

My Fair Divas presents

BRAVA

a cabaret of devotions



Praise for Yanik Gosselin:

"a pleasure to watch
and listen to."
- Opera Canada

"masterful."
- La Scena Musicale

written and performed by Yanik Gosselin
musical director / pianist: Benjamin Kersey

Soulpepper Theatre's Kevin and Roger Garland Cabaret (50 Tank House Lane)

Thurs. July 2 @ 8:15pm

Fri. July 3 @ 3:15PM

Sat. July 4 @ 5:00PM

Mon. July 6 @ 1:00pm

Tue. July 7 @ 4:45PM

Thu. July 9 @ 6:30PM

Fri. July 10 @ 10:15PM

Sun. July 12 @ 2:00PM

TORONTO
FRINGE
FESTIVAL



BRAVA

a cabaret of devotions

Presented by My Fair Divas for the 2026 Toronto Fringe Festival
Performed at Soupepper Theatre's Kevin & Roger Garland Cabaret

Writer / Performer / Director

Yanik Gosselin

Music Director / Pianist

Benjamin Kersey

Pianist (July 12)

Zain Solinski

Lighting Designer

Mabel Wonnacott

Stage Manager

Maddy Cooper

House Technicians

Sofia and Aidan

Photographer / Poster Design

Matt Hertendy

Stylist

Aemilia Moser

Wig Stylist

Brooklyn Johnson



TORONTO
FRINGE

FESTIVAL

My Fair Divas

My Fair Divas was founded by Yanik Gosselin to produce *BRAVA* at the 2026 Toronto Fringe Festival. The company's name playfully nods to classic musical theatre while honouring iconic and inspiring women of stage and screen.



Land Acknowledgment

My Fair Divas acknowledges the original stewards and storytellers of the land on which it works and performs: the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabeg, including the Mississaugas of the Credit. We also recognize that this territory is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the land.

For generations, Indigenous women have been custodians of stories, culture, and knowledge, shaping communities through their strength, creativity, and wisdom. We recognize that our work is part of a living tradition of storytelling that is deeply rooted in this land. We offer our respect and gratitude to the women who have kept stories alive since time immemorial; to those whose voices have been silenced, who have endured and resisted colonial violence, who are survivors; and to those who continue to share stories and songs that sustain communities today.

Yanik's Note

About a year ago, I was playing with the idea of performing a “miscast” cabaret show that would open and close with Peter Allen’s beautiful song “Quiet Please, There’s a Lady on Stage”. It was originally going to be a traditional musical review. I would perform beautiful songs written for female voices, with myself as removed from the narrative as possible. Like in the Peter Allen song, I wanted the applause to be directed their way, not mine! I quickly realized that doing such a show was nearly impossible, especially if I wanted it to be meaningful. The more I thought of which songs to include - songs that deeply resonated with me - the more I had to make peace with the realization that I had to include myself in the narrative. And mine was truly the only story I could tell.

From there, the creative process unlocked: the song choices became clearer and the show evolved into something deeply personal. While artists like Judy Garland and Céline Dion have shaped generations, I focus on what they mean to me, and the lessons I took from them at key moments in my artistic journey. The show became a tribute to these great women of the stage and screen, as well as the unsung women in my own life, including two beloved aunts who introduced me to my first movie obsession!

This project also gave me the opportunity to collaborate with very talented friends! (It’s true! Check their bios!) I am so grateful to them for jumping on board with joy, excitement, and thoughtful feedback, giving me the confidence to believe that my silly stories could make a Fringe show.

I hope that this show encourages you to take the time to reflect on the important people in your life, famous or not, that taught you something when you chose to listen. AND maybe you’ll leave with a song or two stuck in your head, because a song never really ends!





Yanik Gosselin, Writer / Performer / Director

Yanik Gosselin has been hailed for "his masterful diction and his well-supported upper register" (*Opera Canada*) and for "[using] his tall, lanky physicality to good comic effect" (*La Scena Musicale*). More than just a singer, he is a passionate storyteller, a sensitive musician, and a committed collaborator. His repertoire which includes a wide range of music, from early baroque operas to world premiere performances, and even a background in rock music, is a testament to his versatility. Yanik continually seeks innovative ways to tell stories through music and multidisciplinary work. Season highlights include Edoardo Milfort in *La cambiale di matrimonio* (Glenn Gould School), and Tonio in *La fille du régiment* (Grande Prairie Opera); guest appearances with Le Choeur du Moulin, the Avanti Singers, and the Stratford Concert Choir; opera pub performances with Against the Grain Theatre and Opera Revue; and writing and performing a solo cabaret, *BRAVA: A Cabaret of Devotions*, marking his Fringe debut at the 2026 Toronto Fringe Festival. yanikgosselin.com



Benjamin Kersey, Music Director / Pianist

Benjamin Kersey is a Franco-Ontarian music director and pianist, known for his stylistic versatility within theatre and classical music. In addition to performance work for major companies such as Mirvish, the National Ballet, the NAC, and the Shaw and Stratford Festivals, he has helped develop over a dozen new musicals by established and emerging Canadian writers at the Musical Stage Company, Second City, Toronto Fringe and Sheridan College. Benjamin is a two-time Dora nominee and a graduate of the University of Toronto. He is proud to be a member of the AFM and to be represented by Talent House, and is forever thankful to those who have helped shape his artistry. benjaminkersey.com

Favourite diva of the stage or screen: Donna Summer

Important unsung diva: Yanik Gosselin. And Mary Testa



Zain Solinski, Pianist (July 12)

Toronto-based keyboardist Zain Solinski is cultivating a multi-faceted career at organs and pianos throughout Canada. He works regularly as a pianist for the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus, as music director/organist for Dixie Presbyterian Church, and as a private teacher. Recent organizations Zain has performed with include Opera Revue, Confluence Concerts, Tapestry Opera, Apocryphonia and Slow Rise Music. Zain is one half of classical music duo mezzopiano alongside mezzo soprano Máiri Demings, whose 2024 film *Histoires Naturelles* made in collaboration with stop-motion animator Emily Ellis was nominated for an Opera America Digital Excellence Award. He holds a Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of Lethbridge and a Master's of Music from Western University, having studied with Deanna Oye and John Hess and Marianna Rutkevich respectively.

Favourite diva of the stage or screen: I've been watching Agnes Varda's movies lately. I have a lot of respect for her easy ability to find self-expression in everything.

Important unsung diva: My sister, and Máiri Demings, the front woman of mezzopiano.



Mabel Wonnacott, Lighting Designer

Mabel Wonnacott is a Toronto based multidisciplinary artist who primarily works within the opera sector as a director, arts educator and puppeteer. Mabel's work has led to collaborations with organizations including Opéra de Montréal, Tapestry Opera, Tarragon Theatre, Canadian Children's Opera Company, Toronto City Opera, Wilfrid Laurier University, New Music Concerts, University of Toronto and The Glenn Gould School. Her work has received praise for being "powerful" and "ingenious" (*Opera Canada, LudwigVan Toronto*). Mabel is joining this team as a lighting consultant. With an interest in shadow puppetry and light experimentation, Mabel's engagement with light is an important and frequent part of her artistic practice. To connect or see more of her work, visit her instagram! [@mabel.wonnacott](https://www.instagram.com/mabel.wonnacott)

Favourite diva of the stage or screen: Bernadette Peters

Important unsung diva: My mum. She's the best!



Maddy Cooper, Stage Manager

Maddy Cooper is a director, producer, poet and performing artist living in the quiet, east-end of Toronto. Since moving to the city in 2021 she has left no painted-stone unturned; peeking into the jazz, burlesque, choral and poetry scenes, among others. These days, she spends most of her energy with the opera community in various capacities or outside, gardening. Maddy's greatest joy is to explore.

Favourite diva of the stage or screen: Meryl Streep. There's just nothing else I can say.

Important unsung diva: The unstoppable Domik Women, aka my mum, my aunt and my grandmother - Doranne, Deanna and Mary-Jane



Matt Hertendy, Photographer / Poster Design

Matt Hertendy is a Toronto-based portrait and event photographer. Before photography, Matt lived a life as an award-winning actor and playwright, and has toured theatrical productions all over eastern Canada.

Now, Matt has photographed events such as the Polaris Prize Music Gala, the Toronto International Festival of Authors, The Toronto International Storytelling Festival, the SummerWorks Performance Festival, and for organizations such as Tarragon Theatre, Crossroads Theatre, Wavelength Music and many more.

In addition to events, Matt photographs professional and editorial style portraits. He also interviews and photographs musicians for his music blog simmeringmag.substack.com, where one of his portraits was a Chosen Winner of the annual American Photography Archive contest. matthertendy.com

Favourite diva of the stage or screen: Kylie Minogue because the people just want to dance.

Important unsung diva: My wife, Monica





Aemilia Moser, Stylist

Aemilia Moser is a Toronto-based soprano, violinist, and stylist with a passion for storytelling through both music and fashion. Alongside her performance career, she is passionate about incorporating fashion into theatrical work, exploring how clothing can deepen character and narrative. This fall, she will take her solo recital on a cross Canada tour in collaboration with Toronto designer and clothing brand Solouk. aemiliamoser.com

Favourite diva of the stage or screen: Carol Burnett

Important unsung diva: My aunt Andrea, whose impeccable style helped shape my own love of fashion.



Brooklyn Johnson, Wig Stylist

Brooklyn Johnson is a theatrical hairstylist, makeup artist and designer located in Tkaronto. She is passionate about creating an inclusive workspace for all and rallies around stories that amplify BIPOC voices. Select theatrical credits include: Mirvish Productions, Soul Pepper, Buddies in Bad Times, Volcano, Blyth Festival, Canadian Stage and more. To see more of her work check out: [@brooklynjohnson.ca](https://www.instagram.com/brooklynjohnson.ca)

Favourite diva of the stage or screen: Mariah Carey, an icon on stage and off.

Important unsung diva: My mum. She is always giving it her all and is a pillar in the community. But she also never leaves the house without a full face of makeup and always has a fresh mani-pedi.



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Yanik would also like to thank:

All the women mentioned in the show, directly or indirectly, including madame Suzanne, Jacqueline T, and many more; Emma, my love, for truly being the co-writer and editor of this show; Spencer K for encouraging me from the initial spark; Sandra S for your early belief in this show, and for teaching me the power of truthful storytelling; Monica B-L for your time and expertise; Tom D for your generous and precious feedback; Jason H for your vocal guidance and for playing a clip of Tom Jones when I needed it most; the Toronto Public Library for everything that you represent and offer; all the other Fringe artists for your inspiring work and passion; the Toronto Fringe Festival team for your support; the audiences who listened to my little stories and songs; Mom and Dad for life and love; Zack for teaching me about the Rule of Three, the third one's the punchline; and to all my friends and family who always cheer me on - I will forever cheer you on, too! **Merci !**