



KINDLING COLLECTIVE **COMPANY BIO**

Kindling Collective was founded in the summer of 2016 with a burning desire to have more voices heard in Toronto's classical theatre community. They are dedicated to sparking new flames in old tales. Founded by George Brown theatre graduates, Jilly Hanson, Shannon Murphy and Chelsea Woodard, Kindling Collective aims to take an intersectional feminist perspective to classical works.

The spark that started the flame was Kindling's debut production of Arthur Miller's **The Crucible** this past October. It was a massive undertaking for a small, new indie-theatre company, but Kindling was ready for the challenge. The Crucible, which was performed at the Attic Arts Hub, achieved a sold-out run. Leaping from that success, Kindling continues to develop and workshop plays that light a fire in their belly.

Co-Founders Hanson, Murphy and Woodard all hail from various regions across Canada:

Hanson is a fiercely proud, born and raised New Brunswicker, from the small town of Woodstock. She graduated from St. Thomas University in 2013 with a BA in English, and moved to Toronto to continue her theatre training at George Brown's Theatre School, where she graduated in April 2016.

Murphy is a proud Irish gal from Calgary, AB where she attended the University of Calgary and received her degree in Kinesiology. After that she continued on to Toronto where she graduated George Brown Theatre School last year. Since then she's taken the plunge into the Toronto theatre scene not only as co-founder of Kindling Collective, but by also exploring producing as a Young Innovator with Nightwood Theatre this past season.

Woodard is a Saskatchewan born and raised actor, singer, and director based out of Toronto. As we as graduating from George Brown Theatre School, she is an accomplished vocalist, and recently completed her RCM Grade 9 Voice Exam, receiving First Class Honours with Distinction.