

## **barlizo productions' Company history:**

Founded by Marie Barlizo, barlizo productions is a Montreal theatre company dedicated to developing and producing new Asian Canadian plays that explore and reflect the Asian Canadian experience. In 2015, Barlizo's play *Stroke*, a drama about memory and one Filipino family's obsession with success and money, premiered at the Montreal Fringe Festival at the Freestanding Room. This past summer, Barlizo's play *LUCKY*, an exploration of how fear of the "other" affects the perception and treatment of immigrants, and how cultural expectations can affect happiness and self-esteem, premiered at the Montreal Fringe and was a hit. barlizo productions produces at the Montreal Fringe Festival because it is a great place to test and develop new work.

## **Artistic Team Bios:**

- **Marie Leofeli Romero Barlizo (Playwright and Producer)** is a Filipino-Chinese playwright and dramaturg from Montreal. She is a graduate of UBC's Creative Writing MFA Program and the first visible minority to graduate from the National Theatre School's (NTS) Playwriting Program. She is the playwriting mentor at Black Theatre Workshop's Artist Mentorship Program and will be teaching at NTS in the fall (2018). She is the dramaturg consultant for Tableau D'Hote Theatre's collective creation, *Blackout* (February 2019). She is the Artist-in-Residence at the MAI and Imago Theatre's Playwright-in-Residence working on her new play *Lola*. *LUCKY* was developed at Banff Playwrights' Retreat and was a hit at the 2018 Montreal Fringe. She is a member of the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas, and the Regional Rep for LMDA Canada.
- **Sophie Gee (Director)** is a director of mostly new creations which she presents under the name Nervous Hunter. Works include *The Phaedra Project (No! I! Don't! Want! To! Fall! In! Love! With! You!)* (Montreal, arts interculturels, Montreal), *I Am Such a Small Container for All This (Iceland, SEAS Festival)*, and *Domestik* (Eastern Bloc, Montreal). She directed a lab performance of Suzan-Lori Park's *Fucking A* for Imago Theatre's *Her Side of the Story: Revision to Resist* festival (2017) and *Pluck'd* by Ke Xin Li at Centaur's Wildside Festival. She is a graduate of the NTS' Directing Program.
- **Christian Jadah (Actor)** is a Montreal actor, who grew up in the rural town of Hemmingford Quebec. He studied Theatre Performance at Concordia University and has found relative success with over thirty film, television and video game credits to his name. Christian loves to brag about his one liners and his "blink and you'll miss them" cameos in many of Hollywood's biggest films. These include *Arrival*, *X-Men Days of Future Past*, and most recently being stabbed in the leg by Jennifer Lawrence in Darren Aronofsky's controversial film, *Mother!* - a feat he boasts about far too often.

- **Katharine King** (Actor) is a graduate of the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema at Concordia University in Montreal. Originally hailing from Vancouver, she has worked as an actor, artist, and filmmaker. Recent Film/TV acting credits include NBC's *The Bold Type*, CBC's *The Detectives* and *Woodland Grey*. Theatre performances include *The History of Sexuality* (Montreal) and *Deer Blood* (New York, Toronto). Her personal video work has screened at the VAV Gallery in Montreal and in festivals internationally. This year, Katharine directed/co-wrote/starred in Revry TV's LGBTQIA+ series *The Walk-In Closet*.
- **Matt McGeachy** (Dramaturge) is the Company Dramaturge at Factory Theatre in Toronto, where he heads up new work development and has worked with playwrights such as Yolanda Bonnell, Jeff Ho, Anusree Roy, David Yee, Rachel Blair, Carmen Aguirre, Kat Sandler, and Nick Green, among others. Elsewhere he has worked at SummerWorks, York University, Canadian Stage, The Playwrights' Center, the Guthrie Theatre, and the Kennedy Center, where he was assistant director of the New Play Dramaturgy Intensive from 2011-2014. He is the dramaturg for the internationally-renowned Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes, a member of the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas, and Treasurer of LMDA Canada.
- **Emlyn vanBruinswaardt** (Stage Manager) is a graduate of NTS who lives and works in Montreal as a stage manager, assistant stage manager, carpenter and all-around theatre technician. Other credits include: *The Savannah Sipping Society* (Hudson Village Theatre); touring stage manager *Me and You* (Talisman); stage manager *Vic and Flo Saw a Bear* (Talisman); apprentice stage manager *Conversions* (InfiniTheatre); *Noises Off* (Segal Centre); *She Said He Said* (Black Theatre Workshop); *Don't Blame it on the Stork* (Pellegrini Productions); *Chloe's Choice* (Geordie); stage manager - Just for Laughs/Zoofest; stage manager and venue tech - Montreal FRINGE Festival.