

Born out of Hamilton's fiercely independent theatre scene, A NON-CANONICAL MUSICAL ADVENTURE WITH POOKAMHURA: MISTRESS OF B-ROLL is a bold, funny, and emotionally charged new Canadian musical that brings gaming culture to life on stage.

### **SYNOPSIS:**

A random group of MMO players gathers in a virtual dungeon, waiting for another player to join their party. Among them is Pookamhura, a mischievous gnome rogue inspired by Shakespeare's Puck, whose presence adds unpredictability and chaos. While they wait, the players reflect on their shared experiences both in the game and in the real world, revealing stories of friendship, failure, and personal growth. Original songs and humour punctuate their interactions, highlighting the joys and absurdities of online gaming.

Tensions rise when one player reveals a deeply held secret, challenging the group to confront their prejudices and navigate difficult moral choices. As the players wrestle with trust, identity, and loyalty, the story explores the intersections of self-discovery and the complex realities of life's adventures. The play blends the energy of frenetic dungeon combat with moments of intimacy and reflection, creating a world where avatars and humans collide, and the boundaries between fantasy and reality are both tested and celebrated.

### **A NOTE ON THE PLAY:**

Since the bygone days of the Atari 2600; video games have offered us virtual realities in which to explore our most grandiose fantasies. From blasting intergalactic alien invaders to reliving the fantastical legends of the Heroes of Old - these magical, digital realms built from light and sound have given a safe refuge to discover who we are and who we hope to be.

“A NON CANONICAL MUSICAL ADVENTURE WITH POOKAMHURA: MISTRESS OF B-ROLL” sees several MMO players drawn together by the puckish rogue gnome Pookamhura. They are tasked to explore their identity in a virtual world of swords and fantasy and are challenged to answer the call to be a paladin, a sacred protector. Who will rise to their full potential, and who will fail?

The goal of this play is to challenge both its characters and its audience to explore what role they will play when they see injustice and bigotry visited upon their world. When the world needs you, will you be a paladin?

- Chris Cracknell