

The Simian Assembly Company Bios

Company History

The Simian Assembly is comprised of Playwright/Performer Julia Haist and Director/Dramaturg Taylor Marie Graham for the purpose of bringing *This is Not She* to the stage. After directing Graham's script *Cottage Radio* at the 2015 Fireworks Festival at Alumnae Theatre in Toronto, Haist brought her idea for a solo show centred around an English teacher to Graham, who is herself an English professor at Sheridan College in Toronto. The two continued developing *This is Not She* over the next year all the way to its world premiere at the 2017 Montreal Fringe festival.

Julia Haist, Playwright/Performer

Julia is a playwright, director, and graduate of Humber College's Theatre Performance Program. Most recently, she directed *Or Not to Be* by Andrew Batten in the 2017 New Ideas Festival at Alumnae Theatre, where she previously directed *Cottage Radio* by Taylor Marie Graham in 2015. Past work includes writing, directing and performing in Slumgum & Quaqua's *Give Up the Ghost* in the 2013 Toronto Fringe Festival, and founding *The Theatre Relay*, a collaborative project aimed at the development of solo pieces. Based in Toronto, Julia has completed mentorship and internship programs with Theatre Gargantua, the Summerworks Festival and the Playwrights Guild of Canada, and strives to create innovative work that uses live performance to directly connect and share the human experience with audiences.

Taylor Marie Graham, Director/Dramaturg

Taylor Graham is a writer, director, arts administrator, and educator living in Toronto. She holds a MFA in creative writing from the University of Guelph and is currently a sessional English professor at Sheridan College.

Taylor has worked in various capacities with esteemed Toronto based theatre companies as the Toronto Fringe Festival, Canadian Stage, Theatre Gargantua, b current, Tapestry New Opera Works, Alumnae Theatre and the Playwrights Guild of Canada. As a director and producer she worked on *Late Night with Matty D* on Rogers Television for its two seasons.

Taylor is the recipient of the George Ryga Award for Excellence in Playwriting from York University and the Connie Rooke Scholarship from the University of Guelph. She has received multiple Ontario Arts Council theatre creator reserve grants for the development of her writing, and her opera "The Virgin Charlie" was Dora nominated for Best Opera / Musical in 2008.

Angela Sweeting, Stage Manager

Angela Sweeting is a jack-of-all-trades in Toronto theatre and festival production. She has worked behind the scenes at the Harbourfront Centre, Luminato Festival, TIFF Bell Lightbox, The Toronto Fringe Festival, Summerworks Festival, Tafelmusik, Trinity St. Paul Centre, Aboriginal Day Live, and Toronto Pride. Her interests include making the theatre machine run and achieving mild YouTube celebrity.

