

|Soulpepper|

THE SEAGULL

ANTON CHEKHOV

ADAPTED BY SIMON STEPHENS



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“All around the world and throughout history, humans have acted out the stories that are significant to them, the stories that are central to their sense of who they are, the stories that have defined their communities, and shaped their societies. When we talk about classical theatre we want to explore what that means from the many perspectives of this city. This is a celebration of our global canon.”

– **Weyni Mengesha**, Soulpepper’s Artistic Director

photo by Emma Mcintyre

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Cast

Ghazal Azarbad

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Stuart Hughes

Hugo

Gregory Prest

Boris

Oliver Dennis

Peter Sorin

Alex McCooeye

Simeon

Paolo Santalucia

Konstantin

Raquel Duffy

Pauline

Kristen Thomson

Irina

Sugith Varughese

Leo

Hailey Gillis

Nina

Dan Mousseau

Jacob

Creative Team

Daniel Brooks

Director

Matt Rideout

Lead Audio Engineer

Maricris Rivera

Producing Assistant

Anton Chekhov

Playwright

Weyni Mengesha

Artistic Director

Megan Woods

Associate Production Manager

Thomas Ryder Payne

Sound Designer

Emma Stenning

Executive Director

Corey MacVicar

Associate Technical Director

Frank Cox-O'Connell

Associate Director

Tania Senewiratne

Executive Producer

Nik Murillo

Marketer

Gregory Sinclair

Audio Producer

Mimi Warshaw

Producer

Thank You To

Michelle Monteith, Daren A. Herbert, and Robert Harding

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Originally produced by the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, London on 3 October 2017.



GHAZAL AZARBAD was born in Mashhad, Iran and raised in Vancouver, BC.

SOULPEPPER 2021: *The Seagull*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Wedding at Aulis, Innocence Lost, La Bête; Chasse-Galerie, Rose (In Concert)*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Shakespeare in Love, The Taming of the Shrew* (Bard on the Beach); *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Arts Club); *Entrances and Exits* (Howland Company/Bad Dog Theatre); *Three Winters* (The Cultch). Upcoming Theatre: *Paradise Lost, Love's Labour's Lost* (Bard on the Beach). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Kim's Convenience* (TV); *Mercury Falling* (Film). **OTHER:** Jessie Award nominee; National Hnatyshyn Foundation Award Recipient; Graduate of the UBC BFA and the Soulpepper Academy.



DANIEL BROOKS SOULPEPPER 2021: Director: *The Seagull*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:**

Waiting For Godot, A Doll's House, The Aleph, The Cherry Orchard, Endgame, Betrayal... **OTHER THEATRE:** *Insomnia, The Noam Chomsky Lectures* (with Guillermo Verdecchia); *The Full Light of Day, The Good Life, The Eco Show* (writer); *House, Here Lies Henry, Monster, Let's Run Away* (with Daniel MacIvor); *Indulgence, Red Tape* (with Augusta Company); *The Runner, Bigger Than Jesus, Divisadero, Half Life, Faust, Oedipus, Drowsy Chaperone* (director). **OTHER:** First Baille Fellow at Soulpepper, Siminovitch Prize winner. His work has toured across the country and around the world.



ANTON CHEKHOV was a Russian playwright and short-story writer who is considered to be among the greatest writers of short fiction in history. His career as a playwright produced four classics, and his best short stories are held in high esteem by writers and critics. Along with Henrik Ibsen and August Strindberg, Chekhov is often referred to as one of the three seminal figures in the birth of early modernism in the theatre.

Chekhov practiced as a medical doctor throughout most of his literary career: "Medicine is my lawful wife", he once said, "and literature is my mistress."



FRANK COX-O'CONNELL was born and raised in Toronto, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2021:**

The Seagull. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** Director: *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*. **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.



OLIVER DENNIS was born in Montréal, QC and raised in Southern Illinois.

SOULPEPPER 2021: *The Seagull*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** 100 shows over 20 Seasons. *A Streetcar Named Desire, Art, August: Osage County, Rose, A Delicate Balance, Waiting for Godot, Of Human Bondage, Spoon River, The Chairs, Exit the King, Father Comes Home from the Wars, Eurydice, Jitters, Home, High Life, A Christmas Carol, Twelfth Night, Parfumerie*, to name just a few. **OTHER THEATRE:** Many theatres across the city and country. **FILM & TELEVISION:** *American Hangman, Don't Get Killed in Alaska, Slings and Arrows* (2 seasons), *Murdoch Mysteries*.



RAQUEL DUFFY was born in Charlottetown, PEI, raised in Dartmouth, NS.

SOULPEPPER 2021: *The Seagull*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** (Selected) *August: Osage County, Rose, Wedding at Aulis, Sisters, La Bête, The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?, Animal Farm, Of Human Bondage, Spoon River, It's a Wonderful Life, Noises Off, The 39 Steps, The Heidi Chronicles, The Odd Couple, The Just, The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine, Accidental Death of an Anarchist, Idiot's Delight, Angels in America, Tartuffe*. Co-creator: *Alligator Pie*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *The Father* (Theatre Aquarius); *The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs* (Tarragon); Stratford, ATF, Neptune, TNB, Eastern Front, Festival Antigonish, Charlottetown Festival. **OTHER:** Seven Dora nominations, Dora Award (*Alligator Pie*); Robert Merritt Award (*Mary's Wedding*); nominations for *Miss Julie, I Do I Do*. Tyrone Guthrie Award (Stratford). A graduate of the Soulpepper Academy.



HAILEY GILLIS was born in Hamilton, ON and raised in Grimsby, ON.

SOULPEPPER 2021: *The Seagull*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** Assistant Director: *Wedding at Aulis*. Actor: *Rose, Riverboat Coffee House: The Yorkville Scene, Manhattan Concert Cycle, Spoon River, Rose, Alligator Pie, Blood Wedding, Idiot's Delight, The Crucible, Salon Series, The Dybbuk, Marat/Sade, The Thirst of Hearts, The Dead*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Romeo and Juliet* (Bard on The Beach); *Hedda Gabler* (Necessary Angel/Canadian Stage); *Dec. 1917: Halifax Explosion* (Well Fought Theatre); *Grease, Evita* (Theatre Aquarius); *Macbeth, Semi-Monde, Stage Door* (Theatre Erindale). **FILM & TELEVISION:** Triple Sensation Season 2 (top six competitor). **OTHER:** Diploma in Acting - Sheridan Institute of Technology, B.A Honours Degree Theatre and Drama Studies - University of Toronto. Graduate of the Soulpepper Academy.



STUART HUGHES FOUNDING MEMBER, SOULPEPPER 2021: *The Seagull*.

FOR SOULPEPPER: (Selected) Director: *The Odd Couple, High Life, American Buffalo*. Actor: *Fool for Love, Wedding at Aulis, Idomeneus, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Faith Healer, Zoo Story, The Gigli Concert, Spoon River, Incident at Vichy, Twelve Angry Men, The Crucible*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Othello, Stuff Happens* (NAC); Shaw (six seasons); *Oedipus, King Lear* (Stratford); *The Lion in Winter*. Director: *Yankee Tavern* (Grand); *The Misanthrope* (Tarragon). **FILM & TELEVISION:** Selected: *The Drawer Boy* (Actra Award), *Frontier, It, Killjoys, Orphan Black*. **OTHER:** Dora Awards: *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid, On The Verge* (Tarragon); *The Time of Your Life* (Soulpepper). 2004 Soulpepper Artistic Director's Award.



ALEX MCCOOYE was born in St. Johns, NL and raised in Montreal, QC.

SOULPEPPER 2021: *The Seagull*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Fool for Love, Little Menace: Pinter Plays, Orlando, Waiting For Godot, Bedroom Farce, Eurydice*. **OTHER THEATRE** (selected): *Pass Over, Up The Garden Path* (Obsidian); *Lear* (Groundling Theatre); *Twelfth Night, Importance of Being Earnest, Alice Through the Looking-Glass* (NAC); *Richard III* (Shakespeare in the Ruff); *The Bacchae* (Centaur). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Letterkenny, Anne with an E, Zombies, The Bet, Damien, Happily Ever After*. **OTHER:** META Award, Rideau Award, 2 Dora Nominations, My Theatre Award. A Graduate of the National Theatre School.



THOMAS RYDER PAYNE is a Sound Designer. **SOULPEPPER 2019:** Sound Designer: *The Brothers Size, Little Menace: Pinter Plays.* **FOR SOULPEPPER:** Sound Designer & Composer: *The Royale, Oratorio: A Theatrical Mixtape, Orlando, Picture This, The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?, The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine, Incident at Vichy, Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts I, II, III), La Ronde, Kim's Convenience, Ghosts.* **OTHER THEATRE:** Designs for Stratford, Shaw, Mirvish, Canadian Stage, NAC, Theatre Calgary, GCTC, Tarragon, BIBT, TPM, Factory, Volcano, Aluna, Modern Times and many others. **OTHER:** Thomas has received 2 Dora awards and 19 nominations.



KRISTEN THOMSON FOR SOULPEPPER: *The Guardsman, Uncle Vanya, The Chairs, Mirandolina, The Bald Soprano, The Lesson, The School for Wives, Streetcar Named Desire.* **OTHER THEATRE:** *Every Brilliant Thing* (Canadian Stage); *The Wedding Party, Someone Else, I, Claudia* (Crow's Theatre); *I, Claudia, The Patient Hour, The Memory of Water* (Tarragon). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Cardinal; I, Claudia; Away From Her; I Shout Love; The Matthew Shepard Story.* **OTHER:** Kristen has received 5 Dora Awards, two ACTRA Awards, two Canadian Comedy Awards, a Genie, a Gemini, and a Canadian Screen Award.



DAN MOUSSEAU was born in Hamilton and raised in Waterloo, Ontario. **SOULPEPPER 2021:** *The Seagull.* **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Innocence Lost: A Play About Steven Truscott, It's A Wonderful Life.* **OTHER THEATRE:** *The Story* (Common Boots); *Pandora* (Youtheatre); *Hamlet* (Hart House); *The Grand Hysterical* (Novel Sidewalk) **FILM & TELEVISION:** *The Set Up* (Lifetime); *Sincerely, Yours Truly* (Hallmark); *Workin' Moms, Black Watch Snipers* (History); *Heroes Reborn* (NBC). **OTHER:** Dan received his BFA from Ryerson Theatre School. Dan is a graduate of the Soulpepper Academy. Dan is thrilled to be a part of this incredible production and he sends his love to Teresa, Kingsley and Merlin.



GREGORY PREST SOULPEPPER 2020: *Jesus Hopped The 'A' Train, Winter Solstice.* **FOR SOULPEPPER:** More than 35 productions including: *August: Osage County, A Streetcar Named Desire. Bed & Breakfast, La Bête, Of Human Bondage, Father Comes Home From The Wars (Parts I, II, III), Angels in America, Long Day's Journey Into Night, Ghosts. Co-Creator: Alligator Pie, (Re)birth: E.E Cummings in Song.* **Director:** *Rose, Hosanna, The Heidi Chronicles, 5 Concerts in The Concert Series.* **OTHER THEATRE:** Crow's Theatre, Company Theatre, Canadian Stage, YPT, Tarragon, Canadian Opera Company. Directed *Punk Rock* for The Howland Company. **OTHER:** Graduate of the National Theatre School and the Soulpepper Academy.



MATT RIDEOUT with over a decade in the professional audio and music industry, Matt brings a wealth of technical knowledge and artistic insight into his work. As a producer/engineer/mixer and livestream specialist, Matt is dedicated to innovating the professional audio space, and building an inclusive and open creative environment for his clients and colleagues. Matt studied Music & Composition at the University of Windsor and is a graduate of the Ontario Institute of Audio Recording Technology (OIART). He is also the co-owner/operator of A&B Studios and StreamTuneUp.



PAOLO SANTALUCIA SOULPEPPER 2021: *The Seagull*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:**

Betrayal, Peter Pan, Bed and Breakfast, La Bête, Animal Farm, The Goat, Picture This, Of Human Bondage (Soulpepper/NYC), *Spoon River* (Soulpepper/NYC), *The Heidi Chronicles, The Dybbuk, Idiot's Delight, Great Expectations, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, The Crucible, The Royal Comedians*. **OTHER THEATRE:**

Casimir and Caroline, Entrances and Exits, 52 Pick-Up (The Howland Company); *4 Chords and a Gun* (Starvox/Chicago); *Mustard* (Tarragon Theatre); *The Lion in Winter* (The Grand); *Hamlet, Taming of the Shrew* (Driftwood); *Armstrong's War* (Canadian Rep). **OTHER:** 2 Dora Awards, Canadian Comedy Award nominee.



GREGORY J. SINCLAIR is an award-winning producer, director, educator and program innovator based in Toronto. His work in all media disciplines has earned more than 20 international prizes and distinctions, and he has consulted widely on approaches to digital distribution of live performance programming and live-stream multiple-platform interactive programming. As Executive Producer with

CBC Radio/cbc.ca, he developed produced and directed multiple scripted audio series and specials, including the celebrated series *Afghanada*, and the interactive *Trust, Inc*. Recent credits include development of scripted and unscripted podcast series (Audible Canada), producing and directing multi-camera live stream musical performances (Luminato, 2019-2020), musical and scripted audio programs for Soulpepper Theatre (Gold Medal New York Festival 2020), and award-winning films, presented on international broadcast and online platforms.



SUGITH VARUGHESE was born in Cochin, India and raised in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. **SOULPEPPER 2021:** *The Seagull*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Animal Farm*.

OTHER THEATRE: *The Men In White* (Factory Theatre); *Little Pretty and The Exceptional* (Factory Theatre). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Kim's Convenience, Transplant, The Detectives, Northern Rescue*. **OTHER:** Also produced playwright, award-winning film and TV scriptwriter and short film director.

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