



# **RICHARD THREE**

**2023 Digital Program**

SHAKESPEARE IN THE  
**RUFF**

# **RICHARD THREE**

Created by Patricia Allison

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## **CAST**

<b>Alex Bulmer</b>	Richard
<b>Alexia Vassos</b>	Richard
<b>Christine Horne</b>	Everyone Else

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

<b>Patricia Allison</b>	Director/Choreographer
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<b>Amelia Blaine</b>	Set Designer
<b>Carley Melvin</b>	Lighting Designer
<b>Michael Wanless</b>	Sound Designer
<b>Julia Kim</b>	Costume Designer

<b>Alysse Szatkowski</b>	Stage Manager
<b>Kasie Rayner</b>	Assistant Stage Manager
<b>Léah Zack</b>	Support Worker

<b>Aden Altamirano</b>	Production Manager / Carpenter
<b>Carley Melvin</b>	Technical Director / Carpenter / PA
<b>Katya Arifin</b>	Captions Coordinator / PA
<b>Lucia Llano</b>	FOH Manager

<b>Janice Peters Gibson</b>	Producer
<b>Jeff Yung</b>	Producer
<b>Pj Prudat</b>	Producer
<b>Shivani Joshi</b>	Generator APT Producer
<b>Elizabeth Morris</b>	Deaf Community Consultant
<b>Ophira Calof</b>	Accessibility Community Consultant

Ruff Collective Members:

**Patricia Allison, Christine Horne, PJ Prudat, Jeff Yung**



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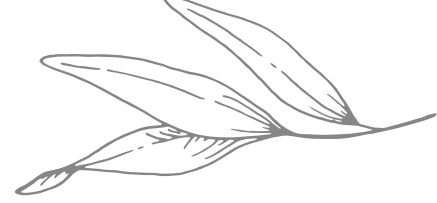
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COMMITMENT**





# A note from the Director

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## What was your inspiration to do Shakespeare's Richard III?

Because it was time that the Disability community claimed the role of Richard to make it their own. It's time that we have Disabled actors playing Richard III.

## Why reimagine Shakespeare's Richard III in a Multiverse?

Because it's SO COOL

But geeky-ness aside, for *Richard Three*, I really wanted to dissect the harmful Disability Trope that Richard's character is based on; Disability as Monstrosity.

As someone living with multiple sclerosis, I live with continually evolving symptoms. Like branches on a tree, my life can split in new directions. With each sclerosis that solidifies as a lesion in my brain, my life has the potential to either split in big, wild, and significant ways OR my life continues to grow on quietly with indistinguishable differences. And you guessed it, I have multiple of these sclerosis.

The most impactful damage to my brain, which affects me in both physical and cognitive ways, has forced me to confront different versions of myself. Versions that are constantly comparing who I am now to who I "used to be" and what I "used to be able to do" while simultaneously grieving "who I could have become" and what my life "could have been".

By using science fiction and bringing the character of Richard III into a multiverse we are able to create infinite possibilities for the exploration of the character. We can have multiple Richards with varying lived experiences or Disabilities and/or opinions and perspectives.

So, my experience of living with multiple sclerosis is why I was inspired and compelled to explore the character of Shakespeare's Richard III this way. The possibilities are endless.

MULTI(verse)PLE SCLEROSIS

Intergalactically yours,

Patricia Allison  
Aka Trish





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# Cast & Creative Team

in alphabetical order



**Patricia Allison** Playwright/Ruff Collective Member/ Director

she/her | @instapatzi

Patricia Allison is a settler currently based in Toronto. She is a choreographer, filmmaker, educator & performer. In 2018 she co-won a Dora Award for Best Director in Independent Theatre for *Pool (No Water)* with Cue6 productions. Patricia is a graduate of ladmme l'école danse contemporaine and holds a Masters of Fine Arts in Dance. She lives in a body that has Multiple Sclerosis and is an advocate for inclusion and access in the arts. She is a member of the Shakespeare in the Ruff Leadership Collective.



**Katya Arifin** Captions Coordinator /PA

they/them

Katya Arifin feels incredibly privileged to take part in Shakespeare in the Ruff's production of *Richard Three!* As a writer, student, and habitual chatterbox, they are interested in how language reflects identity, culture, and land. Although currently in Toronto working as a production assistant and children's theatre performer, they typically live in Anemki Wajiw Robinson-Superior Treaty territory, where they are studying towards their BA in English and Indigenous Learning at Lakehead University.



**Amelia McCarthy Blaine** Set/Props Designer

she/they | @badfoxperformance

Amelia McCarthy Blaine is a Toronto-based multidisciplinary artist specializing in puppetry, design, and stage management. Amelia is the artistic lead of BadFox Performance, which recently presented a workshop of their show *Mass Exodus* at Tarragon Theatre. Amelia is so jazzed to be working with Ruff again, after having previously assistant stage managed Otíhéw and Portia's *Julius Caesar*. Select other credits include: Production Head of Props; *Rock of Ages* (Elgin Theatre), Creator/Puppeteer; *Halloween Hullabaloo* (Theatre Direct) Costume Designer; *The Bacchae*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Panoply Collective) Film: Puppet Builder; *The Lost Seahorse*, Puppeteer; *Bird Hostage*, *La Cumbia Del Oso*, *Fish Out Of Water*. Amelia graduated from Toronto Metropolitan University with a BFA in Theatre Production and Design. You can follow their theatrical explorations at @badfoxperformance.

# Cast & Creative Team

continued



**Alex Bulmer** Richard

she/her | @thealexbulmer

Named one of the most influential disabled artists by UK's Power Magazine, Alex has over thirty professional years' experience across theatre, film, radio and education. She is fueled by a curiosity of the improbable, dedicated to collaborative practice, and deeply informed by her experience of becoming blind. Alex is co-founder of The Fire and Rescue Team "Perceptual Archaeology (or How To Travel Blind)", was lead curator of CoMotion Festival with Harbourfront Centre, and former AD of Common Boots. She established the New Writing department with Graeae, the UK's leading disabled theatre company, is writer of multiple BBC radio dramas, writer of Breathe which opened the London 2012 Olympics, writer of the Dora and Chalmers nominated SMUDGE, and co-writer of the BAFTA-nominated television series Cast Offs. Alex's practice infuses interdependent perception into the arts.



**Aden Calvin** Production Manager

he/him

Aden is a Toronto based creative, and a graduate of TMU's Performance Production Program. Aden is super grateful to the Ruff leadership for having him on the show, and the absolutely stellar production team! When he's not doing theatre stuff you can find him playing music and writing songs, or playing a borderline unhealthy amount of video games. Much love to Aden's friends, family and trusted colleagues! Selected credits: Assistant Production Manager, Treemonisha (Volcano Theatre/Luminato Festival) Production Manager, A Grimm Night (TranscenDance Project); Props Assistant, Niizh (Native Earth Performing Arts); Production Manager, La Bete (Talk is Free Theatre); StageManager/Production Consultant, Narnia (Bad Hats Theatre); Assistant Production Manager, Margarita (Holla Jazz/Fall For Dance North); Stagehand, Mashup: Pon Di Road (Why Not Theatre); Production Coordinator, WeeFestival 2022 (WeeFestival). Upcoming Works: Production Manager, Canoe (Unsettled Scores/Native Earth Performing Arts/Theatre Passe Muraille)



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# Cast & Creative Team

continued



## **Ophira Calof** Disability Community Consultant

they/she

Ophira Calof is a disabled writer, performer and producer who works to “crip the script,” centring disability knowledge and experience. Some of their credits include Kids In The Hall (Amazon Prime), PUSH (CBC), sketch comedy revue Generally Hospital (Canadian Comedy Award Nominee) and their solo show Literally Titanium, which has been featured in both academic and performance spaces as a case study in accessible production.



## **Christine Horne** Everyone Else

she/her | @christinehorneofficial

Christine’s stage credits include Things I Know To Be True (Company Theatre/Mirvish), Three Sisters (Howland Co.), Light (Tarragon) Prince Hamlet, Iceland (Why Not Theatre), Portia’s Julius Caesar (Shakespeare in the Ruff), Asking For It (Crow’s/Nightwood), Tom At The Farm (Buddies), The Seagull (Crow’s), Belleville (Company Theatre), Vimy, Farther West (Soulpepper), Between the Sheets (Nightwood), The Great Gatsby (The Grand), Andromache (Necessary Angel), Romeo and Juliet (Canadian Stage), The Turn of the Screw (DVxT), and Miss Julie: Sheh’mah (KICK Theatre). She was part of the Stratford Festival’s Langham Director’s Workshop in 2021 where she co-adapted and assistant directed R+J. She is a member of the Collective Artistic Leadership of Shakespeare in the Ruff. Christine also works extensively in film and television and recently wrapped Fellow Travelers for Showtime. She has received a Dora Award, a Canadian Screen Award, and the Birks Diamond Tribute to Women in Film.



## **Shivani Joshi** Artist/Producer in Training

she/her

Shivani has been trained as a Bharatnatyam dancer for over 20 years and graduated with a MA in performance studies from NYU Tisch in 2021. Her dissertation focused on communities of women creating cultural spaces, colonialism in India, and how it affected Bharatnatyam as a whole. Shivani advocates for the importance of folk arts, such as Garba, and teaches various folk dances and prop work that is prominent in Indian culture. She works as an arts educator and guest speaker, offering workshops about Indian heritage, women’s spaces, dance, and diversity. She works as an artist/writer/producer, combining media and narrative to explore stories to tell modern stories, and playing with metaphor in physical form. She is very excited to join Shakespeare in the Ruff this season!

# Cast & Creative Team

continued



**Julia Kim** **Costume Designer**

she/her | @yeon.\_.studio

Julia Kim is a set, costume, and projection designer based in Toronto. She graduated from TMU (formerly Ryerson University) with a BFA (Hons.) in Performance Production in 2015. She's been working mostly in Southern Ontario, designing for independent theatre and dance productions, and working as an assistant designer at Stratford Festival and Shaw Festival. She's been working with Hanna Kiel and Human Body Expression since 2015. In 2020, she was nominated for Pauline McGibbon Award. For the past two years, she worked as a resident designer at Motyer-Fancy Theatre at Mount Allison University, now back in Toronto. [www.yeon.studio](http://www.yeon.studio)



**Lucía Llana** **Front of House Manager**

she/her

Lucía Llana is a professional dancer and teacher from Bogotá, Colombia where she trained at MISI - School of Musical Theatre. She graduated with a BFA in Dance from York University and continued her professional development upon graduation participating in numerous training programs including Deltebre Dansa Summer Intensive in Spain. In 2019 Lucía collaborated with renowned dance artist Mateo Galindo Torres in a solo performance presented at Cultural Pluralism of Ontario. In 2022, she danced in Jessie Reyez's music video 'Mutual Friend' choreographed by Martha Hart and continued working with her as a member of hART Dance Company. She enjoys working with interdisciplinary artists exploring physical theatre with David Wilson and The Parahumans and modelling for photographers such as Zahra Saleki. Lucía is a lifelong learner interested in performance and promoting movement education in Toronto and her home country.



**Carley Melvin** **Lighting Designer/Technical Director/Production Assistant/  
Carpenter**

she/her

Carley is delighted to be back for her second year with Shakespeare in the Ruff as Technical Director, Carpenter and Production Assistant. This will also be her first time as a lighting designer for an outdoor theatre. She was most recently Assistant Technical Director at Tarragon Theatre for their 22/23 season. Carley graduated from the Technical Production for the Performing Arts Industry Program at Sheridan College in 2022 where she specialized in Lighting, Carpentry and Technical management. Now, she loves being able to bring people together through theatre. She also has a small painting business and loves to travel.





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# Cast & Creative Team

continued



**Elizabeth Morris** Deaf Community Consultant

she/her | @elizabethmarymorris

Elizabeth Morris is Deaf Community Consultant for Shakespeare in the Ruff, for several years now. She has a master degree in Inclusive Design from OCAD University. Her master's research was based on creating live theatre to be more accessible and inclusive for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, including their families and friends. She won a medal (Inclusive Design's program) for her research's exhibition at OCAD U's 102nd GradEx. She consults and designs the space for theatre and film, more accessible and inclusive for deaf and Hard of Hearing. She is also a professional actor, ASL coach, ASL instructor, and Deaf interpreter for theatre and film.



**Ethan Joshua Persyko** Young Ruffian Facilitator

they/them | @ethan\_joshuaa

Ethan is an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary theatre and film artist, born in Vaughan, Ontario. Their artistic practice engages with ethics and mental health, and explores their intersections in film and theatre. Ethan is also an Intimacy Coordinator-Scholar, and has devoted the last two years to intimacy and sustainability training. Other elements of focus include creative writing, Clown/Improv, and ensemble work. Past directing involvements include the Inside Out Festival, Alumnae Theatre, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre and Tarragon Theatre.



**Janice Peters Gibson** Producer

she/her | @janicepetersgib

Janice is an arts manager, producer, performer, and award-winning stage manager who has been a theatre maker for as long as she can remember. Originally from PEI/Epekwitk, Janice was Managing Producer for The Company Theatre in Toronto for 13 years bringing audiences *The Test*, *Speaking in Tongues*, *Belleville*, *Domesticated*, *The Seagull*, *John*, *Jerusalem*, and most recently *Things I Know to be True* in partnership with Mirvish Productions. As an independent producer, she has collaborated with companies such as Theatrefront (*The Orange Dot*, *Mules*) and Shakespeare in the Ruff (*Otîhêw*). Janice is also a founder of and Digital Manager for *Intermission Magazine* and works remotely as Social Media & Digital Marketing Manager for County Stage Company in Prince Edward County.



# Cast & Creative Team

continued



**PJ Prudat** **Ruff Collective Member / Producer / Young Ruffian Program Director**  
she/her

PJ is a Treaty 6 born, proud Halfbreed~Métis/nehiyaw & european descended playwright, actor and writer, She holds artistic/creator residencies with Nightswimming and the Theatre Centre. PJ has performed at the Shaw Festival, the National Arts Centre and in luminous IBPOC creative-led shows across the country. Her maternal great-grandparents and theirs, travelled by dog team and waterways, were Buffalo hunters, Résistance fighters, & Treaty Six hereditary-chief signatories. She loves tacos, hats, poetry, and believes horses and riding are what dreams are made of.



**Kasie Rayner** **Assistant Stage Manager**  
she/her

Kasie Rayner is thrilled to be a part of this year's Shakespeare in the Ruff production of Richard Three and spending her summer in Withrow Park. Freshly graduated from Sheridan College's Technical Production program, and in recent years, she has been a part of the stage management crew on productions such as Urinetown, Casimir and Caroline and Spring Awakening with Theatre Sheridan, and Things I Know To Be True with Company Theatre and Mirvish Productions. She is so grateful to be working with this wonderful cast and crew, and to be stepping onto the Canadian theatre scene!



**Sienna Singh** **Chidcare Provider**  
she/her

Sienna is a care taker as well as an actor/director. She has spent the last few years dedicated to her theatre collective Panoply, which she runs with two of her former classmates. She also works as a care taker for young children and she works independently as well as for the Summerhill Club. Select theatre credits: For Shakespeare in the Ruff: Young Ruffian (2013); Chorus, Portia's Julius Caesar; Joan of Arc, Queen Margaret. Other: Mass Exodus (BadFox Collective); LoveSick, Macbeth, and Romeo & Juliet (Panoply Collective); Portia's Julius Caesar (Shakespeare in The Ruff); 'Tis Pity She's a Whore (Shakespeare Bash'd); Directing: A midsummer Night's Dream (Panoply Collective); Apprentice Director for Things I Know to be True (CompanyTheatre/Mirvish). Select Film/Tv credits: Fingernails (Apple TV); Locke & Key (Netflix); Grand Army (Netflix) It's been a DREAMLAND getting to run around Withrow Park and go on adventures with this kid!



# Cast & Creative Team

continued



**Alysse Szatkowski** Stage Manager

she/her

Alysse is ecstatic to be making her debut with Shakespeare in the Ruff and this stellar team! She is a Queen's University grad and started her theatre career with Theatre Kingston and the Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque. Since moving to Toronto in 2019, she has worked with Soupepper, Tarragon, Factory, Outside the March, the Company Theatre, Mirvish, and the Stratford Festival. She currently resides in Toronto with her cat Rick (Richard I).



**Alexia Vassos** Richard

she/her | @alexiaavassos

Alexia Vassos is an actor and writer currently based in Toronto. An alumna from the Theatre and Drama Studies joint program between the University of Toronto and Sheridan College, she holds a Bachelor of Arts with Honours and an Advanced Diploma in Acting. Since graduating, she's appeared both on stage and screen in a variety of commercial campaigns as well as TV and film projects. In her recent endeavours, Alexia has been able to combine her love of the arts with her passion for disability advocacy, moderating events, participating on panels and facilitating workshops that focus on accessibility within the industry and reflect her experiences as a Disabled artist. Alexia is absolutely thrilled that her Toronto theatre debut is with this company, alongside this cast, for this show.



**Michael Wanless** Sound Designer

they/them

Michael is a sound designer and theatre artist based in Tkaronto. They are a graduate of the Production, Design, and Technical Arts program at the National Theatre School of Canada, and have worked professionally as a sound designer since 2013. Their recent projects include Making Spirits Bright with Globe Theatre and Elephant with bluemouth inc., as well as producing and sound designing the narrative podcast The Rest is Electric. Their interests are wide ranging, but of particular interest to them are queer stories as well as stories from other marginalized and under-served communities.

# Cast & Creative Team

continued



**Nicole Wilson** Young Ruffian Coordinator

she/her

Nicole is over-the-moon to be working with Shakespeare in the Ruff this year. She is a Toronto-based actor, creator, director, and theatre educator. She is a co-founder of Good Old Neon, an ensemble-driven experimental performance company, and the Artistic Director of act2studioWORKS. Nicole teaches first year acting at George Brown Theatre School, and has also taught acting, improvisation, and collective creation at Toronto Metropolitan University, Bad Dog Theatre, and Impatient Theatre. Recent directing credits: *Frankenstein(esque)*, *A Lysistrata*, *Us Against Everyone*, *One Left Hour: The Life and Work of Daniil Kharms*, and *Blue Remembered Hills*. Recent acting credits: Claire Tinsdale in *Good Witch* (seasons 6,7), *The Real Sherlock Holmes* (Lighthouse Festival Theatre), the UK tour of *Mankind* and *The Pride of Life* (Poculi Ludique Societas); *The Belt and the Necklace* (Odyssey Theatre); *Potosi* (Good Old Neon); *Brimstone and Treacle* (Precisely Peter Productions); and *The Seagull* (Chekhov Collective at The Berkeley Theatre).



**Jeff Yung** Ruff Collective Member / Producer

he/him

Jeff Yung is a Tkarón:to based actor, martial artist, and sometimes poet and ¼ of the Shakespeare in the Ruff artistic leadership collective. He is feeling grateful to have experienced the incredible courage, teamwork, and coming together that the entire *Richard Three* team has done to bring this story to life. Big love to everyone who had a hand in making it happen. Thank you so much for joining us in the park to experience it.



**Léah Zack** Support Worker

she/her | @leah\_zack

Léah (she/her) is an actor, singer, songwriter and dancer who was born in Montréal/Tiohtià:ke and raised in Victoria, Vancouver Island/Camosack. Léah is passionate about making theatre accessible for theatre makers and audiences alike, and could not be more excited to be working with Shakespeare in the Ruff for the first time! This fall, Léah will be entering her final year at Sheridan College for the Honours Bachelor of Musical Theatre Performance Program. She is honoured to work with such an inspiring team and is especially grateful to Alex Bulmer, for the daily life chats on the walk to work.

# The Young Ruffians

apprenticeship program



**Claire Alexander**

I'm so happy to have been able to participate in the young ruffians apprenticeship program this summer. I'm extremely grateful to everyone I've been able to work with these past few weeks: my fellow young ruffians (Joelle, Tyler, Chris, and Jules), Ethan, Nicole, PJ, Jeff, and everyone else at the company.

**Julie Pearson**

Julie Pearson (she/her) is a second year student at George Brown Theatre School. She is an actress, musician, writer, dancer, and teacher. In her first year, she most notably played Harper Pitt (Angels in America) and Cordelia (King Lear). Julie sends much love and gratitude to facilitators Ethan, PJ, and Nicole, as well as her fellow Young Ruffians for contributing to such a beautiful welcoming space to make art.



**Joelle Tse**

I'm Joelle Tse, a grade 11 student at Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute, and I'm so happy to be a member of the Young Ruffians Program! I've been a member of several theatre companies in the past and more recently, participating in my school's United Artists program as a costume designer. Thank you to my peers and facilitators in the Young Ruffians group for being so supportive and inspirational!



**Chris Vlado**

Chris is currently heading into his first year at the University of Toronto. During his schooling at Martingrove Collegiate Institute, he participated heavily in the theatre program playing various roles as an actor. Artistic expression has played a prominent role in his life and he has experimented with a plethora of creative pursuits including theatre, visual art, music, and writing.



**Tyler Yeung**

My name is Tyler Yeung and I'm so excited to be a part of the Young Ruffians Program! I'm going into the 11th grade at Earl Haig Secondary School, and I'm a part of the drama program. Over the last year I was in a production of "The Addams Family Musical" where I played Pugsley Addams, as well as acting in our one act play festival. I'm looking forward to my school's production of "Into The Woods" next year where I'll be playing The Wolf! I'd like to thank our fearless leaders Ethan Nicole and Pj for all their support over the past 5 weeks and also my drama teacher for encouraging me to apply for this program. Enjoy the show and Keep shining!





**Congratulations for  
another  
successful season!**



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***We wish Shakespeare in the Ruff all the best with this production.***



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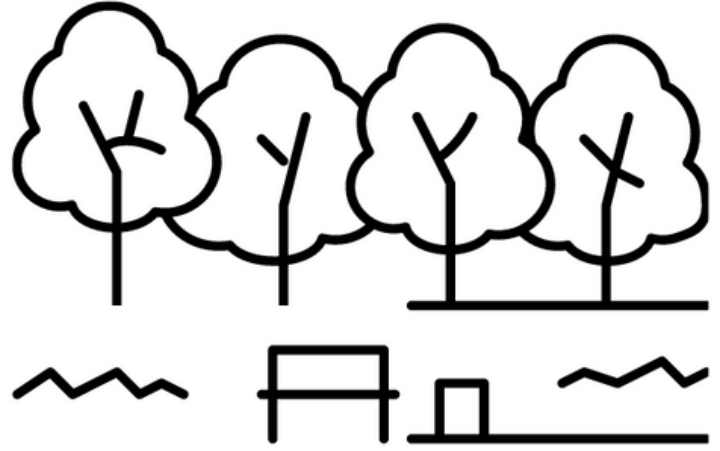
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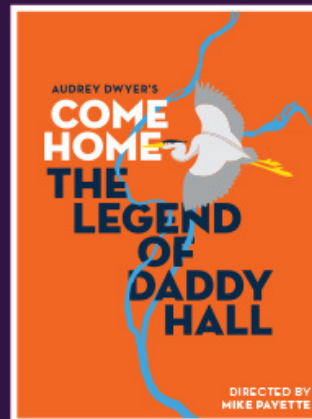
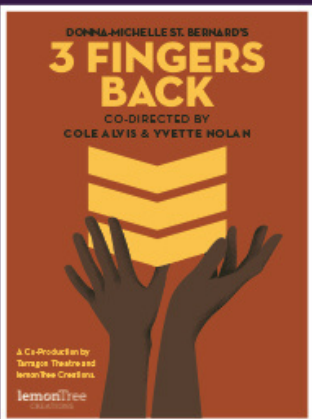
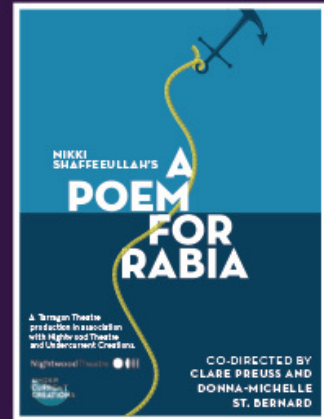
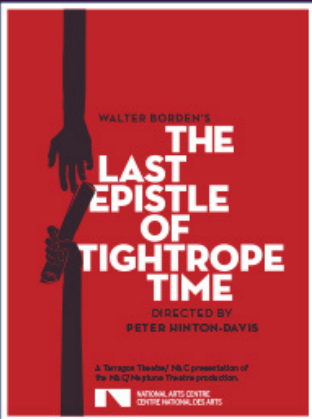
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**Fernando Alfaro | Breanna Maloney | Andrew Moodie | Marlis Schweitzer**



## Special Thank Yous

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We would like to extend a special thank you to the following individuals and companies who gave advice, time, resources and more throughout the process of bringing our production to audiences this year.

**act2studioWORKS | Patrick Blaine | Averil Bott | Kyle Dean | Shawn Doyle**  
**Driftwood Theatre | Fire and Rescue Team | Generator Theatre**  
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