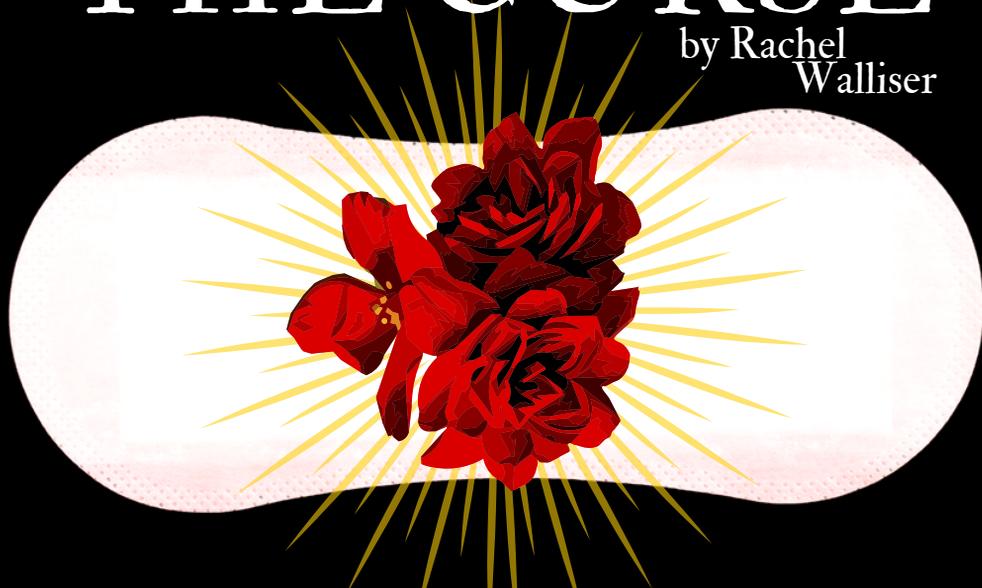


25th STREET THEATRE & FERRER PLAY

PRESENT

BREAKING THE CURSE

by Rachel Walliser



PREMIERE MAY 5, 2022
THE ROXY THEATRE, 320 20TH ST W
& ONLINE MAY 6 - 15, 2022
ON-DEMAND VIA 25THSTREETTHEATRE.ORG

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Land Acknowledgement

With great respect, 25th Street Theatre and Ferre Play Theatre humbly acknowledge that we benefit as organizations and as individuals as a result of operating on Treaty Six Territory which is the traditional lands of the Cree, the Saulteaux, the Dakota, the Nakota, the Dene, and the Lakota and is recognized as the homeland of the Metis Nation.

We pay our respects to the elders and ancestors of this place.



Photos by Nicole Stevenson Photography

Content Warning

Please note, this show contains discussions including foul language, sex/masturbation, gender dysphoria, and abortion/lost pregnancies.

These subjects may be distressing for some.
Please take care, and enjoy the show.

Breaking the Curse

by Rachel Walliser

Group A: Johanna Arnott (she/her) - Director
Ezra Forest (they/them) - Actor
Kristel Harder* (she/they) - Actor
Bobbi-Lee Jones (she/her) - Actor

Group B: Jennifer Dawn Bishop (she/her) - Director
Yulissa Campos (she/her) - Actor
Gabrielle Dufresne (she/her/elle) - Actor
Paige Francoeur (she/they) - Actor

Group C: Erin Brophy (she/they) - Director
Angela Christie* (she/her) - Actor
Lauren Griffin (she/her) - Actor
Samantha Ramsay (she/her) - Actor

Group D: Marley Duckett (she/her) - Director
Jenna Berenbaum* (she/her) - Actor
Rachel McLaughlin (she/her) - Actor
Danielle Roy (she/her) - Actor

Lauren Allen (she/her) - Stage Manager & Script Supervisor
Amanda Brown (she/her) - Set/Prop Designer
Laura Crossman (she/her) - Costume Designer
Little Ox Film Co. - Film Production & Post Production
Andrei Feheregyhazi (he/him) - Green Screen Designer
Tara Oliver (she/her) - Production Manager
respectfulchild (they/them) - Sound Designer
Rachel Walliser (she/her) - Playwright

*The participation of this Artist is arranged by permission of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance•Opera•Theatre Policy.



Script development supported by
the Saskatchewan Playwrights' Centre



Who is 25th Street Theatre?

25th Street Theatre creates and delivers relevant, engaging theatre programming for community members in Saskatoon and beyond. We support local artistic development, and young people with a curiosity for theatre by providing healthy, safe opportunities to share their talent, connect with the community, and learn from others.

25th Street Theatre was officially incorporated in 1974, becoming the first professional theatre company in Saskatoon. Now in our 48th year, 25th Street Theatre is known primarily as the producer of the annual Fringe Festival which has been a cultural landmark of Saskatoon supporting the creation of new work and artists who seek to work outside the traditional Canadian regional theatre model since 1989.

What many people do not realize is that 25th Street Theatre was widely recognized in the 1970's and 1980's for their work in staging new Canadian works. Among their most acclaimed plays were *Jessica*, *Wolfboy*, and *Paper Wheat*. In 2021, we returned to producing professional theatre with the world premiere of Heather Morrison's *Fruitcake* with production dramaturgy by Lenore Claire Herrem.

25th Street Theatre looks forward to playing an active role in our vibrant theatre community as we continue to seek out new ways to connect our community with artists.

www.25thStreetTheatre.org



Who is Ferre Play Theatre?

Since its inception in 2018, Ferre Play Theatre has been committed to using theatre to support and develop women. Out of their collective frustration with the lack of opportunities for female-identifying artists being offered by local theatrical institutions, Jackie Block, Angela Christie, Heather Morrison, Elizabeth Nepjuk, and Anita Smith joined forces to create Ferre Play Theatre.

www.ferreplay.com



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A Message From the Board of 25th Street Theatre

We are thrilled to welcome you to *Breaking the Curse* by Rachel Walliser, and we are pleased to be co-presenting this innovative and engaging piece of theatre with Ferre Play Theatre. After months of planning and collaboration, we are excited for you to see this project come to fruition.

25th Street Theatre values initiating discussions on important, socially-relevant topics, and this production engages in the conversation about a traditionally avoided topic: menstruation. We wish to support the development of Saskatchewan artists while amplifying under-represented voices from our community, and this production of *Breaking the Curse* aligns perfectly with these values. This production led by four directors with 12 actors, showcases a variety of perspectives on the topic of menstruation. We are so proud to co-present this show and provide a platform for this conversation.

On behalf of the Board of Directors for 25th Street Theatre, we hope you enjoy the show! We are so thankful you are here.

Jennifer Nairn – Vice-Chair, 25th Street Theatre

The Board of Directors at 25th Street Theatre

Greg Burroughs – Chair	Matthew Stefanson – Secretary
Jennifer Nairn – Vice Chair	Clarissa Kostjuk – Member at Large
Wes Gramiak – Treasurer	



Photos by Nicole Stevenson Photography

A Message From the Artistic & Executive Director of 25th Street Theatre



Welcome to *Breaking the Curse!*

When making programming decisions for 25th Street Theatre, we try to consider what we are NOT talking about in our community but should be. Menstruation fits that description. Our unwillingness to discuss menstruation as a society has negatively influenced funding for health developments that impact people who menstruate. It is time for us to break the curse!

Rachel Walliser's script was selected from the Saskatchewan Playwrights' Centre's Write Like You Mean It! program because it made us laugh, cringe, and it has given us the opportunity to start a broader conversation in our community. Our partnership with Ferre Play Theatre has been a natural one. We are grateful to have found a co-producing partner that shares our commitment to developing local artists. And our decision to deliver this production via digital means was made in early January when COVID-19 numbers were once again making it difficult for people to gather in groups. Thankfully, we were able to assemble an adaptable group of directors, designers, production team members, and actors who were willing to learn as we went.

To you, our audience members, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support of theatre in Saskatchewan. The past two years have been difficult for our entire industry, and we are so grateful for the support that you have given us.

Enjoy *Breaking the Curse!*

Anita Smith - Artistic & Executive Director

A Message From the Board of Ferre Play Theatre

Ferre Play is thrilled to be back up and running after a tumultuous couple of years since *The Penelopiad*.

Menstruation affects everyone, either directly or indirectly and yet hardly anyone ever talks about it. By producing *Breaking the Curse*, we hope to support fellow menstruators in more ways than one - by sharing their stories, by sharing some amazing talent to tell the stories, and by encouraging more open and honest discussion about the topic.

The pandemic has changed us all, has changed the way we work, and the way we make art. In this time of uncertainty, we chose to create a hybrid play-film that you can enjoy either in-person at our premiere screening, or online from the best seat in your house.

Some of the faces you'll see are familiar, others we expect you'll be seeing more of - all amazing local theatre artists.

Enjoy the show, start a conversation, and let's start "breaking the curse".

The Board at Ferre Play Theatre

The Board of Directors at Ferre Play Theatre

Jacqueline Block

Angela Christie

Tara Oliver

Anita Smith

Ferre Play Theatre would like to thank our ambassadors for their ongoing support of Ferre Play Theatre and for their support of the many artists involved with *Breaking the Curse*. Each of them has such a positive impact on our community and we are so grateful for the great work they do.

Jennifer Altenberg

Kayla Brien

Dr. Jennifer Duda

Elizabeth Elich

Elisabeth Foucault

Hilary Gough

Chrissy Kuny

Tatrina Tai

Nicole White

Stephanie Yong

Jamie Young

Discussion to Destigmatize

Join Group D director, Marley Duckett, as she sits down with *Breaking the Curse* playwright Rachel Walliser, Moon Time Sisters founder Nicole White, and OB-GYN Dr. Jennifer Duda to discuss the play, the stigma around menstruation, and supports available.

When & Where: 6:30 pm at The Roxy Theatre* (320 20th Street W.), and Online starting May 9th via 25thstreettheatre.org.



Jennifer Duda

Dr. Jennifer Duda, BSc MD FRCSC, is a generalist OB/GYN, providing comprehensive obstetrical and gynecological care for her patients. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Regina before completing her medical degree and residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Duda has a passion for improving the care of women and provides consultations for the broad range of women's health

issues. She has a special interest in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery. Her practice covers the medical and surgical management of a variety of gynecologic disorders including but not limited to menstrual disorders, abnormal pap smears, endometriosis, and pelvic pain.



Nicole White

Nicole White is an active community builder and organizer. She has worked tirelessly in the non-profit sector for over ten years. She has specialized in working with marginalized populations like people who are living with mental health and addictions, who are street-involved. She has run for provincial politics, and recently went back to school to work on an Indigenous social work degree through the First Nations University of Canada.

Three years ago, Nicole read a story about young women in northern SK missing school because they did not have access to menstrual products. As a result, Nicole founded Moon Time Sisters; a non-profit organization that provides free menstrual products to the north schools. Since its founding, they have expanded to include an Ontario chapter, and have sent over a million products to northern communities.



We strongly encourage patrons to consider donating menstrual products or making a financial contribution to Moon Time Sisters. The work they do to support those who menstruate in Northern communities is so important and we are proud to collect donations on their behalf at the premiere screening on May 5th.

For more information, visit www.truenorthaid.ca/mts-sk

Messages From the Directors

Is it a play? Is it a film? It's both! And neither? With a team of rockstars we've explored, played, and settled into the best of both mediums. I was drawn by the sense that these characters named One, Two, and Three were called to share these stories with us. I saw them as collectors of experiences, like our playwright herself. The stories that Rachel collected and wrote are relatable, funny, charming, and have the amazing power of making us all feel a little less alone in our experiences. As One, Two, and Three step into these real human stories, we inch our way towards openly and freely discussing menstruation. Together, with the help of Aunt Flo and the Floians, we break the curse.

Johanna Arnott - Director (Group A)

Working on Rachel Walliser's *Breaking the Curse* has been a whole creative outlet journey that's been all things amazing! Everything in this piece was something I certainly wish was there as a resource and at the same time comfort during my younger years of blossoming. What you are about to see is a culmination of stories, experiences, and many feelings, a community. The care and thoughtful work Rachel has done is warming. I feel so blessed to have been asked in being one of many fantastic artists putting their all into this. The collaboration and generosity makes this an uplifting experience. I just want to say to my fellow directors, creators, performers, all of 25th Street Theatre and Ferre Play Theatre, and of course, Anita, for the offer to be a part of such a meaningful project and something I know will only grow over time. Thank you all again and enjoy *Breaking the Curse*!

Jennifer Dawn Bishop - Director (Group B)

Messages From the Directors

Let's face it: having a period is a normal part of having a uterus. I am privileged to come at it from the standpoint of relative uncomplication—and I acknowledge that for many people, Endometriosis, health concerns, or improper regular access to clean water, birth control, and adequate menstrual supplies can make menstruating a dreadful experience. My vision for this project was an image of normalization and play. In case the first sentence wasn't a dead giveaway, I'm a pretty open person with a desire to bring a voice to the unvoiced and voiceless. That's what I think Rachel's begun with this piece, and I why I was excited to be asked onto the team. I'm really thankful to have been a part of this project. The cast and creatives have moved mountains to bring this project to actualization, and I am so proud of their combined efforts. Shout out to Group C for filling the rehearsal hall with joy and for giving me the space to stand on my notebook (wink). Enjoy the show!

Erin Brophy - Director (Group C)

Breaking the Curse is a wonderful collection of stories, that, in so many ways, represent the incredible experience of mensuration. In the early stages of this project, playwright Rachel Walliser reached out to directors and encouraged us to share our experiences with menstruation. She asked us to reflect on the play and to offer ideas about the writing. She also invited actors to share their experiences with menstruation. Inspired by this collaborative approach, I felt that the piece can be delivered in a way that closely represents the actual attitudes and experiences of myself and the actors - so - our approach is one that encourages a raw and unscripted feel. We played with the interview-like style of the writing and used that to structure the play format for the screen. These last few weeks have been a whirlwind of energy, discussion, reflection, and learning. I am grateful to the team at 25th Street Theatre and Ferre Play for trusting me with these stories, to Rachel Walliser for writing this important piece, and for the actors who brought it to life!

Marley Duckett - Director (Group D)

A Message From the Playwright

They say to write what you know. *Breaking the Curse* came from writing what I wish I knew sooner.

I was tired of only seeing periods as a punchline, a horror story, or as something we pretended didn't happen. I wanted to see what menstruation was actually like for others. I wanted to see the humour, the anger, and the absolute power that comes with periods. I wanted to see the raw truth about periods and find the community I wish I had when I needed it.

Silence doesn't just isolate us, it leaves us uneducated and deepens the stigma surrounding menstruation. I hope this piece gives you the courage to ask questions, share your own stories, and accept your own period— exactly as it is.

Breaking the Curse has been a labour of love that I have anxiously watched bloom this past year. Thank you to my interviewees, the Saskatchewan Playwrights Centre, and the cast, crew, and production team from 25th Street Theatre and Ferre Play. Thank you for your honesty, patience, and energy. To my friends, family, and partner— I cannot thank you enough for your love and support through this process. xo

Rachel Walliser - Playwright



Write Like You Mean It! is a program to help playwrights of any level develop their script ideas from start to finish. Participants, chosen through a jury process, get paid a stipend roughly equivalent to a week's worth of wages if they were able to work as a full-time writer. They spend a week creating a first draft before meeting with a dramaturg. The playwright is then given time for rewrites and redevelopment while working with the same dramaturg. Once the script is ready, the program culminates in a workshop with the dramaturg and a cast of actors. From there, SPC helps the playwright submit the script to producing companies for consideration. Scripts in this program are not limited to traditional, presentational theatre; all types of theatre performance are encouraged.

Cast & Crew

Please take a moment to review the bios & pronouns of our cast & crew. Please do not assume their identity based on the character they are playing or how you might perceive their body.



Lauren Allen (she/her) - Stage Manager & Script Supervisor

Lauren Allen (she/her) is a Saskatoon-born, Edmonton-trained, Toronto-based theatre artist and filmmaker. She is thrilled to be able to come back home and work on this exciting project! During the pandemic, Lauren has begun working as a Script Supervisor for film and television. She has also taken time to focus on her mental health and the things she loves: musical theatre, jigsaw puzzles, Nintendo, and fostering cats. You can find her latest project, *The Breakup Cabaret*, on YouTube under Staple Productions. For more information visit lauren-allen.net or follow her on social media as [@socialthelaway](https://www.instagram.com/esocialthelaway)



Johanna Arnott (she/her) - Director (Group A)

Johanna (she/her) is a multidisciplinary theatre artist who works primarily as an actor, writer, and stage manager. Recently, she made her directorial debut with *Antifa Supersoldier* written by Caleigh Crow for the 2021 Short Cuts Festival. She had an absolute blast directing and is thankful to have the opportunity to do it again. Johanna loves technology. During the past year she explored creating specifically for the digital stage. Now, as we are leaving the Zoom call and entering the theatre again, she's excited to see how these new skills and tools translate to in-person theatre. This project is an exciting next step in her quest. When she's not working in theatre, Johanna can be found taking part in the thrilling sport of knitting.



Jenna Berenbaum (she/her) - Actor (Group D)

An award-winning actor, Jenna holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting from the University of Saskatchewan. Recent credits include *J. Caesar*, *Midsummer*, *Titus*, *A puppet revenge*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Comedy of Errors*, *As You Like It* (Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan), *I and You* (Globe Theatre), *Jack and the Snow Queen* (Dancing Sky Theatre), *The Penelopiad* (Ferre Play), *The Wolves* (Live Five/Little Big/EvilStick) and Jim Hawkins in *Treasure Island* (Persephone Theatre). She works as a playwright, poet, actor, and web developer.



Jennifer Dawn Bishop (she/her) - Director (Group B)

Jennifer a Metis artist of the Treaty Six Territory is an actor, playwright, director, and Artistic Director of the Gordon Tootoosis Nikaniwin Theatre. Starting with the company when it first opened its doors in 1999 with the Circle of Voices Program. Continuing her passion for the arts, Jennifer's most recent work includes directing 3 audiobook projects with Penguin Random House Canada, her play *Shadows Among the Prairies* had its world premiere presented at the new SOTS site, and shortly after debut directed at Persephone Theatres production *Cottagers & Indians* by Drew Hayden Taylor. Jennifer looks forward to what comes next!



Erin Brophy (she/they) - Director (Group C)

Erin Brophy (she/they) holds a BFA Honours in Acting from the University of Saskatchewan and works as an emerging actor, playwright, theatre educator, stunt performer, actor combatant, and fledgling fight and intimacy director. Erin is working on a degree in Women's and Gender Studies at USask and welcomes the opportunity to combine course material and artistic endeavours in *Breaking the Curse*. Past acting credits include *The Beaux' Stratagem*, *Bronte*, *Spirit Wrestler* (Greystone Theatre), *Crowsworld: The First* (Myriad Productions), *The Unforgettables* (Fight or Flight Theatre). Erin is grateful for a community that works to cultivate the arts, and for the opportunity to live and work on Treaty Six territory.



Amanda Brown (she/her) - Set Designer

Amanda Brown (she/her) is a sustainable textile artist and professional makeup artist from Saskatoon, SK. These two disparate professions are wonderfully suited to theatre and film, where Amanda has worked since 2013 on numerous projects within the makeup, wardrobe, and art departments. When she isn't scurrying behind the scenes, she can be found behind the loom weaving sustainable zero-waste items for body and home, which she sells through her brand Scarlett Dahlia. Being a part of the community and giving back through volunteerism is important to Amanda. She currently volunteers as Inventory Coordinator with the Library of Things YXE - a local community group that lends household items such as small kitchen appliances or tools instead of books. She is also an active member of the Saskatoon Spinners and Weavers Guild, and a member of the Guild of Canadian Weavers.



Yulissa Campos (she/her) - Actor (Group B)

Yulissa is an Ecuadorian theatre artist and founding artistic director of Ay, Caramba! Theatre, the first Latin American theatre in Saskatchewan. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting from the University of Saskatchewan and works with the Newcomer and Indigenous community when she is not writing, acting, or producing. Yulissa has been invited to national broadcast programs such as CBC's Q with Tom Power to talk about diversity in the prairies. She celebrates her Latin American heritage in her plays and her work has been presented internationally such as at the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival and across Canada. Yulissa is now preparing to debut in the biggest role in her life: motherhood. You can find more about her work at aycarambatheatre.com



Angela Christie (she/her) - Actor (Group C)

For the last 20+ years, Angela has been involved with theatre across Western Canada as an actor, stage manager, and producer. As the co-founder of Theatre Ecstasis, Live Five, and Ferre Play Theatre, Angela has been a part of producing close to 30 productions. Angela has been a member of Canadian Actor's Equity Association since 2003 and holds a BFA degree in drama and a BEd from the U of S. She currently sits on the board of the Children's Festival of Saskatchewan and is the creator and coordinator for Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan's #ShakespearesaskLive school program. This year, Angela is teaching Arts Education at Princess Alexandra Community School.



Laura Crossman (she/her) - Costume Designer

Laura Crossman (she/her) is a Saskatoon-based artist working primarily in theatre and film. Laura co-designed and built puppets for Ppl r Ppl's productions of *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Avenue Q*. Laura also designed costumes for *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and for other local theatre companies such as the Saskatoon Opera (*Die Fledermaus*), Saskatoon Summer Players (*Annie, Grease & You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*) and La Troupe du Jour (*Shadows of a Dancing Moon*). Laura also works in the areas of wardrobe and set decorating for short films, music videos, and commercial projects.



Marley Duckett (she/her) - Director (Group D)

Marley Duckett is a Saskatchewan-based anthropologist, actor, writer, music maker, and educator. Her most recent work includes a production of her first play, *Stone Picker*, at the ShortCuts Ten-Minute Play Festival. She also recently co-directed *Mary Poppins* and is currently directing *Cabaret: A Musical Theatre Spectacular!* Marley Duckett sits on the board for the Saskatchewan Choral Federation, is currently a writer on staff, and teaches anthropology at the University of Saskatchewan. She is passionate about arts in the prairies and strives to support Saskatchewan theatre in all the ways that she can!



Gabrielle Dufresne (elle/she/her) - Actor (Group B)

Gabrielle Dufresne (elle/she/her) is a Fransaskois actor and theatre artist from Regina, and now calls Saskatoon home. When not on stage, you can find her writing, drawing, or working as Co-AD of the Tic Toc TEN Festival, and teaching theatre workshops in schools across the province for La Troupe du Jour. She is incredibly happy and thankful to be part of this brand new production, working alongside such a brilliant team. Gabrielle truly believes in the importance of talking candidly, openly, and fearlessly, about periods, and she thanks you for watching!



Andrei Feheregyhazi (he/him) - Green Screen Designer

Since early 2018 Andrei has been experimenting and pushing boundaries by combining augmented reality with various forms of art. What he loves most about it is the ability to explore space and narratives in new and interesting ways. Whether it is a picture book that comes to life and animates itself in someone's hands or allowing the narrative to take place in the world around them, forcing/allowing for exploration of that space. The style consists of paper, cardboard, and fabric merged to create a handmade style that comes to life digitally.



Ezra Forest (they/them) - Actor (Group A)

Ezra Forest is a they/them two-spirit/non-binary Cree Artist from Samson Cree Nation in Treaty Six territory. They are a U of S WicitoHwin Theatre program 2019 graduate, with the 2015-2016 Circle of Voices program under their belt as well. They are an artist of all mediums, now, with this opportunity! They write poetry, sing, dance, paint, and sketch. Ezra has always dreamed of making their television debut so this is a dream come true. Thank you to everyone for your support. Hiy hiy.



Paige Francoeur (she/they) - Actor (Group B)

Paige Francoeur (she/they) is an emerging actor, dramaturg, and playwright who is proud to call Saskatchewan home. A recent graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, they are very excited to jump back into artistic pursuits after a nearly two-year hiatus from acting, and incredibly grateful to Ferre Play and 25th Street Theatre for the chance to spread her wings in the professional world! You can also catch her this summer aboard the Wheatland Express, and next spring in the upcoming Live Five season. For more info, check out www.paige francoeur.com.



Lauren Griffin (she/her) - Actor (Group C)

Lauren Griffin (she/her) is a settler artist from Treaty Six territory. Lauren is an award-winning actor who is currently training at the University of Saskatchewan in the BFA program. You may have seen Lauren recently in the Greystone productions of *Concord Floral*, *Unity 1918*, and *Under Milk Wood*, or at the Fringe Festival in *The Unforgettables*. Lauren also performed in the Greystone production *A Secret in the Wings* and the plays *Dust* and *The Hotel* which both ranked best overall at SDA provincial festivals. To learn more about Lauren, check out her website at <https://griffinlauren66.wixsite.com/lauren-griffin>.



Kristel Harder (she/they) - Actor (Group A)

Kristel Harder (she/they) is an award-winning queer neurodivergent actor, singer, cabaret writer, and musician who holds a Master of Arts in Musical Theatre Performance. Kristel is a settler on Treaty 6 Territory and is incredibly grateful to live and perform here. Recent credits include: *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (Persephone Theatre), *Through the Window* (Sum Theatre), *I Lost my Husband* (Persephone Theatre), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Persephone Theatre), *The Penelopiad* (Ferre Play Theatre), *As You Like It* and *Comedy of Errors* (Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan), and her devised, one-woman shows: *EmotionLoss: I'm pretty sure, if I still had feelings, I would be alarmed* and *Bi Bye Bye: a Gay Cabaret*.



Bobbi-Lee Jones (she/her) - Actor (Group A)

Bobbi-Lee Jones (she/her) is an emerging queer artist and recent grad from the BFA theatre program at the University of Saskatchewan. A lover of many trades, she most strongly identifies with the roles of singing actor, writer, painter, and devoted cat mother. Bobbi is the founder of Little Libertine Playhouse and writer/composer of her original musical "Typecastress", which dissects existing gender inequities in the theatre world. Bobbi is very excited to play the lead role of Nora at *Typecastress'* live production debut this spring! She also can't wait to join the cast of *Breaking the Curse* shortly after, reinforcing her ambition to combine art and feminism. Other selected credits include her role as Mrs. Betterton in Greystone Theatre's *Playhouse Creatures* (2019), production assistant for Sum Theatre's *Theatre in the Neighbourhood* (2020), and her short play *The Spurs and The Bees* as featured in the Shortcuts Festival (2021).



Rachel McLaughlin (she/her) - Actor (Group D)

Rachel McLaughlin (She/Her) is an actor, mover, and musician based in Saskatoon Saskatchewan. Although primarily based in Treaty 6 territory, she still enjoys the thrill of spreading her roots throughout Canada as much as she can, especially to explore and showcase unique stories from around her community. Currently in her fourth year at the University of Saskatchewan, Rachel is looking forward to completing her BFAH in Acting while continuing to make more lasting connections with fellow theatre artists and creatives along the way.



Tara Oliver (she/her) - Production Manager

Tara (she/her) is a project manager and producer with areas of expertise in production management, communications, and community building. She has held roles as Operations Manager for Saskatoon Summer Players, Theatre Festival Manager for 25th Street Theatre, and Community Engagement and Outdoor Festival Manager for 25th Street Theatre. Her theatre production management credits include: *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Little Women the Musical*, *Into the Woods*, *Annie*, *Footloose*, and *Sweeney Todd* (Saskatoon Summer Players). Tara also is an active board member of Ferre Play, an independent theatre company that seeks to develop women through theatre. In the summer of 2021 Tara served as First Assistant Director and Producer for the independent short film "The Druid's Hand", which will be making the film festival circuit in 2022. Tara is passionate about building community and connection through art and is motivated by the magic that happens when people from different backgrounds and disciplines work together towards a common goal.



Sammy Ramsay (she/her) - Actor (Group C)

Sammy Ramsay (she/her) is a Saskatoon-based theatre artist. Recent theatre credits include *The Unforgettables* (Fight or Flight Theatre) *Survival of the Spookiest* (Peach Pit Productions) and *The Romeo Project* (The Studio) Sammy is also co-Artistic Director of her theatre company, Wonder City Collective, which she runs with her partner, Drew. She is thrilled to be part of *Breaking the Curse* and working with such a talented group of artists. Sammy is grateful to live, work and create on Treaty 6 Territory.



respectfulchild (they/them) - Sound Designer

respectfulchild is an interdisciplinary artist born, raised, and living as an uninvited guest on Treaty 6 Territory. Rooted primarily in sound and composition with their violin, their practice openly engages with any medium that best serves their creative expression. Their work explores the quiet tensions and chaotic beauty of being a queer Chinese-Malaysian settler on the prairies, opening up space for intimate reflection and community dialogue.

The name respectfulchild is the literal translation of their Mandarin name 敬兒 [jìng er]. This name was given to them by their grandmother when they were born, a name and a culture they've been estranged from having lived their whole life in the predominantly white world of the Canadian Prairies. respectfulchild is their space to seek meaning in 敬兒 again.



Danielle Roy (she/her) - Actor (Group D)

Danielle Roy is a performer, playwright, producer, voice-actor, dramaturge, and director. She is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan Bachelor of Fine Arts Theatre Program and the Globe Theatre Conservatory. Her artistic work has been seen across Canada, including her coming-of-age play *Peach* which received several 5-star reviews across the country, *Much Ado About Nothing* (Globe Theatre), *The Wild Dog Waits on the Concrete Path* (Embrace Theatre), and most recently as Hazel Star, the palmist/fortune teller aboard the Wheatland Express Excursion Train. Danielle is an active performer and writer for Saskatoons Sketch Comedy Group, The Sketchy Bandits, and for Buttered Ghost's *Dr. Frightful Presents: A Podcast*. She is currently writing *Luna*, as a part of Persephone's TYA Playwriting Unit. Danielle founded Gumshoe Productions in 2016 and works as a theatre educator using drama skills to help build community, personal awareness, and self-confidence through imaginative learning.



Rachel Walliser (she/her) - Playwright

Rachel Walliser (she/her) is a theatre artist, writer, and vintage seller originally from Swift Current, Saskatchewan. She recently finished her Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre and Performance, with a minor in Women's and Gender Studies, at the University of Regina. On top of acting and scriptwriting, Rachel is also currently training to become an Intimacy Director/Coordinator for theatre, film, and television under the direction of Janine Waddell through her Alberta-based Theatrical Intimacy Laboratory. This past summer, she was one of three winners of the Saskatchewan Playwrights Centre 'Write Like You Mean It! Program, receiving support to write *Breaking the Curse*. It is Rachel's first produced work.



Photos by Nicole Stevenson Photography

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