



RUTAS 2022 FESTIVAL

Remapping our Routes

An
international
festival of
performance

SEP 22 - OCT 9

rutas.ca

Welcome to Rutas 2022

We are so grateful and delighted to see you again! RUTAS was born out of a desire to bring you art from across the Americas and beyond - to encounter new perspectives, voices, and ideas, and to engage in conversations about art and human rights.

So let's come together as a community, take a seat and let the magic of these artists take us into worlds of possibilities and creativity.

ALIENS, IMMIGRANTS & OTHER EVILDOERS

September 29, at 7:30 PM | October 1, at 8:30 PM | October 2, at 2:00 PM

PEQUEÑOS TERRITORIOS EN RECONSTRUCCIÓN | REBUILDING SMALL TERRITORIES

September 29, at 7:30 PM | October 1, at 5:00 PM | October 2, at 2:00 PM

ALTAR

September 30, at 7:30 PM | October 1, at 7:00 PM | October 2, at 4:00 PM

SIRANOUSH

September 30, at 7:30 PM | October 1, at 3:00 PM | October 2, at 4:00 PM

CHILDREN OF FIRE

October 6, at 7:30 PM | October 8, at 5:00 PM | October 9, at 4:00 PM

I LOVE THE SMELL OF GASOLINE

October 6, at 7:30 PM | October 7, at 7:30 PM | October 8, at 8:30 PM

DANZANTES DEL ALBA | DANCERS OF THE DAWN

October 7, at 7:30 PM | October 8, at 7:00 PM | October 9, at 2:00 PM

NINA VOGEL'S PETER & THE WOLF | PEDRO E O LOBO

October 8 - October 9 | 3:00 PM

CACAO - A VENEZUELAN LAMENT

September 22-25 | 8pm PM

RUTAS + NUIT BLANCHE SYMPOSIUM: A HOME FOR OUR MIGRATIONS

September 27 - October 3 | 3:00 PM

CABARET

September 29 | 9:30 PM

Check out the amazing line-up at rutas.ca and book your tickets now.

Aluna Theatre & The RUTAS Festival

Beatriz Pizano | Artistic Director
Trevor Schwellnus | Artistic Producer
Kristina McNamee | Festival Producer
Maria Paula Carreño Martinez | Outreach + Marketing
Natércia Napoleão | Associate Producer
Renato Baldin | Social Media Strategist
Jimena Ortúzar | Symposium Producer
Charissa Wilcox | Production Manager
Sebastian Marziali | Factory Venue designer
Fernanda Sandoval Pezoa | Production Assistant
Monica Garrido | Podcast Producer
Lucia Linares | Podcast Producer
Victor Terzis | Graphic Designer

Board of Directors

Melissa Prado | Chair
Edgar Valderrama | Vice-Chair
Carla Melo | Secretary
Paulie McDermid | Treasurer
Ric Knowles
Natalie Alvarez
Robert Hay

Factory Theatre

Mel Hague – Artistic Director
Mark Aikman – Managing Director
Mollie Garrett – Fundraising & Development Manager
Lauren Naus – Marketing & Audience Development Manager
Courtney Pyke – Production Manager
Marissa Orjalo – Patron Services Coordinator
Kinsey Powell – Associate Producer
Lianne Rañopa – Marketing & Outreach Coordinator
Makiah Bautis – House Technician, Mainspace
Jeff Bornstein – House Technician, Studio

Board of Directors

Len Racioppo | Chair
Greg Power | Vice Chair
Noha Yahia Abji | Treasurer
Ebony Rose | Secretary
Stewart Adams | Director
Richard Cioci | Director
Grazyna Krupa | Director
Jonathan Odumeru | Director
Susan Sutton | Director

Front of House Staff:

Akobi Adams
Yvonne Addai
Corey Brown
Rimsha Minocha
Emma Moore
Meaghan Salmon
Mark Willett
Hannah Wayne-Phillips
Anita Yung

Theatre Passe Muraille

Marjorie Chan | Artistic Director
Indrit Kasapi | Interim Managing Director
April Leung | Artistic Associate
Abir AbouelSaadat | Interim Fundraising Coordinator
Nicole Eun-Ju Bell | Assistant Production Manager & Backspace Technician
Cody Berry | Administrative and Artistic Assistant
Petra Chevrier | Financial Director
Karthy Chin | Dramaturgy & Accessibility Intern
David Fisher | Mainspace Technician
Emily Jung | Marketing Manager
Ceridwen Kingstone | Patron Services Manager
Jonathan Rooke | Facilities and Production Manager
Jenn Sartor | Producer
Angela Sun | Community Engagement Coordinator

Patron Services Staff

Samer Dagher
Rose Goodwin
Bianca Keefer
Robin Luckwaldt
Elizabeth Staples
Lee Stone
Curtis te Brinke
Jasmine Wang

Board of Directors

Susan Moellers | Chair
Ramsay Alwani | Vice-Chair
Darren Cooper | Secretary
Jeff Chan | Treasurer
Janice Alvares | Director
Michael Cooper | Director
Avinash D'Souza | Director
Jamie Robinson | Director
Ljiljana Stanic | Director
Lynn Stivaletti | Director
Heather Wahl | Director

Front of House Staff

Katherine Welsh | Kalsang Yangzom | Elm Reyes | Sacha Tseronis

Nuit Blanche + RUTAS Symposium: A Home for Our Migrations

Organizing Committee

Natalie Alvarez
Laura Levin
Julie Nagam
Jimena Ortuzar
Beatriz Pizano
Trevor Schwellnus
Tracy Tidgwell
Jasmin Winter

Research Fellows

Anna Agazzi Migotto
Ojo Aji
Noor Banghu
Shaneela Boodoo
Amanda Carvalho
Audree Espada
Franchesca Hebert-Spence
Missy LeBlanc
John Luke
Christina Thomson

THANK YOU to Aluna Theatre’s Donors: _____

Steven M Bush | Barbara Fingerote | Suvendrini Lena | Paulie McDermid
Marilo Nuñez | Tanisha Taitt | Diana Tso | Anonymous



ALIENS, IMMIGRANTS & OTHER EVILDOERS

September 29, at 7:30 PM | October 1, at 8:30 PM | October 2, at 2:00 PM



ALIENS, IMMIGRANTS & OTHER EVILDOERS —————

Aliens, Immigrants & Other Evildoers is a creative response to the rampant anti-immigrant that has dehumanized Latin American immigrants in the U.S., and has dehumanized “undocumented people” with the odious moniker of “illegal aliens” in a system that readily exploits their labor. “NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL” on stolen lands.

Production Credits —————

Writer | Performer | Director

José Torres-Tama

Sci-fi Latino Noir Creative Lighting Design

John Grimsley

Sci-fi Film Shorts

Bruce France

Sci-fi Sound-Scapes

Audio Dali

Classical Vocalist Recording

Claudia Copeland

PERFORMER

José Torres-Tama | Writer | Performer | Director

Ecuadorian-born José Torres-Tama is an interdisciplinary troublemaker, a published playwright and poet, and award-winning visual and performance artist. His creative arsenal challenges the anti-immigrant hysteria in GrinGolandia. ALIENS is his acclaimed Sci-fi Latino Noir solo that's sold-out theaters in Houston, Minneapolis, New Orleans, and the Los Angeles Theater Center.



PEQUEÑOS TERRITORIOS EN RECONSTRUCCIÓN | REBUILDING SMALL TERRITORIES

September 29, at 7:30 PM | October 1, at 5:00 PM | October 2, at 2:00 PM



Production Credits

Creation And Concept

LAB TLS, Zuadd Atala, Alicia Laguna, Eduardo Bernal,
Jorge A. Vargas, Noé Morales, David Gutiérrez

Direction

Jorge A. Vargas

Concept

Eduardo Bernal

Performers

Alicia Laguna, Zuadd Atala

Singer

Natalia Martinez

Live Translation

Maria Escolan

Technical Director

Raúl Mendoza

Text

Noé Morales

Consultant

David Gutierrez

Assistant

Ricardo Pérez

Music

Jorge Verdín

Video & Multimedia

Marina España

Graphic Design

Carlos Villajuárez

Pequeños Territorios en Reconstrucción _____

Pequeños Territorios en Reconstrucción is the story of a place and its people, as well as a reflection on what it means to live through long-lasting violence.

Each performance begins with an empty stage, like the empty terrain the women faced when they began to build the City of Women. Over the course of the performance, Zuadd and Alicia fill the stage with various objects—building a miniature city as the audience watches. A complex installation is then formed from cinder blocks with colored roofs, photos of the women of the City, explanation cards on wooden mounts, and many other objects. At the conclusion, the audience is invited onto the stage to get to know this City of Women in depth.

Company Info

Teatro Línea de Sombra is an artistic project founded in Mexico City in 1993. Since then, they have formed an interdisciplinary group of collaborators. Their interests include exploring alternative systems of creation based on social research models, elevating their scenic creation and highlighting different fields of knowledge.

This work was created in collaboration with La Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas (the League of Displaced Women) in Turbaco de Bolívar, Cartagena de Indias Colombia) and with Dr.. Patricia Guerrero.

This project was supported by Iberescena.

www.teatrolineadesombra.org



@TeatrolineaSomb



@teatrolineadesombra



ALTAR

September 30, at 7:30 PM | October 1, at 7:00 PM | October 2, at 4:00 PM



ALTAR

Eugenio was ghosted by his new Newfoundland boyfriend, so he tries to summon him for one last conversation through a Día de Muertos altar. Through the altar, Eugenio realizes that he has been something of a ghost himself to the loved ones he left behind in Mexico. Will setting up an altar be enough for Eugenio to forgive, forget, and love again? Or enough to help him heal the relationships with his friends and family far away?

Production Credits

Creator | Performer

Santiago Guzmán

Set Design | Direction

Meghan Greeley

Lighting Design | Technical Direction

Ryan Wilcox

Sound Design

Michelle LaCour

Stage Management

Azal Dosanjh

Initial Dramaturgy

Robyn Huxter

Produced by Resource Centre for The Arts Theatre Company, St. John's NL

PERFORMER

Santiago Guzmán | Creator | Performer

Santiago Guzmán is an award-winning playwright, dramaturge, performer, & director originally from Metepec, Mexico, now based in St. John's, NL. He is the Artistic Director of TODOS Productions & the Artistic Associate for Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre. Santiago's work aims to put local, under-represented narratives and characters on the frontlines, whilst inviting audiences to appreciate the vibrancy of Newfoundland and Labrador from a diverse perspective. He is a member of Playwrights Canada Press's inaugural editorial committee. Santiago's work is very gay, very brown, and very real. Santiago believes that representation matters.

Meghan Greeley | Set Design | Direction

Meghan Greeley is a queer writer, director, and performer based in St. John's, NL. She holds a BFA in Theatre (Acting) from Sir Wilfred Grenfell College. Directing credits: *Mallory Fisher's motherskin* (White Rooster/ Resource Centre for the Arts in association with Rising Tide Theatre) and Santiago Guzmán's *Altar* (RCAT). Her play *Hunger* was published by Breakwater Books in 2022. She is the Artistic Associate of White Rooster.

Azal Dosanjh | Stage Management

Azal Dosanjh is a theatre artist from India, now residing in St. John's, Newfoundland. His recent directing credits include *The Cherry Orchard* (Shakespeare By The Sea), *Oddities* (Güd Productions), *Sun in an Empty Room* (GroupHug Productions, 2021), *Lights Out* (Theatre Perimetric, 2021), and *Relief* (Aariz Theatre, 2021). He has also worked with Perchance Theatre as Assistant Director on projects such as *Julius Caesar* (2019), *Hamlet* (2021), and *Power of One 2.0 - World Classics* (2021), which he also helped curate. He has trained with mentors such as Danielle Irvine (Perchance Theatre), Jillian Keiley (Artistic Fraud), and Richard Rose (Atlantic Repertory Company). Azal is currently adapting and developing a series of political satires originally written by Gursharan Singh, in a collection entitled *Tamasha*.

Company Info

RCA Theatre Company (RCAT) provides resources and a supportive environment for the Production and Promotion of Theatre throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. RCAT is proud to be the Theatre Company that cultivates, enriches, and promotes a unique perspective of the culture of our province. When audiences buy a ticket for a show at the Hall, they are supporting essential, live performance in their community and beyond, as well as important programs and resources for the artists who create them.

Santiago Guzmán

www.sguzman.ca



@santig1



@santiguzjan



@santiago.guzjan

RCA Theatre Company (RCAT)

www.lspuhall.ca



@rcaatlspuhall



@RCAatLSPUHall



@RCAatLSPUHall



SIRANOUSH

September 30, at 7:30 PM | October 1, at 3:00 PM | October 2, at 4:00 PM



SIRANOUSH

A multimedia, multilingual one-woman show that explores the writer/performer's desire to dig deeper into her cultural roots through a reimagining of Siranoush, a 19th century ethnic Armenian actress who was a trailblazer both on and off the stage. Tapping into ancestral knowledge and diasporic memory, the performance takes us across time and space to explore the power of theatre as a way of cultural survival and female empowerment.

Production Credits

Writer | Performer

Lara Arabian

Director | Co-Creator

Carla Melo

Video Design

Avideh Saadatpajouh

Sound Design

Armen Bazarian

Shane Miersch

Production Stage Manager

Milena Fera

Assistant Stage Manager

Qilin Yu

Lighting Designer

Sebastian Marziali

PERFORMERS

Lara Arabian | Writer | Performer

Lara is a trilingual Dora nominated Toronto-based artist by way of Beirut, Lebanon, upstate NY, and Paris, France. Her work focuses on the intersections of language, identity and the body. She's been nominated for a Dora award as both an actor and a writer and is a past member of the Banff Theatre Conservatory, the Banff Playwrights Lab and Nightwood Theatre's Write from the Hip program. Lara's been featured on numerous series such as *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Kim's Convenience* and *Ghostwriter*.

Carla Melo | Director and Co-creator

Carla Melo is a theatre/performance artist, researcher and professor, whose works have been presented in the U.S., Brazil and Canada. She's a co-founder of CorpOLuz Theatre and former Co-Artistic Director of Corpus Delicti, a butoh-inspired ensemble based in Los Angeles. She teaches at University of Toronto Scarborough's Arts, Cultures and Media department.

Avideh Saadatpajouh | Video Designer

Avideh is a multimedia designer who explores the endless possibilities of real-time systematized art and creation as an interdisciplinary and imaginative asset in a creative industry. *Her motto: Explore, Experience, Enhance.* She uses technology and art to connect people to spaces in intimate and valuable ways by designing human-centric spatial experiences using physical computing and creative thinking. Born and raised in Iran, studied at OCADU, she is currently a New-Media art instructor, immersive artist and technology researcher based in Toronto. She also works with performing artists to develop a future-forward approach to digital experiences using AR/VR and XR development tools. She is always looking for meaningful collaboration.

Milena Fera | Production Stage Manager

Milena Fera is a graduate from the Toronto Metropolitan University receiving her BFA from the School of Performance: Production. Milena has been stage managing for 10 years and some companies she has recently worked with are; The Harbourfront Center, The Shoe Project, Yellow Door Theatre Company, Greenlight Productions and Seven Siblings Theatre and more.

Qilin Yu | Assistant Stage Manager

Qilin Yu is an international student from Beijing, China, studying at University of Toronto. As a performer and theatre lover, he has been involved with Shakespeare in Action, Hart House, Toronto Fringe, SummerWorks, and many shows back home. Qilin is grateful for the opportunity to work on this production.

Sebastian Marziali | Lighting Designer/ Factory Theatre Venue Designer

Sebastian Marziali is an Uruguayan-Canadian performer, designer, and creator based in T'karonto. They were the lighting designer for the 2018 & '19 Toronto International Burlesque Festivals, and 2019 Vanguardia Dance Festival. Most recently Sebastian designed lights for TAOS at RISER, and Scenography for IAC presented across the GTA as part of Artworx TO.

Company Info

CorpoLuz Theatre is a collective that focuses on presenting and developing new works through a strong visual and physical theatre language. Our mission is to develop and stage interdisciplinary, intercultural and multilingual performances that explore minority identity, diasporic subjectivity and cultural memory. We're driven by the question: "Whose story gets to be told?" "CorpoLuz" translates as "body's light" (in both Portuguese and Spanish) reflecting the endeavor of embodying and bringing to light stories otherwise untold, and reminding us that the body "re-members" more than we think. Thank you to everyone who helped make this show possible. It takes a village.

Naghahayr yev naghamayreroon hamar



@lara.arabian
@meloqueenbea
@corpoluz



@corpoluztheatre
@carla.melo.18



CHILDREN OF FIRE

October 6, at 7:30 PM | October 8, at 5:00 PM | October 9, at 4:00 PM



CHILDREN OF FIRE

Children of Fire is an intimate portrayal of the Kurdish female freedom fighters that hosted Shahrzad Arshadi and Anna Chatterton in the mountains of Kurdistan in 2018. Co-created with a mix of verbatim theatre and first-person confessional, this play follows the journey and layered relationship across cultures between Shahrzad and Anna, and asks what is at the heart of living bravely as a woman and an activist.

Production Credits

Writer | Translator | Creator

Shahrzad Arshadi

Writer | Creator

Anna Chatterton

Director

Beatriz Pizano

Performers

Parastoo Amanzadeh

Shahrzad Arshadi

Anna Chatterton

Nyriri Karakas

Aida Keykhaii

Stage Manager

Erika Morey

Original Design

Anahita Dehbonehie

Niloufar Ziaiee

Set Adaptation & Lighting Design

Trevor Schwellnus

PERFORMERS

Shahrzad Arshadi | Writer | Translator | Creator | Performer

Shahrzad Arshadi is a Montréal-based awards winning multidisciplinary artist, performer and social justice activist. In her artistic career Shahrzad has ventured into different fields of photography, documentary film, playwright, sound creation and performance, enabling her focus on issues of memory, culture and social justice. Shahrzad is a core member of the Center for Oral History & Digital Storytelling and also a member of “Tasht Collective ” a collaborative research-creation performance group.

Anna Chatterton | Writer | Creator | Performer

Anna Chatterton is a two-time finalist for the Governor General’s Literary Award for Drama. Her plays have been produced by the Shaw Festival, Tarragon Theatre, Nightwood Theatre, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, The Theatre Centre, and Alberta Theatre Projects, among others. As a librettist Anna’s opera work has been produced across Canada and the States and nominated for a Juno Award. She teaches playwriting and devised theatre at McMaster University, Sheridan College and Humber College.

Erika Morey | Stage Manager

Erika Morey is a stage manager, arts administrator & producer who is passionate about live performance and improving working conditions for artists in the sector. As a stage manager, she’s worked on productions with Mirvish, the Charlottetown Festival, Soulpepper Theatre, Edmonton Opera, Musical Stage Company, Modern Times Stage Company, and many more. From 2018-2021, Erika sat as the Secretary-Treasurer and National Stage Management Councillor for the Canadian Actor’s Equity Association. She is currently the Head of Development for Nightwood Theatre.

Aida Keykhaii | Performer

Aida Keykhaii is an award winning Canadian-Iranian Actor and Director, producer, theatre instructor, who immigrated to Canada in 2015. She holds an M.A in Play Directing and a B.A in Acting from the University of Tehran. She is the co-founder of NOWADAYS THEATRE, which was the 2018-19 Company in Residency at Canadian Stage. Select Credits: *Winter of '88* (NNNNN), *Swim Team* (NNNN), *Drought and Lies*, *Proof*, *Dinner with Friends*, *Sleeping in an Empty Cup*, *The Pillow man*, *Iceland*, *The Only Possible Way*, *From The Basement To The Roof*, *Mother*, *Coroner*, *What We Do In The Shadows*, *Heart of A Dog* and Her last appearance was *Children of Fire*. Aida is thrilled to be on stage with this amazing team again.

Parastoo Amanzadeh | Performer

Parastoo is an Iranian actor, dancer, puppeteer and a yoga instructor based in Toronto. She studied Theatre Art Performance back home and she now is pursuing her education in Theatre art performance at Humber College. Her love for body movements got her into dancing/physical theatre and yoga when she was 17. Parastoo had the chance to work with many great directors, dancers, puppeteers and actors both in Iran and Canada. She had performed at Glendon Theatre, Fringe festival, Cahoot theatre, Pia Bounman School of Ballet and creative movement, Tigran Festival and Children Peace that She had recently choreographed a piece of solo movement under supervision of Dave Wilson at Pia ballet school.

Nyiri (Նյիրի) Karakas | Performer

On September 12, 2022, my home country Armenia was attacked by Azerbaijan, who launched a full-scale attack along our eastern border, claiming the lives of 135 martyrs. Dozens of POWs remain in their captivity, whose torture/execution videos are now circulating. The goals of Azerbaijan are to divide my country, terrorize my people, establish a corridor that links them to Turkey, and resource extraction- oh, and also to ethnically cleanse Artsakh & the region of Armenians. The forces of darkness never stop breathing. It is our responsibility to talk about it. This performance is dedicated to all the Armenian martyrs who have fought and died to preserve their homeland.

Company Info

As Canada's foremost feminist theatre, Nightwood Theatre is driven by artistic excellence, advocacy, and the successful training and development of artists that self-identify as having lived experience touched by womanhood – this includes but is not limited to trans, cis, Two-Spirit and non-binary folks. Founded in 1979, Nightwood Theatre has created and produced award-winning plays, which have won Dora Mavor Moore, Chalmers, Trillium and Governor General's Awards.

www.nightwoodtheatre.net



@nightwoodtheat



@nightwoodtheat



@Nightwood Theatre



@nightwoodtheat



I LOVE THE SMELL OF GASOLINE

October 6, at 7:30 PM | October 7, at 7:30 PM | October 8, at 8:30 PM



I LOVE THE SMELL OF GASOLINE ---

In *I Love The Smell of Gasoline*, Claren attempts to reconcile her Alberta oil-industry roots with the current environmental emergency. The project was born of a frustration with divisive Canadian politics, rampant hypocrisy, and a lack of team spirit when facing impending doom. It unpacks some of the forces that drive global warming and Western alienation in a personal account of what it is to live in a modern, capitalist environment, be a self-serving organism, and also care about the earth and fellow creature kind.

Production Credits ---

Creator/Performer

Claren Grosz

Festival Stage Manager

Helin Gungoren

Director

William Dao

Collaborator

Emily Jung

Projectionist | Collaborator

Elyse Waugh
Stephanie Zeit
Jesse Wabegijig

Dramaturgical Support & Consultancy

Cherish Violet Blood

Sound Designer & Composer

Christopher Elizabeth

Consultancy

Michelle Robinson

Set Design

Echo Zhou

Dramaturge

Andrea Donaldson

Stylist

Ami Blaxland

Production Stage Manager

Taylor Young

PERFORMERS

Claren Grosz | Playwright | Peformer

Claren Grosz is a writer as well as a theatre and visual artist. Select credits: Poet/illustrator, starting with the roof of my mouth (Gap Riot Press, 2022); Director, CHICHO (Pencil Kit Productions/Theatre Passe Muraille, 2019); Co-creator/director, Shadow Girls (Pencil Kit Productions, 2018).

Will Dao | Director

Will is a theatre artist, primarily working as a director and dramaturge. He sometimes performs and sometimes writes. He is in the 2022 Soulpepper Academy. He is the co-curator and editor of the hybrid/experimental section for The Puritan Magazine. Select credits: King Lear (Soulpepper Theatre), The Boy Who Cried (Crème de la Crème), Marjorie Prime (Coal Mine Theatre), The Flick (Outside the March).

Elyse Waugh | Projectionist

Elyse Waugh is a Queer theatre artist from Toronto. She is also the founder & creator at Art of Tula where she works as a Birth & Postpartum Doula. After taking some time off from theatre she is excited to be back working on this show! Some of her previous work includes; 4.48 Psychosis (Director), CHICHO (Stage Manager), Shadow Girls (Assistant Producer), Like Mother, Like Daughter (Stage/Production Manager)

Stephanie Zeit | Projectionist

Stephanie Zeit is an actress, writer, and theatre creator. Her work centers on coming of age narratives, lesbian experiences, and finding humour millennial/gen Z culture. Stephanie is excited by weddings, pregnancies, deaths, first loves, and life changing events. She loves finding the intersection of comedy and human tenderness in every story.

Jesse H.Wabegijig | Projectionist

Jesse is an Ojibway artist from Wiikemikoong Anishnaabek Territory located on Manitoulin Island, Ontario. Jesse is a playwright, performer, facilitator, dramaturge, director and sculptor/puppet maker. Recently worked as an Assistant director, and Actor with Centre for Indigenous Theatre, and as Artist at Clay and Paper Theatre . Jesse is passionately involved in the preservation of native cultural heritage. They have had the opportunity to work with many historically significant companies that have shaped both the indigenous art and public art sector in Canada. They include: Debajehmujig Storytellers, Shadowland Theatre, the National Arts Centre, Paprika Festival, Jumblies Theatre, The Community Arts Guild and MABELLEarts. They have trained extensively with the Centre for Indigenous theatre where they completed a four year conservatory program.

Christopher-Elizabeth | Sound Designer & Composer

Christopher-Elizabeth is a Queer Afro-Indigenous interdisciplinary storyteller, designer, and dramaturg. They challenge audiences to notice the sounds only perceptible when it's too quiet, to think the thoughts they've silenced, and to remember their playfulness and their wonder that never quite aged away.

Echo Zhou | Set Designer

Echo is a Chinese immigrant, Tkaronto-based scenographer working in live performance. She has designed for Buddies in the Bad Times, Theatre Passe Muraille, Thousand Island Playhouse, Tarragon Theatre, The Theatre Centre, etc. Her favourite recent credits: Every Brilliant Thing (TIP); White Girls in Moccasins (Manidoons Collective).

Taylor Young | Production Stage Manager

Taylor Young is a Toronto-based Stage Manager and Production Manager, originally from Calgary, AB. They hold a BFA from TMU in Performance Production. They have worked with companies such as Nova Dance, ProArteDanza, Mixtape Projects, Citadel + Compagnie, DopoLavoro Teatrale, Toronto Dance Theatre, Rock Bottom Movement, Fall for Dance North, Coal Mine Theatre, etc.

Helin Gungoren | Festival Stage Manager

Helin Gungoren works primarily as a stage manager and arts administrator with a focus on dance, festivals and events. Companies Helin has recently worked with include Canadian Stage, princess productions, Political Movement, School of Toronto Dance Theatre, Souleppper Academy, and Citadel + Compagnie. She received her BFA in Performance Production from TMU's School of Performance.

Emily Jung | Collaborator

Emily Jung is an interdisciplinary artist/artsworker working in Toronto. Currently, she is working with a grassroots collective on the project, Labour in the Arts. Learn more about her work at emilyjung.com.

Michelle Robinson | Consultancy

Michelle Robinson is Sahtu Dene with a weekly podcast in its 5th year, called Native Calgarian. Her public, Indigenous book club is over 6yrs old. She is a mother, public speaker and advocate for Indigenous Peoples' and for truth and reconciliation, working with all levels of government and community groups.

Andrea Donaldson | Dramaturge

Andrea is Nightwood Theatre's Artistic Director, and her artistic practice is rooted in dramaturgy and directing. Dramaturgy highlights include The Queen In Me (Canadian Opera Company Theatre), Every Day She Rose (Nightwood), Beautiful Man (Factory Theatre), Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells) (Nightwood), Quiver (Nightwood), Sequence (Tarragon), Grace (Nightwood), Soliciting Temptation (Tarragon), Within the Glass - GG Nomination (Tarragon).

Cherish Violet Blood | Dramaturgical Support and Consultancy

Actor, storyteller, and activist, Cherish Violet Blood is a proud Blackfoot woman whom hails from the Kainai Nation, or Blood Tribe Reserve #148 in Treaty 7 territory located in southern Alberta. Currently residing in Toronto, Ontario, Cherish is a professionally trained and well recognized performing artist with active followings in the national Indigenous and international theatre communities. Cherish has performed all over North America, Australia, New Zealand, and Scotland. Select credits include creator/performer in Material Witness (Spiderwoman Theatre La Mama, NYC), creator/performer in Making Treaty 7 directed by Michelle Thrush in Calgary, AB. And most recently, the lead role in Deer Woman, a new play that has been touring internationally by Tara Beagan. As a natural comedian Cherish has hosted many album release parties for artists such as Iskwe, LAL, and Fiver, as well as for community events and numerous fundraisers. Cherish is the recipient of the 2022 CANADIAN SCREEN AWARD, Actress in a Supporting role for SCARBOROUGH 10th Canadian Screen Awards, Toronto, Canada.



DANZANTES DEL ALBA | DANCERS OF THE DAWN

October 7, at 7:30 PM | October 8, at 7:00 PM | October 9, at 2:00 PM



Danzantes del Alba

Danzantes del Alba is a phantom carnival which ritualizes the making of 36 festive costumes of the character, El loco de la danza. Several artisan workshops created these 36 costumes, including a group of old communist workers, the home of a Central American migrant woman who was earning money by crossing the border, a women's cooperative who rescued an abandoned place and turned it into a small textile factory, and a collective of gay activists on the border with Guatemala.

Danzantes is a performative essay on the intersection of documentary research and the construction of landscapes on stage. At the end of this extraordinary dance / story, the audience is invited to explore the final installation and become part of the living landscape.

Production Credits

Director

Jorge A. Vargas

Research | Writing | Dramaturgy

Rodrigo Parrini

Artistic Ethnography | Coordination of Costumes

Yanina Pelle

Artistic Collaboration

Eduardo Bernal

Space & Lighting

Jesús Hernández

Choreography

Zuadd Atala

Video for The Scene

Javier García

Jessica Villamil

Sandra Perdomo

Production Credits

Sound Composition

Jesús Cuevas

Sound Design

Miguel Cicero

Mask Workshop & Toro Negro

Toztli Abril de Dios

Production Coordination

Adrián Mejía

Production Assistant

Paola Montoya

Technical Assistant

Adriana Flores

Photography | Video in Topilejo | Ecatepec

Marialy Soto Becerril

Transalation

Svetlana Garza

Executive Production

Alicia Laguna

Image Design

Carlos Villajuárez

Tls Management

Patricia Díaz

English Translation

Stephanie Sherman

Toronto Performers

Sofia Rodriguez

Victoria Mata

Irma Villafuerte

Sofi Ontiveros

Nico Solarte

Falciony Patiño

Company Info

Teatro Línea de Sombra is an artistic project founded in Mexico City in 1993. Since then, they have formed an interdisciplinary group of collaborators. Their interests have been directed at exploring alternative systems of creation based on social research models to problematize their scenic creation practices and more specifically to approximate their concerns towards those different fields of knowledge.

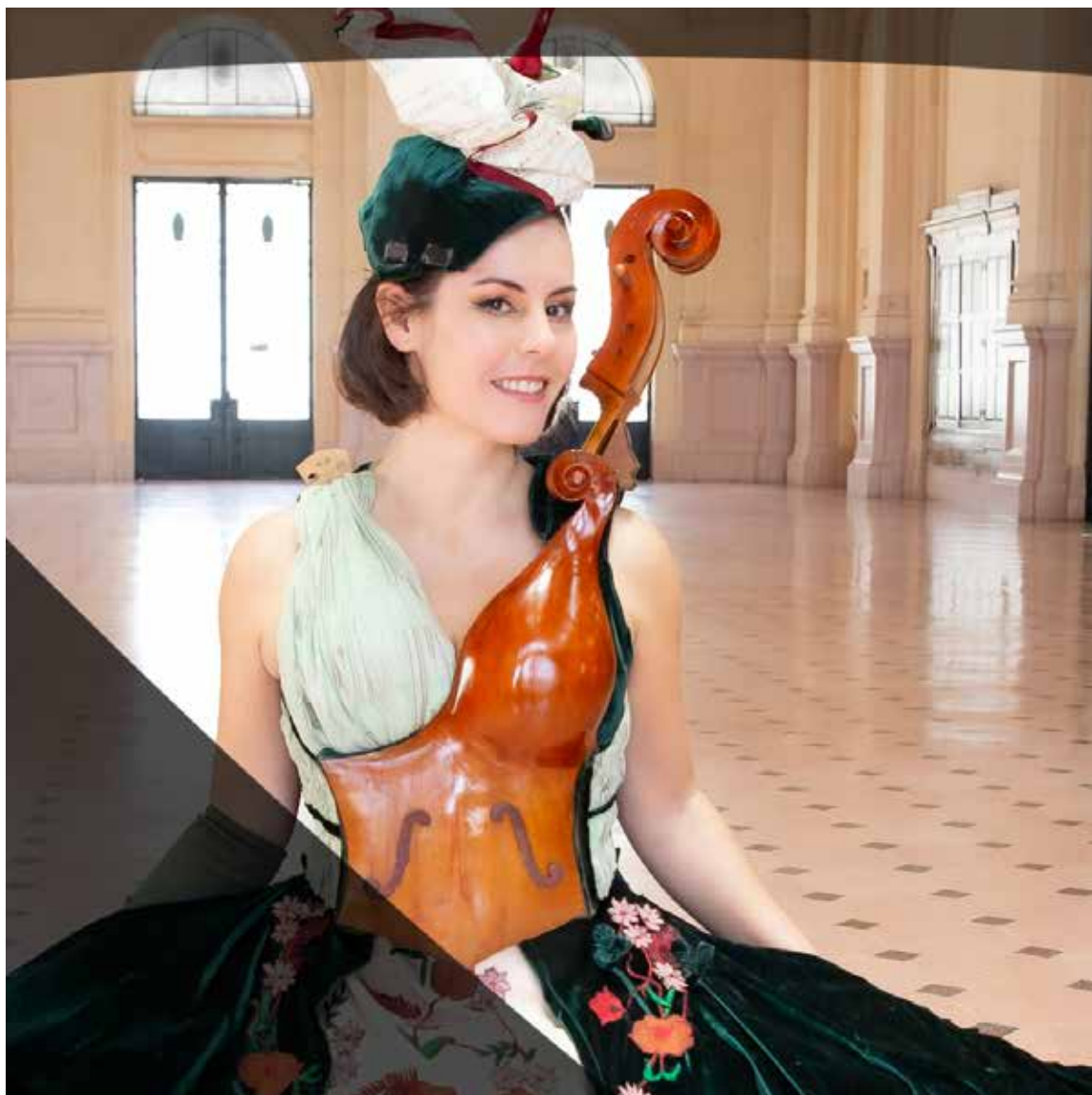
www.teatrolineadesombra.com



@teatrolineadesombra/



@teatrolineadesombra/



NINA VOGEL'S PETER & THE WOLF | PEDRO E O LOBO

October 8 - October 9 | 3:00 PM



NINA VOGEL'S PETER & THE WOLF

Peter & the Wolf, the classic story and music by Sergei Prokofiev, bursts to life with glorious puppets crafted in ateliers in Brazil. Created by master craftsmen and artist Nina Vogel, from the very musical instruments featured in the symphony, the visually stunning costume from which the puppets appear and disappear delights children with an unforgettable performance as they experience the fable for the first time. Supported by Toronto's Euphonia Chamber Ensemble, Nina Vogel presents this ingenious and beautiful spectacle with an accompanying short film, ANIMA, which takes the audience on the fantastical journey that Nina Vogel followed to create this contemporary interpretation of Peter & the Wolf.

Production Credits

Costume Design | Creation & Performance

Nina Vogel

Artistic Director

Roslyn Black

Conductor

Maziar Heidari

OutsideLook / Movement Direction

Bete Dorgam

Puppets | Props |

Headpiece Design & Construction

Nina Vogel

Wooden Body Piece Design & Sculpture

Nina Vogel & Fernando Fagundes

Lutherie Pieces Sculpture

Rogério Fagundes

Creation of Mechanisms & Automaton

Eduardo Salzane

Dressmaker

Melissa Vargas

Embroidery Application & Sewing Finishing

Mariazinha Bitzcki &
Nina Vogel

Makeup & Dresser

Rosana Rodrigues

Musicians

Euphonia Orchestra

ANIMA Minidocumentary Team

Audiovisual Director

Luiza Marques da Costa

Cinematography Director

Tiago Pinheiro

Film Editing & Montage

Luiza Marques da Costa e
Tiago Pinheiro

Realization: FRONTERA Films

PERFORMERS

Nina Vogel | Costume Design | Creation & Performance

Nina Vogel is an award winning Brazilian multidisciplinary artist. Puppeteer, opera singer, actress, costume designer and director, her limitless inventiveness, expressed in her multidisciplinary authorial solo creations, have been presented in Brazil and in more than 20 countries around the world. Poet of the invisible, when new fantastic worlds ask her to be born, she materializes them out of a piece of fabric, a musical note, a few colours and a block of foam.

Roslyn Black | Artistic Director

Roslyn Black is the Artistic Director of EUPHONIA and a prolific French horn player throughout Canada and the U.S. A frequent guest musician with many of Canada's top orchestras, including the Canadian Opera Company, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Roslyn also appears regularly as a musician with theatre productions across Ontario. She is a recipient of the Grant for Emerging Artists from the Canada Council for the Arts.

Euphonia Orchestra | Musicians

EUPHONIA is a Canadian avant-garde chamber orchestra comprised of 10 Canadian virtuosi, premiering brand new works with each performance. Notable recent projects; The Decision (about the acquittal of radio personality Jian Ghomeshi), the Beck Songbook, Reflections on Love and Sex (erotic fiction set to music), Angels in the Water (The Horn Concerto), The Trombone Concerto and The Violin Concerto.

Alex Toskov | Violin 1

Elizabeth Loewen Andrews | Violin 2

Amanda Penner | Viola

Samuel Bisson | Cello

Amelia Lyon | Flute

Melissa Scott | Oboe

Kaye Royer | Clarinet

Shaun Mallinen | Saxophone

Roslyn Black | Horn 1

Courtney Prizrenac | Horn 2

Rebecca Hennessy | Trumpet

Dan Morphy | Timpani/Percussion

Mazier Heidari | Conductor

Maziar Heidari | Conductor

Canadian conductor, composer, educator and pianist Maziar Heidari led a flourishing musical career in Iran for over a decade before moving to Toronto in 2009. Maziar obtained a MMus in Conducting from the University of Toronto and has held conducting positions with Orchestra Toronto, Hart House Orchestra, and the University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra. In 2017 alone, his work as Music Director of ICOT earned him an RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant award and a position as a juror for the JUNO Awards. Maziar is an associate composer with the Canadian Music Centre and a professional member of SOCAN.

Frontera Filmes

Frontera Filmes is an audiovisual production company created in 2012 to make projects that reflect language and relevance. The subjects and references spring from life, and creative construction is present at all times. Exploring is part of our nature, and so we are always in search of new experiences, characters and worlds.

Theatre Direct

Now entering its 46th season, Theatre Direct Canada is one of the country's leading theatres for young audiences. Theatre Direct is committed to finding new ways to engage young people. Together, as a team of artists and producers, the company strives to innovate in form and style, experimenting with digitally-integrated, immersive, audience-driven and site-specific work that activates the imaginations and aspirations of young people by inviting them to join in!

Fixt Point Arts and Media

FiXT POiNT is an arts and media non-profit company dedicated to inspiring audiences to imagine change. Fixt Point makes original work through devised collaboration, and are most inspired by audio actualities. The company brings together emerging and established radio, new media, and theatre artists, and their creations are grounded in performance.

Company Info

Nina Vogel is an award winning Brazilian multidisciplinary artist, puppeteer, singer, actress and director. Her approach to puppetry and art has a strong spiritual influence inherited from both her indigenous Guarani and Tikuna ancestry. Her work has been performed all over the world. In 2021 she was awarded the Lisa Simon Scholarship, presented to a female director whose work is currently growing in the field of puppet arts. She was also awarded the Founders Award Scholarship by the O'Neill Theater Center in the USA. Her Lambe-Lambe creation, ConCordis - the Heart, premiered in Montréal in 2019 on a tour through Québec and France. In 2020 she delivered more than 100 virtual performances of ConCordis worldwide. That same year she received an Outstanding Work Award at the 2020 Chuncheon International Puppet Film Festival, for her adaptation of ConCordis - the Heart into a stop motion film and ConCordis will be featured at the Prague Quadrennial 2023 for the Rare Performances. Nina dedicated five years researching the life and work of French painter Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, creating a human scale puppet of the painter. In 2017 she was awarded two major scholarships by the government of Québec and the École Supérieure des Arts at Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM), to further her skills in Contemporary Puppet Theatre performance. Nina is a member of UNIMA International and was elected Independent Counselor, representing UNIMA 3 Americas at the last UNIMA's World Congress.

www.ninavogelart.com

 @ninavogelart

www.euphonia.ca

 @euphoniatoronto



CACAO

A VENEZUELAN LAMENT

SEPT. 22-25, 2022



RUTAS 2022

A message from the creator of Cacao ---

This is the story about regaining a part of myself that I lost when I was moved out of Venezuela, my conuco (my home). This story is an homage to the knowledge keepers and the cacao farmers who sow the history of Venezuela with their sweat. This play is dedicated to my great grandmother, Maria Concepcion Valdiviezo de Mata "Concha."

Esta es la historia que recupera una parte de mí que perdí cuando me mudaron de Venezuela, mi conuco (mi hogar). Esta historia es un homenaje a los guardianes del conocimiento y a los cacaoteros que con su sudor siembran la historia de Venezuela. Esta obra está dedicada a mi bisabuela, María Concepción Valdiviezo de Mata "Concha."

Maria Victoria Mata Soledad (Hija de Milena Josefina Mata, nieta de Juan Mata y Arcadia Soledad)

Production Credits ---

Creator | Choreographer | Director | Artistic Producer

Victoria Mata

Creative Producer

Alison Wong

Associate Choreographer

Nahiti Ortega

Performers and Collaborators

Irma Villafuerte (Milena)
Misset Parata (Yusmelda)
Victoria Hernandez (Hortencia)
Nico Solarte (Centeno)
Nickeshia Garrick (Ensemble)
Roshanak Jaberri (Ensemble)
Falcioni Patiño (Ensemble)
Diana Reyes (Ensemble)

Screen Appearances

Belkys Figueroa
Ivan Lira
Carlixta Palacios
Yamile Perez Palacios
Nahiti Ortega
Ivanna Lira
Petra Diaz

Environmental Designer

Trevor Schwellnus

Multimedia Artistic Director/ Field Work Camera

Alexandra Gelis

Visual & Projection Designer

Alejandra Higuera

Singer

Y Josephine

Composer

Jackeline Rago

Shadow Puppetry &

Paper Cut-out Artwork

Brescia Nember Reid

Sound Designer
Thomas Ryder Payne

Lighting Designer
Grabriel Crolepy

Rehearsal Music Director
Guillermo Da Costa

Costume Designer
Nahiti Ortega
César el Hayeck

Wardrobe Support
Milena Geary

Dramaturge
Beatriz Pizano

Administration Support
Daniela Arango

Communications Manager
Magda Arturo

Researcher & Writer
Heather Evans

Rehearsal Stage Manager
Flavia Martin
Patrick Lynn

Production Stage Manager
Tanvi Vyas

Assistant Stage Manager
Abriana Lashley

Production Manager
Charissa Wilcox

Crew
Matt Armour
Mike Dowdall
Caleb Kachkowski Ford
Amber Pattison
Sandy Plunkett
Fer Sandoval Pezoa
Adrien Whan

Stage Design
Trevor Schwellnus
Charissa Wilcox
Gabriel Crolepy

Associate Musicians from Venezuela
Belkys Figueroa
Mariángel González
Ivan Lira
Ivanna Lira
Alexis Machado
Angelina Marrero
Glenxis Machado
Betsayda Machado
Calixta Palacios
Yusmari Palma
Yamile Pérez
Jesus Rondon
Leodimer Vaamonde
Glenxis Verde
Yaritza Verde

Fieldwork Mentors | Elders | Cacao Farmers
Carlita Palacios
Yamile Perez Palacios
Lourdes Josefina Ramirez Sanoja
Maria de los Angeles Ramirez Sanoja

Fieldwork Production Support
Elói Araujo Mata
Joel Carrasquel
Nahiti Ortega
Carlita Palacios
Misset Parata
Yamile Perez Palacios
Peter Simon James
Mariela Soledad

Fieldwork Photographers
Luis Carlderon
Alexandra Gelis
Cynthia Iradi

Carlos Lasala
Jorge Lozano

Volunteers
Uche Ama
Ana Cisneros
Coralia Cortez
Joseph Cretu
Nikole Daniels
Heather Evans
Rachael Edge
Valezka Gomez
Daniela Arango Marciana
Angeline Monegro Medina
Esta Noj
Marcela Ramirez
Darian Razdar
Marcela Lucia Rojas
Lilia Leon Tovar
Fernanda Yanchapaxi

Synopsis ---

Prelude

Quitiplás ensemble | Irma Villafuerte, Victoria Hernandez, Nico Solarte, Nickesia Garric, Roshanak Jaber, Falcioni Patiño, Diana Reyes

Music Composition | Jesus Rondon, Los Vasallos de Venezuela

Singer | Betsayda Machado

Scene 1: Bus to Choroní | Bus a Choroní

From a distance, the interior sounds of a local bus on a dirt road.

Scene 2: The arrival | La llegada

A busy plaza in a coastal town with dirt roads surrounded by rustic, colourful colonial homes. Milena’s path is interrupted by locals preparing for the San Juan.

Scene 3: Suitcase | La maleta

Milena and Yusmelda reunite after thirteen years.

Scene 4: The reunion | La reunion

Milena’s family and neighbors welcome her back and she’s exposed to the political divide in her hometown.

Scene 5: Centeno is Leaving | Centeno se va

Centeno, Milena’s childhood best friend, tells her he’s leaving Venezuela.

Scene 6: Planting stars | El Sembrador de Estrellas

A tribute to those who have walked across the border out of Venezuela, leaving their hearts and spirits behind and engraved in the plains, mountains, and oceans of home. Poetry by Helena Rago Rodriguez.

Scene 7: Hortencia & Milena

Milena attempts to convince her aunt Hortencia to sell the land, but Hortencia reminds her of the importance of the teachings of the cacao bean.

Synopsis

Scene 8: The Harvest | La Siembra

Hortencia hands Milena a machete and her world is transformed into a surreal visitation of ancestors.

Scene 9: I am from here | Yo si soy de aqui

Milena undergoes a search for herself.

Scene 10: Your whispers | Tu suzuro

Milena meets the Milena that never left Venezuela—the version of herself that was left behind, her void.

Scene 11: When we were young | Cuando eramos niñas

Milena and Yusmelda remember how much they used to laugh when they were young.

Scene 12: Yusmelda y Hortencia

Hortencia reminds Yusmelda that for more than 500 years, the family has worked the land and the cacao will not fail us; its knowledge and strength is their veins.

Scene 13: Dear Sun | Querido Sol

A song to honour the Sun and the cacao crops.

Scene 14: Washing San Juan | Lavando San Juan

The town's San Juaneras (matriarchal devotees to San Juan) journey to the river to wash their San Juan deities in preparation for next day's San Juan Celebrations.

Scene 15: Grandma would always say... | Miabuela siempre decia...

Milena and Yusmelda reconnect and play the Quitiplas together after thirteen years of not being able to do so together.

Scene 16: An offering for San Juan | Una promesa a San Juan

We invite you to join us as we bring the euphoric San Juan Celebration to life right here in Mel Lastman Square.

PERFORMERS

Irma Villafuerte | Milena

Salvadorian-Canadian dance artist in Tkaronto. She graduated from George Brown Dance and is trained in Latin American, Caribbean and Cuban Contemporary techniques. She's performed in festivals and events in Canada, Cuba and the United States. She's also participated in projects with Jaberí Dance Theatre and Kahawí Dance Theatre, as well as collaborated on projects with other leading choreographers. She has developed her choreographic practice through residencies with Dancemakers, Emerging Voices with TDT and George Brown Dance Ensemble. She currently sits on the board of Adelheid Dance Projects and is a TDSB Creates Resident Artist, as well as a faculty member for Casa Maiz' Semillas Maiz summer camp for Latin American children and Randolph College for the Performing Arts.

Misset Parata | Yusmelda

Born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela, where she was immersed in a rich culture of Afro-Venezuelan traditions. Her love for music opened the doors to perform for local Venezuelan dance groups. In 2006, after meeting Victoria Mata, MataDanZe founder, she joined the dance collective. This new endeavour is where she was first introduced to theatre performance, and also had the opportunity to train and perform contemporary dance throughout Canada and Latin American countries. For the last 5 years, Misset has studied Afro Venezuelan and Latin American Caribbean percussion which landed her a role as a Percussionist and Actor for the piece *The Mente* by Paula Carreño (2019). Eager to keep exploring the performance world and to share her roots with wider audiences, we find her here now, as part of Cacao, offering us a deep dive into her upbringing through a character "written for her"-Victoria Mata.

Victoria Henriquez | Hortencia

Dominican actor with a background of street theater. Victoria theater passion was born by her community activit work in the Dominican Republic, as a way to speak and educate the community about local issues. Since living in Canada it has been harnessed to share her love to her Afro latinidad.

Nico Solarte | Centeno

is a Colombian-Canadian multi-disciplinary queer artist, healer, activist and vocal producer with a passion for community and the expansion of consciousness through creativity. He first began studying music at age 8 at the Youth Symphony Orchestra of Colombia (in his hometown of Bogota), before pursuing further training in voice and classical piano. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Musical Theatre performance from Sheridan College and is also the founder of Existt Soul Centre, an artist wellness collective dedicated to the curation of experiential healing events fostering creativity and liberation.

Nickeshia Garrick | Ensemble

Settler on the stolen land of Tkaronto and has performed on this land for over 25 years. They are unapologetically a Black, Queer Artist, who believes in the healing power of breath through raw emotion and movement and teaches this breathwork at the Toronto Film School. Along with teaching at TFS, Nickeshia is a Certified Personal Trainer and Pilates Instructor and often offers free and discounted sessions to the IBPOC LGBTQ2S+ community in Tkaronto. Nickeshia holds their BFA in Dance from Simon Fraser University (Vancouver) and is a Dora Mavor Moore, winning and multi-nominated artist.

PERFORMERS

Roshanak Jaberi | Ensemble

Iranian-born Canadian artist, producer, director, and a Dora nominated choreographer and performer with a career that spans over 20 years. She is also the founding artistic director of Jaberi Dance Theatre, based in Toronto. Described as a “force to reckon with,” she has created and co-created over 30 works in dance, visual arts, film and music, has performed in numerous dance works, and has presented her work in Canada and Internationally. Roshanak is the recipient of the ISPA-International Society of Performing Arts Global Fellowship (2020, 2021) and the Chalmers Arts Fellowship (2019), and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours from York University. She has been a guest speaker and lecturer in various forums, and her work has been referenced in adult education courses and in critical pedagogy at the University of Toronto.

Falciony Patiño | Ensemble

From Funza, Colombia and began training in Colombian folk dance at the age of seven with the group Zaquesazipa. He has since experimented with folk dance, ballet, contemporary dance, afro dance traditions, urban dance, and capoeira, in addition to parkour. He studied dance at the Academy of Arts of Bogota, during which he joined the folk group Orkeseos. In 2009 he moved to Toronto to join Ballet Creole. In 2015 he was part of Amalgama in the Pan American Games and in 2016 danced for Kaha:Wi Dance Theatre as a part of The Honoring. Since 2017, he has been performing in Mistatim with Red Sky Performance.

Diana C. Reyes | Ensemble

Also known as Fly Lady Di (she/her) is a multi-disciplinary artist, recognized for her work as a street dance artist, and DJ. Born and raised in Toronto, her current explorations combine her ancestral Filipino heritage with contemporary concepts - through dance choreography, performance making and joke writing. Most notably, her work includes Honey (Universal), Fall Out Boy's 'Dance Dance', and performances with artists like Ciara, Jason Derulo, the Clipse feat. Pharrell, MC Lyte and BlackSTREET to name just a few. She's been featured on etalk, Toronto Life, Toronto Star, Dance Current and countless publications in North America and abroad. Her work has also brought her all over Europe, Asia and South America and she's been supported by federal, provincial and city granting bodies. She plans to further investigate pre-colonial Filipino culture and incorporate that into her work as a performance maker. www.flyladydi.com

Y Josephine | Singer

Venezuelan-Canadian whose contagious passion for percussion has propelled her to travel far and wide to share her epic fusion of sounds of the South. She is one of the founders of Baobá, a trio formed by Toronto's top female percussionists that takes traditional beats to the next level. Empowered by the natural musicality that flows from South American bodies, this trio-and-sometimes-quartet featuring fellow Jamphitheatre-er Anita Graciano, alongside Mari Palhares and Carla Dias, represents an ideal balance of voice, melody, and instrumentation. They bring new life to and transcend Venezuelan, Colombian, and Brazilian traditions. She also is part of the Amao Kuda Et les Bois crue.

Victoria Mata | Creator | Choreographer | Director | Artistic Producer

Venezuelan-Canadian settler in T’Koronto. She is a poly-lingual choreographer, dance artist and activist with a background in expressive arts therapy. Mata’s career was first sculpted by pedagogic, self-directed training, which proceeded with training under internationally renowned choreographers. Mata’s sensibility to inclusion and Victorborder stories are due to her eclectic upbringing across three continents before the age of fifteen. Community arts and the abolishment of violence against women are some of Mata’s passions, passions that are intricately weaved into all of her work. She received an MFA in Contemporary Choreography from York University and has been a beneficiary of the Metcalf Foundation, a finalist of the Toronto Arts Foundation Emerging Artist Award and the recipient of 7 Dora nominations. After 12 years of research, Mata is now working to share a story about the resilience of cacao farmers, which is part of her heritage and that of many families across Venezuela. Cacao | A Venezuelan Lament is Mata’s second self-produced, full-length production and through it she aims to share an expression of the stories that course through her veins.

Alison Wong | Creative Producer

Director, performer and producer based in Toronto. Recent directing credits include Stormy Weather (IN Series, Washington DC), La fedeltà premiata (Royal Opera House, Mumbai, India), Joshua (Ars Musica, Toronto), The Bremen Town Musicians (Canadian Opera Company), and Béatrice et Bénédict (MYOpera, Toronto). Alison’s directing work has taken her to productions in the United States, Italy, India, and the Netherlands. In 2015/2016, she was part of Factory Theatre’s inaugural Factory Foremen Program for early-career directors of color. In 2017, she also concluded a five-season term as Artistic Producer with b current, a Toronto-based company with over 25 years of supporting the development of new Canadian plays by artists of color. Over the last two years, she was the Creative Producer for the world premieres of The Empire, a trilogy of modern epics by award-winning playwright Susanna Fournier. These premieres were part of the New Chapter program celebrating Canada’s 150-year anniversary, which culminated at the international LuminaTO Festival.

Nahiti Ortega |

Associate Choreographer | Master Teacher of Afro-Venezuelan Traditional Dance

is the Artistic Director and Choreographer of the music and dance ensemble Los Vasallos de Venezuela. She began her dance studies in traditional Afro-Venezuelan and Popular dance at the prestigious Bigott Foundation in Caracas, Venezuela. Her specializations include: West African, Colombian, Cuban, Argentinian, Dominican, Bolivian, Brazilian, Chilean and numerous genres of traditional Afro-Venezuelan dance. Nahiti has been internationally trained in body expression, polyrhythmic body percussion, dance analysis, theory of popular culture, singing, theatrical makeup and scenic costume design. Her parallel passions in costume design, make-up art and corporate event planning keep her travelling across the country for festivals, celebration and large-scale events. With more than 30 years of experience as a performer of traditional Venezuelan dance genres and other Latin American dance forms, Nahiti brings an incredible richness and mentorship to Cacao | A Venezuelan Lament as Associate Choreographer.

Jackeline Rago | Composer

Multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger, producer, and educator who specializes in her native Venezuelan folk-music and other Latin American and Caribbean folk musical genres. She holds a BA in music and is an Orff-certified music teacher from the San Francisco School and the Dominican College. Jackeline is the musical director of two Bay Area bands, the “Venezuelan Music Project” (Folk-Venezuelan Music) and the “VNote Ensemble” (Fusion of Venezuelan music and Jazz). She’s also the Lower School music teacher at Park Day School in Oakland, California, as well as faculty member at the California Jazz Conservatory in Berkeley, California. She has performed and led workshops for over 25 years in the USA, Canada, Costa Rica, Japan, Spain, Finland, Thailand, Venezuela, Brazil, St Croix, Barbados, and Ghana.

Trevor Schwellnus | Environmental Designer | Set Consultant

Interdisciplinary artist and Scenographer who designs sets, lights, and video for performances with independent artists and companies since 2002. He was born on unceded Algonquin land, helped to found Aluna Theatre, and has been its Artistic Producer since 2002. One of his chief obsessions is the intersection of design, dramaturgy, and cross-cultural art-making. Recent work includes: White Girls in Moccassins (Buddies in Bad Times), The House of Bernarda Alba (Modern Times), Our Fathers...(Tarragon), Here are the Fragments (Theatre Centre), Out the Window (Luminato), Nohayquiensepa (No one knows) (Aluna Theatre), Alien Creature (Theatre Passe Muraille), and dozens more. He redesigned Toronto's Dora Award statuette in 2019, and has 6 Dora Awards.

Alexandra Gelis | Multimedia Artistic Director, Field Work Camera

Colombian-Venezuelan media artist, curator and researcher. She is currently working towards a Ph.D. in Environmental Studies. Her studio practice combines data capture techniques, video, film, sound, and spatial and electronic media to create non-fiction-based immersive installations, single and multi-channel films, and videos. Her projects incorporate personal field research as a tool to investigate the ecologies of landscapes by examining the traces left by various socio-political interventions. She has expanded her practice to work with youth and marginalized communities on the American continent. She has exhibited internationally in North and South America, Europe and Africa, and has curated several shows across Canada and South America over the last few years.

César el Hayeck | Costume Designer

is a production designer recently re-established in Toronto, after a successful career in Dubai and the MENA region.

Alejandra Higuera | Visual & Projection Designer

Colombian-Canadian artist based in Toronto. She currently works in the fields of video art, projection, photography, animation, sound and installation. She holds a BA in Integrated Media from OCAD University and since 2007 has been a community-engaged artist in Canada, Colombia and Mexico. She strongly believes in the power of art to create social change and healing. Her work explores issues of migration, feminism, and memory, as well as the many ways in which artists are able to create healing spaces for their communities.

Thomas Ryder Payne | Sound Designer

Thomas Ryder Payne is a composer and sound designer for theatre, dance and film. Selected past theatre work includes designs for Stratford, Shaw, Mirvish, Soulpepper, CanStage, Tarragon, Factory, TPM, YPT, Crows, Modern Times, Aluna, BIBT, Nightwood, Toronto Dance Theatre, NAC, Theatre Calgary, GCTC, RMTTC and many others. Thomas has received 4 Dora awards and 25 nominations.

Gabriel Crolepy | Lighting Designer

Toronto based lighting designer and three-time Dora Mavor Moore award nominee. Gabriel has had the privilege of collaborating with BouchardDanse, pounds per square inch performance, Alias Dance Projects, Ballet Creole, Coal Mine Theatre, Expect Theatre, Bicycle Opera, Julia Sasso Dances, CanAsian Dance, dreamwalker dance, Angela Blumberg, Dancemakers, Simcoe Contemporary Dancers, Avinoam Silverman Dance, Little Pear Garden Dance Company, Toronto Heritage Dance, Korean Dance Studies Society of Canada, Capitol Theatre Port Hope, Festival of the Sound, Newton Moraes Dance Theatre, York Dance Ensemble, Danny Grossman, Sook-Yin Lee & Jennifer Goodwin, Ontario School of Ballet, Theatre Gargantua, Peggy Baker Dance Projects, Martha Hicks School of Ballet, Sampradaya Dance Creations, Hamilton Children's Choir, Tracey Norman, Sabina Perry, Forcier StageWorks, Soulpepper Global Cabaret, Ritmo Flamenco, Teatron Theatre, JDdance, Tribal Crackling Wind, Toronto Dance Theatre, Art of Time Ensemble, and the School of Toronto Dance Theatre.

Thank You

It has taken many villages and many hearts across the world to make this production possible:

Incredible community support

Andre Azcurra; Luis Briceno/THCC; Chocosol; Milena Geary; Jaime Gonzalez/LMNP; La Rumba Buena; Nidhi Khanna; Laurie Maher; Muse Arts; Mauricio Ospina; Paul Quinlan; Doris Rajan; Rebecca Sarfatti; Josephine Ridge; SOMA Chocolates; the Staff & Crew at TO Live; Staff & Crew at The Theatre Centre; Why Not Theatre; North York Arts; Factory Theatre.

Our past team members who journeyed with us

Ravyn Aria Wngz; Claudia Gutierrez; James Kendal; Wasifa Noshin; Allyson Trunzer; Brandon Valdivia.

To the invaluable humans that sustained the production day in and day out

Uche Ama; Wendy Figueredo; Milena Geary; Marcos Geary; Scott Geary; Tiffany Hsiung & Hsiung family; Ildemar Mata; Zaida Mata; Mila Mendez; Angine Monegro; Coman Poon; Marcela Rojas; Mariela Soledad; Gerardo Vargas; Shirley Wong; Fernanda Yanchapaxi; Jessica Zepedo.



@victoriamataproductions



@Cacao_A_Venezuelan Lament

We believe that when people participate in their community, good things can happen.

Proud to support Aluna Theatre

Through the TD Ready Commitment, TD supports arts and culture events, initiatives and organizations across North America that amplify diverse voices. It's just one of the ways we're helping to open doors for a more inclusive and sustainable tomorrow.

Learn more at td.com/artsandculture

TD READY COMMITMENT

© The TD logo and other trademarks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank or its subsidiaries.



Partners



aluna
theatre



theatre
passe
muraille



THE
SPACE
BETWEEN
US

NUIT BLANCHE
TORONTO

Sponsors



**TD READY
COMMITMENT**



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



An agency of the Government of Ontario
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



FUNDED BY
THE CITY OF
TORONTO



Canada Council
for the Arts
Conseil des arts
du Canada



Additionally, for Theatre Passe Muraille



Martin Atkinson
Foundation at
Toronto Foundation

