

# Little Astronaut

TORONTO  
**FRINGE**  
**FESTIVAL**

Little Astronaut is a bold original musical playing Native Earth Performing Arts as part of the 2026 Toronto Fringe Festival. Dear Evan Hansen meets John Proctor Is the Villain: Little Astronaut asks what it costs women to survive in spaces that want them to be smaller, quieter, and easier to control. It is a story about what it takes to hold your ground, and what changes when you stop doing it alone.

Hazel and Lily arrive for their first day of engineering with everything to prove. Hazel is bold, fierce, and chasing her dream of being an astronaut. Lily is quietly brilliant, steady, and less sure of where she is headed but certain of who she is. As they move through the competitive and isolating environment, Hazel burns out fighting every battle while Lily retreats farther inward. They become lab partners, but every attempt at a real connection gets interrupted and derailed by the men around them. Little Astronaut is a musical about silence, survival, and the strength women find in each other.

Led by creator Isobel Arseneau, whose background spans both engineering and professional arts training, the project brings those worlds into direct conversation. Scored for a live band of 16 musicians, with arrangements and orchestrations by Nicholas Biancolin, Little Astronaut started as songs Arseneau wrote during her own first year of engineering, as a way to cope with the isolation and misogyny she was living through. The rest grew out of the patterns and stories of other women in the program. The show is being developed by undergraduate students currently enrolled in one of Canada's most competitive and selective engineering programs, and the entire creative team are current U of T students, most of them in engineering. Arseneau has spent years advocating for women in male-dominated spaces. What audiences hear is lived experience set to music, written and performed by people still living inside the world they describe.

Presented by Starlit Stage Co., Little Astronaut was built collaboratively from the ground up, with a deliberate commitment to bringing women's voices into the room at every stage. The book and music have been developed over the past year through open sessions bringing together students across engineering and the arts. The directing, vocal direction, stage management, and marketing teams are all women-led, and the Fringe cast emerged from that community itself.

This is the company's first time at the Fringe, and they are not playing it small. Little Astronaut is an unflinching and honest big-band musical about ambition, friendship, and refusing to disappear. Come see what it looks like when the people who lived the story are the ones telling it, on their own terms, with a 16-piece band behind them.

**LITTLE ASTRONAUT**  
**STARLIT STAGE CO.**

*presented as part of the 2026 Toronto Fringe Festival*

**Book and Lyrics by** Isobel Arseneau

**Music by** Isobel Arseneau

**Additional Music, Arrangements, and Orchestrations by** Nicholas Biancolin

**Directed by** Isobel Arseneau and Victoria Zhou

**Music directed by** Nicholas Biancolin and Jonathan Hua

**Stage managed by** Genevieve Beirne

**Vocal directed by** Simona Tenche and Isla Parekh

**Featuring:** Isobel Arseneau, Hermela Abiy, Bianca Hopkins, Matthew Butler, Joshua Chung, Sophia Kot, Courtney Pan, Aidan Muhammad Afendi, Sabryn Di Paola, Andrew Evanyshyn, Tom Hafner, Leah Lim-Tran, Anna Popovic, Benjamin Shin

**Lighting design** Reid Sox-Harris

**Sound design** Lincoln Macdonald

**Set design** Lincoln Macdonald

**Costume design** Jessica Sung

**Marketing** Jenn Xu

**Additional composition by** Justin Wai

**Orchestrations by:** Nicholas Biancolin, Justin Wai, Jonathan Hua, Dana Murdoch, Liam Krestow, Gillian Nestor, Freddie Perera, Riann Po, Ethan Tang, Emrys Chang

**Band:** Cathy Zhang, Cathy Zuo, Liam Krestow, Nam Bui, Emily Mamcarz, Sidd Challa, Ishaan Mohan Gupta, Justin Wai, Nicholas Biancolin, Jonathan Hua, Joey Sun, Daniel Kuhn, Lilian Haspel, Carrie Ann Po, Max Kerr, Julianne Keh

### **Show dates and times**

Friday 3rd Jul 2026 7:30 PM

Saturday 4th Jul 2026 12:45 PM

Sunday 5th Jul 2026 5:30 PM

Monday 6th Jul 2026 6:15 PM

Tuesday 7th Jul 2026 10:00 PM

Saturday 11th Jul 2026 5:30 PM

Sunday 12th Jul 2026 12:15 PM

### **Venue**

**Native Earth's Aki Studio**

### **More information and tickets available as of June 3, 2026**

Online at <https://www.fringetoronto.com/fringe/show/little-astronaut>

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