

MUSICAL
STAGE CO.

Soulpepper

CROW/S
TAKING FLIGHT

TO Live

A man with a beard and short hair, wearing a red jacket with yellow stripes on the collar, is shown in profile, looking back over his shoulder. Behind him are several overlapping, semi-transparent versions of his face, creating a 'loop' effect. The background is a gradient of purple and blue.

A STRANGE LOOP

BOOK, MUSIC
AND LYRICS BY

MICHAEL R. JACKSON

DIRECTED BY **RAY HOGG**

MUSIC DIRECTOR **CHRISTSUJIUCHI** CHOREOGRAPHER **RODNEY DIVERLUS**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I am a fat, Black, gay theatre maker driven to create large-scale work that explores the rusty underpinnings of society and chips away at the veneer of politeness that overlays so much of contemporary life - I love a beautiful mess!

You're here today to experience the Canadian Premiere of *A Strange Loop*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning ode to disruptors, truth tellers, rebels, and innovators. Only ten musicals have won the Pulitzer in its 105-year history—and this one deserves its place. When I first saw it on Broadway, I asked myself: What makes a musical worthy of that prize? Within ten minutes, I had my answer. Michael R. Jackson reveals aching, hilarious, complicated truths about identity, self-worth, shame, and desire.

This play's deep dive into the beautiful mess of real life is nakedly honest and deeply personal for the writer, this director, our team of collaborators, and our extraordinary cast.

Each of us involved in its creation and interpretation has had to reckon with our personal reactions to the provocations this play presents. Here's what we've learned in the other side of our reckoning: "provocative" doesn't have to result in distanced alienation— for us it resulted in transformation!

Real talk: This show changed me. Not just as an artist, but as a human. It called me to live more fully in my skin, my body, and my art. That's what I hope this production does for you. We want you to feel this show. In your body. In your spirit. And, most importantly, we want you to see yourself in Usher and his quest too.

So settle in. Or better yet, don't. Let yourself be unsettled. That's where the transformation begins.

RAY HOGG

Director, *A STRANGE LOOP*

WHAT INSPIRED 4 TORONTO THEATRE COMPANIES TO UNITE ON THE CANADIAN PREMIERE OF A STRANGE LOOP?

"In October 2022, Ray (Hogg), Kate (Supleve) and I went to see A STRANGE LOOP on Broadway. We talked about it for three hours over late-night burgers and knew it needed to come to Toronto but didn't know how. We had different programming lined up, but couldn't let go of the dream. Exactly one year later, Kate and I were at a talk about the need to present daring, bold art. Afterwards, I looked at Kate and said 'We have to do A STRANGE LOOP' - I had been chasing the rights for a year at that point."

PAUL BEAUCHAMP

Co-Executive Director, The Musical Stage Company

"I was in rehearsals for COMET when Ray approached me. I had seen it on Broadway, and I remember sitting there in the theatre, stunned and overcome by what I witnessed. The show made such a big impact on me, and Ray's passion for its heart inspired me. I desperately wanted Crow's to be a part of bringing this show to Toronto — but I recognized that the opportunity was much bigger than Crow's alone could handle. It needed scale, vision, and partnership. My next phone call was to Weyni. We instantly began gushing about the show, and why it was so important."

CHRIS ABRAHAM

Artistic Director, Crow's Theatre

"Seeing the show on Broadway truly moved me; it felt like a liberating experience. When Chris reached out about the idea of collaborating to bring it to our city, it was an immediate yes for me and the team. We were excited to offer this show a home in our Baillie Theatre, and to be a part of a collective of companies bringing this beautiful show to life."

WEYNI MENGESHA

Artistic Director, Soulpepper

"In a rapidly changing world, the arts are essential in fostering connection, healing, and inspiration. The incredibly talented Toronto company of A STRANGE LOOP achieves all of these goals and more. Co-presenting A STRANGE LOOP was a natural fit. Great art, great partners, and a great purpose. When asked to join, we could only say a cheerful 'yes!'"

CLYDE WAGNER

President & CEO, TO Live

CONTENT WARNING

A Strange Loop deals with sensitive and mature themes and is recommended for audiences ages 16+. It includes a character's vivid perceptions of racism, homophobia, HIV stigmatisation, self-hatred, and depression. It also contains suggestive nudity and explicit language (inclusive of racial slang that may be offensive to some audience members).

**Running time:
120 mins, no intermission**

present

A STRANGE LOOP

BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS BY MICHAEL R. JACKSON

CAST

Malachi McCaskill
Usher

Charlie Clark
Usher Alternate, Understudy Thought 3

Sierra Holder
Thought 1

Nathanael Judah
Thought 5

David Lopez
Swing

Marcus Nance
Thought 6

Matt Nethersole
Thought 3, Understudy Thought 2

David Andrew Reid
Thought 4,
Dance & Intimacy Captain

Amaka Umeh
Thought 2, Understudy Thought 1

BAND

Chris Tsujiuchi
Piano-Conductor

Mike Henley-Dunbar
Keys, Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar

Joseph Martel
Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar

Duncan Stan
Bass

Aubrey Dayle
Drums, SPD Pads

Conrad Gluch
Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Sax

CREATIVE TEAM

Michael R. Jackson
Bookwriter, Composer & Lyricist

Ray Hogg
Director

Rodney Diverlus
Choreographer

Chris Tsujiuchi
Music Director

Brian Dudkiewicz*
Set Designer

Ming Wong*
Costume Designer

Michelle Ramsay*
Lighting Designer

Brian Kenny*
Sound Designer

Za Hughes
Associate Lighting Designer

Sarah Miller
Stage Manager

Farnoosh Talebpour
Assistant Stage Manager

Evan Reid
Apprentice Stage Manager

Lisa Karen Cox
Intimacy Director

Peter Fernandes†
Associate Director

Jonah Nung
Assistant to the Music Director

Ludmylla Reis
Apprentice Director

PRODUCTION

Andy DeVries
Head Carpenter

Bill Stahl
1st Carpenter

Paul Boddum
Head Scenic

Hilda Chu, Morgan Evans, Annie Viggers
Scenic Painters

Lisa Nighswander
Head of Props

Greg Chambers
1st Props Builder/Buyer

Ellie Koffman
Head of Wardrobe

Claudia Matas
Assistant Head of Wardrobe

Erin Halls
Stitcher

Jacqueline Robertson-Cull
Head of Wigs

Güneş Agduk
Lighting Operator

Everett Dalingwater
Audio Mixer

Dalton Villeneuve Marini
Deck Hand

Matthew Condotta
Deck Audio

Irene Ly
Dresser



The musicians, musical director, conductor and orchestra contractor engaged for this production are members of the Toronto Musicians' Association, Local 149 of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada.

† The services of Peter Fernandes as associate director were made possible through the support of the Canadian Guild of Stage Directors and Choreographers' Assistant and Associate Program, funded by the Canada Council for the Arts.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

INTERMISSION SONG.....	Usher, Thoughts
TODAY.....	Usher, Thoughts
WE WANNA KNOW.....	Thoughts
INNER WHITE GIRL.....	Usher, Thoughts
DIDN'T WANT NOTHIN'.....	Thought 5, Thoughts
EXILE IN GAYVILLE.....	Usher, Thoughts
SECOND WAVE.....	Usher
TYLER PERRY WRITES REAL LIFE.....	Usher, Thought 3, Thoughts
WRITING A GOSPEL PLAY.....	Usher, Thoughts
A SYMPATHETIC EAR.....	Thought 1
INWOOD DADDY.....	Usher, Thought 6, Thoughts
BOUNDARIES.....	Usher
PERIODICALLY.....	Thought 4, Usher
DIDN'T WANT NOTHIN' REPRISE.....	Thought 5
PRECIOUS LITTLE DREAM/AIDS IS GOD'S PUNISHMENT.....	Usher, Thoughts
MEMORY SONG.....	Usher, Thoughts 2-6
A STRANGE LOOP.....	Usher, Thoughts

SPECIAL THANKS

Colin Rivers, Michael R. Jackson, Robert Ball, Obsidian Theatre, Nia Centre, Black Gay Men's Network, Uche Ama, Gérald Michaud, Noah Michaud, Simone Michaud, Patricia Cerra, Ace Martens, HomeLife/Realty One, Danny Grossman & Germaine Pierce, Don Jordan & Philip Cole, Dr Stephen Gray, Julia Walton, Made To Move Clinic, The Grand Theatre, Nancy Wilson, Black queer kin past, present, and future, Pascale Diverlus, Jaz Fairy J, Juan Pablo Muñoz, Cieran Liburd, Canadian Guild of Stage Directors and Choreographers' Assistant and Associate Program

Original Broadway Production produced by Barbara Whitman Playwrights Horizons, Inc. in association with Page 73 Productions, produced the World Premiere of "A Strange Loop" in New York City in 2019. Subsequently produced by Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Washington, DC.

A STRANGE LOOP is presented by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com

THE VIDEOTAPING OR MAKING OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTING RECORDINGS OR STREAMS IN ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED, A VIOLATION OF THE AUTHOR(S)'S RIGHTS AND ACTIONABLE UNDER UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT LAW.



CHARLIE CLARK (he/him) is a performer hailing from Saint John, New Brunswick. He currently attends Sheridan College for Musical Theatre. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** Debut. **OTHER THEATRE:** Evil Dead The Musical (Starvox); Stranger Sings! (Mansfield Entertainment); Boy Boy and the Magic Drum (Under A Grove Productions). @charlie_clark777



LISA KAREN COX **FOR SOULPEPPER:** 1851: Spirit and Voice **OTHER THEATRE:** Post Democracy (Tarragon); Doubt, Intimate Apparel (Thousand Island Playhouse); Hamlet (Canadian Stage) **FILM & TELEVISION:** 21 Black Futures' Beyere (CBC Gem/Obsidian Theatre) **OTHER:** She has been nominated for two Dora Awards, and is faculty at Toronto Metropolitan University.



AUBREY DAYLE received his formal music education at McGill University and Manhattan School of Music in classical and jazz percussion and has performed in various musical styles and situations. He has toured with James "Blood" Ulmer; Hassan Hakmoun and Zahar (support act for Peter Gabriel); God Street Wine; the John Popper Band; Sam Rivers; Ernest Ranglin; and several other artists. While living in New York City, he continued to perform in diverse situations, including two years as the drummer for the Broadway show Bring in 'Da Noise Bring in Da Funk. As a member of the John Popper Band, he appeared on Late Night with David Letterman and The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. Aubrey continues to work with James "Blood" Ulmer, and Juno nominated artist Shakura S'Aida. His latest project is called 13go, with bassist Ian DeSouza, Kim Ratcliffe, and produced by Living Colour's Vernon Reid.



RODNEY DIVERLUS (they/them) is a multidisciplinary movement artist. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** The Guide to Being Fabulous (2023). **SELECT THEATRE/DANCE:** Nightmare Dream (IFT/Obsidian); Blackout (Tableau D'Hôte); Hadrian (Canadian Opera Company); Floreus (L'Organisme; Dérives (Bentway); Exit Strategies (Museum of Contemporary Art); Juliet & Romeo (Decidedly Jazz). **CHOREOGRAPHY:** you,me,freedom (Atlantic Ballet); welcome, we've been waiting (Toronto Dance Theatre); RUR Torrent of Light (Tapestry Opera); you, meet us (Toronto Metropolitan University), in your eyes, the sparkle of gunpowder (Art Gallery of Ontario); sagittarius, meet capricorn (Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre). @rodneydiverlus



BRIAN DUDKIEWICZ (he/him) was born in Montreal, but currently resides in Toronto **FOR SOULPEPPER:** Debut. **OTHER THEATRE:** Dixon Road (The Musical Stage Company), Jukebox Hero (Mirvish); Priscilla, Kinky Boots, The Sound of Music, Newsies, Rocky (Drayton); King James, Never Not Once (Theatre Aquarius); Controlled Damage, Titanic (The Grand), Frozen, Billy Elliot, The Last Five Years (Neptune), Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill (Theatre Calgary); April Fools, Prayer for the French Republic, Indecent, Million Dollar Quartet, Bad Jews (Segal Center). Many shows Off-Broadway in NYC. **OTHER:** Brian holds an MFA in Set Design from the Yale and a BSc in Architecture from McGill. @briandud1



PETER FERNANDES **Creative:** Assistant Director; Wights (Crow's) Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart, Witness for the Prosecution (Shaw) Magic/Illusions; Trident Moon (Crow's) Snow in Midsummer (Shaw) Bremen Town (Next Stage) Assistant Illusions Design - Fat Ham (Broadway) **Performer:** Fat Ham (Canadian Stage), One Man Two Guvnors, Importance of Being Earnest, Damn Yankees, Charley's Aunt, Christmas Carol, Russian Play, Brigadoon (Shaw); Bidding War, Master Plan, Fifteen Dogs (Crow's); Almost a Full Moon, Peter and the Starcatcher

(Citadel); Rose, Father Comes Home From the Wars, Alligator Pie, Incident at Vichy, The Just, Marat/Sade, The Dybbuk, Spoon River, Tartuffe, The Crucible, Idiot's Delight (Soulpepper); Vietgone (RMTC); Romeo & Juliet, Midsummer Night's Dream, Love & Information, Twelfth Night, King Lear (Canadian Stage); Jerusalem (OtM/Company Theatre); You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown! (MTYP); Onegin (NAC/Musical Stage); Passing Strange (Musical Stage/Obsidian); FILM/TV: God of Frogs, 21 Black Futures, Pretty Hard Cases, Odd Squad. AWARDS: Dora Award recipient, Philip Akin Black Shoulders Legacy Award.



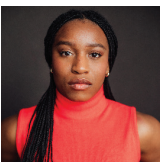
CONRAD GLUCH (he/him) is a Toronto based multi-instrumentalist known for playing just about every woodwind under the sun. Saxophones, Clarinets, Flutes, and more - with the occasional detour into the world of low brass. He's performed across Canada and the U.S. at festivals, clubs, and in theatre pits, with credits ranging from Mirvish productions to high energy Balkan brass bands. Off stage, he can be found hauling an unreasonable number of instruments to his next gig by bike.



MIKE HENLEY-DUNBAR is a Toronto-based Songwriter, Producer, Music Director and Session Multi-Instrumentalist. He has had the privilege of helping to create award-winning music compositions and sound design with SNDWRx Audio by Design, and has performed across Canada with artists such as Sandra Bouza and Big Smoke Brass. As a Music Director, he has had the privilege of helping to develop several original musicals across the Greater Toronto Area, including Statistics the Musical (Ladyville Productions) and Constellation Prize (Spare Drawer Productions). Much love to my wife, Shannon, for continuing to support my passion and encouraging me to never stop growing. He is thrilled to be making his debut with The Musical Stage Company, Soulpepper, Crow's Theatre and TO Live! @michaelhenleydunbar

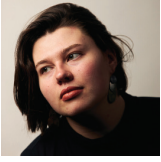


RAY HOGG is an award-winning Black theatre artist known for creating and presenting virtuosic, visually stunning, viscerally moving theatre and live performance. He has over 25 years of artistic, educational and leadership experience in the most celebrated opera, dance, and theatre companies around the world. His work as a theatre artist, director, and choreographer has taken him across Europe, The United States, and Canada. He has created for stages as diverse as Neptune Theatre in the east, The Arts Club Theatre Company in the west, and many others in between. From 2012-2017 Ray served as Artistic Director of Rainbow Stage., more recently as Artistic Director for The Musical Stage Company, and is currently an Associate Artist at Halifax's Neptune Theatre and the founder of Prime Mover Theatre Company. Directing credits include: Controlled Damage (The Grand Theatre London), Lady Day At Emerson's Bar & Grill (Theatre Calgary), Dixon Road, Starwalker, Soft Magical Tofu Boys (The Musical Stage Company), Da Kink In My Hair (Arts Club Theatre Co); Cats, The Producers, Sister Act, Shrek, Little Shop of Horrors (Rainbow Stage); Billy Elliot, Five Guys Named Moe, Dreamgirls (Neptune Theatre), Love and Information, An Enemy of the People, Mary Poppins, Damn Yankees and Chicago (Sheridan College). His award-winning choreography has been seen at Crow's Theatre (Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812), the Shaw Festival, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Neptune Theatre, the Segal Centre Montreal, and more. Social Media: Twitter & FB: @rayhogg • IG: @rayhogg2021



SIERRA HOLDER (she/her) was born and raised in Ottawa, is lucky to now call Toronto home. FOR SOULPEPPER: Debut. Other Theatre: Beaches (Theatre Calgary), The Wizard of OZ (Canadian Stage) Peter's Final Flight , The Wizard of Oz (Ross Petty Productions) The Adventures of Pinocchio (Young People's Theatre) A Belly Full, Freaky Friday (Theatre Aquarius) Film&Television: Gen V, The Maddness, Accused, Bring It On : Cheer or Die (Jackie), Locke & Key, The J Team, Y: The Last Man. Other: I am deeply honoured to be a part of telling this story in this particular moment in the world. To

everyone who resonates with this message I love you, I love you. @sierr_uh



ZA HUGHES (they/them) was born and raised in the GTA. FOR SOULPEPPER: Debut. OTHER THEATRE: The Noose (Next Stage Festival), A Wrinkle in Time (StoryBook Theatre), Doctor Faustus (Edinburgh Fringe), Cabaret (St. Lawrence College), Peter and the Star Catcher (StoryBook Theatre), A Scandal for All Seasons (Theatre by the Bay), Antigones (University of Victoria MFA Pro Forma). Assistant Lighting Designer: Prison Dancer (Citadel Theatre), As You Like It (Theatre Calgary), Little Shop of Horrors (Capitol Theatre), Made in Italy (Theatre Calgary) and Martyr (ARC). @za_hues



NATHANAEL JUDAH (he/him) was born in Kingston Jamaica but raised most of his life in Canada. FOR SOULPEPPER: Debut OTHER THEATRE: Gem of the Ocean, Just to get Married, The Doctors Dilemma, Gypsy, Antigonic, The Amen Corner (Shaw Festival) FILM AND TELEVISION: Kim's Convenience (CBC) Spin (Disney) The Parker Anderson's (BYU) Take Note (Family/Peacock). @nathanaeljudah



BRIAN KENNY (he/him) is a designer for theatre from Newfoundland and Labrador and is a graduate from The National Theatre School of Canada and Sheridan College. FOR SOULPEPPER: Debut. OTHER THEATRE: La Cage Aux Folles (Stratford Festival), Fall On Your Knees (Vita Brevis/Canadian Stage), Kelly V. Kelly (The Musical Stage Company), Charlie and The Chocolate Factory (YPT), Everybody Just C@lm The F#ck Down, Between Breaths (Artistic Fraud). UPCOMING: After The Rain (Tarragon/The Musical Stage Company). OTHER: Brian is a board member of the IATSE Local 659, The Associated Designers of Canada. @briankennydesign



DAVID LOPEZ (he/him) FOR SOULPEPPER: Debut. OTHER THEATRE: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (YPT), Seussical (YPT, Citadel), The Wild Party, Passing Strange (The Musical Stage Company), The Rocky Horror Show (CanStage, RMTC, STC), High Society (Shaw Festival), The Little Mermaid (Globe Theatre), Ain't Misbehavin' (CanStage, Dora Award Nomination), La Cage aux Folles (Neptune Theatre, Merritt Award Nomination), Kinky Boots (Mirvish Productions) Film &Television: Once Upon A Mattress, At The Hotel, Stormy Weather, A Handmaid's Tale, Workin' Moms Other: Backup dancer for Patti LaBelle and Katy Perry. Love to Mom, Dad, and James.



JOSEPH MARTEL is a JUNO-nominated freelance guitarist, award winning composer for film and video games, audio engineer, and producer. He is known for fostering levity while remaining dedicated to connecting and beautiful music. His projects range from americana and trad, to post-hardcore and experimental ambient. He is experienced and deeply interested in sound and its emotional impact and brings this focus to each performance - creating a space for audiences and performers alike to feel and release emotion.



MALACHI MCCASKILL (he/him) is excited to be making his Soulpepper/The Musical Stage Company/Crow's/TO Live debut in A Strange Loop! This North Carolina, U.S. native is ready to bring this world renowned story to Canada, and to share his art for all of Toronto! Credits include; A Strange Loop (Ahmanson Theatre CTG) Elf The Musical (NC Theatre) Beautiful: The Carole King Musical (NC Theatre). @malachimccaskill



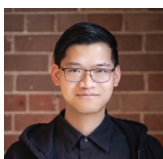
SARAH MILLER (she/her) was born and raised in St. Catharines, ON. FOR SOULPEPPER: Sizwe Banzi is Dead, Innocence Lost, Of Human Bondage, Spoon River, A Christmas Carol, Hosanna, The Heidi Chronicles, Angels in America. OTHER THEATRE: I Send You This Cadmium Red (Art of Time); 1939, Fall on Your Knees (Canadian Stage); A Year with Frog & Toad, Little Shop of Horrors (Capitol Theatre); Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812 (Crow's Theatre/The Musical Stage Company); The Runner (Human Cargo/RMTC); Harry Potter and the Cursed Child (Mirvish); Yaga (Tarragon Theatre). @sarahshootingstars



MARCUS NANCE (he/him) was born and raised in Monterey, California. FOR SOULPEPPER 2025: Debut. OTHER THEATRE: The Little Prince (Pacific Opera, Victoria); Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812 (Crow's/The Musical Stage Company); Cymbeline, Frankenstein Revived, HMS Pinafore, Jesus Christ Superstar, Moby Dick, My One and Only (Stratford); HMS Pinafore (Vancouver Opera); La Bohème, Jesus Christ Superstar (Broadway); Sweeney Todd, Floyd Collins, (Shaw Festival); Wizard of Oz, Beauty and the Beast (Grand Theatre); Evangeline (Charlottetown); Kismet, Of Thee I Sing (Encores! N.Y.C.); Jesus Christ Superstar (La Jolla); Porgy and Bess (Toronto Symphony). FILM AND TELEVISION: Queen Tut, Good Sam, Murdoch Mysteries, Departure, Mayday, Prodigal Son, The Producers. @nance.marcus



MATT NETHERSOLE (they/them) FOR SOULPEPPER: Debut. FOR CROW'S THEATRE: Chew (workshop). FOR THE MUSICAL STAGE COMPANY: Starwalker (workshop). Other Theatre: Sweet Charity, Pygmalion, The Trials of Brother Jero, The Magician's Nephew, Grand Hotel, The Horse and His Boy, Brigadoon (Shaw Festival). A Chorus Line, The Hypochondriac (Stratford Festival). Acha Bacha (Theatre Passe Muraille), Bend it Like Beckham (Starvox), James and the Giant Peach (YPT), The Wizard of Oz (Ross Petty Panto). Film & Television: That TVO Kids Show, Know Brainers (TVO) Schmigadoon (Apple TV), The Moblees (CBC). Other: Matt is also Host/Vocalist for Queer Songbook Orchestra and Host/Producer/Co-creator of the TVO Podcast Queries available now on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.



JONAH NUNG Jonah is a Toronto-based pianist and music director who is passionate about musical theatre's ability to foster community and amplify marginalized voices. Recent credits include Wild Child (Associate MD, Theatre Sheridan), Into the Woods (Music Intern, RCM), The Last Piece (MD, Hart House Theatre), and A Perfect Bowl of Pho (MD, Kick & Push Festival). As a pit musician, he has played in the orchestras of The Lion King (Mirvish), My Fair Lady (Shaw), and Chris, Mrs. (Boldly Productions). He has also accompanied numerous concerts and cabarets, with previous collaborators including Britta Johnson and Measha Brueggergosman-Lee.



MICHAEL R. JACKSON's A Strange Loop won the 2022 Tony Award for Best Musical and Best Book of a Musical. It was also the recipient of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. He is also the author of White Girl in Danger, produced by the Vineyard Theatre in co-production with Second Stage Theater, and the co-author of Teeth, produced by Playwrights Horizons. Michael is the recipient of an Obie Award, Drama Desk Award, Jonathan Larson Grant, Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Award, ASCAP Foundation Harold Adamson Award, Whiting Award, and Helen Merrill Award for Playwriting. Jackson holds a BFA and MFA in playwriting and Musical Theatre Writing from the NYU Tisch School of the Arts.



MICHELLE RAMSAY (she/her) was born and raised in Prince George, B.C. FOR SOULPEPPER: Lighting Designer for The Guide to Being Fabulous; The Royale; for coloured girls... OTHER THEATRE: Snow in Midsummer (Shaw Festival); Come Home: The Legend of Daddy Hall (Tarragon Theatre); Million Dollar Quartet (Grand Theatre); Women of the Fur Trade (Stratford Festival); Prison Dancer (Citadel Theatre); A

Midsummer Night's Dream (Theatre Rusticle) OTHER: Michelle is a recipient of eight Dora Awards, the Pauline McGibbon Award, and was a finalist for the 2021 Siminovitch Prize.



DAVID ANDREW REID (he/him) Jamaican (Xaymacan) by birth, Canadian (Kanatan) by choice. David is an actor, singer, dancer, choreographer, and educator in theatre. FOR SOULPEPPER : Debut. OTHER THEATRE (selected): Bitelle in La Cage aux Folles, Wendy & Peter Pan (Stratford); Charlie in Brigadoon (Shaw/5th season); LCpl Harold Dawson in A Few Good Men (Drayton Entertainment); Jamal in Escape to Margaritaville (Theatre Calgary); Beadle in Sweeney Todd (Talk Is Free Theatre); David Heard in Choir Boy (Canadian Stage); The Color Purple (Neptune Theatre) TELEVISION: Milo Strange in Murdoch Mysteries (CBC) @davidandrewreid



EVAN REID (he/they) Evan Reid was born and raised in Toronto, ON. FOR SOULPEPPER: Debut. OTHER THEATRE: UnCovered: U2 & The Rolling Stones (The Musical Stage Company); Boy Boy and The Magic Drum (Toronto Fringe Festival); Mary Poppins, Sweeney Todd, Jesus Christ Superstar, In Studio: The Words and Music of Britta Johnson, Happy End (Theatre Sheridan); The Calling (Random Noise Theatre). OTHER: Evan is a graduate of Sheridan College's Technical Production program. @evankreid



LUDMYLLA REIS (they/them) is a cultural leader, a theatre director, a filmmaker, and a curator with a BFA in acting and an MFA in directing as well as an independent career in project management and cultural studies. They are currently the Festival Director for The Rhubarb Festival @ Buddies in Bad Times. In Leadership, they have completed their Metcalf Foundation Internship with GCTC, NAC, and Black Theatre Workshop, and the Co-Artistic Producer at TACTICS. In Theatre, they are a Director, a Stratford's Langham Workshop Alumni, a Director's Lab North alumni, a Cultural Dramaturg, a Deviser, and a Professor, having taught at uOttawa's BFA for Acting and Scene Study classes. Twice nominated for the Pauline McGibbons award as an Emerging Director, they have received Awards from Ottawa Fringe for New Works and Prix Rideau for Best Directing.



DUNCAN STAN is a freelance bassist from Toronto Ontario. Musical theater performance credits include: Million Dollar Quartet (Capitol Theater Port Hope), Turn The Page: Three Musical Shorts (Theatre Sheridan), Full House! The Musical (Starvox), Hedwig and the Angry Inch (Talk Is Free Theatre), The Rocky Horror (Hart House Theatre) and 9 to 5 (Randolph Theatre) to name a few. He is also a member of the band Vilivant with which he can be seen touring all over the country. Duncan is excited and honored to be a part of this important and moving story. @duncan.stan17



FARHNOOSH TALEBPOUR (she/her) was born in Tehran, Iran but has now spent most of her life in Toronto, ON. FOR SOULPEPPER: English (2023), Queen Goneril, King Lear (2022) OTHER THEATER: Bittergirl the Musical (TIP), Red Velvet (Crow's theatre), Dido & Aeneas (Opera Atelier), Dixon Road (The Musical Stage Company/Obsidian Theatre Company). SM: Dear Robert (Video Cabaret), Let Me Explain (Green Light Arts), Songs from The Journey (Daniels Corporation/RCM), seven methods of killing kylie jenner (OTC), Lessons in Temperament (Outside the March), No Save Points (OtM). FILM: Assistant Production Design for One Small Visit, Lune. Costume design for Tête à Tête, Queen of the Morning Calm. OTHER: She would like to thank all the people around her who have helped keep her feet grounded, joined in laughter, and kept her heart safe. @Farnoosh



CHRIS TSUJIUCHI (any pronouns) was born and raised in Toronto, ON. FOR SOULPEPPER: Debut. OTHER THEATRE: Onegin (The Musical Stage Company/National Arts Centre); Into the Woods (Talk is Free/Winter Garden Theatre); Escape to Margaritaville (Theatre Calgary) OTHER: Chris has toured extensively with Sharron Matthews, and can also be seen performing in Asian Riffing Trio (aka ART) and his own "Chris-terical" series of cabarets. @ChrisTsujiuchi



AMAKA UMEH (they/them) was born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria and Calgary, AB. FOR SOULPEPPER: Three Sisters (2024); Sizwe Banzi is Dead (2023); Dialect Coach for 'da Kink in my Hair (2022); 1851: Spirit and Voice, Her Words Festival, Around The World in 80 Plays (2021). OTHER THEATRE: Fall On Your Knees (Eastern Canadian tour); Death and the King's Horseman, Hamlet, (Stratford Festival); The Wolves (Howland Company/Crow's Theatre). FILM: The Stranger's Case (CBC Gem). OTHER: Audiobook: Butter Honey Pig Bread by Francesca Ekwuyasi (ECW Press). @yesamaka



MING WONG (she/her) is an award-winning Toronto costume designer working in theatre, dance, opera, and film & television for over 15 years. She is a graduate from the Ontario College of Art & Design. FOR SOULPEPPER: Kim's Convenience, The Master Plan, Three Sisters, De Profundiis, Sizwe Banzi is Dead, Pipeline Other Theatre: Wights, Rosmersholm, The Wrong Bashir, Natasha, Pierre, & The Great Comet of 1812, The Master Plan, Red Velvet, Uncle Vanya, The Wedding Party, (Crow's); Charlie & The Chocolate Factory, (YPT); Salesman in China, Rent, Hamlet 911, Stratford Festival; Once, TIP, Things I Know to be True, (Company Theatre/Mirvish); Peter's Final Flight, Ross Petty Productions; The Wizard of Oz Panto, The Inheritance, Public Enemy, (Canadian Stage); Is God Is, (Canadian Stage/Obsidian/Necessary Angel); Candida, Just to Get Married, Trouble in Mind, (Shaw Festival); Hansel und Gretel, Canadian Opera Company; The Color Purple, (Citadel Theatre/RMTC). Upcoming: Trident Moon, Flex (Crow's); Wait Until Dark (Shaw). Other: 2021 Virginia & Myrtle Cooper Award recipient, 2 time Dora Award Winner.
www.mingwongdesign.com @mingwongdesign

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A Strange Loop
Photo of Malachi McCaskill by Alessandra Mello.

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