History of the Development of Foreign Tongue

**In 2013 Foreign Accent Syndrome Project was awarded Ryerson Creative Fund a week-long workshop** of the first draft with a cast of twelve plus a pianist and a couple of very well received staged readings. A second draft, conference presentations on language, pronunciation and identity (Victoria, Barcelona, and Milan) followed as well as an **article published in Theatre Research Canada. Tongue Play: An Auto-Ethnography (Fall 2015).** In it the Cynthia Ashperger examines her own experiences regarding language and identity and the reasons for writing *Foreign Tongue* under nome de plume of Lola Xenos. The work resumed in 2016 when the award winning **Video Cabaret Theatre Company granted the project a three-day dramaturgy workshop followed by the third draft.** Ashperger received Ryerson Small Grant and raised funding for a second phase workshop in 2017. Composer Daniel Abrahamson joined the creative team. This was followed by a three-week rehearsal period and three extremely well received workshop performances (script in hand) of ***Foreign Tongue* at Parodos Festival in June 2017.** **All this led to the offer to publish *Foreign Tongue* in Playwright's Canada Press volume on Theatre and Immigration (2019).** Inclusion in this volume was a competitive process. Y and N Film company optioned the play for film development and received a 2018 Telefilm development grant. Lee Filipovski who won the 2018 Golden Globe Award and Canadian Screen Award for her short film Fluffy and Ashperger have written the first draft of the film adaptation. In 2018 this project received Theatre Centre Recommender Grand and Ryerson Seed Grant towards another development workshop in May 2018.