

OREN SAFDIE (Playwright / Co-Director) was born in Montreal and attended St. George's High School before heading to New York where he graduated from Columbia University with master's in architecture and creative Writing, which was followed by his off-Broadway / London hit, *PRIVATE JOKES*, *PUBLIC PLACES*. (The Wall Street Journal named it as one of the *top ten plays of the decade*.) Other Montreal / NY productions include *THE LAST WORD*, *GRATITUDE*, *UNSEAMLY*, *JEWS & JESUS*, *FALSE SOLUTION*, *THE BILBAO EFFECT* and *LA COMPAGNIE*, which he developed into a pilot for CBS. (5 of his productions were NY Times Critic's Picks.) As a screenwriter, Oren wrote *YOU CAN THANK ME LATER* (Best New Feature, Newport Film Festival) with Ellen Burstyn and Amanda Plummer; *BITTERSWEET* (Wolgin Prize, JFF), *THE MAN WHO SAVED THE INTERNET WITH A SUNFLOWER* (Best in Show, IndieFest), and *LUNCH HOUR*, with Thomas Middleditch, Krysta Rodriguez and Alan Cumming.

FATIMA LOPEZ (Co-Director) is an Argentinian actor who, after spending many years in Montreal/Tiohtià:ke, is currently loving living in Toronto/Tkaronto. Her love of learning and reading has made her a curious and outspoken artist. Fatima graduated from John Abbott College's Professional Theatre program and NTS's acting program. You might hear her voice if you enjoy dubbed content or you can catch her on screen in season 3 of *Plan B*, in *Casse-Guele* or the upcoming movie *François.e*. Some productions at NTS include: *As You Like It* directed by Haysam Kadri, *Antigonick* directed by Ruth Madoc-Jones, *Macbeth* directed by Matjash Mrozewski and *Trojan Kids* directed by Alison Moira Kelly. Since graduating she's had the pleasure of going back to NTS to work with Azal Dosanjh, 2026 directing student, on his play *What is in a Flame?*. She loves working on new plays and hopes to continue this work now that she's in Toronto. Fatima is a drama teacher at StageCoach TorontoWest and just directed a production of *Shrek Jr*. She is also the best babysitter ever if you ask a 3 year old, her play-pretend skills remain unmatched.

QUINLAN WELCH (Josh) is an Interlochen Arts Academy graduate, who has been a professional equity actor in New York City since he graduated. He has worked with the likes of Santino Fontana, Sydney James Harcourt, and Lindsay Mendez. Quinlan Welch is thrilled to be a part of this incredible and very progressive piece by Oren Safdie.

ISAAC WOLF SILVERS (Ben) is thrilled to be making his debut in *Gratitude* at the Toronto Fringe Festival. Hailing from San Francisco, and proud Interlochen Arts Academy alum, he recently fulfilled his rockstar dreams playing Tommy in *The Who's Tommy: The Musical*. Starting at NYU Tisch School of the Arts in the fall, he plans to study acting, songwriting, and playwriting. Huge thanks to the cast and crew, Jim Van Slyke, and playwright Oren Safdie.

IMAN RAMADAN (Dariya) is very excited to be playing Dariya in *Gratitude* at the Toronto Fringe Festival! She is currently a student at Pace University studying Musical Theatre, and previously attended Interlochen Arts Academy. It is Iman's first time at the festival, and she is thrilled to be working with Oren Safdie, everyone else involved in production, and her phenomenal castmates on this engrossing play! She'd like to thank her family for always supporting her, and she hopes you enjoy the show.

HUDSON ORFE (Drew) is a recent graduate of Carnegie Mellon School of Drama and an alumnus of Interlochen Arts Academy, where he first met Oren Safdie. His most recent productions include *Company*, *Madame Mozart*, and *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play*. He also works professionally as a music director and composer on countless projects, including his original musical, *A Million Moments on the Mackinac Bridge*.

ROSE BELHUMEUR (Sets/Costumes) is based in Montreal, working at the intersection of costume, scenography, and immersive visual storytelling. Her practice is driven by the desire to build tactile and atmospheric worlds that carry narrative and emotional resonance, where every detail, no matter how subtle, contributes to the final image. Her work blends texture, fabrication, and digital aesthetics, drawing connections between theatre, circus, cinema, and 3D animation. With a strong belief in collaboration, she approaches each project as a collective process where communication, respect, and shared expertise are essential to bringing ambitious creative worlds to life. She holds a degree in Production Design, Scenography profile, from the École de théâtre de Saint-Hyacinthe (2017) and a Bachelor's degree in 3D Animation and Digital Design from the NAD School, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (2024).