

WRITTEN BY **MATTHEW MACKENZIE** DIRECTED BY **YVETTE NOLAN** FROM **APR 7-26, 2026**

STRIFE



TARRAGON THEATRE



A PUNCTUATE! THEATRE PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH TARRAGON THEATRE

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 55 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.

Strife runs approximately 95 minutes with no intermission.





STRIFE

CAST

Jesse Gervais^{*}
Eddy

Grace Lamarche^{*}
Sarah

Tracey Nepinak^{*}
Great Grey Owl

Valerie Planche^{*}
Eleanor

Michaela Washburn^{*}
Andrea

Teneil Whiskeyjack^{*}
Monique

CREATIVE TEAM

Matthew MacKenzie
Playwright

Yvette Nolan^{*}
Director

Michaela Washburn^{**}
Assistant Director

Jackie Chau
Set, Costumes & Props
Designer

Richard Feren[^]
Composer & Sound
Designer

Za Hughes[^]
Lighting Designer

Andy Cohen
Producer

Trent Crosby
Production Manager
Technical Director

Matt McGeachy
Dramaturge

Jo-Ann & Jerry Saddleback
Consulting Elders

Andraya Diogo
Rehearsal Stage Manager

May Nemat Allah^{*}
Stage Manager

Skye Grinde^{*}
Assistant Costumes &
Props Designer

Daniel Tessy
Assistant Sound Designer

^{*} Indicated designers on this production that are represented by the Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659

^{*} The participation of these Artists is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance Opera Theatre Policy (DOT)

^{**} Michaela Washburn appears with the special permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association

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

Punctuate! Theatre is one of the most exciting and vibrant companies in the country. Their work has moved audiences from coast to coast for over a decade, and it is a thrill to finally welcome their team to Tarragon.

Matthew MacKenzie's ***Strife*** is incredibly timely. In front of a backdrop of tense societal collision; where we are often in search of the meaning of "right" when faced with injustice and trauma within community - this is where this story lives. What happens when there is no clear answer? Who is the authority on who we are? These are some of the questions within ***Strife***, and in its investigation, we get to discover that it is these very complexities that offer greater understanding of the worlds around us.

We are so excited to share director Yvette Nolan's incredible vision and her stewardship of this all-star cast and creative team. Their exceptional artistic brilliance moves this journey beyond academia and into shared humanity, and we are grateful to have them and this story in a time when we can all enjoy a path towards healing.

Thank you to the Punctuate! team, and to you, dear audience, for celebrating Canadian theatre and the remarkable work that comes with powerful collaboration.



PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

I am deeply grateful to Elders Jo-Ann and Jerry Saddleback for their teachings, guidance and support while I wrote this play. I am equally grateful to their daughter and my mentor, Christine Sokaymoh Frederick, for helping me to try to always move forward in a good way—both personally and professionally, and to navigate an industry that sometimes commodifies identity.

From its early beginnings with treasured friends Russell Keewatin and Patrick Lundeen in Edmonton, to being commissioned by the late Darcy Evans at Alberta Theatre Projects, I am thankful to the many Indigenous artists and allies who have helped me to craft this story.

I also wish to recognize the artists who are helping premiere this new work. Each of them could have taken other gigs that paid more and were less complicated, so I thank them for their commitment and their courage.

We live in fraught times, on the global stage and within communities, that lead us to attack the ambiguous and dismiss nuance. I want to believe that by endeavouring to deepen our conversations about that which divides us, real progress can be made.

Matthew MacKenzie

Playwright



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We live in dangerous times. The climate is changing, the population is divided about almost everything – jobs, the cost of living, who gets to live on this land, who is responsible for our safety. We are watched and we are watching, judging each other on our politics, our consumption, our identities.

Matt's play challenges the received notion that communities are monolithic. The characters in *Strife* were already divided before the death of the young man who connected them. Monique and Eddy work in the oil patch, Sarah protests for climate justice, Eleanor lectures on Indigenous histories... all of them loved Nathan. Now that he is gone, who has the authority to speak for him?

In the rehearsal hall, we often said, "All of this is true at once." These characters, who could be our mothers and brothers, our partners and sisters, our teachers, speak their own truths, about protecting the land, about feeding our families. They fight assumptions about who they are because of the colour of their skin or the work they do. They are all right and yet often "diametrically opposed." They challenge our ideas about power and responsibility, about what binds us together and what tears us apart.

Yvette Nolan

Director





MATTHEW MACKENZIE **Playwright**

Métis | He/Him

For Tarragon: Urjo Kareda Resident (2011).

For Punctuate! Theatre: *Takwahiminana*, *First Métis Man of Odesa*, *After the Fire*, *Bears*. Artistic Director since 2017.

Awards: *First Métis Man of Odesa*, *Dora* for Best New Play won jointly with co-writer/partner extraordinaire Mariya Khomutova; *Bears*, *Dora* for Best New Play, Playwright Guild of Canada's Carol Bolt National Playwriting Award, Toronto Critics Best New Play Award.

Other: A citizen of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Matt was honoured to recently be spotlighted by the Otipemisiwak Métis Government for his work with Punctuate!. Catch Matt next alongside his wife, Mariya Khomutova, at Theatre Calgary in *First Métis Man of Odesa* next September!





YVETTE NOLAN
Director

Algonquin | She/Her

For Tarragon: *3 Fingers Back*.

For Punctuate! Theatre: Debut.

Selected Theatre Credits: Director: *The Flood* (Imago Theatre); *Mizushobai* (Tableau d'Hote); *Women of the Fur Trade* (Stratford Festival; Globe Theatre); *The First Stone* (New Harlem/GCTC); *The Unnatural and Accidental Women*, *Salt Baby*, *Death of a Chief* (Native Earth Performing Arts); *The Triple Truth*, *The Only Good Indian...* (Turtle Gals Performance Ensemble).

Selected Film and Television Credits: *A Common Experience* (with Shane Belcourt); *Katharsis* (PTE).

Upcoming: *Indians on Vacation* (Against the Grain); *Empire of Wild* (COC).

Awards: *The Unplugging* (Jessie Richardson, Vancouver), *Shanawdithit* (Dora Mavor Moore), Gina Wilkinson, Mallory Gilbert, George Luscombe, Maggie Bassett.

Other: A playwright and dramaturg as well as a director, Yvette's works include *The Art of War*, *The Diviners* (with Vern Thiessen) (Stratford); *Jordan* (Geordie Theatre); *Shanawdithit* (Tapestry); *The Unplugging*, *Annie Mae's Movement*, *The Birds*. She served as Artistic Director of Native Earth Performing Arts from 2003 -2011.





JESSE GERVAIS

Eddy

Métis | He/Him

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Punctuate! Theatre: *After the Fire*.

Selected Theatre Credits: *Dangerous Liaisons, Sense and Sensibility, As You Like It, Diviners* (Stratford); *Jane Eyre, Silver Arrow, Crazy For You, Alice Through the Looking Glass, One Man Two Guvnors, Measure for Measure, A Christmas Carol* (Citadel Theatre); *Clue* (Grand Theatre / MTC); *The Breathing Hole* (NAC); *Joy Ride, Black Horse* (Caravan Farm Theatre); *Romeo and Juliet, Love's Labours Lost* (Free Will Players); *6.0, 4th Graders Present..., Fat Pig* (NLT); *10\12, Passion Play, Realistic Joneses* (Wild Side Productions); *Buddy, Little One, Let The Light Of Day Through* (Theatre Network); *Tiny Plastic Men* (Super Channel); *Caution May Contain Nuts* (APTN); *Blind Ambition* (Catapult Pictures).

Awards: Jesse Gervais is the recipient of two Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Awards for Outstanding Performance by an Actor, for *The 4th Graders Present an Unnamed Love-Suicide* and *Let the Light of Day Through*, and has also received Sterling Award nominations for *Buddy, Passion Play, Romeo & Juliet*, and *The Antyssey*.

Upcoming: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Freewill Players), *Dracula : A Comedy of Terrors* (Grand Theatre), *The Diviners* (National Arts Centre)





GRACE LAMARCHE
Sarah

Cree/Métis | She/Her

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Punctuate! Theatre: Debut.

Selected Theatre Credits: *On Thin Ice* (Magnus Theatre); *Women of The Fur Trade* (Magnus Theatre); *1939* (Canadian Stage).

Upcoming: *The Rez Sisters* (Soulpepper), *In The Heart of The South* (Crave/CBC Films).

Training: George Brown Theatre School.





TRACEY NEPINAK

Great Grey Owl

Cree | She/Her

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Punctuate! Theatre: *Bears* (tour Victoria / Toronto); Pemmican Writer's Collective participant.

Selected Theatre Credits: World Premiere of Drew Hayden Taylor's *The Undeniable Accusation of Red Cadmium Light*, Prairie Theatre Exchange (Director); Aunt March in *Little Women* (RMTC).

Selected Film and Television Credits: *Anani in The Wolf Will Tear Your Immaculate Hands* (release TBD), *Hilda in Acting Good*.





VALERIE PLANCHE

Eleanor

Métis | She/Her

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Punctuate! Theatre: Debut.

Selected Theatre Credits: In Edmonton, Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Award for *Little Elephants* and *Queen Lear is Dead*. In Calgary, Betty Mitchell Awards for *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Communion* and *The Good Life*, as well as nominations for *Gaslight*, *Music for Contortionists*, *Elizabeth Rex*, *The Constant Wife*, *Perfect Pie*. As Director, *Deadly Murder* (Vertigo Theatre), *Steel Magnolias* (Theatre Calgary), *Honour Beat* (The Grand Theatre/New West Theatre), *Queen Lear is Dead* (Fox Den Collective), *Sweat* (nominated for Best Production; Arts Club/Citadel), *Constellations* (Alberta Theatre Projects), *Skylight* and *Bad Jews* (won Best Director; Theatre Calgary); *Arden of Faversham* (Birmingham Conservatory – Stratford Festival).

Selected Film and Television Credits: *Anna Pigeon*, *Under the Banner of Heaven*, *Billy the Kid*, *Blackstone*, *Burn Your Maps*, *It's not my Fault (And I don't Care Anyway)*, *Broke Back Mountain*, *In Cold Blood*, *The Jack Bull*, *Heartland*, *Caitlin's Way*.

Awards: The Flare Creativity Award from the Banff Centre for the Arts in 2019, the Michelle Dias Award from Theatre Alberta in 2018, the Gina Wilkinson Award from the Shaw Festival in 2015 and an Alberta Graduate Teaching Award in 2014 from the University of Alberta.

Other: She is a member of Canadian Actors Equity, the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists, the Association of Acting Coaches and Educators, and the Canadian Guild of Stage Directors and Choreographers.





MICHAELA WASHBURN
Andrea | Assistant Director

Métis | She/Her/They

For Tarragon: *Guarded Girls.*

For Punctuate! Theatre: *Kohkom's Babushka, Takwahiminana.*

Selected Theatre Credits: *Honour Beat* (New West Theatre); *This is How We Got Here* (Native Earth Performing Arts); *Almighty Voice and His Wife* (Soulpepper); *Grace* (Nightwood); *Fortune of Wolves* (Theatre New Brunswick); *Confederation Series, Trudeau and Levesque, Trudeau and the FLQ* (VideoCabaret/Soulpepper); *In Care* (GTNT); *Where the Blood Mixes* (Western Canada Theatre/Theatre Network/Theatre Aquarius).

Selected Film and Television Credits: *Skymed* (Paramount/CBC/CBS); *Pretty Hard Cases, Burden of Truth, Kim's Convenience* (CBC); *Baroness Von Sketch* (CBC/IFC); *Just One Word* (Paper Canoe Projects); *Guilt Free Zone* (APTN).

Awards: Recipient of the 2025 Pat and Tony Freedom Fund Award for the Arts - outstanding contribution to Toronto Theatre. *Dora Mavor Award – Outstanding Performance in the General Theatre Division.

Other: Michaela feels honoured and blessed to be a storyteller and is grateful for this opportunity to be back at the Tarragon.





TENEIL WHISKEYJACK

Monique

Cree | She/Her

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Punctuate! Theatre: Teneil was an artist ambassador and community builder for a cultural and artistic exchange in Chile.

Selected Theatre Credits: *Blue Birds*, *Wolf Cull*, and touring across North America with the hit musical, *Bear Grease*. Teneil also made her playwriting debut with her play, *Ayita Ayita*, which was the headlining piece selected for the SkirtsAfire Festival's 10th anniversary show.

Selected Film and Television Credits: *RenegadePress.com*, *Dreamkeeper*, *Tribal*, *Mixed Blessings* and *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*.

Awards: Winner of the First Americans in the Arts for *Dreamkeeper*, AMPIA for *Rosie's*, and the Esquao Award for the Arts honouring Indigenous women in leadership and advocacy.

Training: She holds a BA in Drama from Concordia University of Edmonton.

Other: Teneil Whiskeyjack is a Plains Cree woman from Saddle Lake Cree Nation — an artist, speaker, and wellness advocate whose work connects storytelling, culture, and Cree world-views into acts of empowerment and healing.





JACKIE CHAU **Set, Costumes & Props Designer**

She/Her

For Tarragon: *Four Minutes Twelve Seconds* (Studio 180 Theatre); *Bachelor Man* (RCTC).

For Punctuate! Theatre: Debut.

Selected Theatre Credits: *Electric Messiah* (Soundstreams); *The Hours That Remain*, *Serving Elizabeth*, *The Gig* (Theatre Aquarius); *Annie Mae's Movement*, *Tombs of the Vanishing Indian*, *The Place Between*, *Salt Baby*, *Almighty Voice and His Wife*, *HUFF* (Native Earth Performing Arts); *Antigone Insurgency*, *Talking Masks* (One Little Goat); *Gas Girls*, *The First Stone* (New Harlem Productions); *Romeo and Juliet*, *Midsummer Nights Dream* (High Park/Can Stage); *Zadie's Shoes*, *Lady Sunrise*, *Wildfire*, *The Waltz* (Factory Theatre); *Brown Balls* (fu-Gen); *Moment*, *Dissidents*, *Oil*, *Gloria*, *Martyr*, *Rockabye* (ARC Theatre); *Cowboy Versus Samurai*, *39 Steps*, *Oratorio* (Soulpepper); and *The Komagata Maru Incident* (Stratford Festival); *Dragon's Tale* (Tapestry Opera/Luminato); *As I Must Live It* (Theatre Passe Muraille); and *Dissonant Species* (Theatre Gargantua).

Selected Film and Television Credits: Production and Costume designer: James Joyce's *Finnigan's Wake – Chapters 1-8* (One Little Goat); *You're Invited* (ARC); *One Small Visit* (Coffee Partners); *LUNE* (Open City Works); *Mini Me Makeover* (series) CBC Kids/Expect Theatre.

Upcoming: *The Parliament of Birds*, *Picnic at Hanging Rock* (Yonge Center/George Brown), *Boys with Cars/Let Me Borrow That Top* (Young People's Theatre).

Awards: NOW magazine's Top 10 Theatre Artists of 2009, nominated for 4 Virginia and Myrtle Cooper Award in Costume Design, nominated for a Saskatoon Area Theatre (SAT) award, 2 Broadway World awards and has received 10 Dora nominations for outstanding set and costume design.

Other: Jackie has taught Theatrical Design at the University of Toronto and is currently teaching Set and Costume Design for Performance at York University. Special thanks to Jeremy, Casey and Leslie!





ZA HUGHES **Lighting Designer**

They/Them

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Punctuate! Theatre: Debut.

Selected Theatre Credits: Lighting Designer: *The Piano Teacher* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *A Wrinkle in Time* (StoryBook Theatre); *The Power of Women* (Capitol Theatre); *Cabaret* (St. Lawrence College); *Peter and the Starcatcher* (StoryBook Theatre). Associate Lighting Designer: *A Strange Loop* (Soulpepper); *Newsies* (The Grand); *Prison Dancer* (Citadel Theatre); *As You Like It* (Theatre Calgary); *Little Shop of Horrors* (Capitol Theatre); *Made in Italy* (Theatre Calgary); *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Arts Club).





RICHARD FEREN

Composer & Sound Designer

He/Him

For Tarragon: *Russell Hill, Faust, The Good Life, The Designated Mourner.*

For Punctuate! Theatre: *Métis Nutcracker* workshop.

Selected Theatre Credits: *Dangerous Liaisons* (Stratford Festival); *Waitress* (Grand Theatre/Theatre Aquarius); *The Drawer Boy, The Piano Teacher* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Heist* (Grand Theatre/Citadel); *The Inheritance* (Canadian Stage).

Selected Film and Television Credits: original scores for 8 feature films & numerous shorts, most recently *The Understudy* (dir. Peter Pasyk for Stratfest@home).

Upcoming: *Sugar Road; Grease; The Last 5 Years* (Thousand Islands Playhouse).

Awards: 7 Dora Mavor Moore Awards; 1999 Pauline McGibbon Award; one of the original Harold's in 1995. Richard was the first sound designer ever to be shortlisted for the Siminovitch Prize, in 2012. Most recently, his score for *Heist* was nominated for a Sterling Award in Edmonton.

Other: released over a dozen albums of film scores, theatrical and other music, available on every streaming platform. Website: <https://www.haemorrhage-music.com/richard-feren>





ANDY COHEN

Producer

He/Him

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Punctuate! Theatre: *First Métis Man of Odesa* (with NAC English Theatre, Soulpepper, TIFT), *Takwahiminana* (with Soulpepper), *Kohkom's Babushka* (with Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity & Pyretic Productions).

Selected Theatre Credits: As Producer: *Bright Star* (Mirvish/GTP); *East Van Panto* (The Cultch/Theatre Replacement). As Actor: Disney's *FROZEN* (Citadel); *Charlotte* (Theaturtle/National Theatre Prague); *Hunchback* (Catalyst/Vancouver Playhouse); *Godspell* (Arts Club); *Fiddler on the Roof* (Persephone); *Circle Game* (Firehall); *Elf* (Chemainus); *Hair, Chicago* (Mayfield); *Game Show* (Stagewest Mississauga/Calgary). As Music Director: *Fiddler on the Roof* (Persephone); *Circle Game* (Firehall/Arts Club/Persephone).

Selected Film and Television Credits: *Triple Sensation* (CBC).

Upcoming: *Come From Away* (Theatre Calgary).

Awards: SATAward & Ovation Award winner, Sterling & Jessie Award nominee.

Other: Andy has also worked as a Producer, Stage Manager, and Mass Movement Specialist on international mega-events including the Opening & Closing Ceremonies for the *Olympic & Paralympic Games* (Rio de Janeiro), *Commonwealth Games* (Gold Coast), *Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games* (Ashgabat), *Invictus* (Sydney), Lead Producer for the *COP28 Opening Ceremony* in Dubai, Senior Manager - Site-wide Entertainment at *World Expo 2020 Dubai*, the CCMA and JUNO Awards, and with the Operations and Engagement Teams for Volleyball World & FIVB (Japan, Thailand, Brazil Mexico, France, Netherlands, Philippines, Slovenia).





TRENT CROSBY
**Production Manager &
Technical Director**

He/Him

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Punctuate! Theatre: *Kohkom's Babushka, Takwahiminana, First Métis Man of Odesa, Bears, After The Fire, The Particulars, Minosis Gathers Hope.*

Other: Trent is the resident Technical Director of Punctuate! Theatre, Mile Zero Dance, and Ballet Edmonton. He is a proud member of IATSE 210. Thank you to my wife Erin for being my anchor and all my collaborators for their trust.





MATT MCGEACHY

Dramaturge

He/Him

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Punctuate! Theatre: *First Métis Man of Odesa* (Dora Mavor Moore Award; ongoing tour).

Select Theatre Credits: 10 seasons as Company Dramaturge at Factory Theatre. Matt has also worked with NAC English Theatre, Theatre Passe Muraille, Buddies in Bad Times, Soulpepper, Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes, fu-GEN, Luminato, SummerWorks, Canadian Stage, the Guthrie Theater (Minneapolis), The Playwrights' Center (Minneapolis), and the Kennedy Center (Washington, DC), among others.

Upcoming: *The Warrior* (vAct).

Other: Matt is also Director of Government Relations at the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Factory Theatre and a member of the Advocacy Committee of the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA). Alumnus of Business / Arts Executive Leadership Program and Toronto Arts Council/Banff Centre Leadership Lab. Past President of LMDA Canada.





JO-ANN SADDLEBACK

Resident Elder

Cree/Métis | She/Her

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Punctuate! Theatre: Playwright with the Punctuate! and Pemmican Collective's Creators' Cohort.

Selected Film and Television Credits: Jo-Ann started her career as a television/film producer, script writer and host for Alberta Native Communications Society, ITV, CTV and Access Alberta, and as Associate Producer with the National Film Board.

Other: Jo-Ann Saddleback is an artist, poet, writer, designer, producer, policy advocate, and Knowledge Keeper who is invited to communities and organizations to share Culture and history. Jo-Ann carries on her late father Stan Daniels' legacy advocating for governmental change to the Native Child Welfare Act, giving Indigenous peoples a say in the future of their own children. She has worked as a Policy Analyst/Researcher for the Violence Against Aboriginal Women report, as Executive Director for Métis Settlements General Council, and spent 25 years travelling across North America delivering workshops on Culture, Health, Indigenous research processes, Roles and Rights of First Nations Women, and cross-cultural workshops for RCMP, Corrections Canada, Alberta Justice judges and crown prosecutors, and Alberta healthcare workers. She sat as Kôhkom for Alberta Justice/Aboriginal Sexual Assault Committee and co-authored its final Report, sits as Lead Elder for Canadian Research Initiative on Substance Misuse (CRISM - University of Alberta) and Co-Primary Investigator/co-author for Project PASPINAM. She is Elder Cultural Advisor for the City of Edmonton, Dreamspeakers and City of Edmonton Matriarch Circle, and was Cultural Advisor to the Truth & Reconciliation Commission. With her husband Jerry Saddleback, Jo-Ann owned Câhcacêp Art and Tea House, now Câhcacêp BowsArt. Jo-Ann has been advisor to Indigenous artists like Dave Garneau, Dawn Marie Marchand, Lana Whiskeyjack, and Ociciwan Indigenous art collective. She is currently the Elder-in-Residence for the Edmonton Public Library, helping to support and establish Indigenous writers, artists, filmmakers and Knowledge Keepers.





ANDRAYA DIOGO
Rehearsal Stage Manager

she/Her

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Punctuate! Theatre: Props construction for *Kohkom's Babushka*

Select Theatre Credits: *Bear Grease: Shack Up for the Winter*, *Vinyl Cafe: The Musical*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream: The '70s Musical*; *A Christmas Carol* (Citadel), *String, Is My Microphone On?* (Citadel Young Company); Young Production Company Facilitator (2024-present), *Moonshine* (Mavka Theatre), *Lucky Charm* (Defiance Theatre), *Brick Shithouse* (fenceless theatre), *Re:Construct* (Common Ground Arts).

Other: Andraya is a stage designer/manager from amiskwaciwâskahikan. More info: andrayadiogo.ca. Lots of love to Mom, Tiago + Jay.





MAY NEMAT ALLAH
Stage Manager

She/Her

For Tarragon: *The Neighbours* (Green Light Arts).

For Punctuate! Theatre: Debut.

Selected Theatre Credits: *Weesageechak Begins to Dance 38* (Native Earth Performing Arts); *Waiting for Godot* (Coal Mine Theatre); *Mahabharata* (Why Not Theatre); *Eugene Onegin* (Canadian Opera Company); *Fat Ham, The Wizard of Oz: A Holiday Family Musical* (Canadian Stage); *Steel Magnolias* (Drayton Entertainment); *Women of the Fur Trade, Death and the King's Horseman* (Stratford Festival).

Upcoming: *The King James Bible Play* (Stratford Festival).

Other: Endless love and gratitude to my family and friends!





SKYE GRINDE

Assistant Costumes & Props Designer

They/Them

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Punctuate! Theatre: Debut.

Skye Grinde is a theater designer with experience in set, lighting, costume, and projected media design. Skye also explores the world of fine art regularly in their work; they are passionate about creating work that is accessible for both audiences and artists. This includes sewing for all sizes and abilities. When Skye is not designing, you can find them at home, doing their best to recreate the painting Ophelia by Alexandre Cabanel





DANIEL TESSY
Assistant Sound Designer

He/Him

For Tarragon: Debut.

For Punctuate! Theatre: Debut.

Selected Theatre Credits: *Kostroma* at U of T CDPTS, Sound/Composition and Projection design. *ZAYO* for Esie Mensah Productions, Sound Design. *Tuesdays With Morrie* at King Theatre Company, Sound/Composition. *Wait Until Dark* at Shaw Festival, Associate Sound Design.

Upcoming: *12 Litres 8800 Steps* (Unbridled Theatre Collective with Aluna Theatre)



PUNCTUATE! THEATRE

Punctuate! Theatre is an Indigenous-led Dora Award-winning theatre company. We work to create accessible, relevant, and subversive theatre that entertains and provokes thought amongst diverse audiences. Recent productions include *First Métis Man of Odesa*, *Bears*, *Takwahiminana*, *Kohkom's Babushka*, *After The Fire*, and *The Particulars*.

The Punctuate! Theatre & Pemmican Collective *Creators' Cohort* is a yearly initiative that supports Indigenous playwrights from across Turtle Island to write, develop, and workshop their new plays. Since its inception in 2021, the *Creators' Cohort* has become one of the largest Indigenous playwriting units in the country. Each year, the *Cohort* supports up to sixteen Indigenous playwrights to write and develop their new work with a dramaturg before workshopping the script with a creative team of their choosing. Participating artists are empowered to explore their work in their way - in the creation of a new play, but also in the cultivation of greater connections, community, and knowledge sharing amongst Indigenous artists and community members. We are proud to support and walk with these artists as they bring their vibrant stories to life.

PUNCTUATE THEATRE STAFF

Matthew MacKenzie

Artistic Director

Andy Cohen

Senior Producer

Simon Bracken

Director of Development

Chelsea Mahon

Finance Manager

Danielle LaRose

New Artist Development

Trent Crosby

Production Manager &
Technical Director

Jo-Ann Saddleback


Resident Elder

Michaellea Washburn & Teneil Whiskeyjack

Community Engagement Liasons

Support the Arts and make a difference!

Donate Today.

 **unctuate! Theatre**

<https://www.punctuatetheatre.com/donate>

Every contribution over \$20 comes with a charitable tax receipt.



PUNCTUATE! THEATRE THANKS

Miranda Sommerville
Daniel MacKenzie
Tim Lo
Kendra Shorter
Ian Canon
Jordyn Dryden
Elder Jerry Saddleback
Christine Sokaymoh Frederick
Jessica Anoch Daniels
Olga Chorna
Lianna Makuch
Kaitlyn Riordan
Mila Kozlov
Anna Kuman

Margo Kane
Monica Gate
Craig Lauzon
Tara Sky
Tamsin Kelsey
Kathy Le
Penny Couchie & Sid Bobb
Jani Lauzon
Beverly Pasquayak
Alexandrea Pasquayak
Raven Wood
Janine Peigan
Bryce Morrin
Riham Sitotaw

Native Earth Performing Arts

The Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine & Performing Arts - Department of Dramatic Arts
at Brock University

PUNCTUATE! THEATRE SPONSORS



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CREATED BY

CHRIS THORNBORROW & DAVID YEE

DIRECTED BY

NINA LEE AQUINO

FROM

MAY 5-24, 2026

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TARRAGON THEATRE



NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS
Canada's our stage. Le Canada en scène.



ASIAN CANADIAN THEATRE COMPANY

A TARRAGON THEATRE AND NAC ENGLISH THEATRE CO-PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION
WITH FU-GEN ASIAN THEATRE COMPANY



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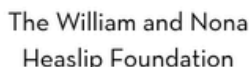
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