

Nightwood Theatre ● ○ ◯ ◯



2026-2027 SEASON

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

Monique Aura, Oneida Nation

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

In the spirit and intent of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s recommendations, Nightwood Theatre acknowledges the land on which our work is created and where our offices are located is the traditional territory of many Nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples, and is home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

We acknowledge them and any other Nations who care for the land (acknowledged and unacknowledged, recorded and unrecorded) as the past, present, and future caretakers of this land, the traditional territory named Tkarón:to, the Mohawk word for “the place in the water where the trees are standing.” The treaty for this particular parcel of land (Treaty 13), collectively referred to as the Toronto Purchase, applies to lands east of Brown’s Line to Woodbine Avenue and north towards Newmarket. We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples on this land and the Dish With One Spoon Wampum covenant.

MESSAGE FROM NIGHTWOOD

**Welcome to Nightwood Theatre's
2026-2027 Season!**



[click for ASL video](#)

It is truly our honour to share this year's slate of three bold productions alongside our Groundswell Festival of new works. We are proud to bring audiences a season that will ignite imaginations and make way for artists to tell their stories the way they need to be told.



This season offers intimate and enriching glimpses into the epic lives of dozens of women, in stories of born and found sisterhood. *To a Flame* is an eerie feast for the eyes with heightened movement and haunting projections that intertwines American Sign Language and English for Deaf and hearing audiences to experience together. *Fall on Your Knees*—a production in two parts—brings Ann-Marie MacDonald's beloved novel of family, faith, and buried history to the stage. To close our season, we teamed up for the Canadian premiere of the Tony Award-Winning *Jaja's African Hair Braiding*, by way of Broadway and London's West End. Rounding out our programming this season is our Groundswell Festival, highlighting the incredible talents of our current Write from the Hip playwrights unit as well as other new works in development and opportunities for local artists to grow.

We live in a global city where more than 50% of the population is born elsewhere; where we see ourselves in a multiplicity of stories shaped from expansive rural and urban narratives. This season's stories—like the residents of Toronto—are both global and local in nature. Come find your place through these works and support the boundless creativity and culture that thrives in Toronto, staged by the incredible artistic talents of our complex and beautiful city.

Andrea Donaldson, Artistic Director & Naz Afsahi-LeBlanc, Managing Director

2026-2027 SEASON

- **TO A FLAME**
September 21 - October 4, 2026
- **GROUNDSWELL FESTIVAL**
November 9 - 13, 2026
- **FALL ON YOUR KNEES**
February 9 - March 21, 2027
- **JAJA'S AFRICAN HAIR BRAIDING**
May 13 - June 6, 2027
- **THE 2027 LAWYER SHOW**
June 3 - 5, 2027

TO A FLAME

Writer: Erin Shields

Director: Josette Bushell-Mingo

**A 1s1 Theatre and Nightwood Theatre co-production
in association with Modern Times Stage Company and Why Not Theatre**

*Winner of the
International
Writers' Competition
at Heidelberger
Stückemarkt*

To a Flame is an explosive theatrical feast of image and language that pulls us deep into a Victorian Gothic Horror. Three confined women await the conclusion of their stories in the ancestral home of the man they call Father. Secrets burn to past refuse to be suppressed, and the very house itself vibrates with desire for revenge.

This groundbreaking work intertwines American Sign Language and English with vibrant movement and live music into a haunting, multi-sensory performance for Deaf and hearing audiences. Featuring celebrated Deaf performer and cultural leader Dawn Jani Birley, internationally-renowned director Josette Bushell-Mingo, and vivid text by Governor General Award-winning playwright Erin Shields, with the support of the company, this theatrical experience is not to be missed.



[click for ASL video](#)



GROUNDSWELL FESTIVAL

Program Director Intisar Awisse
Program Associate Mya Wong

Now in its 41st year, we are proud to support the return of the Groundswell Festival of new play readings. Be the first to hear brand new works from our talented 2026 Write from the Hip playwrights: **Alison Adams, Rais Clarke-Mendes, Sal Currie, Nicci Pryce, Vanessa Spence** as well as new Nightwood works in development.

[Learn more about this year's playwrights here.](#)

Write from the Hip is a year-long script development program designed to support new writers. Under the guidance of Program Director Intisar Awisse and Program Associate Mya Wong, these 5 playwrights have spent the last year working toward the completion of a full-length play. Don't miss this week of new Canadian plays and professional development opportunities!

NOVEMBER 9 - 13, 2026 | NANCY & ED JACKMAN PERFORMANCE CENTRE

FALL ON YOUR KNEES: PART 1

Co-creator & Writer: Hannah Moscovitch
Co-creator & Director: Alisa Palmer
Based on the novel by Ann-Marie MacDonald

*The beloved
Canadian story
of buried family
secrets*

**A Crow's Theatre and Vita Brevis Arts co-production
in association with Nightwood Theatre**

Ann-Marie MacDonald's epic novel of family, faith, and buried history comes to the stage in Hannah Moscovitch and Alisa Palmer's intimate adaptation.

In Cape Breton, at the turn of the last century, a young piano tuner and the daughter of immigrants defy convention to build a life together. From their union grows a volatile household shaped by faith, ambition, and the transformative power of music. When their daughter's extraordinary voice offers a path to greatness, dreams of success carry her from a small coastal community to the electrifying cultural awakening of New York and Harlem.

Presented in two parts and spanning generations, *Fall on Your Knees* follows the Piper family, haunted by secrets, tragedy, and forbidden love.

FEBRUARY 9 - MARCH 21, 2027 | CROW'S THEATRE

FALL ON YOUR KNEES: PART 2

Co-creator & Writer: Hannah Moscovitch

Co-creator & Director: Alisa Palmer

Based on the novel by Ann-Marie MacDonald

**A Crow's Theatre and Vita Brevis Arts co-production
in association with Nightwood Theatre**

**Some family
secrets take more
than one night to
*unravel***

Continue the journey of Ann-Marie MacDonald's epic Canadian novel of family, faith, and buried history with the second part of Hannah Moscovitch and Alisa Palmer's intimate adaptation.

Years have passed and the Piper family's buried past begins to surface. The youngest sets out from Cape Breton toward New York City to learn more about her family's secret past. Through the journey a passionate story of music, identity, and forbidden love, set against the vibrant nightlife of Harlem's Jazz Age, comes to life.

Spanning generations, the journey of Fall on Your Knees reveals a family history shaped by silence, survival, and the enduring power of love.

FEBRUARY 9 - MARCH 21, 2027 | CROW'S THEATRE



JAJA'S AFRICAN HAIR BRAIDING

Writer: Jocelyn Bioh | Director: Mumbi Tindyebwa Otu

**A Nightwood Theatre, Obsidian Theatre and Soulpepper Theatre
co-production, in partnership with Luminato Festival**

**We all deserve
some *joy* in our
life**

Step into Jaja's shop, where every braid carries a story. On a sweltering July day, this vibrant comedy celebrates five women building new lives far from home.

Overlooked by the world around them, inside Jaja's, they're artists with gifted hands and bold ambition. Equal parts hilarious and tender, Jaja's reminds us that everyday rituals can become profound celebrations of community, calling us back to who we really are.

*Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Dramatists Play Service.
www.concordtheatricals.com*

MAY 13 - JUNE 6, 2027 | YOUNG CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



Now in its 18th year, our annual Lawyer Show showcases the incredible talents of lawyers from all sectors! Join us in June 2027 to see more than 40 members of Toronto's legal community take to the stage, supported by a team of professional directors, designers and vocal coaches—all while raising funds for Canada's flagship feminist theatre.

Bolstered by attention from prestigious media publications and supported by high-profile sponsorships from some of the top players in Toronto's legal community, The Lawyer Show is Nightwood Theatre's main annual fundraiser. The revenue generated from this acclaimed event goes directly toward enhancing our mainstage productions, play development, mentorship initiatives and training programs.

To learn more about the upcoming Lawyer Show and auditions, [subscribe to the Lawyer Show Newsletter](#).

SUBSCRIBE & SAVE

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

Package A: Full Season Pass

General Pass: \$317.00 | Subsidized Pass: \$264.00

Package B: Three Performance Pass

General Pass: \$232.00 | Subsidized Pass: \$198.00

Package C: Two Performance Pass

General Pass: \$153.00 | Subsidized Pass: \$100.00

All passes include fees and HST. Subsidized Passes are available in limited quantities and are intended for arts workers, students, and seniors in financial need.

[ORDER NOW](#)



BOX OFFICE MAPS & INFO

1

TO A FLAME & GROUNDSWELL FESTIVAL

Nancy & Ed Jackman
Performance Centre
877 Yonge St.
416-944-1740



2

FALL ON YOUR KNEES

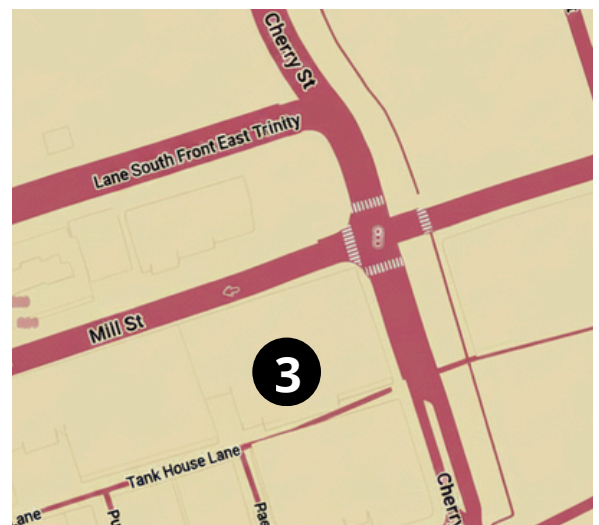
Guloién Theatre, Crow's
Theatre
345 Carlaw Ave
647-341-7390



3

JAJA'S AFRICAN HAIR BRAIDING

Young Centre for the
Performing Arts
50 Tank House Lane
416-866-8666



ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

Community is at the centre of all we do at Nightwood and we're always looking to deepen our connection to theatre artists and audiences alike! We are proud to offer the following opportunities:

- **Creatrix** - Our popular online writing room
- **Nightwood Shadow Residencies** - Hands-on mentorship in the participant's chosen discipline, supported by TD Ready Commitment
- **Play Development Accelerator program** - Helping plays to get from the page to the stage, supported by BMO Financial Group
- **Write from the Hip** - Our year-long script development program for exceptional emerging theatre creators, supported by RBC Emerging Artists

Head to our website to see other funding opportunities including OAC Recommender Grants for Theatre Creators, and the Louise Garfield Award.

Photo of Tamara Podemski & Beau Dixon by Eden Graham. Lighting Design: Rebecca Vandervelde.





NEW SEASON, NEW(ish) HOME!

Nightwood Theatre is excited to launch our second full season in the Nancy & Ed Jackman Performance Centre. Our first year since the venue's opening was full of celebrations, including our ribbon cutting ceremony, our first ever performances of *Where the Spirits Sit*, the 45th Anniversary Season launch performances of *Enormity*, *Girl*, and *the Earthquake in Her Lungs*, and numerous rehearsals and workshops. Having our own space has already created so many opportunities for us to incubate our own projects, gather community, and provide space to other local artists. We are incredibly thankful to everyone that helped support the opening of this venue and everyone that has come by to see the space.

SUPPORT FEMINIST FUTURES

Join a dynamic group of audience members, artists and advocates who are dedicated to ensuring the future of feminist theatre. Your support will help us launch our next season and support women and gender-expansive artists through our renowned training programs, play development initiatives and productions. When you join our family of donors, you support some of the most talented theatre professionals in the country. We need supporters like you to make this work happen! We invite you to explore our new range of donor levels and find the perfect fit for your giving priorities!!

Ally (\$25-250)

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

Advocate (\$500-1000)

- Tax receipt
- Recognition on websites and in show programs
- Reports on your impact
- Invitation to special events

Partner (\$5,000-10,000)

- Tax receipt
- Recognition on websites and in show programs
- Reports on your impact
- Invitation to special events
- Invitation to Opening Nights
- Invitation to a first rehearsal of a Nightwood show

Friend (\$250-500)

- Tax receipt
- Recognition on website and in show programs
- Reports on your impact

Collaborator (\$1,000-5,000)

- Tax receipt
- Recognition on websites and in show programs
- Reports on your impact
- Invitation to special events
- Invitation to Opening Nights

Champion (\$10,000+)

- Tax receipt
- Recognition on website and in show programs
- Reports on your impact
- Invitation to Donor Appreciation Event
- Invitation to Opening Nights
- Invitation to a first rehearsal of a Nightwood show
- Individual opportunities to connect with Artistic Director and the Nightwood community

DONATE



Nightwood Theatre is a registered charity and offers tax receipts for all donations.
Registered Charitable Organization No. 123709339 RR0001

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT



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MEIGHEN FOUNDATION



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Original front & back cover logo design by Michelle Tracey