

## Notes 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 three 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

In November 2024, just after the election in the United States, Chris and I met at a Tim Hortons, and I pitched him my wild and crazy idea for a new musical. Spoiler alert: It had nothing to do with video games. Chris had written a number of songs over the years for several of my theatrical projects, and I was hoping that he would help me with this new one. But that isn't what came out of the meeting. Instead, Chris gave me a CD with twenty songs that he had recorded. They were the soundtrack from his YouTube web series POOKAMHURA: MISTRESS OF B-ROLL. He had done eleven episodes at that point, and it explored his rogue gnome World of Warcraft character, encountering various folks while exploring the world of Azeroth.

I make my living these days driving autistic children for the Hamilton district school board, back and forth to school. I popped the disc in the van's CD player, and the kids were enchanted by the music. That's when I knew that this was the next project. Luckily we were confirmed into the Hamilton Fringe in February 2025, performing that July, at the Staircase Studio Theatre. And now here we are, more than a year later in July 2026, getting to remount our play, as part of the Alliance of Canadian Musicals satellite venue at Theatre Passe Muiraille.

Chris' musical offers a vibrant, interactive space where queer, trans, and gay players can express identity; through song, performance, and collaboration. It blends storytelling, community, and self-expression — core values in LGBTQ+ culture. Each of the gamer characters create avatars that reflect true selves or explore gender freely, all while engaging in inclusive narratives. The shared, creative world fosters belonging and celebrates diversity, making it a unique digital stage for queer joy, resilience, and connection across global communities.

We are an interesting bunch of people! Only Chris and I have ever performed in the Toronto Fringe Festival before, meaning that three members of the company are complete newbies to the festival. My gratitude to Mason Micevski for his brilliant choreography, and for being the vital outside eye in the final week of polishing the show. Other statistics that I found interesting about the company! Three out of six members of the company are Queer - LGBTQ+. Four out of six members of the company live with a permanent disability. Three out of six members of the company are autistic or neuro-divergent. And one of the six members of the company has never done a theatre production outside of high school. Meaning that they are not only newbies to the Fringe itself, but they are essentially getting on stage in a musical, for the first time in their lives! This has required a different approach to rehearsals, and to the inevitable demands that staging a play requires in order for it to be good.

The Toronto Fringe is definitely a high pressure experience. But I wouldn't trade it for the world. We certainly have achieved the fact that we have the very longest title of any play in the festival this year. It is "non canonical", meaning that if we have done our job properly, you don't need to know anything about MMO video games, World of Warcraft, and the 11 episodes of Chris's web series in order to enjoy the play. Many thanks for coming to see our show. We literally couldn't do it without you. It is my hope that seeing the show, inspires you to be the change that this world so desperately needs. The message that this play contains I think is important, and I hope that you will take it to heart.  
- Brian Morton

## Land Acknowledgement:

The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Today, the city of Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and we recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners, and caretakers.

## Our Gratitude to the Following:

Derrick Chua, Marla Torgerson, Ian Yamamoto, Bruce Dow, and all the artists with the Alliance for Canadian Musicals, Jacob Willis, Tessa Cernik, Byron Laviolette, Ina Lighthouse, Lyla Miklos, Jennie Apps at CAEA, Lisa Peart, Joshua Perry-Fleming, Greg Cruikshank, Key Straughan, Michelle LaHaise, Steve Newman, Mercedes Davy, John Rogers, Sharon Cavanagh, Peter for the use of the Barn, Paul Cudmore for the online video shoots, Hammer Rage Room, Matthew Surina, Rose Usenica and Marc Nascimento from the Staircase Theatre, Callum and the Daniels family, Brent Perniac, David Lindemann, Willard Boudreau, Gary Smith and the Hamilton Spectator, Ian Wallace of The Hammer Monthly, Ron Kilpatrick, Tamara Kamermans, Allison Jones of Hamilton City Magazine, Amanda Cosby Nesbitt of Steel City Reviews, Cable 14, Raymond Beauchemin and Lisa Randall, Ray Rivers, our fellow Festival Fringe artists and Franny McCabe-Bennett, and Chris Stanton and all of the Toronto Fringe's many volunteers.

**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 accordions 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 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 adventuring 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 Val 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).

## 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.

**A NON CANONICAL MUSICAL ADVENTURE WITH POOKAMHURA: MISTRESS OF B ROLL, is a Canadian Actors' Equity Production under the festival policy.**

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## Mistress of B-Roll

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CANADIAN  
*Musicals*

a new musical by Chris Cracknell  
Book and stage direction by Brian Morton  
Choreography by Mason Micevski  
Produced by Donald Cudmore

with

Emily Bolyea - Francis Wallace  
Mason Micevski - Chris Cracknell

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At Theatre Passe Muraille  
16 Ryerson Avenue, Toronto

# July 2,4,5,8,9,10,11, 2026

A Canadian Actors' Equity Production under the Festival policy.