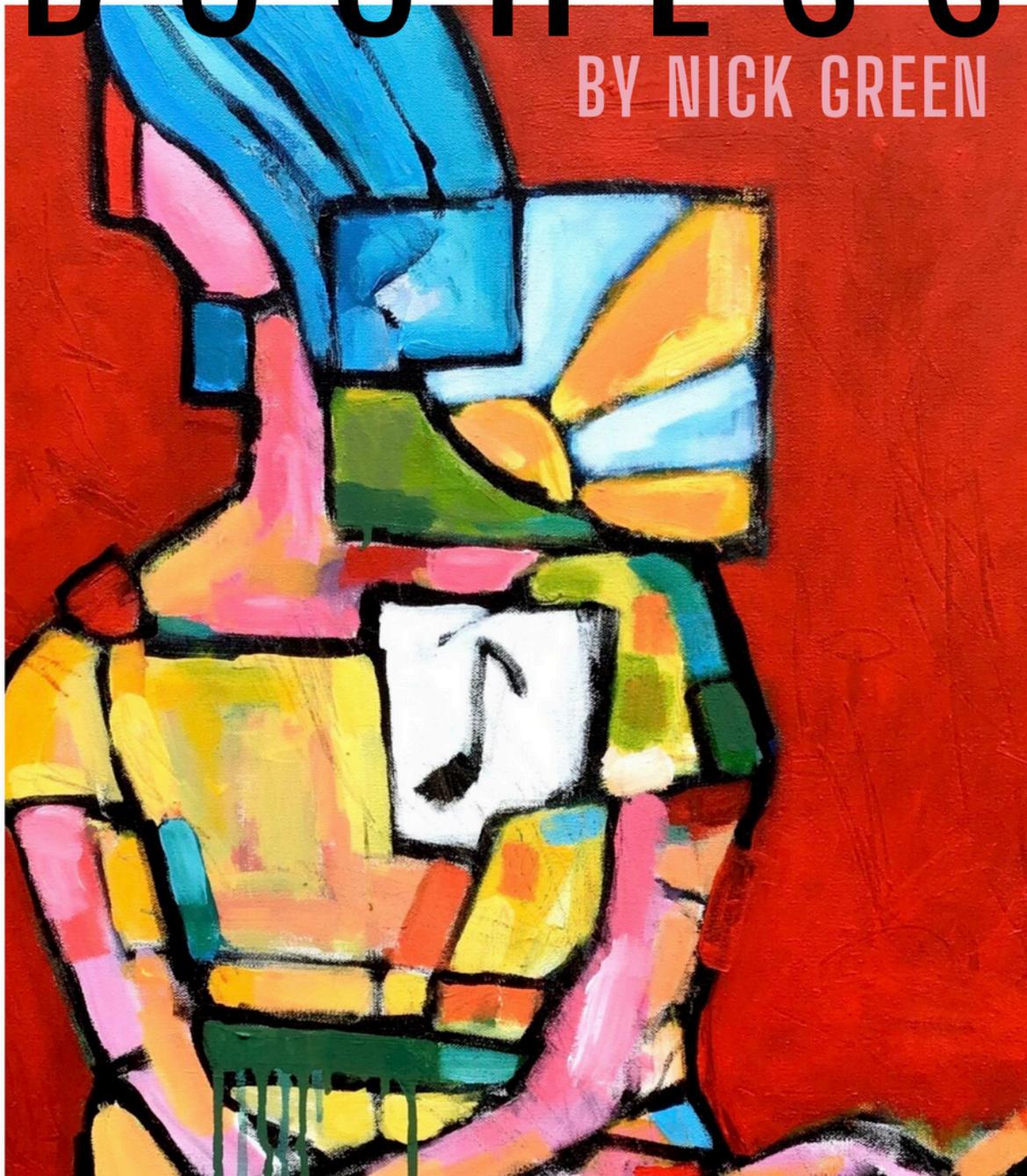


A Here For Now Theatre Company Production in  
Association with Crow's Theatre

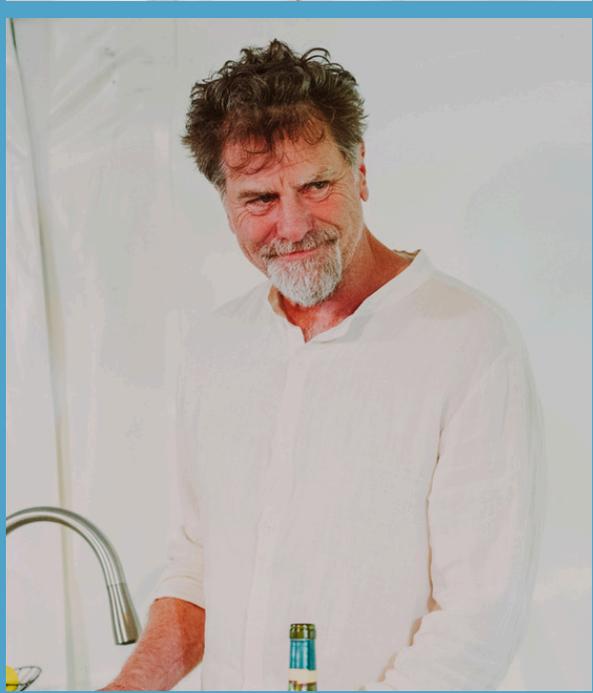
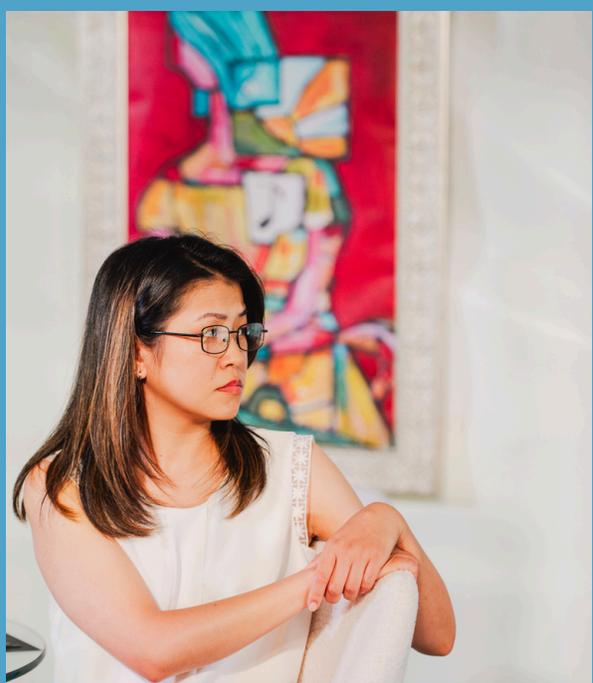
DINNER with the  
**D U C H E S S**

BY NICK GREEN



**JANUARY 14TH - FEBRUARY 2ND, 2025**

Studio Theatre - Streetcar Crowsnest  
345 Carlaw Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario M4M 2T1



# CAST

Jan Alexandra Smith\* - Margaret  
David Keeley\* - David  
Rosie Simon\* - Helen

# CREATIVE

Kelli Fox\* - Director  
Nick Green - Playwright  
Marjorie Chan - Dramaturge  
Darren Burkett - Set Designer  
Hunter Agnew - Assistant Set Designer  
Kelsey Rae - Stage Manager/ Lighting Design  
Monique Lund - Costume Designer

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Mark Uhre - Visual Artist (duchess painting)  
Production Photography - Ann Baggley  
Program Design - Sara-Jeanne Hosie

# SPECIAL THANKS TO..

Sylvia Chrominska  
Karen & Katheryn Fleming  
Patricia O'Malley & Ron Hikel  
Lucille Roch  
Hunter Agnew

Dinner with the Duchess was developed and first produced by Here For Now Theatre Company in 2024. The play received a workshop production at the Toronto Fringe Next Stage Festival in January 2019.

Dinner with the Duchess is produced by permission of the Playwright and Marquis Literary (Colin Rivers) [www.MQlit.ca](http://www.MQlit.ca)

\* APPEARING COURTESY OF CANADAIAN ACTORS EQUITY

# CAST & CREATIVE BIOS



**NICK GREEN**  
PLAYWRIGHT

Nick Green is a Dora Mavor Moore, Elizabeth Sterling Haynes, and Tom Hendry Award-winning playwright in Toronto. Most recently, Nick served as bookwriter for *The Last Timbit*, the star-studded Tim Horton's musical which premiered at the Elgin Theatre last June. Nick's Dora Award-nominated play *Casey and Diana* premiered to a sold-out run at the Stratford Festival of Canada before transferring to Souleppper Theatre. This show, which received the prestigious Heritage Toronto Public History Award in 2024, is slated for five more productions across Canada in 2025. Other favourite credits include *In Real Life* (book, Musical Stage Company, Tom Hendry Award Winner); *Dr. Silver* (book, South Coast Repertory's Pacific Playwrights Festival 2022 and 2023); *Happy Birthday Baby J* (Shadow Theatre); *Body Politic* (lemonTree Creations/Buddies in Bad Times, Dora Mavor Moore Award Winner, Outstanding New Play); *Fangirl* (book, Musical Stage Company); *Living the Dream* (book, Canadian Music Theatre Projects); *Poof! The Musical* (book, Twenties Street Productions, Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Award Nomination); and *Coffee Dad*, *Chicken Mom*, and *the Fabulous Buddha Boi* (Guys in Disguise, winner of 3 Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Awards). Nick is also the creator of *The Social Distancing Festival*, and internationally-acclaimed online festival created during COVID to showcase interdisciplinary works from around the world. The website was inducted into the US Library of Congress in 2021.

# DIRECTORS NOTES

Making art requires rigour. It asks a lot of the artist and of those who love them. It takes no prisoners and spares no fools. It is not for the faint of heart. Not everyone gets out alive. This work has been challenging and personally confrontational in ways I didn't always see coming and it's been an absolute privilege to explore it with this stellar cast.

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## **KELLI FOX** **DIRECTOR**

Kelli Fox is an actor/director with 35 years on stages across Canada, and in the US, including 15 seasons with the Shaw Festival, and 3 seasons with the Stratford Festival. Last season she directed *The Fox* for HFN Theatre. Other directing credits include, *The Drowning Girls*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *A Christmas Carol* (Globe Theatre), *Hamlet* (Shakespeare on the Sask), *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (SotB - Theatre Calgary), *Kitchen Radio*, *Cakewalk* (Blyth Festival) *Gaslight* (Shaw Festival), and *Between Riverside and Crazy* (Coal Mine Theatre) for which she received a Dora nomination. As an actor, Kelli has been recognized with a Jessie award (Keely & Du, Arts Club/Canstage), a Dora nomination (*Top Girls*, *Soulpepper*), a Capitol Critics Circle award (*A Room of One's Own*, Shaw tour), a Toronto Critics Circle award (*Penelopiad*, *Nightwood Theatre*), as well as sharing a Dora with the *Penelopiad* ensemble. She was the 2016 recipient of the Gina Wilkinson Prize recognizing emerging directors transitioning mid-career.



## MARJORIE CHAN DRAMATURGE

Marjorie is a theatre and opera creator based in Tkaranto (Toronto), working variously as dramaturge, director and writer. Some of her previous dramaturgy credits include **Other Side of the Game** by Amanda Parris, **The Enchanted Loom** and **Rubble** by Suvendrini Lena, and **John & Waleed** by John Millard & Waleed Abdulhamid. Her current dramaturgy projects include **Chinatown**, a new opera by Madeleine Thien and Alice Ping Yee Ho as well as upcoming at Theatre Passe Muraille, **Blind Dates** by Vivian

Chong which Marjorie will also be directing. The Artistic Director of Theatre Passe Muraille since 2019, Marjorie lives in the east end of Toronto with her morkie puppy, Mochi.

[www.marjoriechan.com](http://www.marjoriechan.com)

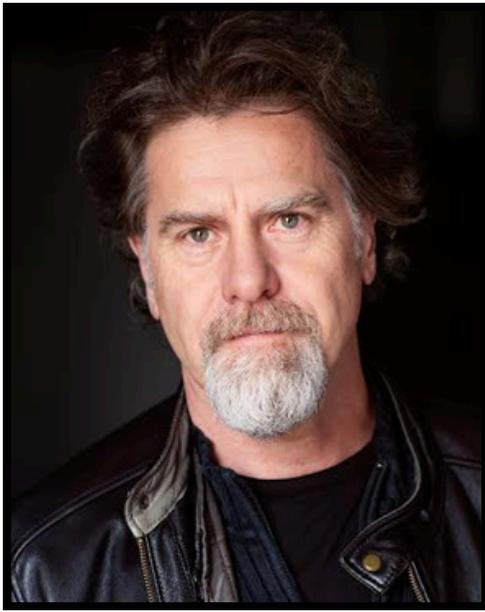
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## JAN ALEXANDRA SMITH MARGARET

Jan Alexandra Smith is an actor, director and instructor based in Stratford. She lived there many years ago, moved around for a few decades, came to her senses, and moved back in March 2020. The timing could not have been worse to re-connect with Stratford's performing arts community, so developing a relationship with Here For Now, at the time a burgeoning company presenting pop-up, socially distant theatre, was a tremendous privilege. For the company, Jan directed Ellen Denny's *Take Care* in 2022,

and Steve Ross' *Life Without* and *12 Dinners* in the 2023 and 2024 seasons, respectively. She has both staged and performed in productions across Canada, which range from mysteries to musicals and contemporary to classical; she has enjoyed return engagements with the Shaw Festival, Theatre Calgary, The Citadel, Royal Alex, Charlottetown Festival, Royal Manitoba Theatre Center, The Grand and more. Currently, her passion is Movement Direction, a fancy way to describe how we tell stories with our whole bodies, not just with our voices. Jan is an accomplished home renovator, dog and cat mum, a graduate of Conestoga College's Culinary Program and hopes to begin a Masters degree in Physical Theatre this fall.



## DAVID KEELEY

### DAVID

David is an award winning actor, singer, songwriter who has worked around the world in music, tv, film and theatre. Highlights include Sam in the original Broadway production of Mamma Mia, Lockstock in Urinetown (Dora Award), Canadian premieres of Rock of Ages, Billy Elliot, Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime, True Love Lies. David has spent nine seasons at The Stratford Festival, most recently playing Kent in King Lear in 2023. Other Stratford credits include Hamlet, Much Ado About Nothing, Fuente Ovejuna, Trojan Woman, Oklahoma, Richard III, The The Three Musketeers and

Coriolanus. He also portrayed Benvolio in Robert LePage's ground breaking production of Romeo and Juliet. His extensive list of tv and film credits include The Manchurian Candidate with Meryl Streep, Designated Survivor, Suits, Copper (Series Regular), Lost Girl, Heartland, Akilla's Escape, Albatross (Austin Film Fest Award), The Barrens, Ten Truths About Love. Watch for David in the new Star Trek series, Starfleet Academy coming next year. He previously released two independent CD's with fellow actor Paul Gross and their compilation CD, Holiday Heroes, achieved gold status in Canada. Recently, he released his own self-produced CD, Gasoline Rainbows. [davidkeeley.ca](http://davidkeeley.ca)

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## ROSIE SIMON

### HELEN

Rosie is an actor and singer based out of Toronto. She attended university for musical theatre in Vancouver BC, and has since pursued a career in film/tv and voice over in addition to stage work. You may know her from her work as Amy Chao in the Netflix anthology thriller, Slasher: Solstice, or from her Dora nominated performance in The Chinese Lady with Studio 180/Crow's Theatre/fu-Gen. Other select theatre credits include: The Three Musketeers(RMTC), Lady Sunrise(Factory Theatre), John(RMTC), Kim's Convenience; Cowboy Versus Samurai

(Soulpepper), Acquiesce(Factory Theatre), Urinetown(The Firehall), The King and I(Gateway Theatre), The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee(The Arts Club). Film/Tv credits include: Star Trek Discovery, Hudson and Rex, Goodwitch, Shadowhunters, Killjoys, Carter, Motive, Robyn Hood. Rosie was a part of an earlier version of Dinner with the Duchess at The Next Stage Festival back in 2019 and can't wait for audiences to see where Nick Green has taken it since!



## **DARREN BURKETT** **SET DESIGNER**

Darren is thrilled to bring your Here For Now design to Crows! Previous Set Design work: Life Without (along with Costume Design), The Fox(Here For Now), Seussical The Musical, Mamma Mia! (Secondary Characters), and multiple set and lighting designs for dance and theatre schools in Vancouver. As an actor, he has worked across Canada with such theatre companies as Stage West Theatre, Drayton Entertainment, Canadian Opera Company, The Ross Petty Panto, Globe Theatre, Western Canada Theatre, Thousand Island Playhouse, The Arts Club, Chemainus Theatre Festival, Carousel Theatre for Young Audiences. He has also been honoured to have been in the National Tour/Mirvish production of Matilda, the International Tour of Angelina Ballerina and has won a Jessie Award for his performance as “Snail” in A Year with Frog and Toad. Many thanks to Fiona, Siobhan and SJ for the unwavering trust in me, and his family, friends and especially Hunter for their never ending love and support!



## **MONIQUE LUND** **COSTUME DESIGNER**

Monique Lund is thrilled to have designed the costumes for Nick Green’s Dinner With The Duchess for the 2024 Here For Now season, and now this run at Crow’s. Other Here For Now credits include directing and designing shows such as Whack!, Infinite Possibilities, The Tracks, Every Day She Rose and Margaret Reid. She designed costumes for Take Care, Post Alice, Myth of The Ostrich and Twelve Dinners. In 2021 she performed with HFN in The Wonder Of It All, written by her husband Mark Weatherley and directed by Seana McKenna. Her career spans thirty years and she has worked from coast to coast in Canada and the U.S. She has also spent 13 seasons with The Stratford Festival, most recently as the assistant director of the musical Something Rotten and in 2025 she will be the Associate Director of Annie. She calls Stratford her home , and she sincerely thanks you for supporting live theatre!

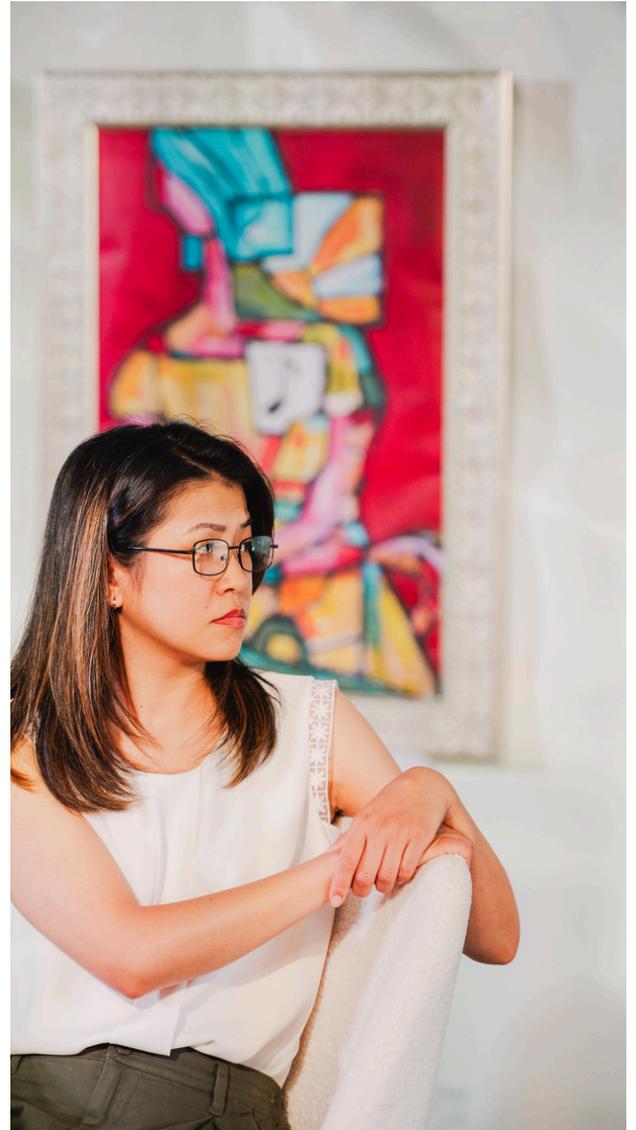


## **KELSEY RAE**

### **STAGE MANAGER/LIGHTING DESIGN**

Theatre, for me, is all about community. It's a place where people come together to connect, share experiences, and explore diverse perspectives. Having been back in my hometown this summer, getting to share these stories while working with amazing people was a wonderful full circle moment for me. I spent many years driving vans and buses touring around Canada with companies including Driftwood Theatre and Geordie Theatre. I went west with the Canadian Badlands Passion Play, and east with Perchance Theatre. More recently I worked at the Blyth Festival on *The Donnelly Trilogy*, and with the Grand Theatre on *Kim's*

*Convenience*, and *In Seven Days*. I'm grateful for every audience member who joins us in experiencing these beautiful plays, - and especially to my family, and John, who sees all my shows – your support means the world!



**photos by Ann Baggley from the HFN summer 2024 production**

# HERE FOR NOW THEATRE

## Visit our new theatre in Stratford this summer!



Hi – for those of you who don't know me, I'm Fiona Mongillo, Artistic Director of Here For Now Theatre. We're a small, independent company in Stratford, Ontario, and we create new Canadian work with a special focus on strong female characters. *Dinner with the Duchess* is a great example of the kind of work we do. We're thrilled to share it with you after its Stratford premiere this past summer.

If you've visited us in Stratford, you'll know we've been performing under various trees and tents for the past five summers. But all that's about to change when we move into our new micro-theatre! With the help of many amazing donors and sponsors, we're building a small black-box theatre in the old registry office just behind Stratford's iconic courthouse.

This new space will not only keep our beloved audiences out of the wind and the rain – it will allow us to bring winter theatre to Stratford.

We'd be so honoured to have you join us. Visit our website for more details, and to sign up for our 2025 season announcement, coming soon!

[www.herefornowtheatre.com](http://www.herefornowtheatre.com)