

BIOGRAPHIES for Peaches On A Cherry Tree, a new play by Colin Sharpe

COMPANY

Seasoned improv and sketch comedians bring their chops to a dark, theatrical new play about a mysterious illness at The Toronto Fringe. In 2017 they brought you, *Murder in the Cottonwoods*, and their back with *Peaches On A Cherry Tree*.

Christy Bruce is very excited to be back with the Cottonwoods crew! Originally from Calgary, Christy first started improvising at The Loose Moose Theatre with Keith Johnstone. She has been performing with Second City for over 15 years now doing shows and teaching across the county and as far away as Bosnia and Monaco. Select Theatre: *Blind Date* (across Canada and in London's West End), *The Canadian* (1000 Islands Playhouse) *Undercover* (The Tarragon, Vertigo Theatre, Citadel Theatre), *Murder in the Cottonwoods* (Toronto Fringe), *Legend Has It* (ATP, Brooklyn Academy of Music), *DINK!* (The Factory Theatre), *This is Cancer* (Halifax), *The Forum* (Stratford Festival), and *Private Lives* with Kim Cattrall and Paul Gross (New York). Select TV credits: *Schitt's Creek*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Reign*, *Designated Survivor*, *Newborn Moms*, *The Strain*, *Orphan Black*, *The Odd Squad*, and *Little Mosque on the Prairie*. Christy can also be found performing and teaching at The Bad Dog Theatre in Toronto, Ontario.

Lance Byrd is an actor and comedian living in Toronto. He is no stranger to The Toronto Fringe Festival and has won Patron's Pick in previous productions. Mostly, Lance can be found on comedy stages across Toronto from The Social Capital Theatre, to Comedy Bar. He is very excited to be part of this production, and to once again work with the brilliant actors, writer, director, and technical designer featured in this all-star ensemble. "Buck-a- beer" is a tenet of failure.

Alexandra Hurley is a graduate of Humber College's Acting for Film and Television program and the Second City Conservatory. She's performed in a bunch of pretty cool cities, including Montreal, London and Edinburgh. She is currently a member of Songbuster, an improvised musical which performs regularly in Toronto.

Kyah Green is a writer, comedian, and performer from the far off land of west-end Toronto. They are a new member of Toronto's sketch troupe, "The Sketchersons" and a digital contributor to satirical website "The Beaverton". They are also an alumni of the Bad Dog Theatre Feature Players, and they can be found making things up monthly in shows like Songbuster: An Improvised Musical, Kinsey Fail and D&D:Live (Fringe 2018, Patron's Pick). Kyah loves to create new works and interactive events with their theatre company, Cardboard Sword Collective.

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Photographer/Poster Design/Actor **Paul Aihoshi** is a filmmaker, writer, photographer, and improviser. He can be seen performing at *Bad Dog Theatre*, as well as in the improv duo *Cool Jeans at 11:40AM*. He is the winner of the *2010 MY TAPES Freaky Award*, and 2004's Most Improved Hockey Player in the Aurora House League. He is a big fan of the mobile app *OVER DRIVE*, where he listens to many library audiobooks and French learning podcasts. He is still struggling with French.

Writer/Director **Colin Sharpe** is a graduate of the Second City Conservatory and York University Creative Writing programs. He was a founding member of the Cream of Comedy nominated troupe, The Weaker Vessels, winners of the Patron's Pick award at Toronto Fringe 2015. In 2017, Colin wrote and performed in the Toronto Fringe hit, *Murder in the Cottonwoods* (Best Ensemble/Now Magazine). Colin was also a featured performer at the Just For Laughs 42: New Faces showcase in 2016. You can see Colin every Sunday at the Comedy Bar as a member of the award winning troupe, The Sketchersons, on Sunday Night Live!

Dramaturg **Helly Chester** trained in New York City at the HB Studios with Uta Hagen and Herbert Berghoff and at The Sonia Moore Studio Theatre with Sonia Moore. She has also worked with youth and adults as a theatre arts teacher and as an arts education consultant. Selected theatre credits: New York - Edna in *Butley* (The Courtyard Playhouse), Louise in *The Channeller* (Samuel Beckett Theatre), Jill in *Orient Beach* (American Playhouse Theatre). Toronto – Mme. Maute and Eugenie in *Total Eclipse* (TSP Studios), Beatrice in *Servant of Two Masters* (Columbus Centre Theatre), Mrs. Bradman in *Blithe Spirit* and Cissy in *Quartet* (Village Playhouse), Nora in *Escape from Happiness*, Damienne in *I am Marguerite*, and Dr. Vera Peters in *Radical* (Alumnae Theatre), Dolly in *Kitchen Witches* (Bruce County Playhouse), Mrs. Boyle in *The Mousetrap* (Lower Ossington Theatre), Lauren in *Hazel* (Red Sandcastle Theatre), multiple roles in Newmarket National Ten Minute Play Festival. Recent directing credits: *Murder in the Cottonwoods*, by Colin Sharpe (Toronto Fringe), *The Creepy Cabin Project* by Cathy Shilton (Alumnae Theatre) and *Moving on* by Elmar Maripuu (Alumnae Theatre).

Stage Manager **David Sharpe** is a composer, sound designer, and audio engineer from Toronto, Ontario. As a stage manager he has worked on previous hit Fringe shows "Murder in the Cottonwoods", "Fallsview to a Kill", and "The Weaker Vessels: Public Displays of Narcissism". He is also a sound and lighting technician for sketch and improv comedy across the city.