



PROUDLY PRESENTS A PUBLIC READING OF

TYSON'S SONG

FRIDAY JUNE 16TH 7:30PM
FACTORY THEATRE - STUDIO



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Andrey Tarasiuk

Artistic Producer - Designate
Ash Knight

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Toronto is home to Indigenous peoples and people from around the world, and Pleiades gives home to their theatre. Whether as translations, adaptations, or original works, join us and explore great plays that raise the curtain on some of the rich cultures that make up Canada today. Everything at Pleiades is about cultural encounters and bridging divides. What could be more Canadian?

Founded in 1997 by John Van Burek, Pleiades Theatre is now led by Artistic Producer Andrey Tarasiuk and Artistic Producer - Designate Ash Knight.

A tax-deductible donation to Pleiades Theatre may be made by cheque, VISA, MasterCard or, online, through CanadaHelps.org. To make a donation, please mail a cheque to the address below or contact us at 416-203-1227 or at info@pleiadestheatre.org

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S30 - 401 Richmond Street West
Toronto, ON M5V 3A8

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www.pleiadestheatre.org

Pleiades Theatre Proudly Presents
a Public Reading of

TYSON'S SONG

By **Peter N. Bailey**

Director - **Ash Knight**

Tyson - **Matthew G. Brown**

Bryan - **Christopher Allen**

Running time is 60 minutes with no intermission.

Please turn off your cell phones before the performance. The taking of photographs or video and use of any kind of recording device is prohibited in the theatre.

We acknowledge that Pleiades Theatre operates in Tkaronto: the traditional and sacred territory of the Wendat, the Anishinaabe and the Haudenosaunee, Métis, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and many other Nations recorded or unrecorded.

This territory is the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant.

These Nations have taken care of this land for countless generations. They continue to do so today, and they will do so for generations to come. We are grateful to be able to work, live, create and grow on this land.

Pleiades Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and engages, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional Artists who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association. Pleiades Theatre also abides by the PACT Agreement with members of the ADC (Associated Designers of Canada), and the Playwrights Guild of Canada. We are also an active member of the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA).

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PETER N. BAILEY

PLAYWRIGHT

Born in Toronto, ON // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Gas Girls*** / New Harlem Productions
- ***A Raisin in the Sun*** / Black Theatre Workshop
- ***Other Side of the Game*** / Cahoots Theatre Co., Obsidian Theatre
- ***Fences*** / The Grand Theatre
- ***A Few Good Men*** / Drayton Entertainment

Peter N. Bailey graduated from the Humber College Theatre Performance program in 2003. Peter's acting credits include *Other Side of the Game* (Cahoots Theatre Co. and Obsidian Theatre), *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Richard III*, *All's Well That Ends Well* (Stratford Festival), *Fences* (Grand Theatre), *Here Are the Fragments* (The Theatre Centre), *Romeo and Juliet*, *Sweat* (Canadian Stage Company), *A Few Good Men* (Drayton Entertainment). Peter's voice coaching credits include: Stratford Festival, National Theatre School, and Sheridan College Theatre and Drama Studies.



ASH KNIGHT

DIRECTOR

ARTISTIC PRODUCER - DESIGNATE, PLEIADES THEATRE

Born in Montreal, QC // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Lesson in Forgetting*** / Pleiades Theatre / Director
- ***Henry VIII*** / Stratford Festival / Assistant Director
- ***Tragedie of Lear*** / Ad-Hoc Collective for... / Director
- ***Carried Away on the Crest of a Wave*** / Tarragon Theatre / Actor – Father Thomas
- ***Much Ado About Nothing*** / St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival / Actor – Benedick

Awards/Nominations

- Theatre Critics Award Nomination, Best Director of *Tragedie of Lear*
- Dora Award Nomination for Best Actor in *Brothel #9*

Ash attended the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art for 3 years on a scholarship, graduating with a RADA Diploma and a Bachelor's of Acting from the University of London.

Ash returned to Canada and performed at the Stratford Festival of Canada. He's worked with talented artists in the U.K., the U.S.A., all over Canada, and even Uganda. He's been part of countless productions and new play development workshops at every theatre in Toronto, and recently completed his first year at the Langham Workshop for Classical Directing.

Thanks to my beautiful partner, Zinta. Without you, I couldn't do any of this.



MATTHEW G. BROWN

ACTOR – TYSON

Born in Toronto, ON // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Credits

- *Is God Is* / Obsidian, Canadian Stage, NAC / Chuck Hall
- *Intimate Apparel* / Belfry / George Armstrong
- *Little Shop of Horrors* / Stratford Festival / Audrey Two
- *Billy Elliot* / Stratford Festival / Mr. Braithwaite
- *Calpurnia* / Nightwood / Mark

Awards/Nominations

Dora Mavor Moore Award Winner

Outstanding Ensemble - *Cinderella: a RATical retelling*

Outstanding Ensemble - *Wizard of Oz*

People's Choice award - *Jersey Boys*

Matthew G. Brown has been singing, dancing and acting most of his life. Brown was born in Toronto to a Jamaican mother and father and he began his musical training at the age of five; studying piano, drums, voice, and musical theatre at Dixon Hall Music School. Matthew is an alumni of the Randolph College for the performing Arts and the Canadian Film Centre Actors Conservatory. He has worked on numerous stage, film and television productions across Canada. Most recently he appeared in an episode of *Pretty Hard Cases*. Look out for Matthew in an episode of the upcoming TV series *Fellow Travellers* produced by Showtime.

Social Media: @ItsMrMGB



CHRISTOPHER ALLEN

ACTOR – BRYAN

Born in Brampton, ON // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- *Redbone Coonhound* / Tarragon Theatre, Imago Theatre / Mike, Glib, Tom
- *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* / Crow's Theatre / Kev
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* / Bard on the Beach / Demetrius
- *Orphans for the Czar* / Crow's Theatre / Yakov
- *Sweet* / Canadian Stage / Chris

Awards/Nominations

Winner, Outstanding Performance – Ensemble Theatre for Young Audiences Dora Mavor Moore Award 2018.

Nomination, Outstanding Performance - Ensemble Theatre for Young Audiences Dora Mavor Moore Award 2019 (*Antigone*: FONG)

Born and raised in Brampton, Ontario, Christopher began his acting career after graduating from the Acting Conservatory at York University, with special honours. Since then he's gone on to play roles in theatres across Canada and some hearty roles in Film and Television. Christopher hopes to be involved in many more new play developments over the course of his career, and strives to bring out the beauty, nuances, and complexity of humanity in every role he plays.



ANDREY TARASIUK

ARTISTIC PRODUCER, PLEIADES THEATRE

Born in Winnipeg, MB // Lives in Toronto & Stratford, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Luba, Simply Luba*** by Diane Flacks / Pleiades Theatre, Red Boots Canada / Director
- ***The Donnellys: Sticks & Stones*** by James Reaney / Stratford Festival, NAC / Director
- ***Quiet in the Land*** by Anne Chislett/ Stratford Festival/Director
- ***Tin Can Cathedral*** by Nick Mitchell / Prairie Theatre Exchange / Director
- ***Vicious Little Boyz in the Rain*** by Gil Garratt / Theatre Passe Muraille / Director
- ***Just a Kommedia*** by Nika Rylski and Company / Chysta Productions / National Tour / Director & Producer

Awards/Nominations

- Derek F. Mitchell/Artistic Director's Award, Stratford Festival of Canada
- Tyrone Guthrie Award, Stratford Festival of Canada
- Co-laureate: Kobzar Literary Award for *Luba, Simply Luba*

A graduate of the University of Manitoba and the National Theatre School of Canada, Andrey Tarasiuk has been associated with almost every major theatre in this country. He is the founder of Red Boots Canada and he is currently the Artistic Producer of Pleiades Theatre. At the Stratford Festival, where he was Associate Artistic Director and Head of New Play Development, Mr. Tarasiuk also directed a number of productions including James Reaney's *The Donnellys: Sticks and Stones*, Anne Chislett's *Quiet in the Land*, and the premiere of Anton Piatigorsky's *Eternal Hydra*. In the mid-eighties, he initiated and acted as the founding producer of Toronto's Shakespeare in High Park, and was the director of many radio dramas with CBC Radio Canada, before going on to become Artistic Producer for Theatre Direct Canada. Mr. Tarasiuk has also been a guest instructor and director for theatre training programs across the country including the National Theatre School of Canada and the University of Winnipeg. He is the recipient of a number of awards and distinctions including the co-laureate of the Kobzar Literary Award for the play *Luba, Simply Luba*, which he commissioned, developed and directed in 2013, in a co-production between Pleiades Theatre and Red Boots Canada.

PRODUCTION TEAM



LAURYN SHERWOOD

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR (PLEIADES)

Born in Vancouver, BC // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Casimir and Caroline*** / University of Toronto / Actor: Caroline
- ***No Exit*** / Trinity College Dramatic Society / Actor: Estelle
- ***Constellations*** / University of Toronto / Actor: Marianne
- ***A Midsummer's Night Dream*** / University of Toronto / Actor: Titania/Hippolyta
- ***The Sound of Music*** / Vocal Associates / Actor: Liesl

Awards/Nominations

High Distinction, Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Toronto.

Having graduated from the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Toronto, Lauryn has interned at the Theatre Passe Muraille and is thrilled to join the team at Pleiades Theatre. Her most prominent role is Estelle in *No Exit*. Fluent in both English and French, Lauryn has several years of mime, mask and clown training from the successors of Marcel Marceau. She trained in classical voice with Singapore's Khor Ai Ming, which allowed her to play Liesl in the Esplanade's production of *The Sound of Music*. Dedicated to cinematography, Lauryn is also an avid film-watcher and photographer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pleiades gratefully acknowledges support from the following Foundations:

- The McLean Foundation
- The Norman and Margaret Jewison Charitable Foundation
- The John McKellar Charitable Foundation
- The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation

Special Thanks

- Mel Hague, Mark Aikman and all the staff at Factory Theatre for their support on this unique project
- We would like to thank Obsidian Theatre Company and Jumblies Theatre for the developmental support of this work. Without them and all the workshop actors (Christopher Allen, Christef Desir, Matthew G. Brown and Jordin Hall), we would not be here today.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FOR STANDING BY US DURING THE PANDEMIC

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STAR DUST (\$50-\$199)

Dr. Iris Gorfinkel, Valerie Thompson, Hersh Zeifman

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visit pleiadestheatre.org/support-us.**



THE ANNE & JOHN VAN BUREK FUND FOR TRANSLATION IN ENGLISH

John Van Burek retired in 2017 as the Founding Artistic Director of Pleiades Theatre and as a seminal figure in the translations of works by Canadian and international authors especially between French and English.

In parallel with her husband's accomplishments and throughout her own professional career, Anne Nenarokoff-Van Burek, a noted author, identified and translated celebrated works of literature, particularly from original French and Russian texts.

Pleiades Theatre in Toronto has been the beneficiary of the Van Bureks' insights and energies and it is to honour and to build upon these legacies that our Theatre has established a perpetual Fund named for these two important Canadians and designated to carry on their personal specialty, standards and skills.

We gratefully acknowledge support for the Fund by:

Silent Donors, Beth Alexander, David Angelo, Harry Arthurs, Elizabeth Asselstine, Nina Bakan, Jules Bloch & Barbara Falk, Michael & Diana Bourassa, John Bradshaw, Sarah Bradshaw, Reginald Bronskill & Helen Findlay, Elaine Calder, Janet M. Casagrande, John M. Cryan, Michel D'Astous & Lily Gaudreault, Joan & David Dehm, Susan Drodge, Barbara Fingerote, Agence Goodwin Inc., Catherine & Bill Graham, Daniel Hall, Linda Intaschi, Anne Karpoff, Ava Kitz, Aleks Leszczynski, Peter & Kathleen Keefe, Jeanne Le Gal, Brian & Andrea Meeson, Geoffrey & Elizabeth Miller, Eleanor Moore, Ian Morrison, Richard Mozer, Tannie Ng, Tenny Nigoghossian, Marcie Rosenberg, Margo Siminovitch & Dr. Alan Peterson, Michael Stewart, The Chawkers Foundation, Samantha Peng, June Anne Reid, Suzanne & John Stewart, Melvish Syed, Gestions Michel Tremblay Inc., Andrey Tarasiuk & John Miller, The Linden School, Laura Trachuk & Marty Katz, Sheila Wahl, Tulay Yalcin.

To make a contribution, please forward cheques, marked clearly for:

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**Keep an eye out for
Pleiades 23/24 Season
announcement on social media!**



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www.pleiadestheatre.org