

CREATED BY **CHRIS THORNBORROW & DAVID YEE** DIRECTED BY **NINA LEE AQUINO** FROM **MAY 5-24, 2026**

# cicadas



**TARRAGON** THEATRE



NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE  
CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS  
Canada is our stage. Le Canada en scène.



fu-GEN ASIAN CANADIAN THEATRE COMPANY

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

# 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.

*cicadas* runs approximately 2hrs and 20mins including intermission.





# cicadas

## CAST

**Monica Dottor**  
Janie

**Ryan Hollyman**  
Trim

**Ellora Patnaik**  
Adeline and Others

## MUSICIANS

**Amahl Arulanandam**  
Cello

**Marc Blouin**  
Clarinet/Bass Clarinet

**Nathan Petitpas**  
Percussion

**Wesley Shen**  
Piano

## CREATIVE TEAM

**David Yee**  
Creator

**Chris Thornborrow**  
Creator

**Nina Lee Aquino**  
Director

**Ric Knowles**  
Dramaturg

**Vicki Stroich**  
Climate Dramaturg

**Jawon Kang\***  
Set & Costume  
Designer

**Michelle Ramsay\***  
Lighting Designer

**John Gzowski\***  
Sound Designer

**Monica Dottor**  
Movement Designer

**Jeff Ho**  
fu-GEN Creation  
Mentee

**MinGyeong Lee**  
Assistant Set &  
Costume Designer

**Tushar Dalvi\***  
Assistant Lighting  
Designer

**Julian Smith\***  
Assistant Sound  
Designer

**Tamara Protić**  
Stage Manager

**Jackie McCormick**  
Assistant Stage  
Manager

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

The musicians, music director, conductor, and orchestra contractor engaged for this production are members of the Toronto Musicians' Association, Local 149 of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada.

# 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

Two years ago, we had the great pleasure of listening to the beautiful curation of audio dramas as part of the Invisible Neighbourhoods series at the NAC. The thirty-minute offering of *cicadas*, featuring an astounding collaboration between David Yee and Chris Thornborrow, guided by the visionary Nina Lee Aquino moved us in sonic and thrilling ways.

When Nina informed us that the piece was going to be developed into a full-length play, we leapt at the opportunity to be involved as we knew we were going to be a part of sharing something truly special and vibrant in its world premiere.

Collaboration has championed the entire process from its conceptualization to where we are today. The exceptional research and development teams as well as the artists who have been on this journey since day one have put a spotlight on the magical things that can happen when creativity, powerful storytelling, and ecological urgency guide the way. It is this, in part, what makes creating theatre in Canada so exciting, vital and deeply rewarding in this moment.

It is also a homecoming of sorts in bringing back David and Nina into a production that will be shared at Tarragon Theatre in Toronto after its Ottawa run – over a decade after their seminal and award-winning creation *carried away on the crest of a wave*. We are honoured to be a continued part of their storied theatrical history and the incredible team they have assembled to bring yet another master work.

Thank you also to David Abel, Judi Pearl, and the entire NAC English Theatre family for their kinship and dedication to championing new work and theatre excellence in this country. And to you, dear audience, for being an integral part in celebrating what promises to be one of the next Canadian classics.

Bon spectacle!

**Mike Payette & Lisa Li**



# A MESSAGE FROM NAC ENGLISH THEATRE

Tarragon Theatre is a foundational pillar of modern Canadian theatre, having been at the forefront of promoting the Canadian playwright and defining the Canadian identity for over fifty-five years. Over that period, a literal who's-who of the best theatre creators in the history of this country have premiered their works there, and while David Yee has long been on that list, we are delighted to play a part in adding Chris Thornborrow, David's *cicadas* co-creator, to the pantheon.

No two plays are developed along the same path, and few have had as interesting a creation journey as has *cicadas*. Originally a radio play commissioned by NAC English Theatre and the National Arts Centre Orchestra, *cicadas* proved production-worthy immediately upon its premiere as part of NACO's Sphere Festival in 2024. We're indebted to our NACO colleagues for providing that forum and their support, and we thank Mike, Lisa Li and everyone at Tarragon profusely for eagerly joining us on this journey. There are too many others to thank individually, but we urge you to peruse this programme to see the extraordinary range of talented individuals who brought this play to life.

We hope you enjoy this cautionary tale/nail-biter of an evening.

**Nina Lee Aquino & David Abel**



# CREATORS' NOTE

*cicadas* began as a grand experiment, commissioned by the NAC English Theatre and Orchestra, two bodies inside the same structure, yet who rarely collaborate creatively. Usually, a musical score is one of the last things to be implemented into a story. In opera, the composer generally starts only after the libretto has been finished. Music tends to be one of the last components to be added in the production of a film. And in the theatre, music is typically a component of sound design in response to a finished script.

With *cicadas*, we wrote in tandem, using music to inspire text and text to inspire music. The result is a singular and deeply integrated experience, in which the score is inextricably linked to the story. The band is an extension of the cast. Music bubbles up to embody the landscapes, structures, environment, and characters.

To be able to create this way, you need explicit trust and faith in the other creator. You need to know that they will take what you've given and respond creatively, respond with the heart. We first met when we were both much younger, in Tapestry New Opera's experimental residency "Lib Lab", our relationship forged in the fire of opera and practical jokes. Our collaborations there lay the foundation for this process, in many ways. We have both been surprised and challenged, provoked and inspired by the other's contributions. We've kept each other on our toes, have lost sleep over finding the right response that matches the beauty and heart of an offer, and (though it pains us to publicly admit it this way) have made each other better artists.

Whether composition or text, our process has been fundamentally musical: finding our common language in rhythm, each transposing to his own form. Sometimes one will introduce a melody that the other will support, enhance or interrupt, then hand it back. In that way, this process has been a lot like an extended conversation and, as such, maybe this is less a co-creation and more of a duet.

Chris wants to say thank you to Anna for her infinite patience and support. And to Liam, who will live in the futures we imagine.

David wants to thank Vienna for her constant support and love. And Anna, for sharing Chris. Not that she minded. Or so I've heard.

**David Yee | Chris Thornborrow**

Creators





## **CHRIS THORNBORROW** (He/Him) **Creator & Composer**

**For Tarragon Theatre:** Debut.

**For the NAC:** Irresistible Neighbourhoods (*cicadas*).

**Selected Composer Credits:** His music has been performed by Array Ensemble, Bicycle Opera Project, Brantford Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Paramirabo, Esprit Orchestra, the Hamilton Philharmonic, junctQin keyboard collective, Tapestry Opera, the Thin Edge New Music Collective, and the Toy Piano Composers, of which he was the Co-Founder and Artistic Director for eight seasons. As a leading voice in arts education, Chris has created innovative composition programs for esteemed organizations, including the Canadian Opera Company, Canadian Children's Opera Company, the Canadian Music Centre, Continuum Ensemble, and the Gryphon Trio, impacting thousands of young people throughout the GTA. Chris lives in Hamilton, Ontario.

**Selected Film and Television Credits:** He has scored over a dozen films, including *Sleeping Giant*, which was nominated for the Critics Week Grand Prize and Golden Camera Award at the Cannes Film Festival, and won the Best Canadian First Feature Award at the Toronto International Film Festival.

**Awards:** Recognition for his work includes the Karen Kieser Prize in Canadian Music and multiple SOCAN Awards for audiovisual composers. His hybrid-musical *Hook Up* was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore Award for outstanding new opera.

**Other:** Chris Thornborrow is a composer for film, theatre, and the concert stage.





**DAVID YEE** (He/Him)  
**Creator & Playwright**

**For Tarragon Theatre:** *carried away on the crest of a wave* (2013).

**For the NAC:** *Irresistible Neighbourhoods (cicadas), carried away on the crest of a wave* (2018).

**Awards:** A Dora Mavor Moore Award nominated actor and playwright, his work has been produced internationally and at home. He is a two-time Governor General's Literary Award nominee for his plays *lady in the red dress* and *carried away on the crest of a wave*, which won the award in 2015 along with the Carol Bolt Award in 2013. In 2023 he was named Laureate of the prestigious Siminovitch Prize in Theatre for his groundbreaking work in playwriting.

**Other:** David Yee is a mixed race (half Chinese, half Scottish) playwright and actor, born and raised in Toronto. He is the co-founding Artistic Director of fu-GEN Theatre Company, Canada's premiere professional Asian Canadian theatre company. He currently teaches playwriting at the University of Toronto and works extensively in the Asian Canadian community as an artist and an advocate.





**NINA LEE AQUINO** (She/Her)  
**Director**

**For Tarragon:** *carried away on the crest of a wave* (2013).

**For NAC:** Currently, Nina Lee Aquino is the Artistic Director of the National Arts Centre English Theatre.

**Awards:** Her numerous accolades include the Canada Council for the Arts' John Hirsch Prize for Directing, the Toronto Theatre Critics Award for Best Director, the Toronto Arts Foundation's Margo Bindhart and Rita Davies Cultural Leadership Award, and three Dora Mavor Moore Awards for Outstanding Direction.

**Other:** Nina is a renowned Filipino Canadian director, dramaturg, artistic leader, teacher, and mentor. She previously served as Artistic Director at Cahoots Theatre (2009–2012) and Factory Theatre (2012–2022). She edited the country's first two-volume Asian Canadian play anthology and co-edited the award-winning inaugural book on Asian Canadian theatre. In addition, she holds an adjunct professorship at York University's Theatre Department and serves on the board of directors for the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres.





**MONICA DOTTOR** (She/Her)  
**Janie | Movement Designer**

**For Tarragon:** Debut.

**For the NAC:** Debut.

**Selected Theatre credits:** *Shrek* (Young People's Theatre); Metis Nutracker (Company Blonde/Punctuate); Janice Almighty (CompanyBlonde); A Blow in the Face, The Penelopiad\* (Nightwood); Bears\* (Punctuate); The Other (Company Blonde); In the Fire, TWEET TWEET,\* Flora & Fauna, Circus Sessions (Femmes Du Feu); Rose\*, Idomeneus, Eurydice, Marat/Sade\* (Soulpepper); The Overcoat\*, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Middle Place (Canadian Stage Company); Scratch\*, Featuring Loretta, Chekhov's Shorts\* (Factory Theatre).

**Selected Film and Television Credits:** Interview With the Vampire, SkyMed, 8 Bit Christmas, Orphan Black, Everything is Going to Be Great, Lune, Picture Day, Star Falls, Murdoch Mysteries, Rookie Blue, Saving Hope.

**Upcoming Theatre:** Monica will be directing/choreographing Schoolhouse by Leanna Brodie at 4th Line Theatre.

**Awards:** 12X Dora Mavor Moore\* nominated

**Other:** Actor/Director/Choreographer/Writer/Designer, and a 4X recipient. Monica completed her MFA in Theatre Performance/Creation/Direction at York University.





**RYAN HOLLYMAN** (He/Him)  
**Trim**

**For Tarragon:** *Hooves Belonged to the Deer.*

**For the NAC:** *carried away on the crest of a wave.*

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *Primary Trust* (Grand); *among men, Armadillos, Scratch* (Factory); *Betrayal* (Soulpepper); *Serving Elizabeth* (Belfry); *Warhorse, Mambo Italiano* (Mirvish); *Helen Lawrence, Fernando Krapp, The Overcoat, Macbeth* (CanadianStage); *Superior Donuts* (Coalmine).

**Selected Film and Television Credits:** *GenV* (Amazon); *Law and Order: TCI, Hudson and Rex* (City); *Accused* (Fox); *Georgetown* (Paramount); *The Expanse, The Strain* (FX); *Heartland, The Detectives, Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC).

**Upcoming:** *Primary Trust* (Crows).





**ELLORA PATNAIK** (She/Her)  
**Adeline and Others**

**For Tarragon:** *Much Ado About Nothing*.

**For the NAC:** *Mahabharata* (Why Not Theatre/Shaw Festival/ Barbican/ Perth/ Lincoln Centre).

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *Crones* (Highland Arts Theatre); *Mahabharata* (Why Not Theatre); *A Christmas Carol* (Soulpepper); *Standing On My Knees* (West Beth Theatre, NYC); *Nagamandala* (Rasik Arts); *Umrao Jaan Ada* (Rasik Arts); *The Penelopiad* (The Grand); *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare In The Ruff); *Acha Bacha* (Theatre Passe Muraille); *Her2* (Nightwood Theatre); *Free Outgoing* (Factory Theatre).

**Selected Film and Television Credits:** *Sort Of*, *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds*, *Calorie*, *Law and Order Toronto: Criminal Intent*, *One Small Visit*, *Kim's Convenience*, *Ginny & Georgia*, *Hudson & Rex*, *Talent Drivers*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Schitt's Creek*, *How To Be Indie*.

**Other:** Professional Odissi dancer, dance teacher, and choreographer, and graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.





**AMAHL S ARULANANDAM** (He/Him)  
**Cello**

**For Tarragon:** *Harlem Duet.*

**For the NAC:** *Debut.*

**Selected Musician Credits:** VC2 Cello Duo, Venuti String Quartet

**Other:** Tapestry Opera - 10 Days in a Madhouse





**MARC BLOUIN** (He/Him)  
**Clarinet/Bass Clarinet**

**For Tarragon:** Debut.

**For the NAC:** Debut.

**Selected Musician Credits:** He has performed as a soloist with Symphony Nova Scotia, the Royal Conservatory Orchestra, and the Lytton Park Chamber Orchestra. Marc has also appeared with Against the Grain Theatre (*Kopernikus*, 2019) and the Edmonton Opera (*Bluebeard's Castle*, 2025).

**Awards:** Dora Award-winning clarinetist.

**Other:** Outside of performing, Marc serves on the board of the Toronto Alternative Chamber Orchestra, a not-for-profit that presents Classical concerts featuring great works you might not hear played elsewhere. Marc completed his undergraduate studies at Dalhousie University in Halifax before receiving a Master's Degree from the University of Toronto. In 2018, he graduated from the Artist Diploma Program at the Glenn Gould School and was a recipient of the Ilnatowycz Emerging Artist Prize.





## **NATHAN PETITPAS** (He/Him) **Percussion**

**For Tarragon:** Debut.

**For the NAC:** Nathan is one of the lucky few who has been part of the *cicadas* team from its inception as a radio drama at the National Arts Centre in 2024 through to its recent run as a fully staged production at the NAC.

**Selected Musician Credits:** In his freelance life, Nathan has worked with organizations such as the Thin Edge New Music Collective, Esprit Orchestra, Array Music, Evergreen Club Contemporary Gamelan, the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, the National Arts Centre's English Theatre, the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, Cirque du Soleil, FAWN Chamber Creative, and many others. Through his work, Nathan has had the honour of premiering dozens of new compositions by living composers and has performed in various festivals and concert series across Canada as well as in the United States, Europe, and South America including the Internationales Gamelan Musikfestival in Munich, Nuit Blanche Toronto, New Works Edmonton, Société de Musique Contemporaine du Québec, New Music Calgary, Music on Main (Vancouver), Open Spaces in Victoria, the Music Gallery's X Avant series, and NUMUS.

**Other:** Nathan Petitpas is a percussionist, composer, and educator who is dedicated to the performance of contemporary music by living composers.





**WESLEY SHEN** (He/Him)  
**Piano**

**For Tarragon:** Debut.

**For the NAC:** *Shelley, Strauss, & Dharmoo.*

**Selected Musician Credits:** He can be found in equal measure as a solo, collaborative, chamber and orchestral musician. He regularly performs with a number of groups including Continuum New Music, New Music Concerts, Esprit Orchestra, and Soundstreams. He is also a core member of the Freesound Ensemble, a Toronto contemporary music collective. In more traditional settings, he can also be seen performing with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra. Recent appearances include performing Gérard Grisey's *Vortex temporum* with Freesound Ensemble, and Henryk Gorecki's Harpsichord Concerto with Esprit Orchestra. He also appeared with l'Opéra de Montréal on Ondes Martenot in the new opera *Clown(s)* by Ana Sokolovic.

**Other:** Wesley Shen is a Toronto-based pianist, harpsichordist specializing in the performance of contemporary music. As well as the piano and harpsichord, Wesley has added a number of additional instruments to his palette including the shō and the Ondes Martenot. Wesley is a co-founding member of shshcc, a trio of two shōs and accordion with Michael Murphy and Matti Pulkki.





**RIC KNOWLES** (He/Him)  
**Dramaturg**

**For Tarragon:** *Lion in the Streets*.

**For the NAC:** *Copperbelt* (Soulpepper).

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *As You Like It* (Stratford, 1987); *A Taste of Empire* (Cahoots, 2010); *Body 13* (MT Space, 2012); *Qana* (Caminos Festival, 2019); *Monster* (Factory, 2023),

**Other:** Ric Knowles has been a director and dramaturge for 45 years at theatres ranging from Mulgrave Road to the Stratford Festival.





## **VICKI STROICH** (She/Her) **Climate Dramaturg**

**For Tarragon:** Debut.

**For the NAC:** Piloted the role of Climate Dramaturg for the National Arts Centre English Theatre's Irresistible Neighbourhoods program.

**Selected Theatre Credits:** Prior to joining Caravan Farm Theatre full time, Vicki was based in Calgary and worked for Alberta Ecotrust and Alberta Theatre Projects. Recently her work has focused on strengthening connections between environment and arts and culture through network building, facilitation and supporting artistic projects that engage with the climate crisis.

**Awards:** Vicki has received a Betty Mitchell Award for Outstanding Achievement for her work on new Canadian plays.

**Other:** Vicki Stroich is honoured to live and work on the unceded, traditional territories of the Secwépemc Nation and the Syilx Okanagan Nation in the North Okanagan as part of the team at Caravan Farm Theatre where she is Environmental and Education Programs Manager. Vicki is a dramaturg, nonprofit leader and community builder with over 25 years of experience. Designing and hosting creative spaces and fostering collaboration are Vicki's great passions. She has a BFA Drama from University of Calgary and an Extension Certificate in Social Innovation and Changemaking from Mount Royal University. She is a Board Member for Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas.





**JAWON KANG** (She/Her)

## **Set & Costume Designer**

**For Tarragon:** Set design: *a profoundly affectionate, passionate devotion to someone (-noun); Come Home – The Legend of Daddy Hall; Redbone Coonhound*. Costume design: *A Poem for Rabia*.

**For the NAC:** *Trident Moon* (Crow's).

**Selected Theatre credits:** Set Designer: *Educating Rita* (Persephone); *Never Walk Alone* (Buddies in Bad Times Theatre & Fu-Gen); *There's nothing you can do* (RCA); *Little Women* (RMT); *This Is How We Got Here* (Persephone); *Mizushobai* (Tableau D'Hôte); *Fairview* (Canadian Stage); Costume Designer: *Armadillos* (Factory); Set and Costume Design: *The Piano Teacher: A Healing Key; Doubt: A Parable* (Thousand Islands Playhouse). Associate Set Designer: *Death and the King's Horseman* (Stratford Festival).

**Upcoming:** Set Design: *Prophetess* (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) for Emerging Artist - set design for *Redbone Coonhound* (Tarragon & Imago).

**Other:** Thank You: **엄마, 아빠, 오빠!!!** Social Media: [jawonkang.myportfolio.com](http://jawonkang.myportfolio.com)





**MICHELLE RAMSAY** (She/Her)  
**Lighting Designer**

**For Tarragon:** *Come Home: The Legend of Daddy Hall.*

**For the NAC:** *Copperbelt* (Soulpepper Theatre); *Trident Moon* (Crow's Theatre).

**Selected Theatre Credits:** *Snow in Midsummer* (Shaw Festival); *Prison Dancer* (Citadel Theatre); *trace* (Factory Theatre); *Frozen* (Arts Club Theatre); *Waitress* (Arts Club Theatre & Grand Theatre/Theatre Aquarius); *A Strange Loop* (Soulpepper/Crow's Theatre/Musical Stage Company/TOLive); *Women of the Fur Trade* (Globe Theatre and Stratford Festival); *The Tempest* (Theatre Rusticle).

**Awards:** Michelle has received eight Dora Awards, the 2008 Pauline McGibbon Award, and was a finalist for the 2021 Siminovitch Prize.

**Other:** She is the Chair of the Board for Associated Designers of Canada and on the Board for ADC659.





**JOHN GZOWSKI** (He/Him)  
**Sound Designer**

**For Tarragon:** Over 25 plays with Tarragon Theatre.

**For the NAC:** *Snow in Midsummer* (Shaw Festival); *Alice Through the Looking Glass*; *Twelfth Night*; *Mahabharata* (Why Not Theatre/Shaw Festival/ Barbican/ Perth/ Lincoln Centre).

**Selected Theatre Credits:** John Gzowski has worked on over 250 theatre, dance and film productions for which he has composed, created sound designs and performed live foley and music. His theatre work has won him 8 Dora Mavor Moore Awards, from 22 nominations for companies like Ex Machina, Stratford, Shaw Festival, Luminato, the National Ballet, New York City Centre, National Arts Centre, the Mirvishes, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, the Arts Club, Canadian Stage, Souleppper, Dancemakers, Red Sky, Tarragon, Factory Theatre and Young People's Theatre.

**Other:** As a musician Gzowski has played jazz and folk festivals across Canada and Europe. He has run Canada's first microtonal group, touring Canada playing the works of Harry Partch, composed and performed with several new music groups and worked as co-artistic director of the Music Gallery. Presently he is studying towards a PhD in Digital Media.





**JEFF HO** (He/Him)

## **fu-GEN Creation Mentee**

**For Tarragon:** *Cockroach* 甲由 (playwright), *Orestes* (actor), *Queen Maeve* (dramaturg) Current Associate Artistic Director.

**For the NAC:** Playwright: *trace* (Factory); Actor: *I Forgive You* (Artistic Fraud/NAC); *trace* (Remount - Factory Theatre); *Prince Hamlet* (Why Not Theatre).

**Selected Theatre Credits:** As an actor: *I Forgive You* (Artistic Fraud / National Art Centre); *trace* (NAC / Factory Theatre, b current); *Prince Hamlet* (Why Not Theatre, National tour: Canadian Stage, PuSh Festival, and NAC); *Box 4901* (Buddies in Bad Times); *camera obscura* (hungry ghosts) (the frank theatre/QAF, Hana's Suitcase (Young People's Theatre, tour: Toronto, Montreal and Seattle); *Unknown Soldier* (IemonTree creations/Architect Theatre); *Murderers Confess at Christmastime* (Outside the March). As playwright: works include *Iphigenia and the Furies* (On Taurian Land); *Antigone*: 方, *trace*, and *Cockroach* 甲由.

**Selected Film and Television Credits:** *Kim's Convenience* (CBC); *The Handmaid's Tale* (Hulu); and *Orphan Black* (BBC America).

**Awards:** LAMBDA Literary Award 2023 - New York City; Toronto Theatre Critics Award; Jon Kaplan Legacy Fund Award; Finalist for the Governor General's Literacy Award; Bulmash-Siegel Playwriting Award; nominated for four Dora Awards.





**MINGYEONG LEE** (She/Her)  
**Assistant Set & Costume Designer**

**For Tarragon:** Debut.

**For the NAC:** Debut.

**Select Theatre Credits:** MinGyeong Lee is a scenographer and playwright from Seoul, South Korea. She studied Set and Costume Design at the National Theatre School of Canada. Since graduating, she has worked as a scenographer on productions in Korea and Canada, most recently on *Through the Eyes of God* (Theatre Passe Muraille) as a design assistant.

**Other:** She is a recipient of the 2023 Arts Council Korea Grant in Playwriting, and her play, *구덩이 꽃, 어디로*, was presented as a public reading at the National Theater Company of Korea in 2024.





**TUSHAR DALVI** (He/Him)  
**Assitant Lighting Designer**

**For Tarragon:** Debut.

**For the NAC:** Debut.

**Selected Theatre Credits:** Lighting Design Credits - An IMM-Permanent Resident (Nautanki Bazaar, 2026); *NEW* (Alumnae Theatre, 2026); *Ishq Ke Saat Muqaam* (Tawoos Initiative, 2025); *The Proposal by Anton Chekhov* (Mississauga Fringe, 2025); *Akathya* (Rangaai Theatre Company, 2025); *Aap Ka Khayal Aaya* (Sawitri Theatre, 2025); *Miss Cuckoo* (Nautanki Bazaar, 2024). Assistant & Apprentice Light Design - *The Cunning Linguist* (Aluna Theatre, 2024); and *Hansel & Gretel Panto* (Capitol Theatre, 2025).

**Other:** Tushar Tukaram Dalvi is a Mumbai-born, Toronto-based theatre artist with 10+ years of experience as a director, actor, producer, stage manager, and lighting designer. He founded Rangaai Theatre Company in 2016, creating immersive, sensory-driven performances. A recipient of the Associated Designers of Canada Mentorship Grant to train under Trevor Schwellnus. He is currently apprenticing in Lighting Design with Michelle Ramsay, supported by the Ontario Arts Council.





**JULIAN SMITH** (He/Him)

## **Assistant Sound Designer**

**For Tarragon:** *ASM Redbone Coonhound.*

**For the NAC:** Debut.

**Select Theatre Credits:** *Le Retreat* (Imago); *Thy Woman's Weeds* (Centaur/ Repercussion/Tableau D'hote).

**Upcoming:** He is currently working on an experimental piece based around one of his closest collaborators battle with Cystic Fibrosis and is very honoured to tell stories that matter.

**Other:** Julian Smith is an META nominated audio artist, manager and educator living on Turtle Island. He is from and currently lives in Ktaqmuk [Newfoundland].





**TAMARA PROTIĆ** (She/Her)  
**Stage Manager**

**For Tarragon:** Debut.

**For the NAC:** *Copperbelt* (Soulpepper Theatre); *Trident Moon* (Crow's Theatre).

**Select Theatre Credits:** *De Profundis: Oscar Wilde in Jail*, *WILDWOMAN* (Soulpepper Theatre); *Slave Play* (ASM; Canadian Stage); *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Canadian Stage); *Waitress*, *Bed & Breakfast*, *The Ballad of Stompin' Tom* (Capitol Theatre); *Alice in Wonderland*, *Peter Pan* (Bad Hats Theatre/Soulpepper); *The Waltz*, *Lady Sunrise*, *Prairie Nurse* (Factory Theatre/Thousand Island Playhouse); *Hedda Gabler*, *Knives in Hens*, *Poison* (Coal Mine Theatre); *Salt-Water Moon* (Factory Theatre/Why Not Theatre/Mirvish); *SHEETS* (Veritas Theatre).

**Other:** Tamara was born in Zrenjanin, Serbia and immigrated to Scarborough with her family in 1995.





**JACKIE MCCORMICK** (She/Her)  
**Assistant Stage Manager**

**For Tarragon:** Debut.

**For the NAC:** Jackie is delighted to be working with the amazing *cicadas* team again after being the Stage Manager for the NAC Irresistible Neighbourhoods radio plays: *Ottawa 2044* and *Walking on Water* in 2024. *Women of the Fur Trade* (NAC Indigenous Theatre/ GCTC/ NEPA)

**Select Theatre Credits:** Jackie McCormick is an Ottawa based Stage Manager who has proudly called this city home for twelve years. She was most recently the Production Stage Manager for *That is Not a Toy* which was part of the 2026 undercurrents Festival. Other SM credits include *Big Stuff*, *Abraham Lincoln Goes to the Theatre*, *Beowulf in Afghanistan*, *The Supine Cobbler*, *The Unplugging* (Great Canadian Theatre Company), *As You Like It* (CCLA/GCTC Lawyer Play 2025) and over forty productions at Upper Canada Playhouse.

**Other:** Always grateful for her family: J, Q & B for their love and support.



# NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE

The National Arts Centre is Canada's bilingual, multi-disciplinary home for the performing arts. The NAC presents, creates, produces, and co-produces performing arts programming in various streams the NAC Orchestra, Dance, English Theatre, French Theatre, Indigenous Theatre, and Popular Music and Variety – and nurtures the next generation of audiences and artists from across Canada. The NAC is located in the National Capital Region on the unceded territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation.

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with consultation from Kim  
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## fu-GEN THEATRE

The nation's premiere Asian Canadian theatre company, fu-GEN is devoted to providing a home for the Asian Canadian theatre artist, nurturing their voices and producing works of the highest artistic caliber that explore the Asian Canadian experience.

**David Yee**

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**Marissa Orjalo**

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# THANK YOU

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Produced by permission of the Writers and Marquis Literary (Colin Rivers)  
[www.MQlit.ca](http://www.MQlit.ca)

The producers would like thank the following artists for their contributions to the development of *cicadas*:

Ada Aguilar, Erica Anderson, Amahl Arulanandam, Shauna Barker, Suren Barry, Marc Blouin, Laurie Champagne, Andrew Chown, Stephanie Chua, Zach Council, Tushar Dalvi, Monica Dottor, Colin A. Doyle, Mazin Elsadig, Kailan Fournier, John Gzowski, Ryan Hollyman, Jawon Kang, Ric Knowles, Frédéric Lacroix, Geoff McBride, Jackie McCormick, Daniel Parker, Nathan Petitpas, Tamara Protić, Michelle Ramsay, Wesley Shen, Will Somers, Vicki Stroich, Paul Thomas, Anthony Thompson.

# INTERMISSION?

## Grab a drink at the Tarragon Bar!

**Beer or Cider (16oz) - \$10**  
**Wine (5oz) - \$10**  
**Cocktail/Spirits (1oz) - \$9.25 - \$14**  
**Juice, Pop, Tea or Water - \$2.25 - \$3.50**  
**Coffee or Hot Chocolate - \$3.50**  
**Snacks - \$1.50 - \$3.75**

All prices include HST. Drinks are allowed in the theatre.

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TARRAGON THEATRE 55

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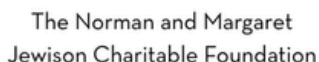
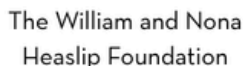
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We are grateful for donations made by family and loved ones.

### **In honour of:**

Sherri and Bill Appell's 50th Anniversary  
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### **In memory of:**

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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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