

Company Bio

Based in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, the Brazilian Theatre Collective (BTC) is a women-led artistic initiative in its early stages of development, dedicated to introducing and developing Brazilian theatre within the Canadian cultural landscape. BTC seeks to create a space for exchange between theatrical traditions and Toronto's diverse performing arts community, fostering dialogue through performance, storytelling, and collaboration.

The collective is inspired by a rich and dynamic theatrical tradition known for its physical expressiveness, musicality, and strong connection to social and human experience. This tradition spans politically engaged works, experimental forms, and interdisciplinary practices that treat theatre as both an artistic language and a space for reflection and dialogue.

Through its work, BTC aims to highlight diverse voices and perspectives, while exploring themes such as identity, migration, memory, and belonging. The collective is committed to artistic collaboration, community engagement, and the creation of work that contributes to a more inclusive and globally connected theatre scene in Canada.

Writer:

Izabella Vaz:

Izabella Vaz holds a postgraduate degree in Screenwriting and Dramaturgy and a degree in Theatre from the Escola Superior de Artes Célia Helena (São Paulo). In São Paulo, she worked in several productions, including *O que você vê?*, directed by Bete Dorgam, *Histórias do Senhor Keuner*, directed by Marco Antônio Rodrigues, and *Publicamente Privado*, directed by Simone Boer. She has also worked as a theatre teacher for non-actors and in public speaking training at the Fundação Mokiti Okada in São Paulo. In Salvador, she is the founder of Cooxia – Coletivo Teatral (Bahia), where she works as both actress and producer in projects such as *Paco e o Tempo*, which was nominated in three categories at the Prêmio Braskem de Teatro, and *Avesso*, winner of Best Children's Show at the Prêmio Braskem de Teatro in Bahia. She worked for three years as Assistant Director with the UFBA Theatre Company under director Harildo Déda, contributing to productions such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Homecoming*, and the second season of *Long Day's Journey Into Night* in Bahia. Currently, she is part of the study group in the Culture and Arts sector of the Fundação Mokiti Okada, where she serves as an instructor and course facilitator focused on the arts, and she also works as an advisor to the Theatre Coordination of the Fundação Cultural do Estado da Bahia.

Directors:

Barbara de la Fuente:

Award-winning actress, director, producer, writer, and arts advocate, Barbara is a graduate of the School of Dramatic Art at the University of São Paulo. Her career spans Brazil and Canada, with performances in numerous films, television series, and stage productions. She is a voting member of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, ACTRA – Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists, and Women in Film and Television – Toronto Chapter. Additionally, she serves on the board of BWIE – Brazilian Women in Entertainment (LA – USA).

Priscila Paes:

Priscila Paes is a performing arts professional with 15+ years of experience across theatre, advertising, radio, and live events in Brazil. Holds an Acting for Film and TV Diploma from Humber College and a BA in Performing Arts from State University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil. Canadian arts experience includes Drama Instructor with the City of Mississauga, Assistant Director for a former professor at Humber College, and Front of House roles at major festivals such as the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) and Toronto Fringe Festival. Acting credits include the short film *S.A.D.*, directed by Vanessa Sandre, selected for the Sudbury Film Festival (2025) and Canadian Film Festival (2026). Additional credits include the TYA workshop *The Last Mammoth* with GON Theatre (directed by Nicole Wilson) and the *Golden Snail Opera* (directed by Andrea Spaziani) at Nuit Blanche Toronto (2023). Currently, she is one of the Associate Artists and Producing Apprentices for Modern Times Theatre.

Performer:

Camila Linhares:

Camila Linhares is a Brazilian actress based in Toronto, Canada, with over 20 years of experience in theatre and screen acting. Born and raised in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, she trained at Casa das Artes de Laranjeiras (CAL) and graduated from CAL in Rio de Janeiro, later studying Acting for Media at George Brown College in Toronto. In addition to her acting career, she has extensive experience in theatre production and leadership, having worked as Executive Producer of *Curral Grande* in 2014, participated in the Curitiba Theatre Festival in Brazil as Assistant Director for *Relações Perigosas*, and worked as Producer and Actress in *Copacabana*

Mix. In 2024, she made her Hamilton Fringe Festival debut performing in *Under the Cover*. In 2025, she worked as Assistant Stage Manager for *Nuit Blanche* in Toronto, reflecting a diverse artistic background across performance, production, and creative collaboration in both Brazil and Canada.

Stage Managers:

Lara Sampaio:

Lara Sampaio is an award-winning artist who wears many hats as a writer, director, producer, and actor. She has received more than 10 festival nominations for her work in theatre and film, including Best Script, Directing, Actress, Production Design, Sound Mixing, and Audience Favourite across international projects. Her performance credits include *Urinetown* (Ensemble, 2026), *Spamalot* (Ni Knight, 2025), *All Shook Up* (Ensemble, 2024), and *A Very Potter Musical* (Voldemort, 2023). She was also part of The Musical Stage Company's Marquee Ensemble in 2023. Lara created *The Redhood House* (2026), the *Quarentena Online Film Festival* (2020–2021), and wrote *Eu Poemo* (2023). Lara is currently the Production Manager of "*Outside These Walls, Everyone Is Sleeping*" and the Stage Manager for "*Under the Cover*", both part of the 2026 Toronto Fringe Festival.

Alexandre Simas:

Alex Simas is a creative director, writer, and producer with a background in branded entertainment - developing product launches, award ceremonies, and immersive experiences for international brands. His passion for theatre and behind-the-scenes work began with a high school production of *Godspell*, and he hasn't left the backstage ever since. In *Public Enemy*, he serves as Stage Manager and Assistant Director.

Social Media Manager:

Wallesca Carrera:

Wallesca Carrera is a communications professional, actress, dancer, and singer based in Toronto. Originally from Brazil, she holds a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from Universidade Estácio de Sá in Rio de Janeiro, and a Marketing diploma from Humber College. Combining her backgrounds in the performing arts and communications, Wallesca brings expertise in media relations, public relations, content creation, and audience engagement. Passionate about storytelling in all its forms, she works to connect artists, organizations, and communities through thoughtful and effective communication.