

PROUDLY PRESENT

NEVER FORGET:



TUES OCT 25, WED OCT 26. THUR OCT 27 THEATRE PASSE MURAILLE MAINSPACE

Season sponsor

Government support

















Artistic Producer Andrey Tarasiuk

Artistic Producer - Designate Ash Knight

Associate Producer Rona Waddington

Artistic Director EmeritusJohn Van Burek

Guiding Stars

Leon B. Aureus
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Brefny Caribou
Tsholo Khalema
Elizabeth Morris
Dharini Woollcombe
Beth Wong

Social Media Coordinator Lauryn Sherwood

Information Technology
Eddie Kastrau

Financial Services Annette Bakos

Data & Systems Support Anna Matthew

Graphic Artist Leon B. Aureus

Board of Directors

Jules Bloch Michael Bourassa Helen Findlay Carla Flamer (Secretary) Maryam Khoshyomn (Treasurer) Geoffrey Miller (Chair) Tannie Ng 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 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

Tel: 416-203-1227 info@pleiadestheatre.org pleiadestheatre.org @PleiadesTheatre on social media









www.pleiadestheatre.org



Proudly Present

PEOPLE PORGET: PEOPLE POWER REVISITED

Written and Performed
by the CBT PEOPLE POWER COLLECTIVE

Leon B. Aureus

Rose Cortez

Nicco Lorenzo Garcia

Christine Mangosing

Nadine Villasin

With Poetry by Len Cervantes

Director - Nina Lee Aquino

Stage Manager - **Heather Bellingham**Dramaturge - **Ric Knowles**

Social Media - Lauryn Sherwood (Pleiades)
Production Marketing Associate Maria Assumpta Barrairo-Pahila (CBT)

Running time is 80 minutes with no intermission.
Some mild simulated violence.
Reading will be followed by a Discussion Panel.

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).

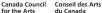
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Never Forget: People Power Revisited

Carlos Bulosan Theatre (CBT), co-producing with Pleiades Theatre at Theatre Passe Muraille returns a pivotal work to the stage with a reading of People Power this October 25th-27th, 2022.

The play which premiered in 2006 was a commemoration and celebration of the events of EDSA1, also known as the People Power revolution in 1986 that ended the Marcos dictatorship, martial law and saw the restoration of democratic institutions after 13 years of totalitarian rule in the Philippines.

36 years later, in May 2022, the deposed dictator's son, Bong Bong Marcos was elected by an overwhelming majority as the 17th President of the Republic, despite initial strong showings from the favoured candidate, former Vice-President Leni Robredo.

How did we get here? How do people ignore or forget the history of Martial Law and the struggle for democracy? How does someone, whose family is still being investigated for stealing billions from the Philippines, get elected and become president?

The original creators and performers of People Power have reunited to perform a staged reading of their play to commemorate that proud moment in Philippine history and to also reflect as a community if it was only a fleeting hope that has been irreparably damaged by the culture of alt-history and misinformation that plagues our world?

We acknowledge that Pleiades Theatre and Carlos Bulosan Theatre operate 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.



The Carlos Bulosan Theatre (CBT) aims to produce theatre that reflects on social and political issues affecting the Filipino and broader community. CBT is also committed to creating innovative work that reflects a vibrant, new generation of Filipino-Canadian artists. CBT seeks to encourage and develop Filipino-Canadian writers, performers, and other artists within the community.

www.carlosbulosan.com

Board of Directors

Martha Ocampo (Co-Founder, CBT and Board Chair), Ranelle Aquino Anthony M. Lee, Dean Vargas

Artistic Producer's Message (CBT)

After seeing the thousands of people take to the streets in support of Vice President Leni Robredo during the recent Philippine elections, I tuned out just a little bit. Those images provided a sense of relief and confidence that the citizens of the Philippines would not be electing Ferdinand Marcos Jr., aka 'Bong Bong' to the Presidency once held by his father who is known the world over as the dictator who presided over 13 years of Martial Law and plundered billions of pesos from the Philippines.

And yet, in May 2022, Bong Bong became President of the Philippines and my feelings ran the gamut of disbelief, anger and hopelessness. How could this happen? Why does this continue to happen in the Philippines, a nation with a long history of electing corrupt politicians? Should I even care and is there anything I can really do so many miles away in my new home in Canada? Is it even worth it?

Yes. Moreso now than ever. Because when we stay silent in the face of corruption and injustice, aren't we somehow complicit in its growth? We can't sit back and expect the world to just take care of itself.

An angry mob stormed the U.S. Capitol Builiding at the manipulative behest of a deposed president operating on propaganda and lies; a convoy of trucks choked the streets of our nation's capital in the name of freedom but fueled by fake news and the desire to destabilize the government; in Russia, a despot, wages war on his neighbour and declares martial law in its illegally annexed regions; in Iran, a young woman is beaten to death by morality police – hundreds more are beaten and killed in the ensuing protests.

We can't afford to remain wilfully blind, apathetic or silent to all of this.

It's my hope that this event will serve as an activation in our community, that revisiting PEOPLE POWER will (re)awaken something in our hearts and minds about the importance of community, of working together and standing in solidarity and vigilance against authoritarian regimes and the peddlers of misinformation and revisionism. One can hope, yeah?

In recent years, Carlos Bulosan Theatre has had to weather many challenges -- the most recent and significant being the pandemic that shuttered so many other theatre companies. It's been damn hard to keep things going and we're not free and clear just yet. But we're still here and while we're still standing, we will continue to support Filipinx-Canadian artists and our stories as our resources allow. Stories that will make us proud about our history and our culture, that will inspire a belief in our ability to rise above apathy, the muck of corruption and our colonial past/mindsets. Stories like PEOPLE POWER.

My sincerest gratitude to my fellow CBT People Power Collective members -- the original writers-performers and the director who reunited after many years to bring this story back to the stage; to our venue partner and first development home of the play -- Theatre Passe Muraille for so generously welcoming us back; and to our co-producer, Pleiades Theatre for their invaluable and gracious support of this play reading performance.

Leon B. Aureus
Artistic Producer
Carlos Bulosan Theatre



NINA LEE AQUINO
DIRECTOR
Born in San Juan, Metro Manila // Lives in Ottawa, ON

Awards/Nominations

Ken McDougall Award, the John Hirsch Prize, the Toronto Theatre Critics Awards for Best Director, Toronto Arts Foundation's Margo Bindhart and Rita Davies Cultural Leadership Award, and three Dora Awards for Outstanding Direction.

With a string of firsts in Asian Canadian theatre, Nina was the founding Artistic Director of fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company, organized the first Asian Canadian theatre conference, edited the first (2-volume) Asian Canadian play anthology, and coedited the first (award-winning) book on Asian Canadian theatre. She became Artistic Director of Cahoots Theatre in 2009, of Factory Theatre in 2012 and of the National Arts Centre English Theatre in September 2022. She is President of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and was recently appointed Adjunct Professor at York University.



HEATHER BELLINGHAM

STAGE MANAGER

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

Selected Theatre Credits

- The First Stone / New Harlem Productions et al. / Assistant Stage Manager
- Take d Milk, Nah? / Pandemic Theatre et al./ Stage Manager
- The Chemical Valley Project / Broadleaf Theatre / Stage Manager
- Sound of the Beast / New Harlem Productions et al. / Stage Manager
- Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street / Talk Is Free Theatre / Assistant Stage Manage

Awards/Nominations

Harold Award, House of Sarah Stanley 2021

Heather has worked in stage management on 80+ shows throughout Canada and internationally, ranging from small-scale Fringe productions, to pieces in festivals such as World Pride and Panamania, to large scale shows at the Stratford Festival and for Mirvish. She has even stage managed a private performance for royalty. See credits at heatherbellingham.wordpress.com Follow @ blue84HBtypes of theatre environments over the years.



LEON B. AUREUS

PERFORMER / PLAYWRIGHT / CO-PRODUCER ARTISTIC PRODUCER, CBT

Born in Quezon City, Philippines // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- ANAK / Carlos Bulosan Theatre / Director
- In the Shadow of Elephants / Carlos Bulosan Theatre / Producer, Playwright, Actor
- A Nanking Winter / Nightwood Theatre / Actor
- **People Power** / Carlos Bulosan Theatre / Playwright, Actor
- Banana Boys / fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre / Playwright

Awards/Nominations

Dora Award Nomination for Best Performance, Male: Singkil

For over two decades Leon has been dedicated to championing diverse stories and representation, especially as it relates to Asian-Canadian and Filipinx-Canadian theatre and film. He's been blessed to have been involved in pioneering projects and organizations such as co-founding fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre and the improv troupe Step-UP; Associate Producing the Fringe run of Kim's Convenience; and bringing his children's play, Kaldero, to GTA schools. He hopes to continue helping make positive changes in the community in his current role as Artistic Producer of Carlos Bulosan Theatre. His work on People Power is dedicated to his mother and father, who left their homeland during Martial Law for the sake of their children, who instilled in him the value of trying to do what's right and helping others as best you can.



ROSE CORTEZ PERFORMER / PLAYWRIGHTBorn in Mamila. Philippines //
Lives on Lekwungen Territory - Victoria, B.C

Selected Theatre Credits

- People Power / Carlos Bulosan Theatre / Actor / Playwright
- In The Shadow of Elephants / Carlos Bulosan Theatre / Playwright
- If We Were Birds / Theatre Passé Muraille / Actor
- Baggage / Fringe Festival Kapisanan Philippine Arts Centre / Actor
- Singkil / Factory Theatre / Actor

Awards/Nominations

Dora Award Nomination for Best Female Actor in Singkil

Rose moved to Musqueam Territory - Vancouver, B.C. 13 years ago to Teach Moksha/Modo Hot Yoga and she currently teaches at The Lab Studios on Lekwungen Territory - Victoria, B.C. She has taught Yoga to so many folks: Haida Artists, Canadian Team Athletes, Indigenous Territories, Diversabilities & Yoga Communities in Vancouver, Seattle, Kamloops, Victoria & Haida Gwaii over the many years she has been away from Theatre Toronto.

She graduated from York University's Theatre for Acting Conservatory Program in 2006. Rose's Theatre inspired & Wellness Projects in B.C. began in 2015 after the tragic death of her Haida mentor/lover/friend. In 2017, Rose was an invited guest at a 4 month Wellness & Artist Residency supported by Master Haida Artist - Chief 7idansuu James Hart & Rosemary Hart on Old Massett, Haida Gwaii. She then Project led a Body & Nature-based work entitled: "Yoga with Rose & Friends on Haida Gwaii Arts & Nature Retreat" in 2019 which she will create again in 2023. Rose has also facilitated, coordinated, created and supported various Multi-disciplinary Arts & Wellness communities with BIPOC creators all over B.C.

Rose is super excited to reawaken her first love in Toronto: The Theatre! A special thanks to the Cortez family for always believing in her many journeys!



NICCO LORENZO GARCIA
PERFORMER / PLAYWRIGHT

Born in Quezon City, Philippines // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- Through the Bamboo / TO Fringe / Matalino
- Long Division / Pi Theatre / Paul
- Same Same But Different / Nightswimming/ATP / Ben/Felipe
- Lady in the Red Dress / Fu-Gen / Danny
- **Prison Dancer: The Musical** / Summerworks / Shakespeare

Awards/Nominations

2008 Dora Award - Best Performance by a Male; *PEOPLE POWER* 2011 Dora Nomination - Performance by Ensemble; *Paper Series*

Nicco is a first generation Filipino-Canadian and Dora Award Winning actor, playwright, collective creator and dramaturg based in Toronto. He can currently be seen as Ruben on CBC Gem in the Shaftesbury series "Topline" and as series regular cast on the sketch-comedy "Abroad" on OmniTV.

Nicco recently wrapped production on the romantic comedy series "Slip", by Zoe Lister Jones and will next appear in Peter Berg's Netflix mini-series, "Painkiller" alongside Matthew Broderick.

Upcoming: Paul in Keith Barker's "This is How We Got Here" (Greenlight Arts) Nov. 2022.

"To foretell the destiny of a nation, it is necessary to open the book that tells of her past". - Jose Rizal



CHRISTINE MANGOSING

PERFORMER / PLAYWRIGHT

Born in Manila, Philippines // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Credits

- People Power / CBT Collective / Actor, Writer
- In the Shadow of Elephants / CBT Collective / Writer
- Baggage / Pulang Maleta Collective / Actor, Writer

Christine Mangosing is a Manila-born, Toronto-based multidisciplinary artist. A designer and creative director by trade, she is currently an Associate Creative Director at dentsu Creative. As a writer and performer, she co-wrote and performed in two critically acclaimed productions, *People Power* (CBT Collective) and *Baggage* (Pulang Maleta Collective), among other theatre festivals and workshops in Toronto. She also danced as a member of contemporary Filipino folkdance collective, HATAW. After a long, long hiatus, Christine is thrilled to be back with the CBT Collective and considers it an enormous privilege to tell this story. Much love and special thanks to D and K.



NADINE VILLASIN PERFORMER / PLAYWRIGHT

Born in the Philippines // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

- **Lesson in Forgetting** / Pleiades Theatre /She (Understudy)
- The Forbidden Phoenix / Citadel Theatre, MTYP, YPT/Phoenix and Empress Dowager
- Singkil /Fu-Gen Theatre/Mimi
- PEOPLE POWER /Carlos Bulosan Theatre/Teesri Duniya Theatre/ Playwright & Lorna
- Miss Orient(ed) /Carlos Bulosan Theatre/Teesri Duniya Theatre / Playwright & Jennifer

Awards/Nominations

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

Nadine is excited to be returning to the theatre for the second time this year after over a decade-long absence. 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 & Relasianships: A Collection of Asian-Canadian Drama). She is currently the Senior Curator at Myseum of Toronto.

Nadine would like to give special thanks to her husband Troy. She dedicates this performance to her mom, Fely Villasin, and all of the CAMD activists who inspired us to tell this story.



ASH KNIGHT
CO-PRODUCER
ARTISTIC PRODUCER - DESIGNATE, PLEIADES THEATRE
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.



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 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.



MARIA ASSUMPTA BARRAIRO-PAHILA PRODUCTION MARKETING ASSOCIATE (CBT)

Born in San Mateo, Isabela, Philippines // Lives in Toronto, ON

Maria so excited to partner with Carlos Bulosan Theatre to promote theatre that reflects on social and political issues affecting the Filipinx and broader community. As a Filipinx-Canadian myself, I feel represented and proud of the creative and innovative work they do to give birth to a new generation of Filipinx-Canadian artists. Through my contribution in their marketing initiatives, I have the opportunity to extend an impact to our community, and take action in my belief in the power of art to change the world.



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 productions of *The Sound of Music*. Dedicated to cinematography, Lauryn is also an avid film-watcher and photographer.

Carlos Bulosan Theatre and Pleiades Theatre would like to thank:

- Venue Partner Theatre Passe Muraille especially Artistic Director Marjorie Chan, Producer Jenn Sartor. Patron Services Manager Ceridwen Kingstone.
- Former Theatre Passe Muraille Artisitic Director, Layne Coleman for being one of the earliest champions of this play's development.
- Members of the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship (CAMD), especially CBT cofounders Martha Ocampo and Fely Villasin.
- Earlier Development Phase Collective Members: Len Cervantes, Christine Florencio, Caroline Mangosing.
- People Power Collective Creation Facilitators and Guest Artists: Paul Thompson, Marie Beath Badian, Camilla Koo, Clare Preuss, Romeo Candido, Lori Nancy Kalamanski, Weyni Mengesha.
- Katie Saunoris for PR work and mentoring, Alene Degian for Social Media mentoring.
- · Isabela Palanca Aureus for Marketing mentoring.
- · East End Arts for loan of Art Exhibit easels.

Never Forget: People Power Revisited // Guest Panelists:

Martha Ocampo, Luisito Queano, Edmundo Muyot, Rick Esguerra

Never Forget: People Power Revisited // Art Exhibition Contributors:

Maria Patricia Abuel (Curator), ate agit (Fatima Barron), Eric Tigley, Joe Rivera, Patricia Ramos, Revill Villanueva, Socky Pitargue, Tarantangond Kalbo (Kevin Eric Raymundo)

The CBT HASA Collective:

Marissa Orjalo & Adriano Sobretodo Jr. (Faciilitators), Kryslyne-Mai Ancheta, Bianca Garcia, Marie Sotto and Lui Queano



Carlos Bulosan Theatre gratefully acknowledges the invaluable support of its programs and productions by the Ontario Charitable Gaming Association (OCGA) via Dolphin Gaming.



