

## **Trailblazing Ladies - Company Bios**

*BikeFace* is produced by the Trailblazing Ladies, in association with the Toronto Fringe Festival. Our dynamic theatrical team is made up of Clare Blackwood (*Welcome to the Bunker!* - Outstanding New Work nominee, 2018 My Entertainments Awards), Natalie Frijia (★★★★★ from *Vue Weekly* for *BikeFace* at the 2017 Edmonton Fringe); Rebecca Perry (multiple award-winning and world-touring playwright, performer, and producer of *Confessions of a Redheaded Coffeeshop Girl* and its sequel, *Adventures*), and Mandy Roveda (*Grey* - Outstanding Ensemble, Small Production Winner, My Entertainment World Awards 2018). We are interested in telling stories of adventure, exploration, and women who break boundaries. We are excited to bring *BikeFace* to the 2018 Toronto Fringe Festival!

### **Clare Blackwood (Performer)**

Clare Blackwood is a proud graduate of the joint actor-training program between UofT Mississauga and Sheridan College, and is an actor, singer and writer based in Toronto. Select theatre credits include: Katie in *Welcome to the Bunker!* (Portius Productions/ Toronto Fringe); Cathy in *The Last Five Years* (Rural Stages Productions); Olivia in *Twelfth Night*, Benvolio in *Romeo and (Her) Juliet* and Juliet in *Drunk Romeo and Juliet* (Dauntless City Theatre); *Situation Unknown* (Shakespeare in the Ruff's Guerilla Ruffians); *Keeper* (Fine Wine Theatre); *Shakespeare M.D.* (Spur of the Moment Shakespeare Collective).

She is the co-founder and co-artistic director of Rural Stages Productions, a theatre company dedicated to bringing exciting theatre to Norfolk County with an emphasis on community engagement and involvement. Clare just finished co-writing, producing and starring in her first short film, *L.A.R.P.D.*, and is enrolled in the Second City Conservatory, where she is learning how to become as stable genius of improv. Find her at [www.clareblackwood.com](http://www.clareblackwood.com)!

### **Natalie Frijia (Playwright)**

Natalie Frijia is a Toronto-based writer, theatre-making, clown-wrangling, trapeze-swinging, adventuring PhD candidate in drama and environmental studies at the University of Toronto's Graduate Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies, and the School of the Environment. Her plays have been workshopped and presented at Storefront Theatre, Summerworks Theatre Festival, New Ideas Festival, Rhubarb Festival, and Fringe Festivals across Canada. Recent productions include: *The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea* (New Ideas Festival 2018); *GO/NO GO* (The Freezer, Iceland); *This Will Be Our Last Transmission* (Alumnae Theatre's Fireworks Festival 2017); *BikeFace* (2017 CAFF Fringe Tour); *Divine* (Storefront Theatre and Summerworks Festival 2017);

*Black Wool Jacket* (Regina Fringe and Rogue Festival 2016); and technical direction for the Toronto Festival of Clowns.

When Natalie isn't working on a theatrical production of some sort, she can be found studying static trapeze, or leading walking tours through downtown Toronto, sharing the dark and unexpected stories that once happened, right below our feet.

## **Rebecca Perry**

Rebecca Perry is an actor, singer and writer based in Toronto. She has worked with a variety of companies across North America in theatre, film, television and voice-over. Recently, she starred in Brain Power Studios' *Forest Fairies* (alongside Simon Callow) and *Best Friend from Heaven* (alongside Kris Kristofferson). She's provided voices for the feature film *Fast and Furriest*, two characters in the forthcoming cartoon series *Emojiville*, and two main characters in forthcoming feature film *Duck and Donk*. In 2016 and 2017, she toured with Roseneath Theatre's award-winning TYA show *The Money Tree*. She also featured in and produced 2016's Toronto Fringe hit *Romeo & Juliet Chainsaw Massacre*, which got both Patron's Pick and Best of Fringe, and celebrity attendance by TV's Neil Patrick Harris.

Perry is the creator and performer of *Confessions of a Redheaded Coffeeshop Girl* (★★★★ Fringe Guru, The Nouse UK, CBC Radio) and its sequel, *Adventures of a Redheaded Coffeeshop Girl* (★★★★ TWISI, Fringebiscuit). Both shows have toured Fringes, festivals and professional theatres from coast to coast in Canada, the US, the UK and Ireland, and have garnered multiple awards (including Outstanding Performer and Outstanding Production from NOW Magazine), critical acclaim, a profile on Global TV, and a live taping in front of a studio audience for Bell Fibe TV's *On Stage On Demand*.

## **Mandy Roveda**

Mandy Roveda graduated from the York University Acting Conservatory and acted on many stages across Ontario before moving to Asia. There she worked in film and stage across Thailand, Taiwan and South Korea. She co-founded Taipei Players, Taipei's only English acting troupe, and Little Friends, an English Theatre Group for children. Mandy also founded and hosted Taipei Story Slam a live storytelling competition similar to 'the Moth' with emphasis on the content and performance.

Back on Canadian soil Mandy has been working again in the GTA Arts scene as an actor, producer and director. Last year Mandy co-directed and acted in the Three Five Production of *Grey*, at the Toronto Fringe, which was included in NOW Magazine's Best of the Fest for Best New Play and Best Ensemble. She

was the recipient of Shadowpath's Artist of the Year in 2016 and is honoured to have been chosen to participate in the 2018 Directors Lab North. Upcoming directing productions include, *The Princess Bride: the Movie Experience* at the Redwood Theatre, and four plays in the Newmarket Play Festival.

Mandy is so excited to be a part of the Trailblazing Ladies bringing this wonderful piece of theatre to the Fringe stages and hopes that it inspires you to embark on your own adventure.