



|Soulpepper| CROW'S THE
HOWLAND
COMPANY

THE WELKIN

By Lucy Kirkwood
Directed by Weyni Mengesha



Welcome to *The Welkin*.

We're thrilled you're here for the Canadian premiere of Lucy Kirkwood's extraordinary play, in collaboration by Soulpepper Theatre, Crow's Theatre, and The Howland Company.

This is a play about what it means to say *we* instead of *I*— it's about resilience, about community gathering in a room to reckon with something bigger than themselves, and about what it means to bear witness to the possibility of change—together. We can't

imagine a more fitting production to mark this moment: our first season under new leadership, and the final chapter of Weyni Mengesha's transformative tenure. *The Welkin* stands as both tribute and testament to the legacy Weyni leaves behind—a theatre that believes in collective strength and in the courage to imagine a better, stronger world.

This production also launches a new three-year strategic partnership between Soulpepper and Crow's Theatre, designed to grow audiences, expand opportunities for artists, and strengthen Toronto's theatre ecology. Over the next three years, we'll be building large-scale works like *The Welkin* while deepening our support for the wider community of artists who make this city one of the most vibrant cultural centres in the world. It feels right that this partnership begins here, with a play that insists it takes a community to spark meaningful change—that we can always go farther together than alone.

And we're especially proud that this journey begins alongside our friends at The Howland Company, whose collaborative spirit embodies the thrilling possibilities of what the next wave of artists in Toronto can achieve.

Thank you for being with us—for marking this milestone, for being here, and for adding your voice to our biggest season yet. We can't wait to share the rest of the journey with you.

Paolo Santalucia
Artistic Director,
Soulpepper Theatre

Gideon Arthurs
Executive Director,
Soulpepper Theatre

SOULPEPPER & CROW'S PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTERS

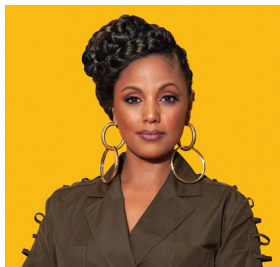


THE HOWLAND COMPANY PRODUCTION SUPPORT



Canada Council
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It is deeply meaningful to me that *The Welkin* marks the close of my seven-year chapter as Artistic Director of Soulpepper Theatre. During this time, I have been privileged to champion stories and writers who ask big, unsettling questions about who we are, how we live together, and how history shapes us. Lucy Kirkwood is one of those writers.

Set in 1759, *The Welkin* asks questions that resonate today: Who holds the power to decide the fate of others? Whose

voices are heard? How does a society reckon with truth and justice? Though centuries separate us from the women in this story, the cycles they navigate—progress, backlash, and the ongoing struggle for women’s rights—remain familiar.

Kirkwood approaches these questions with courage, meticulous research, and sharp humour, giving us thirteen fully realized, complex female characters. Witnessing them navigate one another’s contradictions, strengths, and flaws is a rare gift—one that drew me to this play and that we are fortunate to bring to life with such an extraordinary cast.

As you join us on the journey of *The Welkin*, I hope you carry with you the same sense of curiosity, wonder, and reflection that has guided my time at Soulpepper.

Thank you for being here, enjoy the show.

Weyni Mengesha
Director, *The Welkin*

Historical Context

Welcome to 1759: The Year of Wonders

England is a colonial power on the rise, after major military victories in Quebec, Germany, and Portugal. The British dubbed 1759 their ‘Annus mirabilis’.

Up in the skies, Halley’s Comet appears in England. It moved slowly and could be seen for several months, keeping everyone looking up to catch this ‘blazing star’ that was thought to portend great changes.

For people living in rural villages, life is also changing:

- **The rich are getting richer.**
With the Enclosure Movement, wealthy landowners can legally seize control of common lands used for grazing and farming.
- **Petty theft is now a hangable offense.**
Due to the 1723 Black Act, you can be sentenced to death for poaching, pickpocketing a shilling, or even cutting down trees.
- **Murder trials resemble a traveling circus.**
Major crimes are tried by the assize courts, which travel around the country, coming to town twice a year with crowds ready to witness justice by the gallows.

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

Cast

Mayko Nguyen Lizzy Luke	Raquel Duffy Sarah Hollis	Annie Luján Hannah Rusted
Bahia Watson Sally Poppy	Kyra Harper Sarah Smith	Natasha Mumba Ann Lavender
Olunike Adeliyi Judith Brewer	Fiona Highet Charlotte Cary	Liisa Repo-Martell Lizzy Luke (Alternate)
Ghazal Azarbad Peg Carter	Courtney Ch'ng Lancaster Emma Jenkins	Hallie Seline Helen Ludlow
Nadine Bhabha Kitty Givens	Cameron Laurie Frederick Poppy/Dr. Willis	Addison Wagman Katy Luke/Alice Wax
Brefny Caribou* Mary Middleton	Craig Lauzon Mr. Coombes	Oliver Dennis The Justice (Voice Only)

*Fight & Intimacy Captain

Creative Team

Lucy Kirkwood Playwright	Luke Reece Associate Director	Sam Hale Stage Manager
Weyni Mengesha Director	Anita Nittoly Fight & Intimacy Director	Scarlett Larry Assistant Stage Manager
Julie Fox** Set Designer	Jane Gooderham Dialect Coach	Kate Chubbs Apprentice Stage Manager
Michelle Tracey** Costume Designer	Joanna Falck Production Dramaturg	Alex Edwards Child Supervisor
Bonnie Beecher** Lighting Designer	Ben Kopp Music Director & Copyist	
Thomas Ryder Payne Sound Designer & Arranger	Sebastian Biasucci Howland Shadow Director	

Production Team

Andy Devries Head Carpenter	Greg Chambers, Jack Nighswander, Dan Jackobi Props Builder/Buyer	Erin Halls, Madeline Ius, Kalina Popova, Celina Westlake, Valerie Cameron Stitchers
Bill Stahl, Jo de Boer 1st Carpenter	Ellie Koffman Head of Wardrobe	Irene Ly, Leanna Cecchetto Dressers
Paul Boddum Head Scenic Artist	Claudia Matas Assistant Head of Wardrobe	Gunes Agduk Lighting Operator
Hilda Chu, Susanna Feng, Catalina Holguin, Dan Jackobi Scenic Painter	Sylvia Defend Cutter	Tristan Chung Audio Operator
Lisa Nighswander Head of Props	Jacqueline Robertson-Cull Head of Wigs	David Mallette Deck Hand

Content Warning: *THE WELKIN* contains scenes of violence and mature content, including domestic abuse and miscarriage, descriptions of hanging and sexual assault, child death, and strong language.

THE WELKIN was first performed at the National Theatre, in the Lyttleton Theatre on 15 January 2020.

"RUNNING UP THAT HILL" BY KATE BUSH is used by Permission of NOBLE & BRITE LTD. All rights



Soulpepper Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages 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.

2 hours and 35 minutes, with intermission



LUCY KIRKWOOD is an acclaimed playwright and screenwriter. In 2009, Lucy's play *It Felt Empty When the Heart Went At First But It Is Alright Now* was produced by Clean Break Theatre Co. at the Arcola Theatre. The play was nominated for an Evening Standard Award for Best Newcomer and made Lucy joint winner of the John Whiting Award 2010. *NSFW* premiered at the Royal Court Theatre in 2012. *Chimerica*, premiered at the Almeida Theatre in 2013 and subsequently transferred to the West End, earning the Best New Play at the 2014 Olivier and Evening Standard Awards, as well as the Critics Circle Award and the Susan Smith Blackburn Award. Recent work includes *Mosquitoes*, presented by special arrangement with Manhattan Theatre Club, which opened at the National Theatre in summer 2017, and *The Children*, which premiered at the Royal Court, London, in 2016, opened on Broadway in December 2017 and was nominated for a Tony in the category of Best New Play. Lucy also writes for screen: she has written for *Skins* (Company Pictures), created and wrote *The Smoke* (Kudos / Sky 1), and is developing projects with Cowboy Films and Lenny Abrahamson. Her adaptation of *Chimerica* aired on Channel 4 in April 2019 and her mini-series *Adult Material* aired in October 2020 and was nominated for five BAFTAs. Her play *The Welkin* opened at the National in January 2020. Her plays *Maryland* and *This Is Not Who I Am* both premiered at the Royal Court Theatre in 2021 and 2023 respectively. Also in 2023, her adaptation of Roald Dahl's *The Witches* opened at The National Theatre, and her latest play *The Human Body* premiered at the Donmar Warehouse in 2024.



WEYNI MENGESHA has been the Artistic Director of Soulpepper Theatre Company since 2019. Celebrated for her groundbreaking work and community engagement, her directing credits span Canadian and international stages. Weyni is also a committed educator, mentor, and a producer of youth arts initiatives. In addition to Soulpepper, she has taught at the National Theatre School of Canada and the Canadian Film Centre. FOR SOULPEPPER: *Kim's Convenience* (2025, 2015 and 2012), *What the Constitution Means to Me* (2024); *Billie, Sarah and Ella: Revolutionary Women in Jazz* (2024 and 2023), *A Streetcar named Desire* (2024), *The Guide To Being Fabulous* (2023), *'Da Kink in my Hair* (2022), *Queen Goneril* (2022), *Pipeline* (2002), *Jesus Hopped the A-Train* (2020), *Father Comes Home From The Wars* (2016), *A Raisin in the Sun* (2008 and 2010). Other theatre credits include *Treemonisha* (Volcano Theatre/Tolive/Luminato/Soulpepper), *Power of Sail* (Geffen Playhouse), *Seven Spots on the Sun* (Rattlestick Theatre, NY), *Butcher* (Why Not/Mirvish), and *Bars and Measures* (Boston Court, Pasadena). Weyni is so grateful to be marking the end of her Soulpepper artistic directorship with this play and this incredible group of artists. She wants to thank Soulpepper staff, audiences and all the artists she has worked with for an incredible seven year journey.



OLUNIKE ADELIYI is a Canadian actress, writer, and producer of Nigerian and Jamaican descent. She is an alumni of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in NYC. A Canadian Screen Award winner, Olunike continues to shine in projects bringing depth, power, and versatility to every performance across genres. SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *da Kink in my Hair*. OTHER THEATRE: *Macbeth* (Sterling), *The Atomic Tradition* (Sterling), *HER 2* (Nightwood). Film & Television: *Workin' Moms*, *The Expanse*, *American Gods*, *Revenge of the Black Best Friend*, *The Porter*, *Mike*, *She Never Died*, *The Parting Glass*, *Chaos Walking*, *Backspot*, *The Fire Inside*, *Village Keeper*, *Morningside*, *It Comes in Waves*, *Absolute Dominion*, *Youngblood*, *Inheritance*, and Edgar Wright's *The Running Man*. Thank you God Almighty and my mother Roxiana Adeliyi for bravely giving birth to a storyteller.



GHAZAL AZARBAD SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin*, *The Comeuppance*. SOULPEPPER: *English* (2023), *The Seagull* (2020), *Wedding at Aulis* (2019), *La Bête* and *Innocence Lost* (2018). OTHER THEATRE: East Van Panto: *Little Mermaid* and *Alice in Wonderland* (Theatre Replacement); *Romeo and Juliet* (Bard); *Bunny* (Search Party); *Being Here: The Refugee Story* (Belfry); *Shakespeare in Love* (Bard); and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Arts Club). FILM & TELEVISION: *Float* (Lionsgate), *Charmed* (CW), *Kim's Convenience*, *The Slowest Show* (CBC) OTHER: Writer and creator of *Tārof: a Persian Comedy*, *Dear Konstantin* (Audiobook on Spotify), and *REAL* (script). Two-time Jessie Awards nominee, recipient of the Hnatyshyn Foundation Award for Acting.



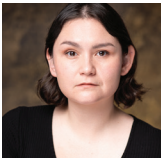
BONNIE BEECHER has created the lighting for over 400 productions for Theatre, Opera, and Dance across Canada and internationally. Her work for Soulpepper includes: *The Dubbyk*, *Angels in America*, *Awake and Sing*, *The Bald Soprano*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Three Penny Opera* and *The Lesson*. Recent productions include: *Mary Queen of Scots* (Scottish Ballet), *Major Barbara* (Shaw), *Lady Macbeth* (Dutch National Ballet), *A Streetcar named Desire* (Citadel/theatre Calgary), and *People, places and things* (Coal Mine). Upcoming projects include: *Cinderella* (Baller Ireland), *Procession* (National Ballet of Canada), *B.E.N.D* (Aszure Barton and artists), and *Robin Hood Panto* (Canadian Stage)



NADINE BHABHA is an award-winning writer/actor/producer from Toronto. Past theatre credits include *Hayavadana* (Soulpepper), *The Penelopiad* (The Grand Theatre), *Girls Like That* (Tarragon). Select TV credits: *Letterkenny* (Hulu/Crave), *The Holiday Shift* (CBS), *One More Time* (CBC), and *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* (CBC). TV writing credits include *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, *Children Ruin Everything* and Crave's upcoming comedy *Slo Pitch*. She has three Canadian Screen Award nominations for Best Supporting Actor (*How to Fail As a Popstar*, *The Communist's Daughter*) and Best Writing for Sketch Comedy (*This Hour Has 22 Minutes*).



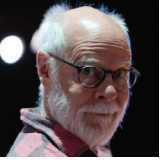
SEBASTIAN BIASUCCI SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin*. FOR THE HOWLAND COMPANY: *Prodigal* (Associate Producer), *Entrances & Exits* (Marketing Manager). OTHER THEATRE: Acting Credits include *The Last Mammoth* (Good Old Neon), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Panoply Collective), *What A Guy: A Window Into Flavortown* (The Assembly Theatre), *Retreat* (Hart House Theatre), *String Quartet 14 in G Major* (Rock Bottom Movement). Producing credits include *The Children's Republic* (Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company), *Dead Elephants* (Good Old Neon), *Two Minutes to Midnight* (One Four One Collective), *A Christmas Carol Comedy* (No Porpoise Productions).



BREFNY CARIBOU is a performer, writer, and educator of Cree (Mathias Colomb Cree Nation)/Irish-settler descent based in Tkaronto. Holding an MFA in Acting from York University she loves reimaging traditional theatrical practices, telling Indigenous stories, and making people giggle. As a performer she has worked in TV/film on *Tallboyz* (CBC/Joanne), and *Mayor of Kingstown* (Paramount +/Isabelle) and in theatre across Turtle Island on projects such as *1939* (Canadian Stage), *The Tempest* (Theatre Rusticle/Buddies in Bad Times), *Otîhêw* (Shakespeare in Action), and completed 3 seasons at the Stratford Festival in productions of *Little Women* (Beth March), *All's Well That Ends Well* (Solider, Understudy), and *The Rez Sisters* (Zhaboonigan Peterson). Her solo show *Savage is a Word in the English Dictionary* had its world premiere at the 2025 Awaken Festival at Gwaandak Theatre in Whitehorse, YT. Brefny is going into her 4th year facilitating the Indigenous Arts Program at the Paprika Festival.



KATE CHUBB SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin* (debut). OTHER THEATRE: *Untitled Flamingo Play* (rEvolver Festival), *In Real Life* (The Musical Stage Company), *CAEZUS* (Toronto Fringe), *Orfeo: l'anima del filosofo* (UofT Faculty of Music), *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (NUOVA Vocal Arts), *Choreographic Works*, *Edward II* (Performance at TMU), *Something Rotten*, *Head Over Heels* (TMTC). OTHER: Positions with Pride Toronto, Canada's Music Incubator, Granville Island Theatre District, and Carousel Theatre. Kate is a graduate of the Performance Production program at TMU.



OLIVER DENNIS Soulpepper 2025: *Witch*, *Happy Days*. For Soulpepper: close to 100 productions with Soulpepper. He has had the opportunity to play Shakespeare and Moliere and Chekhov, Miller and Williams and Albee. Beckett, Ionesco, Orton. Simon. Sarah Ruhl and Suzan-Lori Parks and Tracey Letts. David French and Morris Panych/ Brenda Robins and Mike Ross/Sarah Wilson and Lee MacDougall and Vern Thiessen and Michael Shamata and Kevin Loring and Erin Shields. Shaffer, Storey, Stoppard, Frayn and Ayckbourn. To name some. Other recent productions include Fagin in *Oliver!* (Yes Theatre, Sudbury), *People, Places and Things* (Coalmine), *Waitress* (Capitol Theatre, Port Hope) *Fifteen Dogs* (Sadie Bronfman, Montreal), *Bremontown* by Gregory Prest (Next Stage Festival), *The Wonderful* by Luke Reece (Caravan Farm Theatre).



RAQUEL DUFFY SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *The Goat or Who is Sylvia*, *Spoon River*, *August: Osage County*, *Wedding at Aulis*, *Sisters*, *La Bête*, *Rose*, *Animal Farm*, *Of Human Bondage*, *Alligator Pie*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *The Heidi Chronicles*, *The Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *Noises Off*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Just*, *The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine*, *Idiot's Delight*, *The Barber of Seville*, *The Play's the Thing*, *The Crucible*, *You Can't Take it With You*, *Tartuffe*, *Angels in America*, *Perestroika*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Odd Couple*, *The Royal Comedians*, *Window on Toronto*, *Oh What a Lovely War*, *(re)birth: ee Cummings in Song*. Graduate of the Soulpepper Academy. OTHER RECENT CREDITS: *Steel Magnolias* (The Capitol), *Forget About Tomorrow* (Here For Now), *Tide & Time* (Foster Festival), *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead* (Mirvish/ Neptune Theatre), *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Mirvish). TV: *Ginny & Georgia*, *Reacher*, *The Most Dangerous Game 2*.



ALEX EDWARDS Production Assistant (Soulpepper, 2023 - Present), *The Master Plan* Dresser (Soulpepper, 2024), *Life After* Production Assistant (Yonge Street Theatricals, 2025).



JOANNA FALCK is the Literary Associate at Soulpepper Theatre. Soulpepper 2025: *The Welkin*. For Soulpepper: Production Dramaturg, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Dramaturg, *What the Constitution Means to Me*. 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 Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, fuGen Asian Canadian Theatre, Nightwood Theatre, Tapestry New Opera Works, Studio 180, Arts Club Theatre Company and Canadian Stage Company. Other: She was awarded the 2021 Honorary Membership Award from the Playwrights Guild of Canada.



JULIE FOX has been a production designer for theatre, dance and opera in Canada for over 20 years. SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *Endgame*, *The Play's The Thing*, *The Long Valley*. OTHER THEATRE: Stratford Festival, Shaw Festival, Crow's, Why Not Theatre, Tarragon Theatre, Buddies, Necessary Angel, Volcano, NAC, Segal Centre, Centaur, Citadel, Theatre Junction, and Manitoba Theatre Centre. She has received five Dora Awards for outstanding set design, and the Virginia Cooper Award for costume design. She is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada.



JANE GOODERHAM Select credits: Theatre: Stratford Festival (21 seasons); *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Mirvish/Sonia Friedman); *War Horse* (Royal National Theatre/Mirvish); *Matilda* (RSC/Mirvish); *Lord of the Rings* (Mirvish); *My Name is Lucy Barton*, *The Lehman Trilogy*, *London Road* (Canadian Stage); *Fall On Your Knees* (NAC/Canadian Stage); *Infinite Life* (Coalmine); *The Lehman Trilogy* (Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre); *Oroonoko*, *Chair* (Theatre for a New Audience, New York) Television: *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* (Paramount); *Good Sam* (CBS); *Reacher* (Amazon) Teaching: Head of Voice, National Theatre School of Canada; Birmingham Conservatory.



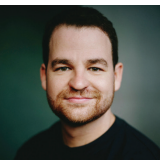
SAM HALE SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin*, *Ladies of the Canyon*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *Casey and Diana*, *Detroit: Music of the Motor City*, *Pafumerie*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. OTHER THEATRE: *The Bidding War* (Crow's), *The Goat or, Who is Sylvia*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Stratford), *Liars at a Funeral* (Drayton), *Job* (Coal Mine), *Prodigal*, *The Wolves* (Howland), *Jerusalem*, *Mr. Burns* (Outside the March), *Angels in America* (That Theatre Company/Buddies), *Fall For Dance North* (TO Live), Welcome Ceremony for the 2025 Invictus Games. Sam also serves as a stage management mentor at Toronto Metropolitan University.



KYRA HARPER SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *Copenhagen*, *Escaped Alone*, *Idomeneus*, *A Delicate Balance*, *Farther West*. OTHER THEATRE: *Infinite Life* (Coalmine), *Rockabye* (ARC), *Three Sisters* (Howland Company), *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *Death of a Salesman* (Blue Bridge), *Medea*, *Calendar Girls* (Mirvish/MTC, *Her 2* (Nightwood), *The Rez Sisters* (Factory), *Vincent River* (Carthorse) *Pacamambo* (Canadian Rep), *Clean House* (ATP). FILM/TV: *Ed and Alfie* (Best Actress VIFA), *Hudson and Rex*, *Danger Next Door*, *Orphan Black*, *Too Close For Comfort*, *Heartland*, *Little Orphans*, *Hard Rock Medical*, *See*.



FIONA HIGHET SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin* (debut). OTHER THEATRE: *Roberto Zucco* (Buddies in Bad Times), *Poison* (Coalmine Theatre), *Calendar Girls* (Mirvish/MTC), *Late Company* (Why Not Theatre), *The Eco Show* and *Insomnia* (Necessary Angel) and *The Little Years* (TPM). FILM & TELEVISION: *Late Bloomer*, *Law & Order Toronto*, *Diggstown*, *Strays*, *Bitten*, *Cardinal*. OTHER: Fiona also writes and directs for film and television. She is a graduate of the CFC Prime Time Television Program, and has made two award winning short films, *Smart* and *GoingGoing*.



BEN KOPP is a composer, actor, music director, accompanist and convocation name reader residing in Toronto. Ben is a 2019 graduate from TMU University's performance acting program and has been performing, music directing, and writing ever since. Selected Credits: *Iris (says goodbye)* (Music and Lyrics, Winner of the Adam's Prize for Musical Theatre/Best of Fringe); *Alligator Pie* (Soulpepper Theatre, Dora Award); *Killing Time: A Game Show Musical* (Music and Lyrics, Dora Nomination); *Alice in Wonderland* (Bad Hats Theatre) Follow him on Instagram @ben___kopp.



COURTNEY CH'NG LANCASTER Soulpepper 2025-26: *The Welkin, Witch* (director). For Soulpepper: *Innocence Lost, Idomeneus, Alligator Pie, The Dining Room, Incident at Vichy, Blood Wedding, Spoon River, Of Human Bondage, Eurydice, Barber of Seville, Marat/Sade, Idiot's Delight, The Crucible, Death of a Salesman, Royal Comedians, Dirt*. Other: Directing credits at Shaw, Crows, The Howland Company, Tarragon, York University, Sheridan. Acting credits at Shaw, Canadian Stage, The Capitol, Tarragon, Native Earth, Blue Bridge, Citadel, and beyond. Courtney is an assistant professor at York University, and a founding member of The Howland Company. Upcoming: *take rimbaud* with Buddies in Bad Times/The Howland Company.



SCARLETT LARRY SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin, Detroit: Music of the Motor City*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *The Secret Chord, Kim's Convenience*. OTHER THEATRE: *Get That Hope, Wedding Band, Richard II, Little Women, I Am William* (Stratford Festival), *Letters From Max* (Necessary Angel), *Julius Caesar, The Wolves* (Crow's Theatre), *Kiviuq Returns: An Inuit Epic* (Qaggiavuut!, Tarragon Theatre, National Theatre of Greenland), *The Stage Manager's Guide to Dating Assholes* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe). EDUCATION: BFA in Theatre Production and MA in Art History from York University. UPCOMING: *Moonlight Schooner* and *You, Always* (Canadian Stage).



CAMERON LAURIE SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin* (Debut). FOR THE HOWLAND COMPANY & CROW'S THEATRE: *Heroes of the Fourth Turning, Prodigal*. FOR THE HOWLAND COMPANY: *Three Sisters, Casimir & Caroline, Punk Rock*. OTHER THEATRE: *The Drawer Boy, The Donnelly's Trilogy, Saving Graceland, The Trials of Maggie Pollock, Our Beautiful Sons* (Blyth Festival), *A Little Closer* (The Vault), *The Merchant of Venice* (Shakespeare Bash'd), *This Feels Like the End* (Theatre Aurinko/Next Stage). Film & Television: *The Shape of Water* (Fox Searchlight), *I Will Find You* (Netflix). OTHER: Cameron is a founder and artistic leader of The Howland Company.



CRAIG LAUZON Originally from Ottawa, ON, of mixed settler and Anishinabe descent. SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *Where the Blood Mixes* (2022); *Orlando* (2018); *Trudeau and the FLQ/Trudeau and Levesque* (2015) OTHER THEATRE: *Truck* (Factory); *Detroit* (Coalmine); *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Stratford); *A Comedy of Errors* (Thousand Island Playhouse); *The Drawer Boy* (Theatre Passe Muraille); *Tales of an Urban Indian* (Talk is Free Theatre) *Thunderstick* (Persephone Theatre); *King Lear* (NAC). FILM & TELEVISION: *Ithaqua; Sheriff Country; Trickster; Adult Adoption; Murdoch Mysteries; The Guilt Free Zone; Fool Canada; Air Farce; The Ron James Show; Beyblade and Beyblade: The Movie*.



ANNIE LUJÁN SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *King Lear, Peggy Pickett Sees The Face of God*. OTHER THEATRE (SELECTED): *Dance Nation* (Upcoming - Coal Mine/OTM), *Last Landscape* (Bad New Days), *A Little Closer* (The Vault), *Comedy of Errors* (The Grove), *Storybook Search* (Bad Hats). Annie is the co-creator/performer of the duo clown show *MONKS* (Theatre Centre, Crow's, County Stage, Toronto Fringe). She is an alumni of the 2022 Soulpepper Academy and Concordia University.



NATASHA MUMBA is a Zambian-born, Toronto-based, multi-disciplined artist. SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin*, *Copperbelt*. OTHER THEATRE: *School Girls, or the African Mean Girls Play* (Obsidian, Nightwood); *Henry V*, *The Adventures of the Black Girl*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Dracula*, *Hound of the Baskervilles* (Shaw Festival); *Silver Arrow* (Citadel); *Trout Stanley* (Factory); *Measure for Measure*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (Canadian Stage); *Middletown* (Crows) *The Millennial Malcontent* (Tarragon)

FILM & TELEVISION: *The Handmaid's Tale* (MGM); *The Last of Us* (HBO); *Y: The Last Man* (FX); *Beacon 23* (AMC); *Matlock* (CBS); *Five Days At Memorial* (APPLE +), *The Abandons* (NETFLIX). @Tashamum



MAYKO NGUYEN SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin*. OTHER THEATRE: *Beautiful Man* (Nightwood); *Salt-Water Moon* (Factory, WhyNot); *TomorrowLove* (Outside The March); *Passion Play* (Sheep No Wool, Convergence Theatre, Outside The March). FILM/TELEVISION: *Hudson & Rex*, *Titans*, *Killjoys*, *ReGenesis*, among others. Mike, Theo and Lou - I LOVE you (THANK YOU)



ANITA NITTOLY SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin*, *Kim's Convenience*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *WildWoman*, *Three Sisters*, *Virgin Trial*. OTHER THEATRE: Stratford Festival 2024/25 seasons; *Wights*, *The Bidding War*, *Bad Roads*, *Prodigal* (Crow's); *Roberto Zucco*, *Angels in America* (Buddies); *Fat Ham*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Fairview*, *Hamlet* (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), *Fall on Your Knees* (CanStage/NAC); *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*.



LUKE REECE is the Associate Artistic Director at Soulpepper Theatre, and works as a playwright, performer and director across Canada. SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin*. FOR SOULPEPPER: Associate Director: *Wildwoman*, Associate Artist: *Bad Parent*, Assistant Director: *Pipeline*, Dramaturg: *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, Writer: *1851: Spirit and Voice* (with Myseum if Toronto). OTHER THEATRE: Associate Director: *Anne of Green Gables* (The Stratford Festival), Writer/Performer: *As I Must Live It*

(Theatre Passe Muraille), Writer/Director: *The Wonderful* (Caravan Theatre) FILM & TELEVISION: Writer: *Notice* (Obsidian & CBC Arts). OTHER: Luke is one of Toronto's most decorated slam poets, and has represented the country internationally.



LIISA REPO-MARTELL is an award-winning stage and screen actor and one the founding members of Artists for Real Climate Action. She has also written a new adaptation of Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* for Crows Theatre and Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* for Coal Mine Theatre and was one of writer/producers of the satirical web series, *The Big Oil Alliance*. Acting credits include: Theatre: *Uncle Vanya* (Crows Theatre), *Towards Youth* (Crows Theatre) *A Beautiful View* (Festival Players) *What a Young Wife Ought to Know* (2b Theatre) *The Boy in the Moon* (Crows Theatre), *The Watershed* and *Seeds* (Porte Parole), *Other Desert Cities* (The Citadel Theatre) *Creditors* (Coalmine Theatre), *Happy Place*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Antigone*, *The Lesson*, *School for Wives*, *Top Girls* (Soulpepper) *Eternal Hydra* (Crow's Theatre) *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Stratford Festival) *King Lear* (Stratford Festival). Film/T.V. *Hudson and Rex*, *Saint Pierre*, *Happy Place* (Sienna Films), *The Umbrella Academy*. Upcoming: *You, Always* (CanStage).



THOMAS RYDER PAYNE SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *The Master Plan*, *The Guide To Being Fabulous*, *The Seagull*, *Da Kink In My Hair*, *Queen Goneril/King Lear*, *ART*, *The Brothers Size*, *Little Menace*, *The Royale*, *Oratorio*, *Orlando*, *Picture This*, *Father Comes Home From The Wars*, *Incident At Vichy*, *The Anger In Ernest and Ernestine*, *La Ronde*, *Kim's Convenience*, *Ghosts*. OTHER THEATRE: Designs for Stratford, Shaw, Mirvish, CanStage, Crows, Tarragon and many others.



HALLIE SELINE FOR SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin* (Debut). FOR THE HOWLAND COMPANY: *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*, *Prodigal*, *The Wolves* (with Crow's Theatre), *Three Sisters*, *Casimir and Caroline*, *Punk Rock*, *52 Pick-Up*. OTHER THEATRE: *The Merchant of Venice*, *As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare BASH'd); *The Farm Show: Then & Now*, *Resort to Murder*, *The Donnelly's: A Trilogy* (Blyth Festival); *Prairie Nurse* (Lighthouse). Upcoming: *take rimbaud* (Howland/ Buddies in Bad Times) FILM/TV: *Everything's Going to be Great* (Lionsgate), *Fellow Travelers* (Showtime). OTHER: Hallie is a Founding Artistic Leader of The Howland Company. She has won a Dora Mavor Moore Award and a Toronto Theatre Critics Award.



MICHELLE TRACEY SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *WILDWOMAN*, *Wedding at Aulis*, *Sisters*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Crawlspac*, Soulpepper Academy Graduate. OTHER THEATRE: *Big Stuff* (Baram & Snieckus / Crow's), *Garden of Vanished Pleasures* (Soundstreams), *Roberto Zucco* (Buddies), *Candida*, *The Clearing* (Shaw), *Every Little Nookie*, *Nathan the Wise* (Stratford), *Indecent* (Studio 180/Mirvish); *Behind the Moon*, *This Was the World*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (Tarragon Theatre).



ADDISON WAGMAN is thrilled to be a part of this production. SOULPEPPER: Debut. OTHER THEATRE: *Beaches* (Theatre Calgary), *Annie* (Stratford), *A Christmas Story* (Aquarius), *Chris, Mrs.* (Winter Garden), *Joseph....* (Drayton). Voiceover: Peanuts, Wild Kratts, Vida the Vet, Audible. Addi would like to thank the amazing creative team, cast and crew. Special thank you to Shari, Mommy, Daddy, Meme, Jiji, F & H.



BAHIA WATSON SOULPEPPER 2025: *The Welkin*, *The Comeuppance*, *Summer and Smoke*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *A Raisin in the Sun*; *The Virgin Trial*, *The Last Wife* (Stratford/Soulpepper). OTHER THEATRE: *Uncle Vanya*, *The Seagull*, *Someone Else* (Crow's); *shaniqua in abstraction* (Crow's/paul watson), *MASHUP PON DI ROAD* (Why Not/paul watson), *pomme is french for apple* (paul watson), *MASHUP ting!* (Public Theatre/Joe's Pub), *Bakkhai*, *Diary of Anne Frank* (Stratford); Film and Television: *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Star Trek: Discovery*, *The Expanse*, *Various Animation*.

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THE COMPANY OF THE WELKIN WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR SUPPORTING THIS PRODUCTION:

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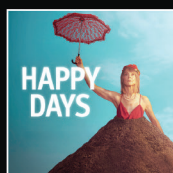
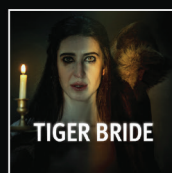
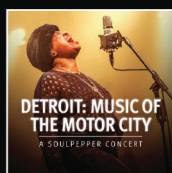
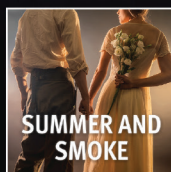
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Kirk Escriba

Enoch Franz

Dev Mallick

Abhijit Nair

Yohannes Taye

Yezhi Kuo

Baristas

I.T.

Fernando Arriola

I.T. Manager

Sheila Kearney Miller

Tessitura Administrator

Andrew Ho

I.T. Systems Administrator

Building Operations

Greg Poulin

Manager of Building Operation
& Production

Cole Vincent

Building Operator

Niamh Cunningham-Closs

Building Supervisor

Technicians

Gunes Agduk

Andres Castillo-Smith

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Thank You!

Young Centre

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

Young Centre Facilities Funding:



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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.

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.

Crow's Theatre is Toronto's home for bold, contemporary performance. Distinguished by our commitment to artistic rigour and our dedication to Canadian artists, Crow's is known for our powerful and provocative productions. Since opening Streetcar Crowsnest in 2017, our purpose-built home in the east end, Crow's has produced a series of acclaimed premieres that have resonated widely with audiences and critics alike shattering box office and attendance records. Now in our 41st year, Crow's is a vital voice in the Canadian arts landscape creating unforgettable theatre that illuminates the central narratives of our times.

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Associate Artistic Director

Peter Fernandes
Artistic Associate

Katie Pounder
General Manager

Heather Landon
Senior Producer

Beth Wong
Producer

LJ Savage
Director of Production and Facilities

Jeremy Hutton
Production Manager

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Technical Director

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Assistant Technical Director

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Natalie Scagnetto
Box Office and Front of House Supervisors

Bonnie Duff
Gabriella (Gabbie) Kosmidis
Box Office and Front of House Swing Supervisors

Samantha Barker, Tushar Dalvi,
Tianna Dang, Bonnie Duff, Lara
Hamburg, Elyssa Hsu, Anthony
Jhade, Madeline Kennedy,
Gabriella (Gabbie) Kosmidis,
Gloria Mampuya, Nia Osei, Becky
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The Howland Company is one of Toronto’s leading independent theatre companies that strives for innovation on and off stage.

The Howland Company is an artist-led and art-driven theatre company, dedicated to the production of electric stories that speak to the world and the times in which we live. Through an agile, collective-leadership model, Howland aims to build new operating structures that empower its artists with agency, skills, and growth opportunities. We seek to challenge and inspire our audiences through productions, training and community initiatives, fostering a new wave of theatre makers and theatre goers.

For THE WELKIN:

Hallie Seline
Producer & Director of Marketing

Cameron Laurie
Producer

THE COMPANY:

Ruth Goodwin
Artistic Leadership

Sam Hale
Artistic Leadership

Courtney Ch'ng Lancaster
Artistic Leadership

Cameron Laurie
Artistic Leadership

Hallie Seline
Artistic Leadership

Sebastian Biasucci
Associate Member

郝邦宇 **Steven Hao**
Associate Member

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The artists and staff of Soulpepper, Crow's Theatre, The Howland Company and the Young Centre for the Performing Arts acknowledge the original caretakers and storytellers of this land —the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabe, and the Wendat First Nations. We commit to honouring and celebrating their past, present and future.