

ABOUT SOARING SKIES COLLECTIVE

Soaring Skies Collective was founded in August 2017 to remount the 2017 Fringe hit production of *soaring in liquid skies* as the revamped *Good Morning, Viet Mom*. The collective is composed of members Byron Abalos, Darrel Gamotin and Darrel Gamotin. These Asian-Canadian theatre artists met in 2009 doing sketch comedy and improv with Asiansploitation, Toronto's all-Asian sketch comedy and improv troupe where they worked together for three years. Franco primarily occupies comedy spaces as a stand up comic, sketch and improv creator. Byron and Darrel work in theatre and film/tv and were members of the 6th Man Collective, creators of the interactive basketball theatre performance *Monday Nights*. The three of them occasionally have poker nights where they often fight for last place.

GOOD MORNING, VIET MOM CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Franco Nguyen - Playwright & Performer

Franco Nguyen is a Toronto based actor, comedian, writer and filmmaker. He is a Chicago Finalist for StandUP NBC and a Tim Sims Encouragement finalist. He was one of four Bob Curry Fellows to showcase in Chicago as part of the NBC Universal Breakout festival, hosted by SNL's Chris Redd. As a graduate of the Second City Longform Conservatory program he is currently completing his MFA in Film and Video at York University. Franco is a proud member of the comedy troupe TallBoyz II Men, winner of the 2017 Toronto Sketch Festival Producer's Pick award and Best New Comers at the 2017 Montreal Sketchfest. The troupe recently showcased at OFF-JFL ZOOfest and the Big City Improv Festival. Franco is a member of the longform improv team, Pepperoni Pizza Cats and is a cast member of the Second City Education Company and House Company.

Byron Abalos - Director

Byron Abalos is an actor, playwright and theatre producer from Toronto, Ontario. Select theatre credits include *You Play Beautifully* (Theatre New Brunswick), *Monday Nights* (The Theatre Centre- Ensemble Dora nomination), *Twelve Angry Men* (Soulpepper - Ensemble Dora Award), *Roshni* (Theatre Passe Muraille), *The Making of St. Jerome* (EastBound Players- Dora nomination), *paper series* (Cahoots Theatre - Ensemble Dora nomination), *Banana Boys* (fu-GEN) and *The Romance of Magno Rubio* (CBT).

Film/TV credits include *Flatliners*, *Condor*, *Man Seeking Woman*, *Defiance*, *Dark Matter*, *Covert Affairs*, *The Listener*, *Mr. Dressup* and *The Magic Schoolbus*. Byron is a graduate of Ryerson University, a Toronto Second City Bob Curry Fellowship alumnus and currently teaches at The Second City's training centre. He is also the Director of Development for Studio 180 Theatre. *Good Morning, Viet Mom* is his directorial debut.

Darrel Gamotin - Dramaturge

Darrel Gamotin's acting credits include *Banana Boys* (Factory Theatre), *Waiting for Godot* (Modern Times Theatre), *TOUGH!* (Factory Theatre), and *Monster Under the Bed* (Young People's Theatre). He was a performer and creator for the Dora-nominated production, *Monday Nights* (Theatre Centre). He was last seen in the award winning Canadian Indie film *Wexford Plaza*. This project is for the moms of the past, present and future.

David DeGrow - Lighting Designer & Production Manager

David DeGrow is a theatre maker, academic, manager and teacher who has worked on over 300 productions in Toronto and across Canada. He is a PhD Candidate at the University of Toronto, where his research examines how theatre space shapes artistic mandate, audience and the theatre's relationships with the city. Recent designs include: *Fortune of Wolves* (Theatre New Brunswick); *Morro and Jasp in Stupefaction* (UNIT Productions); *The Boat* (Theatre New Brunswick); *Pyaasa* (Theatre Passe Muraille). Recent Production Management includes: *Bearing* (Signal Theatre/Luminato); *Fashion Straight from the Art: Anne Mirvish* (University of Toronto/Mirvish Company). Upcoming: Production Manager for *Jerusalem* (Outside the March/Company Theatre).

Miquelon Rodriguez - Sound Designer

Miquelon Rodriguez is an actor, sound designer, composer, and writer from Toronto. He attended York University for devised theatre and has been a musician for over 20 years. He is an associate programmer for Souleppper's Shen Development Series, and the Apprentice Artistic Director at Factory Theatre. Selected Credits: Acting - *Banana Boys* as Luke (Factory Theatre), *Changeling: A Grand Guinol For Murderous Times* as Jasperino (Desiderata Theatre Company), *Cowboy Versus Samurai* as Chester (Souleppper Theatre Company); Sound/Music - *Tough Jews* (Spadina Avenue Gang/Storefront Theatre), *7 Stories* (Hart House Theatre), *This Is The Point* (The Theatre Centre/Ahuri Theatre), *The Numbers Game* (The Pulp Collective), *Medea*

(Chromatic Theatre), *Brotherhood: The Hip-Hopera* (bCurrent), *Nôhkom* (Michael Greyeyes/Signal Theatre), *HOMEbody* (Shannon Litzenberger Contemporary Dance)

Ana-Marija Stojic - Stage Manager

Ana-Marija has been working in the arts for the last six years. She was Assistant Stage Manager on *Of Morro* and *Jasp* at Factory Theatre, Design Assistant on the world premier of *HER2* at Buddies in Bad Times and currently works as Artistic Director at Mashed Collective. Ana-Marija can also be seen regularly doing comedy at ALTdot Comedy Lounge and Comedy Bar.

Christine Urquhart - Costume & Set Designer

Christine Urquhart has worked as a designer in the UK, Europe, New Zealand and Australia; an itinerant designer seeking to work with incredible collaborators. International favourites include: *Medea* (Zen Zen Zo), *The Wholehearted* and *The Island* (Massive Company/ National Theatre Scotland), *Die Fledermaus* (Welsh National Opera), *Potatostamp Megalomaniac* (Pressure Point Theatre) and *Call of the Sparrows* (Proudly Asian Theatre). In Toronto: *Stupid f*cking Bird* (Bird Collective), *Dancocks Dance* and *Hogtown* (Hogtown Collective), *The Good Doctor Holmes* (TPM), *What Linda Said*, *The Nails*, *Reality Theatre*, *Rootless*, and 'Divine' (Summerworks) and *Grimly Handsome* (Theatre Animal). This year she has designed in feature film; *Language*, an experimental, multi lingual re-imagining of *King Lear* and horror film *Lifechanger*.