

theatre:
CALGARY

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



THE TALE OF THE GIFTED PRINCE

BOOK AND LYRICS BY

MUSIC BY

LEZLIE WADE DANIEL GREEN

BASED ON THE NOVEL

THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF PRINCE JEN

BY

LLOYD ALEXANDER

BY PERMISSION OF

THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA FOUNDATION

DIRECTED & CHOREOGRAPHED BY DARREN LEE

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY DANIEL GREEN

WORLD PREMIERE

FEBRUARY 14 — MARCH 15, 2026

This production is made possible by the generous **AL OSTEN & BUDDY VICTOR**
support of The Al Osten & Buddy Victor Legacy Fund **LEGACY FUND**



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DIRECTOR'S NOTES



I'm so thrilled to share this beautiful adventure with the audiences at Theatre Calgary. My journey with *The Tale of the Gifted Prince* began almost eight years ago when I was invited to come on this remarkable journey as the director and choreographer. Since then, it has been one of the highlights of my career developing and collaborating on this show with authors Lezlie Wade, Daniel Green, Somerled Arts, associate choreographer Kristine Bendul and the numerous artists who have contributed their time and talent to numerous developmental workshops and readings.

It's an absolute joy to have Theatre Calgary and artistic director Stafford Arima present this truly epic tale with a full team of brilliant Canadian designers. This team has truly outdone themselves creating the most beautiful and engaging kingdom of Tang for you to experience.

As a Chinese American director/choreographer, it is an additional honour to lead this extraordinarily talented, all-North American Asian company of actors in this new musical for its world premiere here in Calgary. Representation matters. I'm so grateful to have this opportunity and to everyone that has made this show possible.

Finally, thank you for supporting live theatre and for sharing this "remarkable" journey with us.

Enjoy,

- DARREN LEE
DIRECTOR

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of reconciliation, Theatre Calgary acknowledges that we live, work and create on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Îyâxe Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation of Alberta, Districts 5 & 6, and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta. They were the original occupants of this land and continue to be here to this day. Theatre Calgary is grateful to have the opportunity to present in this territory.



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GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Cameras and audio/visual recording devices are not permitted in the theatre.**
- **Video and audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.**
- We ask that you please refrain from using your cell phone, smart watch, or any other digital device, in any capacity, during the performance.
- Good theatre etiquette benefits everyone. Please do not talk or unwrap candies during the performance, remain in your seat until the curtain call is finished and the house lights have been turned on.
- Babies are not permitted in the theatre.
- We also offer relaxed performances. For more information, visit our website.
- Assisted listening devices for the hard of hearing are available at the coat check.
- For first aid assistance, see the house manager, or nearest usher.

SAFETY AND COMFORT

- At Theatre Calgary, we recognize our responsibility to have practical guidelines in place to ensure our performances are safe and enjoyable for everyone. To learn more about our current Safety and Comfort protocols go to theatrecalgary.com/comfort-and-safety or scan here:



WRITER'S NOTES



From the moment we began writing *The Tale of the Gifted Prince* — initially just a ten-minute musical drawn from one chapter of *The Remarkable Journey of Prince Jen* — we felt an undeniable pull to keep exploring what the book had to say. Here was an adventure story about self-discovery, the quiet strength of friendship, the ties of family, and something even more profound: how the gifts we are given, when used with humility and courage, have the power to affect real change—not just in a kingdom, but in the heart of the one who carries them. No wonder this was Daniel's favourite book as a child and became Lezlie's as an adult.



Prince Ren's journey mirrors our own in surprising ways. Over the years (and yes, it's been quite a few years of development), we've had to dig deep to keep faith on this path. There were revisions that felt like starting over, workshops that revealed new layers, moments of doubt when the story seemed too big or too delicate to hold. Yet every time we returned to Alexander's tale—the sheltered prince who loses everything yet finds his

true purpose—we rediscovered our own. The gifts in the story aren't magical shortcuts; they're ordinary objects that become extraordinary through choice, compassion, and perseverance. That idea kept us going.

We're immensely grateful to Lloyd Alexander's estate and The Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation for trusting us with this world. To Somerled Arts, thank you for shepherding this project and creating a path forward even when we couldn't see one. To our collaborators at Theatre Calgary—director Darren Lee, the extraordinary cast, designers, musicians, dramaturgs and crew—who have brought such vitality, humour, and heart to these pages: thank you for believing in this story as fiercely as we do. Your artistry has transformed words and music into something alive and breathing.

To our audience: thank you for joining us on this quest. In a time when the world can feel fractured, stories like this remind us that change begins small. May Prince Ren's journey remind you of the gifts you already carry, and the power they hold when shared. We hope you leave the theatre a little braver, a little kinder, and ready to use whatever you've been given to mend what's broken.

- **LEZLIE WADE**
WRITER

- **DANIEL GREEN**
COMPOSER

THE TALE OF THE GIFTED PRINCE - SYNOPSIS



A mysterious shape-shifting Woman introduces our fictional story set in the medieval Chinese Kingdom of Tang, where the aging King Tai faces a populist rebellion led by Na Ta, the charismatic and ruthless leader of the Yellow Scarves. Prompted by the scholarly Master Wu, the idealistic young Prince Ren (pronounced “zhen”) volunteers to save the day and defend the throne. But first, he must embark on a journey to the Kingdom of Tian Guo to seek the guidance of a powerful Shaman, bringing five seemingly humble yet essential gifts in exchange. With the Yellow Scarves threatening Tang, King Tai commands General Kuang to accompany and protect the Prince on his first venture beyond the Palace walls.

At the first fork in the road, a wandering merchant interrupts the journey with a plea for help that forces the Prince to leave the General behind with one of the gifts, breaking their promises of safe transport. Without Kuang to protect him, Prince Ren faces a dangerous encounter with Na Ta and his cowardly henchman, Feng, and loses a second gift. But he soon gains resourceful and trustworthy travel companions in the courageous, flute-playing servant, Zhi Hao, and the charming, “honest thief,” Mo Sha.

Through ensuing misadventures in villages, forests, rivers, and the remote north, Prince Ren’s journey to learn how to lead is gently guided by the Woman in various forms. However, everything is upended by a totally unexpected feeling as his relationship with Zhi Hao deepens. After a fierce storm separates the travellers and prevents them from reaching Tian Guo, the Prince reconsiders his obligation to meet the Shaman and even his fitness to be King, choosing to find Zhi Hao instead. As he searches, he offers his remaining gifts to the Falconer’s young daughter, Lan, and the fearless painter, Ling. Then, at his lowest moment, having finally shed his privilege and fully lost his purpose, Prince Ren receives news from the Palace that changes everything. Could he save the day after all?

GLOSSARY

Celestial Palace – The seat of power in the fictional Kingdom of Tang—known as the “sphere of heavenly perfection.” The King conducts official business from the throne room and resides within its secure walls along with the royal family, royal attendants, and royal guard, led by General Kuang. It is inspired by a combination of elements from the Imperial Palace of the Forbidden City in Beijing, China, and the Daming Palace of the Tang Dynasty.

Collar of Punishment – A cangue or tcha (枷 – jiā) was a device used for public humiliation and corporal punishment in East Asia until the early 20th century. Because cangues significantly restricted movement, people wearing them often starved to death, unable to feed themselves.

Constant Virtues of Confucianism - In Confucianism, *ren* and *li* are key virtues guiding life and leadership. Confucius taught that good leaders need moral character, not just intelligence. *Ren* means kindness, empathy, and caring for others—people are born good and can grow more humane through learning. *Li*, on the other hand, means proper behaviour, manners, and rituals shown in daily actions (like respecting elders & polite greetings). *Ren* and *li* create trustworthy leaders and a peaceful society through example, discipline, and harmony.

Five Gifts - Master Wu identifies five seemingly ordinary objects—a saddle, a sword, a flute, an inkbrush, and a kite—as suitable gifts for Prince Ren to carefully deliver to the Shaman in exchange for lessons in leadership. Inspired by number and object-based mysteries that reveal wisdom common in Chinese philosophies and folklore, these five gifts for the Shaman will end up in unexpected hands to play essential roles in Prince Ren's journey to become King.

River Miao - Fictional river at the northern border of the Kingdom of Tang that circles the earth, beyond which lies the Kingdom of Tian Guo. The Falconer and Lan live in a cottage overlooking the river.

Tang - A fictional kingdom in medieval China, inspired by the Tang dynasty 618-907 AD, regarded as a golden age of Chinese civilization; the Kingdom of Tang is ruled by King Tai, protected by General Kuang, and under threat by Na Ta and the Yellow Scarves.

Tian Guo - A fictional kingdom far to the north of Tang where a powerful shaman resides who can teach Prince Ren all he needs to take over the throne from his father

Wu Shan - Inspired by the Wu Mountains, through which runs the Yangtze River; this "Mountain of Sorcerers" swallows General Kuang when he chooses pride over duty

Yellow Scarves - The populist rebels of Tang, led by Na Ta, inspired by the Yellow Turban Rebellion (185-205 AD), a peasant revolt in China against the Eastern Han dynasty.



MAP OF THE KINGDOM OF TANG by cartographer, Matthew Wadley

CHINESE MYTHOLOGY

Chinese **mythology** encompasses a diverse group of cultural tales, folklore, histories, and religious traditions compiled over the course of thousands of years. These are the tales that explain the world's origins, the rise of civilizations, and the meaning of life. From these tales emerge the **folklore**—more grounded stories and characters, reflecting common beliefs, fears, and hopes—including songs, poetry, dances, and puppetry.

Folklore often tells stories of human nature, historical or legendary events, love, and the supernatural. They can explain natural phenomena and distinctive landmarks.

Mythology (中國神話; *Zhōngguó shénhuà*) has been passed down in oral form or recorded in literature and includes myths from the traditions of various classes of people, geographic regions, historical periods (including the present), and ethnic groups. Although Chinese mythological traditions include those of Han Chinese and their Huaxia predecessors, as well as Tibetan mythology, Turkic mythology, Korean mythology, and many others, study tends to focus upon material in Chinese language.

The episodic structure of *The Tale of the Gifted Prince*, featuring moral lessons and figures who merge the religious and historical, is typical of Chinese storytelling.



(l to r) Kelsey Verzotti, Kennedy Kanagawa, and Ma-Anne Dionisio. (Photo: Tim Nguyen)

WORLD PREMIERE FEBRUARY 14 - MARCH 15, 2026
MAX BELL THEATRE AT WERKLUND CENTRE

theatre:
CALGARY
Stafford Arima, Artistic Director

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



PRESENTS

THE TALE OF THE GIFTED PRINCE

BOOK & LYRICS BY
LEZLIE WADE

MUSIC BY
DANIEL GREEN

BASED ON THE NOVEL
THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF PRINCE JEN
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THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA FOUNDATION

SET DESIGN
BEYATA HACKBORN*

COSTUME DESIGN
JESSICA POIRIER-CHANG

LIGHTING DESIGN
SOPHIE TANG*

SOUND DESIGN
JOSHUA D. REID*

PROJECTION DESIGN
SEAN NIEUWENHUIS*

PUPPET DESIGN & CREATION
GREEN FOOLS THEATRE

DRAMATURG
KEN CERNIGLIA

MUSIC DIRECTOR
DANIEL GREEN

ORCHESTRATIONS
GEOFFREY KO

COPYIST
**DANIELLE GIMBAL/
ANIXTER RICE MUSIC SERVICE**

FIGHT DIRECTOR
JOHN KNIGHT

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
LEZLIE WADE

ASSOCIATE CHOREOGRAPHER
KRISTINE BENDUL

ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR
IAN CHAN

ASSISTANT DRAMATURG
ALIZA SARIAN

ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER
JULIUS SERMONIA

VOICE COACH
JANE MACFARLANE

CASTING
**DAYTON/WALTERS CASTING, CDC, CSA
PRINCE REN - MELANIE LOCKYER CASTING**

STAGE MANAGER
AMY JEWELL

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS
KENNEDY GREENE, MICHAEL LUONG

APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER
NIAMH MCCALLION

DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER
DARREN LEE

*Indicated designers on this production are represented by the Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659.

CREATIVE TEAM

Cultural Consultants (Calgary)	VICKY GU, PENNY PAN, CHRISTINE PHENIX, ZIYI ZHANGLI
Dance Captain	MICHELLE YU
Fight Captain	JULIUS SERMONIA
Puppet Captain, Asst. Fight Captain	DANIEL FONG
Child Supervisor	KALEIGH RICHARDS
Tutor	SELENA STAPLETON
TC Mentors - Directing	STEVEN CONDE
TC Mentors - Sound Design	TARA KIELY

COMMERCIAL PRODUCING TEAM:

SOMERLED ARTS - WENDY MACDONALD (MD), SCOTT EVANS (AD)

CREW

Head of Sound	BRONWYN BOWLBY
Head Stage Carpenter	TESS COWIE
Head of Lighting	CATHARINE CRUMB
Interim Head Dresser	TERRI GRANT
Head of Wigs	CHRISTA HOEFLING
Head of Video	DEREK MILLER
Assistant Head Dresser	CHELSEA BREWER
Assistant Head of Sound	MICHAEL GESY
Follow-spot Operators	MICHAEL BOOTH, JACKSON BUCHANAN
Automation Lead	BEN MOORE
Stage Hand	RAJIV RATHORE
Dresser	KIERRA VOLK
Wig Runner	ERIN HAYES
Sound Technicians	AARIC INNES, TARA KIELY, TRAVIS MCKINNON

CAST

Woman (Master Wu, Mi, Madam Hu, Xi)	MA-ANNE DIONISIO
Guard	DAREN DYHENGCO
Guard	DANIEL FONG
Mo Sha	NIKKO ANGELO HINAYO
Prince Ren	KENNEDY KANAGAWA
King Tai, Magistrate, Village Official, Lao Hu	KELVIN MOON LOH
Feng	KODIE ROLLAN
Na Ta	JULIUS SERMONIA
Zhi Hao	KELSEY VERZOTTI
Kuang	KELLY WONG
Ling	SELINA WONG
Lan	OLIVIA YANG
Falconer	MICHELLE YU

SWINGS/UNDERSTUDIES

Swing: Zhi Hao, Falconer	TIANA JUNG
Swing: Guard 1 & 2	MARK SINONGCO
Lan (understudy)	KALIA STAPLETON
Woman	SELINA WONG
Prince Ren	DANIEL FONG
Na Ta	KELLY WONG
Ling	MICHELLE YU
Kuang, Village Official, Magistrate, King Tai	DAREN DYHENGCO

SETTING

A fictional kingdom in medieval China.

The Tale of the Gifted Prince has one 20-minute intermission.

Theatre Calgary is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and operates within the jurisdiction of the Canadian Theatre Agreement. Theatre Calgary employs technicians under a collective agreement with the I.A.T.S.E. Theatre Calgary is a resident company of Werklund Centre, operating out of Werklund Centre's Max Bell Theatre. The Musicians engaged for this production are members of the Canadian Federation of Musicians and are performing under the jurisdiction of Local 547.





THE TALE OF THE GIFTED PRINCE

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

The PiTCH at Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival
Summerworks Theatre Festival (Toronto)
The American Music Theatre Project
ASCAP DreamWorks Musical Theatre Workshop
The Vanguard Arts Fund at Olney Theatre Center
CAP21/Molloy University

CULTURAL CONSULTANTS

The Tale of the Gifted Prince draws inspiration from and intersects with various aspects of Chinese culture and tradition. We have engaged individuals with expertise and lived experience in relevant language, mythology, history, folklore, and diasporic connections to this show.

This ongoing conversation has made the work stronger and richer and will continue throughout the production.

We thank the following for contributing to this effort:

Mei Ann Teo Jenna Rodgers Jessica Chang
Peter Gee Bay Chang Bob Chen Sherlyn Chew
James Chiao Desha Crownover Chongren Fan
Zoey Lin Yejia Sun Su Zhang

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Brian Hill

Matthew Wadley

To the remarkable family of artists who have contributed to the development of the show over the years.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

*Songs and order are subject to change.

<i>Prologue</i>	Woman, Kuang, Ling, Falconer, Lan
<i>In the Kingdom Of Tang</i>	Full Company
<i>Save the Day (Part 1)</i>	Ren, Kuang, King Tai, Ensemble
<i>There Is A Shaman</i>	Woman, Ensemble
<i>Save the Day (Part 2)</i>	Full Company
<i>Once</i>	Kuang, Woman
<i>Give Me More to Drink</i>	Na Ta, Ensemble
<i>Stay With You</i>	Zhi Hao
<i>Code of Ethics for a Thief</i>	Mo Sha
<i>Take One Step</i>	Ren, Zhi Hao, Mo Sha, Woman, Kuang, Ensemble
<i>Standing by Your Side</i>	Zhi Hao, Ren
<i>Act I Finale</i>	Woman, Ren, Mo Sha, Zhi Hao, Ensemble

ACT II

<i>Now That We're Here</i>	Woman, Ensemble
<i>I Will Never Give In</i>	Zhi Hao, Kuang, Feng, Ren
<i>Now That We're Here (Reprise)</i>	Ling
<i>No More</i>	Ren, Ling, Ensemble
<i>Life Into Art</i>	Ling, Lao Hu
<i>Hello Pretty Bird</i>	Lan, Woman, Falconer, Ensemble
<i>If It Wasn't for Me</i>	Mo Sha, Feng
<i>Save the Day (Reprise)</i>	Ren
<i>The Battle</i>	Full Company
<i>Give Me More to Drink (Reprise)</i>	Full Company
<i>Act II Finale</i>	Full Company

MUSICIANS

Conductor, Keyboard 1
Keyboard 2, Programmer
Violin
Cello
Reed 1 (Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Piccolo, Flute)
Reed 2 (Bamboo Flute, Piccolo, Flute, Alto Flute)
Guitar (Steel String, Nylon, Mandolin, Electric)
Bass (Upright and Electric)
Drums & Percussion, Rehearsal Drummer
Keyboard Sub
Guitar Sub
Reed 1 Sub
Reed 2 Sub

Band Contractor

DANIEL GREEN
AUGUSTINE YATES
SORA KIM
TAKUMI RODGERS
DUSTYN RICHARDSON
JIAJIA LI
DARREN YOUNG
JONATHAN WIELEBNOWSKI
AFO FAPOJUWO
ALEX GONZALEZ
AARON SHORR
KEITH O'ROURKE
PAUL XU

MARK LIMACHER

theatre:
CALGARY

COMING NEXT

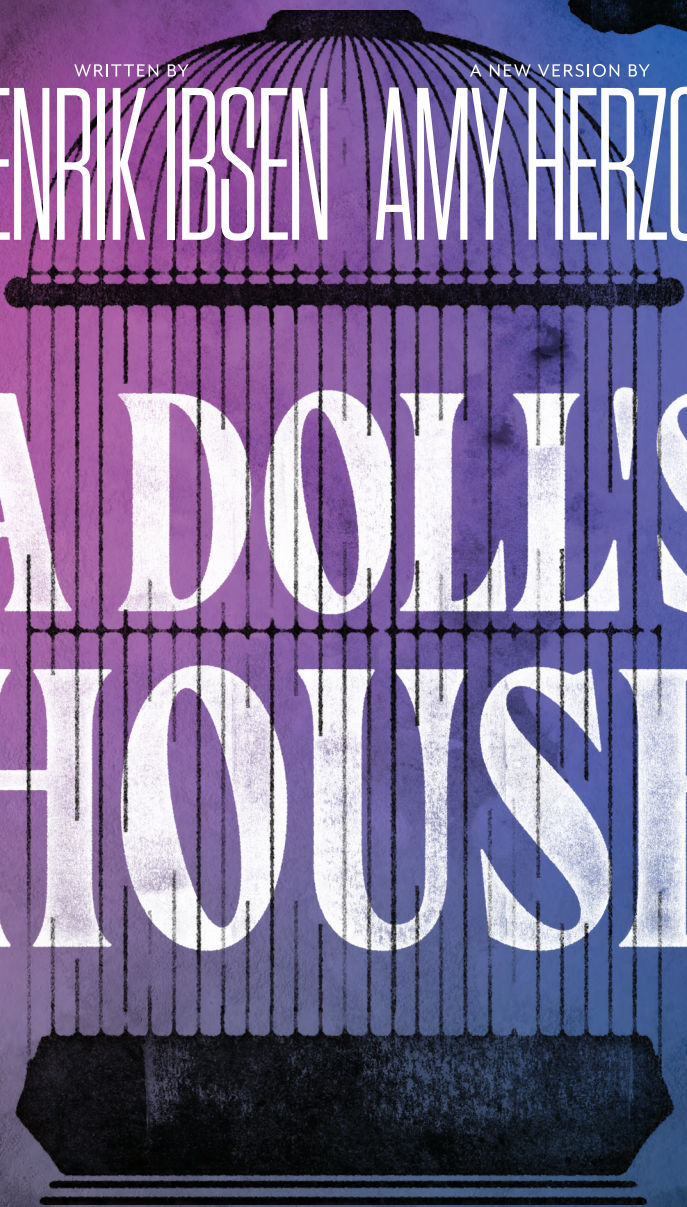
DIRECTED BY ANITA ROCHON

MAX BELL THEATRE

WRITTEN BY

A NEW VERSION BY

HENRIK IBSEN AMY HERZOG



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CAST



MA-ANNE DIONISIO

Woman (Master Wu, Mi, Madam Hu, Xi)

For Theatre Calgary: *The Secret Garden*. Philippine-born Canadian actress, Ma-Anne is best known for portraying the role of “Kim” in the Canadian Premiere production of *Miss Saigon* at the Princess of Wales in Toronto. She has since graced stages all over the world, including Broadway and London’s West End in productions of *Les Misérables*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Flower Drum Song*, *Sunday in the Park With George*, *Martin Guerre*, *Miss Saigon*, *West Side Story*, *Mamma Mia*, *Grease*, and *Cats*. She earned the Dora award for her portrayal of “Diana” in the Toronto production of *Next to Normal* (Mirvish/MusicalStageCo). Film/TV credits (selected): *Five Days At Memorial* (Apple TV); *Astrid and Lilly* (SyFy/Crave); *Schitt’s Creek* (CBC); *Coroner* (CBC); *In Her Mother’s Eyes* (HERetic Films); *Remedy* (Global); *Flashpoint* (CTV/CBS); *Waiting Room* (TimeLapse Pictures). To my loves...Cody, Niko, and Anya...thank you. You are my everything!



DAREN DYHENGCO

Guard; Understudy: Magistrate, King Tai, Village Official, Kuang

(he/him) Theatre Calgary debut. Elsewhere: *Prison Dancer* (NAC/Citadel); *Ma-Buhay! A New Musical* (Rainbow Stage); *Frozen* (Theatre Aquarius); *Grease* (Drayton). Film/TV: *A Million Little Things* (ABCs); *Silent Battles* (MHP-Feature Film). Daren is excited to be making his Theatre Calgary debut! Many thanks to his agent Sarah and to the never ending support of Mom, Dad, Jordan, Caleb and most especially his dog Snuggles.



DANIEL FONG

Guard; Understudy: Prince Ren; Puppet Captain, Assistant Fight Captain

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: Actor - *Legally Blonde*, *A Christmas Carol* (2018, 2023-25), *Forgiveness*; Assistant Director - *The Play That Goes Wrong* (TC/Citadel/RMTC). Daniel is a mixed-race actor, singer and voice-over performer born and raised in Calgary. He is proud to be a guest of the long tradition of storytelling in the Treaty 7 region of Alberta. Daniel was the recipient of the 2020 Stephen Hair Emerging Artist Award. Elsewhere: *The Three Musketeers* (Citadel); *The Brothers Paranormal*, *Jekyll & Hyde* (Vertigo); *Romeo & Juliet* (Bard on the Beach); *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Rosebud); *US* (The Globe); *Alberta Kitchen Party*, *The Lion The Witch And The Wardrobe*, *Fortune Falls*, *The Circle* (ATP). Thanks to his family and his beautiful wife, Nadia and beautiful baby J.

CAST



NIKKO ANGELO HINAYO

Mo Sha

(they/he) For Theatre Calgary: *Legally Blonde*. Select credits include: Avery/Lamb in *Charlotte's Web* (Alberta Theatre Projects); Flute/Moth in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare Company); Francis Flute in *Something Rotten*, Twig in *Bring It On: The Musical*, Moritz Stiefel in *Spring Awakening* (StoryBook Theatre). Film credits include Emile in *Davey and Jonesie's Locker* (Hulu & Prime Video Canada); Sully in *Sterling*

Point (Amazon MGM Studios) coming soon! Nikko trained at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy's integrated musical theatre program in New York City. Nikko is a Filipino-Canadian actor ecstatic to be back performing at Theatre Calgary. To their loving friends and chosen family, they extend their gratitude and thanks. Maraming salamat! Enjoy the show! @nikkohinayo

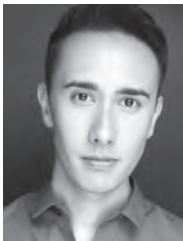


TIANA JUNG

Onstage Swing; Understudy: Zhi Hao, Falconer

(she/her) Theatre Calgary debut. Elsewhere: *Elf* (Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre); *Jersey Boys* (Arts Club); *Footloose*, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, *Jeeves at Sea* (Chemainus Theatre Festival); *Heathers* (assistant choreographer, Studio 58); *Cabaret* (Raincity Theatre). Film/TV: *Wild Cards* (CBC); *So Help Me Todd* (CBS). Voiceover: *Psi Cops* (AdultSwim/Corus); *Matchbox Adventures* (YouTube). Tiana holds a BFA in Music Theatre from

NYU Tisch School of the Arts. She is ecstatic to be a part of this production as well as making her TC debut; she is so grateful to the company, creative team, cast, crew, and her incredibly supportive family! @tianamjung / tianajung.com



KENNEDY KANAGAWA

Prince Ren

(he/him) Theatre Calgary debut. Broadway: *Into the Woods* (Drama Desk & Clive Barnes nominations). U.S. Nat'l Tour: *Into the Woods* (Milky White). Off-Broadway: *White Rose* (Theatre Row); *Dinner With Georgette* (NYTW); *Saturday Night* (Second Stage); *The Good Swimmer* (BAM). Recent regional credits: *Titanic* (Ogunquit Playhouse); *She Loves Me* (Bucks County Playhouse); *Waitress* (Ogunquit Playhouse; TUTS; 5th Avenue

Theatre); *The Little Mermaid* (the Muny); *Frozen* (the Muny; Olney Theatre Center); *Tiananmen* (Phoenix Theatre Company); *Gold Mountain* (Utah Shakespeare Festival); *Last Ship to Proxima Centauri* (Portland Stage). Kennedy is thrilled to be making his Canadian debut at Theatre Calgary! Love to OTC. IG/TT: @thisiskennedy

CAST



KELVIN MOON LOH

King Tai, Magistrate, Village Official, Lao Hu

(he/him) Theatre Calgary debut. Broadway: *Beetlejuice The Musical*, *SpongeBob SquarePants*, *The King and I*, *Side Show*. Select Theatre: See *What I Wanna See* (OOTB, dir. Emilio Ramos); *Here Lies Love* (Public Theatre, dir. Alex Timbers), *Pacific Overtures* (Classic Stage Co., dir. John Doyle), *American Idiot* (1st National, dir. Michael Mayer). Television: *Only Murders in the Building*.

Kelvin can be heard as a vocalist in movies *Spirited*; *Lyle Lyle*

Crocodile; *The Greatest Showman*; *Snow White*; *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. He appears as Perch Perkins in Nickelodeon's movie version of *SpongeBob SquarePants The Musical*. Thank you to Anthony Fett, the Sarians, Darren, Wendy, Scott, Lezlie, Daniel, Stafford, Dustin, Marc, Peter and Liza. Visit KelvinMoonLoh.com or follow @kelvinmoonloh



KODIE ROLLAN

Feng

(he/him/siya) Theatre Calgary debut. Elsewhere: *Alberta Kitchen Party* (Alberta Theatre Projects); *The Brothers Paranormal* - Asst. Director (Vertigo Theatre); *King James* - Asst. Director (Alberta Theatre Projects); *STATIC: A Party Girl's Memoir* - Dramaturg (Chromatic Theatre & Inside Out Theatre); *Kisapmata* - Dramaturg & Asst. Director (Chromatic Theatre & Lunchbox Theatre). Kodie is also a playwright, lyricist, and emerging director. He is currently

the Artistic Director of Chromatic Theatre, which will be co-producing Kodie's new musical, *Little Elves*, (Composer: Alixandra Cowman), with Handsome Alice Theatre in October, 2026. A big big thank you to my partner, Delaney, for always believing in me and my craft. Hello Zebra! IG: @kodierollan, @chromatictheatre



JULIUS SERMONIA

Na Ta; Assistant Choreographer; Fight Captain

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: *West Side Story*. Elsewhere (selected): *Miss Saigon*, *The King and I*, *Doctor Zhivago*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Cats* (Broadway); *Contact* (Bway National Tour); *Chicago*, *Tommy*, *Camelot*, *Evita*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *West Side Story*, *A Funny Thing...Forum*, *Cabaret*, *Oklahoma!*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Anything Goes* (Stratford Festival); *Holiday Inn* (Shaw Festival); *Waitress*, *Charlie & The Chocolate Factory*, *Shrek* (Grand Theatre); *Maggie*

(Theatre Aquarius); *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Charlottetown); *Frozen*, *Elf*, *Mary Poppins* (Neptune Theatre); *JCS*, *Damn Yankees* (Drayton Ent.); *The Drowsy Chaperone* (MTC); *Sweet Charity* (StageWest); *Hair*, *Robin Hood* (Canadian Stage); *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots* (La Jolla Playhouse). FILM/TV: *Mother of All Shows* (Goldstrike Films); *The Boys* (Sony Amazon); *Hellcats* (CW); *The Tony Awards* (CBS). Love to Family & Friends. @JuliusSermonia



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CAST



MARK SINONGCO

Onstage Swing; Understudy: Guard 1 & 2

(he/him) Theatre Calgary debut. Elsewhere: *Frozen* (Citadel Theatre, Grand Theatre); *Legally Blonde* (Citadel Theatre); *Bring It On* (Globe Theatre); *Grease* (Mayfield Dinner Theatre); *Rocky Horror Show*, *Die Harsh*, *Jason Kenney's Hot Boy Summer* (Grindstone Theatre); *Sweeney Todd* (Plain Jane Theatre); *Everybody Goes To Mitzi's* (Teatro Live). Film & TV: *Me and Mr. Christmas*. A graduate of the Canadian College of Performing

Arts, Mark is a Filipino-Canadian actor based in Edmonton. He is incredibly grateful to debut his first show in Calgary with Theatre Calgary. Maraming salamat to everyone who made this show possible, and endless love to his fiancé Jon and their dog, Peeve. IG: @markiesays



KALIA STAPLETON

Understudy: Lan

(she/her) Theatre Calgary debut. Kalia is an exceptional 10-year-old singer-songwriter and musician from Ontario. She plays piano, guitar, and ukulele and has quickly captured the attention of music industry professionals with her impressive vocal range and heartfelt performances. With over 60,000 followers on social media, Kalia continues to inspire audiences through her original music and live shows. She is thrilled to share her love of

storytelling and music with new audiences. IG, YouTube and TikTok: @kaliasmusic



KELSEY VERZOTTI

Zhi Hao

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *Legally Blonde*, *A Christmas Carol* (2024-25), *Mary and Max A New Musical*. Kelsey is a Betty Award-winning performer who, since graduating from Sheridan College's Music Theatre Performance Program, has appeared on stages across the country. Select credits include: *Anne of Green Gables* (Charlottetown Festival); *Dion: A Rock Opera*, *The Antipodes* (Coal Mine Theatre); *Pollyanna* (Theatre Aquarius);

Bittergirl, *Anne of Green Gables* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Kelly v. Kelly*, *Life After* (CanStage/ Musical Stage Co.); *Gaslight* (Vertigo Theatre); *A Christmas Carol* (Shaw Festival); *Into the Woods* (Talk is Free Theatre); *The Adventures of Pinocchio* (YPT); *Ai Yah - Sweet and Sour Secrets* (Lunchbox Theatre). Lots of love to her parents, Rainer, and Kola. @kelseeyverzotti

CAST



KELLY WONG

Kuang; Understudy: Na Ta

(he/him) Theatre Calgary debut. Elsewhere: 18 seasons at the Shaw Festival including Aslan in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Preston in *The Clearing*, Brandon in *Rope, 1979, Sweeney Todd, The Light in the Piazza, Snow in Midsummer, Anything Goes, Peter and the Starcatcher, Ragtime, Sunday in the Park with George; Little Shop of Horrors* (Stage West); *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Vertigo). Born and raised in Calgary, I

am thrilled to return home to perform on the very stage I grew up watching. Deep gratitude to my teachers at Mount Royal and to Mom and Dad for putting me in high school drama. All of my love to Cosette and Amelia. Website: kellywo.ng



SELINA WONG

Ling; Understudy: Woman

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *Touch Me* (co-pro w/Forte Musical Theatre Guild). Elsewhere: *Crime Does Not Pay* (Downstage and Forte Musical Theatre Guild with the generous support of Hit & Myth Productions); *Lest We Forget* (Lunchbox / Forte Musical Theatre Guild); *Waiting for the Parade* (ATP); *Avenue Q* (The Arts Club, Stage West Theatre – Betty Mitchell and Calgary Critic Nominee); *Naughty But Nice, Jeremy de Bergerac* (Forte Musical

Theatre Guild); *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Globe Theatre); *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Honk!* (Storybook Theatre); *The Mikado* (Morpheus Theatre); *Miss Saigon* (UCalgary Operetta Company). Film/TV: *Eyes in the Woods* (Numera Films). Much love to Nicolas, Matteo, Enzo, my parents and my dear friends and family — your unwavering support, encouragement, and belief in me have made this journey possible.



OLIVIA YANG

Lan

(she/her) Theatre Calgary debut. Film/TV (selected): *Karate Kid: Legends; Tantrum*. Voiceover: *Bumpadoo!* Olivia began acting at age six and has quickly become an inspiring young performer. She is a drummer, singer, pianist, and a competitive BJJ fighter. She performs with her rock band "Mad Carrot Band" on YouTube and numerous music festivals. Special thanks to Frank daCosta.

CAST



MICHELLE YU

Falconer; Understudy: Ling; Dance Captain

(she/her) Theatre Calgary debut. Elsewhere: *Cinderella in Cinderella*, *Dear Rita* (Neptune Theatre); *Bring It On* (Globe Theatre); *Hansel & Gretel*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Capitol Theatre Port Hope); *Jersey Boys* (Tweed & Co.); *In Real Life* (YES Theatre/Musical Stage Co.); *One Hit Wonders* (Stage West Calgary); *Head Over Heels* (Theatre Sheridan); *Divine Interventions* (Corpus Dance Projects). Michelle is an actor based out of her hometown,

Toronto, and is overjoyed to be making her Theatre Calgary debut! She is an alumni of Sheridan's Music Theatre program. Much gratitude to Darren, Daniel and Lezlie for bringing me along. Love always to my family and sweet Adrian xo. @michyuu

CREATIVE TEAM



DARREN LEE

Director & Choreographer

(he/him) Theatre Calgary debut. Broadway: Associate Choreographer - *Pacific Overtures*. Other New York credits: NAAP, Orchard Project, Asia Society, Fringe Festival, Wagner College, CAP 21/Molloy University, NYMF, Prospect Musicals. Regional: Ogunquit Playhouse, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Olney Theatre Center, MUNY, Paper Mill Playhouse, Music Theatre of Wichita, Glimmerglass Opera Festival, La Jolla

Playhouse, McCarter Theatre, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Williamstown Shakespeare Festival, Kennedy Center, Diamond Head Theatre, Little Theatre on the Square, Riverside Theatre, UNLV, Westchester Broadway, North Shore, Cincinnati Playhouse, Atlanta Alliance, Trinity University, Lyric Theatre, La Comedia, Casa Manana, Omaha Symphony, South Dakota Symphony, Holland America Cruise Line, Disney Cruise Line. As a performer: Broadway: *Chicago*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Allegiance*, *Shogun the Musical*, *Miss Saigon*, *Victor/Victoria*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *On the Town*, *Seussical the Musical*, *Pacific Overtures*, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Film: *Hackers*; *Chicago*; *Sisters*. US/UK Tour/West End: *The King and I* (King of Siam). darrenlee.com

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CREATIVE TEAM



LEZLIE WADE

Playwright & Associate Director

For Theatre Calgary: Director - *Meteor Shower*. Elsewhere: Director - *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Spamalot* (Stratford Festival); *Yalta Game* and *Twelve Pound Look* (Shaw Festival); *Obeah Opera* (Luminato); *Elegies*, *A Man of No Importance* (Musical Stage); Assistant director - *Jesus Christ Superstar* on Broadway, Stratford Festival, and La Jolla. Associate director - *Henry V*, *As You Like It*, and *A Word or Two* (Stratford Festival); *Toxic Avenger* (Dancap). Upcoming: *School of Rock* (Grand Theatre). Writing credits include *Sticky Fingers* and *Nobody's Children* for Yellow Door Theatre, *A Christmas Carol* (The Globe, Carousel Theatre). Currently: *Peggy Sue Got Married* with composer Bob Guadio of the Four Seasons. Lezlie is a two-time Stiles and Drewe Best New Song Prize nominee, a New York Film Award winner for *Red Letter Day*, and a recipient of the David Edney Award. She is an esteemed member of the Langham and Lincoln Centre Directing workshops and the BMI workshop in New York. lezliefwade.com



DANIEL GREEN

Composer & Musical Director

(he/him) Theatre Calgary debut. Daniel has worked on over a dozen Broadway shows including *Almost Famous*, *Parade*, *In Transit*, *Rocky*, *Big Fish*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The Addams Family*, and *Wicked*. Other credits include *Bat Boy* (City Center); *Empire Records* (McCarter); *Ride* (Old Globe); *Ever After* (Alliance Theatre); *Theory of Relativity* (Goodspeed); and *Between the Lines* (Second Stage). Composing credits include *By Any Other Name* (Theatre Lab); *The Museum of Broken Relationships* (O'Neill NMTC; Holof Lyricist Award); and *Window Treatment* (The Barrow Group), as well as several songs for *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee* on TBS. Proud alumni of Northwestern University and the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop. Thanks to everyone involved in this remarkable journey. danielgreenmusic.com



BAYATA HACKBORN

Set Design

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *Legally Blonde* (Citadel co-pro), *The Play that Goes Wrong* (Citadel/RMTC co-pro). Elsewhere: *Life of Pi* (Citadel/RMTC), *Heist* (Grand/Citadel), *Chris, Mrs.* (Boldly Productions), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Arts Club/Citadel); *Jersey Boys* (Citadel); *Horseplay*, *Metronome*, *Mob* (Workshop West); *Sleight of Mind* (Western Canada Theatre); *The Secret Garden*, *Village Wooing*, *Playboy of the Western World*, *Overruled*, *Bright Lights* (Shaw Festival). Beyata is an Edmonton-based set & costume designer currently living with a beloved household of friends & dogs. On a good day, she can juggle a bit.

CREATIVE TEAM



JESSICA POIRIER-CHANG

Costume Design

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *Meteor Shower*. Jessica is a Montreal-based costume designer and National Theatre School graduate. She began her career with four seasons at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, and has since designed costumes for numerous productions in Quebec, across Canada and abroad. Recent highlights: *Foxfinder* (Imago Theatre, META Award nomination for Outstanding Costume Design); *Les Géants* (Cirque Éloize);

Incoronazione di Poppea (Atelier Lyrique); *Chimerica* (Théâtre Duceppe, winner of the François-Barbeau Award for Outstanding Costume Design), *The Cirque!* (Cirque du Soleil), *Three Women of Swatow* (Centaur Theatre), and *Candide* (Théâtre Denise-Pelletier).

Upcoming: Costume designs for *Radio Andorra* (Cirque du Soleil); *La Florida* (Juste pour rire); and *Rigoletto* (Opéra de Montréal). Jessica is thrilled to return to Theatre Calgary and to be part of this dream project. She dedicates her work to her late father, Peter Gee Bay Chang, who would have been so proud to see this show. jessicapchang.com



SOPHIE TANG

Lighting Design

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *The Lehman Trilogy*. Elsewhere: *The Handmaid's Tale* (Banff Centre); *Pride and Prejudice* (Grand Theatre); *The Little Prince* (Pacific Opera Victoria); *Three Musketeers* (Citadel Theatre x Arts Club Theatre); *Salesman In China*, *The Rez Sisters* (Stratford Festival); *The Apple Cart* (Shaw Festival); *Choir Boy* (Canadian Stage x Arts Club Theatre); *Jersey Boys*, *Legend of Georgia McBride*, *12 dates of Christmas*,

The Orchard (Arts Club); *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Twelfth Night*, *Henry V*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Harlem Duet* (Bard on the Beach); *The Pearl Fishers*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Vancouver Opera). Awards: Three times Jessie Richardson Award nomination and two times winner, one time Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Award nomination, three times Ovation Award nomination. Portfolio website: sophieyufeitang.com



JOSHUA D. REID

Sound Design

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: *Legally Blonde*, *Forgiveness*, *Ragtime*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *The Louder We Get*, *Billy Elliot*, *The Secret Garden*. Elsewhere: *The Preacher's Wife* (Alliance Theatre); *RENT* (Stratford Festival); *A Christmas Carol* (Broadway: w/Jefferson Mays, Tony Nomination, Outer Critics Circle Award); *A Little Night Music* (Arizona Opera); *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (National Tours); *The Color Purple* (National Tour); *Girlfriend*

(TheatreWorks Hartford, CT Critics Circle Award); *Jerry Springer: The Opera* (Signature Theatre); *A Time Like This* (Carnegie Hall). Full credentials listed at ReidSoundDesign.com

CREATIVE TEAM



SEAN NIEUWENHUIS

Projection Design

For Theatre Calgary: *The Little Prince*, *Mary & Max A New Musical*, *The Mountaintop*. Elsewhere: (selected) *SUMMER*, *Dr. Zhivago*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Broadway); *Tommy*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Annie*, *Wanderlust*, *A Word or Two*, *Evita*, *Cabaret* (Stratford); *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots*, *Sideways* (La Jolla); *The Ballad of Johnny and June* (La Jolla, Citadel); *Rear Window* (Hartford Stage); *Swan Lake* (National Ballet); *Madama Butterfly*, *Whiteley* (Opera Australia); *Faust* (Metropolitan Opera); *Macbeth* (LA Opera); *Nixon in China* (Vancouver Opera, SFO, Lyric Kansas City, WOO Dublin, Royal Swedish Opera); *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Going Home Star* (RWB); Other: Visuals Director 2025 & 2017 Invictus Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies, 2010 Vancouver Paralympic Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Video Designer for the Calgary Stampede Grandstand Show since 2014. Awards: Betty Mitchell and Sterling Haynes awards for projection design. Member ADC 659.



GREEN FOOLS THEATRE & DEAN BAREHAM

Puppet Design & Creation

Theatre Calgary debut. Founded in 1991 by Métis artist Dean Bareham after graduating from Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre, Green Fools Theatre brings circus, theatre, and visual arts to life in Calgary and beyond. Dean's vision was to inspire his hometown with the creative tools he learned in school, and today, Green Fools continues to push artistic boundaries while fostering a sense of community. At Green Fools, we focus on five pillars: Puppet Theatre, Entertainment, Education, Custom Creations and Social Circus. Our work centers around the core values of Creativity, Community & Inclusion, Mentorship, and Preservation of classic art forms. We strive to inspire people of all ages through performances, workshops, and outreach programs, always with a focus on innovation and community connection.



AI with *Beaches*
writer and composer
Iris Rainer Dart and Mike Stoller



AI with Artistic Director
Stafford Arima



AI Osten

In remembrance of **AL OSTEN** *“The Most Happy Fella”*



AI with
The Louder We Get
director Lonny Price



AI and Buddy Victor

Photos by Jeff Yee



AI at the *Forgiveness* opening night with
Past Board Chair Craig Senyk, and Marc Hall

This production would
not have been possible without
AI & Buddy's generosity, support,
and love of musical theatre.

AL OSTEN & BUDDY VICTOR
LEGACY FUND

CREATIVE TEAM



KEN CERNIGLIA

Dramaturg

(he/him) Theatre Calgary debut. Elsewhere: *Redwood* (Broadway); *Hadestown* (Citadel Theatre, National Theatre of London, Broadway); *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (La Jolla Playhouse, Paper Mill Playhouse); *Disney's Aladdin* (Broadway); *Newsies* (Paper Mill Playhouse, Broadway); *Peter and the Starcatcher* (La Jolla Playhouse, New York Theatre Workshop, Broadway). During 16 years as dramaturg and literary manager

at Disney Theatrical, he developed over 70 titles for Broadway, touring, international, and licensed productions. Ken is Board Co-Chair of the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA) and holds a Ph.D. in theatre history and criticism (Univ. of Washington). Thanks to Lezlie, Dan, Darren, and the *Gifted Prince* team for their faith along this remarkable journey to our first production!



GEOFFREY KO

Orchestrator

Theatre Calgary debut. Geoffrey is a New York based arranger, orchestrator, and music director. He is the Music Director for the upcoming Broadway production of *Titanique* and is the Music Supervisor and Conductor of The Jimmy Awards. Broadway: *Titanique*, *The Notebook* (Grammy Nominated Cast Album), *Be More Chill*. World Premieres include *Take The Lead*, *Disney's A Jolly Holiday*, *Row*, *Mystic Pizza*, *May We All*, *Punk*

Rock Girl, *Other World*, *Love in Hate Nation*, and *Broadway Bounty Hunter*. Other work: *Ratatouille: The TikTok Musical*, The Jimmy Awards, and various Disney on Broadway concerts. Shows as an Orchestrator and Arranger include *Take The Lead*, *Baby* (off-Broadway revival with Richard Maltby, Jr.), *Always Something There*, *The Museum of Broken Relationships*, and *The Morris & Essex Line*. Geoffrey is a graduate of Northwestern University. Love to Leah and our Cannoli! @geoffreyhko



DANIELLE GIMBAL

Copyist

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *Beaches*. Broadway: *Chess*, *Tommy*, *All In*, *All Out*, *Be More Chill*; Off-Broadway: *The Jonathan Larson Project*, *White Rose*, *Broadway Bounty Hunter*; Select Regional/International: *Hercules* (Papermill Playhouse, Germany, London), *The Untitled*, *Unauthorized*, *Hunter S. Thompson Musical* (La Jolla Playhouse, Signature Theatre); *Love in Hate Nation* (Two River Theatre); *A Hanukkah Carol* (Round House Theatre). Danielle can also be found singing with Joe Iconis & Family. @gimbalator

CREATIVE TEAM



JOHN KNIGHT

Fight Director

(he/him) Theatre Calgary: *Beaches*, *Little Women*, *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Bad Jews* (assistant fight director). Elsewhere: *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson Apt 2B*, *The Girl on the Train*, *Sleuth*, *A Killing at La Cucina* (Vertigo Theatre); *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Julius Caesar* (The Shakespeare Company); *The Seafarer* (Alberta Theatre Projects); *Proving Up* (Ammolite Opera); *Carmen*, *Filomena* (Calgary Opera). John is a Certified Instructor and

Fight Director with Fight Directors Canada.



KRISTINE BENDUL

Associate Choreographer

(she/her) Theatre Calgary debut. Elsewhere: *Peter Pan*, *Shrek*, *Annie* (Camp Broadway Indonesia - D/C); *Tiananmen* (World Premiere, Phoenix Theatre Company - Assoc. D/C); *Miss Saigon* (Casa Mañana - Assoc. D/C); *The Color IZ* (Immersive @ Stonewall Inn - Book/D/C); *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Broadway - Asst.Choreo. & Partnering Consultant). Film/TV: *Smash* (NBC); 64th & 67th Tony Awards; 81st Academy

Awards. Made history - as the first professional female Asian-American ballerina with the New Jersey Ballet Company and again as part of America's first professional gender-neutral ballroom couple equally swapping lead/follow roles in *American Rhythm*. Favourite Broadway credits include *Swing!*, *Movin' Out* (Helen Hayes nomination), and *Come Fly Away*. Thank you, Darren, for this "Remarkable Journey!"
kristinebendulny.com



IAN CHAN

Associate Musical Director

(he/they) Theatre Calgary debut. Ian is a Hong Kong-Canadian music director, arranger/orchestrator, and composer based in NYC. Broadway: *Operation Mincemeat*, *Chess*, *Hell's Kitchen*, *The Queen of Versailles*, *SMASH*, *The Heart of Rock and Roll*, *1776*; Off-Broadway/regional: *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*, *CATS: The Jellie Ball* (PAC NYC); *Working Girl* (La Jolla); *Romy and Michele* (Stage 42); *Wonder* (A.R.T.); *DOLLY* (Fisher Center); *See What*

I Wanna See (OOTB); Gavin Creel's *Walk On Through* (MCC). In development: *Crazy Rich Asians*. Ian's original musical, *OUT* (book by Kalos Chu, lyrics by JuHye Mun) was developed at Theatre Aquarius, and his next musical, *The Crossroads* (book/co-lyrics by Kalos Chu), is under commission at the Musical Stage Company. B.A./M.A., Harvard University. ianchan.net @imianchan_

CREATIVE TEAM



ALIZA SARIAN

Assistant Dramaturg

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: Curriculum guide designer, Creative Learning instructor. Elsewhere: Directing/Dramaturgy: *Disney's Newsies* (StoryBook Theatre); *Big Fat Cliche* (Calgary Fringe); Resident Dramaturg (The Bechdel Group, NY); Freshplay Festival (MCC Theater, NY). Acting: *Appropriate* (The Theatre, upcoming); *Peter and the Starcatcher* (StoryBook Theatre); *Pink Think!*, *The Milk Dragon*, *Red Sky* (Provincetown

Playhouse, NY). Aliza is a founding member of the Canadian Institute of Theatre for Young Audiences and teaches arts and education from Calgary to Singapore. alizasarian.com



AMY JEWELL

Stage Manager

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *The Philadelphia Story* (2015), *A Christmas Carol* (2011). Elsewhere (selected): 26 seasons at the Shaw Festival working on such productions as *Dear Liar*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Orphan of Chao*, *Gaslight*, *Trouble in Mind*, *Me and My Girl*, *Born Yesterday*. Stage Manager-VIP's/Casting Coordinator with Patrick Roberge Productions, Inc. for the Canada Games (2022/2023), North American Indigenous

Games (2023), Invictus Games (2025) and Grey Cup (2022-2025). Productions with The Blyth Festival, The Belfry Theatre, Ross Petty Productions, Thousand Islands Playhouse/Human Cargo, Theatre NorthWest, Carousel Players. With love and gratitude to my family, both born and found, for all the love and support, I quite literally couldn't have done it without you.

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CREATIVE TEAM



KENNEDY GREENE

Assistant Stage Manager

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2020-21, 2024-25), *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *As You Like It*, *The Mousetrap*, *Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, *The Louder We Get*. Elsewhere: *Bluebeard's Castle*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Don Giovanni*, *Das Rheingold*, *Carmen*, *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, *Everest*, *Turandot*, *Filumena* (Calgary Opera); *The Da Vinci Code*, *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson - #2B*, *The Thin Man*, *The*

Hollow (Vertigo); *Deathtrap*, *A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline*, *There Goes the Bride* (Stage West); *Naughty But Nice TenMas!*, *Naughty But Nice 9, LIVE!* (Forte Musical Theatre Guild); *Allergic to Water* (Wee Witches/Inside Out Theatre); *STRUCK* (Ghost River Theatre); *Heaven*, *Flight Risk* (Lunchbox); *Kim's Convenience* (Alberta Theatre Projects/Arts Club).



MICHAEL LUONG

Assistant Stage Manager

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: *As You Like It*, *Little Women*, *Million Dollar Quartet*. Elsewhere: *The Davinci Code*, *Sleuth*, *Misery* (Vertigo Theatre); *The Seafarer* (ATP); *Please Return to Empire Video*, *The Ballad of Georges Boivin*, *Raising Stanely/Life with Tulia* (Lunchbox Theatre); *CRM&PNSHMNT* (Cloudsway Dance Theatre). Michael is a graduate from the University of Calgary with a Bachelors of Fine Arts and a Minor in Greek and

Roman Studies. He would like to thank his fiancé, Skylar, for their love and support. Upcoming: *The Verdict* (Vertigo Theatre).



NIAMH MCCALLION

Apprentice Stage Manager

Theatre Calgary debut. Elsewhere: *Twelve Days* (Apprentice Stage Manager - Lunchbox Theatre); *Two Moons: A Folk Lullaby* (Stage Manager - Handsome Alice); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Stage Manager - The Shakespeare Company 2024); *Sister Act*, *Footloose* (Production Assistant - Stage West); *School of Rock*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid The Musical* (Stage Manager - Storybook Theatre); *Something Rotten!* (Assistant Stage

Manager - Storybook Theatre & The Shakespeare Company); *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Chapter Two*, *Too Many Cooks*, *Shear Madness*, *Who's Under Where?* (Head of Props - Stage West). Niamh is eternally grateful to everyone who loves her. Rock n Roll.

CREATIVE TEAM



STEVEN CONDE

TC Mentors Program* - Directing

For Theatre Calgary: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare by the Bow). Elsewhere: *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Stratford Festival); *A Killing at La Cucina* (Vertigo Theatre/PTX); *The Seafarer* (Alberta Theatre Projects); *Beyond the Sea* (Lunchbox); *Life of Pi* (Citadel/RMTC); *My Name is Asher Lev, Suicide Incorporated, Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead, Wit* (TwinBill Theatre); *Sideshow, Kinky Boots, Madagascar,*

Matilda the Musical, Angels in America: Millennium Approaches, The Band's Visit, Waitress, Ghost the Musical, Shrek (Atlantis Theatrical); *Saturday Night Fever, Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (Singapore Repertory Theatre); *The Producers, Arsenic and Old Lace, Scrooge* (Repertory Philippines). Other: MFA in Directing (University of Calgary), Artistic Associate (Vertigo Theatre), Artistic Director (FlipSide Theatre Collective).



TARA KIELY

TC Mentors Program* - Sound Design

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary (selected): Sound technician - *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill, Little Red Warrior and His Lawyer, Forgiveness, Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville, Made in Italy*. Tara's journey started when she graduated from MacEwan's Theatre Production program in 2018. Since then, she has worked in Edmonton, Calgary, Banff, and the Yukon.

While she has worked in various departments including lighting, wardrobe, and video, her dedication and passion is sound. She is very grateful for this opportunity and will always consider it a career highlight. An extra special shoutout to Bronwyn, Michael, and Travis, the best three musketeers!

* TC Mentors participants are generously supported by the RBC Emerging Artist Program.

CREATIVE TEAM



SOMERLED ARTS

Producer

Somerled Arts is a non-profit dedicated to the development of new dramatic and musical works and the artists who create them. Somerled has produced on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and at NYMF, has developed works at regional theatres and prestigious development organizations in the United States and Canada such as Theatre Calgary, Theatre Aspen, Eugene O'Neill National Music Theater Conference, American Music Theatre Project, Human Rights New Works Festival, and Vanguard Arts Fund at Olney Theatre Center, and has developed new works independently in New York, Chicago, Boston, the UK and Japan. Somerled recently embarked on a multiyear partnership with SpeakEasy Stage - AT RISE: Boston's New Musicals Partnership - to develop new musicals and produce world premieres on Boston stages. Somerled Arts is a proud member of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT).

DAYTON/WALTERS CASTING, CDC, CSA

Casting

For Theatre Calgary: *Beaches, The Louder We Get*. Daytime Emmy Award Nominees, Sherry Dayton (CSA, CDC) and Michael Walters (CSA, CDC) are celebrating their 23rd anniversary working together as Dayton/Walters Casting. Theatrical highlights include: *Fiddler on the Roof* in Yiddish (HGJT); *Life After* (Yonge St. Theatricals); *Come From Away* (Gander); *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, Matilda the Musical, Once, Hairspray, The Producers* (Mirvish Productions); *The Book of Mormon* (Canadian Casting Consultant, Broadway/National Tours); *Jersey Boys* (DanCap). Extensive animation credits including *Paw Patrol, Rubble & Crew, The Snoopy Show* (and other Peanuts specials), *My Little Pony, Let's Go, Bananas!, PJ Masks, Go, Dog, Go!* and *Esme & Roy* (2019 Emmy Award Nomination, Outstanding Casting for an Animated Series or Special). daytonwalters.com

SPECIAL THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Donna Hackborn

Cherry Ma

Lesley MacMillan

Nicholas Mahon

Kyle Mroz

Heidi Petersen

Sendroff & Baruch, LLP - Jason P. Baruch, Esq. & Graham Duff, Esq.

Echo Shi

Lucas Tang

Wing's Foods (Neal Lee, Cynthia Lee, Barry Lee, Elizabeth Lee)

THE GIFT OF NEW WORK



Theatre is, at its core, an act of belief. Belief that stories still matter. Belief that audiences are hungry not only for what they already know, but for what they have never encountered before. Belief that the stage is not merely a place to preserve the canon, but a living laboratory where new ideas are tested, refined, and ultimately given breath.

At Theatre Calgary, the creation of new work is central to who we are. It is a responsibility we take seriously. Every time we commit to a world premiere, we are saying yes to possibility. Yes, to risk. Yes, to the patient process of helping an idea grow into something that can stand on its own in the world. New work does not arrive fully formed. It is shaped through rehearsal rooms, rewrites, workshops, conversations, disagreements, breakthroughs, and moments of discovery. It asks artists to be vulnerable and audiences to be curious. And it asks us to invest – not just financially, but communally – in the future of the art form.



(l to r) Yoshie Bancroft, Kevin Takahide Lee in *Forgiveness*. (Trudie Lee)

Over the years, Theatre Calgary has proudly helped bring many new plays to life including *Forgiveness*, *Selma Burke*, *Honour Beat*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Awoowaakii*, *Liberation Days*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, *BOOM X*; and the musicals *The Little Prince*, *Beyond Eden*, *Mary and Max*, and *The Louder We Get*. We have been a home for Canadian writers (and a number of Calgarians) who were asking urgent questions about identity, memory, belonging, and reconciliation. We have commissioned, developed, nurtured, and premiered works that have been remounted at other theatres and debated in living rooms. Perhaps no recent example illustrates this commitment more clearly than *Beaches the Musical*. What began as a bold leap – a new musical adapted from a beloved film and novel – grew through the extraordinary collaboration of artists, designers, musicians, technicians, and our audiences. Calgary was not a stop along the way; it was the birthplace of this brand-new production. The success of that premiere, and its subsequent journey from Theatre Calgary to its Broadway premiere this April, stands as a powerful reminder of what can happen when a theatre invests fully in new work and trusts its audience to come along for the ride. That journey did not happen by accident. It happened because a community showed up, night after night, willing to embrace something new.



The cast of *The Louder We Get*. (Trudie Lee)



(l to r) Jessica Vosk, Kelli Barrett in *Beaches*. (Trudie Lee)



(l to r) Norma Lewis, Heather Pattengale in *Selma Burke*. (Trudie Lee)



(l to r) Marshall Vielle, Jenova Calixto, Garret C. Smith in *Awoowaakii*. (Trudie Lee)

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The cast of Beyond Eden. (Trudie Lee)

That same spirit is at the heart of *The Tale of the Gifted Prince*. This musical arrives on our stage as a world premiere, and with it comes all the electricity, uncertainty, and promise that only a first production can offer. It is a story that invites us to look inward and outward at the same time; at how we define “giftedness,” how power shapes identity, and how compassion can be both a burden and a blessing.

When you attend a premiere, you are participating in the life of the piece. Your laughter, your listening, your emotional responses become part of the show’s DNA. You are helping determine how the story lands, what resonates, and what will carry forward into future iterations. In this way, audiences are not passive recipients of new work; they are collaborators. This is why creating new work matters so deeply. Without it, theatre risks becoming a museum – beautiful, but static. With it, theatre remains urgent and necessary. New work ensures that new voices are heard, that underrepresented stories find space, and that the art form continues to evolve rather than merely repeat itself.

As Artistic Director, I am profoundly grateful to the creators of *The Tale of the Gifted Prince* for entrusting us with their work, and to our incredible creative team, cast, musicians, crew, administrative and production staff who have brought this musical to life with care and courage.

Most of all, I am grateful to you – our audience – for your openness, your curiosity, and your willingness to step into the unknown with us. Thank you for believing in new stories. Thank you for supporting the creation of new work. And thank you for being part of the moment when a new musical takes its very first breath.

Welcome to *The Tale of the Gifted Prince*.

- STAFFORD ARIMA
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We hope you enjoy this theatre experience.

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We'd also like to give a shout out to more than 1,100 TC donors last season whose support helps propel us forward! Your demonstrated belief in the importance of the arts enhances the quality of our productions while keeping theatre tickets affordable. Thank you!

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Kelsey Verzotti and the
cast of *Legally Blonde*.
Photo by Trudie Lee



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