

The Cultch

TR

WEST COAST
REDUCTION LTD.

THEATRE REPLACEMENT'S

EAST VAN PANTO ROBIN HOOD



WRITTEN BY JIVESH PARASRAM & CHRISTINE QUINTANA · MUSIC BY VEDA HILLE · DIRECTED BY ANITA ROCHON

YORK
THEATRE

HOLIDAY
FAVOURITE

NOV 20, 2024—
JAN 05, 2025

PHOTO // STEFFANIE DAVIS, MARK CHAVEZ, JASON SAKAKI, MUNISH SHARMA, & HAYLEY SULLIVAN;
BY EMILY COOPER PHOTOGRAPHY



THEATRE REPLACEMENT

Hi! We're Theatre Replacement, the company behind the East Van Panto, and we'd love to let you know about a couple of other things we've got going on!

Visit theatrereplacement.org for all the details.

PantoLand + PantoTown

Have you heard we have Panto-themed summer camps for kids and tweens?

Keep the magic of the East Van Panto alive with our summer camps! Early Bird registration with special pricing for our July 2025 camps opens December 16th. Visit our website for more details or email katie@theatrereplacement.org.

Photo by Matt Reznick

HOLD ON LET GO

FEBRUARY 4-8, 2025

THE RUSSIAN HALL
600 Campbell Ave

An annual festival of contemporary performance works by Vancouver and Canadian artists.

All Access Festival pass only \$30-\$55
Single tickets \$15-\$30

holdonletgo.ca

Photo by Chelsey Stuyt

EAST VAN PANTO: ROBIN HOOD

Theatre Replacement (Vancouver)

NOV 20, 2024—JAN 05, 2025
YORK THEATRE

2 hours, including intermission



CREATIVE TEAM

Playwrights
**Jivesh Parasram &
Christine Quintana**

Director
Anita Rochon*

Composer & Musical Director
Veda Hille

Choreographer
Amanda Testini*

Associate Musical Director
Mishelle Cuttler

Assistant Director
Howard Dai

DESIGNERS

Set and Properties Designer
Lauchlin Johnston

Costume Designer
Alaia Hamer

Lighting Designer
Sophie Tang

Sound Designer
Brad Danyluk

Scenic Illustrator
Cindy Mochizuki

Head of Props
**Heidi Wilkinson &
Flying Fox Prop Shop**

PRODUCTION

Producer
Jamie King

Stage Manager
Emma Hammond*

Assistant Stage Manager
Geoff Jones*

Apprentice Stage Manager
Caroline Tang

Production Manager / Technical
Director
Daniel O'Shea

Production Intern, Producing &
Technical Direction
Kady Yeung*

Production Intern, Child Wrangler
Jae Gonzales°

STARRING

Hayley Sullivan as Robin Hood
Jason Sakaki* as Prince Ken & Marion
Munish Sharma* as Little Jaan
Steffanie Davis* as Toni the Pony
Mark Chavez as Hans the Hedgehog,
Luz the Goose & Robobrarian
Veda Hille & Mishelle Cuttler on the
Keys (alternating nights)
June Mirochnick on Percussion
**Carol Chu⁺. Sewit Eden Haile⁺
& Stella Jack-Rennie⁺** as the
Merry-Thems
Understudies
Dawn Petten* & Amanda Sum

Panto Kids
**Rosalind Beaver, Greta Flinn, Noa
Lin, Hayden Mangan, Lilah Margolis,
Loa Martin, Noemi Martin, Bryony
Martyn, Cluny Martyn, Marika
MacRae, Akin Médiné-Glen, Marlowe
Bea Petten, Tasio Pietropaolo,
Jasper Podbrey, and Max Tyler-Hite.**

*Appears with the permission of the
Canadian Actors' Equity Association.
Theatre Replacement engages professional
artists who are members of the CAEA
under the terms of the Independent
Theatre Agreement. We thank them for
their support.

⁺Student of Studio 58

[°]Student of Simon Fraser University

COSTUME DEPARTMENT

Head of Wardrobe
Sarah Sosick
Stitchers
**Evan Bergen, Halley Fulford, Kyrie
Vincent, Melissa McCowell, and
Oriana Camporese**

Cutter
Darryl Milot
Production Intern, Costumes
Lou Marshall⁺

SCENIC DEPARTMENT, GREAT NORTHERN WAY

Project Manager
Leigh Kerr
Carpenter
Kyle Sutherland

Scenic Paint
**Marnie Hiebert & Denique Ali
Schaab**
Technical Director / CNC
Kiera Leung & Iain Nicol-Smith

SHOW CREW

Head Fly / Carpenter
Jeff Hardy
Head Audio
Neal Miskin

Head Electrician
Jude Weismiller
Head Wardrobe
Halley Fulford

The Cultch stage crew, box office, and front of house staff are
members of IATSE Local 118



Artistic Director
Maiko Yamamoto

Operations Director
Chelsea MacDonald

Senior Producer
Katie Roberts

Associate Producer
Jamie King

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Cultch acknowledges that it is on unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.

SONG LIST

ACT 1

"The Spark"—Kabin Crew and Lisdoonvarna Crew

"...Baby One More Time"—Britney Spears

"Jalebi Baby"—Teshar

"This Is How We Do It"—Montell Jordan

"Fresh Prince of Bel-Air"—DJ Jazzy Jeff & the Fresh Prince

"All Star"—Smash Mouth

"The Bad Touch"—The Bloodhound Gang

"One Note Samba"—Antônio Carlos Jobim

"Girl From Ipanema"—Antônio Carlos Jobim

"Technologic"—Daft Punk

"Back To Black"—Amy Winehouse

"Master of Puppets"—Metallica

"Texas Hold 'Em"—Beyoncé

"Jolene"—Dolly Parton

"Wrecking Ball"—Miley Cyrus

ACT 2

"Pony"—Ginuwine

"What Was I Made For?"—Billie Eilish

"Mr. Blue Sky"—Electric Light Orchestra

"Without Me"—Eminem

"Femininomenon"—Chappell Roan

"Pink Pony Club"—Chappell Roan

"He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother"—The Hollies

"Vampire"—Olivia Rodrigo

"Video Killed The Radio Star"—The Buggles

"HOT TO GO!"—Chappell Roan



A MESSAGE FROM THEATRE REPLACEMENT

On the twelfth year of Panto, my true love gave to me...

...Twelve years of holiday shows about this place we know and love!

Twelve years. A DOZEN East Van Pantos.

This year is the second year in the two-year cycle for our Co-Writers and Director team. A big, heartfelt thanks to Jiv, Christine and Anita for giving us two incredible Pantos! And thanks always to Veda Hille, and to all our dear company members for *Robin Hood*, returning and new. TR's work has always revolved around a core idea of collaboration, and how wonderful to feel the strength of working together right now, and what that can do.

The Panto is always the joy of our year. No matter what else is going on in the world, this show is about sharing. Sharing our love of our community—this place that continues to shape us, that raised many of us, that challenges us, that asks us to activate. That's what the Panto is supposed to do—as much as we laugh and sing and shout from our seats, the Pantos are all about taking a good look at the place we're in, the land we're on, and then forming a ragtag family to try and solve a real problem or two. Or three. Or twelve. And the power of how much we can get done if we do it together. You're going to have a great time at *Robin Hood*, and hopefully you'll also leave seeing what you can do to solve a problem or two in your own community. Or city.

If you've been to other Pantos, at the top of the show you've probably heard Veda say: "Here we are. And here we go." These words give us a moment to recognize and be grateful that we are here. And then we GO! We activate. Please give some East Van Panto love to our dear company this year, and thanks for always being here, to receive us.

With love from TR,

Maiko, JK, Chelsea and Katie



Photo // Clockwise from top left: Maiko Yamamoto, Chelsea MacDonald, Jamie King, Katie Roberts

Hello and welcome!

It is the most wonderful time of the year, Panto time! We are thrilled to have you here for this year's hilarious production of Theatre Replacement's *East Van Panto: Robin Hood*. Journey with Robin Hood and his Merry-Thems into the wilds of East Van, we promise you'll come out the other side of this adventure having shared some laughs and with one or more of Veda's fabulous songs stuck in your head!

It's a real honour to be able to partner with Theatre Replacement year after year. Twelve years ago, when we started on this journey with them, we had no idea just how important this yearly tradition would come to be to all of us and to this community. Every year we hear from hundreds of people who tell us just how much coming to the Panto with their loved ones means to them. We are so happy that we get to be a part of your holiday season.

There are so many folks to thank each year; so much goes into putting on a brand-new, created-from-scratch show EACH year! From the creative team to the staff of both of our companies, from our high-level funders to our Panto Champs, to each and every one of you.

Thank you for being a part of our East Van family. We are grateful for your support and can't wait to share this magical experience with you. So, sit back, relax, and get ready to cheer for the heroes and boo the villains as we embark on this unforgettable journey through ~~Sherwood Forest~~ Trout Lake Park.

With warm wishes and holiday cheer,

Heather Redfern,
Executive Director

Nicole McLuckie
Associate Executive Director

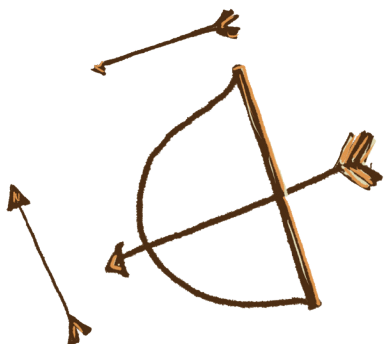


Photo // Heather Redfern & Nicole McLuckie by Lisa Wu

PLAYWRIGHTS' NOTES

Choosing 'Robin Hood' for this year's East Van Panto story was a no-brainer. **"Steal from the rich to give to the poor"**—sounds pretty timely! In the last five years, 78% more Canadians are using food banks, while Loblaw CEO Galen Weston's salary rose 55% to 8.4 million dollars per year!

But maybe if you go to No Frills—wait... how about Superstore...wait... how about...

Robin Hood starts to show up in myth and literature with the creation of the "enclosures" as part of the feudal system in what's now the UK. Once upon a time, you could be poor, but there was at least access to "the commons"—lands used to hunt, fish, and gather food. But, by privatizing land around these commons to limit access, and spreading disinformation that the forests were dangerous—full of 'outlaws' perhaps—the only way to get food was from the feudal lord. In fact that's where the word "generosity" comes from—the kindness of the lord to give food back to the people who farmed it.

How nice of them.

The rich always need the poor, but if you convince the poor they need the rich...

Of all the things inherited from the British that still live on in Canada, this idea seems to be one so deeply ingrained that it's hard to imagine something else. But there has always been another way. Let's see what's possible if, together, we tell a new story.

Jivesh Parasram & Christine Quintana

THANK YOU FROM THEATRE REPLACEMENT

Huge thanks to: Heather, Nicole and the incredible team at The Cultch; Corbin Murdoch, James Long, Charles Demers, Ami Gladstone, Marcus Youssef, Stephen Drover, Laura Zerebeski, Jan Hodgson, Adrian Muir, Barbara Clayden, John Webber, Yvan Morissette, Meg Roe, Sonja Bennett, Yvonne Yip, Joanne PB Smith, Jennifer Stewart, and all of the past Panto artistic and production teams; Don and Christine Farion and Bomber Brewing; David Hudgins, Raes Calvert, Ruth Bruhn, Shizuka Kai, and Studio 58; Jennifer Riedle and the Canadian Actors' Equity Association; Thanks to Props Builder: Chris Hall and the crew at Flying Fox Prop Shop; Thanks to the Great Northern Way Scene Shop, in particular: Elia Kirby; Max Forsyth, Jonathan Ryder, Melissa McCowell and Bard on the Beach; Volunteer Stitcher Rosie Aiken and Meaghan Chenosky; Green Thumb Theatre; Mortal Coil Performance; Patrick Davidson and John Fluevog Shoes; Megan Matsuda and Fujiya Japanese Grocery; Justin Kellam and Anders Hille Kellam; Kevin, Hokuto & Felix MacDuff; Amy Amantea; All of the Panto Kiddos and their families; and Theatre Replacement's Board of Directors. The Playwrights would like to thank the support from the Stratford Festival Playwrights Residency.

**JIVESH PARASRAM**

CO-PLAYWRIGHT

Jivesh Parasram is a multi-disciplinary artist of Indo-Caribbean descent (Kairi/Trinidad & Tobago), and a frequent wanderer of the streets of East Van. Raised much further east in Mi'Kma'ki (Nova Scotia) – specifically Dartmouth—aka 'the Darkside,' Jiv relocated to Vancouver in 2018 to take on the position of Artistic Director for Rumble Theatre following over a decade working throughout the Toronto Independent Theatre community. Jiv works in a lot of different capacities in the theatre scene including as writer, director, dramaturge, producer, curator, and sometimes performer. When not working, he's almost certainly chilling in an East Van park. Select recent credits include: *East Van Panto Beauty & The Beast* (T/R & Cultch); *Someone Like You* (Arts Club); *Measure for Measure* (Bard), *Fat Joke* (Newworld/Cultch/Rumble), *Take d Milk, Nah?* Atlantic Tour (Pandemic/Rumble). Upcoming: *Someone Like You* BC Tour (Arts Club) *SWIM* (Pandemic/Theatre Conspiracy/PuSh/Touchstone/Cultch), *Cambodian Rock Band* (Arts Club), *TREMORS 2025* (Rumble).

**CHRISTINE QUINTANA**

CO-PLAYWRIGHT

Christine attended Queen Victoria Annex (10 minute walk from the York Theatre), where she got a taste for performing through their collective creation holiday pageants and fell in love with theatre through school field trips to see shows. Christine studied theatre at the Vancouver Public Library where she photocopied sheet music for auditions and borrowed scripts to learn more about playwriting. She received further training through the Cultch's Youth Program, where she helped produce and curate the *IGNITE! Youth Festival*. As an 'adult', Christine has had three productions presented by the Cultch; *Stationary: A Recession-Era Musical* (Delinquent Theatre), *Clean: Espejos* (Newworld Theatre), and *East Van Panto: Beauty and the Beast* (Theatre Replacement). Other East Van credits include singing in backyards and sidewalks with The Quarantettes during the pandemic, and two plays dramatizing life on Commercial Drive (*Someone Like You* at the Arts Club, and *El Terremoto* at Tarragon Theatre). Her community has made her everything she is, and she is deeply grateful. christinequintana.ca

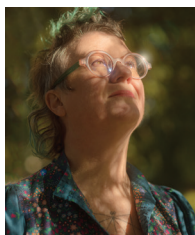
**ANITA ROCHON**

DIRECTOR

From 2006–2024, Anita artistic directed The Chop in Vancouver with Emelia Symington Fedy, which has produced many new works for the stage including *KISMET one to one hundred*, *Pathetic Fallacy* and *How to Disappear Completely*. Recently she became the Artistic Director of Green Thumb Theatre. She directs in a range of styles—including Pantos! She's collaborated with some of the country's exceptional companies including Electric Company Theatre, Bard on

BIOGRAPHIES: CREATIVE TEAM

the Beach, Théâtre la Seizième, The Shaw Festival and Belfry Theatre. She is a graduate of Studio 58 (Acting) and the National Theatre School of Canada (Directing). She adores Theatre Replacement and has toured nationally and internationally with their *BIOBOXES* and co-directed *Dress me up in your love* with Maiko Yamamoto. This is her fourth East Van Panto after having directed *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* and last year's *Beauty and the Beast*.



VEDA HILLE

COMPOSER & MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Veda Hille is happy and astounded to be here for her 12th Panto. She keeps thinking they will use up all the songs, but there are always more songs, turns out. Other current projects: her band Veda Hille Sisterhood, a new musical with Amiel Gladstone, and a show with Maiko Yamamoto called *End of Greatness*. She's also very keen on her garden these days, if you see her scrabbling in the dirt come say hi.

vedahille.com Instagram: @loveyoulikealion



AMANDA TESTINI

CHOREOGRAPHER

Amanda Testini (she/her) loves the *East Van Panto*!

She is an Italian-Canadian choreographer and director based on the unceded and ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

Amanda has worked with Pacific Opera Victoria, Arts Club Theatre Company, Bard on the Beach, the Cultch,

Theatre Replacement, Firehall Arts Centre, Belfry Theatre,

Banff Centre for the Arts, Gateway Theatre, Savage Society, Opera Kelowna, Theatre Under the Stars, shameless hussy productions, Newworld Theatre, Studio 58, TheatreUBC, Electric Company, Vancouver Opera, Axis Theatre, the Glimmerglass Festival, and Edmonton Opera. She's a graduate of Studio 58 and a Jessie Award nominee. Amanda is grateful to be back for her seventh *EVP* and hopes you enjoy watching the show as much as we enjoyed making it.



MISHELLE CUTTLER

ASSOCIATE MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Mishelle is a composer, sound designer, and musician based in East Vancouver, and is thrilled to be back at the Panto for her third year. Some favourite recent projects include: *Hedda Gabler* (Stratford Festival), *The Mixolydian* (Green Thumb), *Someone Like You* (Arts Club), and *Made in Canada* (rice & beans theatre). Up next: *Here Here* (Little Chamber Music), *Beauty & the Beast: My*

Life (The Cultch), and *The Seventh Fire*, an immersive audio ceremony by Lisa C. Ravensbergen (Newworld Theatre). Mishelle has an MFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and a BFA from UBC. She is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada. mishellecuttler.com



HOWARD DAI
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Howard Dai is a Taiwanese actor and theatre artist based in so-called Vancouver whose work has been seen across Canada. His performances and creations have existed in theatre, films, public spaces, Zoom screens, Google Sheets, automated phone calls, interactive websites, and virtual reality. He made his Stratford Festival debut in 2024 in *Romeo and Juliet* (dir. Sam White), and *Salesman in China* (dir. Jovanni Sy). Other co-creation/performance/assistant direction credits include: *East Van Panto: Beauty and the Beast*, *Forgiveness*, *The Five Vengeances*, *Passenger Seat*, and *New Societies*. In 2022, he was the digital-artist-in-residence with PuSh Festival (Vancouver, Canada) and Royal Court Theatre (London, UK). Howard was mentored by Charles Douglas in movement and performance capture, and is a member of the Five Blessings Collective. Howard is an associate artist with rice & beans theatre, and holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from SFU School for the Contemporary Arts. howarddai.com

BIOGRAPHIES: DESIGNERS



LAUCLIN JOHNSTON
SET AND PROPERTIES DESIGNER

Lauchlin calls Vancouver home and is grateful to be living today as an uninvited guest on the unceded ancestral lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwúmesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaɣ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Lauchlin is excited to return for another season after his Panto debut with last year's *Beauty and the Beast*. He has had the opportunity to collaborate across Canada with companies including Gateway Theatre, Great Canadian Theatre Company, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Chemainus Theatre Festival, Theatre Under the Stars, Arts Club Theatre, ITSAZOO, Western Canada Theatre, Firehall Arts Centre, Pacific Theatre, Native Earth and Mortal Coil Performance. Coming up, he is looking forward to designing scenery for Rosanna Deerchild's *The Secret to Good Tea* (The Grand/NAC Indigenous) and for *Casey and Diana* (Arts Club). Lauchlin is a graduate of UBC holding a BFA in theatre design and production. He has received twenty-two Jessie Richardson Theatre Award nominations and three wins, plus one Ovation Award. Lauchlin is a full member of the Associated Designers of Canada and IATSE ADC 659. lauchlinjohnston.ca

BIOGRAPHIES: DESIGNERS



ALAIA HAMER

COSTUME DESIGNER

Alaia is a Vancouver theatre designer originally from the Gulf Islands. Recent projects she has worked on include costume design for *Measure for Measure* (Bard on the Beach), *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Sexy Laundry*, *The Cull*, *Beneath Springhill*, *The Birds and the Bees* (Artsclub) *The East Van Panto: Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid* (Theatre Replacement), *HMS Pinafore*, *Carmen Up Close and Personal* (Vancouver Opera), costume design for *Beautiful Man* (PI Theatre), set design for *Midsummer Night's Dream* (TWU), *Middletown*, *Case for Existence of God*, *God Said This* (Pacific Theatre), *Seventeen* (Western Gold). She has worked on a variety of smaller shows through Vancouver and has a passion for costuming dance. Alaia is a graduate of the UBC Theatre Design program in 2017 and holds an English literature degree from 2012.



SOPHIE TANG

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Sophie Tang is an award-winning lighting and set designer working in Theatre, Opera and Dance. She has worked with companies including Stratford Festival, Shaw Festival, Electric Company Theatre, Vancouver Opera, Artsclub Theatre, Bard on the Beach, Citadel Theatre, Canadian Stage, Theatre Replacement and so on. Credits for *East Van Panto: Panto Come Home*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*. Other recent credits: *The Lehman Trilogy* (Theatre Calgary), *Jersey Boys* (Artsclub Theatre), *Salesman in China* (Stratford Festival), *Three Musketeers* (Citadel Theatre x Artsclub Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (Bard on the Beach), *Michel(le)* (Théâtre la Seizième). sophieyufeitang.com



BRAD DANYLUK

SOUND DESIGNER

Brad is a Vancouver-based sound engineer who specializes in musical theatre sound design, and acoustic music recording and mixing. His design credits include productions for TUTS, Patrick Street Productions, Urban Ink, Theatre Replacement, Arts Club, Gateway Theatre, Theatre Calgary, Royal Manitoba Theatre, and others. He also works as a sound system design consultant.



CINDY MOCHIZUKI

SCENIC ILLUSTRATOR

Cindy Mochizuki is a visual artist who creates multi-media installation, audio fiction, performance, animation, drawings and community-engaged projects. She has exhibited, performed and screened her work in Canada, US, Australia, and Japan. Her most recent illustrative and animation design can be seen in *Otosan* (2024) *Little Onion Puppet*

Co., Forgiveness (2023) Arts Club Theatre/Theatre Calgary and in previous Panto productions including *Pinocchio* (2019), *Alice in Wonderland* (2021), *The Little Mermaid* (2022) and *Beauty and the Beast* (2023).



HEIDI WILKINSON & FLYING FOX PROP SHOP

HEAD OF PROPS

This is Heidi's eighth show with the *East Van Panto*. She has been the head of props for Bard on the Beach for 29 years and is the owner of Flying Fox Prop Shop in East Vancouver. She's the recipient of 5 Jessie awards (11 nominations) and two Leo Awards (art direction for children's programming, *Scout and the Gumboot Kids*). Heidi also works in film, tv, and commercials.

BIOGRAPHIES: PRODUCTION



EMMA HAMMOND

STAGE MANAGER

Emma is thrilled to be back with her Panto family. She has been working in theatre and opera as a professional stage manager for a decade and has worked at a variety of companies including: Vancouver Opera, Pacific Opera, Theatre Under the Stars, The Firehall, Ruby Slippers, Sticks and Stones, Pacific Theatre, and Western Canada Theatre. She would like to thank Justin for all his love, and her

parents for sharing their love of Pantos.



GEOFF JONES

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Geoff Jones is a Vancouver based Stage Manager. Some of his recent Stage Management and Assistant Stage Management credits include: *You used to call me Marie...* (Savage Society), *Never the Last* (Delinquent Theatre), *The Wrong Bashir* (Touchstone Theatre), *Kismet*, *Things Have Changed* (The Chop Theatre), *Elf: The Musical*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, *The Great Leap*, *Angels in*

America Part 1 and 2 (Arts Club Theatre Company), *Nutcracker*, *The Coyotes*, *Sedna*, *Gift of the Magi*, *Our Town* (Caravan Farm Theatre), *King Arthur's Night* (Newworld Theatre), *Still/Falling* (Green Thumb Theatre), and *Jabber* (Green Thumb Theatre/Newworld Theatre). Geoff is a graduate of Studio 58.

BIOGRAPHIES: PRODUCTION



CAROLINE TANG

APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER

Caroline Tang is an emerging stage manager born and raised on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓ əm (Musqueam), həŋqəmiŋəm (Hul'qumi'num) and Coast Salish Nations. She is a graduate of UBC's BFA Theatre Design and Production program. Caroline is super excited to be back for another season of fun panto pandemonium! When she's not puttering

around backstage you can find Caroline chomping on carbs at local bakeries or tackling her tower of books to read. Past stage management credits include */ Fear Love* (Vancouver Fringe Festival), *Parifam* (Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre & Medusa Theatre), *East Van Panto: Beauty and the Beast* (Theatre Replacement), *The Lighting Thief* (CTORA), *Tosca* (UBC Opera), *Chinatown* (City Opera Vancouver), and *Newsies* (Theatre Under the Stars).



DANIEL O'SHEA

PRODUCTION MANAGER / TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Daniel O'Shea makes theatre, designs projections, and creates films, using technology and design as a keystone to support narrative and deepen dramaturgy. Daniel employs a low-fi DIY aesthetic, exposing the guts of the performance machinery in parallel to the convoluting the idea of spectating. Currently his work focuses on states of presence, unbalancing audienceship and novel constructions

of light through design and new media. Daniel's artistic research has explored the ephemeral nature of a 'self', interruptions of technology on human processes, and the results cognitive dissonance. Daniel's work has been seen in Canada and internationally. He is a founding member of A Wake Of Vultures. Daniel is engaged with Vancouver's thriving contemporary performance scene and often engages in crossover with indie film and the digital arts.



SARAH SOSICK

HEAD OF WARDROBE

Sarah is thrilled to be back for her fifth *East Van Panto*! Head of wardrobe: *How Black Mothers Say I Love You* (the frank theatre). Costume design: *Maps of Utopia* (the frank theatre). Assistant costume design: *Jersey Boys* (Arts Club), *Hamlet* (Bard on the Beach), *East Van Panto: Beauty and the Beast* (Theatre Replacement), *Rodgers + Hammerstein Cinderella* (Gateway Theatre), *Stupid F*cking*

Bird (The Search Party), *Starwalker* (Urban Ink).

**LOU MARSHALL**

PRODUCTION INTERN, COSTUMES

Lou Marshall is a current Production Student in their final term at Studio 58. They are thrilled to be one of many talented students on an outside placement to be joining the team for this year's *East Van Panto*. They are an emerging Costume Designer and Stage Manager graduating from Studio 58 this December. They have been fortunate to work closely with experienced designers and other creatives at

Studio 58 on productions including *A Chorus Line* (2023), *The Tempest* (2023) and *Into the Woods* (2024). Lou also had the opportunity to work as one of two student Costume Designers during *Fourplay* (2024) and most recently, Lou was the Stage Manager for *Baggage* (2024).

**KADY YEUNG**

PRODUCTION INTERN, PRODUCING & TECHNICAL DIRECTION

Kady Yeung is an emerging artist and a graduating student in Studio 58's Production Program. Growing up she had a variety of musical and performing training (piano, ballet, choir and more). She eventually found her love in theatre and production, especially in stage management, production management and sound design. Born and raised in Hong Kong, she moved to Vancouver in 2021 to tell stories.

She is endlessly grateful to be able to complete her training in Studio 58 and to share her art on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Recent credits includes: *Into the Woods* (Stage Manager, Studio 58) and *Ring of Fire* (Apprentice Sound Designer, Arts Club Theatre Company). She is beyond excited to be working with the Panto team this year! You can also find out more about her work on Instagram @kadyworkshere.

**JAE GONZALES**

PRODUCTION INTERN, CHILD WRANGLER

Jae Gonzales (he/they) is a performer, writer, and artist currently finishing his BFA in Theatre & Performance at SFU. His recent performance credits include Zoë Braithwaite's *The Mechanics of Intimacy* from the 2024 Live Acts Festival and Erika Latta's *Strange Joy*. Jae has also begun working as a stage manager. His recent stage management credits include two shows from the 2024 Live

Acts Festival: Rosemary Morrison's *Are You Thinking What I'm Thinking?* and Kaitlyn La Vigne's *Sifting Perspectives*. Jae wants to create and produce work that explores how stories and the past can affect performers and audiences. In the future, Jae would like to continue working both onstage and backstage.

BIOGRAPHIES: CAST



HAYLEY SULLIVAN
AS ROBIN HOOD

Hayley Sullivan is an actor and musician originally from Australia. She trained at both Actors Centre Australia and The Atlantic Acting School in New York. She is one half of the music/theatre duo As and When and 1/6th of the band Hot Dyke Party. Recent theatre credits include: *The Hound of The Baskervilles* (Theatre NorthWest), *The Mousetrap* (Theatre NorthWest), *Hedda Gabler* (United Players), *Passenger Seat* (OUTstages), *Flowers of the Rarest* (Performance Works), *Forever Hold Your Peace* (Opera Unbound), *Waiting for Garbo* (Curious Creations), *Emilia* (United Players), *The End of Straight History* (OR Festival), *A Coveted Wife of East Van* (Vancouver Fringe Festival).



JASON SAKAKI
AS PRINCE KEN & MARION

Jason is thrilled to return to the Panto, this time wearing a costume that isn't a child-sized mattress. Recent Theatre: *The Sound of Music*, *Jersey Boys*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Matchmaker*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Arts Club) *Jersey Boys* (Citadel Theatre); *Shakespeare in Love*, *Taming of the Shrew* (Bard on the Beach); *Guide My Way* (Urban Ink); Recent Film & TV: *Prom Pact*, *Devil in Ohio*, *Lucky Hank*, *Honor Society*, *Riverdale*, *Christmas is You*, *The Irrational*.



MUNISH SHARMA
AS LITTLE JAAN

I'm over the moon to be back and part of the Panto team again this year! Last year was special because the *East Van Panto* is special. Thank you for coming again or for the first time. Let's have some fun! Love to my family, friends and mentors. *Hamlet/Twelfth Night* (Bard on the Beach), *Himmat* (Theatre Conspiracy), *East Van Panto: Beauty and the Beast* (Theatre Replacement), *Mahabharata* (Whynot Theatre), *Henry V* (Bard on the Beach), *#34* (Globe Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bard on the Beach), *Men Express Their Feelings* (Zee Zee Theatre), *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (Arts Club), *All's Well That Ends Well* (Bard on the Beach), *The Cherry Orchard: After Chekov* (Arts Club), *The Invisible Hand* (Pi Theatre). TRAINING: University of Regina. munisharma.com



STEFFANIE DAVIS
AS TONI THE PONY

Steffanie is thrilled to be returning to the Panto after having the time of her life last year playing Belle in *Beauty & The Beast*. She is an actor, singer, dancer and model based here in Vancouver. Last year she was one of ten artists chosen across Canada to participate in the EveryBody On Stage's "Leading Players Project" in Toronto. Aside from theatre, she can be found singing at various venues such as Guilt &

Co or working in film & television. Recent theatre credits: *Middletown* (Sticks & Stones); *East Van Panto: Beauty & The Beast* (Theatre Replacement); *Someone Like You* (Arts Club Theatre), *We Will Rock You* (Theatre Under the Stars); *Cabaret* (Raincity Theatre); *Stile & Drewe's The Three Little Pigs* (Carousel Theatre for Young People); *Grease* (Chemainus); *Frog Belly Rat Bone* (Axis Theatre). Up next: *Someone Like You* tour with Arts Club Theatre Company! Instagram: @Steffwithanff



MARK CHAVEZ

AS HANS THE HEDGEHOG, LUZ THE GOOSE & ROBOBRARIAN

Mark Chavez is an actor, writer, and comedian who is originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico and now lives in East Vancouver. Superfans of the *East Van Panto* might recognize Mark's name as the writer of *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*, and *Panto Come Home*. You also might remember him from his appearances in *Panto Come Home*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. For the rest of year he is kept in storage under the York next to the set.



JUNE MIROCHNICK

ON PERCUSSION

June Mirochnick has played drums in 8 previous East Van Pantos. They have also recently performed in *As You Like It* (Grand Theatre, London, Ont), *Super Seniors* by Kathryn Shaw (Western Gold), and *Parade* (Raincity). June is in the bands Great Aunt Ida, Patsy Klein/Tony Wilson Band, and also plays guitar and bass. They are thrilled to be back for their ninth Panto and they look forward to playing drums for

Studio 58's upcoming production of *Heathers: The Musical*.



CAROL CHU

AS A MERRY-THEM

Carol (she/her) is originally from Edmonton (Amiskwacîwâskahikan) on Treaty 6 Territory. Carol is an alumna of MacEwan University's Theatre Arts program. She is currently in her fifth term at Studio 58, working on the unceded xʷməθkʷəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) lands. She has played at the Edmonton International Fringe Festival many

times and has been a part of *One of a Kind* (Vancouver International Children's Festival) as both an actor and Assistant Director for the past two years. Select Studio 58 credits include: Marshall (*Baggage*), Sea Turtle (*Gilly as Fin*, FourPlay) and Olivia Truth (*in an instant*, Risky Nights). Carol is delighted to be making her East Van Panto debut! Catch her next in *Heathers: The Musical* at Studio 58. Special love and gratitude to all her friends, family, teachers at Studio 58 and the entire Panto team!

BIOGRAPHIES: CAST



SEWIT EDEN HAILE

AS A MERRY-THEM

Sewit Eden Haile (she/her) is an emerging performer and writer in her final semester at Studio 58! Sewit is thrilled to be a part of this year's *East Van Panto* alongside such a wonderful team including some of her Studio classmates in the cast and creative team! She lives in Burnaby with her lovely family, on the unceded lands of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm' and Skwxwú7mesh speaking Peoples. Her credits at Studio 58

include: Ruby/Playwright (*Risky Nights*, *The Raft*), Mother (*Blood Wedding*), Cinderella's Stepmother (*Into the Woods*), Isaac (*Baggage*). Her play *Pretty Girls* premiered at Studio's FourPlay festival last spring! Outside of Studio 58, she's written and performed in *One of a Kind* at the Vancouver International Children's Festival and written for *Momentum 180*. Coming up, you can catch her as Sylvia in Green Thumb Theatre's *500 Words* tour.



STELLA JACK-RENNIE

AS A MERRY-THEM

Stella Jack-Rennie (they/she) is a theatre artist who lives and works on the stolen land of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Having grown up watching the *East Van Panto* they are thrilled to be a part of this year's show. She is currently studying at Studio 58 at Langara College and has worked in Vancouver as an actor, writer and

stage manager. Past acting/writing credits include: *In the Flesh* (*Risky Nights*, Studio 58); *Stories from a Suitcase* (Burnaby Arts Council); Actor and Stage Manager, *One of a Kind* (The Vancouver International Children's Festival). Other stage management credits include: Rehearsal Stage Manager, *Bitches with Baggage* (Vancouver International Fringe Festival), and as assistant stage manager for *Fourplay* (Studio 58); and *Amphitruo* (United Players of Vancouver). Stella would like to send a thank you to their teachers, friends, family, and the entire team of *East Van Panto*!



AMANDA SUM

UNDERSTUDY

Amanda Sum is a performer and creator who dances between music and theatre. Amanda has collaborated on many interdisciplinary theatre based works, which have brought her to perform and present works at the Smush Gallery (Jersey City) at On The Boards (Seattle), and Summerworks (Toronto). Amanda's recent acting credits include four seasons of the *East Van Panto* (Theatre

Replacement), and *Sense and Sensibility* (The Arts Club). Her latest EP *does it make me naive if i've never been part of something where i've meant more to them than they did to me?* was released in June 2024. Her music video *Different Than Before* (2022), garnered a JUNO nomination and won the SXSW Music Video Jury Award (2023). As Theatre Replacement's COLLIDER Artist, Amanda created *New Age Attitudes: Live in Concert*, which premiered in 2023

and will continue to tour in 2025. She is currently working on her next full-length record, and is developing its accompanying experimental theatre show. Amanda holds a BFA from SFU. Antics and updates: @amanduhsum



DAWN PETTEN
UNDERSTUDY

Dawn is known to Panto audiences for being silly in seven of these East Van romps. You may remember her as a harp in the very first *EVP*, or as Hansel, Cinderella's Prince, a Tin Them, Gloria Macarenko, Alice in Wonderland, or Ursula the octopus villain. This year she is thrilled to again step in as Emergency Coverage and to return to the cherished role of Stage Mom to one of the Panto Kids. You may have caught Dawn this past summer playing Malvolia in *Twelfth Night* at Bard on the Beach. Other favourite theatre companies she has trod the boards with include Caravan Farm Theatre, Arts Club, and Touchstone among others. She is a grad of UBC's BFA Acting Program, and has a bunch of Jessie nominations and some of the hardware/glassware. Dawn is a proud East Van-er, Hastings-Sunrise styles. Special love to her family.



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We host vibrant gatherings and lively conversations around the issues, topics, and ideas that are presented in our shows.

We remove barriers to access by providing ASL Interpretation performances and free tickets to those for whom cost is prohibitive.

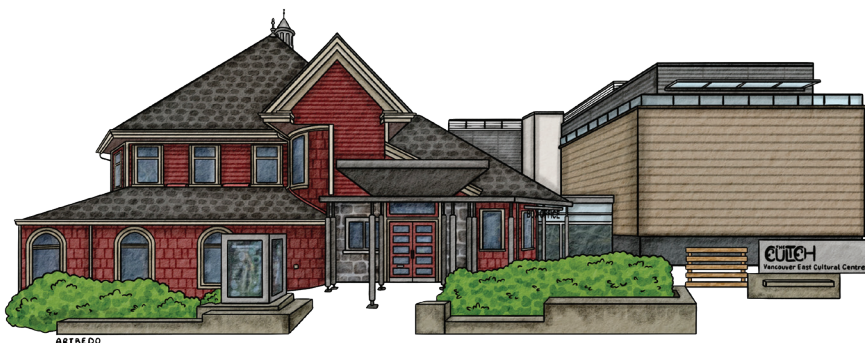
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We activate this work in our three theatres—the Historic, the Vancity Culture Lab, and the York—a gallery, and various multi-use spaces in the heart of East Vancouver, as well as our Cultch Online digital presentations that reach international audiences.

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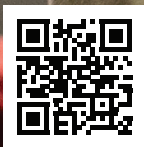
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DANCE NATION, APR 23–MAY 04, 2025

Dance Nation is the latest production by The Search Party, an award-winning Vancouver theatre company. Clare Barron's Pulitzer Prize Finalist for Drama (2019), which The New York Times called "a blazingly original play", follows an army of fiercely competitive pre-teen dancers as they train for National Dance Competitions.

Photo // Amanda Sum by Emily Cooper Photography

**Q&A WITH MINDY PARFITT, DIRECTOR OF *DANCE NATION***

Your company, The Search Party, is known for its hard-hitting productions of some of the most exciting contemporary plays. What drew you to *Dance Nation*?

It's a very compelling story; it's funny but also heartfelt. There's this beautiful juxtaposition between these big glorious moments of dance and these intimate exchanges between characters. I also really love the discussion it is having around success and the tension that exists between individual ambition and the collective endeavor.

What can we expect from the casting?

Dance Nation is a big ensemble piece. It follows a pre-teen dance troupe as they fight their way to nationals. Barron requires that the cast not be teenagers, but rather actors of a variety of ages and dancing capabilities. So we have actors in their early twenties to mid-sixties with a wide range of dancing training who are coming together to tell this story. We had a tremendous response to our casting call—people are really excited to have this play in our city. We've been able to cast this incredible group of actors that I feel very inspired and excited to work with. Matching them with the design team that has been assembled—it's an adventure I can't wait to go on.

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