

TORONTO
FRINGE
FESTIVAL

SWEET ACTION
THEATRE COMPANY

PLAYBILL



written and performed by
James Alan

directed by
James Biss

music
Iain Gardner

stage manager
Laurice Macaraeg

design
Kurt Firla

technical wizard
Joshua Bonnici

www.JamesAlan.ca
www.FringeToronto.com
www.SweetAction.ca

[@MagicForGrownups](https://twitter.com/MagicForGrownups)
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[@SweetActionTheatre](https://twitter.com/SweetActionTheatre)

James Alan proves that magic really is for grownups. Performing for over twenty years, he has earned a reputation for producing experiences which are “thought provoking, astonishing funny and thoroughly entertaining.” For seven years he was the star of his own shows, *Magic & Martini* and *James Alan’s Magic Tonight*, which ran weekly in Toronto from 2013-2020 with over four hundred sold out performances. His one-person show *Lies, Damn Lies & Magic Tricks* was featured at the Summerworks Performance Festival. During the pandemic he created *Bring Magic Home*, a live interactive online magic experience which was presented over four hundred times for audiences in twenty-eight countries.

James Biss is a Canadian theatrical creator, mentalism author, and director whose work blends psychological illusion, storytelling, and immersive audience experience. Over the past three decades, his original ideas and performances have been presented across five continents within the worlds of magic, mentalism, and unusual theatre. *Mysteries & Lies* is Biss’s fifth theatrical production, following *The Demon Haunted Cottage*, *Mental Telepathy for Dummies*, *The Ghost Experience*, and

productions are known for combining mystery, humour, audience interaction, and psychological themes in ways that challenge perception and blur the line between truth and performance.

Iain Gardner is a composer based in Toronto, Canada with over 15 years of experience crafting original and colourful music for film, TV, advertising, web series, and stage productions. His work can be heard in the HBO Max kid’s series *Hop* (2024) by Marc Brown, creator of the award winning kid’s series *Arthur*; on Roku’s animated adult comedy series *Doomlands* (2022); and the second season of the Amazon Prime animated series *Gary and His Demons* (2023), created by Canadian comic Mark Little. Iain also contributed both original and cover songs, as well as original score, to the Peacock Kids/Family Channel series *Take Note* (2022). His scores to indie dramas including *White Lock* (2015) and *Still Closed* (2016) have been awarded at international festivals.

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnaabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples, and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. We acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13, signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties, signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.