





BLACKOUT Producing Patron The Don & Shirley

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BMO is proud to sponsor **The Musical Stage Company**and its **High Park Programming**.

WELCOME TO BLACKOUT

It is with the greatest of excitement, and tears in my eyes, that I welcome you back to the theatre.

Long before any of us had heard words like "COVID," "social distancing" and "mutant strains," we programmed Anton Lipovetsky and Steven Gallagher's beautiful musical **BLACKOUT** for our 2021-22 season. We knew that this musical, set on the night of Toronto's 2003 blackout, would resonate with our audiences. But we had no idea how the events that would unfold in 2020 and 2021 would make this musical resonate in a profoundly new way. This is a story about finding connection in the darkness; it is about how an unexpected disaster is sometimes just what we need to move forward better. It is about Toronto – and how coming together as neighbours and strangers in unlikely moments can impact those around us in a big way.

While originally planned for a large-scale indoor production, we pivoted to an outdoor summer preview production in High Park. While we are offering a smaller production to you than we originally intended, we felt it vital to share this story now – in a smaller preview production – prior to a larger world premiere in the future. COVID rules and outdoor realities mean a reduced orchestration, simplified staging and reduced technical elements. But the heart of the musical is as strong as ever. And the accidental result of offering this preview production to you in a public park could not be more perfect for this show.

Developing **BLACKOUT** over the last year has been one of the most profound examples of life imitating art that I have experienced. Watching a story about a Toronto crisis develop over Zoom, in the middle of a global pandemic, has brought everyone who has worked on it, a sense of purpose, joy, and hope.

My heartfelt wish is that this musical reignites all of your senses and emotions. Take it all in; you are in a beautiful park, surrounded by your fellow citizens, witnessing extraordinary artists telling a story that celebrates the resilience of our city. After 16 months apart, what could be better? Togetherness. Art. Healing.

Welcome back to The Musical Stage Company.

MITCHELL MARCUS (HE/HIM)

Mitchell m

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THE MUSICAL STAGE COMPANY

A NOTE FROM THE WRITERS

Welcome to High Park.

BLACKOUT is a musical about the connections people made one hot August night in 2003. When the lights went out, something miraculous happened. Everyone felt a little braver. It was a night to take a chance, have a drink with your neighbor, and share stories with strangers. We came out of the blackout a little changed, a little more connected.

As we emerge from another crisis, this one lasting a lot longer than twenty-four hours, we are all looking to make those connections again. To be in the same space with one another, to laugh with loved ones, to hold each other close. The resilience of the people of Toronto is inspiring, and as we celebrate moving forward, we can't imagine a better place to start reconnecting than High Park under the stars on a warm summer night.

Thank you for being here.



STEVEN GALLAGHER (HE/HIM) BOOKWRITER



ANTON LIPOVETSKY (HE/HIM)

COMPOSER & LYRICIST

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As you watch **BLACKOUT** and reflect on your own memories of experiencing reconnection and finding hope within Tkaronto, please consider its original caretakers both recorded and unrecorded who have been telling stories and connected to this land for generations.

BLACKOUT is being performed in the "Dish With One Spoon Territory." The Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe Nation, Mississaugas of the Credit, and Haudenosaunee Confederacy that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, colonial settlers, and all newcomers, have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship, and respect.

May this show, performed on this land, remind us of our responsibility to repair the history of injustice and damage that has been done, and continues to be inflicted upon Turtle Island (colonially Canada)'s Indigenous peoples, by its settlers. For more information on how you can be a part of building a more equitable future for Turtle Island's Indigenous peoples, visit The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada by clicking here.

EMUSICAL STAGECO.

The Crescendo Series

The Crescendo Series offers an unprecedented breakthrough for a Canadian composer of musical theatre through a multi-year residency and a commitment to produce multiple of their new musicals. This investment is strategically designed to catapult the Crescendo Artist into the local, national, and international spotlight, resulting in global recognition for the individual and for Canadian musical theatre as a whole.

BLACKOUT is the first work from our Crescendo Artist, **Anton Lipovetsky**.

We salute our Crescendo Series Supporters!

Crescendo Club Leading Light: Anne-Marie Canning

Marsha & Aubrey Baillie Fund at
Toronto Foundation
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Gary & Margot Marcus

Leanne & David Matlow
Family Fund at the Jewish
Foundation of Greater Toronto
Noel Mowat
Paul Orlander & Helayna Shekter
Len & Suzy Rodness
Gary Rogers
Sherry Shannon-Vanstone
Celia M. Smith
Ellen & Les Wallace

Thank you for bringing this performance to life!

Produced by The Musical Stage Company, in association with Canadian Stage

A Preview Production of

BLACKOUT

Book by

Music & Lyrics by

STEVEN GALLAGHER

ANTON LIPOVETSKY

STARRING

BRANDON ANTONIO as Zachary
MICHAEL DE ROSE as Lenin
CHILINA KENNEDY as Leighton
RAMI KHAN as Fynn

GERMAINE KONJI§** as Sarah
YEMIE SONUGA as Pandora
JONATHAN WINSBY as Manny
SYNTHIA YUSUF as Eddie

BAND

Piano/Conductor WAYNE GWILLIM

Guitar STEVEN JOHN DALE

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

Director &
Dramaturg
ANN HODGES

Music Supervisor & Orchestrator WAYNF GWILLIM Movement Director
DAVID ANDREW
REID

Set Designer BRANDON KLEIMAN Costume Designer ALEX AMINI Lighting Designer LOGAN RAJU CRACKNELL Sound Designer
KAITLYN
MACKINNON

Production Supervisor CRYSTAL LEE Production Manager
LESLIE
HERNANDEZ

Stage Manager DUSTYN WALES

RBC Apprentice Stage Manager** JOEY LAU

Assistant to
the Music Director & Copyist
JONATHAN CORKALASTORGA

Fight & Intimacy
Director
SIOBHAN
RICHARDSON

(continued on next page)

Originally developed through The Musical Stage Company's innovative musical development initiative Launch Pad, a selection of this new work was first seen in 2019 as part of REPRINT.

Commissioned with funding from the Aubrey and Marla Dan Fund for New Musicals
Original Dramaturgy & Workshop Direction by Ann Hodges

^{**} Part of the 2021-22 RBC Apprentice Program § Fight & Intimacy Captain

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

(continued)

Head of Props
MARY
SPYRAKIS

Production Assistant, Wardrobe BEBE BRUNJES COVID-19 Safety
Consultant
TALI ANZEL-SIVKIN

COVID-19 Infection Control Monitor DANIEL OULTON

Scenic Painters SUSANNA FENG TATIANA CHEREMISINOVA JAWON KANG Production Assistant, Runner AIMÉE TREMBLAY WOODMAN Production Assistants, Set Up
ISI BHAKHOMEN
LUCIANO DECICCO
MAXENCE TREMBLAY WOODMAN
MATT XIE

RBC Apprentice
Producer**
ALICIA BARBAN

RBC Apprentice
Director**
VANESSA SEARS*

RBC Apprentice Sound Designer** OLIVIA SHORTT

CREW

Head Technician Audio 2 CHRIS ROBBINSON Front of House Mix Audio 1 PAUL BOURGEOIS Lighting Operator GIULIA D'AMANZO

^{**} Part of the 2021-22 RBC Apprentice Program



Stage Employees of Canadian Stage are represented by Local 58 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees



The Musical Stage Company engages, under the terms of the Independent Theatre Agreement, actors and stage managers who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association (CAEA).



The musicians engaged in this production are members of the Toronto Musicians' Association (TMA) Local 149 of the Canadian Federation of Musicians and American Federation of Musicians.



Members of the BLACKOUT Design team are a part of the Associated Designers of Canada (ADC), Local 659.



The Musical Stage Company is a member of the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA).

SPECIAL THANKS

Ante Baric
Noah Beemer
AJ Bridel
Connor Delaney
Ma-Anne Dionisio
Eva Foote
Hailey Gillis
Jonathan Gould
Jordan Guetter
Alana Hibbert
Seth Johnson
Dr. Peter Juni

Dr. David Kaplan
Robert McQueen
Lucy McPhee
Nik Murillo
Vanessa Sears
Lynne Shankel
Peter Velocci
Samantha Walkes
Dr. Daniel Warshafsky
Aaron Willis
Taylor Young
The Shaw Festival

^{*} As a part of the Kathleen C. Freeman Leadership Development Fund

BLACKOUT SHOW ORDER

GEMINI

SYNTHIA YUSUF as EDDIE CHILINA KENNEDY as LEIGHTON

SONG LIST

Bring it On	EDDIE
Leighton's Epiphany	
Related	EDDIE, LEIGHTON
Part Of It	LEIGHTON, EDDIE

PANDORA

YEMIE SONUGA as PANDORA GERMAINE KONJI as SARAH

RAMIKHAN as FYNN JONATHAN WINSBY as MANNY

SONG LIST

Night Like This	PANDORA, SARAH, FYNN, MANNY
Other People	SARAH
In The Dark	PANDORA
Rare	MANNY, PANDORA

CYGNUS

MICHAEL DE ROSE as LENIN BRANDON ANTONIO as ZACHARY

SONG LIST

Shine Again	LENIN
Bird Like Me	
Summer in Toronto	ZACHARY, LENIN
Shine Again (Reprise)	LENIN



WARNING: This show contains explicit language and discussion of suicide



Running time is approximately 100 minutes with no intermission.



Photography and videography is not permitted



Reminder to keep your mask on at all times, practice physical distancing 8 from patrons that do not belong to your household/group, and wait for an usher before leaving the venue.



AN INTERVIEW WITH BLACKOUT CREATORS, STEVEN GALLAGHER & ANTON LIPOVETSKY

BY CAMERON VINDUA

We sat down with creators Anton Lipovetsky (Crescendo Artist) and Steven Gallagher to learn more about their experiences developing and workshopping this new Canadian musical, and how they've pivoted their process in the wake of the ongoing pandemic.

How similar is BLACKOUT to the 2019 presentation of CYGNUS that took place as part of our Launch Pad development initiative?

Anton: We have written another hour of material—two more self contained stories—to go with CYGNUS. The first story starts just before sundown, the second in the middle of the night and the final one, CYGNUS, is set just before dawn.

Steven: When we were approached by The Musical Stage Company to develop CYGNUS into a full-length musical, we had long discussions about what this would look like. Early on we decided that we didn't feel that expanding the CYGNUS story was the right way to go. We liked that a complete story took place in just over half an hour, and we didn't want to "overstuff" it. We came upon the idea of a trilogy, using the timeframe of the blackout from beginning to end. So each story takes place in chronological order, as the blackout proceeds from the afternoon of August 14th to the morning of the 15th. We also use the idea of Greek myths to tie the pieces together.



Each story is a loosely based modern version of a myth.

The blackout of 2003 and the current pandemic share similar shared experiences of loneliness and both losing and finding community. Has the piece changed since the beginning of COVID-19?

Anton: Steven and I have definitely been using our experience in the COVID-19 pandemic to inform what the characters are going through. The realization that the world could get shut down so quickly and the fear and uncertainty that comes with that feels really resonant now. I've noticed for a lot of people, the regular world being put on pause created an opportunity to ask whether things were really working well before—that seemed like a good question for the characters in BLACKOUT to tackle.

Steven: I think the first story that BLACKOUT explores, titled GEMINI, has been most influenced by the pandemic. It was written after we were all asked to stay home, and the

feelings of isolation, and what we were all experiencing really seemed to be reflected in the characters we were writing.



What were you most looking forward to, in presenting this piece in High Park in July?

Anton: Oh, I couldn't wait to see everyone in person.

Steven: I was most looking forward to being in a room with all my amazing collaborators! Working with this team has been life changing, and I'm so excited to now be in a room with everyone, seeing this show come to life.

BLACKOUT has been developed for the past year digitally over Zoom. How would you describe digital collaboration when it comes to writing and working on a new musical?

Anton: I would describe it as challenging, but with a few silver linings.

Steven: Anton and I were prepared for the digital collaboration in a way that many teams might not be, as that is how we have worked since we were first paired together in 2018 (for the *Launch Pad* program). Because we live in different cities, we have always used email, text, and Skype to share

ideas and work. So the leap wasn't as difficult for us; we are used to not being in the same room. The rest of the team pivoted very easily, and we found a groove very early on. One of the things I think that we discovered is that collaboration is not only Zoom. You can share information over email, text with voice memos. I feel like we all managed to overcome this hurdle really well as a team.

What are the biggest hurdles to overcome with digital collaboration?

Anton: Internet lag and trying to communicate without the aid of your three dimensional body and energy.

Steven: I would say just being able to really feel the energy on the other side of the screen sometimes. And the internet lag can be frustrating.

Are there any advantages to developing a new piece over Zoom?

Anton: People all over the country can be involved in a workshop so easily! In the last year I've gotten to work with some extremely talented people I probably would not have had the chance to in other years.

Steven: It was great to be able to have a much more broad range of actors involved in the process, including folks who we might never be able work with because they are not located in Toronto. That was a great asset to working online. I would also say that a big advantage for me as the bookwriter is that I was able to make changes and share them with the actors right away. No need for printing, I could send them a link to a Google doc, and they have

the changes immediately. If you are able to get the amazingly talented actors that we had, the bookwriter can tell if changes are working almost immediately. And I don't have to kill a forest to do it.

Zoom is a difficult platform to work musically. How have you been able to hear your music during readings during this time?

Anton: I've been so impressed with what music supervisor Wayne Gwillim, copyist Jonathan Corkal-Astorga, and each of our performers have been able to achieve musically over Zoom. The process generally goes like this: the actors get taught their music over Zoom, they record it themselves on their phones, they send the files over and they all get mixed together—then Wayne streams the recordings during our Zoom read-throughs.

What writing practice have you learned during COVID-19 that you will continue in a post-COVID world?

Anton: All this time at home has made me much better at home recording.

Steven: I will probably continue to write on Google docs in a workshop situation. I used to write exclusively with Final Draft, but I was unable to share those changes quickly. I would also probably ask the actors to use computers or tablets for workshops, at least for the first few days, while we are doing table work. This way I can make changes before anything is printed and they can have them immediately.





The business landscape has changed. No matter the industry sector, market location or specific areas of business you need addressed, MNP is there... where and when you need us.

John Hughes, CPA, CA | 416.515.3842 | john.hughes@mnp.ca

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



BRANDON ANTONIO (he/him) Zachary

For The Musical Stage Company: REPRINT, NEXT TO

NORMAL, Banks Prize Winner (2018-19).

Brandon is a Dora nominated performer who was named one of NOW Magazine's Breakthrough Stage Artists of 2019. Other credits include: MABUHAY! A New Musical Workshop (Rainbow Stage), THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (postponed), PETER PAN (Neptune Theatre), MAMMA MIA! (Globe Theatre). Stay connected! Insta: @brandon_antonio TikTok: @brandon_antonio11 YouTube: Brandon Antonio



MICHAEL DE ROSE (he/him) Lenin

For The Musical Stage Company: **REPRINT** (Dora Nominated,

Best Actor in a Featured Role).

Michael is thrilled to be a part of the preview premiere of BLACKOUT. Highlights include: SugarBum in Ross Petty's LIL' RED ROBIN HOOD & THE WIZARD OF OZ (Elgin), GREASE (Winter Garden), RETURN TO GRACE (Niagara Fallsview), ROCK OF AGES (Stage West Calgary; Betty Nominated, Best Supporting Actor), MY DINNER WITH CASEY DONOVAN (Theatre Passe Muraille) and US National tours of GODSPELL & SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER (Mirvish). Michael was recently named among NOW Magazine's Top 10 Breakthrough Stage Artists of 2019.



CHILINA KENNEDY

(she/her) Leighton

For The Musical Stage Company:

UNCOVERED: BILLY JOEL & ELTON JOHN.

Chilina recently starred as Elle in the one woman play THE HUMAN VOICE (filmed for Toronto OIC), Dina in THE BAND'S VISIT international tour (Toronto Critics' Award). Other credits: Carole King in **BEAUTIFUL** - THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL (over 1200 performances on Broadway), Mary Magdalene in **JESUS CHRIST** SUPERSTAR (Broadway), Pheobe D'Ysauith in A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER (Hartford Stage/ Old Globe San Diego), the Stratford and Shaw Festivals and Sophie in the 1st US National Tour of MAMMA MIA!. Chilina has written a musical CALLITIOVE (with Eric Holmes), THE GOOD FIGHT, & is the Artistic Producer of Eclipse Theatre Company in Toronto. www.chilinakennedv.com



RAMI KHAN (he/him)

Fynn

For The Musical Stage Company: **DEBUT**.

Rami is a Pakistani-Canadian, multidisciplinary artist and a graduate from Randolph College for the Performing Arts. From a young age Rami had a love for the performing arts, and is beyond excited to be living

his childhood dream as a part of BLACKOUT. This story is coming to us at a time where we need it most and Rami is so humbled to be a part of it. Rami wants to thank the team at The Musical Stage Company, his family, friends, & the entire team at Talent House for their ongoing support! Theatre Credits: BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM: THE MUSICAL (Starvox Entertainment), YOU CAN DO IT PUT YOUR MASK INTO IT (Potato Potato Presents/Toronto Fringe), JUNGLE BOOK (WYRD Productions). Film Credits: 1UP (Buzzfeed/Lionsgate), GINNY & GEORGIA (Netflix). Instagram @ramikhan_



GERMAINE KONJI (she/they) Sarah

For The Musical Stage Company: BAAPII ROHO,

UNCOVERED: NOTES FROM THE HEART, RBC Apprenticeship Performer & Banks Prize Winner (2020-21).

Germaine Konji is a Kenyan-Canadian actor, singer, writer and activist. Her artistry lives where the theatrical, cultural, and political intersect. She is deeply grateful to be a part of this cast. Training: Sheridan Music Theatre Performance (graduate, 2020). Program Awards: Outstanding Contribution to the Canadian Music Theatre Project (Sheridan College, 2020), Highest Achievement in Acting Performance (Sheridan College, 2019). Writing credits: AFTER THE RECKONING (Centaur Theatre, 2020), THE LOBSTER WHO CRIED PERSON (Bad Hats Theatre, 2021).



YEMIE SONUGA (she/her) Pandora

For The Musical Stage Company: **DEBUT.**

Yemie Sonuga is a Nigerian, Canadian, and American, singer, actor, model, and writer. She has performed on stages across the globe. Some of her favorite credits include; Disney's THE LION KING (US National Tour), THE BOOK OF MORMON (original West End cast), the original cast & world premiere of GHOST THE MUSICAL (& Broadway Album), the world premiere of THE LITTLE PRINCE (Theatre Calgary), **JANN** season 3 (CTV/ Hulu), The International Tour of FAME THE MUSICAL, THE BOYS season 2 (Amazon Studios). Yemie is the voice of Ally Longergan in the audio sitcom **NEXT STOP SHOWS**; her performance was recognized by Indiewire magazine. Yemie holds a master's degree from the Royal Scottish Conservatoire. She is Lead Talent for Headstrong Meditation by Equinox and has been commissioned to write a Social Justice Mediation series. She is very grateful for the opportunity to bring this form of healing to the community. Keep up to date with Yemie; @yemiesonuga & www.yemiesonuga.com.



JONATHAN WINSBY (he/him) Manny

For The Musical Stage Company: **DEBUT**.

Born, raised, and currently residing in beautiful British Columbia, Jonathan is humbled to be given the opportunity to perform in one of the first productions to be presented after such a momentous global event has affected so many in myriad ways. Toronto audiences may have seen him in KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN (Eclipse Theatre), SOUSATZKA (Teatro Proscenium), LES MISÉRABLES (Mirvish/Mackintosh) or several seasons at the Stratford Festival. Thank you for your renewed and continued support of the performing arts.



SYNTHIA YUSUF (she/her) Eddie

For The Musical Stage Company: **DFBUT**.

Synthia was born in Toronto but has lived in Vancouver B.C. for most of her life. She has worked professionally as an actor and singer in theatre and film in Canada for almost 10 years. Select theatre credits include: Maria in THF SOUND OF MUSIC (Arts Club Theatre Company), THE BOY IN THE MOON (Neworld Theatre), **BEAUTY AND THE** BEAST (ACTC), MAMMA MIA! (Citadel Theatre), THE ELBOW ROOM CAFÉ (Zee Zee Theatre). Thank you to my agents at da Costa Talent, Shannon & Melissa, for their hard work on my behalf, and to Colin and Peter for their unwavering support.



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CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES



STEVEN GALLAGHER

(he/him) Bookwriter

For The Musical Stage Company: **REPRINT**;

ELEGIES (2007, 2014); **A NEW BRAIN**.

Based in Toronto, Steven Gallagher is a writer, director & actor. Playwright credits include: STEALING SAM (Toronto Fringe Festival, 2013) - seen off-Broadway & awarded Best Drama (The United Solo Theatre Festival, 2014) ; MEMORIAL, a Trafalgar 24 Play Festival winner - Toronto premiered (Next Stage Festival, 2013) & US premiered (Half Moon Theatre, NY); POLLYANNA (with Linda Barnett) - shortlisted for Best New Musical Award (Playwrights Guild of Canada, 2016); DRAMA 101 (with Kevin Wong) - commissioned by Bravo Academy (Toronto, 2019). He is a Merritt Award nominee and the recipient of a 2013 Harold Award, Upcoming: STEALING SAM (Alberta Theatre Projects).



ANTON LIPOVETSKY (he/him)

Composer & Lyricist

For The Musical Stage Company: Crescendo

Artist (2020-23), **REPRINT**.

Anton is a theatrical composer, lyricist, performer, sound designer & educator based in Vancouver, BC. Composing credits include: THIS IS IT (Nashville Children's Theatre) JOSEPH JACKET MULTI-MASK (Sheridan), ELBOW ROOM

CAFÉ (ZeeZee Theatre), BEST LAID PLANS (Touchstone/Patrick Street/ Tom Hendry Award Shortlist), COOL BEANS (Solo Collective) & BROKEN SEX DOLL (Virtual Stage/The Cultch), Acting credits include: KING ARTHUR'S NIGHT (Neworld Theatre, National Arts Centre, Luminato, Banff Arts Centre), I THINK I'M FALLING (Belfry Theatre) & 5 seasons at Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival. Works in development: COWBOY TEMPEST CABARET. MONOCEROS. Accreditations: 2 Jessie Richardson Awards & a Vancouver Mayor's Arts Award for Emerging Theatre Artist. He is a graduate of the Studio 58 Acting program & the Stratford Festival Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Theatre.



ANN HODGES

(she/her) Director & Dramaturg

For The Musical Stage Company:

REPRINT, GREY GARDENS.

Ann directs plays, musicals and operas across Canada, including at The Citadel Theatre, Charlottetown Festival, Blyth Festival, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Great Canadian Theatre Company, Rainbow Stage, Prairie Theatre Exchange, and many opera companies. A graduate of the National Theatre School, favourite credits include **GREY GARDENS** (The Musical Stage Company); AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY, TOP GIRLS (Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre): MARY POPPINS (Rainbow Stage); ONCE (Citadel) & IN REAL LIFE (Sheridan/The Musical Stage Company). Many thanks to The Musical

Stage Company, Steven, Anton, Wayne, David, & all the artists from across the country who have been involved in developing **BLACKOUT** during a pandemic. It's been a privilege to be in a zoom room with you!



WAYNE GWILLIM

(he/him) Music Supervisor, Orchestrator, Piano/Conductor

For The Musical

Stage Company: TICK, TICK... BOOM!, JOHN & JEN, A NEW BRAIN, ELEGIES (2007, 2014), & REPRINT.

As a music director, keyboardist, synth programmer and arranger, Wayne has been engaged with various companies across Canada & the USA, Credits include STRICTLY BALLROOM, KINKY BOOTS, & LES MISÉRABLES (Mirvish Productions), and several engagements with the Stratford Festival, Shaw Festival, and Disney Cruise Lines/Walt Disney Television. Recent productions: MARY POPPINS (Dora Award nominated for Music Direction, YPT); CABARET (Grand Theatre, London), THE HOUSE OF MARTIN GUERRE: IN CONCERT (Charlottetown Festival), & INTO THE WOODS (Talk is Free Theatre, Barrie). Originally from Saskatchewan, he is a graduate of University of Toronto's Faculty of Music.

IG: @wayneofgwillimbury



DAVID ANDREW REID (he/him) Movement Director

For The Musical Stage Company: One Song Glory 2020 (Director).

David is a Jamaican-Canadian theatre artist who moved to Canada to pursue his education & career, Graduating from Sheridan College with an Honours Bachelor of Music Theatre Performance, David has performed on stages across Canada, including Shaw Festival, Drayton Theatre, Neptune Theatre & multiple Elgin Theatre productions. Simultaneously he worked as a dance captain, assistant choreographer & associate choreographer of various shows and is excited to be debuting at The Musical Stage Company as the Movement Director of **BLACKOUT**. A very special thanks to Mitchell, Ray & the creative team of BLACKOUT: Ann, Steven, Wayne & Anton!



STEVE JOHN DALE (he/him) Guitar

For The Musical Stage Company: **DEBUT**.

Steve John Dale is a guitar player, composer, arranger and vocalist. He has a Bachelor of Music from Humber College and a diploma in Music from Selkirk College. Steve has arranged and played with Chris Tsujiuchi, Keiza, Perez Hilton, Sharron Matthews, Divine Brown, Ephraim Ellis, Thom Allison, Justin Bacchus & the St. Royals. Credits include: FULL HOUSE THE MUSICAL

(Starvox Entertainment), ANY DREAM WILL DO (Angelwalk Theatre), HEDWIG & THE ANGRY INCH, JCS, RENT, SHREK THE MUSICAL, HAIR, AVENUE Q (The LOT), DRAMA 101 (Bravo Academy), & CARRIE (Hart House Theatre). He has co-produced, musically directed, & arranged several musical & cabaret works for the Lower Ossington Theatre.



BRANDON KLEIMAN (he/him) Set Designer

For The Musical Stage Company: **LIFE AFTER, REPRINT**.

Brandon is a set and costume designer based in Toronto with work appearing on stages across Canada. Notable favourites include MARY POPPINS (Dora Nominated), OUR TOWN, (Theatre Rusticle), THE BALLAD OF STOMPIN' TOM (Sudbury Theatre Centre) CHICAGO, MAMMA MIA. & SHREK THE MUSICAL (Globe Theatre), & world premiers of UNDERCOVER (Tarragon, Citadel & Virtigo, directed by Rebecca Northan), LIFE AFTER, a new musical (Canadian Stage, The Musical Stage Company, & Yonge Street Theatricals - Dora nominated), CONTROLLED DAMAGE (Neptune Theatre). He's also a multiple Dora award nominee and two time winner. For more information and a portfolio please visit www.brandonkleimandesign.com



ALEX AMINI (she/her) Costume Designer

For The Musical Stage Company: CAROLINE, OR CHANGE, NEXT

TO NORMAL (Dora Nominee), FUN HOME, ONEGIN, THE WILD PARTY (Dora Nominee, Obsidian Theatre Company), GREY GARDENS (Dora Nominee).

Other theatre credits include:
ACTUALLY (Obsidian Theatre
Company), TO LIFE, THE JAZZ SINGER,
& BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS (The
Harold Green Jewish Theatre); MARY
POPPINS, MAMMA MIA!, & BEAUTY AND
THE BEAST (Port Hope Capitol Theatre).
As always, thanks to Carmen for saving
my life.



LOGAN RAJU CRACKNELL (he/they) Lighting Designer

For The Musical Stage Company: **DEBUT**.

Logan Raju Cracknell is a Toronto based theatre artist specializing in lighting design & live stream creation. Before the pandemic he had worked as an assistant lighting designer for the Shaw & Stratford Festivals, been an associate lighting designer for MOTHER'S DAUGHTER, (Soulpepper), taken a dance tour across the country, & had been designing his own shows throughout the province. Most recently his work could be seen in ALICE IN WONDERLAND (Bad Hats Theatre). He is excited to welcome a return to live theatre with The Musical Stage Company & the rest of the team of BLACKOUT.



KAITLYN MACKINNON (she/her) Sound Designer

For The Musical Stage Company: **DEBUT**.

Kaitlyn is a Sound Designer, Mixer, and Production Manager from Huntsville, ON. Select credits include: ROSE (Soulpepper); BRIGADOON, GRAND HOTEL, ME & MY GIRL (Shaw Festival); CABARET (Theatre Sheridan); NO CHANGE IN THE WEATHER, THESE ARE MY MOUNTAINS (Terra Bruce Productions); GREASE (Winter Garden Theatre); HASTINGS!, ALECK BELL (Tweed & Company). Kaitlyn would like to thank her family and friends for their constant support, especially during this last year.



CRYSTAL LEE (she/her) Production Supervisor

For The Musical Stage Company: **DEBUT**.

Crystal began her professional career at the National Arts Centre on the Production and Technical teams, Soon after beginning her independent career as a freelance Production Manager in Toronto, she received a Harold Award for her contributions to the community. Crystal is also a standing member of **Means of Production**, a collective advocating for culturally sustainable and standardized Production Management and Technical Direction practices within the industry. Crystal currently works full-time with Why Not Theatre as their Production and Technical Manager, and is the Resident

Production Manager for YES Theatre, an annual youth mentorship musical theatre festival in Sudbury, Ontario.



LESLIE HERNANDEZ (she/her) Production Manager

For The Musical Stage Company: **DEBUT**.

Leslie is a bundle of energy who channels her available outputs as a WHATbyWHEN (WxW) Associate, specializing in freelance production management, technical direction, & occasionally lighting design. She loves all things documented in a spreadsheet, labelled, or colour-coded. Leslie is excited to return to outdoor theatre this summer and is honoured by this opportunity with The Musical Stage Company & Canadian Stage. Leslie is forever grateful for her experiences and training at the National Theatre School of Canada & the University of Windsor. lesliehernandez com



DANIEL OULTON (he/him) COVID-19 Infection Control Monitor

For The Musical Stage Company: **DEBUT**.

Daniel is a Toronto based, Nova Scotia raised Stage Manager, Designer, and Creative Technologist. He has spent the past year working in television as a lead on-set Infection Control Monitor, and baking a lot. Stage Management credits: THREE WOMEN OF SWATOW, SEXUAL MISCONDUCT OF THE MIDDLE CLASSES (Tarragon); UNDER THE STAIRS

(YPT); 2 tours of WHEN IT RAINS (2B). Assistant Stage Management credits: CAKEWALK, WING NIGHT AT THE BOOT (Blyth). Projection Designer: A MILLION BILLION PIECES (YPT); LET'S TRY THIS STANDING (Keep Good). Creative Technologist: THE TAPE ESCAPE (Outside the March).



SIOBHAN RICHARDSON (she/her) Fight & Intimacy

Director

For The Musical Stage Company: **DEBUT**.

Siobhan is thrilled to be part of live in-person theatre again! Her many specialties (actor/fighter/singer/dancer, Fight Director, Intimacy Director/ Coordinator, Theatre Educator) have taken her career across Canada, the States and Europe. Recent productions include Fight and Intimacy Director for ROOM (Grand Theatre, London), and for numerous streamed theatre productions during isolation, and a performance during #CanadaPerforms (NAC). Siobhan is dedicated to the growth and development of the art forms, artists and workspaces. She was recently awarded an Arts Response Initiative Project Grant from the Ontario Arts Council for online Stage Combat study. Welcome back to live theatre, Everyone.



DUSTYN WALES

(he/him) Stage Manager

For The Musical Stage Company: **THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA**,

REPRINT, DO YOU WANT WHAT I HAVE GOT? A CRAIGSLIST CANTATA.

Other Theatre (selected): Over 75 productions across Canada including Disney's NEWSIES, KINKY BOOTS (Drayton), THE GIGLI CONCERT, BILLY BISHOP GOES TO WAR, GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS, FAITH HEALER, TRAVESTIES, WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? (Soulpepper), YOU DANCE (National Ballet), A MAN A FISH (Persephone), MUSICAL OF MUSICALS (Mirvish), I LOVE YOU YOU'RE PERFECT NOW CHANGE (Angelwalk), I THINK I CAN, THE GREAT MOUNTAIN, BLUE PLANET (YPT), ROCKY HORROR SHOW, JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, TEMPEST, HEATHERS, GREAT AMERICAN TRAILER PARK MUSICAL (Hart House), PAN AM GAMES. Upcoming: INTO THE WOODS, CYCLOPS (TIFT).



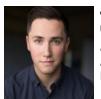
JOEY LAU (she/her) RBC Apprentice Stage Manager

For The Musical Stage Company: **BAAPII**

ROHO (RBC Apprentice Stage Manager).

Joey is a multidisciplinary artist born, raised & residing in Toronto, Canada. Her passions include theatrical management, arts education and creative development. Joey received her BFA from the Ryerson School of Performance in 2019 majoring in

theatre production, with emphasis in stage management, scenic art and theatre administration; and with that, she has also completed minors in acting/dance studie & business. Her recent works include collaborations in education and/or design departments of Flato Markham Theatre, Living Arts Centre, Electric Moon Theatre Company, City Youth Players, Canadian Opera Company and designing the scenic décor of the premiering holiday rink for Toronto Union. Joey is currently a theatre production coordinator with education-technology company, Knowledgehook.



JONATHAN
CORKALASTORGA (he/him)
Assistant to Music
Director & Copyist

For The Musical Stage

Company: CAROLINE, OR CHANGE (2020)(Assistant to the Music Director), REPRINT (Accompanist/Copyist), DR. SILVER: A CELEBRATION OF LIFE, UNCOVERED: STEVIE WONDER & PRINCE, UNCOVERED: JONI MITCHELL & CAROLE KING (Music Assistant), RBC Apprentic Music Supervisor/Arranger (2018-19), One Song Glory (2018-20) (Music Director).

Jonathan Corkal-Astorga is a Chilean-Canadian music director, copyist, accompanist and actor. An avid supporter of new theatrical works, he has been involved with the development of numerous new musicals, both on the music team and as a performer. He is currently on staff at Sheridan College and George Brown College, and is a graduate of Sheridan's Hon. Bach. in Music Theatre Performance. Originally

from Saskatoon, he currently resides in Toronto with his cat, Chloe. He is forever thankful for his family in Chile and Canada for their support - saludos y abrazos a todos!



MARY SPYRAKIS (she/her) Head of Props

For The Musical Stage Company: LIFE AFTER, FUN HOME,

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND.

Mary has worked as a props builder, buyer & coordinator, & a costume & props designer since 1986 when she graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (York University). She has been Head of Props for The Canadian Stage Company since 1997. Mary has also built props for Young People's Theatre, The Tarragon Theatre, & Studio 180.



BEBE BRUNJES (they/them) Production Assistant, Wardrobe

For The Musical Stage Company: **CAROLINE**, **OR CHANGE** (2020).

Bebe is a performer & designer currently studying dance at George Brown with Canada's Ballet Jörgen. A University of Ottawa graduate, Bebe is also a member of IATSE Local 471 & strives to convey the significance of working backstage in tandem to a career onstage. This has led to opportunities with various international tours; Cirque Du Soleil, CBC, Justin Timberlake, and Cher. Bebe had the pleasure of working backstage during The Musical Stage Company and

Obsidian Theatre Company's production of **CAROLINE**, **OR CHANGE**, & now looks forward to the post-pandemic renaissance of live entertainment.



AIMÉE TREMBLAY WOODMAN (she/her/elle) Production

Assistant, Runner

For The Musical Stage Company: **DFBUT**.

Aimée is going into her fourth year at Sheridan College for Musical Theatre Performance. Although she is usually on the stage, she is so thankful to have had an opportunity to work on **BLACKOUT** as part of the production team. She has enjoyed experiencing what goes on behind the scenes as part of her internship with The Musical Stage Company. Some of her favourite theatre credits include: Christine - **BE MORE CHILL** (Bravo Academy), Gertrude - **SEUSSICAL** (Bravo Academy) & Alice

- THE ADDAMS FAMILY (Mainstage



Theatre Co.)

VANESSA SEARS (she/her) RBC Apprentice Director

For The Musical Stage Company: **BAAPII**

ROHO (RBC Apprentice Director), One Song Glory (2020) (Director), PORCHSIDE SONGS (2020), CAROLINE, OR CHANGE (2020), PASSING STRANGE.

Vanessa Sears is a Dora, Toronto Theatre Critics, BroadwayWorld and Critic's Pick Award winning artist based in Toronto. She has starred on stages across Canada including the Stratford Festival, Shaw Festival, the historic Winter Garden Theatre and many more, as well as appearing in film and television. Selected directing credits include COMFORT & JOY (The Grand Theatre London), TO RONNIE WITH LOVE (Theatre Sheridan First Drafts), PERFECT ON PAPER (Talk is Free Theatre) & the upcoming BAAPII ROHO (The Musical Stage Company). Up next you can find Vanessa performing in WHY WE TELL THE STORY as part of Stratford's 2021 open-air season.



ALICIA BARBAN (she/her) RBC Apprentice Producer

For The Musical Stage Company: **BAAPII**

ROHO (RBC Apprentice Producer).

Alicia Barban is a performer, producer, arts educator, & runs The ArtFolk Collective. Recently, Alicia has assisted in the development of multiple original plays, facilitated a digital choreography collaboration, and produced & performed in an episodic radio piece and new musical, DEAD RECKONING (Scott Christian & Lezlie Wade). She cohosts a play reading club in partnership with Playwrights Canada Press and is the producer on this year's Banks Prize Cabaret, BAAPII ROHO. Other credits include: Rizzo in GREASE (Winter Garden Theatre), Dyanne in MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET (Mayfield Theatre), Hope in **URINETOWN** (Assembly Theatre, Edinburgh) and Trump in NEWSREVUE (Canal Cafe Theatre, London, UK).



OLIVIA SHORTT

(they/them) RBC Apprentice Sound Designer

For The Musical Stage Company: **BAAPII**

ROHO (RBC Apprentice Producer), *Musical Moments Initiative* (2021).

(Anishinaabe, Nipissing First Nation) Olivia is a Tkarón:to-based, artist: a multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, noisemaker, improviser, composer, sound designer, curator, & producer Credits include; a NYC debut with International Contemporary (Lincoln Center), Australian debut (2017), their film debut (Atom Egoyan's, GUEST OF HONOUR), album recording 1.5 miles underground in SnoLAB (Neutrino Lab - Sudbury, Canada), 1st written string quartet, 'The Body Remembers' (JACK Quartet's, JACK Studio Inauguration, NYC), a musical land acknowledgement (Face The Music, NYC). Composition & sound design: WELCOME TO MY UNDERWORLD (Soulpepper) & BRAIN STORM (Lucid Ludic Productions & Why Not Theatre). Programs include: ThisGEN Fellowship (Why Not Theatre, 2020), Emerging Creators Unit (Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, 2020), artEquity facilitator training program alumni (New Orleans, 2018), Leader Lab (Toronto Arts Council, 2019).

www.olivia-shortt.com

THE MUSICAL STAGE COMPANY

EMUSICAL STAGECO.

charitable musical theatre company. Established in 2004, we strive to make Canada a leader in musical theatre by telling our most important stories with music.

We believe it's better with music.

We are inspired by music's unique ability to viscerally affect people and are committed to cultivating experiences – onstage and off – that transform lives, build empathy and create community through musical theatre.

We incubate new Canadian musicals from development to production, investing in Canadian musical theatre writers and building national and international partnerships. Our musical productions – including award-winning contemporary musicals, world premieres and concerts – are seen live by 30,000 people over the 80+ nights that we are onstage annually in venues both traditional and surprising. To date, our work has been recognized with 105 Dora Award nominations, 23 Dora Awards

(including back-to-back Outstanding Musical Production awards in 2018 and 2019) and 19 Toronto Theatre Critics' Awards.

Our robust education programs develop the artists and audiences of tomorrow, offering musical theatre training that boosts self-confidence and self-expression for over 200 young people each year without cost to the participants. We also curate innovative musical programs in partnership with diverse organizations, maximizing the resonance of our work across disciplines and communities.

UP NEXT AT THE MUSICAL STAGE COMPANY:

UNCOVERED

The Musical Stage Company's 15th annual signature concert returns to spotlight songs from the Queen of Country, Dolly Parton, Live from CityView Drive-In, running October 4-7, UNCOVERED: THE MUSIC OF DOLLY PARTON. This show features wildly inventive arrangements of Dolly classics by Music Director, Reza Jacobs and an award-winning cast of Canadian artists. For details visit www.musicalstagecompany.com

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THE MUSICAL STAGE COMPANY'S BLOG: MUSICAL NOTES

Musical Notes is an online hub for discussions about the latest trends, developments, and gossip on musical theatre in Toronto and beyond. Including Artistic & Managing Director Mitchell Marcus's blog, interviews with season artists, and more. Check out Musical Notes, a home for any musical aficionado. Visit us at www.musicalstagecompany.com/blog.

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