



HONORARY PATRONS
The Rt. Hon. Michaëlle Jean & M. Jean-Daniel Lafond

ARTISTIC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ASH KNIGHT

SUPPORT OF INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS FREE SPEECH

Pleiades is a diverse organization and its staff, contractors and board hold a wide range of viewpoints and beliefs, which they are encouraged to voice to ensure that the company delivers on its vision, mission, mandate and goals (see below). This includes the usage of their bio and/or artist statement as part of Pleiades' digital/published programmes. At times, those working with the company may have opposing views to each other. It is not the company's position to restrict these contrasting ideas; rather, it is to promote the respectful discussion this may bring about. It is not Pleiades' role to force conformity to any one point-of-view, stance, or opinion. The only statement Pleiades makes is through the work it puts out. Its choice of plays should entertain and challenge audiences to think about the different human experiences in the world and the nuances of Canadian culture. As a theatre company, its job is to ask questions but let the audience come to its own conclusions.

Pleiades embraces all communities and points-of-view encompassed in its vision of "**SHARING 1ST AND 2ND GENERATION CANADIAN STORIES**".

Exceptions to this are as defined as illegal in section 319 of the Canadian Criminal Code:

Public incitement of hatred

1) communicating statements in any public place, incites hatred against any identifiable group where such incitement is likely to lead to a breach of the peace

Wilful promotion of hatred

2) communicating statements, other than in private conversation, wilfully promotes hatred against any identifiable group

Wilful promotion of antisemitism

2.1) communicating statements, other than in private conversation, wilfully promotes antisemitism by condoning, denying or downplaying the Holocaust

*Definitions as per the Criminal Code

communicating - includes by telephone, broadcasting or other audible or visible means;

statements - includes words spoken, written, recorded electronically, electro-magnetically or otherwise, and gestures, signs or other visible representations.

public place - includes any place to which the public have access as of right or by invitation, express or implied;

identifiable group - any section of public distinguished by colour, race, religion, national/ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or mental/physical disability;

Holocaust - the planned, deliberate state-sponsored persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by the Nazis and its collaborators - 1933 to 1945;

SHARING 1ST AND 2ND GENERATION CANADIAN STORIES

*Classification of Generation Status by Statistics Canada

1 - **First gen** - Born outside Canada. These people are now, or once were, immigrants to Canada.

2 - **Second gen** - Born in Canada and had at least one parent born outside Canada. These are the children of immigrants.

Mission

Redefine what it means to be "Canadian" (because for too long, that definition has been too narrow) by sharing stories from 1st and 2nd generation Canadians with each other, Tkaronto, and the world.

Mandate

Encourage 1st and 2nd generation storytellers (particularly artists of colour, but through intersectionality also deaf artists, artists with disabilities, artists living with mental illness, New Gen artists, 2SLBTQIAP artists, and Indigenous artists) to create:

- **INSPIRATIONS:** new, relevant stories exploring their experiences;
- **TRANSLATIONS:** sharing stories from other languages for all audiences;
- **ADAPTATIONS:** exploring existing works through their lens.

Goals

1. To provide communities who may not have representation in the Tkaronto and Canadian theatre community with meaningful, practical, and financial support in bringing their stories to the stage through partnerships with community organizations.

2. To train emerging theatre artists and practitioners from these communities by providing them through our seasonal activities and productions:

- Mentorships;
- On-the-job training;
- Professional, practical experience.

3. To engage in customized, multi-lingual, educational, in-school programs that focus on theatre, language, and storytelling at all levels of education.

S30 - 401 Richmond Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5V 3A8, Canada
T: 416.203.1227 E: info@pleiadestheatre.org W: www.pleiadestheatre.org

Charitable Registration No.: 11925 1437 RR001

Artistic Director, Emeritus **JOHN VAN BUREK**

Artistic Producer, Emeritus **ANDREY TARASIUK**