Centre as well as the Stratford Festival. Some highlights include: *New Magic Valley Fun Town* (Prairie Theatre Exchange / Tarragon / Neptune), *Innocence Lost* (Soulpepper Theatre), *And Slowly Beauty* (Belfry Theatre / NAC) and *Liv Stein* (Canadian Stage). She recently appeared in the web series *We Three Queens* (OutTV / Tender Fruit Productions) and is honoured to play a small role in *Women Talking* (Orion Pictures).



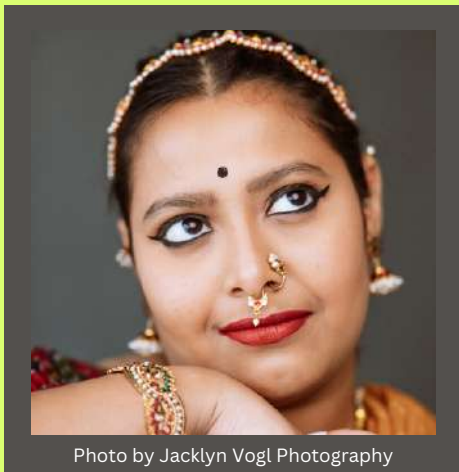
ROUVAN SILOGIX (HE/HIM) – Shivum

Rouvan Silogix is an award-winning, immigrant Pakistani-Tanzanian writer, director, performer, and classical pianist. His work primarily explores imaginative forms of art, often reimagining classical texts, digging into the profound and complex sociopolitical issues of our times. He is Artistic Director of Modern Times Stage Company. Previously, Rouvan was associate Artistic Director (Head of New Play Development) at Crow's Theatre, Founding Artistic Director at Theatre ARTaud, Writer-In-Development at Factory Theatre, and Associate Artist and Producer at Mammalian Diving Reflex. Prior to immigrating to Canada, he worked professionally in New York City and Karachi, Pakistan.



PAMELA MALA SINHA (SHE/HER) – Laila

Pamela is an award-winning Canadian actress and writer, working internationally in theatre, television, and film. Pamela's most recent play *NEW* is a finalist for the 2024 Governor General's Award for Drama, and her solo debut play *Crash* received Canada's prestigious Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Play. *CRASH* (published by Scirocco) was also included in a Bloomsbury UK's Audition Speeches anthology, and *Love, Loss and Longing* (Playwright's Canada Press) and had its Off-Broadway debut at the Signature Theatre, New York. Her second play *Happy Place* premiered in Toronto at Soulpepper, followed by runs at Vancouver's Touchstone Theatre and Winnipeg's Prairie Theatre Exchange. As one of a few artists who received a prestigious Project Imagination commission (Soulpepper), Pamela began research for *NEW* which she completed as Playwright-In-Residence at Necessary Angel Theatre. *NEW* had its World Premiere in November 2022 at Winnipeg's Royal MTC followed by a Toronto run at Canadian Stage, co-produced by Necessary Angel. Pamela's film adaptation of *Happy Place* was produced by Jennifer Kawaja (Sienna Films / Sphere), directed by Helen Shaver. Pamela completed development with CBC and Sienna Films on her series *Nirvana* and production wrapped last year on the filming of *CRASH* (produced by Necessary Angel and Riddle Films) starring Pamela. She is currently at work on an adaptation of *NEW* as a screenplay in addition to her new play, *Rebel Royals*.



SANSKRUTI MARATHE (SHE/THEY) – Workshop Shadow / Stage Directions Reader

I am Sanskruti Marathe. Actor, dancer and writer, I have been training in Indian classical dance forms including Bharatnatyam and Kathak for 17 years, which was my genesis, my first love, and my window into storytelling and classical storytelling. I have spent the past few years out of school building a multidisciplinary practice that combines my eurocentric conservatory training and the wisdom that my dance gurus have passed down to me to tell stories in a way that feels true to my body and my purpose as a storyteller. Something that I am passionate about is Mythology and how it translates to current times, how these ancient stories dictate our current politics, our fears and our humanity.

In-House Play Development Workshop

Supported by Keshia Palm & Andrea Donaldson



PESCH NEPOOSE – WFTH PLAYWRIGHT, *Sakihitowan*

Pesch Nepoose is a Cree multidisciplinary artist currently residing in Toronto. She graduated from the Centre for Indigenous Theatre in May 2019. Pesch has many skills and experience as an actor, writer, dancer, singer, stage manager and tour guide. As a full time actor, she has been a part of many projects. Pesch wrote and performed her one woman show, *The Bridge*, at the Nogojiwanong Indigenous Fringe Festival and Toronto Fringe Festival last summer.

HOW TO BE BEST by Rakhee Morzaria



Darkly comedic interactive one person show that aims to cure all, fix all, so that audiences can leave the theatre anew.

Rakhee Morzaria (She/Her) is a multi-award nominated comedic actor and writer originally from Toronto. She's performed with Second City and her web-series work has premiered at numerous festivals, with over a million views online. An accomplished actor, her credits include, *What We Do in the Shadows* (FX), *My Spy* (Netflix), *Private Eyes* (Global TV), *Summer Memories* (Roku) and as lead character, Camille Pham in the comedic series, *Run the Burbs*, (Hulu, The CW, CBC) where she also served as writer for their debut season. Her latest short film and directorial debut screened at the "Imagine This" International Women's Festival in New York, and most recently her live show, *I'm with Stewwww Pitt* opened to a sold out audience at the Comedy is Art Festival.



Photo by Mike Glatzer

THE ANATOMY LESSON by Thalía González

"The body keeps score, but what does it matter if no one will listen?"

What does it mean to be a prisoner in one's body? How do we thrive with the one body we have when we feel like it's failing us? The Anatomy Lesson follows Gemma as she comes to terms with the ways she's harmed her body, how it's harmed her, and her journey to find peace co-existing with it. We follow as she undergoes medical procedures, experiences surreal trips inside herself, and struggles to love and inhabit the body that she never expected to live in.

Thalía González (She/Her) is an award-winning, queer, Ecuadorian-Canadian multi-disciplinary artist. She has worked as a performer, playwright, director, designer, choreographer, and producer in Canada, Ireland, England, Scotland, Sweden, Czechia, and various states in the USA. She co-founded Got Your Back (GYB) Canada and is the Artistic Director of Crave Productions. She has been published by Playwrights Canada Press, University of Toronto Press, Canadian Theatre Review, Playwrights Guild of Canada, and Intermission Magazine. Two monologues from her one-person play, *A Drunk Lesbian Love Affair*, can be found in the anthology "This Is Beyond: A Time Capsule of Queer Experience." In 2020, Thalía was named a playwright to watch by Playbill. In her spare time, she is a passionate volunteer, amateur astronomer and ceramicist. For more on Crave Productions, you can visit craveartmakeart.com.

CURTAIN RAISERS

I WANTED YOU TO WITNESS ME by Srutika Sabu



Photo by Reya Del Sol

A freelance Moon Star Witch finds herself alone and lost in a magical Toronto summer during a transition point in her life in her late twenties—the dreaded Saturn Return. She attends séances and tries to connect with all kinds to try to find the answers on what to do next. But the answers are more confusing than the questions

Srutika Sabu (she/they) is a Malayali-Canadian multidisciplinary artist, comedian and recovering doctor. Working across visual art, comedy, and music, Srutika creates narratives that blend thoughtful world-building with empathetic storytelling. Her gateway into theatre began through improv comedy and clown. Most recently, Srutika created and starred in her first Toronto Fringe show *1 Santosh Santosh 2 Go*, directed by Ken Hall. This experience affirmed her desire to want to create things and help others create things. An alumna of Toronto Arts Foundation ArtWorksTO program and Fringe Toronto's Theatre Entrepreneurs' Network and Training (TENT) program, Srutika is excited to also be this season's Nightwood Fundraising Shadow.

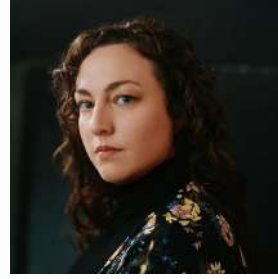


Photo by Calvin Thomas

CHARLIE'S RIOT by Laurel Marie Munro

In 1994 New Brunswick, 17-year-old Charlie grapples with a grim secret. Drawing strength and solace from the Riot Grrrl feminist movement — in which young women wrote zines about their lives, formed punk bands, and unapologetically screamed about being a girl under patriarchy — Charlie reckons with her trauma and finds her voice.

Based on a true story, *Charlie's Riot* is a play about bodily autonomy and the transformative power of anger. Immersing the audience in the music and pathos of Riot Grrrl punk, *Charlie's Riot* calls "girls to the front" of a movement of defiance, humour, and sisterhood.

Laurel Marie Munro (She/any) is an actor, writer, and theatre maker focused on blending fiction and fact to create feminist solo shows. Her goal is to speak the unspeakable, bringing the stories of real women out of the shadows and putting shame where it belongs. Writing credits include *The Heart on the Ceiling*, *Beauty and Nothingness*, and *Charlie's Riot*. Recent acting credits include Charlotte in *Charlotte's Web*, Lydia in *Pride and Prejudice*, Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Laura in *The Glass Menagerie*. Laurel made her directorial debut in 2023 with *The Next Empty Day*, a song cycle which premiered at the Hamilton Fringe Festival. She has also worked as a voice actor for Bell Media, appearing in large radio and television campaigns across the prairies. Laurel attended the Humber College Theatre Performance program in Toronto, and trained with master clown Philippe Gaulier in France.

MEET THE PLAYWRIGHTS' PLATFORM ARTISTS



Photo by Maxime Côté

Chelsea Woolley (she/her) is a playwright, opera staging director, and arts educator. Her playwriting work includes: "Paint Me This House of Love" (Tarragon Theatre, Upcoming: USA Premiere), "The Only Good Boy" (Theatre BSMT), and "The Mountain"

(Geordie Theatre, Spinning Dot Theatre). Chelsea's work has been featured at the Kennedy Centre in Washington D.C., and at the "Shakespeare is Dead" Festival in Belgium. She is the founder of the "Mixed-Arts Performance Partnership Program", connecting young artists living in precarity to professional mentorship, and co-write a script titled, "One Day" with teens at Red Door Shelter. Chelsea has a BEd and a BA from the University of Lethbridge where she recently won the 2024 Young Alumni Award. She is also a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's Playwriting Program.



Photo by Brendon Hart

Natércia Napoleão (she/her) is a multi-faceted Brazilian theatre artist. She has notably contributed to the Albertan theatre community and beyond, with experience in site-specific theatre, dance theatre, multimedia performance, television,

musicals and a wide range of classical and contemporary theatre. Recent performance highlights include *Fado: The Saddest Music in the World* (Firehall Arts Centre). Directing credits include *A Terrible Fate* (Assistant Director-VideoCabaret / Crows Theatre); *Hummm* (Climate Change Theatre Action / New Harlem); and *Orange Skies* (Tarragon Theatre's YPU). Dramaturgy credits include *Hot House Crossing* (Cahoots Theatre). Producing credits include *Rutas 2022* (Aluna Theatre) and *White Girls in Moccasins* (manidoons collective). Natércia is also an alumni of the Nightwood Theatre's Innovator program, a past ThisGen Director Fellow with Why Not Theatre and an alumni of Belfry Theatre's Arts Leadership Training Program. Natércia is currently developing her first play, *Michener Park*, alongside renowned playwright, Carmen Aguirre. She is a graduate from the University of Alberta's BFA Acting Program and serves the AB North/N.W.T region as a CAEA representative.



Janis Mayers (she/her) is an afro-Indigenous and European settler Toronto born theatre artist. A graduate of Seneca College's corporate media production program she has worked behind the scenes in live event production transitioning to theatre in 2018

performing in "Derives" – Naomie LaFrance at the Bentway and co-creating/performing in "The Solitudes" produced by Aluna Theatre. Janis produced a short documentary "A Pile of Dirt" that premiered at the Regent Park Film Festival. "Know your elders" another documentary that highlights inter-generational relationships in the queer community that was part of Common Boots Theatres Digital Cycle 2. "Park Life" is a play that is based in 1990's Regent Park and examines gentrification, classism, addiction, and family dynamics. Park Life was a part of the 2023 Caminos Festival produced by Aluna Theatre.



Photo by Pascal Lamothe-Kipnes

Keshia Palm (they/them) Keshia Palm is a storyteller seeking to spark connection and conversation through live, shared experiences in thoughtful and inclusive art/spaces — as Actor, Director, Dramaturge,

Producer and Playwright, depending on the day. You would have seen them last on stage as Anya in *The Cherry Orchard* (Modern Times Stage Company), Wen's Understudy in *The Year of the Cello* (Theatre Passe Muraille + Music Picnic), or giving a preshow speech for the Paprika Festival, where they played Artistic Producer for 3 seasons. They spend a lot of time on zoom supporting emerging playwrights — as a freelance dramaturge, and as the Interim Program Director of Nightwood Theatre's Write from the Hip. Productions they recently helped get onstage from offstage include dramaturging *WHITE MUSCLE DADDY* by Raf Antonio (Buddies in Bad Times Theatre + Pencil Kit Productions), directing *Radium Girls* (York University), and *SEPH* (RISERx Why Not Theatre + Toronto Metropolitan University). @keshiapalm // keshiapalm.com

MEET THE PLAYWRIGHTS' PLATFORM ARTISTS



Alex Vermey (they/them) is a queer/trans multidisciplinary performer-creator based in Tkaronto. Alex is the Associate Producer at Theatre Gargantua, they hold a BFA in Performance Creation from Concordia University and a

Master of Arts Leadership from Queens University. They also perform under their Burlesque alter-ego Dolly Wilde (@whoisdollywilde), at numerous cabarets around the city. They are thrilled to be sharing an excerpt from their newest work, *Blueberry Blood*, which was developed through Nightwood Theatre's Creatyx Unit and Building Blocks of Playwrighting with Marie Beath Badian, hosted by Shakespeare in the Ruff.



Anita La Selva is an award-winning director, dramaturg, actor and creator. Her focus as an artist is in creating inter-disciplinary, inter-cultural work that meets current societal issues head on: racism, violence against

women, addiction and mental health. She was the lead creator of the dance/theatre odyssey *Stones* (Aluna/Stones Project) and is the 2019 recipient of the Gina Wilkinson Award for Emerging Female Director. Her short film *12 Litres 8800 Steps* on which her current play is based, garnered accolades at 18 international Film Festivals. Anita holds an MFA in Directing from York University and has been an artist mentor through the Toronto Arts Council, Aluna Theatre and The Buddies Emerging Creators' Unit.



Photo by Julianna McGuirl

Iris Rhian (all pronouns) is an emerging actor and playwright from the United States and Canada. Iris trained at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where they developed a passion for performing brand new plays. In New York, Iris was a regular

workshop actor for Clubbed Thumb's Winterworks Festival and performed at numerous independent theatre centres such as Dixon Place, The Tank, and Fort Greene Park. As a writer, Iris is committed to community engagement, and recently completed a two year fellowship in Boston writing interview-based plays for local youth. Last month, Iris's play "Baby" was a part of Talk Is Free Theatre's "I Do, I Don't, I Dare!" Festival.

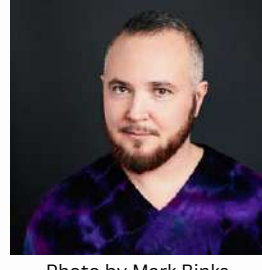


Photo by Mark Binks

Hanlon Uafás-Álainn (he/him) is a writer, director, performer, producer, choreographer, song-writer (Whew, that's a mouthful!) He lives in Canada between Toronto/Tkaronto and Nova Scotia/Mi'kmaq Territory. He's queer, transgender, pan, poly, and mad plus he's the

dad and birthparent of two teenagers. Hanlon creates theatre and film that represent and employ trans*, female, black, Disabled, and other equity-deserving people. Hanlon founded Hanlon's Point Productions and co-founded Under the Bus Collective to further these goals. Although he doesn't shy away from the painful realities that trans people face, Hanlon also wants to spread trans happiness - because we deserve joy! Find him on Insta @hanlonspoint

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