

Company Bio for Shadowpath

Shadowpath was founded by **Alex Karolyi** in 2002 as a professional theatre company in York Region. Now, a charitable organization, **Shadowpath** has produced full-scale productions such as Look Back In Anger (2005), Paradise By The River 2008/2010), The Good German, (2009, Canadian Debut) and The White Rose, (2013).

Additionally, **Shadowpath** introduces suburban audiences to site-specific theatre by **transforming everyday spaces into creative places**. Such projects include; Plays in Cafes, (2006 - present), Readings In Wineries, (2013 - 2017), Hotel Solstice, (2013 - 2016) and Cuisine Scenes, (2014 - 2016) and The Café Cruise, which won an innovation award from Richmond Hill's Creativity Connected Awards in 2016.

As part of the company's focus on education and outreach, free drama sessions for seniors and youth are delivered throughout York Region.

In 2016, **Shadowpath** launched a paid apprenticeship for female performing artists to build skills in producing, creating, and artistic direction in response to the gender gap that exists in decision-making roles across the Canadian theatre scene. Plays in Cafes at the Toronto Fringe Festival is one example of a project that is created, directed and produced by an all-female creative team.

Shadowpath is the recipient of Newmarket's Chamber of Commerce Business of Excellence Award for Innovation, 2016 and **Alex Karolyi** was presented with a Leading Women Leading Girls Award from Newmarket/Aurora's MPP Chris Ballard in 2017.

Bio's of Key Participants: *Table 7- A Plays in Cafés Creation*

Alex Karolyi, Artistic Director & Producer

Alex is Shadowpath's founding Artistic Director, since 2002. Alex creates new plays for everyday spaces. She regularly performs as an actor and is a lead playwright for Shadowpath. Her plays have been produced all across Canada and her script, For the Last Time, was featured at the Arundel Theatre Trail in the UK in 2015.

Alex conceptualizes new ways for audiences to experience art with immersive projects such as Plays in Cafés, Readings in Wineries, Cuisine Scenes, Hotel Solstice and Dinner With Canada. She has been an artist in residence in Budapest, Edinburgh and Vienna and is the past Artistic Director for the York Region Festival Alliance, unifying 30 festivals under one umbrella. She is the recipient of MPP Chris Ballard's Leading Women, Leading Girls Award for her efforts in delivering a paid Shadowpath apprenticeship for female creatives as well as a speaker series highlighting female creative leaders, The FemmeOperative. She is one of eight playwright fellows, (and the only Canadian) to participate in New World Theatre's Masterclass in an effort to create a unique body of work at Hatbox Theatre in New Hampshire in July 2018. www.shadowpaththeatre.ca

Chantal Forde, Playwright

Chantal is a writer, director, educator and performer in the GTA with a passion for new works and theatrical opportunities that challenge and inspire.

Chantal's most recent plays include *Grey* and *Perceptions of Love in the Pursuit of Happiness*. Recent directing and choreography credits include *Monkey Wrench* (director, Ergo Arts Pink Fest), *And Then ... She Did!* (director, Goldenberg Productions), *Little Shop of Horrors* (choreography, BOTG), and *Shrek the Musical* (choreography, BOTG).

Chantal and her husband, Tim Cadeny, are the creative team behind Oakville's Holiday Pantomime for the last six years, where they have created hilariously twisted up versions of *Aladdin*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and more.

As an educator Chantal has had the opportunity to work with performers as young as 8 and as old as 94. She is on the faculty at Sheridan College, works at Centre Stage Theatre School and is a workshop instructor for Shadowpath Theatre Productions.

Mandy Roveda, Director

Mandy acted on many stages across Ontario before moving to Asia. She worked in TV, film and theatre in Thailand, Taiwan and South Korea. She co-founded "Taipei Players", and was the founder and host of Taipei Story Slam, a live storytelling competition inspired by 'the Moth', dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling.

Back on Canadian soil Mandy has been working in the GTA Arts scene as an actor, producer and director. She was the recipient of Shadowpath's 'Artist of the Year' in 2016 and was honored to have been chosen to participate in the 2018 Directors Lab North. Mandy is the Resident Director for The Secret Sessions and has brought to life such cult classics as *Ghostbusters*, *Shaun of the Dead* and *the Princess Bride*.

Mandy loves the Toronto Fringe and is super pumped to be working with her amazing cast and creative team this year on Table 7. Recent Fringe credits include the Trailblazing Ladies production of 'Bike Face' which was chosen as Best of Fringe at both Hamilton and Toronto festivals and the Three Five Production of *Grey* (written by the incomparable Chantal Forde), at the Toronto Fringe, which was included in NOW Magazine's Best of the Fest for Best New Play and Best Ensemble, and won the My Entertainment Award for Best Ensemble.