



## About Playtime Playhouse

TORONTO  
**FRINGE**  
**KIDSFEST**

**Playtime Playhouse** is a brand-new mixed-media children's theatre company. Playwright **Diana Franz** originally met fellow actor **Nicole Marie McCafferty** while acting in a production with East Side Players, a Toronto-based community theatre company, which unfortunately had to close following COVID-related struggles. While commiserating together over this loss, as well as the loss of Solar Stage, a local children's theatre company with whom both Franz and McCafferty previously performed, Franz came up with the idea of doing a children's show together to lift both their own and the community's spirits. Thus, Playtime Playhouse was born!

**Diana "Deebs" Franz** is a seriously silly Toronto-based actor/theatre-maker with a Master's in Pretending (alright, "Acting," if you want to get technical) from East 15 Acting School in London, England. This is her very first time pretending—I mean—participating in the Toronto Fringe (what fun!), but her second time participating in a Canadian fringe (Ottawa Fringe 2013, *Die, Zombie. Die!* - Best in Fest) and her third time participating in an international fringe (Camden Fringe 2018, *Six of One*). In addition to her experience pretending and counting, she has acted in children's theatre with Solar Stage in Toronto as well as Big Time Academy and Colour House Theatre in London.

Originally from Nova Scotia, **Nicole McCafferty** is a graduate of Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts. Her foray into Theatre for Young Audiences was born when she began touring across Ontario with little red theatre, then across Canada with Dufflebag Theatre and Curran Productions. She also played Rebecca in Solar Stage's DORA nominated 2019 production of *Jillian Jiggs*. She is grateful for the opportunity to help bring to life the brainchild of her fearless Captain, Deebs Franz. Previous Fringe shows include *Restless Spirit* (2018), *Office Hours* (2017), *Mute: The Musical* (2015) and *The Epitome of Regret: The Musical* (Vancouver, 2013).

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