

TWO BIRDS THEATRE IN ASSOCIATION WITH COMMON BOOTS THEATRE PRESENTS

APOCALYPSE PLAY

A SERIOUS COMEDY
ABOUT MOTHERHOOD,
FEMINIST LEGACY,
& THE FUTURE

CREATED
& PERFORMED
BY NATASHA
GREENBLATT
& KATE
LUSHINGTON

DIRECTOR
ahdri zhina mandiel

PRODUCTION DESIGN
Astrid Janson

SOUND DESIGN
Alejandra Nuñez

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
Dylan Tate-Howarth

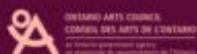
ASSISTANT DESIGNER
Abby Esteireiro

DANCE WRANGLER
Elaine Zhang

SEPTEMBER 10–19, WEEKENDS ONLY
FRIDAY 5PM, SATURDAY & SUNDAY 2PM
HILLCREST PARK—DAVENPORT & CHRISTIE

FREE TICKETS BY RESERVATION
WWW.COMMONBOOTSTHEATRE.CA

PHOTO BY CONNIE TSANG
DESIGN BY PAUL HENDERSON



Women & Gender Studies Institute
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



b current
PERFORMING ARTS

TWO BIRDS THEATRE IN ASSOCIATION WITH
COMMON BOOTS THEATRE PRESENTS

APOCALYPSE PLAY

A serious comedy about motherhood, feminist legacy and the future.

Created & Performed by Natasha Greenblatt & Kate Lushington

Hillcrest Park, Picnic Area
950 Davenport Road (At Christie Street)

September 10 - 19, 2021
Weekends only

**Talkback with the creative team following the September 18th performance,
hosted by director ahdri zhina mandiola.*



Photo by Dahlia Katz

CAST

Dr. Veronica Mandel/ Kate Kate Lushington
Assistant/ Natasha..... Natasha Greenblatt

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

Directorahdri zhina mandiola
Production DesignAstrid Janson
Sound DesignAlejandra Nuñez
Production Stage ManagerDylan Tate-Howarth
Assistant DesignerAbby Esteireiro
Wigs - Cut & Style..... Alice Norton
Finale ChoreographyElaine Zhang
Artistic Producer, Common Boots TheatreKesta Graham
Apprentice Producer & Front of HouseElaine Zhang
DramaturgyCharlotte Corbeil-Coleman
Embodied DramaturgyMonique Mojica
Poster DesignPaul Henderson
Poster ImageConnie Tsang
Handmade TypefaceLesley Johnson
Production PhotographyDahlia Katz

SPECIAL THANKS

Emma McKenna for feminist history consultation. Amy Siegel for archival photo design inspiration. Buddies in Bad Times Theatre for donating the wigs and lending chairs. Freesound and Mixkit sound sources. Caitlin Farley for her part in the initial sound design crew; Matthew Bailey & Brian Boase for sound consultation. Mathew Robert-Nuñez for production assistance.

And for all the support from: Matthew Bailey, Sadie Berlin, Margarita Brighton, Orlando Buonastella, Mel Hague, Jajube Mandiola, Toronto City Councillor Josh Matlow, Orna Momin, Claudia Moore at MOONhORsE Dance Theatre, Aidan Morishito-Miki, Steph Raposo, Djanet Sears, Farnoosh Talebpour, Judith Taylor, Rosey Ugo Edeh, b current Performing Arts & FLUX: Justin Abella, Marion Kang, Yuri Kang, Ho Seok Lee, Arica Tamayo, Cassandra Toutou, Arhea Wang, Clare Wang, Daphne Wang, & Elaine Zhang.

Apocalypse Play was originally conceived and presented at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre as part of the 40th Anniversary Rhubarb Festival in February 2019. Directed by ahdri zhina mandiola, designed by Astrid Janson, assisted by Farnoosh Talebpour and with dramaturgy by Mel Hague.

The show is presented in Hillcrest Park thanks to a City of Toronto Arts & Music permit.

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

Apocalypse Play is supported by Ontario Arts Council, Women & Gender Studies Institute at University of Toronto, and b current Performing Arts.



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un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

THE COMPANY



NATASHA GREENBLATT – CO-CREATOR & PERFORMER

Natasha Greenblatt is a writer, performer, educator, and the co-artistic director of Two Birds Theatre. Selected acting credits include: Audrey Dwyer's *Calpurnia* (Nightwood/b current), *Alice Through the Looking Glass* (NAC and Charlottetown Festival) and Jordan Tannahill's *Get Yourself Home* Skyler James (Roseneath, Dora Award). Her plays include *The Peace Maker* (Next Stage Festival, Playwrights Canada Press), *Two Birds One Stone*, written and performed with Rimah Jabr (Riser Project, Tarragon Workspace, Impact Festival, and the Winnipeg Jewish Theatre) and *The Election*, a play she wrote with Yolanda Bonnell (Common Boots Theatre, Nightwood Theatre, Theatre PasseMuraille, and Theatre Direct).

Natasha is currently an MFA candidate in Creative Writing at the University of Guelph.



Kate Lushington – Co-creator & Performer

Kate Lushington “is always a political artist...a pioneering theatre creator since the 1970's” wrote late beloved critic Jon Kaplan in SummerWorks Artists to Watch 2011. Directing highlights include *My Name is Rachel Corrie* at Tarragon Extra Space & *Your Dream was Mine* by Shirley & Greta Cheechoo, both designed by Astrid Janson, and *A Fertile Imagination* by Susan G. Cole. Kate's play *Up Against the Wallpaper* co-written with feminist lip synch troupe The Clichettes was a 1988 hit for Nightwood Theatre; she subsequently served six seasons there as Artistic Director. Her 10-minute film *Subway Transfer* about a baby exchanged between strangers on the TTC won the Mouche D'Or at the

On the Fly Festival, and her CBC Radio adaptation of Josef Skvorecky's *The Bass Saxophone* won a Nellie. *Easy Money* created with injured workers was shown at the Mayworks Festival and she is currently developing *DSM: The Musical* by Kerry Westell from Workman Arts. Formerly a member of PAND (Performing Artists for Nuclear Disarmament) she now supports SCAN! (Seniors for Climate Action Now!)



ahdri zhina mandiola – director

since the late 70's ahdri zhina mandiola has worked as a performance poet with readings, performances, lectures, and workshops around the world. she's the founder and past artistic director of the legendary b current performing arts in toronto, canada. her work in artistic mentoring and training, and as dramaturg or director of countless play scripts, performance pieces, mainstage and touring productions has profoundly influenced new and seasoned artists across canada and beyond.

mandiola's current artistic push includes developing a large-scale multi-arts project (*my world.a village*), a new playscript called *fly with factory* theatre in toronto, amplifying the voices of young folx in black stage

canada, developing *speak!* as alternative arts training for students at canada's national theatre school, and directing theatre shows for companies in toronto and montreal.



Astrid Janson – Production Designer

Astrid Janson's production design work for theatre, dance, opera and film, has been seen on stages across Canada, from the Arts and Culture Centre in Newfoundland, to the Pacific Opera in BC. Canadian theatres include the Stratford Festival, Soulpepper Theatre, The Canadian Opera Co., Canadian Stage, Citadel Theatre, The National Ballet, the National Arts Centre, and most Toronto Theatres, and 15 plays for Videocabaret, including the costumes for 13 of Michael Hollingsworth's award winning History Plays. Her television career includes award winning films, specials and series. Civic projects include the exhibitions for the Ontario Pavilion at Expo '86 and a new Discovery Gallery for the ROM. She has been recognized with numerous honours for her design work including the Silver Ticket Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre, and an Honorary Doctorate from Wilfrid Laurier University.



Alejandra Nuñez – Sound Designer

Alejandra Nuñez is a vocalist, percussionist, composer and mother to Natalia and Mathew, who holds a Masters in Theatre Studies from York University. Born in Santiago Chile, Alejandra has lived and worked as a musician in Canada and the United States, she has performed in Europe as well as North and Central America. Her training on percussion has taken her to Brazil, Cuba, Puerto Rico, New York and Egypt. She is the band leader of Latin Jazz Band Proyecto Urbano Self titled CD with Mano Music. Alejandra has performed with The Toronto Dance Theatre and written scores for various plays, including Djanet Sears' *Adventures of A Black Girl in Search of God* (Dora Mavor Moore Award Nomination – Musical Direction). Other highlights include musical direction for the Mirvish production of Trey Anthony's *Da Kink in My Hair*, and musical direction and soundscape for Michael Miller's *The Power of Harriet T?* at Young People's Theatre, Anne-Marie Woods' *Scotian Journey* and Trey Anthony's *How Black Mothers Say I Love You*, both for Black Theatre Workshop in Montreal.



Dylan Tate-Howarth – Production Stage Manager

Dylan Tate-Howarth is a theatre artist based in Toronto, working primarily as a stage manager for new and/or devised plays. Selected stage management credits include *Two Birds One Stone* (Two Birds Theatre), *Flashing Lights*, *Italian Mime Suicide*, *Paolozzapedia* (Bad New Days) and *Our Fathers, Sons, Lovers and Little Brothers* (b current Performing Arts). She has also worked as a production manager with The AMY Project and Jumblies Theatre. Dylan is a co-creator of Probably Theatre Collective and co-curator of Probably Poetry.



Abby Esteireiro – Assistant Designer

Abby Esteireiro (she/her) is a theatre maker and designer based in Toronto. She is a part of All Day I Dream About...Theatre, a theatre and film group which premiered *What Are You Supposed To Be?* at the 2021 Toronto Fringe Festival. Recently, Abby and company won the University of Toronto Drama Coalition 2020-2021 Award for Best Play, Best Production Design, and Best Set Design for their production of *Porcelain Tigers*. In 2019, she showcased her work at the Canadian Student Exhibition at the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space.

Abby's work experiments with digital culture, identity, and alternative worlds.



Elaine Zhang – Apprentice Producer & Dance Wrangler

Elaine Zhang is a hip hop and open choreography based dancer born and raised in Vancouver, BC. Since moving to Toronto in 2017, she has trained at Dark Dance Company, FLUX Competitive Dance Team, and theTEAM. With over 35 experiences in teaching, directing, and performing dance, Elaine is excited to step into a new field and learn about the theatre community in Toronto. Through her U of T Women and Gender Studies course taught by Professor Judith Taylor, Elaine joined Two Birds Theatre Company as a research intern developing an in depth outreach survey for their upcoming production. In her current position, she brings her experience as the former director of FLUX to helping

organize a successful *Apocalypse Play*.



Alice Norton – Wigs – Cut & Style

Alice has worked in the Trinidadian carnival tradition, and in theatre spectacles with Shadowland and Jumblies Theatre among many others; since 2003 she has made wigs for VideoCabaret, especially the epic play series *History of the Village of the Small Huts*, garnering many Dora awards over a long and illustrious career. She owns and operates her own hair salon, The House of Big Hair, on Toronto Island.



Charlotte Corbeil-Coleman – Dramaturgy

Charlotte's most recent play *Guarded Girls* (Tarragon Theatre, Green Light Arts) won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Play and was nominated for a Governor General Award. Winner of The Herman Voaden National Playwriting Award, and The K.M. Hunter Artist Award, she is a graduate of the playwriting program at the National Theatre School of Canada. Selected credits include: *The End of Pretending* (SummerWorks, Regent Theatre), *Scratch* (Factory Theatre, La Licorne, Theatre Plexus, Off-Broadway Players), *Sudden Death* (Next Stage), *Twisted* with Joseph Jomo Pierre (Factory Theatre). Charlotte directed and co-created *Highway 63: The Fort Mac Show* (Architect Theatre, TPM).

She wrote for CBC Radio's *Afganada*, the TV series *KING* (Showcase) and *Safehaven* (Crackle). As dramaturg: *This Must Be the Place* (Architect Theatre/TPM), *Unknown Soldier* by Jonathan Seinen (SummerWorks), *Two Birds One Stone* by Natasha Greenblatt and Rimah Jabr, (Tarragon Workspace). *Iphigenia and the Furies on Taurian Land* by Ho Ka Kei (Saga Collectif).



Jajube Mandiela – Talk Back Panelist & Workshop Reader

Jajube is an actor and acting coach; daughter to legendary ahdri zhina mandiola. On screen, she is best known for *Degrassi*, *Jump In!* and voicing *Crash Canyon*. Stage highlights include: *The Smile Off Your Face* (winner of Best SummerWorks Production), *Blue Planet* and *El Numero Uno* (Young People's Theatre), 2 summers of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Dream in High Park), and the title role in *Binti's Journey* (Theatre Direct) which garnered Dora Award nominations. Jajube was the Artistic Director of b current Performing Arts (2013-2017).



Monique Mojica – Embodied Dramaturgy & Talk Back Panelist

Monique (Guna and Rappahannock nations) is an actor, director, playwright and teacher, passionately dedicated to a theatrical practice as an act of healing, reclaiming historical/cultural memory and resistance. Spun directly from the family-web of New York's Spiderwoman Theater, founded by her mother and two aunts, her theatrical practice embraces not only her artistic lineage through mining stories embedded in the body, but also the connection to stories coming through land and place. She has given embodied performance workshops throughout Canada, the U.S., Latin America and Europe. Monique came to Toronto as Artistic Director of Native Earth in 1983. Her first play *Princess Pocahontas and the Blue Spots* was produced in 1990 under Kate Lushington's mentorship at Nightwood Theatre. She was co-founder of Turtle Gals Performance Ensemble with whom she created *The Scrubbing Project*, the Dora-nominated *The Triple Truth* and *The Only Good Indian*. Recent work includes Aunt Shady in Marie Clements' *The Unnatural and Accidental Women* (NAC), touring *I lost My Talk* (NAC Orchestra), writing and performing *Izzie M.: The Alchemy of Enfreakment*, and dramaturg for Kaha:wi Dance Theatre's *Sken:en*. She is dramaturg for *Ayita*, a new work by Teneil Whiskeyjack premiering at Edmonton's SkirtsAfire Festival in March 2022.

REHEARSAL PHOTOS BY DAHLIA KATZ



Natasha Greenblatt, Kate Lushington, ahdri zhina mandiel



Mathew Robert-Núñez , Alejandra Núñez



Astrid Janson



Kate Lushington, Dylan Tate-Howarth



ahdri zhina mandiel

TWO BIRDS THEATRE

Two Birds Theatre was co-founded in 2016 by Jewish-Canadian theatre maker Natasha Greenblatt and Palestinian theatre maker Rimah Jabr to explore collaboration across difference. Their inaugural project *Two Birds One Stone* had sold out runs at the Riser Project and Tarragon Theatre's Workspace, with tours to Impact Festival in Kitchener, the Winnipeg Jewish Theatre and In The Soil Festival in St. Catharines (digital performance). *Apocalypse Play* is our second production, this time with a focus on collaboration across generations. This is reflected not only on stage, but in the intergenerational company of artists who worked to create this production.

Two Birds is an artist-run company with no operating funding. If you enjoyed our free show in the park today, we would love your support, large or small. Please [follow this link](#) and contribute to our campaign for *Apocalypse Play* in the Park.

COMMON BOOTS THEATRE

Common Boots Theatre is one of over 250 professional performing arts organizations in the city of Toronto. It is part of a vibrant group of independent theatres that create collaboratively-devised theatre for specific spaces, and one of only a few whose works feature women as central characters with a focus on "serious comedy".

Since 1983 Common Boots has created over 40 original works, been honoured with 53 nominations and 10 Dora Mavor Moore Awards; a Chalmers Best Canadian Play Award for *The Betrayal*, as well as nominations for *Dr Dapertutto* and *The Attic, The Pearls & 3 Fine Girls*. Our recent annual activities have included outdoor winter productions, site specific audio led production (*Scadding*), and new works for the traditional theatrical environment (*The Public Servant* and *The Election*).

During the pandemic, Common Boots partnered with BALANCE for Blind Adults to create a series of community engagement workshops and audio based online events called THE LISTENING STAGE. We supported The Globe Theatre's audio recording of *The Story* (created and premiered as outdoor winter theatre by Common Boots), the digital iteration of *May I take your Arm?* in co-production with Theatre PasseMuraille & RedDress Productions and, the short film *Postcards from my Balcony*. In development is a new play, *Perceptual Archaeology* based on the blind travel writings of Alex Bulmer. www.commonbootstheatre.ca

Common Boots Theatre would like to acknowledge funding support from the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council, the Ontario Arts Council, an agency of the Government of Ontario and the Canada Council for the Arts.



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COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

- * Masks: Audience, volunteers and staff will be required to wear masks at all times while inside the designated seating area.
- * Contactless: As much as possible, interactions between volunteers, staff and audience members will be contactless. This includes check-in / health screenings.
- * Physical Distancing: Company representatives, indicators and signage will be on site to encourage physical distancing.
- * Sanitization: Hand sanitizing stations will be available. All high-touch surfaces will be sanitized both prior to and following each performance.

Please do not attend *Apocalypse Play* if you have a fever or are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of attending, or if you have had close contact with anyone suspected or confirmed of having COVID-19.

LIABILITY WAIVER

While we have put measure in place to enhance safety and help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission from person to person, an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in public places where people gather. By attending *Apocalypse Play*, you voluntarily assume all risks related to possible exposure of COVID-19.

All residents and visitors of Toronto must follow the City of Toronto's current Public Health regulations.

Failure to follow COVID-19 protocols will result in removal from the venue.

**** [Click here to view the current Public Health Regulations for the City of Toronto](#)**