

Tamaya Productions - Bio

Tamaya Productions was established by Michelle Wise in 2016. The company is dedicated to bringing female driven stories to life, on stage, screen and print.

“Mom’s Wedding”, a short film produced by Tamaya Productions, was featured in the Toronto Short Film Festival and in Philadelphia Women’s Film Festival in 2016.

The company also produced three children’s books – “Maya and the Magic Suitcase” (2010), “If I were... “ (2012) and “Tammy Saves the Day” (2019).

Tamaya Productions is proud to produce this year’s winner of the 2019 New Play Contest as part of the Toronto Fringe Festival.

You can learn more about Tamaya Productions at <https://www.tamayaproductions.com>

Checkpoint 300 – Biographies of Artists

Michelle Wise – Writer, director, producer

Michelle is a writer, director and producer who is passionate about female driven stories. She was born in Tel-Aviv, Israel and moved to Canada in 2001. Michelle’s career arc started in the high-tech industry as an Electrical engineer and branched to project management in the digital marketing agency world in Toronto. She is now focusing on her creative journey and very proud to present Checkpoint 300, her latest play and the winner of the 2019 Toronto Fringe New play contest.

Milena Fera – Stage manager

Milena is thrilled to be the Stage Manager for Checkpoint 300! She is going into her fourth year at Ryerson University in the fall, studying Theatre Production and Design.

She has a keen interest in Management, lighting design and directing. You might be wondering, is this her first fringe? No! She has worked on *Joy of Sax* (2018)

and *Sleepless Nights* (2017). Milena is thrilled to be back again and working with a phenomenal cast and crew for this show! She would like to thank her family, friends and Tyler for the consistent support and love.

Lizette Mynhardt - Shiri

Proudly born and raised in the small town of Outlook on the Saskatchewan prairies, Lizette left home in the fall of 2015 to pursue art and adventure (so much cheese you can taste that sentence). After completing the performance preparation program at Sheridan College in Oakville, she went on to graduate from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts acting conservatory in New York City (class of 2018). Lizette is also a classically trained soprano vocalist masquerading as an alto/mezzo, as well as a lover of pizza, puppies (shocking), and pretty things found in the great Canadian outdoors.

Lizette is passionate about works that find the extraordinary within the ordinary: storytelling that highlights relationships and the complexity of human nature. She believes the stories that most need to be told are the ones that teach us to cherish our differences while reminding the audience that we are all the same at our core; we only seek to be understood, accepted, and loved. She is honoured to be a member of the cast debuting *Checkpoint: 300*.

Brittany Cope – Amelie

Brittany is a proud graduate of the University of Windsor's Bachelor of Fine Arts Acting Program and has trained with Stratford's Summer Program, the SITI Company and the International Michael Chekhov Association. She is a Canadian actor, director, playwright and arts educator. She is a recipient of the Daniel Patrick Kelly award for her outstanding contribution to the University of Windsor's acting department. She is currently developing a program for schools in China, integrating the western style of acting into their education. Brittany's one-woman show, *Mission Magnet*, which she wrote and directed has been produced multiple times across Ontario including at medical schools. She has recently been accepted to The Royal Central School for Speech and Drama in London, England and will be completing her MFA in Actor Training and Coaching.

Jorie Morrow – Tikva/Nabila

Jorie is an actor, writer and producer. She holds a degree in acting from George Brown College. SELECTED THEATRE: Marion in *Between The Sheets* (Martha Rose Productions); Anna Storace in *Mozart's Requiem* in concert with the Toronto Beach Chorale; Selected Shakespeare scenes and monologues in *Passion in Music* a concert with Toronto Beach Chorale; Mary in *Hey Good Lookin'* (Co-writer/Actor/Producer-Toronto Fringe 2015); Marmee in *Women* (Martha Rose Productions- Toronto Fringe

2016); Anita in Harriet's House (Gailey Road Productions); Anita in Ana's Shadow (Gailey Road Productions). Jorie is very excited to perform in the award winning play, Checkpoint 300 at the Toronto Fringe Festival.

Geoff Mays – Bashir/Benny

Geoff Mays is a Toronto based actor and graduate from the University of Waterloo Honours Drama program. In addition, he has trained extensively with many teachers throughout the city including; Ron Leach, Caroline Azar, Cindy Tanas and Lewis Baumander to name a few.

His first gig, a puppeteer with the world renowned Famous PEOPLE Players, had him touring America, most of Canada and parts of Asia. From there Geoff continued honing his craft working with various independent theatre and film companies. He is a physical actor who strives to bring depth and honesty to all his characters and creations.

Select theatre credits include: Templeton Rat in *Charlotte's Web* (Mirador Productions), Jesse in *Sundance* (Two Wolves), Ed O'Kelly in the best of Fringe winning play *The Assassination of Robert Ford* (Still Your Friend) and Henry in the Toronto and New York premiers of *To Jane With Love* (Promise Productions).

Film credits include: Harry in *The Intervention* (Homunculus Productions), Sheriff O'Shaunessy in the horror spoof *Werewolf* (Lucrative Burrito Productions), Richard Dalton in *Flames of Fury* (FilmFatale Pictures) and A featured role in the upcoming horror *Don't Click* (Vortex Pictures).

Ori Black - Shay

Ori is very excited to be a part of the dedicated Cast and Crew of *Checkpoint 300*. His previous credits include 'Sanjay' in *Carried Away on the Crest of a Wave* by David Yee, 'The Servant' in *If We Were Birds* by Erin Shields in his Third Year Studio Shows at York University, 'Emmett' in *rochdale* by David Yee, and 'Chorus' and 'Marmaduke'

in *Orlando* by Sarah Ruhl as part of York University's 2018/2019 Season. Ori would like to thank Michelle Wise for her boldness in her storytelling and direction, his fellow cast members and production team for their constant generosity, openness, and courage in bringing Michelle's words to life, as well as his friends and family for their on-going curiosity, love, and support.

Amir Pour – Walid

Amir Ezatollah Pour was born on 31st August 1995 in Tehran, Iran. He then moved to Mashhad after his father's departure to Canada. Considering his family's background in Iranian cinema, Amir has always been keen to join the industry and has been active since age 10. He has been part of numerous theater productions back in his home country. Since moving to Canada and getting his training as an actor, he has produced and acted in Short films and theater productions and been building his resume as an actor, writer, and producer.

Chandos Ross – Set Designer

Chandos graduated from the Theatre Production program at Ryerson University. She has been working in the Toronto theatre scene for a few years now, with a focus on set design, props and carpentry. Her past works include various indie theatre shows, Fringe shows, and touring children's' theatre. Her theatre company, Twelve Lemons Theatre is performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival later this year.

Adrianna Prosser – Marketing Manager

Adrianna is a Storyteller whether it's online, on camera, or onstage. She is the Marketing Manager and Producer of *Eldritch Theatre*, Host of *Stories Like Crazy* podcast, and the seasonal Social Media Manager for *Festival Players* in Prince Edward County. You may have seen her as Kit Coleman in *Canada: The Story of Us* on the CBC, or in her own historical Western-drama *Scarred Leather* produced by her co-founded theatre company *Whiskey Ginger Collective*. To follow this fiery redhead find her at adrianna-prosser.com