

## Production Creative Team Bios

### Tita Collective

Tita Collective are an all-Filipina collective composed of award-winning playwrights, comedians, musicians, dancers, theatre makers and actors. They explore different mediums to tell the stories about the Filipinx diaspora.

Tita Collective won the 2019 Steamwhistle Producers' Pick at the Toronto Sketch Comedy Festival, Best Newcomer at the Montreal Sketch Comedy Festival, and the Second City Outstanding New Comedy Award and Tarragon Theatre's Mainspace Patrons' Pick at the 2019 Toronto Fringe Festival. They were featured as part of the "19 Asian Millennial Women You Should Know" listing by Cold Tea Collective.

### Mandate

We aim to create work that engages, connects and entertains community. Through theatre, comedy, music, and movement, we aspire to tell stories that:

- Thoughtfully honour and celebrate our roots and history
- Explore our identities as Filipinas
- Represent the narratives of the Philippine diaspora in an inclusive and respectful way
- Nurtures and unites community through joy and laughter

Individually, Tita Collective are: Ann Paula Bautista (Disenchanted US Tour), Belinda Corpuz (Prairie Nurse), Isabel Kanaan (CBC's Air Farce), Ellie Posadas (Wexford Plaza), Alia Rasul (Generally Hospital), and Maricris Rivera (Short Dances).

Our list of projects include:

**2018/19** - *Tita Jokes* - A Musical Sketch Review (made possible by the Pat and Tony Freedom Fund for Sketch Comedy)

**2017-2019** - *Tang Ina* - A Workshop Production (made possible by the Toronto Arts Council)

**Annual, ongoing** - *Tawa Festival* - The first annual Filipinx Comedy Festival in Canada (Bad Dog Comedy Theatre)

**2018/19** - *Kwento* - *An Improvised Filipinx Folk Tale* (Bad Dog Comedy Theatre)

**2018** - *Island Womxn Rise* - Funny Filipinas to the Front (Bad Dog Comedy Theatre)

**2017** - *(Y)Our Story* (Carlos Bulosan Theatre)

**2016** - *Anak* (Carlos Bulosan Theatre)

### Company Bios:

### **Ann Paula Bautista**

Ann Paula is an actor, singer, and writer. A graduate of Randolph Academy's College program, she has performed on stages all around Canada and the US. Credits include: *Peter Pan* (Bad Hats Theatre), *Aqsarniit* (2019 Charlottetown Festival Young Company), *Disenchanted* 1st National tour (Starvox), *We Will Rock You*, *Avenue Q* (STF), and *In the Heights* (We Are Here Prod).

Ann Paula was a part of the 2013/2014 Theatre 20's Emerging Artist Program. She's also sung the national anthems twice for the Blue Jays at the Rogers Centre.

### **Belinda Corpuz**

Belinda Corpuz is a Toronto-based, Filipina-Canadian actor, musician, singer/songwriter and composer. Her EP, *All I Am*, has garnered national radio-play, including an exclusive feature on CBC Radio's *Fresh Air*. Belinda is a member of multi-award winning multidisciplinary, all-Filipinx ensemble, the Tita Collective. Recently she worked as the assistant sound designer for multi-Dora nominated production, *Eraser*. Belinda holds a BMus in Performance - Jazz Voice from the University of Toronto-Faculty of Music. [www.belindacorpuz.com](http://www.belindacorpuz.com)

**Selected Theatre:** *Hilot Means Healer* (Cahoots/bcurrent), *Tita Jokes* (Tita Collective, 2019 Toronto Fringe), *Prairie Nurse* (Factory Theatre/TIP), *Lighters in the Air* (2018 Toronto Fringe)

**Film:** *Lola's Wake* (CFC), *Jezebel* (Reel Asian International Film Festival), *Clown Killer* (Wattpad/Cinecoup, featured in the Toronto After Dark Festival)

**Upcoming:** *Lady Sunrise* (Factory Theatre), *All the Little Animals I Have Eaten* (Nightwood)

### **Isabel Kanaan**

Isabel is an actor, comedian, and writer best known for CBC's *Air Farce*, the Canadian Comedy Award winning troupe "The Sketchersons," the lead in the award-winning series *Haunted or Hoax*, the multi-award winning group "Tita Collective," and the multi-award winning toured sketch revue *Hey 90s' Kids, You're Old*. She garnered rave reviews on her performance in Factory Theatre's *Prairie Nurse* and as the lead in *Ponytail* during the Reel Asian International Film Festival. She was awarded the *NBC Universal Bob Curry Fellowship*, the *RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award*, one of NOW Toronto's *Breakthrough stage artists*, one of Torontoist's *Mirthful Mx. In The Six* (previously "Local Ladies Who Make Us Laugh"), and was nominated for a *Premier's Award* for her expeditious achievements in comedy, theatre, and film/TV.

**Selected TV Credits:** *TallBoyz* (CBC), *Hudson & Rex* (City TV), *Nurses* (Global TV), *This Art Works* (CBC Arts)

### **Alia Rasul**

Alia is a Canadian Comedy Award nominated writer/performer. She received rave reviews for her performance in *Generally Hospital* whose "outstanding ensemble" won Patron's Pick and

the David Séguin Memorial Award. She understudied for 2 seasons of Second City's Mainstage award-winning show, *She The People*. She is a NBC Universal Bob Curry Fellowship alumni and holds a BA from McGill University. She made her directorial debut with *Kwento, an improvised Filipino folktale*. She is currently inclusion director at Bad Dog Theatre.

### **Maricris Rivera**

Maricris Rivera is a Filipina-Canadian musician, dancer, performer, creator, stage manager, producer and educator. She co-produces *Short Dances* and has collaborated with many esteemed dance companies, including Gadfly, Rock Bottom Movement and TOES FOR DANCE. She stage managed three runs of *Eve of St. George*, Toronto's first large-scale immersive dance theatre production. She also frequently plays with her band, Understudy, and is planning on releasing a solo EP in the near future. Previous theatre credits include: *Tale of a Town* (FIXT Point), *A New World Being Born* (Carlos Bulosan Theatre), *The Renaissance Woman* (BOSS Dance Company), *Lily* (In'Trinzik Dance Project).

### **Ellie Posadas**

Ellie Posadas is a Filipinx-Canadian Multi disciplinary performer from Toronto. She was featured in the 34th TFF Official Selection film, 'Wexford Plaza' (CAAMfest, Slamdance) and is also featured in the short film 'The Morning After' written and directed by 'Tita Jokes' Director, Tricia Hagoriles. The film had its Canadian premiere in the 2018 Toronto 'Inside OUT' Festival, and has its U.S premiere in the Los Angeles 2019 'OUT fest'. Ellie is currently working on the film 'Scarborough' based on the award winning novel by Catherine Hernandez . This show is dedicated to her Mama Irene, the real Tita Ginger. Other credits include: The Penelopiad (*Hart House*) Emily and EV (*Nota Collective*) SILENCED (*HERstory Counts*), It's (Kind Of) A Love Story (*Tree of Life Theatre*), Avenue Q (*The LOT*), Monsters By Nature (*Kindling Collective*).

### **Tricia Hagoriles**

Tricia Hagoriles is a Toronto-based filmmaker. In 2015, Tricia received the RBC Emerging Canadian Artist Award at the Inside Out Toronto LGBTQ Film Festival for her first short film, *Beat*. She is an alumni of Reel World Film Festival's 2017 Emerging 20 Mentorship Program, and her most recent short, *The Morning After*, has screened in festivals around the world. She is currently developing a web-series based on a play she co-created called, *Boiband the Boyband*, which premiered at the 39th Rhubarb Festival.

### **Ayaka Kinugawa**

Ayaka Kinugawa holds a Bachelor of Music in Jazz as well as a Diploma in Classical Music and she composes music for commercials, films, and a hip-hop project called Kokophonix. Ayaka has lived and performed on a cruise ship as a musical director for the Second City Theatricals. Her other Second City credits include "Unelectable You" (U.S. Tour), "She The People" (Original Composition, Chicago/Toronto), "Miracle on Mercer St." (Toronto) and "Misfit League" (Original

Composition, Toronto). When she is not musical directing, she is on stage improvising or teaching improv in Japanese.

### **Justine Cargo**

Justine is delighted to be back working with The Tita Collective once again after 3 Sold Out shows at Second City in honor of their Outstanding Comedy Award received at Toronto Fringe 2019 Festival. Recently Justine just finished SM and Lighting Design Urinetown with Toronto Musical Concerts and A Whole New World- The Musical Magic of Alan Menken Tour. Other Credits Include: Beauty and The Beast, Dora Award winning show Tough Jews, Parade, Merrily We Roll Along, Company, Welcome To The Bunker (Nominated for Best New Work My Entertainment World), Mockingbird Close (Listed as Top 10 Theatre shows to see 2017), Christopher Wilson's; Two Kittens and A Kid (NYC, Edinburgh, Toronto), and Confessions of a Redheaded Coffee Shop Girl (UK Tour). Justine also produce's a monthly show at Comedy Bar about all your nostalgia entitled, Blast From The Past. Thank- You for supporting Indie Theatre!