

DADS

JUNE 30–JULY 10

TORONTO

FRINGE

FESTIVAL



Created & Performed by **TAYLOR TROWBRIDGE**

Directed by **DYLAN TROWBRIDGE**

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are grateful to have the opportunity to create and perform on this land, which is the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples, and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

ACTIVE LISTENER

Many thanks to Toronto Fringe for providing an Active Listener for two shows during the run of DADS. **Grace Bannon** will be in attendance for the performances on **July 4th and 9th** to serve as an Active Listener, a designated peer-support person available to audience members.

CONTENT WARNING

[Please click here](#) if you wish to access the content warning for *DADS*.

QUESTIONS

What's one of your earliest memories of your dad?

What's your dad's job? What do you think his dream job would be?

What's one thing – big or small, directly or indirectly – that your dad taught you?

What are two contradictory but true qualities about your dad?

Thanks for being here! If you would like to help spread the word about DADS feel free to tag us on Instagram [@taylorbluetrowbridge](#).

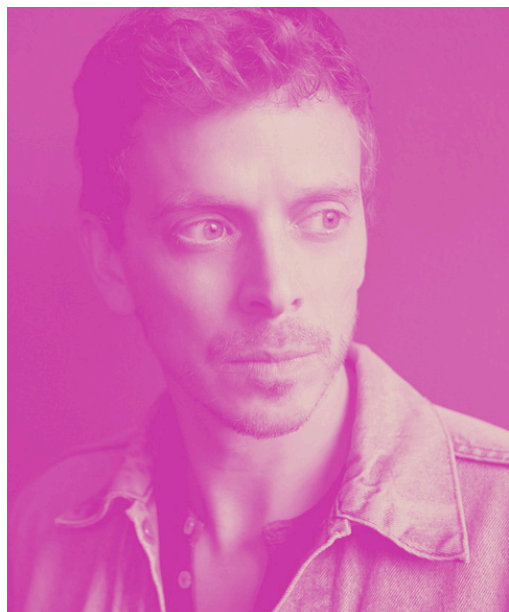
TEAM DADS



Taylor Trowbridge – Performer/Creator

Taylor Trowbridge (she/her) is an award-winning playwright, actor, and educator. Her documentary theatre piece *Tool for Rebellion*, exploring the Toronto van attack and the roots of Inceldom, was part of Studio 180 Theatre’s IN DEVELOPMENT program for two seasons and won Equity Showcase’s Cayle Chernin Award for Theatre in 2022.

As an actor, she has performed in productions for theatre companies such as Canadian Stage, The Shaw Festival, Nightwood Theatre, Bard on the Beach, Thousand Islands Playhouse and SummerWorks Festival, and for TV shows including *Upload* (Prime TV), *Watson* (CBS), *SkyMed* (CBC/CBS/Paramount+), *The Handmaid’s Tale* (Hulu/MGM) and *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC). She holds an MFA in Acting from York University, which lives in a cherished corner of her closet somewhere.



Dylan Trowbridge – Director

Dylan Trowbridge (he/him) is an award-winning theatre director and actor, known for creating bold, immersive work that pushes the boundaries of traditional performance. He won the 2025 Toronto Theatre Critics’ Award for Best Director for his production of *Cock with Talk is Free Theatre*, which was named one of the “Top Ten Theatre Shows of the Year” by The Globe and Mail. Dylan frequently collaborates with Talk is Free, having directed their productions of *Company*, *La Bête*, *Herringbone* and *The Yalta Game*. Other directing credits include: *Macbeth*, *Space Opera Zero*, *The Harrowing of Brimstone McReedy* (Eldritch Theatre), *Every Brilliant Thing* (County Stage) and *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (U of T). As an actor he has performed at Stratford, Shaw and in London’s West End.



Sarah Brawn – Stage Manager

Sarah Brawn (she/they) is a queer Toronto based stage manager. She has a BAH in Theatre from Queen’s University and has completed a number of S.M.Arts courses. Select stage management credits include the award-winning *Milk Milk Lemonade* (Mallowmarsh Productions), *MEAT* (Theatre Sheridan), *Pride and Prejudice* (Wren Theatre), *Every Feeling* (Vancouver Fringe), *Joan and Olivia: A Hollywood Ghost Story* (Edmonton Fringe), *Dead Elephants* (Good Old Neon).

This is the 7th Fringe show from across 4 different cities that Sarah has stage managed. They hope this show leaves you with something to think about when you skeDADdle on home after!



Chin Palipane – Lighting Designer

Chin Palipane (he/him) is a Toronto-based Theatre Artist, Technician, and Lighting Designer. He is a proud member of Coyote Collective, the TD of The Assembly Theatre, and a recent addition to the HT team at NEJPC. He enjoys breakfast (at non-breakfast times) and a good cup of coffee or tea! He is excited to work with these talented artists and deeply appreciates the support his father figure (Aruna), provided during their lifetime.



Erik Richards – Sound Design

Erik is a Theatre Maker from Treaty Six who has worked across the country as a Production Manager, Sound Designer and Director where his work focuses on the intersection between theatre and live music.

Theatre credits include: *Takwahiminana* (Soulpepper), *People Places and Things* (Coal Mine Theatre), *Infinite Life* (Coal Mine Theatre), *DION: A Rock Opera* (Coal Mine Theatre), *La Bête* (Talk is Free Theatre), *Fiji* (Icarus Theatre), *A Little Closer* (The Vault)



Harmony Trowbridge – Vocal Tones

Harmony Trowbridge is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Vancouver, BC, working primarily in music, installation, photo, theatre, and video. She holds an MFA in Documentary Media, an MA in Film and Photo Preservation and Collections Management (TMU), and a BA in Drama (Queen's). Her albums *Amorphobe* and *SACRILIDGE* can be found on Bandcamp. It is an honour to contribute to this beautiful work, and to share this creative space with her siblings, and Dad.

GUEST STAND UP COMICS



Jacob Balshin – June 30th

An award winning stand-up, Jacob was named one of Toronto's Top 10 Influencers of 2025 by the Toronto Star and has also been featured on CBC's New Wave of Comedy. His videos have amassed millions of views online and loyal Canadian cult fanbase.



Nikki Bon – July 2nd

Nikki Bon is an LA based stand-up comedian, actress and podcast host (duh, who isn't). Born and raised in Toronto, she gave up her healthcare to pursue her dreams in LA. And as a hypochondriac, that's a big risk. Ever since training and performing at Second City Toronto, Nikki got the comedy bug and continued on to complete both UCB NYC/LA and Groundlings improv programs which prepared her for her real love, stand-up comedy. You can catch Nikki on season 14 of America's Got Talent where she plays her iconic character "Insta Girl", on CBC Comedy Next Up and teaching her absentee rock and roll dad how to be a father on her podcast *Whoa, Dad!* And when she's not parenting her dad, she's trying to stay more "in the know" on her YouTube series *Blissfully Clueless*. Don't miss her new show *2% of Condoms* at Toronto Fringe!



Ornab Momin – July 3rd

Ornab Momin is a Bangladeshi Canadian comedian and software developer. He loves gardening, cooking, volunteering for Palestinian Liberation and spending time with his daughter. He writes and performs with the sketch troupe Sketch-o-matic. He's happy to be part of this Fringe show where all jokes are dad jokes.

GUEST STAND UP COMICS



Matt Bee – July 4th

Matt Bee is a Toronto-based comedian who first tried standup at an open mic in 2007. It went well so he waited 18 years to do it again.

In 2025, now in his 40s with a family and a full-time job, he thought, “What better time to jump back into the famously lucrative world of Canadian standup comedy!?”

Since then, Matt has been fortunate enough to perform at Comedy Bar and several other stages across the city, telling tales of parenthood, marriage and other grownup adventures.

As a father of two and the son of a father, he is beyond thrilled to be performing in *DADS* and the Toronto Fringe!



Ava Val – July 5th

Ava Val is a John Candy Award-winning comedian who's featured multiple times across CBC, CTV, OutTV, Crave, Just For Laughs, and Halifax and Winnipeg Comedy Festivals, in addition to writing on *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* and featuring on *Roast Battle Canada* and *Canada's Got Talent*.

With an untethered & energetic rockstar presence and an irrepressibly plucky outlook on life as a trans woman, Ava's unique act continues to add to her reputation as one of the best rising comedians in Canada.



Jon Bennett – July 6th

Jon Bennett is a world-renowned comedic storyteller and 7-time Just For Laughs Award nominee (Montreal, 2011-2017). Known for his ability to blend humour with deeply personal stories, Jon has carved a unique space in the world of comedy, and after 20 years in the business, he's recognized as one of the most prolific storyteller-comedians touring today. Jon's comedic storytelling has been showcased at over 145 festivals worldwide, winning awards including Critics Choice Award Winner (Orlando Fringe, 2015), Best Storytelling Award Winner (Sydney Fringe, 2023), National Artist of the Year – St. Louis Fringe (2022), Funniest Show Award Winner – London Fringe (2015) and Best Comedy Award Winner – Victoria Fringe (2017). Be sure to catch his show *AMERICAN'T* at the Toronto Fringe!

GUEST STAND UP COMICS



Courtney Gilmour – July 9th

Courtney Gilmour is an award-winning comedian and television writer. In 2017 she delivered a breakout performance at the Just For Laughs Festival in Montreal by becoming the first female to win the prestigious Homegrown Comics Competition as Canada's top comedian. In 2022 she was a Finalist in the second season of *Canada's Got Talent*.

Courtney made her U.S. Network debut on *Comic's Unleashed* and as an actor, appears in season 13 of *Trailer Park Boys* and is the voice of Lizzy on Nickelodeon's *Paw Patrol*. She's written for and made appearances on *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, CBC's *The Debaters*, *Space Dragon & Kim* and CBC's *Humor Resources* alongside Jon Dore and Sarah Silverman as well as multiple appearances on *Roast Battle Canada*.

Courtney's albums, *Let Me Hold Your Baby* and *Wonder Woman* were both nominated for JUNO Awards for Comedy Album of the Year and can both be regularly heard on SiriusXM.



Joanne O'Sullivan – July 10th

Joanne O'Sullivan has worked in the live Canadian arts scene for over 25 years. She's performed Stand-up from Vancouver to Toronto and written and performed in four solo shows. Her third show, *She Grew Funny*, premiered to sold-out audiences at the Toronto Fringe Festival, where it was the Factory Theatre Studio Patron's Pick and one of Now Magazine's Outstanding New Plays.

As a Screenwriter, Joanne's selected credits include CBC's popular news parody show, *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, and as a contributing writer for the *Baroness von Sketch Show*. As part of the 22 Minutes team Joanne has been nominated for three Writers Guild of Canada awards with one win. Most recently, Joanne has been working as a podcast producer and writer at Toronto-based production company, Antica Productions - on award-winning podcasts like 'Exile', hosted by Joshua Melina and 'This is Wild' for the World Wildlife Federation.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to Judy Trowbridge, Mark Trowbridge, Joanne Boland, Kaden and Wyatt, Harmony Trowbridge, Kai, Alison Mackay, Haley McGee, Naomi Wright, Amy Warkentin, Rachel Cairns, Becca Auerbach, Tyson Hoyle, Evelyn Wiebe, Dan Werb, A.J. Bond, Paula Wing, Mark McGrinder, Mitchell Cushman, Amanda Lin, B Street Collaborative, TAPA, Dwight McFee, Equity Showcase, Paul Hahn & Co Pianos and to everyone who helped make this show possible with their support: Katherine Gauthier, Terri and Sebastiaan, Cory Martin, Alison Deon, Victoria Laberge, Erin Outlund, Kevin Trowbridge, Kate Veinotte, Nancy Jones, Graham Myrfield, Hetty Watt, Joan Jamieson, Jason Hildebrand, Natércia Napoleão, Reut Rothstein, Michael Dundee, Tracey Rand (and the entire Rand family), Edina Cavalli, Roselle Healy, Zoe Le Good, Bria Shantz, Unspoken Theatre, Adam Santangelo, Ian Strand, Sarah Thomas and Derek Moran.

MORE TORONTO FRINGE SHOWS TO SEE!

"ENERGETIC, ENGAGING, HEARTFELT, HILARIOUS"
-WINNING AT FAILING

AMERI- CAN'T

"BENNETT IS THE
PATRON SAINT OF
STORYTELLING"

★★★★★

-BROADWAY BABY (UK)

"BENNETT IS
SCORCHINGLY FUNNY"

-NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

"A TOUR DE FORCE
THAT WILL MAKE
YOU LAUGH - TO
TEARS!"

★★★★★

-OTAKUHO CULTURE

"ARMED ONLY
WITH SELF-
DEPRECATING WIT
AND MEMORIES
BENNETT REMINDS
US THAT ORDINARY
PEOPLE LEAD
EXTRAORDINARY
LIVES."

★★★★★

-THE SUNDAY MAIL

COMEDIAN

JON BENNETT

"MASTERFUL,
HILARIOUS, AND
HEARTBREAKING.
A TRIUMPH"

-BROADWAY WORLD (US)



RESOURCES

The Toronto Fringe has created a resource spreadsheet that is added to and updated regularly. Find crisis lines, addiction resources, recommendations for affordable therapy, and more. [Please click here for list of resources.](#)

If you know of resources that you think should be included here, please email Jules at community@fringetoronto.com.

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Jacob Balshin	June 30
Nikki Bon	July 2
Ornab Momin	July 3
Matt Bee	July 4
Ava Val	July 5
Jon Bennett	July 6
Courtney Gilmour	July 9
Joanne O'Sullivan	July 10



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