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THEATRE
FESTIVAL

*out*Fest

NATIONAL
REGIONAL
LOCAL
ARTISTS

APRIL
23 - 28

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outFest

Welcome to OutFest 2024! We are overjoyed that this OutFest marks our third festival here in Kijipuktuk/Halifax, and ninth overall!

The festival has become a crucial platform in the theatre ecology not only here in Nova Scotia, but across the region, and across the country. OutFest provides emerging and established Queer artists with space to create and present their work, while also inviting audiences to engage with the stories being told. These spaces, especially Queer spaces, are vital to our immediate and extended community.

Increasingly, artistic platforms have come under threat; The Toronto Fringe, Just For Laughs, Hot Docs, and Luminato - all face financial challenges as they move forward. Some have chosen to cancel or pause their events, while others are trying to adapt with smaller programming. Without increased financial support from all levels of Government, they risk being shut down.

In addition to a lack of funding, all artists are under threat from colonizations' latest tool, AI. We risk having our ideas, our thoughts, our voices and sounds exploited in ways we could never imagine. This only further punctuates the need for spaces like this.

This week we have gathered to support stories and artists across various stages. We have come to exchange ideas and experiences with friends and our community. I encourage you to see as much as you can, to chat with artists you've never met, to engage and listen to all that is being presented and shared.

Let this be the first step that carries us forward and inspires us to never stop pushing.



Isaac Mulè

Isaac Mulè

Artistic Director | Page 1 Theatre

PAGE1 THEATRE BOARD

Glance Glasgow (Chair) | Natasha Puka | Kieran Parmelee

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Page1 Theatre and OutFest want to acknowledge that our festival takes place here in Kjiptuk/Halifax, the ancestral home of the Mi'kmaq people. We honour the people who have been here for time immemorial and continue to do so to this day.

We also want to welcome the artists joining us today from the unceded and traditional territories of the Beothuk, the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. As well as the unceded traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinabeg, and folks from the traditional territory of Tkaronto, "the gathering place." The original caretakers of that land being, the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of Credit, Haudenosaunee, and Wyndat nations

We must acknowledge that colonial genocide continues to impact Indigenous people across Turtle Island and the world. Terms like colonialism and imperialism are not in the past, as we see them playing out in places like the Amazon Rain Forest, Gaza, and Ukraine, to name a few.

We have a responsibility, whether we have been here for several generations or are newcomers, to learn from the past so that we can move towards reconciliation.

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NEXT Stage | KINETIC

Enchantress, Jessica Lowe — photo: Kevin MacCormack

A CO-PRESENTATION



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TUESDAY
APRIL 23

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 24

THURSDAY
APRIL 25

FRIDAY
APRIL 26

SATURDAY
APRIL 27

SUNDAY
APRIL 28

COMMUNITY DINNER
6:00PM

A PINEBERRY'S PAST
6:00PM - 7:00PM

DEEPER
7:30PM - 8:30PM

KISS THE STORMY SKY
9:00PM - 10:00PM

SAY HELLO!
4:00PM - 5:00PM

CONTEMPORARY DANCE SOLO
6:00PM - 7:00PM

LIFESPAN OF A MATTRESS
7:30PM - 8:30PM

PRUDE
9:00PM - 10:00PM

SAY HELLO!
4:00PM - 5:00PM

LIFESPAN OF A MATTRESS
6:00PM - 7:00PM

A PINEBERRY'S PAST
7:30PM - 8:30PM

CONTEMPORARY DANCE SOLO
9:00PM - 10:00PM

SAY HELLO!
4:00PM - 5:00PM

DEEPER
6:00PM - 7:00PM

KISS THE STORMY SKY
7:30PM - 8:30PM

A PINEBERRY'S PAST
9:00PM - 10:00PM

EVERYONE'S STORY
11:00AM - 12:00PM

DEEPER
12:30PM - 1:30PM

KISS THE STORMY SKY
2:00PM - 3:00PM

A PINEBERRY'S PAST
3:30PM - 4:30PM

CONTEMPORARY DANCE SOLO
6:00PM - 7:00PM

PRUDE
7:30PM - 8:30PM

LIFESPAN OF A MATTRESS
9:00PM - 10:00PM

PUSHED
11:00AM - 12:00PM

CONTEMPORARY DANCE SOLO
12:30PM - 1:30PM

PRUDE
2:00PM - 3:00PM

LIFESPAN OF A MATTRESS
3:30PM - 4:30PM

DEEPER
5:00PM - 6:00PM

TICKETS



SATURDAY
APRIL 27
COMEDY STAGE
7:30PM



SUNDAY
APRIL 28
MUSIC STAGE
7:30PM



Purchase an OutFest specialty doughnut and a portion of the sales will be donated to Page1 Theatre.

Doughnuts can be purchased at the Vandal store location (2306 Gottingen St, Halifax) all week. A limited number of doughnuts will be for sale at our Box Office at The Bus Stop.



Save 20% OFF your entree!

Bring your printed or digital ticket to the Roxbury (1743 Grafton St, Halifax) during the week of OutFest (April 23rd - 28th) and save 20% OFF your entree.



VOTE

Vote for your favourite show and help them win the **Audience Choice Award!**

Follow the link and complete this short survey. **Voting closes on Sunday, April 28th at 12pm.**





MUSIC STAGE

JADE BENNETT


Infectious melodies, power vocals and confessional songwriting make up the musical stylings of Halifax-based artist Jade Bennett (she/they). She has been writing and performing music most of her life. Catchy hooks, sweet melodies and clever lyrics are her trademark. In her musings, you'll find anything from haunting lullabies to vengeful pop.



WITH NATASHA SOPHIA

With their whimsical compositions and smart lyrics, HRM based indie folk/pop singer songwriter Natasha Sophia (they/ them) dissects their unsparing experiences navigating life and heartbreak through the lens of queerness, mental illness and disability. Their rich vocals paired with ethereal choral arrangements and eclectic production creates music that will make you want to cry as much as you want to dance.

 the carleton

 60 MINUTES



7:30 PM



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MAIN STAGE

PRUDE

LOU CAMPBELL

“PRUDE is a hilarious and high-energy blend of stand-up and drag. The piece begins as a motivational talk, given to the audience by the King of the Party, there to show everyone HOW TO HAVE A GOOD TIME.

Slowly, through lip-syncs and mortifying personal tales, we watch them unravel onstage, digging into the complex experience of being an asexual in an (allo)sexual world.”



CREATIVE TEAM

creator/writer/performer | Lou Campbell (they/them)
director/dramaturg | Stevey Hunter (they/them)
costume designer | Everette Fournier (he/him, they/them)
sound designer | Peter Sarty (he/him)
stage manager (ON) technical director | Dylan Tate-Howarth (she/her)
stage manager (NS) | Rook Field-Green (he/him, they/them)
videographer | Chelsea Innes (they/them)

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

This show began development in 2018, and took a pandemic pause. It was redeveloped in 2022 and had its premiere at Stages Festival. Since then it has toured to the Toronto Fringe Festival, rEvolver festival in Vancouver, Intrepid Theatre in Victoria, and High-Performance Rodeo in Calgary, Alberta.

Funders to thank: The Canada Council

Alcohol and drug abuse mentioned, sexual content. Sensory: loud music, loud speaking, yelling, loud sound effects, overlapping sounds
This show is come and go as you please. Latecomers welcome.



CONTENT

BUS STOP
THEATRE CO-OP

🕒 60 MINUTES

24

9:00 PM

27

7:30 PM

28

2:00 PM



MAIN STAGE

KISS THE STORMY SKY

SID RYAN EILERS | AERIS KÖRPER

“Kiss The Stormy Sky” is a compelling visual masterpiece & deeply emotional contemporary dance performance created & performed by Sid Ryan Eilers (they/them). Journeying into Eilers’ personal story & ancestry spanning from the 18th century to today: from the Russian Revolution, Nazi Germany to #MeToo.

Eilers plays their great-grandfather, grandmother, mom, & themselves, questioning the gender binary, queer existence, and how they came to be who they are today. The show includes original music by Shn Shn; Queer Black singer-songwriter & composer. Shn Shn’s soundscapes use lush vocals, meditative beats, & swelling pads, to create cinematic-inspired music.

CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright, Choreographer & Performer | Sid Ryan Eilers (they/them)
Co-Director | Kathleen Rea (she/her)
Composer | Shn Shn / Shanika Lewis-Waddell (she/they)
Projection Design | Clairandean Humphrey (they/them)
Care Coordinator | Robin Lacambra (she/they)
Dramaturg | Anna Chatterton (she/her)
Costume Design | Tanis MacArthur (she/her)
Project and Stage Manager | Vik Mudge (he/they)
Outside Eye | Megan English (she/her)
Lighting Design | Tristan Whiston (he/him)
Sound Design | Rudi Natterer (he/him)
Videographer | Henry Mak (he/him)
Photographer | Marlowe Porter (she/her)

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

‘Kiss The Stormy Sky’ was presented by the Hamilton Fringe Festival in July 2022, In The Soil Arts Festival (St. Catharines, Ontario) and Brave New Works (Hamilton, Ontario) in June 2023; and is thrilled to be at OutFest (Halifax, Nova Scotia) in April 2024.

The show was created through residency with Eilers’ choreographic mentor Shahar Binyamini at COLOURS International Dance Festival (Stuttgart, Germany) June 2022, residency at Suitcase In Point (St. Catharines, Ontario) in April 2023, and Banff Dance Residency (Banff, Alberta) in December 2023. Created with support from Aeris Körper Contemporary Dance, City of Hamilton, Ontario Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts.

ZOOM TALK BACKS

In addition to Say Hello, Sid will be hosting TalkBacks on Zoom following each show. A link can be found on their website.

Wednesday, April 24 at 12PM AST (1PM EST)

Saturday, April 27 at 12PM AST (1PM EST)

Sunday, April 28 at 12PM AST (1PM EST)

For more information please visit
www.aeriskorper.com/kissthestormysky



BUS STOP
THEATRE CO-OP

🕒 60 MINUTES

23

9:00 PM

26

7:30 PM

27

2:00 PM



COMEDY STAGE

Hosted by the incredible **Bunni Lapin**, the Comedy Stage will feature some of Halifax's best stand-up comics as well as improv comedy.

STAND-UP COMEDIANS



Abhishek Bhuchar



Trina James



Caity Smyck



Improviseurs include the Queer-prov main team, Becca Maclean, Kieran Parmelee, Alex Naus, and special guest, Mya Foxx! There will be tons of laughter, music, and drag. You do not want to miss this show.



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EMERGING STAGE

A PINEBERRY'S PAST

JORDAN M. BURNS | THIRD WHEEL THEATRE CO.

What would you do if half of you was drowning? Living in a perpetual fog, Mixed, Indigenous and white, attempts to share the story of their life over a home-cooked meal in their childhood kitchen.

A place of joy, family, decay, and silence; Mixed is left gasping for a community of their own. Trying to navigate the present while negotiating the vicious memories of times gone by, Mixed finds themselves putting on a show one last time.

Special thanks to Canada Council for the Arts for making this production possible.

CREATIVE TEAM

Co-Director / Writer | Jordan M. Burns (they/them)
Stage Manager / Co-Director | Shayna Burns (she/her)
Lighting Designer | Sooji Kim (she/her)
Actor - MIXED | * Brianne Tucker (she/her)
Actor - MOM & Various | Rebecca Wolfe (she/her)

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

A Pineberry's Past wouldn't have evolved into what it is today without the support of fantastic previous artist collaborators and dramaturgs Makram Ayache, Danelle Charette, Brianne Tucker, John Roldan, Herbie Barnes, Christopher Stanton, Madeleine Szlafarski, Brefny Caribou, Cheyenne Scott, Jameela McNeil, Rose Goldeen, Shayna Burns, and Cole Alvis. >

Through workshops, funding, and donations, these organizations gave me the tools and resources for the further development of A Pineberry's Past: Ontario Arts Council (OAC RGTCs), Tarragon Theatre (Young Playwright's Unit), Paprika Festival (Indigenous Arts Program 2021-23), Third Wheel Theatre Co. (in-kind donations of time and space), 4th Line Theatre (OAC RGTC), Native Earth Performing Arts (OAC RGTC), Tangled Art + Disability (OAC RGTC), Thousand Islands Playhouse (OAC RGTC), Magnus Theatre (OAC RGTC), and the Annex Dance Academy (in-kind donations of space).

All artists are involved under the CAEA Artist Collective Policy. *Equity members.

Coarse language, themes of colonialism, intergenerational trauma, abandonment, racism



BUS STOP
THEATRE CO-OP

60 MINUTES

23

6:00 PM

25

7:30 PM

26

9:00 PM

27

3:30 PM

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Artistic Director

Cynthia Davies
Collaborative Pianist

Ryan Henwood
Assistant Conductor

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2PM & 7:30PM
HALIFAX, NS**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 23 AT 3PM
TRURO, NS**

TICKETS ON SALE AT HGMC.CA

EMERGING STAGE

CONTEMPORARY DANCE SOLO

ROBERT AZEVEDO

Contemporary Dance Solo is a solo dance show with a hint of bouffon. The performer (Robert Azevedo) recreates 18 dance solos from various youth dance competitions back-to-back! The audience gets to see Azevedo's rendition alongside projected videos of the original performers.

The young dancers in the videos are virtuosic and talented - the kinds of bodies you think of when you imagine a dancer: young, flexible, feminine, wiry. Meanwhile, Azevedo's body is very unlike theirs. Completing these solos -which itself is a feat of endurance, artistry, and skill - they are asking themselves and the audience: Am I a good dancer too?

CREATIVE TEAM

creator/performer | Robert Azevedo
ASL Performer | Talia Wall-DiGiuseppe
Voiceover Actor | Lauryn Collins

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

Contemporary Dance Solo premiered at rEvolver festival in Vancouver BC, 2019. The original production was made possible through a residency with The Happening Dance Company. This remount was supported in-kind by Open Door Theatre and Dance Studio West in Corner Brook, NL.



60 MINUTES

24

6:00 PM

25

9:00 PM

27

6:00 PM

28

12:30 PM

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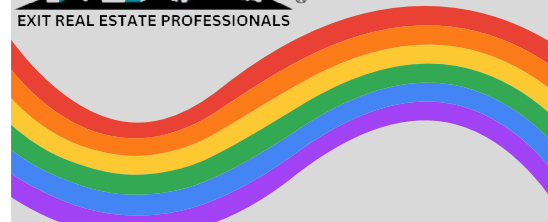


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Register by April 29, 2024 by 8 PM.



Draw LIVE on Instagram on April 30, 2024!



EMERGING STAGE

DEEPER

ROBYN VIVIAN

“Deeper” is a queer love story about a group of women living in ‘80s and ‘90s Newfoundland. Set in an underwater world that reflects the island above it, “Deeper” takes us on a rocky journey across decades, through college classes, marriage and divorce, cross-country moves, familial tension, unlikely friendships, and heartbreak.

Told through a series of flashbacks and old letters, “Deeper” is a personal story of longing, love, and loss, wrapped in a cultural time capsule. A reminder of the fleeting nature of life and love, “Deeper” urges us to hold each other close and to love out loud - while we’re still here, while we still can, and for those who never could.

CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright/Producer/Stage Manager | Robyn Vivian
Director/Producer/DAVE | Logan Robins
Composer/Musician/DAWN | Riley Reign
LISA | Sarah Smith
EMILY | Ellie Weise
Produced by The Unnatural Disaster Theatre Co.
*Photo by Stoo Metz

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

Workshopped with TODOS Productions, Staged Readings with Page 1 Theatre at OutFest; TODOS Productions’ & Resource Centre for the Arts’ Live Magazine Series Production with Unnatural Disaster Theatre Company at Halifax Fringe Festival.

Funding provided by: Canada Council for the Arts ArtsNL City of St. John’s.

Special thanks: Santiago Guzmán, Meghan Greeley, Elizabeth Hicks, Shealyn Varnes, Logan Robins, Ryan Gallant, Kris Vivian, Lucas Arab, Mocean, Hear Here Productions.

Reference to substance use/addiction, sexual content, and death.
Some strong language and homophobia.
For questions about specific content please reach out.



CONTENT

DID YOU KNOW?

Deeper first premiered as part of OutFest as a Staged Reading in 2022. The show then went on to the Halifax Fringe the same year.



60 MINUTES

23

7:30 PM

26

6:00 PM

27

12:30 PM

28

5:00 PM



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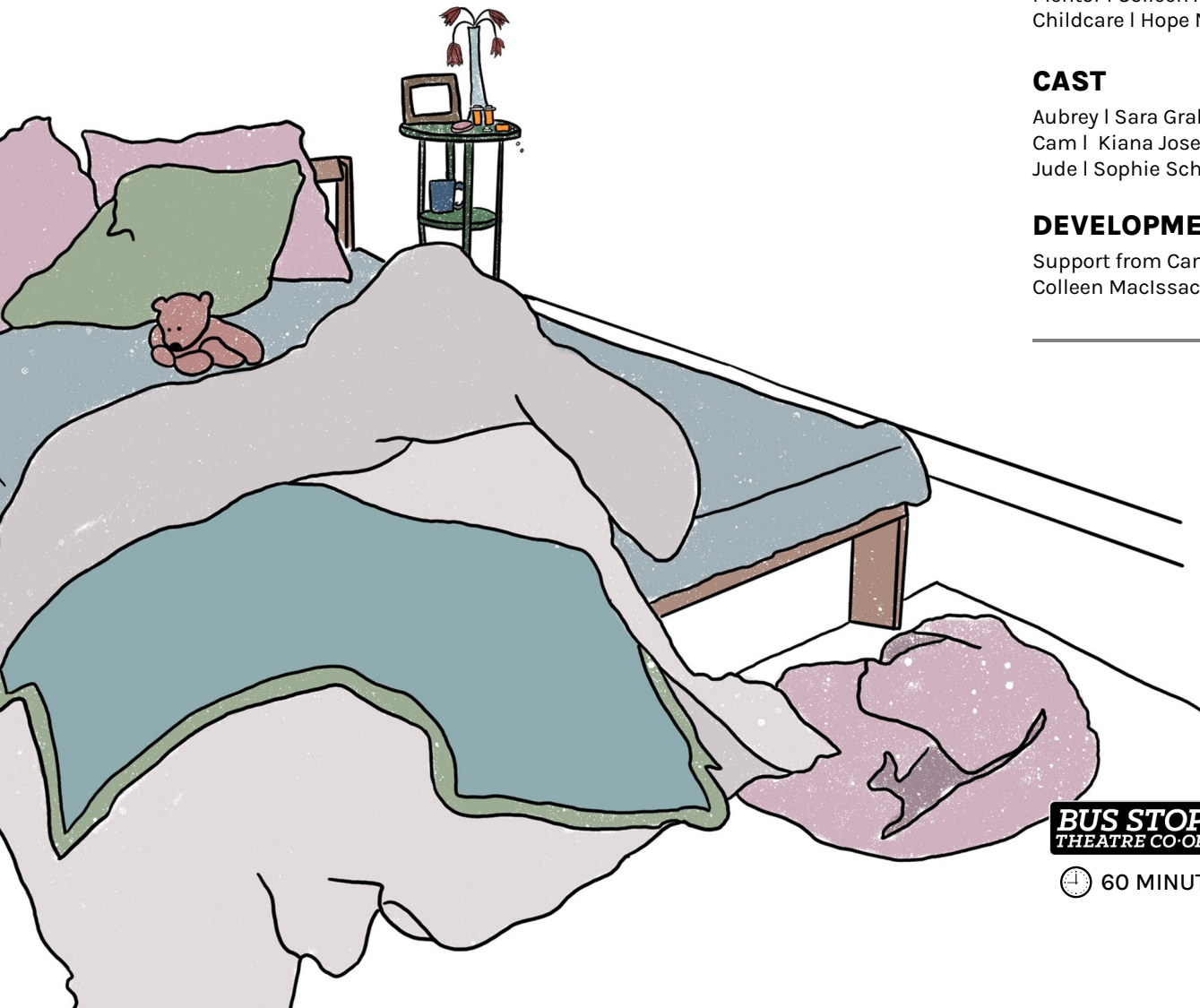
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EMERGING STAGE

LIFESPAN OF A MATTRESS

SARA GRAHAM

Lifespan of a Mattress follows a chronically ill person navigating queer relationships, the medical system and trying to keep their room clean all from the discomfort of their own bed. Gently exploring the connections between love, friendship, disability and unhealthy obsession with Pride and Prejudice.



CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright/Producer | Sara Graham
Director | Rooks Field-Green
Stage Manager | Emma Lamont
Set Designer | Boo Stinson
Sound Designer | Japhy Sullivan
Blanket Costume Designer | Carol Hickey
Costume Design Mentor | Noella Murphy
Intimacy Coordinator | Koumbie
Projection Designer | Christain Ludwig Hansen
Devising Support | Coral Maloney
Mentor | Dan Bray
Mentor | Lee-Anne Poole
Mentor | Colleen Arcturus-MacIssac
Childcare | Hope MacPherson

CAST

Aubrey | Sara Graham
Cam | Kiana Josette
Jude | Sophie Schade

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

Support from Canada Council for the Arts Professional Development Grant, Colleen MacIssac, Villain's Theatre and 2B Theatre.

* ALL shows are mandatory masking *

BUS STOP
THEATRE CO-OP

🕒 60 MINUTES

🧑‍🤝‍🧑	🧑‍🤝‍🧑	🧑‍🤝‍🧑	🧑‍🤝‍🧑
24	25	27	28
7:30 PM	6:00 PM	9:00 PM	3:30 PM

YOUNG AUDIENCE STAGE

EVERYONE'S STORY

CAITY SMYCK & KAY ADDISON

Hi Adventurers! Welcome to the Kit Kat Fort! [Insert KAZOO trumpet here]
A magical place where you can go on the most AMAZING adventures!

Best friends Kit and Kat love escaping into books and reading stories to one another, but never see themselves in any of the heroes because the strong, adventurous and courageous characters they read about in books are not like them.

They decide to take matters into their own hands by writing their own adventures where they finally get to save the day. Now Kit and Kat are ready to share these stories with new adventurers by inviting them into the Kit Kat blanket fort!

Everyone's Story is an immersive TYA show that combines shadow-puppetry, music, and storytelling to present a gender non-conforming hero's journey through vivid landscapes with larger than life characters (in person and in puppet form).

CREATIVE TEAM

Creator and Performer | Caity Smyck
Creator and Performer | Kay Addison

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

Everyone's Story premiered in May 2023 at the Ottawa Children's Festival as part of the InTents programming, a new initiative that showcased new TYA work created in Ottawa after a year-long incubator program. Thank you to Emily Pearlman and Drea for inviting Caity to participate in the program and for the dramaturgical support throughout the process. Thank you to the Ottawa Children's Festival for supporting new work and providing a space to allow audiences to explore their imagination with us.



60 MINUTES



11:00 AM

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STAGED READING

PUSHED

RILEY REIGN

PUSHED is a two-act play which explores themes of prison abolition, colonialism, state violence, sexual violence, and the importance of friendship and community for marginalized people. On a night out with friends Clara, a young Mi'kmaw woman is charged and convicted with second-degree murder - a crime she does not believe she is guilty of. Now in prison, Clara is in danger and Nat, Bou and Kal attempt to break Clara out before it's too late.

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer | Riley Reign
Dramaturge | Anita Majumdar
Dramaturge / Cultural Consultant | Leahdawn Helena
Stage Manager | Abbey Frias

CREATIVE TEAM

Clara | Lara Lewis
Nat | Rowan White
Bou | Reign Dorfschmidt
Kal | Misha Bakshi
Woman | Nancy Kenny
Man | Keith Morrison

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

This play began its development in 2019 when a 10-minute scratch version was presented at the Other Room in Cardiff, Wales. It then took a pause for a few years until Riley Reign was offered the chance to continue developing the project by participating in the 2023 PARC Writers Retreat in Sackville NB. Now, PUSHED has received Arts Nova Scotia funding for this period of development which includes this staged reading.



CONTENT

Colonial violence, physical violence, sexual violence, death, drug use, racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, harsh language, overlapping speech/voices.

BUS STOP
THEATRE CO-OP

60 MINUTES

28

11:00 AM



Chester Playhouse presents A Beginner's Guide to the Night Sky

A play by Colleen MacIsaac



a "triumph"
(Wayves
Magazine)

"an enchanting
play...deeply
moving" (NS
Reviews)

Directed by Garry Williams
Starring Rooks Field-Green
& Geneviève Steele

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