

GARGANTUA theatre
PROGRAMME

OVER 30 YEARS OF AWARD-WINNING THEATRE

FALL 2025



LIMITED ENGAGEMENT
DISSONANT SPECIES

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Theatre Gargantua and Factory Theatre reside on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnaabe, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples. The territory is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. We also acknowledge Tkaronto is a part of Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit and has long been a part of the Dish with One Spoon wampum belt covenant, an agreement between the First Nations surrounding the Great Lakes to live together sharing the resources of the land and water.

Indigenous teachings from across Turtle Island remain as relevant today as they have ever been. In the context of this production, we are reminded of the words of the Ohenten Kariwatekwen, also known as the Thanksgiving Address, a traditional prayer or greeting recited in Akwesasne. "We who have gathered together are responsible that our cycle continues. We have been given the duty to live in harmony with one another and other living things." Each verse of the address ends with "Now our minds are one". In these times that seem filled with division and disharmony, taking a moment to remind ourselves that despite our perceived differences our minds can come together as one for the good of all is still something that we struggle with. We must continue to work together to find the harmony that has been lost so that our minds can truly be one.

We know that a land acknowledgement alone will not make up for the past, but is a promise to listen and connect with the people who continue to care for this land and meant to be a starting point for further steps toward reconciliation.



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, production, ensemble, direction, sound design, set design, lighting and projection 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.

FULL COMPANY

CREATIVE

Directed by **JACQUIE P.A. THOMAS**

Written by **HEATHER MARIE ANNIS** AND

MICHAEL GORDON SPENCE

Set Design by **MICHAEL GORDON SPENCE**

Lighting & Projection Design **LAIRD MACDONALD**

Sound Design and original compositions by

CHRISTOPHER-ELIZABETH and **RICHARD LAM** with
additional original compositions by **THE ENSEMBLE**
and **HEIDI CHAN**

Music Direction by **RICHARD LAM**

Sound Experiments by **CHRISTOPHER-ELIZABETH**

FOR THEATRE GARGANTUA

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

Associate Artistic Director

MICHAEL GORDON SPENCE

General Manager **MIKE SCOTT**

THE ENSEMBLE

HEATHER MARIE ANNIS

NICHOLAS EDDIE

MALIA ROGERS

MICHAEL GORDON SPENCE

HANNAH SUNLEY-PAISLEY

Costume Design by **JACKIE CHAU**

Stage Manager **ANDREW DOLLAR**

Artistic Intern **MACARENA CORONADO HARMAN**

Artistic Intern **KATHERINE CAPPELLACCI**

Head Technician **MAKIAH BAUTIS**

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Everything is sound.

From this notion comes the work we are delighted to share with you today; that every part of our experience in the universe is vibration, and that our conflicts are a kind of dissonance that send waves of disturbance through our lives. Dissonant Species was initially inspired by the growing disharmony we see within our communities and across the globe. What are the forces that divide us — and what connects us? Sound became our way into the story, and we use it as both metaphor and medium. Our explorations over the past two years have led us to some fascinating discoveries. They have affected our perspectives on what it means to interact with those who operate on different wavelengths. It has been an exciting journey. We hope that bits of this story might resonate with your own.

We are deeply grateful to our team of artists and arts workers, whose immense talent and dedication make work like this possible as well as incredibly rewarding. Theatre, like intelligence, is a group project, and we could not have asked for a better group than this one.

Thank you for being here.

- **Jacquie P.A. Thomas and Michael Gordon Spence**



MEET THE COMPANY

JACQUIE P.A. THOMAS (she/her)

DIRECTOR

For Theatre Gargantua: *WaterFall*, *A Tonic for Desperate Times*, *The Wager*, *Reflector*, *Avaricious*, *The Sacrifice Zone* and *e-DENTITY*, among others. Other selected credits: *Ossetynski Actors Lab* in Los Angeles, Roy Hart Theatre in France, The National Theatre of Greece and the Gardzienice Theatre Association of Poland. In addition to her role as founder and Artistic Director, Jacquie has served Gargantua as an actor, director, producer, composer, choreographer, dramaturge and writer, earning 12 Dora nominations for her artistic contributions to the company. Jacquie was awarded a Harold Award for contributions to Toronto's independent theatre community and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for contributions to Canadian Culture and Community. In 2019, Jacquie was honoured with the George Luscombe Award for Mentorship in Professional Theatre.

MICHAEL GORDON SPENCE (he/him)

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, SET DESIGN, PLAYWRIGHT, AND PERFORMER

For Theatre Gargantua: *WaterFall*, *A Tonic for Desperate Times*, *The Wager*, *Reflector*, *Avaricious*, *The Sacrifice Zone* and *Imprints*, among others. Designs for Théâtre français de Toronto, theatrefront, CollabArts, and CCOC. Michael is an award-winning, long-standing member of Theatre Gargantua's creative team. He has been involved in one way or another in all of TG's productions, appearing in all major Cycles, writing or designing for many of the company's noted works, as well as directing the company's first SideStream Cycle. He has won a total of six Dora Mavor Moore Awards, including three for design, two for music and one for performance(ensemble). Michael is also a recipient of a Harold Award — a distinguished honour for members of the Toronto independent theatre community. He is an avid sailor as well as an accomplished musician and singer-songwriter.



HEATHER MARIE ANNIS (she/her)

PLAYWRIGHT, PERFORMER

For Theatre Gargantua: *WaterFall*, *A Tonic For Desperate Times*, artistic intern for *e-DENTITY*.

Other selected credits: *Orphan Song* (Tarragon Theatre), *Post Alice* (Here for Now Theatre), *Christmas Carol* (SoupCan Theatre), *Remembering The Winnipeg General* (Dora Nominated for Best Ensemble, Zeitpunk Theatre), *Let's Go* (DMT Productions), *The Money Tree* (Dora Nominated for Best Ensemble, Roseneath), *Bright Lights* (Theatre Bruhaha), *Emily's Piano* (YPT), *By A Thread* (Sterling Studio Theatre), and the *Morro and Jasp* series including: *Morro and Jasp: 9-5* (Factory Theatre), *Morro and Jasp: Go Bake Yourself* (Dora Winner).

Heather is an actor, director, playwright, educator, theatrical and therapeutic clown, co-artistic director of U.N.I.T. Productions, and "Morro" of the Dora and Canadian Comedy Award winning clown duo, Morro and Jasp. You can currently see her in the web series, The Supers, The Stoners and The Big Bad.

Heather sends a heartfelt thank you to the Gargantua team for having her aboard this fantastic project, the whole cast and crew for their love, spirit and creativity; and the ever supportive Alastair, Finch, and Valkyrie. Follow @corginfluencer for cute puppy pics. heathermarieannis.com



MALIA ROGERS (she/her)

PERFORMER

For Theatre Gargantua: debut. Selected theatre credits: *The Argyle Street Kitchen Party* (Neptune Theatre); *Terminally Ill* (Undercurrents Festival); *Selah's Song* (Theatre of the Beat); co-creator of *Trainwreck* (Ottawa Fringe). Malia Rogers is a Nova Scotian singer-songwriter, actor, theatre creator, arts administrator and multi-instrumentalist who divides her time between Ottawa, Toronto and Halifax. She holds degrees in theatre & performance studies from Acadia University and York University, and will never stop thinking about how theatre can help shape kinder and more compassionate futures. Malia is a touring musician and an active member of Ottawa-based folk trio Jessica Pearson & The East Wind. She released an album of original music in May, and invites you to learn more at maliarogers.ca.

Huge gratitude to Jacquie, Michael and the entire Theatre Gargantua team for inviting me into this process!

Instagram: @maliarogers



NICHOLAS EDDIE (he/him)

PERFORMER

For Theatre Gargantua: debut.

Nicholas Eddie is an award winning performer and theatre creator currently residing in Toronto. Productions that Nicholas has been involved in have been nominated for a total of 25 Dora Awards and, in 2022, Nicholas received 2 Dora awards for his contributions to Bad New Days' Italian Mime Suicide. Nicholas received accolades for his one person show ONE NIGHT ONLY, a play about a mental health crisis which toured to 7 cities across Canada; it was nominated for a My Entertainment World Award, a Frankie Award, and won the Patron's Pick award at the Toronto Fringe.

He is currently developing a new musical about Amelia Earhart with his writing partner Catherine Teichman, previously developed under Bad Hats' "New Bad Ideas" development program. Immediately following the run of Dissonant Species, Nicholas will be playing Peter in a new production of Bug by Tracy Letts at the King Black Box Theatre. Nicholas will also be onstage in Soulpepper's upcoming production of Witch, wherein he plays the devil. On screen, Nicholas can be seen as Kreel in the new season of Twisted Metal (Peacock).

Select theatre credits include: Worker (Last Landscape, Bad New Days); Puppeteer (Wozzeck, Canadian Opera Company); Painter (Timon of Athens, Dandelion Theatre); Marley (A Christmas Carol, Three Ships Collective); Man (ONE NIGHT ONLY, duhdumduhdum productions); Clown (Italian Mime Suicide, Bad New Days); Helena (A Midsummer Night's Dream, Theatre Rusticle).

Instagram: @nicholas_eddie



HANNAH SUNLEY-PAISLEY (she/her)

PERFORMER

For Theatre Gargantua: debut. HannaH Sunley-Paisley grew up right here in Toronto. After playing basketball for the University of Ottawa, HannaH played four years of professional basketball in Germany and France. While there, she published her first of four novels, Magic Required, available on Amazon and at Indigo.

HannaH has always loved stories and after graduating from Randolph college, she is grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow with Theatre Gargantua.

Credits include: Twelve Angry Jurors, and Crazy for You (Randolph), Jealousy My Brother (Theatre of the Beat).

Instagram: @hspaisley

Website: www.hspaisley.com



ANDREW DOLLAR (he/him)

STAGE MANAGER

Andrew is thrilled to be working with Theatre Gargantua for the first time. Andrew's recent Stage Management credits include: *Every Brilliant Thing* with the Orillia Opera House, *Unwritten - The Improv Show* with Yonge People's Theatre, *Metamorphose* With Theatre Smith Gilmore at Crows Theatre, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, and *15 Dogs* with Crows Theatre, *The Cold War*, with Video Cabaret at the Deanne Taylor Theatre.



LAIRD MACDONALD (he/him)

LIGHTING AND PROJECTION DESIGN

For Theatre Gargantua: *WaterFall*, *A Tonic for Desperate Times*, *The Wager*, *Reflector*, *Avaricious*, *The Sacrifice Zone*, *Imprints*. Laird is an award winning bilingual Montreal-born, lighting, video, and set designer, technical director and production manager with more than 25 years of experience in the profession. His work spans design for theatre, dance, fine and performance art, installations, film & video, music, events and opera. Laird began his career in sculpture and photography, and then trained in film and video at the Emily Carr College of Art & Design, in Vancouver. He has been nominated several times for Dora Mavor Moore Awards in Toronto for his lighting design, including Theatre Gargantua's *The Sacrifice Zone* and won a Dora Award for his work on *A Tonic for Desperate Times*. He has been a designer, or technical director, on many Dora-winning and nominated productions, and continues to enjoy working on productions in both French and English.



RICHARD LAM (he/him)

SOUND DESIGNER AND MUSIC DIRECTOR

Richard Lam is a Toronto-based Actor, Writer, Musician, and Sound Designer. Originally from Vancouver, Richard obtained his B.A. in Political Science at UBC before training in the BFA in Acting program at the University of Alberta. Richard was a company member at Soulpepper Theatre for four years, where he trained at the Soulpepper Academy in a split actor/musician stream under Director of Music Mike Ross. As a theatre artist Richard has appeared in three dozen productions with Canada's largest and most exciting companies, including the Stratford Festival, The Shaw Festival, Soulpepper Theatre, Talk Is Free Theatre, Canadian Stage, the Charlottetown Festival, the Citadel Theatre, Buddies In Bad Times, and many others. He has been nominated for seven Dora awards and has won twice. He is also a proud co-CEO of Ground Floor, an organization that offers collaborative tools and conflict management to the theatre industry.



CHRISTOPHER-ELIZABETH (they/them)

SOUND DESIGNER AND SOUND EXPERIMENTS

Christopher-Elizabeth is a Queer Afro-Indigenous interdisciplinary artist with a focus on the interplay of reactive technology, audience interaction and devised creation.

Select credits include:

Sound Designer for El Terremoto (Tarragon Theatre), *Lighting Designer for 7 Methods of Killing Kylie Jenner* (Obsidian/Crows), *Sound and Lighting Designer for Insert Clown Here* (Parlous/Pickles); *House Technician for No Save Points* (Outside the March/Starvox); *Sound Designer for Maanoomaa, My Brother* (Canadian Stage/Bluebird). Chris-Liz is also the Artistic Director of Pickles Theatre Co. where they lead a variety of experiments finding new ways for design to call attention to liveness.



JACKIE CHAU (she/her)

COSTUME DESIGNER

Jackie has worked as a set and costume designer on over 250 productions and her work has toured internationally. In addition, she is a production designer and art director for film and television. Selected theatre design credits include: *Electric Messiah* (Soundstreams), *The Hours That Remain*, *Serving Elizabeth*, *The Gig* (Theatre Aquarius), *Almighty Voice and His Wife*, *HUFF* (NEPA), *Antigone Insurgency*, *Talking Masks*, (One Little Goat), *Gas Girls*, *The First Stone* (New Harlem Productions), *Romeo and Juliet*, *Midsummer Nights Dream* (High Park/Can Stage), *Zadie's Shoes*, *Lady Sunrise*, *Wildfire*, *The Waltz* (Factory Theatre), *Brown Balls* (Fu-Gen), *Moment*, *Dissidents*, *Oil*, *Gloria*, *Martyr*, *Rockabye* (ARC Theatre), *Cowboy Versus Samurai*, *39 Steps*, *Oratorio* (Soulpepper) and *The Komagata Maru Incident* (Stratford Festival), *Dragon's Tale* (Tapestry Opera/Luminato), *As I Must Live It* (Theatre Passe Muraille), *4 minutes 12 seconds* (Studio 180). Jackie was named in NOW magazine's Top 10 Theatre Artists of 2009, nominated for 3 Virginia and Myrtle Cooper Award in Costume Design, nominated for a Saskatoon Area Theatre (SAT) award, 2 Broadway World awards and has received 10 Dora nominations for outstanding set and costume design. She has taught Theatrical Design at the University of Toronto and is currently teaching Design for Performance at York University.



KATHERINE CAPPELLACCI (she/her)
ARTISTIC INTERN

Katherine is an actor, singer, and theatre maker from Toronto. She's thrilled to be part of the *Dissonant Species* team! Recent acting credits include a cross-provincial tour of *Crane Girl* (Falling Iguana Theatre); *A Night at the Grand Ghoul Opry* (Tweed & Company Theatre); *The Tilco Strike* (4th Line Theatre); *Pop! Pop!* (Carousel Players); *Screwball Comedy* (Globus Theatre); *Pretty Hard Cases* (CBC Gem); and *I Woke Up A Vampire* (Netflix). She recently helped produce an upcoming Bell Fibe TV show called *I'm Also Here*, through which she also completed a writing and directing mentorship. Katherine's also a published freelance writer and has a BFA in acting from Toronto Metropolitan University.

Many thanks to Jacquie, Michael, and the Gargantua team for providing this awesome opportunity!



MACARENA CORONADO HARMAN (she/her)
ARTISTIC INTERN

Macarena Coronado Harman is a performer and multidisciplinary theatre maker and artist from Lima, Peru. Recently graduated from the University of Toronto, with a BA in Political Science and Drama, Macarena is devoted to creating and supporting art that brings attention to current and diverse political and social realities, aiming to do so through multiple mediums, from dance, to multimedia, to design, thus engaging the senses and playfully bending the boundaries of story telling to express what words sometimes cannot. Most recently, she co-created and performed in a collaborative physical and balloon-focused theatre devised piece titled "...! (The Balloon Show)" at the 2025 Paprika Festival, an exploration of life and relationships through balloons. Macarena is incredibly thankful to be taking part in the delightful process behind *Dissonant Species*, and is very excited to take the abundance of lessons and wonderful experiences she has gained with her moving forward!



Images: Michael Cooper, Cooper Shoots

Theatre Gargantua would like to thank

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Opportunities for ARTISTS

Theatre Gargantua offers training programs and mentorship for professional and emerging artists throughout the year.

OAC RECOMMENDER GRANTS FOR THEATRE CREATORS

Theatre Gargantua is proud to participate in the Ontario Arts Council recommender Grants for Theatre Creators Program. This program allows us to assist artists working on multidisciplinary performance projects. We recommend projects focused on devised, original contemporary works of multi-disciplinary theatre, physical theatre and/or new processes of theatre creation.

TD EMERGING ARTISTS ROUNDTABLE

Recent theatre graduates and final year students are invited to join a forum exploring creating and sustaining a career in theatre. Participants engage with peers, guest artists and our core staff over the course of the series and are provided with tickets for shows and workshop discounts.

ARTISTIC AND PRODUCING MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Each season we provide opportunities for emerging artists with meaningful, career-building work opportunities on the creation and production of our works, with mentorship from our core team.

DYNAMIC CREATION WORKSHOPS AND MASTER CLASS

These annual programs are designed to empower artists with techniques for developing original performance. Artists explore text, movement and music in an ensemble-like environment based on our acclaimed method of creating multi-disciplinary theatre.

EDUCATION AND YOUTH

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT MATINEE SERIES

Our student matinee program includes talk-backs with the artists after each performance, a comprehensive study guide, and opportunities for workshops at the theatre or in the classroom.

DYNAMIC CREATION WORKSHOPS FOR YOUTH AND RISK YOUTH PROGRAM

In-school workshops that provide physical training, vocal training and text exploration to youth and encourage them to explore new modes of performance to express their creativity. The Resources Skills Innovation & Knowledge Youth Program combines our in-school workshops with technology in a unique way, engaging students from across the GTA in underserved neighbourhoods.

HELP SUPPORT

Dynamic, Original Theatre

Theatre Gargantua has been at the forefront of multi-disciplinary theatre in Toronto for over 30 years. Our signature work has garnered dozens of 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.



DONATE NOW AT
THEATREGARGANTUA.CA

Please consider making a one time or monthly donation. Every donation of \$20 or more receives a charitable tax receipt. Thank you for supporting the creation of original Canadian theatre.

Share your experience
#TGDissonantSpecies

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