

*Merciful Productions presents*

## *In a Café, At a Chapel*

A double-feature at Toronto Fringe 2022

Two plays written by four-time Fringe-featured playwright, **Joel Pettigrew**, produced by Lucas James and Thomas Sarigiannidis, directed by Joel Pettigrew (*The Dilemma*) and Rod McTaggart (*The Wedding Story*)



### At the Toronto Fringe Festival

*"In a Café, At a Chapel"* is a two-play show at the 2022 **Toronto Fringe Festival**, featuring *"The Dilemma"*, and *"The Wedding Story"*, both written by playwright **Joel Pettigrew**. Both plays are brought to you by Merciful Productions, a theatre company that has been bringing you Canadian works and artists since 2000.

**Toronto Fringe 2022** runs from **July 6<sup>th</sup>** to **July 17<sup>th</sup>**, featuring multiple plays across multiple theatres. Tickets cost \$12, but multi-show passes will also be available to purchase. For more information, please visit [FringeToronto.com](http://FringeToronto.com) or call 416-966-1062

Show details for *In a Café, At a Chapel*

**Venue**                      **Robert Gill Theatre**, 214 College St, Toronto, ON  
The venue is air-conditioned and mobility accessible

<b>Performances</b>	Thursday July 7 <sup>th</sup> 4:30 pm	Thursday July 14 <sup>th</sup> 4:15 pm
	Friday July 8 <sup>th</sup> 6:15 pm	Friday July 15 <sup>th</sup> 9:30 pm
	Saturday July 9 <sup>th</sup> 10:15 pm	Saturday July 16 <sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm
	Monday July 11 <sup>th</sup> 7:45 pm	

**Toronto Fringe Festival does not admit any late comers**  
Running time of the show is 60 minutes

**Tickets**                      **\$12** at the door, online or by telephone  
Tickets available at [www.fringetoronto.com](http://www.fringetoronto.com) or 416-966-1062

Fringe Media Contact: Carly Chamberlain [carly@fringetoronto.com](mailto:carly@fringetoronto.com)



## The Dilemma (Act 1)

Harry and Tristan are friends.  
They like to play a game.  
Present a moral dilemma.  
Weigh the consequences.

Rinse and repeat. Harmless.

But what if the stakes were higher?  
What if the dilemma, a matter of life  
and death, was no longer a game?

## The Wedding Story (Act 2)

Bea and Ben have a history.  
He has never gotten over her.  
She is getting married to the love of her life,  
Or is she?

What do your personal choices mean,  
And who do they affect?  
Life is never black and white,  
Nor does it turn out the way we expect.

## Cast:

### The Dilemma (Act 1)

**Harry:** Lucas James  
**Tristan:** Thomas Sarigiannidis

### The Wedding Story (Act 2)

**Ben:** Joel Pettigrew  
**Bea:** Karen Scora

## Production Team:

### Producers:

Anibal Davila  
Lucas James  
Thomas Sarigiannidis

### Playwright:

Joel Pettigrew

### Director (The Wedding Story):

Rod McTaggart

### Director (The Dilemma):

Joel Pettigrew

### Stage Manager:

Charlotte Carmichael

### Intimacy Director:

Corey Tazmania

## About the Team

### Joel Pettigrew (Playwright, Director, Ben)

**Joel Pettigrew** is a theatre maker and wearer of many hats, who has been telling stories across Canada for over a decade, to audience and critical acclaim. Some of these shows include, “Mercury Man,”

(Writer, Director, Producer, Actor – Winnipeg and Hamilton Fringe) “Box,” (Writer, Director – **Toronto Fringe**) “The Girl in the Photograph,” (Writer – Toronto Fringe) and “Waking,” (Writer, Director, Producer – Toronto Fringe.)

Joel is producing and appears with Rod McTaggart in, “Nora’s Leaving Home,” a feature film based on Ibsen’s, “A Doll’s House,” which was shot during the pandemic.

Joel is delighted to be working on his most performed show, “**The Dilemma**,” once again, and “**The Wedding Story**,” for the very first time ever, with both long-time and new collaborators.

Onward, Always!



### Lucas James (Producer, Harry)

Lucas is pleased to bring something old and something new to the Fringe, and something borrowed and something blue.

He has produced both “**The Dilemma**” and “**Wedding Story**” from inception to stage, and is currently in the process of filming “The Dilemma” (The film), keep in touch to learn more about that.

The next dream is to perform this show in space, SpaceX, are you listening? Lucas dedicates his performance to his late family members Dani and T-Mac.



## Rod McTaggart (Director)

**Rod McTaggart** is proud to debut in the director's chair for this production. Acting credits include The Creature in Frankenstein, Dr Miranda in Death And The Maiden, Mark Rothko in John Logan's RED, Orson Welles in Mercury Man, and ensemble and 8 characters in The Laramie Project. Listen to Rod's song Devan's Lament, co-written with Big Johnny Blue on Big Johnny Blue More Than Just The Blues on Spotify, Apple, YouTube, and Deezer.

As the director of “**The Wedding Story**”, it has been a great delight to work with Joel, Karen and Charlotte, my cast and crew. This play examines love from a couple of different perspectives and several lenses. It explores the edges, similarities and differences between comfort and discomfort, intimacy, lust, love and friendship. We hope it resonates.



## Thomas Sarigiannidis (Producer, Tristan)

Thomas has been doing theatre since he was 8 years old and suffice it to say, he certainly loves acting. He also has a particular fondness for referring to himself in the third person and he really wishes his hairline stopped receding.

He is likewise an avid fan of food, films and history. And board games. And video games. He hopes he's not leaving anything out here.

All jokes aside, I am privileged to appear on a **Toronto Fringe** stage for the third time since 2016 alongside all the other talented members of this cast and crew. They say “all the world's a stage”, but my world is the stage itself.





## Charlotte Carmichael (Stage Manager)

Charlotte Carmichael is an emerging theatrical technician and designer. She is currently studying Performance: Production at Toronto Metropolitan University (Formerly Ryerson). This is her first **Toronto Fringe** show, but she is no stranger to Fringe having worked as Venue Technician at Hamilton Fringe for several years.

Charlotte has been fully engaged in theatre and live performance since high school where she stage-managed and directed the musical: *Mamma Mia!* She has also competed in the NTS Drama Fest (formerly SEARS Drama Festival) for which she received several accolades including Outstanding Production Management, Direction, and Stage Management. She is very excited to be joining *In a Café, At a Chapel* as Stage Manager.



## Karen Scora (Bea)

Karen is a Toronto based artist and teacher. She's a Fight Directors Canada certified Basic Actor Combatant, and is currently loving studying improv with Second City. She is also a graduate of Sheridan College and UofT's joint theatre and drama studies program. Selected Theatre Credits: *Sidney Needs a Kidney* (Little Fish), *In the Next Room*, *Metamorphoses*, *Twelfth Night* (Theatre Erindale). Selected Film/TV Credits: *The Whispering* (FAST motion studios), *An Unexpected Killer* (Oxygen), *Hotel Paranormal* (T+E). Karen teaches children with a particular emphasis on sharing her passion for theatre through drama and storytelling-based programs. When not creating or teaching, you can find Karen outdoors, playing board games, and cooking/eating, although generally not all at once! [www.karencora.com](http://www.karencora.com)



## Corey Tazmania (Intimacy Director)

Corey is thrilled to work on this project with these beautiful folks! Recent works include: *Theatre of Heartbreak(s)*- Inter Arts Matrix; *Little Women, The Musical*- The Playhouse Collective; *Iphigenia and the Furies (On Taurian Land)* -Theatre Passe Muraille; *1184* - Phoenix Arts; *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* - Crow's Theatre. Corey has taught Intimacy for the Stage and Shakespeare workshops at Rosebud School of the Arts and The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey. MFA York University. Much gratitude to Siobhan Richardson.



## Playwright's Notes

These two plays were written at different times – “**The Dilemma**” has been performed all across Ontario and is being made into a movie, “**The Wedding Story**” is a brand new, fresh work. They’re both about endings, about familiar and close relationships put to the breaking point and what is worth risking that. People grow apart, and it can be bittersweet to see things come to a conclusion. **In a Café, At a Chapel** is about the things we say that change everything, forever. These are the kind of folks I like to see on stage: selfish, flawed and with skin in the game. Prepare for humour, some wit, and a sprinkle of darkness. I hope you enjoy them.

Joel Pettigrew

