

DEAD BROKE - COMPANY BIOS - LOST DREAMS COLLECTIVE

Lost Dreams Collective is a new Toronto based theatre group dedicated to developing and producing contemporary Canadian plays that reflect the narrative of our lives. This debut production, ***Dead Broke***, written by Will King (Artistic Director, Seven Siblings Theatre), will be presented at the Toronto Fringe Festival.

Courtney Keir as Charlotte: Courtney (She/Her) is a queer Toronto-based actor, playwright, director, and choreographer. She completed her MA in Classical and Contemporary Text (Acting Performance) at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Courtney is also a graduate of the Theatre and Drama Studies Program at Sheridan College and the University of Toronto Mississauga. She has additionally studied with the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, Theatre Gargantua, and Resurgence Theatre Company. Courtney is currently represented by Lindsay Scrivener at The Bella Agency. When not on stage or writing, Courtney can usually be found spending time with all of her animals, playing music, or trying to master her back tuck. She is way too excited to be returning to live theatre with the Dead Broke team and can't wait to see you at the Fringe! www.courtneykeir.com

Claire Shenstone-Harris as Irina: Claire (She/Her) is a Canadian screen and theatre actor based in Toronto. She has had lead roles in plays, TV, and films including 'The Bridge' which was recently featured at seven international film festivals. She trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School in England, where she won her program award for consistency in excellence, and holds a degree in drama and environmental studies from University of Toronto. She dabbles in playing her many musical instruments, songwriting, creative writing, and recently co-created a wild party board game called Monster Voices, which involves speaking quotes in weird voices for hand-drawn monsters. She loves the torture of running marathons and is interested in anything neurology-related and loves unexpected adventures and learning new skills!

Gordon Harper as Johnny: Gordon (He/Him) is an actor/improvise who has been working in Toronto since 2016. Gordon is very excited to be returning to the stage with Lost Dreams Collective after a three-year theatre-hiatus. Gordon also loves film and television work, and was most recently featured on: Umbrella Academy; Mayday; and Station Eleven. Gordon is the proud father of an Irish Setter, Ferngully, who recently lost his last baby tooth at 10 months-old – Way to go, Fern! In other news, Gordon wants to improve his tennis skills, so please follow him on IG @gordonharper and let him know if you're interested in a match. You can also find out more about his work at www.gordonharper.net

Elle Reimer as Laura: Originally from BC, Elle (She/Her) moved to Toronto in September 2021 to pursue her career in theatre. She holds a diploma in Musical Theatre from Capilano University. Select theatre credits include Doralee Rhodes in *9 to 5* (CapU Theatre), *Grand Hotel*, *It's a Wonderful Life* (Arbutus Studio), and *The Addams Family* (Kaleidoscope Theatre). Thank you to the whole team for this opportunity! Follow along with her journey on Instagram @ellereimer!

Will King as Oliver, Playwright, and Sound Designer: Will (He/Him) is a graduate of the University of Windsor's BFA Acting program, and has trained at the Moscow Art Theatre School, the Great Lakes Michael Chekhov Consortium, the SITI Company, Pro Actors Lab, and the Stratford Festival. He has acted with Seven Siblings Theatre, Unit 102 Actors Co, Globus Theatre, Echo Productions, and Hart House Theatre, and can be seen in Black Fawn Films horror feature, *The Heretics*. Will has also produced live and recorded sound design for several shows, including *From the Water*, *Girl in the Machine*, and *Frozen*. He also sound designed for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the University of Windsor, and has DJed for the past 12 years. He is a big advocate for genre work in theatre, and is beyond thrilled to share this new play with audiences! Can't wait to hear what you think! <http://www.willking.ca/>

Calvin Petersen, Director: Calvin (He/Him) is a performer, director and clown from Aotearoa and currently based in Tkaronto. No matter the discipline, whether it's an intimate audio experience for two, a clown-run secret eating society, or a dark comedy thriller like *Dead Broke*, Calvin's work seeks to inspire joy and foster loving relationships in the world. Calvin has an MTA in Directing from The New Zealand Drama School / Victoria University, has directed with Hercinia Arts Collective, Coal Mine Theatre, Impel Theatre, The Toronto Festival of Clowns, and he was a member of the Outside The March Artistic Accomplice Program. Follow him @remoterviewingorg for more playful work!

Oli Allen, Stage Manager: Oli (They/Them) is a stage manager with an interest in new plays and plays in development. Oli graduated from the Theatre Production Program at Humber College in 2020. They are very excited to be stage managing *Dead Broke* for their first production at the Toronto Fringe Festival. Oli loves sudoku, gaming, and webcomics. Their favourite playwright is Eugène Ionesco, but William Shakespeare is a close second.

Chin Palipane, Lighting Design: Chin (He/Him) is Technical Director of The Assembly Theatre, and a proud member of Coyote Collective. Chin has worked with Seven Siblings Theatre, Don't Look Down Theatre Company, Leroy St Theatre, The Spadina Avenue Gang, White Mills Theatre Co, Kyanite Theatre, and Rebecca Perry Productions.

Julia Kim, Set and Costume Designer: Julia (She/Her) has designed for Obsidian Theatre Company, Theatre Mada with Theatre Passe Muraille, Scrap Paper Theatre at Next Stage Festival, Seven Siblings Theatre, Blood Pact Theatre & Witchboy Theatre, Green Light Arts with Theatre Passe Muraille, Criminal Girlfriends, and Coal Mine Theatre.

Madryn McCabe: Publicity Coordinator: Madryn (She/Her) has co-produced over a dozen projects with Seven Siblings Theatre, is a versatile actor, and works tirelessly to ensure artists are seen on stage!

Nate Bitton, Fight Choreographer: Nate (He/Him) is one of the most sought after Fight Choreographers in Toronto. While making a name for himself on stage, Nate has also become a prominent figure behind the scenes working as a stage combat instructor and fight director. At the 2015 My Entertainment World “My Theatre Awards”, Nate was presented with the “Honorary Award” for his fight direction in 2014, which was featured in no less than nine shows across the city. In early 2016 Nate made game-changing history when he received certification with Fight Directors Canada (FDC) as their first ever, Non-Union Fight Director, joining the ranks of some of the world's top fight directors. Nate has worked on everything from intimate indie shows to timeless musicals, premier contemporary to bar room Shakespeare. An actor and stage fighter, Nate continues to work tirelessly to promote safe, engaging, story driven stage violence, while also using his experiences to hone his own acting craft. A lover of music, dance and movement, Nate is always looking for new and exciting ways to change the face of contemporary and classical theatre. <http://www.natebitton.com/>