



Lesson in Forgetting

*A love story
to remember*

May 3 – 22, 2022

By Emma Haché
Translated by Taliesin McEnaney
with John Van Burek

Performed by Reese Cowley
Ma-Anne Dionisio & Andrew Moodie
Directed by Ash Knight

Season sponsor



Government support



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ABOUT PLEIADES (pleiadestheatre.org)

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?

In addition to productions, Pleiades Theatre has a history of multilingual youth outreach programs, publicly funded ESL courses, and continued mentorships for theatre professionals.

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

SUPPORTING PLEIADES

Your donations always make an impact on our company, and now more than ever can ensure a sustainable future for our artists. A tax-deductible donation to Pleiades Theatre may be made by cheque, VISA, Mastercard or, 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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*Cover image credit: Photo by Kate Young
Graphic Art by Jacob Whibley*

The English Language World Premiere of

Lesson in Forgetting

By **Emma Haché**

Translated by **Taliesin McEnaney**

with **John Van Burek** commissioned by Pleiades Theatre

Director - **Ash Knight**

She - **Ma-Anne Dionisio**

He - **Andrew Moodie**

Narrator - **Reese Cowley**

Choreographer - **Nicola Pantin**

Set & Costume Design - **Jackie Chau**

Lighting Design - **Arun Srinivasan**

Projection Design - **Denyse Karn**

Sound Design & Composition - **Marissa Orjalo**

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Social Media - **Joella Crichton**

Production Photographer - **Cylla von Tiedemann**

Graphic Art - **Jacob Whibley**

Program Design - **Leon B. Aureus**

Running time is 75 minutes with no intermission.

Some loud noises, flickering lights, mild simulated violence.

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.

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).

Season sponsor

Government support

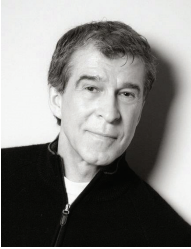


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WELCOME TO LESSON IN FORGETTING



A welcoming message like this always opens a production's house programme, but I simply must say that my welcome to you here seems doubly important because it's been too long, far too long, since most of us have been in a theatre to enjoy a live production. In fact, for many of us this particular production at this particular time marks a return to the live arts that simply couldn't come fast enough. So, with all the emotion I can muster via these words, believe me when I say to our audiences, **Welcome!**

Lesson in Forgetting, by Emma Haché, is particularly exciting for all of us at Pleiades. Here we have an accomplished young playwright from Acadia, a region of French Canada from which we rarely hear. This is Mme Haché's introduction to English Canada, even though she has already been nominated for *le Prix du Gouverneur général* and won numerous, prestigious prizes such as *la Prime à la création du Fond Gratien Gélinas*, *le Prix Bernard Cyr pour l'avancement du théâtre francophone au Canada* and *le Prix Antonine Maillet*.

Branching out from the tiny island of Lamèque, Emma Haché has already established her reputation in Québec, France and Belgium; clearly, it is time that she be brought into the full fold of Canadian theatre. Thus, we are honoured to bring her work to English audiences in Toronto and hopefully across Canada through the participation of other theatres.

This production also represents the first work, as a director for Pleiades, by our company's recently appointed Associate Artistic Producer, Ash Knight. Working successfully with Ash on the administrative side of arts responsibilities and now introducing him to our audiences in his first creative leadership role for the company on a Toronto stage have given me confidence for the roles he will play at Pleiades in the years ahead.

Lesson in Forgetting is beautiful, poetic and delicately written. HE has suffered a massive brain trauma as a result of a car crash some years earlier; ever since, the only thing he can remember is how much he loves his wife. SHE, confined to caring for him for the rest of her days, wishes for nothing more than for him to forget that he loves her so that she might yet start over on her own path of life.

Lesson in Forgetting is a moving love story in which one of the partners must ask of herself, every single day, whether love alone can suffice when everything else is gone. Healing, love, trauma, memory, uncertainty and isolation are at the core of this original story.

Given the experiences of isolation and reflection we all have faced during the past two years, this play becomes a metaphorical reckoning for us all...for individuals who will experience the story but also for communities as a whole...questions such as *what was then set against our traumatic realities of the present*: how we see ourselves, how we treat each other, how we care for each other, how we govern ourselves.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrey Tarasiuk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke above the name.

Andrey Tarasiuk
Artistic Producer

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

I am profoundly grateful to Pleiades Theatre and all the artists who have made *Exercice de l'oubli* accessible in English. I am aware of the amount of work done and their commitment in this journey. I recognize all the more that the importance of this play, and perforce its translation, are built on a paradox: it deals with something beyond language, the silence of amnesia, and the memories of the heart, the reminiscences of the senses. But to draw forth this nowhere of language it was still necessary to circumscribe it in another language as much as the bodily expressions that make the unspoken speak. At the source of this work, which is presented to you today thanks to the vision of the artists and translators, a simple but serious question must be asked: is love sufficient? Sometimes yes and sometimes no. But between these two poles, we can still create something that looks like it.

J'exprime ma profonde gratitude envers Pléiades Theatre et les artistes qui rendent aujourd'hui accessible en anglais *Exercice de l'oubli*. Je mesure l'ampleur du travail qui a été fait et l'engagement qui a été le leur dans cette traversée. J'en reconnais d'autant plus l'importance que la pièce, et a fortiori sa traduction, repose sur un paradoxe : elle porte sur un au-delà de la langue, le silence de l'amnésie, les souvenirs du cœur, les reminiscences des sens. Mais pour susciter ce non-lieu du langage encore fallait trouver à le circonscrire dans une autre langue ainsi que par l'expression des corps qui font parler l'indicible. À la source de ce travail qui se présente à vous aujourd'hui grâce à la vision des artistes et de ses traducteurs, une question simple mais grave : Est-ce que l'amour suffit? Parfois oui, parfois non. Et entre ces deux pôles, on peut encore créer quelque chose qui y ressemble.



Emma Haché
Writer

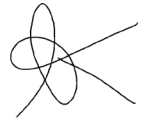
DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Lesson in Forgetting is not a long play — just over an hour — but its depth is immeasurable.

Emma has crafted a play that at first seems simple, but as we look deeper into it, we realize its complexity challenges our minds and hearts. The play is poetry in motion. She uses descriptions of dance pieces by some of the great choreographers of the late 20th century as illustrations of what her characters are going through, to illuminate their stories. At the same time, she writes scenes between HE and SHE that seem repetitive but each one is nuanced with subtext rivaling Chekov or Ibsen. The play pulls at our heartstrings as we see ourselves and our own relationships in their relationship. What would we do in the same situation? Do we know? If we lost all that made our relationships what they are, would we still love our partners? If we did, would that love be enough to keep us together? Taliesin's translation with John is precise, equally poetic, and Shakespearean in its challenge to the actors.

I have opted to realize the play with a third actor. I was keen to have a visual representation of the dances Emma describes, but also of the split in SHE's mind. After twenty-odd years SHE is torn with a difficult decision. This is where the action of the play starts: a divergence in her mind; a need for something more. Having those two voices realized by two actors seemed a more compelling way of showing her struggle. Hopefully, this will allow the audience to appreciate the difficulties that SHE has.

I sincerely hope you enjoy the show and I look forward to hearing your answer to, "Is love enough?"



Ash Knight
Director

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.



EMMA HACHÉ

WRITER

Born in Lamèque, NB // Lives in Petite-Rivière-de-l'île, NB

Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Exercice de l'Oubli*** / Théâtre français de Toronto, Théâtre populaire d'Acadie / Playwright
- ***Pourquoi L'ouest?*** / Théâtre populaire d'Acadie / Playwright, Director
- ***Trafiquée*** / Les gorgones, Québec / Playwright
- ***Tempête*** / Théâtre de la Petite Marée / Playwright
- ***Wolfe*** / Théâtre de l'Escaouette and Théâtre français du CNA / Playwright, Director

Awards/Nominations

- Governor General's Award for Literature in 2004 for *L'INTIMITÉ*; nominated again in 2010 for *TRAFIQUÉE*, 2017 for *EXERCICE DE L'OUBLI*, and 2021 for *JOHNNY*
- Le Cochon d'or for Best Dramatic Text in 2012 for *TRAFIQUÉE*.
- Prix littéraire Antonine Maillet Acadie-Vie in 2011 for *TRAFIQUÉE*
- Prix Éloïze for Discovery/Newcomer of the Year in 2004 and Artist of the Year in Literature in 2004 for *L'INTIMITÉ*
- Prix Bernard-Cyr de la Fondation for the Advancement of Francophone Theatre in Canada in 2004
- Prime à la création du Fonds Gratien-Gélinas 2003 for *L'INTIMITÉ*
- Prix littéraire Antonine Maillet Acadie-Vie in 2002 Volet Jeunesse for *LAVE TES MAINS*

Emma is the author of over 20 theatrical pieces. She is equally a poet, a playwright and a director. After studying Dramatic Arts at the University of Moncton, Emma pursued an apprenticeship over 7 years at the École Omnibus de Montréal, during which time she established herself as a writer of dramatic works. Numerous prizes and awards have come to recognize the strength and quality of her work, among them: the Prime à la création du Fond Gratien-Gélinas (for her play *L'Intimité*), the Prix littéraire Antonine Maillet Acadie-vie (for *Trafiquée*) and Canada's Governor General's Award (for *L'Intimité*), an award for which she was nominated three more times (for *Trafiquée*, *Exercice de l'oubli* and *Johnny*). Her career is punctuated with collaborations with companies from Belgium, France and Canada. She lives and works on Petite-Rivière-de-l'île in Acadia where she is Artistic Director of Théâtre Vent debout, and her plays are published by Lansman Éditeur.



TALIESIN MCENANEY

TRANSLATOR

Born in Hamilton, ON // Lives in Puna, Big Island, Hawaii

Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Brain Storm*** / Lucid Ludic and Why Not Theatre / Creator, Director
- Associate Producer at Why Not Theatre
- Dramaturg and Associate Artist at Canadian Stage
- ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** / Shakespeare in the Ruff / Producer
- ***Stage Kiss*** / Cockroach Theatre / Director

Awards/Nominations

- Best Actor in a Supporting Role for *Cherry Orchard of the Living Dead* – Las Vegas Theatre Awards
- Most Cutting Edge Production – for *Brain Storm* - Toronto Fringe Fest 2018

Taliesin works in English and French as a director, producer, writer/translator, and arts educator. Her work has toured internationally in Europe, Mexico, the US and Canada. In Las Vegas, she was Producing Director at Cockroach Theatre, where she directed *The Lyons* and *Stage Kiss*. In Toronto, she directed and ensemble-created the award-winning Fringe hit *Brain Storm*, which, as a co-production with Why Not Theatre, went on to be one of the last shows seen in Toronto before the pandemic hit. She was producer for Shakespeare in the Ruff's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed and co-created *Public Mischief* at the Kingston and Montreal Fringe fest, and directed the workshop of *AssistEd* at Theatre Passe Muraille's Buzz Series. As Dramaturg and Associate Artist at Canadian Stage, she helped program the 18-19 season and co-ordinated and mentored the RBC Emerging Artist program. While at Why Not Theatre, she produced the international tour of *MouthPiece (Quote Unquote)* and *A Brimful of Asha*, among many other projects. She is a graduate of Generators' Artist-Producer Program, the Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre and she has her MFA in Directing/Creation from York University. Having completed her pandemic pivot, Taliesin is currently Director of Program Development at Seaview Performing Arts Centre for Education on the southeast coast of Hawai'i's Big Island.



JOHN VAN BUREK

TRANSLATOR

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

Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Manon, Sandra and the Virgin Mary*** / Pleiades Theatre and BIBT / Director, Translator
- ***Dying to be Sick*** / Pleiades Theatre and NAC / Translator
- ***Hosanna*** / Pleiades Theatre, Stratford Festival, Tarragon Theatre / Translator, Director
- ***Triumph of Love*** / Pleiades Theatre, Stratford Festival / Translator, Director
- ***Marcel Pursued by Hounds*** / Pleiades and Tarragon Theatre / Director, Translator

Awards/Nominations

- Two Chalmer's Awards
- l'Ordre de la Pleiade
- Honorary Doctorate from York University
- The Queen's Jubilee Medal
- The Silver Ticket Award

John Van Burek was born in Toronto before moving to the U.S. at the age of 10. He came back to Canada for his M.A. at UNB and has been living in Toronto since 1969. In 1971 he became the Founding Artistic Director of Le Théâtre du P'tit Bonheur, now Le Théâtre français de Toronto, where he stayed for about 20 years. During that time, he directed over 100 plays, professionally and with students. He founded Pleiades Theatre in 1997 to do plays from around the world and in English translation – like Toronto. He was Artistic Director of Pleiades Theatre until 2018. In 1972 he began translating into English, notably the plays of Michel Tremblay and other Québécois writers, to help make our theatre truly Canadian and that was when he began his long relationship with the fledgling Tarragon Theatre and with Bill Glassco. *Lesson in Forgetting*, from *Acadia*, is part of that long continuum.



ASH KNIGHT

DIRECTOR

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

Selected Theatre Credits

- **Antigone** / Stratford Festival – Langham Workshop / 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's love of storytelling started young, when at the age of 5 he knew he wanted to act. He moved to London, England at the age of 20 to attend the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art for 3 years on a scholarship. He graduated with a RADA Diploma and a Bachelor's Degree in Acting from the University of London. He will always be grateful for the friends and memories he made over his 5 years in the UK.

Ash remained in England acting in various productions before returning to Canada. Ash has been fortunate to work with some of the most talented artists in the U.K. (Birmingham and London), the U.S.A. (New York), all over Canada, and even Uganda (Kampala).

Ash's first play, *Enkidu and Gilgamesh* was work-shopped in London, England (2011) and New York City (2013). He is currently working on a translation/adaptation of *Cyrano de Bergerac* with Pleiades Theatre. He's been part of numerous new play productions and development workshops at every theatre in Toronto, regularly works with the Stratford Festival on directing/teaching Shakespeare workshops, and recently completed his first year at The Michael Langham Workshop for Classical Directing.

A special thanks to my better half, Zinta. Without you, I could not do any of this.



REESE COWLEY

ACTOR - NARRATOR

Born in New Westminster, BC // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Fefu and Her Friends*** / Theatre Erindale / Cindy
- ***An Enemy of the People*** / Theatre Erindale / Peter Stockmann
- ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** / Theatre Erindale / Hippolyta/ Titania
- ***A Shakesperiment*** / Bard on the Beach Riotous Youth / Co-Creator
- ***From the Ground Up*** / Theatre Erindale/ Co-Creator

Reese is a Sri Lankan-Canadian actor, director and playwright. She is thrilled to be a part of the 2022 graduating class of the Theatre and Drama Studies Program at the University of Toronto Mississauga and Sheridan College. Reese has also spent the last two summers working with Bard on the Beach as a Riotous Youth Intern, and recently had the opportunity to work as a voiceover artist on the company's feature film *Done/ Undone*. She is currently working on her first full-length play, which she began developing through the Krantikari Playwright's Unit with the Saawan Collective this past summer. Reese is delighted to be making her professional debut in *Lesson in Forgetting* and is grateful to Pleiades for this exciting opportunity.



MA-ANNE DIONISIO

ACTOR - SHE

Born in the Philippines // Lives in Toronto, ON

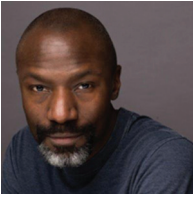
Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Miss Saigon*** / Princess of Wales Theatre, Four Seasons, Capitol Theatre (Australia), Theatre Royal Drury Lane (U.K.) / Kim
- ***Les Miserables*** / International & US Touring Company / Eponine
- ***Martin Guerre*** / Prince Edward Theatre (U.K.) / Bertrande
- ***West Side Story*** / Stratford Festival / Maria
- ***Flower Drum Song*** / Virginia Theatre (U.S.A.) / Mei Li cover

Awards/Nominations

- Dora Award for Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role for Diana in *Next to Normal*
- Dora nominations for Best Actress in a musical for Kim in *Miss Saigon* (twice) and Grizabella in *Cats*

Ma-Anne's other productions include *Sunday in the Park with George* as Dot; *Jesus Christ Superstar* as Mary Magdalene; *Sunfish*; and *Allegiance*.



ANDREW MOODIE

ACTOR - HE

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

Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Daisy*** / Great Canadian Theatre Company / Clifford
- ***Tragedie Of Lear*** / Ad Hoc Collective / Duke of Cornwall
- ***New Magic Valley Fun Town*** / Prairie Theatre Exchange / Clifford
- ***Othello*** / Shakespeare in the Rough / Othello
- ***Hamlet*** / Soulpepper / Player King

Awards/Nominations

He received a Dora Award Nomination for *Othello* with SITR, and Dora Award Win for Outstanding Performance for his role in *Health Class* with Roseneath Theatre.

Multiple award winning actor/playwright/director Andrew Moodie has performed in countless productions all across the country. Some selected credits include: *Better Living*, *Second Sheppard's Play*, *Our Country's Good* (Great Canadian Theatre Company), *Macbeth* (Stratford), *Satchmo Suite* (Eastern Front), *Death in New Orleans* (One Yellow Rabbit), *Hamlet* (Soulpepper), *Race* (Ground Zero), *Othello* (Shakespeare in the Rough), *Master Harold and the Boys* (Prairie Theatre Exchange), *Thirsty* (National Arts Centre), *Romeo and Juliet* (Globe Theatre), *Tragedie of Lear* (Ad Hoc Collective).

Playwrighting credits include: *Riot*, (Factory Theatre, GCTC, 1995), directed by Layne Coleman (winner of the 1996 Chalmers Award for Best New Play); *Wilbur County Blues*, (Blythe Festival, 1998); *A Common Man's Guide to Loving Women*, (Canadian Stage and the National Arts Centre, 1999); *The Real McCoy*, (Factory Theatre, GCTC 2007, 2008); *Toronto the Good*, (Factory Theatre 2009, Dora Award nomination).



JACKIE CHAU

SET / COSTUME DESIGNER

Born in Scarborough, ON // Lives in North York, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- **Lady Sunrise** / Factory Theatre / Costume Design
- **A Year with Frog and Toad** / Manitoba Theatre for Young People / Set, Costume Design
- **39 Steps** / Soulpepper Theatre / Costume Design
- **The Komagatu Maru Incident** / Stratford Festival / Costume Design
- **Almighty Voice and His Wife** / Native Earth Performing Arts / Set, Costume Design

Awards/Nominations

- Winnipeg Theatre Award 2020 nomination for Outstanding Costume Design for *A Year with Frog and Toad* (MTYP)
- Virginia and Myrtle Cooper Award in Costume Design 2020 and 2019 nominee (Ontario Arts Foundation)
- Broadway World Toronto nomination 2018 Best Costume Design and Best Set Design for *Music Music Life Death Music* (One Little Goat)
- SAT Nomination: 2018 Outstanding Costume Design for *Fish Eyes* (Nightswimming Theatre presented by Persephone Theatre)
- Dora Nominations
 - Outstanding Costume Design:
 - 2017/18 - *Mixie and the Halfbreeds* (fu-GEN)
 - 2016/17 - *39 Steps* (Soulpepper Theatre)
 - Outstanding Set Design:
 - 2016/17 (co-design) - *Pomoma* (ARC Theatre)
 - 2014/15 - *Moment* (ARC Theatre)
 - 2011/12 - *Brown Balls* (fu-GEN Theatre)
 - 2010/11 - *The Making of St. Jerome* (New Harlem Productions)
 - 2010/11 - *Gas Girls* (eastBound Theatre)
 - 2008/09 - *Antigone: Insurgency* (One Little Goat Theatre)
- Top 10 Theatre Artists of 2009 (NOW Magazine)

Jackie has worked as a set and costume designer and her work has toured internationally. In addition, she is a production designer and art director for film and television. She has been Artist in Residence since 2013 at ARC Theatre. She currently teaches Theatrical Design at the University of Toronto. Upcoming: *The Hours That Remain* (Theatre Aquarius).



JOELLA CRICHTON

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

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

Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Comedy Of Errors*** / Canadian Stage / Performer*
- ***Come Down From Up River*** / Theatre Orangeville / Performer
- ***Cannibal*** / Next Stage Festival / Performer
- ***Blood and Soil*** / Theatre ARTaud / Performer
- ***There Is No Word For Wilderness*** / Ontario Arts Council / Performer *cancelled due to COVID

Awards/Nominations

Nominated for Supporting Actress - Broadway World Award and My Entertainment World, 9-Time Winner Toronto Queen of Carnival

Joella is an actor for stage and screen. She holds a BFA in Acting from York University. Alongside her many years experience in theatre, film and television, Joella also works to develop equality, diversity and inclusivity in these fields. She has created and worked on initiatives such as the Bechdel Bill, Share The Screen and The Black Pledge.



PAULA FORST

COVID SAFETY OFFICER

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

Selected Credits

- ***Fringe of Toronto Theatre Festival*** / Producer
- ***Toronto International Theatre Festival*** / Festival Manager
- ***TIFF Bell Lightbox*** / Assistant Production Manager, Stage Manager
- ***The Expanse*** Season VI / COVID-19 Safety Officer
- ***Toronto Mass Immunization Clinic***, Event Operations/ COVID-19 Safety Officer

Hailing from Port Moody, British Columbia, Paula made the move to Toronto to attend the University of Toronto at Scarborough's Arts Management Programme. After graduating, she has had the pleasure to work with many of Toronto's arts organizations including Soulpepper Theatre, Theatre Passe Muraille, and as Producer for the Toronto Fringe Festival. In addition, she spent multiple years in multiple roles at the Toronto International Film Festival and the TIFF Bell Lightbox. Paula is absolutely thrilled to be a part of the Pleiades Theatre team.



DENYSE KARN

PROJECTION DESIGNER

Born in London, ON // Lives in Stratford, ON

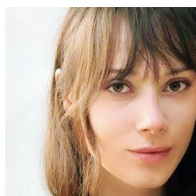
Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Othello*** / Stratford Festival / Set, Costume, Projection Design
- ***To Kill A Mockingbird*** / Stratford Festival / Set, Costume Design
- ***The Mountaintop*** / Grand Theatre – London / Set, Projection Design
- ***Onegin*** / Musical Stage Company / Set Design
- ***The Watershed*** / Crow's Theatre/Porte Parole / Projection Design

Awards/Nominations

Denyse has received many Dora Mavor Moore nominations and awards, a Chalmers Award and four Merritt Awards (Nova Scotia Theatre Award) for Outstanding Set, Projection and Costume designs.

Denyse is a graduate of the Ryerson Theatre School and has her BFA from NSCAD University. Denyse is a full member of ADC659. www.denysekarn.com



LAURA LAKATOSH

STAGE MANAGER

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

Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Heart of a Dog*** / Next Stage Festival / Stage Manager
- ***Nonsense*** / Bruce County Playhouse / Stage Manager
- ***Swim Team*** / Nowadays Theatre / Stage Manager
- ***The Only Possible Way*** / Nowadays Theatre / Canadian Stage / Stage Manager
- ***Hogtown: The Immersive Experience*** / The Hogtown Collective / Assistant Stage Manager

Laura began her work as a Stage Manager while attending the University of Toronto. What was initially an extracurricular activity to balance the rigor of academia, as an ASM at Hart House Theatre, quickly became a passion for a career in theatre and in Stage Management. She believes that her university studies helped to broaden her appreciation for performance and story-telling, and for the importance of seeing many diverse identities, backgrounds, and cultures represented in live theatre. She has also enjoyed the challenge of working in some unique, creative, and non-traditional types of theatre environments over the years.



MADELINE MCKINNEL

PRODUCTION MANAGER & TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

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

Selected Theatre Credits

- ***A Grimm Night*** / Transendance Theatre / Production Manager, Technical Director
- ***Progress Festival*** / SummerWorks / Production Manager
- ***Pax Christi Chorale*** / Production Manager
- ***Shadowland Theatre*** / Production Assistant
- ***“Dance” & “Egg Egg” - Cabaret Concrete*** / Digital Events / Creator, Puppeteer

Madeline (she/her) is a third-generation settler from Wakefield, Quebec on Anishinabewaki and Omàmìwininiwag Traditional Unceded Territory and she currently lives and works in Toronto, Ontario on the Traditional Unceded Territory of the Anishinabeg, Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation peoples. Madeline strives to create accessible spaces that inform creativity in her work as a production manager, technical director, stage manager, designer, and puppeteer. She spent two years as a production coordinator at Harbourfront Centre executing large-scale festivals and performances after working as the assistant designer on Changeup Theatre’s production of *PETS* (2017). Madeline has been facilitating art in unconventional spaces for over five years and believes that compassionate and thoughtful collective creation will foster a safer and community-driven future. She is a graduate of Concordia University’s Design and Production for the Theatre program.



REMINGTON NORTH

PRODUCTION DESIGN

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

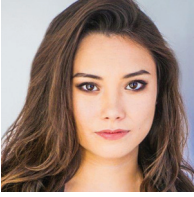
Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Besbouss*** / Pleiades Theatre / Production Manager
- ***The Runner*** / Human Cargo / Production Manager
- ***Savitri*** / Against the Grain Theatre / Technical Director
- ***Bound*** / Against the Grain Theatre / Technical Director
- ***Festival of Live Digital Art*** / Spiderweb Performance / Production Manager

Awards/Nominations

Dora Award nominated for Projection Design on Crow’s Theatre’s *The Boy in The Moon* (2018)

Remington has been living and working in Toronto as a theatre practitioner for 15 years. Remington North approaches his specialty in Production Technology as a responsibility originally expressed in the Latin concept of facilitator, namely one who makes an action or a process easy or easier.



MARISSA ORJALO

SOUND DESIGNER / COMPOSER

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

Selected Theatre Credits

- **MH370** / fu-GEN Theatre / Performer, Producer
- **Pedestal Pinays** / Carlos Bulosan Theatre / Playwright
- **The Trick to Walking Backwards** / Project Immortelle / Composer, Sound Engineer
- **The Goddess Project** / Derailleur Productions / Composer
- **A (Musical) Midsummer Night's Dream** / Driftwood Theatre / Performer

Awards/Nominations

- Joseph Armand Bombardier 2021 SSHRC award

Marissa is currently completing her Masters at the University of Toronto at the Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies, and is embarking on a thesis to research the history of Filipinx Canadian artistic processes for theatre creation.

For more info, visit marissaorjalo.com or follow her on Instagram @marissa.orjalo!

Thank you always to Aria Sharma - for her early collaboration and influence on the musical motifs as well as her constant love and support. Another huge thank you to Debashis Sinha, Tessa Maki and Birgit Schreyer-Duarte for their encouragement and expertise!

Cyrano d'Aujourd'hui
by Ash Knight
Translated and adapted from Cyrano de Bergerac by Edmund Rostand

Masara
Translated by Stephen Bandera
from the original by Maria Hollibaugh

Mata Hari
Eye of the Day
by Anne Chislett

PLEIADES Parler

PLEIADES THEATRE

Graphic Design & Paintings by Rami Schandall

Join us for Pleiades Parler, a series of open conversations with a member of the Pleiades Theatre Board of Directors and a playwright from our Playwrights Unit. From plays about the impact of the media on standards of beauty in the BIPOC community, to Mata Hari, to the War in Ukraine, join our playwrights on exploring their work, their careers, and their lives.



NICOLA PANTIN

CHOREOGRAPHER

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

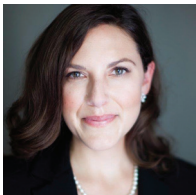
Selected Theatre Credits

- ***Jacob Two Two Meets the Hooded Fang*** / LKTYP / Choreographer
- ***The Count of Monte Cristo*** / Stratford Festival / Choreographer
- ***Romeo/Juliet Remixed*** / Spark Theatre / Choreographer
- ***Hogtown*** / The Hogtown Experience / Choreographer
- ***Little Shop of Horrors*** / Theatre New Brunswick / Choreographer

Awards/Nominations

She has received several Dora Nominations and two Dora Mavor Moore Awards for Outstanding Choreography (*Jacob Two Two*, *Romeo/Juliet Remixed*), and Gold at les Jeux de la Francophonie.

Nicola grew up dancing in Waterloo, Ontario and decided to pursue a career in dance and moved to Toronto in 1990. She is a professional dancer, choreographer and instructor. Her career spans the modern/contemporary world to commercial dance and musical theatre styles. She has proudly presented/performed work at many independent festivals, often with husband Adam Nashman under 3 Degrees, their dance theatre company. She has toured internationally, danced for numerous independent choreographers, worked in film and television and choreographed numerous productions from Toronto to Stratford to Shanghai and beyond. Most recent projects include *Kitchen Dances* (Kaeja d’Dance), *Bird in a Suit* (Danza Corpuz), *JCS* (Sheridan College). Nicola is currently teaching at George Brown Dance, Pegasus Studios and Creative Children’s Dance Centre. Nicola is honoured to be working with Pleiades Theatre for the first time.



KATIE SAUNORIS | KSPR

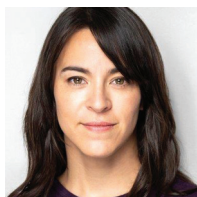
COMMUNICATIONS

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

Selected Credits

- ***Necessary Angel Theatre Company*** / Media Relations and Communications
- ***Nordic Bridges/Harbourfront Centre*** / Media Relations and Communications
- ***Indigenous Voices Awards*** / Media Relations and Communications
- ***Jon Kaplan Legacy Fund*** / Media Relations and Communications

Katie is a Toronto-based publicist and strategy consultant, with a focus on arts, culture, and areas of social justice. She is a proud Board Member of the Paprika Theatre Festival.



SIOBHAN RICHARDSON

INTIMACY DIRECTOR

Raised in Kitchener, ON // Lives in Etobicoke, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- **Room** / The Grand Theatre (London), Mirvish Productions, Covent Garden Productions (UK) / Fight, Intimacy Director
- **Orphans for the Czar** / Crow's Theatre / Fight Director
- **Blackout** / Musical Stage Company / Fight, Intimacy Director
- **Nelja Pientä Äikuista (Four Little Adults)** / Tuffi Films / Intimacy Coordinator
- **Spring Awakenings** / Sheridan Musical Theatre / Fight, Intimacy Director
- **The Penelopiad** / The Grand Theatre / Actor

Awards/Nominations

- Arts Response Initiative - Ontario Arts Council
- Chalmers Arts Fellowship - Ontario Arts Council,
- Artists in Education - Ontario Arts Council,
- Best Ensemble, My Theatre Awards, *Romeo and (her) Juliet*, Urban Bard Theatre (now Dauntless City Productions) and Headstrong Collective,
- Breakout Action Star, Action On Film Festival

Siobhan Richardson is an internationally-recognized Fight Director, an Intimacy Director (a pioneer in this specialty), and an award-winning actor/fighter/singer/dancer. Her work has been seen on some of Canada's most well-recognized stages, and her teaching career has spanned Canada, USA and Europe.

Along with her continuous work in universities and in professional development programs as an educator and fight/intimacy director, Siobhan has most-recently received an Arts Response Initiative grant (Ontario Arts Council) to bring her unique approach to stage combat to Ontario and the world, through online lessons for skills development and maintenance.

Always infusing Joyfulness and Curiosity into the work, Siobhan Richardson is dedicated to the growth and development of the art forms, the artists and the workplaces.

Thank you to Pleiades Theatre for the opportunity to explore in detail the portrayal of a pair-bond on stage.

www.SiobhanRichardson.com Instagram: [@fighteractress](https://www.instagram.com/fighteractress)



ARUN SRINIVASAN

LIGHTING DESIGNER

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

Selected Theatre Credits

- *MixTape* / Crow's Theatre
- *I Am William* / Stratford Festival
- *Wendy & Peter Pan* / Stratford Festival
- *Six Essential Questions* / Factory Theatre
- *The Enchanted Loom* / Cahoots Theatre

Awards/Nominations

8 Dora nominations for Outstanding Lighting Design in both the Theatre and Dance categories.

Arun has worked extensively in the performing arts. He trained at York University earning a Specialized Honours B.F.A. Dance collaborators have included Robert Desrosiers, Peter Chin, Danny Grossman, COBA, Kaha:wi Dance Theatre, Tiger Princess Dance Projects, The National Ballet School & ProArteDanza. He has been the resident designer for Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre since 2002. Arun has had the privilege of teaching lighting design at York University, Ryerson University, the University of Waterloo and mentorship at The National Theatre School. Productions have taken him to Ukraine, Malaysia, Singapore, India, China and across North America. Upcoming projects include *Where The Blood Mixes* for Soulpepper Theatre, three premieres for Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre, *Take The Moment* for Musical Stage Company and *Who Is We* for Art Of Time Ensemble.



JACOB ROBERT WHIBLEY

GRAPHIC ARTIST

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

Selected Theatre Credits

- *All shows 2008 – 2020* / Soulpepper Theatre Company / Graphic Arts Director
- *The Great Fire* / Necessary Angel / Graphic Design & Illustration

Jacob was the Graphic Arts Director for Soulpepper Theatre Company from 2008 - 2020 where he produced, managed, and commissioned all the brand and marketing assets. Currently he is working as an independent Creative Director and Graphic Designer. Recently he has worked with Canadian Stage to help create design assets for their 2021 Dream in High Park and a variety of other print and digital materials. He has also collaborated with Necessary Angel Theatre Company to create imagery for their production of *The Great Fire*. Since 2004 he has had a visual arts practice - showing his collages and sculptures in Canada, the United States, Europe, and is currently represented by Zalucky Contemporary. His work has been acquired by the Art Gallery of Ontario, BMO Collection, RBC Collection, Scotiabank Collection, and the TD Collection. He is very excited that we will all soon be able to return to the inspiring environment that is the in-person performing and visual arts experience.



NADINE VILLASIN

ACTOR - SHE (Understudy)

Born in the Philippines // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- ***The Forbidden Phoenix*** / Citadel Theatre, MTYP, YPT / Phoenix & Empress Dowager
- ***Gladstone Variations*** / Convergence Theatre / Karen Grier
- ***Singkil*** / Fu-Gen Theatre / Mimi
- ***PEOPLE POWER*** / Carlos Bulosan Theatre, Teesri Duniya Theatre / Co-Creator & Lorna
- ***Miss Orient(ed)*** / Carlos Bulosan Theatre, Teesri Duniya Theatre / Co-Creator & Jennifer

Awards/Nominations

Nadine received a Dora Award Nomination for Outstanding Performance by a Female in a Principal Role - Musical, for playing the role of Phoenix in *The Forbidden Phoenix*.

Nadine is thrilled and grateful for the opportunity to be returning to the theatre after over a decade. The former Artistic Director of Carlos Bulosan Theatre and Co-founder of the youth-led Kapisanan Philippine Centre for Arts and Culture, Nadine is also a published playwright (Canadian Theatre Review, *Love & Relationships: A Collection of Asian-Canadian Drama*). She is currently the Senior Curator at Museum of Toronto. Nadine would like to give special thanks to her husband Troy, whose love is always more than enough.



MICHAEL PANICH

STAGE MANAGER (Understudy)

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

Selected Credits

- ***Blood Wedding*** / George Brown Theatre School / Stage Manager
- ***The Hound of the Baskervilles*** / Lighthouse Festival Theatre / Assistant Stage Manager
- ***Hogtown*** / The Hogtown Collective / Stage Manager
- ***Ipperwash*** / Native Earth Performing Arts / Stage Manager
- ***The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*** / The Segal Centre for the Performing Arts / Assistant Stage Manager

Michael graduated from Concordia University in 2008 with a BFA in Theatre. Since then he has been mostly stage managing, but occasionally working as a production manager, designer and actor. As a stage manager, Michael has toured across Canada and the United States, but has worked mostly in Toronto and Montreal. Past work for Pleiades Theatre include two workshops of *The Trials of a Noble House* and one workshop of *Besbouv*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

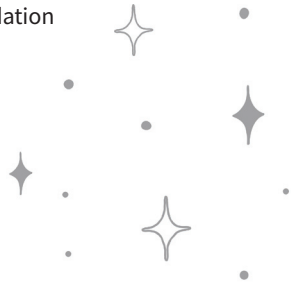
Pleiades Theatre would like to thank:

- Soulpepper Theatre Company; production support from IATSE 58 and B-173; Karen, Brianna, Alan, and everyone at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts;
- Nada Ristich, Head, Community Giving at BMO Bank of Montreal;
- Beck Hoffland and Michael Sim of McCarney Group LLP;
- Debashis Sinha for mentoring Marissa Orjalo;
- Neha Ross for mentoring Laura Lakatos;
- Chris, Sherrie, and everyone at Crow's Theatre;
- Andrew Moyer, Oakville Centre for Performing Arts;
- Zinta Amolins, Pip Bradford, Isla Brown, Farnoosh Talebpour, Scott Banks, John A. Miller, Anna Mathews, Samantha Zimmerman, Tarragon Theatre, John Westren and Paige Connell of Dorset Fine Arts, and all of our wonderful volunteers!
- A Special Thank You to Diane D'Aquila and Geordie Johnson, members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association who contributed their insights and creativity towards the development and translation of *Lesson in Forgetting* in a workshop setting and public readings in 2018. Dramaturge & Director, Andrey Tarasiuk.

Pleiades gratefully acknowledges support from the following Foundations:

- The McLean Foundation
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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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