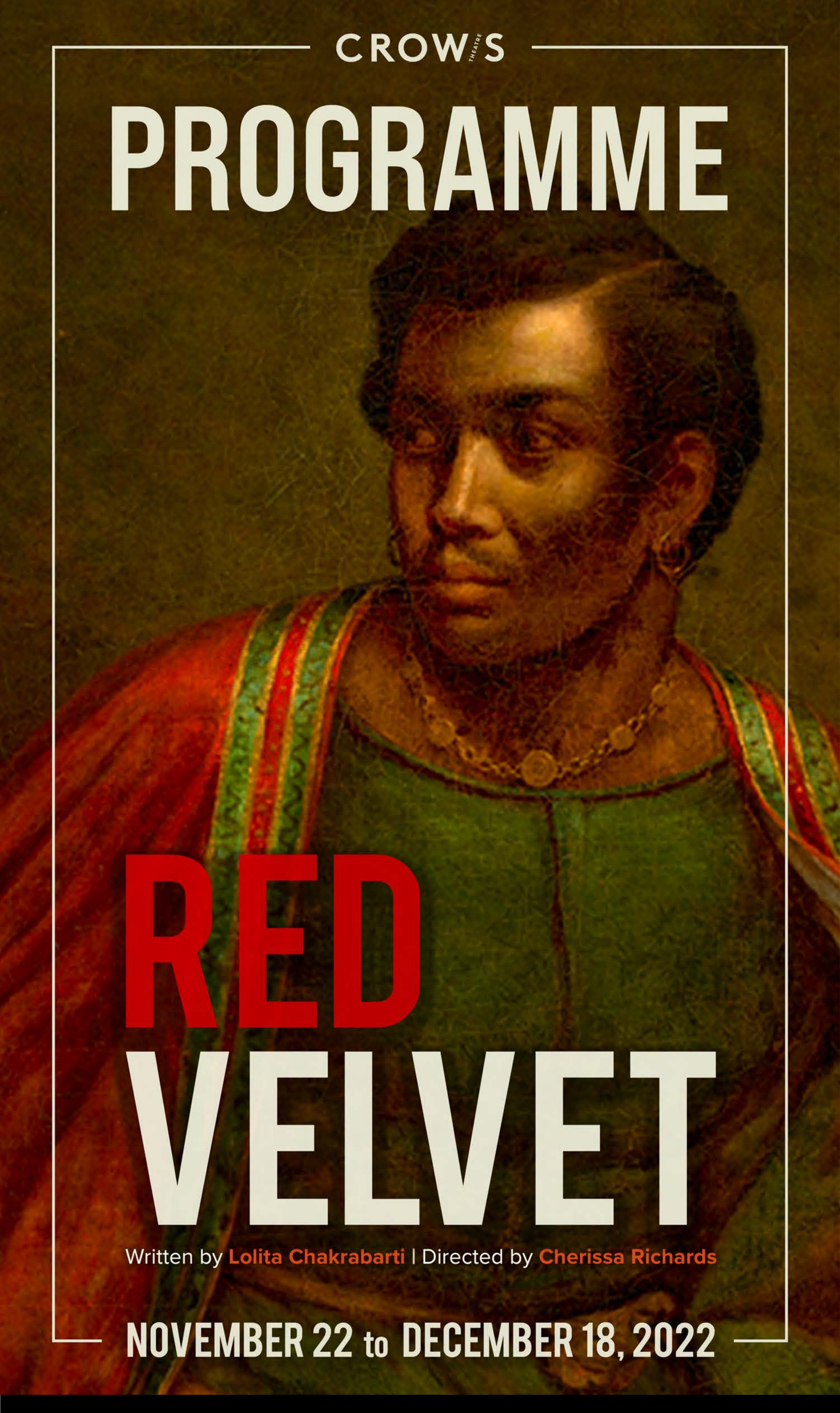


CROW/S

PROGRAMME

RED VELVET

Written by Lolita Chakrabarti | Directed by Cherissa Richards

NOVEMBER 22 to DECEMBER 18, 2022

A CROW'S THEATRE PRODUCTION

RED VELVET

Written by **Lolita Chakrabarti**
Directed by **Cherissa Richards**

NOVEMBER 22 to DECEMBER 18, 2022
GULOIEN THEATRE | **TORONTO PREMIERE**
Opening Night: Friday, November 25, 2022

THE COMPANY

Lolita Chakrabarti	Playwright
Cherissa Richards	Director
Julie Fox	Set and Props Designer
Ming Wong	Costume Designer
Arun Srinivasan	Lighting Designer
Thomas Ryder Payne	Sound Designer
Kyle Blair	Pierre Laporte
Ellen Denny	Ellen Tree
Starr Domingue	Connie
Nathan Howe	Casimir / Henry Forrester
Jeff Lillico	Charles Kean
Allan Louis	Ira Aldridge
Patrick McManus	Terrence / Bernard Warde
Amelia Sargisson	Halina Wozniak/Betty Lovell/ Margaret Aldridge
Rais Clarke-Mendes	Assistant Director
Siobhan Richardson	Fight Director
Chris Faris	Head of Wardrobe
Lisa Nighswander	Head of Props
Eric Armstrong	French and British Dialect Coach
Jutta Brendemuehl	German Dialect Coach
Halina von dem Hagen	Polish Dialect Coach
Jennifer Parr	Stage Manager
Farnoosh Talebpour	Assistant Stage Manager

Crow's Theatre is a proud member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA). We engage professional artists under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement (CTA) with Canadian Actors' Equity Association (CAEA).

Running time of *RED VELVET* is approximately two hours and twenty minutes with intermission.

CONTENT WARNING:
This production contains themes of racism, and the use of racial epithets — including racial slurs.

WELCOME TO CROW'S THEATRE

Welcome to Streetcar Crowsnest and the Toronto premiere of Lolita Chakrabarti's *Red Velvet*.

It's been a busy fall with back to back openings of *Uncle Vanya*, *The Shape of Home*, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, and Canadian tours of last season's *MixTape* and *As You Like It*. The response to our fall programming has been tremendous.

We're thrilled to be continuing our season in the Guloien Theatre and to introduce audiences to Lolita Chakrabarti who is currently thrilling audiences in London's West End with her stunning adaptation of Yann Martel's *The Life of Pi*. It also gives us enormous pleasure to introduce Toronto audiences to Winnipeg-based director Cherissa Richards who is making her Crow's Theatre directorial debut. Cherissa is the 2019 recipient of the Crow's Theatre RBC Rising Star Emerging Director Prize and is a director you'll be hearing much more from in years to come.

This year, we want to give Torontonians unmissable reasons to plan a great night out. With our two busy venues, our fabulous restaurant, Gare de l'Est, offering the best pre-show prix fixe menu in town, and our lobby bar (open pre- and post-show) featuring music, comedy, and cabaret, the theatre is full of delights all year long.

Although the season has already kicked off, we still have something for everyone, and a flexible array of subscription offerings to match. We have new takes on classic works; we have a Toronto premiere from American playwright Lloyd Suh (*The Chinese Lady*) and world premieres by Canadian playwrights Alex Bulmer (*Perceptual Archaeology*) and Paolo Santalucia (*Prodigal*); not to mention Stephen Sondheim's masterful musical, *Merrily We Roll Along*.

Audiences at Streetcar Crowsnest are treated to a performing arts space that is constantly transforming—something we take pride in at Crow's Theatre. With each production, you will be immersed in a new world, you will encounter life in a new way, and you will experience humanity from a new perspective.

'Tis the season to rediscover your love of theatre! For more information about each of our shows please visit www.crowstheatre.com.

CHRIS ABRAHAM, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
SHERRIE JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CROW/S

A SPECIAL REQUEST
In honour of our production of Red Velvet, Crow's Theatre will be making a donation to The Centre for Indigenous Theatre. We invite you to consider supporting this worthwhile organization as well.

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR, CHERISSA RICHARDS

Pictured with Cherissa, Assistant Director Rais Clarke-Mendes.

As a young Black theatre student, I would scour the library and internet and devour any and all references to Black artists, looking for stories that spoke to my existence. I stumbled upon Ira Aldridge while writing an undergrad theatre history paper and marvelled at the complete erasure of this incredible man. The first Black man, an African American, who, in 1833, crossed an ocean to play Othello on a major stage in London, England—and there's very little mention of him in our history books.

We often think Paul Robeson in the mid-twentieth century was the first Black man to play Othello in London, but it was, in fact, Ira who beat Robeson to that claim by over 100 years!

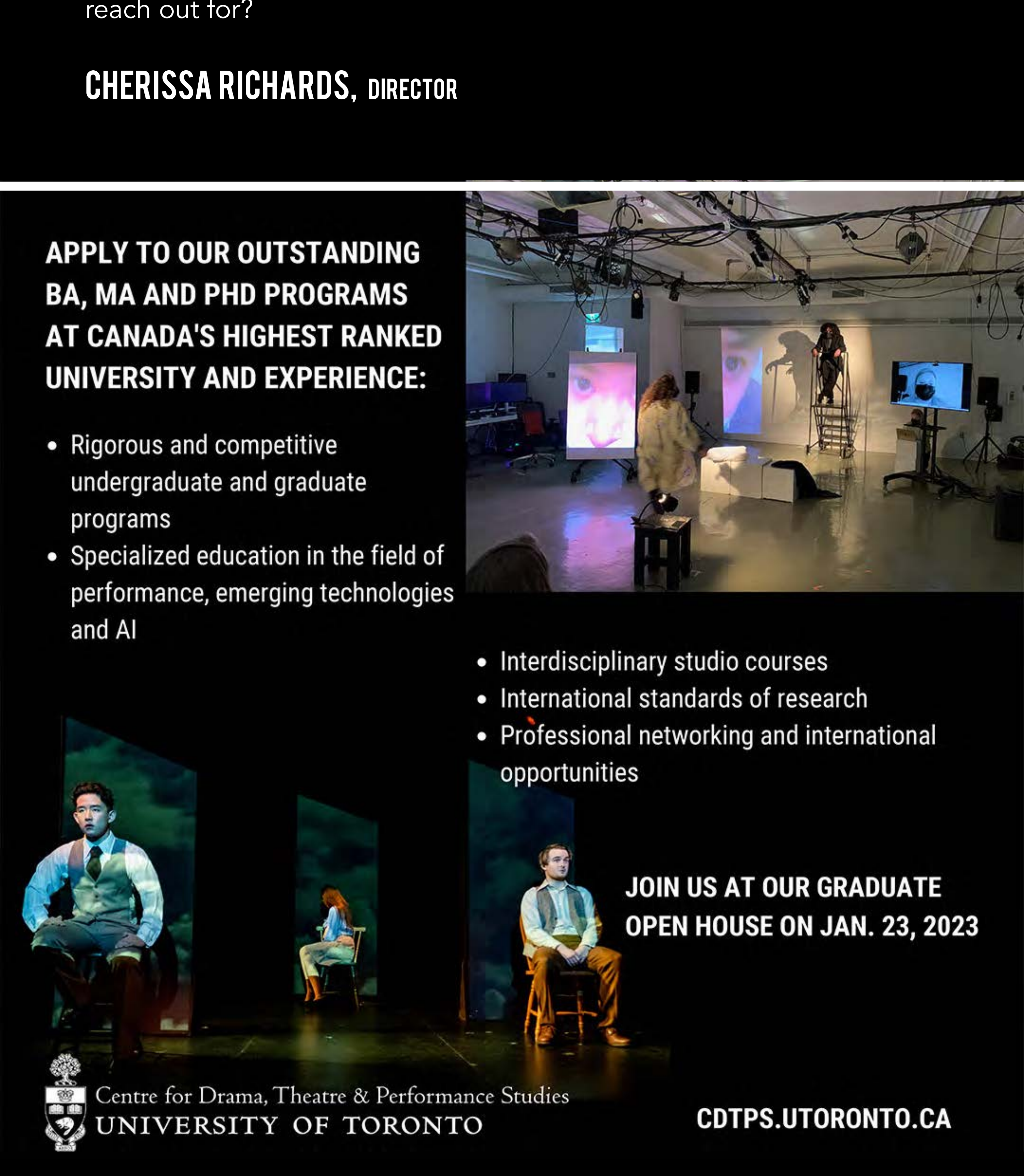
Why is Ira's legacy largely forgotten? Why did this man who changed the world of British theatre disappear into the ephemeral mist of our memory? Why aren't there theatres named after this iconic trailblazer? Why is he a mere footnote in the faded memories of our great Shakespearean stories? I am thrilled that Lolita Chakrabarti has brought this fictional story, based on true events, to our stages and am honoured to reconnect with this great Shakespearean juggernaut!

Through Ira's story, the playwright launches us into the past, bringing to life the vivid colours of a troupe of actors at the precipice of change. *Red Velvet* explores great love, deep bonds of friendship, and a hunger to achieve greatness.

But has Ira gone too far for his art? Is there a line? Should there be? Is there a limit to achieving greatness?

Almost 200 years after Ira made his London debut as Othello we find ourselves asking these same questions, and more. When change comes banging at our door, will we be ready for it? When the flames of change come roaring through your door, whose hand will you reach out for?

CHERISSA RICHARDS, DIRECTOR



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THE CAST

KYLE BLAIR
PIERRE LAPORTE

Hometown: London, Ontario. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **Recent theatre:** Twenty seasons between the Stratford and Shaw Festivals. Roles at Shaw include Octavius (*Man and Superman*), Ragueneau (*Cyrano de Bergerac*), The Captain (*Androcles and the Lion*), Oscar (*Sweet Charity*), and Jim (*Holiday Inn*). Roles at Stratford include Frederic (*Pirates of Penzance*), Lucentio (*Taming of the Shrew*), Will Parker (*Oklahoma!*) and Jack (*Into the Woods*). **Additional Theatre:** Musical Stage Company, Young People's Theatre, NAC, Manitoba Theatre Centre, Neptune Theatre, Grand Theatre, Theatre Aquarius, Talk is Free Theatre, Ross Petty Productions, and Drayton Entertainment. **Upcoming Projects:** Village Wooing and Prince Caspian at the Shaw Festival. **Education:** Kyle holds an MA (University of Guelph), a BFA (University of Windsor), and is a graduate of the Stratford Festival's Birmingham Conservatory. **Thank You:** With love and gratitude to Lach and Doe MacLachlan for their ongoing and generous support. Kyle is thrilled to be joining the team at Crow's!

ELLEN DENNY
ELLEN TREE

Hometown: London, Ontario. **For Crow's Theatre:** *Towards Youth* (apprentice production manager). **Recent Theatre:** A Dora-nominated actor, local credits include *Life After* (Canadian Stage/The Musical Stage Company); *Bad Jews* (Harold Green Jewish Theatre); *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike*, *The Audience* (Mirvish Productions). **Additional Theatre:** Ellen (she/her) has performed across Canada with companies such as NAC English Theatre, Manitoba Theatre Centre, Grand Theatre, Neptune Theatre, Segal Centre, Citadel Theatre, Sudbury Theatre, Theatre New Brunswick and Drayton Entertainment. Thank you to Cherissa for guiding us on this journey, and to our audience for supporting live theatre! **More:** During the pandemic, Ellen co-created *February: A Love Story* with Emilio Vieira, which was featured on CBC radio q and streamed on Stratfest@Home. As a playwright, Ellen's produced works include *Pleasureville* (Neptune Theatre, The Guild Charlottetown) and *Take Care* (Here for Now Theatre).

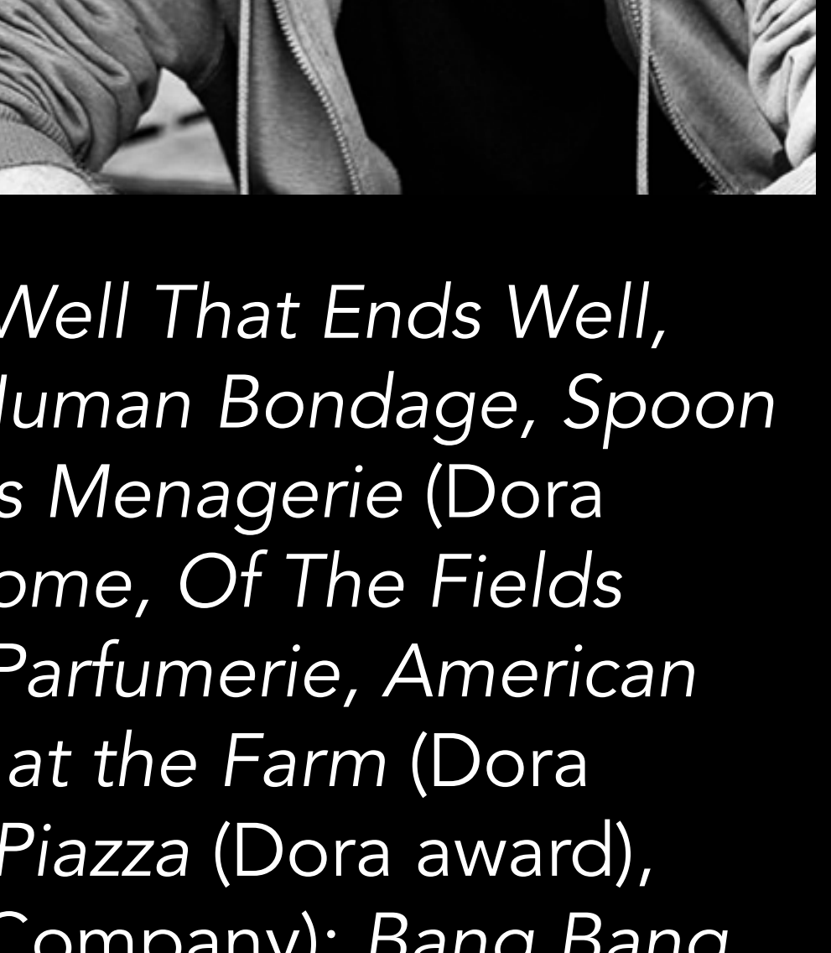
STARR DOMINGUE
CONNIE

Hometown: Scarborough, Ontario. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **Recent Theatre:** *Room* (Mirvish Productions), *Dixon Road* (Musical Stage Company, Obsidian Theatre, Canadian Stage). **Selected Theatre:** *Little Shop of Horrors, Billy Elliot* (Stratford Festival) *An Octoroon, Me and My Girl, Pygmalion, Sweeney Todd* (Shaw Festival), *Hairspray* (Mirvish Productions) *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Broadway National Tour / European Tour), *Oil and Water* (NAC), *Cookin' at the Cookery* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival). **Upcoming Projects:** *Controlled Damage* (The Grand Theatre) **Film/TV:** *Hairspray* (New Line Cinema), *Odd Squad Mobile Unit* (TVO / Sinking Ship), *4 Square* (Treehouse TV), *Code 8 - Part II* (Netflix), *Priya Tate: Super Taster* (Bad Hats Theatre). **Education:** Sheridan College (Undergrad in Musical Theatre), University of Guelph (Masters in Theatre). **Social Media:** @starrdomingue IG, Starr Domingue FB, @Starr_Domingue TW, starrdomingue YT **More:** Creator/Producer and Host of the digital talk show, *The Blacktor's Studio*, an online interview series highlighting the journey of actors of Colour who grace the Canadian stage. **Thank You:** Humbled to be a member of this incredible company. Honoured to bring awareness to the great Ira Aldrige, who helped pave a way for me to be on any stage. Grateful to all involved, especially our fearless leader, Cherissa Richards. Love 2 Mumma, KC and God, without whom I'd be nothing.

NATHAN HOWE
CASIMIR/HENRY FORRESTER

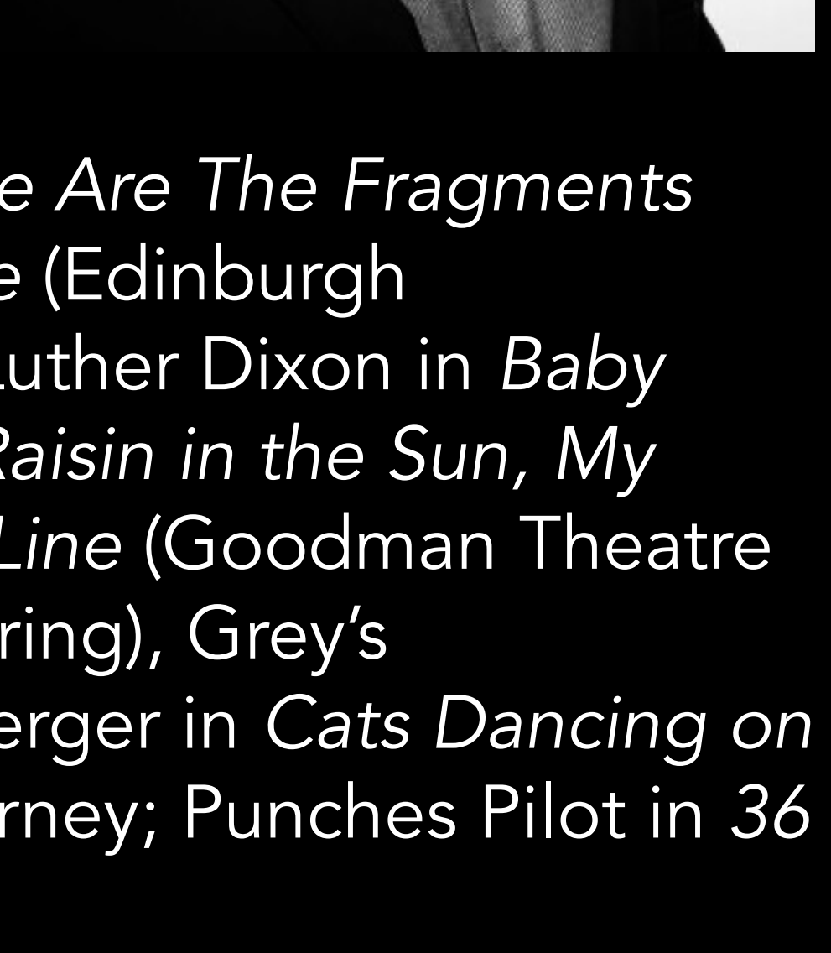
Hometown: Saskatoon, SK, Treaty 6. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **Recent Theatre:** *Stones In His Pockets* (Persephone Theatre), *Perfect Wedding* (Thousand Islands Playhouse), *The Love Interest* (Theatre Howl). **Additional Theatre:** *Reasonable Doubt* (Persephone), *Miss Bennet* (Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre), *In The Wake of Wettlaufer, Cakewalk, Wing Night at The Boot, Judith, Mr. New Year's Eve* (Blyth Festival), *Salt Baby* (MT Space, Gwaandak, Belfry, Globe, Live Five, Talking Stick), *Matchstick* (Persephone/GCTC), *Seminar* (Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre/Mirvish Productions). **Playwriting:** *Endurance, The Love Interest, Aiden Flynn Lost His Brother So He Makes Another* (Best English Production - Montreal Fringe 2014), *The Wild Dog Waits On The Concrete Path, Matchstick* (Outstanding Original Work - Ottawa Fringe 2013). **Upcoming Projects:** His thesis project, a sci-fi feature screenplay, will occupy his winter and spring. This summer he will act in *Women of The Fur Trade* (Stratford Festival), and work on a writing commission with the Blyth Festival. **Education:** Nathan is a second year MFA student in Scriptwriting and Story Design at Toronto Metropolitan University. He has his BFA in Acting from The University of Saskatchewan and is a Graduate of the Globe Theatre Conservatory in Regina.

JEFF LILLICO
CHARLES KEAN



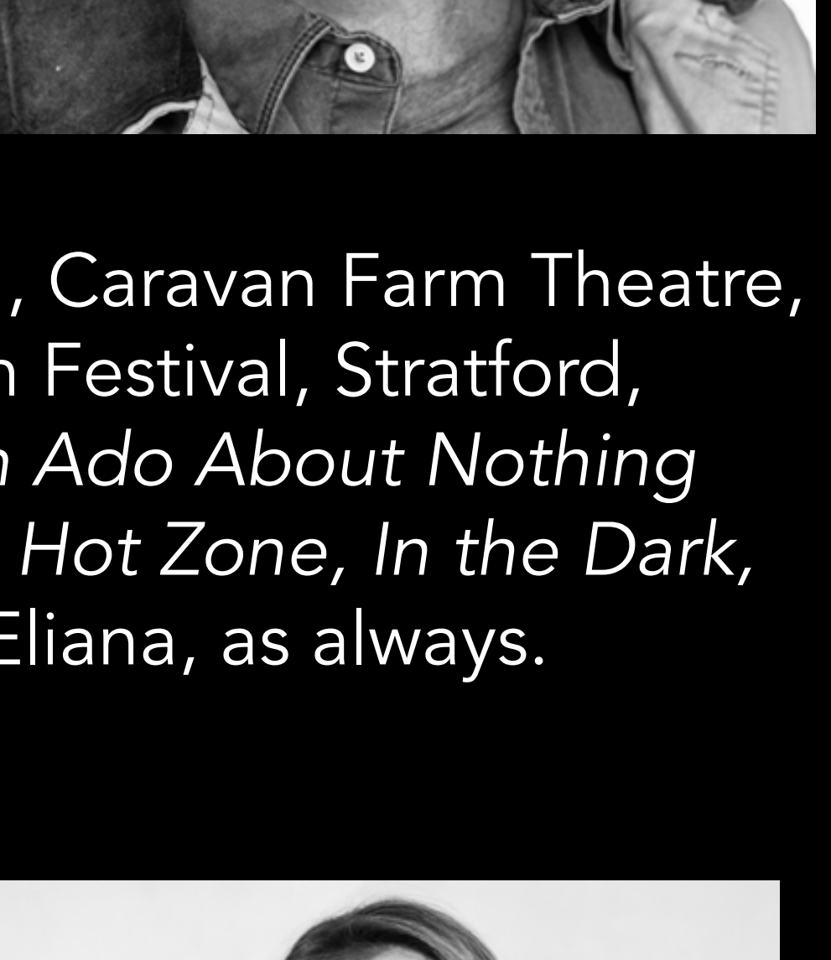
Hometown: Calgary, Alberta. **For Crow's Theatre:** Workshop presentation of *Chew, A Verbatim Musical* (Project Humanity/Crow's Theatre). **Recent Theatre:** *Sweeney Todd* with Talk is Free Theatre (Dora nomination), *Sweat* with Theatre Aquarius. **Additional Theatre:** *Romeo & Juliet* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *Journey's End, Gypsy, Floyd Collins, Three Men on a Horse, Happy End, Coronation Voyage* (Shaw Festival); *All's Well That Ends Well, Taming of the Shrew, Hamlet* (Stratford Festival); *Of Human Bondage, Spoon River* (Soulpepper/Signature Theatre, NYC); *The Glass Menagerie* (Dora nomination), *Our Town* (Dora nomination), *Leaving Home, Of The Fields Lately, Salt-Water Moon, Glenn, Great Expectations, Parfumerie, American Buffalo, Antigone, The Real Thing* (Soulpepper); *Tom at the Farm* (Dora nomination) (Buddies in Bad Times); *The Light in the Piazza* (Dora award), *Grey Gardens* (Dora nomination) (The Musical Stage Company); *Bang Bang* (Factory Theatre); *Copy That, Little Mercy's First Murder* (Tarragon Theatre); *Clybourne Park* (Studio180/Mirvish); *Merrily We Roll Along, Violet* (Yes Theatre). **Upcoming:** *Fairview* (Obsidian Theatre/Canadian Stage). **Film/TV:** Coffey on *Locke & Key* (Netflix), *On the Basis Of Sex, Designated Survivor, Murdoch Mysteries, Nurses, Hudson & Rex, The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (2016), *Flashpoint, Copper.* **Social Media:** @jefflillico on instagram. **Thank You:** Thanks to Cherissa, Chris and the entire team at Crow's!

ALLAN LOUIS
IRA ALDRIDGE



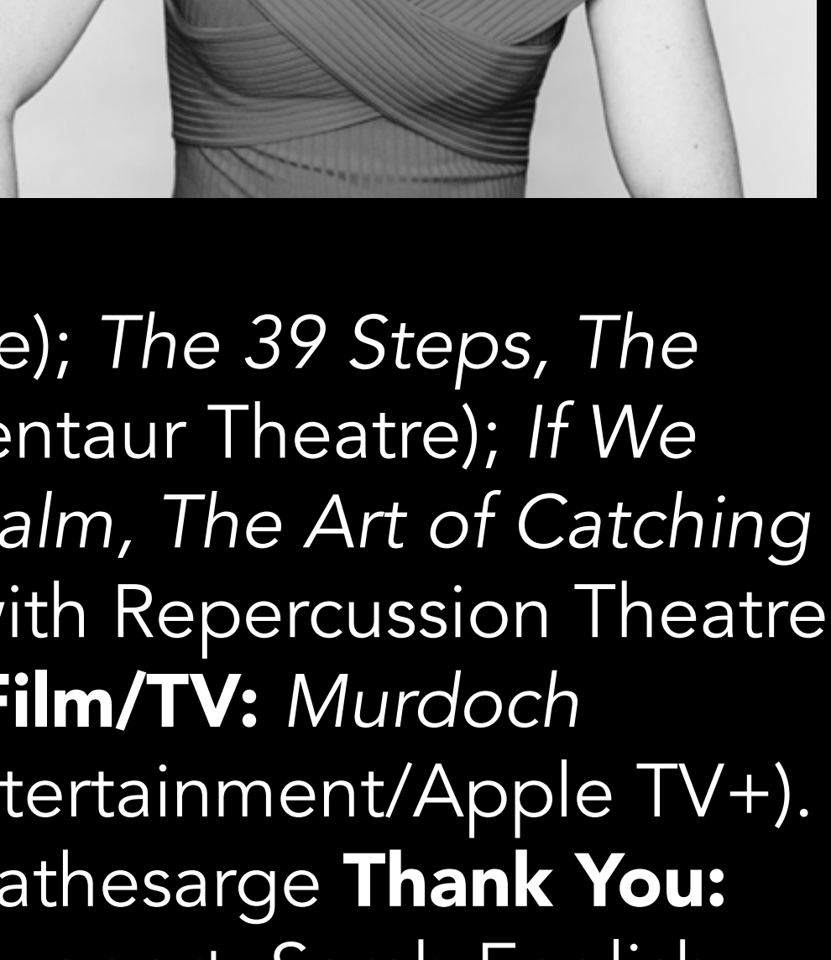
For Crow's Theatre: Debut. **Recent Theatre:** Fourth season at Shaw Festival; *The Doctor's Dilemma, Gem of the Ocean.* **Additional Theatre:** *What a Lovely War, Grand Hotel, Dracula, Saint Joan, "Master Harold"… and the Boys*, plus the tour (Shaw Festival); *I Am William* (Stratford Festival); *Measure for Measure, Much Ado About Nothing, Julius Caesar, The Comedy of Errors* (Canadian Stage); *Here Are The Fragments* (The Theatre Centre); Buddy Black in *Helen Lawrence* (Edinburgh International Festival, Brooklyn Academy of Music); Luther Dixon in *Baby It's You!* (Broadway); *Ragtime* (first national tour), *A Raisin in the Sun, My Children! My Africa!, Hair, Antigone, The Black Star Line* (Goodman Theatre **TV:** *NCIS* (recurring), *Castle, Person of Interest* (recurring), Grey's Anatomy, *Chuck, Privileged* (series regular). **FILM:** Berger in *Cats Dancing on Jupiter; River of Fundament* directed by Matthew Barney; Punches Pilot in *36 Saints*; Dr William Palmer in *Stomp the Yard.*

PATRICK MCMANUS
TERRENCE / BERNARD WARDE



Hometown: Born and raised in Toronto, on the other side of the Don River, Patrick now lives in Niagara on the Lake. **For Crow's Theatre:** *Orphans for the Czar.* **Additional Theatre:** *The Message, The Realistic Joneses* (Tarragon Theatre); 11 seasons with Shaw Festival including *St Joan, Arcadia, Pygmalion, Uncle Vanya, An Octaroon;* productions with Canadian Stage, Factory Theatre, Necessary Angel, Bard on the Beach, Caravan Farm Theatre, Citadel Theatre, Theatre Calgary, Globe theatre, Blyth Festival, Stratford, National Arts Centre, Segal Centre. **Upcoming:** *Much Ado About Nothing* and *King Lear* at Stratford. **Film and TV:** *Golden Boy, Hot Zone, In the Dark, Clarice, Spiral, Anne with an E.* **Thank you:** Tara and Eliana, as always.

AMELIA SARGISSON
HALINA WOZNIAK / BETTY LOVELL / MARGARET ALDRIDGE



Hometown: Montréal, Quebec. **For Crow's Theatre:** *The Watershed/Le partage des eaux, Seeds.* **Recent Theatre:** *Hamlet 911* (Stratford Festival), *All I Want For Christmas* (Centaur Theatre). **Additional Theatre:** *Paradise Lost, The Comedy of Errors, The Front Page, Othello* (Stratford Festival); *Twelfth Night/King Lear* (Canadian Stage); *Amadeus* (Talk Is Free Theatre); *The 39 Steps, The Madonna Painter, The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (Centaur Theatre); *If We Were Birds, down from heaven* (Imago); *Tender Napalm, The Art of Catching Pigeons by Torchlight* (SummerWorks); six seasons with Repercussion Theatre. **Upcoming Projects:** *La Bête* (Talk Is Free Theatre). **Film/TV:** *Murdoch Mysteries* (Shaftesbury/CBC/UKTV); *See* (Chernin Entertainment/Apple TV+). **Education:** Hon. BFA from TMU. **Social Media:** @akathesarge **Thank You:** Janet, Julian, Andy, Dylan & Troy - for the love and support; Sarah English - for the dialect coaching; Peter Wylde - for the brush up on 19th c theatre history; Cherissa Richards - for having me on board; this team - for their camaraderie! **More:** Mentoring Artist at The National Theatre School; narrator of several audiobooks for Penguin Random House; co-creator, through TIFT, of two programs for fostering more communicative and compassionate collaborative spaces: ARCS and Two-Way Mentorship. "History isn't what happened. It's who tells the story." - Sally Roesch Wagner

THE CREATIVE TEAM

CHERISSA RICHARDS
DIRECTOR

Hometown: Winnipeg, Manitoba. **For Crow's Theatre:** *MixTape*, Assistant Director. **Recent Theatre:** *Harlem Duet* at Bard on the Beach, *Backstage at Carnegie Hall*, a modern opera with Montreal's BW Musique. **Additional Theatre:** Cherissa has performed as an actor for over 20 years in theatres across the country. In 2016, Cherissa had her directing debut at Manitoba Theatre for Young People with Michael Miller's *The Power of Harriet T* where her love affair with directing truly began. In 2021, Cherissa co-directed *Voice* at Prairie Theatre Exchange, directed *Meet me at Dawn* with Theatre by the River, and was the recipient of the Crow's Theatre RBC Rising Star Emerging Director Prize. **Upcoming Projects:** Assistant directing the epic four theatre tour of *Fall on Your Knees*, and directing Hannah Moscovitch's *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes* at Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre and Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* at the Bard on the Beach 2023. **Education:** MFA Acting, York University, Honours Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, University of Winnipeg, National Theatre School. **Social Media:** @cherissarichards **More:** Cherissa has been pursuing directing with internships at Bard on the Beach in Vancouver 2018, The Shaw Festival 2019, prior to the pandemic the Stratford Festival in 2020, and has assisted a number of renowned directors across Canada. Cherissa was one of the directing fellows in Why Not Theatre's 2021 This Gen Fellowship, and received a directing diploma in her directing residency-independent study at the National Theatre School of Canada. **Thank You:** Thanks to Chris and Crow's Theatre for the mentorship and the opportunity to tell this story, and to my team and cast for dreaming big with me!

JULIE FOX
SET AND PROPS DESIGNER

For Crow's Theatre: *Fifteen Dogs* (upcoming), *Uncle Vanya, MixTape, A&R Angels, The Watershed, Seeds, The Seagull, Someone Else, I, Claudia.* **Recent Theatre:** *Public Enemy*, Canadian Stage Company **Additional Theatre:** Julie Fox has been a production designer for theatre, dance, and opera in Canada for over 20 years and has worked with Stratford Festival, Shaw Festival, Centaur, Electric Company, Soulpepper, Tarragon Theatre, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Why Not Theatre, Necessary Angel, Volcano, Centaur Theatre, National Arts Centre, Segal Centre, Citadel Theatre, Theatre Junction, and Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre. **More:** Julie has received four Dora Mavor Moore Awards for outstanding set design, the Virginia Cooper Award for costume design, and has been nominated for Sterling and Meta awards. She is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada, where she also teaches.

THOMAS RYDER PAYNE
SOUND DESIGNER

Hometown: Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** *Uncle Vanya, Orphans for the Czar, MixTape, Julius Caesar, The Cherry Orchard, A&R Angels, Boy in the Moon, The Wedding Party* **Recent Theatre:** *Indecent* (Mirvish Productions, Studio 180 Theatre), *King Lear, Queen Goneril* (Soulpepper) **Additional Theatre:** Stratford Festival, Shaw Festival, Mirvish Productions, Soulpepper, Canadian Stage, Tarragon Theatre, Factory Theatre, Theatre Passe Muraille, Young People's Theatre, Crow's Theatre, Modern Times Stage Company, Aluna Theatre, Buddies in Bad Times, Nightwood Theatre, Toronto Dance Theatre, National Arts Centre, Theatre Calgary, Great Canadian Theatre Company, Royal Manitoba Theatre Company, and many others. **Upcoming Projects:** *Perceptual Archaeology*, Crow's Theatre. **Film/TV:** *Plain View, 7A, Blood Harvest, Hero. Traitor.Patriot, Alegra & Jim, Robert's Circle.* **Education:** York University (Honours BA)

ARUN SRINIVASAN
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Hometown: Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** *MixTape* (Toronto & London) **Recent Theatre:** *Cockroach* (Tarragon), *Where The Blood Mixes* (Soulpepper), *Lessons In Forgetting* (Pleiades) **Additional Theatre:** *Take The Moment* for Musical Stage Company. **Upcoming Projects:** *Much Ado About Nothing and Love's Labor Lost* (Stratford Festival), *No Woman's Land tour* (Jaberi Dance Theatre) **Education:** York University, Honours B.F.A Theatre **More:** Dance collaborators have included Robert Desrosiers, Peter Chin, Danny Grossman, COBA, Kaha:wi Dance Theatre, Tiger Princess Dance Projects, The National Ballet School and ProArteDanza. He has been the resident designer for Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre since 2002. His career has garnered him nine Dora Mavor Moore Award nominations for Outstanding Lighting Design in both the theatre and dance categories. In the musical theatre world, he was the Toronto Associate designer for The Lion King for Mirvish Productions. He has worked on galleries at The Royal Ontario Museum and for The Thompson - Landry Gallery. Arun has had the privilege of teaching lighting design at York University, TMU (formerly Ryerson University), the University of Waterloo and mentorship at The National Theatre School. Productions have taken him to Ukraine, Malaysia, Singapore, India, China and across North America.

MING WONG
COSTUME DESIGNER

Hometown: Sarnia, Ontario. **For Crow's Theatre:** *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo, Uncle Vanya, Orphans for the Czar, Julius Caesar, The Wedding Party.* **Recent Theatre:** *Public Enemy* (Canadian Stage), *Just To Get Married* (Shaw Festival), *Hamlet 911* (Stratford Festival), *Pipeline* (Soulpepper). **Additional Theatre:** Ming Wong is a Toronto costume designer, stylist, and wardrobe technician. She has worked on a variety of projects ranging from dance, theatre, film, and television. She has designed across the city and beyond for companies such as the Canadian Opera Company, Against the Grain, Citadel Theatre, Ross Petty Productions, Nightwood Theatre, Factory Theatre, Obsidian Theatre, and Modern Times Stage Company. **Upcoming Projects:** *Peter Pan's Final Flight* (Ross Petty Productions), *Rent* (Stratford Festival), *Things I Know to Be True* (The Company Theatre, Mirvish Productions). **Education:** BFA - Integrated Media, OCADu. **Social Media:** @mingwongdesign **Thank You:** As always, my family. **More:** Ming is the winner of this year's Dora Mavor Moore Award for costume design for *Is God Is*, as well as the 2021 laureate of the Virginia & Myrtle Cooper Award in Costume Design.

SIOBHAN RICHARDSON
FIGHT DIRECTOR

Hometown: Kitchener. **For Crow's Theatre:** *Orphans for the Czar.* **Recent Theatre:** *Carmen* (COC), *Indecent* (Studio 180 Theatre, Mirvish Productions), *Room* (The Grand Theatre, Covent Garden, Mirvish Productions), *Sex, Getting Married, The Russian Play* (Shaw Festival), *Phaedra's Love* (Stratford Festival), *James and the Giant Peach, To Kill A Mockingbird* (Young People's Theatre), *Frankenstein's Boy* (Eldritch Theatre). **Additional Theatre:** Siobhan Richardson is an award-winning fight director, intimacy director and coordinator, actor/fighter/singer/dancer, and a teacher, all of which have taken her across Canada, into the States and across Europe, in professional and amateur settings, and in educational institutions. As a certified fight director (Fight Directors Canada), and an internationally respected instructor, Siobhan has taught stage combat and intimacy across Canada, USA, and Europe. **Education:** Chalmers Arts Fellowship (Ontario Arts Council), numerous stage combat societies and individuals, Canadian College of the Performing Arts. **Upcoming Projects:** Guest artist at Western Michigan University, University of Alberta, several tv/film/web series projects! Follow social media for updates. **Social Media:** @fighteractress **More:** Siobhan recently received an Arts Response Initiative grant (Ontario Arts Council) to bring her unique approach to stage combat to Ontario and the world, through online lessons for skills development and maintenance. https://joyfulworkspaces.teachable.com

RAIS CLARKE-MENDES
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Hometown: Trinidad and Tobago. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **Recent Theatre:** Rais' directorial debut was the Patron's Pick of the 2022 Toronto Fringe Festival, *X and Da Spirit* by Donovan Hayden. **Upcoming Projects:** Remount of *X and Da Spirit* at Theatre Passe Muraille. **Education:** Rais recently graduated from the Acting Program at the National Theatre School of Canada. **Social Media:** raisclarkemendes.com @rais_cm on Instagram. **Thank You:** Rais would like to thank Cherissa and the team at Crow's for welcoming her onto this compelling and prevalent project.

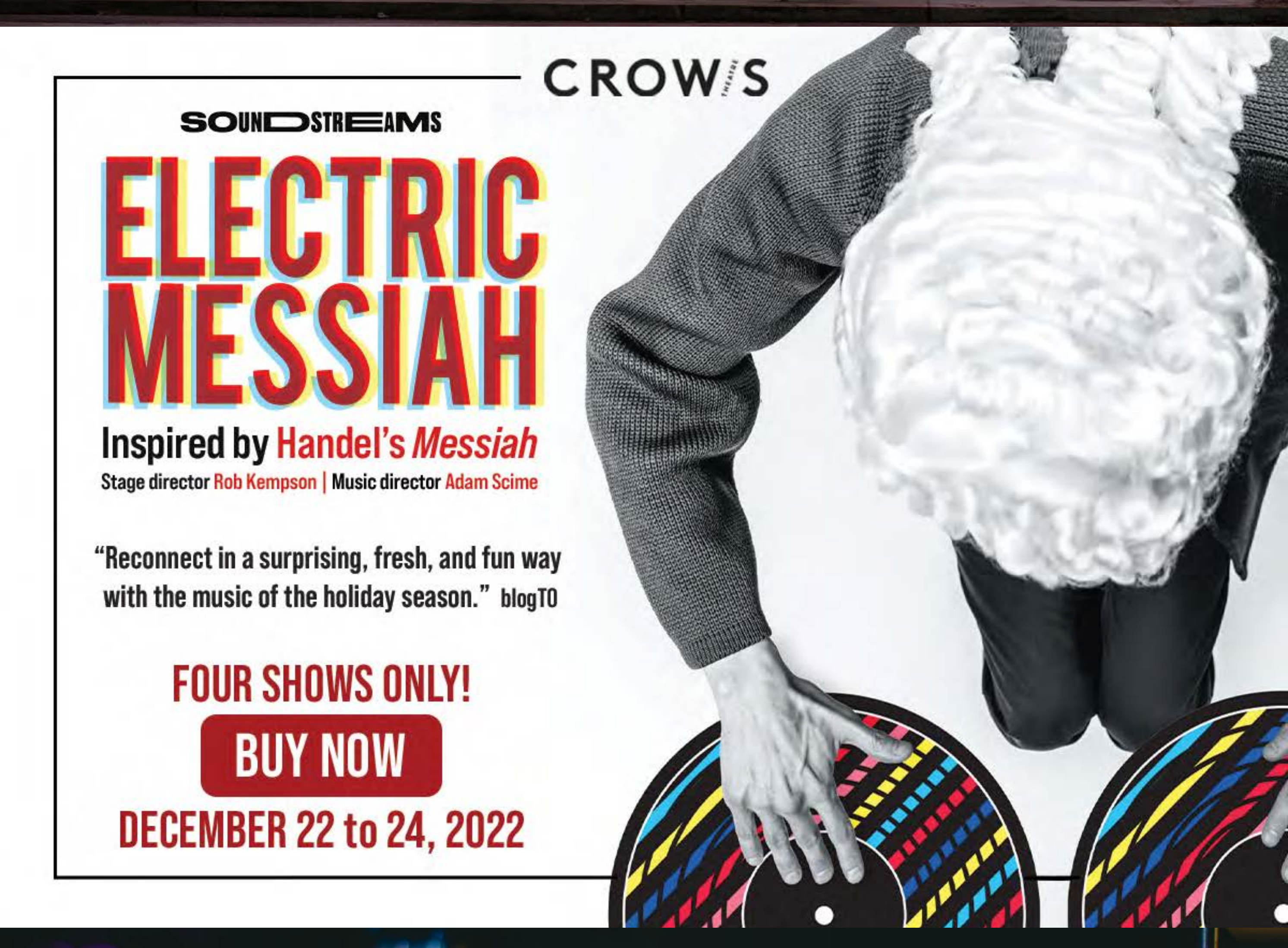
JENNIFER PARR
STAGE MANAGER

For Crow's Theatre: *Uncle Vanya.* **Recent Theatre:** Jennifer is delighted to be working on her second show at Crow's Theatre this season, and to be wearing her stage manager's hat once again. She has stage managed from Fringe to Symphony stages, from classics to new operas and plays, to a six-month run of the musical *Forever Plaid.* **Additional Theatre:** From 2011 to 2016 Jennifer was the Canadian production stage manager, and de facto resident director, for the Chicago Symphony's *Beyond the Score* shows as presented by Canadian orchestras around the country including in Toronto, Winnipeg, Montreal, and Quebec City. **Other credits:** Many "In Conversation" and other multimedia events for TIFF and at TIFF Bell Lightbox. **Education:** M.A. in Renaissance Drama, University of Warwick. **More:** A versatile theatre artist, Jennifer is also a director and dramaturge with credits including the world premieres of the operas *Pandora's Locker* (Dean Burry) and *The Last Wife* (Dunleavy and Alexander); developing and directing new plays, including *Waiting for Odysseus;* and directing all-female productions of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* and her own adaptation of *Richard III.*

FARNOOSH TALEBPOUR
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Hometown: Tehran and Toronto. **Crow's Theatre:** *Orphans for the Czar.* **Recent Theatre:** *Dido and Aeneas* (Opera Atelier), *King Lear and Queen Goneril* (Soulpepper), *Dixon Road* (Musical Stage Company, Obsidian Theatre, Canadian Stage), *Iphigenia and The Furies* (Theatre Passe Muraille, Saga Collectif **Additional Theatre:** *Angel* (Opera Atelier), *Serving Elizabeth* (Stratford Festival), *Angelique* (Black Theatre Workshop/ Factory Theatre), *Through the Bamboo* (Uwi Collective, Toronto Fringe) **Film/TV:** Costume design for *One Small Visit, Tête à Tête, Lune, Queen of the Morning Calm.* **Education:** York University (Fine Arts Cultural Studies). **More:** Farnoosh is an independent artist who works in live performance, but sometimes dabbles in film. She is looking forward to the exciting opportunities that are yet to come. **Thank You:** Farnoosh would like to thank her family and friends for their encouragement and support.

NEXT UP AT CROW'S



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CROW'S

FIFTEEN DOGS

Adapted and Directed by **Marie Farsi**
Based on the novel *Fifteen Dogs* by **André Alexis**

JANUARY 10 to FEBRUARY 5, 2023

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Aerial Artists $5,000+

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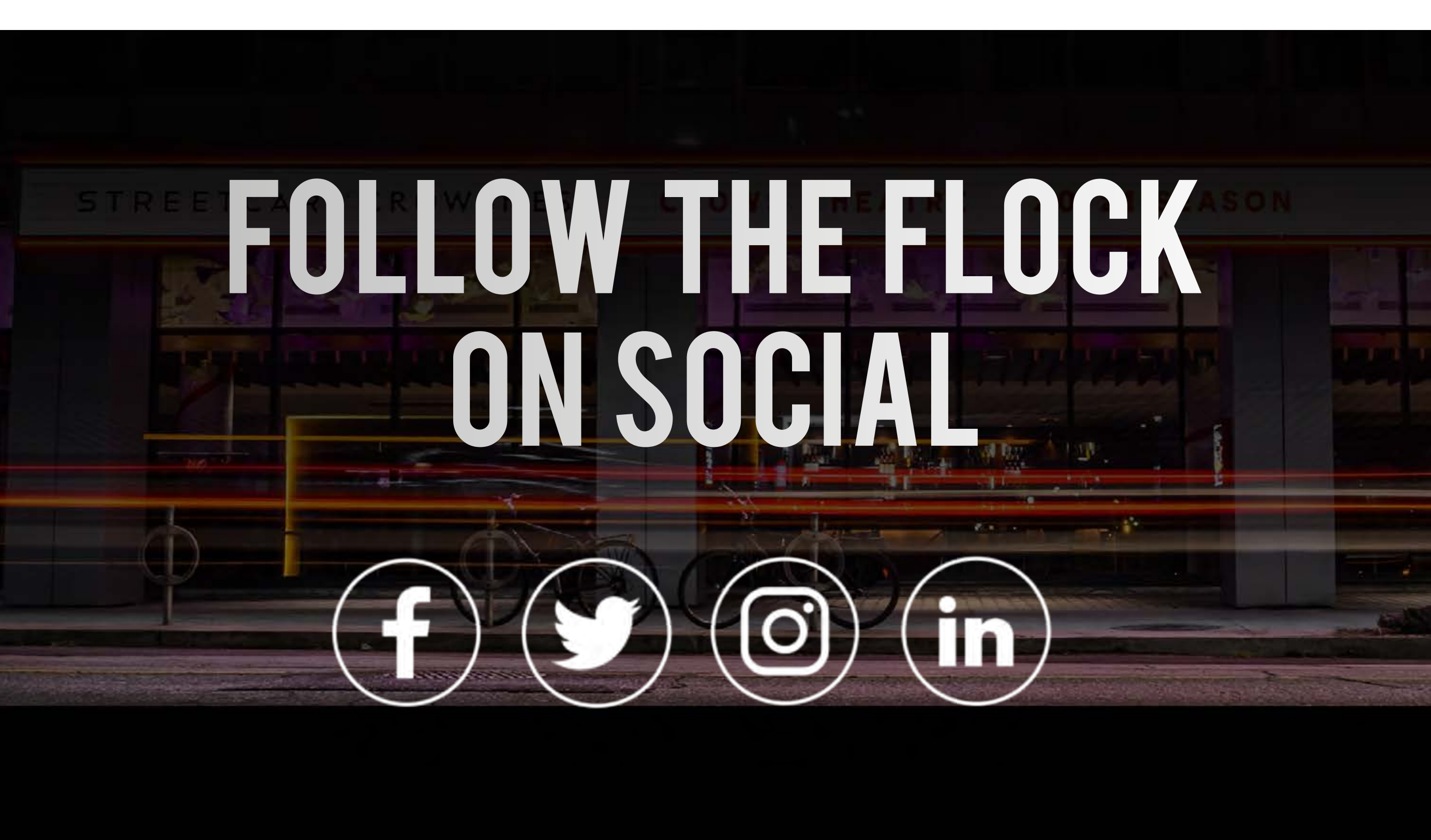

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