

Soulpepper

**KING LEAR**  
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



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I am so happy to welcome you to one of our cornerstone events of the season, the repertory productions of *Queen Goneril* by Erin Shields and *King Lear* by William Shakespeare. This is truly a special moment for Soulpepper.

In 2020 we launched a new commissioning project that engaged an extraordinary group of women to write new plays through our Six Women Writing Program. One year later, we invited audiences to see staged readings of those works in progress at our inaugural Her Words Festival, which is where *Queen Goneril* received its first workshop presentation. The fully realized production which you are about to see, marks the first of many commissioned plays to hit our stages. We wanted to deepen the experience of seeing *Queen Goneril* by pairing it with the piece that inspired Shields to write it, *King Lear*, helmed by visionary director, Kim Collier.

Our entire 2022 season features women-led productions, and these ambitious works are right at the centre of amplifying voices of artists long underrepresented in our industry. Both Collier and Shields have been at the forefront of building bold new Canadian works that have toured across the country and impacted our theatre ecology. We are all thrilled to have them as collaborators in this unique conversation between our classical and contemporary worlds. I encourage you to see both shows, in whichever order you choose. Either way is sure to be a whirlwind of a journey, and we thank you for coming along for the ride!

**WEYNI MENGESHA**

Artistic Director,  
Soulpepper Theatre Company.

*King Lear* was generously supported by:



For a note from Tom McCamus and more in-depth background information about *King Lear* scan the QR code.

**Cast**

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**Damien Atkins**

Edgar & Others

**Helen Belay**

Cordelia & Others

**Oliver Dennis**

Gloucester & Others

**Sheldon Elter**

Kent & Others

**Virgilia Griffith**

Goneril

**Varun Guru**

France & Others

**Breton Lalama**

Oswald & Others

**Annie Luján**

Doctor & Others

**Tom McCamus**

King Lear

**Nancy Palk**

Fool & Old Man

**Jordan Pettle**

Albany & Others

**Shaquille Pottinger**

Leonidas & Others

**Philip Riccio**

Cornwall & Others

**Vanessa Sears**

Regan & Others

**Kiana Woo**

Curan & Others

**Jonathon Young**

Edmund & Others

**Creative Team**

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**Kim Collier**

Director

**Will Dao**

Assistant Director

**Aria Evans**

Intimacy Choreographer

**Ken MacKenzie**

Set Designer

**Judith Bowden**

Costume Designer

**Kimberly Purtell**

Lighting Designer

**Kara Pankiw**

Lighting Design Mentee

**Thomas Ryder Payne**

Sound Designer & Composer

**John Stead**

Fight Director

**Robert Harding**

Production Stage Manager

**Kat Chin**

Assistant Stage Manager

**Farnoosh Talebpour**

Assistant Stage Manager

**Sim Suzer**

Assistant Costume Designer

**Kelly McEvenue**

Alexander Coach

**Production**

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**Andy DeVries**

Head Carpenter

**Bill Stahl**

1st Carpenter

**Paul Boddum**

Head Scenic

**Lisa Nighswander**

Head of Props

**Greg Chambers**

Props Builder

**Janet Pym**

Outgoing Head of Wardrobe

**Nathaniel Wong**

Production Assistant

**Erin Halls**

Wardrobe Assistant

**Carly Beamish**

**Geoff Hughes**

Cutters

**Kalina Popova**

Assistant Head of Wardrobe

**Karen Donaldson**

**Madison Watson**

**Alycia Wheeldon**

Stitchers

**Jacqueline Robertson-Cull**

Head of Wigs

**Jackie Smulan**

**Celina Westlake**

Dressers

**Chris Blanchenot**

**Emma Burnett**

**Nina Hartt**

**Deanna Morrison**

Scenic painters

**Camille Macdonald**

Lighting Operator

**Andres Castillo-Smith**

Sound Operator

**Dalton Villeneuve-Marini**

Deck Operator

**Kurt Nicholson**

2nd Deck Operator

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Thank you: Anita Nittoly, Kara Wooten.



**DAMIEN ATKINS** was born in Australia and raised in Alberta. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Queen Goneril* and *King Lear*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Caretaker*, *King Lear* (2006), *The Way of the World*, *Angels in America*, *The Heidi Chronicles*, *A Doll's House*, *Hosanna*. **OTHER THEATRE:** Performances at theatres across Canada and the U.S., including four seasons at the Stratford Festival and five seasons at the Shaw Festival. **OTHER:** Playwright-in-Residence at Necessary Angel Theatre Co., grateful recipient of Dora, Jessie, Sterling and Toronto Theatre Critics Awards. Connection: Instagram (atkins\_damien), Twitter: @skinnydamien, Website: damienatkins.com



**HELEN BELAY** was born in Bedford, England and raised in Edmonton, AB. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Queen Goneril* and *King Lear*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *ren & the wake* (Catch the Keys Productions); *Jane Eyre*, *The Fiancée*, *Heaven* (Citadel Theatre); *Here There Be Night* (WWPT); *The Blue Hour* (SkirtsAFire Festival); *The Society of the Destitute Presents Titus Bouffonious* (Theatre Network); *Cinderella* (Globe Theatre); *Vidalia* (Teatro La Quindicina); *Lenin's Embalmers*, *All for Love*, *Middletown* (Studio Theatre). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Dark Nature*, *Abracadavers*, *The Gauntlet*, *The Ugly Meadow*, *A Second Round*



**JUDITH BOWDEN.** **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Queen Goneril* and *King Lear*. **OTHER THEATRE:** Numerous productions over the past twenty seasons at Shaw, including *Gaslight* in 2022. Elsewhere: *Junk*, *Watch on the Rhine*, *My Fair Lady* (Arena Stage); *The Changeling* (Stratford Festival); *Paradise Lost* (Centaur Theatre/Stratford); *The Scarlett Letter* (Theatre Calgary); *Sense and Sensibility* (RMTTC); *The Humans* (Citadel Theatre/Canadian Stage); *Musik Für Das Ende* (Soundstreams/Crow's); *Chimerica* (Canadian Stage/RMTC); *The Other Place*, *London Road* (Canadian Stage); designed numerous productions with theatres across Canada, including National Arts Centre, Alberta Theatre Projects, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Great Canadian Theatre Company, Young People's Theatre.



**KAT CHIN.** **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Queen Goneril* and *King Lear*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Riverboat Coffee House*, *August: Osage County*, *Bed and Breakfast*, *Cowboy Versus Samurai*, *Kim's Convenience* (incl. Off-Broadway, National Tour), *Death of a Salesman*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *The Aleph*, *Double Bill: (re)Birth: E.E.Cummings in Song + Window on Toronto*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Black Comedy & The Real Inspector Hound*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Odd Couple*, *As You Like It*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Dixon Road* (Musical Stage Co.); *Tiny Tenement of Terrors* (Theatre Sheridan); *I Am William* (Stratford). **OTHER:** Kat is a member of the CAEA SM Committee.



**KIM COLLIER** was born in Kitimat BC and raised in Kamloops BC. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *King Lear*. **OTHER THEATRE:** Director: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *Titus Andronicus* (Bard on the Beach); Director/Co- Creator: *Magic Hour* (2021 Electric Company Theatre); Director/Co- Creator: *Full light of Day* (2019 Electric Company presented by Canadian Stage); Director: *My Testimonial* by Greg Macarthur (2020). **FILM & TELEVISION:** Director/Co Creator: *Magic Hour in VR* (2022) Electric Company and Only Animal; Co-Director and Co-Creator: *Reframed* (2021 Electric Company/NAC); Director and Co creator: *The Score* (2005 Screen Sirens/CBC). **OTHER:** Kim is the co-founder of Electric Company Theatre and was an Artistic Director with the company for 14 years. Kim is the recipient of the Siminovitch Award for Director (2010),

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4 Jessie Richardson Awards, a Sterling Award, and Ottawa Critics Award, all for Direction. She has numerous other creation, production and innovation awards. She is the recipient of the Vancouver Mayor's Arts Award, an Honorary Doctorate from Thompson Rivers University and the outstanding Alumni Award from Langara College.



**WILL DAO** was born and raised in Toronto, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *King Lear*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Queer Youth Cabaret (Queer Futures 2019)*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *The Boy Who Cried (Crème de la Crème, Toronto Fringe)*; *Marjorie Prime (Coal Mine Theatre)*; *Eurydice (CDTPS)*; *The Tape Escape, The Flick (Outside the March)*. **OTHER:** Will has presented a short story/video art piece titled *music to watch boys to* at a reading hosted by the Historic Joy Kogawa House in Vancouver and the ArQuives in Toronto. He is the co-curator and editor of the hybrid section for the Puritan Magazine. Will is part of the 2022 Soulpepper Academy.



**OLIVER DENNIS** was born in Montreal and raised in Carbondale, Illinois. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Where the Blood Mixes, Queen Goneril, King Lear*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** Around 100 productions since the first season. Here, he has had the opportunity to play Shakespeare and Moliere, 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. Shaffer, Story, Stoppard, Frayn and Ayckbourn. To name some. **FILM & TELEVISION:** Please support Canadian Film by catching *American Hangman* and *Don't Get Killed in Alaska* on a popular media platform. And also, *Slings and Arrows!*



**SHELDON ELTER** was raised in Grimshaw, AB. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Where the Blood Mixes, King Lear, Queen Goneril*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Dear Rita, Stories From The Red Dirt Road (Confed Centre)*; *Ministry of Grace (Belfry Theatre)*; *Evangeline (Citadel Theatre/Confed Centre)*; *The Garneau Block, The Fiancée, Christmas Carol, Crazy For You, Alice Through The Looking Glass, One Man Two Guvnors, Julius Caesar, A Prairie Boy's Winter, Vimy (Citadel Theatre)*; *Tartuffe, The Sound of Music, Enron (National Arts Centre)*; *After The Fire, BEARS (Punctuate! Theatre)*; *NEVERMORE (Catalyst Theatre)*; *Nashville Outlaws, HAIR The Musical, Shear Madness, The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee, The Buddy Holly Story and The Full Monty (Mayfield)*. **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Tribal, Hank Williams' First Nation, Delmer and Marta, CAUTION: May Contain Nuts (APTN)*; *Hell On Wheels, (AMC)*.



**ARIA EVANS** is an award-winning, queer, Toronto-based interdisciplinary artist working in dance, theatre and film. Aria is a certified Intimacy Coordinator and draws on their experiences of being multiracial to capture meaningful social and cultural themes through their interactive art. Collaboration is the departure point to their work created under their company POLITICAL MOVEMENT. As an active speaker, facilitator and curator, Aria advocates for inclusion and the representation of diversity, and uses their artistic practice to question the ways we can coexist together. [www.politicalmovement.ca](http://www.politicalmovement.ca).



**VIRGILIA GRIFFITH** was born and raised in Toronto, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Queen Goneril* and *King Lear*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (2018); *Betrayal* (2019). **OTHER THEATRE:** *Serving Elizabeth* (Stratford Festival); *Contractions* (Studio 180 Theatre); *Harlem Duet* (Tarragon Theatre); *Guarded Girls* (Tarragon Theatre/ Greenlight Arts); *The Wedding Party* (Crow's Theatre); *Other Side of the Game* (Cahoots/ Obsidian Theatre); *Up The Garden Path* (Obsidian Theatre Company). *Da Kink In My Hair* (Theatre Calgary/ NAC). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Nurses*, *Frankie Drake Mysteries*, *21 Black Futures*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *The Expanse*. **OTHER:** Winner of the Jon Kaplan Legacy 2021 Award for Canadian Stage Performer. Winner of the Meta Emerging Artist Award for *Gas Girls* by Donna Michelle St. Bernard. Winner of the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Performance for *Harlem Duet* by Djanet Sears. She was also a Dora Mavor Moore nominee for Outstanding Female in an Independent Theatre Division for her performance of *Honesty* directed by Jordan Tannahill and a Dora nomination for *Iphigenia and the Furies (On Taurian Land)*(Saga Collectif) by Jeff Ho. Gratitude: Weyni Mengesha, Erin Shields, Kim Collier, Alicia Jeffery, my mother and all my homies.



**VARUN GURU** is an actor-composer-voice actor born and raised in India and based in Toronto. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *King Lear*. **OTHER:** He's passionate about telling and being a part of compelling stories about experiences of immigrants and people of color, decolonization, climate change, and science fiction. He has appeared in short films, commercials, feature films and web-series. He has over 18 years of voice acting experience spanning commercials, video games, animation, and radio programmes. Varun is also an experienced music composer, and is trained in Indian and Western Classical Music. He is an actor with the Soulpepper Theatre Academy.



**ROBERT HARDING** was born and raised in Lewisporte, NL. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Pipeline*, *King Lear*, *Queen Goneril*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** Production Stage Manager 2015 - 2019. Stage Manager credits include: *Almighty Voice and his Wife*, *Rose: A New Musical* (2019), *Bed and Breakfast*, *La Bête* (2018), *Waiting for Godot*, *Spoon River*, *Of Human Bondage* (2017), *It's a Wonderful Life*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine* (2016), *Marat/Sade*, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (2015). **OTHER THEATRE:** *Once on this Island* (Musical Stage/Obsidian), *Clybourne Park*, *Stuff Happens* (Studio 180/ Mirvish Productions), *The Best Brothers*, *Communion*, *A Beautiful View* (Tarragon Theatre).



**BRETON LALAMA** (he/they). **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Queen Goneril* and *King Lear*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Rocky Horror*, *Fully Committed*, *Pleasureville* (Neptune Theatre); *Orlando* (Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre); *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet* (CTP/Winter Garden Theatre/Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts); *Hair* (North American Tour; Broadway World Award: Best Featured Performer in a Touring Production); *LAST SHOW ON EARTH TRADEMARK SYMBOL!* (Groundswell Festival 2020; featured in Playwrights Canada Press' upcoming 2SLGBTQIA+ Monologue Anthology); *The Entire Hamlet* (Alberta Theatre Projects' Playwrights Unit 2022). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Y: The Last Man* (FX/Hulu); *Slasher* (Shudder); *Pretty Hard Cases* (CBC/NBC); *Dawn*, *Her Dad and the Tractor* (Crave/Inside Out). **OTHER:** IG: @bretonlikethecrackers. This one is for Markovich, McP, M+P. Thanks for encouraging me to fall stupidly in love with words.



**ANNIE LUJÁN** was born and raised in Toronto, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *King Lear*  
**OTHER THEATRE:** *Shop L'Occult* (Assembly); *The Raccoons* (Sweet Action); *Tape Escape* (Outside the March); *The Tempest, The God of Carnage* (Concordia University).  
**OTHER:** Annie is a member of the 2022 Soulpepper Academy. She is an actor, clown and immersive theatre creator. In 2021, she was awarded the Canada Council Research and Creation grant to devise and create clown work.



**KEN MACKENZIE** was born in Toronto, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** Set Design: *Where the Blood Mixes, King Lear, Queen Goneril*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Jesus Hopped the A Train* (2020), *Almighty Voice and his Wife* (2019), *Betrayal* (2019), *La Bete* (2018), *The Royale* (2018), *Animal Farm* (2018). **OTHER THEATRE:** *Is God Is* (Canadian Stage); *Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse* (Shaw Festival); *The Events* (Necessary Angel); *Stars: Together* (Crow's Theatre) **OTHER:** Ken is an Assistant Professor at the University of Saskatchewan in the department of Drama and has been the president of the Associated Designers of Canada.



**TOM MCCAMUS** was born in Winnipeg, MB. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Queen Goneril* and *King Lear*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *The Mill on the Floss, A Flea in her Ear*. Tom has performed in theatres in Toronto and across Canada and has been a leading player at the Shaw and Stratford Festivals for the past 40 years, where he has played roles ranging from Peter Pan to MacHeath and Richard the III to George the III. He has been active in the film and television world appearing in such films as the *Sweet Hereafter, Long Day's Journey into Night* and *Room*. He won the 1993 Genie award for Best Performance in a Leading Role for his work in *I Love a Man in Uniform* and is the recipient of an ACTRA award for his portrayal of Walter Gretzky in CBC's the *Walter Gretzky Story*. Tom lives on a farm in Warkworth with his wife Chick Reid and their three dogs.



**KELLY MCEVENUE** is the preeminent Alexander Technique teacher for classical repertory theatre. A member of the Stratford Festival coaching team for 38 seasons, as well as teaching with the Birmingham Conservatory. She has been with Soulpepper Theatre Company since their inaugural season in 1998: coaching shows and being on the faculty of the Soulpepper Academy. Throughout her teaching career, Kelly has trained hundreds of young actors at several college theatre programs. She has been a mentor for the Canadian Film Centre Actor's Conservatory. Kelly has been a movement consultant for numerous films and television series. Kelly has assisted renowned voice teacher Patsy Rodenburg in several International workshops and is an associate faculty for the Patsy Rodenburg Academy. Kelly McEvenue's book, *The Actor and the Alexander Technique* was first published 2001.



**NANCY PALK** was born in Winnipeg, MB. **FOUNDING MEMBER. SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Queen Goneril* and *King Lear*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** Actor: *Innocence Lost, A Delicate Balance, Picture This, The Testament of Mary, Angels in America, Ghosts, Death of a Salesman, Glass Menagerie, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. Director: *White Biting Dog, True West, The Gigli Concert*. **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Keeley and Du, The Other Half, Georgetown*. **OTHER:** Teaching: NTS, George Brown, Humber, Soulpepper Academy.



**KARA PANKIW** was born and raised in Winnipeg, but now calls Toronto home. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Queen Goneril* and *King Lear*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Smarty Pants* (Magnus Theatre); *Alice in Wonderland* (Manitoba Theatre for Young People); *The Velveteen Rabbit* (Carousel Players); Shaw Festival Theatre - Set & Costume Assistant 2020/ 2021; *La Lise* (Théâtre Circle Molière); *Awaken* (Shakespeare in the Ruins/ Zone41); *Bar Mitzvah Boy* (Wpg. Jewish Theatre); *After Jerusalem* (Wpg. Jewish Theatre). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Burden of Truth*, Season 3; *Night Raiders*. Education: University of Manitoba (Architecture); University of Winnipeg (Scenic Design).



**THOMAS RYDER PAYNE.** **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *King Lear* and *Queen Goneril*. **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 4 Dora awards and 25 nominations.



**JORDAN PETTLE** was born and raised in Toronto, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Queen Goneril* and *King Lear*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** Since 2003, he has appeared in over 20 productions, including *A Christmas Carol*, *Betrayal*, *Picture This*, *The Heidi Chronicles*, *Rosencrantz And Guildenstern Are Dead*, *12 Angry Men*, *Speed-The- Plow*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Travesties*, *Waiting For Godot*, among others. **OTHER THEATRE:**

Studio 180/Mirvish; Tarragon Theatre; Canadian Stage; Factory; Theatre Passe Muraille; YPT; Citadel; Prairie Theatre Exchange; Neptune; Winnipeg Jewish Theatre; 4 seasons at the Stratford Festival.

**FILM & TELEVISION:** *American Woman*; *Suits*; *Kim's Convenience*; *Titans*; *Saving Hope*; *Rookie Blue*; *Lost Girl*. **OTHER:** He was a regular on the CBC radio drama *Afghanada* (Actra voice nomination); graduated from the National Theatre School in 1994.



**SHAQUILLE POTTINGER** was born in Scarborough, ON and raised in suburbia across this vast continent. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *King Lear*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *The Darkest Dark* (Young People's Theatre); *Ragtime* (Theatre Calgary/Calgary Philharmonic); *The Lost Heroes of Oro* (Theatre by the Bay); *There is No Word for Wilderness* (Animacy Theatre Collective). **OTHER:** When he isn't acting, Shaquille also enjoys writing for stage, screen, and pocket change. Shaquille is part of the 2022 Soulpepper Academy.



**KIMBERLY PURTELL** was born and raised in Thornhill, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Pipeline*, *Queen Goneril*, *King Lear*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** (selected) *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Sisters*, *The Goat or Who Is Sylvia*, *The Last Wife*, *The Virgin Trial*, *Mother's Daughter*, *Crash*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *Happy Place*. **OTHER THEATRE:** Mirvish Productions, Stratford Festival, Shaw Festival, Canadian Stage Company, Soulpepper Theatre, Arena Stage, DC, National Arts Centre and the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Pacific Opera Victoria, Opera Philadelphia, Edmonton Opera, Theatre Calgary, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Citadel Theatre, Place des Arts, among others. **OTHER:** Recipient of three Dora Mavor

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Moore Awards, the Pauline McGibbon Award, a Montreal English Theatre Award, a Toronto Theatre Critics Award, an Ottawa Critics Circle Award and an Elizabeth Sterling Award. Kimberly is the Vice President of the Associated Designers of Canada.



**PHILIP RICCIO** was born and raised in Toronto, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Queen Goneril* and *King Lear*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Translations*, *Hamlet*, *Wild Duck*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Jerusalem*, *John*, *The Seagull*, *The Test*, *Festen*, *Whistle in the Dark* (The Company Theatre), *Light* (Tarragon). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Accused*, *Comey Rule*, *Hotel Congress*. **OTHER:** Philip is the Artistic Director of The Company Theatre ([companytheatre.ca](http://companytheatre.ca)) and creator of Intermission Magazine ([intermissionmagazine.ca](http://intermissionmagazine.ca)). Upcoming Philip will be directing *Things I Know to be True* starring Tom McCamus and Seana McKenna for Company Theatre and Mirvish Productions ([mirvish.com/shows/things-i-know-to-be-true](http://mirvish.com/shows/things-i-know-to-be-true)).



**VANESSA SEARS** was raised on Algonquin territory in Deep River, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Queen Goneril* and *King Lear*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Alice in Wonderland*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Is God Is* (Canadian Stage/Obsidian/Necessary Angel); *Holiday Inn*, *An Octoroon*, *The Magician's Nephew*, *Grand Hotel* (Shaw); *Why We Tell the Story*, *Billy Elliot*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Stratford); *Mary Poppins*, *Wizard of Oz* (YPT); *Caroline or Change*, *Passing Strange* (Musical Stage Co/Obsidian). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Sappy Holiday*, *14 Love Letters*, *Suits*, *Sex/Life*, *Y the Last Man*. **OTHER:** Vanessa is a Dora, Broadway-World, TTCA, and Critic's Pick Award winning actor. An emerging director, Vanessa is part of Why Not Theatre's ThisGen Fellowship program. She also serves on the board of the Canadian Green Alliance.



**JOHN STEAD** was born and raised in Saskatchewan. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Queen Goneril*. He has worked as a Fight Director across Canada and the U.S. As a Stunt Coordinator, John has numerous credits for television and film in Canada, the U. S. and abroad. He is a Master Instructor with the Academy of Dramatic Combat.



**SIM SUZER. SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Queen Goneril*. **OTHER THEATRE:** Recent Design Work: Costume Design for *In This* (Tiger Princess Dance Projects); Costume Design and Associate Set Design for *Everybody* (Shaw Festival); Costume Design for *Per Gint* (George Brown College); Associate Costume Design for *Three Women of Swatow* (Tarragon Theatre); Set and Costume Design for *Untamed* (XU); Stratford Festival 2021: Assistant Set and Costume Design for *Romeo and Juliet*. Shaw Festival 2020: Assistant Costume Design for *Gypsy*, Assistant Set Design for *Devil's Disciple*. Shaw Festival 2019: Assistant Set and Costume Design for *Horse and His Boy*, *The Ladykillers*, *Victory*, *Holiday Inn*. Design Work 2019: Costume Designer for *Water Wonder* (Carousel Players); Set and Costume Designer for *Play House* (Shaw Festival); Set and Costume Designer for *The Subjection of Kezia* and *Poof!* (Shaw Festival); Set and Costume Designer for *Journey to the Greatest Gift* (L'Arche Daybreak); Costume Designer for *Good Morning*, *Viet Mom* (Cahoots Theatre). Online: <https://simgesuzer.journoportfolio.com>.



**FARNOOSH TALEBPOOR** was born in Tehran, Iran but has now spent most of her life in Toronto. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Queen Goneril and King Lear*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Dixon Road* (Musical Stage Company/Obsidian Theatre); *Through the Bamboo* (Uwi Collective/Toronto Fringe). Apprentice Stage Manager: *Orphans for the Czar* (Crow's); *Serving Elizabeth* (Stratford Festival); *Angel, The Resurrection* (Opera Atelier); *Angelique* (BTW/Factory Theatre). Stage Manager: *Iphigenia and The Furies* (Saga Collectif/Theatre Passe Muraille). **FILM & TELEVISION:** 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.



**KIANA WOO** was born in Richardson, Texas and raised in Calgary, Alberta. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *King Lear*. Soulpepper Academy Member. **OTHER THEATRE:** *The Fiancée* (Citadel Theatre); *Alice in Wonderland* (Guild Festival Theatre); *Hamlet In Isolation* (Thou Art Here Theatre); *Cymbeline* (Shakespeare Bash'd); *E-Day* (Serial Collective/Theatre Network); *That's Danger!* (Alberta Workers Health Centre); *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Theatre Calgary/Shakespeare by the Bow); *Doll House, The Lower Depths, and The School for Scandal* (Studio Theatre). **OTHER:** Instagram (@kikihybrid) Kiana is also a clown, who's self created work has played at Play the Fool Festival, and Common Clown Festival. Love to all her family and friends who support her endlessly.



**JONATHON YOUNG** was born in Richmond Hill, ON and raised in Vernon, BC. **SOULPEPPER 2022:** *Queen Goneril and King Lear*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *The Full Light of Day* (Luminato/ Electric Company); *Knives in Hens* (Coalmine); *Revisor* (International tour); *Betroffenheit* (International tour); *This* (Canadian Stage); *Hamlet* (Bard on the Beach). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *The Flash, Murdoch Mysteries, Sanctuary, Nightwatching*. **OTHER:** Jonathon is the recipient of two Olivier Awards for productions created with Crystal Pite. He was awarded the UK National Dance Award in 2016. He is a Core Artist at Electric Company Theatre.



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