



PRESENTS A TWO BIRDS THEATRE CREATION

APOCALYPSE PLAY OR BUNDLE OF JOY

A SERIOUS COMEDY ABOUT THE FUTURE

Digital Program

BY NATASHA
GREENBLATT
& KATE
LUSHINGTON

DIRECTED BY
ahdri zhina mandiola

SEPTEMBER 8 - 18
HILLCREST PARK

THU/FRI/SAT 5PM
SAT/SUN 2PM

PHOTO BY CONNIE TSANG
DESIGN BY PAUL HENDERSON



A woman with dark hair, wearing a white sleeveless top and a blue lanyard with a 'Speaker' badge, is smiling and gesturing with her hands while speaking to a group of people seated at a table. In the background, there is a large poster featuring a world map with circular icons and a line graph. The OutLoud Speakers School logo is in the top left corner.

OutLoud
SPEAKERS SCHOOL

Communicate With Confidence

At OutLoud Speakers School, we offer **public speaking coaching**, for individuals and groups, to help people and businesses reach their highest potential. If you want to take your career to the next level, get in touch at info@outloudnow.com!



Presents A Two Birds Theatre Creation

Apocalypse Play or Bundle of Joy

A Serious Comedy About the Future



Photo by Dahlia Katz

**Created & Performed by
Natasha Greenblatt & Kate Lushington**

Hillcrest Park
950 Davenport Road (At Christie Street)

September 8-18, 2022
Thu/Fri/Sat 5pm
Sat/Sun 2pm

A close-up photograph of a bowl of soup. The soup contains large chunks of red bell pepper, green bell pepper, yellow squash, and pieces of white chicken. There are also thin, light-colored strips, possibly zucchini or carrot, and small black seeds or herbs floating in the broth. A silver spoon is partially submerged in the soup, angled from the top left towards the center. The background is a dark, textured surface.

WWW.TORONTOSOUPCO.COM

WHEN YOU CAN'T BE THERE FOR A HUG.
SEND SOUP.

LOVE

TORONTO SOUP CO.

LOVINGLY HANDCRAFTED
SOUP TO YOUR STOOP



CAST

Dr. Veronica Mandel/Kate: Kate Lushington

Assistant/ Natasha: Natasha Greenblatt

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: ahdri zhina mandiola

Production Designer: Astrid Janson

Sound Designer: Alejandra Nuñez

Assistant Designer: Abby Esteireiro

Stage Manager: Dylan Tate-Howarth

Substitute Stage Manager: Annasofie 诗慧 Jakobsen

Production Manager: Samira Banihashemi سميرا بنى هاشمي

Production Assistant: Benny Soave

Sound Operator: steph raposo

Dance Wrangler: Elaine Zhang

Dramaturg: Charlotte Corbeil-Coleman

Embodied Dramaturg: Monique Mojica

Wig Stylist: Alice Norton

Dancers: Vicky Chen, Kailey Huang, David Lee, Megan Luk,
Ben Luu, Arhea Wang, Daphne Wang, Tyler Yan , Nicole Yen,
Elaine Zhang

Managing Producer for Common Boots: Kesta Graham

Front of House Manager: Robbie Huebner

Poster Designer: Paul Henderson

Poster Photographer: Connie Tsang

Typeface Designer: Lesley Johnson

Photographer: Dahlia Katz

Fitness and Movement Training

Nutrition and Lifestyle Coaching



EXPRESSIVE STRENGTH

In person and online

One on one and small group

Email denisemader@gmail.com to book your free consultation!

Stability, Strength, Focus, Flow

DENISEMADER.COM

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.



Common Boots Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages professional artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the terms of the jointly negotiated Canadian Theatre Agreement.



Canadian Green
ALLIANCE

Common Boots Theatre is a member of the Canadian Green Alliance. Our aim is to take ownership of our footprint as theatre makers, community leaders, and as artists. We are reimagining our theatrical processes to reduce our organization's impact on the planet, and to place an emphasis on the health of our community. The Canadian Green Alliance is a not-for-profit organization that is devoted to bridging the gap between sustainability and theatre. For more information, visit www.canadiangreenalliance.com.

SPECIAL THANKS

Orlando Buonastella

Nicky Guadagni

Annasofie 诗慧 Jakobsen

Joyce Mason

Ornab Momin

Parks, Forestry & Recreation, Nancy Carneiro, and Nathalie Domagala
Djanet Sears

St. Matthew's United Church and John Shipman

Shakespeare in the Ruff

Why Not Theatre



Common Boots Theatre and Two Birds Theatre are excited to announce that we have partnered with Balancing Act and Theatre Direct to provide free, arts-integrated childcare for weekend performances of *Apocalypse Play, or Bundle of Joy*. Balancing Act's aim is to create increased equality, accessibility, and inclusion for parents and caregivers working in the performing arts. We all believe that caregiver needs must be considered in our theatrical ecosystems; and as part of Balancing Act's *Level UP!* program, we will be piloting policies and best practices for artists and audiences that enable caregivers to participate fully in our projects.

Thanks to our recent acceptance as a strategy partner with Balancing Act, we will be piloting an experimental project to offer not only childminding for people attending the show with their children, but also an hour-long activated arts workshop for elementary school age kids based on the themes of our intergenerational play! Delivered by animators from Theatre Direct's Creation Warehouse, children will be invited to join their caregivers and performers at curtain call for a 'parade of the future'. Supervision by Registered Early Childhood Educators for preschoolers is also available.

Childminding and Workshops will be offered at the following performances:

- Saturdays September 10 and 17 at 2 pm and 5 pm,
- Sundays September 11 and 18 at 2 pm.
- Spaces are limited.
- Childminding/Workshops open 30 mins before showtime.
- Please register at <https://www.commonbootstheatre.ca/project/apocalypse-play-or-bundle-of-joy/>.

For more information about Balancing Act, please visit:
www.balancingactcanada.com

ARTIST BIOS



Natasha Greenblatt

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/bCurrent), *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 Passe Muraille, and Theatre Direct). Natasha is an MFA candidate in Creative Writing at the University of Guelph, working on a book of creative non fiction.



Kate Lushington

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, and *Your Dream was Mine* by Shirley and 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. Kate shares her theatre skills in various communities: *Easy Money*, created with injured workers, was shown at the Mayworks Festival. 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!)

TYT THEATRE

THEATRE THE WHOLE FAMILY CAN ENJOY!



**20% OFF
ALL SHOWS**

**FLASH
SALE**

PROMO CODE: WYCH20



LIVE! AT THE WYCHWOOD THEATRE
WWW.TYTTHEATRE.COM



ahdri zhina mandiola

Director

Jamaica-born and Toronto-based ahdri zhina mandiola is the Founder and past Artistic Director of b current Performing Arts, and is best known as a performance poet and theatre director. In addition to two books of poetry published by Sister Vision Press — *Speshal Rikwes* (1985), and *dark diaspora...in dub* (1991) — *her who knew grannie: a dub aria* was published in 2012 by Playwrights Canada Press, and other writings have made occasional appearances in several anthologies of contemporary Canadian writers since the 80's. She's recorded two cassettes: *first and last, barefoot & black*; and a 17-track CD, *step/into my head* on her bushooman rag label. Her seminal documentary film: *on/black/stage/women* has played festivals worldwide and broadcasted on TV. Directing credits include: *The Dream Catchers* (2017), *diaspora Dub* (2016), *Obeah Opera* (2012), *Radiance* (2010), *who knew grannie: a dub aria* (2010), *Wise.Woman* (2009), *dark diaspora... in dub* (2009), *Scratch* (2008), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2007 & 2008), *Fallen Angel & the Devil Concubine* (2006), *Cast Iron* (2005), *Two Can Play* (2005), *Stuck* (2002). Current projects: developing *fly* with Factory Theatre, *black stage canada* media series, and the multi-lingual *push of speak!*



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.



ART CLASSES ART CAMPS SCHOOL VISITS

Children's ART STUDIO INC.

ARTSCAPE WYCHWOOD BARN S

601 Christie St., Studio 162 • 3-14 yrs • 647-808-8590

childrensartstudio.ca • childrensartstudioinfo@gmail.com



Alejandra Nuñez

Sound Designer

Alejandra Nuñez is a vocalist, percussionist, composer and mother to Rune 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), Trey Anthony's *Da Kink in My Hair* (MD, Soundscape), *Scotian Journey* by Anne-Marie Woods, *How Black Mothers Say I love You* by Trey Anthony, Black Theatre Workshop Production. Score, Soundscape, MD Michael Miller's *The Power of Harriet T!* (Young People's Theatre).



Abby Esteireiro

Assistant Designer

Abby Esteireiro (she/her) is a designer, arts administrator, and director based in Toronto. In her work, she loves to explore digital culture, digital identities, alternative worlds, and bringing more colour into our lives. Select design credits to include: *The Boy Who Cried* (Creme de la Creme/Toronto Fringe), *Constellations* (CDTPS), *Eurydice* (CDTPS), and *All Of Happy*

Day Are Stupid (SMCT). In 2019, she showcased her work as a part of the Canadian Student Exhibition at the Prague Quadrennial. Abby is grateful to be back with the *Apocalypse Play* team again this summer.



Dylan Tate-Howarth Stage Manager

Dylan Tate-Howarth is a theatre artist based in Toronto. She is a co-creator of Probably Theatre Collective and co-curator of Probably Poetry. Dylan works primarily as a stage manager for new and/or devised theatre. Selected stage management credits include *White Girls in Moccasins* (manidoons collective and Buddies in Bad Times); *Two Birds One Stone* (Two Birds Theatre); *Flashing Lights, Italian Mime Suicide* (Bad New Days); and *Our Fathers, Sons, Lovers and Little Brothers* (b current).



Annasofie 诗慧 Jakobsen Substitute Stage Manager

Annasofie 诗慧 Jakobsen is a Toronto-based stage manager who is going into her final year of Performance Production at Toronto Metropolitan University. She is thrilled to be a part of Apocalypse Play, or Bundle of Joy! When not sending out dailies, she can be found hanging out with her roommates, drinking a blue Powerade® (looking to be sponsored) and planning her next tattoo (usually done all at the same time). Select credits include: most recently stage managing *Harabogee & Me* (Dir. Brenda Kamino); *A Perfect Bowl of Pho* (Dir. 郝邦宇 (Steven) Hao); *Insert Clown Here* (Dir. Kendelle Parks and Jacob Willis); *Hookman* (Dir. Aaron Jan); *Untamed* (Dir. Lisa Karen Cox).

common
boots

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

If you would like to donate, please visit:
www.commonbootstheatre.ca/donate

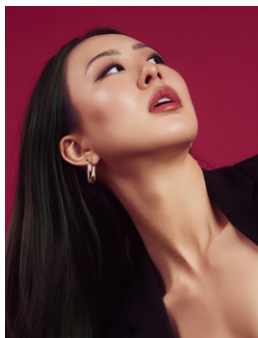
Tax receipts available for all donations above \$25
Donations of mutual funds or securities also accepted



Samira Banihashemi سمیرا بنی هاشمی
Production Manager

Samira Banihashemi (she/they) is a multi-disciplinary theatre designer and technician. She graduated from the Humber College Theatre Production program with an Academic Award of Excellence. Since her graduation, Samira has continued to spread her hands and wings in the world of storytelling in various capacities. So far, Samira has enjoyed

amplifying the voice of the story through sound and shining light on the magic of theatre. Samira believes that there are many untapped territories in this industry for her to discover and she is excited to continue her journey in this world. Credits: *Take Me to Your Garden*, Third Wheel Theatre Co., Lighting Designer; *Sleeping, Tucked in a Lonely Purple*, tiger princess dance projects, Lighting Designer; *You Can't Get There From Here*, Factory Theatre, Apprentice Sound Designer; *A Tonic for Desperate Times*, Theatre Gargantua, Assistant Lighting Designer; *An evening of miniature solos and music*, tiger princess dance projects, Producer.



Elaine Zhang
Dance Wrangler

Elaine Zhang is a hip hop and 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, or Bundle of Joy*.



Charlotte Corbeil-Coleman

Dramaturg

Charlotte Corbeil-Coleman is a Dora Mavor Moore Award winning and two time Governor General nominated playwright. Winner of The Herman Voaden National Playwriting Award, and The K.M. Hunter Artist Award. She graduated from 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). 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. Dramaturgy: *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).



Monique Mojica

Embodied Dramaturg

Monique Mojica (Guna and Rappahannock nations) is an actor, playwright, dramaturg and teacher, passionately dedicated to a theatrical practice as an act of healing, of reclamation 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, and 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*. In 2007, she founded Chocolate Woman Collective to create the performance *Chocolate Woman Dreams the Milky Way* and to create culturally specific Indigenous dramaturgies. Recent performances include the title role in PJ Prudat's *Otîhêw*, Aunt Shady in Marie Clements' *The Unnatural and Accidental Women* at NAC, touring with the NAC Orchestra's *I lost My Tal,k* and writing and performing *Izzie M.: The Alchemy of Enfreakment*. She has collaborated with Santee Smith as dramaturg for Kaha:wi Dance Theatre's triptych *Re-Quickening/Blood Tides/SKe:NEN* and was also the dramaturg for *Otîhêw*, and *Ayita* by Teneil Whiskeyjack. Upcoming: *My Sister's Rage* by Yolanda Bonnell at Tarragon.



Alice Norton Wig Stylist

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.

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.



**GENERAL CALL
FOR
ARTISTS**

www.commonbootstheatre.ca/company/opportunities



common boots

MANDATE

To collaboratively create new theatrical works that tell inclusive stories with comedy and play at the core.

MISSION

Common Boots Theatre creates original and collaborative theatre for traditional and non-traditional theatrical spaces. We tell diverse and inclusive stories through comedy, physicality, and play. Our goal is to make theatre accessible for artists and audiences starting with the rehearsal and creation process through to closing night.

Artistic Director Derek Kwan

Managing Producer Kesta Graham

Communications Manager Patricia Allison

Board of Directors

President- Ryan Singh

Treasurer- Reverend Norm Seli

Michele Chan

Richard Chan

Dr Elizabeth Christie

Melissa Gallo

Alexandra Simpson

Courtenay Stevens

Thank You to Our Funders, Donors, and Supporters



FUNDED BY
THE CITY OF
TORONTO



**TD READY
COMMITMENT**



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



Canada Council for the Arts
Conseil des arts
du Canada

Common Boots Theatre is very grateful for support from the Toronto Arts Foundation Resiliency Fund. The Toronto Arts Foundation Resiliency Fund was created to provide support for artists and arts workers who have suffered significant financial loss throughout the pandemic. This fund was created thanks to donations from the Hal Jackman Foundation and The Slight Family Foundation.

Common Boots Theatre is a registered charity, charitable number: 124105727.

Our mailing address is: Common Boots Theatre c/o 40 Underhill Drive Toronto, Ontario M3A 2J5.