

|Soulpepper|

SOULPEPPER PRESENTS THE SOHO THEATRE AND HALEY MCGEE PRODUCTION
IN ASSOCIATION WITH LUMINATO FESTIVAL TORONTO

AGE IS A FEELING

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY HALEY MCGEE





We are thrilled to welcome back Haley McGee to Soulpepper with the North American premiere of *Age is a Feeling*. We have been eagerly awaiting her return after the extraordinary run of *The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale* in 2022. Our audiences would have first seen a glimpse of *Age is a Feeling* in Soulpepper's Fresh Ink Series in 2020. Since then, it has been making waves, premiering at the Edinburgh Fringe, garnering an Olivier nomination, a Fringe First Award, and two sold-out runs at London's Soho Theatre. We have been waiting four years for this moment, and can't wait for you to experience it.

Haley is truly a special artist. If you have never experienced one of her shows, you're in for a treat. And if you managed to catch *The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale*, you have an idea of what a unique experience one of her shows is. Her gift is her ability to tell us a story that is deeply moving and profound with humour and honesty. *Age is a Feeling* is never the same show twice, so what you're about to see is just for you.

Up next at Soulpepper is the return of *A Streetcar Named Desire* which I have the joy and honour in directing again. If you missed the sold-out run in 2019, be sure you get your tickets now. If you did see it then, you'll want to come back. I'm still finding so much to uncover in this beautiful play, and it continues to feel so relevant to our current day. This version of *Streetcar* also has some wonderful new cast members including Shakura Dickson as Stella, Divine Brown as our lead vocalist and Willie Mae, and Ordena Stephens-Thompson as Eunice Hubbell. We also have the powerful performances of Mac Fyfe and Amy Rutherford to look forward to, who are returning as Stanley Kowalski and Blanche DuBois.

We have also just announced our 2024/25 season with an exciting line up including everything from new world premieres to a Tony Award winning musical, which you can find near the back of this playbill. Go to soulpepper.ca and check out our new subscription and membership options.

We look forward to welcoming you back to Soulpepper soon.

WEYNI MENGESHA

Artistic Director,
Soulpepper Theatre Company



Age is a Feeling began in the same way many of my previous solo shows did, as a short piece, performed on a mixed bill, alongside other theatre projects in nascent stages of development.

It was 2019. I'd been living in the UK for three years. I was adapting my show *The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale* (which you may have seen) into a book. And putting together a brand new 15-minute theatre piece was a welcome break from rehashing my romantic failings and contending with turning a highly visual and athletic theatre show into nothing but words on a page.

After this first ever performance of *Age*, a man who'd been in the audience introduced himself. His name was Adam Brace; he was the associate director of Soho Theatre.

I knew the name but not the face. I'd written him many emails, even sent him snail mail, in the hopes that the legendary Soho Theatre would present my work to London audiences. Alas, I'd never had a response. I hadn't invited him to this little performance though. This was just one of those serendipitous things. He wanted to commission the show.

Over the next several years we worked together on *Age*—me as the writer/performer and Adam as the dramaturg/director.

Adam was an extraordinarily gifted dramaturg (a dramaturg is to a playwright what an editor is to an author). He pushed me as a writer, emboldened me in my voice. As a director, Adam's best notes about my acting often felt like they could be advice for living.

I'm writing about Adam in the past tense because he died of a stroke last year. He was 43. We'd just finished two runs of the show at Soho Theatre and been nominated for an Olivier Award. His contributions to the show were essential to those accomplishments.

He became a friend, but he was a colleague first. He was many peoples' friend and colleague, beloved by and instrumental to the success of artists across comedy, performance art and theatre in the UK.

Adam might hate that I've written this note about him. But we agreed that I should never write an introduction to this play that was about the content of the play—this play should always speak for itself. The play is not about Adam, but the text and this production would not exist without him.

He is profoundly missed and he's also right here.

Haley McGee

Writer and Performer, *Age is a Feeling*

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

Cast

Haley McGee*
Performer

Creative Team

Haley McGee Playwright	Daniel Carter-Brennan Lighting Designer	David Luff Executive Producer, Soho Theatre
Mitchell Cushman* Director	Robert Moutrey Sound Designer	Maddie Wilson Producer, Soho Theatre
Adam Brace Original Direction and Dramaturgy	Meghan Speakman* Stage Manager	Derrick Chua Producer
Zoë Hurwitz Scenic Designer	Emmanuelle So* Assistant Stage Manager	

Soulpepper Production

Paul Boddum Head Scenic Artist	Lisa Nighswander Head of Props	Kurt Nicholson Lighting Operator
Chris Blanchenot Scenic Artist	Pat Nagy Deck Operator	Sound Operator TBC

Age is a Feeling was commissioned by Soho Theatre and supported by Camden People’s Theatre. Excerpts have been performed at Camden People’s Theatre, Soulpepper Theatre’s Fresh Ink series (April 2020) & Brainchild’s Hatch (Oct 2021). Work-in-progress performances took place in Oct 2021 & May 2022 at The Rosemary Branch Theatre.

Haley would love to thank Mitchell Cushman, my long time collaborator and friend for jumping into this project and bringing this next iteration to life with me. The entire team at Soulpepper for embracing this show and working so hard on its behalf, especially Robyn Hoja, Jasmine Knox, Lisa Nighswander, Patricia Vinluan, Leslie Hernandez, Rhett Costin, Paul Boddum, Riaz Charania, Julia Carrano, Jonathan Heppner, Gideon Arthurs and Weyni Mengesha. Soho Theatre for commissioning this show and all their support, especially David Luff and Maddie Wilson. Our incredible production team: Dan Carter-Brennan, Zoë Hurwitz and Robert Moutrey. Our fabulous stage managers Meghan Speakman and Emmanuelle So. Derrick Chua for producing and being our defacto PM—true blue incredible addition to every project! Paul Howley for building us our most amazing set piece. Illustrator, Jason Logan, for his beautiful work. And you, the audience, thank you for being here. What a privilege to share this show with you.

Content Warning: Mature Language & Themes. Recommended for Ages 16+



*The participation of these Artists is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors’ Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance Opera Theatre Policy (DOT).

Running time:
75 minutes no intermission



HALEY MCGEE is a writer and actor, born and raised in Kitchener-Waterloo, she lived in Toronto for about a decade before relocating to London UK, where she now lives. Haley wrote and performed *Age is a Feeling* to sold out audiences at the 2022 Edinburgh Fringe, winning a Fringe First and transferring to the Soho Theatre London for two sold out runs. The show was subsequently nominated for an Olivier Award. Haley won a Dora Award for her solo show *The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale*, which has been adapted into a book of the same name, published by Penguin Random House Canada. She has toured her other solo shows to 11 countries where they've won awards and received rave reviews, and writing has been translated into 10 languages. As an actor she has appeared on the BBC, CBC, Radio4 and on stages across the UK and Canada. She holds a BFA in Acting from Toronto Metropolitan University and trained at the Second City Conservatory and the Free Association. Haley teaches online courses and workshops on solo show creation and self-producing theatre. Learn more at: www.haleymcgee.ca / @yeshaleymcgee



MITCHELL CUSHMAN is a director, creator and founding Artistic Director of Outside the March. *SOULPEPPER 2024: The Death of Walt Disney* (with Outside the March), *Age is a Feeling*. *FOR SOULPEPPER: The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale* (with Outside the March), *I'm Doing This For You*, *Lessons in Temperament* (with Outside the March). As one of Canada's leading immersive theatre artists, Mitchell's work has been seen on stages as large as the Royal Alexandra Theatre and the Stratford Festival, in spaces as intimate as kindergarten classrooms and living rooms, and in locales as far flung as London, Buenos Aires, Edinburgh, Munich, Finland and Japan. Directing credits for Outside the March include *No Save Points*, *Trojan Girls*, *The Flick*, *The Tape Escape*, *Dr. Silver*, *Jerusalem*, *TomorrowLove™*, *Mr. Burns*, *Vitals*, *Passion Play*, *Terminus*, *Mr. Marmalade*. Mitchell is also the Co-Creator of *BRANTWOOD*, Canada's largest immersive musical theatre experience, which received the 2015 Audience Choice Dora Award. Other favourite directing credits include: *Treasure Island*, *Breath of Kings*, *Possible Worlds* (Stratford); *The Effect*, *Hand to God*, *The Aliens* (Coal Mine); *Sweeney Todd*, *I, Claudia*, *The Last of Romeo & Juliet* (TIFT); *Into the Woods*, *Merrily We Roll Along* (YES Theatre). Mitchell has received numerous distinctions for his work, including two Dora Awards for Outstanding Direction, four Dora Awards for Outstanding Production, the Siminovitch protégé award, and the Toronto Theatre Critics' awards for Best Production and Best Director.



ADAM BRACE was Associate Director at Soho Theatre where he worked across Comedy, Theatre and Performance Art. His directing work included all of Sh!t Theatre's work, including the multi-award winning *Drink Rum with Expats*. In comedy he developed a varied range of work which included six Edinburgh Comedy Award nominated shows, 2 Herald Angel Award winners, 2 Barry Award Nominees and a Southbank Award. As a dramaturg he worked with writers including Lucy Prebble, Nick Payne and Vicky Jones. As a writer, his first full length play, *Stovepipe*, transferred to London in collaboration with the National Theatre. His second full length play, *They Drink it in the Congo*, was produced and premiered at the Almeida Theatre. Shorter plays include *Midnight Your Time*, a monologue for Diana Quick which was revived online by the Donmar Warehouse on 2020. His first screenplay *Best*, directed by William Oldroyd, won Best Short Film at Sundance London, was nominated for the Short Film Grand Jury Prize at Sundance USA and has screened at over 20 International Festivals.



ZOË HURWITZ is a designer working in New York and London. Selected US venues include Manhattan Theatre Club at City Center, The Lucille Lortel Theatre, Greenwich House, Geva Centre, Here Arts Centre, The Wild Project, and The Sheen Center. UK venues include Hampstead Theatre, The Duke of York's, West End (for NYT) The National Theatre (Connections/New Views Festival), The Orange Tree, Soho Theatre, The Park, Mercury Theatre, The New Diorama, The Royal Court, and the Director's Programme at the Young Vic. Zoë was a winner of the 2019 Linbury Prize for Stage Design at the National Theatre and won the 2022 JMK development award with director Emerald Crankson. She has twice been a finalist in the Off West End Awards for Best Set Design and took first place in the Emerging Set Design category at World Stage Design 2022. She has an MFA from NYU Tisch. www.zoehurwitz.com



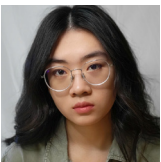
DANIEL CARTER-BRENNAN has two Olivier nominated shows to his name and his work has reached as far as Sydney Opera House, The West End and New York City. His most recently acclaimed shows consist of Liz Kingsman's - One Woman Show, Haley McGee's - Age Is A Feeling and Leo Reich - Literally Who Cares. Daniel joined the Age Is A Feeling team for their inaugural run at Edinbrough Fringe, claiming a Fringe First Award. He is now delighted to be part of the transfer to Canada



ROBERT MOUTREY is a composer, musician and sound designer from Manchester (UK), based in London. VAULT FESTIVAL: The Rain God (2016) THE PARK THEATRE: Hamlet (2017) SOHO THEATRE: Age Is A Feeling (2022) THE SPACE: Mary's Daughters (2024) RADIO & AUDIO: Made In Latin America (The British Museum), The Peregrine (The British Science Festival), Responsible: The Podcast (Imperial College London).



MEGHAN SPEAKMAN was born in Hamilton, ON. SOULPEPPER 2024: Age is a Feeling FOR SOULPEPPER: The Secret Chord (2023), The Ex-Boyfriend Yardsale (2022), A Moveable Feast, Animal Farm (2018) OTHER THEATRE: Don Pasquale, The Cunning Little Vixen (COC), Monster (Factory), Canoe (Native Earth), Where You Are (Lighthouse), Behind the Moon (Tarragon), The Trojan Girls and the Outhouse of Atreus (Outside the March), Sweeney Todd (Talk is Free), The Ministry of Grace (Belfry) OTHER: Meghan is thrilled to be joining Haley and team for another exciting production.



EMMANUELLE SO was born and raised in Mississauga, ON. SOULPEPPER 2024: Age Is A Feeling. FOR SOULEPPER: The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale (2022). OTHER THEATRE: The Fixing Girl (Young People's Theatre); Boy Falls From The Sky Regional Tour (Talk Is Free Theatre); Of The Sea (Tapestry Opera/Obsidian Theatre); The Marriage of Figaro (Canadian Opera Company); Boy Falls From The Sky (Past Future Productions/Mirvish Productions); John Who (Toronto Fringe Festival); Summer Ensemble (Crane Creations Theatre Company). OTHER: Emmanuelle is a graduate of Toronto Metropolitan University's Performance Production program.



DAVID LUFF is Head of Theatre at Soho Theatre with work including world premieres by Haley McGee, Vicky Jones, Ryan Calais Cameron, Kim Noble and Lucy McCormick. Alongside DryWrite he was producer on the world tour and West End transfer of Fleabag by Phoebe Waller-Bridge. He is also an independent commercial theatre producer with work including: Network by Lee Hall, directed by Ivo van Hove, starring Bryan Cranston (National Theatre and Broadway) and productions around the globe in over fifty venue across four continents.



DERRICK CHUA was born in Manila, Philippines and raised in Scarborough, Canada. SOULPEPPER 2022: The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale. OTHER THEATRE: Most recently Jake Epstein's BOY FALLS FROM THE SKY (Mirvish / Royal Alexandra Theatre). Past productions include Haley McGee's OH MY IRMA and I'M DOING THIS FOR YOU at the Edinburgh Fringe and beyond. OTHER: Derrick is the proud recipient of a Dora Award, Harold Award, Now Magazine Award as Toronto's Best Indie Producer and Canadian Actors' Equity Association Honorary Membership for his Outstanding Contribution to the Performing Arts.



MADDIE WILSON is a Producer at Soho Theatre, working mainly on Soho's touring and festival programme. FOR SOHO THEATRE: Haley McGee's Age is a Feeling (Edinburgh, London, and international touring); Ben Target's LORENZO (Edinburgh, London, New York and Vancouver); Nouveau Riches's Queens of Sheba (London, New York & US tour); Frankie Thompson & Liv Ello's Body Show (Edinburgh and London); Lucy McCormick's Lucy & Friends (Edinburgh and London); Jinkx Monsoon's Together Again, Again and She's Still Got It (Edinburgh, London and UK tour); BenDeLaCreme Is Ready To Be Committed (London and UK tour).

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Aylin Salahshoor

Pasanun Songsaeng

Patron Services Representatives

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Saumya Arora

Peter Naccarato

Aylin Salahshoor

Floor Captains

Max Ackerman

Ryan Bagley

Tushar Dalvi

Tavaree Daniel-Simms

Colleen Didur

Shaneill Floyd-Wlazlak

Jeffrey Johnston

Riley Kelk

Henry Oswald Peirson

Sarah Schmidt-McQuillan

Pasanun Songsaeng

Ushers

Jessica Wasserman

Senior Café Associate

Chaitanya Bhatia

Kirk Escriba

Enoch Franz

Gautami Gangawane

Shreya Khana

Dev Mallick

Yohannes Taye

Yezhi Kuo

Baristas

I.T.

Fernando Arriola

I.T. Manager

Sheila Kearney Miller

Tessitura Administrator

Andrew Ho

I.T. Systems Administrator

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Greg Poulin

Manager of Building Operation & Production

Cole Vincent

Building Operator

Niamh Cunningham-Closs

Building Supervisor

Technicians

Gunes Agduk

Andres Castillo-Smith

Ethan Robinson

Dalton Villeneuve-Marini

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John Chang

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Beverley Flynn

Michael Herrera

Nancy Prenevost

Thank You!

Young Centre

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

Young Centre Facilities Funding:



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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July-August 2024

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Directed by Weyni Mengesha



ON STAGE
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OCT 31

WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME

By Heidi Schreck
Directed by Weyni Mengesha



ON STAGE
STARTING
NOV 23

THE MASTER PLAN

By Michael Healey
Based on Sideways: The City Google Couldn't Buy
by Josh O'Kane
Directed by Chris Abraham



ON STAGE
STARTING
DEC 12

ALLIGATOR PIE

CREATED BY INS CHOI, RAQUEL DUFFY, KEN MACKENZIE,
GREGORY PREST, MIKE ROSS, POEMS BY DENNIS LEE



ON STAGE
STARTING
JAN 30

KIM'S CONVENIENCE

By Ins Choi
Directed by Weyni Mengesha



ON STAGE
STARTING
FEB 7

TABLE FOR TWO

By Akosua Amo-Adem
Directed by Djanet Sears



ON STAGE
STARTING
MARCH 13

LADIES OF THE CANYON: Joni and the California Scene

Created by Hailey Gillis and Raha Javanfar



ON STAGE
STARTING
APRIL 22

A STRANGE LOOP

BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS BY: MICHAEL R. JACKSON
DIRECTED BY: RAY HOGG



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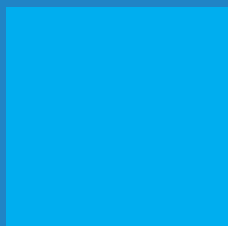
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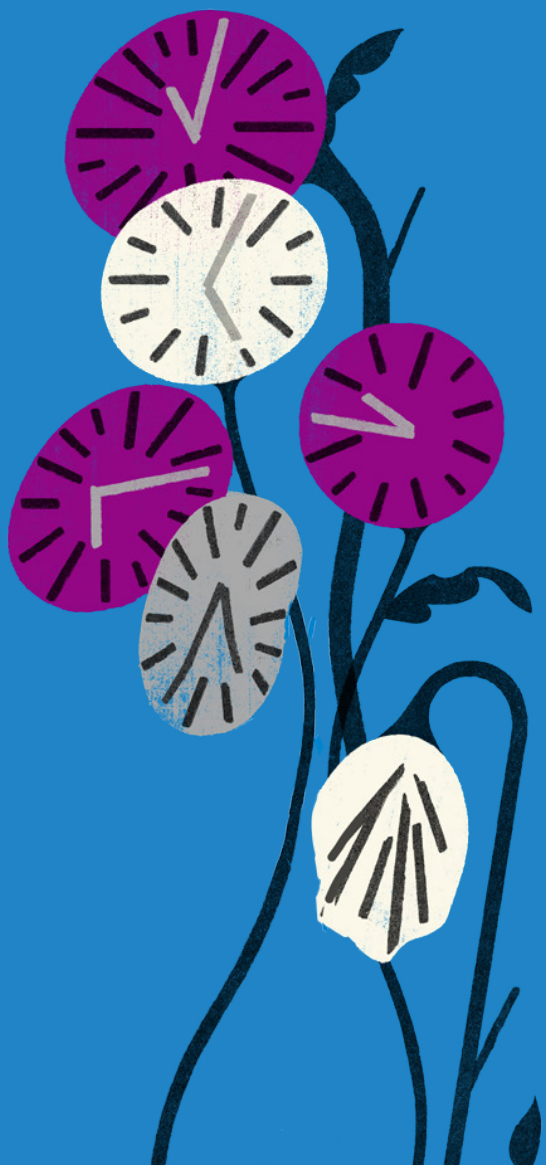


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The artists and staff of Soulpepper and the Young Centre for the Performing Arts acknowledge the original caretakers and storytellers of this land —the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabe, and the Wendat First Nations. We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