



CHELSEA WOOLLEY'S

P A I N T M E  
T H I S H O U S E  
O F L O V E

DIRECTED BY MIKE PAYETTE

**TARRAGON** THEATRE

APR 11 - MAY 7, 2023

# Paint Me This House of Love

by

Chelsea Woolley

Directed by  
Mike Payette

## Cast

**Jessica B. Hill**

Cecilia

**Tanja Jacobs**

Rhondi

**Jeremiah Sparks**

Jules

*Paint Me This House of Love* is presented in arrangement with  
Ian Arnold, Catalyst TCM Inc - [www.catalysttcm.com](http://www.catalysttcm.com)

*Paint Me This House of Love* was commissioned and received  
its world premiere at Tarragon Theatre in April 2023

# Creative team

**Chelsea Woolley**

Playwright

**Mike Payette**

Director

**Carolyn Fe**

Assistant Director

**Ken MacDonald**

Set Design

**Julia Surich**

Costume Design

**Tim Rodrigues**

Lighting Design

**John Gzowski**

Sound Design

**Anya Perry**

Toronto Metropolitan University

Sound Mentee

**Emilie Aubin**

Stage Manager

**Hazel L. Moore**

Apprentice Stage Manager

**Madeline Borg**

Queen's University Leadership

Production Shadow

**Paint Me This  
House of Love**

by

Chelsea Woolley

Directed by

Mike Payette

Welcome to the final production of our 2022/23 season, *Paint Me This House of Love* by Chelsea Woolley. This play, written during the pandemic and commissioned by Tarragon Theatre, offers another exceptional example of Canadian storytelling.

*Paint Me This House of Love* introduces us to a family and its complicated, dysfunctional relationships. The characters are recognizable, reflecting the same challenges many of us have had to navigate as we come to terms with the choices our parents made, choices that have shaped our own experiences and emotional lives as adults. As in many difficult conversations, the dialogue in *Paint Me This House of Love* leaves out much of what the characters want to say, but we understand and follow every moment, becoming rhythmic in each truncated thought. Through it all we identify with the human frailty, the personal disappointment, and the extraordinary hope and love of each of these people, as they struggle to connect, or re-connect.

We feel so fortunate to have had you part of our journey in this first full season back at Tarragon. Thank you for sharing your valuable time with us and for exploring the range stories we have introduced from our community about finding home and family in today's world. Be sure to join us next season with a subscription to 2023/24 you can find out more from our patron services team. It's been a pleasure to have you here with us.

**Mike Payette and Andrea Vagianos**

Artistic Director & Managing Director | Tarragon Theatre

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Tarragon Theatre acknowledges that we all are a part of a larger ecosystem within our community, Tkaronto, where our theatre lives and operates – and that we also commit ourselves and in turn energize our audiences to continually reflect on and respond to our relationship to the land around us. This country has been cared for by generations of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nations, and the land on which Tarragon rests and is able to share this story has been cherished and protected by, the Anishnabeg, the Haudenosaunee, the Wendat, and the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Toronto is a word that originates from the Mohawk word “Tkaronto,” meaning “the place in the water where the trees are standing,” which is said to refer to the wooden stakes that were used as fishing weirs in the narrows of local river systems by the Haudenosaunee and Huron-Wendat. The paths we still walk today, from Davenport to Dupont, are built on the portage trails first established and walked by Indigenous peoples. It is in the spirit of being on the portage route that we invoke our local Indigenous oral history – though covered up by the industrial progress of Toronto – and maintain that those stories are not lost.

We are committed to engaging with these communities in meaningful ways that open dialogue, while acknowledging our own history. We look towards a recognition of our shared humanity to create deeper community connection and accountability. Tarragon’s recognition of the contributions and the historic significance of Indigenous peoples to this land is directly connected to our promise to meet the challenge of Truth and Reconciliation. Making our commitment real in our work and through our community building. Please do check out the QR codes in the lobby to find out how you can extend your support.

## Playwright's note:

I read Pinter's *Betrayal* a lot when I started writing this play. Like a lot. Like during a first workshop of this script back in 2019, an actor said, "I'm not sure why, but I think this family is British" kind of a lot.

I love *Betrayal* because of what is written, but more so because of what isn't. There is a quiet yearning in that text. To me, it is a play about three people desperate for love, who just can't figure out the formula.

In 2018, as a fresh Torontonionian, I audited Richard Rose's directing class here at the Tarragon Theatre. I don't recall the play in discussion, but I remember Richard saying, "A parent becomes more present in their absence. When you lose a parent, you see ghosts." *House of Love* is about the after. If a parent is absent, but then returns, what happens to the ghosts? And what were they made of to begin with? Memories? Promises? Fantasies? Lies?

Much of this play is written in fragments. The words missing are the ghosts. They are Pinter's unsolvable formula. They are canyons in the way of reconnection. I really love words. And I have loved removing them for you in this play.

Lastly, any script takes time to grow. Thank you to: Courtney Ch'ng Lancaster, Shakura Dixon, Joanna Falck, Jessica Greenberg, Helen King, Myekah Payne, Karen Robinson, Tom Rooney, and Richard Rose for your care with seedling versions of this story.

And to you. I hope you enjoy the complicated and tender lives of this (not British) family.

**Chelsea Woolley**



## JESSICA B. HILL

### CECILIA

**For Tarragon:** Debut

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *Pandora* (Prairie Theatre Exchange, playwright-performer); *Richard III*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Brontë: The World Without*, *Paradise Lost*, *The Crucible*, *All My Sons*, *Bunny*, *The Alchemist* (Stratford Festival); *Mother's Daughter* (Stratford Festival, Soulepepper); *The Play's The Thing*, *Enemy of the People* (Segal Centre); *The Lady Smith* (Black Theatre Workshop).

**Selected Film and Television Credits:** *Five Days at Memorial*, *The Boys*, *Kings of Napa*, *What We Do In The Shadows*, *Slaxx*, *On the Basis of Sex*, *Hero: The Extraordinary Life and Times of Ulric Cross*, *Assassin's Creed: Origins*.

**Upcoming:** *The Dark Lady* (Shakespeare in the Ruins, Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan, playwright-performer)

**Awards:** Two Mary Savidge Guthrie Awards, the first Elsa Bolam Award and the Brian Cloutte Memorial Bursary.

**Other:** For our family, partners, mentors, friends and pets that have loved us into being.



## TANJA JACOBS

### RHONDI

**For Tarragon:** *The Watershed; Girl in the Goldfish Bowl; Elisa's Skin; The Four Lives of Marie; Seven Stories; The Man I Love; Aunt Dan and Lemon; Prague.*

**Selected Theatre Credits as a director:** *Everybody* (B. Jacobs-Jenkins' adaptation of *Everyman*, U Waterloo); *Orphans for the Czar* (Crow's Theatre); *Getting Married* (Shaw Festival); *Twelfth Night; A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Canadian Stage Shakespeare in High Park); *La Bete* (Soulpepper); *Love and Information* (co-directed, Canadian Stage); *The Model Apartment* (Harold Green Jewish Theatre).

**Selected Theatre Credits as an actress:** *The Assembly* (Theatre Porte Parole, Crow's, Segal Centre, NAC); *Cyrano; Man and Superman* (Shaw Festival); *Bloody Family* (Theatre Centre); *Seeds* (Porte Parole, Crow's, NAC, National Tour); Winnie in *Happy Days*, Courage in *Mother Courage*, Lady Wishfort in *The Way of the World* (NAC, Soulpepper, MTC); *The Little Years* (Neptune, NAC); *The Swanne* (Stratford Festival); *Phedre* (Soulpepper); original Constance in *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* (Nightwood and 20 years later Festival of Classics); many others.

**Awards:** 11 Dora Nominations, 3 Dora Awards; 2018 Winner Gina Wilkinson Prize for a Female Director.





## JEREMIAH SPARKS

### JULES

**For Tarragon:** Debut

**Selected Theatre Credits:** August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean* (Shaw Festival- Eli), *#34* (Globe Theatre), *Beneath Springhill* (Arts Club, Neptune Theatre, Orangeville Theatre), *The Color Purple* (Neptune Theatre-Pa), *The Lion King* (Mirvish-Mufasa), *Satchmo Suite* (Eastern Front Theatre, Neptune Theatre-Louis Armstrong), *Harlem Duet* (Neptune Theatre-Curette)

**Selected Film and Television Credits:** *Titans* (actor), *Wise Girls* (actor), *Soul* (actor), *One Heart Broken into Song* (actor and music composer), *Trailer Park Boys* (actor)

**Upcoming:** *Amen Corner* (Shaw Festival), *Shaw Gospel Choir* (Shaw Festival)

**Awards:** Queen Elizabeth II Golden Medal

**Other:** Singer, Pianist, 2nd CD "Storms of Fear" (iTunes, Spotify).

So stoked to be here for my first Tarragon experience!



## CHELSEA WOOLLEY

### PLAYWRIGHT

**For Tarragon:** Debut

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *Enormity*, *Girl*, and *the Earthquake in Her Lungs* (Nightwood Theatre's Groundswell Festival, Toronto Metropolitan University), *The Mountain* (Geordie Theatre, Spinning Dot Theatre), *The Only Good Boy* (Theatre BSMT), *Dear the Government...* (Newmarket National Play Festival)

**Awards:** RBC Emerging Playwright Prize (Tarragon Theatre), Women's Caucus Surefire List (Playwrights Guild of Canada), Ellen Ross Stuart Opening Doors Award (Blyth Festival, Hart House Theatre, Tarragon Theatre), Wildfire National Playwriting Competition (Major Matt Mason Collective), Toronto Fringe New Play Contest.

**Other:** Chelsea Woolley is a Toronto-Albertan playwright. Her work has garnered national and international attention including: a Dutch translation of *Enormity*, *Girl*, and *the Earthquake in Her Lungs*, presented in Belgium at the Shakespeare is Dead Festival; *The Mountain*, produced in Ann-Arbor, Michigan; and *These Peaceable Kingdoms* featured at the Kennedy Centre in Washington D.C.. She is the creator of the Mixed-Arts Performance Partnership Program connecting young artists living in precarity with professional artist mentorship, and is the Head of Drama with the Canadian Children's Opera Company. Chelsea is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's Playwriting Program.



## MIKE PAYETTE

### DIRECTOR

**For Tarragon:** Artistic Director. *Cockroach*.

**Selected Directing Credits:** *Harlem Duet* (Black Theatre Workshop), *A Line in the Sand* (Tableau D'Hôte Theatre), *Hosanna* (English Montreal premiere) and *Choir Boy* (Canadian Stage/Arts Club Theatre), *Reaching for Starlight*, *Virginia Wolf* and *From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea* (Geordie Theatre), the French-language premiere of *Héritage – A Raisin in the Sun* (Théâtre Jean-Duceppe) along with the national tours of *The Tashme Project* (Tashme Prods/ Centaur/Factory/Firehall) and Lorena Gale's *Angélique* (Black Theatre Workshop/Tableau D'Hôte/National Arts Centre/Factory/Obsidian), *Sensitivity* and *Chronologie* (21 Black Futures - Obsidian Theatre)

**Upcoming:** *Blithe Spirit* (Shaw Festival)

**Awards:** Two-time Montreal English Theatre Award (META) recipient.



## CAROLYN FE

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

**For Tarragon:** 2023 Artist-in-Residence, *Three Women of Swatow*

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *Uncle Vanya* (Crow's Theatre), *Three Women of Swatow* (Tarragon), *Through the Bamboo* (Uwi Collective), *Calpurnia* (Nightwood/Sulong), *Believe Your Eyes* (Punchdrunk), *Miss Orient(ed)* (Teesri Duniya Theatre)

**Selected Film and Television Credits:** *Blue's Clues & You!* (Nickelodeon), *Meilleur Avant* (TVA), *ABROAD* (Omni Television), *Pinecone & Pony* (Dreamworks), *Work It Out Wombats* (PBS Kids)

**Upcoming:** *Uncle Vanya* (Theatre Aquarius/Crow's Theatre)

**Awards:** 2022 Top 10 Breakthrough Artist by Glenn Sumi Entertainment Journalist and Arts Critic, 2022 Dora Nominee Best Performance in a Leading Role *Three Women of Swatow*, 2022 Nightwood Theatre's Louise Garfield Award for "late-in-life" emerging creators. (Toronto, Ontario), 2019 Now Magazine's 15 Artists to Watch. (Toronto, Ontario), 2018 Best Supporting Actress in a play by Toronto Critics Award for *Calpurnia* by Nightwood Theatre and Sulong Theatre Project (Toronto, Ontario), 2014 International Release of the Year Album for *Bad Taboo* Jimi Awards (USA), 2011 Best Blues and Associated Styles Album for *Original Sin* Lys Blues Awards (Montreal, Quebec)

**Other:** Playwright - *Go Fish!* (in development at Tarragon), *The Scream* (commissioned by Tarragon, supported by Studio 180). Published Writer - *Still Life in Death* (short story, Font Magazine) which Carolyn Fe adapted for a play in the horror genre, *Your Lola is Fierce* (poem, part of the Toronto Catholic School Commission's curriculum on the importance of inter-generational relationships) Blues & Jazz Singer/Songwriter - albums available at [carolynfe.bandcamp.com](http://carolynfe.bandcamp.com) #OldNotOutdated



## **KEN MACDONALD**

### **SET DESIGNER**

**For Tarragon:** *Pal Joey, 7 Stories, Vigil, Lawrence & Holloman, The Ends of the Earth, Girl in the Goldfish Bowl, The Amorous Adventures of Anatol, The Dishwashers, Benevolence, Sextet, Marry Me a Little, White Biting Dog.*

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *The Overcoat – A Musical Retailoring* (Canadian Stage/Vancouver Opera/Tapestry Opera); *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (ACT - San Francisco, Theatre Calgary, The Grand Theatre, Old Globe San Diego, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Arts Club Theatre, RMTC and Arena Stage); *Newsies, Anything Goes, Sovereignty, The Shoplifters* (Arena Stage - Washington, D.C.); *Engaged, Our Town, Sweet Charity, Arms and The Man, Our Betters, Doctor's Dilemma* (Shaw Festival); *Wanderlust, Moby Dick, The Trespassers* (Stratford Festival).

**Upcoming:** *Frankenstein Revisited* (Stratford Festival)

**Awards:** Gemini Award for Outstanding Production Design, *The Overcoat* (CBC); two Dora Mavor Moore Awards, a Betty Mitchell Award and seventeen Jessie Richardson Awards.



## **JULIA SURICH**

### **COSTUME DESIGNER**

**For Tarragon (designer):** *My Sister's Rage*

**For Tarragon (head of costumes):** 2021-2022 season,  
2022-2023 season.

**Other:** Julia Surich is a tailor, stylist, designer in Tkaronto.



## **TIM RODRIGUES**

### **LIGHTING DESIGNER**

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *English* (Soulpepper, Segal Centre); *Serving Elizabeth* (Theatre Aquarius); *From The Stars In The Sky To The Fish In The Sea, Reaching For Starlight, The In-Between, Little Witch* (Geordie Theatre); *Pipeline* (Black Theatre Workshop, La Manufacture); *How Black Mothers Say I Love You* (Black Theatre Workshop); *This Is How We Got Here, The River, Disgraced* (Magnus Theatre); *Marjorie Prime* (Segal Centre).

**Other:** A former dancer/choreographer turned lighting designer, Tim has worked with an array of companies on creation-based projects and international tours. He is excited to be making his Tarragon debut.



## **JOHN GZOWSKI**

### **SOUND DESIGNER**

**For Tarragon:** *Post-Democracy, Kilt, Emphysema, Goodness, Chimera, John and Beatrice, The Fall, Children's Republic, The Little One, Other People's Children, Theory.*

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *Mahabharata* (Why Not Theatre), *Richard III, The Miser, The Front Page* (Stratford Festival); *Too True to be Good, Dracula, The Curse of the Raven* (Shaw Festival)

**Upcoming:** *New* (Canadian Stage); *Village Wooing* (Shaw Festival)

**Awards:** 6 Doras from 18 nominations





**ANYA PERRY**  
**TORONTO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY**  
**SOUND MENTEE**

**For Tarragon:** Debut

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *RISE: Fall Dances* (Toronto Metropolitan University), *Spring Awakening* (Toronto Metropolitan University)



## EMILIE AUBIN

### STAGE MANAGER

**For Tarragon:** *Cockroach* (甲由)

**For Tarragon as Apprentice Stage Manager:** *In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)*, *The Golden Dragon*, *The Real World?*, *No Great Mischief*, *The Amorous Adventures of Anatol*, *Carried Away on the Crest of a Wave*.

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *2 Pianos 4 Hands* (Marquis Entertainment / Mirvish); *Is God Is* (Obsidian Theatre / Necessary Angel / Canadian Stage); *Cast Iron* (Obsidian Theatre / Factory Theatre); *21 Black Futures*, *Pass Over*, *School Girls*; *Or*, *The African Mean Girls Play*, *hang* (Obsidian Theatre); *Century Song*, *Infinity* (Volcano Theatre); *Underneath It All* (New Harlem Productions); *Art* (Soulpepper); *It Comes in Waves* (Bluemouth Inc / Necessary Angel); *You Are A Field*, *Lady Baby*, *Portrait* (The Dietrich Group); *The Men in White* (Factory Theatre); *Tributaries* (LuminaTO 2017); *Freedom Singer* (Project:Humanity); *We Keep Coming Back* (Selfconscious Theatre); *Counting Sheep* (SummerWorks 2015); *M'dea Undone* (Tapestry Opera).

**Other:** Em is a stage manager for theatre and experimental performance based in Tkaròn:to, Treaty 13 territory.



## **HAZEL L. MOORE**

### **APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER**

**For Tarragon:** *My Sister's Rage*

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *Crazy Dave Goes to Town* (Centre for Indigenous Theatre), *2 Pianos 4 Hands* (Marquis Entertainment), *The World Goes 'Round* (Nightwood Theatre), *I'm Walking Here* (Centre for Indigenous Theatre), *Stars of Mars* (Nightwood Theatre)

**Other:** Hazel is delighted to be back at Tarragon!

# TARRAGON STAFF

**MIKE PAYETTE**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**Myekah Payne**  
Associate Artistic Director

**Gerry Egan**  
Director of Production

**Leslie Hernandez**  
Technical Director

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Production Assistant,  
COVID Safety & Patron Services  
Representative

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Mainspace Technician

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## THE ROSE DIRECTING FUND

The Rose Directing Fund, developed to continue Richard Rose's vision of bringing excellence to the creation and development of Canadian theatre by celebrating a professional director each season. We are grateful to the individuals whose gifts to this fund will support the future of directors at Tarragon over the next 10 years.

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Mary Alford

Eva Saphir

Marie Beattie

Margaret Stevens

Graham Ewart

Gabriel Trevisan

Rickey Fitzerman

Ronald Youd

Urjo Kareda

If we have made any errors in the spelling, listing or omission of your name please accept our apologies and contact

Courtney Fiddis, Director of Development at:

[courtney@tarragontheatre.com](mailto:courtney@tarragontheatre.com)

Thank you to our volunteers !

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Tarragon Theatre is an active member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA).

