

For immediate release: June 7, 2018

***“Julie Tepperman creates a world and characters with which we can all identify.”***

— Lynn Slotkin, Slotkin Letter

***"Composer/lyricist Kevin Wong is extraordinarily gifted."***

— Glenn Sumi, NOW Magazine

**Announcing the cast for the Toronto Fringe Festival's  
2018 Paul O'Sullivan Prize for Musical Theatre Winners**

## **The Preposterous Predicament of Polly Peel (Act 1)**

**Book by Julie Tepperman**

**Music & Lyrics by Kevin Wong**

**Directed by Aaron Willis**

**July 5 – 15, 2018, Tarragon Theatre Mainspace**

**Toronto, ON** – The 2018 winners of the Paul O'Sullivan Prize for Musical Theatre are thrilled to announce the cast and creative team for the in-development Fringe presentation of ***The Preposterous Predicament of Polly Peel (Act 1)***, an extraordinary new Canadian musical by **Julie Tepperman & Kevin Wong**, as part of the **Toronto Fringe Festival July 5 – 15, 2018**.

*The Preposterous Predicament of Polly Peel (Act 1)* explores a family grappling with death through the eyes and imagination of a biology-obsessed eleven-year-old girl. Originally inspired by acclaimed Canadian painter Paul Peel's 'The Young Biologist', an early incarnation was presented in 2016 at The Art Gallery of Ontario as part of The Musical Stage Company's *Reframed*. This reworked Fringe production represents an exciting step in developing a new Canadian musical.

**Creators Kevin Wong & Julie Tepperman note** ' *We are overjoyed to have been recognized with the Paul O'Sullivan Prize for Musical Theatre and look forward to showcasing this new Canadian work with such a dynamite Canadian cast. The Preposterous Predicament of Polly Peel (Act 1) has been in development for the past two years and we hope to follow the extraordinary Toronto Fringe musicals that have come before us.*

The exciting principal cast will be led by Toronto's **Hannah Levinson** who was recently seen as Small Alison in The Musical Stage Company's *Fun Home*, which earned her a Dora Award nomination and a Toronto Theatre Critics' Award for Best Female Performance in a Musical.

Levinson is joined by Dora Award-winner **Richard Lee** (*The Humans*), **Donna Garner** (*Once – U.S First National Tour*), **Jessica Sherman** (*Rumspinga Break*), **Troy Adams** (*Shrek the Musical – The Grand Theatre/Neptune Theatre*), and newcomers **Faly Mevamanana**, **Ben Page**, and **Alan Cui**.

Behind-the-scenes, **Aaron Willis**, co-founding artistic director of Convergence Theatre, helms the production as director and dramaturg; **Adam Sakiyama** provides music direction; **Nicola Pantin** choreographs; **Kelly Wolf** provides set and costume design and **Michelle Ramsay** provides lighting design.

**Director & Dramaturg Aaron Willis notes** *'The creation of a new musical is a long and winding road - and presenting the first act of Polly Peel at the Toronto Fringe is a unique opportunity for us to learn more about this piece as Julie and Kevin continue to develop it into a full two-act musical. This story of the Peel family grappling with a sudden death is remarkable for its exploration of the power of a child's imagination, and how it affects the process of grieving. I'm thrilled to be directing this next stage of Polly Peel's development, and to be working with such a phenomenal team of artists.'*

*The Preposterous Predicament of Polly Peel (Act 1)* will be on stage at the Tarragon Theatre Mainspace, July 5 - 15, 2018. Tickets are \$13 and are available online ([fringetoronto.com](http://fringetoronto.com)), by phone (416-966-1062) or in person at the Fringe main box office (Fringe Patio – Scadding Court – 707 Dundas Street West).

### **About *The Preposterous Predicament of Polly Peel (Act 1)***

#### CREATIVE TEAM:

Music & Lyrics	Kevin Wong
Book	Julie Tepperman
Director & Dramaturg	Aaron Willis
Music Director	Adam Sakiyama
Choreographer	Nicola Pantin
Set & Costume Design	Kelly Wolf
Lighting Design	Michelle Ramsay
Stage Manager	Sandy Plunkett
Assistant Director	Colin Simmons
Assistant Music Director	Jon Corkal
Percussion	Justin Han

#### CAST:

Polly Peel	Hannah Levinson
Pauline Peel	Jessica Sherman
Paula Peel	Faly Mevamanana
Paul Peel	Troy Adams
EveryMan	Richard Lee
EveryWoman	Donna Garner

Arlo  
Raffi

Ben Page  
Alan Cui

**Website:** fringetoronto.com

**Twitter:** @PollyPeelTO

**Facebook:** @PollyPeelTO

**Instagram:** @PollyPeelTO

**Hashtag:** #PollyPeelTO

**For more information please contact:**

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**About Kevin Wong**

KEVIN WONG (composer): Kevin is a composer/lyricist, musician, arts worker, and lawyer. As a musical theatre writer, his works include *Recurring John: A New Song Cycle*, *STAR!(ving): A Collection of Songs*, *The Preposterous Posthumous Predicament of Polly Peel* (book: Julie Tepperman, *Reframed*, The Musical Stage Company/Art Gallery of Ontario in partnership with Yonge St. Theatricals, Dora Nomination), *MISPRINT* (book: Lauren Toffan), and *Drama 101* (co-written with Steven Gallagher). He is also one third of Asian Riffing Trio.

**About Julie Tepperman**

JULIE TEPPERMAN is an actor, playwright and educator, as well as co-artistic director (with Aaron Willis) of Convergence Theatre, thrice listed by NOW Magazine as the "Best Site-Specific Theatre Company in Toronto". Selected playwriting: *The Unending* (Convergence); *YICHUD* (Seclusion) (Convergence/Passe Muraille/Magnetic North), *I Grow Old* (part of The Gladstone Variations; Dora nomination); *ROSY* (part of AutoShow); a re-imagining of the August Strindberg play *The Father* (Winnipeg Jewish Theatre) and is the co-creator of *BRANTWOOD* – a 15hr. immersive choose-your-own-adventure musical that unfolds in a high school. Julie was Playwright-In-Residence at Theatre Passe Muraille in 2010/11 and was part of The Stratford Festival's 2018 Playwright's Retreat.