

Stone Bay Productions embraces playwright Elmar Maripuu and director Helly Chester. Elmar and Helly were married 33 years ago while living in New York City, where Helly was studying acting at HB Studios and Elmar was taking screenwriting courses.

Elmar and Helly are both of Estonian descent. They began their creative collaboration by staging readings of underground poetry from Soviet-occupied Estonia. They went on to create performances which challenged the cold-war certainties of the Estonian exile community and gave voice to the political and cultural liberalism of a new generation.

After they moved to Toronto, Helly continued to pursue her career as a performer and theatre arts educator. Many of her students have gone on to work in film, theatre and comedy, including Conor Bradbury (acting in *Moving On*) and Neil Adams (fight director for *Moving On*). When Helly was at a loss for material to showcase the work of specific combinations of students, Elmar would contribute custom-made short plays. Helly acts as a caring yet critical dramaturg for all Elmar's writing from first draft to performance.

Helly and Elmar were thrilled when their daughter Lena Maripuu was accepted into the acting program at George Brown and have followed her career with glowing parental pride ever since. Lena is a perceptive reader of her dad's scripts-in-development. After reading an early draft of *Moving On*, she called first dibs on the role of Shelley and will be performing it for us at Fringe 2019.

Conor Bradbury (Actor, Drew)

For the past decade Conor has been performing and creating improv and indie theatre to provide financial support for his true passion of bartending. He is a founding member of award winning theatre troupe Sex T-Rex – two time winner Just For Laughs Best Comedy (Montreal Fringe), Second City Best Comedy, Patrons Pick and Best of Fringe (Toronto Fringe) – as well as being a regular performer (and Bar Manager) at Bad Dog Comedy Theatre. He has performed in countless comedy shows and festivals across Canada and the United States, including The Next Stage Festival, New York's Del Close Marathon, Edmonton's Improvaganza and a whole whack of Fringe Festivals.

Anastasia Piro (Actor, Jodie)

Anastasia started going to dance classes in her neighbourhood at the age of four and continued for 11 years. She joined the arts program at her high school and was accepted into Ryerson's theatre program for acting, graduating in June 2018. During her free time she enjoys drinking lots of coffee, spending time with her family and being outdoors.

Lena Maripuu (Actor, Shelley)

Lena is a Toronto-born actor / singer / theatre creator / educator and a graduate of George Brown Theatre School. Much of her work and passion lies in ensemble-based, collectively created adaptations of classics. Past credits include: Wendy (*Peter Pan*, Soulpepper Theatre & Bad Hats Theatre); Christina (*Cyrano de Bergerac*, The Leslieville Players); Molly (*Molly Bloom*, Fourth Gorgon Theatre); Shelley (*Moving On*, Alumnae Theatre); Co-Writer/Flicka (*Pippi: The Strongest Girl in the World*, Fourth Gorgon Theatre); Mrs. Do (*Scott & Will*, Solar Stage); Mary Snow (*Salt Water Moon*, Quarter Century Theatre.) Dora Award Winner for Best Ensemble. Currently, Lena is working with Fourth Gorgon Theatre and Carousel Players to workshop a new musical, based on the beloved children's series *The Velveteen Rabbit*. Lena is also a drama teacher, and works as a Director/Choreographer at Bravo Academy for the Performing Arts as well as The Drama Playground.

Casey Romanin (Actor, Kyle)

Casey began acting when he was six years old in community theatre productions in his hometown of Guleph, Ontario and has continued to perform ever since. Casey moved to Toronto to attend York University's theatre program and graduated in 2016. Since his graduation Casey has focused his energy towards working in film and television most notably with roles in *Saving Hope*, and *Hot Zone*. Last year Casey came back to theatre in "Moving On" as a part Alumnae Theatre's Fireworks Festival and more recently with his role as "The Newlywed Husband" in Bygone Theatre's production of "The Rear Window". Casey is very excited to be reprising his role as Kyle for the Toronto Fringe Festival.

Hannah Hertel (Stage Manager)

Hannah is currently an undergraduate student at Ryerson University studying Performance: Production at the Ryerson School of Performance. She is thrilled to be working with Helly and Elmar on this hilariously endearing original show *Moving On*. This is the first show she has worked on at the Toronto Fringe Festival and is so excited for everyone to see this show.

Other Credits Include: *The Glass Menagerie* Scarborough Theatre Guild (STG) (2017), *Clown* Ryerson School of Performance (RSP) (2017), *Into the Woods*, Ryerson Musical Theatre Company (2018), *Choreographic Works* RSP (2018), *The Cemetery Club* STG (2018), *The Importance of Being Earnest* STG (2018), *A Midsummer's Night Dream* RSP (2018), *Arms and the RSP* (2019).), *Do Right by Me* RSP New Voices Festival (2019), *Opening Night* STG (2019).

Neil Adams (Fight Director)

Neil is a graduate from the Humber College School of Creative and Performing Arts, a founding member of Violence in Motion, an instructor with the Academy of Dramatic Combat, fight director and stunt performer. He has taught at Humber College and Ryerson University and has worked with the Canadian Opera Company, the National Arts Centre, Grand Théâtre (Quebec), Ryerson University, Glendale S.S., and Wexford Collegiate.

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Helly Chester (Director)

Helly trained in New York City at the *HB Studios* with Uta Hagen and Herbert Berghoff and at *The Sonia Moore Studio Theatre* with Sonia Moore (from the Moscow Arts Theatre under Stanislavski and Vakhtangov). Helly has appeared on stage, film, and TV in New York City and Toronto. She also has deep roots in the teaching profession where she worked with youth and adults as a theatre arts teacher and arts education consultant. She continues to pursue her performing career while freelancing as an educator, director, and dramaturg.

Selected theatre credits: **New York** - Edna in *Butley* (The Courtyard Playhouse), Louise in *The Channeller* (Samuel Beckett Theatre), Jill in *Orient Beach* (American Playhouse Theatre). **Toronto** – Beatrice in *Servant of Two Masters* (Columbus Centre Theatre), Mrs. Bradman in *Blithe Spirit* and Cissy in *Quartet* (Village Playhouse), Nora in *Escape from Happiness*, Damienne in *I am Marguerite*, and Dr. Vera Peters in *Radical* (Alumnae Theatre), Dolly in *Kitchen Witches* (Bruce County Playhouse), Mrs. Boyle in *The Mousetrap* (Lower Ossington Theatre), Lauren in *Hazel* (Red Sandcastle Theatre), multiple roles in *Newmarket National Ten Minute Play Festival*, Susanne in *Living Will* (TO Fringe). **Selected TV/Film Credits:** *Three's a Charm* (Denver Eastman), *Not Broken* (Sam Burrows), *Sherlock@home* (Jaimie Escallon-Buragua), *A World without Canada* (Brian Rice), *Haunted Hospitals* (Dave Tebby). **Recent directing credits:** *Murder in the Cottonwoods*, by Colin Sharpe (TO Fringe), *The Creepy Cabin Project* by

Cathy Shilton (Alumnae Theatre's Write Now Event), *Moving On* by Elmar Maripuu (Alumnae Theatre's Fireworks Festival).

Elmar Maripuu (Writer)

Elmar became involved in theatre in the north of England, through working as a volunteer on a summer arts program for children in deprived urban areas. He subsequently co-founded a company delivering performances and collaborative events in playgrounds, classrooms, old people's homes, mental hospitals, and out on the streets.

While living in New York, Elmar wrote several plays in Estonian, which have been performed in Canada, the USA, Sweden and Estonia. In 1990 he worked in Tallinn as a translator for the Estonian Encyclopedia.

Elmar currently lives in Toronto and works as a software developer, creating IT solutions for the charitable gaming industry.