

CONVERGENCE THEATRE PRESENTS

ATHABASCA

Written & performed by **David S. Craig & Richard Greenblatt**

Directed by **Aaron Willis**

Set & Costume Design **Anahita Dehbonehie**

Lighting Design **Jennifer Lennon**

Sound Design & Fight Choreographer **Richard Lee**

Stage Manager & Production Manager **Meghan Speakman**

Dramaturg **Julie Tepperman**

Assistant Director **Keshia Palm**

Producer **Geneviève Trottier**

*Equity Artists are contracted under Canadian Actors' Equity Association's
Festival Policy.*

The original concept of Athabasca was created by Chris Craddock, David S. Craig and Richard Greenblatt.

The authors would like to dedicate this play to all those activists who work tirelessly for the protection of the environment.

DAVID S. CRAIG, PLAYWRIGHT & PERFORMER "TOM"

David S. Craig is a Toronto based theatre artist who has written over thirty professionally produced dramatic works, garnering many awards and award nominations. Recent premiere productions include: *BOMBERS: Reaping the Whirlwind* (4th Line Theatre, 2017) and *Lysistrata and the Temple of Gaia* (Odyssey Theatre, 2018). His adaptation of *The Neverending Story* will be produced by the Stratford Festival in June of 2019. As an actor, he has performed across North America. In 2014, the City of Toronto awarded Mr. Craig with the Barbara Hamilton Award for Artistic Excellence. He is currently Past-President of the Playwrights Guild of Canada.

RICHARD GREENBLATT, PLAYWRIGHT & PERFORMER "MAX"

Richard Greenblatt is an actor, director, writer and musician who was born in Montréal and received his acting training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in England. He has performed in theatres across Canada and abroad, as well as in feature films, television and radio. He has directed well over 130 productions for theatres across the country, the vast majority being original and/or Canadian works. His writing includes the hit play *2 Pianos 4 Hands* with Ted Dykstra, amongst many others. He has taught acting, directing and play creation at almost all of the major theatre training institutions in Canada. Upcoming, he will direct the opera *Hook Up* at Theatre Passe Muraille for Tapestry Opera.

AARON WILLIS, DIRECTOR (CONVERGENCE THEATRE)

Aaron is an actor, director, educator, and co-founding artistic director of Convergence Theatre, where he produced and directed *The Unending*, *Passion Play*, *YICHUD (Seclusion)*, *The Gladstone Variations*, and *AutoShow*. Selected directing: *Polly Peel* (Toronto Fringe, Patrons' Pick), *The Testament of Mary* (Soulpepper), *Stupidhead!* (Theatre Passe Muraille), *Meet Cute* (Roseneath, Dora nom) *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (George Brown), *Miss Caledonia* (Tarragon/ NAC/world tour), and has twice assistant directed at The Stratford Festival. Other: Aaron co-edited The CTR's issue on Immersive Theatre in Canada, holds a BA Honours in Drama from UofA, and is a graduate of George Brown. He'll be performing in Modern Times' production of *The Cherry Orchard* in March 2019.

ANAHITA DEHBONEHIE, SET & COSTUME DESIGN

Anahita Dehbonehie is an Iranian stage designer, production designer and installation artist, currently based in Toronto. Her practice is founded on the principle that works of art return us to truths more powerfully by their relationship to evocative sensory experiences. Her design work has been featured across Canada and internationally, including at the Prague Quadrennial, The Vilnius Capital of Culture, and the Moscow Museum of Modern Art. Since making Toronto her home, Anahita has been recognized with a variety of nominations and awards in design. Most recently: she worked on *Dr. Silver* (Outside the March) and on *The Curious Voyage* (Talk is Free Theatre).

JENNIFER LENNON, LIGHTING DESIGN

Jennifer Lennon is a Toronto-based lighting designer for live performance. Selected theatre credits include: *A Christmas Story* (Theatre Orangeville), *Escaped Alone* (Soulpepper), *Old Man and the River* (Theatre Direct), *Concord Floral* (Theatre Kingston), *Stupidhead!* (Theatre Passe Muraille), *The Millennial Malcontent* (Tarragon), *Walk Me To the Corner* (Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company), *The Container* (Theatre Fix), *Bombay Black*, *Banana Boys* (Factory Theatre), and *The Twelve-Pound Look* (Shaw Festival). Opera credits include *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Suffragette*, and *Die Fledermaus* (Opera 5). She is the recipient of one Dora Award, and is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada.

RICHARD LEE, SOUND DESIGN & FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER

Richard Lee is an award-winning actor, fight director, sound designer & theatre producer. His work has garnered him multiple Dora nominations out of which he has received three: One for his Sound Design work on *paper SERIES* (Cahoots Theatre Company) and Two in performance; *Sultans of the Street & Cinderella: A Ratical Retelling* (both Young People's Theatre). Other selected theatre includes: *The Humans* (Citadel/Canadian Stage), *Chimerica* (co-production with RMTTC), *King Lear*, *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (SiHP 2017, 2017, 2012). *Kim's Convenience* (Soulpepper), *Acquiesce* (Factory Theatre).

MEGHAN SPEAKMAN, STAGE MANAGER & PRODUCTION MANAGER

Meghan is delighted to be returning to the Next Stage Festival for a fourth time, especially with this production and team of talented people. Though based in Toronto, Meghan has worked as both a stage manager and assistant stage manager with theatre companies across North America. Recent credits include: *Animal Farm* (Soulpepper), *Stupidhead! A Musical Comedy* (Theatre Passe Muraille), *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Harold Green Jewish Theatre), *The Money Tree* (Roseneath), *Come Down From Up River* (Foster Festival), *One Slight Hitch* (Upper Canada Playhouse). Meghan is a graduate of Ryerson Theatre School.

JULIE TEPPERMAN, DRAMATURG (CONVERGENCE THEATRE)

Julie is a Dora-nominated playwright, actor, and educator, as well as co-artistic director of Convergence Theatre. She has acted at theatres across the city, as well as two seasons at The Stratford Festival, where she was recently part of their Playwrights Retreat. She was a Playwright-In-Residence at Theatre Passe Muraille, the home of her twice sold-out production *YICHUD (Seclusion)*, which was developed as part of Next Stage 2009. She is co-creator of the epic immersive "choose-your-own-adventure" *BRANTWOOD*, and continues to work on her new musical *...Polly Peel* with composer Kevin Wong, commissioned by The Musical Stage Company. Up next: *Hook Up*, a Tapestry Opera commission which will have its world premiere at Theatre Passe Muraille January 31-February 9, 2019, composed by Chris Thornborrow, directed by Richard Greenblatt. P.S. Cassandra!

KESHIA PALM, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & APPEARS AS “HUAN”

Keshia Palm is an Asian-Canadian theatre artist from Treaty 6 Territory. She is the co-creator/director/designer of *Shadow Girls* alongside Claren Grosz, past participant of Generator's Artist Producer Training Program, and previous coordinator of Reading the 49 (www.the49list.com). Keshia is the online content producer for Generator and a Foreman at Factory Theatre for the 2018/2019 season. She will be performing in Modern Times Stage Company's production of *The Cherry Orchard* and assistant directing *Beautiful Man* at Factory Theatre next spring. Keshia is also the dramaturgy intern at Cahoots Theatre, made possible through Theatre Ontario's Professional Theatre Training Program, funded by the Ontario Arts Council, an agency of the Government of Ontario.

GENEVIÈVE TROTTIER, PRODUCER

Geneviève Trottier is an actor, creator & producer. She most recently performed in *One Left Hour: The Life and Work of Daniil Kharms* (Good Old Neon) and co-produced *Asking For It* (In Association with Crow's Theatre, Nightwood Theatre & Necessary Angel Theatre Company). She is an associate of Marquis Entertainment where she has worked on numerous productions including *Arrabal* (Mirvish), *2 Pianos, 4 Hands* (The Globe, Centaur, The Grand, Neptune), *Measure for Measure*, *The Winter's Tale* & *LEAR* (Groundling Theatre) along with several of Ross Petty's yearly pantos. Geneviève is a graduate of George Brown Theatre School.

ABOUT CONVERGENCE THEATRE

Convergence Theatre is a Toronto-based, artist-driven, Dora-award winning indie theatre company, founded in 2006 by **Julie Tepperman & Aaron Willis**. With each new project **we challenge ourselves to find innovative ways to push the boundaries of intimacy between performer and audience**. We create original plays and re-imagine existing ones in **site-specific and non-traditional venues**, as well as completely **transform traditional theatre spaces**. We invite our audiences to be an integral part of their theatre-going experience by constantly **exploring new and surprising ways to fully immerse them in the world of each play**.

PAST PRODUCTIONS:

The Unending (2017), *Passion Play** (2013), *YICHUD (Seclusion)* (2009-11), *The Gladstone Variations*** (2007-08), *AutoShow* (2006 & 2015)

*Dora award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble

** 4 Dora nominations, including Outstanding Production

"Convergence Theatre continues to raise the bar on quality and excellence for independent theatre in this city. They have created a company that pushes themselves and their audiences to expand their ideas of theatre; to explore and embrace theatre that is bracing, challenging and tremendous fun." ~ Lynn Slotkin

"The buzz is justified — Convergence Theatre continues its reign of well-staged, thoughtful shows in intriguing locations." ~ **Mooney on Theatre**

NOW Magazine readers have thrice voted Convergence Theatre as **"The Best Site Specific Theatre Company in Toronto"**, and Julie & Aaron have been named by NOW as **"Toronto's Most respected theatre duo"**.

We're thrilled to be The Next Stage Festival's first-ever site-specific production, and are grateful to the playwrights for saying "Yes!"
Look out for our **new website** coming soon...

CONNECT WITH US: www.convergencetheatre.com

Join our e-mail list: converge@convergencetheatre.com

Facebook: /CONVERGENCETHEATRETORONTO

Twitter: @TO_Convergence #nstf #athabascaTO

THANK YOU TO: Our volunteers, anyone and everyone who lent us things, Jim Roe, Julian Sleath; Jane Siklos, Barbara Murphy, Marc McKenzie and everyone at The Toronto Carpet Factory; Owais Lightwala; Andrew Lamb, Annemieke Wade & Roseneath Theatre; Trinity St. Paul's United Church and its Climate Action Group; Jeanne Moffat; Laura Jabalee Johnston; Lucy Eveleigh, Laura Paduch, Tessa Cernik & everyone at Toronto Fringe / Next Stage Theatre Festival; Ali Joy Richardson, Sophie Munden & Aine Donnelly; Frédéric Solenthaler; all those who attended and gave feedback to the reading in the Spring of '17; David McIlwraith and the Socialist Project; Zetta Melville-Willis; Cassandra and the Teppermans.

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THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

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We gratefully acknowledge: Barbara Aufgang, Paul Bilodeau, Jeanette Cairns, Pat Cochrane, Doug Croker, Susanne Egier, Richard Ellen, Laurie Finer, Judy Franklin, Karen Franklin, Susan Ginsberg, Patricia Golubev, Ruth Greey, Barbara Haber, Heather Johnston, Holly Kirkconnell, Saul Kaufman, Tobi Kaufman, Shery Leeder, Janet Lewis, Neil Naft, Pamela Paris, Dorothy Pestell, Mike Phillips, Dorothy Rusoff, Marg Sellers, Peter Sevitt, Nancy Stewart, Carolyn Tanner, Marilyn Tate, Virginia Thomson & Brent Vickar



Roseneath Ad

FURTHER READING:

The Most Recent UN Report on Climate Change – Essential Reading
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/10/1022492>

Environmentalists, What are We Fighting For?

By Graham Saul, sponsored by the Metcalfe Foundation

<https://metcalfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/2018-10-10-Environmentalists-what-are-we-fighting-for-web.pdf>

This Changes Everything.

The documentary inspired by the book by Naomi Klein

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QH5YSob6G70&has_verified=1

Is Global Warming a Hoax?

A climate denial site.

<https://www.investors.com/politics/global-warming-hoax-climate-change-facts/>

BOOKS:

This Changes Everything by Naomi Klein

Tar Sands - Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent by Andrew Nikiforuk

Stupid to the Last Drop by William Marsden

It's the Crude, Dude by Linda McQuaig

TAKE ACTION NOW! Check out these websites for some ideas to help make your voice be heard...

GREENPEACE CANADA - TAKE ACTION TODAY

www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/act/

THE DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION - TAKE ACTION

www.davidsuzuki.org/take-action/

SIERRA CLUB CANADA FOUNDATION - GRASSROOTS ACTION

www.sierraclub.ca/en/grassroots/

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CANADA - TAKE ACTION

www.environmentaldefence.ca/take-action/