

WRITTEN BY **debbie tucker green** DIRECTED BY **MUMBI TINDYEBWA OTU** FROM **NOV 11 - DEC 7, 2025**

a profoundly affectionate,
passionate devotion to
someone (-noun)



NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

TARRAGON THEATRE



**Obsidian
Theatre
Company**

A TARRAGON THEATRE AND OBSIDIAN THEATRE COMPANY CO-PRODUCTION

Photo of Warona Setshwaelo, Andrew Moodie, Jasmine Case, Virgilia Griffith and Dwain Murphy by Dahlia Katz.

WELCOME TO TARRAGON THEATRE

Tarragon Theatre is a creation and playwrights' theatre. We develop, produce and present premiere productions that investigate artistic form, offering enriching and provocative theatre experiences for the artist and audience.

For over fifty years, our mission has been a foundation within Canadian theatre, new play development and dramaturgy practice. We open our doors to celebrate and learn from the scope of voices that make up our country and the various artistic practices that resonate within them.

Tarragon is equally a hub for creation and development as it is a production company, with the ultimate goal of creating a meaningful environment for artists to thrive and bridge their ideas from concept to realization.

a profoundly affectionate, passionate devotion to someone (-noun) runs approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.



CAST

Virgilia Griffith

A

Dwain Murphy

B

Warona Setshwaelo

Woman

Andrew Moodie

Man

Jasmine Case

Young Woman



CREATIVE TEAM

debbie tucker green

Playwright

Alice Ferreyra Galliani

Stage Manager

Mumbi Tindyebwa Otu

Director

M Fera

Apprentice Stage Manager

Germaine Konji

Nightwood Directing Resident**

Peter Bailey

Voice Coach

Jawon Kang*

Set Designer

Anita Nittoly

Fight Director

Arianna Lilith Moodie

Costume Designer

Raha Javanfar*

Lighting Designer

Jacob Lin 林鴻恩*

Sound Designer

Lisa Karen Cox

Movement & Intimacy Director

**The services of Germaine Konji made possible through Nightwood Theatre Shadow Directing program

* Indicated designers on this production are represented by the Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659.



TARRAGON THEATRE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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 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 First Nation.

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 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. We look towards a recognition of our shared humanity to create deeper community connection and accountability. Tarragon’s recognition of the contributions 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.



WELCOME

Welcome back to the theatre and thank you for joining us on this special partnership between Tarragon and Obsidian Theatre Company.

It is a pleasure to join forces in bringing you the North American premiere of *a profoundly affectionate, passionate devotion to someone (-noun)* by internationally-acclaimed debbie tucker green. First premiered at The Royal Court Theatre, UK (a fellow playwrights theatre and a leading force in championing and cultivating playwrights), this exceptional text has long waited to have its Canadian homecoming.

The scope of love is boundless, complex, and deeply human. ... *profoundly...* is rich in its investigation and pulls our attention to three stories that are equally resonant, unapologetic and moving. debbie tucker green's singular writing style balances musicality of dialogue with heightened tension urging us to find our own connections to love's greatest questions within our relationships to each other and ourselves.

Guided by the incomparable Mumbi Tindyebwa Otu, and with an exceptional cast and creatives, ...*profoundly...* challenges us to look deeper into love's celebratory moments, its aching discoveries, and uncharted potential.

We encourage you to lean in, open your heart, and ride the journey of this powerful piece. Thank you again for being with us and enjoy the show!

Mike and Lisa Li | Mumbi and Michael

Tarragon Theatre

Obsidian Theatre



ARTIST'S NOTE

What struck me most when first encountering *a profoundly affectionate, passionate devotion to someone* (-noun) was its honesty. debbie tucker green invites us into the private rooms of relationships — the silences, the misfires, the tenderness, the ache — without warning and without apology. It's a world where the smallest gesture can hold a history, and where language becomes both a bridge and a barrier between people who love each other fiercely.

As a team, we approached this production with deep care and curiosity. We were interested not only in what is spoken, but in what is avoided, imagined, and remembered. In the room, we leaned into the humour, the discomfort, the contradictions, and the profound humanity that pulses through debbie's writing.

Bringing this piece to North America for the first time has been both a responsibility and a gift. Our aim has been to honour the play's rhythm and roots while allowing it to live fully here — in these bodies, in this city, in this moment.

Thank you for listening, for witnessing, and for holding this with us.

Germaine Konji

Nightwood Directing Resident





debbie tucker green (She/Her)
Playwright

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Obsidian: Debut.

Selected Theatre Credits: *ear for eye*, *a profoundly affectionate passionate devotion to someone* (-noun), *hang*, *truth and reconciliation*, *random*, *stoning mary* (all Royal Court theatre), *nut* (National Theatre), *generations* (Young Vic), *trade* (RSC / RSC at Soho), *born bad* (Hampstead Theatre).

Selected Film and Television Credits: *ear for eye* (feature film), *swirl* (short), *second coming* (feature film), *random* (film).

Selected Radio Credits: *monday*, *Assata Shakur – the FBI's Most Wanted Woman* (adaptation), *lament*, *gone*, *random*, *handprint*, *freefall* (all BBC Radio).

Selected Directing Credits: Plays: *ear for eye*, *a profoundly affectionate...*, *hang*, *truth and reconciliation*, *nut*. Feature Films: *ear for eye*, *second coming*. Film: *random*. Short: *swirl*. Radio plays: *monday*, *Assata Shakur – the FBI's Most Wanted Woman*, *lament*, *gone*, *random*.

Awards: *hang*, Best Foreign Play Les Journées De Lyon Des Auteurs De Théâtre (France); *second coming*, International Film Festival Rotterdam Big Screen Award, BAFTA nomination for Outstanding Debut, Sutherland Award nomination; *random* (film), BAFTA for Best Single Drama, MVSA for Best UK film; *lament*, Gold ARIAS radio award; *born bad*, OBIE award for New York Soho Rep production, Olivier award for *born bad* (UK production). Recipient of the Windham Campbell Literature Prize.





MUMBI TINDYEBWA OTU (She/Her)
Director

For Tarragon: *Post Democracy*.

For Obsidian: *Flex* (Obsidian/Crow's), *Three Sisters* (Obsidian/Soulpepper), *Is God Is* (Obsidian/Canadian Stage/Necessary Angel) *Cast Iron* (Obsidian/Factory), *21 Black Futures* (Obsidian/CBC Arts).

Selected Theatre Credits: *Sizwe Banzi is Dead*, *The Brothers Size*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (Soulpepper Theatre), *We are Proud to Present* (UofT Scarborough), *Trout Stanley* (Factory) and *Oraltorio: A Theatrical Mixtape* (Obsidian/Soulpepper).

Upcoming: *How to Catch Creation* (Obsidian/Soulpepper/ Nightwood).

Awards: Canadian Screen Award, Dora Mavor Moore Award, Toronto Theatre Critics Award, Pauline McGibbon Award and a Mallory Gilbert Protege Award.

Other: Mumbi is an acclaimed theatre creator and director raised in Kenya and Victoria, BC and based in Toronto. She is the Artistic Director of Obsidian Theatre, Canada's leading creator for Black Art, as well as Founder/Artistic Director for the experimental theatre company IFT (It's A Freedom Thing Theatre).





VIRGILIA GRIFFITH (She/Her)

A

For Tarragon: *Harlem Duet*, *Guarded Girls* (Greenlight Arts), *A Poem for Rabia*.

For Obsidian: *Three Sisters*, *21 Black Futures* (CBC Gem), *Up the Garden Path*, *Other Side of the Game*.

Selected Theatre Credits: *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, *Murder on the Lake* (Shaw Festival), *Rosmersholm* (Crow's Theatre), *Our Place* (Cahoots/Theatre Passé Muraille), *Queen Goneril/ King Lear* (Soulpepper Theatre Company), *Contractions* (Studio 180), *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (Soulpepper Theatre), *The Wedding Party* (Crow's Theatre), *Da Kink In My Hair* (Theatre Calgary/ NAC).

Selected Film and Television Credits: *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Nurses*, *The Expanse*, *Doc*.

Awards: Meta Emerging Artist for *Gas Girls*, Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Performance for *Harlem Duet*, Jon Kaplan Legacy Fund for Award for Canadian Stage Performer.





DWAIN MURPHY (He/Him)

B

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Obsidian: Debut.

Selected Film and Television Credits: CROSS on Amazon Prime Video (Season 1), DOC on Fox (Season 1), DIGGSTOWN on CBC Season 1-4, BROTHER (Feature film), A MILLION LITTLE THINGS on ABC (Season 5), & STAR-TREK DISCOVERY on CBS (Season 1).

Upcoming: VOUGHT RISING (The Boys Spinoff prequel) Amazon Prime Video (Season 1), CROSS on Amazon Prime Video (Season 2&3).

Awards: Two best supporting actor nominations at the 2023 Canadian screen awards: *Diggstown* & *Revenge Of The Black Best Friend*.

Other: Thankful to be blessed with this opportunity!!





WARONA SETSHWAELO (She/Her)

Woman

For Tarragon: *Waiting Room*.

For Obsidian: Debut.

Selected Theatre Credits: *Thy Woman's Weeds*

(Centaur/Repercussion/Tableau D'Hôte Theatre); *A Play for the Living in the Time of Extinction* (Centaur), *Small Mouth Sounds* (Segal Centre), *Bang Bang* (Belfry/RMTC); *If We Were Birds*, *An Intractable Woman* and *The Retreat* (Imago); *Diggers* (Prairie Theatre Exchange/BTW), *Tiff'ny of Athens* (Shakespeare in the Ruff); *Reach for Starlight* (Geordie).

Selected Film and Television Credits: *The Disappearance, 19-2*, *Quantico*, *Death Wish*, *On the Basis of Sex* and *White House Down*, as well as video games *Assassin's Creed Origins*, *Valhalla*, *Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon*, *Avatar: Frontiers of Pandora*, *Star Wars Outlaws*.

Upcoming: *Copperbelt* (Soulpepper/NAC).

Awards: Montreal English Theatre Award (META) for Outstanding Lead Performance (*Small Mouth Sounds*), Gina Wilkinson Prize recipient.

Other: What a gift to be able to build this story with such a generous group of people. Being able to explore the dark and complex realms of love, with Black Love at the centre, has made for such delicious and necessary work. Big up to both Tarragon and Obsidian for bringing this gem to Canada. And as with every story I weave, I dedicate this to my daughter, Khaya.





ANDREW MOODIE (He/Him) Man

For Tarragon: *New Magic Valley Fun Town.*

For Obsidian: Debut.

Selected Theatre Credits: *Riot, Short History of Night* (Factory Theatre) *Better Living, Second Sheppard's Play, Our Country's Good* (Great Canadian Theatre Company), *Macbeth, Merry Wives of Windsor, Amadeus* (Stratford), *Satchmo Suite* (Eastern Front), *Death in New Orleans* (One Yellow Rabbit), *Hamlet, Nathan the Wise* (Soulpepper), *Race* (Ground Zero), *Othello* (Shakespeare in the Rough, Segal Centre), *Master Harold and the Boys* (Prairie Theatre Exchange), *Thirsty, Stuff Happens, Alice Through the Looking Glass, The Importance of Being Earnest* (National Arts Centre), *Romeo and Juliet* (Globe Theatre), *Lear* (Ad Hoc Collective), *Lessons in Forgetting* (Pleiades Theatre), *Daisy* (Great Canadian Theatre Company).

Selected Film and Television Credits: *How to Lose a Guy in Ten Days, Race: The Jesse Owens Story, Total Recall, Miss Sloan, A Simple Favour, Away from Her, We Were Liars, Reacher, Covert Affairs, Rookie Blue, The Listener, Hell on Wheels, The Strain, Cardinal, Ransom, Orphan Black, Dark Matter, The Handmaid's Tale, Condor, Salvation, Burden of Truth, Star Trek: Discovery, Murdoch Mysteries, Working Moms, Designated Survivor, October Faction, Coroner, The Boys.* TVO's *Big Ideas, Left for Dead, Good Witch, The Legacy of Cloudy Falls, Titans, Book of Blood, Night Raiders, Coroner, October Faction, Guest of Honour, Designated Survivor, Christmas in Angel Falls, Marry Me This Christmas, Michael Tuesdays and Thursdays, Da Kink in My Hair.*

Upcoming: *A Killing Snow* (Vertigo Theatre), *Dreams of the Moon.*

Awards: Dora Award, Chalmers Award, Writer's Guild of Canada Award, Toronto Independent Film Festival Audience Choice Award.

Other: Special thanks to my wife Tanya and my son Zaine. Oh and my daughter Arianna. For the great costume. I guess. If I have to.





JASMINE CASE (She/Her)

Young Woman

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Obsidian: *FLEX* (Crow's).

Selected Acting credits: Sydney Brown in *FLEX*; Crow's and Obsidian Theatre, *Robin in This Feels Like The End*; Toronto Fringe, Kara in *Seven Methods of Killing Kylie Jenner*; Obsidian and Crows Theatre and *Phoebe in Truth* at YPT.

Upcoming: *Clyde's* at Canadian Stage!

Education/Training: National Theatre School of Canada 2023, Brock University 2020.

Awards: She recently won a Dora Award winner for Best Ensemble for her work in Crow's and Obsidian Theatre's *FLEX* and for her role as Phoebe in *Truth* at Young Peoples Theatre!

Other: I'm so excited to be back with Obsidian and to be making my Tarragon debut! Thank you to this incredible team, and to my friends and family for your love and continued support on this amazing journey!





GERMAINE KONJI (They/Them/All)

Nightwood Directing Resident

For Tarragon: *Orphan Song*.

For Obsidian: *Young, Gifted and Black 2025* (Director); *Spotlight: Black Queer Voices* (Director); *Flex* (apprentice director).

Selected Theatre Credits: *Dixon Road* (Musical Stage Co.), *Into the Woods* (Talk Is Free Theatre), *Universal Child Care* (Quote Unquote Collective/Canadian Stage), *Serving Elizabeth* (Theatre Aquarius), *Grand Magic*, *Finally There's Sun* (Stratford Festival).

Upcoming: *How to Catch Creation* (Obsidian/Soulpepper).

Awards: Three-time Dora Award nominee (*Dixon Road*, *Into the Woods*, *Universal Child Care*); 2025 Dora Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble (*Flex*).





JAWON KANG (She/Her)

Set Designer

For Tarragon: Set design: *Come Home – The Legend of Daddy Hall*; *Redbone Coonhound*. Costume design: *A Poem for Rabia*.

For Obsidian: Set design: *Fairview* (Canadian Stage).

Selected Theatre credits: Set design: *Educating Rita* (Persephone); *Never Walk Alone* (Buddies in Bad Times Theatre & Fu-Gen); *There's nothing you can do* (LSPU Hall); *Trident Moon* (Crow's & NAC); *Little Women* (RMTC); *This Is How We Got Here* (Persephone); Set and Costume Design: *The Piano Teacher: A Healing Key*; *Doubt: A Parable* (Thousand Islands Playhouse).

Upcoming: Set and Costume Design: *Through the Eyes of God* (Theatre Passe Muraille); *cicadas* (NAC & Tarragon).

Awards: Jawon studied set and costume design at the National Theatre School of Canada, and she's a recipient of the Montreal English Theatre Award (META), and was nominated for Dora Mavor Moore Award).

Other: Jawon is delighted to be back at Tarragon!
jawonkang.myportfolio.com





ARIANNA LILITH MOODIE (She/Her)

Costume Designer

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Obsidian: Associate Costume Designer on *Table for Two*, Apprentice Costume Designer on *Flex*, Costume Designer on *Re-turning*, *Re-shaping*, *Re...*: YGB Showcase

Selected Theatre Credits: Costume Designer on *Ella & Louis* (Shaw Festival), *Ghost Story*, *The Dumb Waiter* (Shaw Festival, Directors Project), *The Bees Knees* (The Theatre Centre), *Zayo Emergence* (Dance Immersion) and Assistant Costume Designer for *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *The House That Will Not Stand* (Shaw Festival).

Upcoming: *Clyde's* (Canadian Stage).





RAHA JAVANFAR (She/Her)
Lighting Designer

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Obsidian: *Flex* (Crows/Obsidian).

Selected Theatre Credits: *A Terrible Fate* (VideoCab), *Is God Is* (Canadian Stage), *Sizwe Banzi is Dead* (Soulpepper). Other Theatre: Slight Associate Artist at Soulpepper Theatre and Creator/Music Director of *Sympathy For the Devil*, Co-Creator/Music Director of *Ladies of the Canyon*.

Upcoming: *Moonlight Schooner* (Necessary Angel/Canadian Stage)

Awards: Winner of 3 Dora Awards, and additionally nominated 3 times. Co-Recipient of the 2012 Siminovitch Protege Award.

Photo Credit: Zahra Saleki.





JACOB LIN 林鴻恩 (He/Him)

Sound Designer & Composer

For Tarragon: *Post-Democracy* (2022) *The Hooves Belonged to The Deer* (2023), *Withrow Park* (2023), *Guilt* (2024).

Selected Theatre Credits: *The Christmas Market* (Crows/Studio 180/ b current), *Old Times* (Soulpepper), *Fat Ham* (Canadian Stage), *My Name is Lucy Barton* (Canadian Stage), *The House That Will Not Stand* (Shaw Festival), *The Wrong Bashir* (Crows), *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* (Howland/Crows), *Doubt* (Thousand Island Playhouse), *Prodigal* (Howland/Crows), *Assistant/ Associate: Its a Wonderful Life* (Young Peoples Theatre), *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* (Crows), *Cast Iron* (Factory/Obsidian).

Upcoming: *The Fiancee* (Western Canada Theatre), *Clydes* (Canadian Stage), *Ohio State Murders* (Shaw Festival).

Other: Jacob Lin is a designer/writer based in Tkaronto. You can find him online at jacoblin.ca or on instagram @jacoblin.jpg





LISA KAREN COX (She/Her)

Movement & Intimacy Director

For Tarragon: *Post Democracy*.

For Obsidian: *Beyere* (CBC Gem/Obsidian Theatre) - Directing.

Selected Intimacy Director Credits: Lisa Karen Cox relishes work that combines music, movement and heightened language to create rawfully honest performative experiences. A graduate of Concordia University's Interdisciplinary Studies program, she has had the pleasure of working for a wide variety of theatre companies (large and not so large) including: Quote Unquote Collective, Why Not Theatre, Spur-of-the-Moment Shakespeare, Headstrong, Dauntless City Theatre, Shakespeare in the Rough, Theatre Smash, Nightwood Theatre, National Arts Centre, The Stratford Festival of Canada and the Royal Shakespeare Company. RedWit Theatre's *In the Next Room*, Intimacy Director for *Strange Loop* (Soulpepper).

Other: Often playing men and other mythical creatures, Lisa is also a teacher, actor and director in addition to being a movement and intimacy director, a mother and faculty at Toronto Metropolitan University.





ALICE FERREYRA GALLIANI (She/Her)

Stage Manager

For Tarragon: *Hamlet*.

For Obsidian: Debut.

Selected Theatre Credits: *Forgiveness, Get That Hope, Romeo and Juliet, Women of the Fur Trade, Monty Python's Spamalot, Hamlet, Death and the King's Horseman, R + J, Henry VIII, Birds of a Kind, Bakkhai* (Stratford Festival); *Groundhog Day: The Musical* (YES Theatre), *The Phantom of the Opera, Maggie & Pierre* (Grand Theatre); *Jack: A Beanstalk Panto, Seussical Jr.* (Capitol Theatre); *The Marriage of Figaro, The Magic Flute* (Canadian Opera Company); *Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls* (Roseneath Theatre); *The Canadian* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *City of Angels* (Theatre by the Bay); *The Drowsy Chaperone, Footloose, The Addams Family, Spring Awakening, Spelling Bee, Nine* (Randolph College); *Godspell* (Theatre Sheridan); *Anne of Green Gables, Evita, Shrek the Musical* (LOT).

Other: Originally from Lima, Peru. Loves food, music, reading, and dancing.





M FERA (She/Her)

Apprentice Stage Manager

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Obsidian: Debut.

Selected Theatre Credits: Stage Manager - *Enormity, Girl, and the Earthquake in Her Lungs* (Nightwood Theatre); Stage Manager – *The Merchant of Venice, The Two Noble Kinsmen, The Tragedy of King Lear* (Shakespeare BASH'd); Apprentice Stage Manager - *Wozzeck, Don Pasquale* (Canadian Opera Company).

Other: M (she/her) is a Toronto-based artist and producer. She is the Co-Founder of A.C.T. Productions and has been stage managing in Toronto for over 10 years.



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danjelani ellis
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Obsidian Theatre gratefully acknowledges our donors who fuel our mission to uplift, develop, and celebrate the stories of the African and Caribbean diaspora in Canada. Every donation helps us create powerful, necessary work that amplifies Black voices, nurtures emerging artists, and builds a theatre community where our stories and our people, take centre stage.

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Tarragon Theatre is extremely grateful for the support of our donors, which allows Canadian stories, education, and community to remain at the heart of our work. Donations to Tarragon help us to develop meaningful, enriching stories that speak to our audiences today in an environment that welcomes all voices and perspectives within our theatre.

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We are grateful for donations made by family and loved ones.

In honour of:

Sherri and Bill Appell's 50th Anniversary
Natasha Parson's 30th Tarragon Anniversary

In memory of:

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If we have made any errors in the spelling, listing or omission of your name please accept our apologies and contact our Development team at development@tarragontheatre.com

THANK YOU, ENJOY THE SHOW



Tarragon Theatre is an active member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT), the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA), and engages professional artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement.



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Stage Employees of Tarragon are represented by Local 58 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

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Thank you to our volunteers!