PROGRAMME

CROW'S THEATRE SMITH-GILMOUR

METAMORPHOSES 2023

Written by **Michele Smith** and **Dean Gilmour**
in collaboration with the company
Directed by **Michele Smith**

MARCH 21 TO APRIL 9, 2023

Photo of Dean Gilmour by Lyon Smith

Theatre Smith-Gilmour
in association with Crow's Theatre present

METAMORPHOSES 2023

Written by **Michele Smith** and **Dean Gilmour**
in collaboration with the Performers
Adapted from Ovid's Metamorphoses

March 21 to April 9, 2023
Opening Night: Friday, March 24, 2023
GULOIEN THEATRE

THE COMPANY

Michele Smith*	Director
Rob Feetham	Narcissus, Hermaphroditus, Actaeon, Centaur
Dean Gilmour*	Tiresias, Centaur
Daniel R. Henkel*	Jupiter, Tereus, Pentheus, Centaur, Ceyx
Neena Jayarajan	Juno, Philomela, Salmacis, Tiresias, Diana
Sukruti Tirupattur	Echo, Proche, Bacchantes, Caenis, Alcyone
Simon Rossiter	Lighting Designer
Tiana Kralj	Set and Costume Designer
Johnny Hockin	Music and Sound Designer
Nic Vincent	Lighting Design Assistant
Andrew Dollar*	Stage Manager

* The participation of these Artists is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance • Opera • Theatre Policy.

METAMORPHOSES 2023 was produced with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Toronto Arts Council, Michael B. Decter Foundation at Toronto Foundation, and the Zita and Mark Metsger Family Foundation.

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 acknowledge professional artists under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement (CTA) with Canadian Actors' Equity Association (CAEA).

The running time of METAMORPHOSES 2023 is 80 minutes no intermission.

WELCOME TO CROW'S THEATRE

Welcome to Streetcar Crowsnest and to the world premiere of *Metamorphoses 2023*. We're thrilled to welcome Theatre Smith-Gilmour to Streetcar Crowsnest for the first time. Since 1980, Theatre Smith-Gilmour has created over 44 shows, including beloved adaptation of works by Anton Chekhov, Lu Xun, The Brothers Grimm, and more. For decades, the company has been creating work rooted in the art of transformation, creating unforgettable poetic work forged between an audience's imagination, the body, words, and images. We're truly honoured to partner with them on their world premiere.

We are past the half-point this season, and we are so thrilled to report that audiences are discovering what Crow's Theatre has to offer in record numbers this year, paving the way for another astonishing season in 2023-24—the company's 40th anniversary. In early April, we will announce our upcoming slate of plays, comedies, musicals, and a few special treats. We can't wait to share with you what we have in store. Until then, we hope you'll check out our website for some late breaking additions to Crow's lineup this spring, including a return visit of Torquil Campbell's hit *True Crime and Rick Miller's Boom X* in May. Both astonishing productions have just been announced and are available to subscribers and single ticket buyers.

Check out what's still to come this season: a Toronto premiere from American playwright Lloyd Suh (Studio 180 Theatre and fu GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company's *The Chinese Lady*), a world premiere by Canadian playwright Alex Bulmer (Tyne and Rescue's *Perceptual Archaeology for How To Travel Blind*), as well as the Crow's Theatre debut of Cole Dawson & JDxJ with choreography by Guillaume Côté—principal dancer and choreographic associate at The National Ballet of Canada.

CHRIS ABRAHAM, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
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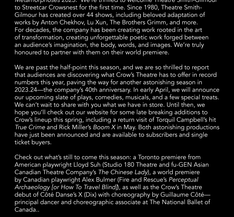

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR MICHELE SMITH & CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR DEAN GILMOUR

The never-ending war of the sexes is the major theme of our adaptation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. In our desire to understand this interminable war we need to examine the follies of the past and contemplate our world today. It is a war in its most violent aspects going from cruel humiliation, to rape, to gruesome revenge, a ruthless war that objectifies the other.

Like the metamorphoses themselves are meant to repair and to console, our adaptation is meant to be a catharsis, freeing us, making us more humane and able to move forward.

"Merci du fond du cœur" à Rob, Neena, Daniel, Sukruti, Simon, Tiana, Andrew, Johnny, Nic, and of course, Dean, for their incredible talent, rigour, and patience.

MICHELE SMITH, DIRECTOR OF **METAMORPHOSES 2023**

Imagination is freedom.

Michele Smith and I have dedicated our lives to creating a theatre of image and action, a theatre where the performer's ability to transform is centre stage with the spoken word. Four years ago, we began working with Neena Jayarajan, Rob Feetham, Daniel Henkel, and more recently with Sukruti Tirupattur, exploring how our different cultures and ways of seeing the world could come together to make a theatre that is inclusive. As we work together, we search under the surface, breaking open new possibilities to create a theatre that moves. Together we have discovered how Ovid's *Metamorphoses* transcends time and speaks to us today about resilience, identity and survival. Ovid says, "Everything changes. Nothing dies. What you are or were is not what you will be tomorrow."

We have been teaching ourselves that to survive one must evolve by constantly reinventing one's self.

DEAN GILMOUR, CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF **THEATRE SMITH-GILMOUR**

THEATRE SMITH-GILMOUR

"Ours is a theatre that moves, and our mission is to mobilize people's imaginations. Why a theatre that moves? Our theatre moves because it reflects the status quo, it's a theatre that is inclusive and diverse. Our theatre moves because it changes the mind by moving the heart (in a naive and unsentimental way).

Our theatre moves because it's born in breathing here and now, in rehearsal or on a stage for an audience, it is the opposite of frozen in time, the opposite of petrified, it is a theatre of metamorphoses."

— Michele Smith, Co-Artistic Director, Theatre Smith-Gilmour

"As we are working, day in and day out, we question everything, searching under the surface, discovering fragments of life that we translate into a theatre that moves. It's a theatre that makes us more fragile, more tender, and more tolerant."

— Dean Gilmour, Co-Artistic Director, Theatre Smith-Gilmour

In 1978 Michele Smith and Dean Gilmour met while studying at the School of Jacques Lecoq in Paris, France. In 1980, they formed Theatre Smith-Gilmour and over the last 42 years have created 44 shows, 18 of which were original plays including: *Les Miserables*, *As I Lay Dying*, *Spent*, *Grimm*, *Katherine Mansfield*, *Chekhov's Shorts and Longs*, *In the Wings of Eden*, *To Cry Is Not So*, *Le Maladie Imaginaire*, *The Greenbird*, *The Mask*, *Carmen Opera for Two Clowns*, and *No Escape*. They have toured across Canada several times and to China, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Serbia, Greece, Romania, Moldova, Taiwan, Denmark, Hong Kong, London, Oxford, Brighton and Edinburgh. They were invited to the Chekhov International Theatre Festival in Moscow, Russia. Recently, their adaptation of William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*, took them to the main space of the National Arts Centre, the Arts Club Theatre in Vancouver, and the High Performance Rodeo in Calgary. They have been nominated for 40 Dora Mavor Moore Awards and won nine times. In Montreal they won the MECCA award for best ensemble for Chekhov's Shorts and have been nominated for two Sterling Awards in Edmonton, and two Chalmers' Best Canadian Play Awards for *The Greenbird* and Chekhov's Shorts. During the pandemic they continued their work adapting new stories from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, creating three short films with Juniper Island Productions (*Daedalus and Icarus*, *Orpheus and Eurydice*; *Erysichton*) and one with videographer Lyon Smith (*Hesiuda*).

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Visit theatresmithgilmour.com to learn more about the company and to sign up for our newsletter.

SPECIAL THANKS

Michele Smith and Dean Gilmour would like to thank the *Metamorphoses 2023* creative team: Rob Feetham, Neena Jayarajan, Daniel R. Henkel, Sukruti Tirupattur, Simon Rossiter, Tiana Kralj, Johnny Hockin and Nic Vincent. As well as Nithya Garg, Christine Horne and Danya Buonaiuto who were part of the development of *Metamorphoses 2023*. Thanks to our GM Adriano Sobretodo Jr. and our Board of Directors. Finally, we want to thank Chris Abraham, Lyon Smith, Nina Gilmour, and Chris Reed.

CAST

ROB FEETHAM
NARCISSUS, HERMAPHRODITUS, ACTAEON, CENTAUR

Hometown: Chatham, Ontario. **For Theatre Smith-Gilmour:** I began working with Theatre Smith-Gilmour on *Ovid's Metamorphoses* in 2018. **Recent Theatre:** I just finished a run of my one-man adaptation of *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* at the inaugural Deanne Taylor New Works Festival presented by VideoCabaret. **Additional Theatre:** In 2022 I was incredibly proud to be involved in Bad New Days *Italian Mime Suicide* which received 5 Dora Mavor Moore Awards including Best Production. **Upcoming Projects:** A new season of my personal comedy podcast *The R.I.P. Podcast* is just around the corner, and a remount of *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* is in the works. **Social Media:** Instagram @robfeetham **Thank you:** I would love to thank the entire team of Ovid 2021 for this long and rocky road of change, transformation, growth, and discovery, but now we have arrived, now we play.

DEAN GILMOUR
TIRESIAS, CENTAUR

Hometown: Born in St Thomas, Ontario and living in Toronto since 1979. **For Theatre Smith-Gilmour:** *Chekhov's Shorts, Chekhov's Longs, Chekhov's Heartache, The Cherry Orchard, In the Wings Of Eden, To Cry Is Not So, The Greenbird, Carmen Opera for 2 Clowns, No Escape, Rites of Spring, The Miser, Oh Sang Lung with Michele Smith-Gilmour; Co-choreographing, Invalid, The Time and Place, Dante's Inferno, Spent, Grimm too, Death Married My Daughter, Katherine Mansfield, Lu Xun Blossoms.* **Recent Theatre:** *Les Miserables* adapted from Victor Hugo and *As I Lay Dying* adapted from William Faulkner. **Additional Theatre:** Name in Vain (Decalogue Two) by Andre Alexis; *Le Malade Imaginaire* (Theatre Français de Toronto); *La Ronde* (Soulpepper); Director of Movement for *Crazy Dave Goes to Town* by Daniel David Moses (Native Earth/Arts and Science Theatre). **Upcoming Projects:** Adapting stories from Pu Song Ling with Michele Smith-Gilmour; Co-choreographing, with Michele Smith-Gilmour, a new dance creation for Sylvie Bouchard at BoucharDanse. **Film/ TV:** *I, Claudia* by Kristen Thompson (CBC).

DANIEL R. HENKEL
JUPITER, TERELIS, PENTHEUS, CENTAUR, CEYX

Hometown: Kitchener Waterloo. **For Theatre Smith-Gilmour**: *Ovid 2019* was my first project with TSG, however I have worked with Dean before under his direction in my final show at Ryerson University, Summerfolk. I have also done a variety of clown workshops with them as well. **Recent Theatre**: I've mostly been focusing on film and television lately. **Additional Theatre**: Shakespeare productions of *Macbeth, Twelfth Night,* and *Merchant of Venice* with Ale House Theatre. *Welcome to Thebes, Romeo and Juliet,* and a clown show, at Ryerson University (TMU). **Film/ TV**: Upcoming *Murdoch Mysteries* season 16, Netflix *Painkiller, Nosocomophobia* (short film), *Motherland* (short film), previous; *Christmas Plus One* (2022), *Guillermo DT, Cabinet of Curiosities* (2022), *Frankie Drake, The Boys, Max and Shred, Saving Hope*. **Social Media**: @vonhenkel @Vonhenkelcraft **Thank You**: To TSG and my co-collaborators, and my wife Miranda.

NEENA JAYARAJAN
JUNO, PHILOMELA, SALMACIS, BACCHANTES, DIANA

Hometown: Vaughan, Ontario. **For Theatre Smith-Gilmour**: *Metamorphoses 2023.* **Recent Theatre**: *Svāhā* for Nova Dance. **Additional Theatre** Company dancer for Menaka Thakkar Dance Company for 20 Years, Freelance dance/theatre work. **Upcoming Projects**: *Svāhā* performance in Vancouver for Nova Dance. **Film/ TV**: CBC kids television providing voice and foley. **Social Media**: Facebook: Neena Jayarajan Instagram: @neena_jaya. **Thank You**: To Dean and Mimi for including two classically trained Indian dancers in this work, allowing us to showcase our training in transferable ways.

SUKRUTI TIRUPATTUR
ECHO, PROCNE, BACCHANTES, CAENIS, ALCYONE

Hometown: Bengaluru, India. **For Theatre Smith-Gilmour**: This is my first! **Recent Theatre**: Debuting in theatre with *Metamorphoses 2023*! **Upcoming Projects**: Bharatanatyam dance choreography projects and designing modules centering on health and community. **Film/ TV**: Graded artist of the 'Doordarshan' - National Broadcasting Network, India. **Social Media**: Instagram: @sukruti.dance

CREATIVE TEAM

MICHELE SMITH
DIRECTOR AND WRITER

Hometown: Born in Bastia, Corsica and living in Toronto since 1979. **For Theatre Smith-Gilmour**: *Chekhov's Shorts, Chekhov's Longs, Chekhov's Heartache, The Cherry Orchard, In the Wings Of Eden, To Cry Is Not So, The Imaginary Invalid, The Greenbird, Carmen Opera for 2 Clowns, No Escape, Oh Canyon, Just Married, Rites of Spring, The Miser, The Time and Place, Dante's Inferno, Spent, Death Married My Daughter, Grimm too, Katherine Mansfield, Lu Xun Blossoms.* **For Crows Theatre**: First time. **Recent Theatre**: *Les Miserables* adapted from Victor Hugo and *As I Lay Dying* adapted from William Faulkner. **Additional Theatre**: Director and Co-Writer of *Ralph and Lina* (Ahuri Theatre); Director of *Le Malade Imaginaire* (Theatre Français de Toronto); Dramaturgy for *Prevailing Voices* (Aria Evans). **Upcoming Projects**: Adapting stories from Pu Song Ling with Dean Gilmour; Co-choreographing, with Dean Gilmour, a new dance creation for Sylvie Bouchard at BoucharDanse. **Film/ TV**: *It's Hard to be Human* by Valerie Buhagiar.

SIMON ROSSITER
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Hometown: London, Ontario. **For Theatre Smith-Gilmour**: *Les Miserables, The Clowns, The Idiot,* these were with Dean & Mimi at Humber. **Recent Theatre**: *Cryptic, Touch* (Côté Danse); *Citadel Dance Mix, A Perfect Day* (Citadel+Compagnie); *Golden Record* (Soulpepper); *Svāhā* (Nova Dance); *Child, Touch X* (Kaeja d'Dance); Fall for Dance North. **Additional Theatre**: More than 250 original lighting designs for dance and theatre across Canada, including works with the National Ballet of Canada; Soulpepper Theatre; Sudbury Theatre Centre; Théâtre français de Toronto; Theatre New Brunswick; Toronto Dance Theatre. Director of Design for Fall for Dance North. Business Agent of the Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659. **Upcoming Projects**: *Assemblé Internationale*, Spring Showcase (National Ballet School of Canada); *X (Dix)* (Côte Danse); *Nuit* (Citadel+Compagnie). **Social Media**: Instagram: @simon_rossiter FB: Simon Rossiter

TIANA KRALJ
SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER

Hometown: Mississauga, Ontario. **For Theatre Smith-Gilmour**: Props and Costume Coordinator for *Metamorphoses* (2019), Set and Costume Designer for *Metamorphoses* (2023). **Additional Theatre**: Costume Designer for Rochdale at SummerWorks (2019), Set and Paint Assistant for Shakespeare in Action's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2019). **Thank You**: A big thank you to Caleb and my family for their ongoing support as I continuously burn the candle from both ends.

JOHNNY HOCKIN
MUSIC AND SOUND DESIGNER

Hometown: Halifax, Nova Scotia. **For Theatre Smith-Gilmour**: Sound and music design for *Les Miserables* **Upcoming Projects**: Contributor to Radio Pure podcast. **Film/ TV**: Currently writing my first short film which has gotten support from the Toronto Arts Council. **Social Media**: @juniper.island. **Thank You**: Thank you Dean and Mimi.

NIC VINCENT
LIGHTING DESIGN ASSISSTANT

Hometown: London, ON **Recent Theatre**: *Thurgood* (People's Light), *the bandaged place* (Roundabout), *Heartstrings* (Atlantic), *The Barber of Seville* (Sacramento Opera), *Jane Anger* (New Ohio), *Wolf Play, Everybody,* Constellations (Brown / Trinity Rep). **Additional Theatre**: *The Indigo Room* (La Mama), *Fragments, Lists, & Lacunae* (New York Live Arts), *Hopplal We're Alive!* (New School), NOTHINGWhS (Sasha Velour / The Documentary Group), *El Huracán* (Yale Rep / The Sol Project). **Upcoming Projects**: *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (Schuler School of Music), Cabaret Series (Lincoln Center Theatre), *Bones* (People's Light). **Website**: nicvincent.com

ANDREW DOLLAR
STAGE MANAGER

Hometown: Andrew grew up in London Ontario, but after 25 years Toronto feels more like home. **For Theatre Smith-Gilmour**: This will be Andrew's First show with Theatre Smith-Gilmour. **For Crows Theatre**: This is Andrew's third show this season at Crow's Theatre, he previously stage managed *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* and *Fifteen Dogs*. **Recent Theatre**: Andrew has worked on many shows with VideoCabaret. Most recently stage managing *Confederation* parts 1 and 2 at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts and *The Cold War in one of Toronto's newest venues;* the Deanne Taylor Theatre. **Additional Theatre**: Last Summer Andrew stage managed *Driving Miss Daisy* at the Orillia Opera House and will return there this summer for a production of *Bed and Breakfast*.

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