



The
Passionate Players
Present

*A Midwinter
Night's Dream*

An Adaption of the beloved
Shakespeare classic by
Julie Tepperman

Directed by
**Simon Bloom,
Mitchell Cushman,
& Aaron Willis**

Fight Direction by **Simon Fon**
Choreographed by **Amy Keating**
Music composed by **Gigi Inara**
Set & Costumes by **Jessica Guyon**
Makeup by **Sara Williams**
Stage Managed by **Aidan Morishita-Miki**
Administrated/Produced by
Elizabeth Stuart-Morris

Factory Theatre Mainspace
Friday December 12th at 8pm
Saturday December 13th at 2pm & 8pm
Sunday December 14th at 2pm



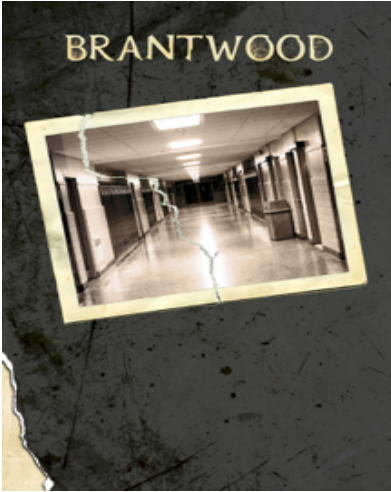
This is a fundraiser!

Thank you for attending A Midwinter Night's Dream!
Here is a sneak peak of upcoming productions artists
from Outside the March and Convergence Theatre
are creating!





Coming this April!



April 14 - 25, 2015
Brantwood School, 221
Allan Street, Oakville
Co-created by
Mitchell Cushman and
Julie Tepperman

Welcome back to Brantwood High! As alumni, we cordially invite you to a reunion celebrating a century of life at Brantwood, before our school closes its doors for good. Join us, Brantwood's final graduating class, and re-explore your old stomping ground—roam the halls, find your old locker, search for those carved-out initials on your desk, and follow the stories of ghosts from 100 years of teenage life. Ten decades of first loves, growing pains, peer pressures and youthful experimentation collide during this epic, immersive, mysterious, musical experience.

The celebration takes place at Brantwood School, 221 Allan Street.

Brantwood is being developed as part of the Canadian Music Theatre Project.



About the Companies

About Convergence Theatre

Convergence Theatre is a Toronto-based, artist-driven, Dora-award winning indie theatre company founded in 2006 by **Julie Tepperman** (actor-playwright-educator) & **Aaron Willis** (actor-director-educator). With each new project we challenge ourselves to find innovative ways to push the boundaries of intimacy between performer and audience. We create plays with large ensembles, in site-specific and non-traditional venues, as well as completely re-imagine traditional theatre spaces. We invite our audiences to be an integral part of their theatre-going experience by exploring ways to fully immerse them in the world of the play. NOW Magazine readers twice voted Convergence Theatre as "**The Best Site Specific Theatre Company in Toronto**" (2007 & 2013), and in 2009 Julie & Aaron were named by NOW as **Toronto's "Most respected theatre duo"**.

PAST PRODUCTIONS:

Passion Play, YICHUD (Seclusion), The Gladstone Variations and AutoShow

Contact us at: convergencetheatre@gmail.com

About Outside the March

We are dedicated to **making theatre an Event**, by creating work that is:

- 1) **IMMERSIVE:** We offer full theatrical experiences—personal and immediate encounters that endure.
- 2) **SITE-ENGAGING:** We transform found spaces into playgrounds of performance, as well as unearthing new possibilities within traditional theatres.
- 3) **NEW:** We introduce local and international voices to our audiences—compelling stories that grapple with our here and now.
- 4) **TRANSFORMATIVE:** We are looking to captivate a wide range of individuals, especially audiences who might not normally find themselves in the theatre.
- 5) **COMMUNAL:** We forge resonant collaborations between artists of all levels of experience and across disciplines, as well as meaningful partnerships within our community.

Since 2009, we've invited our audiences to play with us in kindergarten classrooms, parade with Queen Elizabeth along the Danforth, tinker in garages, congregate in churches, strategize across boardroom tables, and to join us up onstage at the Royal Alexandra Theatre.



About the Play

Our version of Dream takes place not in the summer, but in the winter; not in Athens, but in Timmins, Ontario!

Duke Theseus and **Hippolyta** are to be married in 4 days, but she's not so into him!

Hermia's parents want her to marry **Demetrius**, but she's in love with **Lysander**. When the Duke brings down the 'Timminan Law' on Hermia, decreeing that she must either obey her parents' will, become a nun, or be put to death, she and Lysander run away to the magical forest to elope.

Little do they know that Hermia's best friend **Helena** has told her love Demetrius about this, and Demetrius follows them, with Helena hot on his tail.

So...Hermia loves Lysander; Helena loves Demetrius, Demetrius loves Hermia.

Enter **The Fairies!** Queen **Titania** and King **Oberon** are fighting over a changeling child. When Titania refuses to hand over the boy, Oberon has his servants, **The Pucks** put a spell on her when she is sleeping so that she will fall in love with the first person she sees upon awaking.

Meanwhile, **The Mechanicals** are rehearsing a play that they hope to perform for Theseus and Hippolyta on their wedding night. In a mischievous moment, The Pucks place a spell on the leading actor **Bottom**, turning him into a half-man, half-donkey. Titania wakes and falls in love with Bottom the Donkey at first sight.

In another part of the forest, The Pucks have mistakenly put a spell on Lysander so that when he wakes he no longer loves Hermia, but Helena. The same spell is put on Demetrius so that he loves Helena now too!

What a mess! Only a magical solution can fix things now...



A Note from the Directors...

Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is often compared to *Romeo Juliet* - both were written around the same time, and both tell the story of young lovers escaping the oppression of their parents by eloping under the veil of secrecy.

Less explored is the notion that both of these plays are about **heat**. In *R&J*, The sweltering summer of fair Verona breeds street brawls and vows of love exchanged on balconies. Similarly, in *Dream*, lovers retreat into the wooded world of the Fairy Kingdom, where they wrestle and stumble over one another into beds of blossoming flowers beneath canopies of summer leaves. These plays are about the spring and summer of love, and, like any good summer, the heat that comes along with it.

But here we must pause, look outside our window and realize that a Midsummer's heat is no match for the icy clutches of a Toronto winter. The hot blood of Verona evaporates into harmless steam on the frigid banks of Yonge street.

And so in our Midwinter's adaptation of Shakespeare's summer dream, Julie Tepperman has beautifully re-imagined Shakespeare's Athenian summer as a Timinnian winter fit for our Canadian mindset. The heat of Canadian passion is expressed not in the summer swelter, but in the frige chill of hockey rink, or on the snow banks of a winter's evening. Our fire runs cold like Canadian winter, and it's in our blood. And why Timmins? As both the home of Shania Twain and the stomping ground of Stomping Tom, Timmins presents a picture of small-town Canadian north.

Knowing that we were working with such a wide age range in our company of actors (who reach from 17-82!), we made the decision to double each pairing of our lovers - two Lysanders, two Helena's, etc. Our play opens with the older couples reuniting to look over a photo album that contains memories from their relationship, startled to suddenly discover these photos from their past selves coming to life before their very eyes.

Our initial thought was that the senior pairings would step into the story to act as a kind of guide for their younger counterparts - warning them when they were going astray, attempting to right their past wrongs.. What we discovered in practice, however, was that age did not temper passion; our older lovers were sometimes more ready to jump back into the passionate fray than to offer cold and distant council. It was a valuable lesson in perception versus reality - passion knows no bounds, neither of age nor experience.

Creating this play with this company of actors (who range from 17-82!) has been a re-affirming experience. It has required dedication, generosity, courage, and passion, and the actors have delivered these qualities in spades. We are so overjoyed to see how each member of the company has grown from Shakespearean acolytes to veterans, learning to wield the language and tread the boards with alacrity, confidence, and most importantly, with a passion to share with the audience.



A Note from a Passionate Players Participant

Becoming a Shakespearian Actor by Peter Sevitt

To be, or not to be? That was the question I asked myself. I had often wondered what it would be like to be on the stage - marvelling at how actors learned their lines, interacted with each other, but more, in particular, the challenge of the Shakespearian language.

During the day I am a 67 year old Chartered Accountant looking after my clients. In my spare time I am a theatre-goer and a sports fanatic. I had played sports at a competitive level and looked for analogies with being a performer on stage.

What makes one individual or a team successful? What's the secret of success? Yes, having exceptional individual talent helps! But it's also the discipline, the repetition, the building of teamwork with encouragement and support. The team is paramount. Was it these aspects of team work that were driving me to go onstage even with exposing myself to all those uncertainties and pressures. Did I have the courage? And then an opportunity arose to act in *A Midwinter Nights Dream*. I was excited, although scared of the expectation, the scrutiny and the consequences. What would it be like being a player again rather than a spectator?

In my dreams I was now Laurence Olivier and Richard Burton....

"A Midwinter Night's Dream celebrates that place where fantasy and reality meet."

"That's for me", I thought! Soon, an eager cast of 24 was assembled to populate the fantasy world of *The Dream*. We range in age from 15 to 75. None of the actors had performed Shakespeare before. To prepare for the play, we met once a week for eight weeks in a Shakespeare performance class taught by Aaron & Julie. Training in voice, movement, character development and text analysis was empowering - it helped us to bring the text to life and feel less daunted by it.

To be directed by the future leading Canadian directors is so exciting, and for them to pass on their extraordinary knowledge to a group of amateur actors is priceless. They represent Canada's emerging multi talented artists. In Shakespeare's day, all the women's roles were played by men. If the audience didn't like the play they became armed with apples and pears. Times have changed, but the challenges are still there. Will we remember our lines? Will we come in at the correct moment? Will we let our cast members down? Will we let the directors down?! Will we freeze?!! Will the audience respond as Shakespeare asks in the final words of the play?

"So, good night unto you all/Give us your hands, if we be friends/And now we shall restore amends."

In our technological world, for a brief moment of time, we are living and breathing Shakespeare's 420 year old poetry and language, on stage, as actors, for the first time in our lives. What a joy. What a privilege.



Thank you!

To our DONORS:

Terry Hersenhoren in honour of Susanne Egier
To all our Silent Auction Donors, and to
Bev Katz Rosenbaum, Doug Watters, Gigi Inara, and Patricia Golubev for their
silent auction donation help

Factory Theatre for hosting us and donating their space:

Nina Lee Aquino, Erin Birkenbergs, Michael Bruent (add), Bryan Eaton (take
out), Jonathan Heppner, Ellen Hurley, Jamie Monteiro (take out), Renna Reddie
and Nigel Shawn Williams

Act II Studio; Acting Up Stage: Mitchell Marcus; **Blyth Festival:** Lisa Harper;
Canadian Opera Company: Eldon Earle; **Crows Theatre:** Lesley Bramhill; **The
Fringe Creation Lab:** Lindsay Wood; **LemonTree Creation Studio:** Indrit Kasapi;
Lower Ossington Theatre: Neta Rice; **Mysteriously Yours Dinner Theatre:**
Andrea; **National Ballet:** Nima Naik; **Outside the March:** Zoe Danahy, Katherine
Devlin-Rosenfeld; **Rhubarb Festival:** Emi Forster; **Shaw Festival:** Julie A. Jones;
Stratford: Corrine Thornhill; **Talk is free Theatre:** Cara McRae; **Tapestry
New Opera:** Michael Mori, Katie Pounder; **Tarragon Theatre:** Jason Chellew,
Annimieke Wade, Felicia; **Theatre Centre;** **Theatre Erindale:** David Matheson,
Patrick Young; **Theatre Passe Muraille:** Jenn Sartor; **and Toronto Fringe:** Lucy
Eveleigh, Lubna Khan

Cocktail's 'n Canvas: Nayan Rach, Ben; **Chocolate Tales:** David Levy; **Legoland;**
Lucy Eveleigh for her life coaching; **Mac;** **Mosheta Salon;** **Peller Estates:** **Pat
Ruddle;** **Phyllis Clermont** for her jewelry, **Somerset Linens;** **Victoria Panos** for
her hats

Kathleen Gallagher-Ross. Gigi Inara for her beautiful music and musical
coaching! Simon Fon for his incredible fight direction! Doug Watters for his
clever winterizations! Sam Godfrey for his fabulous photos!

Jess Guyon for her stunning props, set, and costume design
Make-up artists: Sarah and Joanna
Finer Fabrics, Hank Rosenbaum owner and donator

Our front-of-house volunteers: Bilal Baig, Vanessa Doucet-Rosche, Barbara
Fingerote, Ben Hayward, Zara Jestadt, Austin Khemraj, Nolan Molfetta, Megan
O'Kelly, Brian Postalian, Tenille Read, and Lesley Sevitt

Our remarkable administration and stage management duo Elizabeth Stuart-
Morris and Aidan Morishita-Miki, without whom this endeavour would not have
been possible!

**–And finally, our fabulous ensemble of actors – your incredible bravery
and dedication to this project has been an inspiration!–**



Silent Auction

Check out our Silent Auction in the lobby before the show and at intermission

Four Tickets to any show in **Talk is Free Theatre's** 2015 season

Two Tickets to *Don Giovanni* at the **Canadian Opera Company**

Two Premium Tickets to any 2015 show at **Lower Ossington Theatre**

Two Tickets to select shows at **The Shaw Festival's** 2015 season

Two Punch-Passes to **Theatre Passe Muraille's** 2015 season

Two Tickets to select shows in **Tarragon Theatre's** 2015 season

Two Tickets to **Crow's Theatre's** production of *The Seagull*

Two Tickets to **Acting Up Stage's** production of *The Wild Party*

Two Tickets to *Small Axe* at the **Theatre Centre**

Four Passes to **Mysteriously Yours Dinner Theatre**

Two Tickets to a show at the **2015 Blyth Festival**

Three Tickets to any 2015 production at **Theatre Erindale**

Two Tickets to a night at the **2015 Rhubarb Festival**

Editing Consultation with fiction editor and novelist **Bev Katz Rosenbaum**

Four Tickets to any **Cocktails 'n Canvas** event

Peller Estates Wine Gift-Basket

Emily King-Sized Comforter, Bed Skirt, and 2 Shams from **Somerset Linens**

Two Tickets to any **Chocolate Social** event by **Chocolate Tales**

Four Passes to **Legoland!**

Mac Makeup Products courtesy of **Mac**

Three 1hr/One 3hr Life Coaching Session with the Toronto Fringe's **Lucy Eveleigh**

Two Winter's Dream Wines from the Alps courtesy of **Doug Watters'** private collection

Hair Cut from **Mosheta Salon** on Queen West

Signed Pointe Shoes and Poster from the **National Ballet of Canada**

Two Animal Inspired Winter Hats by **Victoria Panos** of **Wild Things Creations**

Necklace and Earing Set By visual artist **Phyllis Clermont**

There will be a 50/50 draw for each show- winner announced at the end of each intermission!



The Passionate Players Present
A Midwinter Night's Dream

PRODUCTION TEAM

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Adapter | Julie Tepperman |
| Directors | Simon Bloom, Aaron Willis, & Mitchell Cushman |
| Choreographer | Amy Keating |
| Music Composer | Gigi Inara |
| Fight Director | Simon Fon |
| Set & Costumes | Jessica Guyon |
| Makeup | Sara Williams |
| Stage Manager | Aidan Morishita-Mik |
| Administrator/Producer | Elizabeth Stuart-Morris |

CAST (in order of appearance)

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Maureen Murray | Puck Sr. |
| Bev Katz Rosenbaum | Puck Jr. |
| Pamela Paris | Hermia Sr. |
| Hilary Roskey | Hermia Jr. |
| Neil Naft | Demetrius Sr. |
| Jesse Watts | Demetrius Jr. |
| Peter Sevitt | Lysander Sr. |
| Christopher Mastropietro | Lysander Jr. |
| Ruth Miller | Helena Sr. |
| Gigi Inara | Helena Jr. |
| Tobi Kaufman | Theseus |
| Holly Kirkconnell | Hippolyta |
| Louise Howlings | Mrs. Egeus, Mustardseed Fairy |
| Ann Robertson | Mr. Egeus, Moth Fairy |
| Margaret Sellers | Patty Quince |
| Doug Croker | Nick Bottom/Pyramus |
| Max Ackerman | Francis Flute/Thisby |
| Rena Godfrey | Starveling/Moonshine |
| Roger Beck | Tom Snout/Wall |
| Jeanette Cairns | Snug/Lion |
| Patricia Golubev | Cobweb Fairy |
| Doug Watters | Oberon |
| Susanne Egier | Titania |
| Carolyn Tanner | Peaseblossom Fairy, Philostrate |

There will be one 15 minute intermission



Creative Team



Max Ackerman (*Francis Flute / Thisby*)

Max Ackerman is an actor and a grade eleven student at the Abelard School, born and raised in Toronto, Ontario. He has been acting since he was very young and has been featured in roles such as Julius Caesar (*Julius Caesar*), Billy Flynn (*Chicago*), Juror Three (*Twelve Angry Men*), and Jack (*The Importance of Being Earnest*). He is very excited to be working with the Passionate Players for this production and hopes that it is just a glimpse of many things to come. He dedicates his performance to Jan Howlett and Edlyn Noël.



Roger Beck (*Tom Snout / Wall*)

Roger has engaged with theatre and drama for much of his life. At 14 he played Titania (!). Throughout his academic career he taught Greek tragedies and comedies at the University of Toronto Mississauga. He is proud to have helped found and to participate in the joint UTM-Sheridan program in Theatre and Drama Studies, and he continues to follow enthusiastically Theatre Erindale's seasons and the careers of the program's wonderful graduates. Roger has also tried his hand at play-writing: his "Can You Believe?" was staged in the 2011 Toronto Fringe. He is thrilled to be collaborating with fellow Passionate Players and the creative team of *A Midwinter Night's Dream*.



Jeanette Cairns (*Snug / Lion*)

Jeanette began her theatre experience working back stage with Etobicoke Musical Productions. She took acting classes at ACT II STUDIO, Ryerson, and appeared in Shakespeare, Commedia del 'Arte, and restoration theatre shows. Some favourites are: Sarita Myrtle in Noel Coward's "Waiting in the Wings", Molly in "Directions", and Carolyn and in "Lunch in Tuscany". Last year she played the irreverent, naughty Abbess in "The Lady from Maxim's". Jeanette is delighted to be working with the Passionate Players again and to have the opportunity to ROAR. Thank you Julie, Aaron, Mitchell, Simon and Amy for this wonderful opportunity.



Doug Croker (*Nick Bottom / Pyramus*)

Doug is happy to be part of such an exciting production. Previous roles include: Monsieur Vidauban, the bird-brain chicken farmer, in “The Lady From Maxim’s”, April, 2013 and the evil villain in the hit 2012 Toronto Fringe production of “Spychasers”.



Susanne Egier (*Titania*)

Susanne is thrilled to once again be performing with Passionate Players. As well as performing in last year’s, “Lady from Maxim’s”, Susanne has performed in numerous plays over the last twenty years with Stagecraft Theatre Company. Susanne wishes to thank family and friends for all their love and support. She also wishes to thank Simon, Aaron, Mitchell, Julie and Amy for their skilled guidance, endless enthusiasm and positive energy.



Rena Godfrey (*Starveling / Moonshine*)

A travel and lifestyle writer by day, Rena Godfrey is thrilled to be joining the Passionate Players in A Midwinter Night’s Dream. Thanks to my fellow Dreamers, our expert directors, and outstanding Dream team for making this year-long Shakespearean journey so much fun. And to all my sweet Mechanical mates, “Adieu.”



Patricia Golubev (*Cobweb*)

In her mortal life, Patricia has played multiple roles: nanny, student of Russian history, social worker, translator, first-soprano, editor, teacher of writing, and mother to two brilliant, beautiful daughters. Bitten early by the theatre bug, she once played Lika in Arbuzov’s *The Promise*, to meager audiences. She would like to thank Lizzie, Aidan, Jess, Mitchell, Amy, & Simon for their tireless patience and cheerful inspiration, and, most especially, Aaron and Julie, whose playfulness and steadfast confidence in each and every cast member unlocked their individual voices, opening them to possibility and Shakespeare, thus making the dream come true.



Louise Howlings (*Mrs. Egeus, Mustardseed Fairy*)

Louise is thrilled to be part of this incredible production. Previous work includes *12 Angry Women* (Juror #6) and *Welfarewell* (Jennifer), both with The Curtain Club in Richmond Hill. Her main role, however, is a teacher of Drama, Dance, and English in Aurora.

Many thanks to the entire 'Dream' team for this experience, and also to Chris, family, and friends for all the support.



Gigi Inara (*Helena Jr.*)

Gigi is a graduate of the York music program, BFA Mus. 2008, and has also completed her Grade 8 in both Voice and Piano through the Royal Conservatory of Music. In recent years she's been seen in an eclectic set of appearances including playing handbells with Pavlov's Dogs and performing in an original Canadian

musical *Behind Closed Doors* at the 2014 Toronto and Hamilton Fringe Festivals. Behind the scenes, Gigi has also partnered with Jay Clipperton as co-musical director for *East of the Sun, West of the Moon*



Bev Katz Rosenbaum (*Puck Jr.*)

Many moons ago, Bev studied dance at the North York School of Classical Ballet and drama at the Royal Conservatory of Music. She was also a three-time co-director of the theatre program at Camp Wahanowin. She hasn't set foot on a stage since 1983, and is thrilled

to have had this opportunity to work with the coolest theatre peeps in Toronto today—not to mention her high school drama buddy, Maureen Murray! Bev thanks her mom for all those lessons, Brian and Ricky for running lines with her, Andie for styling her rehearsal hair, and Hank for donating fabric. In her other life, Bev is a freelance fiction editor and novelist.



Tobi Kaufman (*Theseus*)

After 19 years of doing stand-up theatre as a teacher in the classroom, Tobi has taken her passion for acting to the stage. She is an active member of Ryerson Act 2 Studio and sits on their Board of Directors. Theatre credits include: *Glory in Don Mills*, *Life on the Line*:

Women Strike at Eatons (Ryerson Act 2 Studio); *Lady from Maxim's* (*Outside the March/Convergence/ Sheep No Wool*). Production credits include: Assistant Stage Manager Shakespeare's *Magic Carpet* and Production Manager *Under Milk Wood* (Ryerson Act 2 Studio). Tobi is excited about being part of this production and thanks her family for being her greatest fans.



Holly Kirkconnell (*Hippolyta*)

Holly is delighted to again be part of a Passionate Players production, this time bringing *The Bard* to the Canadian North in *A Midwinter Night's Dream*. Recent acting credits include: the Passionate Players' production of *The Lady from Maxim's* (Jeanette Tournay); Act II Studio's *Life on the Line: Women Strike at Eaton's 1984-85* (Wendy), and scenes from *The Charity That Began at Home* (Lady Denison), *Arcadia* (Thomasina/Hannah), *August: Osage County* (Karen), *The Breath of Life* (Frances). Heartfelt thanks to the amazing directors, creative and production team and her wonderful, generous and courageous cast-mates, all of whom have been a joy to work with!



Christopher Mastropietro (*Lysander Jr.*)

Christopher has been practicing theatre for almost 10 years, but this will be his first time back on stage after 4 years of hiatus. It will also be his first time performing Shakespeare. Christopher is grateful to be working with *Convergence Theatre* and *Outside the March*, whose work he has admired from afar, and with a very gracious company of actors. A few selected credits: As Actor (with VCDS, U of T): Leon Trotsky, *Variations on the Death of Trotsky*; Pablo Picasso, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*; Juror 10, *Twelve Angry Men*. As Director: *Our Town* (*TheOurTownProject*), *The Dumb Waiter* (*TwoWolvesTheatre*)



Ruth Miller (*Helena Sr.*)

Ruth is enjoying the challenge of playing one of the Helenas, and feels fortunate to once again work with such talented directors and actors. Last year she was Etienne in *The Lady from Maxims*. Ruth is a member of Act II Studio at Ryerson where she takes classes and performs. Elsewhere she has performed in several plays and musicals playing Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret* and Lina Paventi in *Mambo Italiano*, among others. She thanks her husband Eric for his support and the theatre gods for allowing her to continue indulging her passion



Maureen Murray (Puck Sr.)

Maureen hasn't treaded the boards since her days back in Sock 'N' Buskin Theatre Company at Carleton University. That's more than three decades ago. She has found that it's not so much like recalling how to ride a bike. But she has enjoyed every moment of rediscovering her love of making theatre. With a son in university and a daughter in high school, Maureen is having the time of her life exploring the art of reinvention.



Neil Naft (Demetrius Sr.)

The passion never dies. Previous acting credits include Lady from Maxim's (Passionate Players), Yichud (Convergence Theatre); Adventures of a Professional Corpse (Bent Spoon Productions); Village of Idiots, The Triangle Factory Fire Project, Einstein's Gift (Stagecraft); Omnium Gatherum, Dust Motes Dancing, Leacock Live (Act II Studios); and TV/Film: Dieppe Uncovered, Man of Glass. Playwriting credits: Dust Motes Dancing, I Don't Want You Dead (Stella Award), Table Talk and, upcoming at the New Ideas Festival in March, Friends with Benefits (Stella Award). Thanks, as always, to Laraine.



Pamela Paris (Hermia Sr.)

Pam is thrilled to be part of another *Passionate Player's* production, having debuted last year in *The Lady from Maxim's*. While not formally trained, Pam has been informally entertaining friends, family, and colleagues for many years. She is a psychologist by profession, and has been in private practice for many years. Pam's free time is spent in a variety of endeavours, cycling, hiking, reading, travelling, and schmoozing with friends. Pam would like to thank her wonderful circle of family and friends, especially Mitch and Kyra. Her mother Gladys deserves special recognition for nurturing play and mischief in the early years.



Ann Robertson (Mr. Egeus, Moth Fairy)

Ann is thrilled to be a part of this delightful production and this inspiring group of wonderful people. Since retiring, Ann has been studying acting through ACT II Studio at Ryerson University and has appeared in a number of stage performances, most recently a production of Gerhart Hauptmann's *The Weavers* in February 2014. Thanks to Aaron, Julie, Mitch and Simon for this fabulous opportunity, and to all the cast and crew for their hard work and for making it all such fun. Special thanks to my fairy sisters Cobweb, Mustardseed and Peaseblossom!



Hilary Roskey (*Hermia Jr.*)

Hilary is a Calgary born-and-raised fourth year student at York University, specializing in theatre studies. Her previous credits include “Victims of Influence” (Venue 13), “Muse” (Sterling Studio Theatre), “The Vagina Monologues” (JGG Theatre), “Drafts” (Tarragon Theatre), “Marat/Sade” (WCHS Theatre), and “My Name is Rachel Corrie” (WCHS Theatre), to name a few. She will soon be attempting her first directing job for York University’s 2015 production of “The Vagina Monologues”. She thanks you all for coming to the show, and wishes you a lovely evening.



Margaret Sellers (*Patty Quince*)

Margaret is thrilled to have been part of this remarkable production and to have been working with such a talented, energetic and creative group of directors, writers, crew, and actors. Past performances are Evelyn in *Dust Motes* Dancing at Red Sandcastle Theatre, Elma in *Not on My Watch* at Ryerson University’s 50+ Arts festival, and several roles in *What Tucci Saw* at the Victory Cafe with Archival Acting Workshop. Margaret is passionately enjoying this phase of her life and continues to make the outstanding Act II Studio Theatre program at Ryerson part of her learning and growing.



Peter Sevitt (*Lysander Sr.*)

In his second public acting performance Peter is thrilled to be playing one of the lovers, Lysander Sr. How wonderful to not just reminisce but also to relive being a lover again! A practicing C.A. by day and a thespian by night; Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde! The joy of being part of a wonderful team effort and watching and learning from three superb directors was a fantastic experience. Thank you to my wife Lesley who taught me to be “a young lover again”! To Julie who always inspired us and brilliantly adapted the play—a big thank you.



Carolyn Tanner (*Peaseblossom Fairy, Philostrate*)

Carolyn is making her first appearance onstage since her days at the Queen’s Drama Guild. She is thrilled to be part of this ensemble, and to be directed by the incredibly talented professionals at Outside the March and Convergence. She wishes to thank her family and friends, especially her daughter Ashley, for their indulgence and support.



Doug Watters (*Oberon*)

I am very happy and lucky to be working with all the other Passionate Players, and with Mitchell, Julie, Aaron, Simon, Amy, Lizzie, Aidan and Jess on this midwinter dream. I've appeared recently in Lawyer Shows for Nightwood Theatre (*As You Like It*, *Much Ado about Nothing*) and in *Romeo and Juliet* at Hart House Theatre; and before that other things in a distant galaxy called youth. Thanks to my family (mom) and always, entirely, and especially, to my children Caitlin and Isaac

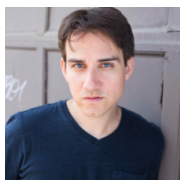


Jesse Watts (*Oberon*)

Jesse thanks Outside the March, Convergence Theatre and the whole Midwinter team. He couldn't have asked for a better group to work with. Acting: *Vitals*, *Passion Play* (Outside the March/Convergence Theatre); *The Crucible*, *The Women of Troy*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Our Town* (University of Toronto); *The Dumb Waiter*, *The Zoo Story* (Two Wolves Theatre). Producing: Producing Assistant, *Brotherhood: The Hip Hopera* (Buddies in Bad Times); Producing Assistant, *Afterplay* (Campbell House Museum); Producer, *Sundance* (Toronto Fringe 2012). Jesse is studying Arts Management and Theatre at U of T. He also studied at Humber Theatre School.



Production Team



Aaron Willis (Director)

Aaron is an actor, director, educator, and co-founding artistic director of Convergence Theatre (with Julie Tepperman). **Directing:** *The Thing Between Us* (mcguffin company) *The Crucible* (Theatre Erindale/UTM) *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* (Baro Theatre) *Passion Play*

(Convergence/Outside the March/Sheep No Wool), *Miss Caledonia* (Tarragon Theatre, NAC, international tour), *When The Ice Breaks* (Down n Out Productions/Campbell House Museum), *Other People* (Mutual Friends Co-op), *YICHUD (Seclusion)* (Theatre Passe Muraille/Convergence Theatre), *The Gladstone Variations* (Convergence Theatre, Dora nomination), *AutoShow* (Convergence Theatre/Toronto Fringe 2006). **Acting:** *Murderers Confess At Christmastime* (Outside the March/Summerworks 2013), *YICHUD (Seclusion)* (Theatre Passe Muraille/Convergence/Mag North), *The Incredible Speediness of Jamie Cavanaugh* (Roseneath Theatre), *Zadie's Shoes* (GCTC), *Abattoir* (Kaeja d'Dance/Harbourfront Centre), *The Russian Play* (Factory Theatre), *Wrecked* (Roseneath; Dora Nomination – Best Performance TYA); *The Merchant of Venice* (Shakespeare in the Rough), (nod) (Theatre Gargantua), *Waiting for Lefty and Awake and Sing* (The CO.), *Well*, (Tarragon Theatre). **Film/TV:** *Reign*, *Flashpoint*. **Other:** Aaron has a BA Honours in Drama from the University of Alberta and is a graduate of George Brown Theatre School.



Julie Tepperman (Adapter, Acting Coach)

Julie is an actor, playwright, educator, and co-artistic director (with Aaron Willis) of Convergence Theatre, creators of the hit plays *YICHUD (Seclusion)*, *The Gladstone Variations AutoShow*, and co-producers of the Canadian premiere of Sarah Ruhl's three-part epic *Passion Play*, winner of a Dora Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble. Julie has acted on stages across Toronto and

was a company member with the Stratford Festival for two seasons. Julie's playwrighting credits include: *YICHUD (Seclusion)* – published by Playwrights Canada Press; *I Grow Old* (as part of The Gladstone Variations and a re-imagining of the August Strindberg play *The Father* (Winnipeg Jewish Theatre/Manitoba Theatre Centre's Master Playwright's Festival). Julie was Playwright-In-Residence at Theatre Passe Muraille in 2010-11 with the support of the Canada Council. She is currently developing an opera for teens with the support of Tapestry New Opera, and co-creating *Brantwood*, a site-specific musical extravaganza through Sheridan's Canadian Musical Theatre Project, with Mitchell Cushman. Julie is a graduate of George Brown Theatre School and the Stratford Festival's Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Theatre Training.



Simon Bloom (Director)

Simon is a director, designer, educator, digital dramaturge, and the Co-Artistic Director of the Dora award winning Outside the March theatre company. **Recent directing credits:** *East of Berlin* (East/West Collective - Sterling Award, Outstanding Director, including 4 additional Sterling Nominations), *Murderers Confess at Christmastime* (Outside the March/SummerWorks), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Studio Theatre), *Splinters* (Plutonium Playhouse). **Selected Assistant Directing:** Simon has assisted at the Citadel Theatre, the Canadian Stage, the National theatre School, and the Neptune Theatre. **Other credits:** Simon is an associate digital dramaturge at the SpiderWebShow, and also works as a web developer. **Training:** Simon is a graduate of the MFA Directing Program at the University of Alberta, and the Banff/Citadel Professional Theatre Program. **Upcoming:** For Outside the March, Simon will be co-directing *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* alongside fellow co-Artistic Director Mitchell Cushman. **Etc:** <http://www.simonwbloom.com> **Finally:** Thank you to this amazing and passionate company, and especially to the our tireless producer and stage manager, Lizzie and Aidan!



Mitchell Cushman (Director)

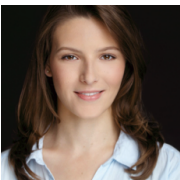
Mitchell Cushman is a director, producer, educator, and Co-Artistic Director of Outside the March, one of Canada's leading site-specific theatre companies. With OtM, Mitchell has staged such award-winning immersive theatrical experiences as *Vitals*, *Terminus*, *Passion Play* and *Mr. Marmalade*. As a director, Mitchell's work has been seen on stages as large as the Royal Alexander Theatre, in spaces as intimate as a kindergarten classroom, and in locales as remote as Whitehorse and Munich. Other favourite directing credits include: *New Jerusalem* (Harold Green); *I, Claudia*, *The Last of Romeo and Juliet*, *Possible Worlds* (Talk is Free); *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Studio Theatre). He has received numerous distinctions for his theatre work, including two Dora Awards for Outstanding Independent Production (*Vitals*, *Mr. Marmalade*), the Siminovitch protégé award, the Ken McDougal Award, and the Toronto Theatre Critics' awards for Best Production and Best Director (*Terminus*). Mitchell is a graduate of the University of Alberta's MFA Directing program. Next year, he will direct *Possible Worlds* as part of the 2015 Stratford Festival season.



Amy Keating (*Choreographer*)

Amy is a Dora-nominated actor based in Toronto, and producer and core associate artist of Outside the March. Outside the March most recently produced *Passion Play* (a tri-production between Outside the March, Convergence Theatre, Sheep No Wool) and Amy played the Village Idiot/Violet. She also starred in the Dora-award winning *Mr.*

Marmalade (Outstanding Production), *Murderers Confess at Christmastime* (SummerWorks), and the Canadian premiere of *Oh the Humanity and Other Good Intentions* with Outside the March. Other favourite credits include *I, Claudia* (Talk is Free Theatre); *New Jerusalem* (Harold Green Jewish Theatre); *After Miss Julie* (RedOne Theatre); *Loyal Ronin: The Working Girls' Version* (Spotlight Japan, Canadian Stage); *Water Under the Bridge and The Forest in My Room* (Carousel Players); *Proud* (Workshop Production, Talk is Free Theatre); *Inside* (Appledor Productions), and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Capitol Theatre). Upcoming: *Mr. Burns: a post-electric play* (Outside the March). She has loved working and dancing with all of these talented humans on this adventure!



Elizabeth Stuart-Morris (*Administrator/Producer*)

It has been an honour producing and administrating A Midwinter's for this fabulously energetic and generous Passionate Players team! A graduate of U of T Mississauga and Sheridan College's Theatre & Drama Studies Program, Elizabeth works as a Toronto indie theatre producer and performer. She has participated in Toronto's Paprika and New Waves Festivals, has stage managed numerous projects such as *The Facebook Musical*, *Faith*, *Love Virtually*, and *Witches & Bitches*, and assistant produced *Sounds of Silence*, a fundraising production for Acting Up-Stage. She is a proud co-creator and producer of Well Fought Theatre and its production of *December 1917: The Halifax Explosion*, which toured to Halifax in 2012, and co-founder of Bald Monkey Theatre, which toured its production of 'Dentity Crisis at the Atlantic Fringe this past summer. Elizabeth is currently working on *Seams*, a new piece in development with the Paprika Festival to be produced next year



Aidan Morishita-Miki (*Stage Manager*)

Aidan is a freelance stage manager currently pursuing a Masters in Adult Education & Community Development at OISE (U of T). As stage manager: *To Live in the Age of Melting: the Idea of North 2.0* (Outspoke Productions/Summerworks), *Lysistrata* (Canopy Theatre), *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County*

Spelling Bee (Toronto Youth Theatre). Other theatre experience includes work with Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Hart House Theatre, Unspun Theatre. Thanks to the cast and production team for all of their hard work!



Jessica Guyon (*Costume and Set Designer*)

Jess is a Humber Technical Theatre Production Graduate from Burlington Ontario. Her past experience includes: writing and performing in her original theatrical production of *Twelve*, performed at Robert Bateman High School, and Wardrobe Designer and Playwright for Cutting Halloween productions. She has also been Assistant Head of Paint

for Humber's fall main stage production of *The Idiot*, Wardrobe Design Assistant to Kelly Wolf for Humber's winter main stage production of *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, and Costume and Paint designer for *Save A Seat Productions of Mother*, performed at Theatre Passe Muraille's backspace. Jess hopes to continue her writing for film and theatre along with pursuing costume design. She would like to thank her Mom, Tanya Greve, Mary-Jo Carter, and friends for their support.



Sara Williams (*Makeup*)

Growing up in Burlington, Sara spent time working on as many creative projects as she could, finding her way with one project to another in theater, fashion and fine arts. She moved to Toronto to peruse post secondary education at OCADU, spending the four years working on a Sculpture/Installation major and photography minor, all the while

continuing sewing, styling, and makeup for small Toronto brands and shows including *Daily News Project*, *Untitled and Co.*, *YNOT Cycle*, and the *Ryerson Mass Exodus*. She still keeps busy with many creative projects - primarily focusing in makeup and styling - and ensures the best way to get to know her is to work with her, or to come take a seat in her makeup chair!

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