

ANDIE
HONG

MONA
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RABIYA
MANSOOR

FATEEMA
AL-HAMAYDEH MILLER

SURER
QALY DERIA

DON VALLEY GIRLS

NOT YOUR AUNTIE'S SKETCH SHOW




JULY 7-17, 2022

CROW'S THEATRE, GULOIEN THEATRE

**DIRECTED BY
LIZA PAUL**

PRESENTED AS PART OF THE TORONTO FRINGE FESTIVAL

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creations 

Thank You!

DON VALLEY GIRLS was originally presented by Poetic License Creations as part of Why Not Theatre's RISER Toronto, a collaborative producing model supported by the Government of Canada, RBC Foundation, TD Bank Group, and a community of Senior Partners. The first three years of RISER Project were made possible by Toronto Arts Council's Open Door program.

DON VALLEY GIRLS has been a true labour of love and we would've never gotten here with the constant support, championing, and guidance from so many different folks and organizations. First and foremost, we'd like to thank all the amazing folks and organizations who made previous iterations of this show possible: the support and guidance of **Why Not Theatre** and the entire **RISER Team**; the **Toronto Sketch Comedy Festival** for being champions of this project; **Pat and Tony Freedom Fund for the Arts** for consistently supporting sketch comedy both through the Sketch Comedy Project Fund and beyond; and **Canada Council for the Arts** for their previous support of this project.

And of course, thank you to our evergreen supporters, our friends, family, mentors, and inspirations: **Holly Clark**, **Samoil Vohra**, **Sweet Action Theatre**, **Tiyawnda** (DVG alum), and **Cihang Ma** (DVG alum).

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Land Acknowledgement

We'd like to take a moment to acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and the land we are on is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Metis people from across Turtle Island.

Now we all know that Canada is built upon a history of genocide and colonial violence and has a long path towards reconciliation and individually we all play a part in this as settlers, immigrants, and guests on this land.

Toronto is a part of the Dish with One Spoon treaty. Originally formed between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee and extended to all settlers and newcomers on this land in the spirit of friendship, as long as we uphold our responsibility to ensure that the dish is never empty and we all share one spoon together. This means caring for and respecting the land and each other.

I'm sure you're here because you love to laugh, so we wanted to recommend an amazing show called Kamloopa playing right now at Soulpepper until July 24th. It's a hilarious road trip comedy centering three incredible Indigenous women. Go support Indigenous artists!

XOXO,

The Don Valley Girls

Meet the Don Valley Girls

SURER QALY DERIA *Performer & Writer*



Surer Qaly Deria is a writer and performer based in Toronto. Nominated by IHJ (I Heart Jokes) as one of the best new comics in Toronto in 2018, she's performed at the Nubian's Disciples, Montreal SketchFest and RappBattlez at Just For Laughs. She's written for CBC Gem web series *Virgins!*, took part in BWF! Canada's TIFF cohorts, and is 1/5th of the Don Valley Girls.



MONA HERSI *Performer & Writer*

Mona Hersi is a Somali-Canadian writer, actor, producer and sketch comedian. Fresh out of university, she took off to South Korea where she spent 2 years teaching English and traveling as much as possible. She returned to Canada and decided to pursue screenwriting and acting. It was her experience at The Second City Toronto that she carved out a unique comedic POV rarely explored in the Toronto comedy scene. Her recent credits include writing for comedy series *ABROAD* (OMNI TV) and a series in development at A Tokens Entertainment Company. She is currently developing two of her own original half hour comedies and is 1/5 of the Don Valley Girls.



Meet the Don Valley Girls

ANDIE HONG *Performer & Writer*



Andie Hong is a filmmaker and comedian. Her short film *My Strange Girlfriend* was an official selection and in finals for a best horror short in the Los Angeles Theatrical Release Competition & Awards and has directed music videos for Toronto indie rock band Akage No Anne. Her unique brand of comedy has made her one of the up-and-coming voices in the Toronto comedy scene. Her writings, focusing on her personal experiences in comedy have been featured in *The Comedy Tribune* and *The Online Journal of Thoughts and Perspective*. She's a host of a Podcast series *K Culture Crossing*. She will be releasing her debut stand-up album on *Howl & Roar* in 2022.

RABIYA MANSOOR *Performer, Writer, & Producer*

Rabiya Mansoor (she/they) is a Pakistani-Calgarian comedian, writer, actor, producer, and recovering lawyer. She started the comedy-focused theatre company *Poetic License Creations* in 2020 and is co-CEO of the film and TV prod co, *Window Dreams Productions Inc.* They are a writer for *Wildbrain's Strawberry Shortcake: Berry in the Big City*, *Shaftsbury Kids' POV:Me*, and their upcoming, co-created web series *Get Up, Aisha* (*iThentic/Window Dreams Productions*). Theatre credits include: *Education Know-It-All* (Theatre Direct's *Forward March Festival*), *What the Elf?!* (Second City Family Company), and Second City's *Bob Curry Fellowship*. If you got this far, her bank password is *Yugioh!*



Meet the Don Valley Girls

FATEEMA AL-HAMAYDEH MILLER

Performer & Writer



Fateema Al-Hamaydeh Miller is a Palestinian/Canadian filmmaker & comedy rat based in Tkaronto. Her work explores themes of fragmented identity, isolation and connection through a lens of grounded "oh no, should I laugh?" comedy. Fateema's training in clown and improv infiltrates all that she does and she strives to create with both depth and a subversive sense of humor. Fateema is a tender-hearted friend, believes in resilience and resistance through laughter and embraces comedy to explore the pains and joys of being human. She also loves a day at the beach on her bike!

ARFINA LAMY

Swing

Arfina is a comedian and an actress living in Toronto .She is thrilled to be a new member of the multi diverse team of comedian women that is the Don Valley Girls on this exciting project.



Meet the Team

LIZA PAUL *Director*



liza paul is a storyteller, comedian, curator, director and producer who has trained at the second city (improv conservatory; 2017 bob curry fellowship). liza, alongside bahia watson, is the co-creator of pomme is french for apple (best of fringe toronto 2012) and toured internationally (edinburgh fringe; new york city: nuyorican poets cafe; joe's pub at the public theater). she has worked with soulpepper theatre company, anitafrika! dub theatre, bCurrent, and the watah theatre, and is currently the associate artistic director at the theatre centre. liza is also the co-director, co-creator, producer and performer for MASHUP PON DI ROAD, a travelling bashment circus variety show that will hit the streets of toronto for its world premiere july 2022.

AYAKA KINUGAWA *Musical Director & Sound Designer*

Ayaka is a Japanese musician based in Toronto. She is a musical director at the Second City as well as being involved in numerous comedy projects across North America. When Ayaka is not putting her musician hat on, she performs improv and sketch comedy on stage and on film. Ayaka loves tomatoes. @ayaka.kinugawa



Meet the Team

PATRICIA TAB *Stage Manager*



Patricia Tab (she/they) is a Hispanic Latinx improviser, independent producer and performance artist based in Toronto. Patricia is a Second City House Co and Second City Diversity Fellowship alumna. She received the Pat & Tony Adams Freedom Fund for the Arts in 2018 and was the Stage Manager of the Canadian Comedy Award winner "Extravaganza Eleganza" directed by Kirsten Rasmussen. Patricia was featured in improv festivals in Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, Argentina and Colombia. They always speak in metaphors and once did 24 improv shows in 24 hours. They also improvise with the English language, like, a lot.

ANTONIA SINN *Set Designer*

Antonia Sinn is an award-winning Production Designer and Art Director based in Toronto, Ontario. She started off in traditional visual arts, specializing in hyperrealism and surrealism styles, and has since then transitioned into working as the head of the art department for a variety of projects. Her work focuses mostly in film, and she has designed for music videos, narratives, and commercial work, collaborating with The Junos, The Luminato Festival, and the creators of The Amazing Race Canada and Masterchef Canada. She enjoys reading in her spare time, and is a big believer in a good pair of baggy pants.



Meet the Team

LUCY WONG *Costume Designer*



Excited to be working with DVG, Lucy is a costume designer for theatre and film/TV. Since graduating from the University of Guelph's Theatre program she has been working on various productions featured on Apple TV, Amazon Prime, and CBC. When she isn't working with costumes, she's listening to music, trying new foods, and caring for her guinea pig.

Select credits include: Streams Flow from a River (Fae Pictures), You're Never Alone (Thought for Food Productions), 3Tempests (Shakespeare in Action), Zone (Apple TV), Kids in the Hall reboot (Amazon Prime), Strays (CBC), 11:11 (Theatre Passe Muraille).

ANDRÉ DU TOIT *Lighting Designer*

André du Toit is a lighting designer for live performance based in Toronto, although his designs have been seen across Canada and beyond. Recent designs include Prince Hamlet (Why Not Theatre); R+J (Stratford Festival of Canada) Now You See Her, Mouthpiece (Quote Unquote Collective); The Cave, Le Grand Continental (Luminato).

