

Shortgirl Productions

Shortgirl Productions was originally created in 2013 by Elisa Benzer. Originally thought of as a comedic company, Elisa has expanded her plays into the dramatic field and will soon be producing an entirely original Sherlock Holmes series in 2020. Shortgirl Productions is dedicated to producing thought provoking original theatre written by Alberta artist and is committed to sharing Alberta based work to other parts of Canada and the US. Her main focus is to expose female playwrights, actors, directors, and theatre technicians and is committed to provide workshopping opportunities with professional artists in Alberta to young playwrights and other emerging artists.

Elisa Benzer | Playwright and Actor

Elisa Benzer is a Sterling Award nominated bilingual Edmonton-based theatre artist and the Artistic Producer of Shortgirl Productions. Past Fringe production credits include *Letters to Laura* (nominated for Best Fringe Performance by an Actress and Outstanding New Fringe Work). Other performance credits include *Dead Centre of Town* (Catch the Keys Productions), *The Cardiac Shadow* (Northern Light Theatre), *The Circle* (Alberta Theatre Projects Calgary), and *It's Love and Other Reasons to Panic!* (Shortgirl Productions).

Christine Lesiak | Director

Christine Lesiak is an Edmonton-based theatre artist specializing in performer-creation, interactive and clown theaters, and physical storytelling. She holds a BSc in Physics from the University of New Brunswick, and a Masters of Fine Arts in Drama from the University of Alberta. She is co-founder of Small Matters Productions, and co-creator and performer in their 6-full-length physical comedy shows, including their two Edmonton International Fringe Holdover smash-hits, *Fools for Love* (2012) and *For Science!* (2018). She has created and performed countless short works, and has toured throughout Canada and to New York. Her one-woman, site-specific production, *The Object of Constellations* (2016), was the genesis of her 2018 Alberta Playwrights' Award-winning play, *The Space Between Stars*. Christine is festival program director of Play the Fool, Edmonton's festival for clown theatre and physical comedy, artistic associate with Toy Guns Dance Theatre, and a frequent collaborator with Catch the Keys Productions. She mentors and directs emerging and solo theatre artists, and has taught within the Drama Department at the University of Alberta, at Edmonton Digital Arts College, in public schools, and through her private workshops. Working on Eusha was an amazing gift! www.smallmatters.ca

Leif Ingebrigsten | Sound Design and Original Score

Leif is a multi-disciplinary theatre artist. His work varies from composing, writing, sound design and improvisation, each discipline having a profound influence on the others. Some recent credits include teaming up with Canadian music icon Hawksley Workman to create the original music and score for Mieko Ouchi's *Silver Arrow: The Untold Story of Robin Hood* at The Citadel Theatre, and was commissioned to co-create a new TYA musical for Alberta Opera. He is thrilled to again be working with Short Girl Productions and this incredible team to bring EUSHA to life!