

## BIOS

Over the Footlight Productions presents:

### Mary, Mary

## COMPANY

### **Over the Footlight Productions**

Over the Footlight Productions is a not-for-profit company started by Lucy Todish & John Thomas. Our mission is to provide a vibrant and inclusive platform for the arts, where individuals of all ages and backgrounds can come together to create, learn, and grow through the power of storytelling and performance.

We believe that the arts have the unique ability to bring people together, inspire creativity, and enrich the lives of both the performers and the audience. Our goal is to foster a supportive and welcoming environment that encourages artistic expression, collaboration, and personal growth.

We strive to make the arts accessible to all members of our community, and to create meaningful and impactful productions that engage and inspire audiences of all ages.

## CAST

### **Rojan Molanian**

#### **Mary Magdalene**

Rojan Molanian is a Toronto-based actress trained at Seneca College, who has continued to refine her craft through ongoing study with leading studios across the city. Her onscreen work includes appearances in acclaimed series such as *The Handmaid's Tale* (HBO), *The Expanse* (AmazonPrime), and *Slasher: Hell Motel* (AMC+). Her performance in the 2019 short film *Toward You* earned her the Best Actress Award at the Vancouver Short Film Festival. Drawn to deeply human stories, Molanian is known for her ability to inhabit powerful emotional landscapes with authenticity, bringing a grounded intensity and subtle surrealism to her work. She is passionate about character-driven storytelling that explores vulnerability, transformation, and the unseen inner worlds of her characters.

### **Jennifer Vallance**

#### **Mother Mary**

Jennifer Vallance is honored to play 'the most famous woman in history' in this epic theatre experience alongside her bestie Mary M! Jennifer lives in a Historic house in the Kawartha Lakes with her pets and owns a successful music and acting studio. In the summer she enjoys backcountry camping, swimming and hiking. The (continual) house renovations also include plans to paint a Chinoiserie style full wall mural. She writes songs - sometimes in collaboration with other musicians and her first album with her former band *Rules of Seven* is due for release

later in 2026. Born and raised in Sussex, England, Jennifer emigrated to Canada in 1989 and has lived in Ontario since then.

On stage Jennifer notably played Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Anna in *The King and I*, The Commander in *Lavender Railroad*, Margo in *Dial M For Murder* and Belinda/Flavia in *Noises Off*. Her TV/Film roles include *Designated Survivor*, *Taken*, *Hardy Boys*, *Killjoys*, *Christmas Carousel*, *White Lie*, *12 Monkeys* and Donna in the new series with Brooke Shields airing now *You're Killing Me*.

Jennifer says "The road to playing Mother Mary seems to have been my destiny - it all happened by chance and so fast. Gratitude to the production team, and those instrumental in bringing me to this wonderful work of art."

## CREW

### **Amanda Gauvin Allen** **Producer / Writer**

Amanda has spent over 10 years working across various sectors of the Canadian film and television industry. She got her start at the now defunct production company Berkshire Axis Media, where she learned the ropes in film financing, production and distribution. She then spent some time in publicity and promotions at Allied Integrated Marketing before joining Search Engine Films, where she managed the theatrical, digital and ancillary release of hundreds of films. Following Search Engine's acquisition by levelFILM, she continued in her role as Manager of Distribution until her departure in 2021. Over her 7 year career in distribution she managed the release of close to 1000 films, among them Chris Evans' directorial debut *Before We Go*, Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 11/9*, *The Peanut Butter Falcon* (Dir: Tyler Nilson & Michael Schwartz), *The Last Black Man in San Francisco* (Dir: Joe Talbot), and Canadian Festival darlings *Firecrackers* (Dir: Jasmin Mozaffari) and *The Body Remembers When The World Broke Open* (Dir: Kathleen Hepburn & Elle-Máíjá Tailfeathers).

From 2023 to 2025 she was the Director, Operations and Production at Julia Rosenberg's boutique production company January Media. During her tenure, she served as Associate Producer on the feature films, *Out Standing* (Dir: Melanie Charbonneau) and *Meadowlarks* (Dir: Tasha Hubbard).

In 2020, she began writing and developing projects for stage and screen with her writing partner, John Thomas. With numerous projects in various stages of development, *Mary, Mary* marks the writing duo's first play to premiere on the stage.

### **Angela Barbosa** **Director / Stage Manager**

Angela has been working in theatre and film for over 20 years and is proud to be part of the *Mary, Mary* family for this year's Toronto Fringe Festival.

Originally from Bogotá, Colombia, where her artistic journey began as an actor, Angela is a graduate of the University of Toronto Drama Program and has since built a diverse professional

career across theatre and film and TV. Her experience spans acting, directing, producing, stage management, and makeup and hair artistry.

Some of her notable theatre work includes collaborating on *The Golden Ball*, an original production that received the President's Award at the Hart House Drama Festival, as well as serving as Performance Coach and Assistant Director for the collaborative creation *4:48 Flesh* at the University of Toronto. Recent directing credits include *10,9,8...* by Guy Newsham and *Sylvia* by A.R. Gurney. She has also recently worked as Stage Manager on *The Birds and the Bees* by Mark Crawford and *Remember, Maggy?* by Matt Murray and Carol Ann Murray.

Her recent film work includes Producing and serving as Makeup Artist for the short film *Promises*, appearing in the short film *Influenced* directed by James Burns, and leading the Makeup & Hair Department for *Nika & Madison*, directed by Eva Thomas, which was recently nominated for two Canadian Screen Awards. She also worked with the Canadian Unit for the Swedish TV series *Trion* soon to be released on SkyShowtime.

Angela is passionate about collaborative storytelling and creating work that is emotionally honest, imaginative, and actor-driven.

Angela is thrilled to share this production with audiences at the Toronto Fringe Festival and extends her heartfelt thanks to the cast, crew, collaborators, and supporters who continue to champion independent theatre and the arts.

## **John Thomas**

### **Director / Writer / Producer**

John Thomas is a seasoned theatre artist whose four-decade career includes directing, design, education, and writing. With more than 130 productions to his credit, he has built a reputation for dynamic storytelling across comedy, drama, and musical theatre, bringing both large-scale productions and intimate works to life with equal precision and passion.

John has served as Artistic Director for multiple companies, including founding the Kawartha Lakes Summer Playhouse, a professional summer theatre in Lindsay's historic Academy Theatre, and co-founding Over The Footlight Productions. His work has been recognized with numerous accolades, including Bravo Awards for Outstanding Direction and multiple nominations and wins from the Association of Community Theatres, Central Ontario.

He has spent much of his career teaching in a variety of settings, mentoring emerging artists and fostering a deep appreciation for theatre in young performers. His global travels and exposure to diverse theatrical traditions continue to inform his creative approach, enriching his work with a broad cultural perspective.

In addition to directing, John is an accomplished writer whose recent focus has turned toward creating original work for stage and screen. His writing includes children's theatre, British

pantomimes, dramatic plays, short films, and a television series in development. His storytelling is driven by a lifelong curiosity and a belief in the transformative power of narrative.

Whether in rehearsal halls, classrooms, or on the page, John Thomas remains a passionate and evolving artist dedicated to crafting meaningful theatrical experiences and sharing stories that resonate.

### **Grace Gauvin**

#### **Producer / Costume Designer**

Grace is thrilled to be making her Toronto Fringe Festival debut as a Producer and Costume Designer alongside her daughter Amanda Gauvin Allen. Grace has been involved in community theatre for over 15 years and is a three-time ACT-CO award winner. First for producing Brampton Music Theatre's (BMT) *Les Misérables* (2014), then for costume designing Jesus Christ Superstar (2016 BMT) and *Little Mermaid* (2017 BMT).

Grace retired in 2024 after 36 years in the Ontario public service. She would like to thank her producing partners, the artistic team and the entire Mary, Mary team. A special thank you to her sewing partners Liz Rowe & Silvana Di Bello, and her family for their love and support.

### **Ayesha Mansur Gonsalves**

#### **Dramaturg**

Ayesha Mansur Gonsalves is an actor and creator based in Toronto. Trained as a dancer at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center in New York, she later earned a BA in Film Production from CUNY–Brooklyn College before shifting her focus to acting.

On television, she can next be seen recurring on Peacock's *The Copenhagen Test* opposite Simu Liu. Other TV work includes recurring arcs on the CBC/HBO Max's Peabody winning series *Sort Of*, FX's *Y: The Last Man*, 20<sup>th</sup> Television's *The Hot Zone*, SyFy's *Chucky*, CTV's *The Spencer Sisters*, *How to Fail as a Pop Star*, which earned her the Best Supporting Actress Award at NYC Web Fest, and *CBC's Saint-Pierre*, for which she is nominated in the Best Guest Performance, Drama category at this year's Canadian Screen Awards. Film credits include Brandon Cronenberg's *Possessor*, the TIFF-screened drama *Tammy's Always Dying*, and the thriller *Don't Hang Up*. Selected theatre work runs the gamut from her one-woman show *Before: The Ramblings of a Former Dancer*, to Shakespeare, with Emilia in *Othello* (Driftwood Theatre), Paulina in *The Winter's Tale* (Dauntless City Theatre), and a lead in the Heritage Canada funded *Laurier* (Theatre New Brunswick).

A board member at The FLATO Academy Theatre in Lindsay, Ontario, she is putting her years of experience and expertise to work as chair of the Theatre Committee, helping to bring plays back to that stage, running workshops, and fostering new play development.

"Dramaturgy is one of my favourite things to do, and it has been an absolute pleasure to help Amanda and John bring their vision to life."

**Emily Elizabeth**  
**Lighting Designer**

Emily is a multidisciplinary artist and a graduate of Randolph College for the Performing Arts. Emily approaches their work through a queer, genderqueer, anti-capitalist, and activist lens and actively seeks opportunities to create work that reflects these values. Emily is passionate about developing new work, and is never happier than when they are able to collaborate with other artists. Emily is most interested in telling queer stories, questioning the rules, and exploring the messy/wonderful/terrifying depth of the human condition. When they are not running tech for shows at Cake Cabaret, they are also a performer and a writer. Emily is excited to be presenting *Such Ado!*, a queer contemporary retelling of Much Ado About Nothing that is running in rep with *Mary, Mary* at Cake Cabaret during the Toronto Fringe Festival.