

THEATRE ARCTURUS COMPANY BIOS

Rough Magic - 2017

THEATRE ARCTURUS

Theatre Arcturus is owned and operated by LINDSAY BELLAIRE, Artistic Director and PHILLIP PSUTKA, Executive Director. An award-winning theatre company, Arcturus creates visually stunning plays that weave aerial arts into the world of the story. They blend the rigorous training of an aerialist with that of the actor to create a seamless combination. In their world, characters work in harmony with gravity but are not bound by it. They may climb or take flight at any moment. This is aerial theatre, where the boundaries of physicality and truthful storytelling are pushed, and sometimes the world turns upside down.

Arcturus' flagship show, *WEIRD*, has toured to theaters and schools across Ontario, winning the Cutting-Edge Award at the 2016 Toronto Fringe Festival, and Best of Fest at the 2015 Ottawa Fringe Festival, where it was shortlisted for Critics' Pick and named #1 show to see by Metro News. *ROUGH MAGIC* is Arcturus' second production, which will tour throughout the summer/fall, playing at the Ottawa Fringe, Toronto Fringe, and SpringWorks Festival. Additionally, Arcturus creates shorter aerial acts and family shows that tour throughout the GTA and Muskoka. Their feature act this year will include a 10 minute aerial show inspired by the works of Tom Thomson to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of his death.

KEVIN HAMMOND (Director) - Kevin was the founder and Artistic Director for Humber River Shakespeare for 9 years where he directed *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Comedy of Errors*, *As You Like It*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, among other works. Kevin is a member of the Michael Langham Workshop for Classical Direction at the Stratford Festival where he spent two seasons as an Assistant Director. While there he also directed workshop productions of *Double Falsehood* and an original Shakespeare mash-up entitled *A Most Unnoble Swerving*. Recent guest director credits include *Othello* for the Arabian Shakespeare Festival in San Francisco, and *The Taming of the Shrew* for the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company. Upcoming: Directing *Hamlet* for Arabian Shakespeare and acting in the world premiere of *What You Will* at the Pear Theatre in California.

LINDSAY BELLAIRE ('Ariel', Aerial Choreographer) – Artistic Director - Lindsay has a passion for interdisciplinary theatre that pushes boundaries and explores unique forms of storytelling. After graduating with a BFA in Acting from the University of Windsor, she spent several years training in aerial arts at the Toronto School of Circus Arts. She is the Artistic Director of Theatre Arcturus, and works as the Program Director and instructor for the aerial program in their Muskoka studio. She directed *STALLED* in the 2013 Toronto Fringe Festival, has performed as an aerialist across Ontario (with a brief tour to China in 2015), and worked as Co-Creator and played one of the Weird Sisters in Arcturus' flagship show, *WEIRD* (Best of Fest at the 2015 Ottawa Fringe Festival, Cutting-Edge Award recipient at the 2016 Toronto Fringe Festival). She is currently serving as Aerial Choreographer and playing the role of Ariel in *ROUGH MAGIC* by Phillip Psutka, which will tour throughout 2017.

PHILLIP PSUTKA ('Caliban', Playwright, Fight Director) – Executive Director - After graduating with Distinction from the University of Windsor's B.F.A. in Acting program, Phillip trained extensively in stage combat, earning his Advanced Actor Combatant Certification with Full Distinction (FDC) and is now apprenticing to become a Certified Fight Instructor. As an actor, he has performed with the Stratford Festival, CBC Radio, Humber River Shakespeare, the Toronto Fringe, Toronto Buskerfest, and the TV series *Lost Girl*. He is the Executive Director of Theatre Arcturus, for which he wrote, directed, and choreographed fights for *WEIRD* (Cutting-Edge Award: 2016 Toronto Fringe / Best of Fest: 2015 Ottawa Fringe). His play *STALLED* was a Mooney on Theatre Staff Pick and an In The Greenroom Top 10 Pick at the 2013 Toronto Fringe Festival. He is the recipient of the Rapier Wit Award, a Tyrone Guthrie Award from the Stratford Festival, and a Theatre Creators' Reserve grant (Ontario Arts Council) for the development of *ROUGH MAGIC*.

LISA SCIANNELLA (*Stage Manager, Lighting Designer*) - Lisa is a graduate of Humber College's Theatre Production program. Recent stage managing credits include: *Shakespeare In Hospitals* (Spur of the Moment Shakespeare Collective, 2016), *Weird* (Theatre Arcturus 2015-2016, Stratford SpringWorks, Ottawa Fringe, Toronto Fringe), *Limitless* and *Battle for the North* (Panamania 2015), *Glengarry Glen Ross* (Jet Girls Productions 2015), *Conspiracy* (HeretoFore Productions 2013, 2014), produced and designed *The Loveless Cabaret*, *Sidekicks* and *Secret Identities* (Monkeyman Productions 2015). She also designed set and wardrobe for What She Said's *A Stage Manager's Guide To Dating An Asshole* (Toronto Fringe 2016) and Naked Goddess' Productions of *90* (Toronto Fringe 2015).

RACHEL C LEGER – Composer

LISA MAGILL - Costume Designer