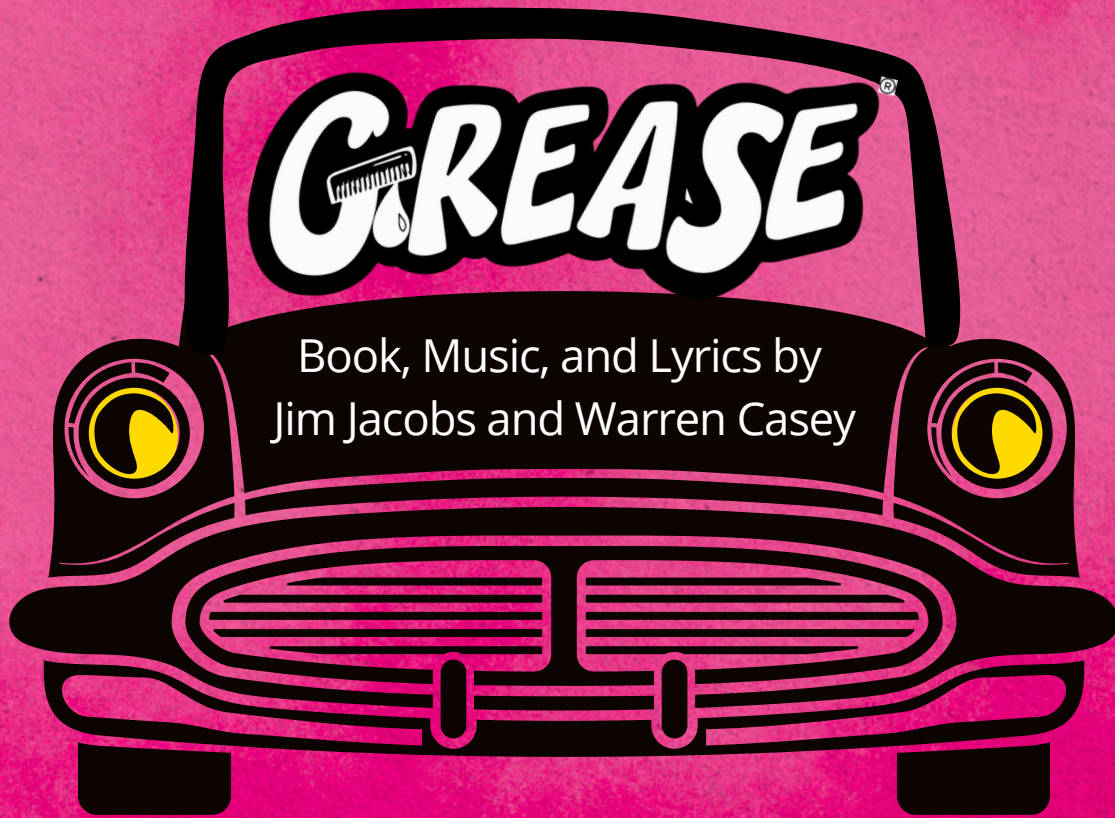


Nightwood Theatre  presents the 17th annual Lawyer Show



Featuring songs from the hit movie, "You're The One That I Want", "Sandy", and "Hopelessly Devoted to You" by arrangement with **Robert Stigwood**

A fundraising event in support of Nightwood Theatre | June 4-6, 2026
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Blakes applauds the exceptional cast and crew of *Grease*, including our very own lawyers Joe McGrade, Laura Blumenfeld and Joshua Zung.

We're proud to celebrate the talented people in our community who bring passion and creativity to everything they do — in law and beyond.

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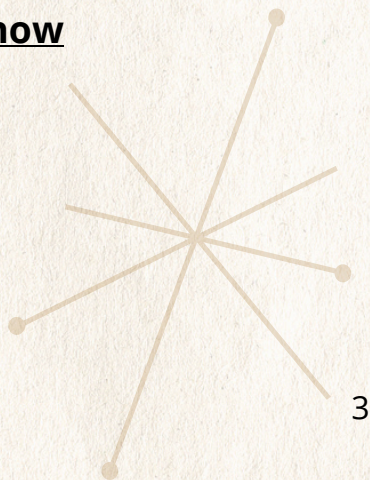
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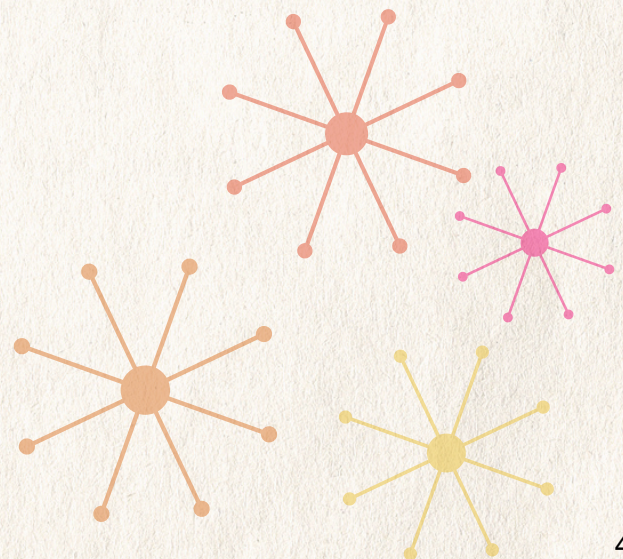
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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



ABOUT THE LAWYER SHOW & DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the Lawyer Show, our largest annual fundraiser for Nightwood Theatre, Canada's preeminent feminist theatre since 1979. Every year, over 35 members of the legal community rehearse for three months to mount an exhilarating, entertaining, professionally led musical. Since the Lawyer Show's inception in 2010, some 350 legal professionals have appeared in 17 different productions to raise more than \$1,500,000 in support of our charitable organization.

Your generous contribution tonight and all of the funds from our sponsoring firms go directly toward Nightwood Theatre's next season of exceptional work on stage, propelling women and gender diverse artists to the top of their craft. We're so pleased that you're here to share in the special magic of real life actual lawyers getting on stage and donating their talent and many (otherwise billable) hours to this show.

We have had a wonderful time mounting Grease this year. Most of us grew up watching the film, and some of us performed it in high school. The musical itself has nostalgia baked into show as the creators looked from their vantage point in the 1970s back to the 1950s. As a piece that centres around teenage coming of age, the scenes dramatize key moments and classic dramas of 17 year olds. The piece explores innocence vs experience, teens finding belonging, teens seeking to figure out and express who they are as they try on new identities with their fragile egos spilling over everywhere.

Thank you to tonight's legal professionals in the cast and band, our sponsors, advertisers, donors, and of course, to you, our wonderful audience, for helping to make the Lawyer Show such an incredible success!

Enjoy the show and we hope to see you in the fall at our next Nightwood Theatre production!

ANDREA DONALDSON

Artistic Director & Director of GREASE

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GREASE

Book, Music, and Lyrics by
Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

Featuring songs from the hit movie, "You're The One That I Want", "Sandy", and
"Hopelessly Devoted to You" by arrangement with **Robert Stigwood**

Andrea Donaldson* Director
Athena So Music Director
Anika Johnson Associate Music Director
Chelsea Woolley Assistant Director
Sarah O'Brecht* Choreographer
Merle Harley Set & Props Designer
Des'ree Gray** Costume Designer
Raha Javanfar** Lighting Designer
Murphy Diggon Production Manager
Ashley Elliott Production Stage Manager
Alyssa Ruddock Rehearsal Stage Manager & Production ASM
Amelia Mielke-O'Grady Shadow Resident in Costume Design
Bryce Gowdy Choreography Assistant

**The participation of this Artist (these Artists) is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance • Opera • Theatre Policy (DOT). **Indicated designers on this production are represented by the Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659.*

BAND

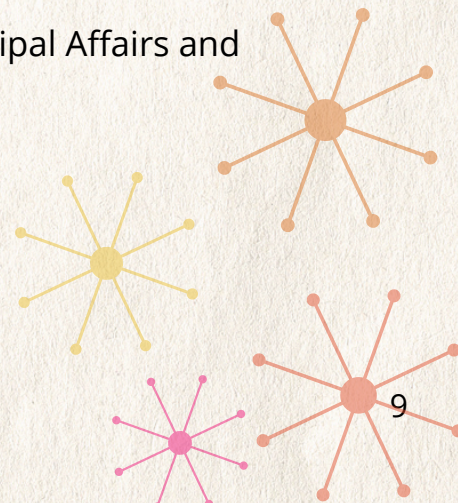
Athena So Conductor/Keyboard
John McGowan Bass Guitar
Mark Masur Drums
Matthew Silverman Guitar
Joshua Zung Reed 1
Tawny Louise Cortes Reed 2

CAST

Lucie Zhang – Yorkville University & Toronto Film School	SANDY
Joe McGrade – Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP	DANNY
Jennifer Whincup – Altus Group	RIZZO
Tamara Kirschner – Moodie Mair Walker LLP	FRENCHY
Rona Ghanbari – Stikeman Elliott LLP	MARTY
Heidi LeBlanc – KMB Law	JAN
Laura Blumenfeld – Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP	PINK LADY
Daniela Cerrone – Blink49 Studios	PINK LADY
Kya Williams – Mathers McHenry & Co	PINK LADY
Dan Cook – Dolden Wallace Follick LLP	KENICKIE
Joseph Cuyero – Spin Master	DOODY
David Mills – Mills & Mills LLP	ROGER
Richard Chan 陳駿華 – Cahoots Theatre	SONNY
Shayan Mehri – Stikeman Elliott LLP	BURGER BOY
Khrystina McMillan – Ontario Securities Commission	PATTY
Kaja Marinic – Pro Bono Students Canada	CHA-CHA & ENSEMBLE
Ethan R. Edwards – SBA Lawyers LLP.....	EUGENE
Bennett Jensen – Egale Canada	EUGENE
Danny Kastner – Kastner Ko LLP	VINCE FONTAINE & ENSEMBLE
James Hardy – Thornton Grout Finnigan LLP	JOHNNY CASINO & ENSEMBLE
Rohan Sajjani – Twilio	TEEN ANGEL & ENSEMBLE
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Edina Cavalli – CIBC	TEACHER
Mel Herbin – Ministry of the Attorney General	TEACHER
Lessa Nosko – Research and Writing Consultant	RADIO VOICE & ENSEMBLE

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Brennan Caldwell – Litera
Christine Doucet – Office of the Children’s Lawyer- MAG
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Stephanie Kay – Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP
Karin Kazakevich – Dentons Canada LLP
Asvini Kulanayagam – Civil Law Division – Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Legal Services – MAG
Andrea Longworth – PepsiCo Canada ULC
Elizabeth Moore – Ministry of the Attorney General
Olivia Pomajba – City of Toronto
Tracy Pratt – Sole practitioner
Emma Romano – The Globe and Mail
Brennyn Watterton – Ministry of the Attorney General



You're the Ones That We Want

Stikeman Elliott is proud to sponsor *Grease the Musical* and to cheer on our own stars, Rona Ghanbari and Shayan Mehri, lighting up Rydell High.

Stikeman Elliott

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2026 Lawyer Show.



ABOUT GREASE

Here is Rydell High's senior class of 1959: duck-tailed, hot-rodding "Burger Palace Boys" and their gum-snapping, hip-shaking "Pink Ladies" in bobby sox and pedal pushers, evoking the look and sound of the 1950s in this rollicking musical. Head "greaser" Danny Zuko and new (good) girl Sandy Dumbrowski try to relive the high romance of their "Summer Nights" as the rest of the gang sings and dances its way through such songs as "Greased Lightnin'" and "It's Raining on Prom Night", recalling the music of Buddy Holly, Little Richard and Elvis Presley that became the soundtrack of a generation. An eight-year run on Broadway and two subsequent revivals, along with innumerable school and community productions, place Grease among the world's most popular musicals.

Performance runs 2 hours & 20 minutes with one intermission.

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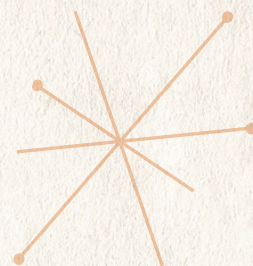
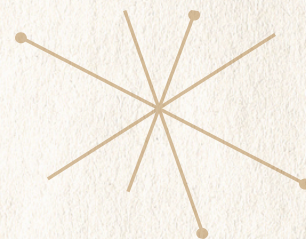
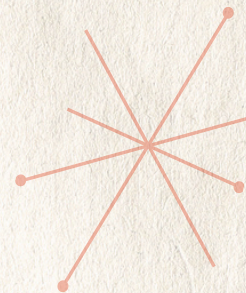
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SONG LIST

ACT I

1. *"Alma Mater"* – Miss Lynch, Patty, Eugene, and Company
2. *"Alma Mater Parody"* – Pink Ladies, Burger Palace Boys
3. *"Summer Nights"* – Sandy, Danny, Pink Ladies, Burger Palace Boys, and Company
4. *"Those Magic Changes"* – Doody, Burger Palace Boys, Pink Ladies, and Company
5. *"Freddy, My Love"* – Marty, Pink Ladies
6. *"Greased Lightnin'"* – Kenickie, Burger Palace Boys
7. *"Rydell Fight Song"* – Sandy, Patty
8. *"Mooning"* – Roger, Jan
9. *"Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee"* – Rizzo
10. *"We Go Together"* – Pink Ladies, Burger Palace Boys, and Company



ACT II

11. *"Shakin' at the High School Hop"* – Company
12. *"It's Raining on Prom Night"* – Sandy, Radio Voice
13. *"Born to Hand Jive"* – Johnny Casino and Company
14. *"Hopelessly Devoted"* – Sandy and Company
15. *"Beauty School Dropout"* – Teen Angel, Frenchy, Choir
16. *"Sandy"* – Danny
17. *"Rock 'N' Roll Party Queen"* – Doody, Roger
18. *"There Are Worse Things I Could Do"* – Rizzo
19. *"Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee (Reprise)"* – Sandy
20. *"You're the One That I Want"* – Company
21. *"Finale: We Go Together (Reprise)"* – Company



COMPANY BIOS



Alyssa Ruddock - Rehearsal SM / Performance ASM

Alyssa Ruddock (she/her) is a neurodivergent stage manager, producer, and performer passionate about creating inclusive and sustainable spaces. Grease is Alyssa's 2nd Lawyer show after completing Nightwood Theatre's Shadow Residency Program in Production Management and working as a Stagehand on Annie (2025). Graduated in 2023 from Brock University's Dramatic Arts (Production) program, she has spent time working with the Shaw Festival and The Grove Theatre. Alyssa is a Toronto local, and in addition to expanding her career in the Toronto theatre scene, Alyssa has recently completed a postgraduate diploma in Environmental Sustainability. The Lawyer show is proof that in an era of obscurity and injustice... 40+ people coming together to make theatre radiates a bit of sunshine to the continuous rain on our prom nights. Support the arts for what they deserve. Fund public education. Protect the wetlands and listen to your neighbours.

Amelia Mielke-O'Grady - Nightwood Shadow Resident in Costume Design

Amelia Mielke-O'Grady is a Toronto based theatre creative originally from the Ottawa Valley. She is a graduate of York University's Theatre Production and Design program, and works as a designer, scenic artist, props person, and stage manager. Select credits include Lulu (set design, The Walking Griot- "Patron's Pick" at Toronto Fringe), A Year With Frog and Toad (lead scenic artist, TYT Theatre), Sanguine (scenic painter, Cahoots Theatre), David and Johnathan (assistant scenic painter, Opera Atelier), Dion: A Rock Opera (scenic painter, Coal Mine Theatre), Mind Over Matter (stage manager, Beyond Mental Borders), Bed and Breakfast (assistant stage manager, Orillia Opera House), The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals (set and prop design, The Playhouse Collective), Velvethead (set design, Pickles Theatre Company).



Andrea Donaldson - Director

Andrea Donaldson is the Director of Grease and is the Artistic Director of Nightwood Theatre, Canada's preeminent feminist theatre in Toronto. For two decades, Donaldson has played a pivotal role in fostering new works for the stage, both in her role as Tarragon Theatre's Associate Artistic Director and as the Program Director for Nightwood Theatre's Write from the Hip program – a unit for exceptional emerging playwrights. Andrea has directed productions for theatres across the country garnering numerous nominations and awards. Most recently, Andrea co-founded the Nancy & Ed Jackman Performance Centre at 877 Yonge Street as part of Nightwood Theatre with Tapestry Opera.





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Nightwood Theatre's **Annual Lawyer Show**.

We admire your dedication to prioritizing equity-deserving
communities and celebrate the coming together of legal
and theatrical talent in this unique event.



Learn more about our Firm's
commitment to inclusion

COMPANY BIOS

Andrea Longworth - ENSEMBLE

Andrea works as in-house counsel for PepsiCo Canada, but when she isn't providing legal advice to her business colleagues, she loves to sing! After searching for an opportunity to bring more music into her life (outside of just singing nursery rhymes to her daughter) Andrea is thrilled to be performing in this year's Lawyer Show as part of the ensemble cast!



Anika Johnson - Associate Music Director

Anika Johnson is a Dora-winning composer, music director, performer and sound designer whose work has been presented across Asia, Europe and North America. Writing collaborations include The Last Timbit (the Tim Hortons Musical; winner of a Cannes Bronze Lion), Dr. Silver (MSC/Outside the March), Blood Ties (Edinburgh Fringe Top 10/Featured on Orphan Black) and Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang (YPT). She serves as dramaturg for her sister Britta's musical Life After and worked on its productions for Mirvish, Canstage, Chicago's Goodman Theatre and San Diego's Old Globe. Locally, Anika is known as Sporty Spice in Wannabe: A Spice Girls Tribute and as a conductor for BELT Choir, a drop-in community choir for anyone who loves to sing (@wearebelt). This is her first Lawyer Show and she's having a blast.



Ashley Elliott - Production Stage Manager

Ashley Elliott (she/her) is a versatile theatre professional with a background in arts administration, stage management, directing, writing, and performing. Originally from Windsor, ON - Ashley has worked in the theatres in Orlando, FL and Boston, MA before moving to Toronto to complete her BA in Theatre & Communication Studies. Her extensive background in stage management includes seven Lawyer Show musicals, three Toronto Fringe Festivals, two Edinburgh Fringe Festivals, and a memorable stint at Canada's Wonderland for Cirque Canadien. Ashley has always held space in her heart for Nightwood Theatre and the Lawyer Show, a connection that dates back to 2017 when she started as an intern. Now part of the Nightwood team as the Administrator - Operations & Partnerships, she couldn't ask for a better team and cast of lawyers to work with year after year. During her downtime, she exclusively enjoys snuggling with her two cats (Ruby & Espresso), her adorable dog (October), and incredible partner, Christian.



COMPANY BIOS



Asvini Kulanayagam - ENSEMBLE

Asvini practices planning law as counsel with the Ministry of the Attorney General. This is her first year being a) a lawyer; and b) in the Lawyer Show! Asvini distinctly remembers her cool friend in Grade Two exalting "Grease is the word" and putting her on to the film. Just a kid trying to find her place in the social scene, that introduction led to more musicals and it fit pretty neat. Asvini dedicates this debut to her TDSB teachers: Ms. Susanne Farrow, Mr. Pedro Malone, and the late Ms. Lindsay Chase. Decades later, their infectious enthusiasm for music from every style and generation continues to influence Asvini's anachronistic taste. They taught her to read music (Ta Ta Titi Ta) and sing from the diaphragm. Above all they made the stage feel accessible. She's excited to be back on her creative tip with the supportive team at Nightwood.

Athena So - Music Director

Athena So is a music director, pianist, and arts educator based in Toronto. She has been playing the piano since the age of five where she developed a love for storytelling. Through her schooling, she began exploring a career in musical theatre. Since then, Athena has played and music directed on stages including Mirvish, Shaw Festival, Stratford Festival, and Drayton Entertainment. As a music director, Athena is passionate about collaborating with all different art forms whether it is working on a new developing piece or interpreting a classic. Athena is thrilled to be back for her second Lawyer Show!



Bennett Jensen - EUGENE

Bennett (he/him) is grateful and excited to be returning to the Lawyer Show for the third time, this time as the diminutive half of the Eugenes. When he isn't rehearsing, Bennett spends his time defending the rights, dignity and humanity of 2SLGBTQI people as Director of Legal at Egale Canada. He dreams of a world where this work becomes unnecessary and we can all just sing and dance.



COMPANY BIOS

Brennan Caldwell - ENSEMBLE

Brennan is thrilled to be back for her second Lawyer Show! While playing a cheerleader at Rydell, Brennan has enjoyed reliving many high school memories, such as having no date to the dance and wishing a boy would look her way. She is grateful to her teenage diaries for providing ample character inspiration. Outside of rehearsals, Brennan is a Manager on the Legal Knowledge Engineering team at Litera, where she helps build exciting legal tech products. Huge thanks to the Nightwood team for this incredible opportunity, and Lawyer Show family for making this experience so special!

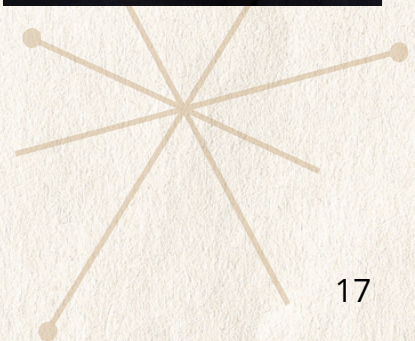


Brennyn Watterton - ENSEMBLE

Brennyn is Counsel with the Ministry of the Attorney General. This is Brennyn's third Lawyer Show and she is so glad to be back after a year's hiatus! Brennyn most recently performed in the 2024 production of The Sound of Music, the 2023 production of Urinetown and in the 2022 Fringe Festival in the production Roomers. Brennyn is so appreciative of the Lawyer Show family and the smiles and joy they add to her life! She would also like to thank her supportive friends and family.

Bryce Gowdy - Choreography Assistant

Bryce Gowdy (he/him) is a dancer, choreographer, and musical theatre performer from Bowmanville. Bryce is thrilled to be working alongside Sarah on this show. Bryce has trained in all areas of dance and has worked closely with the British Association of Teachers of Dancing where he holds his Associate membership in both Jazz and Tap. As his love for performing grew Bryce continued his training at Randolph College for the Performing Arts and trained extensively in all areas including singing, dancing, and acting. Past theatre credits include 42nd Street (Drayton Entertainment), Ensemble/Swing in The Drowsy Chaperone (Shifting Ground Collective), James in The Iron Mask (Breakaway Entertainment), Chad u.s Kyle in Legally Blonde, Belial/Raphael in Paradise Lost (RCPA). I'm grateful for the whole team at Nightwood Theatre. Go Grease Lightning!



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COMPANY BIOS



Chandler Buchanan - ENSEMBLE

Chandler Buchanan is excited to be returning for her second Lawyer Show! She is a broadcasting regulatory lawyer, supporting clients across Canada's film and television sector. Chandler joined the Lawyer Show partly for attention, but mostly because she loves supporting Nightwood Theatre and the important work it does showcasing women and gender-expansive artists. When Chandler found out she was playing a nerd in this year's ensemble, she had to do a great deal of deep internal reflection and character work, as the role differs significantly from her naturally cool, chill, charismatic, not-at-all-awkward persona. It definitely didn't feel super natural to her or bring up any deeply repressed high school memories! Not even a little bit!! Ask anyone!!!

Chelsea Woolley - Assistant Director

Chelsea is a playwright, director, and arts educator. Select playwriting 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 the script, One Day with teens at Red Door Shelter. Chelsea is the Head of Drama at the Canadian Children's Opera Company where she has directed a number of operas including the 2026 production of Alice in Wonderland at the Harbourfront Centre. Chelsea was 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.



Christine Doucet - ENSEMBLE

Christine is delighted to be back for her 5th Lawyer Show! Christine is counsel with the Office of the Children's Lawyer (Ministry of the Attorney General) where she has the coolest clients ever – kids! She is a mom of two energetic kiddos and can often be found at hockey arenas and baseball diamonds across the city. She is very grateful to the Lawyer Show family, especially the brilliant Nightwood team for putting on another incredible production! Enjoy the show!

COMPANY BIOS

Clare Mauro - MISS LYNCH

Following her Lawyer Show debut as an orphan in last year's production of Annie, Clare is thrilled to return as Miss Lynch—a stern-but-fair teacher who's secretly a big kid at heart (much like her). Clare has created and performed her solo cabaret show, directed McGill Law's Skit Nite, and appeared in Moulin Rouge, The Sound of Music, Oklahoma, and Damn Yankees! An accomplished vocalist and multi-instrumentalist, she also dabbles in stand-up comedy. By day, Clare is the Director of Litigation and eDiscovery Services at Torys LLP. With thanks to Nightwood's wonderful team and to her family, friends, and colleagues for their support.



Dan Cook - KENICKIE

Dan is thrilled to return to the Lawyer Show after a long hiatus. Previous Lawyer Show credits include the Drowsy Chaperone (Robert Martin), and Mamma Mia (Harry Bright). Dan studied theatre performance in university many years ago and has a lifelong passion for singing. Currently, Dan is a specialty insurance defence litigation lawyer with Dolden Wallace Folick LLP, where the stakes are higher but at least he still gets to act alongside clowns in the form of opposing counsel. (Kidding!) Dan is incredibly grateful for the amazing support of his brilliant and hard-working wife Lauren, and their daughter Jade, without whom he would not be where he is today.



Daniela Cerrone - PINK LADY

Daniela is delighted to make her Lawyer Show debut as one of the beloved Pink Ladies of Rydell High! A lover of the stage since childhood, and now a practising entertainment lawyer at Blink49 Studios, Daniela is so grateful to work with a cast and crew that shares her love of the performing arts. Big thanks to Daniela's family and friends for their love and support, and to Nightwood for bringing together such a playful and generous community!



COMPANY BIOS



**Danny Kastner -
VINCE FONTAINE &
ENSEMBLE**

I'm grateful to be at it again. Thank you to the superstars at Nightwood and everyone in the cast and crew.

Where passion meets performance — congratulations on bringing your talents beyond the courtroom and into the spotlight.



David Mills - ROGER
David is the Managing Partner of Mills & Mills LLP and chair of the firm's Estates Group.

David has appeared in The Lawyer Show since 2019 and is honoured to share this labour of love with the talented people of Nightwood and this year's amazing cast of lawyers.



Des'ree Gray - Costume Designer

Des'ree Gray is a Toronto based Costume Designer with experience in film and theatre. She is a graduate of Toronto Metropolitan University's Production Design Program and takes pride in her abilities in all stages of the design process. Work: Costume Designer for A Case for the Existence of God (Coalmine Theatre); Costume Designer for Tyson's Song (Pleiades Theatre); Designer for Jesus Christ Superstar (Talk is Free Theatre) Costume Designer for Appropriate (Coalmine Theatre); Assistant Costume Designer for Frankenstein: Revived (Stratford Festival); Associate Costume Designer for Treemonisha (Volcano Productions); Assistant Costume Designer for Fairview (Canadian Stage); Assistant Costume Designer for Maanomaa (Canadian Stage); Costume Designer for The Flight (Factory Theatre); Assistant Costume Designer for Da Kink in My Hair (Canadian Stage); Costume Designer for The First Stone (Buddies in Bad Times Theatre); Assistant Costume Designer for Little Women (Stratford Festival)

COMPANY BIOS

Edina Cavalli - TEACHER

Edina brings style and authority to the halls of Rydell High as one of its faculty members. Known for her eclectic outfits, she proves that even detention can be delivered with impeccable taste. Outside the rehearsal hall, Edina is the Vice President of Procurement at CIBC, where she shops for a living (any teenage girl's dream) and where her decisions are every bit as precise as her wardrobe.



Elizabeth Moore - ENSEMBLE

Elizabeth Moore is an assistant Crown attorney who has practiced in downtown Toronto's criminal courts for almost 10 years. A theatre kid at heart, she's never had trouble speaking loudly enough in court. This is Liz's third Lawyer Show and she's enjoyed going back to her roots and playing high school nerd. Big thanks to Nightwood and the entire Lawyer Show family!

Emma Romano - ENSEMBLE

Emma is a media, defamation, and technology lawyer working in house at The Globe and Mail. Emma has been a Lawyer Show cast member since 2018, playing such diverse roles as depressed monkey no. 5, unnamed orphan no. 3, and earnest girl with fish.



Ethan R. Edwards - EUGENE

Ethan Edwards is an associate at SBA Lawyers, where he practices insurance defence litigation with a focus on accident benefits and special investigations/fraud prevention. He is also a proud member of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee of the Canadian Defence Lawyers. This is Ethan's first Lawyer Show, and his first time acting, singing, or dancing in any meaningful capacity outside of the shower. A lifelong fan of musical theatre, he is thrilled to be part of Grease. He would like to thank the creative team and cast for their patience, encouragement, and willingness to pretend this was a good idea.

COMPANY BIOS

Heidi LeBlanc - JAN

Heidi is a commercial litigation associate at KMB Law. Outside her life as a lawyer, Heidi is a dedicated dog parent, foodie, and musical theatre enthusiast. Heidi is thrilled to be performing in her 10th Lawyer Show production and couldn't be more excited to join Nightwood Theatre again this year, fulfilling a bucket list item playing a Pink Lady – and as the delightful (and very hungry) Jan, no less! Big thanks to her family, friends, and colleagues for all of their ongoing encouragement (and as always, for enduring the not-so-occasional show tune). A very special shoutout to her incredibly supportive husband, Kevin, for patiently running lines and enthusiastically helping her learn the choreography – his dance moves may not make the show, but his support certainly does. Heidi is also incredibly grateful to Nightwood, the creative team, and this wonderful cast and band for another year of Lawyer Show joy!



James Hardy - JOHNNY CASINO & ENSEMBLE

By day, James is a partner at Thornton Grout Finnigan LLP practising complex commercial and insolvency-adjacent litigation. But tonight, he will thrill Rydell High as the lead singer of Johnny Casino and the Gamblers. Can anyone resist the allure of the hand-jive? You may also spot him as a jock, whose allure is rather more easily resisted by Rydell High's cheerleaders. This is James' Lawyer Show debut. He is grateful to the whole cast for fostering such a welcoming and creative environment, and particularly to the Nightwood team for their extraordinary direction and support. He is also grateful to his partner Amelia for helping Johnny Casino find his signature look and sound. Thank you, thank you very much!



Jennifer Whincup - RIZZO

Jennifer is in house counsel at Altus Group, a leader in asset and fund intelligence for the commercial real estate industry, which is a polished way of saying she reads a lot of contracts and answers most questions with "it depends." She's delighted to be back on stage for her seventh Nightwood production, marking about a decade of popping in and out of Lawyer Shows in support of this incredible company. Jennifer is endlessly grateful to Nightwood for the chance to play dress-up with a wildly talented cast of legal eagles and a phenomenal production team. Huge thanks to her colleagues for cheering her on as she swaps redlines for rehearsals, and all the love to her family for their unwavering support. After all, it's got to be Grease... lightning. 🚧 ❤️



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COMPANY BIOS



Jim Jacobs - Book, Music, Lyrics

Jim Jacobs, who created Grease (in 1970) with Warren Casey, was born and raised on the mean streets of Chicago's far northwest side. During the golden era of rock 'n' roll (1956-1960) he was a guitar-playing "greaser" student at Taft High School. In 1963, Jacobs met Warren Casey when they were both cast in a local theatre production of A Shot in the Dark. Seven years later they wrote what was to become one of the greatest musicals of all time. Grease opened in 1971 in a former trolley barn called the Kingston Mines Theatre in Chicago. A year later, Grease made it to Broadway and "Greasemania" took off, resulting in one of the longest-running shows in Broadway history. The 1978 movie became and long remained the highest-grossing movie musical of all time. Originally an actor, Jacobs has been seen on television, in motion pictures, regional theatre, national tours, and on Broadway. He is the co-author of several other plays and musicals including Island of Lost Coeds, a musical spoof of the low budget sci-fi/horror/jungle movies of the 1950s, which he wrote with Warren Casey. In May 2014, Mr. Jacobs was presented with an honorary doctorate degree from Columbia College in Chicago. He currently resides in Southern California and remains active in the theatre, especially with the American Theatre Company of Chicago.

Joe McGrade - DANNY

Joe is thrilled to be returning for his second Lawyer Show, this time as Danny Zuko in Grease. He is a partner in the competition group at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP and would like to thank his singing coach (and 5-year old daughter) Rose, for the daily bath time rehearsals and pointed critiques, Daniella for all her support throughout many, many rehearsals, Blakes for sponsoring the production and filling the house, and his big extended McGrade family and amazing friends for always cheering him on. Hope you're all hopelessly devoted to the show.



John McGowan - Bass Guitar

John has played bass in all of the Nightwood shows since they stopped doing Shakespeare. John is formerly an employment lawyer at Cassels, but now spends most of his time deleting cat videos that his mother sends him, bless her soul. He also plays keyboards, but prefers bass because there are only four strings so you've always got a 25% chance of getting it right.

COMPANY BIOS

Joseph Cuyero - DOODY

Never one to stop part-way through a trilogy, Joseph is thrilled to be back for his third Lawyer Show after turns in *The Sound of Music* and *Annie*. A lifelong vocalist, Joseph's prior credits include roles in *Les Misérables*, *Evil Dead: The Musical*, *West Side Story*, *Urinetown*, *Grease* (one other time), and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. With *Doody* being his most out-of-character part to date (which, admittedly, isn't saying much), Joseph has enjoyed tapping into the well of disgusting teenage energy he'd buried deep in his subconscious after a decade of attending an all-boys school. If only it helped him maintain an accent while singing. He'd like to give special thanks to his wife, Mercedes, and their dogs, Benji and Moogi, for powering through yet another move during rehearsals so he has more space to practice being only okay at the hand-jive.



Joshua Zung - Reed 1

Joshua Zung is in demand as a woodwind performer across the GTA. His musical activities include playing oboe and English horn with the Oakville Symphony, E \flat clarinet and bassoon with the Hart House Orchestra, and suona with the Toronto Chinese Orchestra. Joshua is delighted to be participating in the Lawyer Show for the fourth time. In addition to his music commitments, Joshua practises tax law at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP. Many thanks to Nightwood, the cast, crew, band, sponsors and audience for making this event possible!

Kaja Marinic - CHA-CHA & ENSEMBLE

Kaja is so grateful to return for her third Lawyer Show with *Nightwood*. Rehearsals with this incredible cast and crew were a constant source of warmth during this year's egregiously poor excuse for a "spring." By day, Kaja is a program manager with PBSC's Family Justice Centre, working to improve access to much-needed family law services. By night, she transforms into Charlene "Cha Cha" DiGregorio (the BEST dancer... at St. Bernadette's) and a proud jock (BRO TELL ME MORE) in the ensemble. She dedicates her performance to Sailor (cat), Josh (husband), her amazingly supportive friends and family, and all the nerds in the audience.



COMPANY BIOS



Karin Kazakevich - ENSEMBLE

Karin is delighted to be joining this year's Lawyer Show as a first-time cast member. An associate in the Media, Entertainment and Sports group at Dentons Canada LLP, Karin has long had a soft spot for musical theatre. She extends her sincere thanks to the entire Nightwood Theatre team for their dedication in bringing the Lawyer Show to life and fostering such a vibrant community. Karin is honoured to be part of this talented and dynamic cast and can't wait for you to experience this "electrifying" show!

Khrystina McMillan - PATTY

Khrystina is delighted to return to the Lawyer Show stage. Offstage, Khrystina is a litigator who is marginally less energetic (read: obnoxious) than her on-stage persona in this year's show. She is forever in awe of the tremendous talent who come together to put on such a great show for a great cause. Thank you to our amazing audience, sponsors and contributors!



Kya Williams - PINK LADY

Kya is overjoyed and honoured to be making her Lawyer show debut with such a phenomenal cast and creative team. A self-proclaimed music enthusiast, she loves immersing herself in Toronto's vibrant music and arts scene by regularly attending concerts, theatre productions, and locally curated events. Kya is no stranger to the stage herself. A former show choir competitor and member of a melodramatic girl's cover band, she has been itching for an opportunity to get back under the lights! By day, Kya is a paralegal at Mathers McHenry & Co., an executive employment law firm. She would like to extend her heartfelt thanks to her firm, the brilliant (and incredibly diligent) Nightwood team, the unbelievably talented cast, and the friends and family who shared her joy as they listened to her gush about rehearsals every chance she got - you all made this experience truly unforgettable.



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COMPANY BIOS

Lape Adeniran - ENSEMBLE

Lape is excited to be back performing this year with the Annual Lawyer Show in Grease musical. Lape sang in choirs growing up, performed for dignitaries in London, ON during the Haiti 2010 earthquake, performed with a full symphony orchestra during the holidays and participated in Osgoode's annual variety show. She is grateful to Nightwood for the opportunity to get back to her musical roots while tapping into her inner 15 year old and supporting feminist theatre! When she's not moonlighting as a theatre star, she's working in securities compliance, traveling and playing 1000-pieces puzzles. Thank you to my family and friends for supporting me on this journey ❤️



Laura Blumenfeld - PINK LADY

By day, Laura is an employment lawyer at Blake, Cassels & Graydon. By night (and, let's be honest, in her car, her office, at school pickup...) she's rehearsing for her stage debut in Grease. This is her first Lawyer Show production, and she's absolutely tickled Pink (Lady) to be here! Laura is incredibly grateful for her family's support and encouragement, and their willingness to listen to the same songs on repeat and watch her hand-jive around the house. She hopes you enjoy the show, and will be accepting applause in lieu of billable hours.

Lessa Nosko - RADIO VOICE & ENSEMBLE

Lessa is delighted to be supporting Nightwood in her third Lawyer Show. When she isn't singing and dancing, Lessa works as a research and writing consultant. Thanks to the incredible Nightwood team for all of your hard work and providing this incredible opportunity. Congrats to the creative team, crew, amazing band and enormously talented cast! Lessa sends big hugs and endless gratitude to her family and friends for continuing to support her artistic endeavours and the arts in general, and extra-big smooches to D, E, and J. GREASE!



COMPANY BIOS



Lucie Zhang - SANDY

Lucie is so happy to be back for her third Lawyer Show, having previously appeared in The Sound of Music and Annie. Having never seen the movie or musical before auditions, Lucie is beyond delighted that this experience has been her introduction to the world of Grease. When she's not singing and dancing, Lucie is Legal Counsel at Yorkville University and Toronto Film School, where she reviews contracts instead of scripts (tragic). Lucie is so grateful to Nightwood and her Lawyer Show family and sends big hugs and kisses to her parents, her sister, and to all her friends who have come out to support her! She would also like to give a heartfelt thank you to her partner, Alex, for running lines with her and for his unwavering love and support in everything she does.

Mark Masur - Drums

Excited to be back after debuting in the band for last year's performance of Annie! Grateful for all the help I received learning the intricacies of the musical theatre score as it had been a long time since I had to read music and only play what is written (still struggle with that lol). Special thanks to my family for all their support.



Matthew Silverman - Guitar

Matthew has been playing guitar for most of his life and used to teach music at a summer camp. After nearly a decade of playing in school stage bands, he can now be found gigging around town with High Gear, a pop/rock cover band. While music is a hobby for Matthew, it finds its way into every part of his life. He currently works at a company named after the 1980 hit single "Xanadu", performed by none other than Olivia Newton-John. So, it's only natural that he should make his musical theatre debut with Grease!

COMPANY BIOS



Mel Herbin - TEACHER

Get out your pitchpipes and get ready to hand jive! Mel is back in the Lawyer Show as a teacher and beauty school dropout. Previous roles include Rosie in Mamma Mia, Enid in Legally Blonde, and Adriana in Comedy of Errors. This week Mel also celebrates spending half her life practising law!

TGF is thrilled to support Nightwood's production of the Lawyer Show and Grease!



Merle Harley - Set & Props Designer

Merle Harley creates continually building alternate visual realities. A chaos-creature with no fixed medium, works include drawing, watercolour, knitting, weaving, comic books, videos, installations, props and sets for theatre and TV. Merle has had illustrations and comics published in many online and print publications and exhibited work across Canada and beyond. Recent projects in the Theatre and TV realm include: Cliff Cardinal's A Terrible Fate, Dear Robert and The Cold War (VideoCabaret), Runway Installation (Indigenous Fashion Arts), Little Shop of Horrors (Capital Theatre), As You Like It (Canadian Stage), Migration Celebration (Shadowland Theatre), Touching Ground (Jumbies Theatre), Nanalan', Barbarian and the Troll, Andrew Hate, Gg the goat (Puppet Island), Can You Read My Hands (Undivided Productions), and Tallboyz (CBC) and won the 2024 Dora award for Outstanding Costume Design for Mad Madge (Nightwood) alongside Abby Ernesto and Astrid Janson.

COMPANY BIOS

Murphy Diggon - Production Manager

Murphy Diggon is a Toronto-based theatre professional with over a decade of experience in production and arts administration. A Theatre Production and Design graduate from York University, she is currently Assistant Production Manager at the Canadian Opera Company and serves as Administrator and Production Stage Manager for Mainstage Theatre Company, a youth musical theatre organization dedicated to developing young performers. Her touring credits include Assistant Technical Director for Shopkins Live, The Musical and Production Stage Manager for PAN AM Panamania at Toronto's Distillery District. An international educator as well, she spent two years in Japan as Head English Language Teacher at Merry House School. Deeply committed to arts education and creating accessible pathways for people of all ages to explore performance, Murphy is thrilled to be working on her first Lawyer Show and extends heartfelt thanks to the cast and creative team for bringing this production to life.



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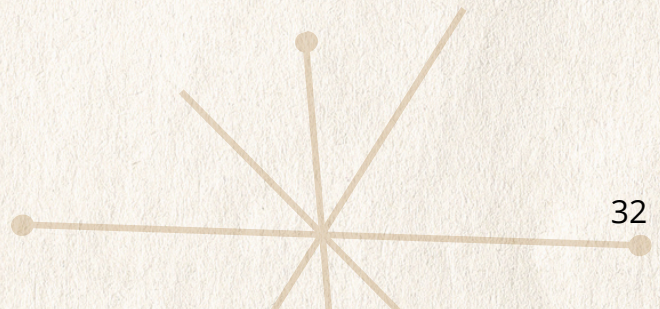
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Olivia Pomajba - ENSEMBLE

Olivia is a lawyer at the City of Toronto and is thrilled to be joining the incredible ensemble of the Lawyer Show! She is grateful for her loved ones who have shown their support and for the fabulous cast & creative team at Nightwood Theatre. This performance is dedicated to her Mum. YAY RINGTAILS!!



COMPANY BIOS

Raha Javanfar - Lighting Designer

Raha is a Slight Associate Artist at Soulpepper where she was the Creator and Music Director of Sympathy for the Devil and Ladies of the Canyon. She was one of six co-creators of Now You See Her, a Dora nominated play by Quote Unquote Collective, produced by Nightwood Theatre, in which she also performed. The Shape of Home, a musical song cycle co-created and co-music directed by her, Beau Dixon, Hailey Gillis, Frank Cox-O'Connell, Andrew Penner, and Marni Jackson won a Dora award for Best Musical Direction. She has won two other Dora awards for lighting design, and has been nominated two other times. Other lighting design includes Enormity at Nightwood, directed by Andrea Donaldson. She recently made her directing debut on Searching for Aimai, produced by Cahoots Theatre, and will be directing Divine Brown's Revolutionary Women In Blues at Soulpepper Theatre this summer.



Rebecca Isabel Flynn - ENSEMBLE

Rebecca is a classically-trained dancer and holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in drama. By day, she is a commercial litigation associate at Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. This is Rebecca's first year participating in the Lawyer Show and she is thrilled to be part of the cast! Rebecca extends her gratitude to the entire production team for their hard work, dedication, and talent.

Richard Chan 陳駿華 - SONNY

Hi everyone! Bonjour tout le monde! 大家好 Thanks so much for being here today to support Nightwood Theatre and the legal community. This my third time in the Lawyer Show -- previous roles include Franz in "The Sound of Music" (2024) and President Roosevelt in "Annie" (2025) -- and it's truly a gift. I feel very fortunate to be surrounded by all this joy, creativity, and kindness. So much so that I recently decided to dive back into the theatre world as the new Managing Director of Cahoots Theatre. Much love and gratitude to the entire Nightwood team for this wonderful opportunity, as well as my family, friends and colleagues for all their support and encouragement. Thank you! Merci beaucoup! 多謝! And lastly, in the timeless words of Dominic "Sonny" Latierra: "Friggin' A!"

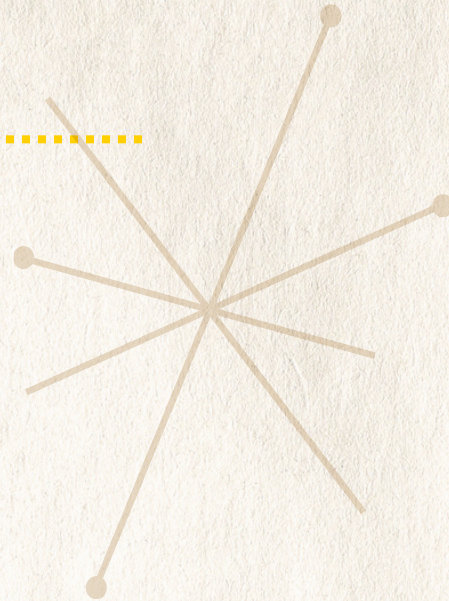


COMPANY BIOS



Rohan Sajnani - TEEN ANGEL & ENSEMBLE

Rohan Sajnani is merely a manifestation of consciousness, the same consciousness reading this program right now. Any notion of separation between the two, observer and observed, is illusion. You are Rohan and Rohan is you.



Rona Ghanbari - MARTY

Rona is a music & theatre lover, and a Corporate lawyer at Stikeman Elliott LLP. Rona is also the Director of Student Programs at the firm. She is thrilled to be a part of her eighth Lawyer Show and so grateful for the kind people who put up with her never shutting up, ever, including (but not limited to) her fellow firm members (especially Shayan - you've got what it takes, kid), the incredible team at Nightwood Theatre, the brilliant creative team and crew, this wonderful cast, her friend & family, and some strangers probably too.



Sarah O'Brecht - Choreographer

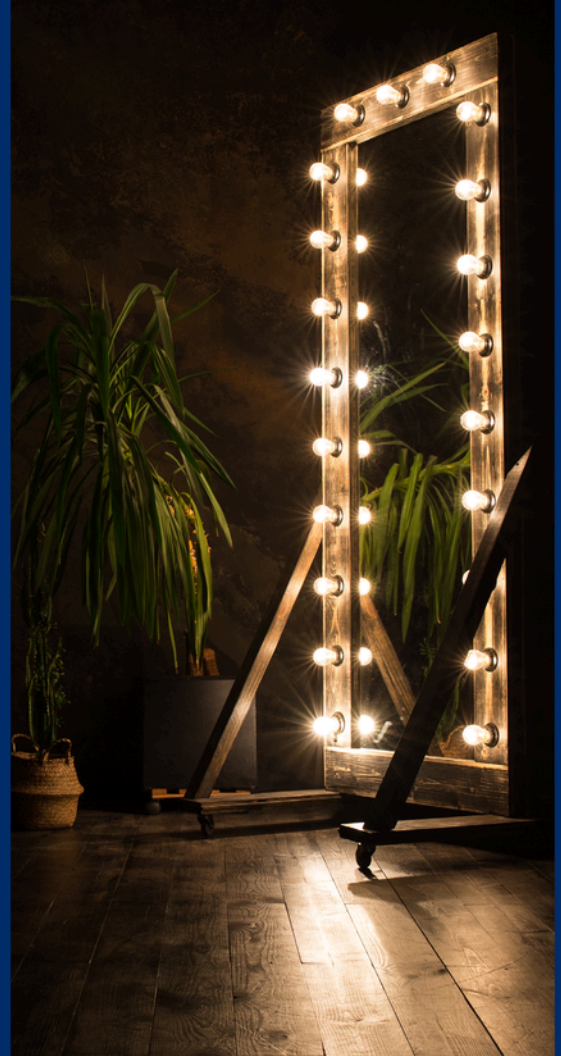
Sarah O'Brecht is an artist and educator from Saint John, NB. As an actor, Sarah has appeared on stages and screens across Canada. Her creative team credits include Fertility (Light Echo), Legally Blonde (Randolph), One Song Glory (Musical Stage), Into the Woods (Sheridan), It's a Good Life If You Don't Weaken (Theatre Aquarius). For screen, Sarah wrote, produced, and starred in Good With Her (directed by Sheila McCarthy) and wrote and directed she her him, which premiered at the Reelworld Festival. With Stephanie Graham, she is the co-Artistic Director of Theatre Making Movement, a company that supports dance and movement in new musical theatre development. They have been invited to speak at the Stratford Festival's Meighen Forum and the National Centre for New Musicals Summit. Sarah was the 2022-2024 Apprentice Artistic Director of The Musical Stage Company, is a Nightwood Innovator Alumnus and the proud mom of Teddy and Max.



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Shayan Mehri - BURGER BOY

Shayan is a corporate associate at Stikeman Elliott LLP and is very excited to be making his first musical debut in the Lawyer Show! A renowned vocalist, Shayan has performed in many established venues including his shower, his bedroom, and his '04 Corolla (not bragging). After having been told by his numerous fans and admirers that he "is greasy", Shayan knew that this role was made for him. Special thanks to his parents for making him this way, to Rona Ghanbari for hearing him once at karaoke and saying "you've got what it takes, kid" and to Nick Naida, for just being him.



Stephanie Kay - ENSEMBLE

Steph is excited to be back on stage for her second Lawyer Show. She would like to thank the talented and hardworking team at Nightwood Theatre for making this production possible! Off-stage, Steph is an employment lawyer at Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP. Many thanks to her partner, friends, family, castmates, and colleagues for their ongoing support and encouragement throughout this experience.

Tamara Kirschner - FRENCHY

Tamara is delighted to return to the stage as the earnest and sweet-natured Frenchy! She first joined the Lawyer Show in 2015 as a fresh-faced first year associate, making her debut as the Princess in Love's Labour's Lost. Since then, Tamara has appeared in Guys and Dolls (Adelaide), Legally Blonde (Paulette), and Mamma Mia! (Tanya), continuing her commitment to characters with big personalities and even bigger accents. Tamara is a partner at Moodie Mair Walker LLP, where she is generally more articulate than her on-stage personas. Outside of work and rehearsal, she loves to eat nachos, spiral into interior design projects, and play tourist in her own city with her husband and children, happily trading scripted lines for the daily improvisation of family life.



COMPANY BIOS

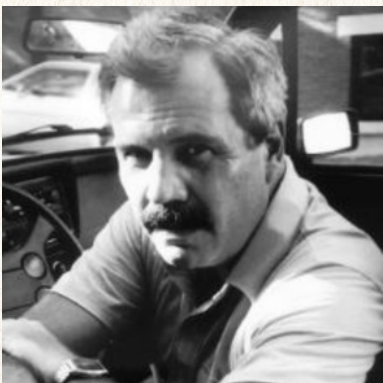


Tawny Louise Cortes - Reed 2

Tawny Louise Cortes is a Toronto-based woodwind player whose performance career is defined by a wide technical range and a deep commitment to community music. She holds regular positions with the Columbus Concert Band (E ♭ , B ♭ , and Bass Clarinets), the Columbus Jazz Band (Tenor and Baritone Saxophones), and the Band of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (B ♭ /Bass Clarinets and Tenor Sax). Tawny's work in musical theatre is equally diverse, having performed for community theatre companies across the GTA, including Alumnae Theatre Company, Scarborough Music Theatre, and Hillcrest Community Village Players. Recent credits include Clarinet 1 for Queen Marie (Alumnae) and The Sound of Music (SMT), Reed 2 Sub for She Loves Me (SMT), and Reed 3 for Seussical (HCVP). Following a rewarding turn as Assistant Stage Manager for SMT's Legally Blonde, Tawny is thrilled to return to the pit for her Nightwood Theatre debut. She is grateful to join the Lawyer Show Band and eager to bring the iconic, nostalgic score of Grease to life.

Tracy Pratt - ENSEMBLE

Like a true rockabilly cat, Tracy is real, real gone to be hand jiving at Rydell High in this year's production of Grease! She couldn't be more rama-lama-ding-de-dong to be a member of the Lawyer Show family participating in her 8th Lawyer Show, and attending high school wearing a pink poodle skirt and crinoline puts the bop in a-wop-baba-loo-mop, a-wop-bam-boom! Tracy is a litigator who finds great joy in stepping out of the courtroom and onto the stage. A big thank you to an incredible and supportive cast and team of professional leaders, her family and friends for attending and applauding thunderously, and to everyone who continues to champion Nightwood Theatre's transformational work.



Warren Casey - Book, Lyrics, Music

Warren Casey was born in Yonkers, New York, and attended Syracuse University. During the late '50s, he learned all about "greasers" while working as an art teacher in upstate New York. He moved to Chicago in 1962, where he hoped to pursue an acting career. He appeared in dozens of productions, including creating the role of Bernie Litko in David Mamet's Sexual Perversity in Chicago. He supported himself with jobs in retail, including working as an assistant manager of a chain of apparel stores, and as a record salesman. In the meantime, he taught himself how to play the guitar and began writing songs. Mr. Casey acted with the Chicago Stage Guild (where he met Jim Jacobs), the Old Town Players, and the Kinston Mines Theatre. The latter company staged the original production of Grease, which he wrote with Jim Jacobs. After the incredible success of both the musical and the movie, the two collaborated on Island of Lost Coeds, a musical satire of the B-movies of the 1950s. Mr. Casey died in 1988.

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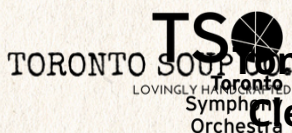
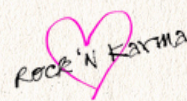
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Break out from behind the Bar! Join us onstage in the 18th annual Lawyer Show in June 2027! Join our **Lawyer Show mailing list** to stay in the loop. See what our past participants have to say:

"For a few months each year the women at Nightwood take a group of hard-working, analytic, often stressed-out lawyers who have careers that dictate they live most waking hours in their heads, and they teach us to live in our hearts. For a few months each year they encourage us not to future think, to drop the clever, and to live in the moment. This is not an easy feat; we can be stubborn, we are, after all, lawyers.

These few months in turn, I believe, make us better people, and even better lawyers. Nightwood provides for us a safe place to be brave, and to risk take. In these few months with Nightwood, we remember to be creative and connected and we get to experience a little bit of extraordinary in our ordinary. I have left the experience with a new passion for my life in general and inspired to make other positive choices. In short, for a few months each year, Nightwood gives us a little magic."

- **Christine Marchetti**, former cast member

I was thrilled to be involved in the production. I learned a great deal... and was very proud of the lawyers. Doesn't get better."

- **The Honourable Justice Gloria Epstein**, Lawyer Show cameo

"It never ceases to amaze me how you all take a group of non-professionals and achieve such great outcomes."

- **The Honourable Justice John Sorensen**, band member

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Hopelessly devoted to...

**Nightwood Theatre
and the Lawyer Show**



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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-LeBlanc	Managing Director
Ashley Elliott	Administrator - Operations & Partnerships
Gabrielle Milner	Development Coordinator
Marzieh Miri	Head of Marketing & Engagement
Sherman Tsang	Digital Content Manager
Courtney Ch'ng Lancaster	Artistic Associate
Kathryn Geertsema	Arts Administrator
Paulina Tapia	Production Coordinator
Pip Bradford	Director of Facilities & Production, Nancy & Ed Jackman Performance Centre
Intisar Awisse	Program Director: Write From The Hip
Chris Mustard	Financial Advisor, Young & Associates
Faith McQueen	Website Maintenance

Founding Members: Cynthia Grant, Kim Renders, Mary Vingoe, Maureen White

NIGHTWOOD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

KEEP IN TOUCH

Nightwood Theatre



2026-2027 Season

To a Flame

September 21 - October 4, 2026

at Nancy & Ed Jackman Performance Centre

Groundswell Festival

November 9 - 13, 2026

at Nancy & Ed Jackman
Performance Centre

Fall on Your Knees Pt 1 & 2

February 9 - March 21, 2027

at Crow's Theatre

Jaja's African Hair Braiding

May 13 - June 6, 2027

at Souleppper Theatre

The 2027 Lawyer Show

June 3-5, 2027

Jane Mallett Theatre



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