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DREAM IN HIGH PARK BY CANADIANSTAGE

**THE MUSICAL
STAGE CO.**

2021/22

BAAPII ROHO

A BANKS PRIZE &
RBC APPRENTICESHIP
CREATORS' PROJECT

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Their Someday[®] is the freedom to pursue their passion.

The hard work, perseverance and vision of emerging artists demonstrate the power of having – and the joy of realizing – a Someday[®]. Together with programs like the apprentice program at The Musical Stage Company, we support a diverse range of Canadian talent in communities across the country through the RBC Emerging Artists Project.

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WELCOME TO BAAPII ROHO

Welcome to The Banks Prize & RBC Apprenticeship Creators' Project. Today's presentation is the culmination of 12 months of custom-tailored mentorship, training and professional development of our eight apprentices in the disciplines of Sound Design, Directing, Playwriting, Performance, Producing, and Stage Management. Our program is designed to help guide these eight outstanding artists towards their distinctive interpretive and creative voices.

We are committed to developing the world-class artists of tomorrow.

For us, an apprentice is a high-achieving theatre maker who is visionary in their creative capacity and is in the early stages defining their creative processes. Their apprenticeship with The Musical Stage Company is an opportunity to examine their goals and skills, identify and address gaps in knowledge, craft an artistic vision, and take their first steps as leaders towards that vision - all under the guidance of more than 25 leading industry mentors.

Entirely conceived, created, prepared and produced by the apprentices, this presentation demonstrates how ready they are to step into leadership opportunities at arts institutions across the country, and bring exceptional theatre to the table.

We know these artists will make change in the arts and cultural industry that will inspire our communities and audiences across the country. We are already feeling the impact of their astonishing work, and look forward to experiencing their artistry for years to come. Thank you for joining them on this exciting first step!



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of two main vertical strokes with horizontal and diagonal lines extending from them.

RAY HOGG (HE/HIM)
**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
THE MUSICAL STAGE COMPANY**

WELCOME TO BAAPII ROHO

BAAPII ROHO (*Happy Soul!*)

Aniin Boozhoo, Jambo Sana !

This piece was created in the intention of disruptive joy! *Baapii* (Anishnawbemowin for “happy”) *Roho* (Swahili for “soul”) is a journey back to ourselves. The pandemic granted both of us time to reflect on ourselves and the world around us, and the type of storytellers and artists we want to continue to be.

We are so honoured to be able to share this cabaret with you all today!

Thank you to The Musical Stage Company for the love and support this past year, we couldn't imagine going through the past year with it. Thank you to our RBC Apprentice cohort who were so committed in supporting us to bring this cabaret to you all today. We are beyond grateful to have received this award. It has been everything we could have hope for, and so much more.

Miigwetch, Asanteni Sana,

DILLAN MEIGHAN CHIBLOW & GERMAINE KONJI

THE 2020-21 RBC APPRENTICE PERFORMERS & BANKS PRIZE WINNERS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As you watch **BAAPII ROHO** 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.

BAAPII ROHO 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](#).

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performance to life!*

A Musical Stage Company Presentation

BAAPI ROHO

A Banks Prize & RBC Apprenticeship Creators' Project

FEATURING

DILLAN MEIGHAN CHIBLOW
RBC Apprentice Performer &
Banks Prize Winner

GERMAINE KONJI
RBC Apprentice Performer &
Banks Prize Winner

BAND

Music
Director
CHRIS TSUJIUCHI

Guitar &
Percussion
HANEUL YI

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RBC Apprentice
Director*
FIONA SAUDER

RBC Apprentice
Director*
VANESSA SEARS

RBC Apprentice
Producer
ALICIA BARBAN

RBC Apprentice
Stage Manager
JOEY LAU

RBC Apprentice
Sound Designer
OLIVIA SHORTT

RBC Apprentice
Writer/Performer
LANDON DOAK

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Set Designer
**BRANDON
KLEIMAN**

Lighting Designer
**LOGAN RAJU
CRACKNELL**

Sound Designer
**KAITLYN
MACKINNON**

* As part of the Kathleen C. Freeman Leadership Development Fund.




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

SONG LIST

| | |
|---|--|
| Two Strangers GERMAINE KONJI & DILLAN MEIGHAN CHIBLOW <i>(Kait Kerrigan & Bree Lowdermilk)</i> | |
| Make It Rain GERMAINE KONJI <i>(Foy Vance)</i> | |
| Anishnawb [Michael] in the Bathroom DILLAN MEIGHAN CHIBLOW <i>(Joe Iconis)</i> | |
| I Get Out / Everybody Says Don't GERMAINE KONJI <i>(Lauryn Hill / Stephen Sondheim)</i> | |
| Soni, Soni, Soni [Joey, Joey, Joey] GERMAINE KONJI <i>(Frank Loesser)</i> | |
| Starry Night Music DILLAN MEIGHAN CHIBLOW <i>(Matt Dahan)</i> | |
| Baapii Roho GERMAINE KONJI & DILLAN MEIGHAN CHIBLOW <i>(a group collaboration, with melody by Dillan Meighan Chiblow)</i> | |
| Wait For It GERMAINE KONJI & DILLAN MEIGHAN CHIBLOW <i>(Lin-Manuel Miranda)</i> | |
| Poetry DILLAN MEIGHAN CHIBLOW <i>(Britta Johnson)</i> | |
| I'm Here / Brown Skin Girl GERMAINE KONJI <i>(Brenda Russell, Allee Willis & Stephen Bray / Beyonce)</i> | |
| I Am Fire GERMAINE KONJI & DILLAN MEIGHAN CHIBLOW <i>(music by Landon Doak, lyrics by Landon Doak & Dillan Meighan Chiblow)</i> | |

 Running time is approximately 60 minutes with no intermission.


 Photography and videography is not permitted.

 Reminder to keep your mask on at all times and maintain physical distancing from those around you.

THE SYD & SHIRLEY BANKS PRIZE FOR EMERGING MUSICAL THEATRE ARTISTS

The Banks Prize generously provides recipients the opportunity to advance their careers through financial assistance, mentorship, and increased exposure. This annual opportunity is open to musical theatre artists under 30 years of age who are under-exposed in Toronto and its surrounding areas. Through an open audition process, two emerging musical theatre artists are selected and receive a cash prize, masterclasses, shadowing opportunities throughout our season, a showcase performance, and a role in an upcoming season.

*Made possible through a generous gift from The Banks Family.
Winners are a part of the RBC Apprentice Program.*

A man with short dark hair and a goatee is sitting on a black stool. He is wearing a dark grey long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. He is holding a white sheet of paper with a crumpled texture in his hands and looking down at it. The background is dark with some light spots, suggesting a stage or rehearsal space.

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As part of our goal to help people feel a sense of belonging in their communities, TD supports Arts and Culture events, initiatives, and organizations across North America that amplify diverse voices.

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BIOGRAPHIES



**DILLAN
MEIGHAN
CHIBLOW**
(he/they)
RBC Apprentice
Performer &
Banks Prize Winner

For The Musical Stage Company:
**UNCOVERED: NOTES FROM THE
HEART.**

Dillan is a proud Ojibwe storyteller from Ketegaunseebee (Garden River First Nation). He is a Sheridan Music Theatre grad, and earned a Master's degree in Musical Theatre from The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. As well as teaching singing lessons at Sheridan, Dillan also recently taught Indigenous Education at McGill University. Dillan has a passion for circular storytelling that isn't scared of truth! Led by a Re-Indigenized lens and a decolonial worldview, he is excited for the opportunity to continue to collaborate with other storytellers in this way. Dillan is very honoured to be able to share stories with you all, miigwetch!



**GERMAINE
KONJI**
(she/they)
RBC Apprentice
Performer &
Banks Prize Winner

For The Musical Stage Company:
**BLACKOUT, UNCOVERED: NOTES FROM
THE HEART.**

Germaine Konji is a Kenyan-Canadian actor, singer, writer and activist. Her artistry lives where the theatrical, cultural, and political intersect. She is

the mother of Curtain Up, a movement by community for community working to end toxicity in Arts Education. Training: 2020 graduate, Sheridan Music Theatre Performance Program Awards: 2020 Outstanding Contribution to the Canadian Music Theatre Project-Sheridan College, 2019 Highest Achievement in Acting Performance-Sheridan College, Writing credits: **AFTER THE RECKONING** (Centaur Theatre, 2020), **THE RISING** (Confederation Centre of the Arts Young Company, 2021), **THE LOBSTER WHO CRIED PERSON** (Bad Hats Theatre, 2021).



FIONA SAUDER
(she/they)
RBC Apprentice
Director

For The Musical Stage Company: **One Song Glory** 2019 and 2020 (Director).

Fiona Sauder is a Toronto-based Director, Writer, Performer and Educator. A multiple Dora Award winner and nominee, she is the co-founder and Artistic Director of Bad Hats Theatre, Soupepper Theatre's first Associate Company. Outside of her work with Bad Hats, she has had the pleasure of working for such companies as Canadian Stage, The Musical Stage Company, The Blyth Festival, Young People's Theatre, Driftwood Theatre, Bad New Days, and Theatre Gargantua. She is a graduate of George Brown Theatre School, where she received the Jon Bannerman Scholarship for Theatre and the Timshell Challenge Award for Excellence.

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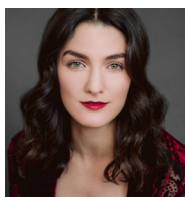
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and its **High Park Programming.**



VANESSA SEARS
(she/her)
RBC Apprentice
Director

For The Musical Stage Company: **BLACKOUT**, *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: **BLACKOUT**.

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 co-hosts a play reading club in partnership with Playwrights Canada Press and is the RBC Apprentice Producer on **BLACKOUT**. 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).



JOEY LAU
(she/her)
RBC Apprentice
Stage Manager

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

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.



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OLIVIA SHORTT

(they/them)
RBC Apprentice
Sound Designer

For The Musical
Stage Company:

BLACKOUT.

(Anishinaabe, Nipissing First Nation) Olivia Shortt is a Tkarón:to-based transdisciplinary performing artist, sound designer and administrator. Career highlights include their Lincoln Center (NYC) debut with the International Contemporary Ensemble, their film debut in Atom Egoyan's 2019 film **GUEST OF HONOUR**, & recording an album two kilometres underground in the SnoLAB. Shortt was a finalist for the Toronto Arts Foundation Emerging Artist Award as well as awarded and named one of the 2020 Buddies in Bad Times' Emerging Queer Artists. Shortt is featured in the 2020 Winter edition of Musicworks Magazine. They will be attending Dartmouth College in the fall (Masters of Digital Music Program). www.olivia-shortt.com



LANDON DOAK

(he/they)
RBC Apprentice
Writer/Performer

For The Musical
Stage Company:

DEBUT.

Landon Doak is an award winning actor and composer based in Toronto. Selected acting credits include **SHAZAM!** (New Line Cinema/DC Films), **MURDOCH MYSTERIES** (Shaftesbury) **ALICE IN WONDERLAND** (Bad Hats Theatre/Soulpepper), **PETER PAN** (Bad Hats Theatre/Soulpepper), **A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE, DANCE OF DEATH** (Shaw Festival), **LIFE IN A BOX** (Bad Hats Theatre/Toronto Fringe), and upcoming **I AM WILLIAM** (Stratford Festival). Selected writing credits include **ALICE IN WONDERLAND, PETER PAN** (Dora Awards - Outstanding Ensemble, Outstanding Production; **BAD HATS** Theatre/Soulpepper), **LIFE IN A BOX** (Dora Award - Outstanding New Musical; Bad Hats Theatre).



**CHRIS
TSUJIUCHI**
(he/him)
Music Director

For The Musical
Stage Company:

PORCHSIDE SONGS (2020), **ONEGIN**.

Chris Tsujiuchi's musical direction credits include **SPRING AWAKENING** (Theatre Sheridan), **PARADE** (Toronto Musical Concerts), **THE LAST FIVE YEARS** (YRG Productions), **ONEGIN** (Musical Stage Company/National Arts Centre/Arts Club Western Canada Tour), **ANY DREAM WILL DO** (Angelwalk Theatre & Theatre Collingwood), **A MISFORTUNE** (Next Stage Festival), and **BARE** (Canadian Premiere/WatersEdge Productions). He has toured extensively with Sharron Matthews, the Nathaniel Dett Chorale, and can also be seen performing in Asian Riffing Trio (aka ART) and his own "Chris-terical" series of Cabarets.



HANEUL YI
(he/him)
Guitar & Percussion

For The Musical
Stage Company:
DEBUT.

Haneul is a multi-instrumentalist, actor-musician, and music director and a graduate of the Bachelor of Musical Theatre Performance program at Sheridan. Recent credits include the Charlottetown Festival Young Company, **SPRING AWAKENING** (Sheridan), and **FIRST DRAFTS** (Sheridan). He is thrilled to be working alongside wonderful performers and fellow MDs.

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MUSICAL MOMENTS

We dream of a summer where artists bring joy, magic and togetherness back into people's lives through musical acts of creativity. We awarded \$25,000 in grants to artists to develop, produce and execute dynamic ideas across neighbourhoods of Toronto. This initiative is made possible thanks to the generous support of William J.S. Boyle, C.M.

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THE MUSICAL STAGE COMPANY

THE MUSICAL STAGE CO. is Canada's leading 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 MUSIC OF DOLLY PARTON
The Musical Stage Company's 15th annual signature concert returns October 4-7 at CityView Drive-In to spotlight songs from the Queen of Country, Dolly Parton.

UNCOVERED: THE MUSIC OF DOLLY PARTON
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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*Multi-year giving program.

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