



## Company Bio

The name Aquarius Players was designed to embrace a group of artists coming together under an agreed creative project. For purposes of this production, the genesis came from a creative collaboration between director Nicole Arends and adaptor Chris Coculuzzi. Both have a history of site-specific productions at the Fringe dating back to 2001.

**NICOLE ARENDS (Director):** Nicole has been involved in theatre is a director, actor and producer for over 25 years. She creates productions that blurs the line between audience and performance using site specific immersive theatre methods and creating engaging theatrical environments for audiences. Previous Fringe site-specific directing work include *The Makeover Show* set in a barbershop (Toronto Fringe 2018) as well as *Louis and Dave* in an old Buick station wagon with 4 audience members in the back seat (Toronto Fringe 2002). Other Fringe credits include *The Hope Slide* (Toronto Fringe 2001) and *Cloud Tectonics* (Toronto Fringe 2002). In 2001, Nicole and Chris collaborated on a unique production of *Hamlet* (Upstart Crow Theatre Group) staging the play “In the round and all around” where the audience was configured in a way that allowed the action to take place all around them offering complete immersion into the world of Hamlet’s mind. In the past, Nicole worked on several productions at YPT and has been a Board member of Theatre Columbus, Clay and Paper Theatre, and now Alumnae Theatre as their Treasurer and Mainstage Programming Committee Chair. She has also been working at The Royal Conservatory of Music for the past 14 years. As an actor, she recently played Lady Helena in *The Gut Girls* (Alumnae Theatre). Some previous directing credits include: *Collected Stories* (Alumnae Theatre), *Foxfinder* (Village Players), *Evidence to the Contrary* (Tree of Life) and most recently *Impressionism* (Alumnae Theatre). Upcoming directing gigs include: *Mending Fences* (Village Players) and *The Departure Train* (Wonderlit Productions). Website: [nicolearends.com](http://nicolearends.com)

**CHRIS COCULUZZI (Adaptor):** Chris is no stranger to the Fringe, especially BYOVs. Between 2001-2005, he was the creative mind behind five shows that were a hybrid of Shakespeare and Sports: *Shakespeare's Rugby Wars* performed at the Robert Street Playing Field, *Shakespeare's World Cup*, *Gladiator Games*, and *Comic Olympics* all performed at Trinity Playing Field, and *Shakespeare's NHL* (National History League) performed at the Central Tech Parking Lot (Upstart Crow). Also in 2004 he co-adapted an evening outdoor production of *Cyrano de Bergerac* and played the title role (Red Letter). In 2006 he played the title role of Christopher Marlowe in *It Was Kit* by Allison McWood (Triple Take), and then in 2012 he co-wrote and directed *Piecing Together Pauline*, a historical drama exploring the life of 19th century opera singer Pauline Viardot, performed at the Tarragon Mainstage (Fire and Air). Chris last performed in 2017 Fringe with Shadowpath Theatre's production of *Plays in Cafes* at the Free Times Cafe. Chris has been participating in independent, community, and educational theatre for more than 25 years. In addition to the titles already listed, Chris has written adaptations of Jean Giraudoux's *The Madwoman of Chaillot*, Charlotte Bronte's *Villette*, as well as a play about the Halifax Explosion called *Quiet Courage*, inspired by the true story of the Jackson family, especially Mary Jean who lost her husband and 10 children on that fateful morning. Chris is a member of the Playwrights Guild of Canada, and last year he was quite grateful to see his play *Shakespeare's Rugby Wars* (co-written with Matt Toner) translated into Italian and performed in Montichiari, Italy.