

THE F WORD



Created & Performed by
Keshia Cheesman & Bianca Miranda

CREATIVE TEAM

CREATOR-PERFORMERS - Keshia Cheesman and Bianca Miranda

DIRECTOR - Clare Preuss

STAGE MANAGER - Marcia Liber

DRAMATURG - Donna-Michelle St. Bernard

SET DESIGNER - Andy Moro

PROJECTION DESIGNER - Maezy Reign

SOUND DESIGNER & COMPOSER - Kathryn Smith

PUPPET DESIGNER & BUILDER - Ali DeRegt

LIGHTING DESIGNER AND PRODUCTION MANAGER - Alexandra Prichard

PROPS DESIGNER & BUILDER AND COSTUME CONSULTANT - Sarbkali Hayer

DOWNSTAGE PRODUCTION MANAGER AND TECHINICAL DIRECTOR - Dylan Bauer

PROJECTION MENTOR - Noriko Marumo

SET PAINTERS - Chloe Diochnos and Noriko Marumo

SET BUILDERS - Barry Eldridge and Mike Skwara



KESHIA CHEESMAN

Creator/Performer/Co-Producer

Keshia Cheesman is a Caribbean-Canadian theatre creator, performer, and arts educator based in Mohkinstsis. She has collaborated with many of Calgary's leading theatre companies, including Theatre Calgary, Alberta Theatre Projects, One Yellow Rabbit, and Downstage.

Her play *Special* was published and featured in CBC Gem and Obsidian Theatre's *21 Black Futures*, which received the Canadian Screen Award for Best Web Program or Series.

As an arts educator with Quest Theatre, Arts Commons, and Jube School, Keshia is dedicated to empowering youth and uplifting diverse communities through the arts. In recognition of this work, she received the 2025 Duval Lang Theatre for Young Audiences Award.



BIANCA MIRANDA

Creator/Performer/Co-Producer

Born and raised in the Philippines, Bianca Miranda is a queer, Filipino performer, playwright, and producer, grateful to be living and working in Moh'kins'tsis, Treaty 7 Territory. She is the Producer at Downstage.

As a theatre-maker and playwright, their works most often start from a personal place and examine the intersections of her identities, born out of the necessity to tell underrepresented stories. She is the writer of "Kisapmata" (2023/2024 Betty Mitchell Award for Outstanding New Play; Chromatic Theatre & Lunchbox Theatre)

As an actor and performer, they've worked with theatre companies across the city, with some personal favourites such as Hamlet Frequency (Shakespeare Company and One Yellow Rabbit), Little Red (Major Matt Mason and Ghost River Theatre), and Timmy, Tommy, and the Haunted Hotel (Pape & Taper).

Bianca believes in the transformative power of theatre and storytelling.



CLARE PREUSS

Director

Clare has worked across Canada as well as in Germany, Lebanon, Switzerland, Uganda and USA. Selected Directing Credits: Liars at a Funeral (Alberta Theatre Projects, Western Canada Theatre), Beautiful Man (Downstage, Handsome Alice Theatre, Verb Theatre), A Poem for Rabia (co-directed with Donna-Michelle St. Bernard at Tarragon Theatre), A Dinner Party, Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet) and Myth of the Ostrich (Guild Theatre Whitehorse), Men Express Their Feelings (Downstage, Hit & Myth Productions), Bystander (Gwaandak Theatre), White Girls in Moccasins (Rhubarb Festival), CAKE (New Harlem Productions, Theatre Passe Muraille, Bayimba Festival for the Arts Uganda), Tuesdays & Sundays (Sundown Theatre), L'armoire des ombres (Theatre Monnot Beirut), Salome's Clothes (SummerWorks), Give It Up (New Harlem Productions). Clare recently directed her first feature film, Do Us Part, which premiered at the Calgary International Film Festival. She is the Artistic Director at Downstage and is thrilled to collaborate with Keshia, Bianca and this amazing team!



MARCIA LIBER

Stage Manager

Marcia Liber is thrilled to be making her stage management return to theatre with *The F Word*. Select past credits include *A Little Princess*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Lost Prince*, *Village of Idiots* and *Peter Pan* (Calgary Young Peoples' Theatre), *Call and Response*, *Reminiscing in Tempo*, *Party Time*, *Olio*, *Nervous Systems*, *Old/New/Borrowed/Blue*, *Family of Jazz*, *AMPLIFIED*, *suspending disbelief*, *Juliet & Romeo* (2019/20), *Better Get Hit in Your Soul* (2019), *Lovestruck*, *Mimic* and *Velocity* (Decidedly Jazz Danceworks).

You can find her working around Calgary with dance, circus, puppetry, and theatre. Her passion is supporting new works in whatever way she can.

Enjoy the show!



DONNA-MICHELLE ST. BERNARD

Dramaturg

Donna-Michelle St. Bernard aka Belladonna the Blest is an emcee, playwright and agitator. Her playwriting is focused in the 54ology: The First Stone, Diggers, Give It Up, The Smell of Horses, Just Now, Click Click, Cake, Sound of the Beast, A Man A Fish, Salome's Clothes, Dark Love and Gas Girls. She is co-editor with Yvette Nolan of the Playwrights Canada Press anthologies Refractions: Solo and Refractions: Scenes, as well as editor of Indian Act: Residential School Plays. DM is currently the associate artist at lemonTree Creations, and artistic director of New Harlem Productions.



ANDY MORO

Set Designer

Andy Moro is a mixed-blood multi-disciplinary artist and an accomplished theatre designer. Moro co-directs the Indigenous Activism Arts organization ARTICLE 11, named for the 11th Article of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with partner Tara Beagan. Reckoning, a play about the effects of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, was a collaborative effort by Beagan and Moro, and is credited to ARTICLE 11. Other A11 projects include an extensive tour of Beagan's Deer Woman, designed and directed by Moro, to New Zealand, Australia, and the Edinburgh Festival. Moro is a multi-award winner and nominee and has twice been named among Toronto's NOW magazine's Top-10 theatre artists.



MAEZY REIGN

Projection Designer

Maezy Reign (they/them) is a biracial multidisciplinary artist, born and raised in Calgary. They work as a playwright, lighting designer and occasional actor. They are determined to create art that has the representation they never saw growing up, like mentally ill, gender diverse, queer, and racialized main characters. Maezy is so excited to be returning to The F Word team and continuing to dabble in the realm of projection design. You can check out more of their visual art practice [@the.rolled.lemon](https://www.instagram.com/the.rolled.lemon) on Instagram!



KATHRYN SMITH

Composer & Sound Designer

Kathryn Smith is a queer and trans theatre creator who has worked across Canada for the last 10 years. They love queer art, supporting their community, their partner Lara, and their dog Scout. Since 2022, Kathryn (or KP) has been the Artistic Director of Verb Theatre - a Calgary based independent theatre company that focuses on producing 'tomorrows theatre today'. It's a lot of work, and also incredibly fun. You should check out Verb Theatre!

Kathryn has spent their career on new work development, producing and directing independently.. They are also an award winning singer songwriter under the name KP Smith.

Select Credits: CARE TAKERS; COUNTRIES SHAPED LIKE STARS (Lunchbox Theatre) MS. HOLMES & MS. WATSON: APT #2B, MURDER IN THE STUDIO (Vertigo Theatre); SELMA BURKE (Theatre Calgary, ATP); A CHITENGE STORY, INVISIBLE TOO (Handsome Alice Theatre); BEAUTIFUL MAN, THE F WORD (Downstage Theatre); EVERY BRILLIANT THING, WE'RE GONNA DIE (Verb Theatre).



ALI DEREGT

Puppet Designer & Builder

Ali DeRegt (she/they) is a multi-disciplinary theatre artist focused on devising, puppetry, and clown. They hold an MFA from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London, where they co-founded HOT TRASH! Theatre, a devised theatre company that focuses on DIY aesthetics, physical storytelling, and general nonsense. She also is the new Artistic Director for live programming at the Festival of Animated Objects here in Calgary. Recent credits include: All I Want for Christmas, Go For Gold Audrey Pham (Lunchbox), INISKIM (Canadian Academy of Mask and Puppetry), Peter and the Wolf (The Old Trout Puppet Workshop), Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley (Persephone Theatre), and seasons 1 & 2 of Fraggles Rock: Back to the Rock (The Jim Henson Company and Apple TV+). Ali is a recipient of the Duval Lang Emerging Leader Award and an Elizabeth Sterling Award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement in Theatre for Young Audiences.



ALEXANDRA PRICHARD

**Lighting Designer and
Production Manager**

Alexandra is a Calgary-based production manager, lighting designer and sometime director. Previous lighting design includes *The Three Musketeers* and *The Queens* (The Shakespeare Company), *Ring of Fire* and *Million Dollar Quartet* (Theatre Northwest), *UNGANISHA* (Woezo Africa Dance Theatre), and *In Wonderland* (Alberta Theatre Projects). Alexandra was the technical director for *This Random World* (Fire Exit Theatre) In 2019 she directed the premier of Michaela Jeffery's *Wolf on the Ringstrasse* for Spirit Fire Theatre, which was named one of the Calgary Herald's twelve plays to see in Calgary in 2019.



SARBKALI HAYER

**Props Designer & Builder
Costume Consultant**

Sarbkali Hayer is an emerging Punjabi artist currently based in Moh'kin'tsis. She dabbles in many different forms of creation and creativity including performance, design, and production and is drawn to theatre because it offers her the chance to create beautiful art with others and be the representation she always wished to see growing up. Acting credits include (for the SCPA): Our Town. The Wolves, Magnetic Bodies (in collaboration with Downstage Theatre), A Monster Calls, Argonautika, and The Bus Stop. Other Projects include: Esperanza (Festival of Animated Objects), 2024 Student Showcase (Festival of Animated Objects), Othello, and Dr. Voynich and her Children. Kali is very grateful for the ongoing support of this team and honoured to work on such an amazing show.



DYLAN BAUER

**Downstage Production Manager
and Technical Director**

Since completing his schooling at the University of Lethbridge, Dylan has settled in to the Calgary arts scene. He loves all things technical; seeing a show come together and the impact it has on an audience is what keeps him passionate about his work. His main job is with One Yellow Rabbit where he lives as their resident technician. He is happy to add Downstage to this and is excited to work with them this season! Outside of these roles he finds himself all over town, assisting theatre performances and other live events in a variety of ways including setting up the lights, installing sets, and assisting with rigging. Some of these places include Vertigo, Theatre Calgary, ATP, and the Saddledome.

DOWNSTAGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christine Armstrong - Treasurer

Larissa Coughlan - Secretary

Alysha Kanji - Chair

Alison Scott - Director

Brooklyn Sheppard -Vice Chair

SPECIAL THANKS!

Aira Ang, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Alberta Theatre Projects, Alexa Elser, Alysha Kanji, Amihan, Aurora Lewis, Bowness Soapworks, Bertrand Bickersteth, Brad Scherger, Calgary Arts Development, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Camille Pavlenko, Cassie Holmes, Chanry Thach, Chantelle Han, Clare Preuss, Conrad Belau, Contemporary Calgary, Dani Driusso, Debbie Cheesman, Downstage, Francesca Milone-Ang, Gabby Bandayrel, Gabby's Barbershop, GOAT, Handsome Alice Theatre, High Performance Rodeo, Jacqs Gallos Aquines, James Wade, Javier Vilalta, Jesse Palechek, Joshua Scott, Kathleen Ballangan, Kendra Nelson, Kevin Cheesman, Kevin Wilson, Kim Carson, Kim Clarete, Leslie Scherger, Lunchbox Theatre, Maddy Quinn, Mainstreet Market, Maria Bernadette Miranda, Marigold Santos, Maven, Meg Farhall, Mera Reyes, Mike Tan, Milk, Moonlight, Nathan Scherger, Nicole Reyes, Pam Tzeng, Rochelle Lamoureux, Rocky Mountain Soap Co, Saje, Sara Mason, Sew Gay, Teigan Blondin de Boer, Theatre Calgary, Tori Moniz, Village Ice Cream, YMCA Arts, And everyone who supported our fundraiser and silent auction!

DOWNSTAGE DONORS

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UP NEXT AT DOWNSTAGE



THE END IS NEAR — PAINT IT, KISS IT, LIGHT IT UP

Botticelli in the Fire

Big Secret Theatre, Werklund Centre | March 4–14, 2026

Written by Jordan Tannahill, Directed by Clare Preuss

Produced by Downstage with the generous support of Hit & Myth Productions

Tickets and Information - downstage.ca

photo of Zachary Parsons-Lozinski, Eric Wigston and Ethan Vasquez Taylor by Heather Saitz

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