



2025 GROUNDSWELL FESTIVAL

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY

NOVEMBER 17-20, 2025

A FESTIVAL OF NEW PLAY READINGS

FEATURING THE 2025 WRITE FROM THE HIP PLAYWRIGHTS:

Beck Lloyd, Mason McDonald, Tanvi Vyas, Renée Wong, & Brianna Wright

Program Director: **Intisar Awisse**

Program Associate: **Mya Wong**

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.





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Groundswell Festival's Media Partner:



WELCOME TO GROUNDSWELL!

Welcome to our brand new space and to our 40th Anniversary of the Groundswell Festival!

Twenty five years ago I attended my first Nightwood event — and it was Groundswell. I felt nervous and out of place but excited to belong — I was passionate about new play development and specifically excited to bear witness to new feminist work coming to life in a room of people with a shared passion — and I came back every night that week. Though we might take it for granted that we now regularly see women and gender-expansive playwrights being produced on the stages throughout our city, if you do the count, we are still fighting for parity. It is festivals like Groundswell that bring energy and courage to the next plays and voices that should be and will be saturating our scene. Groundswell reaffirms my pride in being a theatre-maker. It is a time to push toward a draft, to pair incredible future collaborators, and to take risks with new artists and new works that speak our truth. Groundswell has always been a place that affirms artists - we did it! We're doing it! And reaffirms for audiences that our experiences are vital, worthy, interesting and rich, and that stories centring women and gender-expansive voices impact us all.

Thank you for joining us and supporting these extraordinary artists — we couldn't do it without you.

Andrea Donaldson
Artistic Director, Nightwood Theatre



Welcome to Groundswell Festival 2025! It's been an honour and joy to work with this talented group of emerging playwrights over the course of this year.

These playwrights have devoted themselves to creating new work — writing, revising, questioning, and daring to begin again and again and again. What you'll hear this week is the result of that deep, demanding process: ideas tested, structures reimaged, and stories refined through persistence.

As a dramaturg, I've had the privilege of accompanying them along this journey. My goal has been to stay curious and open as the works developed — to question, to provoke, and to distill intentions and ideas. This process demands vulnerability and faith in the unknown from the playwrights, while embracing feedback with openness. This year's cohort have met that challenge with grace and fortitude, building worlds that reflect the humor, beauty, conflict, and tenderness of being human.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the festival, these new works continue its legacy of championing feminist voices and fearless storytelling — all rooted in the conviction that our stories matter.

Thank you for sharing this moment of discovery with us.

Intisar Awisse
Program Director



Nightwood's Write from the Hip playwright unit is generously supported by:



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, *A Poem For Rabia* by Nikki Shaffeeullah, and *Enormity, Girl, and the Earthquake in Her Lungs* by Chelsea Woolley, which recently launched Nightwood's 2025-26 Season.



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**.

2025 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

7:00PM | **Curtain Raiser Readings**
from Rachel Cairns &
Chelsea Woolley

Followed by

Magnus is Eating Birds
by Beck Lloyd

*After the readings, stick
around for a drink!*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

7:00PM | **Celebrating 40 Years of
Groundswell:
5 Minute Feminist
Cabaret**

*Check out the line-up of
Playwrights on [Page 27](#)*

*After the cabaret, stick
around for a drink!*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

7:00PM | **Curtain Raiser Reading**
from Asenia Lyall

Followed by

BABEL
by Brianna Wright

15 min. Intermission

8:00PM | **02: 靈異**
by Renée Wong

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

7:00PM | **Curtain Raiser Reading**
from Rakhee Morzaria

Followed by

boyhood
by Mason McDonald

15 min. Intermission

8:00PM | **Kasuku**
by Tanvi Vyas

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



STAY CONNECTED WITH US!



MAGNUS IS EATING BIRDS

BY BECK LLOYD

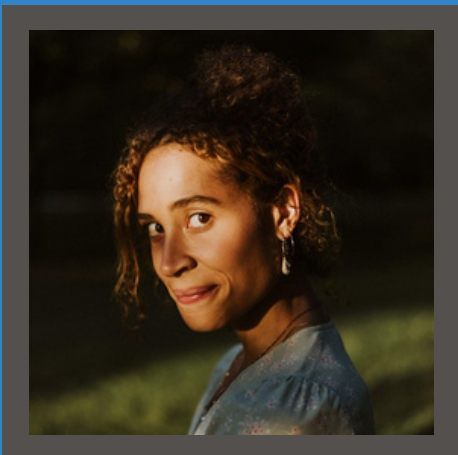
Directed by **Christine Horne**

Performed by **Andrew Broderick, Andre Sills, and Brefny Caribou**

Stage Directions read by **Zoe Marín**

Magnus is Eating Birds is a new play that blends myth and domestic realism into a gothic family fable. It begins with a mythic union between a man and a woman, where silence and power take root. From this origin, a son, Magnus, emerges into a troubled household where cycles of harm repeat. Through shifting tones, sometimes poetic, sometimes naturalistic, the play explores inheritance, silence, and the impossibility of fully breaking from the past without understanding it.

Content Warning: Family violence (verbal, emotional, implied physical)
Symbolic depictions of harm toward women (represented as birds, not onstage)
Themes of silence, coercion, and intergenerational trauma



BECK LLOYD (SHE/HER) – PLAYWRIGHT

Beck Lloyd holds an MFA in Performance from York University, she teaches acting, text, and Shakespeare across Ontario, and is a graduate of the Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Theatre. Beck writes because she is interested in the use of story creation as a radically inclusive art form creating pathways for critically engaged communities. Living in Toronto where she was born and raised, Beck works as an actor, educator, and part-time playwright.



Photo by LV Imagery

CHRISTINE HORNE (SHE/HER) – DIRECTOR

Christine's most recent stage credits include *Tiff'ny of Athens* (Shakespeare in the Ruff), *Wicked Nix* (YPT), *Infinite Life* (Coal Mine), *Angels in America* (That Theatre Company / Buddies), *Richard Three* (Ruff), *Things I Know To Be True* (Company Theatre / Mirvish), *Three Sisters* (Howland Co.), *Light* (Tarragon), and the title role in *Prince Hamlet* (Why Not Theatre). She has worked as an assistant director for Ravi Jain, Eda Holmes, and Chris Abraham, and participated in the Langham Director's Workshop at the Stratford Festival in 2021. As a writer she co-adapted *Tiff'ny of Athens* with Nathaniel Hanula-James (Ruff) and *R+J* with Ravi Jain and Alex Bulmer (Stratford), and has contributed personal essays, interviews, and memorials for *Intermission Magazine* and *CBCArts*. Christine is a member of the Collective Artistic Leadership at Shakespeare in the Ruff. She has received a Dora Award, a Canadian Screen Award, and the Birks Diamond Tribute to Women in Film.



@christinehorneofficial



ANDREW BRODERICK (HE/HIM) – Magnus

A Toronto-based multidisciplinary artist, Andrew is happy to help bring *Magnus Is Eating Birds* to life! Previous Credits Include: *Octet* (Crow's Theatre), *Great Comet* (Crow's Theatre), *Primary Trust* (Arts Club), *Choir Boy* (Canadian Stage / Arts Club), *The Color Purple* (Neptune / Citadel / MTC), *The Last Timbit* (Marquis Ent), *Hadestown* (Citadel), *The Amen Corner*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Everybody* (Shaw Festival), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *The Pirates of Penzance* (Stratford Festival), *Hairspray* (Charlottetown Festival / Drayton Entertainment / Rainbow Stage), *Dreamgirls* (The Grand Theatre). Big thanks to Beck Lloyd and Nightwood Theatre for championing Canadian creation.



@andrewbroderick



Photo by Ted Belton

ANDRÉ SILLS (HE/HIM) – Tom

Andre is an Actor, Director, and Producer.

He spent most of his career acting in theatres across the country. He made his directorial debut at Crow's Theatre directing Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' *GLORIA* in 2022 where he received a Dora Nomination for Direction. Then directed *The Royale* at The Citadel Theatre where he received a Sterling Award for Outstanding Direction and Outstanding Production.

He spent 11 seasons at The Stratford Festival. He directed Andrea Scott's *Get That Hope* in 2024. He will be playing Othello and Oberon in the 2026 season.

He spent four seasons at The Shaw Festival where he received a My Entertainment World Best Actor Award for *An Octoroon* and Dora Award & Toronto Theatre Critics Award for Best Actor for *Master Harold and the Boys*.



@dre373



Photo by Dahlia Katz

BREFNY CARIBOU (SHE/HER) – Clara

Brefny Caribou is a performer, writer, and educator of Cree (Mathias Colomb Cree Nation) / Irish-settler descent based in Tkaronto. Holding an MFA in Acting from York University she loves reimagining traditional theatrical practices, telling Indigenous stories, and making people giggle. As a performer she has worked in TV/film on *Tallboyz* (CBC / Joanne), and *Mayor of Kingstown* (Paramount+ / Isabelle) and in theatre across Turtle Island on projects such as The Canadian Premiere of *The Welkin* (Soulpepper Theatre Co / The Howland Company / Crow's Theatre), *The Tempest* (Theatre Rusticle / Buddies in Bad Times), and completed 3 seasons at the Stratford Festival in productions of *Little Women* (Beth March), *All's Well That Ends Well* (Solider, Understudy), and *The Rez Sisters* (Zhaboonigan Peterson). As a writer, she presented the world premiere of *Savage is a Word in the English Dictionary* at the 2025 Awaken Festival hosted by Gwaandak Theatre in Whitehorse, YT. Brefny is entering her 4th year facilitating the Indigenous Arts Program at the Paprika Festival.



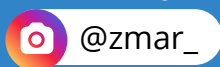
@bcariboo



Photo by Y.E.L.L.O.W. Studios

ZOE MARÍN (SHE/HER) – STAGE DIRECTIONS READER

Zoe Marín is an Argentine-American theatre artist and comedian, who is currently based in Toronto. She is the Artistic Producer for First Born Theatre Company [a toronto-based, queer, Latine-led company dedicated to new work] and the co-creator of sketch-comedy troupe Small Friend Tall Friend. **Recent directing credits:** *Tiger Lilies* (CAMINOS Festival, Aluna Theatre), *Killy Willy* (First Born Theatre), *GRINGAS* (First Born Theatre). **Other recent credits:** *What the Constitution Means to Me* (Soulpepper Theatre / Nightwood Theatre-Assistant Director), *Queer Youth Cabaret* (Soulpepper Theatre-Performer). **Upcoming:** Performing in Second City: *Rizz the Season*.



BABEL

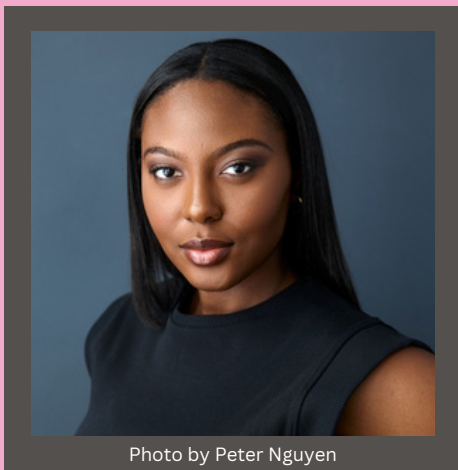
BY BRIANNA WRIGHT

Directed by **Mel Hague**

Performed by **Déjah Dixon-Green, Janelle Cooper, and Peter N. Bailey**

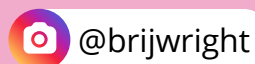
Stage Directions read by **Autumn Davis**

In a world where social media draws us closer together and AI has the answer for *most* things, Nim, compelled by circumstance, uses the tools at her disposal to build a connection with a father she has never met. As difficult conversations are brought to the table, secrets are unearthed and unrealized desires are examined, Nim is confronted with many questions, should she welcome The Man she never knew into her life with open arms or face a reality where certain connections may never develop after a significant amount of time has passed?



BRIANNA WRIGHT (SHE/HER) – PLAYWRIGHT

Brianna Wright is a Jamaican-Canadian artist based in Toronto, Ontario. Since completing a BFA in Performance: Acting from Toronto Metropolitan University, Brianna's artistic journey has led her to engage with storytelling through acting, directing, producing and playwriting. Brianna strives to create immersive experiences that engage with all who encounter them, encouraging participants to deeply interrogate their own thoughts and beliefs, while also fostering a space for reflection, empathy, and connection.





MEL HAGUE (ANY) – DIRECTOR

Mel Hague is a Toronto-based curator and dramaturge. Mel is the Artistic Director of Factory Theatre in Toronto. Previously, Mel has worked with Canadian Stage Company, Souleppper Theatre, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Obsidian Theatre Company, Tarragon Theatre, the Summerworks Festival, IFT Theatre, Banff Centre Playwrights Lab, bcurrent performing arts, fu-Gen Asian Canadian Theatre, Eastern Front Theatre, Queer Acts Festival, The Paprika Festival, and more. Mel was the Director of the Rhubarb Festival from 2014 – 2019 and was selected as a Leader in Residence at the National Theatre School of Canada (2017). Selected dramaturgy work includes *Public Consumption* (Lester Trips / Factory Theatre), *Honey I'm Home* (Lester Trips / Factory Theatre), *Fall on Your Knees* (National Arts Centre, Canadian Stage, Neptune Theatre), *Black Boys* (Saga Collectif with Buddies in Bad Times Theatre).

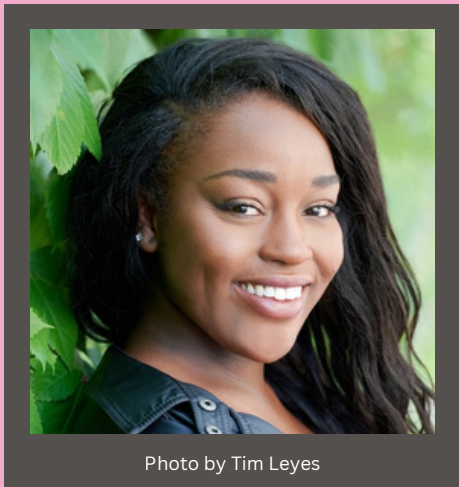


Photo by Tim Leyes

DÉJAH DIXON-GREEN (SHE/HER) – NIM

Born and raised in Scarborough, Ontario, Déjah Dixon-Green is a proud artist of the African Diaspora with roots in Jamaica and Trinidad. Dedicated to her craft, she hopes to inspire change through fearless storytelling and her commitment to inclusive representation in the arts.

A graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada, Déjah has been fortunate enough to lend herself to a variety of projects across the Theatre and TV/Film industries. Most recently, she was seen as Cleo in *Seven Methods of Killing Kylie Jenner* presented by Obsidian and Crows Theatre. Having spent 4 seasons at the Stratford Festival and lending herself to numerous opportunities throughout the industry, she has grown a profound curiosity for creating art through movement, experience and education.

Déjah is beyond excited to be collaborating with the Groundswell Festival to help bring the story of *Babel* to life.

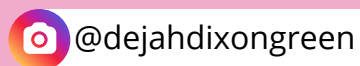




Photo by Mike Tan - @miketanphoto

JANELLE COOPER (SHE/HER) – Mom

Janelle Cooper is a multi-award-winning Actor, Director, and theatre Producer. She is also the Artistic Director and a Founder of Ellipsis Tree Collective (ETC) – a Black-led and focused professional theatre company dedicated to the development and production of works by Black and POC artists, in Calgary, AB, established 2010.

Theatre credits include: *CHILD-ish* (Tarragon); *Natasha & Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812* (Mirvish / Crows Theatre); *The Amen Corner* (Shaw); World Premiere of *Fall On Your Knees* (Vita Brevis / Canadian Stage / National Arts Centre / Grand); The Canadian and Regional Premieres of *The Color Purple* (Neptune, Citadel, Royal Manitoba); *Twelfth Night*, *I Am For You*, *The Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God* (National Arts Centre); World Premiere of *Sousatzka* (Teatro); *Waiting For The Parade*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Penelopiad* (ATP); World Premiere of *John Ware Reimagined*, Canadian Premiere of Lynn Nottage's *Ruined* (Ellipsis Tree).

Film and TV credits include: *Billion Dollar Bluff* (Tubi); *Reacher* (Prime); *Circuit Breakers* (Apple+); *We Forgot To Break Up* (BFI / Motel) *John Ware Reclaimed* (National Film Board of Canada); *The Right Kind of Wrong* (Serendipity); *High Noon* (Lifetime); *Snow 2: Brain Freeze* (ABC / Disney).



@janellethecooper



Photo by Tim Leyes

PETER N. BAILEY (HE/HIM) – The Man

Theatre Acting Credits: *A World Without Shadows*, *The Wilberforce Hotel*, *Jumbo*, *The Real McCoy* (The Blyth Festival), *Other Side of the Game* (Cahoots Theatre Co. and Obsidian Theatre), *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Richard III*, *All's Well That Ends Well* (Stratford Festival), *Fences* (Grand Theatre), *Here Are the Fragments* (The Theatre Centre), *Romeo and Juliet*, *Sweat*, *Fairview* (Canadian Stage Company), *A Few Good Men* (Drayton Entertainment).

Peter's voice and dialect coaching credits include: The Stratford Festival, Canadian Stage Company, Nightwood Theatre, Obsidian Theatre, Crow's Theatre, The National Theatre School of Canada, Canadian Film Centre, and Sheridan College. Peter is a graduate of the Patsy Rodenburg Associate Programme

Peter is also an award winning playwright, with his first play *Tyson's Song*, winning a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best New Play in the Independent Theatre Division in 2024.



@peternbailey



Photo by Megan Vincent

AUTUMN DAVIS (SHE/HER) – STAGE DIRECTIONS READER

Autumn Davis is a Dora Mavor Moore award winning artist and actor who trained at TMU (Ryerson University). Hailing from Scarborough Ontario, Autumn approaches her works with passion, curiosity and joy. An aspiring actor, director and Clown, she attacks her craft with humor and an eagerness to explore new creative challenges.

Selected theatre credits;

Acting: *Storybook Search* (Bad Hats Theatre), *Onion Skins & Peach Fuzz* (Blyth Festival Theatre), *Alice in Wonderland* (Guild Festival Theatre), *Exit Here* (Woman At Plays).

Upcoming: *A Christmas Carol* (Soup Can Theatre), *Wren's Recipes* (Tarragon Theatre)

Directing: Assistant Directing, *The Christmas Market* under Director Philip Akin (Crow's Theatre, Studio 180 Theatre & B Current Performing Arts), *It Just Bugs Me* (Guild Festival Theatre), *How To Drink Mate* (The Paprika Festival)



@autumndavi_s

02: 靈異

BY RENÉE WONG

Directed by **Courtney Ch'ng Lancaster**

Performed by **Jane Luk, John Ng, Stephanie Fung, April Leung 梁筱彤, Richard Tse, and Jeff Yung**

Stage Directions read by **Jobina Sitoh 司徒加恩**

In a quiet Toronto home, D lives under the weight of their parents' traditions. When their parents turn to a self-proclaimed healer, the home is filled with rituals and endless attempts to cure what cannot be named. When J, a mysterious woman enters D's life, they are pulled toward each other in a force that feels both healing and destructive. As their connection deepens, the family is drawn into a world where the line between the living and the dead, love and haunting, begins to blur.

Content Warnings: Sexual Assault, Homophobia, Physical Violence, Gore, Sexual Scenes, Suicide, Murder



Photo by Calvin Thomas

RENÉE WONG (THEY/THEM) – PLAYWRIGHT

Renée Wong is a queer, non-binary Hong Kong-Canadian actor, playwright, arts administrator, and emerging filmmaker based in Toronto, Ontario. A graduate of Humber College's Theatre Performance Program, Renée also holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Toronto. They are deeply passionate about exploring marginalized stories within Asian diasporas, blending elements of theatre and film to bring these narratives to life.



@reneeewcs



Photo by Dahlia Katz

COURTNEY CH'NG LANCASTER (SHE/HER) – DIRECTOR

Courtney Ch'ng Lancaster is a founding member of The Howland Company and is presently an assistant professor at York University's School of Art, Music, Performance & Design. She has formerly been an Assistant Artistic Director at Tarragon Theatre and a resident artist with Souleppper Theatre Company. Courtney's theatre direction includes *The Orphan of Chao* (Shaw Festival), *Hypothetical Baby* (Howland / Nightwood), *Three Women of Swatow* (Tarragon, 4 Dora nominations), *The Home Project*, (Howland Company / Native Earth / Souleppper, 5 Dora nominations), *The Wolves* (Howland / Crows - Outstanding Ensemble Win, Toronto Critics Awards, Outstanding Production - MyEntWorld), *52 Pick-Up* (Howland - Best of Fringe), and *Everybody* (York University). She has performed with the Shaw Festival, Souleppper, Public Recordings, Canadian Stage, Citadel Theatre, Blue Bridge Repertory, Cahoots, Native Earth, Tarragon and beyond. Courtney is an alumna of the Loran Award, and holds a BFA from UBC and an MBA from MUN. She is directing *Witch* at Souleppper in 2026.



@courtneychnng



Photo by Andrew Johnson

JANE LUK (SHE/HER) – Mom

Jane appeared in *Les Belles Soeurs* as Gabrielle for the Stratford Festival. She played Umma in the stage version of *Kim's Convenience* for Souleppper and Thousand Island Playhouse. Jane will be appearing next season in *Liars at a Funeral* at The Capital Theatre in Port Hope.

Jane plays Maureen in *The Institute*, based on Stephen King's novel, on MGM+. Also appearing in *Handmaid's Tale*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Kim's Convenience* (CBC), and 2 award-winning web series: *Streams Flow from a River* (Christopher Yip) and *Chateau Laurier* (James Stewart). She recently co-produced "Til Death Do Us Part" currently streaming for radio podcast on Buzzsprout, Apple Podcasts and others.

Jane is a proud Dora and Chalmers award recipient, as well as a four-time nominee for the Canadian Comedy Awards.



@janelukpicard



janelukpicard



Photo by Karl Ang

JOHN NG (HE/HIM) – Dad

John last appeared at Nightwood Theatre in the 2004 production of *China Doll* by Marjorie Chan, under the direction of then company Artistic Director Kelly Thornton. Recent credits include *As You Like It*, *Forgiveness* (Stratford Festival), *Snow In Midsummer*, *The Orphan Of Chao* (Shaw Festival), *The Chinese Lady* (Studio 180), *Kuroko* (Vancouver Asian Theatre Company), and *Antigone* (Young People's Theatre).

Upcoming: *Pu Songling: Strange Tales* (Theatre Smith-Gilmour) and *Something Old* (Talk Is Free Theatre).



@rogieshan



John Ng



Photo by Patrick Iun

STEPHANIE FUNG (THEY/SHE) – D

Stephanie Fung (they/she) is an interdisciplinary performance artist who is fascinated by how we contest culture and negotiate convention. A performer, writer, director, dramaturg, and critic—they are particularly influenced by the indulgent, subversive and counter-cultural.

Stephanie holds a BAH in Drama & Indigenous Studies (Queen's University); a certificate in Entertainment Law (Osgoode Hall Law School); and a post-graduate certificate in Screenwriting & Narrative Design (George Brown College). A two-time Canadian Theatre Critics Association award-winner, they are further experimenting with criticism under their alter ego 'submergingartist'.

Recent acting credits include: *digitrans // analogirl* (Summerworks Festival); *Hang In There* (Nightwood Theatre); *The Dog Play* (Factory Theatre); *Space Crime Continuum* (6AM Productions); *Collider* (Single Thread Theatre); and *Concord Floral* (Theatre Kingston). Learn more at stephaniefung.ca



@thesillybilly



@dysfunctional



Photo by Dahlia Katz

APRIL LEUNG 梁筱彤 (SHE/HER) – J

April Siutong Leung 梁筱彤 is an award-winning playwright, performance creator, and actor who grew up in Hong Kong and is now based in Tkarón:to (Toronto). She has worked with, and performed at, many celebrated theatre companies across Turtle Island including Blyth Festival, Factory Theatre, Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre, and Caravan Farm Theatre. April's creative practice extends into playwriting and digital media works, with a specific interest in projections and XR.



@aprillx



RICHARD TSE (HE/HIM) – Master Chung / Store Owner / Mr. Chung

Richard Tse is an actor based in Toronto. Through performing, he enjoys connecting with audiences and sharing the experience that touches people's hearts, and changing our lives.

Among his many theatre projects, Richard has received rave reviews on *Ga Ting* (ARTillary Collective) at Next Stage Theatre Festival, *Red Snow* (Red Snow Collective) performed in Toronto and Shanghai, and *Tuesdays with Morrie* (TorCanAA) in Cantonese, a collaboration with award-winning director and actor from Hong Kong, in Toronto.

Selected film and television credits include *Umbrella Academy*, *Finch & Midland*, *Unrestricted War*, *11h11* and *Second Jen*.



Photo by Megan Vincent

JEFF YUNG (HE/HIM) – Blow-Water-Guy

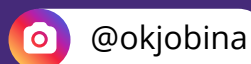
Jeff Yung (he/him) is an actor, martial artist, sometimes poet and a member of the Shakespeare in the Ruff Leadership Collective. Most recently he played Theseus as part of the Dora nominated cast of *Two Noble Kinsmen* with Shakespeare BASH'd. Other credits include: *Prodigal* (Howland / Crow's), *Trojan Girls* (OtM / Factory), *Monday Nights* (PuSh / LUMINATO / TC), *Antigone* (YPT), *Vietgone* (MTC / fu-Gen), and *Banana Boys* (Factory). Last year, Jeff made Cannes & TIFF debuts playing Dr. Rory Zhao in the film *The Shrouds* directed by David Cronenberg. On TV he portrayed Monk Tsutop in Netflix's live action remake of *Avatar: The Last Airbender* and appears in the upcoming season of *Law and Order Toronto: Criminal Intent*. He's a recent, proud, father to Lyra.



Photo by Samantha Hurley

JOBINA SITO 司徒加恩 – STAGE DIRECTIONS READER

Jobina Sitoh 司徒加恩 is a Chinese-Malaysian theatre artist, actor, singer, and performer from Vancouver, British Columbia. A recent graduate of the York University Acting Conservatory, Jobina is currently based in Toronto, Ontario, and works in theatre, film, and television. Select credits include *The Disappeared in Erased* by Coleen Shirin Macpherson at Theatre Passe Muraille, Dionysus in *Bakkhai*, directed by David Jansen, and Maggie Chun in *Maggie Chun's First Love and Last Wedding* by Helen Ho, directed by Julia Edda Pape. Jobina is also an emerging playwright and founder of The Mother Tongue Collective, a theatre-focused arts collective. jobinasitoh.com



BOYHOOD

BY MASON MCDONALD

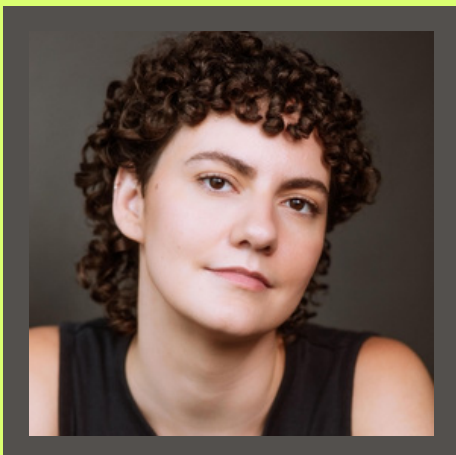
Directed by **Ludmylla Reis**

Performed by **Breton Lalama, Kyana Teresa, Taha Arshad, and Fiona Highet**

Stage Directions read by **Oliver Pitschner**

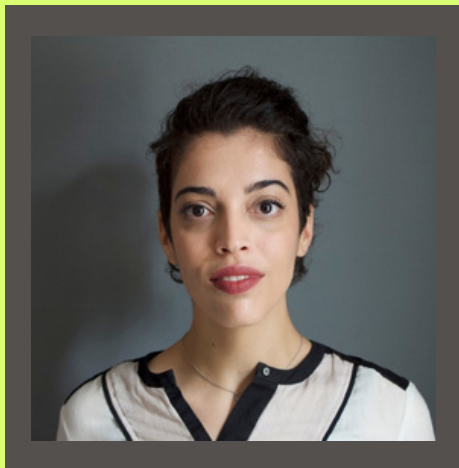
When a trans man faces an unexpected and unwanted pregnancy, he must confront a medical system ill-equipped to address the intersections of gender-affirming and reproductive healthcare. “boyhood” exposes the tender solace of queer love and chosen family in the age of individualism.

Content Warnings: Transphobia, bodily fluids, abortion, sex, sexual violence, coarse language, the f-slur. abortion, transphobia, sex, sexual violence, vulgar language, and gender dysphoria. Not recommended for audience members under 16



MASON MCDONALD (THEY/THEM) – PLAYWRIGHT

Mason McDonald is a multidisciplinary Métis artist from Treaty 6 Territory, Saskatchewan, now based in Tkaronto. As an actor, filmmaker, choreographer, and writer, Mason’s work aims to challenge reductive stereotypes by celebrating the depth, humanity, and unique experiences within queer and trans communities. Their creative practice is deeply rooted in themes of identity, belonging, and the intersections of community and self. They are a graduate of Toronto Metropolitan University's Performance Acting Program, a proud member of ACTRA Toronto, and represented by Play Management.

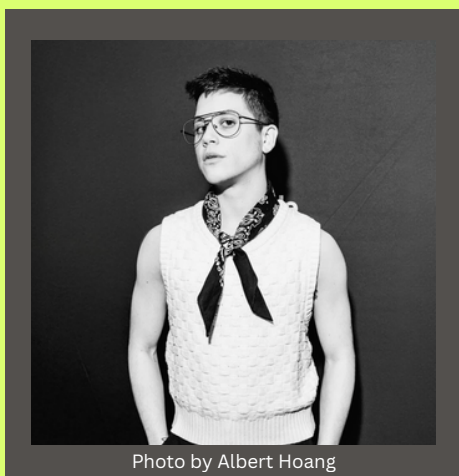


LUDMYLLA REIS (THEY/THEM) – DIRECTOR

Ludmylla Reis is a cultural leader, a theatre director, a filmmaker, a Creative producer, and a curator with a BFA in acting and an MFA in directing as well as an independent career in project management and cultural studies. Currently, they are the Festival Director for The Rhubarb Festival @ Buddies in Bad Times.



@ludmyllareis

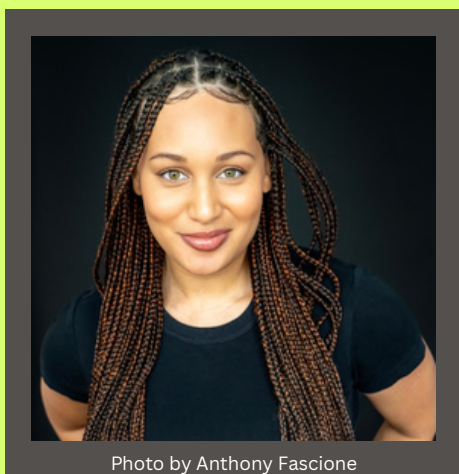


BRETON LALAMA (HE/HIM) – Noah

Breton Lalama is a writer, performer and filmmaker. Most recently, the film he co-wrote and starred in, *Really Happy Someday*, won the VQFF 2025 People's Choice Award, the 2025 Inside Out Festival Best Canadian Feature Award, and the 2024 Whistler Film Festival's Best Screenplay Award and Best Canadian Feature Award after premiering at TIFF 2024. His plays and screenplays include: *LAST SHOW ON EARTH TRADEMARK SYMBOL!* (Neptune Theatre premiere); *WHAT FOR WHAT* (in development, Tarragon Theatre Residency); *Really Happy Someday* (also co-producer and lead actor, TIFF 2024 premiere); *when i was a boy i wasn't* (also director, self-produced, screened internationally); *LUCKY BASTARDS* (in development; Summerworks and Side Stream Festival). Breton is the cofounder of the Spindle Films Foundation to support transgender Canadian filmmakers and a member of the Pink Triangle Press advisory council.



@bretonlikethecrackers



KYANA TERESA (SHE/HER) – Lou

Kyana Teresa is a Canadian born actress based out of Toronto, Ontario. She is a fierce advocate for diversity and representation on and off screen. Kyana made Hallmark history in 2021 by sealing the first (interracial) lesbian kiss for the network's historically conservative channel. She was also the first woman to be featured behind the wheel of a BMW ad campaign. Appearing on hit series such as HBO Max's *Titans*, *Star Trek: Discovery*, and countless films for both Hallmark and Lifetime, Kyana is a force to be reckoned with and shows no signs of slowing down.



@kyana.teresa



Photo by Sam Gaetz

TAHA ARSHAD (HE/HIM) – Elliot

Taha is an actor, comedian, writer, and content creator. Having started out doing theatre for over 10 years, he is thrilled to be back in the theatre world and be part of something so special! Theatre credits: *Once On This Island* (Lower Ossington Theatre), *Urinetown: The Musical* (We Are Here Productions), *Heathers: The Musical* (Hart House Theatre). TV / Film credits: *Late Bloomer* (Pier 21 Films / Crave), *Hare of High Park* (Little Engine Moving Pictures / TVO), *The Morning After* (Sherni Studios). You can check him out online.



@tahalikesyou



Photo by Farrah Aviva

FIONA HIGHET (SHE/HER) – Doctor / Ultrasound Tech / Receptionist

Selected theatre credits include: *The Welkin* (Soulpepper), *Roberto Zucco* (Buddies in Bad Times), *Poison* (Coalmine Theatre), Jordan Tannahill's *Late Company*, Brigitte Haentjen's *Tout Comme Elle*, Daniel Brooks' *the Eco Show*, Daniel MacIvor's *You Are Here and How It Works*, George F. Walker's *End of Civilization*, *Missing* by Florence Gibson, *House of Many Tongues*, *Bea's Niece* and *The Gist* directed by Richard Rose, and John Mighton's *The Little Years*. Selected film and television credits include: *Saint Pierre*, *Cardinal*, *Bitten*, *Picture Day*, *Rookie Blue*, *Slings and Arrows*, *This is Wonderland*.

Fiona also writes and directs short films.



@fmhighet



OLIVER PITSCHNER (HE/HIM) – STAGE DIRECTION READER

Oliver Pitschner is a playwright, director, and arts administrator based in Toronto. In his work he explores themes of youth culture, the family unit, fate, religious fundamentalism, and transgender liberation. He has written and directed *Behold, a Man!*, *The Other Paris*, and bi-province audio play collaboration *Transfigure/Transfix* with Halifax's Around + Out Theatre Company, as well as directed Valentine Leger's *The Biography of Harry Allen* for Buddies in Bad Times' 46th Rhubarb Festival. Oliver believes the rights of all marginalized peoples are inextricably intertwined, from one's own neighborhood to a global community, and wants to join his peers in the Toronto performing arts space in calling for a free and liberated Palestine.

KASUKU

BY TANVI VYAS

Directed by **Miriam Fernandes**

Performed by **Navtej Sandhu, Kiara-Kumail, Tawiah Ben M'Carthy, Becky Ablack, Rami Khan, and Joella Crichton**

Stage Directions read by **Rahkee Mozaria**

In August 1972, as Idi Amin begins his expulsion of South Asians from the country, two sisters - Chitra and Nishi - meet in the dead of night along the Ugandan-Kenyan border. Unable to cross the border to safety with her sister, Nishi entrusts Chitra with Kasuku, an African Gray Parrot the sisters have cared for since their teenage years. Kasuku becomes a constant companion as Chitra raises her twin children - Priya and Pravesh - in Kenya.

As Priya and Pravesh grow, tensions from the expulsion spread across East Africa. They learn to navigate the shifting relationships of the Native African and Indo-African communities. Meanwhile, Chitra struggles to understand her children as both seek to step outside of their expected paths. Their greatest challenge arises when the family is thrown headfirst into the violent Coup D'etat of August 1982 and its aftermath. The world shifts rapidly around them, and sacrifices must be made or they risk being separated forever.

Content Warnings: Implications of violence, coarse/hateful language



TANVI VYAS (SHE/HER) – PLAYWRIGHT

Tanvi Vyas is a writer and stage and production manager based in Toronto. Her passion for history informs and inspires her goal to bring underrepresented stories to life. A graduate of Toronto Metropolitan University, Tanvi continues to explore the various forms of live performance and challenges systems of oppression by supporting thoughtful and inclusive art/spaces.



Photo by Jorn Lavoll

MIRIAM FERNANDES (SHE/HER) – DIRECTOR

Miriam is the Co-Artistic Director of the Toronto-based company Why Not Theatre and has worked as a creator, performer and director around the world. Recent creation credits include: *Mahabharata* (Why Not Theatre / Shaw Festival / Barbican Centre) and *What You Won't Do for Love* (starring Drs. David Suzuki and Tara Cullis, Why Not Theatre). Directing credits include: *Sangen fra Verdens Ende* (The National Stage, Bergen, Norway), *The Courage to Right a Woman's Wrongs* (Stratford Festival Meighan Forum), *Metamorphoses* (CDTPS), *Hayavadana* (Soulpepper Theatre), *Nesen* (MiniMidiMaxi Festival, Norway).

Miriam is currently in development for a number of new works including an adaptation of Nobel Award-Winning author Han Kang's *The Vegetarian*. She is a graduate of Ecole Jacques Lecoq (Paris), and received the Dora Mavor Moore award for Best Performance by an Individual and Best New Play for *Mahabharata*, which was also celebrated for Best Production.



Photo by Tim Leyes

NAVTEJ SANDHU (SHE/HER) – Chitra

Navtej Sandhu is a Dora award-winning Toronto actor with recent credits including Jin in *The Caged Bird Sings* directed by Rafeh Mahmud at the Aga Khan Museum and Karna / Satyawati in *Mahabharata* directed by Ravi Jain at the Lincoln Center in New York City. Navtej is also an experienced vocalist with credits including *Devi Triptych* by Red Beti Theatre and *Jungle Book* by Kidoons Productions. Navtej is currently an intermediate actor combatant and is now in the process of getting her advanced certification. She hopes to be able to tell her story and amplify the voices of communities that have had their voices stifled. Navtej's goal is to continue to create and be a part of projects that she believes in, and that speak to those communities.

"Any form of art is a form of power; it has impact, it can affect change – it can not only move us, it makes us move."- Ossie Davis



@the_tall_chick



Photo by Wynne Neilly

KIARA-KUMAIL (SHE/THEY) – Hira / Nishi

Kiara-Kumail is an international actor and artist based in Toronto, Canada. She has performed at Tarragon Theatre, Buddies in Bad Times and much more. Most notably, she was recently the star of White Ribbon's 'Short Life Stories' PSA to end violence against transgender people, amassing 3.5 billion in media outreach. She also starred as The Siren in 'This Light is My Birthplace', making rounds in film festivals such as Inside Out Festival, both globally and nationally.



@kiarakumail



TAWIAH BEN M'CARTHY (HE/HIM) – Rujabo / Kareem

Tawiah McCarthy is a Ghanaian born, Toronto-based theatre practitioner, notable as a Director, Playwright, Creator and Performer. Directing credits include: *Here Lies Henry* (Factory Theatre), *Topdog Underdog* (Canadian Stage), *Fairview* (Obsidian Theatre / Canadian Stage), *Death and the King's Horseman* (Stratford Festival), and *Rihannaboi95* (Young People's Theatre). Creator / Writer credits include: *Maanomaa*, *My Brother* (Blue Bird Theatre Collective), *Yen Ara Asaase Ni* (21 Black Futures, Obsidian Theatre), *Black Boys* (Saga Collectif) and *Obaaberima* (Buddies in Bad Times Theatre). Performing credits include: Sizwe in *Sizwe Banzi Is Dead* (Soulpepper Theatre), Oyinyechuku in *Three Sisters* (Obsidian Theatre / Soulpepper Theatre), Larry in *Fat Ham* (Canadian Stage) and Emeka / Archie in *Feast* (Tarragon Theatre). Tawiah is a Pauline McGibbon Award recipient for Directing, a multi Dora-nominated playwright and performer and Co-Artistic Director of Blue Bird Theatre Collective.

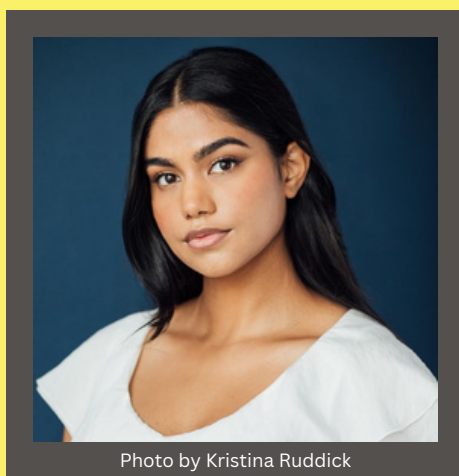
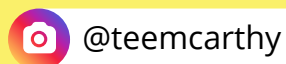
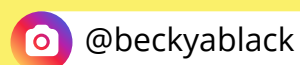


Photo by Kristina Ruddick

BECKY ABLACK (SHE/HER) – Priya

Becky Ablack is a Toronto-based actor, writer, and theatre creator with a BFA Honours in Theatre and a BA Honours Minor in Creative Writing from York University. On screen, she has appeared as a recurring guest star on *Ginny & Georgia* (Netflix) and as a series regular on *The Good Karma Hospital* (Disney+), with additional credits including *Fear Street: Prom Queen*, *Luckiest Girl Alive*, *Kim's Convenience*, and *Let It Snow*. Becky is also an award-winning theatre artist and co-founder of the sketch and theatre collective Small Friend Tall Friend, whose original show *Do You Think You're Better Than Me?* earned the Critic's Pick Award at the 2023 Hamilton Fringe Festival. Her work often blends humour, movement, and social observation, exploring identity with warmth and wit. In addition to performing, Becky is a comedy writer and arts collaborator passionate about inventive, accessible storytelling.



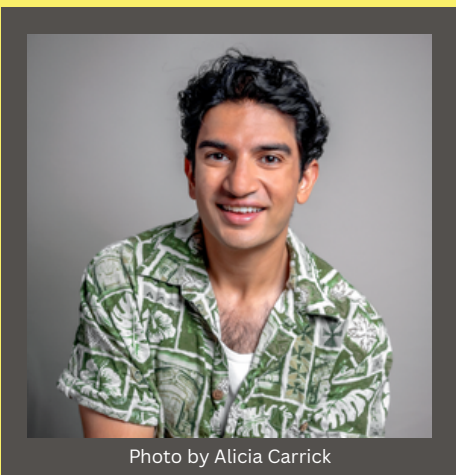


Photo by Alicia Carrick

RAMI KHAN (HE/HIM) – Pravesh

Rami Khan is a queer, Pakistani-Canadian artist based out of Toronto. Rami has appeared on screen most recently as Rex in the hit Netflix series *BET* as well as the upcoming Netflix mini-series *Wayward*. In addition to acting, Rami has written, created and produced many sketch comedy shows with his troupe Potato Potato Presents. Most recently, Rami completed the Reelworld Emerging 20 program for his original screenplay *The Last Samosa* as well as the Web Series Canada Futures Forward Program for his comedic web-series *Something to Take the Edge Off*. Rami considers himself a multi-disciplinary artist whose mission statement is to create work that amplifies the voices of marginalized communities through humour. He wholeheartedly believes that laughter is a vehicle for conversation.



@ramikhan_

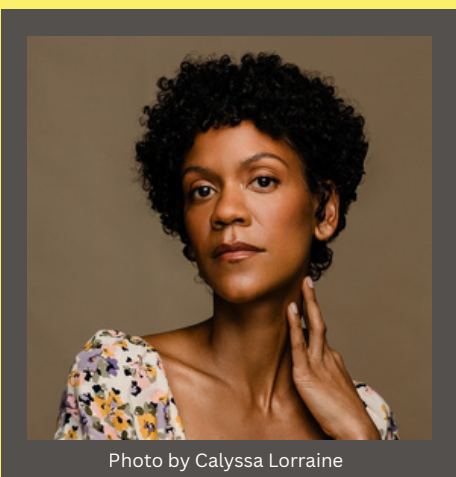


Photo by Calyssa Lorraine

JOELLA CRICHTON (SHE/HER) – Sifa

Joella Crichton is an actor based in Toronto. She recently completed the Birmingham Conservatory at the Stratford Festival in 2024. Recent theatre credits include: *Romeo and Juliet* (Canadian Stage), *Hedda Gabler*, *The Wedding Band*, *Les Belle-Soeurs*, *London Assurance*, *Death and The Kings Horsemen* (Stratford Festival). She won the Amelia Hall Award in 2023 (Guthrie Award), and has been nominated for two Broadway World Awards and a My Entertainment Award for Best Supporting Actor.



@joellacrichton

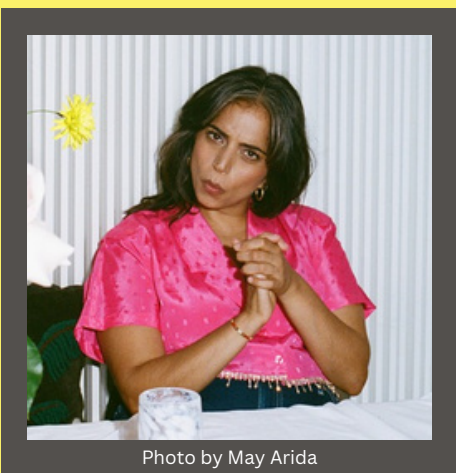


Photo by May Arida

RAKHEE MORZARIA (SHE/HER) – STAGE DIRECTIONS READER

Rakhee Morzaria is a multi-award nominated South-Asian actor, writer, and comedian. She was the lead on the hit Hulu / CBC comedy, *Run the Burbs* and her filmmaking has been showcased at the Atlantic Film Festival, Imagine This Film festival in New York, Kevin Hart's Eat My Shorts Competition. Her CBC digital series, *Note to Self*, was nominated for a Canadian Screen and Canadian Comedy Award. As seen on *What We Do in the Shadows* (FX), *Private Eyes* (CTV) and *My Spy* (Netflix), and animated series *Summer Memories* (Roku), Rakhee also performs stand-up and sketch and performed at the Toronto and Montreal Sketchfest, Comedy is Art Festival, the Second City Stage and as part of inaugural Bob Curry Fellowship program.



@rakheecola

Monday, November 17

HYPOTHETICAL BABY by Rachel Cairns



Rachel Cairns mixes data and drama to present an autobiographical work that dares to publicly talk about abortion the way we do privately — with neurotic vulnerability, unflinching honesty, and frank irreverence.

Hypothetical Baby was recently produced by Nightwood Theatre, in association with The Howland Company, as part of our 2024-25 Season

Rachel Cairns (she/her) has acted in (and occasionally directed) plays for over a decade, but *Hypothetical Baby* marks the first time she's performing one that she has written. She's appeared on some of Toronto's top stages, including Tarragon, Canadian Stage, and Crow's Theatre. As a writer and director, her web series *Mom & Me* has amassed over seven million views on YouTube.

Rachel is also the creator and host of *Aborsh*, a podcast that explores why abortion is such a "big deal," what "choice" really means, and why that answer is different for different people. Season one received Planned Parenthood Toronto's Choice Award for advocacy in sexual and reproductive health. Season two launched in January 2025 and you can listen to it wherever you get your podcasts. She's currently adapting *Hypothetical Baby* into a memoir with ECW Press.



The Apology by Chelsea Woolley

After accidentally locking a nun in the bathroom of their crappy student apartment, three friends attempt to turn the accident into a poor attempt at social justice by demanding the nun apologize on behalf of the Catholic Church. Meanwhile, the trio spiral into a crisis of their own secrets, and misdeeds, which uncomfortably begin to mirror the very acts they are asking The Church to apologize for.

Chelsea Woolley (she/her) is a playwright whose work includes: *Enormity*, *Girl*, and *the Earthquake in Her Lungs* (Nightwood Theatre), *Paint Me This House of Love* (Tarragon Theatre), *The Mountain* (Geordie Theatre), and *The Only Good Boy* (Theatre BSMT). Her writing 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-wrote a script titled, *One Day* with teens at Red Door Shelter.

Chelsea has directed a number of operas with the Canadian Children's opera Company, including the upcoming 2026 production of *Alice in Wonderland* at the Harbourfront Centre. She is the 2025 Tarragon Theatre Bulmash-Siegel New Creation Development Residency Award recipient, and is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's Playwriting Program.

CURTAIN RAISERS

Wednesday, November 19

MADE FOR LOVE by
Asenia Lyall



Photo by Sherry Li

Made for Love is a contemporary adaptation of the myth of Pygmalion. It follows an interwoven community of aspiring ceramicists, vying for attention and profit for their art as well as love and attention from one another.

Asenia Lyall (she/her) is a recent graduate of Toronto Metropolitan University's MFA in Scriptwriting & Story Design and holds a BFA in Performance with a minor in English Literature from Brock University. She is currently working as a project coordinator in the renewable energy sector combining her passion for environmentalism and social justice, while continuing her work as an actor, director, and dramaturg. She also writes short stories and loves to knit.

 @asenia.lyall

Thursday, November 20

HOW TO BE BEST
by Rakhee
Morzaria



Photo by May Arida

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

**HOW TO BE BEST show dates are
Feb 13, 14 at Sweet Action Theatre**

Rakhee Morzaria (she/her) Rakhee Morzaria is a multi-award nominated South-Asian actor, writer, and comedian. She was the lead on the hit Hulu/CBC comedy, *Run the Burbs* and her filmmaking has been showcased at the Atlantic Film Festival, Imagine This Film festival in New York, Kevin Hart's Eat My Shorts Competition. Her CBC digital series, *Note to Self*, was nominated for a Canadian Screen and Canadian Comedy Award. As seen on *What We Do in the Shadows* (FX), *Private Eyes* (CTV) and *My Spy* (Netflix), and animated series *Summer Memories* (Roku), Rakhee also performs stand-up and sketch and performed at the Toronto and Montreal Sketchfest, Comedy is Art Festival, the Second City Stage and as part of inaugural Bob Curry Fellowship program.

 @rakheecola

Are you an Artist or Arts Worker? Let's stay in touch!

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR ARTIST LIST!

Meet the Playwrights: 5 Minute Feminist Cabaret



Photo by Megan Vincent

LARA ARABIAN (she/her) is a trilingual Toronto-based artist by way of Beirut, Lebanon, upstate NY, and Paris, France.

A Dora nominated actor, she's worked with companies across Canada including: Citadel Theatre, Modern

Times, Outside the March, Aluna Theatre, Neptune Theatre, Canadian Stage, Theatre Passe Muraille, Tft, Studio 180, Pleaides Theatre, Cahoots, Pandemic Theatre, Nightswimming

Recent TV / Film credits include: *Saint Pierre*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Kim's Convenience*, *Assassin's Creed*, *Jazz Ramsey K-9 Mystery*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Paris, Paris*, *Ghostwriter*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Taken*, *Dark Matter*; Upcoming Film / TV: *Foreign Tongue*, *11h11*

As a writer, she's been a member of the Banff Playwrights Unit and Nightwood Theatre's Write from the Hip program. She's also a multiple Dora nominated writer for Outstanding New Play (Youth Division) as part of the writing team for *Les Zinspiré.e.s 8, 10, 11 & 12* (Théâtre français de Toronto). Her latest play, *Convictions*, received its world premiere at the Festival Les Zébrures in France before kicking off the season for Théâtre français de Toronto.

Lara was recently named the inaugural recipient of the Joël Beddows Playwrighting Prize.

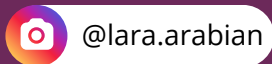


Photo by David Hawe

JESS DOBKIN (she/her) has been a working artist, curator, community activist, teacher and mentor for more than 30 years. Her practice extends across theatres and galleries, art fairs and subway stations, international festivals and museums, universities and

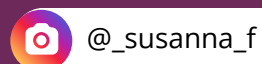
public archives. She has operated an artist-run newsstand in a vacant subway station kiosk, a soup kitchen for artists, a breast milk tasting bar, and a performance festival hub for kids. Recent projects include her artist commission *For What It's Worth* (Wellcome Collection, London, UK, 2023) and her solo exhibition, *Jess Dobkin's Wetrospective* (Art Gallery of York University, Toronto, Canada, 2021) curated by Emelie Chhangur. Her film and video works are distributed by Vtape and traces of her performance work are held in performance art archives internationally. *Jess Dobkin's Wetrospective: Constellating Performance Archives* (Ed. Laura Levin, Intellect Books / AGYU, 2024) is now available.



Photo by John Bregar

SUSANNA FOURNIER is an award winning Canadian theatre maker, actor/director, and performance educator. Her work straddles acting and creating in television, film, and stage. She is known in Canadian theatre for her formally provocative perfor-

mance texts and interdisciplinary productions. In 2018/19, Susanna's company, PARADIGM productions, produced her critically acclaimed trilogy, *The Empire*, across three Toronto venues, as a radio-drama podcast series online, and as a complete reader edition published through Playwrights Canada Press. Her theatre-making has been seen at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Canadian Stage, Luminato, Aki Studio, Theatre Centre, as well as in London UK, Munich, and Berlin. Susanna is a two-time nominee for the KM Hunter Award for theatre artist of the year. She's a guest instructor and director at Toronto Metropolitan University, Etobicoke School of the Arts, and Cawthra Park Secondary School. www.susannafournier.com.



Meet the Playwrights: 5 Minute Feminist Cabaret



Photo Albert Hoang

BRETON LALAMA (he/him) is a writer, performer and filmmaker. Most recently, the film he co-wrote and starred in, *Really Happy Someday*, won the VQFF 2025 People's Choice Award, the 2025 Inside Out Festival Best Canadian Feature Award,

and the 2024 Whistler Film Festival's Best Screenplay Award and Best Canadian Feature Award after premiering at TIFF 2024. His plays and screenplays include: *Last Show on Earth™* (Neptune Theatre premiere); *What For What* (in development, Tarragon Theatre Residency); *Really Happy Someday* (also co-producer and lead actor, TIFF 2024 premiere); *when i was a boy i wasn't* (also director, self-produced, screened internationally); *Lucky Bastards* (in development; Summerworks and Side Stream Festival). Breton is the cofounder of the Spindle Films Foundation to support transgender Canadian filmmakers and a member of the Pink Triangle Press advisory council.



@bretonlikethecrackers



Photo by Ann Bagglely

ROSE NAPOLI (she/her) is an award-winning writer, actor, and teacher. An alumna of Write from the Hip, Nightwood has premiered two of her plays, *Mad Madge*, co-produced with Video Cabaret, and *Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)*, co-produced with

Crow's Theatre, both directed by Andrea Donaldson. Onstage, Rose has been directed by Andrea in *Grace* (Nightwood) and *Taming of the Shrew* (SLSF). Recent acting credits include: *The Master Plan* (Crow's / Aquarius / Souleppper), and *Wildwoman* (Souleppper). Upcoming in 2026: *Mad Madge* will be onstage at Neptune Theatre in Halifax, *After the Rain* (her folk / rock musical co-written with Suzy Wilde) will run at the National Arts Centre, and Rose will make her Stratford Festival debut starring in *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*.



@rose_napoli



Rose Napoli



Photo by David Leyes

LISA RYDER (she/her) is an actor and playwright currently working on her *Masters of Psychospiritual Studies* at UofT. Her play, *A Blow in the Face* was produced with Nightwood in 2019 and her play, *The Rapture of Justina Wiens*

originated in the "Write from the Hip" Program. Recent acting credits include: *Craze* (Tarragon Theatre), *The Darkest Dark* (YPT), *The 52 Live* (Luminato Festival), *Gen V* (Amazon Prime), *From* (Paramount Plus) and *Hudson and Rex* (CBC).



@lisajustina

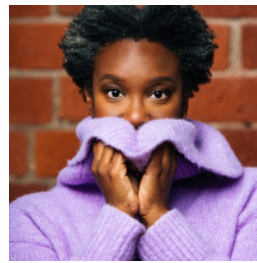


Photo by Tanja Tiziana

ANDREA SCOTT (she/her) Andrea's first play, *Eating Pomegranates Naked*, won the RBC Arts Professional Award, and named Outstanding Production at the 2013 SummerWorks Festival. *Better Angels: A Parable* won the SummerWorks Award for

Production, was published in 2018, and made into a podcast by PlayMe Podcast / Sirius Radio. *Don't Talk to Me Like I'm Your Wife*, won the Cayle Chernin Award for theatre and ran in the SummerWorks in 2016. She co-wrote the 2019 Nightwood hit *Every Day She Rose* with Nick Green which has wowed audiences from Toronto to Hollywood. Her play about Viola Desmond, *Controlled Damage*, had its sold-out world premiere at Neptune Theatre in 2020 and been turned into a graphic novel and podcast. *Get That Hope* had its World Premiere at the Stratford Festival in 2024. She's currently working on *You Don't Know Jack*, a play about Jackie Robinson's time playing for the Montreal Royals.



@andreammsscott

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Vanessa Morgan

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