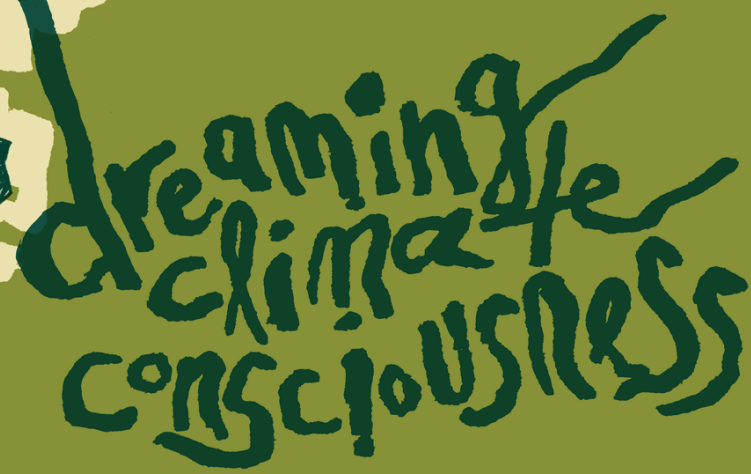




CREATIVE TEAM

CONCEPTION and FACILITATION - **Evan Medd**

PLAYWRIGHTS - **Cristhian Poblete Hernández, Miranda Martini,
Camille Pavlenko, and Ashay Vaidya**

DIRECTORS - **Clare Preuss and Javier Vilalta**

STAGE MANAGER - **Donna Sharpe**

LIGHTING DESIGNER - **Adam Kostiuk**

SOUND DESIGNER - **Greg Wilson**

CAST

ACTORS - **Snizhana Bora, Christopher Clare,
Raffi Minas, and Valerie Planche**

EVAN'S NOTES

I created **Dreaming Climate Consciousness** as a space for people, practicing artists and otherwise, to come together and engage with the climate emergency through imagination, creativity, community, and dare I say, fun! I wanted to explore how science fiction and speculative storytelling could function not just as genre frameworks, but as part of an activist toolkit: modes of imagining the futures we fear, the futures we hope for, and how both will always and inevitably be intertwined. I also wanted to create a safer space for the ecological grief that I see growing ever heavier in our culture, and to help participants find moments of release through the simple, radical act of dreaming together. The ability to imagine collectively, encouraged in spaces like this one, I believe must be part of how we navigate the uncertain futures ahead.

For this iteration of DCC, in collaboration with Downstage and ICAI, I want to extend a huge thank you to Ashay, Clare, Camille, Miranda, and Cristhian for their boundless enthusiasm and deep well of creative curiosity throughout the worldbuilding process. What they've created is vividly detailed, rich, and full of possibility. Building an entire speculative world is no small feat, and the expertise, lived experience, and unique perspective each of these writers brought to this process are what made this particular future so excitingly distinct. The four stories you'll encounter tonight are just a sliver of the many narrative pathways this cohort has generated over the past six weeks.

My hope is that you leave tonight with a sense that the creative impulse is more accessible than it often seems to be, and that these kinds of imaginative experiments don't belong only to professional artists. With a little structure, some curiosity, and a willingness to be vulnerable together, we can each practice dreaming up new possibilities for ourselves and our communities. What you'll witness tonight is one example of how people can work together with compassion and collaborative energy, all within a kind of creative jubilation, even when imagining a future shaped by uncertainty. I can't emphasize enough that these practices are available to all of us. Thank you for being here to witness a little piece of what can transpire when we make room to explore the possibilities of our future, together.



EVAN MEDD

Conception & Facilitation

Evan Medd (he/they) is a freelance dramaturg, theatre-maker, producer, and facilitator working across Turtle Island. His practice centers on dramaturgical process design, community-engaged art at the intersection of environmental dialogue, and collaborative new play development with the Alberta-based Major Matt Mason Collective, where he serves as Co-Artistic Director.

Recently, Evan and MMMC developed and premiered *Love & Rage*, an innovative processional sci-fi performance that sought out hope within a particularly trying climate future. He is also currently a research lead with Mudfoot Theatre on *The Bow River Boat Pageant*, a community-driven, artistically-fuelled, river procession on the Bow. Evan spearheads *Dreaming Climate Consciousness*, a collaborative worldbuilding process that imagines eco-conscious futures through speculative and science fiction, which has been applied in a number of contexts including performance creation, environmental education, and community engagement. Passionate about using creative practice to expand conversation and imagination, Evan dramaturgically explores and interrogates the tensions that define our world.



CRISTHIAN POBLETE HERNANDEZ

Playwright

Cristhian is a multidisciplinary creative professional based in Calgary, Canada, working across music composition, production, sound design, and arrangement, with influences spanning gospel, soul, and Latin genres.

His theatrical credits include sound design for Downstage Theatre and original music for stage productions in Lima, including *La Nave de las Emociones* (2022), his first project for musical theatre exploring emotional intelligence and the process of learning it, and *La Magia de Ser Diferente* (Psicoarte, 2026), centered on neurodivergent experience. His work also extends into interactive media, having contributed sound design and music to the award-winning video game *El Tunche*. He has also begun expanding into publishing through the Faith Tales project, taking on a supervisory role — overseeing illustration, layout, and production.



MIRANDA MARTINI

Playwright

Miranda Martini is a multidisciplinary artist with a sound-forward practice. Recent sound design credits include “Static: A Party Girl’s Memoirs” (Inside Out and Chromatic Theatre), “Beyond the Sea” (Lunchbox Theatre), and “The Verdict” (Vertigo Theatre). Her music direction and dramaturgy credits include “I Don’t Even Miss You” (multiple productions), “Countries Shaped Like Stars” (Lunchbox Theatre), and “John Ware Reimagined” (multiple productions). You can find her 2025 folk/R&B album, *The Historian*, on Bandcamp and all major streaming platforms, as well as on CD and vinyl at fine record stores across Calgary. Miranda is happiest when she’s creating and thinking about art in community with artists, particularly other queer artists of colour.



CAMILLE PAVLENKO

Playwright

Camille (she/her) is a theatre and literary artist who is passionate about contributing to the arts ecology of Alberta—which should definitely stay in Canada. Her plays for children and adults have been produced across the province and her short fiction is forthcoming from ROOM, FreeFall Magazine, and Alberta Views, where she recently won the 2026 Short Fiction prize. Camille is a recent graduate of the University of British Columbia's Creative Writing MFA program and the current Playwright in Residence at Quest Theatre. She is also the artistic associate at Verb Theatre, where she is especially honoured to lift up the voices of local Queer and Trans playwrights.



ASHAY VAIDYA

Playwright

Ashay (ashêllheld) Vaidya, MA, MBA, is a first-generation lone migrant Canadian, an award-winning literary artist, and an experiential experimentalist from Moh'kins'tsis (Calgary). As a development specialist and peer supporter, he connects with community members to deconstruct the contemporary meaning of self-regard. As an artist, he explores the quiet complexities of belonging and empathy bleeding into social responsibility. And as an individual, he unravels emotionally nuanced perspectives that hope to enlighten the lives of instinctive healers.



CLARE PREUSS

Director

Clare is an award-winning multidisciplinary artist who has worked with innovative creators across Canada as well as in Germany, Lebanon, Switzerland, Uganda and the USA.

Selected theatre directing credits include Botticelli in the Fire, Men Express Their Feelings (Downstage, Hit & Myth), Peril in the Alps (Vertigo), The F Word (Purple Tamarind), Liars at a Funeral (Alberta Theatre Projects, Western Canada Theatre), Beautiful Man (Downstage, Handsome Alice, Verb), A Poem for Rabia (Tarragon Theatre co-directed with Donna-Michelle St. Bernard), A Dinner Party, Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet), Myth of the Ostrich (Whitehorse Guild), Bystander (Gwaandak Theatre), White Girls in Moccasins (Rhubarb Festival), CAKE (Bayimba Festival, New Harlem Productions, Theatre Passe Muraille), Tuesdays & Sundays (Sundown Theatre), L'armoire des ombres (Le Monnot Theatre Beirut), Salome's Clothes (SummerWorks), among others. Clare made her feature directorial debut with Do Us Part, which premiered at the Calgary International Film Festival in 2025 and recently directed the allegorical short film Hunt/Peck, set for release in 2026. As an actor, she is known for playing Mathlete Caroline Krafft in the original Mean Girls, among other screen roles. Clare is the Artistic Director of Downstage.



JAVIER VILALTA

Director

Javier is a Mexican-Canadian visual performance creator, stage director, movement choreographer and translator. He has collaborated with companies such as Vertigo Theatre, Theatre Calgary, Sage Theatre, Downstage, ATP, Lunchbox Theatre, The Shakespeare Company, CYPT, Inside Out Theatre, Jupiter Theatre, One Yellow Rabbit, Chromatic, StoryBook Theatre, Calgary Opera, Guild Hall (Whitehorse), Prairie Theatre Exchange (Winnipeg). He is a five-time Betty Mitchell Award nominee, winning once for Outstanding Director. He co-founded the visual performance ensemble 8ROJO with which he has toured as far afield as Mexico, Czechia, Sweden, France, Taiwan, UK, and Iceland. Along with 8ROJO, he was awarded the 'Innovation in Performance' award at the 2016 STOFF Festival in Stockholm, Sweden; and he was a finalist for a 2021 Off West End Award in London, UK for Outstanding Production. He has translated the texts '100 Love Poems and a Song of Despair' by Pablo Neruda and Federico García Lorca's 'Rural Trilogy', as well as musical theatre numbers for events with Broadway Cares, 54 Below, Playbill and the Broadway League.

IG: @javidirector



SNIZHANA BORA

Actor

Snizhana Bora is a Ukrainian-Canadian professional actress, theatre and film director, and acting coach based in Calgary.

In Canada, she has worked as an actress with Quest Theatre, Handsome Alice Theatre, Inside Out Theatre, and independent theatre artists across Alberta, continuing her professional performance career while developing original theatrical and film productions.

She graduated from Kharkiv National University of Arts and performed professionally at Kharkiv Academic Drama Theatre (2016–2020). Her international artistic experience includes theatre projects and festivals in Ukraine, Germany, and Poland.

Snizhana is the founder and director of Artis Theatre and the founder of Artis Art Studio in Calgary. With over 16 years of experience in performing arts education, she brings professional stage experience into her teaching, inspiring children and adults to develop creativity, confidence, and authentic artistic expression.

She is a member of the National Union of Theatre Artists of Ukraine.



CHRISTOPHER CLARE

Actor

Christopher “Clip” Clare is an actor, dance artist, and choreographer from Calgary, Alberta. He began his career as a dancer and choreographer and continues to draw on that background in his stage work. Recent theatre credits include, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (Alberta Theatre Projects) *The DaVinci Code* (Vertigo Theatre), *The Orange Dot* (Sage Theatre), *Selma Burke* (Theatre Calgary), *Heaven* (National Arts Centre, Ottawa), and *Frankenstein* (Jupiter Theatre).

In addition to acting, Christopher continues to work as a dance artist, choreographer, and producer collaborating on projects that bring movement, theatre and film together. Christopher lives and makes art in his home on Treaty 7 territory, Mohkinstsis.



RAFFI MINAS

Actor

Raffi Minas is a Syrian-Canadian actor, playwright, writer, and mentor. He began his theatre practice in 2006 and has worked across Syria, Lebanon, and Canada. His practice spans performance, playwriting, and Forum Theatre, with a focus on social change and supporting communities affected by trauma.

He is a member of PEN Canada and the Playwrights Guild of Canada. He is the author of two books in Arabic: a short story collection (2022) and a collaborative novel (2024), with a third forthcoming. He is also co-writing a research-based short film about artist refugees in Europe. His story "The Home That Crossed the Ocean" was longlisted for the 2025 CBC Nonfiction Prize.



VALERIE PLANCHE

Actor

Valerie is an award-winning actor, director, and arts educator with close to 40 years' experience on Stage and in Film and Television. She has an MFA from the University of Alberta where she explored the neurobiology of Presence. She is a member of CAEA, the ACTRA, the AACE, and the Canadian Guild of Stage Directors and Choreographers.

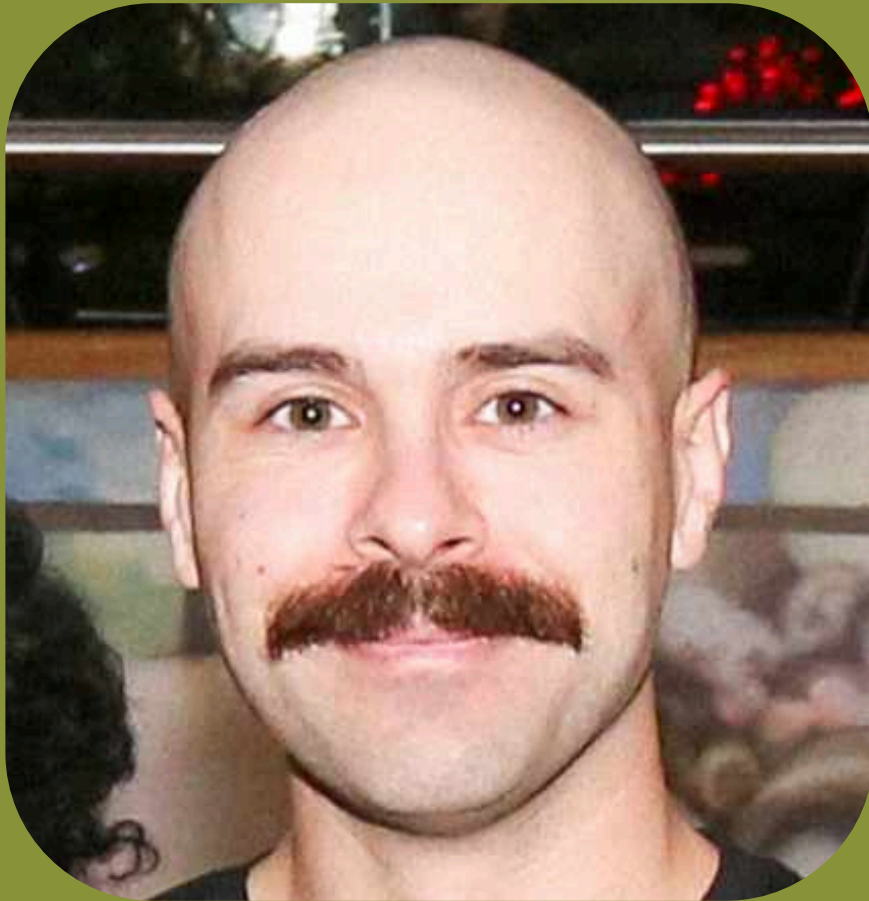


DONNA SHARPE

Stage Manager

Donna stage manages across artistic disciplines: theatre, opera, dance, musical theatre, music performance, and new performance creation. She also teaches Stage Management and mentors at the University of Calgary. Favourite selected credits include WildWoman, The Seafarer, Teenage Dick (Alberta Theatre Projects), Deadly Murder (Vertigo), The Green Line (Downstage), BISQC (Banff Centre), La Traviata, Jacqueline, The Marriage of Figaro (Opera Kelowna), Moby Dick, Die Tote Stadt, Dead Man Walking, and Silent Night (Calgary Opera), Cinderella (Rainbow Stage), Ghost Opera (The Old Trout Puppet Workshop), and Every Brilliant Thing (Verb Theatre).

Donna is looking forward to working again with Theatre Calgary this year as their "Just in Case" Stage Manager for A Christmas Carol, then it's off to Pacific Opera Victoria in the spring for The Magic Flute.



ADAM KOSTIUK

Lighting Designer

Adam Kostiuk (he/him) is a local lighting designer, production manager, and big fan of Downstage. In the interest of serving this work's mission, he would like to encourage you to donate time or money to ecological causes if possible. Some invaluable organizations include: William Watson Lodge, CPAWS, and the Alberta Ecotrust Foundation.



GREG WILSON

Sound Designer

Greg Wilson is a Canadian actor, musician and sound designer. He's been playing guitar since he was 12 years old. You can find his music under the name Postgrads wherever you stream your tunes.

PAST SOUND DESIGN: The General (Quest Theatre), Monstress (Vertigo Theatre), The Painter and the Lake (Bake-Miller Pink), The Twilight Glow of Romeo (Festival of Animated Objects), Tartuffe, The Comedy of Errors, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Richard III (The Shakespeare Company).

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A STUDY OF CHOICES

An abstract illustration featuring several blue, stylized human figures in various poses (sitting, standing, crouching, reaching) scattered across a bright yellow background. The background is also filled with thick, brown, scribbled lines that create a sense of movement and complexity.

Motel Theatre, Werklund Centre | April 7-11, 2027 ~ MORE INFO & TICKETS AT [DOWNSTAGE.CA](https://downstage.ca)

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