

Chromatic Theatre's

Playwrights Unit

JUNE 7&8 @ 7:30PM

Alia Aluma

Roma



Soñia Huarze

Death and The Poet

Mara Teare

The Eaten



Nakoza Starr Tobias

Tale of Two Spirits

Roma

Inspired by the playwrights time as a transient muralist working at and living in a Roman Hotel, “Roma” follows a series of intimate, confrontational, and often humorous events shared between international guests and workers.

Narrated by a jaded yet brutally honest Turkish handyman, the hotel's longest-standing resident, who critically observes how love and connection flourish in defiance of language, culture, and time barriers.

Alia Aluma

Playwright

Alia Aluma, curator at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, is an award-winning writer, artist, and filmmaker. She is known for her curatorial film series at Contemporary Calgary, her internationally recognized art collection sKin (2019h) and her research, publications and TEDx talk in the field of Arts, Technology, and Human Rights. She has also taken on roles in leadership in forming education and artist residencies and mentorship programs for youth and adults.

Keshia Cheesman

Director

Keshia Cheesman is a Caribbean-Canadian theatre creator, performer, and educator based in Mohkinstsis (Calgary, AB). She is passionate about experiencing, creating, and supporting art by diverse and marginalised communities, as well as uplifting children and youth through the power of theatre performance and creation. Keshia’s play, *Special*, was featured in Obsidian Theatre (Toronto) and CBC Gem’s 21 Black Futures, which won a 2022 Canadian Screen award for best web series. In 2023 *The F Word* – a play co-created and performed by Keshia and her art- partner Bianca Miranda, had its world premiere with Downstage, presented by Alberta Theatre Projects.

Death and The Poet

Death and grief are parts of life we can't escape, no matter how fast we run. In this theatre and movement show, we follow the Poet as they navigate encountering, accepting, and eventually befriending Death. Drawing from the playwright's Mexican cultural understanding of Death, this show is a love letter to living, grieving, and making art to make sense of the world.

Content Warning

explicit descriptions of death, mentions of sexual and gender violence, mentions of suicidal ideation

Sofia Huarte

Playwright

Sofia Huarte Aguilar (they/them) is a first generation Mexican immigrant residing in Moh'kins'tsis, and pursuing a combined degree in Drama and Philosophy at the University of Calgary. Sofia is a performing artist, a playwright, and a student organizer. They are deeply passionate about bringing diversity into theatre and academia, and utilizing their fields as critical tools for liberation. Recently, Sofia has been awarded a PURE Award to conduct interdisciplinary research on Epistemic Injustice, and collaborated as a performer and co-creator in La Danza de los Viejitos, a dance/mask show presented at the SCPA's Alchemy Festival.

Javier Vilalta

Director

Javier is a Mexican-Canadian visual performance creator, stage director, movement coach, and translator. He co-founded the visual performance ensemble 8ROJO, along with Black artist Norma Lewis. With 8ROJO he has toured as far as Mexico, Czech Republic, Sweden, France, Taiwan, UK, and Iceland. With 8ROJO, he was awarded the 'Innovation in Performance' award at the 2016 STOFF Festival in Stockholm, Sweden; and he was a finalist for a 2021 Off West End Award in London, UK for Outstanding Production. He has translated the texts '100 Love Poems and a Song of Despair' by Pablo Neruda and Federico García Lorca's 'Rural Trilogy'. He translated and adapted the Mexican modern opera 'Anjou: A Tale of Horror' for Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS.

The Eaten

A bachelorette party rents a house in the country for a weekend of salacious revelry. However, unknown to them, the owner of the house has different, more sinister plans in mind. The party goes rapidly sideways in this absurdist dark comedy.

Content Warning

Flashing Lights, Misogyny, Misogynistic/derogatory language, Profanity, Transphobia, Sexual content and language, and Violence

Mara Teare

Playwright

Mara Teare is an emerging interdisciplinary artist. Originally from Saskatoon, Mara has recently found a new artistic home in Calgary. They made their Calgary debut as Mowgli in Alberta Theatre Projects production of The Jungle Book. Graduating from the National Theatre School of Canada's acting program, Mara is dedicated to amplifying marginalized voices through her work. They're eager to develop their skills as a writer.

Jenna Rodgers

Director

Jenna (she/her) is a mixed-race, Treaty 7- based Director and Dramaturg. She is the founding Artistic Director of Chromatic Theatre, and served as the Dramaturg for the Playwrights Lab at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity for over 10 years. Jenna is the Board Co-Chair of LMDA, and the Director of Theatre Alberta's Artstrek Program. She is a graduate of the NTS Artistic Leadership Residency (2020), the Banff Centre's Cultural Leadership Program (2019), and a member of the artEquity National Facilitator Training cohort (2018). Jenna holds a MA in International Performance Research from the universities of Amsterdam and Tampere.

Tale of Two Spirits

'Tale of Two Spirits' is a weird, potentially confusing, and funny story about the friendship and connection of two souls, Sunny and Starr, in a universe filled with supernatural wonder and chaos.

Content Warning
Strong Language

Nakota Starr Tobias

Playwright

Nakota Starr Tobias (they/them) is a Nakota Sioux/Anishinaabe Ojibwe Two-Spirit Actor, Storyteller, and Playwright, originating from Treaty Six Territory, specifically from Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, although currently residing and creating in Mohkinstsis. They are an individual with a passion and determination for storytelling, and a motivation to inspire and uplift the current and future generations of Indigenous artists. They aim to tell stories of the soul, of joy, connection, and love through the lens of their intersectional identities, whether this is through bringing it to life as an actor or being the one to write the story themselves.

Marshall Vielle

Director

Marshall is an actor, director, arts educator, and drag performer from the Kainai Nation. They are a graduate from the University of Lethbridge where they received their Bachelors of Fine Arts, specializing in Theatre Performance. Marshall is especially interested in using theatre for community development, having been involved in various projects both locally and internationally aimed at increasing social change. When they aren't on stage, Marshall can be found working as an advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion in the performance sector and beyond, while also lending their creativity to several queer youth capacity building initiatives.

Actors

Filsan Dualeh

Actor

Filsan (She/Her) is a Somali-Canadian artist living on Treaty 7 Territory, Moh'kins'tsis. Graduating from the University of Calgary with a BFA, her acting credits include: *The Girl on the Train* (Vertigo Theatre), *All Good Things Must Begin* (Downstage Theatre/Immigrant Council for Arts Innovation/Climate Change Theatre Action), *The Green Line* (Downstage/Chromatic Theatre Co-Production) *TEN: A Workshop Reading* (Alberta Theatre Projects), *The Livestream: A Workshop Reading* (Young People's Theatre), *Julius Caesar*, *Richard III* (The Shakespeare Company); *Slaughterhouse Jive* (One Act Play Festival); and *FOUR! A Workshop Production* (Jupiter Theatre). She is excited to be working with Chromatic Theatre again for the Playwrights Unit and showcase news works from four very talented writers!

Tiffany Thomas

Actor

Born in Mohkinstsis of Irish and Filipinx descent, Tiffany Thomas is an actress, songstress and playwright, who has appeared in theatres and daydreams across so called Canada, as herself in *The Rocky Mountain Special* (Buddies in Bad Times), Noel Gruber in *Ride the Cyclone* (Browncow Collective) Gwendolyn Magnificent in *Countries Shaped Like Stars* (Lunchbox Theatre), Martirio in *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Sage Theatre), Charlotte Bubble in *Most Imaginary Worlds* (Quest Theatre/Inside Out Theatre) and understudy in *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. (Vertigo Theatre). Her original plays with music have been developed and performed at Lunchbox Theatre, Buddies in Bad Times, The NAC and Tarragon Theatre. She's grateful for the opportunity to read these marvellous new plays!

Sunny Sky Faust

Actor

Sunny (aka Jorj), short for Sun Eagle Rainbow Child, considers themselves a Two-Spirit artist, writer, and actor. Their Indigenous roots come from Driftpile Cree Nation in Treaty 8 and they are currently a student at the University of Calgary studying for a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a Major in Drama and a Minor in Visual Studies and Art History. They hope to apply themselves to The Arts to gain new experiences and community. Sunny strives to be a well-rounded artist as The Arts is their inspiration to navigate and work toward a better future for all.

Amy On

Actor

Amy (she/her) is a Chinese Canadian actor in Calgary. She graduated from the University of Calgary in 2022 with a bachelor of fine arts in drama. She is excited to work with Chromatic once more for the playwrites unit workshop!

Tania Alvarado

Actor

Tania Alvarado is a contemporary dance artist whose career has shifted through diverse performance mediums and somatic practices. She has performed across Canada, interpreting the choreography of various notable Canadian dance artists.

Tania's choreographic work has been presented at significant festivals and contemporary dance venues nationwide, and she has taken her solo performances to international stages in Europe through Bancs d'Essai Internationaux, presented by Tangente in Montreal.

In recent theatre engagements, Tania has performed in two productions at Vertigo Theatre, Cipher, and Murder in the Studio, which she also choreographed. Her choreography has also contributed to diverse productions, such as the Calgary Opera's La Traviata, Caravan Farm Theatre's Blackhorse, ATP's Teenage Dick, as well as Cowgirl Up.

Tech

Sabrena Shah Baigzada

Stage Manager

Sabrena Shah Baigzada is a second-generation Afghan Canadian. Sabrena is an artist, stage manager, playwright, director, and theatre technician. She strives to advocate and share about her heritage, neurodiversity, and mental health through her art and work in theatre. Sabrena has and continues to be deeply inspired by Alex, who she loves immensely, he encourages her to do better and be better, and she is beyond thankful for him. Notable works include Assistant Stage Managing Hookman (Chromatic Theatre and SCPA), Stage Managing Shakespeare in Love (SCPA), Stage Managing and Co-creating Magnetic Bodies (Downstage Theatre and SCPA). She is thankful for the support of her family, friends, and mentors.

Natalia Cortes

Lighting Designer & Board Op

Natalia is a multidisciplinary theatre artist based in Calgary and Toronto. In recent years, her love for collaborative and community inspired work has brought her to work with companies such as The River Clyde Pageant, Calgary Young Peoples Theatre, Downstage Theatre, Green Fools Theatre Society and now, Chromatic Theatre. Natalia's practice is currently centred around creating intimate pieces that utilize design, technical elements and folk storytelling devices.

Kodie Rollan

Dramaturg

Kodie Rollan is a Philippine-born, Scarborough-raised, Mohkinstsis-based playwright, dramaturg, lyricist, and producer. As a dramaturg, Kodie is passionate about creating care-forward environments where artists and collaborators can dream their dreamiest dreams, show up in the fullness of themselves and thrive in their artistry. In terms of artistic work, he is passionate about all things new play development and the creation of new musicals across Turtle Island. He is currently the Artistic Director of Chromatic Theatre and spent the last three years as the Associate Dramaturg at the Banff Playwrights Lab. He was also one of the recipient of Theatre Alberta's 2023 Michelle Dias Community Service Award. Outside of theatre, Kodie spends most of his time talking and thinking about the Toronto Raptors.

Doriane Irakoze

Accessibility Coordinator

Doriane Irakoze is an emerging artist based in Calgary, Alberta. She is graduating with a BFA in Drama and a BA in Global Development. She recently had the pleasure of working with Works Plays School Program. Their artistic practice is rooted in acting but she is also branched out into playwrighting and directing to further understand the craft.



Chromatic
Theatre

(INSIDE)OUT

THEATRE FOR EVERY BODY.

STATIC

By Ashley King

"Static: A Sightless Party Girl's Memoirs" is a dark comedy about Ashley, a young woman who wakes up blind on holiday and must face a new life she didn't choose. This coming-of-age story explores her journey of self-discovery and the unexpected triumphs and struggles of navigating her new world without sight.

September 5 - 15

625 11 Ave SW #150, Calgary, AB



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