



JULY 14-AUGUST 30, 2026
BAUER THEATRE
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FESTIVAL
ANTIGONISH
—SUMMER THEATRE—

A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR OUR PARTNERS

SEASON PARTNERS



PRODUCTION, PERFORMANCE & ACCESS PARTNERS



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FESTIVAL ANTIGONISH BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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Welcome.

This summer, Festival Antigonish invites
audiences of all ages into a season of
mystery, mischief, tenderness, and wonder—
four distinct stories united by laughter,
imagination, and heart.

– *Andrea Boyd & Caleb Marshall*
Artistic Director & Managing Director

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

902-867-3333

www.festivalantigonish.ca
boxoffice@festivalantigonish.ca

TICKET AND SHOW POLICIES

Tickets must be purchased online, by telephone, or in person at the Bauer Theatre Box Office. All ticket prices will have 14%(HST) added at the point of purchase. There are no refunds on purchased tickets. Additional ticket fees apply, including third-party AVPro/POS service fees on all tickets: \$2.63 per adult/senior ticket and \$1.32 per student/youth ticket, plus taxes.

Exchanges can be made 48 hours in advance, with a \$3 exchange fee per ticket. Unused tickets cannot be refunded or exchanged.

All programming is subject to change. Photography and video are strictly prohibited. Use of electronic devices, including cell phones, is not permitted. No children under 5.

Please contact Box Office for age recommendations and content warnings. Late admittance is at the discretion of the Front of House Manager.

Our theatre is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.

This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq Wəlastəkwiyik (Maliseet), and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

We are grateful to live and work in these beautiful lands.

WELCOME FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Hello, Friends.

Are you a rebel? I think you are.

In an age when screens, AI, and the endless ping of notifications lay claim to our attention, choosing to come to the theatre is an act of rebellion. You have put your phone away. You have shown up. You are here — fully present, ready to be carried off somewhere else entirely.



There's something particular about what draws people to live theatre. Yes, entertainment — but also something harder to name: laughter that catches you off guard, grief that sneaks up on you, ideas that unsettle and excite. Being in a room full of strangers, sharing something ephemeral and unrepeatable. You, the courageous soul, ready for adventure.

Every performance is shaped by the heartbeats of the actors in this moment — everything they've brought from rehearsal, everything they're listening for in each other — and also by you. Every audience has its own personality. The energy in this room tonight will change what happens on that stage. Actors feel it, respond to it, and moments are born that have never existed before and never will again. That's the miracle of live theatre, and it only happens when we're all fully present, fully absorbed, and fully open.

Let us take you somewhere.

This season, travel with us to a Victorian manor house, to a waterfront ghost tour, into a forest, and out into space. Let yourself melt into the golden voices of our musical guests. Journey through the summer with us and find mystery, mischief, heart and wonder.

Stage a mutiny. Be unreachable for a whole two hours.

We'll take good care of you.

With love and daring,

Andrea

JOIN THE SPOTLIGHT: DONATE TO SUPPORT LIVE THEATRE!

Live theatre connects us. It sparks imagination, builds community, and reminds us what it means to belong. As a not-for-profit organization, Festival Antigonish relies on the generosity of donors like you to ensure these experiences remain accessible, vibrant, and inclusive for everyone.

Your gift is more than a donation—it's an investment in creativity, access, and the future of theatre in our region.

Your Impact

Inspire Creativity on Stage

Help us bring powerful stories to life, support local and national artists, and create unforgettable moments for audiences of all ages. Your gift supports productions, mentorship programs, and new works that challenge and delight.

Grow Access for All

Theatre should be for everyone. Your donation helps subsidize ticket programs like Pay What You Can Previews and Relaxed Performances, provides bursaries for youth classes, and supports inclusive initiatives that welcome diverse communities.

Secure the Future

Behind the scenes, your gift supports the staffing, tools, and infrastructure needed to produce high-quality theatre safely and sustainably. It helps us bridge the urgent needs of the Bauer Theatre while we work toward a fully accessible arts centre for the entire community.

Ways to Give

Online: Make a secure donation at festivalantigonish.ca

Mail: Send a cheque to Festival Antigonish, Bauer Theatre, 5015 Chapel Square, StFX University, Antigonish, NS, B2G 2W5

Phone: Call 902-867-3333 to donate during box office hours

Gifts of \$20 or more receive a charitable tax receipt

Other Ways to Support

Spread the Word: Loved the show? Tell your friends, tag @festantigonish on social media, and help us reach new audiences.

Keep Coming Back: Your presence at the theatre directly supports our work—thank you for being part of our story.

Let's Connect: Want to explore a larger gift, a sponsorship, or a legacy gift? Contact **Caleb Marshall**, Managing Director, at caleb@festivalantigonish.ca or **902-867-4539**.

Together, we'll raise the curtain on the next chapter.

Thank you for supporting live theatre.



WELCOME FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Welcome back to the Bauer and Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre's 2026 season — a summer that feels both familiar and renewed. The Bauer Theatre has been home to Festival Antigonish, Theatre Antigonish, student learning, youth programming, community events, and professional live performance for decades. This year, returning to this space with an expanded summer season feels especially meaningful.



Our season brings together comedy, mystery, music, family programming, visiting artists, and heartfelt storytelling. Whether you are here for one of our plays, one of our concerts, or one of our engagement events, we hope you will make the Bauer part of your summer routine.

In the pages of this program, you will hear from our partners what they love about Antigonish — the hidden gems, local secrets, and special places waiting to be discovered. But what resonates most throughout those messages are the people themselves. I wholeheartedly agree. My family and I have been so blessed to be welcomed by an incredible community and better neighbours than we could ever have asked for. When you bring great people together, everything else seems to fall into place.

That has also been true of the Bridge the Bauer campaign. Through the tremendous support of community donors, sponsors, the Festival Antigonish Foundation, the Province of Nova Scotia, and ACOA, Festival Antigonish has confirmed approximately \$590,000 toward an estimated \$750,000 project target for the Bauer Theatre fire and life-safety retrofit. Construction will begin in September, and while there is still work to do, the path forward is clear.

To everyone who has donated, sponsored, advocated, attended, volunteered, or helped tell the story of why the Bauer matters: thank you. Your support has helped bring us closer to a safer, stronger, more accessible future for this theatre.

This summer, that spirit of community is visible not only onstage, but all around us — in our Patio Chats, community evenings, access initiatives, family programming, and in the refreshed Bauer Patio, made possible through the generosity of the Antigonish Garden Club and Canadian Tire. On the patio sign, you will see the words: Good things grow when community gathers. That feels true of our art, our theatre, and our community. It is, in the end, the people who make this place what it is — and we are so glad you are here.

Caleb Marshall

Managing Director

Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre

WELCOME FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Welcome to Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre's 39th season.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, thank you for joining us at the Bauer Theatre. This summer is an especially meaningful one. After years of planning, fundraising, advocacy, and community support, we are very pleased to welcome audiences back to this beloved space for a full season of theatre, music, family programming, and community gatherings.



The Bauer Theatre has always been more than a performance venue. It is a place where artists grow, students learn, families gather, and audiences come together to share stories. It is part of the cultural life of Antigonish, and its future matters deeply to many people.

That has been made clear through the extraordinary response to the Bridge the Bauer campaign. On behalf of the Board, I want to thank our donors, sponsors, government partners, the Festival Antigonish Foundation, volunteers, staff, artists, and audience members for helping move this important project forward. Your support has brought us to a critical and hopeful stage, and we are deeply grateful. We are on track to begin renovation work in September this year, ready for Theatre and Festival activity to return in the New Year.

This season also reflects the continuing growth of Festival Antigonish. Alongside our mainstage productions, we are pleased to offer concerts, family programming, access initiatives, and engagement events that invite our community to connect in different ways throughout the summer.

We are also delighted to welcome you to a refreshed patio space, made possible with generous support from the Antigonish Garden Club and Canadian Tire. We hope you will enjoy it before or after the show, and that you will take part in some of the conversations and gatherings happening throughout the season.

Thank you for being here. Your presence, generosity, and belief in live theatre help ensure that Festival Antigonish remains a vibrant part of this community.

Dr. Minoli Amit

Board Chair

Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre

JULY 14-25

Murder at Ackerton Manor

BY STEVEN GALLAGHER
DIRECTED BY ANDREA BOYD

A killer comedy full of suspects, secrets, and silliness.

Stage Manager **Sarah O'Brien**

Apprentice Stage Manager **Veronica Jollimore**

Set Designer **Vickie Marston**

Costume Designer **Sylvia Nowell**

Sound Designer **Paul Morgan Donald**

Lighting Designer **Ingrid Risk**

Production Assistants **Rowan Brosha & Savannah Borden**

Carpenters **Rob Hull & Tayte McHugh**

Head of Props **Kathleen Burke**

Head of Wardrobe **Sylvia Nowell**

Dresser & Wardrobe Assistant **Hollie Spicer**

Karen Bassett..... Ariadne Ackerton, Professor Basil Lemon
James MacLean..... Curtiss, Sterling Oliver, Jane Marplestein
Theofani Pitsiavas..... Roger Ackerton, Pierre Pierrot

A fast-paced comic mystery spoofing the grand tradition of the country-house whodunnit with eccentric suspects, mounting chaos, and theatrical sleight of hand. Full of quick changes and delicious absurdity, this playful murder mystery leans as hard into laughter as suspense.

Production Partner:



Private Wealth

JULY 29–AUGUST 8

The Biggest Little House in the Forest

**BASED ON THE BOOK BY DJEMMA BIDER
ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY ROSANNA STAFFA
DIRECTED BY FRANZISKA GLEN**

A tiny house with room for one more friend.

Stage Manager **Savannah Borden**

Set & Puppet Designer **Cheryl Kelly**

Costume Designer **Robyn Bixby**

Music by **Victor Zupanc**

Production Assistants **Rowan Brosha & Savannah Borden**

Carpenters **Rob Hull & Tayte McHugh**

Head of Props **Kathleen Burke**

Head of Wardrobe **Sylvia Nowell**

**ORIGINALLY COMMISSIONED AND PRODUCED BY CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY
PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH PLAYS FOR NEW AUDIENCES**

Rachel Lloyd..... Cast

When Bernice the Butterfly discovers a little abandoned house in the woods, she sets out to make it a home—and soon finds herself joined by a growing circle of animal friends. *The Biggest Little House in the Forest* is a gentle, imaginative puppet show about friendship, welcome, and making room for one more.

Production Partner:



Private Wealth

AUGUST 5-8

THE GREATEST PLAY IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD

BY IAN KERSHAW
DIRECTED BY DEAN PATRICK FLEMING
PRODUCED BY THEATRE NEW BRUNSWICK

Intimate, funny, and unexpectedly cosmic.

Stage Manager **Finnley Boehm**
Production Manager **Andrea Evans**
Set Designer **Peter Vatsis**
Costume Designer **Sherry Kinnear**
Video Designer **Aaron Collier**
Sound Designer **Rob Denton**
Lighting Designer **Christopher Saad**
Set Carpenter **Jamie Atkinson**

Many thanks to **Stephanie MacDonald, Sabrina Miller, Kevin Conforti** and **Danielle Skene** for their roles in the production's journey.

Amanda Kellock..... Cast

The world has stopped. Every light is out—except one, in the house across the street.
A breathtaking love story set on an ordinary road, in outer space, and somewhere in
between. Funny, profound, and impossible to forget.

Production Partner:



AUGUST 18-30

Beyond the Sea

BY KRISTEN DA SILVA
DIRECTED BY ANDREA BOYD

Two strangers. One pier. A second chance at life.

Assistant Director **Liam Oke**

Stage Manager **Sarah O'Brien**

Apprentice Stage Manager **Veronica Jollimore**

Set Designer **Eden Reshef**

Costume Designer **Sylvia Nowell**

Sound Designer **Paul Morgan Donald**

Lighting Designer **Ingrid Risk**

Production Assistants **Rowan Brosha & Savannah Borden**

Carpenters **Rob Hull & Tayte McHugh**

Head of Props **Kathleen Burke**

Head of Wardrobe **Sylvia Nowell**

Dresser & Wardrobe Assistant **Hollie Spicer**

Stephanie MacDonald.....Gwen
Ian Sherwood.....Theo

A chance meeting on a pier. Two strangers. A lot of baggage. On a summer afternoon in a small town, Theo and Gwen stumble into each other — and maybe into something worth holding onto. A warm, witty, and quietly beautiful comedy about loss, hope, and the courage to begin again.

Production Partner:



OLD MAN *Luedecke*

Banjo-driven brilliance with wit, warmth, and heart.

Two-time JUNO Award-winning. Banjo-driven stompers. Dry wit and guitar ballads. For nearly twenty years, Old Man Luedecke has been writing the soundtrack to a life well lived — and he brings that rare, warm magic to the stage.

ABOUT OLD MAN LUEDECKE

Old Man Luedecke is the recording name of two-time JUNO Award-winning and Polaris prize nominated singer songwriter **Chris Luedecke**. A multiple East Coast Music Award winner known for his high energy banjo driven stompers, touching guitar ballads and dry humorous stories, Luedecke has been making a soundtrack to an authentic life for nearly twenty years. Born in Toronto and a longtime resident of the country near Chester Nova



Scotia, Luedecke began recording in the early 2000s DIY folk scene of Halifax. He made his two JUNO winning albums for Black Hen Music in the late 00s with Steve Dawson as producer at Vancouver's famed Factory studio. While on a tour of England in 2009, he met and supported folk roots legend Tim O'Brien who produced Luedecke's next two albums. *Tender is the Night* was recorded at John Prine's Butcher Shoppe Studio in Nashville in 2012 and 2015's *Domestic Eccentric* was recorded in a cabin Luedecke built himself at his home in NS. 2019 saw Luedecke recording *Easy Money* at both the Banff Centre in Alberta and at Hotel2Tango in Montreal. His latest album, *"She Told Me Where To Go"* on Outside Music was released in 2024, and since then he has been touring Canada with help from Dartmouth Nova Scotia's Big Turnip Records. He has also been playing plenty in Australia and New Zealand and is currently on tour in the UK.

Concert Series Partner:

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Portfolio Manager & Senior Financial
Planning Advisor
CI Assante Wealth Management Ltd.
ngrady@assante.com
T: 902.469.7775 | C: 902.456.2525

“

What we love most about Antigonish is the people. There is a sense of togetherness that shows up in every interaction. The way we connect in everyday moments. It's a place where relationships come first, and where doing business feels more like catching up with an old friend. It's an incredible feeling getting to know our clients, their dreams and their values, and having the honour of helping them enjoy what truly matters most. From the start, we've been welcomed with open arms, and it's something we never take for granted.

— Assante Wealth Management

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AUGUST 9

IAN SHERWOOD *& Friends*

*A vibrant evening of music
and storytelling.*

Guitar, saxophone, songwriting, and a Canadian Folk Music Award-winning voice. Ian Sherwood brings warmth, wit, and heart to every stage. A born storyteller, his live performances thrive on intimacy.

ABOUT IAN SHERWOOD

Ian is a Dartmouth-based actor, songwriter and musician. This season is his FAST debut, but other productions include, *Come From Away* (Neptune Theatre), *East Coast Kitchen Party* (London Grand Theatre), and *Dear Rita* (Neptune Theatre). Ian has won two Robert Merritt awards (Best Original Score, *Tompkinsville*, and Best Ensemble, *Dear Rita*), a Canadian Folk Music Award (Contemporary Singer of the Year), and been recognized by



Music Nova Scotia as Musician of the Year twice. He currently lives in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia with his partner Geneviève Steele, their two children, Winnie and Daphné and their 3-year-old sheepadoodle, Smudge. www.iansherwood.com

Concert Series Partner:

HIGH-CREST
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THE MAYOR, WARDEN AND BOTH
COUNCILS WISH THE
PERFORMERS, CREW AND
VOLUNTEERS WITH FESTIVAL
ANTIGONISH BEST OF LUCK THIS
SEASON.

WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT
THE CONTINUATION AND
COLLABORATION EFFORTS OF
OUR COMMUNITY'S ARTS AND
CULTURE SECTOR.

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH
THE TOWN OF
ANTIGONISH

Patterson ^{LAW}
LLP

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MUSICIANS

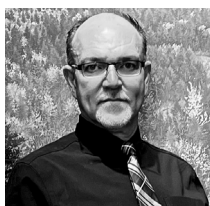
MARY BETH CARTY

Accordianist, guitarist, and player of pocket-sized instruments, **Mary Beth Carty** of Antigonish possesses a magical voice that earned her the 2024 Canadian Folk Music Award for Traditional Singer of the Year. She blends her ancestral Gaelic heritage with the multicultural influences and takes us on a journey of emotions with a mix of traditional and original songs. Of her live show, CBC Radio's Bill Roach says, "She got the crowd singing along. It was something else!" Mary Beth is excited to be one of Ian Sherwood's friends for his concert this summer!



ALLAN DEWAR

Allan is part of a musical family from Ohio, Nova Scotia and began playing traditional music at an early age. While he has taken up multiple musical instruments, his preference is piano. Over the years traditional music has taken him throughout the world performing for festival and theatre audiences with many great fiddlers, including Shelly Campbell, Troy MacGillivray, Jerry Holland, Dougie MacDonald, Natalie MacMaster and many others. His core interest though is to play for dances and ceilidhs. Allan has worked in the Cape Breton cultural sector for decades and most recently has pursued a new career at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.



NATHAN BISHOP MACDONALD

Nathan Bishop MacDonald is an award-winning performer, singer-songwriter, storyteller, and multi-instrumentalist who has delighted audiences across Canada and beyond both as a solo performer and as the frontman for bands such as Celtae, Finlaggan, and MacDonald & Delaney. Nathan pens memorable songs with catchy melodies and thought-provoking lyrics and delivers them with a rich and powerful baritone voice. He has been internationally recognized for his songwriting chops and also performs memorable and creative renditions of traditional and contemporary repertoire. With his roots planted firmly in the fertile musical soil of his native Cape Breton Island, Nathan draws upon traditional Celtic and Maritime Folk sounds, and seamlessly weaves in Roots Rock, Indie, and Pop influences, distilling them into a soulful, saltwater sound that is nostalgic yet unmistakably his own. Nathan's original song *Merchant Marine* was selected as the theme song for Paul Ciugo's CBC Radio Drama, "On Convoy", was featured on traditional music compilation *Singalongs & Shanties 2*, and has been covered by several other artists. His recent Celtic cover of *Never Surrender* caught the attention of Corey Hart himself who praised it publicly.



JOHN PELLERIN

Raised in Antigonish, a town on the north-eastern shore of Nova Scotia, his love for music and dance can be attributed to his parents and those who gave instruction. By the age of four, **John** began learning his step dancing skills through the instruction of Margaret Dunn, the late Reverend Angus Alex MacDonell, Ellen MacIntyre, and Gary Fidler. By ten he was learning the violin through the instruction of Stan Chapman. His father Kenneth is a well-known fiddler in the Antigonish area that played for dances and weddings for many years. John's love for music and stepdancing is displayed in his performances where he performs with pride and a commitment to keeping the Celtic tradition alive whether in his hometown of Antigonish or in Cape Breton, both nurtured by a rich Celtic musical heritage..



MEREDITH ZWICKER

Meredith Zwicker is a musician, actor, and arts educator who grew up in Lunenburg. After a couple of decades of living and performing across Canada, she now makes her home in beautiful Antigonish. Her very first acting job was at FAST, where she had the joy of playing a singing bug. Her eclectic musical influences range from her early days singing at the Lunenburg Folk Fest and tagging along with her big brother's grunge band, to later years performing in the theatre and with bands ranging from pop to jazz. Most recently, she arranged and music directed last summer's production of *The Secret Garden of An Sithean*. Meredith is delighted to share the stage with Ian, an old colleague from the singing bug days of her youth. www.meredithzwickerstudio.ca



“

Music is the heartbeat of Antigonish — from fiddle tunes on a summer patio to festival concerts that bring the community together. We love how this town comes alive through music, connection, and shared celebration. It's a joy to support local talent and be part of a season that sings with East Coast spirit. — **Highcrest Enterprises**

”

FESTIVAL ANTIGONISH

— SUMMER THEATRE —

Established in 1987, Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre has been part of the cultural life of Northeastern Nova Scotia for nearly four decades. Based in the historic Bauer Theatre on the St. Francis Xavier University campus, FAST presents professional theatre, family programming, concerts, community events, and theatre education for audiences of all ages. Each season, Festival Antigonish welcomes thousands of patrons and dozens of artists to share stories that entertain, challenge, connect, and celebrate community. Through the Theatre Academy, access initiatives, local partnerships, and the Bridge the Bauer campaign, we are working with our community to build a safer, stronger, more accessible future for live theatre in Antigonish.



SELECT ACCOLADES

37 seasons of Professional Theatre in rural Nova Scotia.

10 N.S. Merritt Theatre Award nominations in 2023.

Acclaimed actors, writers and directors like, Daniel MacIvor, Emmy Alcorn, Laura Teasdale and Richie Wilcox got their start on the Bauer stage, as well as award-winning designers and stage managers, Judy Joe, Ingrid Risk and Zeph Williams.

2017 DEANS Tourism Award for Festivals and Events.

**"One of Canada's top 5 summer theatres."
-Ottawa Citizen**

OUR VISION AND MISSION

Festival Antigonish is the cultural heart of our region. Through live theatre, we strengthen community bonds, inspire compassion, and foster social change. Each season, we enrich audiences by sharing Canadian stories alongside global perspectives, sparking conversations and bridging divides. As a vibrant, inclusive space for artists and audiences, we explore themes of community, identity, and belonging. Committed to diversity, feminist values, and mentorship, our productions cultivate empathy and connection, while our educational programs nurture the next generation of artists.

SEASON PARTNER

Proudly Supporting
Festival Antigoniash
For Almost 40 Years!



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
UNIVERSITY



SEASON PARTNER



MacLeod Group proudly supports Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre, where local stories, memorable performances, and community spirit come to life.

Enjoy the show!

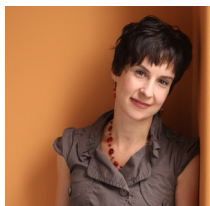


Acting Company

KAREN BASSETT

Murder at Ackerton Manor

Karen is a multi-disciplinary theatre artist as a fight director, performer, playwright, and teacher. She is a passionate advocate, creator, and innovator in the discipline of fight direction. She was last seen in September as a performer in Richie Wilcox's exceptional play, *Coal Bowl Queen*, and in March in Theatre New Brunswick's production of her own play *Heroine*. In her different disciplines, Karen proudly holds numerous professional credits with Theatre New Brunswick, Neptune Theatre, Ship's Company Theatre, Festival Antigonish, Mirvish Productions, The National Arts Centre, Two Planks and Passion Theatre, Villain's Theatre, the Irondale Ensemble Project, Heist, Eastern Front Theatre, Shakespeare by the Sea, 2B Theatre, Halifax Theatre for Young People, Theatre Baddeck, and Watermark Theatre. Her theatre work has also taken her across Canada, to the United States, Iran, Fiji, and Vanuatu. Thanks to Mom Mary Eden, who sparked her curiosity for theatre, and who will always be her biggest fan.



AMANDA KELLOCK

The Greatest Play in the History of the World

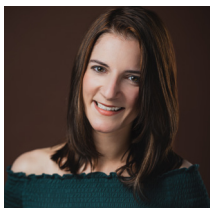
Amanda (she/her) has been making theatre for over 20 years, as an actor, director, writer and teacher. Based in Hudson, Québec, she has a BFA in Theatre and Development from Concordia University and an MFA in Directing from The University of Ottawa. She spent 10 years as Artistic Director of Repercussion Theatre (an outdoor touring Shakespeare company in Montréal) mainly focused on directing and writing, so she is thrilled to be back onstage – her first love – and especially happy to be doing so here in beautiful Antigonish with her work/life love Dean (who directed this show!) Some favourite acting credits include: Helena in *Midsummer's* and Beatrice in *Much Ado* (dir: Kevin Orr) and Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet* (dir: Jean Asselin) for Repercussion; various characters in *Pinocchio* (adapted by Harry Standjofski, directed by Dean Fleming) and *Andersen's Inkwell* (written by Gina Wilkinson, directed by Micheline Chevrier) for Geordie Theatre. Thank you to Andrea and the Festival team, to Natasha and the TNB team, and to our trusty theatre dog, Miley, for coming on all these crazy adventures. Amanda is grateful to be here, grateful you're here, and excited to tell you a story.



RACHEL LLOYD

The Biggest Little House in the Forest

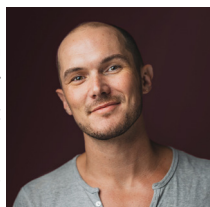
Rachel is excited to be back at Festival Antigonish and to play in this magical world with puppets! Select Theatre credits: Sven in *Robin Hood*, Touchstone in *As You Like It*, *The Cat in Pinocchio*, Peter in *Romeo & Juliet* (Shakespeare by the Sea); Gollum in *The Hobbit*, Marian in *Robin Hood*, Crystal in *Ben Hur* (Festival Antigonish); Brundibar in *Brundibar*, Liz in *Redfish*, Petey in *Two in the Coop* (Halifax Theatre for Young People) Select Puppetry credits: *Rainbow Fish*, *Code Green* (Mermaid Theatre); Herman in *A Herman Tale* (Theatre New Brunswick). Thanks to her parents and husband for their constant support! Next up catch her at Halifax Kids Fringe in another show with puppets she co-wrote: *A Potion For Emotion*.



JAMES MACLEAN

Murder at Ackerton Manor

James MacLean (Halifax, NS), fresh from the Sherwood Forest (aka Keppoch) as Will Scarlet in the 2021 FAST production of *Robin Hood*, James is delighted to be making their debut on the Bauer Stage. James is a queer multi-disciplinary artist equally adept at taking direction as an actor and offering it as a photographer, all while keeping the vibe flouncy and fire. As a stage actor, James has graced the grassy knolls of Shakespeare By The Sea and Ships Company Theatre, and trod the boards at Neptune Theatre in *The Ghost Of Violet Shaw*, *Mad Madge* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which earned them a Merritt Award for Outstanding Actor in 2025. On screen, they have dipped into dark drama in *Diggstown* and *Compulsus* and absurdist comedy in *To The Moon and Everybody's Meg*. James serves and slays in Kjiipuktuk/Halifax. Big love to my family and my Nicholas.



STEPHANIE MACDONALD

Beyond the Sea

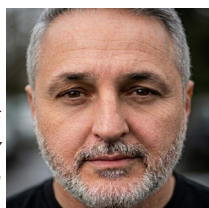
Stephanie is a seven-time *Robert Merritt Award* winning actor who makes her home in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and has performed nationally, as well as internationally. Select theatre credits include: *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson Apt 2B*, *The Great Kooshog Lake Hollis McCauley Fishing Derby* (Festival Antigonish), *DayBoil* (Ship's Company Theatre); *Casey & Diana*, *The Last Wife* (Neptune Theatre); New Magic Valley Fun Town (Tarragon Theatre, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Neptune Theatre); *Watching Glory Die*, *Small Things* (Mulgrave Road Theatre); *Nothing Less!*, *Dream By Fire*, *Liberation Days* (Two Planks and a Passion); *Marion Bridge* (Valley Summer Theatre); *The Weekend Healer*, *Communion* (KAZAN CO-OP, National Arts Centre); *Snake in the Grass* (Neptune Theatre); *The Boat* (Theatre New Brunswick). Special thanks to Scott.



THEOFANI PITSIAVAS

Murder at Ackerton Manor

Theofani is a Dartmouth-based actor who began his professional career as a mime artist in Calgary in 1988. He is proud to be making his FAST debut with this production. Select theatre credits include: Role: Roger Ackerton/ Pierre Pierrot | Roles Elsewhere: *Peaches* (Stage 1 Theatre) *O'Brien* (Theatre New Brunswick) *Company Store* (Theatre Baddeck), *Noises Off* (Neptune Theatre), *Pugwash* (Ship's Company Theatre), *Speaking in Tongues* (DMV Theatre), *Hardboiled: A Sal Dali Crime Tale* (LoHiFi Productions), *The Pillowman* (Fuller Terrace 5), *Burnwater* (LohiFi/HearHere Productions), *Anxiety* (Theatre Yes/LoHiFi), *Chess with the Doomsday Machine* (Onelight Theatre), *Fathers and Sons* (Neptune Theatre), *Masked* (Neptune Theatre), *Dead City Cabaret* (Toronto Fringe), *Men and Machines* (Arete/ Lunchbox Theatre). Theofani spends his days looking out the window watching the grass grow, contemplating if it is, truly, the day to mow.



IAN SHERWOOD

Beyond the Sea

Ian is a Dartmouth-based actor, songwriter and musician. This season is his FAST debut, but other productions include, *Come From Away* (Neptune Theatre), *East Coast Kitchen Party* (London Grand Theatre), and *Dear Rita* (Neptune Theatre). Ian has won two Robert Merritt awards (Best Original Score, Tompkinsville, and Best Ensemble, Dear Rita), a Canadian Folk Music Award (Contemporary Singer of the Year), and been recognized by Music Nova Scotia as Musician of the Year twice. He currently lives in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia with his partner Geneviève Steele, their two children, Winnie and Daphné and their 3-year-old sheepadoodle, Smudge. www.iansherwood.com



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Creative Team

JAMIE ATKINSON

Set Carpenter, The Greatest Play in the History of the World

Jamie Atkinson is a theatre technician and carpenter based in Fredericton, New Brunswick, where he serves as Head of Carpentry with Theatre New Brunswick. He has contributed to numerous professional productions across Atlantic Canada, leading the construction of scenery for mainstage and touring productions. Jamie is delighted to be part of the team for *The Greatest Play in the History of the World*.



ROBYN BIXBY

Costume Designer, The Biggest Little House in the Forest

Robyn Bixby (Antigonish, NS via Springdale, NL) is happy to be back in the Bauer this summer working with Festival Antigonish designing and building the costumes for the YoCo production *The Biggest Little House*. Robyn has been working in wardrobe at the Bauer Theatre since 2015, and this season marks her second official year with Festival and the YoCo. When not designing costumes at the Bauer, Robyn can be found running open studios for the StFX Fine Arts Department.



SAVANNAH BORDEN

Stage Manager & Production Assistant, The Biggest Little House in the Forest

Savannah Borden is delighted to be back for another summer with Festival Antigonish! She will be attending Dalhousie in the fall to pursue Technical Theatre, and is ecstatic to have another go in her favourite theatre. She has been stage managing local theatre for almost five years, some credits include: *Anne of Green Gables*, *School of Rock* (Music of the Night), *Belly Full*, *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Theatre Antigonish), *The Adventures of The Little Girl and The Wind*, *The Paper Bag Princess and Other Stories* (Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre, FAST). Other credits: *Murder for Two* (FAST and Neptune Theatre), *For Love Nor Money* (FAST and Mulgrave Road Theatre), *The New Canadian Curling Club*, *The Secret Garden of An Sithean*, *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson*.



FINNLEY BOEHM

Stage Manager, The Greatest Play in the History of the World

Finnley Boehm (he/him) is a multidisciplinary theatre artist living in Fredericton, NB. He's trained and worked as an actor, builder, designer, director, production assistant, stage manager, and technical director. Some of his recent credits include Stage Manager for Theatre New Brunswick's Young Company 2026, Tour Technician for *Bluebirds* (Theatre New Brunswick), Touring Manager for *Chase the Ace* (Ships Company Theatre), Set Carpenter for *The Wizard of Oz* (Neptune Theatre), and Projection Designer and Head Carpenter for *Guys and Dolls* (Rogue Productions). When he's not in a theatre, he's camping, playing hockey, or chilling with his favourite furball, Magnus.



ROWAN BROSHA

Production Assistant

Rowan Brosha (Dartmouth, NS) is excited to be making their Festival Antigonish debut this season. They are currently a 3rd year student studying Computer Science, Music, and of course, Drama at Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB, where they have been working with the Motyer-Fancy Theatre in the costume and lighting departments, including credits as Costume Designer for their recent production of *This is a Play* and as Antigone in Tintamarre's *Exit '26*. Rowan's family is largely from Antigonish on their father's side, and they are thrilled to be able to spend the summer working in a town close to their heart!



KATHLEEN BURKE

Head of Props

Kathleen Burke is a theatre technician based in Halifax, NS. She is thrilled to be back for her second season at Festival Antigonish, and her first season as Head of Props! Last year, she worked as a Production Assistant on FAST's production of *The Secret Garden of An Sithean*. Kathleen is a recent graduate of Dalhousie University's Fountain School of Performing Arts, where she worked in a variety of production roles on Dal Theatre and Dal Opera shows including *The Odyssey*, *Macbeth*, *Little Women*, *Three Sisters*, and *Cendrillon*. Thank you to her family and friends for their endless support and encouragement.



“

There's something special in the way Antigonish comes together. Whether it's cheering at a local hockey game, supporting a neighbour in need, or sharing stories at the coffee shop, the sense of community here is real. It's not just where we do business — it's where we feel at home. We're grateful to be part of it! — **AA Munro Insurance**

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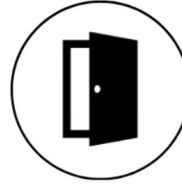
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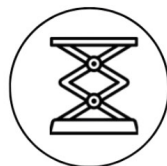
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KRISTEN DA SILVA

Writer, Beyond the Sea

Kristen Da Silva is a playwright, actor and director based in Ontario.

She began her writing career in 2014 and has since become one of Canada's most produced playwrights. She was born in Oakville and raised in Nobleton, Ontario, and graduated from York University with a double major in Political Science and Labour Studies. During her time at York, she was a founding member of the Vanier Improv Company and a company member of Vanier College Productions. She is best known for her plays, including *Where You Are*, which has been translated into four languages and produced across Canada, in the United States, and Europe; *Hurry Hard*; *Beyond the Sea*; *The Rules of Playing Risk*; *Sugar Road*; and *Sisters of '78*. She is a two-time recipient of the Playwrights Guild New Comedy award, first in 2016 for *Gibson & Sons* and again in 2019 for *Hurry Hard*. Her work is published by Scirocco Drama.



ROB DENTON

Sound Designer, The Greatest Play in the History of the World

Rob Denton is a Montreal-based sound mixer, designer, and composer. Highlights include a META (Montreal English Theatre Award) for sound design for *Tribes! No Matter What* - Théâtre de l'Espérance / Teesri Duniya (2024) and for *Another Home Invasion* - Tableau d'Hôte (2016). In 2007, he was awarded Best Sound MECCA (Montreal English Critic's Circle Award) for his work on the Montreal presentation of *Satchmo's Suite* at the Saidye Bronfman Centre for the Arts. His design for *Small Mouth Sounds* was named "Sound Design of the Decade" by Broadway World Magazine - Montreal. Rob teaches Sound Design and Technology at the National Theatre School of Canada.



PAUL MORGAN DONALD

Sound Designer, Murder at Ackerton Manor & Beyond the Sea

Paul Morgan Donald (Knoydart NS via Edmonton AB) is delighted to be back at Festival Antigonish for another summer. Past FAST sound designs include *New Canadian Curling Club*, *Murder for Two*, *The Great Kooshog Lake Hollis McCauley Fishing Derby*, and *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson - Apartment 2B* (for which he received the 2025 Merritt Award for Outstanding Sound Design.) A long-time member of Edmonton's theatre community as a composer, sound designer, actor and musician, Paul creates original scores and sound designs for theatre, television and film, and has co-created over 30 musicals. He is an improvising musician at Rapid Fire Theatre, and music director of Edmonton's live improvised soap-opera *Die-Nasty!*



ANDREA EVANS

Production Manager, The Greatest Play in the History of the World

Andrea Evans proudly holds a BFA with Honours from York University where she studied Theatre Production and Design. With nearly 20 years' experience, she has worked as a set designer, scenic painter, and props builder for numerous theatres throughout Ontario and the Atlantic provinces. Andrea has worked for theatre companies such as the National Ballet of Canada, Ship's Company Theatre, Theatre Baddeck, Saint John Theatre Company, Tarragon Theatre, and many others. For two seasons, Andrea worked as an assistant designer at the Stratford Festival. She has also been a guest artist / instructor at numerous high schools teaching stagecraft and design. Andrea has been nominated two times for Toronto's Dora Awards and is the proud recipient of a Dora Award for Outstanding Set Design. She has also been nominated twice for a Nova Scotia Merritt Award (Theatre Baddeck's Half-Cracked and The Company Store).



DEAN FLEMING

Director, The Greatest Play in the History of the World

Dean Patrick Fleming is a professional in the world of theatre with extensive experience as a director, actor, producer and educator. He has directed over 70 productions and produced shows that have toured across the U.S. and Canada. Dean is currently the Director of Residencies at the National Theatre School where he also teaches and guides various projects. He has also taught at Concordia University. As an Artistic Director, he has been at the helm of and premiered over 25 new plays, many of which he commissioned. In 2015, he accepted the inaugural Equity, Diversity and Inclusion award on behalf of Geordie Productions where he spent 10 amazing years as Artistic and Executive Director. During his time at Geordie and as Artistic Director of Professional Theatre at Hudson Village Theatre, Dean's leadership contributed to the creation of award-winning work. Beyond his professional achievements, Dean has served as a volunteer board member for both local and national organizations. His dedication to the arts was recognized with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and both the Amyot Prize for teaching excellence and the Sims Family Award at the National Theatre School. He is incredibly excited to share this show again while spending some time in Antigonish with his partner Amanda and their furry companion Miley.



“

Antigonish is a place where care is second nature—where people invest in one another, honour their roots, and look ahead with purpose. It's a town that feels both close-knit and forward-moving, much like the culture we strive to build at MacLeod Cares. Here, we see community in action every day: in how people connect, support one another, and create a true sense of belonging. That same spirit guides our work in long-term care. We're proud to grow alongside a town that shares our belief that home is more than a place—it's something you nurture together.

— MacLeod Group

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STEVEN GALLAGHER

Writer, Murder at Ackerton Manor

Steven Gallagher is a writer, director, and actor based in Hamilton. His musical *Pollyanna*, co-written with Linda Barnett, was shortlisted for the Playwrights Guild of Canada's Stage West Musical Award and premiered at Theatre Aquarius in 2023. His musical *The Blackout*, created with Anton Lipovetsky, premiered in Toronto in 2021 and was featured at the National Alliance for Musical Theatre Festival in New York in 2022. His play *Murder at Ackerton Manor* recently had its American premiere at the Gretna Theatre in Pennsylvania. His latest play, *Deadly Memories*, will premiere at Port Stanley Theatre Festival in late July 2026.



FRANZISKA GLEN

Director, The Biggest Little House in the Forest

Franziska Glen (she/her) is a theatre maker and arts educator living in Kijipuktuk/Halifax. She is co-founder of Gale Force Theatre, a company creating form-bending theatre for young audiences and outdoor performance. She has worked and collaborated with River Clyde Arts, Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia, Satellite Théâtre, Ship's Company Theatre and North Barn Theatre as a designer, director, actor, puppeteer and general schlepper. Her directorial debut of *While We Wait*, a play for young audiences about the challenges of change, won Outstanding Independent Production at this year's Theatre Nova Scotia awards. Franziska designed and regularly performs in Gale Force Theatre's *Lupinder's Tent*, an interactive show for young audiences that takes place in a colourful patchwork tent. She is drawn to creating thoughtful, immersive, and joyful theatre for our newest and youngest audience members.



ROB HULL

Carpenter

Rob Hull is excited to be working on the set for *Murder at Ackerton Manor*. Select community acting credits include *Robin Hood: The Great Escape* and *The Hobbit* [FAST] and most recently *Misfits Musical Theatre Cabaret* [Theatre Antigonish]. Design and construction credits include *Hector the Spectre Steals the Show* [Theatre Antigonish] among others to which he's lent his skills and expertise in recent years. Special thanks to the folks at FAST who keep him coming back for more.



VERONICA JOLLIMORE

Apprentice Stage Manager, Murder at Ackerton Manor & Beyond the Sea

Veronica Jollimore (Halifax, NS) is a graduate of Dalhousie University's Stage Design and Technical Theatre program and is so very excited to make her Festival Antigonish debut as an apprentice stage manager. Most recently, Veronica was seen as the stage manager for Neptune Theatre's YoCo production of *Frankenstein*, and DalTheatre's *Three Sisters* and *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play*. She is looking forward to spending the summer in Antigonish and sends all her love to her family and friends!



CHERYL KELLY

Set & Puppet Designer, The Biggest Little House in the Forest

Cheryl Kelly (Antigonish, NS via Halifax, NS) is delighted to be designing in her first production for Festival Antigonish. Having developed a keen interest in set design and puppet making as a fulfilling outlet for creative expression, she has designed productions for Theatre Antigonish (*Grimm Tales: Three Little Men in the Woods*, *Mort*, *A Belly Full*) and also Music of the Night (*Anne of Green Gables*, *Into the Woods*). She lives in Antigonish with her daughter Maeve, more cats than necessary, and a pup named Maude.



IAN KERSHAW

Writer, The Greatest Play in the History of the World

Ian was born and raised in Oldham, left school at 16 and worked as a joiner on building sites across Manchester. He went to the theatre for the first time aged 21, packed in his job the next day and enrolled on a Performing Arts course at Oldham College before training as an actor at The Welsh College of Music & Drama. Writing all the while, he became a full-time writer via a playwriting monthly slam at Contact Manchester in 2004.



SHERRY KINNEAR

Costume Designer, The Greatest Play in the History of the World

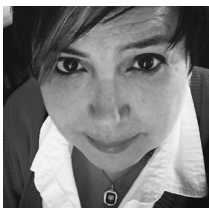
Sherry Kinnear is a Fredericton-based Costume Designer-Maker who works with Theatre New Brunswick as their Head of Wardrobe and loves designing, coordinating, and creating costumes for TNB's main stage, theatre school, and Young Company shows. *Bluebirds*, *Wood Buffalo*, and *Christmas at Pemberley* are a few of the most recent shows she's designed for TNB.



VICKIE MARSTON

Set Designer, Murder at Ackerton Manor

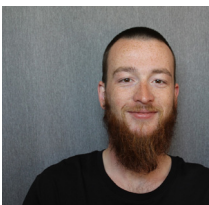
Vickie Marston has been working in theatre for more than 40 years and, for the past 16 years, has worked as a freelance designer as well as a Set, Costume, Props Design, and Scenic Paint Instructor at Memorial University of Newfoundland, where she is also one of the resident designers in the Theatre Department. Throughout her career, Vickie has worked with numerous theatres across Canada, including Neptune Theatre, Centaur Theatre Company, the Atlantic Theatre Festival, and Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia, taking on roles such as Head of Props, Stage Manager, and Puppet Designer/Builder. More recently, she has been designing sets and costumes for theatres across Canada, from Newfoundland to Ontario, collaborating with companies such as the National Arts Centre, Theatre Newfoundland Labrador / Gros Morne Theatre Festival, Kazan Co., Ship's Company Theatre, Watermark Theatre, Theatre Baddeck, and 1000 Islands Playhouse. This marks her third season working with Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre, and she is delighted to be back once again. Vickie has been nominated three times for the Merritt Awards for Outstanding Set Design: *His Greatness* with Kazan Theatre, *Vigil* with Valley Summer Festival, and *The Adventures of the Little Girl and the Wind* with Theatre Antigonish. She has won the award twice, for Ship's Company Theatre's production of *The Net* and Festival Antigonish's production of *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B*. In addition, she received a Masques Award for mask and puppet design for Geordie Theatre's production of *The Jungle Book*. Vickie is a proud member of the Associated Designers of Canada.



TAYTE MCHUGH

Carpenter

Tayte McHugh (Antigonish, NS via Smithville, ON) joins the production team for Festival Antigonish with a newly rediscovered obsession with the arts. He comes to the region for school, having just finished his second year at StFX for Anthropology and English. Theatre, film, and writing are beloved outlets for his creative energies. For his poetry, Tayte was selected to represent StFX at the Annual Atlantic Universities English Conference, as well as a repeat reading at the English Honours Colloquium. He participated in the first CANZ 48-hour film festival, editing for one team, and working as a production assistant for another. In the winter season he was also part of Theatre Antigonish's Misfits Musical Cabaret.



“

Here, we see community in action every day: in how people connect, support one another, and create a true sense of belonging. That same spirit guides our work in long-term care. We're proud to grow alongside a town that shares our belief that home is more than a place—it's something you nurture together. — **MacLeod Group**

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SYLVIA NOWELL

Costume Designer & Head of Wardrobe, Murder at Ackerton Manor & Beyond the Sea

Sylvia Nowell (she/her) (Bedford, NS) is excited to make her professional debut with Festival Antigonish as Designer and Head of Wardrobe. Previously, Sylvia was involved with Eastern Front Theatre's *Coal Bowl Queen* as a costume cutter and builder. Sylvia has also worked on several DalTheatre productions, most recently as a teaching assistant and cutter for Rick Chafe's adaptation of Homer's *The Odyssey*. If she isn't at her sewing machine, Sylvia can be found playing with her dog, Doria. She is very excited to be a part of Festival Antigonish for the 2026 Season and hopes you enjoy the product of everyone's hard work!



LIAM OKO

Assistant Director, Beyond the Sea

Liam Oke is an Antigonish native and a graduate of the Fountain School of Performing Arts in Halifax. Theatre credits include (Antigonish) *For Love Nor Money*, *The Secret Garden of An Sithean*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Honk the Musical* and *Peter Pan*. (Halifax) *Shout the Musical*, *Ashland Falls*, *La Chanson De Fortunio*, *Artificial Oddity*, *Mr. Burns*, *Cinderella and the Box Office*, *Learning Curve* and *Three Sisters*. (Stratford) Stratford Shakespeare School (Cayman Islands) *A Playhouse Family Christmas*, *Not Now Darling*, *Footloose*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Diary of Anne Frank*, *Proof*, *The Illusion*, *Noises Off* and *Funny Money*. Liam's most recent credits include the 2025 Mulgrave Road Theatre production of *For Love Nor Money* which opens for a second season in July 2026. Liam is acting coach for the 2024-26 Dalhousie Opera Productions which includes *Little Women* and *Cinderella*. Currently Liam is the Assistant Director for the 2026 Shakespeare by the Sea production of *Julius Caesar*. Liam is very excited to return to his hometown and to Festival Antigonish for his second season.



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SARAH O'BRIEN

Stage Manager, Murder at Ackerton Manor & Beyond the Sea

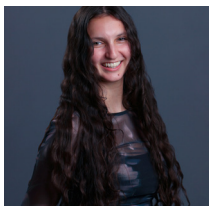
Sarah is honoured to have been invited back to FAST for her 26th season in her beloved Bauer Theatre. She is coming from a very busy theatre season in Toronto, having worked with Nightwood Theatre as an emergency fill-in SM on their premiere of *Enormity, Girl, and the Earthquake In Her Lungs*, before embarking on Viv Moore's autobiographical movement piece, *Pull Up Your Socks*, and the National Ballet School's filming of Jera Wolfe's stunning *Arise*. This spring, she was delighted to help the George Brown Third Year class realize Guillermo Verdecchia's *The Parliament of the Birds* under Soheil Parsa's direction, and to be backstage for the premiere of Silas Farley's magical new ballet, *Werner Quintet*, with NBS as part of Spring Showcase. Upcoming projects include a production of *The Bacchae* with George Brown, and working with old friends Keith Barker and Yvette Nolan on a new one-man show for Canadian Stage. As ever, this season is for Jer & Hon. Many thanks to my collaborators who continue to believe in the work, and to the audiences who ensure that the theatre adventures never stop.



EDEN RESHEF

Set Designer, Beyond the Sea

Eden Reshef, based in Halifax, Nova Scotia and Southwestern Ontario is thrilled to be making her FAST debut this season. A recent graduate of Dalhousie University's Stage Design and Technical Theatre program, Eden had the honour of designing the set for *The Odyssey* with DalTheatre this spring. She has also worked as the assistant set and costume designer for Neptune's production of *Mischief*, as well as DalTheatre's production of *Three Sisters*. Eden has trained as an actor in the New York Conservatory for the Dramatic Arts' Professional Development Program, culminating in an Off-Broadway performance. Her acting credits include Jo March in *Little Women* (Dalhousie Theatre Society) and Ariel in *The Christmas Spectacular* (Storybook Theatre). You can find more of Eden's work at edenreshef.com



CHRIS SAAD

Lighting Designer, The Greatest Play in the History of the World

Chris is excited to be working for Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre. He is the resident designer and technical director for the Black Box Theatre at Saint Thomas University in Fredericton. His latest lighting design credit was for The Saint John Theatre Company production of *The Play That Goes Wrong*. Break a leg, everyone.



HOLLIE SPICER

Dresser/Wardrobe Assistant

Hollie Spicer (she/her) is excited to return to Festival Antigonish for a second season as Wardrobe Assistant and Dresser. Originally from Unama'ki/Cape Breton Island, she recently graduated from StFX with a BA in history, during which she spent her free time volunteering with Theatre Antigonish as both a performer and member of the wardrobe team. Hollie has worked with Festival Antigonish as Wardrobe Assistant/Dresser for the 2022 season's production of *The Hobbit*, and in 2025 she was a member of the Front of House/Box Office team while also working as an Education Assistant with Festival Antigonish Theatre Academy.



PETER VATSIS

Set Designer, The Greatest Play in the History of the World

Peter is a set and lighting designer from Tiohtià:ke (Montréal, Qc). This is his first production to take part in Festival Antigonish. He is excited to be working again with this fantastic production team. Peter is happy to be revisiting *The Greatest Play in the History of the World* after designing the October 2025 Theatre New Brunswick tour and the September 2023 production at the Hudson Village Theatre (Hudson, Qc). Other recent credits include set design for *Cottagers and Indians* at the Thousand Islands Playhouse (August 2025). Outside of his design work, Peter teaches in the Theatre Arts Department at John Abbott College in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Qc. He is a 2004 graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada.



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The Staff

ANDREA BOYD

Artistic Director

Andrea Boyd is a director, playwright and theatre educator. She has worked across the country for the past 35 years (or so). Her directing credits with Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre include *The Secret Garden of An Sithean*, *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B*, *The New Canadian Curling Club*, *The Adventures of the Little Girl and the Wind*, *The Goodnight Bird*, *Stage Kiss*, *Ben Hur* and *Burnin' Love*.



For Theatre Antigonish, she has directed *Girls Like That*, *The Ash Girl*, *Eurydice*, and *Sunshine on Leith*, among others. She has also directed at The Grand Theatre, Theatre Lac Brome, NotaBle Acts, Keyano Theatre and the University of Alberta.

She is responsible for creating FAST's pandemic pivots: *The Hobbit* and *Robin Hood: The Great Escape* (written with Laura Teasdale), both of which she directed as promenade productions at Keppoch Mountain. Other writing credits include *The Secret Garden of An Sithean*, *Hector the Spectre Steals the Show* (with Laura Teasdale), *Angel's River*, first produced by Live Bait Theatre, and *Stalker: The Musical*. *For the Love of Gracie Gray* was the recipient of the 2013 Write-On-Q Quebec Playwriting Competition. Andrea believes in creating theatre that speaks to the community and that is inclusive; that supports female artists and Canadian artists; and that can bring about transformation by encouraging empathy. She holds an MFA in Directing from the University of Alberta, where she taught for several years in the drama department. She is from New Brunswick but is delighted to call Antigonish home.

KATE BASILE

Director of Education and Community Engagement

Kate (she/her) is an artist based in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. A professional actor, creator, and multidisciplinary artist, she has lived and worked throughout the East Coast and Toronto, training at Humber College. Having spent many years in Nova Scotia during her youth, she is thrilled to have found a home with FAST, most recently acting with the 2022 company in *The Hobbit* and again for the 2023 Theatre for Young Audiences. A firm believer in the power of art and community, Kate has found a passion teaching youth classes on the very stage where she attended her first theatre camp. As a part of the Antigonish community, Kate hopes to help FAST reach new students and artists. When you're not seeing her at The Bauer, you may bump into Kate at Fairmont or Keppoch, or spot her at the Arts House, elbow deep in a slab of clay!



CALEB MARSHALL

Managing Director

New Brunswick native **Caleb Marshall**'s thirty-year theatrical career has spanned producing, directing, writing, teaching, acting, administration, and cultural advocacy. He has produced over 100 theatre productions and 30 multi-disciplinary performing arts presentations. Most recently he served as the Managing Artistic Director of The Canadian College of Performing Arts in Victoria, BC (2018-2024). Prior to that he was the Artistic Executive Director of The Sudbury Theatre Centre (2014-2017) and the Artistic Producer for Theatre New Brunswick (2009-2014). Internationally he served as the resident director on a UK/European tour for Shakespeare's Globe, and appeared in productions by The Old Vic, The Imperial War Museum and at the Edinburgh Fringe. Caleb spent four seasons in The Stratford Festival's acting company and has premiered roles for the National Arts Centre, The Canadian Stage Company, and The Blyth Festival. He has also played numerous principal roles in film and television.



He holds a Certificate in Arts Management and Administration from McEwan University, a BFA Honours in Acting from York University, an MFA in Theatre Direction from Middlesex University, London (UK) and trained with: the Stratford Festival's Conservatory for Classical Theatre Training, Moscow's GITIS Academy, the Banff Centre for the Arts and The International Artist's Fellowship at Shakespeare's Globe. Caleb has been honoured for his work with an Indigenous Blanket Ceremony, the Christopher Plummer Fellowship Award, The Stratford Festival's Elliott Hayes Award and has been recognized for his work with a New Brunswick Arts Board Excellence Award in the Arts and The King Charles III Coronation Medal. He's very happy to call Antigonish home with his wife Meredith and daughter Lenora.

CASSIE MACDONALD

Operations and Audience Relations Manager

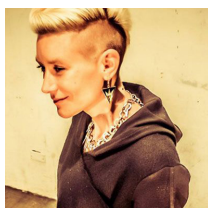
Cassie (she/her) is an arts administrator and multidisciplinary artist from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, now based in Pomquet. Her career bridges creative practice and arts management, reflecting a lifelong commitment to supporting and sustaining vibrant arts communities across the province. Though not a stranger to the stage, this is Cassie's first summer with Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre and she is thrilled to be part of the magic. Find Cassie's artistic ventures on the interwebs at cassiejosephinemusic.bandcamp.com



INGRID RISK

Production Manager

Ingrid (she/her) has enjoyed a richly varied production career which has led her to take on a variety of roles such as stage manager, designer, technical director, production manager, prop builder, technician, and carpenter. Ingrid has helped shape venue design, curated arts-theatre spaces, taught theatre stagecraft courses at StFX University, and mentored young professionals. Ingrid has worked with many leading Atlantic theatre companies.



She has toured extensively, taking productions to venues nationally and internationally, from Labrador to the Yukon to NYC, including several stops at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, and the Cultural Olympiad at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. Before returning to FAST as production manager, Ingrid's focus had been on lighting design and stage management where she has received countless nominations for her work, and is the recipient of several Theatre Nova Scotia Merritt Awards. Her passion is for spare, interesting, and meaningful pieces of theatre that convey important ideas about the human experience.

Front of House Staff

ABBY FRASER

Front of House Manager

Abby Fraser is from Cape Breton and is a recent graduate of StFX University. She is returning for her fourth summer at Festival Antigonish. She has also been involved in various Theatre Antigonish productions over the past six years, on stage and backstage! She is passionate about the essential role that the arts play in community building. When she's not at the theatre, she enjoys reading, playing music, and crafting! Abby adores the theatre community in Antigonish and is so excited to be a part of the team again this summer!



MADISON MACDONALD-FURLOTTE

Box Office Assistant

Madison MacDonald-Furlotte (Antigonish) is looking forward to returning for her second season with Festival Antigonish as a Box Office Assistant. Additionally, Madison uses her love of visual storytelling to capture moments on stage through photography. Although not originally from a theatre background, she was instantly drawn to the welcoming community and creative atmosphere. Theatre has quickly become one of her favourite things to take photos of, due to the emotion, passion and dedication found in live performance. Madison is grateful to be a part of the team once again, and is excited to see what this season brings.



WAVEY MIDDLETON

Education and Outreach Assistant

Wavey Middleton (she/her) is thrilled to be back at Festival Antigonish this year. She is a theatre-passionate Antigonish teen. This is her fourth summer season at the Bauer Theatre having acted and assistant stage-managed in years prior. She is also an active part of the community theatre scene in Antigonish, acting and working backstage in ten Theatre Antigonish and Music of the Night productions over the past five years including *Grimm Tales*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (TA), *School of Rock* and *Into the Woods* (MotN). She is graduating from Dr. JHG Regional High School and heading to Western University to pursue a Bachelor of Music in Voice this fall.



SAM STIRLING

Bartender

Hailing from Antigonish, **Sam Stirling** (he/him) joins us as bartender this summer. Nostalgic for his days hosting variety shows as part of a comedy group in the very same Green Room Bar, he has returned to mix up some fun and sling some drinks! Make sure to stop by the Green Room Bar before or after the show and say hi!



SHELBY STURGEON

Administrative Coordinator

Shelby Sturgeon (Miramichi, NB) is ecstatic to be making her Festival Antigonish debut this summer as an Administrative Coordinator. Shelby is currently a student at StFX, returning for her third year this fall, doing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. In the past, she has been very involved in the performing arts, having many years' experience doing theatre and dance. Shelby is beyond excited to become more involved in Festival Antigonish and the Antigonish community as a whole!



ISABELLA TASCONA

Box Office Assistant

Isabella Tascona (Halifax, NS) is thrilled to work with Festival Antigonish in her debut season as Box Office Assistant. A fourth-year honours English student at St. Francis Xavier University, Isabella is excited to contribute to Antigonish's strong arts and performance community. Her love for theatre and the arts goes back to deep childhood roots through her participation in various school plays throughout elementary and middle school. In addition, through her work as a research assistant for Professor Kailin Wright, Isabella helped create the first Atlantic Canadian Theatre Database in support of a larger ongoing research project into the history of Atlantic Canadian Theatre.



ELLA SHEPPARD

Box Office & Education Assistant

Ella Sheppard (Clarendville, NL) is delighted to join Festival Antigonish this season as Box Office & Education Assistant, marking her first season with the festival. Ella danced competitively for many years, training in numerous styles and developing a strong appreciation for the performing arts. She has also participated in musical theatre productions and solo performances throughout her youth. Through her dance community, she particularly enjoyed working with younger dancers and helping foster their confidence and love of the arts. Currently entering her final year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at St. Francis Xavier University, Ella is excited to spend the summer supporting Festival Antigonish.



“

What we love most about Antigonish is its strong sense of community—people always put others first and are ready to lend a hand. With a vibrant arts scene, outstanding local talent, and deep roots in the cooperative movement. Antigonish has a rich culture of collaboration and connection. This helps create a strong sense of belonging for everyone. Antigonish continues to inspire communities far beyond Nova Scotia and Canada, and the lasting impact of our small town is what truly sets this community apart.

— **East Coast Credit Union**

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The Festival Antigonish Foundation was established in 2007 to help secure the long-term future of Festival Antigonish. Built through the generosity of donors, community leaders, and longstanding supporters, the Foundation manages an endowment fund that provides ongoing support for professional theatre in Antigonish.

Directors:

Dr. Minoli Amit

Marc Champoux

Donald Chisholm

John Hamilton

Caleb Marshall

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Steve Smith

Shannon Stephenson

Under the leadership of its volunteer Board and investment committee, and with support from Canadian Heritage's Endowment Incentives Grant Program, the Foundation has recently surpassed the \$1 million milestone. This achievement will have a lasting impact, helping Festival Antigonish keep ticket prices accessible, support artists, invest in new work, and continue serving audiences for generations to come.

Every gift helps build the future of live theatre in our community. To learn more or make a contribution, please contact Festival Antigonish Managing Director Caleb Marshall at caleb@festivalantigonish.ca.

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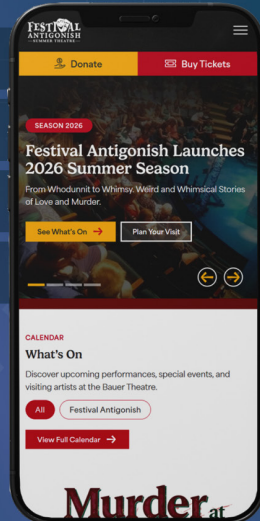
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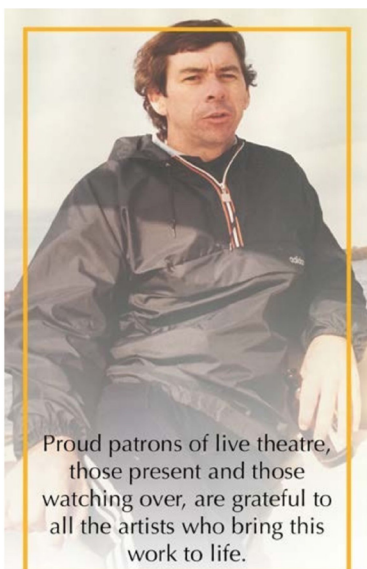


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—Patterson Law

”
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THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Festival Antigonish acknowledges, with gratitude, the many volunteers and special friends who continue to help us bring theatre to our community.

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”

SCHEDULE

JULY

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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Evenings: 7:30 p.m.

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Arts & Cultures Market - August 26 | 6:30 p.m.

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Patio Chats - July 14 & August 18 | 6:30 p.m.

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