



**PARK 'N
PLAY**

in finithéâtre

OPEN-AIR READING SERIES
September 30 2023

A NOTE FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome!

The team at Infinithéâtre are delighted to host our 3rd annual Park 'N Play Open-Air Reading Series, celebrating the new works of some of our youngest emerging playwrights. We're always incredibly impressed by the voices we discover through our youth playwriting competition, The-Write-Stuff. I'm continually curious to discover new storytellers and creative ways of telling stories. I'm always excited to see artists find innovative, playful, and poignant ways to explore sometimes complex themes through drama, comedy, and the art of theatre. Communication and empathy are sometimes our greatest challenges in society, but I do believe playwriting and storytelling have a special and powerful role in society to help us hear and empathize with each other, and to laugh and cry together. Theatre can help ignite conversation, and sometimes, through its magic, can help us collectively see new possibilities.

Special thanks to our jury this year comprised of Oren Safdie (chairing the jury), as well as local playwrights Michaela Di Cesare and Bevin Dooley. Our jury performed double duty this year, also acting as our dramaturges for the 8 finalists that you'll be hearing today.

Special thanks as well to the Caisse Desjardins de la Culture for supporting both The-Write-Stuff and Park 'N Play this year. This is the first time we've had a sponsor come on board and we're thrilled and delighted to have them encouraging these important initiatives.

Thank you all for joining us in celebrating these new works, and these talented young writers!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zach Fraser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Zach" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Fraser".

Zach Fraser,
Artistic Director of Infinithéâtre

FEATURED PLAYS

DECISION OF A LIFETIME

Written by **Noémie Lavertu**
Directed by **Murdoch Schon**
Dramaturgy by **Oren Safdie**

My name is Noémie. I study theatre and performing arts at university and completed a degree in literature, theatre and creation. This is my second time participating in Park 'N Play and it is always a wonderful learning opportunity. Decision of a Lifetime is about the fatality of life, the final decision we all must make, and the futility of it all. If you ever had to train employees in customer service, this play is for you!

CADILLAC

Written by **Marcel Paré**
Directed by **Isa Fuentes**
Dramaturgy by **Michaela Di Cesare**

My name is Marcel Paré. My play, Cadillac, simply started as a fun playground for actors like myself to experiment with. But as I worked on it, it entangled itself more to my psyche, uncovering a part of me I never thought I would publicly show. I hope you enjoy this leap of faith we are now taking together, and I hope it is as freeing for you as it was for me. Bon spectacle.

IN THE CLOSET

Written by **Hannah Calderon & Tali Warshawsky**
Directed by **Murdoch Schon**
Dramaturgy by **Bevin Dooley**

Our names are Hannah Calderon and Tali Warshawsky. We are both 15 years old. Writing this play was a really cool experience. It tested our creativity and our ability to work in a group. It was so incredible to receive feedback on our work. Our inspiration for our play was our school's QSA. We wanted to represent the queer community, and mimic the feeling of being closeted. We thoroughly enjoyed writing this play, and we hope you enjoy reading it!

THE SUSPECTS

Written by **Mai DaSilva**

Directed by **Isa Fuentes**

Dramaturgy by **Michaela Di Cesare**

I'm Mai DaSilva (like the month!) and I'm a first year Professional Theatre Acting Student at John Abbott College. Art, in its many forms, has had a huge impact on my life, and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to share my love with you. I'm a huge fan of comedic mysteries, I loved getting to experiment with it, and create something I'm so proud of. I hope you like it!

LAST WORDS TO DAD

Written by **Vianne Lafond**

Directed by **Murdoch Schon**

Dramaturgy by **Oren Safdie**

Hi! My name is Vianne Lafond and I wrote this play during my time at John Abbott for my English class. I study cinema, and my dream would be to direct and create my own stories one day. I love every genre, but comedy has always been my favorite because I exaggerate every element of my life to the point where they become ridiculously funny too- otherwise I would be crying. This project has been really fun and I've always wanted one of my plays to end with a big finale so I love it all and I hope you do too! Have fun!

THE FLORAL FORFEITURE

Written by **Sage Clahane**

Directed by **Isa Fuentes**

Dramaturgy by **Michaela Di Cesare**

My name is Sage Clahane, and my goal when writing this play was for it to be a love letter to motherhood and to pay homage to the nuance within it. I wanted to explore this very personal idea with a very theatrical storyline that highlights these characters. Whenever I write, I aim to create a story with rich characters, and I hope I was successful with that here. I hope you enjoy it!

EGG

Written by **Alina Ichmouratov**

Directed by Murdoch Schon

Dramaturgy by Bevin Dooley

My name is Alina Ichmouratov. I am a writer. Egg is about rain, wind, sobs, phones, toska, but mostly about people, what it is to find each other and June. Thank you for coming.

THE WICHITA FALLS ROUTE

Written by **Elliot Million-Lovett**

Directed by Isa Fuentes

Dramaturgy by Bevin Dooley

My name is Elliot Million-Lovett. My play *The Wichita Falls Route* gets its name from a real train route established in the early 1900s that spanned the length of Altus Oklahoma to Wichita Falls Texas. Should you wish to take the train these men are waiting for today, you cannot. The Wichita Falls Route closed down in 1991, permanently. This will be your only chance to, so, sit down. It is time to wait for the train.

CAST



JAKE COHEN

Jake Cohen (he/him) is a proud alumnus of the theatre program at Dawson College, and is currently training at the National Theatre School of Canada. Selected performance credits include Menakhem in *The Sages of Chelm* (Segal/DWYT), Henry in *Next to Normal* (Contact Theatre), and various roles in the Segal Centre/ Tableau D'Hôte's *Voices From The Pandemic* series. He has also collaborated on workshops and readings with companies including Playwright's Workshop Montreal, Geordie, Infinitheatre, and Teesri Duniya. For his work in *Next to Normal*, Jake received a META in 2022 for Outstanding Supporting Performance (Independent Production), and was nominated for Outstanding Emerging Artist (Performance). As somebody who fears constantly that his teenage writings will one day be discovered and read, he is endlessly impressed by the courage of these young artists.



LISA E. MORRISON

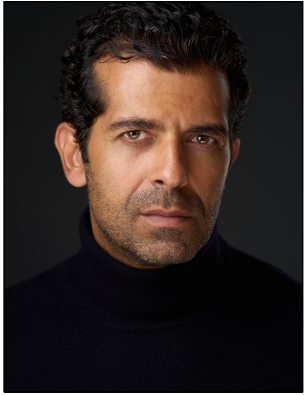
Lisa E. Morrison (they/them) is a performance artist, director, puppet maker, fiber artist, and dramaturg and the list is ever-expanding. They are currently working as Assistant Stage Manager on *Be More Chill* (Penumbra), which goes up in October. Morrison has studied acting at Dalhousie University's Fountain School and is a recent grad from Concordia University's Performance Creation program. As their Drag alter-ego Lizzy Strange, they Co-produce *Mythos Drag Cabaret*, an interdisciplinary drag revue.



PRERNA NEHTA

Prerna (she/they) is an emerging actor and creative whose passion and work lie in love, growth, queerness, connection and wonder. Her performance creation centres around finding the truth in these various aspects of life and their practice is inspired by the intimacy, beauty, fantasy and difficulty that exists in everyday life. Since the beginning of her love for storytelling, she found herself drawn to the diverse voices, faces and stories we live among. A recent graduate from the acting program at Concordia University, they find themselves hungry and eager for the art that lies ahead, and is excited to bring to life the work of the playwrights at today's reading. She hopes to bring candour and comfort to those who come across her work.

CAST



ALADEEN TAWFEEK

Born in Geneva and raised in Cairo, Aladeen (he/him) has called Montreal his home for the past 27 years. He's a trilingual multi-disciplinary actor, writer, and director whose work has spanned theatre, film, and tv over the last decade. He played Wazzan in the English world premiere of Wajdi Mouawad's 'Birds of a Kind' at the Stratford Festival. His latest short film 'Simo' won best Canadian Short at TIFF and is currently selected in film festivals around the world including Sundance and Berlin. He was last seen playing Moolchand in the revival of Rahul Varma's

Counter Offence by Teesri Duniya Theatre.



EMILEE VELUZ

Emilee Veluz (she/her) is a Canadian born Filipina that has been working as a professional theatre, film and TV actor for over 20 years. She and her family are from Montreal and now live in the Eastern Townships. Emilee has toured eastern Canada and USA with Geordie Theatre for several years. She is best known on stage as June in the Governor General's award-winning play, *Where the Blood Mixes* by Kevin Loring and Twinkle in the Montreal hit play, *Miss Orient(ed)* by Nina Lee Aquino and Nadine Villasin; both produced by Teesri Duniya Theatre. *Miss*

Orient(ed) was voted Montreal Mirror's (now MTL Blog) Montreal's Best Play and Emilee was voted 2nd Best Local Actress. During the pandemic, she was seen virtually in Talisman Theatre's production of Habibi's *Angels et la commission impossible*. Selected television and film credits include, *Clouds*, *The Moodys*, *19-2*, *Nine Lives*, *Broken Trust*, *The Lottery* and CTV's *Transplant*.

DIRECTORS



ISA FUENTES

Isa (they/them) is a Chilean-Canadian transdisciplinary artist based in Montreal. Since graduating from the National Theatre School's Acting program, Isa has pursued their curiosity for movement through studying different somatic practices. They're curious about the physicalization of culture and lived experience, as well as how language influences storytelling. They find joy in researching what exists between disciplines and how we can redefine storytelling practices. You will often find them roaming through Milton-Parc or pretending to know a lot about herbalism.



MURDOCH SCHON

Murdoch Schon (they/them) is a queer, nonbinary director and theatre educator. Born and raised in Treaty One Territory (Winnipeg), they have been involved in the Tiohtià:ke (Montreal) English theatre scene for over a decade. As a multidisciplinary theatre maker, they use puppetry, movement and technology to build unique and immersive worlds. Murdoch is fascinated by provocation, vulnerability, and the role of risk and failure in art making. They believe that theatre rises to its true power through the practices of ritual liminality, community and imagination. Murdoch insists on the wondrous nature of theatre as a transformative space where rulers fail, heroes rise and monsters seem more familiar than angels. Murdoch graduated from the Nation Theatre School Directing Program and has a BFA, Specialization in Theatre and Development, from Concordia University.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Infinithéâtre acknowledges that we are located on the unceded lands of Tiohtiá:ke/ Montréal, a place which has long served as a site of meeting, exchange and creativity amongst many First Nations including the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Huron/Wendat, the Abenaki, and the Anishinaabeg (Algonquin).

As theatre artists, we cherish dialogue, collaboration, and always seek new ways to connect and to break down barriers. Infinithéâtre strives to support the Kanien'kehà:ka and Haudenosaunee Peoples, among other First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, as they create and tell their stories through theatrical means, and we savourevery opportunity to come together in work & play.

We wish to acknowledge that today, September 30th, is The National Day for truth and Reconciliation. While our event is not associated with NDTR, we feel it is important to take time today to remember all those who have suffered due to the systemic racism and injustices that have and continue to cause pain throughout this country. We recognize that our country's past of colonialism and genocide has an ongoing impact on Indigenous communities to this day, and we wish to do our part in honouring those affected by this system by actively lending an open ear and giving a voice to Survivors and Indigenous creators today and everyday. To learn more about the NDTR and actions we can each take as individuals, please visit the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action, [HERE](#).

Across all our activities, Infinithéâtre seeks to foster a safe space for creating art through collaboration and respectful dialogue. We strive to promote values of inclusion, respecting differences of ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, mental or physical capacity, age, religion, economic or social status, political ideology, and identity. The work is ongoing, and we are committed to hearing and learning from our colleagues and the wider community. Infinithéâtre actively reflects upon the ways in which we can continually be more inclusive in our play selection and programming, in our work opportunities for artists, and within our administrative team and Board. We have made progress, but there is much more we can and should do.

In the spirit of a shared commitment to change, Infinithéâtre continually encourages submissions from applicants from all walks of life, including for our two annual playwriting competitions.

COMING UP AT INFINITHÉÂTRE



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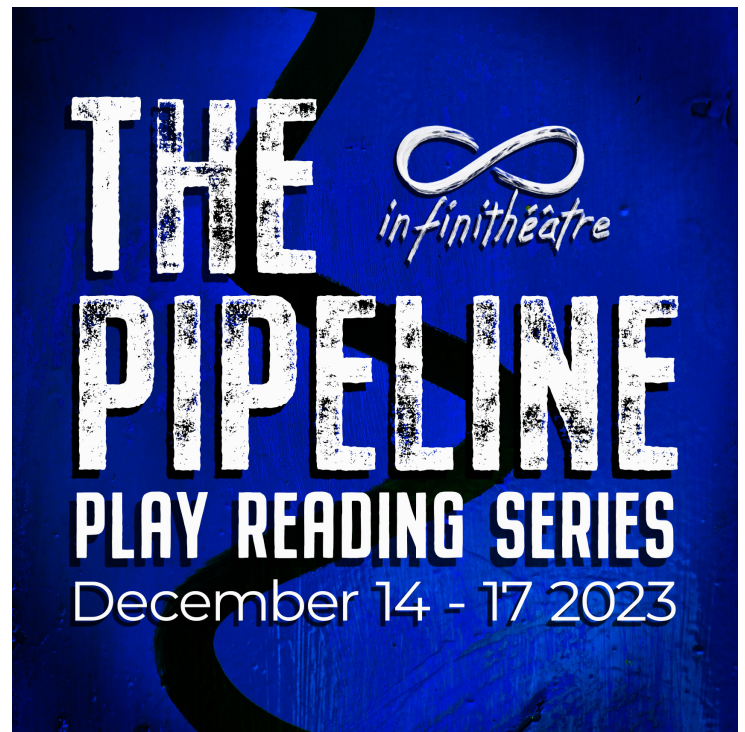
INFINITHÉÂTRE PRESENTS

EXTRA / BEAUTIFUL / U

BY MICHAELA DI CESARE
DIRECTED BY CAITLIN MURPHY

NOV 30 - DEC 9 2023

CENTAUR THEATRE'S BRAVE NEW LOOKS
SELECTION FOR 2023/24



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THE PIPELINE

PLAY READING SERIES
December 14 - 17 2023

ON TOUR



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LOUIS RIEL: A COMIC-STRIP STAGE PLAY

Based on the acclaimed graphic novel by
Chester Brown
Adapted and directed by
Zach Fraser

Oct. 14th, 2023
Théâtre Lac-Brome
Lac-Brome, QC



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LE SILENCE DE CIELLE

THE SIGHLENCE OF SKY

MAISON DE LA CULTURE | NOV 9TH
DU PLATEAU-MONT-ROYAL

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The-Write-Stuff and Park 'N Play are proudly supported by Caisse Desjardins de la Culture. Created in 1994 by and for the cultural sector, Caisse Desjardins de la Culture helps artists, artisans, creators and the self-employed to realize their projects, whether personal or professional.

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<http://www.caissedelaculture.com>



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