

Soulpepper

# BAD PARENT

INS CHOI

CO-PRODUCTION WITH VANCOUVER ASIAN CANADIAN  
THEATRE AND PRAIRIE THEATRE EXCHANGE



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Hello, and welcome to what I've been calling a 'homecoming production' for Ins Choi, with the World Premiere of his new play *Bad Parent*. We're really excited that we get to share in this production with our friends Vancouver and Winnipeg. Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre and Prairie Theatre Exchange have been invaluable in bringing Ins' new work to the stage and I am glad audiences across the country can delight in his writing as much as I have. I first witnessed Ins' work when we were at York University together. He was an actor a couple years ahead of me who inspired me with his nuanced and unexpected performances. Our paths crossed again in this very building, when he joined the Soulpepper Academy the year after I graduated. We became friends and it was clear that he had a unique and captivating voice with so many stories to tell. One of those stories, of course, became his first hit play and TV series *Kim's Convenience*. I had the pleasure of directing the premiere of *Kim's Convenience* on the Soulpepper stage in 2012, exactly 10 years ago. Some of you saw that production, and I want to thank you for being long time supporters of the company.

To have Ins' work back in our season has brought nothing but joy to our hearts. I am so happy we get to share that with you.

Enjoy the show,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Weyni Mengesha'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

**WEYNI MENGESHA**

Artistic Director,  
Soulpepper Theatre Company.



I love my wife. She loves me. I swear. Ask her. She's a great mom. She's a strong, smart, funny, wonderful woman and my best friend. Her name is Mari. We've been married for 17 years and we have 2 kids together, Fourteen and Twelve. That's their ages not their names. (Aren't we supposed to capitalize numbers when we spell them? Anyway.) This play began when I started writing a bunch of thoughts down in order to try and clarify to myself why our marriage was so difficult after having a baby. I didn't understand why I was so angry, frustrated and in such a panic at times. Things got better and after many years I returned to all that writing and felt so sorry for that earlier version of Mari and I, struggling. I wanted to find healing for them.

Stories are powerful. They allow us to see into the lives of others wholly different from ourselves only to realize how similar we all are. Through stories we're entertained as a group and comforted to know we're not alone both in our struggles and what we find funny. Stories disarm, nudge empathy and engage our imaginations viscerally reminding us of when we were all a little more supple. Stories can heal.

This production was supposed to happen in 2020. It's been a roller coaster ride getting here through the pandemic with cancellations, changes to the team, the script, the industry and it's because of people like Donna Yamamoto, Thomas Morgan Jones, Stephanie Sy, Derek Chan, Hazel Venzon, Anjela Magpantay, Deanna Choi, Brenda Mclean, Gerald King, Sophie Tang, Neha Ross, Jenny Kim, Tracy Lynne Cann, Olivia Wheeler, Katie Fitz-Gerald, Harika Xu, Annie Clarke, Jonathan Heppner, Gideon Arthurs, Luke Reece, Weyni Mengesha, Jamie Kaye-Phillips, Josette Jorge, Raugi Yu and Meg Roe, (the midwives of this play) that we're now here. It's a bigger decision to be here now. Thank you for coming.

#### INS CHOI

Playwright of *Bad Parent*

*Bad Parent* is Generously supported by:



**Cast**

**Josette Jorge**  
Nora / Norah

**Raugi Yu**  
Charles / Dale

**Creative Team**

**Ins Choi**  
Playwright

**Brenda McLean**  
Costume Designer

**Harika Xu**  
Assistant Lighting Designer

**Meg Roe**  
Director

**Gerald King**  
Lighting Designer

**Thomas Morgan Jones**  
Dramaturg

**Anjela Magpantay**  
Assistant Director

**Tracy Lynne Cann**  
Stage Manager

**Luke Reece**  
Associate Artist

**Sophie Tang**  
Set & Props Designer

**Katie Fitz-Gerald**  
Assistant Stage Manager

**Deanna H Choi**  
Sound Designer & Music Producer

**Olivia Wheeler**  
Associate Sound Designer

**Soulpepper Production**

**Nathan Wong**  
Production Assistant

**Chris Blanchenot**  
Scenic Painter

**Ethan Robinson**  
Lighting Operator

**Andy DeVries**  
Head Carpenter

**Lisa Nighswander**  
Head of Props

**Andres Castillo Smith**  
Sound Operator

**Bill Stahl**  
1st Carp

**Ellie Koffman**  
Head of Wardrobe

**Paul Boddum**  
Head Scenic

**Greg Chambers**  
Props Builder

**Prairie Theatre Exchange Production**

**Brenda McLean**  
Head of Wardrobe

**Elana Honcharuk**  
Props Master

**Steven Vande Vyvere**  
Head Carpenter

**Prairie Theatre Exchange Leadership**

**Lisa Li**  
Managing Director

**Thomas Morgan Jones**  
Artistic Director



**Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre Leadership**

**Derek Chan**  
Managing Artistic Director

**Annie Jang**  
General Manager



**Thank you to the following artists who have contributed to the development of Bad Parent:**

Wayne Buss, Sean Neville, Alistair Wallace, Hazel Venzon, Adrian Muir, Neha Ross, Jenny Kim, Jennifer Stewart, Hina Nishioka, Kate De Lorme, Donna Yamamoto, Stephanie Sy, Courtney Ch'ng Lancaster

*Bad Parent* was developed with the participation of Banff Playwrights Lab, Soulpepper Theatre Company, Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre (vAct), and Prairie Theatre Exchange (PTE).

## BACKGROUND NOTES

A new play by Ins Choi is so anticipated that three theatre companies collaborated on its first production. *Bad Parent*'s rolling 'premiere' was set to begin in Winnipeg at Prairie Theatre Exchange and Vancouver at the Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre, but with schedule changes it now lands first here, in Toronto. Mind you, Choi is no stranger to Toronto audiences.. Mind you, Choi is no stranger to our audiences. He's graced our stage as an actor, and he also created *Kim's Convenience*, a play that won national acclaim, and then became a television show that went around the world. We're delighted to have his sharp storytelling back at Soulpepper.

Choi loves to explore family dynamics, focusing here on the life-changing experience of early parenthood with his signature mix of heart and humour. Funny thing: parenting is one of the most important roles we take on in life, but there's no real preparation for it. You leave the hospital with a small human being in your possession and, stunningly, nobody verifies your fitness for the job; you don't even have to sign any papers.

As the play makes comically clear, the first months with your first child are a process of trial and error undertaken on hormones with little to no sleep. Not only do new parents have to figure out how to keep this tiny, demanding creature alive, they must also meet their own individual needs (including physiological ones like the occasional shower), while reconfiguring their identities and their partnership in light of new realities.

Two theatrical decisions nourish this comedy, both connected to point of view. There are 2 actors on stage, and both play 2 parts. The actress plays Norah, the mother, and Nora the Filipinx nanny Norah hires. The actor plays Charles, the father, and Dale, the co-worker Norah bonds with after she returns to work. Each actor embodies a parent in the trenches, and a witness to that struggle. Speaking of witnesses, Charles and Norah talk directly to us, their audience. Each wants us on their side, needs us on their side. Their fierce competition for our allegiance drives the play.

This is a theatrical device, but it reflects reality, too. When you're a new parent, it can sometimes feel like everyone's got an opinion on what you should do from friends and family to complete strangers on the street. They all feel free to give advice. You are free too. Free to take sides, change sides, and laugh, loud and long and often.

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Background Notes by Paula Wing.

**Running Time:**  
90 minutes with no intermission.



**TRACY LYNNE CANN** was born and raised in Toronto, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Bad Parent*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Menopause The Musical* (ShaggyPup Productions); *The 39 Steps* (The Grove Theatre); *Passport to Madness* (Workman Arts); *Rinaldo* (The Royal Conservatory of Music). **OTHER:** Tracy's dog, Max, has a career unto himself as a professional model and social influencer. Jokingly called "Side Hustle", Max can often be found traveling and working alongside Tracy.



**DEANNA H CHOI** was born in Regina, SK and raised in Kingston, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Bad Parent*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *August Osage County* (2019). **OTHER THEATRE:** *Three Women of Swatow, Light, Cockroach* (Tarragon); *The Horse and His Boy* (Shaw Festival); *Controlled Damage* (Neptune), *The Penelopiad* (Grand Theatre). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Last of the Right Whales, Relax I'm From the Future*. **OTHER:** Pauline McGibbon Award (2020); nominated for a Canadian Screen Music Award, 2 Robert Merritt Awards, and the Louis Applebaum Composer Award; associate artist at National Theatre School of Canada.



**INS CHOI** was born in Seoul, South Korea and raised in Scarborough, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Bad Parent*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Kim's Convenience, Alligator Pie, (re)birth: e.e. cummings in song, Window on Toronto, Death of a Salesman*. **OTHER:** *Kim's Convenience* won the Best New Play award and the Patron's Pick at the 2011 Toronto Fringe festival. It then launched Soulpepper theatre company's 2012 season, toured across Canada, and was adapted into a tv series of the same name on the CBC and Netflix for 5 seasons. Ins was a writer, executive producer and co-creator of the tv series. Ins was also a member of the 2nd Soulpepper Academy.



**KATIE FITZ-GERALD** was born and raised in Toronto, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Bad Parent*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *&Juliet* (Mirvish Productions); *The Great Divide* (Harold Green Jewish Theatre); *Sherlock Holmes*, The Fall/Winter Concert Series, Fairground/Shawground (The Shaw Festival); *King Charles* (Studio 180/Mirvish Productions); *Hair* (Hart House); *Educating Rita* (Lighthouse Festival); *The Adventures of Pinocchio* (Young People's Theatre); *SWEAT* (Theatre Aquarius); *Let It Be: The Beatles, American Idiot* (Stephenville Theatre Festival). **OTHER:** Thank you so much for coming back to the theatre after the past few years, enjoy the show!



**THOMAS MORGAN JONES** For over 20 years, Thomas has worked nationally and internationally as a director, playwright, dramaturg, movement director, and instructor. He is currently the artistic director of Prairie Theatre Exchange on Treaty 1 Territory, Winnipeg.



**JOSETTE JORGE** was born in Vancouver and lives in Toronto with her 15 monther, 46 monther, and husband Fane. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Bad Parent*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Except In The Unlikely Event of War* (Pi Theatre); *Sisters* (Gateway Theatre); *Play With Monsters* (Solo Collective); *Proof* (Mnemonic Theatre); *Sex in Vancouver* (vAct). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Schitt's Creek*; *Locke and Key*; *Salvation*; *Run the Burbs*; *The Stanley Dynamic*; *Tiny Homes for Christmas*; *Bakugan*; *Transformers Botbots*; *Abby Hatcher*; *Ollie*. **OTHER:** Leo Award nominee for Lead Performance in a Feature Film (*Attic Trunk*), Jessie Richardson Theatre Award nominee for Supporting Actor (*Play With Monsters*), Recipient of vAct Walk of Fame Award.



**GERALD KING SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Bad Parent*. **OTHER THEATRE:** Recent credits include: *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *As You Like It* (Bard On The Beach); *As You Like It* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *Urinetown*, *The Penelopiad* and *She Kills Monsters* (Capilano University); *Lights* (Touchstone Theatre); *Matilda*, *Beauty and The Beast* (Arts Club Theatre); *Kuroko and Empire of The Son* (vAct - Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre); *As You Like It*, *Matilda*, *Crazy for You* (The Citadel Theatre); *Carmen: Up Close and Personal*, *The Merry Widow*, *Otello*, *La Boheme*, *Evita* (Vancouver Opera); *Wabi Sabi* (Kokoro Dance). **OTHER:** Gerald is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada.



**ANJELA MAGPANTAY** is a first generation Canadian originating from the Philippines and graduated from Simon Fraser University with a BFA in Theatre Performance. She has worked internationally as a performer and collaborator in Hong Kong and across the UK. Anjela is the first recipient of the Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre's Emerging Directors Program award, allowing her to further develop as an emerging director. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Bad Parent*. **OTHER THEATRE:** Assistant Director credits include *Kuroko* (vAct); *Farm to Fable* (The Cultch); *Beneath Springhill* (Arts Club, Neptune Theatre) and *Bad Parent* (vAct, PTE, Soulpepper), under the mentorship of accomplished musical directors Amiel Gladstone, Bobby Garcia and Meg Roe.



**BRENDA MCLEAN** lives and works as a theatre artist on Treaty 1 Territory in Winnipeg, MB. She is also the Head of Wardrobe at Prairie Theatre Exchange. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Bad Parent*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *The War Being Waged* (PTE); *Bike and Circuses* (GreenKids); *Love and Information* (Company Link, Theatre Incarnate); *The Third Colour* (PTE); *New Magic Valley Fun Town* (PTE, Tarragon, Neptune). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Collapsed*; *Under the Same Roof*; *W(or)K*; *A Desperate Road*. **OTHER:** Brenda received an Evie Award for Outstanding Set and Costume Design on *Deserter* with Moving Target Theatre in 2018.



**LUKE REECE** is an award-winning Toronto-based playwright, producer and poet, currently the Associate Artistic Director of Soulpepper Theatre after spending five years working for Obsidian Theatre. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** Associate Artist: *Bad Parent*; Assistant Director: *Pipeline*; Producer: *Oratorio: a Theatrical Mixtape* (with Obsidian). Dramaturg/Adapter: *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. Writer: *1851: Spirit and Voice* (with Myseum). **OTHER THEATRE:** Writer/Performer: *The Toronto Pigeons* (Factory Theatre). Upcoming: Writer Performer: *B.R.w.T.T.* (Theatre Passe Muraille). Writer: *The Wonderful* (Caravan Theatre). **FILM & TELEVISION:** Writer: *Notice* (Obsidian & CBC Arts). Writer/Performer: *Nobody Nose* (Bad Hats Theatre). **OTHER:** Luke is one of Toronto's most decorated slam poets, and has represented the country internationally. He helped to establish the Black Shoulders Legacy Award, providing financial support for Black theatre artists developing their craft.



**MEG ROE SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Bad Parent*. **OTHER THEATRE:** Meg's work as an actor, director, composer, sound designer, and dramaturg has been seen across Canada and internationally with companies like Crows Theatre, the Shaw Festival, Theatre Calgary, Canadian Stage, Factory Theatre, PuSh Festival, Alberta Theatre Projects, Bard on the Beach, Citadel Theatre, Electric Company Theatre, Blackbird Theatre, Arts Club, Belfry, Theatre SKAM, MTC, Catalyst Theatre, RealWheels, Intrepid Theatre, Vancouver Playhouse, National Arts Centre, Centaur Theatre, Yukon Arts Centre, Why Not Theatre, Savage Society, vAct, Theatre Replacement, Rumble Theatre, the American Conservatory Theatre (San Francisco), Center Theater Group (Los Angeles), and as a collaborator with Crystal Pite's renowned dance company Kidd Pivot.



**SOPHIE TANG** was born in Shanghai, China, and currently based in Vancouver. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Bad Parent*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Rez Sister* (Stratford Festival) ; *Kuroko* (Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre); *A Broadway Holiday* (Gateway Theatre) **OTHER:** Sophie Tang is a lighting and set designer working in Theatre, Opera and Dance. She is a Jessie Award Winner and Nominee, as well as an Ovation Award Nominee. She has worked with companies including Stratford Festival, Electric Company Theatre, Artsclub Theatre, Bard on the Beach, Vancouver Opera, Theatre Replacement, Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre and so on.



**OLIVIA WHEELER** is a mixed-race Chinese Canadian sound designer, composer, and multidisciplinary artist. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Bad Parent*. **OTHER THEATRE:** Assistant Sound Design: *Every Little Nookie*, *Hamlet-911*, *1939* (Stratford); *The Wedding Party* (Alberta Theatre Projects). Associate Sound Design: *Three Women of Swatow* (Tarragon Theatre). Sound Design: *It'll Come to Me* (Theatre SKAM); *Antigones* (Victoria Fringe Festival); *7 Stories* (UVic Phoenix Theatre). Music Direction/Composition: *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Julius Caesar* (Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival); *Othello* (UVic Phoenix Theatre). **OTHER:** Audio plays/works: *Liberated Feminist Futures* (Nightwood Theatre); *Ganga's Ganja* (Red Betty Theatre).





**HARIKA XU** is a lighting and projection designer, graduated from UBC Theatre Design and Production Program. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Bad Parent*. **OTHER THEATRE:** Recent lighting designs include: *Tuck Everlasting*, *The Spongebob Musical* (Arts Umbrella); *Mom's the Word* (Theatre Northwest); *Clean/Espejos* (Newworld Theatre); *So Damn Proud* (Holy Crow Arts); *Done/Undone* (Bard on the Beach), *Madama Butterfly* (Burnaby Lyric Opera). Assistant lighting designs: *Romeo and Juliet* (Bard, LD Sophie Tang); *Bad Parent* (vAct, LD Gerald King).



**RAUGI YU** was born and raised in Montreal. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Bad Parent*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *East Van Panto: Alice In Wonderland* (Theatre Replacement/ The Cultch); *Yellow Fever* (The Firehall); *The Shoplifters* (Arts Club); *Coriolanus* (Bard On The Beach); *I Lost My Husband* (Ruby Slippers). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Kung Fu*; *Big Sky*; *iZombie*; *8 Minutes Ahead*; *Mr Young*. **OTHER:** Leo Nominee for Best Director in a Children's Series (*Some Assembly Required*). Jessie Richardson Award Nominee for Best Supporting Actor (*I Lost My Husband*). Director of award winning feature film (*Attic Trunk*). Raugi is very honoured and excited to be part of *Bad Parent* and hopes you all enjoy the show as much as he's LOVED working on it.



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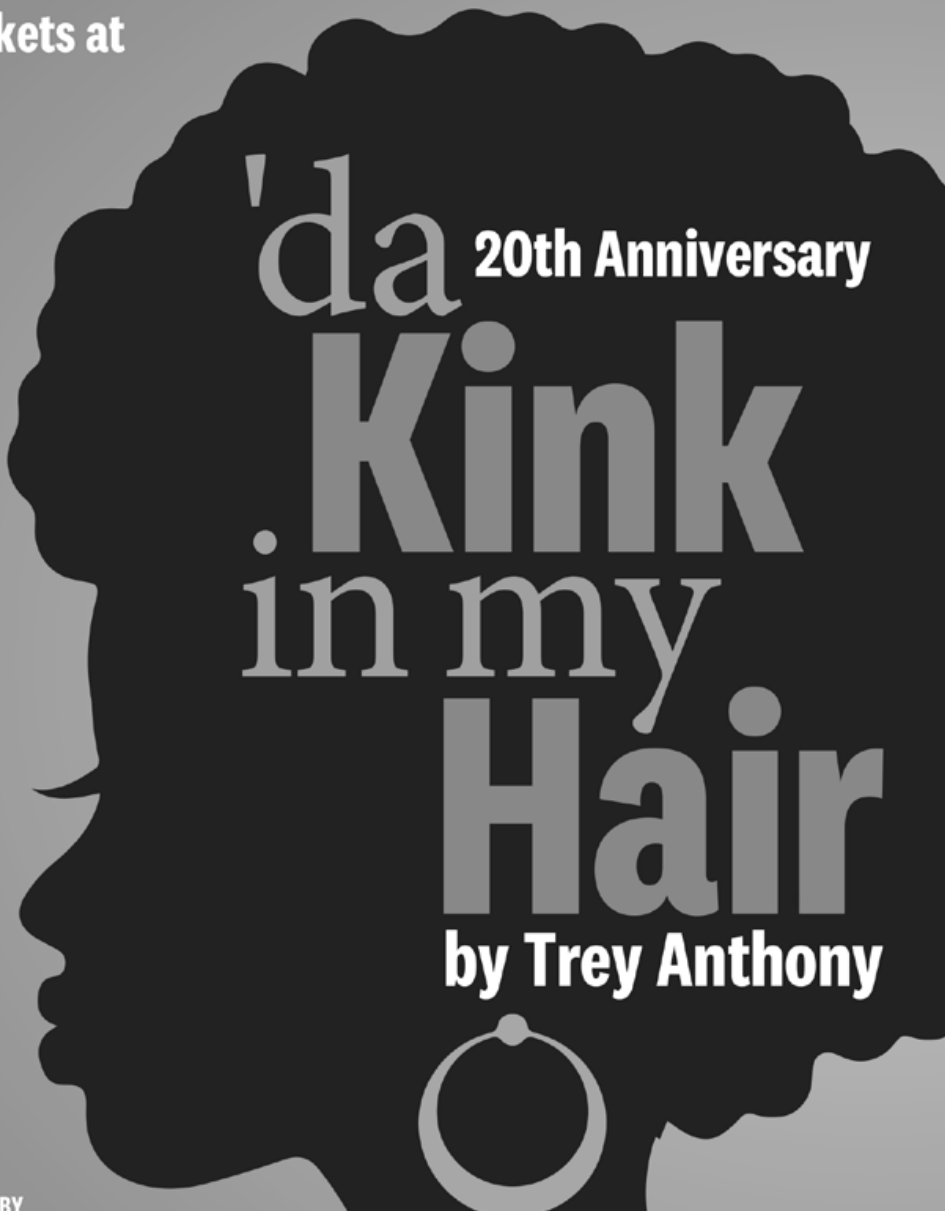
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If we have erred in the spelling, listing or omission of your name, please accept our sincerest apologies and contact us at 416 203 6264 x.145 or [development@soulpepper.ca](mailto:development@soulpepper.ca) so we may correct our records for future publications.

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