

theatre

GARGANTUA

PROGRAMME

33 YEARS OF AWARD-WINNING THEATRE

SUMMER 2025



sidestream

A FESTIVAL OF NEW WORKS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

When at home in what is now known as West Toronto, Theatre Gargantua is hosted on the traditional territories of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishinaabe, the Chippawa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples. The land that is known as Chatham-Kent today and the Kiwanis Theatre are on the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy consisting of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. These lands have been the subject of many treaties. In the regions around Lake Ontario, the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee agreed to share the land in peaceful coexistence under the Dish With One Spoon wampum belt covenant – a treaty made long before the arrival of European colonists that continues to this day and into which all newcomers have been welcomed.

To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory you reside on, and a first step towards honouring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

Theatre Gargantua knows that a land acknowledgement alone will not make up for the past, but it is a promise to continue to dialogue, listen, and connect with the people who have cared for and continue to care for this land, to tell their stories, and to live with Mother Earth's best interests at heart.



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

I would like to convey my warmest greetings to everyone attending the Sidestream Festival.

This event brings the community together to celebrate Canadian theatre. I am certain that audiences will enjoy the diverse selection of works being presented over the next four days, and I would like to thank the performers and artists for showcasing their creativity.

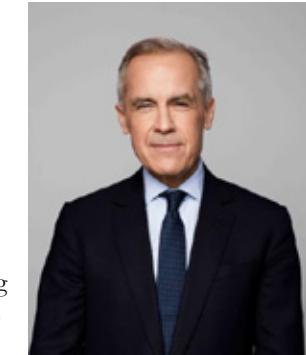
I would also like to commend Theatre Gargantua for hosting this event and for ensuring its success. You can take pride in your commitment to bringing people together through the medium of theatre and to supporting and promoting Canadian talent.

I wish you all a memorable experience.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Carney'.

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., O.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

Ottawa
2025





Welcome to Theatre Gargantua's Sidestream, A Festival of New Works!

This summer, Theatre Gargantua is showcasing bold, contemporary works and works-in-progress that spark new ideas in the theatre world, inviting audiences not only to experience theatre in the making, but to help shape it!

Festivals like this one, which celebrate our culture and diversity through the arts, help build stronger communities and a more inclusive Canada. Our government is proud to support Theatre Gargantua in creating a space where artists can share their talents and perspectives, and tell uniquely Canadian stories.

As Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages, I wish everyone involved in this exceptional theatre program a very successful season. Thank you to all the organizers, volunteers, and performers for your dedication and for enriching Chatham's cultural landscape.

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault



Dave Epp, MP
Chatham-Kent-Leamington

“It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the Sidestream Festival in Chatham August 6th-9th.

Festivals like Sidestream play an essential role in the cultural life of our communities, celebrating bold creativity, nurturing new voices, and bringing people together through the power of storytelling. Thank you to Theatre Gargantua for bringing this immersive celebration of Canadian theatre to the Kiwanis Theatre.

Whether you are a performer, creator, volunteer, or audience member, thank you for supporting the arts and contributing to the vibrancy of Chatham-Kent-Leamington. Enjoy the festival and the exciting lineup of performances.”

Sincerely, Dave Epp, MP



Dave Epp, MP
Chatham-Kent-Leamington



On behalf of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Sidestream Festival, presented by Theatre Gargantua.

Chatham-Kent is proud to host this exciting celebration of bold, innovative, and thought-provoking theatre. The Sidestream Festival is more than just a showcase of talent—it is a vibrant platform for creative voices to be heard, stories to be shared, and communities to be connected through the power of performance.

We are thrilled to see our local venues come alive with such dynamic energy and artistic vision. Events like this enrich our cultural landscape and remind us of the importance of supporting the arts in all its forms.

To the artists, organizers, and audience members—thank you for being part of this journey. May this festival inspire, challenge, and entertain you.

Enjoy the show!

Mayor Darrin Canniff
Municipality of Chatham-Kent

FOR THEATRE GARGANTUA

Artistic Director **JACQUIE P.A. THOMAS**

Associate Artistic Director
MICHAEL GORDON SPENCE

General Manager **MIKE SCOTT**

Festival Technical Director **LAIRD MACDONALD**

Festival Producer **LAURA VAN VEEN**

Festival Stage Manager **TROY TAYLOR**

Associate Producer **RAHAF FASHEH**

Production Assistant **KYRA KEITH**

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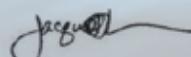
A MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP AT THEATRE GARAGANTUA

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to Theatre Gargantua's Sidestream Festival.

Sidestream represents a vital tradition within our three-decade history of pushing the boundaries of contemporary performance. We have always strived to create and present innovative and dynamic work and we have long championed original, socially relevant pieces that provoke conversation and celebrate the complexity of the human experience. Our Sidestream Cycle has nurtured bold, artist-driven projects for over a decade—and this festival is our way of sharing that creative spark with you.

This year's festival brings together a phenomenal lineup of new works and works-in-progress by some of the most exciting voices in Canadian theatre today. These stories—many being shared for the very first time—span genres, languages, generations, and cultural experiences. Over four electrifying nights, you'll encounter daring solo performances, multilingual epics, musical reunions, operatic revolutions, and comedic gems. From in-process to finished pieces, each work invites you—our audience—into the heart of the creative process.

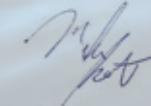
With gratitude,



Jacquie P.A. Thomas
Artistic Director



Michael Spence
Associate Artistic Director



Mike Scott
General Manager

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6TH

7:00 PM (15 minute intermission)

KIWANIS THEATRE

Mirrors

8:15 PM (approximately)

**Memories:
Voices from the Trojan Horse**

9:00 - 11:00 PM

**Live music by Mike Houston
on the patio at The Garden**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7TH

7:00 PM (15 minute intermission)

KIWANIS THEATRE

Chula

8:15 PM (approximately)

(Un)Fruitful

9:00 - 11:00 PM

**Live music by Julie Ross
on the patio at The Garden**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8TH

7:00 PM (15 minute intermission)

KIWANIS THEATRE

Baggage

8:15 PM (approximately)

Both Sides Now

7:00 - 11:00 PM

**Live music by Philip Jacobs
on the patio at The Garden**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9TH

7:00 PM (15 minute intermission)

KIWANIS THEATRE

Lucky Bastard

8:15 PM (approximately)

The Queen In Me

7:00 - 11:00 PM

**Live music by Qu
on the patio at The Garden**

Following the second performance of each evening we will have a question and answer session with the artists at the theatre. Please join us after the show for live music on the Festival Patio at The Garden on King.

*please note that the start time for the second performance of the night might vary depending on the time the first performance ends. There will always be a 15 minutes intermission. Your ticket includes admission to both performances of the night.

SYNOPSIS

A priest in hiding in Occupied France in 1941. A man sheltering in Gaza in 2024. A journalist on the run on Turtle Island in 2041. How do we relate to the plight of people living through the harshest, most destructive events of their time? How does their background and the language they speak affect how we view them? Spanning a hundred years and three continents, *Mirrors* is an exploration of three humans caught in the grips of the wars of our past, present, and future.

A reading of a work-in-progress written in French, Arabic, and English by Dora-award winning artist Nabil Traboulsi. The reading will be subtitled in English.

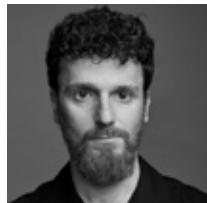
CREDITS

Creator/Performer **NABIL TRABOULSI**

Dramaturg **MAKRAM AYACHE**

Surtitle Operators **MARGARET ROSE, RAHAF FASHEH**

CREATIVE TEAM



NABIL TRABOULSI

(he/him)

Creator/Performer



MAKRAM AYACHE

(he/him)

Dramaturg

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ABOUT THE TEAM!



Memories: Voices from the Trojan Horse

AUGUST 6 TH

SYNOPSIS

Memories: Voices from the Trojan Horse reunites musicians, performers, and writers from the famous Danforth coffeehouse, the Trojan Horse. Featuring amazing talents from a time of cultural hybridity when Greek musicians in Toronto embraced Chileans in exile to form the legendary musical group, Compañeros.

This performance will evoke a sense of the magical period of poetry and protest, of a time when the voices of Nobel prize winning poet Pablo Neruda and Greece's great composer Mikis Theodorakis joined together in a call for global change. In Toronto during the 1970s and early 1980s, the place to find community was at the Trojan Horse, a space founded by Governor General's Award-winning poet Gwendolyn McEwen and Greek Musician Nikos Tsingos.

CREDITS

Director **CYNTHIA GRANT**

Music Director/Vocal/Guitar
MARCELO PUENTE

Vocal/Guitar **FOTIS TUBANOS**

Vocal **HEATHER CHETWYND**

Vocal/Andean flutes
NANO VALVERDE

Bass **ORIANA BARBATO**

Drums **DINO CARAMBELAS**

Bouzouki **STEPHANOS HAGISTEFANOU**

Second Bouzouki **KEN KAKOULIS**

CREATIVE TEAM



CYNTHIA GRANT

(she/her)

Director



MARCELO PUENTE

(he/him)

Music Director/Vocal/Guitar

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SYNOPSIS

Chula is a bilingual, one woman Guatemalan-Canadian show to the tunes of a 1980's musical. It follows the story of Aria, a 1.5 generation, Guatemalan-Canadian classical singer. After disconnecting from her mother for years, Aria goes back to Guatemala to meet with a series of other relatives she hopes to reconnect with. The only challenge? These relatives only speak Spanish. Aria only speaks English. A coming of age story full of joy, humour and heart.

In association with rice & beans theatre.

CREDITS

Creator/Performer **ALEXANDRA LAINFIESTA**

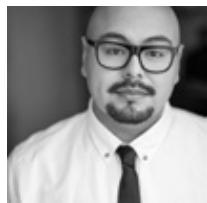
Director/Dramaturg **PEDRO CHAMALE**



ALEXANDRA LAINFIESTA

(she/her)

Creator/Performer



PEDRO CHAMALE

(he/him)

Director/Dramaturg

SCAN TO LEARN
ABOUT THE TEAM!



SYNOPSIS

One in six women experience infertility. Usually in secret. I mean, who wants to talk about the shame of getting an ultrasound wand stuck up their vajayjay every day, or the embarrassment of having to self-administer thousands of dollars of drugs into your butt cheeks?

A reading of the new work, *(Un)Fruitful*, (by Dora and Canadian Comedy Award Winning artist Heather Marie Annis), which follows three women chasing the dream of getting pregnant through all its hilarity and heartbreak. For those who may relate, know someone who does, or are just curious what it's like when "trying" becomes really trying.

CREDITS

Director **AURORA BROWNE**

Performer **KIANA WOO**

Creator/Performer

Dramaturg **ERIN SHIELDS**

Performer **NICOLE POWER**

CREATIVE TEAM



HEATHER MARIE ANNIS

(she/her)

Creator/Performer



AURORA BROWNE

(she/her)

Director

SCAN TO LEARN
ABOUT THE TEAM!



(un)Fruitful

SYNOPSIS

Two exes reunite to sort their shared belongings before moving out of their apartment. In dividing their assets, Hannah and Marley unpack their relationship and its downfall. Using a unique style of shadow-play, this piece explores loss, queerness and what it means to be a modern-day lesbian.

CREDITS

Creator/Performer **MARIJKE REININK**

Director/Shadow Puppeteer **MYA LEWORTHY**

Performer **NELL KHAYUTIN**

CREATIVE TEAM



MARIJKE REININK

(she/her)

Creator/Performer



MYA LEWORTHY

(she/her)

Director/Shadow Puppeteer

SYNOPSIS

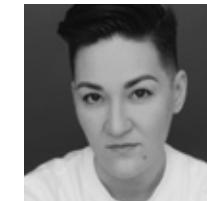
Both Sides Now brings together opera singer Teiya Kasahara 笠原貞野 and pianist David Eliakis for an evening of Canadian songs that have been reimagined through their experiences as classical musicians. This magical evening of melodies will ignite nostalgia from coast to coast to coast, including legendary artists like Joni Mitchell, Jane Siberry, k.d. lang, Leonard Cohen, Neil Young, Anne Murray, Sarah MacLachlan, and more, all woven together with personal anecdotes by the performers themselves.

CREDITS

Co-Creator & Performer **TEIYA KASAHARA** 笠原貞野

Co-Creator & Performer **DAVID ELIAKIS**

CREATIVE TEAM



TEIYA KASAHARA 笠原貞野

(they/he)

Co-Creator & Performer



DAVID ELIAKIS

(he/him)

Co-Creator & Performer

SCAN TO LEARN
ABOUT THE TEAM!



Both Sides Now

SCAN TO LEARN
ABOUT THE TEAM!



Lucky Bastard

AUGUST 9TH

SYNOPSIS

A site specific performance where the site is the stage and the performance is a cabaret in celebration of a life well lived ... well, lived at least. Get lucky with Mr. B (that Bastard) as your Host. There will be songs!

CREDITS

Creator/Performer **BRETON LALAMA**

Director **DANIEL MACIVOR**

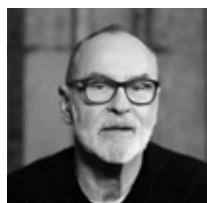
Pianist **JOHN ALCORN**



BRETON LALAMA

(he/him)

Creator/Performer



DANIEL MACIVOR

(he/him)

Director

SCAN TO LEARN
ABOUT THE TEAM!



The Queen In Me

AUGUST 9TH

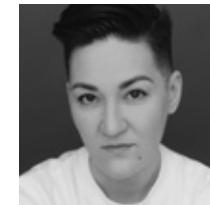
SYNOPSIS

Combining comedy, drama, and opera, this electrifying show explores the many ways that race, gender, and sexuality are policed in the opera industry. Through the lens of *The Magic Flute*'s iconic Queen of the Night, the show reclaims space for the multitudes of women, trans, and non-binary individuals excluded from the stage, daring to imagine bold new possibilities for the future of the art form and beyond.

The Queen In Me features a range of dramatic arias from some of the world's most well-loved operas: Puccini's *La Bohème*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Turandot*, and *Manon Lescaut*; Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*; Verdi's *Macbeth* and *Rigoletto*; R. Strauss' *Salomé*; and Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

The Queen In Me is a co-production by Theatre Gargantua, Amplified Opera, Canadian Opera Company, and Nightwood Theatre

CREATIVE TEAM



TEIYA KASAHARA 笠原貞野

(they/he)

Creator & Performer



ANDREA DONALDSON

(she/they)

Co-Director



ARIA UMEZAWA

(she/her)

Co-Director

CREDITS

Creator & Performer
TEIYA KASAHARA 笠原貞野

Pianist **DAVID ELIAKIS**

Co-Directors
ANDREA DONALDSON
& **ARIA UMEZAWA**

Original Set & Costume Design
JOANNA YU

Original Lighting Design
ANDRE DU TOIT

Original Projection Design
LAURA WARREN

Technical Director
LAIRD MACDONALD

In this festival presentation of
The Queen In Me some design
elements have been modified to
accommodate the festival format

SCAN TO
LEARN
ABOUT
THE TEAM!



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THEATRE GARGANTUA'S NEWEST CYCLE OF WORK

DISSONANT SPECIES

NOVEMBER 7 - 23, 2025

FACTORY THEATRE
125 BATHURST STREET, TORONTO



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Photos by Michael Cooper, Cooper Shoots

sidestream
A FESTIVAL OF NEW WORKS
UN FESTIVAL DE NOUVELLES PIÈCES

DROP-IN COFFEE

10:30-11:30 am daily
August 6-9
Festival Cafe: Turns and Tales



SIDESTREAM FESTIVAL PATIO

August 6-9 nightly after the show
The Garden on King
With live musical performances



 **MAPLE
CITY
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Visit our online Silent Auction during Festival Week! Bid on unique items and experiences from all over Canada - from Toronto to Chatham-Kent. Scan the QR code for the full catalogue and place your bids!



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HELP SUPPORT

Dynamic, Original Theatre

Theatre Gargantua has been at the forefront of multi-disciplinary theatre in Toronto for the past 33 years. Our signature work has garnered over 30 Dora Awards and nominations, toured nationally and internationally, and every year inspires new generations of artists and audiences to engage with contemporary theatre through our outreach programs and performances. Your contribution helps create and develop this original work and continue to bring unique programs to your community.

About Theatre Gargantua

Theatre Gargantua is one of Canada's leading multi-disciplinary theatre companies. Since 1992, the company has been devising original physical theatre under the direction of founder Jacquie P.A. Thomas. Our signature process begins with an inspired concept that we distill into a richly layered work over our distinct two-year creation cycle. Our productions explore compelling subjects and meld daring physicality with striking designs underpinned by live original music.

Theatre Gargantua has garnered dozens of nominations and awards across categories including outstanding new play, direction, sound design, set design and lighting design. Company milestones include extensive touring in the UK, including residencies at the Royal Exchange - Manchester, and Riverside Studios - London, and the presentation of the company's work by Mirvish Productions at Toronto's renowned Royal Alexandra Theatre. Theatre Gargantua is committed to the production of original Canadian work that is beautiful to look at, listen to, experience, and remember.

Share your experience

#TGSidestream

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 @theatregargantua



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info@theatregargantua.ca

Phone: 416-260-4660

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