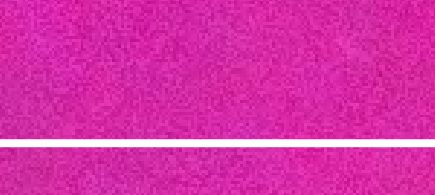


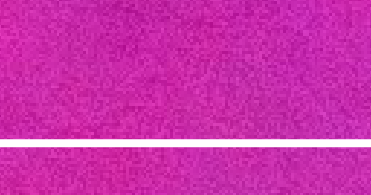
PROGRAMME

40 YEARS OF
CROW'S

LEAD SEASON
SPONSOR



LEAD SEASON
FOUNDATION



LEAD SEASON
PATRON

SYLVIA
SOYKA

shaniqua in abstraction

Written and Performed by **bahia watson**
Directed by **Sabryn Rock**



PRODUCTIONS INC
NOSTALGIA

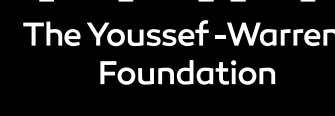
Illustration by blackpowerbarbie



PRESENTING
SPONSOR



SUPPORTING
SPONSORS



shaniqua in abstraction is supported in part thanks to The Slaight Family Creation Residency. paul watson productions is supported by the Crow's Theatre Production Residency Program.

A Crow's Theatre Production in association with
paul watson productions and Obsidian Theatre Company

shaniqua in abstraction

Written and Performed by **bahia watson**
Directed by **Sabryn Rock**

WORLD PREMIERE

APRIL 9 TO 28, 2024
OPENING NIGHT: FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024
STUDIO THEATRE @ STREETCAR CROWSNEST

THE COMPANY

bahia watson	Playwright & Performer
Sabryn Rock	Director
Echo Zhou*	Set Designer
Kimberly Purtell*	Lighting Designer
Laura Warren*	Video Designer
Thomas Ryder Payne	Sound Designer
Jaz Fairy J	Choreographer
Sabrina Pye	Head of Props & Design Associate
Des'ree Gray	Head of Wardrobe & Costume Consultant
Edith Nataprawira	Lead Scenic Painter
JB Nelles	Scenic Painter
Loralie Pollard	Stage Manager
Katie Saunoris, KSPR	Publicist
Shaun McPhearson	Crew Lead
Nick Bond	Crew Lead
Ada Evenden	Crew
Kim Schaedlich	Crew
Leighton Smith	Crew
Meaghan Klotins	Crew
Sami Safarian	Crew
Shae-Lynn Applegate	Crew
Cameron Davis Video	Video Equipment

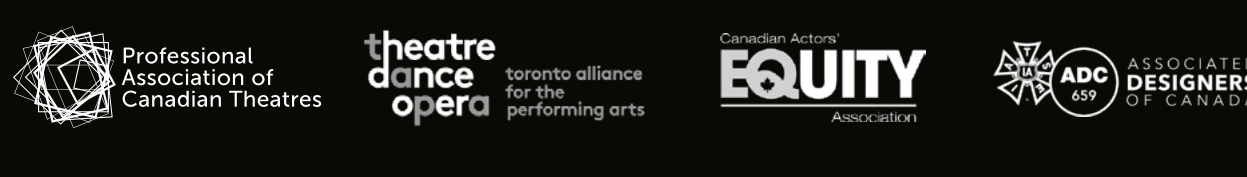
Shaniqua Ode composed by Maiko Munroe.

The running time of *shaniqua in abstraction* is approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

Audience Advisory: *shaniqua in abstraction* contains discussions of racism, colourism, and the use of racial slurs. An e-cigarette is smoked onstage in one scene.

Crow's Theatre is a proud member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA). We engage professional artists under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement (CTA) with Canadian Actors' Equity Association (CAEA).

*Indicated designers on this production are represented by the Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659.



WELCOME FROM CROW'S

Welcome to the premiere of *shaniqua in abstraction*, a Crow's Theatre Production in association with paul watson productions and Obsidian Theatre Company, part of our 2023.24 40th anniversary season.

shaniqua in abstraction, written and performed by bahia watson and directed by Sabryn Rock, is our second production this season in the Crow's Theatre Production Residency Program, generously supported by TD Bank, The Youssef-Warren Foundation, and the Meighen Family Foundation. Residency productions receive invaluable mentorship from members of the Crow's Theatre team who provide hands-on support and guidance in the development and refinement of the projects in progress.

bahia watson is a remarkable performer who has graced the stages of Crow's Theatre throughout the years, most recently in her Dora-nominated turn as Sonya in *Uncle Vanya*. We are thrilled to have her join this season's lineup with her Crow's playwrighting debut.

shaniqua in abstraction is a sophisticated, high-octane, imaginative, hilarious, and searing critique of identity construction. Those who know bahia from her previous smash hits such as *MASHUP PON DI ROAD* will be delighted by this follow-up. To those of you who have yet to experience bahia as a solo performer, we can't wait for you to meet her!

For four decades, Crow's Theatre has been a vessel for stories that challenge, inspire, and connect us. From its early days in Toronto's indie-theatre scene under the leadership of Jim Millan to the thriving institution it is today, Crow's remains first and foremost dedicated to creating iconic, powerful, and unforgettable shared theatrical experiences in our East End home, and beyond.

We are nearing the end of this milestone season, which has emerged as a record-breaking success thanks to you, our audience. Thank you for joining us on this remarkable journey; we wouldn't be here without your support. It is a privilege to continue to share these life-changing stories with you.

With immense appreciation,

CHRIS ABRAHAM
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SHERRIE JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



THE COMPANY



bahia watson

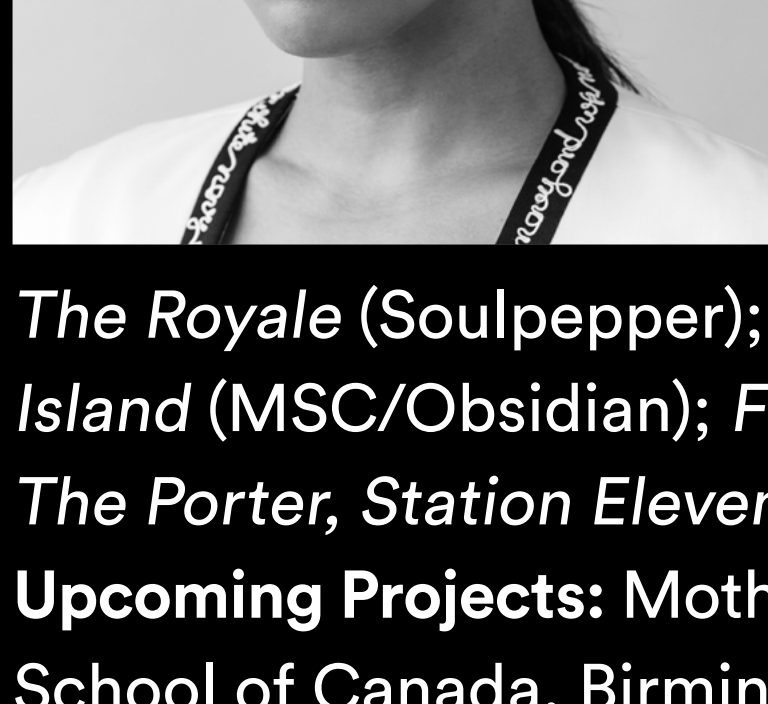
playwright & performer

Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown/Current Town:** winnipeg/toronto/theworld. **For Crow's Theatre:**

Uncle Vanya, The Seagull, Someone Else. **Other**

Theatre: *The Virgin Trial, The Last Wife, Bakkhai, The Penelopiad, A Raisin In The Sun.* **Film/TV:** *White*

Noise, The Handmaid's Tale, The Expanse, Star Trek: Discovery. **Voice:** *My Little Pony, Zokie of Planet Ruby, Strawberry Shortcake.* **Upcoming Projects:** taking this show on the road and also writing a rom-com. **More:** *MASHUP PON DI ROAD, pomme is french for apple, PROGRAM SOUND FM.* **Thank You:** so many people to be thanked i will inevitably run out of room: chris, donna-michelle, djanet, d'bi, kristen, paolo, thank you sharing your minds with the writing. thank you sabryn for fearlessly guiding us on this journey with such openness and imagination. thank you to the whole creative team for bringing your beautiful selves to this with the fullness of your immense hearts and talents. thank you maiko for the ode, it has been a touchstone. thank you crow's for supporting me in this development and production. and to my village, who has been the reason and the way for me as a storyteller, you know who you are, thank you for holding me down and always being so encouraging. your love is felt and i dedicate this to you.



Sabryn Rock

Director

Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Regina/Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut.

Other Theatre: *Our Place* (Cahoots/TPM); *Truth* (YPT); *Sympathy for the Devil* (Soulpepper). **As an actor:**

Is God Is (Canadian Stage/NAC/Necessary Angel); *Rose,*

The Royale (Soulpepper); *Passing Strange, Caroline or Change, Once On This Island* (MSC/Obsidian); *Fun Home* (MSC). **Film/TV:** *Law & Order: Criminal Intent, The Porter, Station Eleven, Cabinet of Curiosities, The Girlfriend Experience.*

Upcoming Projects: *Motherhood Act II.* :) **Education/Training:** The National Theatre School of Canada, Birmingham Conservatory, Canadian Film Centre Actors' Conservatory. **More:** Sabryn won a Toronto Theatre Critics Award for her work as Nina in *The Royale*. She also voices the character koki on the beloved children's series *Wild Kratts*. **Thank You:** So much love to my ever-supportive husband Paul and my hilarious son Truen. Thank you bahia for articulating so many big ideas with humour, wit, heart, and nuance that so many Black women can relate to and for trusting me with your brilliant piece. So much gratitude to my other collaborators and creative team, specifically Loralie, Paolo, Jaz, Laura, Thomas, Kim, Echo, and Sabrina. Thank you to Crow's for this opportunity. **Social Media:** IG @saborocko



Echo Zhou 周芷會

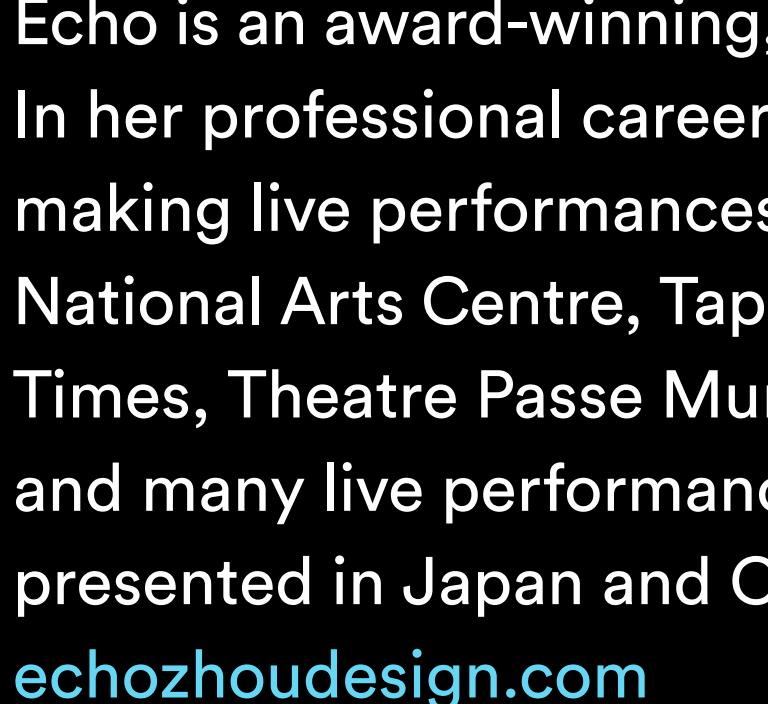
Set Designer

Pronouns: She/ They. **Hometown/Current Town:** 長沙/Tkaronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** *The Chinese*

Lady, Rocking Horse Winner. **Other Theatre:** *White*

Muscle Daddy (Buddies in Bad Times); *Electric Messiah*

(Soundstreams); *Dragon's Tale* (Tapestry Opera); *A Poem for Rabia* (Tarragon Theatre); *Benevolence* (Benevolence Collective); *Between a Wok and a Hotpot* (Cahoots Theatre); *The Year of the Cello* (Theatre Passe Muraille); *Every Brilliant Thing* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *White Girls in Moccasins* (Manidoons Collective); *Mr. Shi and His Lover,* and *I Swallowed a Moon Made of Iron* (Music Picnic). **Education/Training:** Performance Production at TMU. **More:** Echo is an award-winning, proud Chinese immigrant, Tkaronto-based scenographer. In her professional career, she is focused on IBPOC and queer storytelling and making live performances as accessible as possible. She has designed for the National Arts Centre, Tapestry Opera, Tarragon Theatre, Studio 180, Buddies in Bad Times, Theatre Passe Muraille, Thousand Island Playhouse, The Theatre Centre, and many live performance festivals nationwide. Her design works have been presented in Japan and China as well. **Thank You:** 獻給親愛的嗶嗶 **Social Media:** echozhoudesign.com



Kimberly Purtell

Lighting Designer

Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Toronto.

For Crow's Theatre: *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812, The Master Plan, Fifteen Dogs, Uncle Vanya,*

We Are Not Alone, The Wedding Party, A&R Angels, The Boy In The Moon, Someone Else, The Seagull. **Other**

Theatre: *The Inheritance* (Canadian Stage); *Wildwoman, Da Kink In My Hair, Queen Goneril, King Lear* (Soulpepper); *Caroline, or Change, Life After, The Wild Party, Falsettos, Do You Want What I Have Got?, A Craigslist Cantata* (The Musical Stage Company); *Throw Park* (Tarragon Theatre); *Frankenstein Revived, A Wrinkle In Time* (Stratford Festival); *Maggie* (Theatre Aquarius & Charlottetown Festival); *Don Giovanni* (National Arts Centre Orchestra); *Pomegranate* (Canadian Opera Company); *Elf* (The Grand Theatre); *On The Razzle* (Shaw Festival). She has also designed for The Citadel, Theatre Calgary, Arts Club, Vancouver Opera, Pacific Opera, Opera Atelier, Mirvish Productions, Studio 180, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Arena Stage DC, Opera Philadelphia, Necessary Angel among others. **Upcoming Projects:** *One Man, Two Guvnors* (Shaw Festival). **More:** Recipient of three Dora Awards, Pauline McGibbon Award, Sterling Award, Montreal English Theatre Award, Toronto Theatre Critics Award, Ottawa Critics Circle Award.



Laura Warren

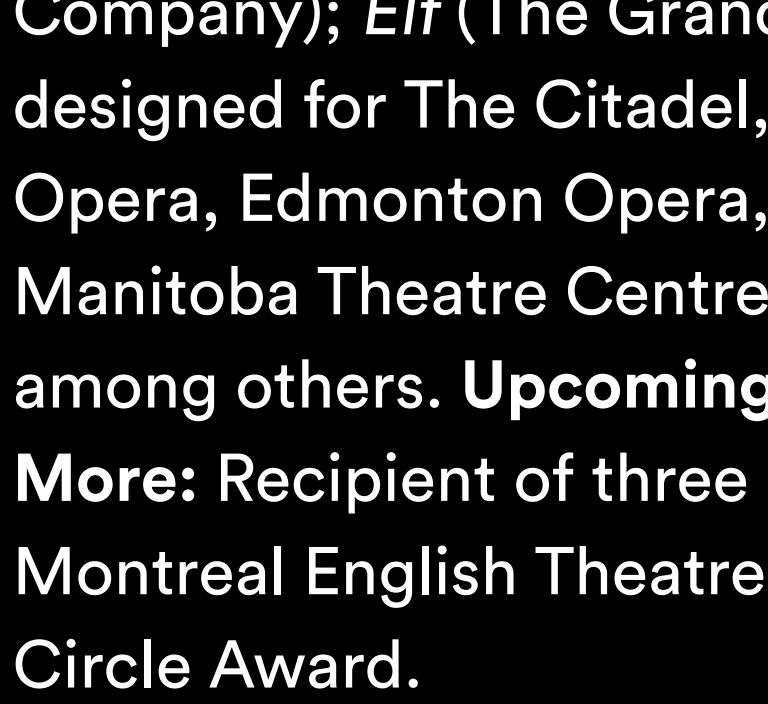
Video Designer

Hometown/Current Town: Saskatchewan/Toronto.

For Crow's Theatre: Debut. **Other Theatre:** Projection

design credits include: *Of the Sea* (Tapestry Opera), #34

(Globe Theatre); *The Queen in Me* (COC, Nightwood Theatre, Amplified Opera, Theatre Gargantua); *Is God Is* (Canadian Stage, Obsidian Theatre, Necessary Angel); *21 Black Futures* (Obsidian Theatre, CBC Arts); *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes* (Tarragon Theatre); *In Absentia* (JDdance); *Pomegranate* (Pomegranate Opera); *The Black Drum* (Deaf Culture Centre, Soulpepper); *Grace* (Nightwood Theatre, Crow's Theatre); *Unholy* (Nightwood Theatre); *Oratorio: A Theatrical Mixtape* (Obsidian Theatre, Soulpepper); *Bearing* (Signal Theatre, Luminato); *Frescobaldi and the Glories of Rome, Illuminations, A Medieval Christmas* (Toronto Consort); *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Toronto City Opera); *No Strings (Attached)* (Pink Pluto, Eventual Ashes, Buddies in Bad Times).



Thomas Ryder Payne

Sound Designer

Pronouns: He/Him. **Hometown/Current Town:** Toronto.

For Crow's Theatre: *Bad Roads, The Master Plan, Perceptual Archaeology, Red Velvet, Uncle Vanya,*

Orphans For The Czar, MixTape, Julius Caesar, A&R

Angels, Boy In The Moon, Wedding Party, The Watershed, Someone Else. **Other Theatre:** Designs for Stratford, Shaw, Mirvish, Soulpepper, CanStage, Tarragon, Factory, TPM, YPT, Crows, Modern Times, Aluna, BIBT, Theatre Gargantua, Nightwood, Toronto Dance Theatre, NAC, Centaur, Theatre Calgary, GCTC, RMTC and many others. **Film/TV:** *Plain View, 7A, Blood Harvest, Hero.Traitor.Patriot, Alegria & Jim, Robert's Circle.* **Upcoming Projects:** *One Man Two Guvnors* at Shaw Festival. **Education/Training:** Studied composition with James Tenney, Honours BA, York University. **Social Media:** bandcamp, xeno-canto



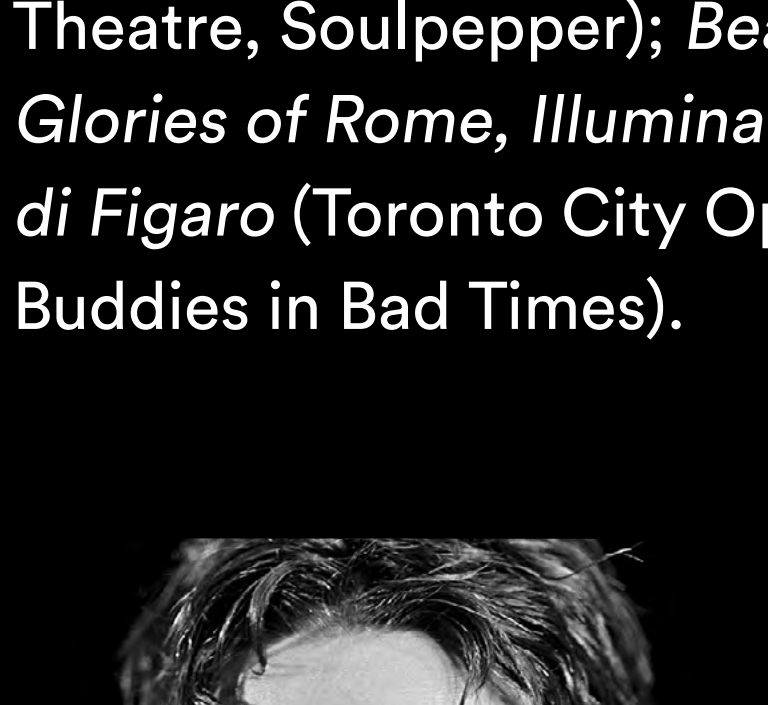
Jaz Fairy J

Choreographer

Pronouns: She/Her/They. **Hometown/Current Town:** Toronto/London, UK. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut.

Other Theatre: *Speaking of Sneaking* for Buddies in

Bad Times, *Da Kink in My Hair* for Soulpepper, *Death and the King's Horseman* for Stratford Theatre, *Mash up Pon di Road* for The Theatre Centre, *Is God Is* for Obsidian Theatre and Canadian Stage. **Film/TV:** *Rocky Horror Picture Show* (performer), *American Gods* (performer). **Upcoming Projects:** currently studying MA in Performance research at University of Arts London (Central St Martins). **Education/Training:** York University (Honours BA double major in Kinesiology and Dance). **More:** I make all natural, luxury skincare called "rub of luv." **Thank You:** so grateful to God, the universe, and the ancestors for guiding me to spaces that nourish me, and that give me space to nourish in return. bahia is a genius, and I could not feel more honoured to be working on this powerful piece as she births it into the world. **Social Media:** @thefairyj



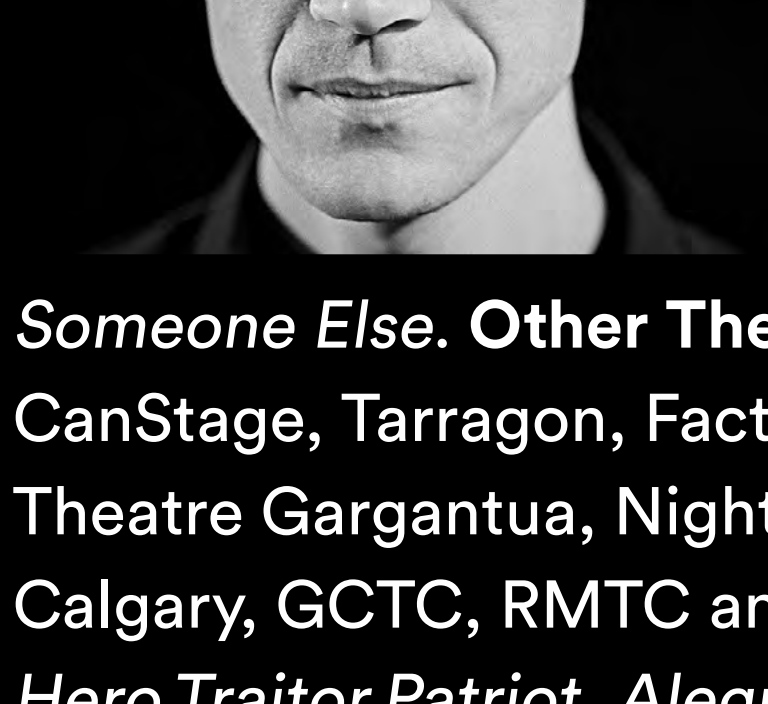
Sabrina Pye

Head of Props & Design Associate

Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Pickering/Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** *Bad Roads*

(2023). **Other Theatre:** *White Muscle Daddy* (Buddies

in Bad Times/ Pencil Kit Productions); *A Perfect Bowl of Pho* (Send Noods Productions); *Harabogee and Me* (Shakespeare in Action); *R.U.R. A Torrent of Light* (Tapestry Opera); *The Flying Dutchman, Carmen* (The Canadian Opera Company). **Upcoming Projects:** to be announced! **Education/Training:** Toronto Metropolitan University: BFA in Performance Production and Design, minor in Acting/Dance Studies. **More:** Sabrina is also a part of the staff at Hart House Theatre and has the pleasure of supporting the productions of students and professionals alike! **Thank You:** Very grateful to all hands who have touched this project. Thanks to bahia for letting us into your world, and to Sabryn for shaping it. A million thanks to Echo for believing in me. **Social Media:** IG @sabreebreebree



Des'ree Gray

Head of Wardrobe & Costume Consultant

Pronouns: She/Her. **Current Town:** Toronto.

For Crow's Theatre: Debut. **Other Theatre:** Costume

Designer for *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Talk is Free

Theatre); *Appropriate* (Coalmine Theatre); *The Flight* (Factory Theatre); Assistant Costume Designer for *Frankenstein: Revived* (Stratford Festival); Associate Costume Designer for *Treemonisha* (Volcano Productions); Assistant Costume Designer for *Fairview* (Canadian Stage); *Maanomaa* (Canadian Stage). **Thank You:** Emmanuel for your constant love and support <3. **Social Media:** Instagram + TikTok @desreegraydesigns



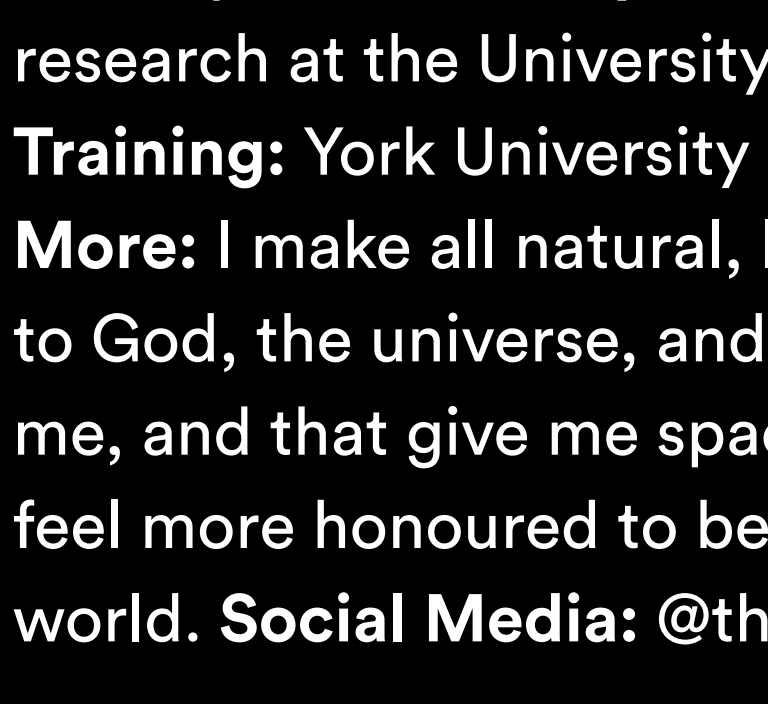
Loralie Pollard

Stage Manager

Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Chatham/Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut.

Other Theatre: Stage Manager for 6 seasons at

Theatre Erindale (UTM); *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes, Back in 59* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *ASM for The Sound of Music* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Of The Sea* (Tapestry Opera); *Meet My Sister* (Lighthouse Festival Theatre); *A Northern Lights Dream* (Toronto Operetta Theatre); *The Events* (Necessary Angel); *Jack and the Beanstalk, The Drowsy Chaperone, Singing' In The Rain* (Drayton Entertainment); *Freaky Friday* (Theatre Aquarius). **Upcoming Projects:** *Liars at a Funeral* (Thousand Islands Playhouse). **Education/Training:** Sheridan College Technical Production for Theatre and Live Events.



Katie Saunoris, KSPR

Publicist

Pronouns: she/her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Elmvale/ Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** *The Chinese Lady*

(with Studio 180 Theatre); *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*

(with Howland Company). **Other Theatre:** Most recently - *Chris, Mrs. - A New Holiday Musical* (Boldly Productions); *Letters From Max, a ritual* (Necessary Angel); *Hypothetical Baby* (Howland/Rachel Cairns); *Migraaaants* (Two Thousands Feet Up); *Rockabye* (ARC). **Upcoming Projects:** *Four Minutes Twelve Seconds* (Studio 180 Theatre); *Tyson's Song* (Pleiades Theatre); *Keyed Up!* (Soundstreams); *Festival of Literary Diversity* (FOLD); Capitol Theatre summer season, *Kimiko's Pearl* (Bravo Niagara!). **Social Media:** @saunoris

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

TKARONTO

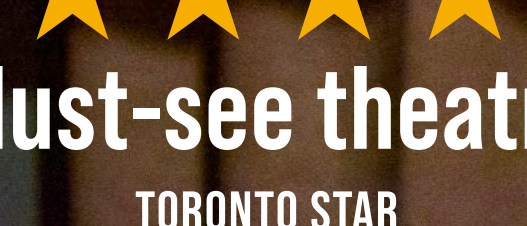
"THE PLACE IN THE WATER WHERE THE TREES ARE STANDING."

TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE WENDAT, ANISHNAABEG, HAUDENOSAUNEE, M'ETIS, AND MISSISSAUGAS OF THE CREDIT.

A SPECIAL REQUEST

In recognition of the world premiere of *shaniqua in abstraction*, Crow's Theatre has made a donation to The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), a national Indigenous organization that defends the rights, delivers programming to, and amplifies the perspectives of Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse people in Canada. We invite you to consider supporting this very worthwhile organization as well.

ON STAGE AT FACTORY



"Must-see theatre."

TORONTO STAR

CRITIC'S PICK

"A show that must be experienced."

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

DANA H

WRITTEN BY LUCAS HNATH
ADAPTED FROM INTERVIEWS WITH DANA HIGGINBOTHAM
CONDUCTED BY STEVE COSSON
DIRECTED BY LES WATERS

**MUST CLOSE APRIL 14
AT FACTORY THEATRE**

JORDAN BAKER. PHOTO BY JOHN LAUENER



UP NEXT FOR CROW'S

HUFF

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED
BY CLIFF CARDINAL
DIRECTED BY KARIN RANDOJA

Cunning Concepts
& Creations

**"UNFLINCHING...
will take your breath
away."**

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

**SEVEN PERFORMANCES ONLY
FROM APRIL 23 TO 28
IN THE GULOIEN THEATRE**

CLIFF CARDINAL. PHOTO BY JAMIE WILLIAMS



OBSIDIAN THEATRE, IN ASSOCIATION WITH CROW'S THEATRE
BY JASMINE LEE-JONES | DIRECTED BY JAY NORTHCOTT

SEVEN METHODS OF KILLING KYLIE JENNER

**ON STAGE MAY 12 - 26
IN THE STUDIO THEATRE**

CROW'S THEATRE

CROW'S THEATRE STAFF

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Chris Abraham

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sherrie Johnson

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Paolo Santalucia

ASSISTANT TO THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Christopher Manousos

GENERAL MANAGER

Katie Pounder

SENIOR PRODUCER

Heather Landon

PRODUCER

Beth Wong

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION & FACILITIES

LJ Savage

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Jeremy Hutton

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Ryan Borshuk

ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Amber Rea

HOUSE TECHNICIANS

Jay Hines

Sergey Kublanovskiy

Zach White

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Carrie Sager

SENIOR MARKETING MANAGER

Ryan Hildebrandt

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Jacob Robert Whibley

DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY

Laura Langlois

SENIOR MANAGER OF PHILANTHROPY

Nazli Nahidi

PHILANTHROPY ASSOCIATE

Alex Pompilii

FINANCE MANAGER

Walter Ho

ACCOUNTANT

Claudia Padilha

MANAGER OF TICKETING & VENUE SERVICES

Jordaan Mason

MANAGER OF SALES & FRONT OF HOUSE

Nadine Skinner

BOX OFFICE & FRONT OF HOUSE SUPERVISORS

Sabrina Weinstein

BOX OFFICE & FRONT OF HOUSE SWING SUPERVISORS

Rebecca Bauer

Bonnie Duff

Gabriella (Gabbi) Kosmidis

Miranda Wiseman

BOX OFFICE REPRESENTATIVES

Rebecca Bauer

Tianna Dang

Bonnie Duff

Elyssa Hsu

Madeline Kennedy

Gabriella (Gabbi) Kosmidis

Theodore Zachariah

BAR MANAGER

Ted Hallett

BARTENDERS

Siobhan Gallagher

Max Mohenu

Navtej Sandhu

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Prakash Amarasooriya

Shelby Austin

Elly Barlin-Daniels

Josef Bornbaum

John Brodhead

Layth Gafoor

Gabe Gonda

Heather Jessiman

John F. Kissoon

Anne Maggisano

Gurbani Marwah

Seaton McLean

Max Meighen

Jonathan Nehmetallah

Margaret Nelligan, Board Chair

Michael Paris

Wendy Pitblado

Greg Reed, Treasurer

Nancy Tremblay, Secretary

Nancy Lockhart, Chair Emerita

SEE OUR HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITMENT [HERE](#)

Streetcar Crowsnest

345 Carlaw Avenue

Toronto, Ontario M4M 2T1

Crow's Theatre Box Office

647.341.7390

crowstheatre.com

THANK YOU

CROW'S THEATRE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES ALL THE DONORS WHO SUPPORT OUR ONGOING CREATION OF THEATRE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CANADIAN ARTISTS IN OUR EAST END HOME.

LEAD SEASON SPONSOR



LEAD SEASON FOUNDATION



LEAD SEASON PATRON

SYLVIA SOYKA

VISIONARY CIRCLE

SEATON MCLEAN & SONJA SMITS

SANDRA & JIM PITBLADO

ANONYMOUS

CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION CHAMPIONS



MAJOR DONORS

ANONYMOUS

MARILYN & CHARLES BAILLIE

JOSEF BORNBAUM

ANNA MCCOWAN-JOHNSON & DONALD K. JOHNSON, O.C.

CENTRE FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS IN MEMORY OF ABEL JOSEPH "JACK" DIAMOND

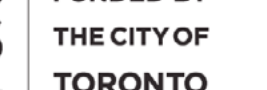
PETER DANIELS & ELLY BARLIN-DANIELS

THE ESTATE OF GEORGE EDWARD GRANT

GERALD LUNZ & RICK MERCER

BOB & TERRY SMITH

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS



THANK YOU!

STAY ENGAGED WITH CROW'S

Join a community of theatre enthusiasts and unlock exclusive discounts, early-bird ticket offers, and behind-the-scenes insights.

Ignite your passion and indulge in the wonders of theatre!

SIGN UP NOW!

