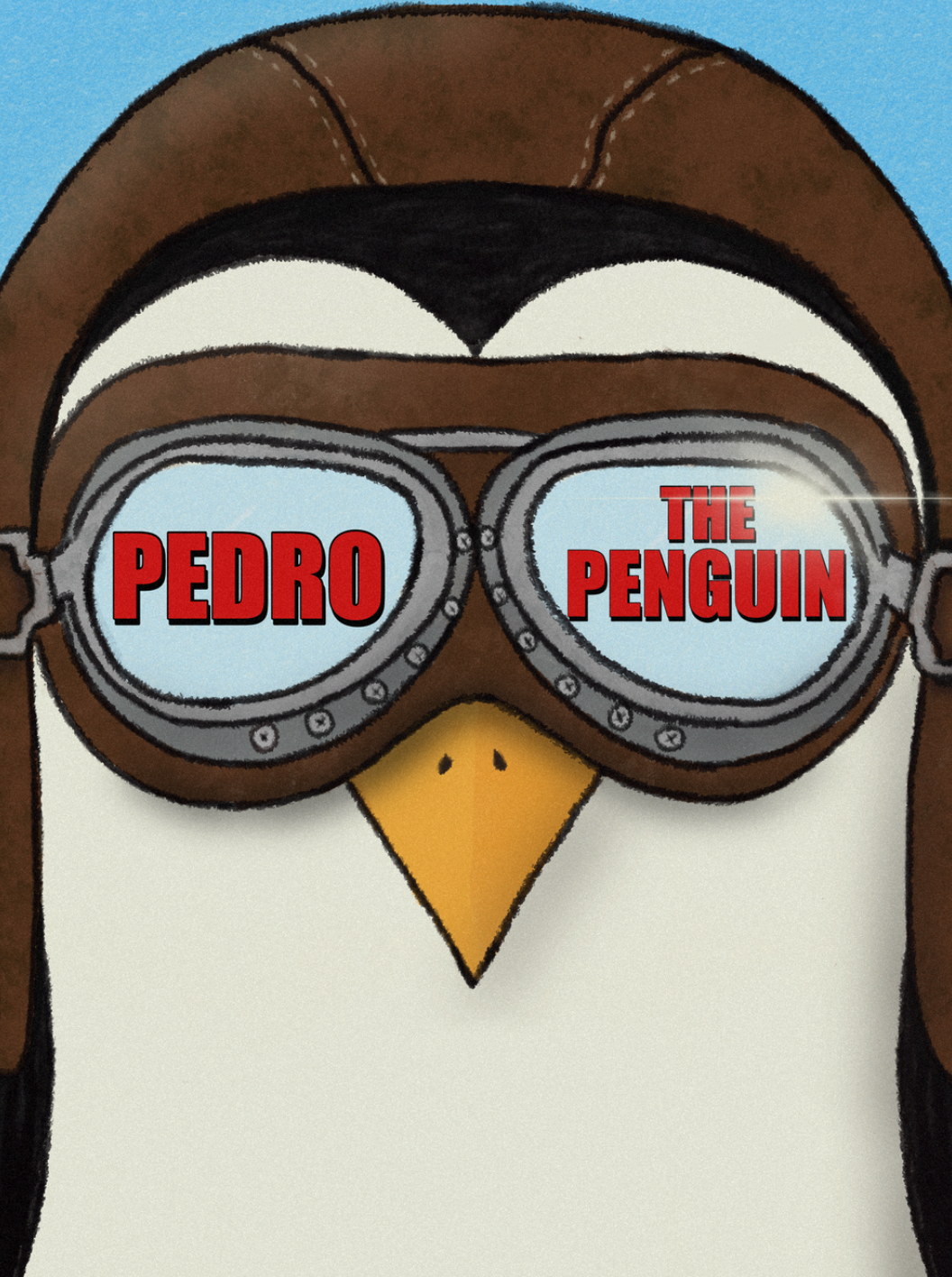


TORONTO
FRINGE
KIDSFEST

 Guild
Festival
Theatre
A Youth Engagement Scarborough Project



PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE



At first, the thought of bringing “Pedro the Penguin” to the Toronto Fringe seemed like a bunch of toucan talk, but now here we are. What started as a small 10-minute play in theatre school has now developed and grown into something way bigger than I could have imagined. This play is for all the penguin, sports movie, Christmas fans out there, but mostly it’s for all the dreamers. Young and old alike, I hope you can see yourself in Pedro and the journey he faces. Huge shoutout and thanks to Mark Brownell, Julie Tepperman, and the 2026 class of George Brown Theatre School for helping bring this work to life the first time, and to Sue Miner and Participatory Players for giving it a second life to fully take flight.

Philip Diamond

Playwright, *Pedro the Penguin*



Pedro the Penguin is made possible through the Guild Festival Theatre’s Youth Engagement Scarborough Initiative.



Chrisevina Tsoura -Pippa the Puffin/Ensemble

Chrisevina Tsoura (she/her) is a Greek-Canadian actor and theatre-creator based in Toronto. Her passion for performing emerged in 2016 when she discovered the joy of community theatre. She has been addicted since! Recent credits include: The Ensemble (Perchance Productions, Toronto Fringe Theatre Festival & The Second City), winner of the Volunteers' Choice Award. Post graduation, Chrisevina is interested in exploring directing, playwriting, physical theatre and classical texts. You can catch her at the Toronto Fringe this summer performing in a devised adaptation of Uncle Vanya, CUSP directed by Tanya Rintoul (TMI&Co) and in Kid Fest's Pedro the Penguin, directed by Sue Miner (Participatory Players). When she is not in rehearsal, she is busy baking, reading or serving coffee.



Dale Rideout -Slushy the Snowman

Dale just graduated his 3rd year at George Brown Theatre. He is thrilled to be a part of this project with so many talented people. This summer, Dale will also be playing the role of Eli in TMI and Co's Fringe production of CUSP! Dale's most recent previous roles include, Sparrow - Parliament of the Birds, Duke Solinus - Comedy of Errors, Prisoner 3 - The Ensemble. Dale sends so much love to the cast and crew of Pedro The Penguin!!!!



Ember Ross -Stage Manager/Sound Designer

Ember Ross (They/He) is an interdisciplinary actor, singer, and stage manager entering their third year studying Theatre and Drama at UofT and Sheridan College. They are so excited to be joining the team and helping Pedro fly! Previous Stage Management: The Play That Goes Wrong: High School Edition (Mayfield S.S.), Les Misérables: High School Edition (Singer's Theatre), Wake Up (UofT Dramafest, Toronto Fringe), Carrie the Musical (Singer's Theatre), In the Shadow of Jupiter (UofT Dramafest). Awards: Janet Bessey Award for Excellence in Stage Management. Many thanks to family, friends, and roommates, NBUC community, Michael Moon, and the entire cast and crew of Pedro. Helping Pedro fly has been an absolute honour!



Jacob Pittini -Assistant Director/Producer

Jacob Pittini is a PhD candidate at the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Toronto. Prior to pursuing graduate studies Jacob studied Drama at Queen's University, where he directed productions for the Dan Studio Series and Colliding Scopes Theatre Company, leading to collectively devised immersive performances. Jacob is especially interested in theatre which invites audience engagement through unique forms of participation. Jacob is working as the assistant director and a producer of Pedro the Penguin



Jaiden French - Pedro the Penguin/Producer

Jaiden French is a Chinese-Canadian actor and producer raised in London, Ontario. She is a recent graduate of the George Brown Theatre School, and previously earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology from Queen's University. During her time at Queen's, Jaiden appeared in numerous productions with the Dan School of Drama and Music, including *Not Wanted on the Voyage*, *The Lancashire Lass*, and *Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play*. Jaiden is also currently performing in *CUSP* with TMI & Co. as part of the Toronto Fringe Festival, directed by Tanya Rintoul. She couldn't be more excited to make her Toronto Fringe Festival debut! Upcoming: *Bluebirds* (Theatre Aezir).



Jon Britton - Ernest Ekfington/Ensemble

Jon Britton has been pursuing acting for almost a decade. He got his introduction to the stage by performing improv comedy in high school. He went on to study theatre as his minor at Queen's University and perform with various Kingston theatre companies including Domino theatre and Improv Kingston. He will be continuing his performance training in the fall for his third year at George Brown College. He is very excited for his first show with the Toronto Fringe and to be a part of such a stellar cast and crew! When not pursuing the theatre, Jon continues to practice his improv comedy skills whenever he can find the time!



Kat Zhang - The Ringleader/Ensemble

Kat Zhang (she/her) is a queer, Chinese-Canadian actor and artist based in Tkaronto. Kat is so thrilled to be joining the wonderful creative team, crew, and cast of *Pedro the Penguin*, to bring to life this wonderful story of perseverance and winter holiday magic (in July!). This is Kat's first Toronto Fringe appearance as an actor, and her third year as a dedicated patron. Theatre and stage performance was her first love into acting, and Kat is an alum of the musical sketch comedy charity shows of Toronto Players and Queen's Players. Her on-screen credits include *Sheriff Country*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, and various commercials and indie films. Kat currently works as the Production Assistant at Theatre Gargantua in Toronto. She holds a BScH in Life Sciences and Drama from Queen's University. Other select stage credits include *Anivia*, by Nhat Tan Vu (Anivia Collective), *Leftover*, by Phyllis Cameron Ung (Guild Festival Theatre). Special thanks to Pittini, Strictly Platonic, and Bear for all the love, laughter, and support this year and beyond! Instagram: @queenofspacekatz



Lisa Davenport -Producer

Lisa Davenport is an Artist Educator at Young People's Theatre's Drama School and a PhD Student at the University of Toronto's Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies. She is a graduate of the Queen's University Drama program and the Artist in Community Education program. Lisa pursued her MA in Applied Theatre at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London, England. She has taught in traditional classrooms, facilitated creative play in community spaces, and loves spending her summers as a camp program director. Lisa is so excited to bring her experience of working with young people to Pedro the Penguin with her role as a producer.



Noam Citrin -Choreographer

Noam is a Toronto-based researcher and aspiring Holocaust educator who moonlights as a choreographer, dancer, and actor when the opportunities arise. She is grateful to the team of Pedro the Penguin for letting her merge her passions for dance and penguins. Her favourite type of penguin is an emperor penguin. Select choreography credits: Metamorphoses (Victoria College Drama Society, 2026), Tick, Tick... Boom! (St. Michael's College Troubadours, 2025), Legally Blonde (SMCT, 2024), Cabaret (SMCT, 2023).



Philip Diamond -Playwright/Richard the Reindeer/Ensemble

Philip Diamond is an actor/writer from Toronto. From a young age, Philip has loved to perform and has studied acting for many years in elementary and high school prior to attending the George Brown Theatre School. When he is not acting on stage, Philip has a strong affinity towards writing, directing, and comedy. He is super excited to bring Pedro the Penguin to Fringe with the amazing team that helped bring it to life! Notable credits from George Brown include The Comedy of Errors, Orlando, Picnic at Hanging Rock, The Parliament of the Birds, and Munschstock. You can also find him elsewhere at the Toronto Fringe where he will be acting in Cusp (TMI & Co). He is very grateful for all his family and friends for their continuous love and support. Instagram: [_philipdiamond](#)



Shaylynn McMaster -Creative Designer/Graphic Designer

Born and raised in Sydney, Nova Scotia, Shaylynn McMaster (she/her) is a multidisciplinary artist, actor, and recent graduate of George Brown Theatre School. She moved to Toronto in 2023 to pursue her passion for theatre acting. Some of her favourite George Brown credits include: Courtasean in The Comedy of Errors, Ethel in Munschstock!, Éliante in The Misanthrope (Period Study), Logan in The Thanksgiving Play (Scene Study), and Tina in Tough! (Scene Study). "Pedro the Penguin" marks many firsts for Shaylynn, as this is both her first Toronto Fringe show and her first time working behind the scenes as Creative Designer/Graphic Designer. Shaylynn is thrilled to be working on Pedro with such a wonderful team of friends/fellow artists and has loved helping the show spread it's wings and take flight!



Sue Miner -Director

Sue is thrilled to be directing Pedro the Penguin at the Fringe of Toronto with these wonderful artists! Recently Sue directed The Love Sick Lambs of Lombardi (Cooped up with Tom at Video Cabaret), co adapted Love You Forever and More Munsch (YPT) directed Bad Hats Alice in Wonderland (Soulpepper, Ontario Tour, MTYP) James and the Giant Peach (YPT). For Montreal's TYA company Jeunesses Musicales Sue adapted 5 Rumi Fables with music by the Iranian-Canadian Composers of Toronto, directed the very funny children's opera Orpheus and the Golden Harp and co-created Victory Quest an action adventure performed by Duo Percussion. She directed Petra (Theatre Direct) Blush (Carousel Players) and Chalmers Award Winning Belonging by Rex Deverell. For many years Sue has worked extensively with Puppetmongers Theatre where she directed Foolish Tales for Foolish Times, Bed and Breakfast and Cinderella in Muddy York which won the "Citation of Excellence in the Art of Puppetry" founded by Jim Henson at the American Center of the Union Internationale de la Marionette. As an actor years ago she toured extensively with TNB's Young Company and Regina's Globe Theatre School Tour. Born in Montreal Sue now lives in Toronto with her honey Mark Brownell, children Lily and Gavin, and cats Cecily and Ralph. Happy Fringing!



Tim Walker -Rock Collins/Ensemble

Tim has had the chance to learn from some real smart theatre folk (including this show's director: Sue Miner) He is a graduate of the George Brown Theatre School, The International School for Comedic Acting (Italy) This show is dedicated to to William and Caleb Walker. You guys wanna know something ?..... I love you.

Special Thanks

Aaron Berchuk ✨ Brian Diamond ✨ Maya Delaney ✨
Julie Tepperman ✨ Aaron Willis ✨ Mark Brownell ✨
Kfir Motsenyat ✨ Kate Tarasick ✨ David Vassos



Some dreams seem impossible.

*WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN PEDRO,
a young penguin determined to
defy expectations & discover
what it truly means to fly.*