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A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, THEATRE, MUSIC & FILM:

Welcome and thank you for joining us.

Our students, instructors, and staff have put in the grind and grit to bring these works to life—a true reflection of the resilience, creativity, and teamwork that thrive at Arts Umbrella.

This year's Expressions shows share a theme that's both deeply personal and universal — the strength we find in each other, the courage to face the challenges of being human, and the beauty of finding love in its many forms. These shows are not just stories we tell but, as we hope you see tonight, they're the essence of being human.

In our Theatre, Film, & Music programs Arts Umbrella, we explore what Dr. Dan Siegel called

“Mwe” (me + we): that each “me” is inextricably linked to the “we” we find ourselves within, whether we recognize it or not. This is what culture is. Working together on each of these pieces, we explore a cultural intelligence that is rarely taught: An understanding that when we share our truth with each other - whether in a playground, on the streets, in a forest or a book - we become more powerful and can change our world. In this light, the work of the young people here today is a celebration of the connections that define us and the transformation we can achieve when creating, together.

Thank you for being part of this, for sharing your time, your families, and your dreams with us as we work together to craft a tomorrow that looks and feels like the dreams we need today.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Toth', with a stylized, flowing script.

Andy Toth

Artistic Director, Theatre, Music & Film

ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

Intended for students ready for a larger commitment to the art and craft of performance. From September to June, students work with industry professionals to develop their skills with an emphasis on teamwork, discipline, process, creative input and cooperation. From playwriting to stagecraft, voice to movement, musical theatre to acting for stage and screen, each year-long program is one of structure, offering young aspiring artists the space to sharpen their skills in creative expression and individual artistry. With festivals throughout the year; as well as school tours and cabaret nights students in each program have ample opportunity to share their work. We are proud to say that many of our alumni are in post-secondary theatre programs or have gone on to work as professional actors around the world.

AUDITIONS FOR THE 2025/26 PERFORMANCE TROUPES

June 14, 2025

For more information on the Advanced Theatre Programs including Performance Troupes and Half Day Professional Training Programs in Performing Arts (Film, Musical Theatre, and Theatre) visit:

<https://www.artsumbrella.com/programs/theatre-music/advanced-programs/>

To book your audition visit: <https://www.artsumbrella.com/advanced-troupe-auditions/>

Now accepting applications for the 2025/26
Yearlong Theatre Intensive Programs

To find out more and to fill out your application, visit: <https://www.artsumbrella.com/programs/theatre-music/theatre-intensive/>



ARTS UMBRELLA

Arts Umbrella believes that arts education must be available to all young people regardless of background, ability or circumstance.

For decades, we have established no-cost Community Programs, but the need is greater than ever before.

This spring, help us meet this growing need.

Support Our Mission this Spring - Arts Umbrella

ARTS UMBRELLA PRESENTS

The Forests Wild

BY FRANCIS DOWLATABADI

Theatre Troupe presents:

THE FORESTS WILD

By Francis Dowlatabadi

April 26th and May 3rd at 7:00pm

Nine students are hiking through the wilderness of Vancouver Island on a five day camping trip. Unsupervised, the goal of their Eco program is for them to work together as a non-hierarchical collective. However, on the final day of their trip, strange noises are heard, and students are going missing. As night falls they are forced to confront one another in ways they never imagined as they discover that the forest is far wilder than they ever dreamed.

Content Warning – Flashing lights, sudden loud noises

DIRECTOR'S NOTES:

It has been a real pleasure to work on *The Forests Wild*, a new script written by Francis Dowlatabadi, created specifically with these students in mind. The students participated in a series of workshops with myself and Francis, reading several drafts over the past year. They were able to witness firsthand how a script evolves through the writing process. And by being active in the dramaturgy process their notes and thoughts about the characters and story have become integral to the final product you see here.

This play asks the question: What if the forest knew how we treated it? And what if it learned from us, and returned the favour?

At its heart this is a story about relationships in a variety of forms. About the pain and struggle of knowing yourself, about the risk and reward of trusting others, and about the pressing need to respect our shared environment.

In reckoning with their relationship with the forest, these nine characters learn lessons that we could all do with paying attention to.

Laura McLean

Director, Theatre Troupe

ARTISTIC TEAM AND CREW

Director

Laura McLean

Set & Props Design

Charlie Beaver

Costume Design

Amber Nordstrand

Lighting Design

Gillian Hanemayer

Sound Design

Mathew MacDonald-Bain

Stage Management

Lou Marshall

Fight Direction

Nathania Bernabe and Jackie Hanlin

Production Management

Alan Brodie

CAST

Aimee Mintha

Sophie

Ana Khan

Alice

Jesse MacPherson

Shan

Minu Mansoor-McKee

Kayla

Katie Wu

Sam

Liam Farrell

Ben

Ronan Martin

Zack

Fenix Stairs

Jane

Jax Arvidson

Teddy

El Quin Ilay

Understudy

Lucia Liberato

Understudy

CAST BIOS

Aimee Mintha

Aimee Mintha (She/Her) is an actor from Vancouver, BC, and has been with Arts Umbrella for six years. She has been acting since she was born.

For Arts Umbrella, Aimee has performed in Goldilocks and The Three Bears, The It, Canker Sores and Other Distractions, and many Arts Umbrella Intensive shows.

A big thank you to everyone at Arts Umbrella for making the experience so wonderful. Enjoy the show!

Ana Khan

Ana Khan (She/Her) is a passionate and dedicated actor whose theatre journey began at age 11. She has spent three years training at Arts Umbrella while also performing with her high school theatre

company, where she has honed her craft and developed a deep love for the stage.

Ana's recent credits include *Murder in the Knife Room* (2022), *The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet* (2022), *Chaos* (2022), *Hummingbird* (2023), *Anne of Green Gables* (2024), and *Medea* (2024). With a diverse range of roles, Ana continues to grow as a versatile and passionate performer.

Jesse MacPherson

Jesse MacPherson (He/Him) is an aspiring actor, artist, and performer. He has been performing in plays and musicals for over a decade. With Arts Umbrella he has performed in productions of: *Chaos* (Michael), *The Boxcar Children*, *The It*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* (Baby Bear), *Canker Sores and Other Distractions*, *The Proposal* (Ivan), and *Love and Information*. He is currently in both the Pre-Professional Theatre Troupe, and Pre-Professional Musical Theatre Troupe. He will be in productions of *The Forest Wild* as Shan, and,

Between the Lines as Martin/Troll. Thank you to my family and my directors for helping me to grow as a human, and as a performer

Minu Mansoor McKee

Minu Mansoor McKee (She/Her) has preformed in University Hill Secondary's productions of She Kills Monsters and Clue. She is excited to be part of this year's Expressions

Katie Wu

Katie Wu (She/Her) is a young actor that has been participating in yearlong theatre programs for three years at Arts Umbrella. She has acted in Anne of Green Gables, The It, Us and Them, and a few others shows, all at Arts Umbrella. Thanks to everyone that made this possible. Enjoy the show!

Liam Farrell

Liam Farrell (He/Him/His) is a former Half Day Arts Umbrella Professional Film Acting student and is currently a member of the Arts Umbrella Theatre Troupe. He has appeared as a background

actor in several films, including One Day This Kid (Toronto & Vancouver International Film Festivals), Gone Abroad (Crazy 8's Film Festival, Whistler Film Festival), and Encore (currently in post-production). Liam recently starred in the mockumentary U.N.D.E.R. Achievers and played the lead role in the theatre productions Under Pressure and Canker Sores & Other Distractions at Arts Umbrella. In addition, he is learning to play guitar. When asked which actor he would most like to work with, Liam mentioned Steve Martin and Willem Dafoe.

Ronan Martin

Ronan Martin (He/Him) is from Vancouver, BC. He is currently attending Lord Byng Secondary in the Advanced Media Arts (Filmmaking) program. This is his first experience with theatre and acting, and he would like to thank Arts Umbrella for this opportunity!

Fenix Stairs

Fenix Stairs (She/They) is an aspiring actor with Arts Umbrella. Although this is her first year acting at AU, Fenix is an actor in the Gladstone Theatre Company — her school's theatre troupe — and has previously appeared in *Brainstorm* and *Aliens vs Cheerleaders*. She plans to pursue theatre in the future, aiming to study acting at UVIC, before going on to become a drama teacher. Fenix wants to thank everyone at Arts Umbrella, but especially her director, Laura McLean.

Jax Arvidson

Jax Arvidson (She/Her) is an actor and aspiring filmmaker. This is her first year in Theatre Troupe, but she has been acting with Arts Umbrella for several years. She recently directed *Cracked*, a short film at her school. She has also acted in many of Bard on the Beach's summer camp productions, including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Twelfth Night*. Jax has always loved the arts—whether it's theatre, music, visual arts, or anything else.

El Quin-Ilay

El Quin-Ilay (They/Them) is a student in the Arts Umbrella Pre-Professional Half-Day Program for three years. Their previous performances with AU include Jasper in Deadland and The Quest.

Prior to joining the Pre-Professional Program and Musical Theatre Troupe, El was a part of Dance Express and Wonderland Theater.

Huge thanks to everyone at Arts Umbrella for all their incredible work. Enjoy the show!

Lucia Liberato

Lucia Liberato (She/Her) is a musical theatre performer from Vancouver, BC. She has been attending Arts Umbrella since 2020 and joined the Musical Theatre Troupe in 2021. Over the past three years, Lucia has performed as Hugo in Tuck Everlasting, Mary Lennox in The Secret Garden, and Taylor in The Quest. She is very excited to resurrect her violin for her role as a Fate in Hadestown. She thanks her teachers, family, and friends for their support.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

Laura McLean

Laura McLean (She/Her) is a Jessie Award winning director and producer. Recently she directed *The Hobbit* at Pacific Theatre, and previous directing credits include *The Last Wife* and *Silent Sky* at United Players, and assistant directing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Bard on the Beach. Laura is the co-Artistic Director of Delinquent Theatre where her directing credits include *Never the Last*, and *Our Time*. She has her BFA in Theatre from UBC and her Masters in Directing from the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. She has been teaching and directing at Arts Umbrella for over 15 years.

Lou Marshall

Lou Marshall is a recent graduate of Studio 58's Production Program. They're thrilled to be stage Managing at Arts Umbrella right out of the gate and look forward to continuing this path as an emerging Stage Manager. Their stage management credits include *Baggage* at Studio 58, *Meadows of Stone* at Sunset Theatre, and the upcoming *The Addams Family* for Touchstone Theatre's annual Lawyer Show. Lou cannot wait to get to share *The Forests Wild* - and it's talented cast - with the public!"

Amber Nordstrand

Amber Nordstrand Based in Vancouver, Amber is an independent artist with a versatile background in filmmaking, production design, performance, and traditional art. Holding a BFA in Film Production from SFU's School for the Contemporary Arts, Amber works as a designer across a diverse range of projects, creating immersive and expressive environments for music videos, commercials, short films, and live performances. Amber is proud to join

the creative teams at Arts Umbrella as a costume designer for both the productions of Seesaw and The Forests Wild. Selected credits include set and costume design for Place Des Arts' Summer Theatre Troupe's production of Winnie the Pooh, production design for Haleluya Hailu's Manic Pixie Pacifist and Useless, and Kevin Kim's Sun, Moon, and the Four Peaks, a 2023 VIFF Official Selection and Grand Prix recipient at Montreal's Cinema de Nouveau 2023, with an Online Premiere on NOWNESS ASIA.

As a traditional artist, Amber works with gouache and acrylic ink to paint abandoned locations across BC and upper Washington. She has displayed work in Port Moody's Art 4 Life, Maryland Federations of Art's Small Wonders, and Port Coquitlam's City Hall Gallery, where her solo exhibition Finally Fall ran from January to April 2024. Her work was most recently featured at the Silk Purse Arts Centre from July to August 2024 in a group exhibition entitled Take Yourself There. See more at ambernordstrand.com and [@ambernordstrand.art](https://www.instagram.com/ambernordstrand.art)

Charlie Beaver

Charlie Beaver (He/Him) is a British-Canadian theatre artist with a sunny, West Coast outlook. An experienced technical worker (Head Technician/ATD, Firehall Arts Centre, 2021–2024) and freelance designer (select credits: ROCW—set/props, Firehall Arts Centre, 2023; King Lear—lights/projections, Promethean Theatre, 2021), Charlie has honed his craft on both sides of the designer’s desk. He is thrilled to continue his creative journey alongside these excellent teams of artists—new, experienced, fresh, and seasoned.

A special thank you to my directors and to Arts Umbrella for your collaboration and support in this exciting opportunity!

Charlie is a graduate of Studio 58’s Production Program.

Gillian Hanemayer

Gillian Hanemayer (She/Her) is an interdisciplinary artist based on the unceded and traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh first nations, known as Vancouver, Canada. She works primarily as a Lighting Designer and Production Manager in theatre and dance, but her other practices include installation work, writing, performing, and devising work across disciplines. Her recent credits include: A Dance with Destiny (Lighting Design, Ballet BC) Dead as a Dodo (Associate Lighting Design, Wakka Wakka Productions), BOLT (Lighting Design, Jeanette Kotowich), and Passenger Seat (Lighting Design, Library Performance Co.) Gillian holds a BFA from the School for the Contemporary Arts at Simon Fraser University.

Matthew MacDonald-Bain

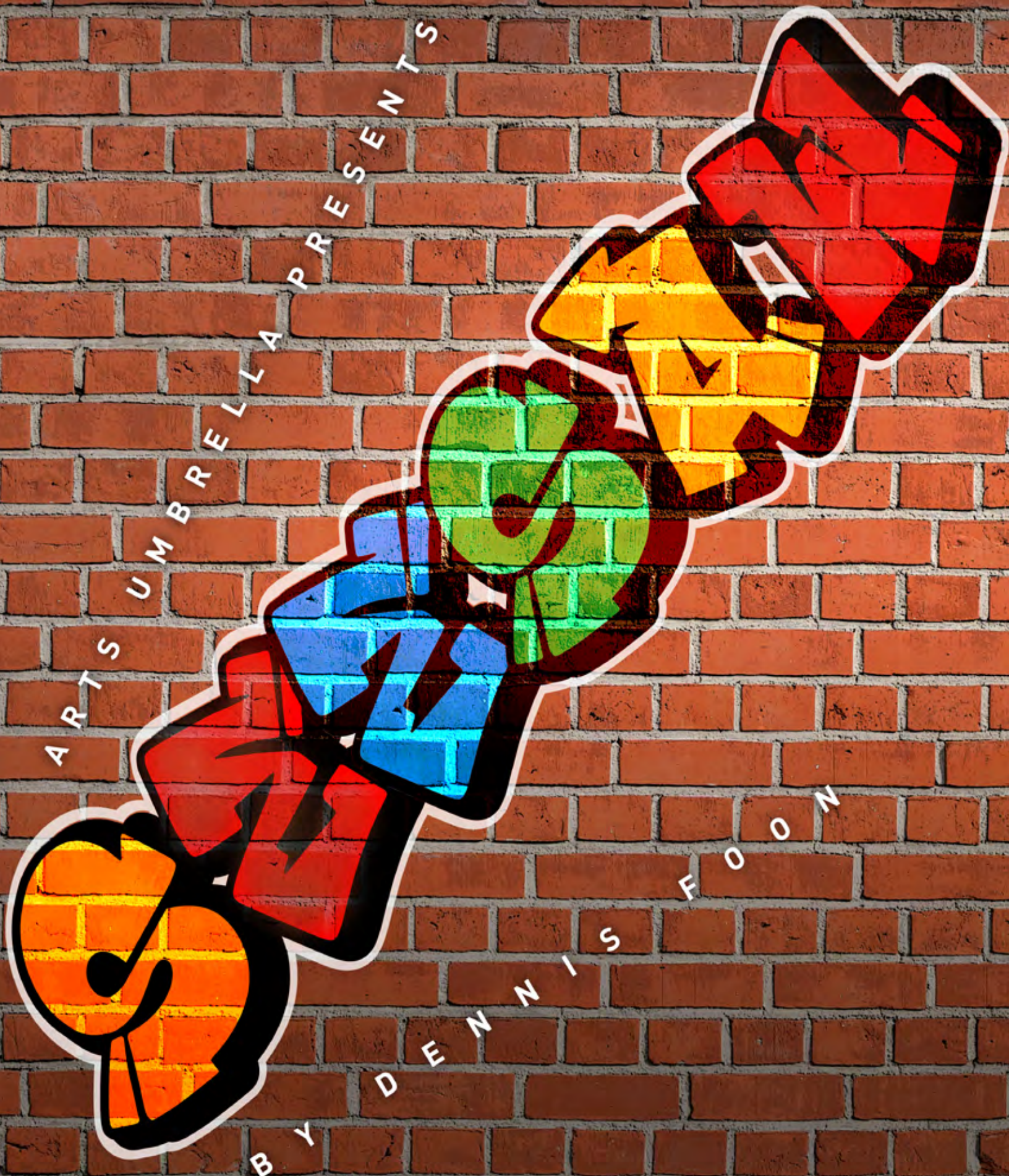
Matthew MacDonald-Bain is a Vancouver-based actor/sound designer and is honoured to be working with Arts Umbrella! He is a four-time Jessie Award nominee and two-time Award winner for Acting and Sound Design. Select design credits include 500 Words (Green Thumb), Heroes of the Fourth Turning (Mitch & Murray Productions), East Van Panto: Pinocchio (Theatre Replacement), Middletown, Bar Mitzvah Boy, The Lonesome West, The Wolves (Pacific Theatre), The Competition Is Fierce (Itsazoo), The Day Before Christmas (Arts Club), Bright Blue Future, Bug, Of Mice And Men (Hardline).

Matthew is a graduate of Studio 58

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

All of the staff, administrative, and artistic teams at Arts Umbrella, all of the parents of the Troupe for their support of our program, and all the students and alumni for continuing to inspire us each year.

The Forests Wild was commissioned by the Robert M. Ledingham School of Theatre, Music and Film at Arts Umbrella and performed by the Arts Umbrella Senior Theatre Troupe as part of the Eco Theatre Project.



ARTS UMBRELLA PRESENTS

BY DENNIS FEON

Theatre Troupe presents:

SEESAW

By Dennis Foon

April 26th and May 3rd at 7:00pm

May 3rd at 2pm

Charla has just moved to town with her single father and it is her first week of school. She meets Paige, the most popular girl in school who hides her anxiety through shopping and classmates' validation, Josh, a loner whose working parents make him feel invisible and Adam, the class bully who is hiding a dark secret. Each child wants attention from their family and will do anything to get it. Throw in a Grade 10 bully on the warpath for his brother's missing bike, parents who can't "see" their children, a mischievous 3 year old and the non-stop effect of TV and media and you get a poignant and energetic slice of life play by Canada's pre-eminent TYA playwright Dennis Foon.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES:

It is such a pleasure to be returning to the simple, honest and vibrant world of Dennis Foon. Four years ago, when I took over the Theatre Troupe (then the Junior Theatre Troupe) I programmed Kindness by Foon. As soon as Expressions wrapped, I knew I wanted to explore his earlier work, Seesaw. Truly the road map for his later play, Seesaw, examines what it means to feel isolated and invisible at home and how students may manifest that at school. Each character navigates this terrain in a unique way - Some take it out of their classmates, some take it out on their parents and others take it out on themselves. As an educator, I am always searching for texts that will challenge and resonate with my students. This script, and the themes it explores, has allowed students to apply the skills and techniques they have learned while instinctually

understanding the given circumstances and the realities of these characters. It is such a joy to see students really understanding and loving the material.

In the original production, all the non-grade 7 characters were represented by puppets made by Canadian legend Ronnie Burkett. In our interpretation, we wanted to pay homage to this concept while making each family unique. It was important that the POV of the four main students was highlighted, thus we see a father attached to puppet strings, a mother stuck looking in a mirror and a disembodied giant bully voice. We hope that youth and adult audiences alike will resonate with this simple story of perseverance and identity allowing them reflections on themselves.

On a personal note, four of the six actors you'll see today were in Laura's and my production of Kindness during their first year with the program. Four years later, to see their growth as individuals and artists is so encouraging and really solidifies why we do what we do. Their understanding of the craft and ability to identify their own needs within the process is the backbone of our program. Enjoy the show!

Seamus Fera

Director, Theatre Troupe

ARTISTIC TEAM AND CREW

Director

Seamus Fera

Set & Props Design

Charlie Beaver

Costume Design

Amber Nordstrand

Lighting Design

Gillian Hanemayer

Sound Design

Mathew MacDonald-Bain

Stage Management

Laura Reynolds

Fight Direction

Nathania Bernabe and Jackie Hanlin

Production Management

Alan Brodie

CAST

Béo Ripley

Adam/ Paige's Step Dad

Audrey Ross

Paige

Zayne Betel-Jadavji

Josh

Zara Bacic

Charla

Frieda Penney

Misha/Anne/Ms Zednick/Adam's Mom

Quinlan Floyd

Paige's Mom/Bill/Allan/Nytro/Adam's Dad

CAST BIOS

Beo Ripley

Beo Ripley (He/Him) has been apart of the Arts Umbrella theatre troupe for 3 years and been in Actors Nightmare, Goldilocks and the three bears and multiple other productions,

Huge thanks to everyone keeping this program going

Audrey Ross

Audrey Ross (She/Her) is an actor from Vancouver, BC. She is currently a student at Lord Byng Secondary, where she is part of the Byng Arts Drama Program. Audrey has been a member of the Arts Umbrella Theatre Troupe for the past four years.

Her credits with Arts Umbrella include Anne of Green Gables, The It, The Boxcar Children, Chaos, and Kindness.

Other acting credits include The Rehearsal and Audition (Lord Byng), Almost Maine (Lord Byng), The Winter's Tale (Stratford Festival Shakespeare Intensive), and As You Like It (Stratford Festival Shakespeare Intensive).

A huge thanks to everyone at Arts Umbrella. Enjoy the show!

Zayne Betel-Jadavji

Zayne Betel-Jadavji (He/Him) is a theatre actor from Vancouver, BC. This is his fourth year in Arts Umbrella's Pre-Professional Theatre Troupe.

He has been in many Arts Umbrella productions, including Kindness, The Boxcar Children, and Anne of Green Gables. He has also performed in several productions with his school, including Seussical the Musical Jr. and Lucky Stiff.

This past summer, Zayne attended Stratford's Shakespeare Intensive camp and has participated in various other acting camps over the years.

Zayne would like to thank everyone at Theatre Troupe for their continued support and friendship.

Zara Bacic

Zara Bacic (She/Her/Hers) is an actor, singer, and dancer from Vancouver, BC. She attends Lord Byng Secondary School in the Byng Arts Program for drama, where she builds on her acting skills every day.

Zara has been a student at Arts Umbrella for eight years and joined the Pre-Professional Theatre Troupe in 2020. Her credits with Arts Umbrella include Kindness, The Boxcar Children, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The It, and Chaos.

She has also trained with various other companies around Vancouver, including Biz Studio, LeBlanc School of Acting, Blind Tiger Comedy, and King Creative Studios.

Zara gives many thanks to Arts Umbrella for helping her dreams develop into reality!

Frieda Penney

Frieda Penney (She/Her) is a member of the Arts Umbrella Theatre Company and has been for the past year. Prior to that, she was part of the Intensives at Arts Umbrella for two years.

Frieda has been involved in a variety of productions at Arts Umbrella, including *The Actor's Nightmare*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *The It*, and several shorter plays from the Intensives. She also participated in a play called *Oddball* at her school.

Thank you to everyone working hard at Arts Umbrella, and enjoy the show!

Quinlan Floyd

Quinlan Floyd (He/Him) is an actor born and raised in Vancouver. He has been taking classes at Carousel Theatre for Young People and Arts Umbrella for over a decade. This is Quinlan's 4th year in the Theatre Troupe.

In Troupe, Quinlan has had roles in The Actor's Nightmare, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The It, The Boxcar Children, Chaos, and Kindness.

Huge thanks to his parents for introducing him to theatre and to all the teachers who have supported him throughout the years. Hope you enjoy the show!

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

Seamus Fera (He/Him/His) is a director, playwright and producer from Vancouver BC. He holds a BFA in Acting from UBC. He has been the director of the Theatre Troupes for the past four years. For Arts Umbrella: Goldilocks and The Three Bears, The It, The Boxcar Children, Chaos, and Kindness. Other directorial credits include A Doll's House Part 2 (Pacific Theatre/Western Gold Theatre), Oh What A Lovely War, DNA (Dream Big Productions), Bare (Eternal Theatre Collective) and MilkMilkLemonade (Awkward Stage Productions). Next Up: Salt, The Thirteen Little Pigs and Metamorphoses. Huge thanks to everyone at Arts Umbrella for all of their tireless work. Enjoy the show!

Laura Reynolds

Laura Reynolds is a stage manager, director, and drama educator from Vancouver. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting and a Bachelor of Education from UBC. This is Laura's 3rd year instructing and stage managing Arts Umbrella's Theatre Troupe, with shows including Kindness (2021) and The Boxcar Children (2022). Enjoy the show!

Amber Nordstrand

Amber Nordstrand Based in Vancouver, Amber is an independent artist with a versatile background in filmmaking, production design, performance, and traditional art. Holding a BFA in Film Production from SFU's School for the Contemporary Arts, Amber works as a designer across a diverse range of projects, creating immersive and expressive environments for music videos, commercials, short films, and live performances. Amber is proud to join the creative teams at Arts Umbrella as a costume designer for both the productions of Seesaw and

The Forests Wild. Selected credits include set and costume design for Place Des Arts' Summer Theatre Troupe's production of Winnie the Pooh, production design for Haleluya Hailu's Manic Pixie Pacifist and Useless, and Kevin Kim's Sun, Moon, and the Four Peaks, a 2023 VIFF Official Selection and Grand Prix recipient at Montreal's Cinema de Nouveau 2023, with an Online Premiere on NOWNESS ASIA.

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A special thank you to my directors and to Arts Umbrella for your collaboration and support in this exciting opportunity!

Charlie is a graduate of Studio 58's Production Program.

Gillian Hanemayer

Gillian Hanemayer (She/Her) is an interdisciplinary artist based on the unceded and traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh first nations, known as Vancouver, Canada. She works primarily as a Lighting Designer and Production Manager in theatre and dance, but her other practices include installation work, writing, performing, and devising work across disciplines. Her recent credits include: A Dance with Destiny (Lighting Design, Ballet BC) Dead as a Dodo (Associate Lighting Design, Wakka Wakka Productions), BOLT (Lighting Design, Jeanette Kotowich), and Passenger Seat (Lighting Design, Library Performance Co.) Gillian holds a BFA from the School for the Contemporary Arts at Simon Fraser University.

Matthew MacDonald-Bain

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Matthew is a graduate of Studio 58

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Andy Toth, Erika Babins, Alexandra Eaton, Alan Brodie, Firehall Arts Centre, The Arts Club, Jethro Allen-Martin, all of the staff, administrative and artistic teams at Arts Umbrella, all of the parents of the Troupe for their support of our program, and all the students and alumni for continuing to inspire us each year.



Credit: Devan Francis

SUMMERSTAGE MUSICAL THEATRE INTENSIVE

Learn, stage, & perform a full-length Broadway musical in four weeks!

July 7-August 2, 2025 | Ages 13+

artsumbrella.com/summer

ARTS UMBRELLA PRODUCTION OF

Disney

NEWSIES
JR.



Musical Theatre Troupe presents:

NEWSIES JR

**Music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Jack Feldman,
Book by Harvey Fierstein**

Jr Sceipt Adaptation by David Simpatico

May 15th, 16th, and 17th at 7:00pm

May 17th at 2:00pm

Newsies Jr. is a high-energy musical about the power of young voices fighting for justice. Inspired by true events and set in 1899 New York City, it follows a group of youths known as “newsies” who sell newspapers to survive. When publisher Joseph Pulitzer raises prices at their expense, they take a stand, going on strike to demand fair treatment. Led by the optimistic Jack Kelly, and with support from determined reporter Katherine Plumber and Vaudeville star Medda Larkin, they rally together to expose the harsh realities faced by working children.

This fast paced show is a story of resilience, unity, and the power of standing up for what's right. As the young newsies face powerful opposition, they learn that even the smallest voices can spark change.

Packed with heart, hope, and high-energy numbers, this inspiring musical reminds us that courage and community can change the world.

A story of hope, empowerment, and the power of the press, Newsies Jr. is an inspiring tale that reminds us that anyone—no matter how small—can spark a revolution.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES:

Welcome to our production of Newsies! At its core, this musical is about freedom, belonging, and the idea that anyone—no matter how small—can spark a revolution. It's a timeless and universal reminder of the power of young voices.

Our version unfolds through the eyes of Jack Kelly, a young artist and Newsie fighting for his place in a world stacked against him. His experience is one of division—us vs. them—which we have explored in both style and design. The authority figures Jack sees as “other” appear as exaggerated, caricatured puppets, reflecting how he perceives and sketches them. This storytelling lens highlights the deep divide between the Newsies and those who hold power.

Collaboration has been central to our process. We've approached Newsies as an ensemble piece, with performers shifting roles and physically

shaping the world around them. The cast has brought this production to life through a blend of directed and devised choreography, incorporating Frantic Assembly-inspired movement. These physical storytelling elements ensure that every performer plays an active role in the world we've built together.

This production is a testament to the passion and commitment of these young artists. They have embraced not only the technical challenges of music and choreography but also the creative process of devising and ensemble work, making this Newsies uniquely their own.

To the cast, crew, and creative team—thank you for your dedication, creativity, and adventurous storytelling. And to you, our audience, thank you for supporting young artists and live theatre.

Now, seize the day!

Cydney Uffindell-Phillips

Director/Choreographer, Musical Theatre Troupe

ARTISTIC TEAM AND CREW

Director/Choreographer

Cydney Uffindell-Phillips

Music Director

Patrick Ray

Associate Director

Ainslee Dalzell

Assistant Director

Erin-Rose Kelly

Set, Prop, and Puppet Design

Monica Emme

Costume Design

Julia Chase

Lighting Design

Zac Labrie

Sound Design

Malcolm Armstrong

Stage Management

Kitra Jeanne

Production Management

Alan Brodie

CAST

Amélie Andrade

Newsie, Wiesel, Ada, Brooklyn Newsie

Annie Burns

Specs, Pat Stage Manager, Gov Teddy Roosevelt

Ellington Campbell

Katherine

Liz Chan

Tommy Boy, Medda

Ziya Chong

Nancy, Warden Snyder

Mira Clark

Jojo, Hannah

Elizabeth Dicken

Seitz, Albert, Bill, Puppet Captain

Rebecca Floresco

Jack Kelly

Sofia Gershman

Les

Erin-Rose Kelly

Muriel

Amelia Kondor

Pigtails, Pulitzer, Puppet Captain

Lillian Munro

Hazel, Dorothy, Dance Captain

Lily Patton

Crutchie

Ilka Qiao

Oscar Delancey, Ethel, Spot Conlan

Bailey Skelton

Romeo, Bunsen

Nina Turin

Race

Kazja Wallberg

Morris Delancey, Olive

Lina Wozniak

Davey

CAST BIOS

Amelie Andrade

Amelie Andrade (She/Her) is in her third year at Arts Umbrella. Before beginning her journey in musical theatre, Amelie studied ballet at Goh Ballet, where she performed in productions such as The Little Mermaid, Coppélia, and Don Quixote over 8–9 years.

Since joining the Pre-Professional Musical Theatre program, Amelie has been part of The Secret Garden and The Quest.

Annie Burns

Annie Burns (She/Her) is an actor and musician from southern BC. She has worked with various theatre companies across the province and has enjoyed the theatrical arts since the age of five. 2024 marked her first year with Arts Umbrella.

Annie thanks her parents for their endless guidance and support. Enjoy the show!

Ellington Campbell

Ellington Campbell (She/Her) is an actor and singer who has been a student at Arts Umbrella for eight years. She is currently in her third year of the Pre-Professional Half-Day Program in Musical Theatre.

Her previous credits at Arts Umbrella include Matilda in Matilda Jr., The Waiter in She Loves Me, Martha in The Secret Garden, Love and Information, Doug in The Quest, and Katherine in Newsies. Other credits include participation in the Bard on the Beach Intensive Programs (2017–2019).

Ellington is thrilled to be part of Newsies and thanks her family for their unwavering support.

Liz Chan

Liz Chan (She/Her/Hers) is ecstatic to be a part of this production of Newsies Jr., This high-energy production, featuring many talented students, is sure to amaze you all! Liz can hardly wait to get underway!

This is Liz's first year with Arts Umbrella, but she has also performed on many other stages. One of her highlights includes working with Disney on their Imagination Campus in Anaheim, California. Bringing her infectious laughter and unique energy to all aspects of her work, Liz has always challenged herself to be the best performer she can be.

As always, Liz is grateful for the support, time, and effort from all her amazing directors and mentors—without them, the show would not go on! She would like to thank her directors, coaches, and parents for always supporting her and her artistic dreams.

Liz hopes you enjoy the show as much as she does!

Ziya Chong

Ziya Chong (she/they) has been performing in Mike Stack's Shakespeare workshops since the age of seven and portrayed the role of Anne in Arts Umbrella's Anne of Green Gables (directed by Laura McLean). They also had a brief role as a Chinese Catholic school student in Gone Abroad at the Crazy 8's Film Festival. Enormous thanks to everyone at AU, and enjoy the show!

Mira Clark

Mira Clark (She/Her) is an aspiring actress who has been performing in musical theatre since the age of 7. She has been involved with theatre at Arts Umbrella for almost three years, and this is her first year in the Musical Theatre Troupe. Her most recent productions include The Addams Family Jr., Mean Girls Jr., and Alice by Heart.

A big thank you to everyone at Arts Umbrella for their support!

Elizabeth Dicken

Elizabeth Dicken (She/Her) is excited to be performing in her second Arts Umbrella Musical Theatre Troupe production, playing Albert and Seitz in Newsies.

Her past productions include playing Rosie in The Quest and Alfred in Arts Umbrella's summer stage production of Alice by Heart.

Elizabeth would like to thank all her past musical theatre teachers, as well as her current directors, for constantly inspiring and challenging her. She would also like to thank her parents and sister for all their love and support, and all the other parents who have carpooled her.

She is thrilled to be co-head of props and puppeteering alongside Amelia Kondor and hopes everyone enjoys the show!

Rebecca Floresco

Rebecca Floresco (She/Her) is a singer, dancer, and actress in her third year with Arts Umbrella's Musical Theatre Troupe and her second year in the Half-Day Pre-Professional Training Program in Musical Theatre. She is also a graduate piano student from Tom Lee Music Academy and is trained in stage combat and gymnastics.

Rebecca has been a Musical Theatre student at Arts Umbrella for nine years, performing in the following shows: Shrek in Shrek The Musical Jr., Eurydice in Jasper in Deadland, Emma in The Quest, and now Jack in Newsies. She is thrilled to be part of the Expressions Festival 2025. Thank you for coming, and enjoy the show!

Sofia Gershman

Sofia Gershman (She/Her) from Vancouver, BC, is playing Les in this production of Newsies Jr. She has previously been in Arts Umbrella shows such as Alice By Heart and Winter Shorts.

Sofia is also a student at the Lord Byng Drama Mini School and has performed in Kev-Burger, The Audition, and Furniture Follies.

Sofia is incredibly grateful for all the support from friends, family, and Arts Umbrella. Enjoy the show!

Erin-Rose Kelly

Erin-Rose Kelly (She/Her) is a second-year half-day student in the Professional Musical Theatre Program at Arts Umbrella, where she develops her craft in acting, voice, and dance.

Her stage experience includes featured ensemble work in Cinderella at Arts Umbrella and prominent roles with Delta Youth Theatre, such as Timon in The Lion King Jr., Nigel in Matilda Jr., and Dory in Finding Nemo Jr. Erin-Rose also appeared as an ensemble member in Cinderella Panto at Metro Theatre. On screen, she was recently a featured actor in the film U.N.D.E.R. Achievers.

Amelia Kondor

Amelia Kondor (She/Her) is a Grade 12 student in Arts Umbrella's Musical Theatre Troupe. She spent two years in the Musical Theatre Intensive and is now in her fourth and final year with the Musical Theatre Troupe. During her time in Troupe, she has performed in Tuck Everlasting, Jasper in Deadland, and The Quest, and she is excited to be part of Newsies.

Lillian Munro

Lillian Munro (She/Her) is delighted to be returning to Arts Umbrella for her first year in Musical Theatre Troupe.

She has 13 years of classical ballet training in the RAD curriculum with Terry Simpson and Alegria Dance Studios, alongside four years of stage acting with Standouts Theatre Group.

Recent credits with Arts Umbrella include The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Marcy Park), Mean Girls Jr. (Cady Heron), and Alice by Heart (The Duchess/Dodgy).

Lillian is excited to take the audience on a journey through the world of Newsies and is grateful to Arts Umbrella for the opportunity to explore new stories in theatre!

Lily Patton

Lily Patton (She/Her) is a talented young actress and singer. She is a ninth grader in her third year at Arts Umbrella's Musical Theatre Program and her second year in the Pre-Professional Half-Day Program.

Shows at Arts Umbrella that she has performed in include Annie, The Quest, Love and Information, and the film U.N.D.E.R. Achievers. She is ecstatic to bring the role of Crutchie to life on stage and hopes you enjoy the show!

Ilka Qiao has been passionate about musical theatre and acting for over five years. This is her first year at Arts Umbrella, she previously trained with Creber Music for three years. Along with theatre and acting, she also has experience in MCing.

She enjoys the energy of live performance and expressing herself through performing. She's always excited to learn more about musical theatre as well.

She's so grateful for this opportunity at Arts Umbrella, thank you so much!

Bailey Skelton

Bailey Skelton (She/Her) has been a dedicated musical theatre performer since she was eight years old and is thrilled to return to Arts Umbrella for her first year in Musical Theatre Troupe.

Some of her favorite roles with other companies include The Witch in Into the Woods, Ursula in The Little Mermaid, and Nicely-Nicely Johnson in Guys and Dolls Jr.

After her first show with Arts Umbrella, where she played Cady Heron in Mean Girls Jr., Bailey is excited to continue her journey by exploring the world of Newsies.

She is grateful to everyone, both onstage and backstage, who helped bring this show to life and hopes everyone enjoys the performance as much as she has enjoyed being a part of the production!

Nina Turin

Nina Turin (She/Her) is a student in the Arts Umbrella Musical Theatre Troupe program. She loves sharing stories and involving herself, her castmates, and audiences in the world of theatre through the perspectives of different characters and the challenges they face. Other shows Nina has been a part of at Arts Umbrella include The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Mean Girls Jr., and Alice By Heart. Nina continues to learn from and enjoy the people and space at Arts Umbrella and would like to thank all her instructors and peers for their support, collaboration, and laughter. You can spot her in this production of Newsies Jr., portraying the witty and street-smart character Racetrack Higgins (Race). Enjoy the show!

Kazja Wallberg

Kazja Wallberg (She/Her) enjoys being a part of the theatre world in Vancouver. She has been singing, dancing, and acting with Arts Umbrella since 2022. Her experience with Arts Umbrella includes cabaret nights, Winter Shorts, and the role of Ana in Frozen Jr. She has also been a part of the Bard on the Beach Youth Fest and most recently played Sweetheart in Middletown with Pacific Theatre.

Lina Wozniak

Lina Wozniak (She/Her) is a musical theatre actress from Surrey, BC. This is her third year in the musical theatre program at Arts Umbrella, where she has performed in The Secret Garden and The Quest. She has also taken sketch comedy improv lessons for several years at Arts Umbrella's South Surrey location.

Lina's artistic training includes several years of classical piano study and music theory through the Royal Conservatory of Music, as well as multiple years of ballet and jazz dance training at Panorama School of Dance.

A big thank you to everyone at Arts Umbrella for making these productions possible!

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

Cydney Uffindell-Phillips

Theatre credits include:

As Associate Director: The Royal Hunt of the Sun (Parco, Tokyo), The Snow Queen (Creation Theatre), The Wedding Singer (UK Tour & Daegu Festival).

As Director: Pippin (Institute of Arts Barcelona), The Old Man and The Old Moon, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Alice By Heart (Arts Umbrella).

As Choreographer/ Movement Director: Carmen (Vancouver Opera), Macbeth (NT UK tour), Jekyll and Hyde & Cabaret (The English Theatre Frankfurt), The Soldier's Tale (BBC Proms), Our Country's Good (Ramps on the Moon), Symphonie Fantastique - Aurora Orchestra (BBC Proms), L'enfant et Les Sortilèges (Teatro Nacional de São Carlos), The Revenger's Tragedy (Nottingham Playhouse) As Associate Choreographer: wonder.land (National Theatre & Théâtre du Châtelet), Cabaret (UK tour).

Patrick Ray

Patrick Ray, Expressions 2025 marks 11 years for Patrick at Arts Umbrella. Some music directing highlights include Jasper in Deadland, James and the Giant Peach, and 2 productions of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. His next project is As You Like It, coming in July to Summerstage at Arts Umbrella. After which he'll return to his first love for the rest of the summer: sight-reading musical theatre scores. Ask him how to fluff sheet music pages!

Ainslee Dalzell

Ainslee Dalzell is a Vancouver-based actor and singer originally from the San Francisco, Bay Area, and a recent graduate of the Capilano University Musical Theatre Program.

Recent performing credits include Monster (Direct Theatre Collective), Weasel (CapU Theatre), and June, July, August (Arbutus Studios).

Assistant directing/Assistant Stage Managing credits: SpongeBob SquarePants: The Musical (Arts Umbrella), Mean Girls Jr. (Kay Meek Youth Conservatory).

Kitra Jeanne

Kitra Jeanne (They/Them), finished their “formal” education at Studio 58 (Acting). Kitra believes in the vital work of giving our youth creative spaces to learn about themselves, the people around them and the world. It’s been a delight and privilege to watch the fabulous cast of Newsies learn and create. These young people will change the world when they rise and Seize The Day. Credits include: Stage Manager for Newsies (Arts Umbrella), Avis in Equinox (ZeeZee Theatre) and Stage Manager for Mean Girls and The Grunch (Children’s Theatre of Richmond)

Julia Chase

Julia Chase (She/Her) grew up in a small town in Northern California, later graduating with a Bachelors in Costume Design for Theater, Film, and Dance from Humboldt State University in 2009. From there she moved to Los Angeles, where she found work in a variety of costume related jobs. From making pillows and ball gowns, to heading the Snoopy mascot workroom and creating a dress out of trash bags that now resides in the Rock and Roll history museum, she has done a little of everything.

She is active in the Costume Designers Guild (IATSE 892) as co-chair of the Sustainability Committee and is always seeking new avenues to create a better future for her profession and the film industry in general.

Julia has recently graduated with an MFA in Theatre Design and Production from UBC. She enjoys sewing, researching history, and taking day trips with her partner Jordan, and their dog Serenity.

Julia is very excited to be working with the amazing staff, crew, and students at Arts Umbrella!

Monica Emme

Monica Emme (She/Her) is a set designer, props and puppet creator, and general maker, currently based in Vancouver. Monica holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Toronto Metropolitan University and a diploma of Stagecraft and Event Technology from Douglas College. Monica get to instruct the next generation of theatre creators as a stagecraft instructor at Arts Umbrella.

Some favourite recent credits include: Set design for Snow White (Carousel Theatre for Young People), Cinderella, Alice by Heart, and The Quest (Arts Umbrella); production design for The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Old Man and the Old Moon (Arts Umbrella); Props for Peace Country (Rice & Beans Theatre), My Little Tomato (vAct & Zee Zee), In My Day (Zee Zee Theatre), Messiah (Pacific Theatre), and Oz (Carousel Theatre for Young People).

Zac Labrie

Zac Labrie (He/Him) is a lighting designer living, working and creating art on unceded land in Vancouver, BC. He is excited to be back at Arts Umbrella as Lighting Designer, given his humble beginnings as the Assistant Lighting Designer/ Stagehand for the Expressions Festival 2019. When not in the theatre, Zac can be spotted running through the streets of Vancouver leading run clubs and training for long distance races. Other lighting design credits include, Le Polygraphe (Théâtre la Seizième, 2025), Guys and Dolls (Assistant Design, Arts Club, 2024) Chelsea Hotel (Associate Design, Firehall, 2024), Coriolanus (UBC, 2022), Seeing Things Festival (UBC, 2020).

Malcolm Armstrong

Malcolm Armstrong (He/Him) is a Musical Theatre Troupe alumni, who is now studying drama and musical theatre at Bishop's University. He has mixed and designed for a variety of shows for Arts Umbrella, Turner Studio Theatre, and Centennial Theatre, including Spring Awakening, Alice by Heart, Goodnight Desdemona, Good Morning Juliet; and various festival performances. Enjoy the show!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Andy Toth, Erika Babins, Alex Eaton, Innovation Lighting, and all of the staff, administrative and artistic teams at Arts Umbrella, all of the parents of the Troupe for their support of our program, and all the students and alumni for continuing to inspire us each year.

Newsies Jr Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

ARTS UMBRELLA PRESENTS

BETWEEN THE LINES



Musical Theatre Troupe presents:

BETWEEN THE LINES

Music & Lyrics by Elyssa Samsel & Kate Anderson

Book by Timothy Allen McDonald & Jodi Picoult

Based on the novel by Jodi Picoult

& Samantha van Leer

May 24th, 29th, 30th, 31st at 7:00pm

May 31st and June 1st at 2:00pm

Based on the book of the same title by New York Times bestselling author Jodi Picoult, *Between the Lines* is an empowering and enchanting new musical for anyone seeking to find their place in the world. An outsider in a new town and a new highschool, Delilah seeks comfort in the pages of her favorite book, where she feels heard and understood by the handsome Prince Oliver. But as the lines between fantasy and reality begin to blur in extraordinary and astonishing ways, Delilah has

to confront whether she alone has the power to rewrite her own story. Will she fight for herself or get lost between the pages forever?

Content Warning: Some swearing, and a minor panic attack is depicted in the first act.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES:

As a kid, I used to escape into books. At 8 years old, I devoured *Little Women* in one evening imagining that I was Jo March the whole time. I could see the characters and the setting so clearly and in such great detail that my world slipped away for a while and I was transported.

Before I ever saw a movie or a play, books were my earliest introduction to the magic of world building and storytelling.

A lot of people use stories to escape. For most, it's what we seek to do when we enter a theatre. But as

theatre makers, we hope to push beyond escapism to affect an audience so deeply that you leave a little different than you were before you entered. In that way a theatre is a sort of Liminal Space. I've always been fascinated with liminality: the space between "what was" and "what's next".

Teenagehood is a liminal space. It's the space between not quite a child anymore but not quite an adult yet either. Not only does our story follow teenagers navigating this awkward in-between time, but it is also being performed by teenagers navigating this awkward in-between time.

I hope their beautiful work on this fantastical story moves you to change: to do that thing you've been meaning to do, to stand up to that bully, to see something in a different light.

You are the writer of your own story.

Kayla Dunbar

Director/Choreographer, Musical Theatre Troupe

ARTISTIC TEAM AND CREW

Director and Choreographer

Kayla Dunbar

Musical Director

Clare Wyatt

Stage Manager

Tessa Gunn

Costume Design

Julia Chase

Set, Prop, and Projection Design

Shivangi Singh

Lighting Design

Zac Labrie

Sound Design

Malcom Armstrong

Production Management

Alan Brodie

CAST

Reina Grosch

Delilah

Genavie Duval

Delilah

Jaeger Yee

Prince Oliver, Edgar

Avery Connors

Grace, Queen Maureen

Jeen Yoon

Allie McAndrews, Princess Seraphima

Olivia Hai Lai Jiao

Jules, Ondine, Guard

Tessa Bird

Ryan, Frump

Frankie Lund

Janice, Marina, Witch

Jesse Macpherson

Martin, Troll, Mr. Darcy

Olivia Wong

Ms. Winx, Lady In Waiting, Kyrie, Jessamyn Jacobs

Jenny Xi

Dr Ducharme, Rapskullio, Student

Maggie Dang

Mrs. Brown, Fairy, Student, Doctor

Grace Sunar

Process Server, Fairy, Student, Orderly

Chloe Klein

Fairy, Student, Orderly

CAST BIOS

Reina Grosch

Reina Grosch (She/Her) is a young actor based in Vancouver, BC, currently in her third year with Arts Umbrella's Musical Theatre Troupe. Reina's past performances with Arts Umbrella include Cinderella, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Jasper in Deadland, The Old Man and the Old Moon, Shrek the Musical, James and the Giant Peach, and Seussical the Musical. Outside of Arts Umbrella, she was a cast member in the Kitsilano Theatre Company's film The Whitewoods. Reina is thrilled to be a part of this production and can't wait for you to see the show. Thank you for your support!

Genavie Duval

Genavie Duval (She/Her/Hers) is a talented actress and musician affiliated with Arts Umbrella. She has showcased her skills in productions at Arts

Umbrella, including Matilda, She Loves Me, Jasper in Deadland, The Quest, Love and Information, and now Between the Lines. Over the past four years, Genavie has been proud to be a part of Arts Umbrella's Musical Theatre program, spending three years as a member of the Musical Theatre Troupe and two years attending Arts Umbrella's Half-Day Pre-Professional Musical Theatre Training Program. Additionally, she has shared her love of theatre with other companies, including Gotta Sing Gotta Dance and Arts Connection. Genavie feels immense gratitude for the opportunity to work on this show with such an amazing cast and is excited to share her love of theatre with everyone. Enjoy the show!

Jaeger Yee

Jaeger (He/Him/His) is an actor and singer from London, UK. He has been a student of the Musical Theatre Troupe at Arts Umbrella for the past three years and has participated in The Lion King Jr., Jasper in Deadland, Cinderella, and now Between

the Lines. Other productions include School of Rock (TUTS) and Spotlight (Peter Lee). Jaeger has also performed in Singapore, where his credits include A Singapore Carol and Peter Pan (Wild Rice Productions), as well as How to Bury a Dead Cat (Kaizer Thng). He studied at NSAD (North Shore Academy of Dance) for two years and at First Step Acting for three years. Massive thanks to his friends and family for supporting him through everything!

Avery Connors

Avery Connors (she/her) is thrilled to be performing in her first production with Arts Umbrella! Past credits include assisting to produce Her Ladyship Theatre, performing and student directing at Van Tech Secondary, and a decade of performing with Lights Up Theatre. She would like to thank everyone for all their support, including her moms, her lovely friends, and everyone at Lights Up. And, of course, special thanks to Grace and Maureen. Enjoy Between the Lines!!



2025/26 TROUPE AUDITIONS

**Film | Musical Theatre | Theatre | Sketch Comedy
& Improv**

Auditions take place June 14.

Admission takes place on a rolling basis;
auditioning early is recommended.

To learn more visit:

[https://www.artsumbrella.com/programs/
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To book your audition visit:

[https://www.artsumbrella.com/advanced-troupe-
auditions/](https://www.artsumbrella.com/advanced-troupe-auditions/)

Jeen Yoon

Jeen Yoon (She/Her) is an actor, singer, and dancer based in Richmond, BC. She is in her third year with the Arts Umbrella Musical Theatre Troupe and previously spent one year in the Professional Half-Day Training Program in Musical Theatre Performance.

At Arts Umbrella, her credits include SpongeBob SquarePants the Musical (SpongeBob SquarePants), She Loves Me (Ladislav Sipos), and Jasper in Deadland (Hathaway).

Other selected credits include Carmen with Vancouver Opera. This year in Between the Lines, she is excited to bring the roles of Allie McAndrews and Princess Seraphima to life onstage.

Enjoy the show!

Olivia (Via) Hai Lai Jiao

Olivia (Via) Hai Lai Jiao (She/Her) is a multidisciplinary artist specializing in acting, dance, music, and visual art. She is currently in her third year with the Musical Theatre programs at Arts Umbrella, including two years in the Musical Theatre Intensive and her first year as part of the Musical Theatre Troupe. Olivia has performed in *The Addams Family Jr.*, *Mean Girls Jr.*, and now *Between the Lines* at Arts Umbrella.

Beyond AU, Olivia has been actively involved in her school's Theatre Company, performing in *She Kills Monsters* and contributing as both an actor and set designer for this year's production of *Clue: On Stage*. Her background in dance includes performances in *Coppélia*, *Don Quixote*, and the film adaptation of *The Nutcracker* with Goh Ballet at the Vancouver Playhouse.

Olivia is grateful to be working with Arts Umbrella and their incredible team, and she hopes you enjoy the show as much as she enjoyed being part of the process.

Tessa Brid

Tessa Brid (They/Them) has always had a love for performing from a young age. They were first introduced to musical theatre when their Grandad took them to a pantomime as a child. They began performing in musical theatre two years ago through Arts Umbrella's Summerstage program, where they played Leaf Coneybear. Since then, they have been in four musicals, including Mamma Mia, Mean Girls, Alice by Heart, and now Between the Lines. They also served as the assistant director for their school's production of Little Women. Tessa is excited to see where their love for theatre will take them next.

Frankie Lund

Frankie Lund (She/Her) is an actor, singer, and performer. She has been a student at Arts Umbrella for the past two years. Frankie has had the pleasure of performing in multiple shows at Arts Umbrella, including Mean Girls: The Musical, the 2023 Winter Shorts, and Percy Jackson: The Musical.

She has also been involved in numerous shows outside of Arts Umbrella, including Newsies (Review Theatre), The Greatest Showman (Lights Up Theatre Company), and Never Wonderland (Review Theatre). Thank you for joining us at tonight's production of Between the Lines! Enjoy the show!

Jesse MacPherson

Jesse MacPherson (He/Him) is an aspiring actor, artist, and performer. He has been performing in plays and musicals for over a decade. With Arts Umbrella he has performed in productions of: Chaos (Michael), The Boxcar Children, The It, Goldilocks and the Three Bears (Baby Bear), Canker Sores and Other Distractions, The Proposal (Ivan), and Love and Information. He is currently in both the Pre-Professional Theatre Troupe, and Pre-Professional Musical Theatre Troupe. He will be in productions of The Forest Wild as Shan, and, Between the Lines as Martin/Troll. Thank you to my family and my directors for helping me to grow as a human, and as a performer

Olivia Wong

Olivia Wong (She/Her) is delighted to return for her third production with Musical Theatre Troupe. A member of the yearlong programs since 2021, her credits include *Pride and Prejudice*, *Shrek*, *The Secret Garden*, and *The Quest*.

Olivia's past training extends to Acting UP! Musical Theatre Schools, Lights Up Musical Theatre, Encore Musical Theatre, and Pulse Dance Centre. In addition, Olivia is committed to writing and literature, valuing the power of storytelling in all its forms.

Alongside her performance work, Olivia contributes as a Teacher Assistant at Arts Umbrella for young, emerging artists. She thanks everyone at Arts Umbrella for providing the space in which she can unfold and grow.

Relax, and please enjoy the show!

Jenny Xin

Jenny Xin (She/Her) is an actor from Vancouver, BC. She is currently a prominent actor at Steveston-London Secondary School, having performed in seven productions there since 2021. These productions include the renowned Shakespearean play Julius Caesar, Neil Simon's The Good Doctor, and various other plays written by her school's director.

Currently, she is writing Gaps of Sunlight, a coming-of-age play that she will also be directing as her final high school production. Jenny aspires to continue her theatre studies in post-secondary education.

Maggie Dang

Maggie Dang (She/Her) is a passionate musician and performer based in Vancouver, BC. Currently a Grade 11 student at Kitsilano Secondary School, she has been studying music since Grade 2, specializing in voice and the Guzheng, a traditional Chinese instrument.

Maggie is also a proud member of the BC Chinese Music Orchestra and BC Youth Chinese Orchestra and has been a member of the Children's Chorus in the 2024 production of Carmen with Vancouver Opera.

Some of her key accomplishments include achieving the Grade 10 certificate in Voice (National Music Grading Test, China), the Grade 10 certificate in Guzheng (CCOM Examination, Canada), and first place in the Intermediate Classical Canadian category (16 years or under) at the Kiwanis Festival of Song.

Special thanks to all her mentors, friends, and family for their continuous support. Enjoy the show!

Grace Sunar

Grace Sunar (She/Her) is an actor, singer, and dancer currently studying in the Pre-Professional Half-Day Program at Arts Umbrella.

Grace's past roles include Ariel in The Little Mermaid, Veruca Salt in Willy Wonka Jr., Louisa

in *The Sound of Music* (DYT), Zaneeta in *The Music Man* (DYT), and now *Between the Lines*.

This is Grace's first year at Arts Umbrella, and she was inspired to join after watching Jasper in *Deadland* two years ago. She has been acting for nine years, with credits including recurring roles in *Gabby Duran and the Unsittables*, a guest star appearance on Disney+'s *Turner and Hooch*, and appearances in *Snowpiercer* (Netflix) and *Resident Alien* (NBC).

Grace is thrilled to be in Arts Umbrella's production of *Between the Lines* and hopes you enjoy the show!

Chloe Klein

Chloe Klein (She/Her) is a passionate young performer with a deep love for theatre and music. She is in Grade 10 and attends Lord Byng Secondary School in the Mini Program for Drama. At Lord Byng, she has performed in two plays, portraying the Narrator in *A Witches' Princess* by Don Zolidis and Catherine in *Proof* by David Auburn.

In addition to acting, Chloe has been taking vocal and piano lessons at Resound School of Music, where she has honed her musical talents over the past 10 years. She is currently at Level 5 of the Royal Conservatory of Music, demonstrating her dedication and skill as a pianist.

Last year, Chloe performed in Arts Umbrella's Level 4 Intensive Production of Mean Girls Jr., where she portrayed Regina George. This year, in the Musical Theatre Troupe Tuesday/Friday program, she is excited to sing and dance as part of the ensemble, supporting her castmates along the way. Chloe is thrilled to continue her artistic journey, blending her love for theatre and music as she works toward a future in the performing arts.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

Kayla Dunbar

Kayla Dunbar (She/They) is a 1st generation Scottish Settler located on the stolen lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. A graduate of Langley Fine Arts Secondary and Studio 58, they now work as a director, choreographer, educator, and sometimes actor. Companies she's worked for include: Savage Society, Urban Ink, CTYP, ArtsClub, Bard on the Beach, Chemainus Theatre, Vancouver Playhouse, City Opera, The Elbow, Itsazoo, ZeeZee Theatre, Axis Theatre, Gateway, etc. Kayla is committed to using their privilege to be of great service to their community. They believe storytelling can change the world. Thanks to their family, friends, mentors, and partner

Clare Wyatt

Clare Wyatt is delighted to be teaching this wonderful Troupe group after playing in the band for last year's Cinderella. Clare is a prolific music director, pianist, technologist, and educator. Select theatre credits include: West Side Story (CTORA); Beauty and the Beast (WCT); Jesus Christ Superstar (WCT/TIP); Cinderella (Gateway); SIX (NCL); Burn the Floor (NCL); Legally Blonde (Align); The Longing and the Short of It (Touchstone); The Elbow Room (Zee Zee); Go, Dog. Go! (Carousel); Company (United Players). Upcoming: Waitress (Arts Club). Clare has taught at numerous institutions across Canada, including Cap U, Vancouver Film School, Randolph College, U of T, The Musical Stage Co., The Arts Club Intensive, and Gateway Academy.

Originally trained in classical piano performance, Clare's artistic practice has grown to include composition, sound design, and computational arts. She holds a Master of Music in Music Technology and Digital Media from the University of Toronto, where she was a SSHRC CGS-M award recipient.

Tessa Gunn

Tessa Gunn (She/Her) is thrilled to return as Stage Manager for her third show with Arts Umbrella's Musical Theatre Troupe—her sixth overall, including the three she performed in as a student!

Since completing the Technical Theatre program at Capilano University, she has worked as an Apprentice, Assistant, and Stage Manager with multiple Vancouver-based theatre companies. She also recently Assistant Directed *Big Fish* and *Peter and the Starcatcher* at St. George's School.

As an Arts Umbrella Musical Theatre Troupe alum, Tessa wants theatre kids to know that acting isn't the only path—most of the fun truly happens backstage! She hopes you enjoy this production of *Between the Lines*!

Julia Chase

Julia Chase (She/Her) grew up in a small town in Northern California, later graduating with a Bachelors in Costume Design for Theater, Film, and Dance from Humboldt State University in 2009. From there she moved to Los Angeles, where she found work in a variety of costume related jobs. From making pillows and ball gowns, to heading the Snoopy mascot workroom and creating a dress out of trash bags that now resides in the Rock and Roll history museum, she has done a little of everything.

She is active in the Costume Designers Guild (IATSE 892) as co-chair of the Sustainability Committee and is always seeking new avenues to create a better future for her profession and the film industry in general.

Julia has recently graduated with an MFA in Theatre Design and Production from UBC. She enjoys sewing, researching history, and taking day trips with her partner Jordan, and their dog Serenity.

Julia is very excited to be working with the amazing staff, crew, and students at Arts Umbrella!

Shivangi Singh

Shivangi Singh is a set designer with over a decade of experience designing for film, TV, theme parks, and theatre. Her creative practice focuses on human-centered immersive experiences, storytelling, and worldbuilding. She holds an MS in Spatial Experience Design from ArtCenter College of Design, California, and an MFA in Design and Production from University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Blending traditional design with emerging technologies, she creates engaging, narrative-driven environments that transport audiences. Her expertise lies in integrating digital media, interactive elements, and spatial storytelling to craft visually compelling and emotionally resonant spaces.

In addition to her design work, Shivangi is an educator, teaching set design at Vancouver Film School and InFocus Film School, where she mentors and inspires the next generation of designers.

Zac Labrie

Zac Labrie (He/Him) is a lighting designer living, working and creating art on unceded land in Vancouver, BC. He is excited to be back at Arts Umbrella as Lighting Designer, given his humble beginnings as the Assistant Lighting Designer/ Stagehand for the Expressions Festival 2019. When not in the theatre, Zac can be spotted running through the streets of Vancouver leading run clubs and training for long distance races. Other lighting design credits include, Le Polygraphe (Théâtre la Seizième, 2025), Guys and Dolls (Assistant Design, Arts Club, 2024) Chelsea Hotel (Associate Design, Firehall, 2024), Coriolanus (UBC, 2022), Seeing Things Festival (UBC, 2020).

Malcolm Armstrong

Malcolm Armstrong (He/Him) is a Musical Theatre Troupe alumni, who is now studying drama and musical theatre at Bishop's University. He has mixed and designed for a variety of shows for Arts Umbrella, Turner Studio Theatre, and Centennial Theatre, including Spring Awakening, Alice by Heart, Goodnight Desdemona, Good Morning Juliet; and various festival performances. Enjoy the show!

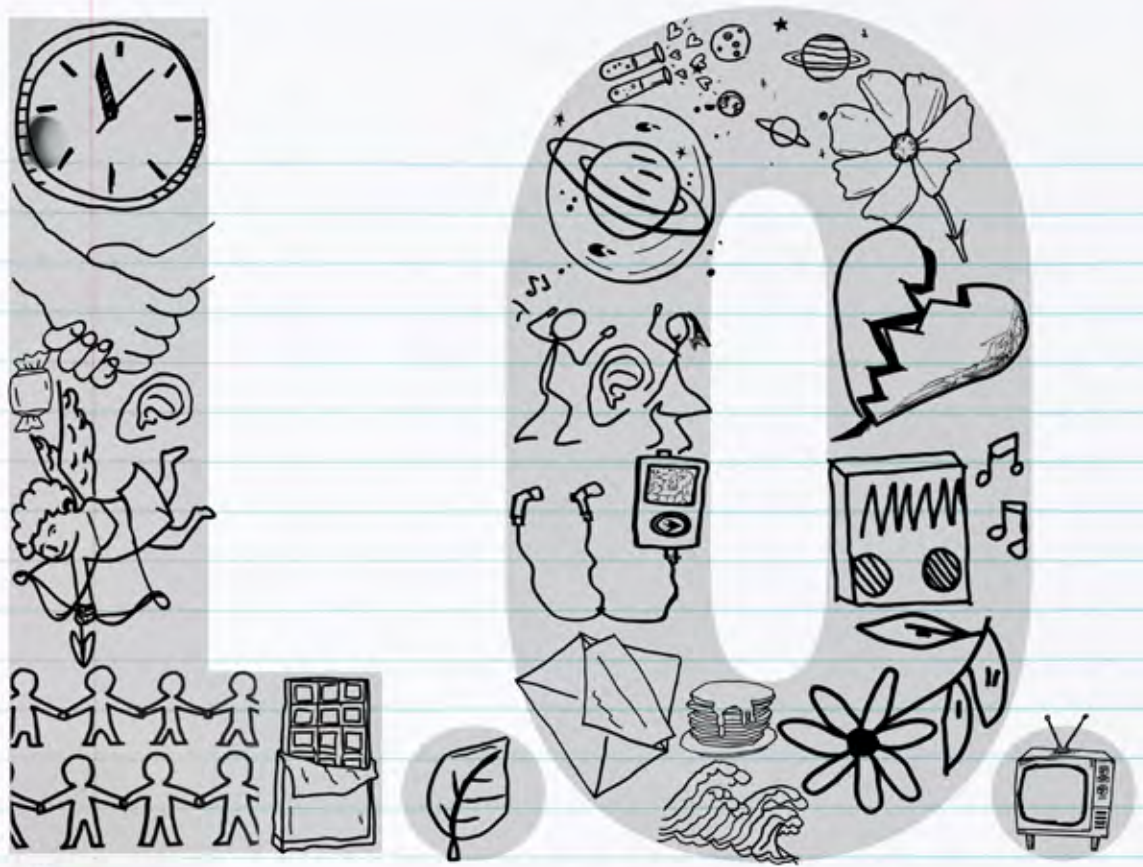
SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Andy Toth, Alex Eaton, Arts Club Theatre, and all of the staff, administrative and artistic teams at Arts Umbrella, all of the parents of the Troupe for their support of our program, and all the students and alumni for continuing to inspire us each year.

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www.mtishows.com



Sketch Comedy and Improv Troupe presents:

L.O.V.E.

**Conceived, written, and performed by the Sketch
Comedy and Improv Troupe**

June 6th & 7th at 7pm

L-O-V-E. Left Over Variable Elephants? Lithe Otters Vivaciously Endeavoring? Lighthouses Offered Virtually Everywhere? What is LOVE?? (Baby don't hurt me, don't hurt me, no more). The Arts Umbrella Sketch Comedy and Improv Troupe has deep-dived into one of human nature's most complex emotions (second only to "hangriness") in an attempt to answer this question for you.

As the group is inadvertently left unattended one evening, the SKIMP Troop explores the meaning of family, friendship, romance, puppies and salami. Free from oppressive adult surveillance and regulation, will the SKIMP Troupe finally uncover LOVE's true meaning? Or will this be LOVE's labours lost? ***fyi there is no Shakespeare in this show! Or is there?***

Content Warning: Swearing, satirical gun violence, philosophy.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES:

“Problems that concern the group as a unit can be solved only by the group and not by a few such as a committee or the officers.” – Neva Boyd

Welcome to the Arts Umbrella Sketch Comedy and Improv Troupe. You can call us “SKIMP Troop” now, because you’re one of us. We are a team! We can do anything. Thank you for being here and being a part of the team. I hope you feel the LOVE.

“The essence of theatre is in the actor-audience encounter and the ways on which such an encounter can add meaning to life.” – Shifra Schonmann

Honestly, we couldn’t do this without you. If that isn’t made clear enough by these awesome quotes I’ve selected, then I truly don’t know what more I could do. It should be obvious but also it’s okay if not, perhaps you need a young person to spell it

out for you. If so, please don't be shy to ask – young people are so smart and kind!

“That is the issue for the next three generations: Can we find some type of response that is inclusive and create some basis for shared space that permits us to be face-to-face?” – Anne Bogart

You are here. We are making it happen. Together!
Thank you, team. Let's play.

Matt Clarke

Director, SkIMP Troupe

ARTISTIC TEAM AND CREW

Director

Matt Clarke

Assistant Director

Sarah Kelen

Theatre Manager

Alan Brodie

CAST

Olympia Catevatis

Jonah Curley

Jun Fang

Katie MacLachlan

Sydney Roland

Fen Schellekens

Jarrett Shoichet

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

This program would not be possible without the SKMIP-tacular parents/guardians/uber drivers who bring this team together twice a week and beyond. U R SKIMP! We'd also like to thank the AU admin and management team for enthusiastically supporting our work all year long. We feel the LOVE! Thank you!!!

CAST BIOS

Felix [Jun] Fang

Felix [Jun] Fang (He/Him), is a sketch comedy writer, performer, and improviser. He has been actively participating in improv at Arts Umbrella since its beginning. Performing with over six years of experience, both on stage and behind the scenes as a writer. Felix [Jun] was honoured with a nomination and award for the *Lucille Pacey Legacy Fund* for the sketch, *Friday Night Live* (2022). And performed live in *Warning, Grief, Art, Delusion* (2024), participating in live shows at AU Expression Festivals, Winter Shorts, and at the Improv Centre with talented Improvers. Felix [Jun] is excited to continue creating impactful and memorable sketches on the stage.

Katie MacLachlan

Katie MacLachlan (She/Her) began acting classes at Carousel Theatre in Vancouver, BC, when she was seven years old. Last year, she played the lead role in *The Internet is Distract — OH LOOK A KITTEN!*

She is currently in the Sketch Comedy and Improv Troupe and Theatre Intensive Level 3 at Arts Umbrella, and performed in all four shows at Winter Shorts 2024.

In addition to acting, Katie sings in two performance groups at the School of Rock and plays piano, viola, and guitar.

Fen Schellekens

Fen Schellekens (They/Them) is an up-and-coming actor and improviser. This is their second year as part of the Sketch and Improv Troupe at Arts Umbrella. They wrote and performed the short play Grief as part of the show Warning Grief Art Delusion for One Acts 2024 and have performed in numerous shows at The Improv Centre on Granville Island. They are also a member of Vancouver's Tightrope Improv Theatre program. Fen is currently a Grade 11 student in the Ideal Mini School program at Churchill Secondary in Vancouver.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

Matt Clarke

Matt Clarke studied Theatre at the New Actors Workshop in New York City under directors George Morrison and Mike Nichols. Since returning to Vancouver in 2006, he has worked as an actor, director, improviser, voice actor, producer and sound designer for Theatre, film and radio. In 2012 he started a small non-profit company, Little Mountain Lion Productions, with the mandate of producing Theatre that intersects with the worlds of film and literature. Matt also has degrees from UBC in English Literature and Scandinavian Studies. His goals as an instructor are to inspire students to share the stories that matter to them, and to give them the creative and expressive tools to do so using their own unique voices. Catch him creating and supporting independent local Theatre from Jericho to Granville Island to Mount Pleasant and Commercial Drive.

Sarah Kelen

Sarah Kelen is an emerging multidisciplinary theatre artist from so-called “Vancouver,” on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.* An Arts Umbrella Theatre Program alumna, she has been working at Arts Umbrella in various capacities since graduating from the program in 2017, including inside the classroom, at the front desk, and in the theatre. Selected credits include: Acting in Bacchamania (Program Sound FM), Chai Time (InterCultural Association of Greater Victoria), Budding, The Rocky Horror Show, Everybody, and Cerulean Blue (Studio 58), Directing The Treadmill (IGNITE! Youth-Driven Arts Fest.) and Assistant Directing/Co-Writing One of a Kind (Deb Williams/Vancouver Children’s Fest.). Outside of her artistic practice, Sarah enjoys collecting eclectic loungewear and reading in the sunshine. Sarah is a graduate of Studio 58.

*Sarah encourages everyone to engage in decolonizing efforts outside of land acknowledgements – a great start is by supporting Indigenous artists, as well as finding out whose land you're on at <https://native-land.ca/>.



Credit: Devan Francis

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