



INTRO PACKAGE





common boots

Common Boots Theatre is a Toronto-based theatre company that has been creating welcoming, engaging, and joyful theatrical events and experiences for 40 years. We prioritize the creation of new Canadian work that reflects the place and time in which we live, often in unexpected forms and non-traditional spaces like the outdoors. We value collaboration, care, and comedy in the way we engage both artists and the audiences we serve. As a small, independent theatre company with charitable status, our annual budget is \$200,000 and we strive to multiply our impacts through innovative programming and connection to community. Our boutique approach celebrates the intimate and intricate human connections we grow in our communities and into the broader world.

LEADERSHIP



Photo by Dahlia Katz

Derek Kwan (he/him) is a theatre creator working at the intersection of theatre, music & movement in a number of forms including opera, clown, and puppetry. He has performed internationally and across Canada, and also brings administrative and producing experience. Derek has an interest in celebrating intersectional identities, telling stories from different perspectives, and creating theatre for more audiences. Derek is also a therapeutic clown, and also maintains an active performing career.



Photo by Robert Harding

Kesta Graham (she/her) is an arts manager, bookkeeper and voice over artist. As a former performer, she has worked with companies such as Manitoba Theatre for Young People, Carousel Players, Theatre Direct, and MetaPhysical Theatre; and also appeared in numerous short films, web series, TV shows and has performed voices for television and radio. She is the former Business Manager at the Tarragon Theatre and past General Manager of Studio 180 Theatre.

APPROACHABLE

HEARTWARMING

OUR WORK

RELEVANT

HILARIOUS

THOUGHTFUL

UNEXPECTED

PLAYFUL

Production shot from *InstaShow: Puppets* (December 2022).
Puppetry by Kristine White, Alexandra Montagnese, Afsaneh Zamani
Photo by Dahlia Katz



Common Boots Theatre presents A Two Birds Theatre Creation

APOCALYPSE PLAY, OR BUNDLE OF JOY

Hillcrest Park, 2022

Written and Performed by: Kate Lushington & Natasha Greenblatt

FEMINISM

MOTHERHOOD

CLIMATE CHANGE

LEGACY

Photo by Dahlia Katz



Common Boots Theatre and Live Cinema Collective present

STONE SOUP: TEATIME

Labour of Love, 2023

Hosted by: Derek Kwan

Guests: Samira Mohyeddin , Waleed Abduhamid, Jani Lauzon

SHARING & CONNECTION

TEA

COMMUNITY

MANY PERSPECTIVES

Photo by Richard Chan

OUR WORK (RECENT PROJECTS)



INSTASHOW: PUPPETS

Small World Music, 2022

Devised and Performed by: Alexandra Montagnese, Kristine White, Afsaneh Zamani, Derek Kwan & Sabine Ndamba

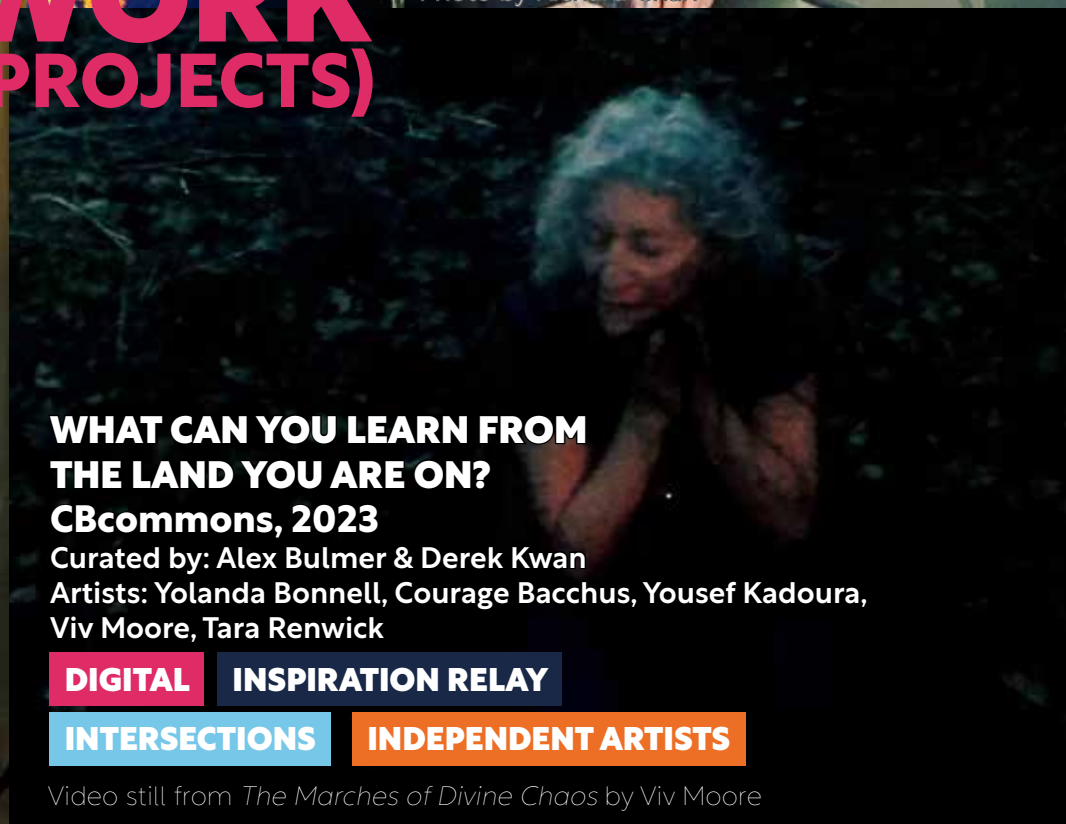
EXPLORATION

SPONTANEITY

RAPID PROTOTYPING

THEMATIC

Photo by Dahlia Katz



WHAT CAN YOU LEARN FROM THE LAND YOU ARE ON?

CBcommons, 2023

Curated by: Alex Bulmer & Derek Kwan

Artists: Yolanda Bonnell, Courage Bacchus, Yousef Kadoura, Viv Moore, Tara Renwick

DIGITAL

INSPIRATION RELAY

INTERSECTIONS

INDEPENDENT ARTISTS

Video still from *The Marches of Divine Chaos* by Viv Moore



common boots

Common Boots Theatre is a professional indie theatre company based in Toronto, Ontario. We create and produce new Canadian theatrical work that celebrates the myriad of human experience with honesty and humour. We value comedy, collaboration and care.

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.

Common Boots Theatre celebrates 40 years of *Serious Comedy*. Throughout our four decade history, we have maintained a strong reputation for producing provocative, incisive, new Canadian theatre and creating a supportive environment for unique voices to thrive. We do this through a boundless sense of play and wonder, a myriad of inspirations and collaborators, and multiple access points for audiences to enjoy. We are a Toronto-based, artist-run company with strong partnerships with artists and organizations across Ontario and Canada. **Common Boots** has been honoured with 10 Dora Mavor Moore Awards and 54 nominations; and the Chalmers Best Canadian Play Award, for *The Betrayal*, as well as nominations for *Dr. Dapertutto* and *The Attic, the Pearls & Three Fine Girls*.

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