

Soulpepper

THE SEAGULL

BY ANTON CHEKHOV

A NEW VERSION BY SIMON STEPHENS



Illustrations: Gracia Lam Design: lightupthesky.ca

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Hello and welcome to our long-awaited production of *The Seagull* by Anton Chekhov, a new adaptation by Simon Stephens.

We were just days away from opening the show in 2020 before director Daniel Brooks and a talented team of artists had to take a three-year pause. That pause launched us into many conversations around the theatre, its relevance, meaning and our purpose. Some of the central questions posed in this brilliant play.

We are so happy to have longtime collaborator Daniel Brooks back at the helm of this production, a director whose work has had significant impact on the evolution of Canadian theatre.

We thank you so much for being here and sharing this story with us, and look forward to seeing you back at the theatre soon.

GIDEON ARTHURS

Executive Director,
Soulpepper Theatre Company

WEYNI MENGESHA

Artistic Director,
Soulpepper Theatre Company



I love the plays of Chekhov.

I love Chekhov for his recognition that we live our lives enslaved in our selves. No one in Chekhov's plays is free of the self, of the habits and opinions and conditions of the self, or of the anguish that comes from the craving for a fixed identity, the endless assertions of self: I am an actress, I'm a doctor, I'm so poor, I am so unhappy, I'm insignificant...

I love that Chekhov characters often declaim their fate: I will tear love out of my heart, I will become an actress, I will shoot myself, I will go to Moscow. But fate sometimes goes unfulfilled. Fate does not speak through the human tongue, if it speaks at all.

I love him because he finds no solution in grand ideas, in declaring meaning. Chekhov is inclined to uncover meaning that already exists in our human interdependence. Chekhov's people are bound to each other (as you the audience will be bound to the actor for this evening, and the actor to you). Meaning exists in this bond. And those who declare that "there is no meaning in life" are not expressing a grand truth about life, but escaping from the ethical claims that others have on us, claims that would make our lives meaningful, but also more difficult.

I love Chekhov because his plays are comical symphonies, working in dimensions of time and space, in the body and in language. The characters remain unknown to themselves in the flux of words and time. Time is a tyrannical pressure, a shimmering mirage, a laugh, a dream.

I love his cheekiness and wit. And his tenderness, especially for those who yearn.

I love him because he blames no one.

Through his art he imbues the confusion of time, the infinitesimal travails of human experience as well as the infinite dance of eons, he imbues it all with perplexity and love.

DANIEL BROOKS

Director, *The Seagull*

Background Notes

There are so many English language adaptations of Anton Chekhov's plays that the New York Times recently wondered if the Dramatist's Guild required every playwright to produce one as a condition of membership. *The Seagull* is an especially popular choice for reincarnation. Even Tennessee Williams tried it in 1981, calling his version *The Notebook of Trigorin*.

The adaptor of the version you will see tonight, British playwright Simon Stephens, is a passionate devotee of the Russian master and he makes no bones about it: "In his plays and stories, he (Chekhov) has excavated the human condition with more tenderness and honesty than anyone else I've ever read." Stephens does not speak Russian, however, so he created this version from a literal translation, a somewhat unorthodox choice in some circles. He had no interest in a historically accurate rendering. His stated goal was to focus on the vitality, sensuality, rage, and compassionate spirit of the original.

The hilarious and heartfelt result is a deep dive into the heart of the play: a clash of generations that explores our longing for love and attention, our desire to make our mark, the fear that we'll be forgotten. Director Daniel Brooks says this adaptation might not please purists, but Stephens brings Chekhov into our century without sacrificing the structure, tone, and characters of the original. In spare and evocative language, he invites actors to inhabit every corner of these contradictory characters.

Stephens says plays are not literary. They are a starting point for a night in the theatre. Welcome to your night. We are so glad you are here.

Playwright Bio

Anton Chekhov is an acknowledged master of playwriting but in his day theatre audiences did not immediately embrace him: *The Seagull* was almost booed off the stage at its premiere. *Uncle Vanya* and *Cherry Orchard* were more popular, though international fame came only after his death. A practising physician, Chekhov drew creative inspiration from those he treated, as well as from the active social life he enjoyed. He died in 1904 at the age of 44.

Adaptor Biography

Simon Stephens is a powerhouse of contemporary British theatre. His work embraces original plays and adaptations and he's known for experimentation and rigorous collaboration with directors and actors. Like Chekhov, his work combines comedy and tragedy, favouring energy and unpredictability over convention. Stephens is a professor of writing at the University of Manchester and counts a capybara among his immediate family members.

Background Notes by Paula Wing

In 2020 we began rehearsals for *The Seagull* before being shut down by the COVID pandemic. This 2023 production builds on the work of the artists who were a part of this original process: the actors **Ghazal Azarbad, Raquel Duffy, Darren Herbert, Stuart Hughes, Alex McCoye, and Sugith Varughese**. Set and costume designer **Lorenzo Savoini** and assistant stage manager **Erika Morey**. We gratefully acknowledge their contribution to our work.

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

Cast

Raoul Bhaneja
Boris

Hailey Gillis
Nina

Dan Mousseau
Jacob

Oliver Dennis
Peter Sorin

Randy Hughson
Leo

Paolo Santalucia
Konstantin

Ellie Ellwand
Masha

Diego Matamoros
Hugo

Robyn Stevan
Paulina

Farhang Ghajar
Simeon

Michelle Monteith
Irina

Creative Team

Anton Chekhov
Playwright

Snezana Pesic
Costume Designer

Kelly McEvenue
Alexander Coach

Simon Stephens
Adaptor

Jason Hand
Lighting Designer

Guillermo Verdecchia
Dramaturg

Daniel Brooks
Director

Thomas Ryder Payne
Sound Designer & Composer

Robert Harding
Stage Manager

Frank Cox-O'Connell
Associate Director

Simon Fon
Fight and Intimacy Director

Alysse Szatkowski
Assistant Stage Manager

Shannon Lea Doyle
Set Designer

Dan Mousseau
Fight & Intimacy Captain

Angela Mae Bago
Apprentice Stage Manager

*Set and Costume inspired by preliminary design concepts by **Lorenzo Savoini***

Production

Chris Blanchenet
Scenic Artist

Stephanie Dilnot
Dresser

Kalina Popova
Assistant Head of Wardrobe

Paul Boddum
Head Scenic Artist

Erin Halls
Wardrobe Assistant

Ethan Robinson
Lighting Operator

Valerie Cameron
Cutter

Christopher Jacobs
Dresser

Bill Stahl
1st Carpenter

Andres Castillo-Smith
Audio Operator

Ellie Koffman
Head of Wardrobe

Gunes Agduk
Deck Hand

Greg Chambers
Props Builder

Seren Brooke Lannon
Production Administrator

Celina Westlake
Stitcher

Andy DeVries
Head Carpenter

Lisa Nighswander
Head of Props

THE SEAGULL

is generously supported by

Sylvia Soyka

Running Time:
3 hours with
Intermission

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

“FLIP FLOP AND FLY”

BY CHARLES CALHOUN AND LOU TURNER
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ANGELA MAE BAGO is a first generation Filipino-Canadian woman and is an emerging artist to the Toronto arts scene. She'd like to dedicate this show to all her friends and family that have helped her along the way to success. SOULPEPPER 2023: The Seagull. FOR SOULPEPPER: Draw Me Close (2021). OTHER THEATRE: 15 Dogs (Crow's Theatre); Carmen (COC); Little Women (Stratford Festival); Salt-Water Moon (Guild Festival Theatre); Letters to my Grandma (Paprika Festival), Tales from the Flipside (Carlos Bulosan Theatre); A (Musical) Midsummer Night's Dream (Driftwood Theatre).



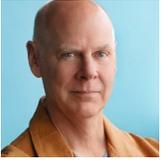
RAOUL BHANEJA was born in Manchester, UK and raised in Germany and Canada. SOULPEPPER 2023: The Seagull. FOR SOULPEPPER: The School For Wives (2000). OTHER THEATRE: Disgraced (Mirvish/ Hope and Hell Theatre), Life Death and The Blues (Theatre Passe Muraille/ Hope and Hell Theatre - National Tour), Hamlet (solo) (Hope and Hell Theatre), Bashir Lazhar (Tarragon Theatre), Rice Boy (Stratford), Savage Sensuality (Shakespeare's Globe). FILM & TELEVISION: Over 125 appearances including Possessor, Miss Sloane, Blindspot, Grey's Anatomy, Clarice. OTHER: Graduate of The National Theatre School, Gemini, Dora and Canadian Comedy Award nominee. 2022 Winner Best Actor, United Solo Festival, New York and leader of Maple Blues Award winners Raoul and The Big Time since 1998.



DANIEL BROOKS SOULPEPPER 2023: 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 Baillie Fellow at Soulpepper, Siminovitch Prize winner. His work has toured across the country and around the world.



FRANK COX-O'CONNELL was born and raised in Toronto, ON. SOULPEPPER 2023: Baillie Fellow. Associate Director: The Seagull. Director & Co-Creator: The Secret Chord: A Leonard Cohen Experience; Detroit: Music of the Motor City. FOR SOULPEPPER, Director: The Golden Record, 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 Montreal and raised in Carbondale, Illinois. SOULPEPPER 2023: The Seagull. 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 Aykourn. 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!



SHANNON LEA DOYLE was born and raised in Tkaronto, where the trees stand in water. SOULPEPPER 2023: The Seagull. FOR SOULPEPPER: Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train, Fool For Love, Little Menace: The Pinter Plays, La Bête, Vimy, The Just, I'm Doing This For You, The Anger of Ernest and Ernestine, The Heidi Chronicles, Soulpepper Concert Series, The Dybbuk. OTHER THEATRE: Things I Know To Be True (Company Theatre / Mirvish Productions), Three Women from Swatow, Orestes Online (Tarragon Theatre), This is How We Got Here (Native Earth), Getting Married (The Shaw Festival). FILM & TELEVISION: Painkiller (Netflix), The Hot Zone (National Geographic). OTHER: Shannon is a graduate of the 2013-2015 Soulpepper Academy and is a founder of Triga Creative. Her work has received a Dora Award and multiple Toronto Theatre Critics Awards.



ELLIE ELLWAND was born in Toronto to a family of actors. SOULPEPPER 2023: The Seagull (debut). OTHER THEATRE: Calpurnia (National Arts Center, RMTTC), What I Call Her (Crow's Theatre), Legacy (Magjusjen Entertainment), The Nails (Summerworks), The Queen's Eulogy (Toronto Fringe) Exit the King, King Lear (NTS). Upcoming: Prairie Nurse (Capitol Theatre). FILM/ TV: Accused (FOX), Murdoch Mysteries (CBC), The Comey Rule, Homeschooled (CBC Gem), Slo Pitch (OUTtv/ Prime), Band Ladies (web series), Busytown Mysteries, Super Why (CBC Kids), Repo Men (Universal). Ellie is a National Theatre School graduate. For T + G.



SIMON FON SOULPEPPER 2023: *The Seagull*. With over 600 professional credits in TV, Film and Stage and 30 years of experience stretching from Broadway to Stratford, Mirvish, Canadian Stage, Resident Fight Director at Soulpepper (2002 – 2020), Simon specializes in all areas: Weaponry, Aerial Flying (NAAFED certified), Unarmed Combat (Eastern and Western). Simon has coached and performed with actors Christopher Plummer, Rachel McAdams, Martin Short, Billy Connolly, and Colm Feore to name a few. Fight Master with FDC. Executive Director and Founder of RIOT A.C.T. earning 17 nominations and 8 awards, including Simon for Male Action Performer of the Year 2009 AOF Festival – California. www.simonfon.com and www.riotact.ca



FARHANG GHAJAR was born in Tehran and grew up around Toronto. SOULPEPPER 2023: *The Seagull* (debut). OTHER THEATRE: *Coriolanus*, *The Front Page*, *Napoli Millionaria!*, *Othello*, *The Tempest*, *Twelfth Night* (Stratford). FILM & TELEVISION: *Star Trek: Discovery*, *Capture Kill Release*, *Ghostwriter*, *A Higher Loyalty*, *Man Seeking Woman*, *Pretty Hard Cases*, *Dark Matter*, *Snow*. OTHER: I'd like to thank my nice friends for literally everything. Your love is too much and my heart can't bear it and I can't ever repay you but I promise I'll try forever. Love you so very much.



HAILEY GILLIS is a performer, composer, voice actor and arts educator, from Grimsby Ontario. Hailey's work has taken her across Canada from Charlottetown PEI to Vancouver BC, as well as off-Broadway in NYC. She was acknowledged with a New York Times 'Critics Pick' award for her work as a musical theatre artist, and has been nominated for numerous Dora Mavor Moore awards. In addition to performance, Hailey Gillis has been composing music for the past ten years, working with acclaimed international producers. Most recently she has been working on a collaboration for a new Canadian musical with Crow's Theatre. Selected theatre credits: SOULPEPPER 2023: *The Seagull*. FOR SOULPEPPER: Assistant Director: *Wedding at Aulis*. Actor: *Rose*, *Riverboat Coffee House: The Yorkville Scene*, *Manhattan*, *Steinbeck Through Song*, *The Dybbuk*, *Marat/Sade*, *Blood Wedding*, *The Crucible*, *The Thirst of Hearts*, *The Dead*, *Alligator Pie*, *Idiot's Delight* (Soulpepper). OTHER THEATRE: *Uncovered the Music of Dolly Parton* (Musical Stage Company), *Ghost Quartet* (Crow's Theatre), *The Invisible* (Catalyst/Vertigo Theatre); *Onegin* (The Musical Stage Company/The National Arts Center); *Spoon River* (The Signature Theatre); *Hedda Gabler* (Necessary Angel/Canadian Stage); *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Bard on the Beach). Recently she partnered with Penguin Random House to narrate the Audiobook: *Tell Me When You Feel Something*. She has a Diploma in Acting from Sheridan Institute of Technology and a B.A. Honours Degree in Theatre and Drama Studies from the University of Toronto. She is also a graduate of the Soulpepper Academy.



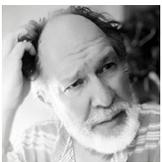
JASON HAND SOULPEPPER 2023: The Seagull. FOR SOULPEPPER: The Barber of Seville (2013). THEATRE & OPERA: Selected opera credits: Canadian Opera Company, Vancouver Opera, Edmonton Opera, Minnesota Opera, Against the Grain, Banff Centre, and Tapestry Opera. Theatrical designs: Young People's Theatre, Tarragon Theatre, Grand Theatre, Canadian Stage, Stratford, the Shaw, Charlottetown Festival, and Soulpepper. Immersive experiences: the Disney Animated Immersive (Toronto and 9 other North American cities), the Original Immersive Van Gogh (Las Vegas, Nashville, New York, and 13 more cities across North America), Jamie Allan's Magic Immersive (Chicago). OTHER: Nine Dora Award nominations, a META for Outstanding Design, Siminovitch Prize protégé recipient. SOCIAL MEDIA: Instagram @JH_Lighting



ROBERT HARDING Born and raised in Lewisporte, NL. SOULPEPPER 2023: The Seagull. FOR SOULPEPPER: Production Stage Manager 2015 - 2019. Stage Manager credits include: Queen Goneril, King Lear, Pipeline, 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: Things I Know to Be True (Company Theatre/Mirvish), Once on this Island (Musical Stage/Obsidian), Clybourne Park, Stuff Happens (Studio 180/Mirvish Productions), The Best Brothers, Communion, A Beautiful View (Tarragon Theatre).



RANDY HUGHSON was born and raised in Kingston, Ontario. SOULPEPPER 2023: The Seagull. OTHER THEATRE: 13 seasons at The Stratford Festival, Mirvish, Canadian Stage, Crow's Theatre, Tarragon, Factory, Necessary Angel, Theatre Passe Muraille, 8 seasons at the Blyth Festival, Citadel, Manitoba Theatre Centre, Arts Club, Neptune, The Globe Theatre, The Belfry Theatre, Persephone Theatre, The National Arts Centre, Theatre New Brunswick, The Vancouver Playhouse, Theatre Calgary, Alberta Theatre Projects, etc. With Daniel Brooks he has played Faust in Faust as well as productions of Body and Soul, Possible Worlds, Half Life, Insomnia etc. OTHER: Recipient of 2 Dora Awards, a Vancouver Jessie, an Edmonton Sterling, Calgary Betty Mitchell and a Montreal Merritt Award. He has worked extensively in television, film and animation and received both a Genie and Gemini Award. Randy is delighted and honoured to work again with his friend and favourite director Daniel. Much respect and love to you my friend.



DIEGO MATAMOROS was born in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. SOULPEPPER 2023: The Seagull. FOR SOULPEPPER: Founding member & Co-Founder of the Soulpepper Academy. Over 70 productions in 22 seasons, including: Platonov (1999, 2000), Uncle Vanya (2001, 2002, 2008), King Lear (2008), Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf (2009), Endgame (1999, 2012), Angels In America (2013), Waiting for Godot (2017), Cage (2017). OTHER THEATRE: King Lear (Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, London, England, 2022), Cage (Signature Theatre, 42nd Street, NYC, 2017). OTHER: Director & teacher: Soulpepper Academy, National Theatre School of Canada, University of Toronto, among others.



KELLY MCEVENUE is the preeminent Alexander Technique teacher for classical repertory theatre. A member of the Stratford Festival coaching team for 39 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 and at the Canadian Film Centre Actor's Conservatory. Kelly has been a movement consultant for numerous films and television series. Kelly assists renowned voice teacher Patsy Rodenburg in several International workshops and is an Associate Faculty for the Patsy Rodenburg Academy in Portugal and NYC. Kelly McEvenue's book, *The Actor and the Alexander Technique* was first published in 2001.



MICHELLE MONTEITH was born in Paisley, Scotland and raised in Vancouver B.C. SOULPEPPER 2023: *The Seagull*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *August: Osage County* (2019), *Idomeneus* (2018), *Picture This* (2017), *Of Human Bondage* (2014-2017), *Spoon River* (2017-Toronto/New York), *It's a Wonderful Life* (2016), *The Heidi Chronicles* (2016), *Eurydice* (2015), *Parfumerie* (2015), *Angels in America* (2013-2014), *Odd Couple* (2011), *Ghosts* (2011), *Waiting for the Parade* (2010). OTHER THEATRE: *Public Enemy* (Canadian Stage), *The Father* (Coal Mine), *Butcher* (Theatre Centre, Why Not Theatre, ATP); *Waiting Room*, *The Valley*, *Little One*, *Ubuntu*, *Generous* (Tarragon); *The Lesson* (Modern Times); *Blasted* (Buddies); *The Mill* (Theatrefront); *Hamlet* (NAC); *Caesar and Cleopatra*, *Love's Labour's Lost* (Stratford); *The Russian Play* (various); *Revisited* (2B, co-creator); *The Glass Menagerie* (various); *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Neptune). OTHER: Dora Award, Critics' Award Toronto, Montreal.



DAN MOUSSEAU SOULPEPPER 2023: *The Seagull*. FOR SOULPEPPER: *It's a Wonderful Life* (2016), *Innocence Lost* (2018). OTHER THEATRE: *Prodigal* (Howland/Crow's), *Three Sisters* (Howland), *A Christmas Carol* (Three Ships Collective/Soupcan Theatre), *Perfect Wedding* (Thousand Island's) Film/TV: *Frankie Drake Mysteries*, *Workin' Moms* (CBC), *Tempted By Danger* (Lifetime). Dan would like to thank his family and friends and his beloved dog, Merlin.



THOMAS RYDER PAYNE SOULPEPPER 2023: *The Seagull*. FOR SOULPEPPER: Sound Designer: *Queen Goneril*, *King Lear*. Sound Designer & Composer: *The Brothers Size*, *Little Menace*: Pinter Plays, *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.



SNEZANA PESIC is a Serbian-Canadian scenographer and educator. SOULPEPPER 2023: *The Seagull*. OTHER THEATRE: *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (BMO Lab/ Canadian Stage), *A Little Too Cozy* (The Banff Centre/ Against the Grain Theatre/ Canadian Opera Company), *Clever Little Lies* (Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre), *One* (Ghost River Theatre), *Laurier* (Confederation Centre of the Arts/ Theatre New Brunswick). FILM: *Suture* (short), *Kidnap Capital* (KidCap Films). Snezana is a recipient of the Betty Mitchell Award for outstanding lighting and production. For more info please visit www.snezanapesic.com.



PAOLO SANTALUCIA is an award-winning actor, director and writer. He is a graduate of the Soulpepper Academy, and has been a member of Soulpepper's ensemble for the past ten seasons. Paolo has performed in theatres across Canada and the United States, including Tarragon Theatre, Theatre Passe Muraille, The Grand, Manitoba Theatre for Young People, Young People's Theatre, Chicago Broadway Playhouse, and the New York City Pershing Signature Centre, where he appeared in two New York Times Critic's Pick productions. SOULPEPPER 2023: *The Seagull*. Paolo is a co-founder and Artistic Leader of the award-winning Howland Company. Paolo also teaches classical performance with the University of Toronto's Theatre and Drama Studies Program, and is the recipient of two Dora Mavor Moore Awards in acting, one nomination for direction, and has been shortlisted for the John Hirsch Award for Directing.



SIMON STEPHENS' plays include *Fortune*, *Light Falls*, *Maria*, *Fatherland*, *Rage*, *Heisenberg*, *Nuclear War*, *Song from Far Away*; *Birdland*, *Carmen Disruption*, *Blindsided*, *Morning*, *Three Kingdoms*, *Wastwater*, *Punk Rock*, *The Trial of Ubu*, *Marine Parade*, *Sea Wall*, *Harper Regan*, *Pornography*, *Motortown*, *On the Shore of the Wide World*, *One Minute*, *Country Music*, *Christmas*, *Port*, *Hérons* and *Bluebird*. He has adapted Jose Saramago's *Blindness* for the stage and also Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*. He has written English language versions of Jon Fosse's *I Am the Wind*; Odon Von Horvath's *Kasimir and Karoline* (titled *The Funfair*); Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*; Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* and *The Seagull* and Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill's *Threepenny Opera*. He has presented four series of the Royal Court Playwright's Podcast. His book "A Working Diary" is published by Methuen. Simon Stephens has been an Associate at the Royal Court, London and Steep, Chicago and a board member of Paines Plough. He has been an Associate Artist at the Lyric, Hammersmith, a Professor of Scriptwriting at Manchester Metropolitan University and an Associate Professor at the Danish National School of the Performing Arts, Copenhagen. His latest play *Cornelia Street* (with songs by Mark Eitzel) opens at the Atlantic Theatre, NY in early 2023.





ROBYN STEVAN was born in Winnipeg. SOULPEPPER 2023: The Seagull. FOR SOULPEPPER: Founding Member. Top Girls, Don Carlos, The Misanthrope, Platonov. OTHER THEATRE: The Wolves (Howland Theatre Company/Crow's Theatre); Three Sisters (Factory Theatre); As You Like It (Festival of Classics); Saint Joan, Richard III, The Cherry Orchard, Hay Fever, A Man for All Seasons (Citadel Theatre). FILM & TELEVISION: Stepping Out; Bye Bye Blues; The Squamish Five; Lifeline to Victory; Hidden Room; Giant Steps; 9-B; Journey to the Canadian Rockies (Japanese television series). OTHER: Dora, Genie Award, Gemini nomination, and Atlantic Film Festival Award. Robyn has also been involved with Soulpepper through th Youth Outreach and Soulpepper-in-the-Schools programs, and currently teaches at the Toronto Waldorf School, where she is inspired daily by her students' creativity and passion.



ALYSSE SZATKOWSKI was born and raised in Whitby, ON. SOULPEPPER 2023: The Seagull FOR SOULPEPPER: The Seagull (2020); Copenhagen (2019). OTHER THEATRE: Two Pianos Four Hands, Shirley Valentine, BOOM X, Perfect Wedding, Jersey Boys (Thousand Islands Playhouse); Things I Know To Be True (The Company Theatre/Mirvish); Trojan Girls and the Outhouse of Atreus (Factory Theatre/Outside the March); The Rez Sisters (Stratford); Copy That, Orestes, Orphan Song (Tarragon Theatre); The Mountaintop, Venus in Fur (Theatre Kingston); The Flick (Single Thread Theatre Company). OTHER: Alysse currently lives in Toronto with her partner Khira and their cat Rick.



GUILLERMO VERDECCHIA was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. SOULPEPPER 2023: Co-Director: English. Dramaturg: The Seagull, King Gilgamesh and The Man of the Wild (with Tria Theatre). FOR SOULPEPPER: Fronteras Americanas; Animal Farm; Of Human Bondage (dramaturg); Queen Goneril (Dramaturg); The Parliament of the Birds (playwright; Around the World in 80 plays) OTHER THEATRE: The Jungle (director: Tarragon Theatre); The Orchard (dramaturg: Shaw Festival); The Art of Building a Bunker (co-creator: Quiptake/Factory Theatre) Other: A recipient of the Governor-General's Award for Drama for his play Fronteras Americanas. His newest play, Feast, will premiere in the fall of 2023. He is the Jury Chair of the Siminovitch Prize in Theatre. He teaches at the University of Toronto.

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