PROGRAMME

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Crow's Theatre Presents

THE BIDDING WAR

Written by **Michael Ross Albert** | Directed by **Paolo Santalucia**

Photo of Peter Fernandes, Veronica Hortiguela, Aurora Browne, Gregory Prest, and Fiona Reid by Dahlia Katz.

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Crow's Theatre Presents

THE BIDDING WAR

Written by **Michael Ross Albert** | Directed by **Paolo Santalucia**

World Premiere

A Crow's Theatre Commission

November 12 to December 15, 2024
Opening Night: Wednesday November 20, 2024
Guloien Theatre

THE COMPANY

Aurora Browne	**Blayne**
Sergio Di Zio	**Greg**
Izad Etemadi	**Donovan**
Peter Fernandes	**Sam**
Veronica Hortiguela	**June**
Amy Matysio	**Lara**
Gregory Prest	**Luke**
Fiona Reid	**Miriam**
Steven Sutcliffe	**Ian**
Sophia Walker	**Patricia**
Gregory Waters	**Charlie**
Michael Ross Albert	**Playwright**
Paolo Santalucia	**Director**
Ken Mackenzie*	**Co-Set Designer**
Sim Suzer*	**Co-Set Designer**
Laura Delchiaro*	**Costume Designer**
Christian Horoszczak	**Lighting Designer**
Olivia Wheeler*	**Sound Designer**
Anita Nittoly	**Fight & Intimacy Director**
Sergio Di Zio	**Fight Captain**
Lisa Nighswander	**Head of Props**
Elaine May	**Head of Wardrobe**
Johanna Edwards	**Stitcher**
Sydney Erin Kowal	**Special Effects Makeup Consultant**
Sam Hale	**Stage Manager**
Anna Spencer	**Assistant Stage Manager**
ciaran brenneman	**Apprentice Stage Manager**
Leighton Smith	**Rigging Lead**
Shaun McPherson	**Audio Lead**
Deanna Morrison	**Scenic Lead**
Douglas Drake, Emily Kuthe, Ian Noble, Phillip Trajcevski, Sami Safarian, Will Nazar	**Crew**
Rachel Smith, Steve Bromley	**Scenic Crew**
Steven Gwartz	**Driver**

Running Time: THE BIDDING WAR is approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes, including intermission.

Audience Advisory: This production contains theatrical haze, coarse language, themes of sexuality, partial nudity, staged violence, blood and simulated gore—served with a side of dark humour. For more details, please contact the Box Office.

THE BIDDING WAR was commissioned and developed by Crow's Theatre, 2022.

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).

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

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The company of *The Bidding War*. Photo by Dahlia Katz.

WELCOME FROM CROW'S

As we step into our 41st season, Crow's Theatre is soaring higher than ever, bringing the magic of live theatre to our East End home, Streetcar Crowsnest, and beyond through partnerships across Toronto. Last year was a landmark season; we welcomed over 85,000 attendees—doubling our previous record—and celebrated a stunning array of sold-out shows, nine Dora Awards, and eight Toronto Theatre Critics Awards. This outpouring of enthusiasm has set the stage for another incredible year, with subscribers joining in record numbers, ready to share in the adventure.

After our twice-extended season opener, *Rosmersholm*, in the Guloien Theatre, we're over the moon to present the world premiere of *The Bidding War*, the second show in our subscription series. This Crow's Theatre commission marks the thrilling Crow's debut of playwright Michael Ross Albert and the return of our Associate Artistic Director Paolo Santalucia to the director's chair, who brings his magic to the stage again after last season's hit comedy, *The Wrong Bashir*.

Earlier this season, we introduced our new cabaret series in the Studio Theatre, which brought unforgettable nights of music, comedy, and magic to the East End. Although the series has concluded, be sure to keep an eye out for its return—our intimate Studio Theatre will once again be filled with the vibrant energy of cabaret performances.

Running concurrently to *The Bidding War* in the Studio Theatre, we're thrilled to present *Big Stuff*, a world premiere from the celebrated comedic duo, legendary improvisers, and husband-and-wife team, Matt Baram and Naomi Snieckus. Their refreshingly honest humour offers a playful exploration of life's big moments and small mishaps, promising audiences an unforgettable night of laughter.

Also, don't miss the remount of Michael Healey's award-winning political satire, *The Master Plan*, co-presented with Soulpepper Theatre and running at the Young Centre until December 29. For this special run, Michael Healey himself will step into the role of Tree, as Peter Fernandes is busy selling a house in *The Bidding War*! Last year's thrice extended run of *The Master Plan* sold out, and tickets are selling fast again. Secure your seats before they're gone.

Whether joining us at Streetcar Crowsnest or at our partner venues, this season is a journey through the stories and voices that define Toronto. If you haven't already, there's still time to become a subscriber and immerse yourself in the Crow's Theatre community. We can't wait to share these stories with you.

CHRIS ABRAHAM
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SHERRIE JOHNSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

One of the earliest recorded examples of a bidding war dates back to ancient Rome, where property seized in war was sold via a formalized auction process. These auctions were created as a means to quickly redistribute conquered assets and offer social mobility to a growing merchant class.

While the mechanisms surrounding property ownership have obviously evolved, I was surprised to learn that the concept of competing for valuable land or property through bids has been a part of human civilization for thousands of years.

Working on this play, I found myself returning to the question of why we still willingly engage in bidding wars—why we are still compelled to participate in such an organized form of financial dominance so fundamentally rooted in conquest.

Beneath this play's comedic heart lies an exploration of what it means to fight for a place in a society where access to property increasingly defines one's ability to secure a future and find stability.

Real estate—once the cornerstone of the middle class—has become, for many, the last bastion of access to that security. And with each passing election cycle, I find myself wondering which of us will be the last to have a chance at owning a home in a city like ours—and what "homeownership" actually means within the context we all participate in. *The Bidding War* invites us to reckon with that stark reality. The desires of each character reflect a collective struggle—one where the mythologized Canadian dream is punctured, and the notion of homeownership may no longer be the promise of security and prosperity it once was.

I often find myself reflecting on how long my generation, and the ones that follow, will have a place left in cities like ours. Our process with this show has been to interrogate that anxiety, forcing us to ask questions about who gets to own a piece of the future, how far we each might go to secure it, and who gets left out in the cold.

PAOLO SANTALUCIA

Photo by Dahlia Katz.

THE CAST

Aurora Browne
BLAYNE

Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Thunder Bay/ Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** *The War of 1812, Trudeau and the FLQ, Trudeau and Levesque, The Cold War Part 1* (VideoCabaret); *Hello. . . Hello* (Tarragon Theatre); *The Darkest Dark* (Young People's Theatre); *Family Circus Maximus, Psychedelicatessen, Insanity Fair, The Bush League of Justice* (The Second City); *Deadwood, Throne of Games, Holiday! An Improvised Musical* (Bad Dog Theatre). **Film/TV:** *Baroness Von Sketch Show, Robocop, Nurses, Orphan Black.* **Upcoming Projects:** Remount of Bad Dog Theatre's *Holiday! An Improvised Musical* at Factory Theatre in December 2024. **Education/Training:** BFA in acting from York University's Theatre Program, 1995. **Thank You:** Kris and Sebastian, for all the love :) **Social Media:** @alolabrowne.

Sergio Di Zio
GREG

Pronouns: He/Him. **Current Town:** Toronto. For Crow's Theatre: Debut. **Other Theatre:** *Four Minutes Twelve Seconds* (Studio 180); *Rockabye* (ARC Theatre Company); *Detroit, Between Riverside and Crazy, The Motherfucker with the Hat* (Coal Mine Theatre); *This is War, Name in Vain, Scorched, Lèo* (Tarragon Theatre); *Dying City* (surface/ underground theatre). **Film/TV:** (Select) *Law and Order Toronto: Criminal Intent* (CTV); *I Will Bury You* (YouTube); *The Queen's Gambit* (Netflix); *Flashpoint* (CTV/ CBS); *The Lookout* (Miramax); *The Walk* (Sony/TriStar); *Cinderella Man* (Paramount); *This is Wonderland* (CBC). **Upcoming Projects:** *Snowflakes* (FX Network); *Motorheads* (Amazon); *Accused* (Fox). **More:** Select awards: *I Will Bury You,* Miami Web Fest, New Zealand Web Fest Bilbao Seriesland Web Fest, Best Series 2024;Dora Mavor Moore Award 2015 Outstanding Performance - Male Independent Theatre, *Motherfucker with the Hat*, Coal Mine Theatre; 26th Annual Gemini Awards - Best Supporting Actor Drama 2011, *Flashpoint* (CTV). **Social media:** @Elisasboy72.

Izad Etemadi
DONOVAN

Pronouns: He/Him. **Current Town:** Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** *Mad Madge* (Nightwood Theatre); *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Neptune Theatre); *Elf the Musical, Grow* (The Grand Theatre); *Let Me Explain* (Green Light Arts); *Pal Joey, Sweeney Todd, Music Man* (Talk Is Free Theatre). **Film/TV:** *Orphan Black: Echoes* (AMC); *Settle Down* (OutTV); *Mother Father Sister Brother Frank* (Highball TV); *The Love Club* (W Network); *Revenge of the Black Best Friend, Tall Boys, Overlord and the Underwoods* (CBC). **Upcoming Projects:** *Cows Come Home* (Bell Fibe TV). **Education/Training:** Canadian Film Centre. **Social Media:** @izadetemadi.

Peter Fernandes
SAM

Pronouns: He/Him. **Hometown/Current Town:** Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** *Fifteen Dogs, The Master Plan.* **Other Theatre:** *One Man, Two Guvnors, Importance of Being Earnest, Damn Yankees, Charley's Aunt, Christmas Carol, Russian Play, Brigadoon* (Shaw Festival); *Pollyanna* (Theatre Aquarius) *Kelly v. Kelly* (The Musical Stage Company); *Almost a Full Moon, Peter and the Starcatcher* (Citadel Theatre); *Rose, Father Comes Home From the Wars, Alligator Pie, Incident at Vichy, The Just, Marat/Sade, Dybbuk, Spoon River, Tartuffe, Crucible, Idiot's Delight* (Soulpepper); *Vietgone* (Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre); *Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Love and Information, Twelfth Night, King Lear* (Canadian Stage); *Jerusalem* (Outside the March/The Company Theatre); *Charlie Brown* (Manitoba Theatre for Young People); *Onegin* (National Arts Centre/the Musical Stage Company); *Passing Strange* (The Musical Stage Company/Obsidian Theatre). **Film/TV:** *God of Frog, 21 Black Futures, Pretty Hard Cases, Odd Squad*. **Upcoming Projects:** *Fat Ham,* Canadian Stage. **Education/Training:** BFA - University of Alberta, Soulpepper Academy. **More:** Dora Award Recipient, Philip Akin Black Shoulders Legacy Award. **Thank You:** My love, Jenny. **Social Media:** @pjrfernandes.

Veronica Hortiguela
JUNE

Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown:** Scarborough. **For Crow's Theatre:** *Prodigal* (The Howland Company/ Crow's Theatre); *Monks* (Crow's Cabaret/Toronto Fringe Festival). **Other Theatre:** *Bremen Town* (Next Stage Festival); *Little Women, Every Little Nookie* (Stratford Festival); *Casimir and Caroline* (The Howland Company, Dora Award - Best Ensemble); *Dry Land* (Cue6); *As We Live It* (Shakespeare in the Ruff). **Upcoming Projects:** *Feast* (Tarragon Theatre). **Education/Training:** BFA Acting - Toronto Metropolitan University. **Social Media:** @veronicapilar @monksonstage.

Amy Matysio
LARA

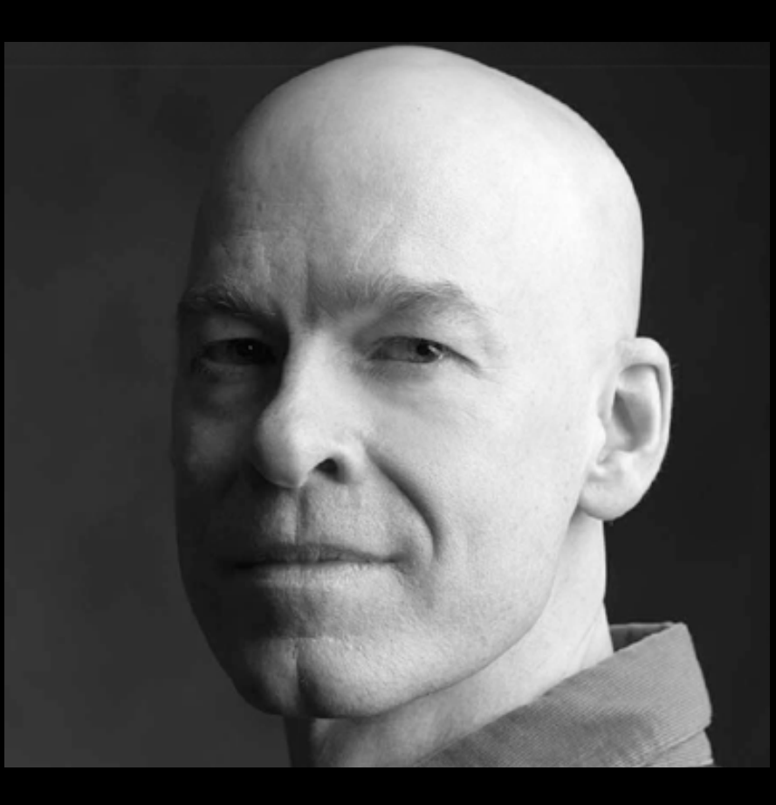
Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Regina/Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut! **Other Theatre:** *It's a Wonderful Life, the Radio Play* (Young People's Theatre); *Bad Blood* (Curtain Razors); *Importance of Being Earnest, Alice Through the Looking-Glass, Stuff Happens* (National Arts Centre); *Bedroom Farce* (Soulpepper); over 20 productions including *The Syringa Tree* (Globe Theatre); *Venus in Fur* (Golden Apple Theatre); *Rabbit Hole* (Persephone Theatre); *Mo and Jess Kill Susie* (Northern Light); *Antony and Cleopatra* (Shakespeare on the SK); *The Road to Paradise* (Assistant Director, Human Cargo/Crow's). **Film/TV:** *Die Alone; Sort Of, Cosmic Dawn, Baroness Von Sketch, Save Me, Wolfcop & Another Wolfcop.* **More:** A three-time Canadian Screen Award nominee, Dora Mavor Moore winner (*Wizard of Oz*, Young People's Theatre) and in 2020, Amy was honoured by the University of Regina with the Distinguished Alumni Award (Faculty of Media, Art & Performance). Celebrated voice actor with over two decades of commercial, audiobook and animation work, she has been a fierce advocate for the ongoing ICA/ACTRA lockout. **Thank You:** Paolo, Chris & Michael for inviting me. Family, always.

Gregory Prest
LUKE

Pronouns: He/Him. **Hometown/Current Town:** Pictou, Nova Scotia/Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** *The Seagull*. **Other Theatre:** Most recently, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Soulpepper); *The Inheritance* (Canadian Stage); *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Mirvish); over 45 shows with Soulpepper including *La Bête, Bed & Breakfast, August: Osage County, Of Human Bondage, Angels in America*, and shows with Tarragon Theatre, Young People's Theatre, and the Canadian Opera Company. **Film/TV:** *Pillow Talk* (Crave – two Canadian Screen Award Nominations). **Upcoming Projects:** *Casey and Diana* (Theatre Aquarius, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre). **Education/Training:** National Theatre School, Soulpepper Academy. **More:** Writer/Director: *De Profundis: Oscar Wilde in Jail* (Soulpepper – Dora Award, Toronto Theatre Critics' Award); *Bremen Town* (Next Stage). Director: *Rose: A New Musical* (Soulpepper – Dora Award); *Punk Rock* (Howland Company); *Hosanna, The Heidi Chronicles* (Soulpepper); *Fish Eyes* (Theatre Passe Muraille, Canadian Tour, The Other Festival – Chennai, India). **Social Media:** @gregoryprest, gregoryprest.com.

Fiona Reid
MIRIAM

Hometown/Current Town: Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Broadway and Mirvish Toronto); *Hedda Gabler* (Coal Mine); *A Little Night Music* (Koerner Hall); *The Children* (Canadian Stage and Centaur Theatre); *The Divine* (Shaw Festival); numerous seasons at Shaw and Stratford Festivals, theatres across Canada, in US and UK. **Film/TV:** *My Big Fat Greek Wedding, The Time Traveler's Wife, One Week*. **Upcoming Projects:** *Into the Woods* (Koerner Hall, Royal Conservatory of Music); *People, Places and Things* (Coal Mine Theatre). **Education/Training:** McGill University. **More:** Order of Canada, Honorary Doctorate Bishop's University, Past President of the Actors Fund of Canada.



Steven Sutcliffe
IAN

Pronouns: He/him. **Hometown/Current Town:** Little Britain/Stratford. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** Recently, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Mirvish Productions); *Ragtime Reunion Concert* (Minskoff Theatre, Broadway). Steven has performed in theatres across Canada including the Shaw Festival, Stratford Festival, and Soulpepper, and across the US including Chicago Shakespeare, the Goodman Theatre, A Contemporary Theatre, New York City Center, and on Broadway. **More:** For Mary.

Sophia Walker
PATRICIA

Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** The Shaw Festival: *The House That Will Not Stand, Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart, Just to Get Married, Gem of the Ocean*. Elsewhere: 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*, to name a few; *Our Place* (Cahoots Theatre); *Fairview* (Canadian Stage); *The Bridge* (2b Theatre/Neptune Theatre); *Casey and Diana, Blood Wedding, Jitters, The Heidi Chronicles* (Soulpepper); Mary in *Mary's Wedding* (Blyth Festival); and Salima in *Ruined* (Obsidian Theatre). **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, Shadow Hunters: The Mortal Instruments*, just to name a few. **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.

Gregory Waters
CHARLIE

Pronouns: He/Him. **Hometown/Current Town:** Hamilton/Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** *No Big Deal* (Roseneath Theatre); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Panoply Collective). **Film/TV:** *Letterkenny, Transplant, Murdoch Mysteries, The Silence, Bella Wild, The Castrationists.* **Education/Training:** Graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's Acting Program. **More:** Short films with frequent collaborator and brother Nicholas Waters can be found at waterswaters.ca. **Thank You:** Thank you to my mother and father for their unrelenting love and support. **Social Media:** @gregorydavidwaters.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Michael Ross Albert
PLAYWRIGHT

Pronouns: He/Him. **Hometown/Current Town:** Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** *Beautiful Renegades* (Peggy Baker Dance Projects); *When I'm Gone* (Mountain Movers Theatre Company); *Good Old Days* (Toronto Fringe); *Two Minutes to Midnight* (The Assembly Theatre); *The Huns; Anywhere* (both: Best of Toronto Fringe and Patron's Pick); *The Grass is Greenest at the Houston Astrodome* (published in Best American Short Plays 2014-2015); *Miss* (Unit 102); *The Huns* (USA premiere: Jackalope Theatre, Chicago).*Tough Jews* (Spadina Avenue Gang/ Storefront Theatre—Dora Award nomination - Outstanding New Play). **Upcoming Projects:** *A Little Closer* (The Vault Creation Lab). **Education/ Training:** Playwriting MFA, Actors Studio Drama School. **Thank You:** Chris, Paolo, Sam, ciaran, Anna, Beth, Heather, Colin, Marie, Clay, Ed, Pam, everyone at Bloom, all of you, and my mom. **Social Media:** michaelrossalbert.com.

Paolo Santalucia
DIRECTOR

Pronouns: He/Him. **Hometown/Current Town:** Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** Associate Artistic Director; Director - *The Wrong Bashir, Prodigal, Casimir and Caroline*; Actor – *Orphans for the Czar*; Assistant Director – *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812*. **Other Theatre:** 11 Seasons at Soulpepper, including: *The Seagull, Bed and Breakfast, Of Human Bondage, Spoon River* (Canadian, Off-Broadway Cast); *As You Like It* (Canadian Stage); *Mustard* (Tarragon); Co-Founder, The Howland Company. **Film/TV:** *Pillow Talk* (Crave); *Kim's Convenience* (CBC). **Education/Training:** University of Toronto; Soulpepper Academy Alumnus. **More:** Two Dora Awards in acting; one nomination – direction (*Casimir and Caroline*); one nomination – playwriting (*Prodigal*); two Canadian Screen Award nominations. **Social Media:** @paolo_santalucia.

Ken Mackenzie
CO-SET DESIGNER

Pronouns: He/Him. **Hometown/Current Town:** Toronto/Saskatoon. **For Crow's Theatre:** *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.

Sim Suzer
CO-SET DESIGNER

Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Istanbul, Türkiye/Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** Associate costume designer for *Fifteen Dogs*, set design for *Bad Roads*. **Other Theatre:** Costume designer; *A Year With Frog and Toad* (The Capitol Theatre); *Dark of the Moon, Low Pay? Don't Pay!, Munsch, Peer Gint* (George Brown College); *Love's Labour's Lost* (Stratford Festival); *In This* (Tiger Princess Dance Projects); set designer; *Sweeter* (Cahoots Theatre); *Anahita's Republic* (Bustle and Beast); set and costume designer *The Game of Love and Chance, A Grand Night for Signing* (Shaw Festival); costume designer and associate set designer *Everybody* (Shaw Festival); set and costume designer *our place* (Cahoots Theatre). **Upcoming Projects:** Set and Costume Design for *Comfort Food* at Crow's. **Social Media:** @sim.pie, simsuzer.com.

Laura Delchiaro
COSTUME DESIGNER

Pronouns: She/Her. **Current Town:** Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** As head of wardrobe: *Rosmersholm, Natasha, Pierre, & the Great Comet of 1812, Orphans for the Czar, Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo, Julius Caesar, Towards Youth, A&R Angels*. **Other Theatre:** Costume Design: *Million Dollar Quartet* (Grand Theatre); *Gem of the Ocean* (Shaw Festival); *Chicago, Jersey Boys, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (YES/Sudbury Theatre Centre); *The Sound Inside* (Coal Mine Theatre); *Heroes of the Fourth Turning, Prodigal* (The Howland Company/Crow's); *La Bête, Sweeney Todd* (Talk is Free Theatre). **Upcoming Projects:** Costume Design: *Oliver!* (YES/Sudbury Theatre Centre); *People, Places, and Things* (Coal Mine Theatre). **Education/Training:** Diploma in Costume Studies, Dalhousie University: HBA, University of Toronto. **Social Media:** Instagram: @lauradelchiarodesign, www.lauradelchiarodesign.com.

Christian Horoszczak
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Pronouns: He/Him. **Hometown/Current Town:** Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** *Bad Roads*. **Other Theatre:** *All The Sex I've Ever Had – Tokyo, Kyoto, Seoul, Zurich, and Sydney World Pride Editions; Sex, Drugs and Criminality – Riga Edition* (Mammalian Diving Reflex); *Doubt* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Three Sisters, Entrances and Exits* (Howland Company); *Bunk #7* (Raven Collective); *Kiviuq Returns* (Qaggiavuut!/Banff Centre). **Education/Training:** National Theatre School, Banff Centre. **More:** Christian is the recipient of a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Lighting Design for his work on *Bad Roads*. He has assisted at the Stratford Festival and Fall For Dance North and works in exhibition lighting design having worked on projects with Christian Dior, the Singapore Zoo, the Canadian Canoe Museum, and the Forbidden City. **Thank You:** Much love to Ryan, Mom and Dad.

Olivia Wheeler
SOUND DESIGNER

Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Victoria, B.C./Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** Sound Design: *Playing Shylock* (Canadian Stage); *Infinite Life* (Coal Mine Theatre); *Cymbeline* (Stratford Festival); *Mad Madge* (Nightwood Theatre); *The Fixing Girl* (Young People's Theatre); *De Profundis* (Soulpepper); *Here Lies Henry, Armadillos* (Factory Theatre); *Between a Wok and a Hot Pot* (Cahoots Theatre); *ECHO* (Next Stage); *It'll Come to Me* (Theatre SKAM). Associate Sound Design: *Three Women of Swatow* (Tarragon Theatre); *Bad Parent* (Soulpepper/Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre/Prairie Theatre Exchange); *A Wrinkle in Time* (Stratford Festival). Assistant Sound Design: *Mahabharata* (Why Not Theatre); *Every Little Nookie, Hamlet 911, 1939* (Stratford Festival); *The Wedding Party* (Alberta Theatre Projects). **Upcoming Projects:** *Alligator Pie* (Soulpepper); *The Secret to Good Tea* (The Grand Theatre/National Arts Centre). **Education/Training:** University of Victoria. **More:** Olivia is also a playwright, puppet designer and puppeteer. **Thank You:** Huge thanks to Paolo, Michael, the whole Bidding War team and Crow's for this whirlwind of a play!. **Social Media:** Instagram: @liv.g.wheeler; website: oliviagwheeler.com.

Anita Nittoly
FIGHT & INTIMACY DIRECTOR

Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Toronto. **For Crow's Theatre:** *Prodigal, Bad Roads.* **Other Theatre:** (select) Stratford Festival 2024 season; *Angels in America* (Buddies in Bad Times Theatre); *The Retreat* (Imago); *Truth* (Young People's Theatre); *JCS* (Here For Now); *Wildwoman* (Soulpepper); *Hamlet* (The Rose, Dream in High Park); *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Fall on Your Knees* (Canadian Stage/Neptune Theatre/ National Arts Centre/the Grand Theatre); *Counter Offence* (Segal Centre); *Fairview* (Canadian Stage); *Trojan Girls and The Outhouse of Atreus* (Outside The March/Factory Theatre); *Our Place* (Cahoots Theatre/Theatre Passe Muraille); *The Last Wife, The 39 Steps, Successions* (Centaur Theatre); *Whole World* (Carousel Players). **Film/TV:** (select) *Law & Order: Toronto, SEE, Star Trek: Discovery, Pretty Hard Cases, Titans, The Boys, Rabbit Hole, What We Do in the Shadows*, various Ubisoft motion capture productions. **Upcoming Projects:** *Star Trek - Starfleet Academy*, Stratford Festival 2025 season, *Roberto Zucco* (Buddies in Bad Times); *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Canadian Stage). **Education/Training:** Toronto Dance Theatre, Humber College Acting for Film and Television. **Thank You:** Mama + Papa. **Social Media:** anitanittoly.com.

Elaine May
HEAD OF WARDROBE

Pronouns: She/Her. **Hometown/Current Town:** Ottawa. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** 15 years at Young People's Theatre and 20 years with Soulpepper in various wardrobe positions, as well as stints at Stratford, Canadian Stage and Ross Petty's Panto. Highlights include *King Lear, Top Girls, A Christmas Carol* (Soulpepper); *Hana's Suitcase, Seussical, Frog and Toad* (Young People's Theatre). **Upcoming Projects:** *Fifteen Dogs*. **Education/Training:** BFA Theatre Production (York University); Diploma in Adult Education and Perinatal Education (Douglas College). **More:** Elaine is a certified childbirth educator and personal trainer specializing in pre and postnatal fitness. **Thank You:** Katie Pounder for dragging me back in!

Sam Hale
STAGE MANAGER

Pronouns: He/Him. **Other Theatre:** *The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?, Casey and Diana, Death and the King's Horseman, All's Well That Ends Well, Little Shop of Horrors* (Stratford Festival); *Prodigal, Casimir and Caroline, The Wolves, The Home Project, Entrances & Exits, Lemons..., 52 Pick Up, The Glass Menagerie* (The Howland Company); *Detroit: Music of the Motor City, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Picture This, Parfumerie, Riverboat* (Soulpepper); *Jerusalem, Mr. Burns* (Outside the March); *Disgraced* (Mirvish/Citadel/Hope & Hell); *La Bête, The Other Place, The Judas Kiss, Into the Woods, Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Talk Is Free); *Angels in America* (That Theatre Company/Buddies in Bad Times); *Wildly Romantic, Aunt Agnes for Christmas, Hilda's Yard* (Foster Festival); *My Fair Lady* (Capitol Theatre); *Fall For Dance North* (TO Live). **More:** Sam has also worked for University of Toronto, TIFF, Hot Docs, dance: made in canada, and serves as a stage management mentor at Toronto Metropolitan University.

Anna Spencer
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Pronouns: They/She. **Hometown:** Glace Bay, NS. **For Crow's Theatre:** Debut. **Other Theatre:** *Faust, La Bohème* (Canadian Opera Company); *The Big Easy; Music of New Orleans, Detroit: Music of the Motorcity, A Christmas Carol* (Soulpepper); *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead* (Mirvish/Neptune Theatre); *The Hobbit* (Canadian Children's Opera Company); *Emma Bovary* (National Ballet of Canada); *Women of the Fur Trade, The Crucible* (The Stratford Festival); *Veirge* (Factory Theatre); *Entrances & Exits: Home for the Holidays* (The Howland Company); *The Rocky Horror Show* (Neptune Theatre); *Gould's Wall, Hook Up, Oksana G.* (Tapestry Opera); *Juno's Reward, Cabaret, Prom Queen* (The Grand Theatre); *The 39 Steps* (Capitol Theatre). **Upcoming Projects:** *Ladies of the Canyon* (Soulpepper); *Wozzeck* (Canadian Opera Company). **Education/ Training:** BFA Theatre Production, TMU. **More:** Anna is currently an instructor for TMU's Production Program.

ciaran brenneman
APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER

Pronouns: They/Them. **For Crow's Theatre:** Apprentice Stage Manager - *Natasha, Pierre, & the Great Comet of 1812.* **Other Theatre:** Apprentice Stage Manager - *Come From Away* (Mirvish Productions); *Cowboy Tempest Cabaret/After The Rain* (Musical Stage Company/Canadian Stage); *Richard II* (Stratford Festival); *Fall On Your Knees* (Canadian Stage); *The Grand Re-Opening Festival* (Grand Theatre). **Education/Training:** BFA, Performance: Production and Design from Toronto Metropolitan University. **Thank You:** To my family and to Emma, for everything.

A SPECIAL REQUEST

In recognition of the world premiere of **THE BIDDING WAR**, Crow's Theatre has made a donation to WIGWAMEN, Ontario's oldest and largest urban Indigenous housing provider. With over 865 units, Wigwamen is committed to providing decent, safe, and affordable housing to thousands of Indigenous and non-Indigenous families, singles, and seniors in dire need of housing. We invite you to also consider supporting this very worthwhile organization.

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NOVEMBER 12 TO DECEMBER 8, 2024
IN THE STUDIO THEATRE

BIG STUFF

Created by **Matt Baram**, **Naomi Snieckus** and **Kat Sandler**
Written and performed by **Matt Baram** and **Naomi Snieckus**
Directed by **Kat Sandler**

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BARAM and SNIECKUS

Photo of Matt Baram and Naomi Snieckus by David Leyes.

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THE SOLD-OUT SMASH HIT RETURNS!

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Written by **Michael Healey**
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Based on the book *Sideways* by Josh O'Kane

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Photo of Christopher Allen by Dahlia Katz.

[wahyt], noun.
1a. A living being in general;
1b. Originally and chiefly with (goo
epithet, applied to supernatur
preternatural, or unearthly bein

JANUARY 7 TO FEBRUARY 9, 2025
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Piano Piano

We are bursting with excitement to confirm that PIANO PIANO will be taking up residence at Streetcar Crowsnest in early 2025. Stay tuned for more details about opening date, special pre-theatre prix fixe menus featuring their elevated Italian fare, and special offers for Crow's subscribers.

Maple Leaf Tavern

Fine dining in a historic Toronto tavern with elegant takes on classic pub fare and stunning seasonal creations.

Ricky + Olivia

A creative menu that reimagines comfort food with local ingredients and clever combinations.

If your show starts at 7:30pm, reserve no later than 5:15pm for either restaurant.

Garden Bar & Bodega

A laid-back Leslieville spot where you can grab coffee, drinks, and snacks to go. And it's pet friendly!

By showing your subscriber card at the above restaurants, Crow's Theatre Subscribers enjoy a 15% discount on food, while Crow' patrons, with proof of a ticket purchase, receive a 10% discount on food.

Fruitful Market

Has a mission to nourish our east end community through healthy comfort food and neighbourly warmth. Subscribers and patrons enjoy a 10% discount on all hot and cold beverages, including their famous smoothies!

LEARN MORE HERE

CROW'S THEATRE

CROW'S THEATRE STAFF

Artistic Director
Chris Abraham

Executive Director
Sherrie Johnson

Associate Artistic Director
Paolo Santalucia

Artistic Associate / Assistant to the Artistic Director
Christopher Manousos

General Manager
Katie Pounder

Senior Producer
Heather Landon

Producer
Beth Wong

Director of Production and Facilities
LJ Savage

Production Manager
Jeremy Hutton

Technical Director
Ryan Borshuk

Assistant Technical Director
Amber Rea

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Jay Hines
Kim Schaedlich
Zach White

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Gabriella (Gabbi) Kosmidis

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crowstheatre.com

THANK YOU

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