

Gerry's Imaginarium

Presented by
The Neighbourhood Follies



Directed By
Micaela Morey

Cast
Alie Rutty
Ajeuro Abala
Tessa Rusgnak
Matthew "Zach"
Zacharias

Assistant Directed &
Stage Managed by
Willow Edwards

TORONTO
FRINGE
KIDSFEST

Young People's Theatre
Studio Theatre

 Guild
Festival
Theatre
A Youth Engagement Scarborough Project

WHO ARE THE NEIGHBOURHOOD FOLLIES?

Established in 2023, the Neighbourhood Follies is a devised dance and clown theatre troupe, composed of performers, musicians, philosophers, and photographers, who strive to make work that is joyful, absurd, and accessible to all audiences. Our work has always been, at its core, about the joy of dance - and how that spark of joy can be useful for everyone, no matter what age, background, or occupation. We have a history of outdoor performance, with previous shows at Woodbine Park and the Toronto Harbourfront docks. Thank you for attending our indoor debut!

To keep up with our adventures, follow us on instagram @neighbourhoodfollies or email us at neighbourhoodfollies@gmail.com



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When I was approached about the possibility of directing The Neighbourhood Follies in the 2026 Fringe, I jumped on the chance—not only to return as an artist in the Toronto Fringe Festival, or to get the chance to create art with my friends, but also to be involved in developing a show for Young Audiences! As someone who absolutely devoured theatre and music when I was growing up, I know how important it is for kids to experience the magic of a live performance. I have an extensive background working with children: from performing as an actor in interactive children's theatre, to teaching vocal music and drama to children, to conducting instrumental workshops in elementary schools. The Neighbourhood Follies have managed to come up with a wonderfully inspiring piece with catchy tunes and bursts of inspiration, and I am honoured that I got to help them meld it into the wonderful work you will get to experience today. This is a very special group of people from all different backgrounds and they have taught me just as much as I have, hopefully, taught them. I am so excited for you and your little one(s) to experience the magic of Gerry's Imaginarium! Enjoy! - Micaela Morey

Micaela Morey

CREATIVE TEAM

Micaela Morey

Micaela Morey is a theatre creator, actor, songwriter, vocalist, and multi-instrumentalist born and raised in Toronto, ON. She holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Toronto and a Diploma in Theatre Performance from George Brown College. She is a professional vocalist and a member of That Choir, Beyond Melodies, and The Toronto Festival Singers. She has recently stepped into the world of directing and is absolutely thrilled to be making her Fringe directorial debut with *The Neighbourhood Follies!*

Notable credits include:

Rosalind in *As You Like It* (BarTeam Theatre), Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (YES Theatre), Director and Musical Director for *Alice in Wonderland Jr*, *Shrek the Musical Jr* (Theatre Arts and Dance Academy), Francine/Ensemble in *Estelle Singerman* (Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company), Character 2 in *Of A Blank Canvas ...* (Toronto Fringe), Director for *Maggie: In Concert* (The Music Gallery), Phoebe in *As You Like It*, Dr. Chumley in *Harvey*, Mrs. Fairfax in *Jane Eyre*, Belvidera in *Venice Preserved* (George Brown Theatre School), Musical Director for *Pygmalion* (Guild Festival Theatre).



Willow Edwards

Willow Edwards fell slowly into the performing arts before they consumed her. In 2013 she started training casually in improv in Vancouver, at Instant Theatre, Blind Tiger, and The Improv Centre. After a few years, she started to discover the weirder, more emotionally raw side of the stage. She found out that's what she'd been seeking the whole time. Over the past three years, Willow has been training and creating in the clowning community at Toronto's Sweet Action Theatre.

In 2024, Willow co-created and assistant directed the hit Fringe show *1 Santosh Santosh 2 Go* alongside director Ken Hall and creator Srutika Sabu. Willow collaborated again with Sabu on Neptune's with a Fish, which debuted at Paprika Festival in 2025. Gerry's Imaginarium is Willow's third outing stage managing, assistant directing, co-writing, and lighting designing an off-the-wall stage production.

CAST

Alie Rutty

Alie Rutty (she/her) is a Toronto-born-and-based performer, facilitator, photographer, theatre creator, and interdisciplinary artist. With a background in musical theatre and a degree in photography, her eclectic practice seeks to forge unsuspecting friendships through various modes of collaboration. She has co-facilitated Improv Dance Jams for all ages and abilities, trained in clown and physical theatre at Sweet Action Theatre, and was a recent recipient of the TAC Playwright's Grant to develop her play *You Can Live Forever, Grandma*, about terminally ill seniors who are given the option to live forever. Alie has also participated in the 48 Hour Film Project (2021-2026), Toronto Fringe TENT program (2023), and Ghost River Theatre's National Devised Intensive (Calgary, 2022). Past projects include *Theatre Troupe* (2019) - a longform experiment in which 10 people (including Ajeuro Abala) created a theatre piece while improvising in character. She is thrilled to be making her Toronto Fringe debut as Lottie, her spirited alter-ego.



Ajeuro Abala

Ajeuro Abala is a Toronto based artist from Ottawa, Ontario with a BFA in Photography Studies from Toronto Metropolitan University's School of Image Arts. His practice contemplates human interaction with the world around us via the implications of our presence within it, or lack there-of. A relative newcomer to dance and the performing arts, the Neighbourhood Follies troupe has allowed Abala to continue developing as a performer while he explores the abundant possibilities of the medium.

CAST



Tessa Rusgnak

Tessa Rusgnak is an actor, vocalist, and multi-instrumentalist with a diverse background in theatre and music. Holding a diploma in Theatre Arts Performance from George Brown College, Tessa brings a wealth of experience to every project. As a skilled musician, they play a variety of instruments, including the ukulele, guitar, bass guitar, and melodica, showcasing their versatility both on stage and in the studio. As both a musician and an actor, Tessa is passionate about storytelling in all its forms and often creates music for the stage. In 2024, they starred as both an actor and musician in *Bad Hats Peter Pan* at YES Theatre. Additionally, they have composed original music for productions at George Brown College and for their solo music project *Tessela*. Tessa is passionate about nurturing the next generation of artists. They have worked as a vocal and theatre coach for students at private schools throughout the Toronto area, guiding young performers to develop their craft. They have also graced the stages of Northern Ontario music festivals such as *Up Here* and *Her Northern Voice*.

Matthew “Zach” Zacharias

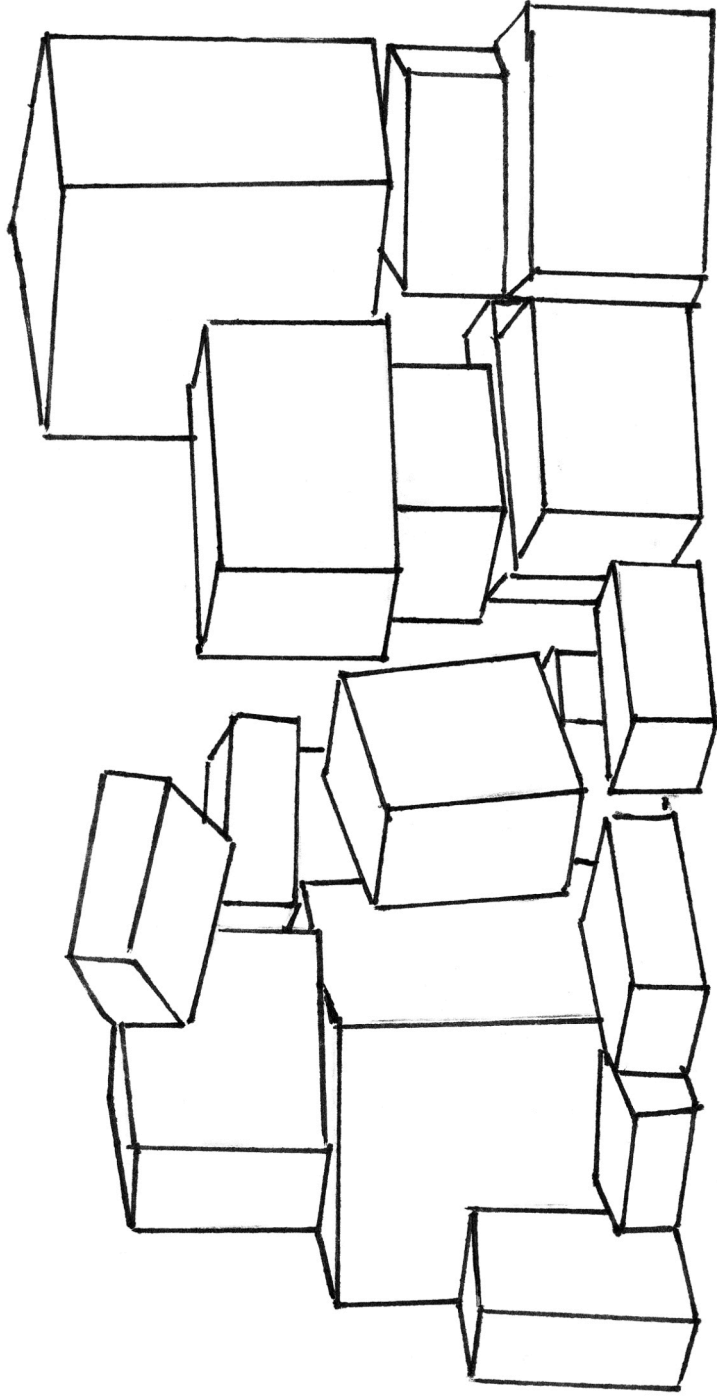
Zach has been writing and performing music with the Neighbourhood Follies since the collective’s first performance in 2023. He studies philosophy. If you trust him with your address, he will very likely send you mail. Zach brings an eclectic and enthusiastic spirit to every project, and is known to insist that everything is better with an original theme song.



COLOURING PAGE!

Artwork by Alie Rutty

Add some colour to these boxes!



AUTOGRAPH PAGE!

Meet the cast of ALL of the KidsFest Shows to get BINGO!

Gerry's Imaginarium	Clowns Reading Shakespeare	The Everlasting Friendship of Billy and Bink
Neuro-Dive!	FREE SPACE	Pedro the Penguin
Old-Fashioned & New Fashioned	Young People's Theatre staff	BONUS: Short King (at Sweet Action Theatre)

CREDITS

Original Concept created by The Neighbourhood Follies (Alie Rutty, Ajeuro Abala, Tessa Rusgnak, Matthew "Zach" Zacharias)

Adapted, Devised, and Written by Micaela Morey, Willow Edwards, and The Neighbourhood Follies

CAST

Gerry - Ajeuro Abala

Lottie - Alie Rutty

Talulu the Troubadour - Tessa Rusgnak

Theodore the Troubadour - Matthew "Zach" Zacharias

The Boss - Willow Edwards



CREW

Director - Micaela Morey

Stage Manager/Assistant Director/Lighting Designer - Willow Edwards

Producer - Alie Rutty

Music & Lyrics - Tessa Rusgnak, Matthew "Zach" Zacharias

Additional Lyrics - Micaela Morey

Choreography - Alie Rutty

Costume Design - Tessa Rusgnak

Prop Design Lead - Willow Edwards

Media Coordinator - Matthew "Zach" Zacharias

Marketing/Outreach Coordinator - Alie Rutty

Photography/Videography - Graham Venney

Graphic Design - Nick Contini



SPECIAL THANKS

Eva Havill, Runnymede United Church - Windermere Campus



Taylor Hazell Architects Ltd.

THA Architecture, Conservation
& Strategic Planning

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Kaleb Piper

Andrea and Christopher Rutty

Falafel World

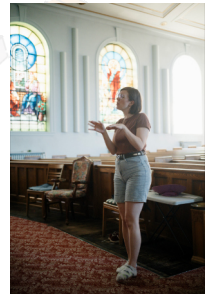
Downtown Camera

Ganesh Thava

Jeannette Lambermont-Morey

Cassandra Sirois, Tara Samuel and family

Hollie Olenik



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Neil Phillips

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