

Company Bio

Cheri-on-the-Run Productions is a company formed solely to perform this play, which we hope to one day take on the road with Theresa Tova, Dustin Peters, Sky Gilbert and Stephen Newman are the participants. We think this is a great show and deserves a long life — help us take it around the world!

Theresa Tova (Lea)

Theresa Tova is delighted to team up creatively again with Sky Gilbert. Sky gave Tova her first job in Toronto back in 1980 in his musical *Torch Song* with Micah Barnes. Recognized by NOW Magazine as one of the Top Ten Toronto theatre artists of 2017 for her starring turns in *Tough Jews* and *The Jazz Singer*, Tova is an award-winning actor, writer and singer. Tova is also at home in TV and Film with her latest role as Madame Sonnom on the web series *Clairevoyant*. Tova joins CHERI after a busy year starring in *Mikveh* and *Music, Music, Death, Life, Music*. Described as a "towering, pan-cultural jazz-cabaret diva" Tova starred as Emma Goldman in the First National Broadway tour of *Ragtime* and Yenta in *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Stratford Festival. Tova's musical *Still the Night*, won four Dora Awards and was nominated for the Governor General Award for Excellence in dramatic literature. Her musical *Bella: The Colour of Love* played to SRO houses in Philadelphia, Warsaw Poland, Halifax, Toronto and New York. As an arts activist Tova is President of ACTRA Toronto, Treasurer of ACTRA National, on the boards of CASCU Credit Union, Theatre Teatron and is a recipient of the Cliff Pilkey Labour Activist Award.

Dustin Peters (Cheri)

Dora Mavor Moore Award-winner Dustin Peters is a Toronto-based composer whose works range from concert and chamber music to film scores and pieces for voice & dance. Born in British Columbia, Peters began music studies on piano from the age of 5 and studied double-bass at the Mount Royal College Conservatory and University of Ottawa before focusing on composition in 2001. Peters has had the distinct pleasure of working with some of Canada's finest artists such as Kent Monkman (multidisciplinary artist), James Kudelka and Bill Coleman (choreographers), Sky Gilbert (playwright), Kevin Mallon (Conductor/Violinist) and Marion Newman (Mezzo-Soprano). Peters' concert works have been performed across Canada, USA and in Great Britain, including chamber music at Harvard University and the opening work for the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards Ceremony. Dustin's film scores have been heard in such international festivals as the Berlin International Film Festival, ImagiNATIVE Media Arts Festival (Toronto), the Sao Paulo International Film Festival and the Toronto International Film Festival

Sky Gilbert (Writer/Director)

Sky Gilbert is a poet, novelist, actor, playwright, filmmaker, theatre director, and drag queen extraordinaire. He was co-founder and artistic director of Toronto's Buddies in Bad Times Theatre -- one of the world's largest gay and lesbian theatres - - from 1979 to 1997. He has had more than 40 plays produced, and written 7

critically acclaimed novels including Guilty (also translated into French) *Brother Dumb*, *Wit in Love*, and *Come Back* and three award winning poetry collections -- *Digressions of A Naked Party Girl*, *Confessions of a Juvenile Delinquent* and *A Nice Place to Visit*, as well as a memoir *Ejaculations from the Charm Factory*. His plays, including the iconic *Drag Queens on Trial* have found a place in the Canadian theatrical canon. He has received three Dora Mavor Moore Awards for his theatre work, as well as the Pauline McGibbon Award, and The Silver Ticket Award. He also received the ReLit Award for his novel *An English Gentleman* in 2004. There is a street in Toronto named after him: 'Sky Gilbert Lane.' He's latest novel *Sad Old Faggot* (ECW Press) was critically acclaimed. He is presently working on a cantata -- *Shakespeare's Criminal* — with composer Dustin Peters to be presented during Buddies 40th anniversary season. In fall of 2018 Guernica Press will publish Sky's new book of essays entitled *Small Things* and in 2019 Playwrights Canada Press will publish Sky's critically acclaimed play *It's All True* (first produced at Buddies in 2017). Dr. Gilbert is a Professor at the School of English and Theatre Studies in Guelph where specializes in creative writing, sexuality and Shakespeare.

Bri Proke (Producer/Publicist)

Although starting her career in film production, Bri Proke's approach has been anything but single tracked when it comes to cultural production. With the divisions of performance growing ever more porous, she wades in these waters to produce works that provoke thought and challenge perceptions of the everyday. From being the artistic producer for Blood Pact Theatre, a founding member of The Fool's Collective (a trans-Canadian group of independent filmmakers), to working for a gamut of theatre organizations and festivals both in Vancouver and Toronto, Bri's interdisciplinary approach aspires to venture further into the obscure territories of producing plays and films. When Bri isn't working as a theatre practitioner, she fills her time as a freelance art director/production designer for the Toronto indie film & TV community. Bri's recent producing credits include *After Wrestling* (Factory Theatre) and *The Feminist F*ck It Festival* (Storefront Theatre). After this, she is moving on to direct her first feature film *Shark Week* (Blood Pact Productions/Fool's Collective), producing George F. Walker's *Fierce* at the Gladstone Theatre (Ottawa, ON), and her band, *Miss Langley*, is releasing their first EP in the fall of 2018.

Stephen Newman (Set Designer/Stage Manager)

Steve is excited to be working with Tova, Dustin and Sky on this performance of *Cheri* at the Toronto Fringe Festival. Steve is one of the original founders of Theatre Aquarius in Hamilton, Ontario and served as Director of Production for 35 years. He was the stage manager with The National Academy Orchestra in Hamilton, The Hamilton Tattoo and the Rochester Marine Tattoo for several seasons and enjoyed stage-managing at the Victoria Play House in Petrolia. He hopes you enjoy *Cheri*.