

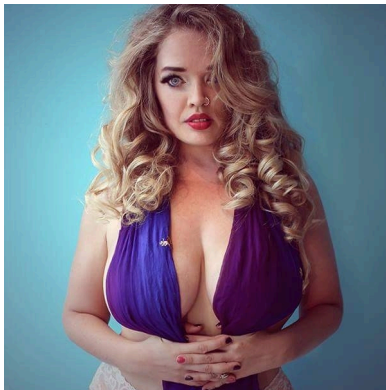
how.dare.collective.

Company bio

how.dare.collective. believes that there is a validity in the retelling of old stories, such as the Greek comedy *Lysistrata*, but with a modern twist, contextualizing it to the here and now - after all, history tends to repeat itself, and the human condition ensures that certain patterns will inevitably come around again. With Brattan's adaptation of *Lysistrata*, she combines three different translations of Aristophanes' Greek comedy to create a contemporary, accessible script that is performed through Burlesque and Theatre, two styles that, when combined: highlight the show's themes and messages. People respond to their environment everyday and yet it takes a lot to promote change – that is why we feel *Lysistrata* is particularly relevant at this time as society's views on gender, equality and the war between them are in flux right now in a way that *Lysistrata* highlights and questions very well.

how.dare.collective. is the brainchild of two-time Las Vegas Burlesque Hall of Fame performer & choreographer St. Stella and writer, performer and first-time director Kay Brattan - *Lysistrata* will be the collective's inaugural show. Their mandate is to create theatre for the underdog - representing the underrepresented. Burlesque is an ideal medium for this, as it is an art form that is for all shapes and sizes, and is a celebration of every performer's quirks or whatever they feel makes them unique. The company also includes Greek theatre in their work: a genre of theatre that was originally used to promote understanding of your fellow man and a means for those to have a voice where they otherwise might not.

ACTORS



St. Stella (*Lysistrata*, Co-Producer, Choreographer)

St. Stella is Toronto's own bendy buxom blonde. She has been dancing her whole life and performing burlesque for 10 years. She is known for burlesque with art and heart, as well as her specialization in traditional CanCan and her surprising flexibility. She has been awarded 'Most Beautiful' and 'Legends Choice' at the Great Burlesque Expo in Cambridge, MA and performed in an Off-Broadway burlesque play in NYC. Stella has taught burlesque, CanCan, and flexibility in Toronto, New York, Ottawa and Montreal. She performed in *Erotic Tales from the Old Testament* at the Toronto Fringe 2013. She has performed at a number of international burlesque festivals including New York,

Toronto, and Montreal and in the 2016 and 2017 Burlesque Hall of Fame weekend.

Sebastian Marziali / El Toro (Cinesias, Officer Laches)

Sebastian is a Uruguayan-Canadian theatre artist who has worked with many companies in Toronto, and found his home at Aluna Theatre. As part of the Aluna family he has had his hands in just about every aspect of both the RUTAS panamericanas and CAMINOS festivals. He has worked professionally as an actor, dancer, designer, director, and producer. He was a part of Modern Times and Aluna Theatre's co-production of *Blood Wedding*, which received an Outstanding Performance: Ensemble nomination at the 2015 Doras. When not on the theatre stage he can be found moonlighting as burlesque performer El Toro. As El Toro, he has performed everywhere from Boylesque Festivals in Vienna, Toronto and NYC, to the Everything To Do With Sex Show.



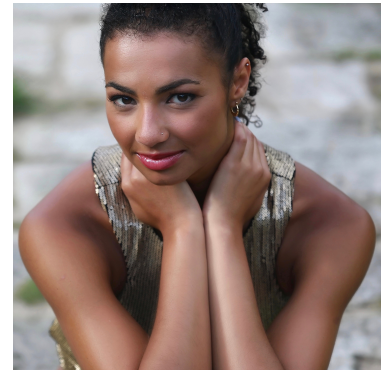


Brittany Cope (Myrrhine)

Brittany keeps herself busy producing her one-woman play, *Mission Magnet*, across Ontario. Written, directed and performed by Brittany, it tells the story of a military doctor serving in Afghanistan while her son is dying in Canada. She recently began taking it to medical schools to share with the students and completed a production at the *One More Night Festival* in Toronto. She recently directed the Toronto premiere of *Green in Blue* by Duncan Rowe with Greenlight Theatre. Recent credits: *Private Lives* (Pure Carbon), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Plain Stage Theatre), *Follow Your Heart* (Evolution Dance Theatre), *The Young Ladies of Baddeck Club* (Theatre Baddeck), *Curved* (New Ideas Festival), and *Scenes from my Dock!* (Muskoka Theatre Project).

Amanda Mattar (Calonice)

Amanda spent three years working abroad with CCL before going to pursue dance in the Big Apple. She was accepted into the Ensemble program at Steps on Broadway in New York, giving her the opportunity to not only study under incredible faculty, but also to dance in the New York Musical Theater Festival (among many others) and perform with the modern company Xodus Dance. Amanda headed back to CCL where she was part of Playlist Productions commercial and musical theatre styled shows, singing and dancing her way to Cast Manager and Dancer Supervisor. *Lysistrata* marks her Toronto Fringe debut.



Jennah Foster-Catlack (Lampito, Female Chorus Leader)

Jennah is originally from Tillsonburg, Ontario. She is a graduate of Humber College from the Theatre Performance program. Recent performances include *#scarecrow* with Hard Bitten Productions and Amanda Nicholls' play, *Unknown Territory*, which was showcased in the PIECE of MINE Festival. She was in First Act Productions' *Hair* in 2013, which was nominated for the My Entertainment World Award for Best Ensemble in a Regional Production. Jennah has also finished working with her fellow peers from Humber in a production called *World Tour: A tragedy in one act* that was featured this summer in the North Bay Fringe festival. Recently Jennah has also finished filming

{Alt}ogether, which is coming out this fall.

Amanda McKnight (Kitten, Spartan Herald)

Whether performing Shakespeare (*Macbeth*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*), George F. Walker (*Escape From Happiness*) or doing the time warp in *Rocky Horror*, Amanda is always happiest when she is storytelling, either as a performer on stage, an actress on set, or a boudoir model in front of a camera. She has just finished a run originating the role of Josie in D.J. Sylvis' new Canadian play *Inked Heart* at the Fireworks Festival 2016. An aspiring musician, Amanda loves to sing jazz while playing bass guitar or whistle a happy tune while strumming her ukulele.





Timothy Ng * (Officer Draces, Male Chorus Leader, Priapus)

Timothy Ng is an actor perhaps best known for his performance as the Japanese Officer in Red Snow Collective's production of *Comfort* in 2016, for which he was nominated for the Outstanding Supporting Actor award by My Theatre World Awards. He has performed a couple of times with Dauntless City Theatre in Toronto - as Lord Longeville in *Love's Labours Lost* in 2015, and as Paris in *Drunk Romeo & Juliet*. His other notable credits include *Shanghai Lil's* (Off-Broadway), *42nd Street*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and *Anything Goes* to name a few.

Jordan Shore (Magistrate)

Jordan is a graduate of the Bachelor Music Theatre Program at Sheridan College, and in his final year he had the opportunity to originate roles in two new musicals as part of the Canadian Music Theatre Project - Francis in *33 1/3* (later performed before the Canadian Playwrights Guild to rave reviews) and Copernileo in *The Enlightenment of Percival von Shmootz* - both of which had cast recordings made, which he features on. He was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to the Canadian Musical Theatre Festival Award. Recently he was featured as Valentine in the Lower Ossington Theatre's production of *Mary Poppins* and appeared in *Straight Up!* with Small But Mighty Productions.



CREATIVE TEAM



Kay Brattan (Director, Script Adaption, Co-Producer)

Kay has worked as an actor, dramaturg, producer and director in various indie theatre projects in Toronto. As an actor, she worked with Spur-of-the-Moment Shakespeare Collective in *Shakespeare On The Subway*, *Shakespeare in Hospitals* (actor and assistant director), and *Midsummer's In The Library* (actor and dramaturg). As stage manager, credits include *Love's Labours Lost* (Dauntless City Theatre 2015), *Confessions of a Redheaded Coffeeshop Girl* (Rebecca Perry Productions Inc, Brighton Fringe 2016), *Romeo & Juliet Chainsaw Massacre* (Toronto Fringe 2016). She created *Chez Imbecile*, a clown busking act that ran in the Artist's Alley, Toronto Fringe 2015.

After the Fringe, she is heading to the UK to attend the director program at East 15 Acting School.

Rebecca Perry * (Co-Producer)

2016 Harold Award-winner Rebecca is best known as the writer-performer of the award-winning *Redheaded Coffeeshop Girl* shows and *From Judy to Bette: The Stars of Old Hollywood*, all of which have been touring the professional Canadian circuit since late 2016 (including recent shows at the Sudbury Theatre Centre, Burlington PAC and The Imperial Theatre, NB), not to mention tours in England, Scotland and Ireland where she had stars such as Rent's Anthony Rapp attend her show. She's co-produced with Soup Can Theatre, Red One Theatre, and most recently produced Bain & Bernard's *Romeo & Juliet Chainsaw Massacre* at the Toronto Fringe 2016, which won Patron's Pick, Best of Fringe and had celebrity attendance (Neil Patrick Harris).



**David Kingsmill (Composer – Oh Queens of Song)**

David is a British writer, composer and musical director based out of Toronto. *Out of the Lens*, a musical he co-wrote with Nicholas Chave, was featured at Musical Works 2015 after a successful run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2014. He also wrote and performed the one-man superhero cabaret *Mr. Millennium: Issue #1* at the EdFringe in 2012. He has written music for the last few Dauntless City Theatre productions including *Love's Labours Lost*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Twelfth Night* and *Drunk The Tempest*, and he is working with them again on their forthcoming play, *Two Gentlewomen of Verona*. He is the creator and presenter of the board gaming podcast *Once Upon A Die*, and a contributor to the *MusicalTalk* and *SnakesCast* podcasts.

Sinclair Gwilliams (Stage Manager)

Sinclair has worked with multiple theatre companies across Toronto and around the world. She performed with Toronto Youth Theatre, went on to sing for the National Ballet of Canada in *The Nutcracker*, and performed in the world premiere of David Rotenberg's *The Great Gatsby* with the Classical Theatre Project. She has performed in New York and in London, England (as part of a summer intensive with the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama). She was a singer for the Canadian tour of *Star Wars in Concert*, was assistant producer for TV show *Mandy Mayhem's Rapping with Actors*, and is currently a production intern with *The Beaverton*. This is her first time stage-managing.

**Stevie Baker (Costume and Props)**

Stevie Baker is a producer, costume designer and stage manager. Internationally, she has worked with Kansas City's MET and served as Artistic Director for the Daegu Theatre Troupe in Daegu, South Korea. Stevie is extremely proud to be the resident Queen of Production at Toronto's Dauntless City Theatre. Favourite credits include directing Zora Neale Hurston's *Lawing and Jawing* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Recent productions include *Drunk The Tempest* (Dauntless City Theatre), *The Winter's Tale* (Leroy Street Theatre) and *Lakeboat* (Unit 102).

* Timothy and Rebecca are involved with the kind permission of CAEA.

** For the biography of St. Stella (producer, choreographer) see the cast page.