



Many Happy Returns

Toronto Fringe, 2026
~ Programme ~



THE CAST

BARTENDER.....Madelaine Rose / Angela Stevenson
 BOOTLEGGER.....Anjali Rai
 HOST.....Jing Cui / Cassidy Sadler
 SOCIALITE.....Karen Scora / Shana Rose
 TIME CAPTAIN.....Julie Cohn

Director.....Julie Cohn

*This is a Canadian Actors' Equity Association production under the Festival Policy.

Director's Note: This show is a Toronto adaptation of an *IntrigueX* fan favourite, reimagined in the 1920s. When we say “the 20s”, we immediately call to mind speakeasies, jazz, flappers, black and white photos, ridiculous hats; HISTORY. Then we realize we’re in the 20s again. What has changed? What hasn’t? What will and won’t change in the next 100 years? We think about war, financial crises, fighting for equity, pandemics – hard times, and they are still here. But we are still finding ways to be bold and brave: rebelling, celebrating our successes, finding reasons to get dolled up and sneak some gin. It’s great to be proud of how far we’ve come, and important to recognize where we still have work to do. In the meantime, let’s cut a rug, and maybe even do some scheming!

-Julie Cohn

“Don't think about making art, just get it done. Let everyone else decide if it's good or bad, whether they love it or hate it. While they are deciding, make even more art.”
 -Andy Warhol



EVENT SPACE

- 3400 sqft event space
- women-owned
- liquor licensed
- wheelchair accessible
- on-site AV tech
- in house snack options
- catering options
- flexible pricing



967 College Street Toronto
societyclubhouseto.com
info@societyclubhouseto.com
416.588.5451

CAST

Your mischievous BARTENDERS



Madelaine Rose (she/they) – Madelaine is a Toronto-based multi-hyphenated internationally recognized award-winning creator. She is an actor, producer and director with experience and training in both film and theater. They obtained their B.A in Drama Studies from York University in 2015, where upon graduating they received the bookprize for academic achievement and contribution to the program. As a femme presenting person and member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community her mandate as a creator is to create the type of art she wishes to see in the world, art which creates space for more leading, and diverse roles for women, gender non-conforming, and queer artists. She has been named co-chair of OutACTRAto, the 2SLGBTQ+ committee for ACTRA performers, and chair of the ACTRA National Progress Pride committee. Their work has been showcased and recognized across Canada and internationally, and most recent credits include Olive in The Perfect Bite (Netflix/ Secret City Adventures), The Matriarch in The Menagerie (Mayfly Creative Productions), and Persephone in Passed Down (Sigh No More Productions) which will be touring to the Halifax Fringe Festival later this year.

Website: www.madelaine-rose.com

Insta: @rose.madelaine



Angela Stevenson (she/her) – Angela is delighted to take part in “Many Happy Returns” this Fringe season! Angela received her BFA in Acting from The New School of Drama in NYC, and consecutively made her Off-Broadway debut at Theatre Row with “Snowball”. Other credits include “Antigone” (Antigone), “Rope” (Charlotte Granillo), and “The Wedding Party” (Rachel May). Catch Angela in the camp-comedy Web Series “Crater Heights” on YouTube, with five nominations from the LA Web Fest! Follow along @_angelastevenson on Instagram!

Your adventuresome BOOTLEGGER



Anjali Rai (she/her) – Anjali was last seen in the Secret City Adventure's production of *The Wedding Party* at The Doctor's House and Sawitri Theatre Group's production of *Pandemic Pandemonium*. Before that she was seen in various theatre productions around the GTA. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Theatre from the University of British Columbia (UBC). In addition to being a theatre actor, she also does film, television and voice work. She wishes to thank Julie Cohn for bringing her onto this roaring journey back to the 1920's; the rest of the cast for their talent, presence, and energy; and the audience for making each performance unique, fun and exciting. Thank you!



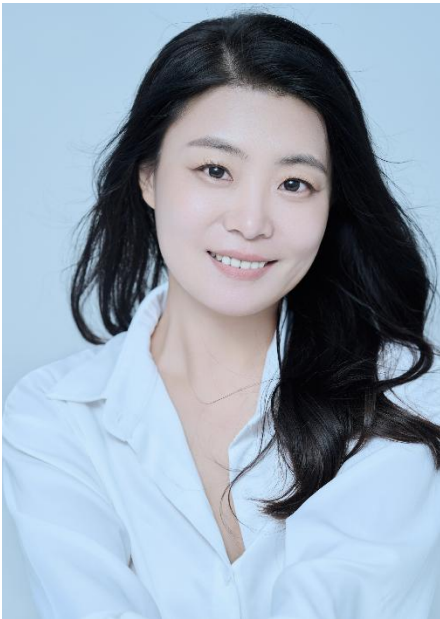
"It takes a lot of time and a lot of energy
to be a social success in a speakeasy.

You have to remember more passwords than a general and act more
like a secret agent than a [person] who just wants a chair and a glass."

-Robert Benchley



Your sparkling HOSTS



Jing Cui (she/her) – An actress with a passion for diverse roles, Jing Cui brings both stage and screen experience to life. From the powerful Witch in “Candy” (Spadina Theatre) to the graceful Li Niang in “Peony Pavilion” at the Shanghai Opera House, she captivates audiences.

Recently, she has played lead roles in short films like “A Prize Worth Dying For” (QMP Production), “Filmmaker” (GBC), “The Help” (GBC), “Divided Dining” (Best Student Film at the 2024 ALT Film Festival), and “Our Favorite Song” (Best Short Film for Cinematography at the 2024 Montreal Film Festival).

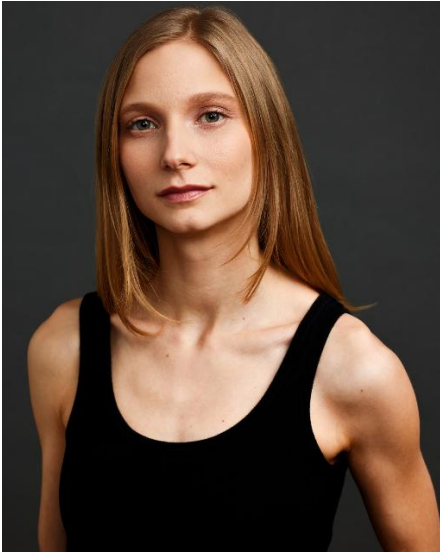
A graduate of George Brown College's Acting Program, her skills extend beyond acting. Fluent in English, Mandarin, and French, she's also a skilled Chinese Kunqu opera singer and Tango dancer, a brown belt in karate, and adept at horse riding and skiing.

For more information, visit her website at <https://jingcui.ca>.



Cassidy Sadler (she/her) – A producer, director and actor, Cassidy is passionate about new works, immersive experiences and experimental theatre. She is a company member of Live History, whose site-specific work can be seen internationally. Cassidy is the Associate Producer at Roseneath Theatre. Additional credits include Circle Mirror Transformation (Alumnae Theatre), Fierce (Moss Theatre Collective/George F. Walker); The Secret City and The Curious Voyage (DopoLavoro Teatrale); Back to the Bar (Sidestreet Theatre/Toronto Fringe); A Tonic for Desperate Times (Theatre Gargantua); and The Pride of Life and Mankind (Poculi Ludique Societas/Stan's Cafe/Metropolitan Museum of Art). Upcoming: Dead Lucky (A Life Where Productions) in the 2026 Toronto Fringe Festival.

Your dazzling SOCIALITES



Karen Scora (she/them) – Karen is a Dora-nominated actor, improviser, deviser and educator. They're passionate about audience inclusion through immersive and/or interactive performance. In the theatre space, they perform in puzzle-based shows with EscapeShow Toronto, long-form improv shows with SideQuest Improv, and TYA with DuffleBag Theatre. For these TYA shows, a few members of the audience play the starring roles, and she recently toured two shows with DuffleBag across Saskatchewan! She's also performed in more traditional theatre, such as Bone Cage (One Four One Collective) and The Caligula Exiles (Alumnae Theatre). In the film space, she's been leading a feature-length horror, which is being filmed in immersive format for the Apple Vision Pro, as well as a 2D version. They're a graduate of UofT Mississauga and Sheridan College's joint Theatre and Drama Studies program. She's so excited you are here, experiencing the party of Many Happy Returns!



Shana Rose (they/them) – Shana is a Toronto-based queer actor, singer/songwriter, and filmmaker. They are drawn to magnetic, subtly unsettling performance across theatre and film, exploring ambiguity, contradiction, and transformation.

Their stage credits include the Toronto Fringe Festival, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Blanche), and *The Odyssey* (Athena), with screen work including projects through the Canadian Film Centre.

Instagram: @shanaroseliving

Your trusty TIME CAPTAIN



Julie Cohn (she/them), Director – Julie is an actor, director, writer, dramaturg, and devised theatre creator with over 35 years' experience in theatre, film, television, voice over, radio, and dance. She is passionate about creating immersive experiences, and is actively seeking Creative Direction roles! Julie has served as Artistic Director to two multidisciplinary production companies, BEARS! In The City! and Palette Collective, and is the boots-on-the-ground Creative Director for IntrigueX in Toronto.

Julie's recent awards and Fringe successes include:

- No Proscenium's "Immie" Audience Award, Outstanding Immersive Work for *Many Happy Returns* (BEARS! In The City!/IntrigueX)
- CanadaShorts Award of Excellence & Best Acting Ensemble for *The Last Supper* (48 Hour Film Project)
- Top 5 Vancouver Fringe Shows for *Is That How Clowns Have Sex?* (Devising, Direction – National Fringe Tour, 2018)
- Best of Fringe for *Meet Cute* (Direction – Toronto Fringe, 2015)
- *The Affinity Initiative* (Acting – Edinburgh Fringe, 2021)
- *Sorry 'Bout That.* (Devising, Direction, Acting – National Fringe Tour, 2013/BEARS! In The City!)
- *Duet in the Park* (Acting – Vancouver Fringe, 2007)

Julie's prior work with IntrigueX includes co-creation and direction for "*(Un)remembering*", and "*Stepping into the (Un)known*" for Nuit Blanche 2023. Catch Julie on TV in "*What We Do in the Shadows*" (FX), and stay tuned for her upcoming detective comedy TV series, "*Whomst've?!*" (BEARS! In The City!).

Julie thanks Toronto Fringe, the cast, and IntrigueX – especially the incredible Jono Naito, for their commitment and sharing in creating this piece; for several incredible runs of *Many Happy Returns*; and for an incredible benefit show for Glad Day Books, the oldest surviving Queer bookstore! She also extends a special thank you to Katrina Lat and No Proscenium, for the honour of their 2025 Audience Award, "Immie" for Outstanding Immersive Work! It's a cherished treasure to be nominated and awarded among industry legends!

Julie enjoys sharing compelling stories with integrity and is passionate about anti-oppression. Her artistic mandate is to entertain, enlighten, and inspire.

Creative Direction, Immersion: [linkedin.com/in/heyjuliecohn/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/heyjuliecohn/)
Acting: [juliecohn.workbooklive.com/](https://www.juliecohn.workbooklive.com/)

Julie also runs the largest escape room meetup in the world, in conjunction with Morty! Feel free to join us, here: <https://www.meetup.com/toronto-escape-rooms/>



Thank Yous

We wish to extend a heartfelt and giant thank you to the following people and organizations:

- ❖ Our audiences, for jumping in, trying something new, and making bold choices with us, with bravery and abandon – there is genuinely no show without you
- ❖ Toronto Fringe: Jacob Willis, Tessa Cernik, and all the Fringe staff and wonderful volunteers
- ❖ Erica Campbell and Jaime Dobbs, and the staff at Society Clubhouse, for their generous sharing of their chic spaces, support for female-led business, community building, and promotion
- ❖ Jono Naito, for passionate, tireless, and incredible energy; support, resources, faith, trust, genuineness, and guidance
- ❖ IntrigueX, for their inspirational and amazing immersive spaces and shows, and for their sharing
- ❖ Our incredibly creative, hilarious, and fantastic performers: Angela, Anjali, Cassidy, Jing, Karen, Maddie, and Shana, thank you, thank you, thank you, and break all the legs – but not knees!
- ❖ Our prior performers for fantastic shows: Bonnie Caine, Saint Stella, Tamika Poetzsch, Kat Welsh, and Karley Kowalski
- ❖ Co-Producer, Jeremy D'Souza, for his wonderful support, encouragement, and promotion
- ❖ Co-Producer, Alex Balo for his generous support, assistance, incredible graphic design savvy, and for our gorgeous website
- ❖ Rajib Chatterjee, for ad hoc front of house services
- ❖ All those who participated in the Alpha and Beta trial runs of the show, including audiences and friends, for their bravery and candour
- ❖ Katrina Lat and No Proscenium for their support
- ❖ Kerri Brock for being a shining light, helping chart exciting courses, and providing the wisdom to navigate all kinds of seas, and to Pollutia for doing the work
- ❖ Tom Vosper for his enthusiasm, caring, community building, and for being a fantastic connector
- ❖ Sanjay Singhal and the staff at À Toi
- ❖ Tianna Henry and team at Glad Day Books for welcoming us with warmth
- ❖ Ali Coleman-Hinch and the staff at Junction Craft Beverage Co.
- ❖ Joshua Zacharia, Scott Swain, and the staff of Danu Social House
- ❖ Umar Ilayas and the staff at Trapped Queen W.
- ❖ Kfir Lavi, for his marketing and production consultation
- ❖ Gayan Pathirana, for his graphic design consultation
- ❖ David John Phillips, for his production and style consultation
- ❖ Scott Garland, for his production consultation
- ❖ Morty: Andy Bauch, Chuck Kaplan-Smith, Shawn Clisso, and Neda Delavarpour, for giving the world a platform to explore escape rooms and immersion, and creating the best work ever
- ❖ The Toronto Escape Room Meetup gang for sharing an unabashed love of immersion, adventure, and play, and for continuing to come back for more
- ❖ Meow Wolf for showing the world what immersion can do; for fostering a culture of open sharing; and giving artists a shared space, a platform, and a community
- ❖ One Yellow Rabbit for the inspiration and incredible partnerships
- ❖ Tom Scholte for sharing the joy of deeply connected devised theatre
- ❖ YRDSB Arts Camp for being a home for performers in need
- ❖ **Every artist who is out there making it happen. Keep making art.**





Our Community Partners

LOCKWOOD

IMMERSIVE





Keep in Touch!

- ❖ Website:
 - www.bearsinthecity.com

- ❖ Insta: @bears_in_the_city
 - https://www.instagram.com/bears_in_the_city/

- ❖ Facebook: BEARS In The City Productions
 - <https://www.facebook.com/BEARSInTheCityProductions>

- ❖ Morty – The Escape Room & Immersive Adventures App
 - <https://morty.app/location/society-clubhouse/toronto>

