

PLEIADES
THEATRE



Red Beti Theatre
1983-2023
DIVERSE TALES | WOMEN'S VOICES

In Association with



PROUDLY PRESENT A PUBLIC READING OF

CHOTI CHOTI BATAIN

WRITTEN BY SANSKRUTI MARATHE AND DAVINDER MALHI

APRIL 16TH, 2023 6PM BRAMPTON CIVIC CENTRE - MUSIC ROOM



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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

Pleiades Theatre

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

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info@pleiadestheatre.org

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www.pleiadestheatre.org



Red Beti Theatre is the sole not-for-profit Indigenous, Black and People of Colour (IBPOC) Theatre company in Hamilton, Ontario.

RBT commissions and presents live performances created and written by IBPOC Women in order to contribute bold and relevant artistic voices to the Canadian theatrical landscape.

Artistic Director

Radha S. Menon

Artistic Producer

Roselyn Kelada-Sedra

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Claire Burns

Our vision is to develop and produce work reflecting the diversity of contemporary Canadian culture. We believe in theatre that considers difficult, international, and cultural issues, and by providing space through our creative endeavours, providing IBPOC artists and communities a safe space to convene, share stories, and be entertained.

Founded in 2011 by Radha S. Menon, Red Beti Theatre is now led by Artistic Director Radha S. Menon, Artistic Producer Roselyn Kelada-Sedra and Chair of the Board Claire Burns

Red Beti Theatre
74 West Avenue South
Hamilton, ON L8N 2S3

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[@redbetitheatre](#) on social media



www.redbetitheatre.org

Red Beti Theatre acknowledges that The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Today, the City of Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and we recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers.

**Pleiades Theatre & Red Beti Theatre
In Association with Sawitri Theatre
Proudly Presents a Public Reading of**

CHOTI CHOTI BATAIN

By Sanskruti Marathe And Davinder Malhi

Director - Sanjay Talwar

Mentor To Playwrights (Dramaturgy) - Jivesh Parasram

Mummy Waheeda - Radha Menon

Jaspinder - Navtej Sandhu

Meena - Supinder Wraich

Gurvir - Dhanish Kumar Chinniah

Chachi Kiran - Jind Sohila

Muni - Becky Ablack

Tayee Sukhminder - Jasmine Sawant

Papa Balwinder, Chacha Kuljeet - Sarabjeet Arora

Running time is 2h 15min including a 15min 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.



DAVINDER MALHI

PLAYWRIGHT

Born in Calgary, AB // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- **Casey and Diana** / Stratford Festival / Actor
- **No Big Deal** / Roseneath Theatre / Actor
- **rihannaboi95** / Young People's Theatre / Actor
- **Towards Rebirth** / Shakespeare in the Ruff / Actor
- **Concord Floral** / Canadian Stage / Actor

Davinder Malhi is an actor and playwright based in Toronto. Furthermore, he is the co-founder of Saawan Collective, a theatre collective focused on creating space for emerging South Asian playwrights. His writing credits include *Towards Rebirth* (Shakespeare in the Ruff) and *if the world ends tell lady gaga i loved her* (NTS Art Apart Series). He is currently working on writing *choti choti batain* with Saawan Collective and Pleiades Theatre. Davinder was a participant in the 2021 Banff Playwrights Lab.



SANSKRUTI MARATHE

PLAYWRIGHT

Born in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India // Lives in Brampton, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- **At the End of Kaliyuga** / Theatre Direct Forward March Festival / Creator, Performer
- **On the Razzle** / Shaw Festival / Ensemble & Swing
- **Just Pervs** / Toronto Fringe / Jill
- **Twelfth Night** / Crane Creations Production / Sir Toby Belch
- **Bharatnatyam Arangetram** / Meadowvale Theatre / Ram, Vishnu, Krishna, etc.

Sanskruti Marathe is an Indian Canadian Multidisciplinary artist. As a playwright she is seeking answers about queerness, existence, and human connection through mythology. Her exploration involves breaking the boundaries of playwrighting by using different languages, movement work, concepts from Indian Classical Dance to offer works that connect with the present and future generations of Canadian audiences. She is a Co-Founder of Saawan Collective, a theatre collective focused on creating space for South-Asian Playwrights. She is currently working on *choti choti batain* with Saawan Collective and Pleiades Theatre and *At the End of Kaliyuga* in association with Theatre Direct. was a participant in the 2021 Banff Playwrights Lab.



SANJAY TALWAR

DIRECTOR

Born in Halifax, NS // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- *Too Good to Be True* / Shaw Festival / Director
- *Around the World in 80 Days* / Blue Bridge Theatre / Director
- *The Director's Dilemma* / Shaw Festival / Ridgeon
- *Chitra / Shaw Festival* / Madana

Awards/Nominations

Jessie Award - *Helen's Necklace* - Supporting Actor
Two Dora nominations

A graduate of Dalhousie University's Theatre Program, Sanjay has worked in theatres across the country. He has spent six seasons at the Stratford Festival, and is currently in his eighth season at Shaw.



JIVESH PARASRAM

MENTOR TO PLAYWRIGHTS - DRAMATURGY

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

Selected Theatre Credits

- *Take d Milk, Nah?* / Pandemic, bCurrent, Rumble Theatre / Creator, Performer
- *Daughter* / Pandemic, Quiptake, Theatre Centre / Dramaturge
- *Szepty/Whispers* / Rumble, V.West / Director
- *Situational Anarchy* / Pandemic, Pressgang / Director, Dramaturge
- *Maybe Not Tomorrow* / National Theatre School / Co-Director

Awards/Nominations

Dora Mavor Moore Nominee - Various
Governor General's Literary Award in Drama finalist - *Take d Milk, Nah?*
Jessie's Nominee - *Take d Milk, Nah?*
Toronto Arts Foundation Emerging Artist Award (2018)
Herald Angel, Edinburgh Festival (2018)
Harold Awards (Toronto) - 2 time awardee

Jivesh Parasram is a multi-disciplinary artist and facilitator of Indo-Caribbean decent. He is a founding member of the award winning collective "Pandemic Theatre" (founded 2009) where he has made most of his work in collaboration with friends and colleagues. From 2015-2018 Jiv was the Associate Artistic Producer at Theatre Passe Muraille, in Tkaronto, and in 2018 he moved to the Unceded Coast Salish Territories (MST) to take on the role of Artistic Director for Rumble Theatre. Jiv was raised in Kijipuktuk, Mi'kma'ki (Halifax, NS) and attended the University of Toronto's "UC Drama Program" based at the Helen Gardiner Playhouse as well as earning a joint degree in International Relations. He also studied Communication and Cultural studies at Toronto Metropolitan University and York University at a graduate level. He is also a Governor General's Literary Award Nominee.



RADHA S. MENON

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - RED BETI THEATRE

ACTOR - MUMMY WAHEEDA

Born in Malacca, Malaysia // Lives in Hamilton, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Rukmini's Gold*** / Red Beti Theatre Podcast series / Actor & Playwright
- ***The Washing Machine*** / Red Beti Theatre Podcast series / Actor & Playwright
- ***Blackberry*** / Red Beti Theatre / Playwright
- ***Welcome to my Underworld*** / Soulpepper Theatre / Actor
- ***The Petition*** / Magnetic North Festival / Actor & Playwright

Awards/Nominations

Finalist, Herman Voaden National Playwriting Competition 2021 – *Rukmini's Gold*

Winner, Arts Innovation Award 2020, City of Hamilton

Winner, Garden Project Award Recipient 2020 - *Blackberry*

Winner, Sanhita Manch Playwriting Contest 2020 – *Rukmini's Gold*

Finalist, Sultan Padamsee Playwriting Contest 2020 – *Rukmini's Gold*

Finalist, Cayle Chernin Theatre Award 2020 – *Sita's Revenge*

Finalist, Cayle Chernin Media Award 2019 – *The Sail Tree*

Theatre Award 2016, City of Hamilton

Winner, Critic's Choice Award 2015, Hamilton Fringe Festival 2015 – *Rukmini's Gold*

Winner, Toronto Fringe New Play Contest 2015 - *Rukmini's Gold*

Finalist, Playwright of The Year 2015, The Bridge Initiative - Women in Arizona Theatre

Hamilton Fringe Festival Playwriting contest runner up 2013 – *Learning to Swim*

Finalist, Herman Voaden National Playwriting Competition 2013 – *Ganga's Ganja*

Finalist, Woodward/Newman International Playwriting Prize 2012 – *The Washing Machine*

Stateless in the UK until age seventeen, activist and artist Radha S. Menon emigrated to Regina, Saskatchewan in 1995 where her singing and acting performance career abruptly ended, and her writing career began. Her plays have been produced at theatre festivals in Canada, the US, UK and India, including *Blackberry*, *Ganga's Ganja*, *Rukmini's Gold*, *Rise of the Prickly Pear*, *The Circus* & *The Washing Machine*. Red Beti Theatre (RBT), Hamilton's first feminist IBPOC theatre company was founded by Menon in 2011. Menon earned an MFA in Creative Writing (UoG) in 2018. She currently lives in Hamilton.



JASMINE SAWANT

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF SAWITRI THEATRE

ACTOR - TAYEE SUKHMINDER

Born in Surat, India // Lives in Mississauga, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- *The Sorareen Book Club* / Universe Over Fifty Collective / Actor
- *The Resource* / Major Matt Mason Collective / Actor
- *Pandemic Pandemonium* / SAWITRI Theatre Group / Playwright
- *Where There's a Will* / SAWITRI Theatre Group / Actor
- *Koi Pan Ek Phoolnu Naam...* / SAWITRI Theatre Group / Actor

Awards/Nominations

Martys for Established Theatre Artist & for Established Literary Artist

Actor-producer-writer-manager-mentor, Founder and Artistic Co-Director of the award-winning SAWITRI Theatre Group, Jasmine works in theatre in Mississauga in various capacities and in films (credits listed on [imdb.com](https://www.imdb.com)). An award-winning writer, Jasmine has written and co-written plays and scripts for SAWITRI and Sampradaya Dance Creations and Academy. Jasmine is equally committed to community-engaged arts projects for SAWITRI, addressing food scarcity, skills acquisition for marginalized groups and domestic violence. Jasmine is also the Executive Director of Sampradaya Dance Creations. She serves on the board of the Canadian Association of Fringe Festivals and on the Meadowvale Theatre Community Panel.



SAWITRI SHORTS THEATRE FESTIVAL 2023

Dates : 1 / 2 / 8 / 9 / 15 / 16 / 22 / 23 / 29 / 30 April and 6 / 7 / 13 / 14 May

Venue : Maja Prentice Theatre : Burnhamthorpe Library, 3650 Dixie Rd,
Mississauga, ON

Tickets : [sawitri.ca](https://www.sawitri.ca)

FB: [SawitriTheatreGroup](https://www.facebook.com/SawitriTheatreGroup) IG: [sawitritheatre](https://www.instagram.com/sawitritheatre) Twitter: [@SawitriTheatre](https://twitter.com/SawitriTheatre) Website: [sawitri.ca](https://www.sawitri.ca)





REBECCA ABLACK

ACTOR – MUNI

Born in Oshawa, ON // Lives in Scarborough, ON

Selected Credits

- ***Fruits of Labour*** / YorkU Devised Theatre Festival / Co-Creator, Performer, Sound Designer
- ***Our Mothers' and Fathers'*** / YorkU playGround Festival / Co-Creator, Co-Director
- ***Ginny & Georgia*** / Netflix / Actor
- ***Good Karma Hospital*** / ITV / Actor
- ***Kim's Convenience*** / CBC / Actor

Rebecca Ablack is an actor, playwright, director, and recent graduate from York University's Theatre and Creative Writing programs. She has a particular interest in storytelling through devised theatre, with both her writing and performance. Rebecca has been involved in productions such as *Fruits of Labour* (co-creator, performer, sound designer) in York University's Devised Theatre Festival, as well as *Our Mothers' and Fathers'* (co-writer, co-director) in York University's Playground Festival. She also works as an actor in film and television and has appeared in shows such as Netflix's *Ginny & Georgia* and ITV's *Good Karma Hospital*.



SARABJEET ARORA

ACTOR – PAPA BALWINDER, CHACHA KULJEET

Born in New Delhi, India // Lives in Brampton, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Gallan Terian*** / Punjabi Arts Association / Director
- ***Student Life*** / Punjabi Arts Association / Playwright
- ***Taxi 242*** / Punjabi Arts Association / Playwright, Actor
- ***Manto- Toba Tek Singh*** / The Hive Theatre / Actor
- ***Aahina*** / Punjabi Arts Association / Playwright, Director

Currently, the Artistic Director of Punjabi Arts Association of Toronto, a not-for-profit theatre group, Sarabjeet has been associated with theatre for over 30 years. Starting off as a young actor in Delhi, India, he trained under many stalwarts of theatre. Later he had the opportunity to learn the craft and theatre techniques at the prestigious National School of Drama. Sarabjeet has a varied experience in theatre that ranges from being a playwright, an actor, a director and everything in between. Fluent in English, Punjabi, Hindi and Urdu languages Sarabjeet dabbles in voice acting and has lent his voice to over 1000 radio and TV commercials.



DHANISH KUMAR CHINNIAH

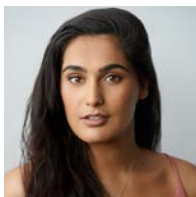
ACTOR – GURVIR

Born in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia // Lives in Tkaronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- **Hamlet-911** / Stratford Festival / Student/Chorus
- **So You, So I** / Driftwood Theatre / Fine
- **Noah's Ark in the Sky** / Soulpepper QueerFutures / Noah, Writer
- **Box 4901** / Timeshare / Letter 6
- **How to Code a Sandcastle** / Thousand Islands Playhouse / Cody, Asst. Director

If you bully me, I will cry VERY easily. Please do NOT send hate mail to @dhanish on Instagram. However, I do love Mitski and will welcome Mitski vinyls ONLY to my PO box: 123 Dhanish Avenue, Dhanish City, Country of Dhanishia, Postal: DHA NISH
xoxo I hope you enjoyed the play and your day
Trevor I love you :))) <3 <3



NAVTEJ SANDHU

ACTOR – JASPINDER

Born in Long Island City, USA // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- **Mahabharata** / WhyNot Theatre, Shaw Festival / Karna
- **Hayavandana** / WhyNot Theatre, Soulpepper / Kali
- **The Green Line** / Edmonton Fringe Festival / Yara
- **Romeo and Juliet** / Shakespeare in High Park (Canadian Stage) / Prince Escalus
- **Midsummer Night's Dream** / Shakespeare in High Park (Canadian Stage) / Snug, Mote

“Any form of art is a form of power; it has impact, it can affect change – it can not only move us, it makes us move.” Ossie Davis

I am a Toronto-based actor/combatant born in the United States. I was introduced to fight training at York University's acting conservatory. I am now in the process of getting my advanced certification at Rapier Wit. My goal is to continue to create and be a part of projects that I believe in, and that speak to communities that have had their voice constantly stifled.



JIND SOHILA

ACTOR – CHACHI KIRAN

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

Selected Theatre Credits

- *Wise.Woman* / bcurrent / Chorus
- *Dance Like a Man* / SAWITRI Theatre Group / Lata, Younger Ratna
- *Boarding Pass* / Sikh Heritage Month / Director/Facilitator

“So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable.” Christopher Reeve

Jind Sohila would like to thank Ash Knight and Pleiades Theatre for this opportunity; as well as her parents who have always supported her dreams. She misses her father dearly.



SUPINDER WRAICH

ACTOR – MEENA

Born in Kharar, India // Lives in Toronto, ON

Awards/Nominations

Winner: Best Actress- Digital Series, 2015- Canadian Screen Awards

Nominated: Best Performance, Digital Series, 2020 - *The 410*

Nominated: Best Writing, Digital Series, 2020- *The 410*

Supinder Wraich is a graduate of the Canadian Film Centre’s Actors Conservatory, holds a BA in Communications and is a Sheridan College, Advanced Film & Television program alumni. Playing ‘Sandy Rai’ in the Emmy Award-winning GUIDESTONES marked Supinder’s first appearance in a digital series and earned her a Canadian Screen Award. Since then she’s appeared in TEXTUALITY (starring Eric McCormack), guest-starred on ABC’s THE GOOD DOCTOR and recurred on several series including THE EXPANSE (SyFy), PRIVATE EYES (Global), CRAWFORD (CBC), and THE BEAVERTON (Comedy Network). Supinder wrote/created/ stars in the CBC Gem series THE 410 and is currently developing the follow-up season. The series was one of five selected for further development as part of The Canadian Creative Accelerator program, supported by the Consulate in Los Angeles. Supinder is a series regular in CBC and HBO Max’s hit new series, SORT OF, which led 2022’s Canadian Screen Awards with thirteen nominations and is currently airing its second season.



VIJAY MEHTA

**WORKSHOP ACTOR – SURAJ (THE MAN),
PAPA BALWINDER, CHACHA KULJEET**

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

Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Tragedie of Lear*** / Ad-Hoc Collective for... / Oswald
- ***Funny Boy*** / CBC, Young Centre / Anil (Lead)
- ***Funny Money*** / Amicus Theatre / Henry Perkins (Lead)
- ***Eros at Breakfast*** / Toronto Fringe Festival / Aristophanes
- ***Everybody's Whore*** / Rhubarb Festival / Hamoudi

Vijay moved to Toronto for a summer job as an actor at a theme park but stayed to attend George Brown Theatre School for two years. Extraordinary opportunities presented themselves thereafter, including playing the role of Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in a North American tour with Montreal's Repercussion Theatre, playing the lead in a new work at Toronto's Theatre Passe Muraille, and playing the lead in a British farce for a community theatre company. Bonus thanks to his wife Barb and lil pup Tasha for adding extra spice to his life.



SARENA PARMAR

WORKSHOP ACTOR – JASPINDER

Born in Prince George, BC // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Alls Well That Ends Well*** / Bard on the Beach / Helena
- ***The Orchard (After Chekhov)*** / Shaw Festival / Playwright, Annie
- ***Dancing at Lughnasa*** / Shaw Festival / Christina
- ***The Winter's Tale*** / Groundling Theatre / Perdita
- ***Much Ado About Nothing*** / Tarragon Theatre / Hero

Awards/Nominations

My Entertainment Awards Nomination for Outstanding New Play for *The Orchard (After Chekhov)*

Recipient of Bulmash-Siegel New Development Award from Tarragon Theatre for *Hunger*

Dora Award for Outstanding Production of *The Winter's Tale*

Sarena is a graduate of the National Theatre School and the Birmingham Conservatory (Stratford Festival) for acting. Sarena has worked in theatres across Canada as an actress and playwright. On television, she can be seen on *Pretty Hard Cases* (CBC) and the upcoming season of *Skymed* (Paramount +). Currently Sarena has plays in development with Tarragon Theatre and Theatre Northwest.



RONICA SAJNANI

WORKSHOP ACTOR – MUMMY WAHEEDA

Born in Amritsar, India // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- *The Waiting Room* / Rasik Arts / Priya
- *Rice Boy* / Canadian Stage / Grandma
- *My Granny the Goldfish* / Factory Theatre / Granny
- *The Washing Machine* / Next Stage Festival at Factory Theatre / Ayah
- *Brimful of Asha* / Antigonish Summer Festival / Asha

Awards/Nominations

Brimful of Asha was nominated for best production and best lead for the Robert Merritt Awards.

The first time I was awe struck by theatre was when I saw a production of *Yerma* in my teens, before I fully understood anything. My first experience on stage was as Pickering in *My Fair Lady*, at the urging of my music teacher Mrs. Vohra who told us she had played piano with Danny Kaye. However, it wasn't till I came to Canada that the opportunity to explore, and eventually work as an actor seemed possible.



SUGITH VARUGHESE

WORKSHOP ACTOR – PAPA BALWINDER, CHACHA KULJEET

Born in Cochin, India // Lives in Toronto, ON

He has over 100 screen credits as an actor, currently appearing as Dr. Singh on the award-winning TV drama series *Transplant* on CTV in Canada and NBC in the US. He's known for creating the iconic characters, Mr. Mehta on *Kim's Convenience* and David Paster in *The Expanse*, among many others. He is also a Dora Award nominee for his stage work. He is an award-winning screenwriter, most notably as one of the original writers of the famed Muppet TV series *Fraggle Rock* and was the first visible minority to attend the prestigious Canadian Film Centre as a writer-director. His short films have won numerous awards worldwide. He has been listed in *Who's Who* in Canada for 30 years.



ROSELYN KELADA-SEDRA (via Roe Izis Creative Corp)

ARTISTIC PRODUCER - RED BETI THEATRE

Born in Hamilton, ON // Lives in Toronto & St. Catharines, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- **Languages for Love** / *Spur of the Moment Shakespeare* / Dramaturge
- **MUTE: The Musical** / *Toronto Fringe* / *Lisa*
- **Macbeth's Head** / *Toronto Fringe* / *Cleopatra*

Awards/Nominations

Winner - Best Women Film, Cannes World Film Festival

Best Short Documentary, Toronto International Women Film Festival

Best Director, New York International Women Film Festival

Best First-Time Filmmaker, Cairo Indie Short Films Festival

Official Selection: Kalakari Film Festival (India) & Reims Excellence, Red Movie Awards (France)

Nominated - Cayle Chernin Playwrighting Award 2021

Top 10 short documentaries Lonely Wolf International Film Festivals (London, UK)

Roe Izis Creative Corp makes theatre, film & installations for & about women of colour. Its owner, Roselyn Kelada-Sedra, is a nationally award-nominated playwright, an internationally award-winning filmmaker, and an actor. Roselyn is a series regular on the fantasy-adventure podcast *Arcane Ninja RPG*, & you can follow through Roselyn.ca. As an artist, Roselyn explores how women go through trauma to come into their power. She works to inspire and encourage women because we are resilient when we are loved and love others.

She is currently the Artistic Producer of Red Beti Theatre.

For invitations to artistic works, subscribe: [Roselyn.link/news](https://roselyn.link/news)

Body of Work accessible through Patreon.com/RoelzisCreativeCorp



ANDREY TARASIUK

CO-PRODUCER

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 Shakespear 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.



ASH KNIGHT

CO-PRODUCER

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 for 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.



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.

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Merlin Simrad

This story wouldn't have been what it is today without the contribution of these wonderful artists. We are so grateful.

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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