

## **ABOUT THE COMPANY:**

POOKAMHURA ALLIANCE PRODUCTIONS is a newly formed independent theatre collective founded by Chris Cracknell, Donald Cudmore and Brian Morton, to bring A NON CANONICAL MUSICAL ADVENTURE WITH POOKAMHURA: MISTRESS OF B ROLL to the Toronto Fringe Festival. Featuring a team of Hamilton based artists; the company is dedicated to developing original Canadian musical theatre that blends gaming culture, live performance, and new music.

With a focus on collaboration, humour, and inventive staging, Pookamhura Alliance Productions aims to create accessible, audience driven work for contemporary fringe audiences. This debut production marks the company's first step in what it hopes will be an ongoing commitment to bold new theatrical storytelling.

## **ARTIST BIOS:**

CHRIS CRACKNELL (Music, Lyrics and Story / Video Designer / Actor - "TANK"): Never one to shy away from an opportunity to show off, Chris Cracknell eagerly brings his skills as a songwriter presenting his first ever original musical. "A Non-Canonical Musical Adventure Of Pookamhura Mistress Of B-Roll", is a live stage version of Cracknell's Youtube web series, which he has been working on for the past four years, a project that allowed him to be creative during the pandemic. Chris is a veteran of the Hamilton music scene as well as an illustrator and an actor. Past credits include performances in "Mine", "The Night They Raided McMaster", "Under the Apple Tree", "Mary, I Have His Pants!" and "Escape", (Hamilton Fringe 2024, 2022, 2018, 2016 and 2011), "The Rocky Horror Show" and "Trafford Tanzi" (Waterdown Village Theatre), and "The Suicide". "Time and The Conways", "How Could You, Mrs Dick?" and "Vieux Carre" for Dundas Little Theatre. Special skills include being an accomplished and unashamed accordion player. He has been a fixture of the Hamilton music scene since moving from Toronto in 1990. He is an acclaimed web-comic artist and plays keyboards in a "Steampunk folk-rock" band called Babbage Industries. Due to the declining number of active accordi- onists in the world, Chris has enjoyed far more work over the past few decades than he has been entitled to. In his off hours he composes music for UROTSUKIDOUJI: THE MUSICAL.

BRIAN MORTON (Book Writer / Director / ACTOR - "Healer"): was the recipient of the 2013 Hamilton Arts Award for Theatre. He trained at the National Theatre School of Canada, and was the founder and first Artistic Director of Theatre Terra Nova, where he produced the premiere of Douglas Rodger's play "How Could You Mrs Dick", about Hamilton's notorious Evelyn Dick. His play "The Night They Raided McMaster", won the Best in Venue Award at the 2022 Hamilton Fringe Festival. Brian was also the producer of the 2012 Hamilton Fringe Festival. Past directing credits at the Hamilton Fringe include: "Under The Apple Tree", "Escape", "Summer Offensive", Samuel Beckett's "Krapp's Last Tape", and his own play "New Talent", which toured to the London, Toronto and Hamilton Fringes in 2010. He has also directed the plays: "Fugue", "The Suicide", "Time And The Conways", "Fair Liberty's Call", "Etta Jenks", "Cold Comfort", "Straight Ahead/Blind Dancers", "Caught In The Net", "La Ronde", "The Workingman", "I Can't Imagine Tomorrow", as well as his original plays "Dreamer Within A Dream" And "The Adele Komorowski Project". Brian is currently a drama critic and arts journalist for "The Hammer Monthly"; he has also published articles in the "Hamilton Spectator" and the "McMaster Silhouette" and "VIEW Magazine". (Appears courtesy of Canadian Actor's Equity Association.)

MASON MICEVSKI - (Choreographer - ACTOR - "Mage") is an accomplished stage, performer, choreographer and arts maker, in Hamilton, Ontario. He has taught voice, dance, and acting commercially, and privately, while performing with such companies as the National Ballet of Canada, Warner Bros. studios, and OH CANADA EH?! Mason holds a masters in community music from Laurier University, is the Artistic Director, and lead playwright at Emerson Arts, and works to be a constant support and community builder of the arts in Hamilton Ontario. He is honoured and excited to make his Toronto Fringe debut; choreographing and playing 'The Mage'. Enjoy the show!

EMILY BOLYEA (ACTOR - "Pookamhura") is a theatre performer, singer, and co-founder of Emerson Arts,

currently ad- venturing as a gnome in a World of Warcraft musical—because musicals need more mana! She’s taken on roles like Rosie in “Mamma Mia!”, Miss Hannigan in “Annie”, and even led an ‘80s funk band in Seoul. Emily lives to cast creative chaos wherever she goes. She extends epic thanks to the Fringe organizers, volunteers, cast, and crew. Her next quest? Opening Hamilton’s first combined rage room and reiki studio—HammerRageRoom.ca — because balance is everything, even for gnomes. She is always grateful for her two incredible daughters, Page and Ava, her best friend and cast mate, Mason Micevski, her mother Kathryn Bolyea, and her aunt Cheryl Pipher for their endless support and love.

FRANCIS WALLACE (ACTOR - “Hunter”). is a young, up-and-coming trans man and a proud Hamiltonian. Though he has had a love of being on-stage all his life, this musical is his first venture away from his improv roots and into professional theatre. As an alumnus of Mohawk’s animation program and the graphic designer and writer for “The Hammer Monthly”, Francis has a long and personal connection with the art, music, and theatre scenes in Hamilton. Francis not only plays the main character, Robin, but feels he embodies him every day. Francis is an avid MMO player, a huge gamer, and is so passionate about fantasy that wizard is quite literally his middle name (or technically “Magus” if you must be semantic with his school of magic).

DONALD CUDMORE (Producer). Credits include the live online adaptation of “Frankenstein” (May 2020), “Strange Bedfellows” at Hamilton Fringe’s What the Fest (July 2020), Classical Theatre Company’s live digital “Another Christmas Carol” (Dec. 2020), and production and editing of a digital production of Maxie Dara’s award winning play, “Alone Together”, which premiered at Australia’s 2021 Midsumma Festival. Edited Valeri Kay’s online “Prairie Odyssey” for the 2021 Hamilton Fringe. Produced Brian Morton’s “The Night They Raided McMaster” for the 2022 Hamilton Fringe. Produced “Brock & Sophia” at Hamilton’s Battlefield Park (2023). Producer of Classical Theatre Company’s production “Never The 51st State” at Staircase Theatre (August 21-30, 2025).