



OBSIDIAN

THE MUSICAL
STAGE CO.

MARQUEE

2021/22

A MUSICAL STAGE COMPANY & OBSIDIAN THEATRE COMPANY
PRODUCTION, IN ASSOCIATION WITH CANADIAN STAGE

DIXON ROAD

Book, Music & Lyrics by
FATUMA ADAR

JUNE 3 – 19
CANADIAN STAGE
HIGH PARK AMPHITHEATRE

DREAM IN HIGH PARK by canadianstage

#DIXONROADTO

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**TD READY
COMMITMENT**



WELCOME TO DIXON ROAD

Welcome to the world premiere of Fatuma Adar's new musical: **DIXON ROAD**. We originally commissioned **DIXON ROAD** in 2017 alongside our co-producing partners, Obsidian Theatre Company. We are so proud to have nurtured this brand new musical from its inception all the way through to this premiere production over the past five years.

DIXON ROAD is a story about being displaced from home, from what you know, from who you are, and how family helps you find your way back. The show reminds me of the values that I learned as a child growing up in Toronto and Montreal: Think of the greater good, observe your surroundings to determine where you can be of service, remember that when the community fails the individual fails; and never, ever stop exploring what it means to be uniquely YOU!

I can't help but draw parallels between this play and the collective experience we have had through the two-year pandemic. Many of us spent time in isolation, pondering our values, our morals, and our role in society. This deep dive into identity, legacy, and authenticity in many ways is like an allegory of our emergence from COVID slumber.

I sincerely hope you see yourself, your parents, your aunts, brothers, sisters, and cousins reflected onstage today. I hope that the tectonic shifts that our protagonists undergo in search of themselves resonate on a personal level for you. This play has been lovingly crafted for you with your culture, and your great desire to define yourself in mind. Settle in, enjoy the surroundings, enjoy being with your friends and fellow citizens. Welcome to **DIXON ROAD**!



RAY HOGG (HE/HIM)
THE ROGER & KEVIN GARLAND
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
THE MUSICAL STAGE COMPANY

Thank you for joining us for the World Premiere of **DIXON ROAD** by Fatuma Adar!

This piece is so special to us at Obsidian as it originated in our playwrights unit five years ago and has continued to blossom into the full-grown musical you are about to see tonight with the incredible partnership of our friends at The Musical Stage Company! Big shout out to my predecessor Philip Akin for originally commissioning the piece!

This piece is so important in its celebration of Black joy! The joy of family, community, dreams, and coming into one's self as a child of immigrants.

A story about a Black Muslim Somali Immigrant family, let alone a musical, has been a rarity on Canadian stages, and we are privileged to be supporting this story and sharing it with Toronto audiences.

We hope you sing along, dance, and come back again to see the show with your loved ones!

We could all use a little bit more joy and hope in our lives this summer!



MUMBI TINDYEBWA OTU (SHE/HER)
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
OBSIDIAN THEATRE COMPANY

A NOTE FROM THE WRITER

Welcome to **DIXON ROAD**!

Since I was a kid I've loved musicals. The magic of breaking into song, the heart, the DRAMA! I loved every bit of it. Now after years of development, today you get to experience all that musicals have to offer but this time told through a Somali family navigating their dreams in a new country. **DIXON ROAD** has been such a gift to me. When I told my father that I was going to quit trying to be a doctor and embrace being a storyteller I feared that it would create a divide between us. But in writing this show, where part of my job was to get to listen to all of his stories, I found that walking in my purpose was what brought us closer together.

I am so excited for a new era when Somali folks regain control of our own narrative. My hope is that in a few years **DIXON ROAD** isn't the only musical about a Black Muslim family. I can't wait until each of us gets a chance to follow our dreams.

"Adduunyo waa hooska labadiisa gelin" is a Somali proverb that translates to *"The world is like a shadow: in the morning it is turned towards one direction, in the evening towards the opposite one."* **DIXON ROAD** is a musical, in many ways similar to the ones that I loved growing up, but it is certainly a change in direction for what musicals can be.

Peace be upon you,



FATUMA ADAR (SHE/HER)

BOOK, MUSIC & LYRICS

P.S. If you're Somali and interested in creating musical theatre, my email is fatumaadar@gmail.com - ask me anything, I would love the company.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As you watch **DIXON ROAD** and reflect on how you came to find your own definition of home within Tkaronto, please consider its original caretakers both recorded and unrecorded who have been connected to this land and called it home for generations.

DIXON ROAD 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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RODNESS

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performance to life!*

A Musical Stage Company & Obsidian Theatre Company Coproduction,
In Association with Canadian Stage

DIXON ROAD

Book, music & lyrics by
FATUMA ADAR

STARRING

KRYSTLE CHANCE
STARR DOMINGUE
OMAR FORREST
ROSE-MARY HARBANS*
GAVIN HOPE

GERMAINE KONJI
MICHAEL-LAMONT LYTLE
DANTÉ PRINCE
SHAKURA S'AIDA
TRAVAE WILLIAMS

BAND

Piano/Conductor
CHRIS BARILLARO

Guitars & Oud
JOHN GZOWSKI

Bass
EVAN PORTER

Drums & Percussion
AUBREY DAYLE

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

Director &
Choreographer
RAY HOGG

Music Supervisor,
Orchestrator & Arranger
ADAM SAKIYAMA

Music Director &
Piano/Conductor
CHRIS BARILLARO

Dramaturg
KIMBERLY
COLBURN

Metcalf Foundation
Associate Director &
Associate Dramaturg
JORDAN
LAFFRENIER**

Associate Music
Supervisor & Copyist
JONATHAN
CORKAL-ASTORGA

Assistant
Choreographer
ROSE-MARY
HARBANS

Set Designer
BRIAN
DUDKIEWICZ

Costume Supervisor
ALEX
AMINI

Costume Designer
GEORGES MICHAEL
FANFAN

Lighting Designer
LOGAN RAJU
CRACKNELL

Sound Designer
MATTEO
DESIMONE

Stage Manager
KAT
CHIN

Assistant Stage Manager
FARNOOSH
TALEBPOUR

(continued on next page)

* Dance captain

** Funded by the Metcalf Foundation

Commissioned with funding from the Aubrey and Marla Dan Fund for New Musicals in partnership with Obsidian Theatre as part of Obsidian Theatre's Playwrights Unit in 2017.

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

(continued)

Production Supervisor LESLIE HERNANDEZ†	Production Manager CARLOS VARELA†	Associate Production Manager MATTEO DESIMONE†	Production & Safety Coordinator / Apprentice Stage Manager MARISSA TROTT
Head of Props EL PATEY	Head of Softgoods ALEX GILBERT	Scenic Painters SUSANNA FENG & JEN NEWNHAM	Carpentry Shop FACTORY THEATRE
Movement & Creative Consultant ESIE MENSAH	Cultural Consultant MAYRAN KALAH	Dialect Coach AUSAR STEWART	Audio Description Services SUPERIOR DESCRIPTION
RBC Apprentice Sound Designer‡ MADDIE BAUTISTA§	RBC Apprentice Director‡ KAYLEE HARWOOD§	RBC Apprentice Music Director‡ ALEXANDRA KANE	RBC Apprentice Music Director‡ HANEUL YI

CREW

Head Technician / Audio 1 EVERETT DALINGWATER	Audio 2 ELIJAH QUIMET	Lighting Operator ETHAN ROBINSON
Running Crew 1 IVY GROUNDWATER	Running Crew 2 SOFIA FRICK	Dresser 2 ERIKA JAUDZEMS

†Associates and members of WxW(WhatbyWhen)

‡Part of the 2021-22 RBC Apprentice Program

§As a part of the Kathleen C. Freeman Leadership Development Fund



Obsidian Theatre Company and Canadian Stage are members of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres.



Stage Employees of The Musical Stage Company, Obsidian Theatre Company and 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 DIXON ROAD Design team are a part of the Associated Designers of Canada (ADC), Local 659.



The Musical Stage Company, Obsidian Theatre Company and Canadian Stage are members of the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA).

SPECIAL THANKS

Aden Abebe
 Mohamed Adar
 Philip Akin
 Ibrahim Ali
 Carmen Amini
 Wes Babcock
 The Bars Workshop NYC
 Alexa Belgrave
 Deanna Brown
 Nathaniel Demisse
 Andy Dolgin
 Mohamed Elmi
 Jamila Farah
 Beth Friend
 Bryan Foster
 Nickeshia Garrick
 Baakal Geleta
 Tristan Goethel
 Nathan Gregory
 Mel Hague
 Levon Ichkhanian
 Istar Restaurant

K'naan
 Mitchell Marcus
 Lucy McPhee
 Robert McQueen
 Weyni Mengesha
 Clear Mortifee
 Myekah Payne
 Chynah Philadelphia
 Courtney Pike
 Alysa Pires
 George Quarcoo
 RP Dynamics
 Mary Spyraakis
 Curtis Whittaker
 Lauren Wu
 Kevin Wong
 Elissa Horscroft
 Aws Waham
 Meg Woods
 Peter Velocci

Finale Portrait Photography taken by Dahlia Katz.

Portraits feature: Mohamed Adar, Jamila Farah, Abdimalik Adar, Ibrahim Adar, Fatuma Adar, Starr Domingue, Shakura S'Aida.

We would like to thank the past artists who have worked on the development of DIXON ROAD as follows:

Matthew Brown
 Nathaniel Demisse
 Shakura Dickson
 Arlene Duncan
 Mazin Elsadig
 Daren Herbert
 Josephine Ho
 Hailey Lewis
 Araya Mengesha

Mercedes Morris
 Christopher Parker
 Nadine Whiteman Roden
 Neha Ross
 Yemie Sonuga
 Jeremiah Sparks
 Meghan Swaby
 Aaron Willis

DIXON ROAD has received the Toronto Arts Council Playwrights Grant, Ontario Arts Council & Toronto Arts Council Workshop Grants (2018); was shortlisted for the Tom Hendry Stage West Musical Award (2019); and was part of the Myseum Intersections Festival (2021).

October 2021 Workshop Direction by Esie Mensah.

DIXON ROAD SONG LIST

ACT I

Zaki's Philosophy	ZAKI, COMPANY
Pray	HALIMA, SAFIYA, BATOUL, ZAKI, COMPANY
How to Be Canadian	ABDI, YOUSEF, COMPANY
Teeth Bite the Tongue	COMPANY
Find Me	BATOUL
Miskeen(Poor You).....	ABDI, COMPANY
The Lucky Ones	COMPANY

ACT II

Calling	COMPANY
Break the Cycle	HALIMA, SAFIYA, BATOUL
Game's Not Over	BATOUL, YOUSEF
How to Be Canadian (Reprise)	ZAKI
Practical	ZAKI, BATOUL, COMPANY
Share Your Feelings	SAFIYA, COMPANY
Stars in the Sunlight	ZAKI, ENSEMBLE
Find Me (Reprise)	BATOUL
I Got it From You / Zaki's Philosophy (Reprise)	COMPANY



WARNING: This show contains sudden loud sounds, mature language, and mentions of violence, death, and war.



2 hours and 15 minutes, including one 15 minute intermission.



Photography and videography is not permitted.



Reminder to consider masking and practice physical distancing from those outside your household/group in the space.

THE CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Throughout the run of DIXON ROAD, we are hosting a Cultural Exchange of Somali vendors of various crafts to sell goods and services to audience members.

In addition to this exciting marketplace, the Cultural Exchange will showcase art from Somali artists, and provide a dedicated prayer area for anyone who wishes to use it.

MEET OUR VENDORS

SARAH-MECCA ABDOURAHMAN

www.sarahmecca.com

Sarah-Mecca Abdourahman is an emerging Somali-Indian multidisciplinary artist based in Ottawa and Montreal. Her art practice involves both mixed media painting and video art. Through the re-working of family photo albums, Abdourahman's work addresses her cultural history, using her art practice as a means to connect with her heritage. Through this process, she explores concepts of migration, familial history, and discrimination. In 2020, Abdourahman received a BFA from Concordia University in Studio Arts. She has designed murals for the Vanier Community Service Centre in Ottawa as well as Lansdowne & the Glebe Park. In addition, her video work has been featured in the CBC Arts Documentary Series: Exhibitionists. In 2021, her collaborative mural work was displayed in a group exhibition titled "Filtered" at the Ottawa Art Gallery. In 2022, she has exhibited at Wallack Galleries and Institut National Art contemporain.

NIMA SHOP NAYAA

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Nayaa is a platform to give space to the version we are living today. It is here to reinforce that who you are isn't missing pieces. You aren't less African because of what you gravitate towards. You belong in the country you were born into as much as anyone else and you deserve to stretch your roots. This brand is a reminder that you aren't required to embody anything other than what you believe is true to you.

MEET OUR VENDORS

(continued)

ABDUL ALI REX'S ICE CREAM

www.rexsicecream.com

Rex's Ice Cream is a small batch ice cream company based in Toronto, the flavours are inspired by the founders life experiences and East African heritage. Some of the proceeds from the ice cream funds a book drop program called Rex Reads.

LIBIN ALI ARTBYLIBIN

Libin Ali is a Somali Digital Artist that sets out to create positive representation of the three demographics she finds home in. Creating beautiful and self loving art for black women, Muslim women and reconnecting women of the Somali diaspora to their roots. Libin's art has been featured by The Flaunt It Movement in their first Anthology/Magazine as well as being showcased at Artscape Weston Commons.

SHUKRI SULIEMAN SU.LEEY

SU.LEEY strives to bring elegant affordable and modest wear straight to your front door. Inspired by the Middle East, the love story between modern and modest begins.

SAIDA ABDULLE SARASH COLLECTIONS

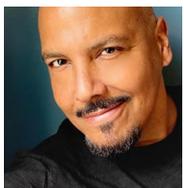
SARASH COLLECTIONS relieves you of all party planning and gift giving stress from our customized table settings to customized balloons. We can help you arrange your wedding invitations, bridal shower favors or even signs to celebrate your special days.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



STARR DOMINGUE
(she/her/they)
Safiya

Selected Theatre Credits: **ROOM** u/s “Ma”, **HAIRSPRAY** (Mirvish); **LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS**, **BILLY ELLIOT** (Stratford Festival); **THE MAGICIAN’S NEPHEW**, **ME AND MY GIRL**, **AN OCTOROON** (Shaw Festival); **MARY POPPINS**, **BINTI’S JOURNEY** (YPT); originated Vonzia in **OIL AND WATER** (NAC); **DREAMGIRLS** (Arts Club); **AIN’T MISBEHAVIN’** (CanStage); **COOKIN’ AT THE COOKERY** (Citadel, ASF); **THE ADVENTURES OF A BLACK GIRL...** (Harbourfront). Film/TV: **PUPPY MASTER**, **ODD SQUAD** (TVO); **PEARL**, **HAIRSPRAY** (Newline Cinema); **4TONE**, **4SQUARE** (Corus). Other: Resident Director, **AIN’T MISBEHAVIN’** (European/Broadway tours); Creator/Producer & Host, **THE BLACKTOR’S STUDIO** (interview series highlighting BIPOC Canadian thespians).



GAVIN HOPE
(he/him)
Zaki

Gavin has a diverse experience that includes song, stage, tv, and film. He is a three-time Juno nominated recording artist and has performed around the world, sharing the stage with such greats as **Aretha Franklin**, **Natalie Cole**, **Jill Scott**, **James Brown**, and **Deborah Cox**, just to name a few. Theatre highlights include playing Collins in the original Canadian company of **RENT** and Simba in **THE LION KING** (Mirvish), **THE TEMPEST** (CanStage),

AS YOU LIKE IT (CanStage), **FREEDOM CABARET** (Stratford) and **SMOKEY JOE’S CAFÉ** (Stage West). Gavin is also known for his work as the baritone member of iconic Canadian a cappella institution **The Nylons** for 16 years, recording 6 studio albums (including 2 Juno nominations). He is currently a core featured headlining vocalist with **Jeans n Classics**, and performs several Pops concerts with Symphony and Rock Orchestras across North America each year.



GERMAINE KONJI
(she/they)
Batoul

Germaine Konji is a Kenyan-Canadian actor, singer, and writer. Their artistry lives where the theatrical, cultural, and political intersect. She is deeply grateful to be a part of sharing this story. Training: Bachelor’s Music Theatre Performance (graduate, 2020). Select writing credits: **HENRY V** lyricist (Driftwood Theatre, 2022) **THE LOBSTER WHO CRIED PERSON** (Bad Hats Theatre, New Bad Ideas 2021) **AFTER THE RECKONING** (Centaur Theatre, Wildside 2020).



MICHAEL-LAMONT LYTLE
(he/they)
Abdi

Live theatre is coming back and Michael-Lamont is ecstatic! Michael-Lamont is proud to make his Musical Stage Company debut in this production of **DIXON ROAD**. Michael-Lamont was born into a performing family in Springfield, Ohio. His father



Proud to support The Musical Stage Company

We're working together with The Musical Stage Company. It's just one of the ways we're helping to open doors for a more inclusive and sustainable tomorrow.

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Michael DeRose in *BLAGCOURT*. Photo by Dahlia Katz.

BMO



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Development Sponsor.**

was famed jazz artist Johnny Lytle and his aunt Ada Lee performed with such greats as Duke Ellington and Count Basie. Michael-Lamont dedicates this and all future performances to his mother Barbara Lytle and his husband D'Arcy Mclenaghen.



DANTÉ PRINCE

(he/him)
Yousef

Danté Prince is an artist born and raised in Scarborough,

Ontario. He self describes as having an obsession with the craft of storytelling. Committing himself to refine his discipline. To be the best actor, playwright, or whatever else he can be. He feels very grateful to have been able to do this as a career. Living out long time dreams that even he didn't know were there. And he hopes to eventually be able to share his art with everyone reading this.



SHAKURA S'AIDA

(she/her)
Halima

Shakura S'Aida is an award-winning performer who has

traveled the globe for more than two decades, connecting and inspiring audiences with her powerful vocals. An undeniable talent and an outspoken advocate for human rights and racial equality, her artistic work reflects that which impacts and connects us all: love. A central figure in Canada's music scene, the Brooklyn-born, Swiss-raised entertainer has garnered not only an international recording and touring career but has shone on

the theatre stage as star and creator of the four-woman tribute to Nina Simone, **THE NINA PROJECT**, and in roles on-screen including as Lena, member of the beloved "Jazzagals" in the acclaimed series **SCHITT'S CREEK**, and most recently in the part of Cora Lewis, mother to Batwoman in DC Comics / Warner Brothers hit series of the same name.



KRYSTLE CHANCE

(she/her)
Ensemble, with roles including Oprah, Employer #1, Nadifo, Camera Store Owner

Krystle Chance is a multi-talented musical theatre/TV performer with over a dozen contracts and roles. Favorites include: The Killer Queen (**WE WILL ROCK YOU**), Mary (**OBEAH OPERA**), Effie White (**DREAMGIRLS**), The Lion (**THE WIZARD OF OZ**), Medda Larkin (**NEWSIES**), Sharmain (**DA KINK IN MY HAIR**). Behind the scenes, Krystle also has displayed her skills as a music educator as the Assistant Musical Director for **ONCE ON THIS ISLAND** at the Lower Ossington Theatre, Co-Music Director **SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD** at Randolph College, Vocal Department Head at the Conservatory of Music and the Arts, and the Creator of Vocalfy (an online vocal training platform).



OMAR FORREST

(he/him)

Ensemble, with roles including Omar Gayle, Dr. Suleiman, Chip-E Cheese Waiter

I'm so thrilled to be a part of this beautiful production. Credits: **A FEW GOOD MEN**, **TWELVE ANGRY MEN** (Drayton), **THE COLOR PURPLE** (Citadel/Royal MTC), **THE HOCCY SWEATER** (Segal/NAC), **THE WIZARD OF OZ** (YPT), **SISTER ACT** (Rainbow Stage), **LEGALLY BLONDE** (Theatre Aquarius), **WEST SIDE STORY** (Vancouver Opera Company), **CABARET**, **TROJAN WOMEN** (Stratford), **PETER PAN** (Neptune), **JOSEPH...** (Stage West Mississauga), **THE LION KING**, **THE LORD OF THE RINGS** (Mirvish), **TOUCH THE SKY** (LKTYP). Film/TV: **MIRROR MIRROR** (Relativity Media), **REPO: THE GENETIC OPERA** (Twisted Pictures), **DA KINK IN MY HAIR** (Global), **DA VINCI'S CITY HALL** (CBC), **ONCE UPON A MATTRESS** (Paramount). Thanks to Ray, Fatuma and the **DIXON ROAD** cast/crew for making me feel so welcomed, and of course, Talent House!



ROSE-MARY HARBANS

(she/her)

Ensemble, with roles including Picture #1, Canadian Woman,

Employer #2, Attorney, Chip-E Cheese; Assistant Choreographer; Dance Captain

Rose-Mary Harbans is a Caribbean-Canadian performer from Toronto, Ontario. From a young age, her heritage has fueled her love for dance

and storytelling. Some of her credits include **AFTER MIDNIGHT** (Warren Carlyle), **A REVOLUTION OF LOVE** (Esie Mensah), and **NEW MONUMENTS** (Director X). Most recently, she has worked on multiple projects with Esie Mensah (**ZAYO**) and Lua Shayenne Dance Company (**WAVESIVAGUES**). She also teaches Musical Theatre & Jazz alongside Vicki St.Denys at X University. Rosie is excited to help bring **DIXON ROAD** to life!



TRVAE WILLIAMS

(he/him)

Ensemble, with roles including Picture #2, Chip-E Cheese Waiter, Dispatch

Travae is a Jamaican Canadian singer, dancer, actor, and musician. He is a recent graduate of the Bachelor of Music Theatre Performance program at Sheridan College (Class of 2022). He strives to make purposeful, innovative, and impactful change with his unique artistry which is why he feels tremendously blessed to be a part of such an important show as his first professional production. Travae would like to thank his parents for their unwavering support. Selected credits: Orsino, **TWELFTH NIGHT THE MUSICAL** (Sheridan College), **9 TO 5** (Capitol Theatre, upcoming).

RBC Emerging Artists



Elevating the art community who enrich and inspire us all.

Supporting the arts is a long-standing priority of RBC®. We recognize the important role they play in building vibrant communities and strong economies.

Together with organizations like **Musical Stage Company**, we support a diverse range of Canadian talent in communities across the country through the **RBC Emerging Artists Project**.

[rbc.com/community-social-impact/
emerging-artists-project.html](https://rbc.com/community-social-impact/emerging-artists-project.html)



Foundation

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES



FATUMA ADAR
(she/her)
Book, Music, Lyrics

Fatuma Adar is a Somali writer based in Toronto. She was profiled in *CBC's Up Close: Young Black Women Making Canada Better*. In 2017, she joined the third cohort of *The Bars Workshop* at the Public Theater in NYC. Her work has been featured in the *Toronto Star*, *The Globe & Mail*, *Maclean's* and an anthology entitled *Black Writers Matter* published by the University of Regina Press. Fatuma's critically acclaimed show **SHE'S NOT SPECIAL** received 5Ns from *Now Magazine*. Keep up with her antics by following @fatumaadar on social media.



RAY HOGG
(he/him)
Director &
Choreographer

Ray Hogg is an award winning theatre artist known for creating and presenting virtuosic, visually stunning, viscerally moving theatre. He has over 30 years of artistic, educational and leadership experience in the most celebrated opera, dance, and theatre companies around the world. His work as a theatre maker has taken him across Europe, The United States, Canada, and cable TV. He has created for stages as diverse as Neptune Theatre, The Arts Club, Theatre Calgary, The Shaw Festival, The Grand Theatre, Segal Centre and many more.



ADAM SAKIYAMA
(he/him)

Music Supervisor,
Orchestrator &
Arranger

Adam Sakiyama is a Dora Award-winning music director & composer with a passion for new work development. Recent theatre credits include **UNCOVERED: DOLLY PARTON** (Musical Stage Co.), **SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE** (Eclipse Theatre), **SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD** (Theatre Sheridan), **STUPIDHEAD!** (Outside the March), **NEXT TO NORMAL** (Musical Stage Co. / Mirvish), **BILLY ELLIOT** (Stratford). Composing credits include **MACBETH** (Ballet Kelowna), **QUENCH** (Axon Interactive) and **IN BETWEEN** (National Ballet of Canada). Songwriter & Arranger for **SUPER SIMPLE SONGS**, one of the most watched educational channels on YouTube. Endless thanks to Alysa and Sawyer, my ikigai.



CHRIS BARILLARO
(he/him)
Music Director &
Piano/Conductor

Chris Barillaro is a Montreal-based music director, pianist, orchestrator, actor, singer, magician, and graduate of Dawson College's Professional Theatre Program and of McGill University. Over the years, Chris has had the honour of helping to several new musicals—in both of Canada's official languages—as an MD/orchestrator. He's also had the pleasure of performing at many

beautiful theatres across the country. In 2018, Chris received a Félix at the Gala ADISQ in the category of “Spectacle: Interprète” for **DEMAIN MATIN, MONTRÉAL M’ATTEND** and in 2019, Chris received a Dora Mavor Moore Award for outstanding music direction.



KIMBERLY COLBURN

(she/her)
Dramaturg

Kimberly Colburn is the Producer of

New Work Development at Souleppper Theatre. Previous to her immigration to Canada, she was South Coast Rep’s (SCR) literary director, co-director of PPF and led the theatre’s CrossRoads initiative, a playwright residency program. She was literary manager at Actors Theatre of Louisville, and she has worked with companies including Denver Center Theatre Company, Los Angeles Opera, Mixed Blood Theatre, The Playwrights Center, the Eugene O’Neill Playwrights Conference, Oregon Contemporary Theatre, Critical Mass Ensemble, Artists at Play, Musical Stage Company, Arizona Theatre Company, Souleppper and Native Voices at the Autry. www.theatrekimberly.com



JORDAN LAFFRENIER

(he/they)
Metcalf Foundation
Associate Director
& Associate
Dramaturg

Jordan Laffrenier is so thrilled to be a part of **DIXON ROAD!** Jordan is an award winning director, producer, playwright, dramaturg and educator. Jordan is currently the Associate Artistic Director

of Prime Mover Theatre Company, the Artistic Producer of Theatre Sheridan, the Co-Program Coordinator of Musical Theatre Performance at Sheridan College and dramaturg of Cahoots Black Penther Program. Jordan has held many musical theatre development roles in New York City, Los Angeles and Toronto, including **AMÉLIE** on Broadway, **PARADISE SQUARE / HARD TIMES** (Berkeley Repertory Theatre California), **SOUZATSKA** (Tiberius Entertainment) and as the founding Artistic Director of Then They Fight Theatre.



ESIE MENSAH

(she/her)
Movement &
Creative Consultant

Esie Mensah is an artist whose

creative footprint extends into many genres, disciplines and regions. As a dancer, choreographer, director, educator and public speaker, Mensah’s mastery of storytelling is as diverse as her experience. From working with megastars like **Rihanna**, **Drake** and **Arcade Fire** to historic brands like Coca-Cola, TIFF and the Toronto Raptors, this powerful woman shows no sign of slowing down. She was a featured speaker at **TEDxTORONTO 2019**, where she spoke about her experience as a dark-skinned dancer and the process of creating her Dora-nominated production **SHADES**. Her short film, **A REVOLUTION OF LOVE**, opened Toronto History Museum’s ongoing Awakenings initiative to decolonize historic spaces. More recently, Esie announced the world premiere of her newest short film, **TESSEL**, co-commissioned by Fall For Dance North and Harbourfront Centre. **TESSEL** is a national call of healing

supported by 21 dance organizations from across Canada, streaming online at www.tessel.film. She has led equity and inclusion work at Sheridan College, the Royal Academy of Dance, the University of Calgary and is an Artistic Advisor at The National Ballet School.



JOHN GZOWSKI

(he/him)
Guitars & Oud

Composer, sound designer, musician and instrument

maker John Gzowski worked on over 200 theatre, dance and film productions for which he has done composition, sound design, live foley, live music and as musical director. He has played banjo for opera in Banff, studied Carnatic classical music in India and played oud and guitar in jazz and folk festivals across Canada and Europe. His theatre work has won him 6 Dora's, from 18 nominations for companies like Stratford, Shaw Festival, Luminato, National Arts Centre, the Mirvishes, MTC, the Arts Club, Canstage, Soulpepper, Dancemakers, Red Sky, Tarragon, Factory Theatre and YPT. Gzowski has played on numerous CDs, with recent releases with Patricia O'Callghan, Tasa, and Autorickshaw as well as a Juno nomination with Maza Meze. He has run Canada's first microtonal group, touring Canada playing the works of Harry Partch, composed and performed with several new music groups and worked as co-artistic director of the Music Gallery.



EVAN PORTER

(he/him)
Bass

Evan Porter is a multi-instrumentalist and vocalist born

and raised in Scarborough, Ontario by Jamaican parents. Evan has gained extensive experience playing with rhythm sections and singing lead all over Canada and the U.S. He went on to explore jazz, R&B, soul, and pop to eventually study and complete the introduction to commercial jazz in vocal performance. Evan has toured the US, South East Asia, The Middle East and China. Some performances and tours by The Arkells, Allan Rayman, Chris Larocca, Charlotte Day Wilson, AHI, and is currently recording for various artists around the world specializing in saxophone, bass, vocals and voice over work.



AUBREY DAYLE

(he/him)
Drums & Percussion

Aubrey Dale's musicianship began at the age of 5 when

he started to study the accordion and the piano. Formally trained at McGill University and Manhattan School of Music, in classical and jazz percussion, Aubrey has performed in a variety of diverse situations. He has toured with *James 'Blood' Ulmer*, *Hassan Hakmoun*, *God Street Wine*, *Sam Rivers*, and *Ernest Ranglin*. As part of the *John Popper Band*, he played on both the David Letterman and the Jay Leno shows. Aubrey played on the Broadway show **BRING IN 'DA NOISE BRING IN 'DA FUNK**. He has also performed at Carnegie Hall with the New York Metro Mass Choir.



BRIAN DUDKIEWICZ

(he/him)
Set Designer

Brian is an award-winning designer

and thrilled to be joining the amazing of **DIXON ROAD**. Recent credits include **KINKY BOOTS**, **ROCKY**, **NEWSIES**, **BILLY BISHOP** (Drayton Entertainment), **APRIL FOOLS**, **INDECENT**, **BAD JEWS**, **MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET** (Segal Center), **JUKEBOX HERO** (Mirvish), **TITANIC** (The Grand), **THE LAST FIVE YEARS** (Neptune Theatre), **NEVER NOT ONCE** (Theatre Aquarius), **THE GREAT DIVIDE** (Harold Green), and dozens of shows Off-Broadway and across The United States. Brian holds an MFA in Set Design from the Yale School of Drama and a BSc in Architecture from McGill University.



LOGAN RAJU CRACKNELL

(he/they)
Lighting Designer

Logan Raju Cracknell is a Toronto based

theatre artist specializing in lighting design and live stream creation. Their work has taken them across the country and they are truly excited to see what journeys lie ahead. He is excited to be back with The Musical Stage Company this summer to bring you theatre in High Park. Recent works include: **ALICE IN WONDERLAND** (Bad Hats Theatre), **BLACKOUT** (The Musical Stage Company), **CONCORD FLORAL** and **CASIMIR AND CAROLINE** (Theatre Sheridan), **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S AS YOU LIKE IT: A RADICAL RETELLING** by Cliff Cardinal and **ORPHANS FOR THE CZAR** (Crow's Theatre).



MATTEO DESIMONE

(he/him)
Sound Designer
& Associate
Production Manager

Matteo began as an Audio Engineer and Sound Designer working with YES theatre in Sudbury, Ontario. Credits with YES Theatre include **MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG**, (Canada's debut of) **VIOLET**, **MAMMA MIA**, to name a few. Matteo also works as a freelance Technical Director, Production Manager and Sound Designer in Toronto and owns and operates his own livestream and recording studio in Sudbury - Night Owl Studios (IG: @nightovlstudios). Matteo is extremely excited to be back in theatre as part of the Production & Design team with The Musical Stage Company.



ALEX AMINI

(she/her)
Costume Supervisor

Select theatre credits include:
THE WILD PARTY

(Dora Nominee), **GREY GARDENS** (Dora Nominee), **ONEGIN**, **CAROLINE OR CHANGE** and **NEXT TO NORMAL**, (Dora Nominee); Musical Stage Co., **TO LIFE**, **THE JAZZ SINGER** and **BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS**; The Harold Green Jewish Theatre, **MARY POPPINS**, **MAMMA MIA** and **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**; Port Hope Capitol Theatre. As always, thanks to Carmen for saving my life.



**GEORGES
MICHAEL
FANFAN**
(he/him)
Costume Designer

Georges Michael

Fanfan is a costume designer of Haitian descent based in Montréal. His fascination for garments led him to study fashion at L'École supérieure de mode. Fanfan's passion for storytelling and sharing compelling tales has steered him to use dress as a vehicle to encompass messages. As a costume designer; Georges Michael hopes to produce clothing that transcends the stage and connect the audience with the characters from a visual standpoint. Fanfan aspires to build dazzling wardrobes from the stage and the cinema and to further the representation of people of color by developing attire that depicts their stories.



**LESLIE
HERNANDEZ**
(she/her)
Production
Supervisor

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



CARLOS VARELA
(he/him)
Production Manager

Carlos began his career in his native Mexico, where he

worked for 8 years with the Thomas Jefferson Musical Theatre Company, touring internationally with many productions. He has also worked with OCESA throughout Latin America, production managing tours of major Broadway productions such as **MARY POPPINS**, **THE LION KING**, and Mexican hit **MENTIRAS, EL MUSICAL**. Since moving to Toronto in 2015, he has focused on work with Summerworks, Rutas Panamericanas, Caminos, Progress, The Fringe Festival, Riser and Luminato. His credits with What By When (WxW) include **21 BLACK FUTURES**, and the upcoming **ANTHROPIC TRACES**.



KAT CHIN
(she/her)
Stage Manager

Kat is a Toronto-based stage manager, who has

worked across Canada, Off-Broadway, and in France at the Royal Opera at the Palace of Versailles. During the pandemic she has been fortunate to have worked on various projects that involve film and digital components, most notably Myseum of Toronto's **1851** and **21 BLACK FUTURES** from Obsidian Theatre & CBC. Recent credits include: **ORPHANS FOR THE CZAR** (Crow's Theatre); **TINY TENEMENT OF TERRORS**

(Theatre Sheridan); **TOKA** (TPM/lemonTree); **I AM WILLIAM** (Stratford). She has been an active member of the CAEA SM Committee since 2013. Upcoming: **QUEEN GONERIL** and **KING LEAR** (Soulpepper).



**FARNOOSH
TALEBPOUR**
(she/they)
Assistant Stage
Manager

Farnoosh attended York University and is an independent artist working in the Toronto theatre scene, with exciting opportunities that come her way and she sometimes dabbles in film. She would like to thank all the people around her who have helped keep her feet grounded, joined in laughter, and kept her heart safe. Selected Credits: Apprentice SM.; **ORPHANS FOR THE CZAR** (Crow's), **SERVING ELIZABETH** (Stratford Festival) **ANGEL, THE RESURRECTION** (Opera Atelier); **SOMETHING BUBBLED, SOMETHING BLUE** (TIFT/Outside the March); **ANGELIQUE** (BTW/Factory Theatre). ASM: **THROUGH THE BAMBOO** (Uwi Collective/Toronto Fringe); **MARY POPPINS** (LOT). SM: **IPHIGENIA AND THE FURIES** (Saga Collectif/Theatre Passe Muraille)



MARISSA TROTT
(she/her)
Production & Safety
Coordinator /
Apprentice Stage
Manager

Marissa Trott is an emerging Theatre-creator in Toronto . Starting out as an actress acting in various shows

such as **GODSPELL** (2020), **12 ANGRY JURORS** (2019) and the two woman show **VEILS** (2019), she shifted her focus to directing, and directed her first full length show **THE END OF 'I'** as part of the Motyer-Fancy Theatre Season (2018). Now focusing on production, Marissa has participated in various behind the scenes positions such as choreographer, scenic painter, and stage manager. Marissa is excited to be part of **DIXON ROAD** and believes this story of community, sacrifice, and overcoming challenges will resonate with everyone.



**JONATHAN
CORKAL-
ASTORGA**
(he/him)
Associate Music
Supervisor &
Copyist

Jonathan Corkal-Astorga is a Chilean-Canadian music director, accompanist, copyist, and arts educator. He is currently on faculty at Sheridan College and is a graduate of Sheridan's Hon. Bach. in Music Theatre Performance. An avid supporter of new works, he feels very grateful to be in the continued development of new and exciting stories. He is forever thankful for his family in Chile and Canada for their support - saludos y abrazos a todos!



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EL PATEY
(they/them)
Head of Props

El is from St John's NL and a recent graduate from the Toronto Metropolitan University's (formerly Ryerson) School of Performance, majoring in production, with a focus on carpentry, flies, and props. They have been involved in theater since high school back in Newfoundland and are very excited to be involved in this stunning new musical. Select credits include; TMU School of Performance; **KING EDWARD II, EURYDICE, DANCES DINOLAND, CLOWN 2020.** Film & TV; **THE MISSUS DOWNSTAIRS.**



ALEX GILBERT
(she/her)
Head of Softgoods

Alex Gilbert is the Wardrobe Supervisor at Toronto Metropolitan University's Performance program. She has worked in various capacities within wardrobe and props departments across Ontario and Toronto. She holds a BFA in Theatre Production and an MA in Interdisciplinary Studies, researching the transition from natural to synthetic dyes in late-nineteenth century Ontario.



MAYRAN KALAH
(she/her)
Cultural Consultant

Mayran Kalah is a Somali Canadian community advocate, interpreter, social activist and stand up comedian. Currently residing in

Winnipeg, Mayran has lived and worked all across Western Canada where she has lived with her 10,000 children. She has had a very colorful journey becoming Canadian, and she enjoys regular opportunities to share her ideas and experiences on CBC radio nationally and locally. Mayran has become a respected voice for women in the Somali Canadian Community and is an outspoken advocate for the plight of refugees in Canada and around the world.



AUSAR STEWART
(he/him)
Dialect Coach

Ausar Stewart is one of North America's leading voice, speech and communications coaches. A Designated Linklater Voice Teacher he has taught in some of Canada's finest institutions; and is presently an Assistant Professor of Voice and Acting at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Drawing from a wide range of training and experience, Ausar integrates voice and speech work with performance principles and Afrikan Centered embodiment practices creating an electrifying signature approach to the art of communication. Selected coaching credits include: Voice Coach on the remount of the Dora Award winning show **OBAABERIMA**, Dialect Coach on the Dora winning **SCHOOL GIRLS, OR, THE AFRICAN MEAN GIRLS PLAY**, Voice & Acting Coach for Dora Nominated **THE FLICK**, Dialect Coach for **THE NEGROES ARE CONGREGATING**.



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Audio Describer:

James McKenzie

Apprentice Audio Describer:

Janis Meyers

Advisor from Blind/Partially Sighted

Community:

George Quarcoo

Led by Rebecca Singh, the team at Superior Description Services has been providing audio description services to the local arts community and helping grow Blind and Partially Sighted audiences for over a decade. Last year Rebecca wrote and voiced Audio Descriptions for **BLACKOUT** here in High Park.

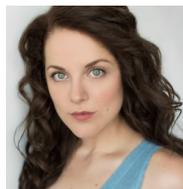


MADDIE BAUTISTA

(she/her)
RBC Apprentice
Sound Designer

Maddie Bautista is a Bi, Saudi Arabia-born Filipina sound designer and composer. Maddie has been nominated for a Dora Award for **ERASER** at RISER 2019, and nominated for the 2020 Pauline McGibbon Award. Selected sound credits: **I AM WILLIAM** (Stratford Festival), **TOKA** (Theatre Passe Muraille), **WHITE GIRLS IN MOCCASINS** (Buddies in Bad Times), **OIL** (ARC), **OUR FATHERS, SONS, LOVERS, AND LITTLE BROTHERS** (b current). This June, catch her and Deanna H. Choi's performance of **LOVE YOU WRONG TIME** - an explosive theatrical

concert reckoning with Asian femininity and sexuality, threading history, the internet, and the creators' personal lives. www.maddiebautista.com



KAYLEE HARWOOD

(she/her)
RBC Apprentice
Director

Kaylee is a west-coast raised performer, educator and director based in Tkaronto. She's thrilled to spend the season as an apprentice director with MSC, where she's previously worked as a performer on **REFRAMED**, **REPRINT**, **KELLY V. KELLY** and **Launch Pad**, and where she's co-conceiving and directing the RBC Creators' Project, **NOW WHAT? THE ART OF MOVING ON**. Kaylee's performed on Broadway, National Tours, Radio City, Stratford, Shaw, La Jolla Playhouse, Citadel, Arts Club and appeared on **STAR TREK**, **WORKIN' MOMS**, **MAYDAY**, **CHRISTMAS MOVIE MAGIC**, **REIGN**, **GOOD WITCH**, **AMERICA'S GOT TALENT**, and The Tony Awards. Thanks to TH, DPR and MSC.



ALEXANDRA KANE

(she/her)
RBC Apprentice
Music Director

Alexandra Kane is a music director, producer, actor, singer, equity transformation coach and activist. Credits include music director for **HUNCHBACK OF NORTE DAME** (AK Arts Academy), **One Song Glory** (Musical Stage Company), **FINDING BLACK JOY** and **HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS** (Grand Theatre). Event production works include Forrest City London Music Awards. Television production includes **FRACTURE**, **NOVA:PRIME** and **SHELTER** and **B.L.A.C.K** (upcoming Black London Network). Alex holds a Bachelor of Musical Arts from Western University, a graduate certificate in Corporate Communications and Public Relations from Fanshawe College and a graduate certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University.



HANEUL YI

(he/him)
RBC Apprentice
Music Director

Haneul Yi is an actor-musician and music director. His love for musical theatre comes from his affinity for music and storytelling. In theatre, he searches for the magic carpet moments when the audience and actors are all on the same page, thinking the same thought, taking in the same breath.



OBSIDIAN THEATRE COMPANY

Our mandate is to bring the Black voice to Canada's cultural forefront. Now, we seek to intentionally shed a light on the richness and complexity of the Black community by showcasing Blackness in all of its intersections.

We are so happy to be back to doing live theatre this season with you all as we collectively emerge from the trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic. We showed resilience over the past two years with the creation of our Award-Winning series, *21 Black Futures*, in a historic partnership with CBC Arts.

With fortitude, we kicked off our 21/22 season with *Cast Iron* by Lisa Codrington, co-produced with Factory Theatre as a bi-aural audio drama and we recently completed the critically acclaimed run of the Canadian premiere of *Is God Is* by Aleshea Harris with our co-producing partners, Necessary Angel and Canadian Stage.

To end our season, we are thrilled to partner with Musical Stage Company to bring to life this groundbreaking musical that started out in our Playwrights Unit; *Dixon Road* by Fatuma Adar.

We are so happy to be able to bring back live theatre for your enjoyment and we look forward to your continued support.

KEEP IN TOUCH!



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THE MUSICAL STAGE COMPANY

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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.

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An intimate evening with Cynthia Dale marks the celebratory return of The Musical Stage Company to the Winter Garden Theatre. With personal stories and songs set to the musical catalogue of Stephen Sondheim and direction by Richard Ouzounian, **TAKE THE MOMENT** honours the extraordinary life-changing moments that shape us all. 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 Director Ray Hogg'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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