

COMPANY BIOS

ANYWHERE is the inaugural production of **One Four One Collective**. Along with The Storefront Theatre, **The Spadina Avenue Gang** produced the world premiere of *Tough Jews* by Michael Ross Albert, which was nominated for six Dora Mavor Moore Awards, including Outstanding Production.

Michael Ross Albert (Playwright, Co-Producer) is Toronto-based playwright whose work has been performed all over Canada and the United States, and in the United Kingdom. Recent credits include *Miss* (Unit 102 Actors Company); *Tough Jews* (Dora Award nomination, My Entertainment Critics Choice Award winner - Outstanding New Play); *The Farmers Lit the Fields on Fire* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival); and a new musical adaptation of *The Jazz Singer* (HGJTC/Dancap). Michael received an MFA in Playwriting from the Actors Studio Drama School in New York City, and a BA in Drama from the University of Waterloo, where he recently served as an instructor of record teaching new play development. In addition to the world premiere of *Anywhere*, Michael's 2014 published work *The Grass is Greenest at the Houston Astrodome* will be performed at this year's Toronto Fringe Festival. He produces theatre under the banner of The Spadina Avenue Gang.

David Lafontaine (Director) is a director, writer and actor who has spent the last twelve years working in film, television and theatre while serving as the artistic director of Toronto's award winning Unit 102 Actors Company. Past directing credits with the company include David Mamet's *Oleanna*, Stephen Adly Guirgis' *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train* and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, and John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. Most recently David directed the Canadian premiere of Michael Ross Albert's stunning three hander *Miss*, for which he received the My Entertainment Critic's Choice Award for Outstanding Direction in the small theatre division. David is thrilled to be back working with Michael on his latest play *Anywhere*.

Courtney Ch'ng Lancaster (*Liz*) is an actor and director from Antigonish, Nova Scotia. She is a founding member of the Howland Company, and will be directing their upcoming production of *The Wolves* at Crowsnest Theatre this fall. Courtney is a resident artist at Soulpepper Theatre, where she has performed in over 15 productions. Her other acting credits include roles with Public Recordings, Canadian Stage, Citadel Theatre, Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre, and upcoming performances with Tarragon Theatre and Cahoots Theatre. She is currently the Shen Fellow at Soulpepper, working to create development opportunities for theatre artists of the Asian Diaspora, such as 2017's successful Shen Development Series and Festival. As an emerging director, Courtney co-directed The Howland Company's hit production of *52 Pick-Up*, and Theatre Inamorata's world premier of *Gray*. She is a grateful alumna of the Loran Award and a recipient of two Dora Awards for Best Ensemble.

Cass Van Wyck (*Joy*, Co-Producer) is an actress and producer who splits her time between her positions as volunteer co-ordinator at the Storefront Theatre and producer of the new works festival "OPEN OPEN OPEN." Cass has worked with many notable directors including Soheil Parsa, Sonia Norris & Daniel MacIvor. Her latest credits include Moira in *Therac 25* (Unit 102 Actors Company), Hildy Johnson in *His Girl Friday* (Bygone Theatre) and Bridget in Broken Soil Theatre's *#dirtygirl* (Audience Choice Award winner, Hamilton Fringe Festival). Originally from the small town of Fenwick, Ontario, Cass currently lives in Toronto and can normally be found baking chocolate chip cookies and cheering on the Blue Jays.