

JULY 2026

TORONTO FRINGE FESTIVAL
NATIVE EARTH PERFORMING ARTS

THURS. JULY 2 | 4:15 PM
FRI. JULY 3 | 9:45 PM
SAT. JULY 4 | 7:45 PM
MON. JULY 6 | 8:45 PM
WED. JULY 8 | 4:15 PM
THURS. JULY 9 | 2:00 PM
SAT. JULY 11 | 12:45 PM



LIFEGUARD

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The Creative Team: *Art Craven Productions* would like to thank the creative team behind **LIFEGUARD**. Starting with the divine intervention that is Tracey Erin Smith, whose breadth and depth of personal and professional experience helping people create art through personal stories is matchless. I am forever indebted to her vision and tenacity. She is a Mensch.

Our Stage Manager Sammy Lawless is a gift. Sammy is a recent graduate of The Humber Technical Theatre Program. She is a pro that has a huge career ahead of her.

Sruthi Suresan our lighting designer: Let there be light! Thank-you for joining us and bringing all your beautiful gifts.

Judith Thompson thank-you for your time, encouragement and expertise. Every visit with you is a master class.

Liesl Lafferty thank-you for your keen corrections and script development love all the way from British Columbia in the earliest stages of this project.

Henrietta Berkers, Erin Rivet, Jennifer Murray, Joanne Rider, Dale Rider, Annie Bradley and Kirsten Johnson thank-you for answering your phones, returning my e-mails and providing this team with promotional material, media out reach and support.

Venue Presenters: Thank-you to Julia Howman and Company at Native Earth Performing Arts Centre and The Aki Studio for your expertise and providing us with a space where stories are not just told but honoured. And thank you to this year's Fringe Festival Staff and Volunteers without whom this opportunity could not exist. A special shout out to Fringe Mentor and talent, Byron Laviolette who threw me a life-line often through this process.

My Corporate Sponsors: Janis Parker of Parker Pad and Printing, Ltd. Thank-you for your very generous support of providing the printing of promotional material for this production. Ben Scholes of Royal LePage Realty, John Lucier and Mitzy Belisle of Sauce On The Danforth, James O'Donnell of The Only Cafe and the management and staff at The Golden Pigeon Beer Hall. Thank you for your time, support and allowing me to promote the show at your venues.

My Lifesavers: This show is dedicated to the late Lorraine (Lori) Corder, the first senior Lifeguard I met when I was twenty-three years old. Lori reminded me lifeguarding was a great job for seniors and a great way to give back to your community. May she Rest In Peace.

Lastly to my partner Soren Whitney and family, Octavia Haggis and family and my many, many friends, thank-you for the love and supporting independent theatre production. Happy Fringing.

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY
KATHRYN HAGGIS



Kathryn wrote her first solo show, *All My Life's a Benefit*, for Fringe 1996. She co-wrote with Nikole Kritikos *Queen For A Day*, for Toronto Fringe 2006 and *Taste of The Danforth* for Buddies' In Bad Times Rhubarb Festival. Kathryn also played Frances for many years in Sonja Mills' hilarious episodic, *Dyke City*. She studied at The Neighbourhood Playhouse in New York City. After returning to Canada she was fast tracked to The Second City Master Class and Auxillary Touring Company. Kathryn spent many years teaching at The Second City Training Centre working with the Teen Program. She was at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2019 where she played Gayle in *Watching Glory Die*, written and directed by Judith Thompson. Judith Thompson also directed Kathryn in Lois Fines' *Freda and Gem's Best of The Week*. Kathryn has a long list of television and film credits: *Cousin Marianthi* in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* trilogy, *Breakfast with Scot*, *Imposters*, *Dr. Cabbie*, *It's a Boy Girl Thing*, *Twitches*, *The Prize Winner of Distiance Ohio*, *Four Brothers*, *Dark Hours*, *Detroit Rock City*, are a few of her favourites.

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DIRECTOR & CO-CREATOR **TRACEY ERIN SMITH**

Tracey Erin Smith is an internationally recognized creator, transformational leader, and founder of SOULO™ Theatre. Her workshops and performances have been presented around the world, including in New York City, Tel Aviv, San Francisco, Vancouver, France, Poland, and the UK.

A trailblazer in solo performance and personal storytelling, Tracey has received numerous awards, including Broadway World Awards for her acclaimed solo show *Memento Mori* and for directing the musical *Our Little Secret!*. She has also received Best of the Fringe awards (*The Burning Bush!*) in Toronto and NYC, the Audience Choice Award in NYC, and is a two-time recipient of the Toronto Star's Diamond First Place Award for Best Theatre Instructor.

Tracey is the creator and host of the critically acclaimed documentary series DRAG HEALS on OUTtv, Amazon Prime, and AppleTV, which received multiple *Canadian Screen Award* nominations, including Best Host and Best TV Lifestyle Series, as well as a *Telly Award* for Most Inspirational & Motivational Show.

Her debut book, *Flying SOULO*, is a guide to telling your own story, featuring tools, exercises, and excerpts from her own work. It was also an Amazon.ca best-seller. Tracey recently debuted her new solo show, *Mandelbaum*, at the Gotham Storytelling Festival in New York City, and is now developing it further with Sarah Garton Stanley.

She and Sarah also run Birchdale, an off-grid lodge in Southwest Nova Scotia, where Tracey leads SOULO Intensives and continues to create powerful story-based work.

Up next, Tracey is creating a new show with Juno Award-winning singer Dawn Tyler Watson.

www.soulo.ca

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DRAMATURGED BY **JUDITH THOMPSON**

Judith Thompson is a widely recognized playwright, director, screenwriter, actor and artistic director/producer, with work that has garnered national and international awards and has been widely studied and praised by critics throughout her career.



Her plays include *The Crackwalker*, *White Biting Dog*, *I Am Yours*, *Lion in the Streets*, *The Yellow Canaries*, *Sled*, *Perfect Pie*, *Habitat*, *Enoch Arden in the Hope Shelter*, *Palace of the End*, *Body and Soul*, *Hedda Gabler and Electra* (Sirens), *Watching Glory Die*, and *Who Killed Snow White*. She wrote two feature films, *Lost and Delirious*, *Perfect Pie*; there is a Polish film of her play *I Am Yours*, as well. She wrote two television movies, *Turning to Stone*, and *Life with Billy*; radio plays: *Tornado*, (awarded the Nellie) *A Big White Light*, (the Prix Italia for radio plays) *Quickening*, *A Kissing Way*, *Sugarcane*, and *The Gliding*. Chapters in *Luminous Ink* (U of T press) and *Why Writing* (ed Priscilla Uppal).

Judith's novels are known for their depth and emotional resonance. Her debut novel, **In Crow's Field**, is a poignant exploration of trauma, bullying, and epilepsy, reflecting Thompson's personal experiences and the challenges faced by individuals living with the condition. The novel was published in April 2026 and has been well-received for its portrayal of resilience and the human spirit.

Areas of Specialization: Playwrighting, Devising, Acting, Theatre Creation.
Professor at Guelph University.



STAGE MANAGER **SAM LAWLESS**

Sam is a Stage Manager and a recent graduate from Humber Polytechnic's Theatre Production program. Her love for theatre began while attending productions at the Shaw Festival and Theatre Aquarius, and it truly flourished during her time competing in the NTS Drama Festival, where she received the award for Best Student Stage Management. Inspired by the fantastical, the outlandish, and the whimsical, Sam is passionate about supporting new Canadian works and helping create theatre magic of our own. Her experience includes working on the production crew for the University of Waterloo's *The Seagull*, and with Tarragon Theatre as the Archival Assistant. Most recently, she worked with Humber Polytechnic for their production of Rosamund Small's *Tomorrow Love*.

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SCRIPT DEVELOPMENT

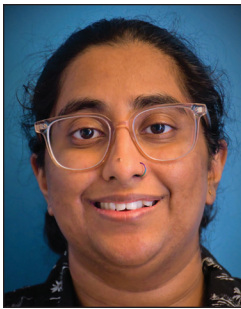
LIESL LAFFERTY



Liesl is an award-winning director, and a nominated writer, producer and dramaturg. She facilitates Scriptwriting Workshops, provides Drama-turgical Services, and hosts a free Writer's Accountability Room. After a lifetime in the theatre, she pivoted to writing for film and television. Watch the series she co-created with Naomi Snieckus, "I'm Also Here" (Firecracker Dept. and C'mon Mort) on Bell Fibe TV1. Liesl's first pilot "Bike Shop" was a Quarter-Finalist for the GEMFest International Screenplay Competition 2026, and her short film "Does Anybody Hear?" premiered at the Arizona International Film Fest in April. Liesl graduated from UBC with an MFA Creative Writing.

[Lieslafferty.com/apply-to-a-scriptwriting-workshop](https://lieslafferty.com/apply-to-a-scriptwriting-workshop)

Watch our series *I'M ALSO HERE* on Bell Fibe TV1



LIGHTING DESIGN BY SRUTHI SURESAN

Sruthi is thrilled to be working on **LIFEGAURD**. Her past credits include Lighting Design: *The Words of War: A Churchill and Shakespeare Cabaret* (Stratford Festival Theatre [The Meighen Forum]), Langham Directors' Workshop Presentations 2025, 2024 and 2022 (Stratford Festival Theatre) *Troilus and Cressida*, *Merchant of Venice*, *The Two Noble Kinsmen* (Shakespeare BASH'd); *Alkebulan: A Musical African Tale* (Batuki Music Society); *Legally Blonde*, *London Road* (MacEwan University); *La Boheme*, *Is He Dead?*, *Almost Maine*, *The Underpants*, *Stupid F***ing Bird*, *Threads: Impact* (University of Wisconsin – Madison); *The Drawer Boy* (Port Stanley Festival Theatre); *Three Sisters* (University of Windsor). Associate Lighting Designer: *The Mars Project* (Fall for Dance North); *1939* (Canadian Stage), **FRONTIERS | FRONTIÈRES** and **WATER SPIRIT** (Lua Shayenne Dance Company); *Maggie the Musical* (The Savoy Theatre), *The Rhubarb Festival* (Buddies in Bad Times). Assistant Lighting Designer: *Something Rotten!*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Waiting for Godot* and 12 other Productions (Stratford Festival Theatre); *My Name is Lucy Barton* (Canadian Stage); *The Nutcracker* (2024, 2023); *Fall For Dance North* (2024, 2023); *White Girls In Moccasins* (Buddies in Bad Times). Training: MFA – Theatre and Drama – Lighting Design (University of Wisconsin – Madison); BAH: Drama and Communication Media and Film (University of Windsor).

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