

TMI & CO. PRESENTS...



CUSP



Created by Tanya Rintoul
and the Company
after Chekhov's Uncle Vanya



A YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
SCARBOROUGH PROJECT

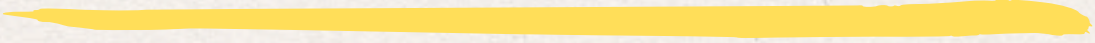
 @tmi_co_



JULY 2 ND : 4:00PM	JULY 8 TH : 9:30PM
JULY 3 RD : 4:30PM	JULY 9 TH : 3:15PM
JULY 4 TH : 9:45PM	JULY 12 TH : 2:15PM
JULY 7 TH : 7:30PM	

**@ SOULPEPPER THEATRE'S WEYNI
MENGESHA THEATRE**

CUSP



Created by Tanya Rintoul & the Company

CAST

Philip Diamond

Xander

Kimia Kalantari

Myhra

Kaleb Piper

Ivan

Katya Podlesnaia

Lina

Jaiden French

Yasmine

Jack Emerson Mosney

Mikhail

Dale Rideout

Eli

Chrisevina Tsoura

Sophie

CREATIVE TEAM

Tanya Rintoul

Director

Sephora N'Kosi

Lighting Designer

Jasmine De Sousa

Stage Manager

Isabel Lue

Photographer

CUSP

Relationships

MYHRA



LINA



YASMINE



SOPHIE



XANDER



ELI



IVAN



friends

married

cousins

cousins

MIKHAIL



siblings

Friends

half-siblings

best friends

half-siblings



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When we chose to adapt Chekov's Uncle Vanya, the first thing I asked my co-creators, these 8 actors onstage today, was to write about their fears for the future (I am very cheery and fun). I then read 8 versions of almost the exact same words. Loudly learning that their fear of possible regret was as much of a threat to happiness as the future regret itself.

And from there we began the process of discovering CUSP.

Since choosing it as our title, this word turns over in my mind regularly. It is the point of transition, it is an almost, it is an anticipation. It is the edge of the cliff at the moment of flight or fall. And after a cusp, what is on the other side of it? Do we get there? Do we have the thing? Did we fly? Or did we fall?

It seems the longer we live, the more of our lives we find ourselves in repetitive cycles, avoiding the cusp and deeply trying to connect with one another through change and evolution with no map or process to follow. What if we are forever in these repetitive cycles? How do we cut through, instead of continuing round and round? And what if there is never an arrival at all?

What if we are always becoming? What if we never become?

But somehow through it all there is joy to be found. We still celebrate, we still laugh, we still party.

We still love.

We still live.

Thank you for being here, happy Fringe!





THOUGHTS FROM THE COMPANY

We came together as a company as we graduate and begin our professional lives. Early in our process, we decided to adapt a classical text, and Uncle Vanya was brought up by both cast members and our director. The more we talked about it, the more we connected with the themes. As we adapted the story, we transposed the characters into their 20s, making them young people who are afraid of what they might regret instead of older people who are filled with regret for the past. Through these ideas, we also found lightness, hope, and humour in the story. How ridiculous is this right of passage, this common human experience, to make decisions based on a series of dreams, without ever knowing if these dreams will come true?



Photo by Ian Vatcher



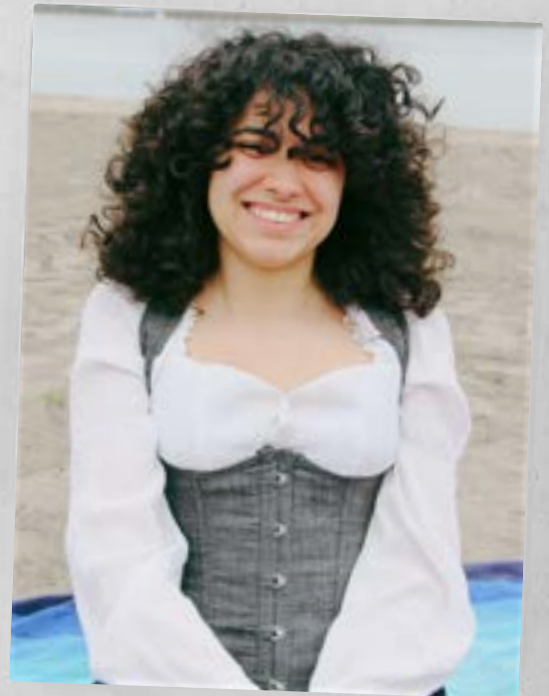
DIRECTOR

Tanya Rintoul

Tanya Rintoul is a director, theatre maker, dramaturge, and educator born and mostly raised in Tkaronto. She has a background in devised theatre and the development of new plays. Selected credits include: Orlando (George Brown Theatre School). A Streetcar Named Desire (assistant director-Soulpepper, dir. Weyni Mengesha) The Queen's Eulogy (the orchid beauty shop/Toronto Fringe) The Nails (SummerWorks), The Last Five Years (Rural Stages Productions), Deceitful Above All Things (The Storefront Theatre). She is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's Directing program and Humber College's Theatre Performance program.

Jazmine De Sousa

Jazmine De Sousa is a recent graduate beginning her professional career in stage management. She is thrilled to be working with the amazing CUSP team. During her time in school, she specialized in stage management, carpentry, props and wardrobe. Recently, Jazmine worked as an assistant stage manager on Humber Polytechnic's production of TomorrowLove™, directed by Elias Ham, Sharon B. Moore, and Aaron Willis. In the past, she worked as a stage manager and assistant stage manager for a Community Theatre on productions such as Legally Blonde The Musical and The Addams Family Musical, directed by Nicole Toogood. This marks her first professional production, and she is incredibly grateful to learn from such a talented team and director.



SM

Photo by Maxime Côté



LIGHTING DESIGNER

Sephora N'Kosi

Sephora N'Kosi (she/they) finds it hard to be contained within the jumble of a 100-word bio. She dances under many hats – such as queer, congolese, poet, designer and manager – but never ceases to prioritize kindness and openness in her work. In her studies at the National Theatre School of Canada (NTS) for Production Design and Technical Arts, she encourages visceral and honest stories through her writing and designs. Based in Toronto, she graduated from NTS in 2026 and stands to expand her practice primarily in Lighting Design, Production Management, and Stage Management while also continuing to write poems.

Isabel Lue

Isabel Lue is an actor and artist born and raised in Toronto and recent graduate of George Brown's acting for media program. Her joy for photography started at a young age through making stop motion projects on her Nintendo 3DS. She has been collecting cameras, taking headshots for her friends and making memories ever since.

Photo by Hayley Andoff



PHOTOGRAPHER

Photo by Isabel Lue



XANDER

Philip Diamond

Philip Diamond is an actor/writer from Toronto. He is super excited to be acting/devising this project with all his friends who recently graduated from George Brown Theatre School. Other notable credits he shares with this cast include: *The Comedy of Errors*, *Orlando*, *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, *The Parliament of the Birds*, and *Munschstock* (George Brown). In addition to *Cusp*, you can also find him at the Toronto Fringe Kidsfest, where he has written and will be acting in *Pedro the Penguin* (Participatory Players). He is very grateful to all his family and friends for their continuous love and support. Instagram: [_philipdiamond](#)

Jaiden French

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.

Jaiden is also currently producing and performing in *Pedro the Penguin* with Participatory Players as part of the Toronto Fringe KidsFest, directed by Sue Miner. She couldn't be more excited to collaborate with some of her closest friends from theatre school for her Toronto Fringe Festival debut!

Upcoming: *The Middle* (Port Hope Festival of the Arts and Grand River Arts Festival) and *Bluebirds* (Theatre Aezir).

Photo by Isabel Lue



YASMINE

Photo by Isabel Lue



MYHRA

Kimia Kalantari

Kimia Kalantari (she/her) is an Iranian-Canadian actor based in Toronto and a recent graduate of George Brown Theatre School. Before pursuing acting, she earned a Bachelor of Architectural Science from TMU, where she developed a passion for visual storytelling.

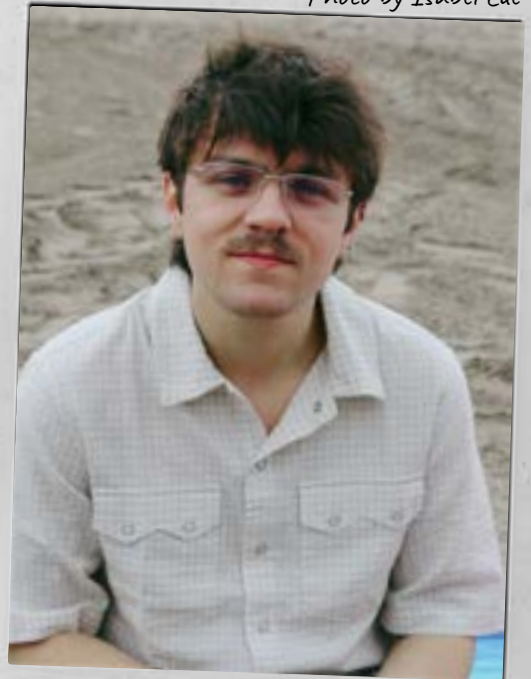
Her theatre credits include *Voicelless* (Dora-nominated, Veylan Theatre), *Far Flung Peoples* (Toronto Fringe '24), *The Comedy of Errors*, *Parliament of Birds*, *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, and *Munschstock* (GBTS). She has also appeared in several short films recognized at festivals nationally and internationally.

Kimia trained at École Philippe Gaulier in France and is excited to play Myrha in CUSP at the Toronto Fringe Festival 2026.

Jack Emerson Mosney

Jack is a performer and artist based here in beautiful Toronto, Ontario. He found his love for theatre while growing up in Guelph, through the numerous community theatres that continue to produce wonderful work there such as RCMPPI and GLT. Now that Jack has graduated from George Brown Theatre School, he is eager to share his work and continue to create here in the city. Some of Jack's previous credits include *E. Antipholus* in *Comedy of Errors* (GBTS), *Algernon* in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (ECT), and *The Town* in *The Ensemble* (Second City). Jack would like to thank his Mother and Father for their constant and unwavering support of him pursuing his dreams.

Photo by Isabel Lue



MIKHAIL

Photo by Isabel Lue



IVAN

Kaleb Piper

Kaleb Piper (he/him) is playing Ivan in CUSP. He's a recent George Brown Theatre School grad (as is everyone in the cast), who is nervous and excited about launching himself into the world outside of theatre school. You may have seen him as Antipholus of Syracuse in Comedy of Errors (GBTS - Severn Thompson) or Falcon in The Parliament of the Birds (GBTS - Soheil Parsa) in the latest George Brown Season of Plays. When not performing, he can be found driving boats, committing acts of piracy, or joining yet another Dungeons and Dragons table.

Dale Rideout

Dale (he/him) just graduated his 3rd year at George Brown Theatre with the rest of the cast! 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 Slushy the Snowman in Participatory Players' Fringe production of Pedro the Penguin! Dale's most recent previous roles include Sparrow - Parliament of the Birds, Duke Solinus - Comedy of Errors, and Prisoner 3 - The Ensemble. Dale gives so much love to the cast and crew of CUSP!!!!

Photo by Isabel Lue



ELI

Photo by Isabel Lue



LINA

Katya Podlesnaia

Katya Podlesnaia (she/her) is a Russian-Canadian actor based in Toronto. Before moving to Canada to pursue acting, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Literature. While in Russia, Katya worked on several student films, including Zero Vector at Moscow Film School, where she also contributed as a screenwriter and assistant director. Katya recently graduated from George Brown Theatre School with the other members of the cast. During her training, Katya performed Alceste in The Misanthrope, Sasha in Orlando Sarah Tucker in Munchstock!, and Marion in Picnic At Hanging Rock. Katya is excited to produce and perform in CUSP this summer. She can't wait to share this project with the audience. @you_reached_katya

Chrisevina Tsoura

Chrisevina Tsoura (she/her) is a Greek-Canadian actor, theatre-creator and recent graduate of GBTS. Her passion for performing emerged in 2016 when she discovered the joy of community theatre. She has been addicted since! Recent credits include: The Comedy of Errors (George Brown Theatre School/Severn Thompson) and The Ensemble (Perchance Productions, Toronto Fringe Theatre Festival & The Second City/Christel Bartelse), winner of the Volunteers' Choice Award. Post graduation, You can also catch her at the Toronto Fringe KidsFest performing in 'Pedro the Penguin' directed by Sue Miner (Participatory Players). When she is not in rehearsal, she is busy baking, reading or serving coffee. @chrisevina

Photo by Isabel Lue

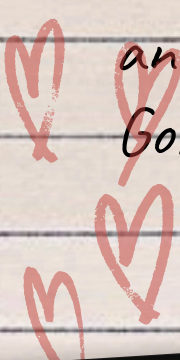


SOPHIE

SPECIAL THANKS!



Daniel Bennett, Erik Berg, Adrianna Bogaard, Shanda Bezic, Carly Chamberlain, Maya Delaney, Guild Festival Theatre Yes Program, Bryn Kennedy, Zoe Lee, Philip McKee, Oyin Oladejo, Jenae Toorie, Rosamund Small, Nora Smith, Julie Tepperman, Ganesh Thava, Dave Thomas, Aaron Willis, B Street Collaborative, George Brown College Alumni Association, The Toronto Fringe Festival, The Young Centre for the Performing Arts, and everyone who donated to our GoFundMe!



Set Building
by
Sam Poole

Logo Design
by
Rojan Navah



Land Acknowledgment

TMI & Co. acknowledges that the land we rehearse and perform on is stolen from the Indigenous peoples of Toronto. This includes the Wendat and Metis Nations, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Anishanabek Nations -- the ongoing caretakers and custodians of these lands. We also acknowledge that Toronto is part of Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit River, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands. We pledge to respect and care for these lands and each other in the name of truth, reconciliation, and relationality. This is our collective responsibility.

As an emerging theatre company, we strive to continue learning about Indigenous performing art and storytelling practices and hope to empower Indigenous artists in the year to come. We urge you to do the same.

You can also find the
CUSP cast in:

Pedro the Penguin

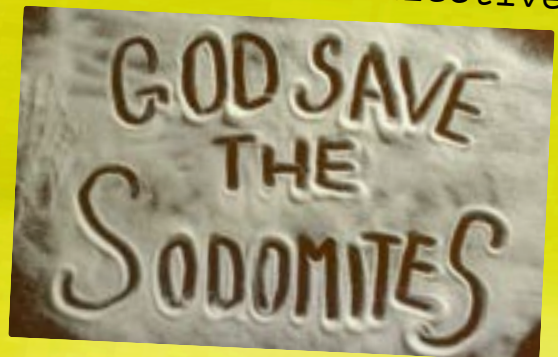
by Participatory Players



@ Young People's Theatre Studio

God Save the Sodomites

by Old Souls Collective



@ Native Earth's Minogitoon
Workspace Giizis Stuido

TMI PRODUCTIONS



CO-PRODUCER

Katya Podlesnaia

CO-PRODUCER

Chrisevina Tsoura

ASSISTANT PRODUCER

Kimia Kalantari



We are a collective of George Brown Theatre School graduating students. We have spent the past three years working closely, learning and growing with each other. Together, we have created four full-length plays (one of which was directed by Tanya Rintoul, our current director) and innumerable scenes, sketches, interpretive dances, etc. So, we thought, what better way to fight the post-graduation scaries than to create one more show together.

LET'S CONNECT.

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