

1East Productions is a Toronto-based production company founded by Jesse McQueen and Jack Creaghan, working across theatre, live comedy, and film. They make new work that finds the funny, the painful, and the human.

Their co-production of *Romeo Pimp* at The King Black Box earned four 2025/26 Dora Mavor Moore Award nominations, including Outstanding New Play.

In live comedy, 1East produces Cheap Wine shows. Cheap Wine is an award-winning sketch comedy troupe that has performed on stages across North America — including Second City Toronto, The Peoples Improv Theater in NYC, and the historic LSPU Hall in St. John's, NL — and across five Toronto, four Montreal, and two Newfoundland & Labrador Sketch Comedy Festivals. They took home the Audience Choice Award at TOSketchfest 2025 and the Sketchiest Sketch Troupe Award at TOSketchfest 2023.

Select past productions include: *36 Juniper* (as Wrong House Productions in NYC; nominated for the 15th annual New York Independent Theater Awards OUTSTANDING PREMIERE PRODUCTION OF A PLAY), *Childhood by Cheap Wine* (Toronto Fringe 2025, Toronto Sketch Comedy Festival 2025 AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD WINNER), *The Future is a Joke?* (TOSketchfest 2024 OUTSTANDING COMEDY FILM), *Is It Juice? A Wine Tasting Sketch Comedy Show*, *Unbecoming* (BEST THRILLER AWARD at Toronto International Women's Film Festival, official selection at The Women's Film Festival and Imagine This Women's Film Festival).

Jesse McQueen (Ensemble, Co-writer)

Jesse is a playwright, actor, and sketch comedian. She is a 2025/26 Dora Mavor Moore Award nominee for Outstanding New Play and Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble for *Romeo Pimp*, which she wrote, performed in, and also produced under her production company 1East. She is a conservatory graduate of the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York City, and has a dual degree in psychology and English language & literature from Western University.

She plays Mrs. White in *CLUE* this June with Wren Theatre. Other recent playwright and stage credits: Caroline Bingley in Wren Theatre's world premiere adaptation of *PRIDE & PREJUDICE* (also playwright), *ROMEO PIMP* (also playwright; The King Black Box/1East Productions), *DANGEROUS LIAISONS* (Wren Theatre), *LITTLE WOMEN* (Wren Theatre), *JUNE* (Toronto Fringe), *36 JUNIPER* (also playwright; Wrong House NYC), and *AS YOU LIKE IT* (Adler NYC). She is a two-time Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference finalist.

She is one-third of the award-winning comedy troupe Cheap Wine (Audience Choice Award at TO Sketchfest 2025, Sketchiest Sketch Troupe Award at TOSketchfest 2023). Cheap Wine just completed a tour of all Canadian Sketch Comedy Festivals (their fifth in Toronto, fourth in Montreal, and second in St. John's, Newfoundland). She has performed sketch comedy on stages across North America, including Second City Toronto, The Peoples Improv Theater (The PIT) in NYC, and the historic LSPU Hall in St. John's, NL. They performed their show Childhood by Cheap Wine in the 2025 Toronto Fringe Festival (also at VideoCabaret!).

Jack Creaghan (Director, Co-writer)

Jack is a writer, director, actor, and sketch comedian. He is a 2025/26 Dora Mavor Moore Award nominee for both Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble and Outstanding Lighting Design for Romeo Pimp, which he also produced under his production company 1East. He is one-third of the award-winning comedy troupe Cheap Wine (Audience Choice Award at TO Sketchfest 2025, Sketchiest Sketch Troupe Award at TOSketchfest 2023). Cheap Wine just completed a tour of all Canadian Sketch Comedy Festivals (their fifth in Toronto, fourth in Montreal, and second in St. John's, Newfoundland). He has performed sketch comedy on stages across North America, including Second City Toronto, The Peoples Improv Theater (The PIT) in NYC, and the historic LSPU Hall in St. John's, NL. Select credits include Professor Plum in CLUE (this June with Wren Theatre), Romeo Pimp (The King Black Box/1East Productions), Childhood by Cheap Wine (Toronto Fringe 2025), Is It Juice? (Assembly Theatre), Carma (IAMI Films), The Future is a Joke? (Best Film Award TOSketchfest Film Fest), EGG (Audience Choice Award 48HFP), and the really weird guy in a bunch of commercials.

Shanda Bezic (Ensemble)

Shanda Bezic is an actor, director, educator, and clown. Trained at the School for Theatre Creators (Chicago/Italy).

Selected film/tv credits: Interview with the Vampire (AMC), SkyMed (Paramount+), Brilliant Minds (NBC), Murdoch Mysteries (CBC), The Way Home (Hallmark)

Directing Credits: Happy Medium (Edinburgh Fringe Festival) and Canoe Lake (Theatre By the Bay) She loves her cat, Scarlet

She is engaged to Carson Pinch

Jennifer McEwen (Ensemble)

Jennifer is thrilled to be joining the cast of LADIES' DAY as Evie! Jennifer is a Toronto-based actor and theatre producer, holding a BFA in Acting from York University. She is the founder of LOVE2 Theatre Co., as well as a devoted mother to two daughters, a stepson, and one small dog.

Born in Papua New Guinea but raised in rural Ontario, Jennifer's early love of dance and theatre carried her to Toronto, where she trained, built her career, met her husband, and made the city her artistic home.

Select theatre credits include *Pride and Prejudice* (WREN Theatre); *The Adding Machine* (Leroy Street Theatre); *Watching Glory Die* and *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* (LOVE2 Theatre Co.); *The Late Henry Moss* (Unit 102 Actors Company); *In Arabia We'd All Be Kings*, *Our Lady of 121st Street*, and *Unconditional* (Column 13 Actors Company); and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hamlet*, and *Othello* (The Classical Theatre Project).

Her selected film and television work includes *Run the Burbs*, *Adults*, and *Missing Pieces*. Jennifer also served as Artistic Director for *The Secret Sessions Inc.*, where she directed and co-produced two immersive events.

Carson Pinch (Ensemble)

Carson Pinch is a multi-award-winning performer who is thrilled to be making his return to live theatre. Previous stage credits include *The Grass is Greenest* at the Houston Astrodome, *Tony & Tina's Wedding*, *The Mousetrap*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and *The Princess Bride*. Outside of theatre, Carson is a two-time audience choice award winner at the Toronto Sketch Comedy Festival, a former member of *The Second City's House Company*, and has appeared on *Canada's Got Talent* twice. Carson also invented the word "crumb." Before that, people just said "food pieces."

Blair Macmillan (Ensemble)

Blair MacMillan is an actor, writer, and comedian from Toronto. She is a co-host and co-creator of the podcast *Girl Historians*, which has amassed millions of listens worldwide. Her comedy duo, *24 Double B*, has performed across North America and have been the recipients of numerous accolades. Blair has also acted, directed, and written numerous shorts that have been screened at festivals across Canada and the USA. Her recent credits include *Something Very Bad is Going to Happen* (Netflix) *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC/UKTV) and *Homeschooled* (CBC GEM)

Blair attended Wexford CSA, and is a graduate of Queen's University.