PROGRAMME

CROW'S | Obsidian Theatre Company

A Crow's Theatre and Obsidian Theatre Co-production

FLEX

Written by **Candrice Jones** | Directed by **Mumbi Tindyebwa Otu**

CROW'S LEAD SEASON SPONSOR — BMO

CROW'S LEAD SEASON PATRON — SYLVIA SOYKA

OBSIDIAN SEASON SPONSOR — TD READY COMMITMENT

PRODUCTION LEAD SPONSOR

Jewell Bowry, Jasmine Case, Shauna Thompson, Asha James, Trinity Lloyd. Photo: Roya DelSol

A Crow's Theatre and Obsidian Theatre Co-production

FLEX

Written by **Candrice Jones**
Directed by **Mumbi Tindyebwa Otu**

Canadian Premiere

April 15 to May 18, 2025
Guloien Theatre

THE COMPANY

THE CAST

Jewell Bowry ..... **April Jenkins**
Jasmine Case ..... **Sidney Brown**
Asha James ..... **Donna Cunningham**
Trinity Lloyd ..... **Cherise Howard**
Shauna Thompson ..... **Starra Jones**
Sophia Walker ..... **Coach Francine Pace**

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Mumbi Tindyebwa Otu ..... **Director**
Candrice Jones ..... **Playwright**
Raha Javanfar ..... **Lighting Designer**
Noah Feaver ..... **Assistant Lighting Designer**
Ken Mackenzie ..... **Set Designer**
Ming Wong ..... **Costume Designe**
Thomas Ryder Payne ..... **Sound Designer**
Hannah Macmillan ..... **Stage Manager**
Delaney Small ..... **Assistant Stage Manager**
Peter N. Bailey ..... **Dialect Coach**
Edi Gyamfi ..... **Movement Coach**
Lisa Karen Cox ..... **Intimacy Director**
Richard Lee ..... **Fight Director**
Shauna Thompson ..... **Fight Captain**
Jasmine Case ..... **Basketball Captain**
Alex Johnson ..... **Basketball Coach**

YOUNG GIFTED & BLACK APPRENTICES

Lilian Adom ..... **Lighting Design**
Germaine Konji ..... **Directing**
Arianna Lilith Moodie ..... **Costume Design**
Riel Reddick-Stevens ..... **Sound Design**
Sharine Taylor ..... **Set Design**

PRODUCTION

Zach White, Kim Schaedlich, Jay Hines ..... **House Technicians**
Deanna Morrison ..... **Lead Scenic Artist**
Rachel Smith, Steve Bromley ..... **Scenic Artists**
Ryan Davy ..... **Lead LX**
Shaun McPherson ..... **Lead Audio**
Will Nazar ..... **Audio Crew**
Michael Brunet ..... **Electronics**
Ian Noble, Phillip Trajcevski ..... **Carpentry Leads**
Sami Safarian, Rowan Jones, Douglas Drake,
Damian Walker, Ada Evenden ..... **Carpentry Crew**
Leighton Smith ..... **Lead Rigger**
Rhys Bernier, Ryan Davy ..... **Rigging Crew**
Rowan Jones, Sami Safarian, Emily Kuthe,
Natalie Scagnetto ..... **Lighting Crew**

Running Time:
FLEX is approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes, including intermission.

Audience Advisory:
Please be advised that *FLEX* contains strong language and mature subject matter intended for adult audiences. Additionally, it features sensory elements such as loud sounds, periods of dark lighting, and bright flashing lights. For additional context or details, please contact the Box Office.

As part of the performance of *FLEX*, basketball will be played on stage. While the show has been carefully staged with safety in mind, there's a chance that the action of the game might spill into the audience area. Please stay alert during these moments as your safety and comfort are a top priority. Thanks for being part of the game!

Flex is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service imprint. dramatists.com

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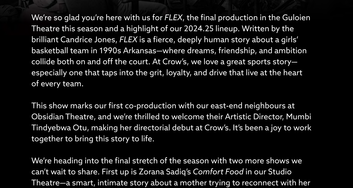
Crow's Theatre and Obsidian Theatre is a proud member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA). We engage professional artists under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement (CTA) with Canadian Actors' Equity Association (CAEA).

*Indicated designers on this production are represented by the Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659.

Professional Association of Canadian Theatres — theatre dance queer — Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts — EQUITY — ADC DESIGNERS

The company of *Flex*. Photo by Eliana Emon

WELCOME FROM CROW'S



We're so glad you're here with us for *FLEX*, the final production in the Guloien Theatre this season and a highlight of our 2024-25 lineup. Written by the brilliant Candrice Jones, *FLEX* is a fierce, deeply human story about a girls' basketball team in 1990s Arkansas—where dreams, friendship, and ambition collide both on and off the court. At Crow's, we love a great sports story—especially one that taps into the grit, loyalty, and drive that live at the heart of every team.

This show marks our first co-production with our east-end neighbours at Obsidian Theatre, and we're thrilled to welcome their Artistic Director, Mumbi Tindyebwa Otu, making her directorial debut at Crow's. It's been a joy to work together to bring this story to life.

We're heading into the final stretch of the season with two more shows we can't wait to share. First up is Zorana Sadiq's *Comfort Food* in our Studio Theatre—a smart, intimate story about a mother trying to reconnect with her teenage son. If you caught Netflix's *Adolescence*, which explores the impact of the digital world on kids and their parents, *Comfort Food* strikes a similar chord—timely, searching, and full of heart. Then, over at the Baillie Theatre, we're joining forces with Soulpepper, TO Live, and Musical Stage Company to bring you *A Strange Loop* by Michael R. Jackson. It's a raw, hilarious, and deeply moving Pulitzer Prize-winning musical that's unlike anything you've seen.

We also just announced our 2025.2026 season—our biggest yet—with more collaborations than ever, including a new three-year partnership with Soulpepper. We're kicking things off with Octet, an a cappella chamber musical from Dave Malloy (who also gave us *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*), followed by the Canadian premiere of Lucy Kirkwood's dark and dazzling comedy *The Welkin*. Two bold pieces that set the tone for a landmark season.

You can check out the full season announcement at crowstheatre.com. Subscriptions are sale now, and we'd love to see you back.

Thanks again for being here. Your presence and support are what make this work possible. We're so lucky to share these stories with you—here at Streetcar Crowsnest and all across the city.

CHRIS ABRAHAM
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SHERRIE JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE CAST

Jewell Bowry
April Jenkins

Pronouns: she/her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Brampton, ON. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut! **For Obsidian Theatre:** Debut! **Other Theatre:** Simone, *Half and Half* (Carousel Players); *Otîhêw* (Crossroads Theatre); *Morning After* (A Front Company/Toronto Fringe Festival). **Upcoming Projects:** *Lucian, Plato and the Secrets of the Pussy* (Toronto Fringe Festival). **Education/Training:** University of Toronto/Sheridan College Theatre and Drama Studies. **Thank You:** To team Lady Train and everyone involved in this show! To Paolo, Mumbi, Coach Alex, and every mentor who has taken a chance on me along the way! To Bug, Juliet, and my beautiful family. This one's for you, Mom!!! **Social Media:** Instagram: @jbx.x

Jasmine Case
Sidney Brown

Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** Kara: *Seven Methods of Killing Kylie Jenner*. **For Obsidian Theatre:** Kara: *Seven Methods of Killing Kylie Jenner.* **Other Theatre:** Jasmine is a Jamaican Canadian actor born and raised in Toronto where she currently lives and works. She is a recent Dora Award winner for her role as Phoebe in *Truth* at Young Peoples Theatre and has most recently appeared as Robin in *This Feels Like The End*; Toronto Fringe, Kara in *Seven Methods of Killing Kylie Jenner*; Obsidian and Crows Theatre and Lucy in *The Fiancée*; Chemainus Theatre Festival . **Upcoming Projects:** *Clyde's* at Canadian Stage!. **Education/Training:** National Theatre School of Canada 2023, Brock University 2020. **Thank You:** I'm so happy to be back with Obsidian and Crows! Thank you to my friends and family, your support means the world! And thank you to the community, both theatre and basketball!

Asha James
Donna Cunningham

Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Whitby, ON. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **For Obsidian Theatre:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** *Harry Potter and The Cursed Child* (Mirvish Productions); *In The Next Room* (Redwit Theatre); *Theory* (Tarragon). **Film/TV:** *Mistletoe & Matrimony* (OWN); *Titans* (HBOmax); *Abducted Off The Street: A Carlesha Gaither Story* (Lifetime); *In The Dark* (CW); *American Gods* (Starz); *Grand Army* (Netflix). **Education/Training:** BFA, Acting Conservatory from York University. **Thank You:** To my family for their endless love & support. **Social Media:** @ashakj_04

Trinity Lloyd
Cherise Howard

Pronouns: She/They. **Hometown/Current Town:** Mississauga/Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **For Obsidian Theatre:** *Picky, Peasy, Nappy Head* (Obsidian's Young, Gifted, and Black Program). **Other Theatre:** *The Tempest* (Theatre Rusticle/ Buddies in Bad Times Theatre); *X n da Spirit* (Theatre Passe Muraille); *Lovesick* (An Adaptation of Love Labour's Lost) (Panoply Collective); *Everybody* (Theatre@York); *The Late Wedding* (Theatre@York); *Rear Window* (Bygone Theatre). **More:** Trinity is an aspiring dramaturg and has been involved in other creative projects as a photographer. **Education/Training:** York University Acting Conservatory. **Thank You:** To my loved ones, to Obsidian and Crows Theatre, to all the young Black girls and femmes proving that we are capable of and deserving of so much more than the world has ever envisioned for us. **Social Media:** @trinlloyd

Shauna Thompson
Starra Jones

Pronouns: She/her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Brampton. **For Crow's Theatre:** *Orphans for the Czar, Prodigal, Bad Roads.* **For Obsidian Theatre:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** Shaw Festival (*Man and Superman with Don Juan in Hell*; *Victory*, *The Devil's Disciple*); Howland Company (*Three Sisters*); Peggy Baker Dance Projects (*Beautiful Renegades*); Factory Theatre (*Vierge*). **Upcoming Projects:** *Flight Risk* (Drayton Entertainment). **Film/TV:** *Tainted* (Gearshift Films). **More: Education/Training:** The National Theatre School of Canada. **Thank You:** To my loving family who supports me in everything I do! **Social Media:** @_shaunathompson

Sophia Walker
Coach Francine Pace

Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** *The Bidding War.* **For Obsidian Theatre:** *Ruined.* **Other Theatre:** *The House That Will Not Stand, Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart, Just to Get Married* and *Gem of the Ocean* at The Shaw Festival; 12 seasons at The Stratford Festival: *Casey and Diana,* Lady Gertrude in *An Ideal Husband,* Calpurnia in *To Kill a Mockingbird,* Mistress Ford in *The Merry Wives of Windsor,* Sybil in *Private Lives*, just to name a few. *our place* (Cahoots Theatre); *Fairview* (Canadian Stage); *The Bridge* (2b/Neptune Theatre); *Casey and Diana, Blood Wedding, Jitters, The Heidi Chronicles* (Soulpepper); Mary in *Mary's Wedding* (Blyth Festival). **Film/TV:** *Law& Order Toronto: Criminal Intent, Mayday, Unicorn Academy, The Marsh King's Daughter, Star Trek: Strange New Worlds, Mayor of Kingstown, Y:The last Man, The Handmaid's Tale, ShadowHunters:The Mortal Instruments*... just to name a few. **Upcoming Projects:** Soon to be Announced! **Education/Training:** Toronto Metropolitan University, Canadian Film Centre Actor's Conservatory, Stratford Festival's Birmingham Conservatory. **Thank You**: Love to my Family and Gil of Course. **Social Media:** @sophiathewalker

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Mumbi Tindyebwa Otu
Director

Mumbi is an acclaimed theatre creator and director raised in Kenya and Victoria, BC and based in Toronto. She is the Artistic Director of Obsidian Theatre, Canada's leading creator for Black Art as well as Founder/Artistic director for the experimental theatre company IFT (It's A Freedom Thing Theatre) Theatre. Selected directing credits, *Three Sisters* (Obsidian/Soulpepper); *Is God Is* (Obsidian/Canadian Stage/ Necessary Angel); *Cast Iron* (Obsidian/Factory); *21 Black Futures* (Obsidian/ CBC Arts); *Trout Stanley* (Factory Theatre); *Sizwe Banzi is Dead, The Brothers Size, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (Soulpepper Theatre); *Post Democracy* (Tarragon Theatre); *We are Proud to Present* (UofT Scarborough); and *Oraltorio: A Theatrical Mixtape* (Obsidian Theatre/Soulpepper). Mumbi is also the recipient of many awards including a Canadian Screen Award, a Dora Award, a Toronto Theatre Critics Award, a Pauline McGibbon Award and a Mallory Gilbert Protege Award.

Candrice Jones
Playwright

Playwright, poet, and educator, Candrice Jones is from Dermott, Arkansas. Candrice has been honored to have been a fellow at Callaloo for poetry at Brown University and London. She has also been a VONA Playwriting Fellow, and Calarts MFA Critical Studies recipient. Candrice's primary goal as a writer is to write love letters for and to women of the American South. She is the author of the full-length play, *Crackbaby*. Candrice also serves as board member of The Weekend Theater as the Educational Outreach Specialist as well as Ozark Living Newspaper. In the summer of 2018, Candrice was a resident a Ground Floor where she developed *FLEX*. She was recently was given the 2018 Arkansas Arts Council Individual Arts Playwriting Fellowship and is ecstatic to develop *FLEX* at the Bay Area Playwrights Festival.

Raha Javanfar
Lighting Designer

A lighting/projections designer, musician, theatre performer, and educator, Raha is a multi-faceted artist, working on and behind stages across Canada and internationally. Design credits include *A Terrible Fate* for which she won a Dora award, *Brothers Size* (Soulpepper) and *Is God Is* (Canstage/Obsidian); both garnering her Dora nominations, *Riverboat, Voyager* (Soulpepper); *Miss Caledonia* (Tarragon); amongst others. Raha has toured internationally with renowned Baroque Orchestra, Tafelmusik, as projections designer. She was co-recipient of the Siminovitch Protege Award, and currently teaches lighting design at Toronto Metropolitan University. She is front-woman and bassist of blues/R&B band, Bad Luck Woman & Her Misfortunes, was one of six co-creators of the Dora nominated *Now You See Her*, winner of a 2023 Dora Award for Best Music Direction along with her team of musical directors for *Shape of Home*, and is a Slaight Associate Artist at Soulpepper Theatre.

Ken Mackenzie
Set Designer

Pronouns: He/Him. **Hometown/Current Town:** Toronto/Saskatoon. **For Crow's Theatre:** *The Bidding War, The Wrong Bashir, Stars: Together, Towards Youth*. **Other Theatre:** *Sizwe Bansi is Dead* (Soulpepper); *Is God Is* (Canadian Stage); *Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart* (Shaw Festival). **Upcoming Projects:** Directing *Seeds* (University of Saskatchewan); *Native Gardens* (Persephone Theatre). **Education/Training:** Masters in Design for Performance from California Institute for the Arts. **More:** President of IATSE local ADC659. **Thank You:** Everyone at Crows Theatre.

Ming Wong
Costume Designer

Pronouns: She/her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Sarnia/Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** *The Wedding Party, Julius Caesar, Orphans for the Czar, Uncle Vanya, Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo, Red Velvet, The Master Plan, The Wrong Bashir, Natasha, Pierre, & The Great Comet of 1812, Rosmersholm, Wights*. **For Obsidian Theatre:** *Is God Is, Three Sisters* (with Soulpepper). **Other Theatre:** *The Wizard of Oz, The Inheritance, Public Enemy* (Canadian Stage); *Kim's Convenience, De Profundiis, Sizwe Banzi is Dead* (Soulpepper); *Hamlet 911, Rent, Salesman in China* (Stratford Festival); *Just to Get Married, Trouble in Mind, Candida* (Shaw Festival). **Upcoming Projects:** *Wait Until Dark* (Shaw); *A Strange Loop* (Soulpepper/ Crow's/Musical Stage/To Live); *After The Rain* (Tarragon/Musical Stage). **More:** 2 time Dora Award winner, 2021 Virginia & Myrtle Cooper Award. **Education/ Training:** OCADu. **Thank You:** Justin, Dash, Mom & Dad. **Social Media:** @mingwongdesign

Thomas Ryder Payne
Sound Designer

Pronouns: He/Him. **Hometown/Current Town:** Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** *Wights, Rosmersholm, shaniqua in abstraction, Bad Roads, The Master Plan, Perceptual Archaeology, Red Velvet, Uncle Vanya, Orphans For The Czar, MixTape, Julius Caesar, A&R Angels, Boy In The Moon, Wedding Party, The Watershed, Someone Else*. **Other Theatre:** Designs for Stratford, Shaw, Mirvish, Soulpepper, CanStage, Tarragon, Factory, TPM, YPT, Crows, Modern Times, Aluna, BIBT, Theatre Gargantua, Nightwood, Toronto Dance Theatre, NAC, Centaur, Theatre Calgary, GCTC, RMTC and many others. **Film/TV:** *Plain View, 7A, Blood Harvest, Hero.Traitor.Patriot, Alegra & Jim, Robert's Circle*. **Education/Training:** Studied composition with James Tenney, Honours BA, York University. **More:** Bandcamp, xeno-canto.org

Noah Feaver
Assistant Lighting Designer

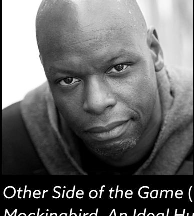
Pronouns: He/Him. **Hometown/Current Town:** Vancouver/Toronto. **Other Theatre:** Noah has designed for companies such as: The National Ballet of Canada, Edmonton Opera, Toronto Dance Theatre, Tapestry Opera, Soulpepper Theatre Company, Citadel + Compagnie, The Royal Conservatory of Music, Against the Grain Theatre, and Rock Bottom Movement. **Upcoming Projects:** *Come Closer* (Opera 5). **Film/TV:** Lighting Console Operator for: *Luckiest Girl Alive, FUBAR* Season 2. **Education/Training:** B.F.A from Toronto Metropolitan University

Hannah Macmillan
Stage Manager

Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Guelph / Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** Stage Manager: *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* and *Punk Rock* (Crows /Howland Company); Assistant Stage Manager: *Rosmersholm, The Wolves* (Crows / Howland Company). **Other Theatre:** Stage Manager: *Amazing Cordobas/War of the Clowns, Carnival of Munsch and New World* (George Brown Theatre School); Stage Manager: *Rapunzel a Merry Hairy Holiday Panto* (Capitol Theatre); Assistant Stage Manager: *Rockabye, Gloria and Martyr* (ARC); Assistant Stage Manager: *A Wrinkle In Time* (Stratford Festival); Assistant Stage Manager: *Little Shop of Horrors, 9-5 The Musical* (Capitol Theatre); Stage Manager: *Storybook Search Workshop* (Bad Hats Theatre); Stage Manager: *The Antipodes* (Coal Mine Theatre); Apprentice Stage Manager: *Reprint* (Musical Stage Company). **Upcoming Projects:** Assistant Stage Manager: *Narnia* (Bad Hats / Soulpepper); *Octet* (Crows Theatre). **More:** When Hannah is not stage managing she loves board games, ultimate frisbee and eating great food! **Education/Training:** Toronto Metropolitan University, School of Performance - Production

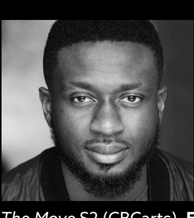
Delaney Small
Assistant Stage Manager

Pronouns: she/her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Thousand Oaks, CA/Stoney Creek, ON. **For Crow's Theatre:** *The Master Plan*. **For Obsidian Theatre:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** *Mamma Mia* and *Once* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Baby* and *Something Old Workshops* (Talk is Free Theatre); *Jeeves at Sea* (Chemainus Theatre); *Pollyanna, Shirley Valentine, The Master Plan* (Theatre Aquarius); *Jenny's House of Joy* (Foster Festival); *Shirley Valentine* (Capitol Theatre); *Turn the Page and The Chorines* (Theatre Sheridan); *An Enemy of the People* (Theatre Erindale). **Upcoming Projects:** *Liars at a Funeral* (Port Stanley Festival Theatre); *Octet* (Crows Theatre). **More: Education/Training:** Sheridan College Technical Production Program. **Thank You:** She would like to thank her family and friends who have always encouraged her to pursue her passion for theatre! **Social Media:** @delaney.small



Peter N. Bailey
Dialect Coach

Peter graduated from the Humber College Theatre Performance Program in 2003. Peter's theatre credits include: *A World Without Shadows, The Wilberforce Hotel, Jumbo, The Real McCoy* (The Blyth Festival); *Other Side of the Game* (Cahoots Theatre Co. and Obsidian Theatre); *To Kill a Mockingbird, An Ideal Husband, Richard III, All's Well That Ends Well* (Stratford Festival); *Fences* (Grand Theatre); *Here Are the Fragments* (The Theatre Centre); *Romeo and Juliet, Sweat, Fairview* (Canadian Stage Company); *A Few Good Men* (Drayton Entertainment). Peter's voice and dialect coaching credits include: *Serving Elizabeth, Much Ado About Nothing, Wedding Band, Get That Hope* (The Stratford Festival); Canadian Stage Company, Nightwood Theatre, The National Theatre School of Canada, Canadian Film Centre, and Sheridan College. Peter is a member of the Patsy Rodenburg Associate Programme and is working toward his PRA certification. Peter has also recently become an award winning playwright, with his first play *Tyson's Song* which won a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best New Play in the Independent Theatre Division. He is currently working on a new play that has been commissioned by the Blyth Festival Theatre.



Edz Gyamfi
Movement Coach

Pronouns: He/Him. **Hometown/Current Town:** Ottawa Ont - Currently Residing in Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **For Obsidian Theatre:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** *Medea* (COC). **Film/TV:** *Murdoch Mysteries, Madam Cj Walker* (Netflix); *The Move* S2 (CBCarts). **Education/Training:** Rock the Industry, Motivating Excellence, 36 Chambaz of Stylez, Galen Hooks Experience, DHEvolution. **Thank You:** Parents, Family, close friends and those who provided support/guidance during my journey. **Social Media:** IG @edzgyam - www.edzgyamfi.com

Richard Lee
Fight Director

Pronouns: he/him/il. **For Crow's Theatre:** *Wights* (2025). **For Obsidian Theatre:** Fight Director: *School Girls or the African Mean Girls Play* (2019); *Pass Over* (2019); *Shakespeare's N!&&@* (2013); *Black Medea* (2008). Sound Designer: *The Gravitational Pull of Bernice Trimble* (2013); *Black Medea* (2008); *Late* (2008); *Cast Iron* (Co-Designer, 2005). **Other Theatre:** Performer: Shaw Festival: *Snow In Midsummer* (2024); *Orphan of Chao* (2024). ARC: *Martyr*. YPT: *Sensory Box* (2021); *Under the Stairs* (2019). Theatre Centre: *Monday Nights* (An Interactive and Immersive Basketball Show) (At Luminato Festival in 2019, 2015, 2014). Canadian Stage: *The Humans* (2018); *King Lear* (2017); *Twelfth Night* (2017); *Chimerica* (2016). Factory Theatre: *acquiesce* (in association with fu-GEN Asian Canadian theatre Company, 2016). **More:** Richard is an advocate for diversity in the arts. He has deep fundamental belief in helping people in the world be seen and heard. **Thank You:** Nina Lee Aquino and Eponine Lee for their unconditional and unyielding support. Love Love Love **Social Media:** @richardtheartistlee

Lisa Karen Cox
Intimacy Director

Lisa Karen Cox relishes work that combines music, movement and heightened language to create rawfully honest performative experiences. A graduate of Concordia University's Interdisciplinary Studies program, she has had the pleasure of working for a wide variety of theatre companies (large and not so large) including: Quote Unquote Collective, Why Not Theatre, Spur-of-the-Moment Shakespeare, Headstrong, Dauntless City Theatre, Shakespeare in the Rough, Theatre Smash, Nightwood Theatre, National Arts Centre, The Stratford Festival of Canada and the Royal Shakespeare Company. Often playing men and other mythical creatures, Lisa is also a teacher, actor and director in addition to being a movement and intimacy director, a mother and faculty at Toronto Metropolitan University. Lisa was the Intimacy Consultant for RedWit Theatre's *In the Next Room*, Intimacy Director for *Post Democracy* (Tarragon) and *Strange Loop* (Soulpepper).

Alex Johnson
Basketball Coach

Pronouns: He/Him. **Hometown:** Toronto. **Education:** Master's at North Carolina State University, Bachelor's at Cal State Bakersfield. **Social Media:** @supermanjohnson

YOUNG GIFTED & BLACK APPRENTICES

Obsidian Theatre's training program for artists in non-performance disciplines.

Lilian Adom
Lighting Design

Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Born in Ghana, raised in Hong Kong, currently residing in Canada. **Other Theatre:** House Technician at Coal Mine Theatre (2024–present); including work on shows such as *Dion, Hedda Gabler, Infinite Life, People, Places, and Things, and A Case for the Existence of God*. Technician at University of Waterloo (2022–present); including work on dance showcases, talk backs, TEDxUW, and more. **Upcoming Projects:** Designing lighting for the Young, Gifted & Black showcase and apprenticing as a lighting designer for *FLEX*. **More:** I have a passion for reshaping lighting design to better reflect the diverse people of color on stage. My experience has made me especially aware of how lighting can either enhance or diminish the presence of performers of color, and I strive to make every design as inclusive and considerate as possible. My goal is to bring a culturally rich, inclusive perspective to lighting design in live performances and concerts, drawing from my experience in both theatre and music. **Education/Training:** Bachelor of Arts, Theatre & Performing Arts (Minor in Management Studies); University of Waterloo, Canada. **Social Media:** Instagram: @Lilian.adom

Germaine Konji
Directing

Pronouns: all. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **For Obsidian Theatre:** *Dixon Road*. **Other Theatre:** *Universal Child Care* (Canadian Stage, Quote UnQuote Collective, Nightwood Theatre); *Grand Magic, A Wrinkle in Time, Finally There's Sun* (Stratford Festival); *Serving Elizabeth* (Theatre Aquarius); UnCovered, the Music of ABBA, UnCovered, the Music of Carole King, Blackout (Musical Stage Co.); Into the Woods (Talk is Free Theatre). **Upcoming Projects**: Obsidian Theatre Young Gifted and Black Program Showcase. Education/Training: Honours Bachelors Music Theatre Performance. **Thank You:** Heartfelt thanks to Mumbi for the mentorship and trust, and to Obsidian for this opportunity to stretch creatively. **Social Media:** @germaine.k0nji

Arianna Lilith Moodie
Costume Design

Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **For Obsidian Theatre:** Associate Costume Designer for *Table for Two*. **Other Theatre:** Assistant Costume Designer for *One Man, Two Guvnors, The House That Will Not Stand* (Shaw); Costume Designer *The Bee's Knee's* (The Theatre Centre); Costume Designer for *Zayo: Emergence* (Dance Immersion). **Upcoming Projects:** YGB Showcase at Factory Theatre. **Film/Television:** Costume Designer for *Astro and Azrael* (2024); *Sam Fam* (2025); Costume Apprentice on CBC's *Run the Burbs* Season 3. **More:** Costume Designer for Music Videos *Life of the Party* (2024) and *Matilda* (2025) by Housewife. **Education/Training:** Degree in Fashion Design at Fashion Institute of Technology. **Thank You:** To Obsidians Young Gifted and Black theatre training program. **Social Media:** @ariannalilithmoodie

Riel Reddick-Stevens
Sound Design

For Crows Theatre: *Measure for Measure* (House and Body). **For Obsidian Theatre:** YGB 2025 showcase (upcoming). **Other Theatre:** *Beyonsea and the mothers* (Greenlight arts); *Everyday she Rose* (Black theatre workshop); *Dominoes at the Crossroads* (Infinite theatre); *Tell; a choral ritual* (Black theatre workshop AMP/ NAC). Awards; Montreal English Theatre Award for outstanding sound design 2024 (*Dominoes at the crossroads*/ Infinite theatre).

Sharine Taylor
Set Design

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers. **Hometown/Current Town:** Toronto, Ontario. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **For Obsidian Theatre:** Debut. **Upcoming Projects:** 2025 Young, Gifted and Black. **Film/Television:** *Bam Bam: The Sister Nancy Story, Next Stop, Tallawah Abroad: Remembering Little Jamaica*. **More:** sharine is an interdisciplinary artist prioritizing Black life and expression through her works. She is an award-winning music and culture journalist and filmmaker, who was the recipient of a 2021 Canadian Screen Award for Best Direction in a Documentary Series. **Education/Training:** Obsidian Theatre Young, Gifted & Black; 'This Is A Story' The University of the West Indies' Institute of Cultural Studies x Ntukuma Storytelling Foundation of Jamaica; University of Toronto. **Thank You:** Mom, Grandma, Wrae-Quel, friendship, carnival and the ancestors. **Social Media:** @shharine.

A SPECIAL REQUEST

In recognition of the Canadian premiere of *FLEX*, a donation has been made to Spirit North, a national charity that brings sport and play to Indigenous kids in 128 communities (and counting!) throughout Canada; sparking joy and building confidence on a shared path of healing and empowerment.

We invite you to also consider supporting this very worthwhile organization that is enriching Canada by using land-based activity and sport to improve the health and well-being of Indigenous youth.

DONATE NOW

Black Stories, Told by Black Voices

For over 15 years, TD has proudly supported arts organizations focused on removing barriers and creating safe spaces for Black creators to amplify their voices.

It's part of our commitment to a more inclusive tomorrow.

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TD READY COMMITMENT

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OBSIDIAN THEATRE

Our mandate is to bring the Black voice to Canada's cultural forefront. Over the last 25 years with the amplification of the Black Lives Matter movement and other movements of social unrest, it has become a priority for us to continue to challenge the idea of a monolithic Black experience. Now, we seek to intentionally shed a light on the richness and complexity of the Black community by showcasing Blackness in all of its intersections.

Happy to be working together again with Crow's, where we had our successful run of *seven methods of killing kylie jenner*. We are looking forward with great anticipation to our exciting 25/26 season ahead starting with a co-production with Tarragon and ending with a co- production with both Soulpepper and Nightwood Theatre at the Young Center. Now let's Play Ball.

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Obsidian Theatre Box Office
obsidiantheatre.com

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Photo of Zorana Sadiq by Paula Wilson.

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