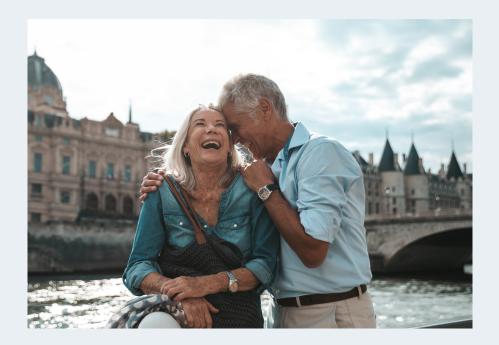


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# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge this ki land on which we maawnjidwak gather

Maanpii here
Nongo Today
Bjiinaago Yesterday

And Waabang Tomorrow

Bmakmigaa be a stretch of land known today as
the Greater City of Sudbury
Kiins lands of the traditional territory of
the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
Kiins cared for by the Atikamehsheng Anishnawbe,
the Sagamok Anishnawbek, and the Wahnapitae First

Nations

Kiins also cared for by the Métis and Inuit People

Mnaai'aa honour

Nsidwinaajge recognize Mnaadenmaa respect

# Bemaadizig wiijiiwe maawnzondwak

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MORGAN COOK, Oji-Cree Artist Residing in Sudbury of North Caribou Lake First Nation, Production Manager



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# PERFORMERS

ALESSANDRO COSTANTINI\* — ARINEA HERMANS\* — GRYPHYN KARIMLOO\* KELSEY TYSON — KATIE WISE — VIVIANA ZARRILLO\*

AT THE SUDBURY THEATRE CENTRE (170 SHAUGHNESSY STREET, SUDBURY, ON) IN

# **CASEY & DIANA**

# ву NICK GREEN

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER
BRIAN DUDKIEWICZ

SOUND DESIGNER
ADAM SAKIYAMA

LIGHTING DESIGNER FRANK DONATO

STAGE MANAGER SARAH MILLER ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
GAIA DHATT

CO-COSTUME DESGINER /
HEAD OF WARDROBE
NATALIE ELLIS

HEAD OF SCENIC & PROPS
SHARA-LEE MILLER

PRODUCTION MANAGER /
ASST. STAGE MANAGER
MORGAN COOK

DIRECTOR
ROBERT MCQUEEN

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
ALESSANDRO COSTANTINI

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
RUTHIE NKUT

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# **LETTER FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:** ALESSANDRO COSTANTINI



# Welcome to YES Theatre!

Whether you're joining us from the cozy seats of the Sudbury Theatre Centre, or under the sky and stars the Refettorio, thank you for being here and supporting our work.

With each passing season I fall more deeply in love with our community. The theatre has been embraced so beautifully, so thoroughly, that our dreams and ambitions of turning Sudbury into one of the country's hot spots for theatre are coming to fruition. This is seen through the quality of the work, the relationship it has to the community, and the artists who are bringing these pieces to life on our stages.

Every day, despite challenges that are innate to a life in the theatre, there are grand moments of celebration. I feel remarkably fortunate and blessed to be working with people that I really love, in a place I really love, building something singular and radical.

The theatre is the great respite - certainly considering how whacky the world is in this current moment. Get in here, bring those closest to you... or come alone! (it's super great that way too), and be reminded that life is with people.

This year we will be making some big strides towards some big, crazy, exciting fantastical ideas - so please reach out, get involved and keep on coming to eat at the brilliant theatrical buffet that is a year at YES.

LOTS OF LOVE, SUDS! YOU'RE SO GREAT.

# **ALESSANDRO COSTANTINI**

Artistic & Managing Director, YES Theatre

# It's not just a Ford, it's a





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### **LETTER FROM YES THEATRE BOARD CHAIR: STEPHANIE VENTURI**



Dear Theatre Lovers,

Welcome to another exciting season at YES Theatre, a theatre that continues to grow, evolve, and make a huge impact right here in our community. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am proud to share with you a lineup of performances that promises to captivate, challenge, and inspire. This season, we are

thrilled to present a bold selection of productions that reflect the creativity, passion, and vision of our talented artists.

As we look toward the future, we are energized by the growing community that surrounds YES Theatre. Your support, whether through your attendance, generosity, or advocacy, continues to be the lifeblood of our company. We are deeply grateful for your belief in the importance of the arts, and we are excited to embark on this journey together.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and for joining us in what promises to be yet another exciting season. Together, we will continue to build something extraordinary.

With sincere appreciation, STEPHANIE VENTURI



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# **LETTER FROM THE MAYOR OF SUDBURY: PAUL LEFEBVRE**



I am truly proud of the community's engagement in the performing arts.

Our City's prosperous theaters provide a unique way for residents to explore storytelling. YES Theatre's ability to bring stories to life by harnessing the audience's emotions is extraordinary. The vocals and musical aptitude experienced in the theater are unparalleled. I believe live theater can change our perception of

the world and remind us of moments in our lives.

The captivating eight shows this season are sure to be powerful performances. Showcasing the local talent is important as our community enjoys the diversity of the art.

I encourage all the residents to support the dynamic productions with friends and family. Thank you to the cast members, the musicians, and the creative & production team for your efforts.

Congratulations to the Board of Directors and the entire team at YES Theatre! I look forward to enjoying many theater productions during the 2025 season.

# PAUL LEFEBVRE

Mayor of Sudbury





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# **CAST BIOGRAPHIES**



# **ALESSANDRO COSTANTINI\*** — THOMAS

(he/him)

Alessandro is the co-founder and Artistic Director of YES Theatre. His work has brought him to stages across North America, including the National Tour of the Tony Award winning best musical, *Dear Evan Hansen*. He has been recognized for his work with a Dora nomination (Featured Performance in a Musical - *Dear Evan Hansen*/Mirvish Productions), a META nomination (Best Leading Performance - *Prom Queen*/Segal Centre), and nominations from the Ontario Arts Council for the John Hirsch Directors Award, the K.M Hunter Award, the Pauline McGibbon Award and the prestigious Johanna Metcalf Performing Arts Prize. Alessandro is a graduate of the George Brown Theatre School.



**ARINEA HERMANS\*** — PAULINE

(she/her)

Arinea is truly grateful to be a part of this deeply special piece, and with so many people she loves here at YES. She most recently appeared as Pontius Pilate in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Nancy in *Oliver!*, and Billy Flynn in *Chicago*. Arinea is a 4-time Dora nominee. Huge thanks to the entire C&D team, as well as her beautiful family and friends.

"Great consideration for one another - that's what's going to save the world." - June Callwood



**GRYPHYN KARIMLOO\*** — ANDRE

(he/him)

Originally from Toronto, Gryphyn trained at the William Esper Studio in New York City, and was recently seen on stage in YES Theatre's Jesus Christ Superstar, as well as the world premiere of The Secret Garden at the Shaw Festival. Other credits include: My Fair Lady, A Christmas Carol (Shaw Festival); Ashman/Menken Tribute Concert, What If? Broadway Crossover Concert, 54 Below; The Universal Language, (William Esper Studio); Spring Awakening: In Concert (Fidelity Theatricals); BOUND! The Musical (Soundtrack Album).



**KELSEY TYSON** — VERA

(she/her)

Forever grateful to be on stage with her YES Theatre family, Casey and Diana marks Kelsey's 23rd production with the company. As a Registered Nurse, she is intimately familiar with the joys and hardships that can accompany the role and is honoured to bring Vera to life. To all those who are familiar with loss, and who have had the privilege of seeing strangers and loved ones off in their final days, thank you. Xo



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# **CAST BIOGRAPHIES**



KATIE WISE — DIANA / FIGHT DIRECTOR

(she/her)

Katie Wise is thrilled to be a part of this beautiful story and is honoured to get the chance to bring her own spin to such an iconic figure as Princess Di. Katie has done many shows with YES over the years, including, when she was 16, a cameo as Margeret Thatcher in *Billy Elliot* with YES Theatre, and she hopes that playing this much more beloved Brit of the same era can redeem her in the public's eyes. She most recently appeared in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Reffetorio. Much love and thanks to her parents for it all, the very important and continuing work of Casey House, and the legacy of Diana herself.



**VIVIANA ZARRILLO\*** — MARJORIE

(she/her)

Viviana is delighted to be returning to Sudbury after last performing here in *THE FULL MONTY*, an experience that ranks as one of the most fun of her career! Over the years, that career has ranged from summerstock to dinner theatre to the National Arts Centre and Shaw Festival. She has appeared in dozens of TV commercials and her film/TV credits include the recurring role of 'Deborah' in the hit tween series, *THE NEXT STEP*, airing around the world. The opportunity to help tell the tale of *CASEY AND DIANA* is very meaningful for Viv as she thinks back to living at that time in Toronto and the many friends lost to AIDS. It was rough. Enormous gratitude to playwright, Nick Green, for creating such a beautiful vessel in which to pour our love. Special thanks to my agent, Bruce Dean, for a lifetime of friendship and advocacy. And thank-you to you - the audience - for sharing this story with us and supporting live theatre.

Viv dedicates this performance in memory of Daniel Stainton - a mighty talent, a fellow Blue Jays lover and as good a friend as a person could have.

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By supporting YES, we are contributing to ensure a more inclusive, diverse and environmentally sustainable future for arts and culture in Sudbury.



# **DIRECTORS NOTES**

# "IWANT TO WALK INTO A ROOM, BE IT A HOSPICE FORTHE DYING OR A HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, AND FEELTHAT I AM NEEDED. IWANTTO DO, NOT JUSTTO BE."

Diana, Princess of Wales

When Casey House opened its doors in Toronto in 1988 it was Canada's first stand-alone treatment facility and hospice for people living with and dying from HIV/AIDS.

In 1988 HIV/AIDS was still, to many people, a disease associated with being other.

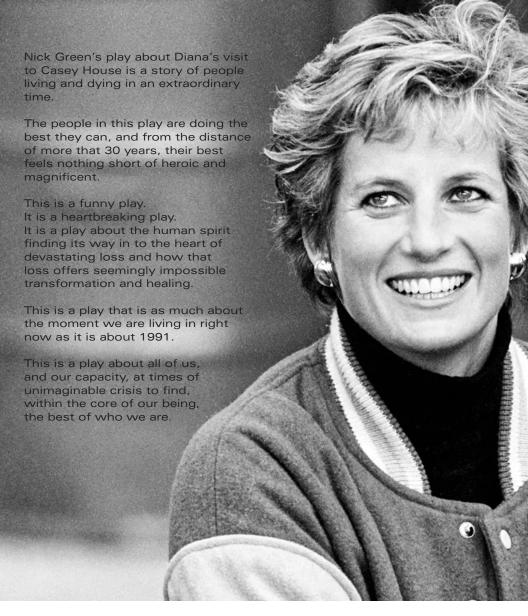
It was not uncommon for patients to be cut off by their families, to have the doors of their hospital rooms covered with contaminated blood warnings and, not infrequently, to be in the care of medical staff who refused to touch, to pick up used dishes and to change bed linens.

Princess Diana was one of the first globally famous people to be photographed touching and embracing people with AIDS.

When she visited Casey House on October 25th, 1991 the media images of her visit published the next day helped change the narrative of HIV/AIDS in Canada.



These photographs demonstrated cofounder Margaret McBurney's desire that Casey House would be a place where people who were dying would feel loved and get hugged.



"LET'S NOT WAITTO BE PROMPTED. LET US GO OUTTODAY, TOMORROW AND THE DAYSTHAT FOLLOW AND LET US DEMONSTRATE OUR HUMANITY."

Diana, Princess of Wales







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### **CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES**



**GAIA DHATT** — ASSSISTANT DIRECTOR

(she/her)

Gaia is an 18-year-old artist whose practice has prominently been in theatre: acting, directing, and scenic/costume design. She plans on pursuing a career in directing, but in her day-to-day life, she does nothing but go for walks and daydream. Recently, she's co-directed both 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and Bad Hats Theatre's 'Peter Pan', and has performed in shows such as 'Oliver!', 'Jersey Boys', 'Elf!', and 'Into The Woods'. She has also designed 'One Small Step', 'She Kills Monsters', and 'Antigone', and is deeply grateful to continue her journey in theatre with the kindest and most generous people.



FRANK DONATO

— LIGHTING DESIGNER / TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

(he/him)

Frank Donato is a Lighting and Projection designer based in Sudbury, ON. Selected credits include: Oliver!, Chicago, 1939, Matilda, Jersey Boys, Ride the Cyclone (YES Theatre), The Goldberg Variations (NYC/ Vancouver/Montreal), De Profundis, The Guide to being Fabulous, The Big Easy, Detroit, The Golden Record (Soulpepper), Redbone Coonhound (Tarragon), Daisy (Great Canadian Theatre Company). Frank has worked as an Associate or Assistant Lighting Designer for Mirvish, the Stratford Festival, the Canadian Opera Company and for brands such as Volkswagen and Disney. He is a graduate of the Production program at the National Theatre School of Canada.



**BRIAN DUDKIEWICZ** — SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

(he/him)

Brian is excited to be working on this incredible play with Yes Theatre! Recent credits include: A Strange Loop (Soulpepper/ Crows/ MSC), Dixon Road (MSC), Controlled Damage, Titanic (The Grand); King James, Never Not Once (Theatre Aquarius), Jukebox Hero (Mirvish/Jubilee); Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill (Theatre Calgary), A Streetcar Named Desire (Citadel); Clue, Prayer for the French Republic, Indecent, Bad Jews, April Fools (Segal Centre), Frozen, Billy Elliot, The Last Five Years (Neptune); Priscilla, Kinky Boots, The Sound of Music, Newsies, Rocky, the Marvelous Wonderettes (Drayton), Dozens of shows Off-Broadway and around the USA. Brian holds an MFA from Yale University, and a degree in Architecture from McGill University. Love to Sawyer, Margot and Andrew. briandudkiewicz.com

### **CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES**



NATALIE ELLIS
— HEAD OF WARDROBE / CO-SOTUME DESIGNER



Natalie has been working in the Canadian film industry as a Costume Supervisor for over 10 years. With over 30 credits to her name, she has learned something new with each show, and gained many costume skills along the way. This is her second Show with YES Theatre, and she is loving the creativity that theatre provides.

# **ROBERT MCQUEEN** — DIRECTOR

(he/him)

Director, Dramaturge, and Educator Robert has worked across the United States, Canada, and internationally.

His recent theatre productions include developing and directing Boy Falls from the Sky, which had a run at the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto and earned him a nomination for Outstanding Direction at the 2022 Dora Mavor Moore Awards. Additional recent directing credits include: Pollyanna — Yonge Street Theatricals / Theatre Aquarius Caroline, or Change — 2020 Dora Mavor Moore Award nomination Fun Home — 2018 Toronto Theatre Critics Association Award for Outstanding Direction; Dora Mavor Moore Award nomination Life After — 2018 Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Direction Forest Boy — 2017 Outstanding Direction nomination, New York Festival of New Musicals

Other directing credits include Man of La Mancha for the Stratford Festival, The Wild Party, Falsettos, and The Light in the Piazza. Regionally across North America, Robert has also directed I Am My Own Wife, As You Like It, The Cradle Will Rock, Hair, and Pal Joey. Upcoming, Robert will direct the Canadian premiere of the musical Kimberly Akimbo for The Segal Centre in Montreal and Mirvish Productions in Toronto.

Robert's opera productions include Strauss's final operatic composition Capriccio for Pacific Opera Victoria; La Bohème for the Canadian Opera Company; Turandot and II Barbiere di Siviglia for Arizona Opera; and Associate Direction on Faust for Cincinnati Opera. For Vancouver Opera's The Magic Flute, Robert served as director and dramaturge, as well as creating the libretto adaptation.

Internationally, Robert's work includes direction and dramaturgy of Where Elephants Weep, which premiered in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. He also helmed the Japanese-language production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical Carousel at the Galaxy Theatre in Tokyo. In commercial theatre, Robert was the Associate Director for the Broadway and National Touring productions of Mamma Mia! and recently directed the Mexico City, São Paulo, and Buenos Aires productions. Additionally, he served as Associate to Harold Prince for the pational tour of Show Roat

Since 2012, Robert has facilitated Noteworthy, a musical theatre writers' development program for Musical Stage Company in Toronto. He has also taught theatre masterclasses for The Shanghai Academy, Arte Studio (Mexico City), HB Studio (New York), The Royal Conservatoire (Glasgow), and across Canada.

In September 2022, Robert's first written work for the theatre, a solo piece titled The Real Poems, was produced by Here For Now Theatre. In 2023, it was further produced by the Stratford Festival and presented in New York City at HB Studio. Robert performed the work alongside musician and composer Laura Burton.

# **CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES**



**SARAH MILLER** — STAGE MANAGER

(they/them)

Sarah Miller is a dramaturg, stage manager, and theatre educator from Whitehorse, Yukon, and this is their second season with YES. As a queer artist, working on *Casey and Diana* has been a fulfilling and significant experience for Sarah, and they hope audiences are moved and motivated by this incredible piece. Ahead of their time in Sudbury, Sarah has been the Assistant Dramaturg for Tarragon Theatre's Young Playwrights' Unit (2023), and the director for Yukon Theatre for Young People's production of Jordan Tannahill's *Concord Floral* (2022). Many thanks and biggest love to Em, always.



SHARA-LEE MILLER
— HEAD OF SCENIC / HEAD OF PROPS

(she/they)

Shara-Lee Miller is a Sudbury born and raised maker of many things. Currently stationed in Toronto tinkering and working away with the Canadian Opera Company in the props shop. This is their second season doing Scenic Art and Props on Mainstage with YES Theatre.



ADAM SAKIYAMA — SOUND DESIGNER

(he/him)

Adam Sakiyama is a Dora award-winning music director & composer with a passion for new work development. Selected theatre credits include The Last Timbit (Tim Hortons), Dixon Road (Musical Stage Co.), Divorce Lunch (Musical Stage Co.), Sunday in the Park with George (Eclipse Theatre), Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play (Theatre Sheridan), UnCovered: Dolly Parton (Musical Stage Co.), Stupidhead! (Outside the March), Next to Normal (Musical Stage Co. / Mirvish), Billy Elliot (Stratford). Composing credits include Macbeth (Ballet Kelowna), Quench (Axon Interactive) and in between (National Ballet of Canada). Adam is a proud alumnus of the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop.

# **ADDITIONAL CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM PERSONEL**

MORGAN COOK — PRODUCTION MANAGER

STEVE DUROCHER — TECHNICIAN / CARPENTER

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