

|Soulpepper|

TIGER BRIDE

BASED ON **Angela Carter's *The Tiger's Bride***

ADAPTED TO SONG BY

**Frank Cox-O'Connell, Hailey Gillis,
Andrew Penner**





In 1979 Angela Carter published a collection of short stories called *The Bloody Chamber*, gothic retellings of classic fairy tales with some bold interventions. In the original versions, young girls often have the story done to them; Carter's heroines are asked to make choices.

Carter's work in *The Bloody Chamber* is often discussed in feminist theory around agency and gender performativity. But her work is messier than it is often given credit for. One of her takes on *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Tiger's Bride*, explores the shifting lines that divide girl and woman, woman and man, person and animal, human and machine. In spite of its fairy tale structure, there is nothing moralistic about the text.



Hailey read this story in college and it stayed with her. She gave a dog-eared copy to Frank over a decade ago when they started making theatre together at the Soulpepper Academy. Frank and Andrew had met the year before as touring rock musicians. In the years since, the three of us have created and performed dozens of shows that smudge the line between theatre and rock concert.



When we finally came back to Hailey's initial fascination with the text, the songs came quickly. Within a few days, we had written a cycle of twenty songs that captured our take on *The Tiger's Bride*—Carter's feverish, complicated study of power, sex, and what makes us human. Those first songs form the foundation of what you'll hear tonight.

**Frank Cox-O'Connell, Hailey Gillis,
and Andrew Penner**

The company of *Tiger Bride* would like to thank the following people for their support of the production: Erin Brandenburg, Sascha Cole & Mike Collinge, Jill Connell, Mac Fyfe, Gillian Gallow, Steafan Hannigan, Courtney Ch'ng Lancaster, Weyni Mengesha, Chelsea Preston, Erin Shields, Rosamund Small, Silvia Di Gregorio, Sam Hale, Iner Souster, Mary Spyraakis and the Canadian Stage props team, and Guillermo Verdecchia.

Front Cover: Pictured: Hailey Gillis, Photo by Dahlia Katz.

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

Cast

Landon Doak
Valet & others

Hailey Gillis
Girl & others

Andrew Penner
Father, Beast & others

Creative Team

Angela Carter
Author of *The Tiger's Bride*

Shannon Lea Doyle**
Set & Costume Designer

Arwen MacDonell
Stage Manager/
Intimacy Captain

Frank Cox-O'Connell
Adaptor/Director

Frank Donato**
Lighting Designer

Evan Reid
Apprentice Stage Manager

Hailey Gillis
Adaptor

Brian Kenny**
Sound Designer

Anita Nittoly
Intimacy Director

Andrew Penner
Adaptor/Music Director/
Associate Sound Designer

Joanna Falck
Dramturg

Production Team

Andy DeVries
Head Carpenter

Greg Chambers
Props Builder/Buyer

Gunes Agduk
Lighting Operator

Bill Stahl
1st Carpenter

Ellie Koffman
Head of Wardrobe

Jason Shindle
Sound Mixer

Paul Boddum
Head Scenic Artist

Claudia Matas
Assistant Head of Wardrobe

Dalton Villeneuve-Marini
Deck Carpenter

Arielle White, Hilda Chu
Scenic Artists

Erin Halls
Cutter & Stitcher

Sebastian Matilla
Sound Operator

Lisa Nighswander
Head of Props

Celina Westlake
Stitcher

Jay Lynch
Deck Operator

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TIGER BRIDE was commissioned by Soulpepper Theatre Company in 2025 and first produced by Soulpepper Theatre Company in 2026, Toronto, Canada.

Content Warning: This production contains partial nudity, sexual themes, mature language, haze, flashing lights, and the appearance of an animal prop with blood effects.



Soulpepper Theatre is a member 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: 80 minutes, no intermission

SETLIST

ACT 1: THE TOWN

LUXURY (the girl, with father)

THIS CRUEL TOWN (father, with the girl & townsfolk)

WINNING & STEALING (father & the girl)

WHAT WE'VE WON (valet)

ABANDONED (the girl)

ACT 2: THE CELL

UNINHABITABLE PLACE (the girl, with valet)

THE CONTRACT (valet & the girl)

THINGS LIKE ME (beast)

MIRROR (automaton, father, mother)

WILD ABANDON (the girl)

ACT 3: THE RIVER

TANTIVY (valet, the girl, beast)

COLD WATER (the girl)

ALONE (the girl)

SHAME (the girl)

THE CHOICE (beast & the girl)

All songs composed by Frank Cox-O'Connell, Hailey Gillis, and Andrew Penner.

All songs will be performed without an intermission between acts. Songs are subject to change.



ANGELA CARTER was born in 1940. She read English at Bristol University, and from 1976-8 was a fellow in Creative Writing at Sheffield University. She lived in Japan, the United States and Australia. Her first novel, *Shadow Dance*, was published in 1965, followed by *The Magic Toyshop* (1967, John Llewellyn Rhys Prize), *Several Perceptions* (1968, Somerset Maugham Award), *Heroes and Villains* (1969), *Love* (1971), *The Infernal Desire Machines of Doctor Hoffman* (1972), *The Passion of New Eve* (1977), *Nights at the Circus* (1984, James Tait Black Memorial Prize) and *Wise Children* (1991). Four collections of her short stories have been published: *Fireworks* (1974), *The Bloody Chamber* (1979, Cheltenham Festival of Literature Award), *Black Venus* (1985) and *American Ghosts and Old World Wonders* (1993). She was the author of *The Sadeian Woman: An Exercise in Cultural History* (1979) and two collections of journalism, *Nothing Sacred* (1982) and *Expletives Deleted* (1992). She died in February 1992. Photo of Angela Carter by Fay Godwin © British Library Board.



FRANK COX-O'CONNELL FOR SOULPEPPER: Slaight Family Director of Music. Director & Co-Creator: *The Secret Chord: A Leonard Cohen Experience*, *The Big Easy: Music of New Orleans*, *Detroit: Music of the Motor City*. Director: *The Comeuppance*, *Fool For Love*, *The Just*, *Riverboat Coffee House*, *A Moveable Feast*, *The Secret Chord*, *True North (NYC)*, *The Big Easy*. Actor: *Rose*, *Wedding at Aulis*, *Idomeneus*, *Picture This*, *Tartuffe*, *The Crucible*, *Spoon River*, *Marat/Sade*, *Thirst of Hearts*, Associate Director. *The Seagull*. OTHER THEATRE: Director: *Romeo and Juliet* (Canadian Stage); *Other Jesus* (Public Recordings); *Ajax & Little Iliad* (EW&FCO). Actor: *Hamlet* (Canadian Stage); *Hedda Gabler* (Necessary Angel); *The Mill* (TheatreFront); *The Drawer Boy* (Passe Muraille/UK tour); *Sanctuary Song* (Luminato). OTHER: Dora Award, Jessica Fraser Award, SummerWorks Spotlight Award, Graduate of National Theatre School and the Soulpepper Academy.



LANDON DOAK (they/them) is a Dora award-winning actor and composer. Throughout their career, they have been fortunate enough to work with the Stratford Festival, The Blyth Festival, The Shaw Festival, Canadian Stage, Soulpepper, Factory Theatre, Musical Stage, and featured in the DC Superhero film, *Shazam!* and in *Murdoch Mysteries*. They are the Artistic Associate of Bad Hats Theatre, and their composition work for *Peter Pan*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Life in a Box* have all received Dora awards and nominations. They would like to thank their parents, the Bad Hats, and the Talent House for their ongoing support.



FRANK DONATO Frank Donato is a lighting and projection designer currently based in Toronto, ON. FOR SOULPEPPER: *The Big Easy: The Music of New Orleans*, *Billie, Sarah and Ella: Revolutionary Women in Jazz*; *Detroit: Music of the Motor City*; *Guide to Being Fabulous*; *On A Night Like This*. OTHER THEATRE: *Ride the Cyclone* (Sudbury Theatre Centre), *Orestes* (Tarragon Theatre), *Daisy* (Great Canadian Theatre Company), *Ways of Being* (FOLDA/Kick and Push Festival), *Let's Dance* (Terra Bruce Productions). As an Assistant/Associate Designer: *Tell Tale Harbour* (Confederation Centre), *No Change in the Weather*, *Blindness* (Mirvish), *The Barber of Seville* (Canadian Opera Company), *The Neverending Story*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Stratford Festival), *Out the Window* (Luminato/The Theatre Centre). Frank is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's production program.



SHANNON LEA DOYLE SOULPEPPER 2026/2027: *Tiger Bride*, *Spring Awakening*, *The Zoo Story*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *The Comeuppance*, *Narnia*, *The Seagull*, *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train*, *Fool For Love*, *Little Menace: The Pinter Plays*, *La Bête*, *Vimy*, *The Just*, *I'm Doing This For You*, *The Anger of Ernest and Ernestine*, *The Heidi Chronicles*, *Soulpepper Concert Series*, *The Dybbuk*. OTHER THEATRE: *Moonlight Schooner* (Canadian Stage / Necessary Angel); *There is Violence* (buddies in bad times); *Way Out There*, *Oliver*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (YES Theatre); *Things I Know To Be True* (Company Theatre / Mirvish Productions); *El Terremato*, *Interior Design*, *Three Women from Swatow* (Tarragon Theatre) OTHER: Shannon is a graduate of the 2013-2015 Soulpepper Academy and is a founder of Triga Creative. Her work has received a Dora Award and multiple Toronto Theatre Critics Awards. She is an emerging production designer for film.



JOANNA FALCK Other Theatre: Joanna was previously the Literary Manager at Tarragon Theatre and the Shaw Festival. As a freelance dramaturg, she has worked with companies including Blyth Festival Theatre, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, fuGen Asian Canadian Theatre, Nightwood Theatre, Tapestry New Opera Works, Studio 180, Arts Club Theatre Company, Native Earth Performing Arts and Canadian Stage Company. Other: She was awarded the 2021 Honorary Membership Award from the Playwrights Guild of Canada.



HAILEY GILLIS is an award-winning actress who has performed across Canada, as well as off-Broadway. Hailey won a 2023 Dora Mavor Moore award for her work in *The Shape of Home* and is also a New York Times 'Critics Pick' award winner. Recent theatre credits include: *Ladies of the Canyon*, *The Seagull*, *Rose The Dybbuk*, *Marat/Sade*, *Blood Wedding* (Soulpepper Theatre), *A Doll's House*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (Canadian Stage), *Natasha*, *Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812* (Mirvish/Crow's Theatre), *Ghost Quartet* and *The Shape of Home* (Crow's Theatre), *Jane Eyre* (Citadel Theatre), *Onegin* (National Arts Centre/ The Arts Club/ The Musical Stage Company), *Hedda Gabler* (Necessary Angel/Canadian Stage), *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Bard on the Beach).



BRIAN KENNY is a designer for theatre from Newfoundland and Labrador and is a graduate from The National Theatre School of Canada and Sheridan College. Selected credits; for Soulpepper: *A Strange Loop*, else where: *Natasha*, *Pierre*, and *the Great Comet of 1812* (Crow's/Mirvish), *Robin Hood: A Very Merry Family Musical*, *The Wizard of Oz: A Holiday Pantomime* (Canadian Stage), *La Cage Aux Folles* (Stratford Festival), *Fall On Your Knees* (Vita Brevis), *Kelly vs Kelly* (Musical Stage), *After The Rain* (Tarragon/Musical Stage), *Between Breaths* (Artistic Fraud). Brian is a proud member of IATSE659 - The Associated Designers of Canada.



ARWEN MACDONELL Favourite credits include: *Bremen Town* (Tarragon Theatre); *Red Like Fruit* (Soulpepper/Luminato/2b Theatre); *Life After* (Yonge St Theatricals); *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Mirvish Productions); *Other People* (Canadian Stage); *Let's Run Away* (reWork Productions/High Performance Rodeo); *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Royale*, *Cage*, *Father Comes Home From the Wars* (Parts I, II, III), *Eurydice*, *Angels in America Parts I & II*, *Parfumerie*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Salt-Water Moon* (Soulpepper); over 30 productions with Opera Atelier, including *Medee*; *Persee*; *Armide* (Opera Atelier/Royal Opera House, Versailles; Glimmerglass Festival); *I Claudia* (Crow's Theatre/Edinburgh Fringe); *The Africa Trilogy* (Volcano/Luminato); productions/seasons with the Art of Time Ensemble, The Shaw Festival, The Stratford Festival. Arwen is a proud honours graduate of the Baking and Pastry Arts program at George Brown College.




ANITA NITTOLY was born in exotic Windsor, ON. SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Comeuppance*, *The Welkin*, *Kim's Convenience*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *WildWoman*, *Three Sisters*, *Virgin Trial*. OTHER THEATRE: Stratford Festival (9th season); *Wights*, *The Bidding War*, *Bad Roads*, *Prodigal* (Crow's); *The Green Line*, *Roberto Zucco*, *Angels in America* (Buddies); *Slave Play*, *Fat Ham*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Fairview*, *Hamlet*, *Fall on Your Knees* (CanStage); *Goodnight Desdemona*, *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Perchance); *Groundhog Day* (YES); *CRAZE* (Tarragon); *The Retreat* (Imago); *Truth* (YPT); *JCS* (Here For Now); *Hamlet* (The Rose); *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes* (TIP); *The Last Wife*, *The 39 Steps*, *Successions* (Centaur Theatre). FILM & TV: *Law & Order Toronto*, *SEE*, *Star Trek: Discovery*, *Star Trek: Starfleet Academy*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Boys*, *What We Do in the Shadows*, *Star Wars: Outlaws*.



ANDREW PENNER FOR SOULPEPPER: *The Secret Chord: A Leonard Cohen Experience, Detroit: Music Of The Motor City, The Big Easy; Slight Music Associate: The Golden Record; Fool For Love; The Riverboat Coffee House - The Yorkville Scene; True North: A Concert Of Canada; The Manhattan Concert Cycle - The Melting Pot; Blood Wedding; American Pie - A Songbook Investigation; A Moveable Musical Maritime Feast; Spoon River; Salon Series (various); A Month In The Country; As You Like It.* OTHER THEATRE (selected): *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812* (Mirvish/Crow's Theatre), *The Shape Of Home: Songs In Search Of Al Purdy* (County Stage Company); *Ghost Quartet* (Crows Theatre); *Serving Elizabeth* (Thousand Islands Playhouse/Western Canadian Theatre); *UnCovered: The Music Of Dolly Parton; Porchside Songs; UnCovered: Notes From The Heart; UnCovered: Dylan & Springsteen; UnCovered: Queen & Bowie* (Musical Stage Company); *Romeo and Juliet, The Beard Of Avon* (CanStage); *What Makes A Man* (Necessary Angel); *The Grapes Of Wrath* (Stratford Festival); *Boblo, Petrichor, Detroit Time Machine, Pelee, Reesor* (Kitchenband); *The Book Of Judith* (Theatre Centre/Die In Debt/Absit Omen); *The Unforgiving* (Belltower Theatre) FILM/T.V (selected): Composer: *Edward; People We Meet; The Determinist; Lost Girl; Small Town Murder Songs; Cooking With Stella; One Week; This Beautiful City.* OTHER: Andrew is an award-winning artist who can be heard on over 50 albums and has performed extensively throughout North America and Europe. He is a founding member of the award-winning, multidisciplinary collective, Kitchenband who create stories inspired by obscure history and geography. Andrew lives in Toronto, Canada with his wife and 3 sons.



EVAN REID (he/they) was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario. SOULPEPPER 2026: *Tiger Bride, Happy Days.* FOR SOULPEPPER: *A Strange Loop, King Gilgamesh and the Man of the Wild.* OTHER THEATRE: *The Division* (Project: Humanity/Pyretic Productions); *Snow White and the Secret Vault, Freezing: A Holiday Pantomime* (Burloak Theatre Group); *Uncovered: Madonna & Cher, Uncovered: U2 and The Rolling Stones* (The Musical Stage Company); *Dear Ms. Kitt* (Hardbitten Productions); *Boy Boy and The Magic Drum* (Toronto Fringe 2024). OTHER: Evan is a graduate of Sheridan College.



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Nancy Palk

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Beverley Flynn

Dave Friesema (Vice-Chair)

Roger Garland (Chair Emeritus)

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Shayna Linds

Peter Naccarato

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Nicholas Eddie

Shayna Linds

Riley Kelk

Peter Naccarato

Pasanun Songsaeng

Yohannes Taye

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Sabrina Gomes

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Thank You!

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Thanks to our wonderful legion
of Young Centre volunteers
for their continued support!

Young Centre Facilities Funding:

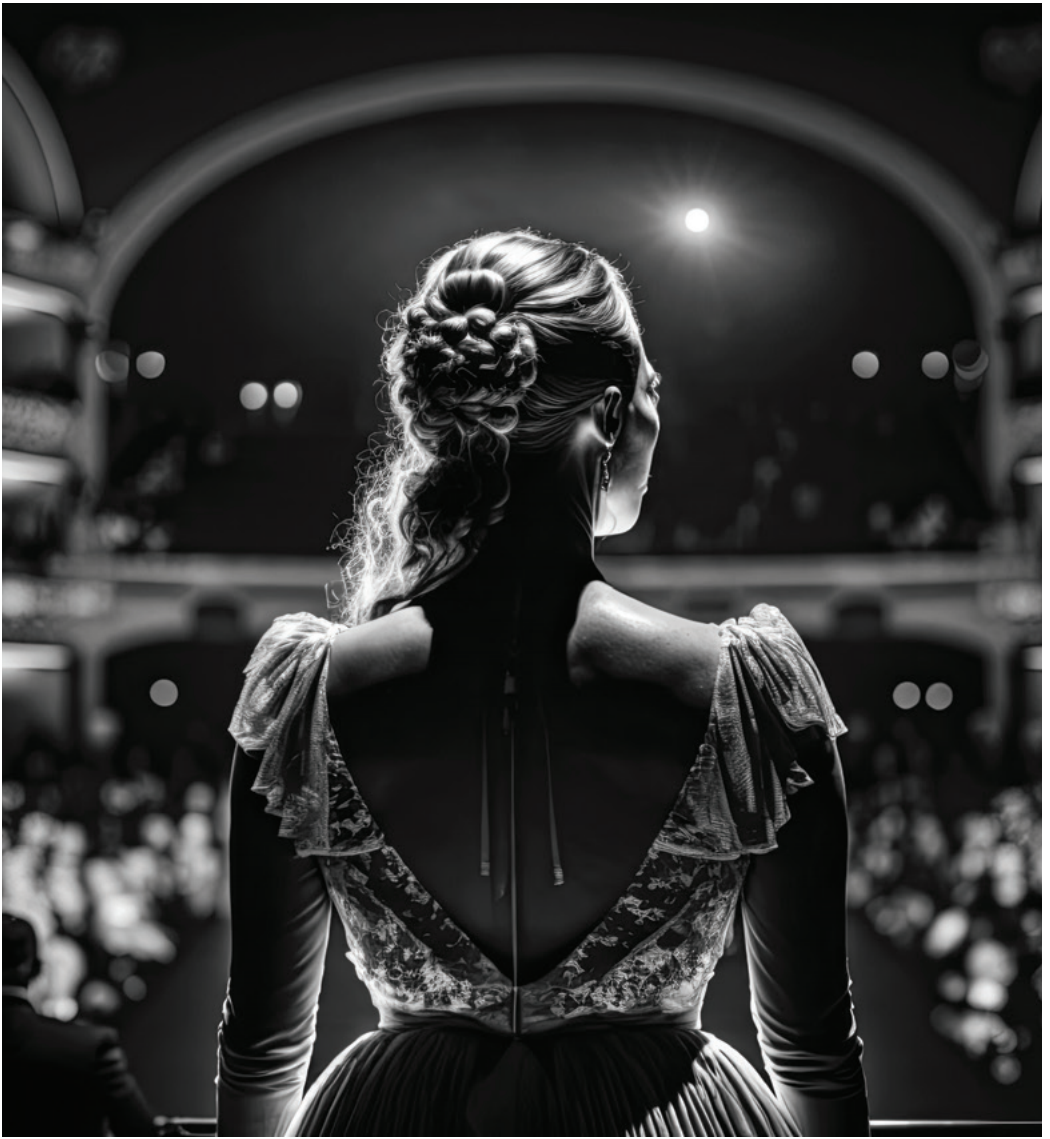


Canada¹⁸⁶⁷

Ontario 

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.

House and Stage Technicians employed by the Young Centre for the Performing Arts are represented by Local 58 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.



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inspiring us all to think bigger, together. **That's Enriched Thinking.®**

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Pictured: Hailey Gillis, Andrew Penner and Landon Doak. Set and Costume Design by Shannon Lea Doyle, Lighting Design by Frank Donato, Photos by Dahlia Katz.



The artists and staff of Soulpepper acknowledge the original caretakers and storytellers of this land—the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabe, and the Wendat First Nations. In recognition of the caretakers of this land, Soulpepper has made a donation to Anishnawbe Health Foundation to support their services for Indigenous Peoples in Toronto. If you'd like to join us in supporting this organization, please scan the following QR code:

