

THE OLD WOLF and the SACRED TROUT

by Donald Molnar

COMPANY HISTORY & BIOS

Arbez Drama Projects

Arbez Drama Projects is a not-for-profit theatre company based in Toronto. Our mandate is to pursue theatre projects that we feel passionate about. We create, develop, and produce new Canadian plays. The creation of our company is intimately connected to *Sara's Cave* by Donald Molnar, which was accepted into the City of Brampton's 2nd Annual NewWorks Playwright Festival (2005). In order to produce the play, Donald Molnar, John Sader, and Alicia Payne created Arbez Drama Projects.

Arbez Drama Projects now has several plays at various stages of development and has produced readings and workshop presentations at theatre festivals as well as social justice and academic conferences including: Readers' Theatre of New Works at the National Black Theatre Festival, Winston Salem, North Carolina (2013 and 2015); 33rd Annual Teaching Public Administration Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan (2010); Innocence Network Conference, at the South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas (2009); and the rock.paper.sistahaz 7 festival, Toronto (2008).

Anna Braumberger – Wolf Masks

Anna Braumberger delights in the whimsical and bizzare which suits her very well in her work in the Vancouver Film industry set decoration department (IATSE Local 891). Having been professionally tasked in the last two years with everything from fabricating 80's neon art to occult decorated cow skulls for use in TV shows she still finds time for the occasional personal project. Starting in 2003 Anna began in a community Shakespeare group called "The Pressgang Theater Company" which worked every year on a shoestring budget to produce a play under the funding of the Society for Creative Anachronism. For 12 plays Anna laboured as the defacto props master, set builder and stage manager for the company. The craft of mask making was acquired naturally from the demands of plays like "The Tempest" and "Midsummer Night's Dream" and became a staple of the company's yearly plays. Over the past few years Anna has used her skills in support of the "Desert Bus for Hope" charity. This yearly internet based charity drive is devoted to raising money for "Child's Play" a charity involved in supplying toys and games to children's hospitals and women's shelters worldwide.

Adelaide Batuk – Always Happy

Adelaide began her training at Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre at 7 years old. Joining their company, she's had the privilege to learn from many well known international choreographers such as; William Yong, David Earle, Robert Glumbek, Santee Smith, Colin Conner, Suzie Burpee and many more. She has also travelled to perform nationally and internationally. While attending CCDT, she was also accepted to Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts for Dance and Moravanka, a Czech folk dance company. Upon graduating high school, Adelaide received an acceptance to Ryerson University for the Dance Program, where she studied various forms of dance, acting and singing. Through school, Adelaide was chosen to travel and study dance and theatre in Greece. In her years of studying movement, Adelaide received many awards for her accomplishments such as, the *Summer Research Travel Honorarium- RU*, *Specialty Dance Award- RU*, *Classical Graduate Award- CCDT* and the *Elvira De Monte Scholarship Award- CCAA*. Adelaide continues to push the boundaries in her passion for performance by experiencing different styles of movement in diverse environments.

Eva Connelly-Miller – All Mother

Eva graduated from Ryerson's BFA Performance Dance Program in 2016. During her four years there she had the opportunity to work with and learn from many great artists both at the school and in intensives, including James Kudelka, David Earle, Kate Hilliard, Louis Labegre-Côté, Robert Glumbeck, Ryan Lee, Hanna Kiel, and Allen Kaeja. Eva has been a part of numerous intensives including TransFormation Danse, Kenny Pearl's Emerging Artist Intensive, Peggy Baker's Summer Intensive, Ignite with TOES for Dance, and the ProArteDanza Summer Intensive. This past summer she went to New York for the Movement Invention Project, and to Portugal for Ricardo Ambrozio's Summer Intensive. She is currently a part of The Chimera Project's Company B.

Serwaa Daley – Beloved One/Old-Broken-Foot/The Trout

Serwaa Daley is an emerging performer and choreographer entering her fourth year in the BFA Dance program at York University. She has worked with various choreographers such as Jasmyn Fyffe, Sharon Harvey, and Modesto Amegago. Her previous performances include the 2017 New Blue Dance Festival and Dance Innovations Space Erupting in 2016. She recently made her choreographic debut with her work, *Primitive Instincts*, as part of the York Dances third-year production, *Space Continuum: Infinite and Endless*. In addition to ballet and modern, she has expanded her training in other dance styles such as House, African, Butoh and Capoeira and plans to explore many more. After graduating, Serwaa aspires to continue her education in Dance Science/Kinesiology as well as learn French and Japanese.

Zoë Kenneally – Bear/Moose Mother

Zoë Kenneally is an emerging performer and choreographer based out of Toronto. She is a recent graduate of the Performance Dance program at Ryerson University where she studied under the direction of Vicki St. Denys and performed in shows such as Choreographic Works, Ryerson Dances and the New Voices Festival. Zoë has traveled across North America for dance and most recently, to the San Francisco Conservatory where she learned repertoire from Robert Moses' Kin and work on new creations with Alessio Silvestrin and Alex Ketley. In Toronto, Zoë has worked with artists such as Louis Laberge-Côté, Alys Pires, Alyssa Martin, Lauren Runions, Peggy Baker, Danielle Baskerville and James Kudelka. Upon graduating, Zoë created Line9 Collective with a team of fellow graduates and produced their first show *Re:Move* in May 2017. She is very interested in interdisciplinary work and enjoys creating and collaborating with other artists.

Donald Molnar – Playwright/Director

Don is a bilingual playwright/director living in Toronto. Born in Cranbrook, British Columbia, he studied Political Science at the University of Victoria, then did a Master's degree at McGill University in Montreal. With respect to playwriting, Don has written several plays, won several playwriting competitions, and had productions and workshop productions, and play readings in Canada, the United States, and Australia. Through playwriting Don discovered he enjoys directing and has taken to it over the last few years, directing several pieces for the Alumnae Theatre's New Idea's Festival as well as readings and workshop productions of plays in development. Don also started a not-for-profit theatre company with Alicia Payne and John Sader called Arbez Drama Projects, a playwright driven company with several projects in development. For his work as an artist educator, Lakeshore Arts presented Don with their Impact Award in November 2016 for helping Grade 7 and 8 school children create graphic novels.

Shawn Newman - Choreographer

Described as “[one] of Toronto’s finest dancers” (Paula Citron, *Toronto Life*), Shawn has worked in both commercial and artistic ventures as a performer, choreographer, producer, actor, and director. He has danced for some of Canada’s foremost contemporary choreographers including Sasha Ivanochko, Heidi Strauss, and Matjash Mrozewski among many others. Some of Shawn’s own choreographic works include *Three Shades of Mood* for idDANSE, *FEVER* for 3M Dances, and *Through My Eyes*, which premiered in Shanghai, China. He is completing his PhD in Cultural Studies at Queen’s University where he teaches Popular Cultures and Media & Performance in the Department of Film and Media and has previously taught in the Department of Gender Studies. Shawn has also taught in the Department of Dance at York University.

Jaclyn Patras – Quick-To-Leap

Jaclyn grew up in Oakville, Ontario and was a successful competitive dancer at Studio PAVAS, studying and eventually teaching all styles of dance. Alongside her studio, she also attended Etobicoke School of The Arts where her dance studies were mainly focused towards Ballet, and Modern techniques, including Graham and Horton. Once finishing High School, Jaclyn continued on, and has recently completed the Ryerson School Of Performance: Dance Program, graduating with her BFA. Including the intensive training at the University, Jaclyn has studied in Toronto, Los Angeles, New York City, and Greece at various intensives and programs, learning from leading professionals and institutions, some including: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Millennium Dance Complex, Vicki St. Denys, Kenny Pearl, David Earle, Louis Laberge-Coté, James Kudelka, Eryn Waltman, and Gadfly. She is excited to be a part of this project!

Alicia Payne – Producer

Alicia Payne is a professional actor and published writer whose credits encompass theatre, film, television, opera and radio. Her professional memberships include ACTRA, CAEA, Dramatists Guild of America and Playwrights Guild of Canada where she serves as President. As an artist educator, Alicia has led workshops for organizations such as Lakeshore Arts Shazaam! Program, Uth Ink/Luminato, The Conference of Independent Schools Drama Festival and Play! A Symposium at the 14th World Festival of Children's Theatre. She was a Studio Hour Contributor and surprise Waves Discussion Series presenter at the 2015 A Room of Her Own Retreat. As a librettist, an excerpt of her work was displayed in the Canadian Forces Artist Program Exhibition at the Diefenbunker Museum in Ottawa, where she co-produced a libretto reading. In February, Alicia was in The Toronto for Everyone Honest 6ix Artist Residency. In March, *D Cup*, her one-act comedy, was in the Alumnae Theatre New Ideas Festival. Her training as a producer includes the Obsidian Theatre Mentor Apprentice Program and the Producers' Learning Network. Alicia is a co-founder of Arbez Drama Projects.

Chynah Philadelphia - Props

Chynah Philadelphia is a 3rd year production student at Ryerson University. Born in Nova Scotia but raised in Toronto, she is studying in hopes of becoming a set/props designer. Her works include Head of Props and Set Design, "*D Cup*", New Ideas Festival (2017); Head Carpenter, Ryerson's "*New Voices Festival*" (2017); Head of Props, Ryerson "*Dances*" (2016); Assistant Stage Manager, Ryerson's "*Peer Gynt*" (2016); Production Assistant, Ryerson's "*Holiday Show*" (2015); Props Assistant, Alumnae Theatre, "*Rabbit Hole*" (2014).

Jake Ramos – Little Jaw/Human

Jake Ramos began his training with Norzagaray Dance Troupe. He was first introduced to Philippine Cultural Dances, which became a strong foundation of his dance training. He graduated from the School of Toronto Dance Theatre in 2016 as co-winner of the 2016 Walker Wood Bursary and the Sharon B. Moore Solo Project Award. During his time at the school, he had pleasure of performing works from many renowned choreographers including Daryl Tracy, Julia Sasso, Kate Alton, Robert Derosiers, Sasha Ivanochko, James Kudelka, Peter Chin, Ofilio Sinbadhino, Louis Laberge-Coté, Danny Grossman, and Christopher House. He had performed remounted works choreographed by Peter Randazzo and Robert Desrosiers for the 2015 Toronto Dance Heritage and participated in Canada Dance Festival's 50 dancer project in 2016. He was recently the guest artist for Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre's '*Serious Games*' and performed works by Hanna Kiel, Deborah Lundmark and Jennifer Archibald of Arch Dance Company in New York.

Marvin Vergara – Strong Jaw

Marvin is a prairie boy at heart, hailing in from Winnipeg, Manitoba into the big city of Toronto in 1998 to dance for his first Company, Dancemakers. Winnipeg, known to be a Mecca for artists who are forced to submerge themselves in their craft because of its cold long winter months, Marvin could be found training as a young man at both The Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and The School of Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers. He was always an active and athletic guy. He performed both internationally and in Canada for Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers, Jennifer Mascal, Gail Lotenberg, Danny Grossman, Newton Moraes, Corpus, Sharon Moore and formed a men's dance collective, "3M Dances" with Louis Laberge-Coté and Lincoln Shand to name a few. Almost two decades later, he still resides in the heart of the city of Toronto and would not want to have it any other way because along side his first love, DANCE, he found a parallel career by positively contributing to the world and to the wonderful and beautiful people that live in it. Each day he wakes up to a fulfilling life in which he keeps people healthy, active, happy and inspired through his work as an artist and as a personal fitness trainer. He would like to thank his loving husband, Eugene and his family for all their support and encouragement.