



COAL MINE THEATRE



DION
A ROCK OPERA

NOTE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Sometime in the deep dark days of the pandemic, down in the basement of our home in East York, Ted and Steven Mayoff—who have been friends and collaborators since the eighties, started to work together on a reimagining of *The Bacchae*. Having played Pentheus in a Stratford production decades ago, it was a project that Ted had been chatting to Steve about for a long time. I'll never forget the afternoon when Ted played me the first song from his computer. I knew right away that he and Steve had made something magical and wild that we were all in need of.

It will forever be one of the great creative joys of my life that the Coal Mine Theatre was able to wholeheartedly get behind the development of *DION: A Rock Opera*. It has taken an extreme amount of care, leadership and belief from Peter Hinton-Davis and Bob Foster and the commitment of many special artists who workshopped this piece with us over the last four years. It has taken the donations of many generous patrons and donors, one lucky grant from the Canada Arts Council and the support of the Slaughter Family Foundation and our Board.

We welcome you to our very first World Premiere where we share what we love to explore most at the Coal Mine Theatre: what it means to be human.

—Diana Bentley, *Co-Chief Engineer*

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Myths are stories that we know are not *real* but express or embody something that is *true*. They paradoxically embrace imagination and belief, rational circumstance and ecstatic experience. They are both simple and difficult and the very language of theatre.

DION is a contemporary rock opera exploring an ancient myth. It's a tragedy about the limits of reason, and the potential for disorder and revenge that lies inside the essential cry for freedom. Its story pits the emotional against the intellectual, the primal against the civilized, the animal against human and leads us to question what the healthy balance might be. Inspired by one of the oldest plays, *The Bacchae* by Euripides, *DION* reframes the myth of Dionysus for modern times. Dionysus is the god of wine and intoxication, their world evokes the glamor and grist of rock and roll: the sense of divine power and human aspiration, the followers and fans, groupies and grifters, prophets and politicians. I am reminded of how powerful the role music plays in moments of social upheaval, revolution and change.

The great rock operas of the 60's and 70's explored many of these Dionysian provocations – popular forms fused with cultural archetypes, creating something both subversive and grand. But rather than homage or nostalgia, Ted and Steve have fashioned a musical reclaiming of their own. Sometimes exposing our folly, at other times illuminating our full potential.

Jimi Hendrix (a Dionysian if there ever was one) said it best,

“When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.”

—Peter Hinton-Davis

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

TIRESIAS (a blind prophet, former advisor to Pentheus): SATE

CHORUS (followers in the cult of Dion): Max Borowski, Saccha Dennis, Kaden Forsberg, Kelsey Verzotti

DION (half mortal/half divine God of Intoxication): Jacob MacInnis

AGAVE (Mother of Pentheus): Carly Street

CADMUS (Founder and former King of Thebes, Father of Agave, Grandfather of Dion and Pentheus): Allan Louis

PENTHEUS (King of Thebes): Allister MacDonald

CREATIVE TEAM

COMPOSER: Ted Dykstra

LIBRETTO BY: Steven Mayoff

DIRECTOR: Peter Hinton-Davis

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Bob Foster

CREATIVE PRODUCER: Diana Bentley

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER: Kiera Sangster

ASSOCIATE MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Haneul Yi

STAGE MANAGER: Fiona Jones

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER: Dennie Theodore

SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER: Scott Penner

LIGHTING DESIGNER: Bonnie Beecher

SOUND DESIGNER: Tim Lindsay

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER: Émilie Trimbee

WARDROBE AND PROPS ASSISTANT: JB Nelles

BAND

PIANO: Bob Foster

GUITAR/PERCUSSION: Haneul Yi

BASS: Kat McLevey

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT PROVIDED BY WHATBYWHEN (WxW)

PRODUCTION MANAGER (WxW): Erik Richards

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR (WxW): Sebastian Marziali

CO-PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS (WxW): Wes Babcock & Crystal Lee

HOUSE TECHNICIAN: Lilian Adom

SCENIC PAINTERS: Ameilia Mielke-O'Grady, Amelia Blaine, Alysson Bernabe

CREW: Nathan Gregory, Tyler East, Hazel Chia, Alison Ferrier, Frank Incer, Tristan Bell, Adam Bromley

FOR THE COAL MINE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Brett Ledger (chair), Eli Taylor, Rena Bedard & Natalie Herbert

CHIEF ENGINEERS: Diana Bentley & Ted Dykstra

GENERAL MANAGER: Chris Hayes

MARKETING MANAGER: Aisling Murphy

VENUE & FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER: Breanna Dillon

PATRON SERVICES MANAGER: Shayna Linds
GRAPHIC DESIGN: Kostis Petridis (studio-banjo.com)
MARKETING & WEB DESIGN: Lois Kim
PUBLICITY: Suzanne Cheriton, RED EYE MEDIA
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Don Kendal

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Chris Tsujiuchi, Robert Markus, Jaz Fairy J, Masini McDermott, Katerina Sokyrko, Juan Chioran, Chelsey Preston, Germaine Konji, Louise Pitre, Taurian Teelucksingh, Jaimee Q. Vicente-Hall, Wendy Thatcher, Colin Rivers, Rob Richardson, Beau Dixon, HAU!, Greg Thompson, Elly Daniels, Gray Powell & Molly Atkinson, David Bentley, Monica Esteves, Lynanne Sparrow, Beth Toombs, Don Kendal, Christine Groom, Marcie Januska, Matt Eger, Lorcan O'Brien, Dennis Passley and Mikael Kangas.

AND A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ORIGINAL ARTISTIC ASSOCIATES

Sean Baker, Rae Ellen Bodie, Jennifer Kidson, Steve Lucas, Kostis Petridis, Carrie Sager, and Charissa Wilcox

The Coal Mine Theatre engages under the terms of the INDIE 2.2, professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

DION: A Rock Opera is staged by arrangement with Pam Winter, Gary Goddard Agency, Toronto. www.ggagency.ca

RECONCILIATIONCANADA.CA

The Coal Mine recognizes the many wrongs our country has dealt to its indigenous peoples. In an effort to support the process of reconciliation through action rather than words, we make a donation to Reconciliation Canada each time a show opens here. We hope you are able to support this imperative initiative as well, please visit www.reconciliationcanada.ca for details on how you can help.

**METCALF
FOUNDATION**



**Kingfisher
Foundation**



Foundation





WESLEY BABCOCK (HE/HIM)

Supervising Production Manager

Wesley is a Queer set and lighting designer, and production manager who splits time between Kijikuktuk (Halifax, NS) and Tkaronto (Toronto, ON). Wesley is a founding member of whatbywhen (WxW) (with Crystal Lee), where they develop models for sustainable production management and technical direction through praxis. He founded and co-curated *Dark Day Monday* (with Thea Fitz-James), a Toronto-based performance series featuring artists who break boundaries and defy expectation. He is also a founding partner of Act1 Consulting for the Performing Arts (with Peter Henry), where they are currently working on a masterplan for Ship's Company Theatre, among other architectural projects with companies like Coal Mine Theatre.



BONNIE BEECHER (SHE/HER)

Lighting Designer

Bonnie has designed over 400 productions for theatre, opera and dance across Canada and internationally. Recent productions include: *Giselle and Krabat* (Ballet AM Rhein, Dusseldorf); *Jazz and Maria Stuart* (Badisches Staatstheater, Karlsruhe); *I Forgive You* (Artistic Fraud); *Swan Lake* and *Emma Bovary* (National Ballet of Canada); *The Shadow of a Doubt* (Shaw Festival); *Carmen* (Edmonton Opera); *Angels in America* (That Theatre Company); and *A Kiss to the World* (Ballet Am Rhein, Dusseldorf). Upcoming productions include: *Aportia Chryptych* (Canadian Opera) and *Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart* (Shaw).



MAX BOROWSKI (ANY PRONOUNS)

Chorus

"We are not free. And the sky can still fall on our heads. And the theatre has been created to teach us that first of all" - Me. No, it's Antonin Artaud. I am actually Max Borowski. I'm a text-forward stage actor making peculiar interpretations to beam us back into our bodies. Acting credits: *Cabaret* (Ovation Productions); *An Incomplete List...* (TO Fringe); *33 1/3* (Workshop, Theatre Aquarius); *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Nobody Asked to Be Here*, *Turn the Page* (Sheridan College); 2018 National Champion (Canadian Improv Games). A special thank you to my family, particularly my bubby Gaia who prays to Dionysus for me every day (seriously); and to Martin Julien, Kyle Blair and Anne Barnshaw who made this possible.



SACCHA DENNIS (SHE/HER)

Chorus

Saccha is an actor, educator, creator and director. Her notable acting credits include, Hannah and Others in the Broadway hit show *Come From Away* with Mirvish Productions, *Sousatzka: A New Musical* with Tony Award winner Victoria Clarke, *James and the Giant Peach* (Dora nomination), four seasons at the Shaw Festival, and the first national U.S. tour of *We Will Rock You*. She was also the first black Dorothy in *Wizard of Oz* at the Young People's Theatre! Known for challenging "traditional" theatre as a director, her latest work included an all-poc, Black Panther Party inspired production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* at Tift. To find out more, follow @musicalsreimagined on Instagram and Facebook or visit musicalsreimagined.com and sacchadennis.com



TED DYKSTRA (HE/HIM)

Composer

Ted has been writing music to Steve Mayoff's words for just over 40 years, and the excitement he feels when Steve sends him a lyric has never abated. In another life they would have had a songwriting career, but their own individual work has always superseded that (until now!). As a composer Ted has composed for countless shows across the country and his musical, *Evangeline*, was done to great acclaim in Charlottetown and Edmonton. He also co-wrote one of the most successful "musical plays" in Canadian theatre history, *2 Pianos, 4 Hands*. He thanks his love Diana Bentley for making *DION: A Rock Opera* happen. And Theo, Rosie and Henry, for making his life so much more than all this.



KADEN FORSBERG (HE/HIM)

Chorus

Kaden Forsberg is an actor, singer, composer, and writer who crosses genres as creator and performer. Recent theatre credits include: *Cabaret* (Ovation); *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *Sh-Boom* (Drayton Entertainment); *Almost a Full Moon* (Citadel Theatre); *One Day* (Segal Centre, Playwrights' Workshop Mtl); *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Naked Radio*, *Classic Country Roads* (Chemainus Theatre Festival); *Little Women*, *Candide*, *Fiddler on the Roof* (NUOVA). Selected opera credits: *Mary's Wedding*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (POV); *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* (Aspen Music Festival); *Orlando Paladino* (Mozarteum); *Gianni Schicchi* (Amalfi Coast Music Festival). Film/TV: March Hare/Card #2 in *The Garden of Alice*. For life, music, and album updates: @kk_brett



BOB FOSTER (HE/HIM)

Musical Director / Piano

Come From Away, Rock Of Ages, Hairspray, Dirty Dancing, Wizard Of Oz, Billy Elliot, The Boys In The Photograph (Mirvish Original Canadian Casts); *Anne Of Green Gables, Alice Through The Looking Glass, Evangeline, Mamma Mia, Bittergirl* (Charlottetown Festival); *Passing Strange, Wild Party* (Musical Stage Company). As well as numerous shows in theatres across Canada. Other: Bob is Head Of Music at the Charlottetown Festival, and Music Supervisor for *Tell Tale Harbour, Beautiful Scars, Maggie* and *Bittergirl, the Musical*. Bob co-wrote the hit songs *Good Mother* and *Looking For It*, among others, with Jann Arden, has played guitar and keyboards with her, both live and in the studio. He is the recipient of two SOCAN Airplay Awards, and two Betty Mitchell awards.



PETER HINTON-DAVIS (HE/THEY)

Director

Peter Hinton-Davis has directed over 250 projects for theatre and opera since 1984. Recent directing credits include: *The Last Epistle of Tighrope Time* by Walter Borden (NAC/Tarragon); *The Hooves Belonged to the Deer* by Makram Ayache (Tarragon/In Arms Collective); *The Man That Got Away* by Martin Julien (Buddies); *The Sylvia Effect*, writer/director (Theatre Kingston); *The Shadow of a Doubt* by Edith Wharton (Shaw Festival); *Hadrian* by Rufus Wainwright/Daniel MacIvor (Canadian Opera Company). Upcoming projects include a new staging of Wagner's *Das Rheingold* for Edmonton Opera. Peter was Artistic Director of English Theatre at Canada's National Arts Centre (2005-2012). He is the recipient of numerous Canadian theatre awards, and was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2009.



FIONA JONES (SHE/HER)

Stage Manager

Selected credits: *The Last Epistle of Tighrope Time, The Hooves Belonged to the Deer, An Acre of Time, The Road to Hell, One Word, The Retreat* (Tarragon Theatre); *The Man That Got Away* (Buddies in Bad Times); *Bentboy* (YPT); *Crow Hill, Bombers, The Hero of Hunter Street, The Bad Luck Bank Robbers, Wounded Soldiers, (4 th Line Theatre); What A Young Wife Ought To Know* (2b Theatre/GCTC/Crow's Theatre); *Disgraced* (Mirvish/Hope In Hell Theatre/Citadel Theatre); *Life, Death And The Blues, Such Creatures* (Theatre Passe Muraille); *Trudeau Stories* (Long Black Car); *Trout Stanley, Cold Meat Party, Tiger of Malaya, Belle* (Factory Theatre).

SONG LIST AND PLOT SUMMARY

We are in the City State of Thebes.

THE WORD IS EVOE (*Tiresias and Chorus*)

Tiresias (he/she), a blind soothsayer who has lived as both a man and a woman, invokes and defines the concept of EVOE, an “exclamation of Bacchic frenzy.”

THE SEDUCTION (*Agave, Dion, Chorus*)

A “man” approaches Agave, (she/her) the mother of Pentheus, ruler of Thebes. They question her and then reveal themselves to be DION, (they/them) her nephew and a demi-god. They seduce her.

YOU CAN CALL ME DION (*Dion, Chorus*)

The Bacchantes, a group of the outcasts of Theban Society who worship Dion, asks them to tell their story. Again!

EVOE 1 (*Chorus and Agave*)

The Chorus dance and sing

SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO (*Cadmus, Tiresias and Chorus*)

Cadmus (he/him), father to Agave, grandfather to Dion and Pentheus, and former ruler of Thebes, laments the death of his other daughter Semele, Dion’s mother. Tiresias, his old soothsayer and friend, joins him. They discuss joining the outcasts.

ALL HAIL PENTHEUS (*Pentheus, Chorus*)

Pentheus (he/him), ruler of Thebes, has been away. He is furious that so many people have joined the “cult” of Dion.

POISON TO WINE (*Agave*)

Agave wakes alone in the hills after a night of reveling.

WELCOME (*Cadmus, Tiresias, Dion*)

Dion welcomes Cadmus and Tiresias, who too are waking after quite a night in the hills.

REPRESENT (*Dion, Chorus, Agave Cadmus Tiresias*)

The protest song of the followers of Dion.

STORMING AND SURRENDERING (*FULL COMPANY*)

Pentheus’ forces quell the rioters, and arrest Tiresias, who is led away in custody. Exactly as Dion planned....

STOP (*Cadmus, Agave*)

Father and daughter, among the ruins, try for a truce between them after all these years...

THE SINS (*Cadmus, Agave and Chorus*)

The chorus joins them as they reflect in their newfound understanding

TWEET, TWEET, TWEET (*Pentheus*)

In his War Room, Pentheus does what he does best

COME BACK TO THE FOLD (*Pentheus, Tiresias*)

The captured Tiresias is brought to Pentheus who tries to convince his old soothsayer to support him once again

EVOE 2 (*Full Company*)

Dion's followers take control of the War Room

NEMESIS (*Pentheus, Dion, Chorus*)

Dion steps forward, in disguise, to speak to Pentheus. Then they reveal themselves.

THE GREAT RECLAIMING (*Tiresias, Chorus, Agave, Cadmus*)

From prison, Tiresias sings of a vision that all throughout the land hear, joining in.

AFTER THE KISS (*Pentheus, Dion, Chorus*)

Dion works their magic on Pentheus, convincing him that the way to infiltrate the protestors is to disguise himself.

CLOSER TO HEAVEN (*Dion, Chorus*)

Dion and the chorus transform Pentheus

TWO SUNS (*Pentheus, Dion, Chorus*)

Pentheus emerges into the streets, transformed

THE RECKONING OF PENTHEUS (*Chorus, Dion, Pentheus, Agave and Ensemble*)

Pentheus stumbles into the frenzied followers, who include his mother Agave and grandfather Cadmus. They do not recognize him

SINS 2 (*Agave, Cadmus, Ensemble*)

Agave and Cadmus "come to" and realize what has happened.

MOMENT TO MOMENT (*Dion, Ensemble*)

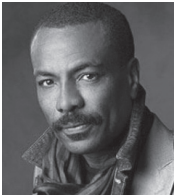
THE END



TIM LINDSAY (HE/HIM)

Sound Designer

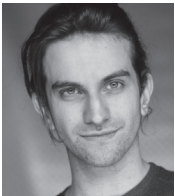
Tim Lindsay is a sound designer and technician born in Toronto, now based in Mississauga. Previously for Coal Mine: *Detroit*. Other recent theatre: *Sizwe Banzi is Dead* (Soulpepper); *Turn the Page* (Sheridan); *Sunday in the Park with George* (Eclipse); *pool (no water)* (Cue6); *Sea Sick* (The Theatre Centre); *After Miss Julie* (Red One); *Hedwig & The Angry Inch*, *Hard Core Logo: Live* (BFL Theatre); six plays for Kat Sandler's Theatre Brouhaha. PODCASTS: *Under the Radar: A Rolling Stones Podcast*; *Feedback* (Cue6 Audio); *First Drafts 2023* (Musical Stage Company).



ALLAN LOUIS (HE/HIM)

Cadmus

Allan Louis is an established international stage, television and film actor. SHAW FESTIVAL: *Gypsy*, *The Amen Corner*; *Gem of the Ocean*, *The Doctor's Dilemma*, *Oh What a Lovely War*, *Grand Hotel*, *Dracula*, *Saint Joan*, "Master Harold"...and the Boys (and tour). ELSE-WHERE: *Red Velvet* (Crow's Theatre); *I Am William* (Stratford Festival); *Measure for Measure*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Comedy of Errors* (Canadian Stage); *Here Are The Fragments*, Theatre Center; *Buddy Black* in Helen Lawrence (Edinburgh International Festival); *Münchener Kammerspiele* (Brooklyn Academy of Music); Luther Dixon in *Baby It's You!* (Broadway); *Ragtime* (first national tour). TELEVISION: *NCIS* (recurring), *Castle*, *Person of Interest* (recurring), *Grey's Anatomy*, *Chuck*, *Privileged* (series regular).



ALLISTER MACDONALD (THEY/HE)

Pentheus

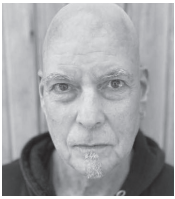
Allister MacDonald (aka Allie) is a Queer Cape Breton born actor based in Toronto. Two time ACTRA Award Winner for Outstanding Lead Performance, including for their portrayal of Drag Queen JOAN of Arkansas in *Stage Mother* (eOne/Momentum), starring alongside Lucy Liu and Jacki Weaver. Select Theatre Credits: Prior Walter in *Angels In America* (That Theatre Co. / Buddies); Frank'n Further in the *Rocky Horror Show* (NEPTUNE/**2023 Merritt Award Nominee); The Mad Hatter in *Alice In Pantoland* (NEPTUNE/**2022 Merritt Award Winner); *The Cowboy Tempest* (Workshop Musical Stage Co.); *The Last Show On Earth* (Workshop Nightwood); *In Lieu of Flowers* (Neptune/HAT); *Whale Riding Weather* (TheatreOutre); *This London Life* (The Grand/Morris Panych); Will Shakespeare in *Shakespeare In Love* (NEPTUNE).



JACOB MACINNIS (THEY/THEM)

Dion

Jacob is thrilled to be making their Coal Mine Theatre debut in *DION: A Rock Opera*. Past theatre credits include: *Play on! A Shakespeare Mixtape* (Stratford Festival); *Anne of Green Gables*, *Kronburg*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Tell Tale Harbour* (Charlottetown Festival); *Addams Family The Musical*, *Shrek the Musical* (Neptune Theatre); *James and the Giant Peach**, *Seussical the Musical*, *Pinocchio* (YPT); *Children of God* (Urban Ink); *Joseph...Dreamcoat*, *Joni Mitchell: Both Sides Now* (Tweed and Co) *Toronto Theatre Critics Award, Dora Mavor Moore Award Nomination. Training: Sheridan College Music Theatre Performance Program. Many thanks to the whole *DION* and Coal Mine family, to The Talent House, and Jacob's family and friends. EVOE!



STEVEN MAYOFF (HE/HIM)

Libretto

Steven Mayoff was born and raised in Tiohtià:ke/Montreal and has made Epekwitk/Prince Edward Island his home since 2001. His fiction and poetry have appeared in journals across Canada and the US, as well as in Algeria, France, the UK and Croatia. His books include the story collection *Fatted Calf Blues* (Turnstone Press, 2009), the novel *Our Lady of Steerage* (Bunim & Bannigan, 2015), the poetry chapbook *Leonard's Flat* (Grey Borders Books, 2018), the poetry collection *Swinging Between Water and Stone* (Guernica Editions, 2019) and the novel *The Island Gospel According to Samson Grief* (Radiant Press, 2023). Steven has also written lyrics, librettos and collaborated on scripts for radio and the stage. His website is www.stevenmayoff.ca



SEBASTIAN MARZIALI (THEY/THEM)

Technical Director

Sebastian Marziali is an award winning Uruguayan-Canadian performer, designer, and creator based in T'karonto. Sebastian has worked with and learned from Masters from across the Americas such as Grupo Yuyachkani, La Pocha Nostra, and Teatro La Candelaria to name a few. Sebastian was the lighting designer for the 2018 & '19 Toronto International Burlesque Festivals, and 2019 Vanguardia Dance Festival. They starred in, designed, and choreographed for Sold-out T.O. Fringe hits *Lysistrata*, *Carmilla*, and *Mayhem at Mis-katonik*. Recently they Lighting Designed the acclaimed world premiere of *Homelands* for Kaha:wi Dance as well as *Convictions* and *Les Zinspiré.e.s* for Tft.



KAT MCLEVEY (THEY/THEM)

Bassist

Kat McLevey is a bassist, singer, and songwriter from St. John's, NL. After graduating from Berklee College of Music in 2019, Kat moved to Toronto to see if being landlocked was as bad as it sounded. Well, they are still here and overall having an excellent time performing and touring with numerous bands and singer/songwriters, as well as teaching kids just how exciting functional harmony is.



SCOTT PENNER (HE/HIM)

Set and Costume Designer

Selected Credits: *JOB, Without You* (Off Broadway); *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Grand Theatre); *The Extinction Therapist* (Theatre Aquarius); *Shakespeare's Will* (Indiana Rep Theatre); *Cymbeline* (Stratford Festival); *A Raisin in the Sun, Love's Labour's Lost* (American Players Theatre); *Rasheeda Speaking* (Shattered Globe Chicago), *Fireflies, Intimate Apparel* (Northlight Theatre Chicago); *Therefore Choose Life* (HGJTC); *A Few Brittle Leaves, Body Politic* (Buddies in Bad Times); *Happy Days* (Flint Rep Theatre); *The Drowning Girls, Billy Bishop Goes to War* (Globe Theatre Regina). Upcoming: *Shirley Valentine* (Theatre Aquarius); *Guys & Dolls* (The Arts Club). Scott is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada and you can check out his work at www.scottpennerdesign.ca or @scottpennerdesign.



ERIK RICHARDS (HE/HIM)

Production Manager

Erik Richards is a Sound Designer, Production Manager and Theatre Maker from Treaty Six making his Toronto debut with *DION: A Rock Opera*. Selected work includes, *Boy Falls From the Sky* (Talk is Free); *The Cabin on Bald Dune* (Dog Heart); *Talk Treaty to Me* (ReadyGo); *Dead in the Water* (TheatreYES); and *Evandalism* (Fringe Spotlight). Upcoming, *La Bete* (Talk is Free); *The Pillowman* (TheatreYES); *Brother Rat* (ReadyGo). Erik's practice explores the intersection between theatre, and music, through multimedia elements and live performance. He is thrilled to be continuing this work with *DION*. Erik sends his heart back home to his family, and fiance Frances who have been incredible as he continues his time out east.



KIERA SANGSTER (SHE/HER/THEY)

Associate Director / Choreographer

Kiera is excited to join *DION: A Rock Opera* in their Coal Mine Theatre debut. Exploring the myth and truth of this story through movement is our raw expression of freedom using the human body. Rippling like the snake on water, tempting those who dare to taste the waters, an Earthly gyration delving into the depths of our souls, crack-

ing open and flooding our hearts with pain, love and an abundance of freedom. Terpsichore - a powerful dance releasing the oppressive restraints of life. Previous work: The Shaw Festival, Say Yes Buffalo, NY., Toronto District School Board. Welcome to the Bacchanal



SATE (SHE/HER)

Tiresias

SATE is an artist whose music and presence embody power, energy and Divine womanhood. As the daughter of singer & theatre pioneer Salome Bey, SATE's unique sound evolves from a lifetime spent fully immersed in music. With an impressive reputation worldwide for her "tornado of a stage presence" and signature dirty, soulful, riff-laden rock and roll sound; SATE is now a certified 2022 Juno Award nominee and Polaris Prize longlisted artist for her sophomore album, *The Fool*. SATE most recently appeared in the Toronto premiere of Scott Joplin's opera *Treemonisha* (Volcano Theatre/Luminato) and over the years in such productions as: *for colored girls*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Soulpepper); *Adventures Of A Black Girl In Search Of God* (Obsidian/Mirvish).



CARLY STREET (SHE/HER)

Agave

Carly is an award-winning actress, having appeared on stages across North America. Career Highlights: *Clybourne Park* (Tony Award*, best production), *Skin Tight*, *Brief Encounter*, *Old Times* (Broadway); *Venus in Fur*, *Heisenberg* (Canadian Stage); *Company* (Theatre20); *Twelfth Night* (Pittsburgh Public); *The Lord of the Rings* (Mirvish Productions); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bard on the Beach); *Tovarich* (Shakespeare New Jersey), as well as two world premieres with renowned American playwright, Theresa Rebeck. Carly lives in the Beaches with two cats, one dog, and one sister.



DENNIE THEODORE (SHE/HER/GRAMMA)

Assistant Stage Manager

Dennie Theodore - a stage manager, director, writer (and - long ago - a singer and musician), Dennie has contributed to shows and events across Canada. Always looking for ventures which celebrate life and art. 2023 projects included stage managing for *Rock of Ages* (Elgin Winter Theatre); *The Musical McCoy* (Papermill Theatre); and *The Pirates of Penzance* (St. Lawrence Centre). A namesake of Dionysus, it's not surprising that her life is often filled with late night fries, bourbon, and music.



KELSEY VERZOTTI (SHE/HER)

Chorus

Kelsey is thrilled to be back at the Coal Mine! Select credits include: *The Antipodes* (Coal Mine); *Pollyanna* (Theatre Aquarius); *Bittergirl* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Kelly V Kelly* (CanStage/ Musical Stage Co.); *Gaslight* (Vertigo Theatre); *Anne of Green Gables* (Charlottetown Festival); *A Christmas Carol* (Shaw Festival); *Into the Woods* (Talk is Free Theatre); *Les Moutons*, *Divine Interventions* (Corpus); *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, *Under the Stairs* (YPT); *Mary and Max* (Theatre Calgary); *Ai Yah Sweet and Sour Secrets* (Lunchbox Theatre) and *Life After* (CanStage/Musical Stage Co.) Lots of love to her parents for supporting her dreams! @kelseeyverzotti



HANEUL YI (HE/HIM)

Associate Music Director / Guitar / Percussion

Haneul Yi is a Korean-Canadian multi-instrumentalist singer-songwriter, actor-musician, music director/arranger. He is a graduate of the Honours Bach. of Music Theatre Performance of Sheridan College, and he is the recipient of the 2021 Jon Kaplan Award. Recent credits and training include *Alice in Wonderland* (BadHats); *Once* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Spring Awakening* (Sheridan College) and *Aqsarniit* (Charlottetown Festival Young Company). Haneul is thankful to Bob and the Coalmine family for this wonderfully collaborative process.

THE WALL OF FAME

Get your name hand-painted in gold on the 2025 Wall of Fame,
and join your fellow "Miners" in supporting Toronto's Off-Off
Broadview Theatre!

All donations of **\$100 or more** qualify for recognition of the annual Wall of Fame.
Please visit our website for more information and to make a donation.

www.coalminetheatre.com



SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY FOR 25 YEARS

Specialists in Canadian and US taxes

Simple to complex returns • Year-round services • Accuracy guarantee
Personal • Self-employed • Rental • Corporations • Estates and Trusts

(416) 406-9990

LibertyTaxCanada.ca/70231

1714 Danforth Avenue
Toronto ON M4C 1H8



**FIRKIN
ON DANFORTH
A FIRKIN PUB**



Elevating artists can inspire us all

Congratulations to **Coal Mine Theatre** on turning the former home of our Woodbine and Danforth branch into a space where the arts come alive for our community.

