

Brief history of the Company

David MacMurray Smith, Aaron Malkin, and Alastair Knowles are creators, performers, and educators of clown and physical theatre. They have created five full-length productions each of which has toured nationally. Between 2013 and 2017, James & Jamesy productions have been performed over 500 times.

Aaron, Alastair, and David first shared the stage in 2011, performing together in the Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret's production of *Hard Times Hit Parade*. Discovering their compatibility as artists, and their shared interest in creating and touring comedic theatre that facilitates a spirit of play amongst audiences, Alastair Knowles and Aaron Malkin created the clown-dance show *Superhero Boy Band* and invited David MacMurray Smith to take the director's chair. Their subsequent productions, *2 for Tea*, *High Tea*, *O Christmas Tea*, and *James & Jamesy in the Dark* tour annually.

David MacMurray Smith has been a full-time educator of clown, physical theatre, and mime in BC for over 20 years and has been an instrumental figure in cultivating a generation of British Columbian performers of those genres. In conjunction with performances and tours, Aaron Malkin and Alastair Knowles lecture and lead workshops. Students of University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University, and over a dozen high schools have experienced the sharing of their skills.

Aaron Malkin and Alastair Knowles are regular performers in a variety of Vancouver's annual theatrical events including the Vancouver Sketch Comedy Fest, Vancouver Fringe Festival, Parade of Lost Souls, Illuminaries, Car Free Vancouver, In the House Festival, Collingwood Days, Ghost Train, Bright Nights, Pop-Up Dances, and Dance Allsorts.

Artist Bios

David MacMurray Smith - Director, Co-creator

David is an independent educator with over 30 years of experience in the areas of Theatre, Clown, Mime, Ballet, and Opera. He is a movement specialist and an experienced counselor who has drawn on his broad range of experience and sources to develop a body-centered, humanist approach to personal and professional development through creative studies in human performance. His special interest is in how memory moves and patterns itself in our bodies and how this affects our perceptions, behavior, and communication.

David has stage directed 31 productions and movement directed 30 productions. He was head instructor at the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre School and movement director for the Music Theatre and Opera programs at the Banff Center for the Arts. Currently, David is program director for the two-year Ensemble Training Program of Full Circle: First Nations Performance and is on faculty at Douglas College. He is a founding faculty member of a two-year certificate program in Expressive Arts Therapy through Langara College Continuing Education, and runs his own studio, Fantastic Space Enterprises, which he founded in 1995.

Alastair Knowles - Co-Artistic Director, Performer, Writer, Costume Designer, Instructor

Alastair is dedicated to the creation and presentation of performance that emphasizes impulse, introspection, and performance honesty to ultimately strengthen the connections between performer, audience, and community.

Upon completion of a Commerce degree at UBC, Alastair turned his attention to the performance arts and began his study of clown with David MacMurray Smith at Fantastic Space Enterprises. His interest in combining clown with dance earned him a scholarship at EDAM Dance (Experimental Dance and Movement).

Alastair has focused his business acumen in the field of performance arts and is a board member of Vancouver's critically acclaimed Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret, and Bellingham's Lookout Arts Quarry. He has co-written six productions, four of which have toured in BC, performed in countless community events, fundraisers, and festivals, including co-producing Vancouver's inaugural In Jest Festival of Clown and Play. His art and performance emphasizes personal inquiry to ultimately strengthen community. His excellence in contemporary clowning has attracted propositions from Cirque du Soleil and Circo Aero (Finland).

Since 2012, Alastair's creative work has been fueled by collaborations with Aaron Malkin and David MacMurray Smith. These collaborations have led to the participation in over 30 theatre festivals nationally and have been the recipient of numerous awards including multiple nominations from Just for Laughs for Best Comedy.

"Alastair Knowles has the pitch-perfect ability to express his character's bittersweet search for human connection through movement, as much and perhaps more so than through words." – Michael Crabb, Toronto Star

[Aaron Malkin - Co-Artistic Director, Performer, Writer, Sound Designer, Instructor](#)

Aaron passionately supports the discovery of full self-expression and generating delight through performance and teaching. His background in outdoor & experiential education, physical theatre, dance, and visual effects have led to international performance and teaching collaborations that often bridge mediums with delight and play as the central theme.

He founded Vancouver's PlayLaughBe Festival and co-founded Vancouver's In Jest Festival of Clown and Play to build community through creative expression. He is a performer and former board member of the Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret Society and co-founded the clown troupe Poupon Parade.

Working with the Moving Picture Company and Nitrogen Studios (2008-2012) his skills as a visual effects artist are demonstrated in the feature films Watchmen and Surrogates, and the television series Thomas the Tank Engine. In 2012, Aaron turned his attention to live performance and undertook extensive clown and movement training with Fantastic Space Enterprises' David MacMurray Smith and EDAM Dance's Peter Bingham. It was during this training that he connected with fellow clown Alastair Knowles and together with David MacMurray Smith, a creative partnership was formed with the intention to create interactive theatre that emphasizes audience connection and stimulates play.

Since 2012, the presentation of their productions and the facilitation of accompanying workshops both within BC and nationally has become a joyous full-time pursuit.