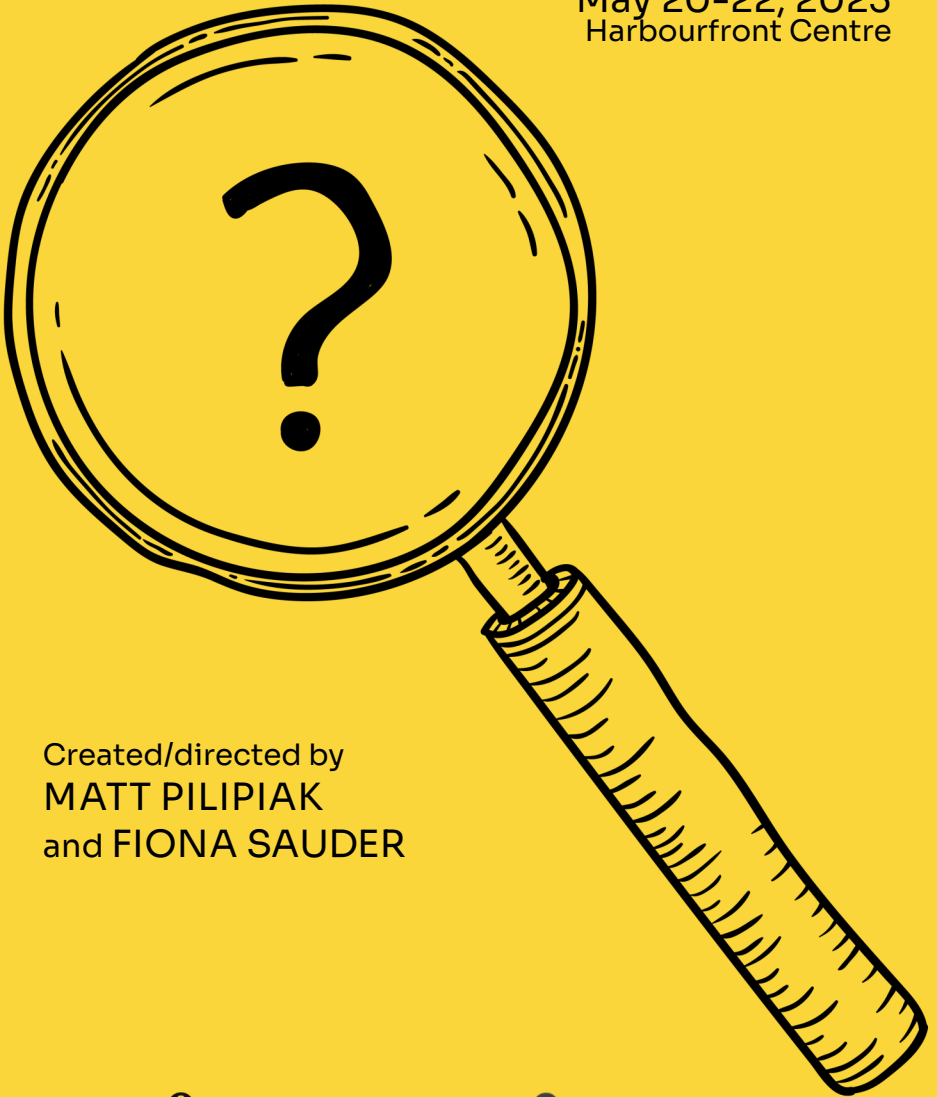


Bad Hats Theatre's

STORYBOOK SEARCH

May 20-22, 2023
Harbourfront Centre



Created/directed by
MATT PILIPIAK
and **FIONA SAUDER**



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www.badhatstheatre.com

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We respectfully acknowledge the past and present traditional owners of this territory and their unique role in the life of the region. Harbourfront Centre is committed to honouring Indigenous peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land and waters, and their rich contribution to society. Toronto is on the traditional territory of the Anishinabeg, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We ask that you respect the land and traditions of those who walked upon it for millennia before us.

To all the peoples of Turtle Island: Chi Miigwetch!

DIRECTORS' NOTE

This piece started as an experiment: we were curious about the marriage of puzzles and theatre. What would happen if a scavenger hunt met an escape room met an outdoor adventure but it was also a theatre play?

We wanted to create something that would bring joy to families, something we would want to do with our own friends.

This experiment led us to the Storybook Search.

The creation of this piece has brought us an immense amount of joy and laughter and we've tried to instil that joy and laughter into every moment of the Search.

We encourage you to take a moment and look around the Harbourfront today, at all the many people passing by. Every single person here has a story. We are all a collection of stories: momentous stories and everyday stories; stories that we create, stories that we witness, and stories that we share.

We hope you leave the show today with a lot of laughter, some joyful memories, and the gentle reminder that stories are everywhere.

Matt Pilipiak and Fiona Sauder
Creators and Directors

Bad Hats Theatre's
**STORYBOOK
SEARCH**

as part of JUNIOR at the Harbourfront Centre
235 Queens Quay, Toronto, ON



CAST

Parastoo Amanzadeh	Peter the Pig Princess
Georgia Bennett	The Pied Piper Mrs. Rumpelstiltskin
Shelayna Christante	Emma
Autumn Davis	Bella Ms. Locks
Kevin Forster	Pepper the Pig Harold the Prince
郝邦宇 Steven Hao	Scott the Rat Man Mr. Rumpelstiltskin
Melanie Leon	Bonnie
Annie Luján	Stella Valerie the Gallerist
Izzi Nagel	Max
Anthony Perpuse	Ollie
Daniel Yeh	Percy the Pig Gerald the Prince

CREATIVE

Matt Pilipiak	Concept Director
Fiona Sauder	Concept Director
Jackie Chau	Set and Costume Design
Tamara Protic	Stage Manager
Wei Qing Tan	Apprentice Stage Manager
Victor Pokinko	Executive Producer
Pip Bradford	Production Manager
Aden Altamirano	Assistant Production Manager
Ellie Koffman	Head of Wardrobe



BAD HATS

This performance is 70 minutes
long with no intermission



ADEN ALTAMIRANO

Assistant Production Manager

Aden is a Toronto based creative, and a graduate of Toronto Metropolitan University's Performance Production Program. Aden is super grateful to the Bad Hats crew for welcoming him onto their team for a SECOND time and giving him the opportunity to contribute to this wonderful piece of art!

When he's not doing theatre stuff you can find him playing

music and writing songs, or playing a borderline unhealthy amount of video games. Much love to Aden's friends, family and trusted colleagues!



PARASTOO AMANZADEH

Peter the Brick Pig | Princess

Parastoo is an Iranian actor and contemporary dancer based in Toronto. She studied Theatre back home at Sooreh Art High School and advanced her education in Theatre art performance at Humber College. Parastoo had the chance to work with many great directors, dancers, puppeteers and actors both in Iran and Canada in Farsi and English. She has

performed at Glendon Theatre, Fringe Festival, Cahoots Theatre, Pia Bouman School of Ballet and Creative Movement, Tirgan Festival, Children Peace Theatre, and Theatre Passe Muraille at Rutas festival. Parastoo would like to make her work available for all people around the world regardless of the language they speak. That is why she likes to tell more stories with her body.



GEORGIA BENNETT

Pied Piper | Mrs. Rumpelstiltskin

Georgia grew up in Chemainus, BC and is a graduate of Sheridan College's Bachelor of Music Theatre Performance Class of 2017. Last seen at Chemainus Theatre Festival in "Classic Country Roads" and "Holiday Jubilation". Some of her favourite stage credits include Ruth in "Rumspringa Break! An Am-ish Musical" (CMTP, TPM, Next Stage Theatre

Festival), Rose in "Dogfight" & Mamma in "Senza Luce" (Theatre Sheridan), Polly in "The Magician's Nephew", Lucy in "The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe" & Beth in "Little Women" (CTF), Back to B4: A Bingo Bonanza (Smile Theatre), and One Small Step (Toronto Fringe). Television: Ginny & Georgia (Netflix).

Upcoming: Ghost the Musical at Chemainus Theatre Festival



PIP BRADFORD

Production Manager

Pip Bradford is an independent producer, production manager, and stage manager who works with many companies in Toronto, including the Luminato Festival, Anandam DanceTheatre, The Toronto Comic Arts Festival, Just For Laughs, Nightwood Theatre, Red Sky Performance, 7a*11d Performance Art Festival, SummerWorks, and

Theatre Passe Muraille. Pip also works as a member of the Means of Production, a collective of freelance production staff seeking to promote values-based production work while advocating for equitable working conditions and providing resources to the independent production community.



JACKIE CHAU

Production Designer

Jackie has worked as a set and costume designer in over 200 productions across Canada and her work has internationally. She is also a production designer for film and television. Jackie has been nominated for 3 Virginia and Myrtle Cooper Award in Costume Design, nominated for a Saskatoon Area Theatre (SAT) award, and has received 9 Dora nominations for outstanding set and costume design. Jackie has been a resident artist with ARC since 2013. She teaches Theatrical Design at the University of Toronto and at York University. She is a mom of 2 lovely daughters – Casey and Leslie.



SHELAYNA CHRISTANTE

Emma

Shelayna Christante (she/they) is an actor, singer, and multidisciplinary artist born and raised in Red Deer, Alberta. They moved to Toronto to pursue their passions for Theatre Performance and just recently graduated from George Brown Theatre School. She is very delighted for the opportunity to be a part of the Storybook Search; so delighted, in fact, she doesn't even mind that she's (spoiler!) hanging out in a trash can for 20 minutes. In her spare time, you can find Shelayna embroidering, goofing around, or contemplating human existence while chilling in a trash can.



AUTUMN DAVIS

Bella / Ms. Locks

Autumn Davis is a Des McAnuff and Gladys Shibley Mitchell Memorial Award winning artist and actor. She obtained her BFA in Acting from Toronto Metropolitan (Ryerson) University in 2022. Born and raised in Toronto, she brings to life both Shakespeare and modern texts with passion and perceptive inquisition, holding credits in both theater and film. She writes, directs and edits short films to fulfill her need to create and challenge herself. She's also an enthusiastic mover and singer simply jazzed to continually explore creative expression in whatever form it may take.



KEVIN FORSTER

Pepper the Straw Pig / Harold the Prince

Kevin Forster is a Toronto-based actor and improviser. He has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Toronto Metropolitan University and has been acting professionally since graduating over 8 years ago. He has been involved in a variety of shows ranging from Musicals, to TYA, to clown and improv. Catch him next at the in “Summer Dad Family Roadtrip” at the Toronto Fringe. **SELECTED THEATRE:** Ride the Cyclone and Little Women The Musical (The Playhouse Collective), Robin Hood and Cyrano De Bergerac (The Lakeside Players), Loot, (Bygone Theatre), Geronimo Stilton: Mouse in Space (Electric Moon Theatre Company), The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee and 7 Stories (Hart House Theatre), The Diary of Anne Frank (Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre). **FILM & TELEVISION:** Anne With An E, Fear Thy Neighbour.



郝邦宇 STEVEN HAO

Scott the Rat Man / Mr. Rumpelstiltskin

郝邦宇 Steven Hao is a Tkaronto-based director, actor, and writer passionate about creating work that breaks the boundary of what theatre-making can be. He is excited to be making his Bad Hats debut in this incredibly silly, full of gags, fantastically hilarious adventure, alongside some of the most lovely folks he's had the fortune of working with. His

selected theatre credits include: Puck, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Canadian Stage); Cockroach, *Cockroach* (Tarragon Theatre); Bartender/Zeus, *Trojan Girls & The Outhouse of Atreus* (OtM/Factory Theatre). He's gonna leave his Instagram towards the end of this bio in hopes that you will befriend him, he promises he's mostly harmless. @steven_haoby



ELLIE KOFFMAN

Head of Wardrobe

Ellie is a Toronto-based Costume Designer and Wardrobe Manager. Ellie currently serves as a Head of Wardrobe at Souleppper Theatre Company. A BFA graduate from York University, her work has been featured in several productions in Canada and abroad. Previous theatre credits include *Rock of Ages* (More Entertainment), *The 39 Steps* (The Grove Theatre), *Ghost The Musical* (Starvox Entertainment), *The Cave* (JMAR Electric), *Wildfire* (Factory Theatre), among men (Factory Theatre), *Year of the Rat* (Factory Theatre), *Rinaldo* (The Royal Conservatory of Music) *Forever Plaid* (Starvox Entertainment), *Magic Immersive* (Lighthouse Immersive), *Jamie Allan's Illusionarium* (Lighthouse Immersive), *rochdale* (Summerworks Festival), *Romeo and Juliet* (Canadian Stage), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Canadian Stage).



MELANIE LEON

Bonnie

Melanie is a queer, mixed race artist (BFA UVic) with a love for collaborative creation, whimsy, and theatrical magic. Recent credits include: For Shakespeare BASH'd (King Lear, Cymbeline, Othello, Measure for Measure), Dauntless City Theatre (All's Well That Ends Well, Much Ado About Nothing), North America (Flooded), Shakespeare by the Sea (Cinderelly / Hamlet). A true movement enthusiast, Mel loves exploring storytelling through physical exploration including dance, mask, and stage combat (FDC Advanced Combatant). In her spare time, Mel is often busy crocheting for her small business my menagerie, which is another example of how she loves to tell stories through multiple mediums.



ANNIE LUJÁN

Stella / Ms. Locks

Annie Luján (she/her) is an actor, clown and theatre creator. In 2022, she graduated from the Soulpepper Academy where she made her Soulpepper debut in *King Lear* and created her first clown solo show. Annie is passionate about work that is physical, interactive and blends theatrical forms. She is very proud to be another hat on the bad-hat-hat-rack of amazing

people/hats and coll(hat)aborators and so grateful to have/hat (hat trick!!!) brought this show to life with this team (HATS)!



IZZI NAGEL

Max

Izzi is so excited to have the opportunity to combine her love of theatre, games, and silliness into this production! She's a graduate of TMU's Acting Conservatory, and since graduating has been having a great time playing on stages across Toronto and Ontario. Onscreen, she can be seen in 'Blues Clues & You!' (Nickelodeon), 'Don't Hang Up' (Bounce

TV), 'The Swearing Jar' (TIFF 2022), and the upcoming AppleTV series 'The Big Cigar.' When not performing, she loves to sew, hang with kids, play games, and explore this beautiful city. Thank you for coming to play with us!



ANTHONY PERPUSE

Ollie

Hi, I'm Tony and I'm back again for another round of Storybook Search! This has been such a truly wonderful experience playing games, sharing laughs and getting the honour to work with such fun, lovely and talented artists. His acting credits include *The Waltz* (Factory Theatre), *Orestes* (Tarragon Theatre), *Through the Bamboo* (Fringe), *Eraser*

(Riser Festival), *Theory* (Tarragon). Film credits: V/H/S 96, CBC's *Workin' Moms* (5th season) and *Save Me, Fifth Estate* (voiceover). I'm so excited to search!



MATT PILIPIAK

Concept / Director

Matt is a Prairie-born, Toronto-based actor, dramaturg, director, and theatre producer. As Managing and Artistic Producer of Bad Hats Theatre, Matt has helped foster and develop the company's artistic output through their work on and offstage. Alongside Artistic Director, Fiona Sauder, they lead and curate Bad Hats' new-play development program,

New Bad Ideas. In addition to creating with and performing for Bad Hats, other notable credits include *Three Men in a Boat & Three Men on a Bike* (Prea Green), *Murder for Two* (Globus Theatre), and *Boys, Girls & Other Mythological Creatures* (Carousel Players).



VICTOR POKINKO

Executive Producer

Victor is an arts leader, theatre-creator, and Dora award-winning producer who brings a keen creative eye to the work he facilitates. He is committed to carving out and supporting space for new, inventive, multidisciplinary work to be developed, explored, and shared. He has produced for The Cultch, Soulpepper Theatre, Luminato Festival, ARC, Globus

Theatre, Theatre Rusticle, Pea Green Theatre, among others, having the pleasure of collaborating with renowned artists like Candy Palmater, Martha Ross, John Millard, Tomson Highway, Kent Monkman, Jeremy Dutcher, Colin Mochrie, and Buffy Ste Marie. He is the Creative Producer for *Bad New Days*, the Producer for *J Mar Electric*, and the very proud Executive Producer of *Bad Hats*.



TAMARA PROTIC

Stage Manager

Tamara was born in Zrenjanin, Serbia, and moved to Scarborough with her family in 1995. When she was nine years old living in Serbia, she and her friends started creating plays and skits that they'd perform for their neighbourhood in front of the building she was raised in. She still digs it. Selected Credits: *Mahabharata* (Why Not/Shaw); *Alice in Wonderland*,

Peter Pan (Bad Hats/Soulpepper), *The Waltz* (Factory Theatre/Blyth Festival Theatre); *among men*, *Lady Sunrise* (Factory Theatre); *Knives in Hens*, *Poison* (Coal Mine Theatre); *The Cave* (J Mar Electric); *Prairie Nurse* (Factory Theatre/Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Salt-Water Moon* (Factory Theatre, WhyNot Theatre, Mirvish); *Late Night* (ZoomerMedia, Theatre Brouhaha). She's a fan of kindness and the Raptors.



FIONA SAUDER

Concept | Director

Fiona is an Ottawa-born Director, Writer, Performer, and Educator with a focus in original, multidisciplinary works. Fiona co-founded Bad Hats in 2015 in an effort to create a space that championed artists with an appetite for collaborative working models and stories that implore our curiosity. Both in the work she creates and the work she

facilitates, Fiona looks for ways to highlight the wisdom of our younger generations and offer it to the generations that have come before; as a gift, as a request, as a challenge. Fiona is committed to creating environments centred around play as an act of resistance. For Bad Hats: *Narnia* (Writer/Director), *Alice in Wonderland* (Writer/Associate Director/Performer), *Peter Pan* (Writer/Performer), *Princess Frownsalot* (Writer/Director), *The Gold One* (Writer/Performer).



WEI QING TAN

Apprentice Stage Manager

Wei Qing is a Malaysian-born theatre artist, currently based in Toronto. She mainly practices stage management and production management, and strives to be an enriching collaborator. Selected credits: *Between a Wok and a Hot Pot* (Cahoots Theatre); *Alice in Wonderland* (Bad Hats/ Soulpepper); *our place* (Cahoots Theatre/TPM); *Guilt* by

Diane Flacks (*One Yellow Rabbit*); Dora Mavor Moore Awards; 7a*11d Festival of Performance Art; Summerworks Festival; Directors Lab North; The Rest is Electric; *Matilda the Musical* (an Impulse Production), *Cabaret* (NTS). She is a graduate from the National; Theatre School of Canada.



DANIEL YEH

Percy the Woods Pig / Gerald the Prince

Daniel Yeh is an Asian-Mohawk (First Nations) artist living in Toronto, having recently graduated from Sheridan College's Musical Theatre Performance program (2022). He works as an active actor, dancer, and singer having most recently been seen in the production of *Bent Boy* (Young People's Theatre) and as Tommy Djilas in *The Music Man* (Thousand

Islands Playhouse). He hopes to continue creating and entertaining through his work and strives to connect with communities through story telling.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Harbourfront Centre, Nathalie Bonjour, Mary Francis Moore, Amy Hunter, Lisa Marie DiLiberto, Miriam Schachter, Shireen Norouzi, Scott Farley, Sierra Holder, Reanne Spitzer, Hannah MacMillan, Ruthie Luff, Humber College, Tatiana Jennings and the third year students, Soulpepper Theatre, Lauren Vandervoort, Thelma Kandel, Matt Dekort, Izzy Eryavec, Declan Hewitt, Julia MacLean, Brooke Mitchell, Rebecca Ward, and Emma Woodside.

Bad Hats Theatre gratefully acknowledges the support of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council



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ABOUT BAD HATS

We believe that magic exists in every corner of our lives.

Founded in 2015 by Nicola Atkinson and Fiona Sauder, Bad Hats is known for presenting award-winning, multidisciplinary, ensemble-based theatre.

With an emphasis on programming for young people and families, our mandate centres on new works and adaptations that call on multi-generational audiences to access the curiosity and intuition of their childhood. Featuring minimalist production elements, highly stylized physical storytelling and original music, our practice is framed around finding the 'extraordinary within the ordinary'.

Our work celebrates that this ability is most frequently accessible to young children, who believe in things they cannot see, and inherently understand the power of collective imagining. We want young people who view our work to be inspired to imagine, and let that imaginative quality inspire our adult patrons to redesign the world their children are inheriting. We don't endeavour to educate young people, but rather to unlock their worldview and learn from it through everyday magic.

We invite you to come play with us.

www.badhatstheatre.com | [@badhatstheatre](https://twitter.com/badhatstheatre)

CORE TEAM

Fiona Sauder	Kelsey Verzotti
Artistic Director	Administrative Associate
Matt Pilipiak	Landon Doak
Managing & Artistic Producer	Associate Artist
Victor Pokinko	Barbara Baggins
Executive Producer	Administrator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lauren Vandervoort (Chair),
Nicola Hockin, Kelly Read,
Tania Senewiratne

Want to keep in touch?

[Sign up for our Mailing List](#) to get (occasional) emails about the exciting programming for kids and kids-at-heart that Bad Hats has coming up in 2023 and beyond.

