

# CHILD-ish

## Tarragon Theatre

### Fact Sheet

This fact sheet has key information about the show and the theatre that you may find useful and that may help you to fully enjoy your time with us.

### **Key Information**

|                            |                                                                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location:                  | Tarragon Theatre Extraspace                                                          |
| Address:                   | 30 Bridgman Ave Toronto ON M5R 1X3                                                   |
| Onstage:                   | Oct 21st - Nov 16th<br>Tues - Sat at 7:30pm and Sat - Sun at 2:00pm                  |
| Previews:                  | Oct 21st - Oct 28th<br>Tues - Sat at 7:30pm and Sun at 2:00pm                        |
| Mask Required Performance: | Sat November 1st at 2:00pm                                                           |
| Preshow Tarragon Talk:     | Tue November 4th 6:00pm - 7:00pm                                                     |
| Postshow Talk Backs:       | Sun November 2nd, Thursday November 6th,<br>Sun November 9th, Thursday November 13th |
| Relaxed Environment:       | Sat November 8th 2:00pm                                                              |
| Student Matinées:          | Wed November 5th, Thu November 6th, and<br>Wed November 12th all at 1:00pm           |
| Performance Length:        | approximately 65 minutes                                                             |
| Intermission:              | There is no Intermission for this show.                                              |
| Quiet Room:                | There is no Quiet Room for this show.                                                |
| Late Entry:                | Is not permitted for this show (Details on page 3).                                  |
| Reentry:                   | Is permitted for this show (Details on page 3).                                      |

House Program: [click for House Program](#)

Venue Guide: [click for Venue Guide](#)

Audience Resource Guide: [click for Audience Resource Guide](#)

## **General Things to Know**

- The performance will be at Tarragon Theatre in the Extraspace.
- Evening performances start at 7:30pm. Afternoon performances start at 2:00pm. Student Matinées start at 1:00pm.
- Digital tickets are emailed to you when you book them and will be emailed again on the morning of the performance.
- If you arranged to have your ticket printed for pickup, please arrive 30 minutes before the show starts to get it from the Box Office.
- The lobby has benches to sit on and make yourself comfortable on.
- The Bar/Concessions is open for all performances except Student Matinées.
- Food cannot be eaten in the Extraspace, but can be eaten in the Lobby. Drinks are allowed in the Extraspace. Hot drinks must have a lid.
- Tarragon Theatre only requires masking for certain performances. However, you are welcome to wear one in and around the venue at any time. Please note that some staff may wear masks, but it is not required for staff to be masked.
- The women's washroom is on the ground floor.
- The men's washroom, all gender washroom, and single-stall accessible washroom are on the second floor.
- The second floor can be reached by stairs or elevator.
- This show has assigned seating.

- You can find your seat assignment on your digital or printed ticket.
- The Extraspace will open 30 minutes before the performances, at this time the ushers will start scanning tickets so people can go in and take their seats.
- An Usher will tell you where to find your seat when they scan your ticket.
- Your mobile phone should be set to silent during the performance.
- The Extraspace is air conditioned and may be cold when you first enter. It will quickly heat up once the show begins.
- The lights over the audience will be lowered and it will be dark. Then the performance will start. For the Relaxed Environment performance it will not be fully dark. Instead, the lights over the audience will remain on at 30%.
- If you need to leave during the performance for any reason, you can. When an usher notices you trying to leave, they will help you exit to the lobby using the doors you entered from.
- Reentry is permitted for *CHILD-ish*. If you wish to return to the Extraspace and the performance, please talk to the Box Office staff and they will let you back in at an appropriate moment. They may direct you to a different seat depending on how full the Extraspace is and where your original seat was.
- Late Entry is not permitted for *CHILD-ish*. If you arrive after the performance has already started you will not be allowed into the theatre. Box Office staff can help you reschedule your tickets for a future performance, or refund your tickets.

## **About CHILD-ish**

The Toronto Premier of a play by Sunny Drake, with contributions from The CHILD-ish Collective.

**Kids' words for grown ups.** Forty whip-smart and brutally honest children are asked about love, life, and the world. From their fresh perspectives four adult actors speak their exact words and make them their own!

## **About the Performance**

Here are some things about this show you may find interesting or helpful as an audience member:

- *CHILD-ish* is a piece of Verbatim Theatre. That means that the script was built using the exact words real people said.
- Over 40 children between the ages of five (5) and twelve (12) were interviewed to create *CHILD-ish*.
- The sections where the Interviewer talks directly to the audience are the only words that were not said in the original interviews.
- The performers walk through the audience at certain points of the performance. An usher will inform the people sitting close to where the actors will walk before the performance starts.

## **Content Advisory**

- *CHILD-ish* deals with and presents content which may be difficult for some, including: suicide, death, war, depression, immigration, racism, climate crisis, sexism, anxiety, consent, self harm, settler colonialism, and bullying.
- There is no swearing during the performance, though the concept of swearing is mentioned.
- The word 'gay' is used in a derogatory context one (1) time.

- There are some moments of audience participation during the performance. These moments are all optional and you can choose not to participate in them for any reason. If you do participate, you will not be required to go onstage or leave your seat.

## **Sensory Advisory**

- There are no strobe lights during the performance.
- Colourful images/videos are sometimes projected onto the stage.
- The performance contains loud sounds. If something is ever too loud you can cover your ears with your hands or put on sound dampening headphones if you brought them. The Box Office can provide earplugs upon request.

## **Relaxed Environment Performances**

There will be a Relaxed Environment Performance of *CHILD-ish* on Sat November 8th at 2:00pm. During this performance the following will be offered:

- The lights over the audience will remain on at 30%.
- All recorded sound and music will be capped at 50 - 60 decibels. However, the voices of the performers onstage may exceed that volume at times.
- Trained Front of House staff.
- Invitation to audience members to enter and exit the theatre as they wish, make sound, and move around.
- Audience members may use their devices as needed and keep their phones on vibrate.
- A selection of seats in the back row of the theatre will be available for patrons to relocate should they wish to move further from the stage during the performance.

- A Venue Guide, Fact Sheet, and educational Audience Resource Guide will be available.
- Pre-show visits to the theatre for familiarization can be booked with our Education and Community Access Manager. Please contact Heather Caplap at [education@tarragontheatre.com](mailto:education@tarragontheatre.com) or 416-531-1827 x249 to book.

## **Performer and Character Information**

Performer: Asher Rose  
Character: Interviewer  
Character Info: The Interviewer speaks the words Sunny Drake, the playwright of *CHILD-ish*, said while conducting the original interviews with children.



Performer: Monique Mojica  
Character: Actor 1  
Character Info: The Actors speak the words children said in the original interviews. They are not pretending to be children, but rather are seeing what it feels like for adults to give voice to the words of children.



Performer: Janelle Cooper  
Character: Actor 2  
Character Info: The Actors speak the words children said in the original interviews. They are not pretending to be children, but rather are seeing what it feels like for adults to give voice to the words of children.



Performer: Karl Ang  
Character: Actor 3  
Character Info: The Actors speak the words children said in the original interviews. They are not pretending to be children, but rather are seeing what it feels like for adults to give voice to the words of children.



Performer: Jordan Pettie  
Character: Actor 4  
Character Info: The Actors speak the words children said in the original interviews. They are not pretending to be children, but rather are seeing what it feels like for adults to give voice to the words of children.



Production Photos by Jae Yang

## Set Description and Photos

The set of *CHILD-ish* is designed to look like an office breakroom. The floor is covered in grey carpeting and the back wall is painted off-white.

In the middle of the wall is a wide rectangular screen. Text is projected onto this screen several times throughout the performance. To the right of the screen is a wall-mounted coat rack. To the left of the screen is a black countertop. On the countertop is a kettle, drinking glasses, water bottles, a tea bag organizer, and various snacks. Above the countertop is a wall-mounted shelf for mugs. On the floor next to the countertop is a small trash can.

In the middle of the floor is a segmented couch in different shades of blue. A clipboard rests on the couch. Behind and to the right of the couch is a clear plastic stool. The front corners of the floor each have a plush, light blue stool.



Set Design by Amanda Wong

## **Plot Summary**

Please note that this section contains spoilers.

**The Actors ask the question: You're going to make adults say exactly what I say?**

- The Interviewer explains to the Actors (who are speaking the words of the children who were interviewed) that adults are going to speak what they say during these interviews.
- The Actors pretend to be chickens. If something is ever too loud you can cover your ears with your hands or put on sound dampening headphones if you brought them. The Box Office can provide earplugs upon request.
- An Actor sings a song about Unicorns
- The Interviewer talks directly to the audience and introduces themselves.

**The Actors answer the question: What is a Land Acknowledgement?**

- Residential Schools are mentioned.
- The Actors pretend to be chickens.

**The Actors answer the question: How would you describe what love is?**

- The Actors talk about kissing, crushes, and heartbreak.
- War is mentioned.
- The Actors talk about marriage.
- The Interviewer sits in the audience staircase while the Actors pretend to make Online Dating profiles.
- The Actors sing the unicorn song.

- An Actor tells the Interviewer about wanting to marry three (3) of their friends.
- The Actors talk about what being married to multiple people could be like.
- The Actors sing the unicorn song.
- An Actor tells a story about getting over a crush.

### **The Actors ask the question: Can we interview each other?**

- The Interviewer gives the Actors their own recording devices so they can interview each other or record themselves talking solo.
- An Actor tests a recording device with a short scream. If something is ever too loud you can cover your ears with your hands or put on sound dampening headphones if you brought them. The Box Office can provide earplugs upon request.
- An Actor asks the other Actors about racism and sexism.
- The Actors talk about always needing permission from adults to do things.
- The Actors describe what a world ruled by kids would be like.
- Two (2) Actors argue during an interview.
- The word 'gay' is used in a derogatory context.
- The Actors pretend to do a TV news broadcast about climate change.
- An Actor talks about being non-binary.

### **The Actors ask the Interviewer: How will you decide what you put in the play?**

- The Actors start posing dozens of questions to the Interviewer very quickly.

- The Interviewer talks directly to the audience about being inspired by some of those questions to let children consult on what parts of the interviews should be used in the script.
- The Interviewer and an Actor reenact a scene from earlier in the show.
- The other Actors watch the reenactment and comment on it.
- The Actors tell the Interviewer that there should be activities for the audience.
- The lights over the audience are turned on and the Interviewer explains an activity the audience can do. This activity is optional and you can choose not to participate in them for any reason.
- The activity involves audience members interviewing the person sat next to them using the questions the Actors asked the Interviewer earlier.
- During the audience activity an Actor walks up the audience staircase, then walks back onstage.
- During the audience activity the Actors eat snacks onstage.
- The Interviewer ends the activity and thanks the audience, then the lights over the audience turn back off.

### **The Actors answer questions about serious topics.**

- The Actors talk about members of their family who have died.
- The Actors talk about the afterlife.
- An Actor tells the story of how and why their family immigrated to Canada from Syria.
- The Actors talk about consent.
- An Actor tells the story about their friend who kept kissing them non-consensually.

- The stage lights are turned down and the Actors perform a short dance. Then the stage lights are turned back up.
- The Actors talk about mental health, including anxiety, depression, and suicide.
- The Interviewer talks directly to the audience about being unprepared for suicide to come up during the interviews. Then they explain the research and consulting they did in order to prepare for conversations about suicide.
- The Actors talk about people in their lives who have died by suicide, or who have expressed suicidal thoughts.
- An Actor briefly describes the method their friend unsuccessfully used to attempted suicide.
- The Actors talk about what they would say to someone having suicidal thoughts.
- The Actors talk about the climate crisis. As they talk, they slowly get louder and louder until they are yelling. If something is ever too loud you can cover your ears with your hands or put on sound dampening headphones if you brought them. The Box Office can provide earplugs upon request.
- An Actor walks up the audience staircase while talking, then goes back to the stage.
- The Actors are interrupted by a group of children who walk onstage.
- The children start playing a game and the Actors join them.

**The children recite: Our Manifesto by kids**

- The children invite the audience to read their manifesto out loud with them. Reading it out loud is optional and you can choose not to participate for any reason.

- The manifesto is projected onto the back wall and read out loud one line at a time. If something is ever too loud you can cover your ears with your hands or put on sound dampening headphones if you brought them. The Box Office can provide earplugs upon request.
- The children, the Actors, and the Interviewer pretend to be chickens.
- The Chicken Dance song plays and everyone onstage starts dancing to it.
- The audience is invited to dance in place with them. This is optional and you can choose not to participate for any reason.
- A video of a colourful unicorn is projected onto the stage.
- The show ends and the performers bow as music plays.
- The children invite the audience to add to the manifesto by writing on a banner in the lobby using provided markers.

**THE END**

## **Contact Information:**

If you have any questions or concerns about this Fact Sheet or planning a visit to Tarragon Theatre please reach out.

We love feedback on our accessible programming, if there is anything you would like to share please send us an email or give us a call.

### **Heather Caplap**

Education and Community Access Manager

Email: [education@tarragontheatre.com](mailto:education@tarragontheatre.com)

Phone: 416-536-5018 x 249

### **Natasha Parsons**

Director of Patron Services

Email: [patronservices@tarragontheatre.com](mailto:patronservices@tarragontheatre.com)

Phone: 416-531-1827 x 221

### **Address**

[30 Bridgman Avenue](#)

[Toronto, Ontario, M5R 1X3](#)