

Soulpepper

NightwoodTheatre ●●|||

ObsidianTheatre

# HOW TO CATCH CREATION

BY **Christina Anderson**

DIRECTED BY **Mumbi Tindyebwa Otu**



**How to Catch Creation** received its World Premiere at Goodman Theatre, Chicago, Illinois on January 28, 2019

**Robert Falls**  
Artistic Director

**Roche Schulfer**  
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“

**I feel Black women, specifically, have a history of being erased in terms of their literary contributions... so I think the most important part is to keep these women's voices alive and active and circulating”**

— Christina Anderson on why she wrote *How to Catch Creation*



I am because you are. This is how we catch creation.

This is how we have started every day of rehearsal the last few weeks, inspired by the Southern African Ubuntu philosophy that acknowledges our interdependence and need for each other as humanity, and the collaborative and interconnected nature of how we create and why we continue to create as artists.

I loved this play from the first time I read it. It fuelled me with hope and joy at a time when I felt hopeless, dealing with the post pandemic challenges that many of us have faced in the shifting social and economic landscape of our city.

The characters in this play are relentless and free in their pursuit of art, creativity and possibility, in spite of the challenges. They pursue their desires and intersect in messy, fluid and complicated ways that span time and generations.

The themes of Black feminism at the centre of the piece are unique and exciting in ways I haven't seen quite explored on stage before.

I hope you catch creation watching this play. I hope you leave celebrating the artist within you and around you. I hope this play leaves you thinking about legacy and impact and the relationships and pieces of ourselves we want to be remembered after we are gone.

**Mumbi Tindyebwa Otu**

Director, *How To Catch Creation*

## CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

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### Cast

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**Amanda Cordner**  
Tami

**Shakura Dickson**  
Natalie

**Daren A. Herbert**  
Griffin

**Germaine Konji**  
Riley  
(and rap lyric contributor)

**Danté Prince**  
Stokes

**Khadijah Roberts-Abdullah**  
G.K Marche

### Creative Team

---

**Christina Anderson**  
Playwright

**Mumbi Tindyebe Otu**  
Director

**Teresa Przybylski\*\***  
Set Designer

**Ming Wong 黄慧明\*\***  
Costume Designer

**Andre du Toit\*\***  
Lighting Designer

**Heidi Wai-Yee Chan\*\***  
Sound Designer

**Lisa Karen Cox**  
Intimacy Director

**Esie Mensah**  
Movement Director

**Laura Baxter**  
Stage Manager

**Frank/ie**  
Assistant Stage Manager

**Abigail Whitney\***  
Apprentice Director

**Ghislan Sutherland-Timm\***  
Apprentice Set Designer (and additional props design)

**Nála Simone Lendor\***  
Apprentice  
Costume Designer

**Stephon Smith\***  
Apprentice Sound Designer  
(rap lyrics and additional sound design)

**\*Young, Gifted, and Black (YGB) Apprentices:**

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

### Production Team

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**Andy DeVries**  
Head Carpenter

**Bill Stahl**  
1st Carpenter

**Paul Boddum**  
Head Scenic Artist

**Arielle White**  
Scenic Artist

**Allison Floroff**  
Scenic Artist

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**Jacqueline Robertson-Cull**  
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**Irene Ly**  
Dresser

**David Mallette**  
Lighting Operator

**Jason Shindle**  
Audio Operator



Soulpepper Theatre, Obsidian Theatre, and Nightwood Theatre are members of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engage professional artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the terms of the jointly negotiated Canadian Theatre Agreement.



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

**Running Time: Approximately 2 hours, 40 minutes, with intermission**



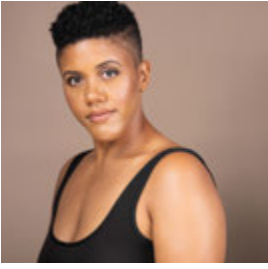
**CHRISTINA ANDERSON**'s plays include: *the ripple, the wave that carried me home, How to Catch Creation, and pen/man/ship*. Her work has been produced across the country including theaters such as Berkeley Rep, Goodman Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Portland Center Stage, and Yale Rep. A Tony nominated writer for Outstanding Book of a Broadway musical, Anderson has received the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award, the Horton Foote Prize, and the United States Artists Fellowship, among many other honors. She is the author of *Three Plays* by Christina Anderson, a collection of her work published by Tripwire Harlot Press. Education: Brown University and Yale School of Drama. She's taught playwriting at Rutgers University, SUNY Purchase, Wesleyan University, Brown, and YSD. Since 2019, she's also been exploring music production under the moniker Purely Magenta, creating hip-hop instrumentals that reflect her inquisitive spirit. Current writing project: a book that explores playwriting as an accessible artistic life practice.



**LAURA BAXTER** has had the pleasure of stage managing for theatres across the country and around Toronto, including Buddies in Bad Times, Soulpepper Theatre, Obsidian Theatre, Nightwood, YPT, Factory Theatre, Canadian Stage, Studio 180, Dance Immersion, Tarragon Theatre, Cahoots, Theatre Passe Muraille, Blyth Festival, Caravan Farm Theatre, and others. Thank you to my wife Shawn and our child Amari for your unconditional love and support.



**HEIDI WAI-YEE CHAN** creates music and sound for theatre, dance, and other media. She plays Japanese and Chinese bamboo flutes, percussion, synthesizers, and occasionally the ukulele. When not working in theatre, Heidi performs as a member of Japanese folk ensemble ten ten. Heidi has worked as a film sound editor and foley artist in Hong Kong, and has toured with UK's Shakespeare's Globe as a live multi-instrumentalist.



**AMANDA CORDNER** is an electrifying, award-winning theatre artist known for fearless transformation, physical command, and emotional precision. Actor, clown, and creator, Amanda builds work that is bold, intimate, and impossible to ignore. A Dora Mavor Moore Award winner for portraying 14 characters in *Snow White* at Young People's Theatre, they have been named one of Canada's Top Ten Theatre Artists and continue to shape the country's contemporary stage.

Internationally, Amanda has performed as solo actor/narrator with the renowned Baroque orchestra Tafelmusik in *The Gull, the Raccoon & the Last Maple*. They are widely recognized for their breakout, award-nominated performance as 7ven on CBC/HBO Max's *Sort Of*, bringing that same dynamism to screen work including *The Expanse, The Baroness von Sketch Show,* and *Slo Pitch*.

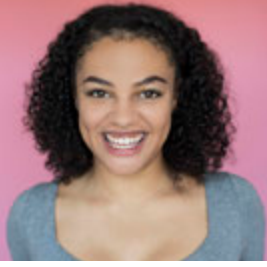
*How to Catch Creation* marks their debut with Obsidian Theatre Company, Soulpepper, and Nightwood Theatre.



**LISA KAREN COX** is an Intimacy Director, Movement Director and Director dedicated to the intersection of truth, physical storytelling and intimacy. With a career spanning over two decades, she crafts bold, physically charged narratives that prioritize both artistic excellence and actor agency.

As an specialist in intimacy and movement, Lisa brings a rare precision to the stage, navigating complex character dynamics with a focus on actor agency, consent, and embodied narrative clarity. Her work is defined by its ability to translate deep internal stakes and story into visceral, embodied action, ensuring that every movement serves the narrative while maintaining a brave, safe and professional creative environment.

Lisa's raw and sophisticated approach has been felt at many of the country's leading artistic institutions, including past work with Obsidian Theatre (*How to Catch Creation* [with Nightwood/Soulpepper], *Flex* [with Crow's], and *21 Black Futures*), Nightwood Theatre (*Now You See Her, Bear with Me,* and *Enormity*) and Soulpepper (*Table for Two, 1851: Spirit & Voice,* and *Strange Loop*).



**SHAKURA DICKSON** is a Dora – Nominated artist based in Toronto. Theatre Credits Include: *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *I Am William*, *Freedom Cabaret* (Stratford Festival); *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Bad Hats' Alice in Wonderland*, *'da Kink in My Hair*, *Billie*, *Sarah*, & *Ella* (Soulpepper); *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill* (Theatre Calgary); *Dear Evan Hansen* (Mirvish); *Jerusalem* (Outside the March/Crow's Theatre); *Trout Stanley* (Factory Theatre); *Light, Girls Like That* (Tarragon Theatre); *Other Side of the Game* (Obsidian/Cahoots); *Treasure Island* (Solar Stage). She also appears in: *Grand Army* (Netflix), *Private Eyes* (Global TV), *Coroner* (CBC).



**ANDRE DU TOIT** is a lighting designer for live performance based in Toronto, although his designs have been seen across Canada and beyond. He has received five Dora Mavor Moore Awards for Outstanding Lighting Design. Credits Include: *You, Always*, *Fat Ham*, *Maanomaa*, *My Brother* (Canadian Stage); *Public Consumption*, *HONEY I'M HOME* (Lester Trips); *CHILD-ish*, *Harlem Duet* (Tarragon Theatre); *Takwahiminana* (Punctuate Theatre); *A Public Display of Affection* (Studio 180); *Last Landscape*, *Italian Mime Suicide* (Bad New Days); *To A Flame*, *Qalb*, *Lady M* (1S1 Theatre); *Three Sisters*, *A Delicate Balance*, *Vimy*, *The 39 Steps* (Soulpepper); *Universal Child Care*, *Now You See Her*, *Mouthpiece* (Quote Unquote); *Here Lies Henry* (Factory Theatre); *Prince Hamlet*, *What You Won't Do For Love*, (Why Not Theatre); *speaking of sneaking* (Buddies in Bad Times); *R+J* (Stratford Festival of Canada).



**FRANK/IE** is a trans, queer, white settler who grew up on Treaty 6 land and now calls Tkaronto home.



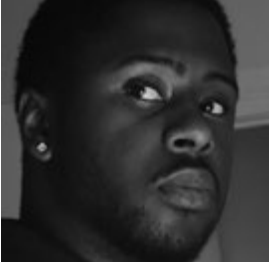
**DAREN A. HERBERT** is a Bermudian Canadian artist whose love for acting continues to grow. He is a multiple Dora Award and Toronto Theatre Critics Award winner, a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award winner and a NAACP Theatre Award Nominee. Daren also received the Earl Cameron Award, recognizing his achievements in theatre, film and television, from the Bermuda Arts Council in 2022. Daren is one of the founding members of the Gracemoon Arts Company. For over a decade, he has been training with a gifted ensemble under the mentorship of Michèle Lonsdale-Smith. Daren serves as a member of the Sheridan College Music Theatre Performance PAC and is a past board member of the Musical Stage Co. He earned his MFA in Drama from the University of California, Irvine and a BFA in Theatre Arts from The University of the Arts, in Philadelphia.



**GERMAINE KONJI** is a Kenyan-Canadian director, actor, singer and writer. Born in Kenya and raised in Canada, Germaine's work is rooted in community and storytelling as a means of survival, resistance, and joy. Most recently, Germaine assistant directed a *profoundly affectionate, passionate devotion to someone (-noun)* (Tarragon/ Obsidian) as well as directed Obsidian's inaugural Black Queer Voices spotlight. Germaine is a 2020 Syd & Shirley Banks Prize recipient, a four time Dora award nominee, and one of six performers recognized as a Breakthrough Toronto Stage Artist of 2022.



**ESIE MENSAH** is an award-winning choreographer, director, dancer, educator, and TEDx speaker, whose work spans dance, theatre, opera, and film/TV. She has collaborated with Rihanna, Drake, Nelly Furtado, Kenny Ortega, and clients like Canada's Got Talent, Holt Renfrew, Deloitte, and the Toronto Raptors. Her work has toured nationally and internationally. Theatre credits include choreography for Soulpepper, Obsidian, Shaw Festival, Stratford Festival and directing *Serving Elizabeth* at Theatre Aquarius. She choreographed Scott Joplin's opera *Treemonisha: A Musical Reimagining* and was Artist in Residence at Fall for Dance North in October 2025 and debuted her most ambitious production ZAYO which debuted in Toronto and in Milan, Italy.



**DANTÉ PRINCE** is an Artist born and raised in Scarborough, Ontario. He self describes as having an obsession with the craft of storytelling. Committing himself to refine his discipline. To be the best Actor, Playwright, or whatever else he can be. He feels very grateful to have been able to do this as a career. Living out long time dreams that even he didn't know were there. And he hopes to eventually be able to share his art with everyone reading this.



**TERESA PRZYBYLSKI** is an architect and a theatre designer. She is known for her designs in theatre, opera, dance and film. Her credits include designs for National Arts Centre, Stratford Shakespeare Festival, Shaw Festival, Canadian Opera Company, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Pacific Opera, Young Peoples Theatre, Tarragon Theatre, Factory Theatre, Nightwood Theatre, Canadian Stage and others. Her work in theatre was awarded with five Dora Mavor Moore Awards and seventeen Nominations. She is a recipient of two Gemini Awards for Film and Television Production Design : *Don Giovanni Unmasked*, *Stormy Weather*, (Producer: Rhombus Media) She is a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts and Associated Designers of Canada.



**KHADIJAH ROBERTS-ABDULLAH** is a Toronto based actor,writer, and director. Living her life at a multitude of intersections, Khadijah's work is motivated by a pursuit of artistic expression that aims to challenge understandings of visibility and inclusivity. Whether working alongside like-minded artists or producing work through her multimedia company, 2Skins Entertainment, Khadijah always strives to create art that amplifies the voices of those who exist in the margins of our society.



**MUMBI TINDYEBWA OTU** is a Kenyan-Ugandan-Canadian theatre director and current 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.

Recent directing credits, include *FLEX* (Obsidian/Crows) *Three Sisters* (Obsidian/Soulpepper), *Is God Is* (Obsidian/anadian Stage/Necessary Angel), *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*, *A profoundly affectionate* (Tarragon Theatre) amongst others.

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.



**MING WONG 黄慧明** is a Toronto based costume designer working in musical theatre, theatre, dance, opera, film, and television for over 15 years. Her work spans from period and contemporary to the unusual and unconventional. Most recent work includes *Natasha, Pierre, & The Great Comet of 1812* for Mirvish Productions/Crow's, *Wait Until Dark* for Shaw Festival, and the current Soulpepper/Adam Blanshay/Pemberley US Tour of *Kim's Convenience*. She is a graduate from the Ontario College of Art & Design.

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Producer

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Producer

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Associate Producer

## **Production**

---

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Interim Senior Production Manager

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Technical Director

## **Nicholas Beardsley**

Assistant Technical Director

## **Rhett Costin**

Assistant Technical Director

## **Mitchell Ayres**

Assistant Technical Director

## **Alex Edwards**

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All front of house staff – floor captains, patron service representatives, baristas and ushers - working for the Young Centre for the Performing Arts are represented by Local B-173 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

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NightwoodTheatre ●●●●



# TO A FLAME

BY  
ERIN SHIELDS

Three women confront buried secrets in a decaying family home, in a multi-sensory performance told through ASL, English, movement and live music.

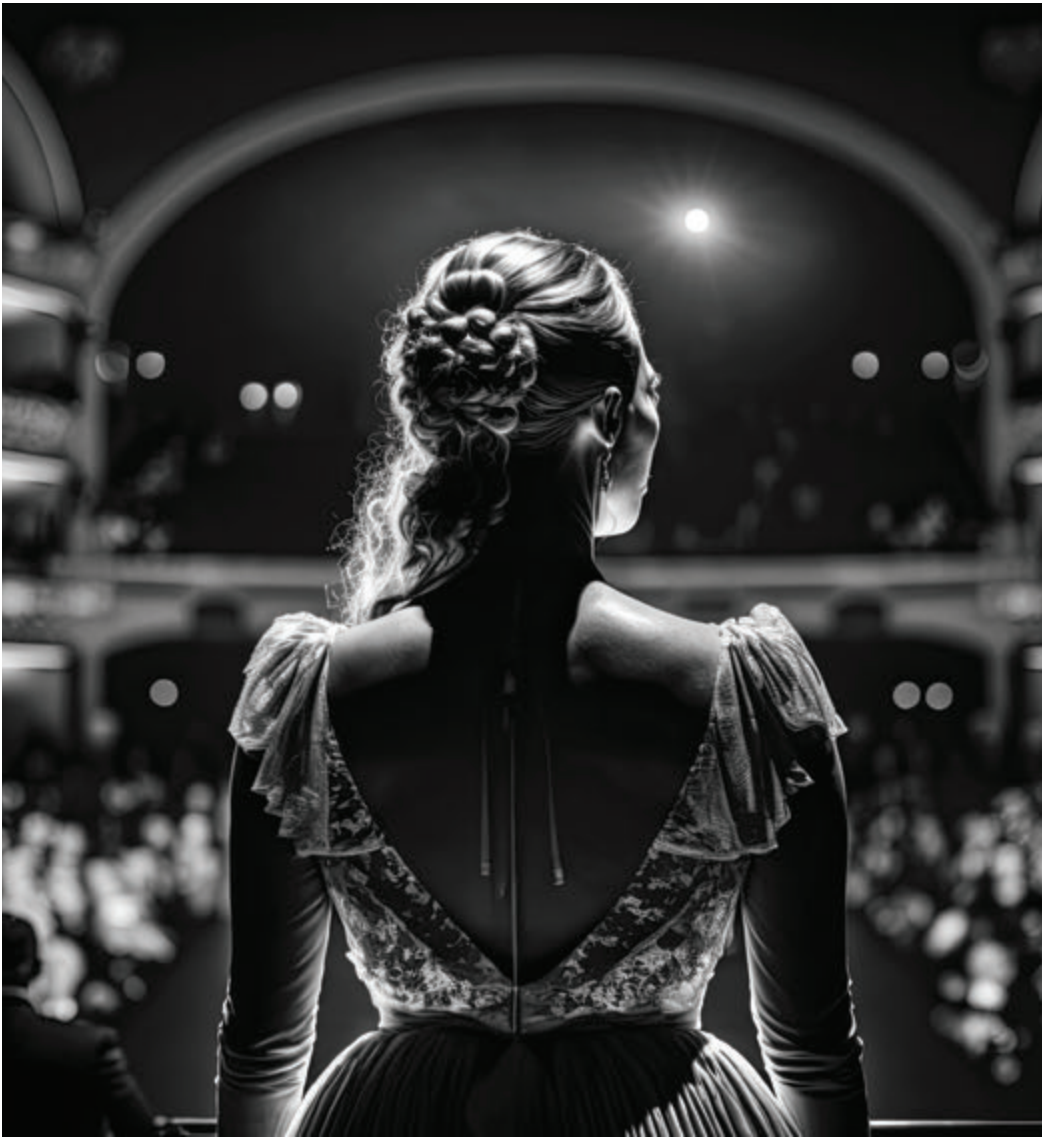
A ISI Theatre & Nightwood Theatre Co-Production  
in association with Modern Times Stage Company and Why Not Theatre

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