

## A CONVERSATION WITH MYSELF – BIOS

### **Michael Sachter – Playwright, Creator / Producer**

Michael Sachter is a first-time playwright, social impact artist, and fine art photographer whose work invites reflection, conversation, and connection. A self-taught artist, his practice spans limited-edition photography, mixed media, and experiential installations. His photography has been exhibited in Toronto, New York, and beyond, and is held in private and corporate collections. Michael's social impact projects—including *A Conversation With Myself*, *City Shelter Project*, and *The Canadian Gratitude Flag*—explore mental health, community, resilience, and the power of shared human experience. His debut play was developed from years of interacting with people at his art experiences, leading to a work that is compelling and capable of opening hearts, minds, and conversations. [www.MichaelSachterProjects.com](http://www.MichaelSachterProjects.com)

### **Kaitlin Blanchard (she/they) - Dramaturg**

Kaitlin is a dramaturge, playwright, actor, and artsworker. As a recovering academic returning to her theatrical roots, she creates and produces to unravel the coloniality of theatrical form. Her creative work braids tradition and its outsides, ironizing and unsettling the histories and traditions that enliven whiteness. She creates and produces under the Broken Arch banner. When not working on her PhD dissertation, administrating, writing, or playing in the studio, Kaitlin is in Toronto's dog parks with her more-than-human-kin, Quinn.

### **Damon Bradley Jang - Director/ Marketing**

Damon has worked in Canada from Victoria to Newfoundland. He is originally from Vancouver but moved to Ontario to attend the Birmingham Conservatory at the Stratford Festival. Damon is a multi faceted performing arts practitioner having held almost every role in theatre. Directing highlights include: a 2-year award winning National Fringe tour of *Who Drinks Mocktails On The Beach* (Painted Fern Productions, The \$#IT (Orlando/ Calgary Fringe), *Dim Sum Diaries: 2nd Helping. Once On This Island* Vancouver premiere, (BWW Vancouver Award Winner, Fabulist Theatre). And the following projects: *Casey And Diana, All's Well That Ends Well* (Stratford, Assistant Directing), *Beneath Springhill* (assistant director, Arts Club Theatre Company) *Cockroach* (associate director. Tarragon), *Into The Woods* (BWW Vancouver Award Winner, associate director/ choreographer, NSLOS) *Little Shop Of Horrors* (associate director/ choreographer). Other highlights: assisting on the Pre- Broadway workshop of *Beaches the Musical* with Lonny Prince and Christopher Gatelli during season one of *Shmigadoon!* For Apple TV. He currently lives in Toronto, is a proud member of CAEA/ ACTRA and holds a bachelor's degree in performing arts and musical theatre diploma from Capilano University in BC.

### **Shawna Brown – Producer / Company Manager**

Shawna is an Honours Graduate of Communications and Sociology, York University and a certified ESL Teacher and Founder of The Wine and Travel Co. and events and leisure company. She is also the creator of Sips & Savours Newsletter where readers discover new foods, recipes, unique wines to buy on consignment and humours articles ([www.wineandtravelco.com](http://www.wineandtravelco.com)).

### **Kaitlin Condie- Actor**

Kaitlin is thrilled to be in front of an audience in "A Conversation With Myself". She is a graduate of the performing arts program at George Brown College where she had the opportunity to learn from and work with many diverse and talented artists. Favorite roles include Willa in *Souffle* (TEPF Productions), Detective Sarah in *John School* (dir. Stephanie Jones), and Rhanias in *Sister Warriors* (dir. Roselyn Kelanda-Sedra). Kaitlin would like to thank her friends and family for their belief in her and their unwavering support. For fans of improv, you can catch her troupe Pure Chaos @purechaosensemble monthly at Comedy Bar in "The Perfect Scene".

### **Irena Huljak- Actor**

Irena is an award-winning actor and playwright whose work has taken her to stages and screens across Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. She received the Best Actress Award at the Great Canadian Comedy Film Festival and has performed in London, New York, Vancouver, Toronto, and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Her screen credits include *American Gods*, *Brother* (directed by Clement Virgo), *Mayday*, *DOC*, and *The Testaments*. Stage credits include the Off-Broadway production *Shakespeare in Space* (Mint Theatre Company), Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet* (Classical Theatre Brooklyn), and Beatrice in *The Changeling* (Annex Theatre). As a creator, she produced the web series *Open*. She has also developed *Fallen*, a contemporary adaptation of *The Trojan Women*. Her work has earned recognition in both acting and playwrighting, including a placement in Pat the Dog Theatre Creation's Women in the Room Playwriting Unit.

### **N. L Lee - Actor**

Lee is a Chinese-Canadian multidisciplinary artist based in Toronto. With a specialisation in New Play Development and experimental theatre and they have been fascinating to help bring this project to life. They are a graduate from the acting program at the University of Ottawa.

### **Jajube Mandiela- Actor**

Jajube has trained extensively in theatre and on screen, including b current's rAiz'n the Sun Ensemble. Acting highlights include *Blue Planet* and *El Numero Uno* (Young People's Theatre), originating the lead role in Dora Award nominated *Binti's Journey* (Theatre Direct), award winning Summerworks production of *Greenland* (written by Governor General's Award-winning playwright Nicolas Billon), and two Summers performing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Canadian Stage's Dream in High Park). Jajube also directs for stage and screen and was the Artistic Director (2013-2017) of b current Performing Arts. Best known for 8 seasons as Chantay on *Degrassi*, connect on Instagram @jajubem

### **Lisa Scianella – Stage Manager**

Lisa is a graduate of Humbe Theatre School. She loves making daring theatre with equally daring creatives. She enjoys stage managing projects like *Women at Plays 8*, *Cossi Fan Tutte* (Opera York), *Why the Caged Bird Sings* (Modern Times Stage Company) and *Camp* (Branch Out Theatre). She loves working on new projects like *Hallmark(ish) Musical* and *ANIVIA*.

### **Robert Stefaniuk – Lighting / Technical Advisor**

Rob's theatre origin story began with an innocuous stay-at-home dad joining the world-famous Loose Moose Theatre Company. Twenty years later Rob has been everything from technical director to Sherlock Holmes, sound/lighting designer and operator to puppeteer, troll bridge architect to writer/director. Rob once taught a 10-week improv class to 20 Latino seniors. ¡Todos se divirtieron muchísimo!

### **Henry Hamilton - Production Associate**

Henry has worked on a variety of productions both in his hometown of Toronto and in Kingston, Ontario, where he is studying theatre and film at Queen's University. While in Kingston, he has collaborated with a fellow student to create House On Fire Theatre, a production company that has produced two successful shows in Kingston and is working on an upcoming performance in August, *Inoculations*, a revival of two Darren O'Donnell plays. He is also preparing to direct his own adaptation of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*.