



Background & Bios

Watercourse Theatre is an ad hoc group dedicated to creating theatre that empowers and celebrates seniors, and advocates for seniors' autonomy and respect. Our members and associates have had the privilege of close relationships with older adults -- both family and friends -- who have focussed, grounded and inspired us throughout our lives.

Our play *Dead Cat Bounce* is about a homeless urban man in his 70s and how he challenges and ultimately inspires a stock trader and a musician in his gentrifying neighbourhood. (DCB played at the 2010 Toronto Fringe, at Kitchener's 2008 Unhinged Festival, and at the 2016 Guelph Fringe.)

In 2014 we undertook a community collaboration with a group of rural seniors in southern Wellington County, called *Our Voices*. Through a six-month long story-telling circle, theatre scenes were created for a show called *Our Voices: Senior Selfies*. Despite the *Our Voices* group members' initial reluctance to perform (only two of the 12 had ever been onstage before), in the end they felt such ownership in the play we had cocreated that they all became performers, to sold-out houses and standing ovations at the Eden Mills Community Hall.

Woven through these other projects has been our ongoing creation of *SKI Club*, a myth-busting musical theatre play with seniors as its heroes.

Watercourse Theatre is based in Puslinch Township, and focuses on stories of seniors with disabilities, Francophone seniors and local communities.

Catherine Frid (book & lyrics)

Catherine Frid's produced plays include *What I Gave I Have* (Guelph Museums), *Our Roots Our Future* (a Canada 150 production), *AfterWhys* (Suicide Awareness Council of Wellington-Dufferin tour), *Half Full* (Mixed Company Theatre, school tours), *Burying Toni* (Alumnae), *The Bold Canadian* (Arts and Letters Club), *Homegrown* (SummerWorks and others), *GuineaPigging* (Alumnae), *Dead Cat Bounce* (Toronto Fringe and others), and numerous short plays. Her publications include *Our Voices: Senior Selfies* (Art Age Publications) and *This Isn't Toronto in Long Story Short*, a Playwrights Canada Press 10-minute play anthology. Catherine has been Playwright in Residence at Mixed Company Theatre and Artist in Residence at Osgoode Hall Law School. She is thrilled to be premiering *Spend Your Kids' Inheritance* at the Toronto Fringe, with this amazing team under Andrew Lamb's direction.

Frank Horvat (music)

Emotional and intense, Frank Horvat is an accomplished composer and pianist who has made the tricky musical leap that allows him to pursue a niche of his own (Edmonton Journal). Frank gives his audiences time and space to reflect in this fast-paced world. His compositions tell deeply personal stories while permitting audiences to ponder their own.

On the heels of releasing four multi-genre albums in 2017, WholeNote Magazine proclaimed him one of the most inventive songwriters to come out of the contemporary scene in Canada. Whether he writes for his band, the concert stage or film/TV, his music is both aggressive and introspective. Frank's compositions are often based on global social injustices as well as the wondrousness of life, love and longing. With a continuously growing discography and composition premieres on four continents, his compositions have been featured in plays, films and on networks like CBC, HBO, Vice & Bravo.

Andrew Lamb (director)

Andrew Lamb is the Artistic Director of Roseneath Theatre and Theatre Awakening in Toronto. A graduate of Concordia University, Andrew trained as a director at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, England. Andrew also spent five seasons as the Director of Education and Outreach at Tarragon Theatre and was part of the 2009 Director's Lab at the Lincoln Center Theater in New York. Andrew is the 2019 Canadian Comedy Awards winner for Best Direction for the web series *A Gay Victorian Affair*. Selected directing credits include: *Outside* (Roseneath), *The Money Tree* (Roseneath), *Chasing Margaret Flatwood* (Toronto Fringe), *La Maleta – The Suitcase* (Roseneath/US tour), *In This World* (Roseneath/Tarragon) – Dora nomination for Outstanding Direction, *Dib and Dob* and *the Journey Home* (Roseneath/NAC), *Life x3 (Unit 102)*, *The (Post) Mistress* (Thousand Islands/Neptune/Ship's Company), *With Love and a Major Organ* (Next Stage/Toronto Fringe), *Songs For A New World* (Angelwalk), *Driving Miss Daisy* (Stirling Festival Theatre), *BURIED* (Next Stage), *My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding* (Mirvish/Fringe Festival), *In Darfur* (SummerWorks). Andrew has worked as an arts educator for Soulpepper Theatre Company, the Canadian Stage Company and the Drama School at Young Peoples Theatre.

Giustin MacLean (musical director)

Originally from Halifax, NS, Giustin is a Music Director, Conductor, Pianist, Orchestrator/Arranger and Keyboard Programmer based out of Toronto. Since arriving in Toronto, Giustin has worked with such companies as The Musical Stage Company, Canadian Stage, Yonge Street Theatricals, Young People's Theatre, Gingermar Productions, Smile Theatre and Hart House Theatre. He has also worked at Randolph College and at Sheridan College, where he is on staff.

Giustin's versatility has lead him to work on a number of original works, concerts and cabarets. Selected Credits: *Beauty and the Beast*, *Seussical* (YPT); *Gift of the Magi* (Smile Theatre); *Assassins: In Concert* (Beyond Boundaries); *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Spelling Bee* (Hart House Theatre); *Life After:Workshop* (Yonge Street Theatricals/Canadian Stage/Musical Stage Co.); *Dancer: A Musical In Ten Furlongs* (Gingermar Productions); *Footloose* (Theatre Sheridan); *The Addams Family* (Randolph Theatre); *One Song Glory* (Acting Up Stage); *Commencement: A Work of Fiction* and *Musical of Sorts*, *Group Therapy* (Toronto Fringe).

Bil Antoniou (Bryan Misstaff / Bruno)

Bil Antoniou is an actor and playwright who has produced four plays including *Operation Impervious* at the 2011 Toronto Fringe Festival. He is also a podcaster who can currently be heard co-hosting the *Bad Gay Movies* podcaster with Daniel Krolik and Michael Soulard. Favorite roles include *Arcadia* (Hart

House), *Lady Windermere's Fan*(Village Playhouse), *A Christian Turn'd Turk* (PLS).

Tara Baxendale (Tanya)

Maritime born singer/actor Tara Baxendale has called Toronto home for nearly two decades. She is a graduate of Acadia University (Bachelor of Music) and The Boston Conservatory (Masters in Musical Theatre). Selected Credits: Martha (*Lies & Consequences*– Rare Day Productions), Mary O'Grady Hunt (*Hogtown: The Immersive Experience* – Hogtown Collective) (Dora nomination for Outstanding Performance – Ensemble), Sonia (*Life x 3*– Damsels in De-Stress Productions). On the small screen Tara can be seen as a caroller in *12 Dates of Christmas* and heard as the voices of assorted Playboy Bunnies in *Hugh Hefner: Playboy, Activist and Rebel*. Her passion for storytelling through the medium of song inspired her to create a solo cabaret in 2007, *The Diva Fables*.

Rick Jones (Hal Misstaff)

Toronto native Rick Jones has had a long and varied career in the performing arts. He has previously appeared on Toronto Fringe stages in *Life on a Diet*, *Giants Without Footprints*, and *Life in the Raw*, as has contributed as writer and composer to *Millennium Madness Sale!*, *Life in the Raw*, and *Seeking Refuge* (Paul O'Sullivan Prize winner). He works regularly as a sound designer, composer, and choreographer at the Alumnae and Village Playhouse Theatres in Toronto, recently composed the design for Aromas for Junes Productions, and has also composed for several short films. His on-screen performances have found a home in Canadian Filmmakers, World Comedy, After Dark, Ion, and Cannes Film Festivals. Jones holds a degree in Dance from York University as well as a diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology, and is a member of CAEA, ACTRA, PGC, and CMTWC.

Charlotte Moore (Nelly Weeks)

Charlotte Moore has been a staple of the Canadian Musical Theatre for over three decades, and has just returned from Jerusalem where she appeared as *Mother* in *Soul Doctor* – the life and times of Shlomo Charlebach. She has been a champion of new Canadian Musical Theatre Work for her entire career. Favourite roles include: Betty Fox in *Marathon of Hope*, Mrs Johnstone in *Blood Brothers*, Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, Sally Bowles and Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret* (30 years apart), Mama Rose and Louise in *Gypsy*(18 years apart), Fantine in *Les Miserables*(National Tour with Craig Shulman), 3 Seasons with the Shaw Festival, and 9 with Charlottetown (most recently as Marilla Cuthbert). For the Mirvishes she has also appeared in the Original Canadian Cast of *Hairspray* (Princess of Whales), and as Auntie Em in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Wizard Of Oz*(Pantages Theatre and U.S. National Tour). She is a Dora Mavor Moore Award Winner for Janet in *The Rocky Horror Show*.

Denise Norman (Claire Blondeau)

Denise Norman has frequently performed in new Canadian plays including Dean Burry's one person musical *Sweetheart; the Mary Pickford Story; little Pricks*; and *Lilith* which she wrote and performed for the Toronto Fringe. Denise has either performed in or directed over 20 Fringe shows.

Favourite performances also include Isabella from *Measure for Measure*; Katisha in *The Mikado*; and Martha in *The Vile Governess*. She is also member of the

acapella trio *Daughters of The Rock* (Newfoundland folk music), and has been teaching in Theatre Departments for a very long time.

Kyle Orzech (Zane)

Kyle began his life working in theatre after the incredible journey which was My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding, directed by Andrew Lamb in 2009. After performing in the Toronto Fringe, the show was picked up by Mirvish and presented at the Panasonic Theatre, where Kyle first got his professional start. He then went on to explore a world of musicals, Shakespeare, Shaw, and cross-country touring over the next ten years. Kyle has been a part of a Dora Award winning ensemble, and has performed in several world premiers. Theatre credits include: *Far From the Heart*, *Be Our Ally*(Sheatre); *Wife Begins at Forty* (Upper Canada Playhouse); *Romeo & Juliet*, *Macbeth*(Classical Theatre Festival); *Scooter Thomas*, *The Velveteen Rabbit* (Theatre New Brunswick: Young Company); *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *In the Heights* (YES Theatre); *Arcadia* (Shaw Festival/Mirvish); *Beneath the Banyan Tree**(Theatre Direct); *The Divine* (Shaw Festival); *If I Were You* (Theatre Aquarius); *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (Classical Theatre Festival); *Theory*(Tarragon Theatre); *Under the Stairs* (Young People's Theatre).

Jillian Rees-Brown (Alice Young)

Jillian is excited to be working with this fabulous cast on a brand new musical! She is currently narrating two new Canadian audiobooks, Joy Kogawa's *Gently to Nagasaki* and Becky Livingston's *The Suitcase and the Jar*. Among her favourite performances are *Caroline in Dandelions in the Wind* at Daniels Spectrum, *Alice in Sexy Laundry*, *Shirley Valentine* and was recently a member of the Toronto Company for Mirvish Productions and two years with the US International touring company of *Billy Elliot the Musical* as understudy for Grandma. Member of the a cappella trio *Daughters of the Rock* since 1995. Most recent directing credit, *Living Will* at the Factory Theatre MainStage (Fringe 2018). Other Directing and Choreography credits include: Deodar's production of Kipling's *Just So Stories*, Stephenville Festival's, *A Closer Walk* with Patsy Cline and *Taming of the Shrew*, and Debra Hale's farce *The Real Meatballs*. Assistant Director for *Louis Braille* and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Brianne Tucker (Lori Blondeau)

Previous credits: *Boeing Boeing* (Magnus Theatre), *Murder at the Howard Johnson's* (Orillia Opera House), *Dark Heart* (Thought for Food), *One Slight Hitch* (Upper Canada Playhouse), *Perfect Wedding* (Lighthouse Festival Theatre & Showboat Festival Theatre), *Spirit Horse* (Roseneath Theatre), *The World Beloved: A Blue Grass Mass*(Carnegie Hall), *The Boy's Own Jedi Handbook II* (Theatre & Company), *Love You Forever...And More Munsch* (Stirling Festival Theatre), *Bluenose* (Magnus Theatre), *Life in the Raw* (Toronto Fringe) and numerous shows with Ottawa's *Eddie May Mysteries*. You can also see Brianne in season two of *The Handmaid's Tale* as Molly. Thank you to Newton Landry Management for your support, to my husband Andrew and Buster for being the best to come home to. This one is for Mom and Dad: you two better be spending my inheritance.

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