

A **Nightwood**Theatre ●●|| workshop production

Where The Spirits Sit

Written & performed by **Tamara Podemski**

Directed by **Andrea Donaldson**

Music Director & Musician: **Joel Joseph**

Musician: **Beau Dixon**

Stage Manager: **Meghan Speakman**

Lighting Design: **Rebecca Vandevelde**

Production Manager: **Pip Bradford**



Nancy & Ed Jackman
Performance Centre

April 3 - 5, 2025

90 minutes, no intermission

Photo of Tamara Podemski

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, 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 and recognize stewardship as a shared responsibility of all those who reside in a territory, as is the spirit of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement.

- Nightwood Theatre

Nightwood Theatre



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.

NIGHTWOOD TEAM

Andrea Donaldson	Artistic Director
Naz Afsahi	Managing Director
Laura Pomeroy	Producer
Charlene Wolf	Head of Partnerships & Giving
Ashley Elliott	Administrator - Operations & Partnerships
Jade Silman	Artistic Associate & Head of Communications
Isa Chiu	Digital Communications Associate
Intisar Awisse	Program Director: Write From The Hip
Chris Mustard	Financial Advisor, Young & Associates
Faith McQueen	Website Maintenance
Cynthia Grant, Kim Renders, Mary Vingoe, Maureen White	Founding Members

NIGHTWOOD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jill Schoolenberg (Chair), Paul Butler (Secretary), Shreya Lathia (Treasurer), Edina Cavalli, Anthea Chan, Devin Jarcaig, Natasha Su-Lee Kinnear, Janice Nathanson

877 COMMITTEE

Edina Cavalli, John Dalrymple, Monica Esteves, Barbara Moses

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

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Welcome to our workshop production of *Where the Spirits Sit!* We have spent a total of seven days workshopping the text and becoming a band for the first time incorporating Tamara's incredible storytelling and her published songs into this evening for you.

Tamara and I have been in each others' lives for almost 40 years. I've been close up to many of the moments shared in the show. She asked me about creating

something - an experiment with her - in which she would write a piece looking at how one performs deeply personal material without falling apart. I knew it would be an incredible experience for audiences and said yes.

We have been blessed with the presence of Joel and Beau - two of the most formidable artists (and humans) I have shared space with. Music is magic.

I have been so spoiled to work in our beautiful new space, with such brilliant technicians, including Jeff and Chin and our creative team including Meghan and Rebecca, ready to support every technical need and artistic whim.

Lastly, it has been such a pleasure to work with Tamara, one of my soulmates, whose music I have loved for over 20 years. And such a pleasure to share it with you - here in the mucky 'process' - in our brand new space.

ANDREA DONALDSON

Director

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

This is a story about songs; songs about stories; stories about life. But this is not a show about My Life Story. It's important for me to clarify that because some of the most important people in my life are not mentioned in this story. Some of the most impactful moments of my life are not mentioned here at all. It's really about the songs and where they come from, why they come forth and who they are made for. It is a tribute to the creative process and the healing power of music.



I suppose, in another world, this could have been a proper musical where a fictional character has an existential crisis and works through it all with a cast of quirky characters. (That's not the worst idea). I could have safely distanced myself from specificities of experience and perspective. But instead, I turned inward, put myself under the microscope and sought a greater understanding of it all. I ended up with a self-compassion project mixed with a performance piece and now they are so intertwined, I can't tell them apart.

This show would not exist if it wasn't for the force of nature that is Andrea Donaldson. I would not be having my playwriting debut, if it wasn't for her belief in me to bring this story to life, to dig so deep and expose so much. I wouldn't have turned my psyche into a playground for anyone else but her.

Also, there would be no music in this show without the beautiful people who helped me write and produce these songs over the past twenty years. I would like to thank Karen Kosowski, Jason Gleed, Hill Kourkoutis, Adrian Eccleston and Julia Piker for their guidance and inspiration.

In a show about spirits, I must acknowledge the Army of Ancestors that surround me. I have been blessed with their blood memory, their teachings, their ferocity and audacity to exist and survive despite so many attempts to destroy them. I sing for them and so many others.

Lastly, a massive love gush to all those who have sat in the car with me listening to demos, playing with me in studio and on stage, singing with me, writing with me, and designing cover art for me. I would not be here without you.

"And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom." - Anaïs Nin

TAMARA PODEMSKI
Playwright & Performer

WHERE THE SPIRITS SIT TEAM



Tamara Podemski – Playwright & Performer

Best known for her work on stage and screen, Tamara Podemski started making music while starring in the Broadway company of RENT. She went on to write two albums in the Anishinaabe language - SPIRIT NATION & SPIRIT VOICES - receiving a nomination for Best Group at the 2002 Aboriginal Music Awards. She released her third album under her own label MUKWA MUSIC, and won Best Female Artist & Best Songwriter at the 2006 Aboriginal Music Awards, as well as Best Music Video at the imagiNATIVE and American Indian Film Festival. Her fourth album was an experimental project called FULL MOON RELEASES, where she produced and released one song - from scratch - every full moon for one year.



Andrea Donaldson – Director

Andrea is Nightwood Theatre's Artistic Director. Directing highlights include: The Queen In Me (Nightwood, Amplified Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Theatre Gargantua), Betrayal (Soulpepper), Every Day She Rose (Nightwood), Beautiful Man (Factory Theatre), The Taming of The Shrew (St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival), Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells) (Nightwood/Crows), Quiver (Nightwood/Buddies), Sequence (Tarragon), Romeo & Juliet (Ruff), Soliciting Temptation (Tarragon), Within the Glass - GG Nomination (Tarragon), Mistatim (Red Sky), The Atomic Weight of Happiness (Theatre Direct), and Montparnasse (TPM).

Prior to her five years as Artistic Director at Nightwood, Andrea ran the company's Write From The Hip program for five years and was the Assistant/Associate Artistic Director at Tarragon Theatre. Awards: Stratford Festival's Jean Gascon Award for Direction, nominations for the Pauline McGibbon & John Hirsch Directing Awards. Her projects have received over a dozen Dora nominations and have been awarded Outstanding Performance (Ensemble) & Outstanding Production for And By the Way, Miss (Theatre Direct).

WHERE THE SPIRITS SIT TEAM



Joel Joseph – Music Director, Musician, and Arranger

Joel Joseph is a Toronto born producer/artist/musician. JJ has toured and produced remixes for Canadian Hall of Fame artists, Serena Ryder, Nelly Furtado, Jilly Black, Kardinal Offishal, Glenn Lewis, Saukrates and Sean Jones. JJ has also musically directed Divine Brown's "Women In Jazz" and played in "A Secret Chord: A Leonard Cohen Experience."



Beau Dixon – Musician

Beau Dixon is a self taught award winning songwriter, musician, actor, playwright, music director, sound designer, producer and artistic director for Firebrand Theatre. As a songwriter and musician, Beau has shared the stage with Serena Ryder, Rufus Wainwright, Feist, Ron Sexsmith, Jeff Healey, Jilly Black and countless others. He has toured extensively throughout Canada, the U.S. and Europe. As an actor, Beau has performed on many reputable theatre stages throughout Canada. NOW magazine and Toronto Star have listed him among Toronto's top ten theatre actors, and is a three time Dora award recipient. This summer, his most recent docu-concert 'Six String' will be produced at Soulpepper Theatre. He has three solo albums under his name, which are all available on iTunes, Spotify, Bandcamp and other streaming platforms. www.beaudixon.com

WHERE THE SPIRITS SIT TEAM



Meghan Speakman – Stage Manager

Meghan is excited to be working with such a talented group of people on this project, and to return to Nightwood after stage managing Hypothetical Baby only a few weeks ago. Though based in Toronto, she has had the opportunity to work on a wide variety of productions across Canada. Whether in a large venue or a living room, Meghan loves to help bring art to life onstage. Recent credits include: Madama Butterfly, Faust (COC); Madame Minister (Talk is Free); Age is a Feeling (Soulpepper); Hamlet (Canadian Stage); Monster (Factory); Canoe (Native Earth); Where You Are (Lighthouse); Behind the Moon (Tarragon); The Trojan Girls and the Outhouse of Atreus (Outside the March). Much love to Ephraim and Ianto for their continued support.



Rebecca Vandavelde - Lighting Designer

Rebecca Vandavelde is an arts worker focused on production and design. Rebecca builds and curates spaces, events, and experiments - like Flip the Table and Blanket Fort - with Art is Hard; and works as a freelance designer and production manager. They are currently the Production Manager at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. Most recently: set design for Tarragon My Sister's Rage, lighting/touring for Pandemic x Rumble Take D Milk, Nah?, lighting for Madonnanera x bcurrent x Buddies Body So Fluorescent, PM/Producer for Theatre Centre Residency Project Here Are The Fragments., PM for Soundstreams x Signal Two Odysseys, lighting for Aluna X Nightwood The Solitudes.

WHERE THE SPIRITS SIT TEAM



Pip Bradford – Co-Production Manager

Pip Bradford is a producer, production manager, and stage manager who works with many companies in Toronto, including the Luminato Festival, Anandam DanceTheatre, The Toronto Comic Arts Festival, Just For Laughs, Nightwood Theatre, Red Sky Performance, Bad Hats Theatre, 7a*11d Performance Art Festival, SummerWorks, and Theatre Passe Muraille. She is the incoming Director of Facility and Production at 877 Yonge Street, a new theatre space operated by Tapestry Opera and Nightwood Theatre, and serves on the board of the Paprika Festival. Pip also has a installation art practice as one half of Art Is Hard Productions with Rebecca Vandavelde, building interactive experiential art that welcomes people into spaces of permission to have fun and create together.

SPECIAL THANKS

Caitlyn Albanese
Dan Audet
BMO
Canadian Heritage
Catherine Maxwell Meighan Foundation
Wayne Ferguson
Government of Ontario
Emma Moore
Kingfisher Foundation
Lorraine Lawson, Lawson Vocal Studios

Jeff Lyons
Morgan Meighan & Associates Ltd.
Nancy's Very Own Foundation
Chin Palipane
Stanley Shalom Zielony Foundation
TD Ready Commitment
Winnie Wong
Yousef Warren Foundation
Kerry Zentner

NEXT AT NIGHTWOOD



SHEDDING A SKIN - BY AMANDA WILKIN

Myah has ejected herself from a corporate hellscape only to crash-land in the spare room of an elder named Mildred. *Shedding a Skin* is a one-woman buddy comedy for the heartbroken that offers a hand to those feeling the weight of the world. Drop your baggage at the door. Connection is resistance.

April 22 - May 4, 2025
Buddies in Bad Times

[**LEARN MORE**](#)



ANNIE - 2025 LAWYER SHOW

Nightwood Theatre's annual fundraiser, the Lawyer Show, is hosting 35 members of the legal community rehearse for three months to stage an exhilarating, entertaining production. Led by a team of professional directors, designers and vocal coaches, this year, the lawyers are excited to present Annie: the Musical.

June 5 - 7, 2025
Jane Mallett Theatre - St Lawrence
Centre for the Arts

[**LEARN MORE**](#)



2025 - 2026 SEASON

After a stellar 45th season, Nightwood Theatre is gearing up for another season of fantastic performances, festivals, workshops, programs, and much more! This will also be our first full season in the Nancy & Ed Jackman Performance Centre, our new home at 877 Yonge Street!

Stay tuned for our 2025-2026 Season
Announcement this spring!

Nightwood Theatre



THANK YOU TO NIGHTWOOD'S DONORS

Champion (\$10,000+)

Anonymous

Partner (\$5,000-9,999)

Anonymous, IATSE Local 58 Charitable Fund

Collaborator (\$1,000 - 4,999)

Anonymous, Jacqui Allard & Burke Paterson, Edina Cavalli, Susan Gerhard, Shelley Hobbs, Valerie Hussey, Miriam Newhouse, Julie White & Ross MacGregor, Carla Rice, Vinetta Strombergs

Advocate (\$500-999)

Anonymous, Sharlene Atkins, Tracy Bardell, Henry Brown, Allison Cormie-Bowins, Chandler Buchanan, Ryan Campbell, Richard Chan 陳駿華, Matthew Chung, Joseph G. Cuyegkeng, Leah Cummings, Valérie Duchesneau, Aliah El-houni, Courtney Edwards, Courtney Evans, Lo Fine, Sheila Gibb, Rona Ghanbari, Melanie Herbin, Rose Janson, Astrid Janson, Bennett Jensen, Stephanie Kay, Heidi Leblanc, Ally Lawrence, Kristen Lloyd, Larry Lubin, Kaja Marinic, Clare Mauro, Joe McGrade, Alexandra Mealia, Ben MayerGoodman, Elizabeth McConkey, Khrystina McMillan, David Mills, Elizabeth Moore, Morgan Meighen & Associates, Olivia Nieuwland, Ed and Cindy Nowina, Heather Paterson, Tracy Pratt, Allison Presse, Laura Precup-Pop, Olivia Pomajba, Emma Romano, Leo Salloum, Danika So, Ari Sterlin, Brenнын Watterton, Jennifer Whincup, Angela Zhu, Garrett Zehr, Lucie Zhang

Friend (\$250-499)

Anonymous x2, Arya Afsahi, Karon Bales, Charles Beall, Anthea Chan, Christine Doucet, Ian Fichtenbaum, Kamala Jean Gopie, Susan Hodgkinson, H. Ian & Dorothy Macdonald, Hogg, Shain & Scheck, Penny Noble, Priyanka Sheth, Tamara Lisa Thomas, Chantria Tram

Ally (\$25 - 249)

Anonymous x 24, Azita Gerami & Ahmad Afsahi, Naz Afsahi, Alma Bjelosevic, Margaret Bryce, Danielle Bourgon, Jan Caruana, Anne Clarke, Joan Cranston, BJ Danylchuk, Julia Dickson, John Dalrymple, Anne Morris-Dadson, Barbara Fingerote, Harriett Grant, Richard Greenblatt, Catherine Gordon, Lia De Groot, Paula Grgurich, Natasha Kinnear, Corinne Leon, Jeanne LeSage, Jaime Martino, Mary Milne, Rosalba Martinni, Susan Moellers, Lorna Niebergall, Eleanor O'Connor, Mary Oko, Breanne Oryschak, Mike Payette, Judith Parker, Colleen Pollreis, Georgia Quartaro, Marcia Ross, Marsha Sfeir, Paula Shewchuk, Marlis Schweitzer, Imre Szeman, Jill Schoolenberg, Delaine Tiniakos-Doran, Hanlon Uafàs-Alainn, Victoria Urquhart, Lori Willcox, Anthea Windsor, Jonathan Warren, Elaine Wong, Hersh Zeifman, Joyce Zemans

New Space - 877 Yonge Donors

Anonymous x3, Paul Butler & Chris Black, Laura & Richard Dinner, Edina Cavalli, Anthea Chan, Anne Clarke, Viviana Comensoli, Bruce Chown, Sylvia Chrominska, Laura & Richard Dinner, Marie Dominique Bautista, Business / Arts, Tamara Weir-Bryan, John Dalrymple, Monica Esteves, Margaret Evans, Barbara Fingerote, Denyse Fishwick, Patty Fleming, Cynthia Grant, Margaret Genovese, Barbara Gordon, Astrid Janson, Kamala Jean Gopie, Valerie Hussey, Megan Hamilton, Shelly Hobbs, Caroline Howes, Cecil King, Nyiri Karakas, Fides Krucker, Corinne Leon, Jeanne LeSage, Cathy Lloyd, Lucy McPhee, Rosalba Martinni, Hope McIntyre, Barbara & Kit Moore, Barbara Moses, Susan Moellers, Miriam Newhouse, Lana Nakonechny, Heather Paterson, Janice Nathanson, Anne Powell, Richard Rose, Ellen Schoenberger, Jill Schoolenberg, Vinetta Strombergs, Sharon Singer, Victoria Steele, Erin Shields, Amanda L. Thomson, Brent Vickar, Wingshan Sandy Wu, Jane Walker

Donations received from July 1, 2024 to January 13, 2025. 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.

Nightwood Theatre



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT




CORPORATE SUPPORT



FOUNDATION SUPPORT



STAY CONNECTED

NightwoodTheatre 



[Nightwood Theatre](#)



[@nightwoodtheat](#)



[@nightwoodtheat.bsky.social](#)



[www.nightwoodtheatre.net](#)



[Newsletter Sign-Up](#)



[Newsletter Sign-Up](#)

[Donate](#)

