

WORLD PREMIERE

KIDOONS AND WYRD PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH THEATRE CALGARY AND  
THE 20K COLLECTIVE PRESENTS

# BOOM YZ

WRITTEN, DIRECTED, AND PERFORMED BY RICK MILLER



OCT 19 - NOV 7  
2021

*theatre:*  
**CALGARY**  
Stafford Arima, Artistic Director

# FOR YOUR 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. Theatre Calgary will, at minimum, adhere to all the applicable government regulations in place at the time. As circumstances evolve, our protocols will be subject to amendments throughout the season.

## MANDATORY VACCINATION/PROOF OF NEGATIVE TEST

All patrons over the age of 12 years will be required to either show proof of being FULLY vaccinated or proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to attending a Theatre Calgary performance. In addition to providing the required vaccination or testing documentation, each patron will be required to present government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, passport or provincial ID card, to verify their identity. **This mandate is not negotiable and no exceptions will be made.**

## MANDATORY MASKS

**All patrons are required to wear appropriate masks** that cover the nose, mouth and chin at all times when in the theatre. This includes all indoor spaces such as the lobby and other common areas as well as in theatre seating. Masks can be lowered briefly to consume food or beverages. **However food and beverages will not be allowed in the theatre itself.**

Please visit [theatrecalgary.com/safety-and-comfort](https://theatrecalgary.com/safety-and-comfort) for more information, including changes to our HVAC and cleaning practices.

Reminders:

- **Use our mobile tickets.**
- **Arrive in a timely manner to be seated.**
- **Physically distance from your fellow patrons.**
- **Follow directional signage.**
- **Stay home if you are unwell, or a close contact is unwell.**

*Please respect the space and comfort of those around you so everyone can enjoy the performances.*

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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 Arts Commons, operating out of Arts Commons Max Bell Theatre.

# Welcome Home.



**A**s we embark on our new season we are profoundly grateful to back on our stage. Not having a 'home' for over 18 months has been heartbreaking. As we enter into a new era of safety, healing, and the re-opening of our space, Theatre Calgary could not have made it without the support of all of you. Your support has been nothing short of remarkable and to say we could not have done it without you would be an understatement. Though we will always look back with deep sadness of all we have lost, we hope that we can celebrate the now, and the ability to share live experiences together again, safely. It's so wonderful to have you here.

- **STAFFORD ARIMA**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

- **MAYA CHOLDIN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Rick,

**I**t goes without saying that you are like family to Theatre Calgary. Our stage and our city have had the pleasure of experiencing your artistic brilliance since 2014, when *BOOM* made its World Premiere. Then in 2019, Theatre Calgary premiered *BOOM X*, which delved into Generation X; and now, another *BOOM* graces our stage, with the final installment of the trilogy — *BOOM YZ*, in which you focus on millennials and Generation Z. What makes *BOOM YZ* so fitting to open our 2021-22 season, and re-ignite our stage, is that your plays are true love letters to the theatre. *BOOM YZ* (like its predecessors) is pure theatre — a simple stage, one performer, engaging text, a few songs, and some lights and projections that all come together to create captivating characters and cultural icons sharing an engaging narrative. That is what theatre is at its purest level — making magic within a black box, while transporting an audience to Babylon, Xanadu, and Beyond.

Thank you, Rick Miller, for sharing your thespian and artistic soul with us.

Break some legs!

- **STAFFORD AND MAYA**

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## 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 (Region 3), 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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Theatre Calgary gratefully acknowledges the support provided by the City of Calgary through Calgary Arts Development, the Government of Alberta through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the Government of Canada through the Canada Council, Canadian Heritage, and all corporate and private contributors.



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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.

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## SHARON POLLOCK



**O**n April 22, 2021, theatre in Calgary, and Canada, lost a giant. We mourn and acknowledge the passing of renowned playwright, and

former Theatre Calgary Artistic Director, **Sharon Pollock**. Sharon was a fierce, bold, and groundbreaking artist whose work helped shape the Canadian theatre landscape. Sharon's plays *Walsh*, *Whiskey Six Cadenza*, *Doc*, and *Blow Wind High Water* premiered on our stage. We shall all miss seeing her in the Max Bell Theatre on opening nights, but her words and impact on theatre in Canada will be felt for generations.

# WRITER'S NOTES

“Go back to where you started, or as far back as you can, examine all of it, travel your road again and tell the truth about it. Sing or shout or testify or keep it to yourself: but know whence you came.”

- **JAMES BALDWIN**, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*



**M**emory and imagination fire up the same parts of our brains; we remember the past and imagine the future in order to act in the present. That's been a guiding principle in the *BOOM* trilogy, especially in this final show, *BOOM YZ*. I'm interested in what we can do now to try to make things better for each other, for our parents, our kids, our community, our country, our planet.

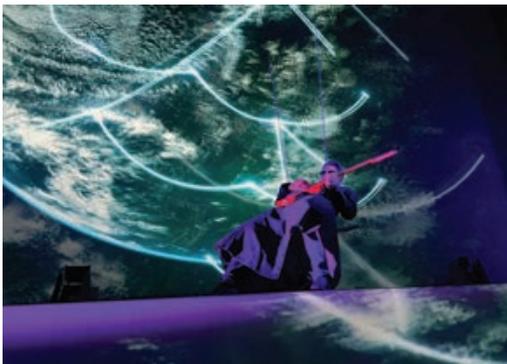
*BOOM YZ* looks at the last 25 years of history, from 1996 to 2020, and the interplay of generations that have lived through it, or been born into it. It's an era that's politically straddled with impeachment, and powered by the internet. I'll play a lot of characters, sing a bunch of songs, and try to juggle humour, heart and history. But the thrust of *BOOM YZ* is the present, and our possible futures.

Having studied architecture, I'm constantly reminded of the gift of perspective. It allows us to see a bigger picture, and to resist being caught up in reactions and judgements, both of which are made louder by our current technologies. Generations now blame one another instead of listening more intently, and working together on the road ahead. By being more present with each other - and drawing from ancestral wisdom - I think we can travel that road as passengers, not adversaries.

Thanks for joining me as we dig into consciousness, and delve into cyberspace, bouncing between personal stories, and the bigger story of our species. It's going to be one helluva trip.

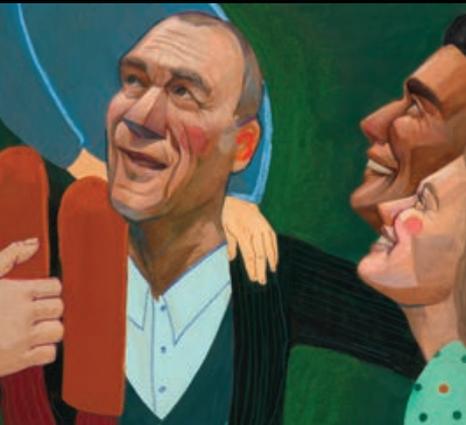
Explosively,

- **RICK MILLER**



Rick Miller. Photo by Nicolas Dostie.

LATER THIS SEASON



## A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY CHARLES DICKENS

ABRIDGED ADAPTATION BY GEOFFREY SIMON BROWN

DIRECTED BY STAFFORD ARIMA

LIVE: NOV 30 - DEC 24, 2021

ONLINE: DEC 2 - DEC 31, 2021

THIS PRODUCTION IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF



## STEEL MAGNOLIAS

BY ROBERT HARLING

DIRECTED BY VALERIE PLANCHE

MAR 8 - APR 3, 2022



## MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

BOOK BY COLIN ESCOTT AND FLOYD MUTRUX

ORIGINAL CONCEPT AND DIRECTION BY FLOYD MUTRUX

INSPIRED BY ELVIS PRESLEY, JOHNNY CASH,

JERRY LEE LEWIS AND CARL PERKINS

DIRECTED BY THOM ALLISON

APR 26 - MAY 22, 2022

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET The Musical is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. [www.theatricalrights.com](http://www.theatricalrights.com)

Originally developed and produced by Relevant Theatricals, John Cassette Productions and Northern Lights, Inc. at the Goodman Theatre, Robert Falls, Artistic Director - Roche Shaffer, Executive Director and transferred to The Apollo Theatre, Chicago, IL, 2008. Produced by the Village Theatre, Issaquah, Washington, Robb Hunt, Producer - Steve Tompkins, Artistic Director, 2007 and Seaside Music Theater, Daytona Beach, FL, Tippi Davidson, Producer - Lester Malizia, Artistic Director, 2008

THIS PRODUCTION IS MADE POSSIBLE  
BY THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE

AL OSTEN & BUDDY VICTOR  
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*theatre:*  
**CALGARY**  
Stafford Arima, Artistic Director

Max Bell Theatre at Arts Commons  
October 19 to November 7, 2021

# theatre: CALGARY

Stafford Arima, Artistic Director

presents

## WORLD PREMIERE

# BOOM YZ

Produced by Kidoons and WYRD Productions  
in association with Theatre Calgary and The 20K Collective

Writer, Director*, Performer*	<b>RICK MILLER</b>
Executive Producer	<b>JEFF LORD</b>
Lighting Designer, Technical Director	<b>AIDAN WARE</b>
Video & Projection Co-Designer	<b>NICOLAS DOSTIE</b>
Video & Projection Co-Designer	<b>IRINA LITVINENKO</b>
Video & Projection Co-Designer,	<b>RICK MILLER</b>
Set Designer, Sound Designer	
Costume & Props Designer	<b>VIRGINIE LECLERC</b>
Stage Manager*, Dramaturg	<b>CRAIG FRANCIS</b>
Stage Manager* (select performances)	<b>LAUREL ONEIL</b>
Script Consultant	<b>MAEV BEATY</b>
Script Consultant	<b>RYAN CUNNINGHAM</b>
Script Consultant	<b>SÉBASTIEN HEINS</b>
Graphic Design	<b>LOGOGRAPH</b>
Music Licensing	<b>MICHAEL PERLMUTTER (Instinct)</b>
International Touring Agent	<b>MENNO PLUKKER (Assisted by Isaïe Richard and Magdalena Marszalek)</b>
Head of Sound	<b>BRONWYN BOWLBY</b>
Head of Lighting	<b>CATHARINE CRUMB</b>
Head Dresser	<b>KATIE KLINGVALL</b>
Head Stage Carpenter	<b>DONNIE OSLER</b>
Head of Video	<b>DAN PLUMTREE</b>
Stage Carpenter	<b>JOSH SEMOS</b>

BOOM YZ runs approximately 115 minutes, including one intermission.

**Official site: [BoomTheShow.com](http://BoomTheShow.com)**

**Outreach site: [EncyclopediaCanada.com](http://EncyclopediaCanada.com)**

**X-ing The Gap Podcast site: [BoomTheShow.com](http://BoomTheShow.com)**

Development of the show was supported by Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.  
We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.

*\*Kidoons/WYRD Productions engages under the terms of the Independent Theatre Agreement, professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.*

THANK YOU

HEALTH CARE

HEROES

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# Global News Hour at 6

Linda Olsen & Joel Senick



Global  
NEWS



# SONG LIST (alphabetical, by song title)

**SPOILER ALERT!** If you'd like to be surprised by the content of the show, please skip over this section.

## **ALL ABOUT THAT BASS**

Kevin Kadish, Megan Trainor  
Endurance Alpha (ASCAP),  
Year Of The Dog Music and  
MTrain Music

## **BORN THIS WAY**

Fernando Garibay, Stefani J  
Germanotta, Paul Edward Blair,  
Jeppe Breum Laurсен  
House of Gaga Publishing  
LLC (BMI)/ Sony/ATV Songs  
LLC (BMI)/ Sony/ATV Tunes  
LLC (ASCAP), Garibay Music  
Publishing (BMI) and Warner-  
Tamerlane Publishing Corp.  
(BMI). All rights on behalf  
of itself and Garibay Music  
Publishing administered by  
Warner-Tamerlane Publishing  
Corp., Universal Music Corp.  
(ASCAP), Universal PolyGram  
International Publishing, Inc.  
(ASCAP), PW Arrangements  
(ASCAP) c/o Universal Music  
Corp. (ASCAP) and Maxwell and  
Carter Publishing LLC (ASCAP)  
c/o Universal Music Corp.  
(ASCAP)

## **CALL ME MAYBE**

Tavish Crowe, Josh Ramsay,  
Carly Rae Jepsen  
BMG Rights Management  
Canada A (SOCAN), BMG  
Rights Management Canada  
B (SOCAN), Universal Music  
Corp. (ASCAP) o/b/o itself  
& Jepsen Music Publishing  
(SOCAN)

## **CIRCLE GAME**

Joni Mitchell  
Reservoir Media Music (ASCAP)  
on behalf of Crazy Crow Music  
(ASCAP)

## **EVE OF DESTRUCTION**

P.F. Sloan  
Universal Music Corp. (ASCAP)

## **GIRLFRIEND**

Lukasz Gottwald, Avril Lavigne  
Almo Music Corp. (ASCAP)  
o/b/o itself and Avril Lavigne  
Publishing LLC (SOCAN), Kasz  
Money Publishing (ASCAP),  
admin. by Kobalt Songs Music  
Publishing

## **HALLELUJAH**

Leonard Cohen  
Sony/ATV Songs LLC (BMI).  
All rights reserved. Used by  
permission.

## **HEROES**

David Bowie, Brian Eno  
Tintoretto Music (BMI)  
administered by RZO Music,  
Inc., Universal Music – Careers  
(BMI) o/b/o Universal Music  
MGB Ltd. (PRS), EMI Music  
Publishing Ltd (PRS)/ Sony/  
ATV Music Publishing (UK) Ltd.  
(PRS)

## **HEY YA!**

Andre Benjamin  
BMG Rights Management  
Canada A (SOCAN)

## **I DREAMED A DREAM**

Alain Boublil, Claude-Michel  
Schonberg, Jean-Marc Natel,  
Herbert Kretzmer  
Boublil Alain Editions Musicales  
SARL (SACEM), Productions  
Bagad (SACEM) and Alain  
Boublil Music Ltd. (ASCAP).  
All rights administered by WC  
Music Corp.

## **SEASONS OF LOVE**

Jonathan D. Larson  
Universal Music Corp. (ASCAP)  
o/b/o Finster & Lucy Music Ltd.  
Co. (ASCAP)

## **SEVEN NATION ARMY**

Jack White  
Peppermint Stripe Music (BMI),  
administered by Songs of  
Universal, Inc. (BMI)

## **SHUT UP AND DANCE**

Benjamin Berger, Sean  
Waughman, Ryan McMahon,  
Kevin Ray, Eli Maiman, Nicholas  
William Petricca  
Verb To Be Music (ASCAP)/  
What A Racuous Music  
(ASCAP)/ Anna Sun Music  
(ASCAP)/ Treat Me Better Tina  
Music (ASCAP)/ Sony/ATV  
Allegro (ASCAP), WC Music  
Corp. (ASCAP), Benjamin Berger  
Publishing (ASCAP) and Ryan  
McMahon Publishing (ASCAP)

## **SOMEBODY THAT I USED TO KNOW**

Walter De Backer, Luiz Bonfá  
Op Shop Songs Pty Ltd  
[ASCAP], admin. by Kobalt  
Songs Music Publishing,  
Unichappell Music Inc. (BMI)

## **SMOOTH**

Robert Thomas, Itai Shur  
U Rule Music (ASCAP)/ EMI  
April Music Inc. (ASCAP)/  
Sony/ATV Tunes LLC (ASCAP)  
Hipgnosis Songs Fund Limited  
(BMI), admin. by Songs of  
Kobalt Music Publishing

## **THE PRAYER**

David W. Foster, Tony Renis,  
Carole Bayer Sager, Alberto Testa  
Songs of Universal, Inc. (BMI)  
o/b/o Warner Barham Music  
LLC (BMI)

## **THUNDER**

Alexander Grant, Daniel  
Reynolds, Daniel Sermon,  
Benjamin McKee, Daniel  
Platzman, Jayson Dezuzio  
Songs of Universal, Inc. (BMI)  
o/b/o itself and Imagine  
Dragons Publishing (BMI) and  
Universal Music Corp. (ASCAP)  
o/b/o itself and Have A Nice Jay  
Music (ASCAP)

## **TUBTHUMPING**

Alice Nutter, Allan Whalley,  
Darren Hamer, Duncan Bruce,  
Judith Abbott, Louise Watts,  
Nigel Hunter, Paul Greco  
EMI April Music Publishing  
Germany GMBH (GEMA)

## **WHAT MAKES YOU BEAUTIFUL**

Savan Kotecha, Carl Anthony  
Falk, Rami Yacoub  
Kobalt Songs Music Publishing  
(ASCAP), BMG Rights  
Management Canada B  
(SOCAN), EMI April Music Inc.  
(ASCAP)

# THE ARTISTS



## **RICK MILLER**

**Writer, Director, Performer, Video and Projection Co-Designer, Set Designer, Sound Designer**

Rick Miller is a Dora and Gemini award-winning writer / director / actor / musician / educator who has performed in five languages on five continents and who Entertainment Weekly called “one of the 100 most creative people alive today”. He has created and toured solo shows such as the *BOOM* Trilogy (*BOOM*, *BOOM X*, and *BOOM YZ*), *MacHomer*, (w. Daniel Brooks)

*Bigger Than Jesus* and *HARDESELL*; and family shows with Craig Francis and Kidoons, such as *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea*, *Jungle Book*, and *Frankenstein*. With Robert Lepage, he has collaborated on *Geometry of Miracles*, *Zulu Time*, *Lipsynch*, and on the film *Possible Worlds*. He often teaches an interdisciplinary class at the University of Toronto called The Architecture of Creativity. Rick is from Montreal, and lives in Toronto with his partner Stephanie Baptist and their two daughters.



## **AIDAN WARE**

**Lighting Designer, Technical Director**

Aidan Ware is excited to return home to Calgary for the premiere of *BOOM YZ!* A graduate of the Technician Theatre Production program at the University of Alberta, Aidan’s passion for live production has taken him around the world where he has worn many hats as a technical director, lighting & sound designer. Upon completing an 18-month lighting practicum program at the Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity,

Aidan moved to Toronto where is currently the Assistant Technical Director at Canadian Stage. He continues to work as a lighting designer turned livestream producer for Solotech, TIFA, and Fall For Dance North. Aidan is looking forward to exploring the music and stories of his generation in *BOOM YZ!*



## **NICOLAS DOSTIE**

**Video and Projection Co-Designer**

An accomplished director, editor and visual artist, Nicolas Dostie studied Media Arts and Technology with a focus on television. With the arrival of the digital era in 2002, he became interested in large-scale architectural projection, and helped design the multimedia for the highly visual spectacle *Cavalía*. His design career then pushed him more and more into the worlds of theatre and circus. He worked for Ex

Machina and Robert Lepage, on *Le projet Andersen*, the *Jeux de Cartes* series, *887* and *Kodō*, and with *BOOM X*, his work as co-designer has garnered several award nominations across Canada. Considered one of the pioneers in architectural projection, Nicolas has worked on the 2014 Sochi Olympics (with Pixmob), and

# THE ARTISTS

the Cirque du Soleil productions *Delirium*, the Michael Jackson world tour, and *Varekai*. He currently teaches at CEGEP La Pocatière, passing on his knowledge to a younger generation.



## IRINA LITVINENKO

### Video and Projection Co-Designer

Irina Litvinenko is an accomplished creative artist, graphic designer, and video production artist. Irina has been a longstanding collaborator with Rick Miller and Craig Francis, including as Multimedia and Video Designer for *Jungle Book*, *BOOM X*, *Frankenstein*, and *BOOM YZ*. Irina assisted on onscreen multimedia for MacHomer and its educational Animated Shakespeare videos, video sequences and design elements for *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea*. As a web and video artist, Irina is a designer, animator, and production editor of the Kidoons Network animated series. She has worked on advertising and multimedia campaigns for Performing Arts Centers across Canada and the US; for shows from *BOWFIRE* to *Carol Burnett*; and campaigns including TELUS, Cirque Musica, and the University of Kentucky Opera Theatre.



## VIRGINIE LECLERC

### Costume and Props Designer

After a Bachelor's degree in theatre and cinema from Université Laval, Virginie went on to study scenic design at Conservatoire d'Art Dramatique de Québec. She was the first recipient of the design scholarship Théâtre Blanc-Desjardins. She received Québec's Prix d'excellence des arts et de la culture for costume designs on *L'asile de la pureté* (2009) and *Fin de Partie* (2012), and was nominated for *Cyrano de Bergerac* (2008) and *Dans la République du Bonheur* (2015). For Ex Machina, she toured with *La Celestina* (2004), designed props for *La Tempête* (2011), *Jeux de Cartes: Pique* (2012), *Coeur* (2013) and *Lipsynch* (2007), and costumes for *Seven Streams of the River Ota* (2019) and *Courville* (2021). She is also a frequent designer with other renowned Quebec-based companies, including Théâtre de la Bordée, Théâtre Périscope, Théâtre du Trident, and Carrefour international de théâtre de Québec. Virginie's work on *BOOM X* has been nominated for les Prix de Théâtre in 2021, and she's delighted to be working again with Kidoons/WYRD on *BOOM YZ*.

# THE ARTISTS



## CRAIG FRANCIS

### Stage Manager, Dramaturg

(he/him) Craig is a writer, director, illustrator, and multidisciplinary creator. A founding member of The 20K Collective, Craig co-created with Rick Miller the productions *Jungle Book*, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea*, and *Game of Clones*. With Rick Miller and Paul Van Dyck he co-created the 2021 play, comic book, and streaming production *Frankenstein*.

He's a producer, dramaturg, and stage manager for Miller's solo trilogy *BOOM*, *BOOM X*, and *BOOM YZ* (Kidoons / WYRD / Theatre Calgary). Craig is a mentor of emerging artists, and a speaker on LGBTQA2S+ issues. He performed improv comedy for a decade including *Just For Laughs* festivals and specials for CBC, CTV, and Showtime; theatre includes *The Refugee Hotel* (Teesri Duniya). His animated digital shorts for the Kidoons Network and not-for-profit organizations are seen by millions of viewers, and are installed in museums in four Provinces. Craig lives in Montréal, has illustrated several books, and voiced video games and animated series.



## LAUREL ONEIL

### Stage Manager (select performances)

Laurel is excited to be back working on the *BOOM* Trilogy, with such a fantastic team! Select credits include: *BOOM* (Theatre Calgary, Thousand Islands Playhouse, & 59E59,) *Jersey Boys*, *Legally Blonde*, *Rock of Ages*, *Avenue Q*, *The Producers*, *Game Show*, *39 Steps*, *Chicago*, *Spamalot*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Stage West,) *Sound of Music* (Western Canada Theatre), *Annie* and *Fiddler on the Loose* (Drayton

Entertainment.) Laurel has also taught stage management at the University of Lethbridge. She would like to thank her family and friends for their unending love and support.

## MAEV BEATY

### Script Consultant

Maev Beaty is a stage and screen actor, writer and voice artist. She has originated roles in 26 Canadian premieres (including Hannah Moscovitch's *Bunny*, Michael Healey's *Proud*, Kate Hennig's *The Last Wife*, Judith Thompson's *Palace of the End* and Sharon Pollock's *Angel's Trumpet*); She has co-written and starred in the award-winning *Secret Life of a Mother*, *Montparnasse*, and *Dance of the Red Skirts*); played lead classic roles for six seasons at the Stratford Festival and in epic productions (*Soulpepper August Osage County*, *Nightwood's Penelopiad*, *Volcano's Another Africa*, *TheatreFront's The Mill*). She is a Toronto Theatre Critics' Award winner, three-time Dora Award winner and fourteen-time Dora nominee in performance, writing and production. On screen appearances include *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Nurses*, *Ghostwriter*,

# THE ARTISTS

Mouthpiece. She is also a founding member of Got Your Back, an Equity Council member, activist and mum.

## **RYAN CUNNINGHAM**

### **Script Consultant**

Ryan is Nēhiyawī/Cree/ᑎᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ from Amiskwaciwāskahikan (Edmonton) who's family comes from The Michel Band First Nation. Ryan has worked as an actor, producer, director, manager and event creator for over 25 years. His company, Cuning Concepts & Creations, produces and tours the Award winning production, *HUFF* written and performed by Cliff Cardinal. Originally produced by Native Earth Performing Arts under the Artistic Direction of Ryan Cunningham. Most recently Ryan has acted with Crows Theatre (*Julius Caesar*), The Shaw Festival (*AN OCTOROON*) and can be seen playing the role of Darcy Douglas in all 5 seasons of the award winning APTN series, *BLACKSTONE*. An alumni of the RBC Director Development Residency at Canadian Stage and current Artist in Residence at the CanadianStage-University of Toronto, BMO Lab. He has been nominated for the KLM Hunter Artist Award and the inaugural Johanna Metcalf Performing Arts Prize.

## **SÉBASTIEN HEINS**

### **Script Consultant**

(he/him) Sébastien Heins is a Canadian-born, Jamaican-German actor, writer, producer, and emerging director. He is the Associate Artistic Director of Outside the March, and a resident of the Canadian Stage U of T BMO Lab, researching AI, Mixed Reality, Motion Sensors, and the intersection of tech and live performance. His career includes 3 seasons at the Stratford Festival, 10+ years of immersive theatre with OtM, and Canadian/US/Indian tours of his award-winning solo show, *Brotherhood: The Hip Hopera*. He trained at the National Theatre School of Canada and The School at Steppenwolf in Chicago.

## **JEFF LORD**

### **Executive Producer**

Jeff has a lifelong passion and vision for combining art and technology to develop original works. His projects are inspired by a love of storytelling and innovation. Through Kidoons theatrical productions, WYRD theatrical productions, and digital works on the Kidoons Network, Jeff's artist collaborators help organizations to tell their stories onstage and online. He works with Not-for-Profits and corporate clients across Canada and the United States with a vision to inspire and empower all generations. His work on this *BOOM* trilogy is dedicated to his mother, Evelyn Lord.

# PRODUCTION HISTORY

*BOOM YZ* was first commissioned by Theatre Calgary in 2019, and is produced by Kidoons and WYRD Productions in association with Theatre Calgary and The 20K Collective. It's world premiere was scheduled for March 2021, but postponed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Development continued in a series of online workshops, culminating in a final workshop in Sept 2021 at Le Diamant in Quebec City. *BOOM YZ* held a rescheduled world premiere at Theatre Calgary's Max Bell Theatre on October 22, 2021.

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## CONTINUE THE EXPERIENCE

Watch online videos about history and culture, for families, teachers and students: **EncyclopediaCanada.com**

Watch our animated series on some communities featured in *BOOM YZ* and other great places: **kidoons.com**

Order *BOOM* trilogy script booklets and the *BOOM X* soundtrack on CD or digital download: **RickMiller.ca**

Listen to intergenerational conversations hosted by Rick Miller on his *X-ing The Gap* podcast: **BoomTheShow.com**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*BOOM YZ* has been a labour of love for over 3 years, and there are many people to whom we owe thanks:

Jeff Lord, and Kidoons  
Stafford Arima, Lesley MacMillan,  
Maya Choldin, Alex Currie and  
the team at Theatre Calgary  
Ex Machina, and the team at Le Diamant  
Chris Abraham, Sherrie Johnson and  
Crows Theatre  
Pia Kleber, David Rokeby and U of T's  
BMO Lab in Creative Research in  
Arts and Performance

Brenda Healey, Monica Esteves,  
Mel Hague and Canadian Stage  
Gretta Vosper, Scott Kearns and  
West Hill United Church  
Lisa Whittaker, Michael Limerick and  
Monarch Park Collegiate Institute  
Menno Plukker and Isaïe Richard  
Michael Perlmutter  
Marie Gignac

A few of the many who shared stories and intergenerational insights:  
Craig Francis, Irina Litvinenko, Chris Sullivan and his family, Corgand Janeway-Svendsen, Tim Fort, Sig Shore, Christopher Fulton, Nick Kindler, Sasha Grujicic, Chris Downs (夏克立) & Poppy, Jason Puklicz, Tahiri Vejdani, Natalia Gracious, Louis Treppel, Marc Kielburger, Jo-Anne McArthur of weanimalsmedia.org, Erik Cereghino, Eric Meerkamper, Mark Kingwell, Antje Budde, Kurt Miller and the Miller clan, the Baptist family.

### The “Let’s Ask Y” Millennials:

Rosie Callaghan

Bruno Matte

Camille VanDyk and Tyler Anderson

Levin Valayil

Tyler Andrade

Rahat Saini

Izaak Vosper

Jackson Lumley

Matt Lacas

Jeremy Settle, Marta McDonald,  
and Emily McMahan

Mina James

Sébastien Heins

---

## From Rick:

*BOOM YZ* documents the last 25 years, a time in which I’ve had the privilege of working and playing with hundreds of collaborators from around the world: directors, designers, technicians, actors, agents, educators, students, and artists of all ages and backgrounds. As I relive some of our stories, I’m reminded what a wonderful, winding road it’s been, and what great company you have been.

Finally, a heartfelt merci to my partner Stephanie and our daughters Vivian and Ellen, whose stories are the driving engine of *BOOM YZ*. I’m forever grateful to be sharing the journey with you!

---

## SUGGESTED READING

If you’d like to delve further into *BOOM YZ* topics and themes, here are a few books I recommend:

*A Promised Land* by Barack Obama

*A Short History of Progress* by Ronald Wright

*Becoming* by Michelle Obama

*Brave New World Revisited* by Aldous Huxley

*Begin Again: James Baldwin’s America and Its Urgent Lessons For Our Own*  
by Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

*Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism* by Anne Case and Angus Deaton

*Everything is F\*cked: A Book about Hope* by Mark Manson

*Oryx & Crake, The Year of the Flood, and Maddaddam* by Margaret Atwood

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*Reset: Reclaiming the Internet for Civil Society* by Ron Deibert

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*Screen Captured: Helping Families Explore the Digital World in the Age of Manipulation*  
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*The Signals Are Talking: Why Today’s Fringe Is Tomorrow’s Mainstream* by Amy Webb

*The Wayfinders: Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in the Modern World* by Wade Davis

*This Place: 150 Years Retold* by Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm, Sonny Assu, Brandon Mitchell, et al.

*Waking Up: A Guide to Spirituality Without Religion* by Sam Harris

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## PAUL POLSON



Theatre Calgary wishes to acknowledge and remember Mr. Paul Polson, who passed away in July, 2020.

A member of our Board of Directors since 2008, Paul was a kind, caring, and compassionate individual who touched the lives of so many during his time at the theatre. His passing has had a profound impact on our organization, and we will forever be indebted to his committed leadership, along with his steady and guiding hand that helped us through these challenging times. Thank-you, Paul. You are so greatly missed.

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