

THE BLACK DRUM

DEAF CULTURE CENTRE
ADAM POTTLE

APPROXIMATE RUNNING TIME: 1 HOUR 30 MINUTES
INCLUDES INTERVIEWS BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE
AND DURING INTERMISSION.

A NOTE FROM JOANNE CRIPPS

With our focus on oppression, we forget to celebrate Deaf Life. We celebrate Deaf Life through sign language, culture and arts. *The Black Drum* is a full exploration and celebration of our Deaf Canadian experience through our unique artistic practices finally brought together into one exceptional large scale signed musical. Almost never do we see Deaf productions that are Deaf led for a fully Deaf authentic innovative artistic experience in Canada. We can celebrate sign language and Deaf generated arts by Deaf performers for all audiences to enjoy together. We hope you have a fascinating adventure that you will not easily forget and that sets the stage for more Deaf-led productions.

JOANNE CRIPPS

Producer, *The Black Drum*
Executive Director
DEAF CULTURE CENTRE, Canada

A NOTE FROM MIRA ZUCKERMANN

First of all, I would like to thank the DEAF CULTURE CENTRE for bringing me on as Director of *The Black Drum*, thereby giving me the opportunity to work with a new and exciting international project. The project is a completely new way of approaching musical theatre, and it made me wonder - what do Deaf people define as music? All Deaf people have music within them, but it is not based on sound. It is based on sight, and more importantly, sign language. As we say - "my hands are my language, my eyes are my ears". I gladly accepted the invitation to come to Toronto, embarking on an exciting and challenging project that I hope you all enjoy!

MIRA ZUCKERMANN

Director, *The Black Drum*
Artistic Director, Teater Manu, Norway

ABOUT THE CANADIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY OF THE DEAF

The Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf (CCSD) is a registered non-profit charitable organization. CCSD, incorporated in 1973, preserves, encourages and advances the arts and culture of Canada's Deaf population. The DEAF CULTURE CENTRE, a project of The Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf, open to the public at the Distillery Historic District, Toronto (2006) features Deaf performing and visual arts, sign language and Deaf heritage.

ABOUT ALBERTA CULTURAL SOCIETY OF THE DEAF & INSIDE OUT THEATRE

ALBERTA CULTURAL SOCIETY OF THE DEAF

With our focus on oppression, we forget to celebrate Deaf Life. We celebrate Deaf Life through sign language, culture and arts. *The Black Drum* is a full exploration and celebration of our Deaf Canadian experience through our unique artistic practices finally brought together into one exceptional large scale signed musical. Almost never do we see Deaf productions that are Deaf led for a fully Deaf authentic innovative artistic experience in Canada. We can celebrate sign language and Deaf generated arts by Deaf performers for all audiences to enjoy together. We hope you have a fascinating adventure that you will not easily forget and that sets the stage for more Deaf-led productions.

INSIDE OUT THEATRE

Inside Out Theatre is a Deaf or disability theatre based in Calgary, Alberta with a focus on supporting artist-led Deaf and disability projects to develop and contribute to the cultural landscape of performing arts. As well, our programming ensures that artistic opportunities are accessible with American Sign Language, audio descriptions, and relaxed performance consultations.

The strongest point of our artistic development lies in the practices of bringing together artists of different backgrounds to create innovative and collective artistic viewpoints that are often silenced due to social norms. We strive to build a community of allies and to work towards providing equitable access to the theatrical experience.

ARTISTIC & CREATIVE TEAM

CAST

Bob Hiltermann

Minister

Dawn Jani Birley

Joan

Yan Liu

Bree, Butterfly

Daniel Durant*

Oscar, Bulldog

Natasha C. Bacchus

Squib

Corinna Den Dekker

Ava

Agata Wisny

Karen

BALLET DANCERS

Jaelyn Russell-Lillie

Sita Weereatne

Abbey Jackson-Bell

PRODUCTION & CREATIVE

Adam Pottle

Playwright

Mira Zuckermann

Director

Joanne Cripps

Producer/Executive Director,

DEAF CULTURE CENTRE

Anita Small

Director, Cross Cultural

Development/Research

Jack Volpe

Assistant Director

Sally Roberts

Production Manager

Sandi Becker*

Stage Manager

Seren Brooke Lannon*

Assistant Stage Manager

Ken MacKenzie

Set & Props Designer

Chris Malkowski

Lighting Designer

Ruth Albertyn

Costume Designer

Maryam Hafizirad

Makeup & Assistant

Costume Designer

Adam Harendorf

Sound Designer

Dimitri Kanaris

Drummer

Jason Cripps

Sound Assistant

Chris Joslin

Motion Capture Designer

Laura Warren

Video & Projection Designer

Pamela Witcher

Signed Music Specialist

Patricia Allison

Choreographer &

Movement Director

JT Pickering

Technical Director

Jeffrey Baker

Katie Harkins

Student Ballet Instructors

Geoff Scovell*

Fight Director

Gwen Fischer

Student Ballet Facilitator

Negar Nemati

Head of Wardrobe

Melanie McNeill

Head Costume Builder

Harpreet Kaur

Wardrobe Assistant

Angela McQueen

Makeup Artist/Mentor

Emily Butters

Head of Props

Ron Hall

Helen Pizzacalla

ASL Masters

Catherine Joell MacKinnon

Communications/Audience

Engagement Manager

ARTISTIC & CREATIVE TEAM

Ely Lyonblum

Media Team Lead

Katie O'Connor

*Communications/Audience
Engagement*

Jody Cripps

Research

ASL INTERPRETERS

Peggy Zehr

Rosalie Vissers

Sharon Pardy

Sheila Johnston

Tegan McFarlane

April Holtom

Victoria Dwight

ASL/English Interpreters

Tine Thomasson

Resident Dramaturge

Sølvi R. Zuckermann

Assistant Dramaturge

Siri Gjellan

Christina Bruland

Marianne Larosi

Anne Strodal

NSL/English Interpreter

AUDIO RECORDING

Raquel Duffy*

Voice Actor

Diego Matamoros*

Voice Actor

Nathalie Toriel*

Voice Direction

Rachel Johnstone

Recording Engineer

SOULPEPPER PRODUCTION

Chris Scholey

Tania Senewiratne

Producer Consultants

Andrew Leeke

Technical Director

Caryn Beamer

House Technician

SOULPEPPER PRODUCTION

Jacob Whibley

Program Book Design & Layout

Rylyn Delaney

*Program Book Design/ Layout
Assistant*

THE BLACK DRUM VIRTUAL TOUR

*Recorded at: Soulpepper
Theatre Company*

VIDEO CO-PRODUCERS

Joanne Cripps

Project Manager

Anita Small

Content Manager/Editor

Ely Lyonblum

Director/Editor

Jody Cripps

Interviewer

Inclusive Media & Design Inc

Captions

Monique LeDrew

Voice Over/Interpretations

Catherine MacKinnon

*Communications/Audience
Engagement Manager*

Matthew Delaney

Livestream Technician

Rylyn Delaney

*Program Book Design &
Layout*

THE BLACK DRUM SYNOPSIS

SCENE ONE

The Minister, who exerts control, recites “BLACK HEART” depicting a world with no music, no laughter, no love and no freedom.

SCENE TWO

Joan, a performing artist, grieves her dead wife Karen. Her roommates Bree and Oscar, who is also their landlord, stand nearby. Joan speaks to Karen’s ghost, about her Butterfly and Bulldog tattoos - beauty and strength. Bree and Oscar squabble and Oscar recites “MONEY”. Joan shares that her body is her musical instrument. People don’t acknowledge it. She doesn’t know how to move on without Karen.

SCENE THREE

Joan is plunged into a sinister world dominated by the minister. She is warned by the decaying tree about the restricting infectious black heart inhabiting this “in-between” world. Squib, the Minister’s reluctant lieutenant, appears.

SCENE FOUR

Joan encounters Ava, who dances with the children in this strange world. Joan’s tattoos, Bulldog and Butterfly have come to life. Bulldog continues the reprise of “MONEY” while Butterfly is anxious to find Joan. Ava explains that the Minister controls them with dark magic, namely his black drum. Butterfly clarifies that this world is neither reality nor death. Bulldog tells Joan that Karen is dead even in this “in-between” world.

SCENE FIVE

Joan, hiding behind a bush, witnesses the Minister control Karen with his magic and proclaims that no one can escape his world. Joan recovers from what she witnessed, with Ava and Bulldog by her side. Butterfly consoles Joan and recites, “NO COCOON CAN HOLD ME”, evoking when she set herself free and emerged as a butterfly

SCENE SIX

Ava explains that they need Joan’s music and colour to diminish the black of the drum and free them. Butterfly encourages Joan who then discovers her inner signed music in, “WHAT IS MUSIC”. Joan’s friends devise a plan to defeat the Minister. Joan will save Karen but cannot stay with her. She will need to let her go. Joan shares her colours with Ava by giving her a yellow pin.

THE BLACK DRUM SYNOPSIS

SCENE SEVEN

Karen asserts that the Minister's vision of no colour, black heart and death is no match to life's greatest force – laughter, tears, compassion and love. Bulldog and Butterfly challenge the Minister. Bulldog recites “BAD DOG, GOOD DOG”, contrasting the Minister's evil with his own good inner heart. The Minister subdues and binds them.

SCENE EIGHT

Ava shows the children her yellow pin and tells them that they have a chance to bring colour to the world if they are brave and find their music. Ava bursts out, reciting “VOICE”, moving away from shame and fear to a world of love, laughter and dance. To find themselves they must be brave.

SCENE NINE

Squib patrols the drum, reciting “OPPRESSOR'S LAMENT”. The oppressive black heart grows and to survive, Squib distributes it. She tells Joan to retreat from the drum. The Minister is challenged without success. He tells Joan to concede to him, as he is a natural part of life. Ava calls out for colour, power and freedom. Butterfly urges Joan to let go of Karen, to find strength in her music and not give up. Joan recites “LOVE IS FREEDOM” with Butterfly and defeats the Minister.

SCENE TEN

Joan collapses after having defeated the Minister. He retreats saying he will get his power back. Karen states she could only come back once and that Joan must take her music to the world. Each finds their own “place”. Joan says her farewells. She and Karen, state their love for one another. They all recite “WHAT IS MUSIC” together one last time.

SCENE ELEVEN

In the cemetery, Joan feels Karen's presence. The Minister returns, saying he will always be there to prey on others. He will always be a part of life.

*This production is presented with Written and Voice Synopsis
and is accessible to non-ASL audiences.*

SIGNED MUSIC LIST

SCENE ONE	<i>Black Heart</i>	performed by Minister
SCENE TWO	<i>Money</i>	performed by Oscar
SCENE FOUR	<i>Money (Reprise)</i>	performed by Bulldog
SCENE FIVE	<i>No Cocoon Can Hold Me</i>	performed by Butterfly
SCENE SIX	<i>What Is Music</i>	performed by Joan
SCENE SEVEN	<i>Bad Dog, Good Dog</i>	performed by Bulldog
SCENE EIGHT	<i>Voices</i>	performed by Ava
SCENE NINE	<i>Oppressor's Lament</i>	performed by Squib
	<i>Love Is Freedom</i>	performed by Joan & Butterfly
SCENE TEN	<i>What Is Music (Reprise)</i>	performed by Joan & Company

BIOGRAPHIES

CAST



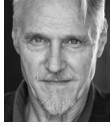
DAWN JANI BIRLEY originally from Saskatchewan, is a versatile actor spanning more than ten years of professional experience in theatre and film. With facial features that can be transformed into many different faces and a strong background in physical theatre, her career takes her all over the world working with Deaf and hearing actors, directors, and photographers. With a Master of Arts in Physical Theatre with Merit from St. Mary's University, U.K., she is also the Toronto Theatre Critics Award Winner for Best Actress (2017) for her performance of Horatio in *Prince Hamlet* with WhyNot Theatre. Aside from acting, Dawn Jani is often summoned to give workshops/training, motivational speeches and appearances. Her passion is to show that we can work together on the front line in bringing positive change today.



YAN LIU is a Chinese Canadian now residing in Texas. She served as dancer in the China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe (CDPPAT), Beijing, China from 2003 to 2008. This performance troupe auditioned 40,000 applicants to select 24 dancers to form one international troupe. Yan served as dance performer, dance mentor, dance instructor and dance captain for the 2008 Beijing Para-Olympics Games. She also participated in graceful and colourful dances for audiences of over 80,000 and over a billion television viewers. One of the best performances named *Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva* portrayed important political/performance art figures. Yan

BIOGRAPHIES

worked for the DEAF CULTURE CENTRE, Canada for two years during which she was solo performer locally, nationally and internationally.



BOB HILTERMANN is from Vancouver, BC, and now residing in California. He was 18 years old when he went to Gallaudet University and learned sign language. It changed his life. Raised in a family of classical musicians, he learned to play drums at age 16. He is well known for his pioneering work in the award-winning sign language musical theater, Musign and is the drummer for the wildly popular all-deaf rock band, Beethoven's Nightmare performing around the world. As an actor, he has starred in documentary films, TV, soaps, stage productions and feature films. He also produced and starred in the crazy American Sign Language educational series *Shut Up and Sign*, which inspired Bob to pursue filmmaking. Bob is working on his next film, working towards his goal to produce, write and direct a feature film.



DANIEL DURANT was born in Detroit, Michigan, and grew up in Duluth, MN. Daniel performed in Deaf West Theatre productions including lead roles in *Flowers for Algernon* and *Spring Awakening* (Broadway debut as "Moritz"). Joining the Norwegian company Teater Manu, touring for seven months in a lead role, remains his career highlight. Daniel co-starred as "Matthew" on ABC Family's *Switched at Birth* for several years. He has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the 2016 Theatre Award for Outstanding 2016 Broadway Debut Performance. He co-leads acting workshops for Deaf students, he is an acting teacher/coach for Deaf film camps and does national speaking engagements at colleges and universities. Daniel is passionate about acting, supporting the Deaf community and connecting with new friends globally through his social media ASL videos.



CORINNA DEN DEKKER is a Dutch-Canadian and raised in Southern Ontario. She has been performing since the beginning of high school. In 2014, Corinna's first professional experience in theatre was playing a lead role of *My Name is Dakhel Faraj* with the Kitchener Waterloo Arabic Canadian Theatre. Her credits include the Theatre Arts program, Fanshawe College's Wendla (*Spring Awakening*), Titania (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) and Ursula (*Byrthrite*). She is winner of the national Defty Awards of Excellence in the Arts (2014) and known for her sign language broadcast of *Is Somebody Singing* with astronaut Chris Hadfield on the International Space Station. She is a young up and coming Canadian actor having performed in Iceland, Denmark, Norway and Faroes Islands.

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AGATA WISNY from Norway, is experienced in the field of theatre and film making production. Since 1999, she has served at Teater Manu in various roles as actor, contributed to film production and video design for theatrical performances. In Norway, Teater Manu is the only professional theatre featuring sign language as the stage language. She is currently serving as stage and project manager for *Crying Hands*, which was on tour in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Toronto. Besides being active in the field of theatre, Agata has worked as an Assistant Manager for Clin d'Oeil Festival, since 2005. Clin d'Oeil Festival is the world's largest festival dedicated to theatre film and arts for Deaf audiences hosted in Reims, France biennially. She holds a degree in Visual Effects (VFX) at the Noroff, Norway.



NATASHA C. BACCHUS from Toronto, Ontario is both an award-winning athlete and actor, combining her athleticism with her physicality in theatre. She is recipient of numerous medals in track and field including Gold and Silver from the World Games for the Deaf, Bulgaria (1993) and Gold from Denmark (1997), Silver from the Pan Am Games for the Deaf, Venezuela (2007) and Master Track Breaking Records in Track & Field (2014-2015). Performance highlights include her debut as Shaw TV Talk Show Host, BC (2014), Verse Festival ASL Storyteller, BC (2014) and ASL Poet, Women of Colour, Sisters in Motion, Quebec (2017/2018). Natasha recently studied at Jane Bryan Films Casting workshop, New York City (2018) and is currently studying documentary filmmaking at Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT) and George Brown College. Natasha was selected winner of Canada Top 100 Black Women to Watch by the Canada International Black Women Event (CIBWE) 2019.

BALLET DANCERS

The Children Ballet Dancers are students of the E.C. Drury School for the Deaf, Milton, ON. They studied dance with Jeffrey Baker, Lead Ballet Instructor and Inventor of BLISS (Baker Light Integrated Star System) used in his classes.



JAELYN SKYE RUSSELL-LILLIE is outgoing with strong leadership skills, on her school student council and involved in provincial sports. With a large circle of family and friends important to her, Jaelyn began ballet with her instructor Jeffrey Baker at age 5 and joined again in 2017, fascinated by the Baker Light System. The oldest student in class, she enjoys assisting the younger ones. Jaelyn is an award-winning competitive swimmer with the Milton Marlins, enjoys drawing, journaling, reading graphic novels and adores her two cats. Her favourite subjects are Science, Social Studies and History.

BIOGRAPHIES



ABBEY JACKSON-BELL favourite subjects are ASL, Science (“Makerspace”) and Health/Physical Education. She has a brother, Anthony and loves her family very much. Abbey likes to transform recycled items into cool craft projects. She has been studying ballet since she was age four with her teacher, Jeff Baker. She loves gymnastics and to travel. She will soon travel around the world with her Mommy for one year! When she grows up, she wants to be a policewoman.



SITA WEERERATNE loves ballet, swimming, gymnastics and dance. Her favourite subject in school is art (painting). Sita enjoys playing outside with friends, reading and sharing with her parents about school when she comes home.

PRODUCTION & CREATIVE TEAM



ADAM POTTLE – PLAYWRIGHT

Adam is an award-winning playwright, novelist, and poet from Saskatoon. His first book, *Beautiful Mutants* (2011) poetry collection, was shortlisted for two Saskatchewan Book Awards and the Acorn-Plantos Prize. His novel, *Mantis Dream* (2013) and novella, *The Bus* (2016), both won awards. His theatre credits include the play *Ultrasound* which debuted at Theatre Passe Muraille, Toronto (2016), and *Queen Seraphina* and *the Land of Vertebrat* in Saskatoon (2018). uraille, Toronto (2016), and *Queen Seraphina* and *the Land of Vertebrat* in Saskatoon (2018).



MIRA ZUCKERMANN – DIRECTOR

Award winning Norwegian theatre director and actor, Mira Zuckermann is founding Artistic Director of Teater Manu. Teater Manu is a leading theatre company in Europe and the only professional sign language theatre in Norway. In 2012, Teater Manu began a cooperative network of sign language theatres in Europe with Tyst Teater, Sweden and International Visual Theatre, France, with their ultimate vision to create a global network of sign language theatres.



JOANNE CRIPPS – PRODUCER/ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DEAF CULTURE CENTRE

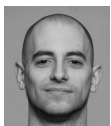
Joanne is Executive Director and Co-Founder of the DEAF CULTURE CENTRE under the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf (CCSD), responsible for the operations of the Centre and promoting Deaf arts, heritage and literature. CCSD Producer for *The Black Drum*, Joanne promotes and features Canadian Deaf performing artists. She is a renowned Canadian Deaf leader, author, advocate, mediator and education advisor.

BIOGRAPHIES



ANITA SMALL – DIRECTOR, CROSS CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

Anita is Founder/Owner of *small* LANGUAGE CONNECTIONS and Co-Founder/past Co-Director of the DEAF CULTURE CENTRE, Canada. Dr. Small, sociolinguist, educator, researcher, mediator, works with theatres, museums & educational institutions engaging diverse communities. Co-producer deafplanet.com & TV series (*United Nations World Summit Award*), she mentored/co-authored *The Black Drum* production, mentorship & touring grants. She is recipient of the singular national award given by the Canadian Deaf community to a hearing individual.



JACK VOLPE – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Jack is a theatre and film director and actor who hails from Montreal, Quebec, Canada. He is proud to be in the linguistic-cultural minority of the Deaf community. Inspired by a love of films and creating stories, he is the Co-founder and Artistic Director of Seeing Voices Montreal (SVM) since 2012. He also serves as a Deaf theatre interpreter.



SALLY ROBERTS – PRODUCTION MANAGER

Sally is a freelance production manager in Toronto, an apprentice stagehand with IATSE local 38, and has been studying American Sign Language in her spare time since she was a child. Senior Head technician for Canadian Stage at Berkeley Theatre for almost two seasons, she is very excited to be Production Manager for *The Black Drum*.



SANDI BECKER – STAGE MANAGER

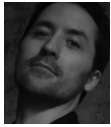
Sandi is a Toronto based stage manager, graduated from York University's Theatre Studies Programme. Some of her many credits include: *Torn Through Time* (MTYP); *Space Opera Zero* (Eldritch Theatre); *Romeo and Juliet/Midsummer Nights Dream* (Canadian Stage); *Beneath the Ice* (Persephone Theatre); *Silence* (Grand Theatre London/NAC); *King Lear/Twelfth Night* (Canadian Stage); *Birds of a Feather* (Roseneath Theatre); plus many more.



SEREN BROOKE LANNON – ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Seren has a BFA in Performance Production from Ryerson University. Theatre Credits include: *Little Menace: Pinter Plays*, *La Bête*, *A Christmas Carol* (Soulpepper Theatre Company); *Bar Mitzvah Boy*, *The Times, They Are a Changin'*, *25 Questions for a Jewish Mother* (Harold Green Jewish Theatre); *The Little Mermaid* (Capitol Theatre); *Bang Bang* (Factory Theatre); *Morro and Jasp in Stupefaction* (Kabin/U.N.I.T Productions); *Mamma Mia*, *The Voices of Canada*, *We Are Canadian* (Charlottetown Festival); *Aladdin: a Fairly Tall Tale* (Confederation Centre of the Arts).

BIOGRAPHIES



KEN MACKENZIE – SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

Ken's most recent design credits include the set and costumes for *The Royale* (dir. Guillermo Verdecchia) at Soulpepper, the set design for *Once* (dir. Andrew Shaver) at The Segal Centre, and the set design for *Angels in America* at the Arts Club in Vancouver. A Resident Artist at Soulpepper Theatre Company, he is the Board President of the Associated Designers of Canada. Ken holds an MFA from California Institute for the Arts.



CHRIS MALKOWSKI – LIGHTING DESIGNER

Chris is a professional lighting designer based in Toronto and designs lighting for dance, drama, opera, musical theatre and live events across North America. Chris is a graduate of the Ryerson University Performance Production Program and an associate member of the Associated Designers of Canada. As a CODA (Child of Deaf Adult) Chris is thrilled to be working with Deaf artists and exploring Deaf storytelling through lighting.



RUTH ALBERTYN – COSTUME DESIGNER

Ruth has an MFA in Theatre Design, a Diploma in Costume Studies and a BA in Theatre and Film. Ruth works as a costumer for film, mostly designing for independent shorts – including *The Hunt* (featured in the TIFF 2167: Indigenous Storytelling in VR event) and the award-winning *Jessica*. Ruth first worked with the DEAF CULTURE CENTRE for the launch of the ASL-phabet. She is thrilled to be a part of this ground-breaking production.



MARYAM HAFIZIRAD – ASSISTANT SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

Maryam is an Iranian Deaf painter. A permanent resident of Canada, her award-winning works have been shown individually and as part of the artistic group Farda, meaning Tomorrow. Following her heart's desire and creating from a place of strength as a Deaf artist, Maryam is a visual artist with group and solo exhibits in major cities around the world.



CHRIS JOSLIN – MOTION CAPTURE

Chris Joslin is Associate Professor at the School of Information Technology, Carleton University, Ottawa. He has been a Faculty Member since 2005 and Director of the School since 2017. His research is mainly in video (capture, coding, and transmission), animation capture (face and body, marker and markerless), and audio reproduction (3D spatial audio and procedural audio). He is participant in a SSHRC Partnership Grant IMMERSE (dealing with a range of game related issues), NSERC

BIOGRAPHIES

CREATE Heritage Engineering (focused on Architectural Heritage preservation), and NSERC Discovery (next generation video coding). He is a member of several Technical Program Committees (Computer Graphics International [CGI], Computer Animation and Social Agents [CASA], Graphics Theory and Applications [GRAPP], IEEE Signal Image Technology and Internet Based Systems [SITIS]).



PAMELA WITCHER – SIGNED MUSIC SPECIALIST

Pamela is an interpreter, translator, cultural mediator, museum curator and visual and signed music artist. She finds it necessary to overlap old and new discoveries that have the power to change views and ideas. When Deaf communities create and share information through art and documentation, our existence becomes concrete, known and valued. Pamela works as a Community Relations Manager with Canada's Video Relay Service.



PATRICIA ALLISON – CHOREOGRAPHER & MOVEMENT DIRECTOR

Patricia won a Dora Award in 2018 for Best Director in Independent Theatre for a physical theatre piece she co-created with Jill Harper (*Pool (No Water)*). She specializes in working in theatre and on narrative based work, believing that movement and text provide the perfect balance to communicate story.



JEFFREY BAKER – BALLET INSTRUCTOR

Born in Toronto, Ontario, Jeffrey studied at the Martha Graham School of Dance in New York City and with Finis Jhung, David Howard, and American Ballet Theatre among others. He has performed with The Inner Stage, Les Grands Ballet Canadiens, and The Canadian Opera Company and as a soloist with the Bat Dor Dance Company (European Tour), The Israel Ballet, Capital Ballet (Washington D.C), and the Colorado Ballet. A graduate of the National Ballet Teachers Training Program, he was awarded with Distinction on his Associate I.S.T.D. (Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance), teachers' exam. He taught dance at Mayfield Secondary School (School for the Performing Arts) and created a full-length Nutcracker Suite. Jeffrey has taught Deaf child ballerinas using the Bakers Light Integrated Star System.



TINE THOMASSON – RESIDENT DRAMATURGE

With a Masters in Theatre Studies, University of Bergen, Tine has been instrumental in staging Norwegian and international classics, brand new productions – often commissioned by Riksteatret – and children's productions. She has written original scripts and adapted literary texts for stage. Tine has worked with most Norwegian theatres including Teater Manu.

BIOGRAPHIES



SØLVI R. ZUCKERMANN – ASSISTANT DRAMATURGE

Languages: Norwegian, Norwegian Sign Language (NSL), English and Hebrew. Sølvi is an authorized sign language interpreter and has been an NSL/ Norwegian interpreter at the NRK National Broadcast Service in Norway, since 2000. She has been the NSL master sign language consultant at Theater Manu since 2013. Credits as script consultant include: *Egner Zoo* (2012), *The Zoo Story* (2013), *Jealousy* (2014), *The Fidget* (2015), *ME* (2016), and *Jonas and the Body* (2017).



RON HALL – ASL MASTER

Former ASL professor York University (25 years). Early in his career, Ron noticed that English based sign systems were taught and that ASL was being butchered as a language. This prompted him to obtain a second MA teaching ASL. Ron jumped at the opportunity to engage in this milestone production, hoping it offers insight into Deaf culture - how Deaf people use music through rhythm, comedy through gestures, and their language through this visual performance.



HELEN PIZZACALLA – ASL MASTER

Helen Pizzacalla has lived in Thorold, Ontario for more than 40 years. Following a business career as a computer programmer analyst, she became an educator, teaching secondary school at the E. C. Drury School for the Deaf in Milton, Ontario from 1993 to 2017. Helen is passionate about the Deaf community. She has served on the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf (CCSD) Board holding various positions since 1991 and served as president, for CCSD for fourteen years. Helen was also heavily involved with the founding of the DEAF CULTURE CENTRE in 2006, situated in Toronto's Distillery Historic District. Happily married and now a grandma, she and her husband Mario have enjoyed entertaining audiences with their well-known comedy performances over the years.



CATHERINE JOELL MACKINNON – COMMUNICATIONS AND AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Catherine is the Festival Director of the Toronto International Deaf Film and Arts Festival (TIDFAF), BFA in Film Studies from Ryerson University, Catherine is an award-winning filmmaker. Catherine was ACTRA Woman of the Year Award 2016 recipient and Deaf Community Consultant, for the Deaf Artists and Theatres Toolkit (DATT), Cahoots Theatre. Catherine was the only Canadian producer, *The Hammer*, feature film biopic of Matt Hamill.

BIOGRAPHIES



ELY LYONBLUM – MEDIA TEAM LEAD

Ely's work focuses on education, equity, and economic development in the arts as Research Grants Officer, University of Toronto. He trained as a documentary filmmaker at the Centre for Visual Anthropology at Goldsmiths, University of London. With a PhD in Music at the University of Cambridge, his work has been presented and exhibited by the MIT Media Lab, CBC Radio 1, the Smithsonian Institution, the British Library, and internationally.



ADAM HARENDORF – SOUND DESIGNER

Theatre: *Birds of a Kind* (Stratford); *The Black Drum*, *Alligator Pie*, *The Cherry Orchard* (Soulpepper); *Under the Stairs*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *James and the Giant Peach* (YPT); *Beauty and the Beast*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Elf – The Musical*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *The Jungle Book* (Neptune Theatre); *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (TIFT); Film/TV: *Tin Canyon*, *Ted-Ed*, *Typesetter Blues* (TOGETHER: Words + Pictures).



JASON CRIPPS – SOUND CONSULTANT

Jason wrote, performed and co-produced the music of an independent CD release and artwork for two independent music releases. Former Chair on the board of directors for Cambridge Live Music, he utilizes his home studio, keeping active working on music projects including single releases and music/ sound for video. A CODA, he is lead singer and rhythm guitar player for the band, *Odd November*.



LAURA WARREN – VIDEO & PROJECTION DESIGNER

Laura is a Saskatchewan raised, Toronto based, projection designer. Selected Credits: projection design: *Grace*, *Unholy* (Nightwood Theatre); *Oratorio: A Theatrical Mixtape* (Obsidian Theatre/Soulpepper Theatre); *The Ward Cabaret* (The Ward Productions/Luminato); *Tell Me What It's Called* (Tell Me Theatre); *Bearing* (Signal Theatre/Luminato), *Frescobaldi and the Glories of Rome*, *Illuminations*, *A Medieval Christmas* (Toronto Consort); *Pomegranate* (Pomegranate Opera); plus many more.

DID YOU KNOW

- One in a thousand Canadians uses sign language as a first language.¹ We are your neighbours and colleagues.
- American Sign Language (ASL) is a visual language that uses handshapes, locations, palm orientations and hand movements with facial expressions, body posture, head shift, eye gaze and eye shift. It conveys ideas with its own grammar to express emotions and thoughts. ASL has its own literature and is the foundation of Deaf identity and of shared Deaf culture and heritage.² ASL and langue des signes Québécoise (LSQ) are the primary signed languages in Canada.
- The famous Deaf inventor of the light bulb, phonograph and motion picture camera, Thomas Edison, whose father was Canadian, patented the electric stencil pen (1877) the precursor to tattoo machines still used today.³
- Butterflies are Deaf and some Bulldog breeds are commonly Deaf.
- Deaf View Image Art (De'VIA) is an art genre created by Deaf artists using strong contrasting colours, textures and incorporating Deaf experience and values.
- *Who does music belong to? The answer is, it belongs to whatever culture it comes from.* Ely Lyonblum, Visual Anthropologist, Ethnomusicologist
- Signed Music is an inter-performance art that develops through shared Deaf community experience. It falls along a continuum but is distinct from, sign language poetry and dance. It may or may not be created with lyrics and it may or may not incorporate cinematography.⁴
- *Music is in the rhythm of the heart. . . the rhythm of what surrounds us. We have visual rhythm, we have internal rhythm from within ourselves . . .* Ella Mae Lentz, Deaf poet
- Pythagoras, Greek philosopher and mathematician, (571-495 BCE), described music according to the movement of the planets. He called it Musica Mundana . . . Music of the Spheres . . . and stated that our ears are unable to hear it.⁵
- For information on Deaf theatre in Canada, go to: Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf (Series author) 2019. Deaf Arts Handbook Series: Vol.3. Showtime! Deaf Theatre in Canada. Cripps, J. Project Manager; Small, A. Content Manager. Toronto, Ontario: Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf. <https://slicanada.ca/deaf-arts-series/>

¹ Canadian Hearing Society, Vibes, 1998.

² Baker-Shenk, C. and Cokely, D. 1991. American Sign Language. Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet University press.

³ *Tattoos: Ritual. Identity. Obsession. Art.* Special Exhibition, Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) 2016.

⁴ Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf (Series author) 2015. *Deaf Arts Handbook Series: Vol.2. Signed Music Rhythm of the Heart.* Cripps, J. S. Project Manager; Small, A. Content Manager; Toronto, Ontario: Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf.

⁵ Pythagoras is discussed in interview with Ely Lyonblum (nee Rosenblum) in Cripps, J.S., Small, A., Rosenblum, E. and J.H. Cripps. (2015). *Signed Music: Rhythm of the Heart.* Toronto: Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf. Documentary DVD.

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Cultural
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Deaf



New
Chapter
2017 and | Beyond

Nouveau
Chapitre
2017 et au-delà



INSIDE
OUT
THEATRE



ALBERTA CULTURAL
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THE BLACK DRUM VIRTUAL TOUR SPECIAL THANKS

Appreciation to Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf for outreach, post-show interpreters and moderator, Linda Cundy; to Inside Out Theatre for outreach and to Deaf West Theatre for outreach and post-show moderator, David Kurs, Artistic Director, Deaf West Theatre.

Recorded at: Soulpepper Theatre Company

Hosts: Inside Out Theatre, Calgary, Alberta and Alberta Cultural Society of The Deaf, Edmonton, Alberta

THE BLACK DRUM PRODUCTION SPECIAL THANKS

Anselmo DeSousa, Madeline Ius, Greg Dougherty, Cameron Davis, Peter Eady, Sigrid Velis, Eva Cherney, Brent McLaughlin, Instep Activewear Milton, Urban Catwalk, Siavash Shabanpour, Eliza Vafaei, Rumi Canada: Farzad AttarJafari, Emod Vafa and everyone at Soulpepper Theatre Company for their unwavering support.

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\$10,000 – Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD), Cultivating Opportunities for Success

BENEFACTORS:

\$7,500 – OMERS Foundation.

\$5,000 – Alberta Cultural Society of the Deaf

SUPPORTERS:

\$2,500 – Calgary Association of the Deaf

IN-KIND SUPPORTERS:

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The artists and staff of Soulpepper Theatre Company and the Young Centre for the Performing Arts acknowledge the original care-takers and storytellers of this land – the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabe, and the Huron-Wyndat First Nations. We commit to honouring and celebrating their past, present and future.

Prop Builders/Buyers, Scenic Artists & Painters employed by Soulpepper are represented by Local 828 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. House and Stage technicians employed by the Young Centre for the Performing Arts are represented by Local 58 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.