

Up Your Nose and In Your Toes (U.N.I.T) Productions is a non-profit theatre company dedicated to breaking social norms and identifying the flaws that we, as a society, work hard to cover up. Through energetic and unapologetic work mixed with a covert and multi-disciplinary approach, we seek to help people rediscover joy, truth and creativity, not as a passing moment but as an important part of everyday life. We hope to heal the world one smile at a time.

U.N.I.T. Productions, the home of the Morro and Jasp clown series, is the brainchild of Heather Marie Annis, Byron Laviolette and Amy Lee. The company has been nominated for three Dora Mavor Moore Awards (winning the 2012 Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in the Independent Theatre division), four Canadian Comedy Awards (winning the 2014 Award for Best Variety Act), a BroadwayWorld Award and over ten NOW Magazine Awards including Outstanding New Play, Outstanding Production, Outstanding Ensemble, and Outstanding Direction. Their cookbook, *Eat Your Heart Out with Morro and Jasp*, was published by Tightrope Books and won a 2015 Gourmand World Cookbook Award for Best Innovative Cookbook. In 2017, they released “Morro and Jasp: Unscripted” a digital game app where players get to direct Morro and Jasp in a choose-your-own-adventure style play.

U.N.I.T. Productions’ mainstage shows include *Morro and Jasp in Stupefaction* (Co-Production with Kabin), *Morro and Jasp: 9-5* (Co-Production with Factory Theatre), *Of Mice and Morro and Jasp*, *Morro and Jasp Go Bake Yourself*, *Morro and Jasp Gone Wild*, *Morro and Jasp Do Puberty* and *Morro and Jasp Go Green* (TYA). The company has also created numerous shorter pieces, including *Morro and Jasp Lost and Found* (Magnetic North) and *Morro and Jasp In a Pickle*, and hosted numerous cabarets. They have performed at Fringe Festivals in Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Halifax and London; the Edinburgh Festival Fringe; the Clownin Festival in Vienna; the NY Clown Theater Festival and Amuse Bouche Festival in New York City; the SubDevision Festival at Magnetic North; the undercurrents Festival at the GCTC in Ottawa; Theatre Sainte Catherine and the Centaur Theatre in Montreal; The Orillia Opera House; the Vaughan City Playhouse; the Toronto Festival of Clowns, Lab Cab Festival, Pandemonium Machine, Cahoots Theatre, Harbourfront Centre and Factory Wired in Toronto. They recently completed a run of *Of Mice and Morro and Jasp* at the Manitoba Theatre for Young People in Winnipeg, touring high schools throughout Manitoba. They are currently Canada Council creators-in-residence at Factory Theatre developing a Sherlock Holmes adaptation. In July, they will debut *Morro and Jasp: Save the Date*, a brand new show for the 2018 Toronto Fringe.

Byron Laviolette - Director/Dramaturg

Byron Laviolette is a creator, director and dramaturg who has worked in the arts, design and entertainment world for the past 15 years. He holds a Ph.D. in

Interactivity and Play Theory and has taught University-level courses on Acting, Theatre Criticism and Theatre History at York and Brock University.

He has also helped lead numerous workshops on a wide range of subjects, including story world building, character/consumer demographics, narrative use in game design and transmedia fiction. Clients and organizations include Starbucks, Ubisoft, The Toronto Zoo, Autodesk, U of T, and NASA.

Byron has helped develop a range of theatrical works, including over 10 new shows that make use of clown, drag and puppetry. This includes over 12 years of work with Morro and Jasp as well as select projects with Justin Miller's *Pearle Harbour*, Adam Francis Proulx's *Baker's Dozen*, Jennifer Walls' *Liza Live* and Rebecca Perry's *Red Headed Coffee Shop Girl* series.

Heather Marie Annis - Performer/Creator

Heather is an actor, playwright, theatrical and therapeutic clown, Co-Artistic Director of U.N.I.T. Productions, and "Morro" of the Dora Award and Canadian Comedy Award winning clown duo Morro and Jasp.

Heather has written and co-written numerous plays, including *Walking Forward*, *Facing Back* (Weesageechak Festival, Native Earth). She has been writer in residence at Factory Theatre and Mixed Company Theatre, as well as part of the Thundering Voices playwriting unit at Native Earth Performing Arts. This summer Heather will be part of Directors Lab North as an emerging director.

Recent theatre and film performing credits include the premier of *Morro and Jasp in Stupefaction*, *Morro and Jasp: 9-5* (Factory Theatre), *Let's Go* (DMT Productions), *Bright Lights* (Theatre Bruhaha), *Emily's Piano* (Young Peoples Theatre), *The Money Tree* (Dora Nominated for Best Ensemble - Roseneath), *Saving Hope* (CTV), *Reign* (CW).

Amy Lee - Performer/Creator

Amy is a Winnipeg-born, Toronto-based performer, writer, educator, creator, producer and Co-Artistic Director of U.N.I.T. Productions, and "Jasp" of the Dora Award and Canadian Comedy Award winning clown duo Morro and Jasp. She often works as a Resident Artist Educator at Young People's Theatre, and as a mentor with the Paprika Festival and the AMY (Artists Mentoring Youth) Project.

As a performer, Amy has worked with Young People's Theatre (*James and the Giant Peach*, *Cinderella: A RATical Retelling*, *The Invisible Girl*, *Hana's Suitcase*), Carousel Players (*Here to Hear*), Theatre Brouhaha (*Bright Lights*), Theatre Columbus (*Weather the Weather*), Factory Theatre, Manitoba Theatre for Young People, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre and Winnipeg Jewish Theatre.

Amy has assistant directed on *Annie* and *Emily's Piano* at YPT and *The Dog and the Angel* with Theatre Columbus. This spring, she participated in Richard Rose's Directing Program at Tarragon. She has been a writer-in-residence at Factory Theatre and was part of the Theatre Kairos Writers' Circle.