

For immediate release: April 11, 2023

Crow's Theatre announces its *huge* 40th anniversary season for 2023.24. The 12-play season includes the Canadian premiere of Broadway hits **NATASHA, PIERRE & THE GREAT COMET OF 1812 by Dave Malloy, **DANA H.** by Lucas Hnath, and **HEROES OF THE FOURTH TURNING** by Will Arbery; the world premieres of new works from Michael Healey, Cliff Cardinal, Mohammad Yaghoubi, and bahia watson; and more, with Tapestry Opera, Théâtre français de Toronto, and playwrights Natal'ya Vorozhbit and Zahida Rahemtulla.**

The fabulously eclectic, 12-show season includes **THE MASTER PLAN** by Michael Healey, directed by Artistic Director **Chris Abraham**; **HEROES OF THE FOURTH TURNING** by Will Arbery, directed by **Philip Akin** in a co-production with The Howland Company; **(EVERYONE I LOVE HAS) A TERRIBLE FATE (BEFALL THEM)** by **Cliff Cardinal**, directed by **Karin Randoja**, a VideoCabaret production in association with Crow's Theatre; a new version of **ROCKING HORSE WINNER** composed by **Gareth Williams**, libretto by **Anna Chatterton**, and directed by **Michael Hidetoshi Mori**, a Tapestry Opera production in association with Crow's Theatre; **BAD ROADS** by **Natal'ya Vorozhbit**, directed by **Andrew Kushnir**; **NATASHA, PIERRE & THE GREAT COMET OF 1812** by **Dave Malloy**, directed by **Chris Abraham** in a co-production with The Musical Stage Company; **EARWORM** written and directed by **Mohammad Yaghoubi** in a Nowadays Theatre production in association with Crow's Theatre; **L'AMOUR TELLE UNE CATHÉDRALE ENSEVELIE**, a Théâtre français de Toronto in association with Crow's Theatre presentation of the NOUS Théâtre production; **DANA H.** by Lucas Hnath, directed by **Les Waters**; **shaniqua in abstraction** written and performed by **bahia watson**, a Crow's Theatre production in association with paul watson productions and Obsidian Theatre Company; a special one-week run of the Cunning Concepts & Creations production of **HUFF** by **Cliff Cardinal**; and **THE WRONG BASHIR** by **Zahida Rahemtulla**, directed by **Paolo Santalucia**.

TORONTO (April 11, 2023) – Today, Artistic Director Chris Abraham and Executive Director Sherrie Johnson unveiled Crow's Theatre's 12-show 40th anniversary season, the largest and most ambitious season in the company's history. Following the record-breaking triumph of the 2022.23 season, Crow's 40th anniversary will be animated by world premieres and groundbreaking productions featuring the country's greatest artists, Canadian premieres of celebrated international hits, and tours of Crow's Theatre's most successful shows!

Executive Director Sherrie Johnson

“2022.23 was the year we fell back in love with theatre. The season was our love letter to Toronto. We gathered at full capacity, and we moved through each show with joy, despair, and laughter—and we did so together with the amazing Crow’s audiences who came out in record numbers, our heroic staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make it happen, and the brave and courageous artists and partners who filled our stages with smart, spunky, daring, and assured productions.

“Feeling extremely galvanized and energized, we want our 40th anniversary to be exceptional. This season, we want to give a shout-out to all who made Crow’s what it is today—40 years on. We look forward to welcoming you to Streetcar Crowsnest and to our fabulous restaurant, Gare de l’Est, as you take in a season filled with entertainment and enlightenment, reflection, and shared humanity. If you have any young people in your life, please encourage them to join our UNDER 30 ticket program. The next 40 years depends on the voices of the next generation of arts lovers as they imagine and build their future world.”

Artistic Director Chris Abraham

“Next season will take our audience on a journey across the globe and into stories that create a snapshot of our common humanity.

“This season is a journey to the centre of empires—old, new, and just being born. It is a report from behind enemy lines, a diary of our secret joys, and an exposé of our public heartbreak. It is a ride in a bumpy jeep past a bombed-out cathedral; a ringside seat at a backyard battle for the soul of America; a mother’s voice on a tape recorder; a meeting with a group of strangers who have mysteriously lost everyone they’ve ever loved and have no idea why. It is a heated and hilarious debate about self-driving cars and the future of cities as we know them. It is a group of boys on the reserve making themselves laugh just hard enough to forget what they don’t want to remember. It is a passport to our own country. It is a wild party with music and old friends that reminds us of the unfathomable mystery of love and its capacity to wake us up to what’s in front of us—because there is giant beautiful ball of fire hurtling towards us in the night sky that will probably destroy us all by morning.

“Across an astonishing series of dramas, true-life stories, fantasies, comedies, two operas, and a musical, our 40th anniversary season is a testimonial to our incredible resilience and capacity to change and adapt even in the most extreme situations.”

The 2023.24 Crow’s Theatre 40th anniversary season begins with multi-award-winning playwright **Michael Healey’s THE MASTER PLAN**, adapted from *The Globe and Mail* journalist Josh O’Kane’s best-selling book *Sideways: The City Google Couldn’t Buy*, directed by Crow’s Theatre Artistic Director **Chris Abraham**. This Crow’s Theatre commission is a biting satire that lampoons the corporate drama, epic personalities, and iconic Canadian figures involved in the messy affair between Sidewalk Labs and Waterfront Toronto as they attempt, and fail, to build a smart city in Toronto.

The Howland Company returns to Crow’s Theatre with **HEROES OF THE FOURTH TURNING**, written by **Will Arbery** and directed by **Philip Akin**. A daring look at a country at war with itself, it was hailed as “a work of singular distinction” by *The Wall Street Journal*. This haunting, multi-award-winning and Pulitzer Prize–finalist play grapples with right-wing religion, race, politics, and personal responsibility. The Howland Company and Crow’s Theatre co-production is their fifth collaboration following the breakout success of *Prodigal*, written and directed by Paolo Santalucia.

Crow's Theatre invites audiences to walk down the street to VideoCabaret's Busy Street Theatre for **(EVERYONE I LOVE HAS) A TERRIBLE FATE (BEFALL THEM)**, written and performed by **Cliff Cardinal** and directed by **Karin Randoja**, a VideoCabaret production in association with Crow's Theatre. Deep in the bowels of a church basement, Robert and his support group must come to terms with their mortality before the impending apocalypse. "One of the most important playwrights and performers in Canada" (*Toronto Star*), **Cliff Cardinal** offers his unique, haunting, and humorous portrayal of humankind on the brink of extinction.

Crow's Theatre is honoured to produce the North American premiere of **BAD ROADS** by Kyiv-born playwright **Natal'ya Vorozhbit**, directed by **Andrew Kushnir**. Based on astonishing testimonies from the outset of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2014, **BAD ROADS** explores the heartbreaking effects of conflict on intimate relationships.

A new production of the 2016 award-winning **ROCKING HORSE WINNER**, composed by **Gareth Williams** with libretto by **Anna Chatterton** and directed by **Michael Hidetoshi Mori**, rides into the Guloien Theatre for eight performances only, a Tapestry Opera production in association with Crow's Theatre. A modern adaptation of D. H. Lawrence's masterful short story of the same title, **ROCKING HORSE WINNER** is a powerful one-act opera that combines magical realism and lyrical minimalism for an intimate, psychological look at love, luck, greed, and obsession.

Crow's Theatre and The Musical Stage Company present the long-awaited Canadian premiere of the Broadway phenomenon **NATASHA, PIERRE & THE GREAT COMET OF 1812** by **Dave Malloy** (*Ghost Quartet*). Originally scheduled for 2020 but delayed due to the pandemic, this Crow's Theatre and The Musical Stage Company co-production at the Guloien Theatre will be directed by **Chris Abraham**, choreographed by **Ray Hogg** with musical direction by **Ryan deSouza**. This 12-time Tony-nominated musical delivers a radically contemporary and moving take on Tolstoy's *War and Peace* with its audacious storytelling and groundbreaking score that mixes indie rock, pop, folk, electronic dance, and classic Broadway music.

Details and pricing about the *Immersive Comet Experience* will be announced in June. Seating will be extremely limited.

Performed in English with select performances in Farsi, **EARWORM**, a Nowadays Theatre production in association with Crow's Theatre, is written and directed by **Mohammad Yaghoubi**, co-founder of Nowadays Theatre. Yassmin, a long-time immigrant from Iran who fled persecution by the Islamic regime, must negotiate the reality that her son is in love with a conservative Muslim woman. When Yassmin's past catches up to her in present-day Toronto, their future happiness is threatened.

The NOUS Théâtre production of **L'AMOUR TELLE UNE CATHÉDRALE ENSEVELIE** is a powerful and disturbing oratorio to Haitian families lost at sea on the road to exile in Canada. In this deeply personal story, the Haitian, avant-garde, theatrical auteur **Guy Régis Jr.** meshes Creole songs, traditional music, and voodoo magic in a Franco-Haitian opera-theatre-concert hybrid. This Théâtre français de Toronto in association with Crow's Theatre presentation will be performed in French and Creole with English surtitles.

Crow's Theatre presents the Goodman Theatre, Center Theatre Group, Vineyard Theatre production of the critically acclaimed and celebrated play **DANA H.**, following a triumphant Broadway run and subsequent tour, led by director **Les Waters** with the original production's creative team. This riveting, cutting-edge

drama follows the harrowing true story of Dana Higginbotham, a chaplain in a psychiatric ward, who was abducted by one of the patients and held captive for five months in a series of Florida motel rooms. Her son, acclaimed playwright **Lucas Hnath** (*A Doll's House, Part 2*), has created a powerful drama for the stage with his mother's own voice and courageous words.

Following up on her 2022 summer hit *MASHUP PON DI ROAD*, **bahia watson** thoughtfully blends razor-sharp humour with a piercing cultural critique in her intrepidly daring one-woman show **shaniqua in abstraction**. After starring in Crow's Theatre's *Someone Else* and *The Seagull* (co-produced with The Company Theatre) and, most recently, thrilling audiences with her unforgettable turn as Sonya in Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*, bahia returns in her Crow's Theatre playwriting debut. **shaniqua in abstraction** is a Crow's Theatre production in association with paul watson productions and Obsidian Theatre Company.

Cliff Cardinal returns to Crow's Theatre for a special one-week presentation of his critically acclaimed, award-winning solo show **HUFF**. Named a Canadian Cultural Icon in 2022 (*The Globe and Mail*), **Cliff Cardinal** is known for his dark humour, compassionate poeticism, and lauded solo shows *Stitch*, *Huff*, *Cliff Cardinal's CBC Special*, and *As You Like It, A Radical Retelling by Cliff Cardinal*, which continues to tour. Crow's Theatre presents the Cunning Concepts & Creations production of **HUFF**.

The season concludes with a farce: the Toronto premiere of **THE WRONG BASHIR** written by **Zahida Rahemtulla** and directed by **Paolo Santalucia**. Bashir Ladha, a young philosophy major leaning towards nihilism, moves back home with his parents and is unwittingly chosen to serve in a prestigious religious position by leaders from the Ismaili community. When two council representatives arrive to meet their esteemed nominee, a hilarious mistaken-identity romp ensues that sees the intergenerational family questioning their traditional way of life.

CROW'S THEATRE 2023.24 SEASON IS ON SALE NOW!
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THE MASTER PLAN | HEROES OF THE FOURTH TURNING | (EVERYONE I LOVE HAS) A TERRIBLE FATE (BEFALL
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EARWORM | L'AMOUR TELLE UNE CATHÉDRALE ENSEVELIE | DANA H. | SHANIQUA IN ABSTRACTION | THE
WRONG BASHIR | (no preview performances of HUFF)

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THE MASTER PLAN | HEROES OF THE FOURTH TURNING | BAD ROADS |
DANA H. | SHANIQUA IN ABSTRACTION | THE WRONG BASHIR

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*Includes fees and HST. †Fees and HST extra.

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CROW'S THEATRE 2023.24 SEASON

Celebrating 40 Years

Chris Abraham, Artistic Director

Sherrie Johnson, Executive Director

A Crow's Theatre Production

THE MASTER PLAN

Written by Michael Healey

Based on the book *Sideways: The City Google Couldn't Buy* by Josh O'Kane

Directed by Chris Abraham

September 5 to October 1, 2023

Opening Night: Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Guloien Theatre

World Premiere

Commissioned by Crow's Theatre, **THE MASTER PLAN** by **Michael Healey** is a biting satire about the stunning failure to build a smart city in Toronto. Adapted from award-winning writer and *The Globe and Mail* journalist **Josh O'Kane's** best-selling book *Sideways: The City Google Couldn't Buy*, **THE MASTER PLAN** lampoons the corporate drama, epic personalities, and iconic Canadian figures involved in the messy affair between Sidewalk Labs and Waterfront Toronto.

Directed by Crow's Theatre Artistic Director **Chris Abraham** (*Uncle Vanya*), **THE MASTER PLAN** exposes the hubris of big tech, the feebleness of government, and the dangers of public consultation with sharp wit and insightful commentary.

Michael Healey is a five-time Dora Mavor Moore Award-winning playwright. *The Drawer Boy*, his first full-length play, premiered in Toronto in 1999, winning the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Play, the Chalmers Canadian Play Award, and the Governor General's Literary Award. His other award-winning works include *Rune Arlidge, 1979* and his trilogy on Canadian values and politics *Generous, Courageous, and Proud*.

"One of the country's funniest and most politically minded playwrights." *The Globe and Mail*

"A highly entertaining night at the theatre." *Now Magazine* (praise for 1979)

Lead Sponsor

Centre for Digital Rights – In memory of Abel Joseph "Jack" Diamond

A Howland Company and Crow's Theatre Co-production

HEROES OF THE FOURTH TURNING

Written by Will Arbery

Directed by Philip Akin

October 3 to 22, 2023

Opening Night: Friday, October 6, 2023

Studio Theatre

Canadian Premiere

The Howland Company and Crow's Theatre team up to present **Will Arbery's HEROES OF THE FOURTH TURNING**, the haunting, multi-award-winning and Pulitzer Prize–finalist play directed by **Philip Akin**.

On a chilly night in middle America, one week after the Charlottesville riots in 2017, four alumni gather to toast their mentor, the newly inducted president of their conservative Catholic college. In this daring look at a country at war with itself, their reunion spirals into spiritual chaos, clashing politics, and stunning revelations as they furiously grapple with their beliefs and sense of personal responsibility.

Winner of the 2020 Obie Award for Playwriting and the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play, among others, the riveting and witty **HEROES OF THE FOURTH TURNING** has been hailed as "a work of singular distinction, for which the word 'remarkable' is, if anything, an understatement" (*The Wall Street Journal*). Playwright and filmmaker **Will Arbery** is also a writer and producer on HBO's hit *Succession*.

Actor, director, and founding member of Obsidian Theatre, where he served as artistic director from 2006 to 2020, Philip Akin is the most awarded Black director in Canada, including several Dora Mavor Moore Awards, Toronto Theatre Critics Awards, the Mallory Gilbert Leadership Award, and the 2019 Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts. Recent directing credits include *Of the Sea* (Tapestry Opera and Obsidian Theatre), *Gem of the Ocean*, "*Master Harold*" ...and the Boys (Shaw Festival), *Passing Strange* (The Musical Stage Company and Obsidian Theatre), and *Pass Over* (Obsidian Theatre).

Celebrated as "one of the city's most exciting indie theatre companies" (*NOW Magazine*), The Howland Company's electric work and award-winning acting ensembles are best known for their smash-hit premieres of *Punk Rock*, *The Wolves*, *Casimir and Caroline*, and, most recently, the breakout success of *Prodigal*, all at Crow's Theatre.

"An astonishing new play." *The New York Times*

A VideoCabaret Production in association with Crow's Theatre

(EVERYONE I LOVE HAS) A TERRIBLE FATE (BEFALL THEM)

Written and performed by Cliff Cardinal

Directed by Karin Randoja

October 10 to 29, 2023

Opening Night: Thursday, October 12, 2023

Deanne Taylor Theatre

World Premiere

Deep in the bowels of a church basement, Robert and his support group must come to terms with their mortality before the impending apocalypse. If only they had just one more day.... Like an asteroid hurtling towards earth, **(EVERYONE I LOVE HAS) A TERRIBLE FATE (BEFALL THEM)** by **Cliff Cardinal** is a haunting and humorous portrayal of humankind on the brink of extinction.

Cliff Cardinal is an associate artist at VideoCabaret, where he premiered *Too Good to Be True*, “a captivating tale that solidifies Cardinal as one of the most talented and intriguing writers in the country” (*NOW Magazine*). He was named a Canadian Cultural Icon in 2022 (*The Globe and Mail*) for *William Shakespeare’s As You Like It, A Radical Retelling* by Cliff Cardinal. The show continues to tour and was recently presented by Mirvish Productions as *The Land Acknowledgement, or As You Like It*.

For over 30 years, director **Karin Randoja** has specialized in creating and directing original devised performances, including *Cliff Cardinal’s CBC Special*, Ahuri Theatre’s *This Is the Point*, and b current’s *Brotherhood: The Hip Hopera*.

(EVERYONE I LOVE HAS) A TERRIBLE FATE (BEFALL THEM) will be performed off-site at VideoCabaret in the Deanne Taylor Theatre. Located at 10 Busy Street, Toronto, it is a 10-minute walk from Streetcar Crowsnest.

A Tapestry Opera Production in association with Crow’s Theatre

ROCKING HORSE WINNER

Composed by Gareth Williams

Libretto by Anna Chatterton

Directed by Michael Hidetoshi Mori

Conducted by Kamna Gupta

November 1 to 12, 2023

Opening Night: Thursday, November 2, 2023

Guloien Theatre

Eight performances only!

Tapestry Opera in association with Crow’s Theatre present a new production of the 2016 world-premiere, award-winning **ROCKING HORSE WINNER** by **Gareth Williams** and **Anna Chatterton**, directed by **Michael Hidetoshi Mori**.

Winner of five Dora Mavor Moore Awards, including Outstanding Production and Outstanding Direction, **ROCKING HORSE WINNER** is a modern adaptation of D. H. Lawrence’s masterful short story of the same name. This powerful one-act opera combines magical realism and lyrical minimalism to offer an intimate, psychological look at love, luck, greed, and obsession.

Tapestry Opera is an award-winning, Toronto-based company dedicated to creating, developing, and performing original Canadian opera that resonates with and enriches a diverse Canadian public. Tapestry is passionate about uniquely Canadian stories told in innovative settings and unforgettably interpreted by world-class artists.

“Rocking Horse Winner is a winner.” *The Globe and Mail*

A Crow’s Theatre Production

BAD ROADS

Written by Natal'ya Vorozhbit

Translated by Sasha Dugdale

Directed by Andrew Kushnir

November 7 to 26, 2023

Opening Night: Friday, November 10, 2023

Studio Theatre

North American Premiere

In the Donbas region of Ukraine, a war is raging and no one is safe. Based on astonishing testimonies from the outset of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2014, **BAD ROADS** explores the heartbreaking effects of conflict on intimate relationships.

Kyiv-born playwright **Natal'ya Vorozhbit** deftly intertwines themes of love, sex, trauma, loss, and resistance through powerful and darkly comic accounts of what it is to be a woman in wartime.

The leading Ukrainian playwright of her generation, "a Ukrainian Sarah Kane" (*The Guardian*), **Natal'ya Vorozhbit** premiered **BAD ROADS** at the Royal Court Theatre, London, in 2017, and wrote and directed the feature film version in 2020.

BAD ROADS, translated by **Sasha Dugdale**, debuted at Royal Court Theatre, London, in 2017. In 2020, **Natal'ya Vorozhbit** wrote and directed the feature film version, which was Ukraine's official Oscar selection in 2022.

Ukrainian Canadian **Andrew Kushnir** is an award-winning playwright, director, activist, and artistic director of the socially engaged theatre company Project: Humanity, a leading developer of verbatim theatre in Canada including *Towards Youth: a play on radical hope*, and *Freedom Singer* at Crow's Theatre.

"A masterly and woundingly memorable evening." *The Independent*

"Complex and compelling." *The Times*

Supporting Sponsor

Nancy Lockhart

A Crow's Theatre and The Musical Stage Company Co-Production

NATASHA, PIERRE & THE GREAT COMET OF 1812

Music and lyrics by Dave Malloy

Adapted from the novel *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy

Choreography by Ray Hogg

Music direction by Ryan deSouza

Directed by Chris Abraham

December 5, 2023, to January 7, 2024

Opening Night: Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Guloien Theatre

Canadian Premiere

Crow's Theatre and **The Musical Stage Company** present the long-awaited Canadian premiere of the Broadway phenomenon **NATASHA, PIERRE & THE GREAT COMET OF 1812** by **Dave Malloy**. This 12-time Tony-nominated musical delivers a radically contemporary and moving take on Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. Its audacious storytelling and groundbreaking score mixes indie rock, pop, folk, electronic dance, and classic Broadway music.

Winner of two Tony Awards, three Lucille Lortel Awards, the Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best New Musical, a Special Obie Citation, and the Richard Rodgers Award for Musical Theater, **NATASHA, PIERRE & THE GREAT COMET OF 1812** is "the most innovative and the best new musical to open on Broadway since *Hamilton*" (*The New York Times*).

Created by **Dave Malloy** was first introduced to Toronto audiences with his whisky-fuelled song cycle *Ghost Quartet* at Crow's Theatre, **NATASHA, PIERRE & THE GREAT COMET OF 1812** is choreographed by **Ray Hogg** (*Dixon Road*), the critically acclaimed artistic director of The Musical Stage Company and directed by **Chris Abraham** (*Uncle Vanya*).

"Inventive, ravishing and full-on romantic!" *New York Post*

Lead Sponsor
B Street Collaborative

A Nowadays Theatre Production in association with Crow's Theatre

EARWORM

Written and directed by Mohammad Yaghoubi

February 6 to 25, 2024

Opening Night: Friday, February 9, 2024

Studio Theatre

World Premiere

Select performances in Farsi

EARWORM is a Nowadays Theatre production in association with Crow's Theatre, written and directed by **Mohammad Yaghoubi**. Yassmin, a long-time immigrant from Iran who fled persecution from the Islamic regime, must negotiate the reality that her son is in love with a conservative Muslim woman. When Yassmin's past catches up to her in present-day Toronto, their future happiness is threatened.

Inspired by real events, **EARWORM** is a stunning depiction of the far-reaching impact of the Iranian revolutions of 1979 and 2022 through themes of love, power, parenting, and political asylum.

Born and raised in Iran, **Mohammad Yaghoubi** is an award-winning playwright, director, screenwriter, and theatre instructor. His plays have been translated into six languages and produced all over the world. Following a decade of producing theatre in Iran, Mohammad co-founded Nowadays Theatre in Toronto in 2016 and it quickly established itself with critically acclaimed productions in English and Farsi, including *Swim Team*, *Dance of Torn Papers*, *Winter of 88*, *Heart of a Dog*, and *The Only Possible Way*.

"An excellent company." *NOW Magazine*

The Crow's Theatre Production Residency Program is supported by The Youssef-Warren Foundation and the Meighen Family Foundation.

Théâtre français de Toronto in association with Crow's Theatre present the NOUS Théâtre production
L'AMOUR TELLE UNE CATHÉDRALE ENSEVELIE

Written and directed by Guy Régis Jr.

Music composed and performed by Amos Coulanges

February 22 to 25, 2024

Opening Night: Friday, February 23, 2024

Guloien Theatre

Four performances only!

Toronto Premiere

Performed in French and Creole with English surtitles

Multilingual smart glasses available

L'AMOUR TELLE UNE CATHÉDRALE ENSEVELIE tells the tragic tale of a son who journeys across the ocean to reunite with his mother in Canada. The haunting and spirited melodies in this intimate Franco-Haitian, opera-theatre-concert hybrid reveal the emotional impact of leaving, yearning, mourning, and hoping.

Writer and director **Guy Régis Jr.** founded NOUS Théâtre in 2001 and has presented work across Haiti, France, Belgium, Hungary, the United States, Brazil, Italy, Togo, and the Congo. Composer and guitarist **Amos Coulanges** was born in Port-au-Prince and studied at the University of Ottawa before completing his musical training in Europe.

Théâtre français de Toronto (TfT) is a repertoire and creation company focused on representing and promoting Francophone culture. One of the first French theatre companies outside of Quebec, TfT has been showcasing the talent of French-speaking artists and theatre makers for over 50 years with passion, commitment, and innovation.

"Astonishing poetic power. A magnificent and tragic spectacle." *La Terrasse*

Crow's Theatre presents the Goodman Theatre, Center Theatre Group, Vineyard Theatre production
DANA H.

Written by Lucas Hnath

Adapted from interviews with Dana Higginbotham conducted by Steve Cosson

Directed by Les Waters

Starring Jordan Baker as Dana H.

March 12 to April 7, 2024

Opening Night: Friday, March 15, 2024

Guloien Theatre

Canadian Premiere

The critically acclaimed and celebrated play **DANA H.** arrives at Crow's Theatre following a triumphant Broadway run and subsequent tour. This riveting, cutting-edge drama follows the harrowing true story of Dana Higginbotham, a chaplain in a psychiatric ward, who was abducted by one of the patients and held captive in a series of Florida motel rooms for five months.

Her son, acclaimed playwright Lucas Hnath (*A Doll's House, Part 2*), has created a powerful drama for the stage with his mother's own voice and courageous words. The show's dialogue is audio culled from days of recorded interviews. Performed with precision by **Jordan Baker**, she lip-syncs every word, both channeling and paying tribute to Dana Higginbotham.

Winner of the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Solo Show, two Tony Awards (Best Performance, Best Sound Design), and *The New York Times* Critic's Pick, **DANA H.** shatters conventions and delivers a chilling and unforgettable exploration of survival and storytelling.

"Brilliant! Explodes expectations at every turn." *The New York Times*
"A harrowing story told with stunning subtlety." *The Washington Post*

A Crow's Theatre Production in association with
paul watson productions and Obsidian Theatre Company
shaniqua in abstraction

written and performed by bahia watson
April 9 to 28, 2024

Opening Night: Friday, April 12, 2024

Studio Theatre
World Premiere

Following up on her 2022 summer hit *MASHUP PON DI ROAD*, **bahia watson** thoughtfully blends razor-sharp humour with a piercing cultural critique in her intrepidly daring one-woman show **shaniqua in abstraction**. After starring in Crow's Theatre's *Someone Else* and *The Seagull* (co-produced with The Company Theatre) and, most recently, thrilling audiences with her unforgettable turn as Sonya in Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*, bahia returns in her Crow's Theatre playwriting debut.

In this searching new work, bahia brings her poet's heart, vaulting imagination, and disarming humour to shape a kaleidoscopic explosion of experiences and shifting identities that defiantly push back the boundaries defining Black womanhood.

paul watson productions is a free-spirited, fun-loving, world-building force dedicated to creating art for the people. From the Caribbean vaudevillian fringe hit *pomme is french for apple*, to the island-kissed traveling circus comedy *MASHUP PON DI ROAD*, paul watson productions supports artists who challenge oppressive entities while also valuing the utmost importance of play.

Obsidian Theatre Company is an award-winning theatre company passionately dedicated to the exploration, development, and production of the Black voice. As Canada's leading culturally specific theatre company, it has a threefold mission to produce plays, develop playwrights, and train emerging theatre professionals.

"Bahia Watson is outstanding." *Torontonicity*

The Crow's Theatre Production Residency Program is supported by The Youssef-Warren Foundation and the Meighen Family Foundation.

Crow's Theatre presents the Cunning Concepts & Creations production

HUFF

Written and performed by Cliff Cardinal

Directed by Karin Randoja

April 23 to 28, 2024

Opening Night: Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Guloien Theatre

Seven performances only!

Cliff Cardinal returns to Crow's Theatre for a special, one-week presentation of his critically acclaimed, award-winning solo show **HUFF**.

HUFF is the savagely funny and harrowing tale of Wind and his brothers as they struggle with their mother's death, a reserve school system that's failing them, and a solvent-abuse problem. Wind's fantastic, gas-induced dream world blurs his harsh reality in this powerful, disturbing, and comic tale of family, love, and despair.

"One of the most important playwrights and performers in Canada" (*Toronto Star*), **Cliff Cardinal** is known for his dark humour, compassionate poeticism, and acclaimed solo shows *Stitch*, *Huff*, *Cliff Cardinal's CBC Special*, and *William Shakespeare's As You Like It, A Radical Retelling by Cliff Cardinal*. **Karin Randoja** is an award-winning director, actor, teacher, singer, and composer who regularly collaborates with Cliff.

"UNFLINCHING ... will take your breath away." *The Globe and Mail*

A Crow's Theatre Production

THE WRONG BASHIR

Written by Zahida Rahemtulla

Directed by Paolo Santalucia

Associate Director Zahida Rahemtulla

May 21 to June 16, 2024

Opening Night: Friday, May 24, 2024

Guloien Theatre

Toronto Premiere

After moving back home with his parents, Bashir Ladha, a young philosophy major, is unwittingly chosen to serve in a prestigious religious position in his Ismaili community. When two council representatives arrive to meet their esteemed nominee, a hilarious case of mistaken identity ensues, prompting the intergenerational family to question their own lifelong traditions.

Playwright and short-story writer, **Zahida Rahemtulla** premiered **THE WRONG BASHIR** in Vancouver to a sold-out run and critical acclaim in March 2023. She has received an Honourable Mention in the Alice Munro Short Story Contest and was longlisted for the CBC Short Story Prize.

Directed by **Paolo Santalucia** (*Prodigal*), with **Zahida Rahemtulla** as associate director, **THE WRONG BASHIR** is a laugh-out-loud farce that explores the balance between personal freedom, familial expectations, and cultural traditions.

“The Wrong Bashir is one big wacky romp.” Vancouverplays

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit crowstheatre.com or email boxoffice@crowstheatre.com or call 647.341.7390 ext. 1010 or drop by 345 Carlaw Avenue (at Dundas Street East).

#CrowsTheatre2324 | [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) @CrowsTheatre

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SUPPORTER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Crow’s Theatre and our producing partners gratefully acknowledge support from the Toronto Arts Council, Toronto Arts Foundation, Ontario Arts Council, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Province of Ontario, Canada Council for the Arts, and Department of Canadian Heritage.

Crow’s Theatre gratefully acknowledges The Slight Family Foundation for their extraordinary gift in the 2023.24 season.

Visionary support of Crow’s Theatre is generously provided by lead season patron Sylvia Soyka, Seaton McLean and Sonja Smits, Sandra and Jim Pitblado, and Anonymous.

Crow’s Theatre thanks all its major corporate, government, foundation, and individual funders who have made the 2023.24 season possible.

ABOUT CROW’S THEATRE

For 40 years, Crow’s Theatre has been a leading force in the Canadian theatre landscape, recognized for provocative and award-winning theatre work that premieres in Toronto, often followed by national and international tours. Resonating with Toronto’s civic, community, and cultural milieu, Crow’s Theatre adapts and evolves with the social, economic, and cultural environment of the city. Crow’s Theatre is distinguished as a preeminent cultural destination for its far-reaching imagination, ideas, exchanges, diversity, and grassroots belief that the arts are essential to healthy and thriving communities.

Led by Artistic and General Director Chris Abraham and Executive Director Sherrie Johnson, Crow’s Theatre is located at the corner of Carlaw Avenue and Dundas Street East in Toronto’s East End. Its home at Streetcar Crowsnest comprises four venues for dynamic cultural and community programming: the Guloien Theatre (200 seats), the Studio Theatre (90), the Nada Ristich Studio Gallery (80), and the full-service Lobby Bar. There is also an onsite restaurant that can accommodate 60 seated indoors and 75 on the outdoor patio.