

## **All Access Sketch Company Bio**

All Access Sketch was founded in December of 2017 by Grace Smith and Ophira Calof in response to the lack of accessible comedy venues in Toronto. At the time, Grace and Ophira were a part of Second City's Sketch Conservatory Program, and as they started to build their show they realized how few opportunities there were to get stage time in the city, as Ophira uses a wheelchair and can only access venues and stages with no steps — a difficult find in Toronto, and beyond. Faced with this challenge, they decided to create their own space, and co-founded All Access Sketch, producing a monthly sketch comedy show that features rotating lineups of acts from across the city.

*Generally Hospital* will be their first major production, and they are excited to be offering 3 adapted performances including a relaxed performance, ASL interpreted performance, and an Audio Described performance as they push for increased accessibility in comedy.

## **Ophira Calof (Producer/Cast/Writer)**

Ophira is a writer, performer, and producer, currently based in Toronto. She is a graduate of the Assembly's Longform Improvisation program as well as Second City's Writing and Sketch Conservatory programs, and is currently a part of their 2018 Toronto Diversity Fellowship. She co-founded All Access Sketch, is a producer and host of their monthly sketch comedy showcase and she can be seen performing across Toronto on a regular basis with the troupes Cookie Biscuits and Quick Question. Additionally, she has an extensive background in opera performance and has performed across Canada with the UBC Opera Ensemble and Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, and has completed a Specialist Certificate in Songwriting through Berklee Online. She can also be frequently be seen speaking on topics of disability, chronic illness, and doctor-patient relationships (UofT Health Educator and ILC Patient Ambassador).

## **Grace Smith (Producer/Cast/Writer)**

Grace is a comedian, actor, and writer; she recently graduated the Second City Conservatory program (*Welcome to Skit Row*) and the Assembly's Longform Program. Before doing comedy, she did many years of very serious theatre with her company Theatre Double Take. You can find Grace on the internet in her *Things With Cats* videos and on Toronto comedy stages with her improv troupe The Drop-outs or with her sketch duo Cereal in a Mason Jar. She is currently a co-producer and co-host of the monthly All Access Sketch Show

**Leigh Cameron (Director)**

Leigh is an alumni of The Second City Toronto's MainStage cast. In 2017, she co-wrote and performed in *32 Short Sketches About Bees* at the Toronto Fringe Festival, which won Patron's Pick, The Second City award for Best New Comedy, the My Theatre Award for Outstanding Sketch/Improv Production and was nominated for a Canadian Comedy Award for Best Live Show. Along with Kirsten Rasmussen, Leigh is one half of The Bloody Marys, a popular improv and sketch duo that has travelled to festivals across Canada and the United States. In 2018 The Bloody Marys won Toronto's World's Best Improv Tournament and in 2017 they took home Bad Dog Theatre's coveted Globe Head Trophy. You can hear Leigh's voice in the Canadian Screen Award nominated *Shuyan Saga*, an interactive game now available on Steam or catch her on *Baroness Von Sketch Show*. Leigh also teaches, coaches and directs improv and sketch and performs every Sunday in the Alumni show at the Bad Dog Theatre.

**Sabrina Friedman (Cast/Writer)**

Sabrina is a Second City Conservatory grad (*Equality Not Included*) who has trained at UCB New York, Bad Dog Theatre and Second City Toronto. Sabrina is one half of the sketch duo *Only One of us is Jewish*, and the improv duo *Old Country*, with whom she performs whenever she is back in NYC. Sabrina is often tapped to MC private events and in her other life as a musician, she's a music teacher, singer, and children's entertainer extraordinaire.

**Devan Islas (Cast/Writer)**

Devan is a recent Second City Conservatory program graduate, and performs around the city with the all queer sketch troupe Good Judy.

**Alia Rasul (Cast/Writer)**

Alia a comedian, writer and performer, who is passionate about works that explore the narrative of the Filipino diaspora. She is currently a part of Bad Dog Theatre's Emerging Creator's Unit (funded by the Pat & Tony Freedom Fund) and was recently a part of the theatre's Featured Players program. She is also currently Inclusion director at Bad Dog.

**Ryan Hughes (Dramaturge)**

Ryan is an actor, writer and improviser. He performs sketch with *Adulting*, and improv with *Trash Panda*, among others. Last Fringe he co-wrote and co-starred in *Welcome to the Bunker!* with Clare Blackwood, and did dramaturgy for Samantha Chaulk's *Dear Uncle Wish*. Keep an eye out for his short film *L.A.R.P.D.*, written and performed with Blackwood. He learned how to be very funny at The Second City Toronto, and how to be very serious at the National Theatre School.

**Nicole Byblow (Music Director)**

Nicole has been studying piano performance, composition and theory for over twenty years. Among her career highlights Nicole counts performing at the Juno Awards Industry Gala, performing at CBC's Glenn Gould Studio, performing and recording with Juno award winner Buck 65 (*Neverlove* LP, Warner Music Canada) and writing, co-producing and releasing two independent albums. She currently works as a musical director for Second City and ballet accompanist for Harmony School of Dance and Music.

**Brie Watson (Stage Manager)**

Brie is an: improv, stand-up, sketch comedian, live comedy producer & podcaster. She is the creator of the improv shows *What If?* and *Guess Who's Coming to Improv?* and is currently a member of the improv troupes *Chakra Khan*, *The Unexpected Arousal of Jessica Fletcher & Semper Pie*. She produces *POPAGANDA* at The Second City Training Centre, where she is on faculty, as well as the programming for *Improv Niagara*. Brie is also member of sketch comedy duo *The Utilidors*.

This is Brie Watson's first time stage managing a Fringe show. She was a Production Assistant on CBC's *Steven & Chris*, which somehow makes her think she can work live theatre too.