

Company Bios

BEARS! In The City!

BEARS! In The City! is a Toronto-based multimedia production company. We are proud of having Queer leadership, sharing compelling stories with integrity, and we're passionate about anti-oppression.

Founded in 2012 by good friends and theatre co-conspirators, Julie Cohn and Anjali Rai, we began with a passion for conservation and bear-related antics. In 2013, we toured our first devised show, "Sorry 'Bout That.", to acclaim at Fringe festivals across Canada. Since then, Julie has continued to develop our portfolio, creating short films, PSAs, and cabaret-style shows featuring our ever-popular lead character, little bear. Our bear-related works have a mandate to donate proceeds to bear conservation efforts. In 2020, Julie teamed up with longtime friend and artist, Sky Wyatt (in Vancouver), to develop the detective comedy TV series, "Whomst've?!", which is currently seeking co-producers and networks for development.

Since 2021, BEARS! has collaborated with immersive behemoth IntrigueX in adapting a series of immersive shows for Toronto audiences, including our current show, "Many Happy Returns", for which we were honoured to receive the 2025 No Proscenium "Immie" Audience Award for Outstanding Immersive Work, nominated alongside such giants as Disney, Meow Wolf, and Netflix.

Thanks for joining us!

Links:

Email: BearsInTheCityTheatre@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.bearsinthecity.com>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/bears_in_the_city/

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BEARSInTheCityProductions/>

Artistic/Creative Director, Director Bio



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.

Links:

Creative Direction, Immersion: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/heyjuliecohn/>

Acting: <https://juliecohn.workbooklive.com/>

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

Cast Bios



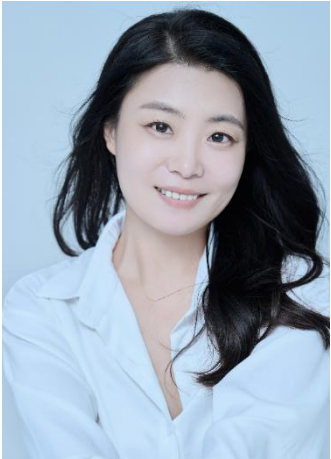
Angela Stevenson (she/her) – Angela received her BFA in Acting from The New School of Drama in NYC, and consecutively made her Off-Broadway debut at Theatre Row with "Snowball". Other credits include "Antigone" (Antigone), "Rope" (Charlotte Granillo), and "The Wedding Party" (Rachel May). Catch Angela in the camp-comedy Web Series "Crater Heights" on YouTube, with five nominations from the LA Web Fest! Follow along at <https://www.instagram.com/angelastevenson/> on Instagram!



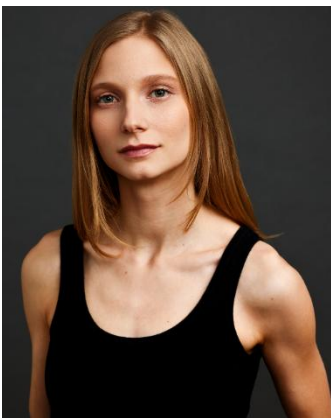
Anjali Rai (she/her) – Anjali was last seen in the Secret City Adventure's production of The Wedding Party at The Doctor's House and Sawitri Theatre Group's production of Pandemic Pandemonium. Before that she was seen in various theatre productions around the GTA. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Theatre from the University of British Columbia (UBC). In addition to being a theatre actor, she also does film, television and voice work.



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.



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>.



Karen Scora (she/them) – Karen is a Dora-nominated actor, improviser, deviser and educator, 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 (in members of the audience play the starring roles). 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.



Madelaine Rose (she/they) – Madelaine is a Toronto-based multi-hyphenated internationally recognized award-winning creator; and 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, receiving the bookprize for academic achievement and contribution to the program. As a femme presenting person and member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community her mandate 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. 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: <https://www.instagram.com/rose.madelaine/> .



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: <https://www.instagram.com/shanaroseliving/> .