

Ada Girl Productions – Company Bio

Shortly after her remission from kidney cancer, Ada Balon began entertaining friends and family with "impressions" of her doctors and health care providers, telling them stories of her experiences. This served as comic relief for her inner circle after a stressful year and ordeal. At some point a colleague and member of the dance troupe "Company Blonde", Sunshine Horvath-Dixon, said "you need to write all of this down and turn it into a one-woman show". The author recorded her story, mostly as she was performing it for friends. A dramaturgical conversation then began with Rosemary Doyle, of Red Sandcastle Theatre (in Leslieville, who Ada recently collaborated with on a film and holiday Panto. After the initial dramaturgical workshop with Rosemary was completed, further dramaturgical work continued with director Deborah Ann Frankel. "Singing to My Left Kidney" is the inaugural work for Ada Girl Productions, but this is just the beginning. Going forward, the mandate for Ada Girl Productions will be to produce ground-breaking works written directed by women. We hope to provide a place and occasion for female theatrical creators to bring their experimental ideas into fruition.

Bio: Ada Balon, Playwright & Performer

A graduate of the Acting Program at York University, Ada has made her living for the last 15 years as a singer and an actor in Toronto. Specializing in liturgical and sacred classical repertoire, Ada can be heard singing in churches all over the city. Ada has been in countless choirs and choruses over the years, and enjoys a residency as Cantor Saint Clement's Church in Etobicoke. As a comedienne, Ada has had ample improv and sketch comedy training as a graduate of the Second City Conservatory Program in Toronto.

Ada's extensive list of stage credits includes the title role in a recent school tour of the opera, A Schoolyard Carmen, with Shoestring Opera. Other recent credits: Who's In Bed with the Butler (Theatre Etobicoke), and for the Second City Training Centre: Escape Room with a View, directed by Rob Baker; Instagramification directed by Jason DeRosse; Selfie's Choice directed by Jennifer Goodhue; and North By Kanye West directed by Paul Bates. Ada has also acted in many television commercials, and her voice can be heard on radio, television, and several animated series.

Bio: Deborah Ann Frankel, Director

Deborah Ann Frankel has been studying and working exclusively in theatre for the past 6 years. She has stage managed over 50 shows, directed two and is the co-founder of Puncher Productions. She currently writes and produces a web series called "The Day Before Yesterday", a soap opera spoof which originated on the stage, and now includes 14 episodes. She also co-produced and wrote the screenplay for the feature film "The Savage Tales Of Frank MacGuffin" which

will be screening at the TIFF this September.

Deborah is both honoured and delighted to be directing “Singing To My Left Kidney”. Ada Balon is a fearless writer and a vigorous character actress. Her poignant and hilarious retelling of her experience with cancer is a story which will resonate with us all. It is a pleasure to be working closely with such a strong talent on this beautifully written humorous piece. “Singing To My Left Kidney” reminds us that laughter is the best medicine of all!

Bio: Sunshine Horvath, Choreographer

(Pippa: please insert)

Rosemary Doyle, Dramaturg

Rosemary has been known to “wear a lot of hats”. Well this time she is wearing her favourite hat of all: dramaturgy. Rosemary is the founding artistic director of the Red Sandcastle Theatre, an actress of “cough” 37 years, a singer, a writer, and her play *Call* recently premiered at the New Idea’s Festival. She also recently produced “Work is the Curse of the Drinking Class” at the inaugural production of her new theatre company “THE WILDE FESTIVAL” which she hopes will one day rival Shaw, only it will be Wilde!