

THE EX-BOYFRIEND YARD SALE

Soulpepper

HALEY MCGEE

PRESENTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH
OUTSIDE THE MARCH AND RED LIGHT DISTRICT



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Welcome to *The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale* by Haley McGee, presented in association with Outside the March and the Red Light District. We first programmed this show in 2020, and after having to postpone it twice we are so happy to finally be able to share it with you! Haley has been enjoying a successful international career while living in the UK but it remained so important to us to celebrate her here at Soulpepper where she can continue to make an impact on artists and audiences at home in Canada – and am I ever glad that we get to bring her work here because I have long enjoyed Haley’s innovative and bold approaches to storytelling.

Soulpepper last presented a wonderful run of her show *I’m Doing This For You* in 2017 and we feel so lucky to have her and her returning collaborator, director Mitchell Cushman, back in the building. If you would like to take a deeper dive into her creative mind, take a listen to her podcast *Cost of Love*, or better yet come be a part of the studio audience as we record a special episode of the podcast here at Soulpepper on October 30. Check out our website for more info. Thank you so much for coming and enjoy the show!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Weyni Mengesha'. The signature is fluid and stylized.

WEYNI MENGESHA

Artistic Director,
Soulpepper Theatre Company



When I started writing this show in 2017, I was deep in debt and heartbroken. The ledger of my life felt to me like a big, whopping zero. Creating this show — and its mathematical formula that translates sentimental value into cold, hard cash was my attempt to make sense of my situation — and hopefully lift myself out of it. To spin yarn into gold. To make my own trash, my own treasure.

I, an emotionally driven person, was turning to logic for the first time, out of desperation. My research process was imbued with a kind of obsessive rigour as I scavenged for answers to many questions about love, breakups and economics... and how those things might be interconnected. I repeatedly found myself up to my ears in fascinating information, all of which seemed priceless.

My first draft of the play was six hours long. A ruthless cull began. But here are three precious gems, rescued from the trash heap, for you:

1. Yard Sales originated as a way for ship owners to get rid of goods left behind by passengers after a long journey. These goods would be laid out in the shipyard and sold at bargain prices. I spent many joyful Saturday mornings of my childhood, cruising around with my aunt Lynda, looking for handwritten signs on telephone poles, pointing us to yard sales. As Lynda says, Yard Sales make you feel rich.

2. At a lecture by economist Mariana Mazzucato about the re-distribution of value, I learned that supply and demand are presented as the bedrock of pricing. But ‘supply and demand’ is just an economic theory—a story—that our culture takes on as truth without question. She said, Plato was so aware of how stories shape our culture, he wanted to police what stories mothers and nursemaids whispered to babies.

3. There is a physiological cost of heartbreak. A biologist friend of mine, Marta Ciechonska, read me scientific studies that proved taking ibuprofen lessened the horrendous feelings of devastation that comes from having your heart broken.

This show was originally scheduled for May 2020, but as I learned from a conversation with a couples’ therapist, there is great value in delayed gratification. I’m glad to be here with you, now, digging into the cost and value of love.

HALEY MCGEE

Writer & Performer, *The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale*

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

Cast

Haley McGee *

Performer

Creative Team

Mitchell Cushman *

Director

Lucy Adams

Lighting Designer

Meghan Speakman *

Stage Manager

Anna Reid

Set & Costume Designer

Kieran Lucas

Sound Designer

Emmanuelle So

Apprentice Stage Manager

Mel Frances

Mathematician Collaboration

Nick Blais

Consulting Designer

Soulpepper Production

Kurt Nicholson

Lighting Operator

Adam Royce

Sound Operator

Ethan Robinson

Deck Operator

Chris Blanchenot

Scenic Painter

For Never Mind the Noise

Nick Blais

Production Manager

Derrick Chua

Producer

Haley McGee

Producer

For Outside the March

Katherine Devlin Rosenfeld

Managing Producer

Allie Wood

Communications Designer

Griffin McInnes

Creative Producer

This performance was developed in Camden People's Theatre's Starting Blocks scheme in 2017. In August 2017, it won the Wilderness Festival commission. The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale premiered at Camden People's Theatre in November 2018. Its Canadian premiere was at Progress Festival in February 2019, presented in partnership by SummerWorks Performance Festival and The Theatre Centre, curated and presented by the red light district in collaboration with Outside the March.

* 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:
1 hour, 40 minutes with no intermission.



NICK BLAIS FOR SOULPEPPER: *Lessons in Temperament* (Outside the March)
OTHER THEATRE: *Trojan Girls, The Flick, Jerusalem, Terminus* (Outside the March); *Antipodes, Marjorie Prime* (Coal Mine); *Sweeney Todd, I Claudia* (TIFT); *Into the Woods* (YES Theatre); *Human Animals, Dissidents* (ARC); *Glass Menagerie* (Grand); *Bang Bang* (Factory); *Vespers* (Royal Winnipeg Ballet); *Don Giovanni, L'Elisir D'Amore, Alcina* (Opera Nuova); *West Side Story* (Citadel); *Brantwood* (Sheridan) Nick Blais designs across Canada in all manner of discipline and venue. As Head of Design for Toronto's leading immersive theatre company, Outside the March, Nick specializes in creating thematic, impactful designs and transforming unconventional spaces into immersive, dramatic environments. Nick has received Dora Mavor Moore Awards in Toronto for both set and lighting design, nominated for the Virginia Myrtle Cooper award in costume design, and various other awards and nominations across the country. nblaisdesign.com



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.



MITCHELL CUSHMAN was born in London, England and raised in Toronto, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale* **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Lessons in Temperament* (2017); *I'm Doing this For You* (2017). **OTHER THEATRE:** Founding Artistic Director of Outside the March, Canada's leading immersive theatre company. His work has been seen on stages as large as The Stratford Festival, as intimate as kindergarten classrooms, and as far flung as London, New York, Munich and Japan. Favourite credits include: *Trojan Girls & The Outhouse of Atreus, The Tape Escape, The Flick, Dr. Silver, Jerusalem, TomorrowLove, Mr. Burns, Vitals, Terminus, Mr. Marmalade* (Outside the March); *Treasure Island, Breath of Kings, Possible Worlds* (Stratford); *Into the Woods, Merrily We Roll Along* (YES); *Sweeney Todd* (TIFT); *Brantwood* (Sheridan); *The Aliens, Hand to God* (Coal Mine). **OTHER:** Mitchell has received the Siminovitch protégé award, two Dora Awards for Outstanding Direction, three Doras for Outstanding Production, and his productions have received 14 TTCAs. He holds an MFA in Directing from the University of Alberta. He lives in Toronto with his partner Amy, and their two cats Rosencatz and Guildenpurr.



HALEY MCGEE was born and raised in Kitchener-Waterloo, ON. After living and working in Toronto for about a decade she relocated to London, UK, where she now lives. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *I'm Doing This for You* (2017). **OTHER THEATRE:** *Age is a Feeling* (Soho Theatre, Edinburgh Fringe - Fringe First Winner), *The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale* (Camden People's Theatre, Theatre Centre), *Helen Lawrence* (Canadian Stage/Arts Club/Intl Tour), *Infinity* (Tarragon/Volcano), *Dead Metaphor* (Off-Mirvish), among many others. **FILM & TELEVISION:** Doctor Who (BBC), Murdoch Mysteries (CBC). **OTHER:** Haley has created and performed five solo shows, which have played at venues across the globe, won awards and critical acclaim and has been translated into four languages. In 2022 Penguin Random House Canada published Haley's first book, *The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale*, which she adapted from her play of the same name. www.haleymcgee.ca



EMMANUELLE SO was born and raised in Mississauga, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *John Who* (Toronto Fringe Festival); *Boy Falls From The Sky* (Past Future Productions & Mirvish Productions); *Summer Ensemble* (Crane Creations Theatre Company). **OTHER:** Emmanuelle is a graduate of Toronto Metropolitan University's Performance Production program.



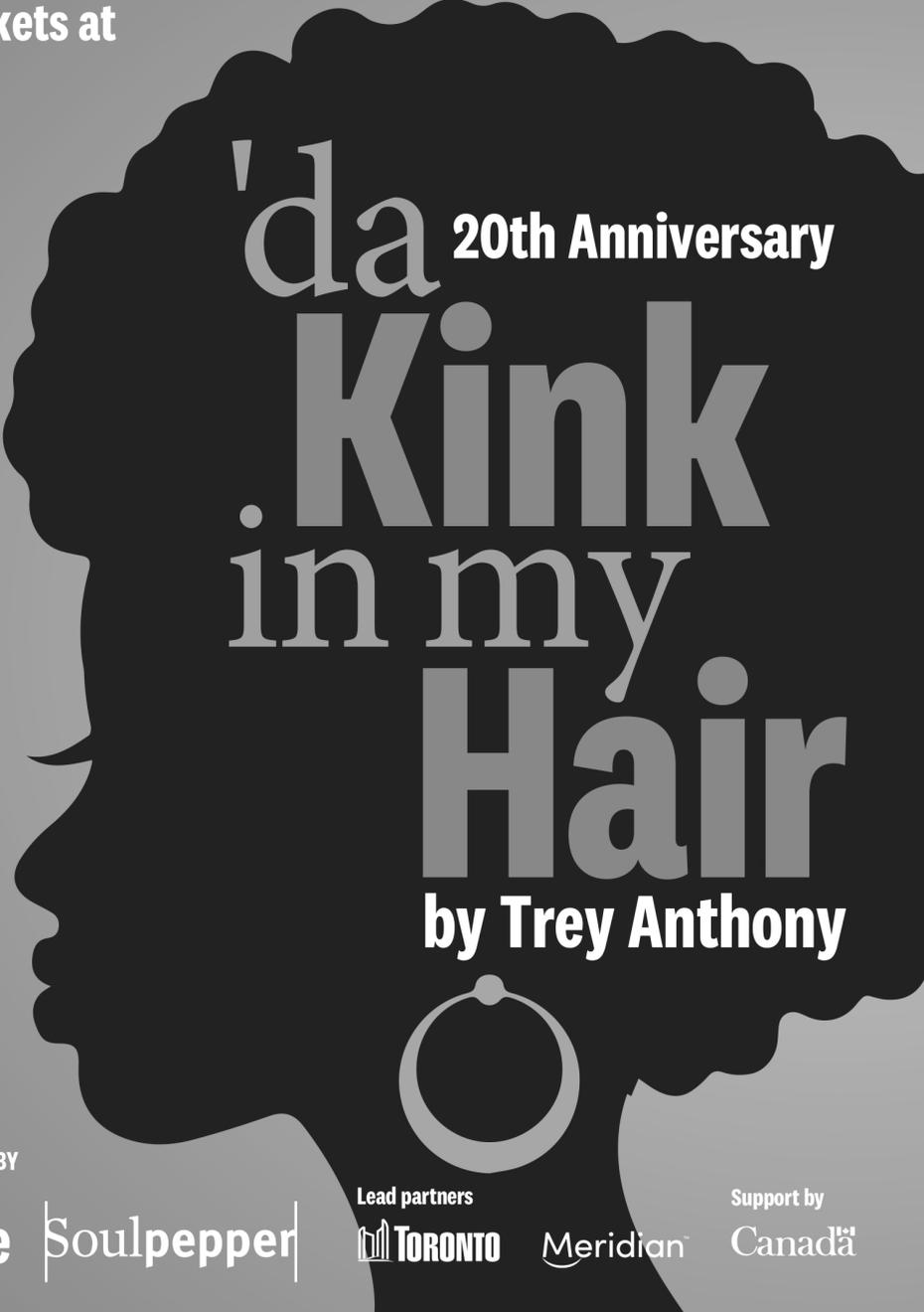
MEGHAN SPEAKMAN was born in Hamilton, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale* **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Animal Farm* (2018); *A Moveable Feast: Paris in the 20s* (2018); *Oh What a Lovely War* (2010). **OTHER THEATRE:** *The Trojan Girls and the Outhouse of Atreus*, *Stupidhead!* (Outside the March), *Sweeney Todd* (Talk is Free), *The Ministry of Grace* (Belfry), *Cottagers and Indians* (Tarragon), *The Election* (Common Boots), *Hand to God* (Coal Mine), *Sugar Road* (Lighthouse). **OTHER:** Meghan is excited to be working with Haley again for the first time since theatre school.

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