

Skipping Stones Theatre presents

Iphigenia in Splott

by Gary Owen



A solo show about love, hope and sacrifice.

Running July 7th-17th at the Factory Studio Theatre
125 Bathurst St., Toronto | @skippingstonestheatre

July 7 @ 9:30PM	July 14 @ 2:00PM*
July 9 @ 4:15PM	July 15 @ 9:00PM
July 11 @ 8:45PM	July 17 @ 2:15PM
July 13 @ 3:30PM	*Relaxed Performance

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SKIPPING STONES
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DIRECTORS' NOTES

In a lot of ways, our political views tend to boil down to who we choose to empathize with. Do we throw our lot in with the people that look, talk, and behave the most like us? Or do we attempt to grasp the experiences of people we don't relate to?

Back in 2015, this play was produced for a U.K. audience during a time of harsh austerity measures; massive cuts to public spending that were ostensibly aimed at encouraging economic recovery after a global recession. In practice, these cuts tended to focus on spending that benefited people and communities on the lowest rungs of the economic ladder.

Selling these cuts to the voting public often involved adopting rhetoric that described the beneficiaries of social programs as unworthy of public support, rendering their poverty a result of personal choices and character flaws. The political arithmetic is simple: if most voters do not like the people who receive public services, they won't object to those services being stripped away.

Iphigenia in Splott does not attempt to dispel these ideas through portraying Effie as a kind, hard-working woman who just happens to be down on her luck. Instead, we're offered the opportunity to look past the character her environment has shaped her into and see the common desire for a life driven by love and purpose.

CONTENT WARNING: *Iphigenia in Splott* contains strong language, some descriptions of violence, sexual content and themes of infant loss.

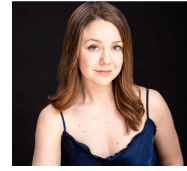
CAST AND CREW



SARAH BRAWN (STAGE MANAGER) Sarah Brawn (she/her) is a graduate of the Queen's Drama program. She has stage managed a number of shows, from play series to musicals, as well as technical directed, production managed, and costume design, among other roles. She has spent the last couple years in Toronto working as a bartender, barista, and engaging with the arts. Having previously worked at the Kingston Storefront Fringe Festival, Sarah is excited to be working on her first Toronto Fringe Festival!



ALICE CAVANAGH (MOVEMENT CONSULTANT) Alice (she/her) is an Australian actor and movement director who is passionate about the art of physical storytelling. Trained in Melbourne as an actor at the Victorian College of the Arts (2012), Alice fell in love with theatre and physical communication. She continued to explore the art of movement through her work as a movement coordinator, physical performer and stunt person. Since leaving Australia in 2016, Alice has travelled the UK and Canada furthering her studies in movement. She is now based in Toronto where she works as an actor, movement coach, physical performer and movement director. She is currently the Rehearsal Director for Frog In Hand dance theatre's 2022 season.



BREANNA MALONEY (ACTOR, CO-PRODUCER) Breanna (she/her) is an actor, writer and theater maker based in Toronto. She is passionate about telling stories from a feminist and socio-political point of view. Breanna has contributed writing to Tall Tale Theatre's Night Terrors podcast, the Windsor-Essex Nature Poetry and Environmentalism zine and The Tank NYC's Rule of 7x7. Her first semi-autobiographical play, *Cooking for Grief*, debuted at the Vancouver's Fringe Festival in 2021 after a successful digital staged reading. Breanna became a co-founder of Skipping Stones Theatre in 2016 and has enjoyed producing and performing in several productions with this collective including *Hamlet(s)*, *Coriolanus* and *4.48 Psychosis*. Breanna is a graduate of East 15 Acting School (MFA) and the University of Windsor (BFA). www.breanna-maloney.com.



SEAN O'BRIEN (DIRECTOR, CO-PRODUCER) Sean O'Brien (he/him) received his B.F.A. in Acting at the University of Windsor, realized he was just kind of okay at acting, and got his M.F.A. in Theatre Directing at East 15 Acting School. Since co-founding Skipping Stones Theatre, he's directed *4.48 Psychosis*, *Coriolanus*, and most recently *Hamlet(s)*. He's also directed for two seasons of the Newmarket National Play Festival, directed *Living With Olivia* Cadence Donovan for RedWit Theatre in 2020, and staged managed for the Alumnae Theatre. His play *Moral Deficit* was produced by Skipping Stones Theatre at the Hamilton Fringe 2017.



CHIN PALIPANE (LIGHTING DESIGNER) Chin Palipanes is a Toronto-based Theatre Artist and Lighting Designer. He is a proud member of Coyote Collective and the current TD of The Assembly Theatre. He absolutely adores breakfast at non-breakfast times and a good cup of coffee/tea. Despite

whatever Breanna may say, he'd like to assure you he is not a werewolf. He wants you to know the next full moon in Toronto is on July 13th and thanks his friends and family for their continuous support!

GARY OWEN (PLAYWRIGHT) Gary's most recent plays include a radical reworking of *The Cherry Orchard* for the Sherman Theatre, which translated the action of the play to 1980s Pembrokeshire, at the beginning of the Thatcher era, and *Killology*, a co-production between the Sherman Theatre and the Royal Court, which won Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre at the 2018 Olivier Awards. Gary's newest play *Romeo and Julie* is due to be performed at the National Theatre.



Previously he's written *Violence and Son* for the Royal Court. *Violence and Son* was nominated for an Olivier in 2016, and its star David Moorst won Best Emerging Talent at the Evening Standard Awards and Most Promising Newcomer at the Critics' Circle Awards for his performance as Liam. In 2015, he wrote *Iphigenia in Splott* for the Sherman Theatre. After two sell-out runs at the Sherman, *Iphigenia* played the Edinburgh Festival as a British Council showcase pick, ran for a month the National Theatre in London, toured the UK, played at the FIND festival at Thomas Ostemeier's Schaubuhn Theatre in Berlin and at the E59E Theater in Manhattan, where it was a New York Times pick of the week. *Iphigenia in Splott* won the UK Theatre Best New Play award and the James Tait Black Prize for Drama, and earned its lead, Sophie Melville, a Stage Award for Acting Excellence and an Evening Standard Award nomination for Best Actress. Gary's plays have been translated into more than a dozen languages and produced all over the world, and are published by Oberon.

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Skipping Stones Theatre is an independent, Toronto-based theatre collective whose mandate is to explore stories through the lens of mental health and neurodiversity. Our goal is to provide Toronto with theatre that de-stigmatizes the conditions and circumstances surrounding mental health and wellness. Using a broad range of theatrical styles, we foster understanding and create social change to build a healthier society while empowering artists of all genders, ethnicities, abilities, and intersections.

Find out more about what we do and who we are at skippingstonestheatre.com & [@skippingstonestheatre](https://www.instagram.com/skippingstonestheatre)

Many Thanks to our GoFundMe donors:

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FRI. 8th / 9:45PM
SUN. 10th / 3:45PM
MON. 11th / 4:15PM
TUE. 12th / 9:30PM
THU. 14th / 7:45PM
SAT. 16th / 8:30PM



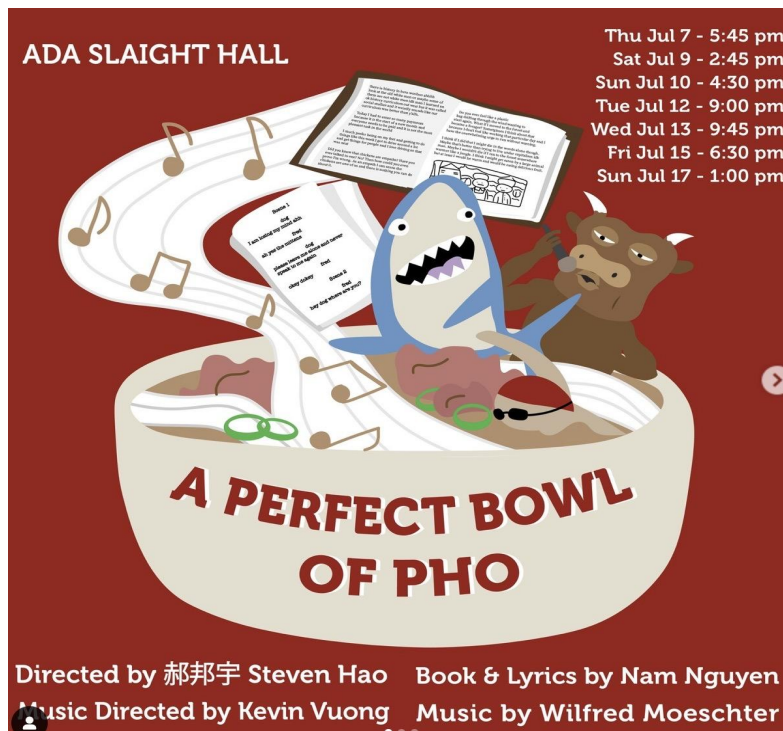
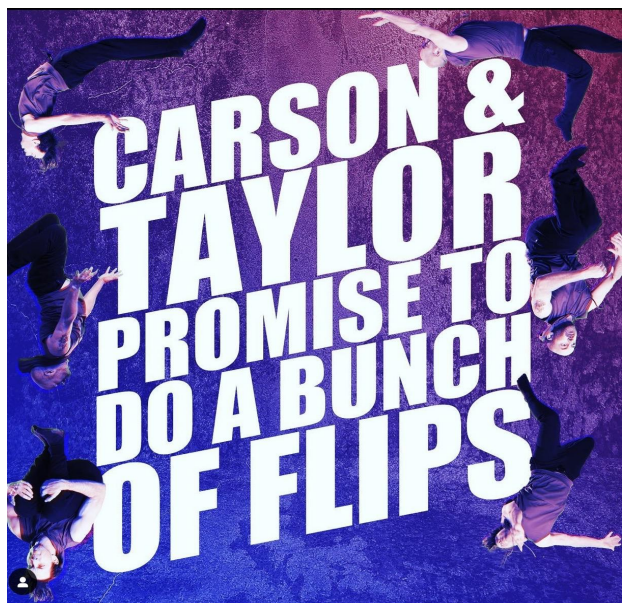
FEMMILLENIAL

Dance theatre created and choreographed by **Kylie Thompson**

Performed by **KIERA BREAUGH, DANA MACDONALD and CLAIRE WHITAKER**
Costumes **VAL CALAM**
Music **NOMVDSLVND**
Lighting **SIMON CLEMO**
Marketing Director **ADRI CHAVEZ**

Aki Studio Theatre
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