

concrete
THEATRE presents

Sprouts

New
Play
Festival
for Kids

COLOUR
ME!



Staged readings of 3 new plays!

May 16, 2026

Westbury Theatre

concrete THEATRE

Artistic Director

Jenna Rodgers

General Manager

Patrick Beagan

Bookings Coordinator

Heather Cornick

Artistic Directors Emeriti

Caroline Howarth & Mieko Ouchi

Board of Directors

Louise Casemore, Mari Chartier
Christian Isbister, Melissa Mayville
Gobind Prihar, Chloe Song
Abigail Struthers

Concrete Theatre is excited to participate in Rogers Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink. All donations are **matched up to 50%**, making your gift go further!



Presented by  **ALTALINK.**



Donate Here

SENSITIVE HEARTS SPARKLE

by Kijo Gatama

VICTOR AND FAREEHA'S ADVENTURES

by Ali Muhammad Khowaja

SPREAD YOUR WINGS

by Brett Dahl

Featuring

Shyanne Duquette & Rochelle Laplante*

Director & Dramaturg **Jenna Rodgers***

Associate Dramaturg **Mara Teare**

Stage Manager **Andrea Handal Rivera***

Set & Prop Designer **CM Zuby & Lynette Maurice**

Costume Designer **Amy Dass**

Assistant Costumer **Skylar Veldhuis**

Lighting Designer **Heather Cornick**

Composer & Sound Designer **Dave Clarke**

ASL Interpreters **Andrea Konowalec, Deanna Brouet**

Lobby Activities **ZuMa: Talent to Amūz**

Thank you to our Westbury Theatre Technicians

Caitlan Argueta, Harjot Bassi

*Concrete Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres, and engages, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

The use of unauthorized recordings or photographs of this production is strictly prohibited.

About the Plays:

Sensitive Hearts Sparkle

by Kijo Gatama

Nina entered fourth grade with a mission to be more responsible. When she is selected to care for the new class pet, she believes this is her time to shine. Along the way, she learns to work through her emotions and better trust herself.

Victor and Fareeha's Adventures

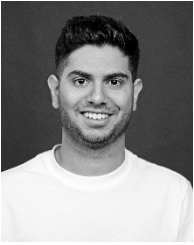
by Ali Muhammad Khowaja

When a Marco Polo lamb from Afghanistan gets separated from her family during relocation, an Elk Island bison steps in to help her reunite with them, but things don't always go according to plan.

Spread Your Wings

by Brett Dahl

Katie Pillar emerges from her cocoon with mismatched wings and is unable to find her flutter family. Through interactions with a dignified ladybug, a curmudgeonly snail and a self-made Queen Bee, she discovers the power in her uniqueness.



Ali Muhammad Khowaja - Playwright
(*Victor and Fareeha's Adventures*)

Ali Muhammad Khowaja (he/him) is a South Asian performing artist, writer and arts administrator based in amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton). Born in Hyderabad, Pakistan, Ali lived in Mombasa, Kenya, before moving to Canada. This season, Ali had the opportunity to perform in

Concrete Theatre's production of *Celestial Being* and is now excited to bring those experiences into his work as he begins writing for younger audiences.

Select works: *Pepperoni and Cheese* (Theatre Tahanan - Edmonton Fringe Festival 2025, Nextfest 2024), *The Guest House* (short film, Winner TMU ISA Film Festival 2024).

Ali wishes to thank his professors, his friends, and his parents—Zareen and Iqbal—for all their support.



Amy Dass - Costume Designer

Amy Dass is an emerging South Asian theatre designer based in Amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton, Alberta). She is a recent graduate of the BFA in Drama (Theatre Design) program at the University of Alberta. She is an associate member of the Associated Designers of Canada (ADC-IATSE 659), a student member of the Canadian Institute for Theatre Technology, and a permittee with IATSE 210. Amy aspires to design for theatres across Canada and internationally, while continuing to uplift stories that reflect the diversity of lived experience.

Amy's practice spans costume, lighting, and set design, often shaped by her advocacy for inclusivity and representation in the arts. She is particularly passionate about exploring the intersections of gender, culture, and body through design. Her work has been seen at theatres and festivals such the Citadel, Bleviss Laboratory Theatre, Nextfest, Fringe Festival, and Mile Zero Dance, etc. Select credits include *Life of Pi* (Assistant Set and Props Design), *Tom at the Farm* (Lighting Design), *Witch* (Set and Props Design), and *Hyena's Trail* (Lighting and Sound Design), *A Divorced Dad's Guide to Slaying Vampires* (Lighting and Props Design).



Andrea Handal Rivera - Stage Manager

Andrea (she/they | ella/e) is a Salvadoran stage manager in Treaty 6 Territory. They are passionate about facilitating the creation of live performance art as a medium to connect cultures, voices, and lived experiences. Endless love to their family and friends for their support, and to Alex for everything.

Select Credits: *The Wizard of Oz*, *A Christmas Carol (2023-2025)*, *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*, *The Garneau Block* (Citadel Theatre); *Legally Blonde* (Citadel Theatre/Theatre Calgary); *Stars on Her Shoulders* (WWPT); *I Don't Even Miss You* (Tiny Bear Jaws), *The Hooves Belonged to the Deer* (In Arms Theatre Collective); *Ecos*, *El Funeral* (Diaspora Diaries Collective), *The Spinsters* (Small Matters Productions); *Boy Trouble* (Amoris Projects), *ASMR*, *Convergence* (Good Women Dance Collective).



Brett Dahl - Playwright (*Spread Your Wings*)

Brett Dahl is a gender-fluid/Queer theatre artist whose plays include *Like Orpheus* (Theatre Outré, The International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival in Ireland, and Intrepid Theatre's OUTstages), *Pretty Ugly* (Alberta Queer Calendar Project/Cardiac Theatre) and *Beeautiful* - developed through the Bad Hats New Bad Ideas Program. An excerpt of *Like Orpheus* is featured in *This is Beyond: A Time Capsule of Queer Experience* (Playwrights Canada Press). Brett has been part of the Major Matt Mason Wildfire Creators Unit and the APN Emerging Playwriting Program. Brett was the recipient of the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Emerging Artist Award in 2018 and the RBC Emerging Artist Cultural Leader in Calgary Award in 2020.



**CM Zuby & Lynette Maurice -
Set & Props Designers**

Lynette Maurice and Cindi Zuby (Zu-Ma: Talent to Amūz) are honoured to be a part of Sprouts for more than 20 years, whether it's doing sets, costumes or pre-show crafts and



music. We have worked together as puppeteers and artists since 2001. We also enjoy working with Elementary Schools in Edmonton helping students create fantastic murals based on the Seven Principles. Enjoy the shows!



Dave Clarke - Composer and Sound Designer

Dave is an Edmonton musician, writer, actor and sound designer. He's worked on Sprouts since the first one in 2002. *Songs My Mother Never Sung Me*, Dave's family musical based on his own experience growing up as the hearing child of Deaf parents, performed in American Sign Language and sung English, was developed through this festival. Some

previous sound designs for Concrete Theatre include *Consent*, *Paper Song*, *Jeremy Fisher*, *Smokescreen*, *Offensive Fouls*, *Under Cover*, *Routes*, *The Shape of a Girl*, *I Am For You*. Recent other designs include *The Woman in Black* (Persephone Theatre), *Murder on the Orient Express* (Royal Manitoba Theatre Company/Citadel Theatre), *ShipShow!* (Edmonton Fringe), *Marjorie Prime* (Trunk Theatre) and *Request Programme* (Northern Light Theatre).



Heather Cornick - Lighting Designer

For over three decades Heather has worked in theatre, film, television, circus, concerts, corporate events, cruise ships, dance, and opera as a designer, technician, instructor, stage manager, event planner, props builder, puppeteer, carpenter, and clown. Her primary technical discipline is lighting. In addition to her role as Booking Coordinator for

Concrete Theatre, she has been a theatre instructor at Red Deer College, MacEwan University and the University of Alberta. Born in Northern Ontario on the traditional territory of the anishinaabeg peoples, with cultural roots in ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland), she is currently based in amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton, AB). www.heathercornick.carbonmade.com



Jenna Rodgers - Director/Dramaturg

Jenna (she/her) is a Director and Dramaturg of Chinese and Welsh descent from amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton). She is an Artistic Director who strives to blend community-based ethos with professional practice. Currently, she's the Outgoing Artistic Director of Concrete Theatre and the Incoming Artistic Director of Theatre Network. She is the

founding Artistic Director of Chromatic Theatre - a company dedicated to developing and supporting work by racialized artists.

Jenna values the intersection of art and education, especially as she learns to raise small responsible humans while maintaining a career in the arts. She is a passionate advocate for anti-racism in the arts, and is a fierce supporter of new play development. She volunteers with a number of arts organizations locally and internationally, and is the proud recipient of the "Artist, Scholar, Activist" award from Performance Studies International.



Kijo Gatama - Playwright
(*Sensitive Hearts Sparkle*)

Kijo Eunice Gatama is an Edmonton-based multidisciplinary artist working in playwriting, acting, dance, and artistic direction. And as a kid at heart, they just want to write the kind of story that little them would have loved.



Mara Teare – Associate Dramaturg

Mara Teare is a multidisciplinary artist based in Edmonton, originally from Saskatoon. They are a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's acting program and Sheridan College's Performing Arts Prep Program. Since graduating, Mara has worked across Canada as an actor, playwright, dramaturge, and assistant director. Mara currently serves on the board of Ferre Play Theatre in Saskatoon, where they work to support and uplift AFAB and gender-diverse artists. Mara is the current Artistic Associate and Arts Leadership Resident at Concrete Theatre.

Selected Acting Credits: *Twelve Days* (Lunchbox Theatre); *Richard II*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream: 1985*, *Hamlet*, *Done/Undone*, *Cymbeline* (Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan); *Mustard* (25th St Theatre); *The Maids* (Whirligig Theatre); *The Jungle Book* (Alberta Theatre Projects); *Crypthand* (Gale Force Theatre); *Young Ones* (SUM Theatre).

Selected Playwright Credits: *Sad Girls Watch The Princess Bride* (SUM Theatre); *We Are Food* (Chromatic Theatre).

Mara Assistant Directed *Native Gardens* at Persephone Theatre, and *Cyrano de Bergerac* at the Citadel Theatre.



Rochelle Laplante – Actor

Rochelle (she/her) is an Edmonton-raised multidisciplinary performance artist. She is excited to be part of this year's Sprouts festival. Previous credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream: The 70's Musical*, *Clue*, *A Christmas Carol* (Citadel Theatre); *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* (Arts Club/ Citadel Theatre); *CTRL-ALT-DEL*, *Hoodies* (Concrete Theatre); *Caribbean Muskrat* (Teatro Live!); *Macbeth* (Freewill Shakespeare); *Hiraeth* (Bright Young Things); *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Empress of Blandings).



Shyanne Duquette – Actor

Shyanne Duquette is a mixed-Cree emerging multidisciplinary theatre artist based in Amiskwacî. A writer, director, actor, and arts facilitator, passionate about community-engaged processes and breaking down barriers to entry in the arts. They have collaborated with theatre companies across Turtle Island, including Concrete Theatre, Alberta Playwrights Network, The Major Matt Mason Collective, Common Ground Arts, Tarragon Theatre, and The Citadel. As an independent artist, they have contributed to festivals such as SkirtsAfire, Edmonton Fringe, Folk Fest, Nextfest, Ignite, and Edmonton Poetry Festival, working in roles ranging from performance to administration.



Skylar Veldhuis – Assistant Costumer

Skylar graduated from the University of Alberta's BFA Theatre Production program in 2025. They enjoy learning languages and speak English, French, German, and conversational Spanish. They attended Spruce Grove Composite High School where they found their love of theatre and costuming. They were the costume designer on *Hecuba*, *Witch*, and the costume and set designer for *Cymbeline* (all at the U of A). They spend their free time playing DND and practicing Tae Kwon Do in which they have a second degree black belt.

Made possible by the support of our
season funders & sponsors:



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada



Alberta
Foundation
for the Arts



CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
Gadowsky Pawluski + Associates



CURIO
STUDIO



GIVENS
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS



Tethead
Solutions

Passionate About IT

Concrete Theatre thanks:

Archer & Hugo Stewart, Amelia McGregor, David Fraser, Melissa Cuerrier, Jasper Poole, Will Stewart, Judy Rodgers and anyone missed due to printing deadlines. We appreciate you!