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"I had no idea there was so much involved!"

I hear this line many times throughout each season, from someone who has been on a backstage tour, attended an open rehearsal or sat in on "tech." It is a natural response for anyone seeing just how much work goes into producing a piece of world-class theatre, because most of the time we try not to let you see how complicated it really is. We pride ourselves on the seemingly natural way the lights dim everywhere except where we are meant to look; the way the music seems to swell out of nowhere and time itself to coincide with a striking moment; the way a performer can step off stage in one costume and appear thirty seconds later in another as though they had really had the week the play gives them to change their clothes, not the half a minute of frantic unzipping, clambering and yanking which finished a split second ago just before they walked on stage smiling. Everyone in this company works tremendously hard to make it all seem so ridiculously easy.



This might lead you to think that, if we were to let you in on what we do, some of the magic would be lost. But in fact, everyone who sits in on our work comes away not only with a deeper appreciation for what is involved, but with more excitement for, and wonder at, the work on stage. So, if you have never had a glimpse behind the curtain, make sure you go to our "Beyond the Stage" page on shawfest.com and learn how many different ways you could enhance your experience of The Shaw.

TIM CARROLL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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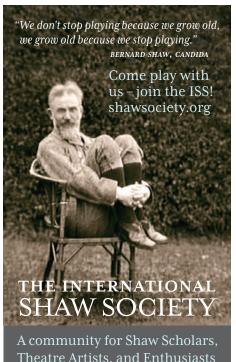
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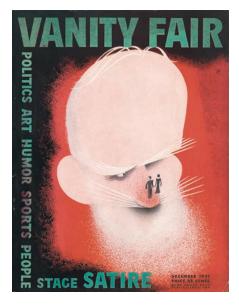
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Madelyn Kriese and David Andrew Neel in Lenera not loewe's Brigadoon (2023). Photo by David Cooper Photography



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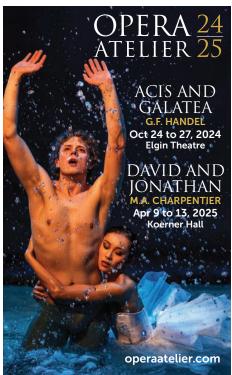


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CELLULAR PHONES, CAMERAS AND RECORDING DEVICES During the performance, there is no photography or filming permitted, and cell phones must be turned off. We do invite you to take photos when the house lights are on — pre-show, at intermission and post-show. Please ensure that wristwatch/smartwatch notifications and other noisemakers are silenced during the performance.

TALKING and candy wrappers are distracting to actors and fellow audience members. Please keep noise to a minimum during the performance.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES for the hard of hearing are available at our indoor theatres only. There is no charge, but we do ask you to consider a donation at the time of pick up. This donation helps with the cost to repair and replace these devices. Reserve early, limited availability. Please see the House Manager on duty.

IF YOU ARE LATE OR NEED TO LEAVE THE AUDITORIUM OR OUTDOOR SEATING AREA during the performance, you will be re-seated at a suitable break in the performance, at which time the seating location will be at the discretion of management.

FOR FIRST AID please see the House Manager or the nearest usher. At least one staff member on duty is trained in First Aid and CPR.

FOR YOUR SAFETY all of our theatres have the requisite exits and have been inspected. The theatres and exits to the buildings have emergency lighting in case of a power outage. In an emergency, our staff are trained to carry out an immediate and effective evacuation. You are requested to follow their instructions and remain calm. You will be directed to a marshalling area: please remain there until otherwise advised by our staff or emergency personnel. If you discover a fire you should activate the nearest alarm and, immediately following evacuation, identify yourself to a staff member and provide details of the alarm.

MASKS are not currently required in our theatres. Though wearing a mask is optional, it is recommended; however, the choice remains at the discretion and comfort of the individual.





TIM CARROLL TIM JENNINGS
Artistic Director Executive Director

KIMBERLEY RAMPERSAD, Associate Artistic Director

SPIEGELTENT, MAY 17 TO OCTOBER 6

THE SHAW VARIETY SHOW

Conceived by KRISTOPHER BOWMAN

Created and performed by KRISTOPHER BOWMAN, COSETTE DEROME, MANAMI HARA, TRAVIS SEETOO and SHAWN WRIGHT

Original music by COSETTE DEROME and TRAVIS SEETOO

Music direction by TRAVIS SEETOO

Featuring SURPRISE GUESTS at each performance

SPIEGELTENT, MAY 30 TO SEPTEMBER 28

THE ROLL OF SHAW

Created by and featuring TRAVIS SEETOO

With SURPRISE GUESTS at each performance

Stage Manager JANE VANSTONE OSBORN Assistant Stage Manager KAITLYN ALDERSON

UNDERSTUDIES

ANNIE McWHINNIE, DORA TOMASSI, Stage Manager; GEORGIA HOLLAND, Assistant Stage Manager

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THE SHAW VARIETY SHOW is generously sponsored by



The Shaw Variety Show

BY KRISTOPHER BOWMAN

When TC approached me with this concept, I was excited at the prospect of building something new that would be different every show. Thankfully my being a lifelong fan of The Muppet Show gave us something of a North star to follow. Throughout the show, you'll be treated to a kaleidoscope of performances that showcase the diverse talents of our guests, our staff, our volunteers, and our community. Acts will range from the previously performed and perfectly polished to "Oh good gravy I've never done this before and I don't know if it's going to work but I need to find out if it's going to work and the only way to find out is just to do it in front of a live audience so here we go!" From heartwarming songs to jaw-dropping dances, from hilarious sketches to soul-stirring monologues, our ever-changing lineup aims to captivate and inspire.

I had the opportunity to play in the Spiegeltent last season in *The Game of Love and Chance*, and I can't express how much I love this venue. It's unlike anything I'd ever seen. From the moment you step inside, you're transported to a vibrant world where imagination knows no bounds and creativity flourishes in every corner.

What truly sets our show apart is its improvisational nature. Like a symphony conducted by six chimps with machine guns, each performance is unique and unrepeatable, shaped in real time by the energy and spirit of the moment. It's a thrilling dance on the tightrope of spontaneity, where every misstep is met with laughter and every unexpected twist is met with applause.

So in the wise words of Fozzie Bear, "Wakka wakka wakka."











SPECIAL THANKS TO ASHLEY HALLIHAN.









The Roll of Shaw

BY TRAVIS SEETOO

Welcome to *The Roll of Shaw*! This show began as my master's thesis and a continuation of my mission to make Bernard Shaw cool and to find a way to make literary figures in general, and Shaw specifically, more accessible. The answer I came up with was this: a role-playing game that lets anyone inhabit Bernard Shaw's characters, bringing themselves to the stories and the world that Shaw created in a personal way. What would you do if you were Eliza Doolittle? Would you tell Higgins to stuff it? Or... something else?

For some, this might be your first experience with a role-playing game. Perhaps you've heard of *Dungeons & Dragons*, the world's most famous role-playing game? Either way, I promise you are going to experience story in a unique way today; it will take place entirely in our collective imaginations. What happens will be up to you, the dice, and the players. Half radio drama and half *Yahtzee*.

I'll be acting as a sort of narrator for the night, creating an imaginary world and story in which our actors will improvise. When their characters attempt to solve problems, I will ask them to roll dice to determine whether they are successful or not. We may see heroic victories and fabulous failures. Anything could happen. We'll probably ask you for help too. This is going to be a group effort folks.

Let's roll some dice and have some fun.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE FOLKS AT BROCK UNIVERSITY INCLUDING DAVID FANCY, JENNIFER ROBERTS-SMITH, AND CATHERINE PARAYRE. ERIKA & DAVE EVANS AND THE WHOLE EVANS CLAN. THE INTERNATIONAL SHAW SOCIETY FOR HELPING TO FUND THE RESEARCH OF THIS WORK. THE SHAW GUILD AND ALL THE PLAYTESTERS WHO JUMPED IN WITH BOTH FEET. TC FOR PROGRAMMING THIS. AND OF COURSE, PROFESSOR EMMA DIRKS.

"If we cannot get people to learn the noblest lessons of life in the church, we must give them a theatre in which they can learn these lessons." BERNARD SHAW

FANNY BRYCE, MAKING LIKE A SCARECROW, IN ZIEGFELD FOLLIES OF 1924 (NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE



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TIM CARROLL TIM JENNINGS
Artistic Director Executive Director

KIMBERLEY RAMPERSAD. Associate Artistic Director

SPIEGELTENT, JUNE 14 TO OCTOBER 12

KABARETT

Directed by TIM CARROLL

with SHANE CARTY, KRISTI FRANK, JJ GERBER, RUTHIE NKUT and TAURIAN TEELUCKSINGH

SPIEGELTENT, JULY 6 TO OCTOBER 5

FOOTLIGHTS

Directed by TIM CARROLL

with TAT AUSTRIE, ALANA BRIDGEWATER, SHANE CARTY, KRISTI FRANK, JJ GERBER, ÉLODIE GILLETT, GRAEME KITAGAWA, RUTHIE NKUT, JEREMIAH SPARKS and TAURIAN TEELUCKSINGH

SPIEGELTENT, JULY 17 TO OCTOBER 11

COTTON CLUB

Directed by KIMBERLEY RAMPERSAD

with TAT AUSTRIE, ALANA BRIDGEWATER, ÉLODIE GILLETT, GRAEME KITAGAWA and JEREMIAH SPARKS

> Music Director PAUL SPORTELLI Stage Manager MYRA MALLEY

Assistant Stage Manager GEORGIA HOLLAND

Special thanks to Athena So and Benjamin Kersey for music arrangements.

UNDERSTUDIES

KIM CHARLEEN SMITH, Stage Manager; KAITLYN ALDERSON, Assistant Stage Manager

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KABARETT is generously sponsored by **James F. Brown**

Director's Note – Kabarett and Footlights

BY TIM CARROLL

Welcome to our beautiful Spiegeltent. Some of you already know that this new venue was one of the big success stories of last year: people were seduced (I think that is the right word) by the glamour and intimacy of the velvet, the stained glass, and the

mirrors. I enjoyed watching the audience play the game of spotting a pair of eyes in a mirror, sharing a secret smile, and seeing who would look away first. Being in on the Spiegeltent secret soon became the mark of a true Shaw Festival fan: "Oh, have you not been inside yet? Oh dear, you don't know what you're missing."

We presented a wide range of shows and events in the tent last year; but one thing we didn't do was the very thing that Spiegeltents were designed for: 1920s cabaret. This year we are putting that right.

Berlin in the 1920s is one of the great cultural moments: an intense interlude between the carnage of the Great War and the horrors that the Third Reich would bring. A generation that knew too well the shadow of death decided that it was going to drain the dregs of life to the full. And why follow the moral codes of their parents, that had led Germany to catastrophe? As the great novelist Stefan Zweig said, "all

values were changed." As the epicentre of this revolution, Berlin soon became a magnet for those in search of forbidden fruit. By 1930 Berlin drew more than two million visitors a year, leading the writer Konrad Haemmerling, under the pseudonym "Curt Moreck", to publish a *Guide To 'Depraved' Berlin*: a traveler's companion to what he called the "metropolis of pleasure." In it, he not only listed the nearly one thousand clubs licensed for dancing but specified which of them (many) catered to a queer clientele and which of them (fewer) had the latest invention, the telephone, on each table so that customers could call guests at other tables to flirt or make assignations with them.

Something about the atmosphere of these clubs produced some of the best music and poetry of the twentieth century. We could easily have put together a Kabarett to play in any of our theatres. But to hear the music of Kurt Weill and the songs made famous by Marlene Dietrich in such a perfect setting – with the chance to catch a stranger's eye in a mirror and share a secret smile? What could be more seductive?









In Kaharett and Cotton Club we focus on two of the great centres of the Jazz Age, Berlin and Harlem; in Footlights we travel down Broadway to hear the songs that created the legend of the Great American Musical. Of course, there was cross-pollination between all three places and styles of music: many of the legends of the Great White Way started in the cabarets and clubs of the great European capitals. (It is hardly surprising that New York is often referred to as the Capital of Europe.) As the ultimate melting pot, Tin Pan Alley and Broadway attracted the best musicians in the world to come and create many of the most magical and unforgettable songs of all time.

And that is what you will be hearing tonight, as some of our wonderful ensemble bring their talents to bear on this great repertoire. As you listen to *Footlights*, if you fancy playing a little game, see if you can spot which songs come

from musicals we have done at Shaw; which songs come from musicals we might be about to do at Shaw; and which songs come from musicals that we will never do. The last group is, perhaps, the best reason to do a night like this: some of the greatest songs are lurking hidden in pretty terrible musicals. We relish the chance to rescue them for you.

Of course, you may not feel like playing the *Footlights* game. You may prefer to see if there is a pair of eyes in one of the mirrors, sharing a secret smile, looking back at you...

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: TWO PHOTOGRAPHS BY T. LUX FEININGER, BAUHAUS BAND, 1928, AND CHARLESTON ON THE BAUHAUS ROOF, 1927 (METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK); THE SIBLING TEAM OF VILMA AND BUDDY EBSEN IN ZIEGFELD FOLLIES OF 1934 (CONDE NAST ARCHIVE).





Director's Note - Cotton Club

BY KIMBERLEY RAMPERSAD

While Bernard Shaw was articulating various ideas of The Fabian Society through the theme of *The New Woman* in his plays, across the pond The Harlem Renaissance was birthing *The New Negro*, expressed by great writers, politicians, and artists of the time. And the Cotton Club was a cradle of this artistic expression.

From the big band leaders of Duke Ellington and Cab Calloway, to songbirds such as Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday, to hoofers like Bill Robertson and the great Nicholas Brothers, the Cotton Club was an incubator of Black American expression. That their art was created and performed in an originally segregated space, which preferred an exoticized performance of Blackness over authenticity is only another example of great art being created under duress. Diamonds are made under pressure. One brilliant diamond is Billie Holiday's "Strange Fruit," which depicts with devastating lyricism the reality of Black Americans, especially in the South.

The art from the Cotton Club is the heart of the Golden Age of Broadway. Created within their revue shows, the intoxicating mixture of song and dance – tap dance in particular, big band production numbers, and virtuosic comedians was harnessed by established book writers, lyricists and composers, and unleashed downtown on Broadway.

Both *The New Woman* and *The New Negro* are birthed out of social movements, advocating for the emancipation and enfranchisement of communities relegated for simply being who they are. That these two movements overlapped one another on either side of the Atlantic Ocean, being most deftly captured by the art and artists of the time, is another nod to the universality of the struggle to be human no matter the place or era.

OPPOSITE: THE COTTON CLUB IN HARLEM, 1938; CAB CALLOWAY AND HIS DANCERS, 1936 (BOTH BRIDGEMAN IMAGES).

THIS PAGE: THE NICHOLAS BROTHERS – FAYARD AND HAROLD –
IN THE 1943 MUSICAL FILM STORMY WEATHER; DANCER, 1925, BY
HARLEM RENAISSANCE PHOTOGRAPHER JAMES VAN DER ZEE
(BRIDGEMAN IMAGES).









CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: A TENT THEATRE ERECTED OUTSIDE THE HOTEL DE VILLE AT NEUFCHATEL-EN-BRAY IN NORMANDY, 1899 (MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY); MARLENE DIETRICH IN MOROCCO, 1930 (ALAMY IMAGES); VAUDEVILLE DANCER LILLIAN BRODERICK, 1921 (NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY); THE FAMOUS SPIEGELTENT, BUILT IN 1920, WHERE MARLENE DIETRICH PERFORMED (PHOTO BY RICHARD MILNES / ALAMY IMAGES).

"Falling in Love Again"... with Spiegeltents

BY BOB HETHERINGTON

Along with chocolate and Tintin, Spiegeltents are among Belgium's great contributions to world culture. They began to appear around the turn of the twentieth century when the hand-hewn pavilions were used as portable dance halls, bars and entertainment salons that would pop up overnight in pre-war fields in Flanders. *Spiegel* means "mirror" in Flemish, and the point of all the mirrors is to facilitate flirty eye contact with strangers.

Since Marlene Dietrich sang "Falling in Love Again" on The Famous Spiegeltent stage in the 1930s, its magic mirrors have reflected thousands of images of artists, audiences and





exotic gatherings. Painted come-hither reds, they are typically embellished with stained glass, framed by sumptuous rich woods, topped with dramatic canopies and bedazzled with mirrors. Around the perimeter, patrons in velvet and brocade upholstered booths enjoyed bottle service libations while others sat in the heady centre of all the action.

For town fairs and festivals, the tent components were shipped (likely by train or horse and carriage), assembled, enjoyed and then disassembled for transport to the next affair. Where dance halls were not available, Spiegeltents provided venue and shelter... but that wasn't all. They also offered ambience, romance, intrigue and magical places for people to interact with one another, apart from the rigours of daily life.

Spiegeltents recall the decadence of an era long gone. It's easy to imagine what they would have been like in their heyday: dark, smokey entertainment venues where people of all ages went to view light entertainment such as vaudeville and cabaret, whilst later in the night others went to indulge in the pleasures of burlesque. Only a handful of these unique and legendary "tents of mirrors" survive today. They are part of the colourful history of popular entertainment:

VAUDEVILLE

Vaudeville was a style of theatrical variety entertainment made popular in the USA and Canada in the nineteenth century. Its invention in the 1880s heralded the rise of a commercial form of popular theatrical entertainment that was widely accessible and targeted towards the rising middle class who were looking to spend their newly acquired entertainment dollars. Of course, theatre, comedians and other forms of live entertainment had been around for many years, but what set vaudeville apart was its variety. Typically, it contained many separate and unrelated acts,

grouped together on a common bill for that night. These acts would be presented by a host and sometimes last all day – running up to twelve hours in total! Types of acts ranged from popular and classical musicians, dancers, comedians, trained animals, magicians,

female and male impersonators, acrobats, illustrated songs, jugglers, one-acts or scenes from plays, athletes, lecturing celebrities, minstrels and silent movies.

Vaudeville in the nineteenth century was characterized by its focus on the middle class rather than the rowdy working class, mixed gender audiences and its usually alcohol-free venues. However, as time went on vaudeville also led to acts which idealized and sexualized the female figure with female performers encouraged to wear tight or revealing clothing – turning the female body into a spectacle that would later define twentieth-century burlesque.

CABARET

Cabaret was a form of entertainment that was also popularized in the nineteenth-century and would go on to find fame during the roaring twenties. Owing its origins to France and Germany, cabaret was like vaudeville but was separated mainly by the types of acts it hosted and the venue they were performed in.

Cabaret featured entertainment from performers such as musicians, poets, comedians, dancers and actors which were all introduced by a master of ceremonies. Unlike vaudeville, which was usually performed in a theatre environment, cabaret was characterized by its intimate night-club setting in venues such as restaurants, bars and pubs. The French word "cabaret" initially referred to any business that served alcohol, however it would later come to define the entertainment provided in these establishments. As the performer was on-stage, audience members sat at tables around the stage drinking or eating. The closeness of the performer to the audience meant that cabaret was also a very personal experience.





Inevitably the closeness of audience members meant that they often became part of the show.

During the 1920s cabaret came to refer to Jazz music, loose morals and artistic expression. It was the hub of a rich artistic culture and for movements such as art deco, especially in the Weimar Republic era of Germany before World War II. However, the outlet this provided for artistic and political expression, as well as its nightclub setting which encouraged late nights and booze, meant that cabaret was often met with opposition in





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: THE FRENCH DANCER AND CABARET SINGER LA MISTINGUETT IN 1931 (MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY / SZ PHOTO / SCHERL); 1946 POSTER FOR A PERFORMANCE OF ZORITA'S BURLESQUE ACT IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK; CABARET DANCERS 1926 (BRIDGEMAN IMAGES). prohibition-era USA and censored in countries such as Germany for the radical satire and acts of protest that their performers presented. In modern times it has been immortalized in musicals such as Bob Fosse's *Cabaret* and *Chicago*.

BURLESQUE

In its early history, Burlesque literally referred to any type of creative work that lampooned or caricatured more serious works or topics to cause laughter. It was originally characterized by its fusion of high and lowbrow humour that mocked social mores and social structures. However, during the early twentieth century the term came to be used to describe shows in a variety format that featured adult entertainment such as bawdy comedy, dancing girls and female stripteases.

Although you may have heard some refer to Burlesque dancers as simply "classy strippers" there was in fact much more to a burlesque act than one might imagine. Burlesque striptease was a type of performance art. These women often wore elaborate and colourful costumes and used props such as feather fans in their acts. Each act often followed some sort of storyline or theme, with costumes and props co-ordinated appropriately. Although these women performed a "striptease," how much they could show was highly regulated and many women were often fined or arrested by police for flashing too much skin.

The most important thing for any burlesque dancer was to have a gimmick, as each gimmick defined that dancer's act and made her stand out. American Burlesque queens such as Gypsy Rose Lee (whose biography appeared last season on the Festival stage in *Gypsy*) combined their witty humour and comedic talents with striptease, while others such as Zorita preferred to dance on-stage with snakes.

A NEW ERA

It's fair to say that the advent of film and television, and their increasing popularity in the 1950s, sealed the fate of the Spiegeltent as well as the industries that it supplied – vaudeville, cabaret and burlesque.

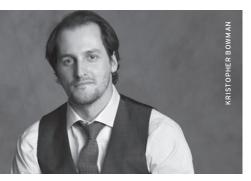


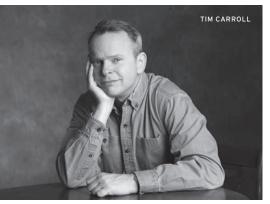
Travelling entertainment which reached small country towns and villages was no longer needed as cinemas were built and television was beamed into households around the world. Although the heyday of those eras may be past, Spiegeltents such as those which continue to tour across the world bring these old forms of entertainment and their beautiful surrounds to generations of new admirers. Lately, Spiegeltents have made a surprising comeback.

The Spiegeltent is the very essence of a festival club, "kabarett salon" and intimate performance hall. Like every old theatre, her ghosts travel with her, woven into ballooning velvet canopies, a circular dance floor stage and bevelled mirrored columns that hold a thousand secrets. There is something about the tent's convergence of twinkle and intimacy that lends a conspiratorial comfort to the performances therein. Surrounded by the audience, a show often feels intimate and more authentic – an experience that could only have happened there and then. More than most kinds of theatre experiences, you might say that "what happens in the Spiegeltent stays in the Spiegeltent!"

BOB HETHERINGTON IS A THEATRE DIRECTOR AND PROFESSOR EMERITUS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS. HE IS EDITING THIS SEASON'S SHAW PROGRAMMES AND A FREQUENT ESSAYIST, WHOSE RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS INCLUDE BLITHE SPIRIT (2023), ON THE RAZZLE (2023), THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (2022), DAMN YANKEES (2022), AND CHARLEY'S AUNT (2021).

THE ENSEMBLE IN THE GAME OF LOVE AND CHANCE, 2023 (PHOTO BY MICHAEL COOPER). THE SHAW'S SPIEGELTENT, FROM BELGIUM. WAS BUILT IN 1921-22









For full biographical information about our cast and creative team, please visit shawfest.com/ensemble.

KRISTOPHER BOWMAN

Conceiver / Ensemble

SHAW 2024: Co-creator of and appearing in *The Shaw Variety Show* and appearing in *Witness for the Prosecution*; 8th season. Mine is the most ridiculously delightful job on the planet (Earth). Tonight's performance may include such genuine internal struggles as "What's my next line?" and "Would anyone even notice if I left the stage to pee?!" Acting's not for the faint of heart or the delicately bladdered; but, at this point, beyond pie, it's all I know. I feel blessed to be here, though I worry people will think

I'm being disingenuous for saying so, because of my habit of always joking about everything, and my job as a professional pretender. Three fun facts about ME: A) I've never been convicted of a (major) crime (in Canada) (recently). And, B) I resent structure.

TIM CARROLL Director

SHAW 2024: Director of *Kabarett* and *Footlights*, co-director for *My Fair Lady*; I have been Artistic Director for eight years now. I've done some big shows — *Saint Joan, Ladykillers, The Magician's Nephew* — but this is my first musical. I started out at university directing Shakespeare productions; I thought I would never do anything else. Then I stumbled into opera and have since done almost thirty of them. So you never know. I didn't really train to do any of this; my degree was in Ancient Greek and Latin. At that time, you became a theatre director by calling yourself one

and repeating it until other people started to call you a director, too. So now I am a director of musicals.

KIMBERLEY RAMPERSAD Director

SHAW 2024: Director of *Cotton Club*, co-director and choreographer for *My Fair Lady*; I was born and raised in the community of North Kildonan, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Treaty 1, and fortunate to grow up in a place where the arts went hand-in-hand with hockey; where creativity was as practical as any other virtue. While excellence and education were the mantras of our parents, so was generosity of spirit as they freely opened our home to others, showering their guests with stories, music, dance, and love. I think theatre may be a natural convergence of all these elements, and perhaps that is why I am here at the Shaw Festival.

TRAVIS SEETOO

Creator / Music Director / Ensemble

SHAW 2024: Appearing in and music director of *The Shaw Variety Show*, appearing in and creator of *The Roll of Shaw*, appearing in *Snow in Midsummer*; 11th season. When I was in grade 7, I was approached by some classmates to play a game called *Dungeons and Dragons*. "It's kind of like being in *Lord of The Rings*" they said. So, every recess we played *D&D*. We went on adventures, performed heroics and fought dragons in our imaginations. I loved creating characters and telling stories with my friends, which is what I luckily ended up doing for a living.

PAUL SPORTELLI

Music Director / Keyboard

SHAW 2024: Music director for Kabarett, Footlights and Cotton Club, music director for My Fair Lady and co-adaptor for The Secret Garden; My mom starred in community theatre and my parents took me to rehearsals when I was quite young. Other parents brought their kids too; but while the other kids were in the parking lot playing, I was inside watching rehearsal, mesmerized. Many thanks to my dad for driving me to all those piano lessons over the years. Shaw productions of Tristan and Maria Severa - two musicals I co-wrote with Jay Turvey — have been two of many highlights at Shaw.

TAT AUSTRIF Ensemble

SHAW 2024: Footlights, Cotton Club and My Fair Lady; 2nd season. I've always been a GTA baby; born in Mississauga, lived in Oakville, Brampton, and finally Georgetown. Growing up, music and theatre were always a large part of my life, but it wasn't until high school that I caught the performing bug. When my school brought us to see Ragtime, here at the Shaw Festival, something inside me shifted. Never before had I experienced a show

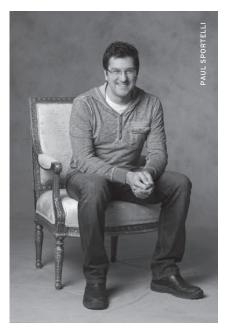
like that one. It showed me just how deeply music and storytelling could resonate within oneself. It is a feeling that I have kept with me to this day, and is one of the many things that drive me every time I am lucky enough to step out on stage.



Ensemble

SHAW 2024: Footlights, Cotton Club and My Fair Lady; 2nd season. I'm delighted to be back at the Shaw Festival this season. From a young age, the theatre has held a special place in my heart. One of my earliest memories was playing Rachel

Lynde in Anne of Green Gables. It was during that production that Don Harron, who adapted the original production, praised my potential for a bright future in the performing arts. You may recognize me from my work at Soulpepper in shows like Ma Rainey's Black Bottom and On A Night Like This. Excited for another great season at the festival.















JJ GERBER

SHANE CARTY Ensemble

SHAW 2024: Kabarett, Footlights and Mu Fair Lady; 3rd season. I'm from Kingston, Ontario. I was in a production of Camelot when I was fourteen years old, which got me hooked. When I was at Queen's University, I became interested in the theatre scene and changed my major from political science to drama. The head of the drama department at Queen's, Tim Fort, got me interested in Sondheim, among other geniuses, and I've been at it ever since. My first paid acting job was as Brad in a particularly saucy production of The Rocky Horror Show, directed by Peter Hinton. My parents were definitely shocked and possibly proud. We'll never know about the latter.

COSETTE DEROME Ensemble

SHAW 2024: The Shaw Variety Show and Snow in Midsummer; 1st season. Acting with The Shaw has always been a dream of mine, but I'd let that dream fall to the wayside. Film and Tv work, childcare, other projects kept coming up. Then last fall I was hosing chicken poop off my bee frames with the indomitable Jenny Wright, and I mentioned how much I'd enjoyed seeing her in last year's The Game of Love and Chance and that I wished I could do something like that. She said, basically, "Ya dummy, go send in your stuff." I did. Thanks for the kick in the pants, Jenny. I like it here.

KRISTI FRANK Ensemble

SHAW 2024: Kabarett, Footlights and My Fair Lady; 12th season. I hail from the beautiful Battlefords, Saskatchewan, the land of the living skies. Growing up I was fortunate that my mother regularly took my sister and me to see everything from touring shows to gallery exhibits, to week-long fringe-festival extravaganzas. A few highlights here at The Shaw have been playing the feisty Georgiana in Just to Get Married, and Johanna in Sweeney Todd opposite my fella.

JJ GERBER Ensemble

SHAW 2024: *Kabarett, Footlights* and *My Fair Lady*; 3rd season. I always dreamed of performing. And strangely before I was born my mother dreamed I'd be jumping and joyful. So, she named me JJ. My family

danced, sang and limboed at every function. Now I carry the joy they imparted with me. It's a wonderful thing we get to do: paint a picture through words and movement. The further I delve into this thing called art, the more I find myself in it. As we say these words, the universality of life can't help but sneak in and connect the actor to the audience through the work. Thank you for joining me in this experience of connectivity.

ÉLODIE GILLETT Ensemble

SHAW 2024: Footlights, Cotton Club and My Fair Lady; 14th season. I live a double life. I walk away from pillow fights and mud pies with my 3 sons, slap on my false eyelashes and get on stage. Even though these two worlds feel very different, they have a fair bit in common. They both require me to make myself available to those who need me, to put a great deal of care towards doing my best, and to always remain playful and curious. Both worlds fill me with profound gratitude.

MANAMI HARA Ensemble

SHAW 2024: The Shaw Variety Show and Snow in Midsummer; 1st season. I'm delighted to debut at The Shaw and share a little bit about myself with you. At 18, I moved from Tokyo Japan alone to pursue my dream of becoming a theatre artist in North America. I settled my roots in Vancouver, BC and graduated from Studio 58 at Langara College. Despite being a young Asian female actor, I was given incredible opportunities to play roles such as Juliet in Romeo and Juliet at Carousel Theatre for Young Audiences and Miranda in Tempest at Globe Theatre in Regina to kick off my career. Since then I've been growing my artistry as an actor, playwright, instructor, interpreter/translator, dramaturge and director for over three decades.

GRAEME KITAGAWA Ensemble

SHAW 2024: Footlights, Cotton Club and My Fair Lady; 3rd season. Growing up in small town Alberta, my exposure to theatre was limited, however, through competitive dance I was able step on the stage at an early age and never looked back. One year, I played the role of the Genie in a production number based on Aladdin. Getting the opportunity to sing "Friend Like Me" meant a lot to me. Of course, no one could hear me over the 15 pairs of tap shoes onstage, but I didn't care. Today, I feel very privileged to be able to perform for a living. Also, they give me a mic now, which is very appreciated!

RUTHIE NKUT Ensemble

SHAW 2024: *Kabarett*, *Footlights* and *My Fair Lady*; 1st season. I'm thrilled to be at The Shaw working on one of my all-time favourites (*My*

Fair Lady) and some new favourites. It's been a blast to work with so many inspiring artists here in stunning Niagara-on-the-Lake. I was raised in Sudbury, on and am the Associate Artistic Director and Head of Marketing at YES Theatre where I saw my first show (Spring Awakening) and began my onstage career in Jesus Christ Superstar. I've worked in theatre for over 12 years. I am lucky having been able to have grown with YES as both an artist and producer; last year we opened a new theatre in Sudbury and this year I'm at The Shaw!









JEREMIAH SPARKS Ensemble

SHAW 2024: Footlights, Cotton Club and My Fair Lady; music director for The Shaw's Gospel Choir 5th season. I come from Preston, a small community in Nova Scotia, and within Preston, my town is Cherrybrook. I began my theatre career in Halifax, Nova Scotia with Ships Company Theatre in A World Without Shadows, a play about Maud Lewis in the early nineties. It is such a joy to be back at Shaw again. My favourite shows that I've been in here were Gem of the Ocean and The Amen Corner. Another gem emerged from 2017, when I was asked to create the Shaw Gospel Choir, which performed at the last Secret Theatre about Bernard Shaw. I am delighted to bring back the Gospel Choir once again!

TAURIAN TEELUCKSINGH Ensemble

SHAW 2024: Kabarett, Footlights and My Fair Lady; 3rd season. Hello! My name is Taurian (think Taurus and Ian combined) and I'm a Trinidadian-Canadian artist, born and raised in Brampton, Ontario. An introduction to the arts at a young age helped fuel my wild imagination: piano lessons, dancing, singing, and playing pretend were favourite creative outlets of mine. I was fortunate to frequent plays and musicals with my family, and since hearing the overture to Phantom, I've been hooked! My work as an actor is fuelled by my need to connect with others. Theatre to me is the epitome of artistic prowess; it commands and demands attention. Besides, who doesn't like

playing pretend?





SHAWN WRIGHT Ensemble SHAW 2024: The Shaw Variety Show and Witness for the Prosecution; 8th season. I have had the great pleasure of acting at the Shaw Festival under the unique and dynamic vision of the last 3 Artistic Directors: Tim Carroll, Jackie Maxwell and Christopher Newton. Each era was thrilling in its own particular way. I have stood under the bright lights with Martha Henry, Gordon Pinsent, Joel Grey, Sutton Foster, Brent Carver, Sheila McCarthy and Audra McDonald. I love being an actor. Whether onstage or in the audience, I love the magic of a warm Niagara evening walking to the car afterward and feeling like I'm walking on air.



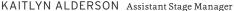


MYRA MALLEY Stage Manager

SHAW 2024: Stage Manager for *Kabarett*, *Footlights* and *Cotton Club*; 1st season. I am a career stage manager for both opera and drama. As an undergraduate I worked as a technician at Shaw Festival before going on to specialize in stage management, so it is a great pleasure to return to the company. Married to a former Lighting Designer / Production Manager and having one child who is now a stage manager makes it safe to say we are a theatre family. I have taught emerging artists at the undergraduate level as well, and have always enjoyed that energy.

JANE VANSTONE OSBORN Stage Manager

SHAW 2024: Stage manager for *The Shaw Variety Show, The Roll of Shaw* and *Snow in Midsummer*; 7th season. The first show I saw was at YPT Colonnade in Toronto. My first ASM gig was *Grease* at York University. What a strange job — arrive early, sweep the floor, hold the curtain for a car, and stay late. I was hooked. I enjoy the collaborative, creative, puzzle-solving nature of this work. I love watching ideas come to life and hearing the audience take part. One of my favourite shows was *Up to Low* at Ottawa's Arts Court, where I sat amongst the audience and could feel their responses as I whispered cues to the crew.

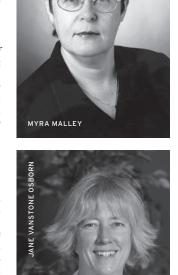


SHAW 2024: Assistant Stage Manager for *The Shaw Variety Show* and *The Roll of Shaw*; 1st season. I grew up in the lower mainland of British Columbia. As I child, my parents brought me to *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Mousetrap*, and I fell in love. After beginning a degree in Biochemistry, I took a Theatre Appreciation elective and appreciated it enough to change my major. Since then, I have grown as a stage manager under Shelby-Jai Flick, Becca Jorgensen (also at The Shaw this season), and Bradley Dunn, who all shared knowledge, paperwork, and endless laughs, for which I will always be grateful. Most recently I got to work on *The Inheritance* at Canadian Stage.

GEORGIA HOLLAND Assistant Stage Manager

SHAW 2024: Assistant Stage Manager for *Kabarett*, *Footlights* and *The Cotton Club*; 1st season. I've been savoring my experience at Shaw while honing my craft with such a remarkable team. I moved here from Montreal with a passion for what can be created for the stage and how to support

such creation. As early as two-years-old, I have been involved in the arts in some capacity; with endless and persistent support from my mom, who never let me run off in the face of fear, I have been able to dive headfirst into my experience of theatre to find my place in stage management. I am proud to be a part of The Shaw's 2024 season.







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(to April) PATTÝ JAMIESON

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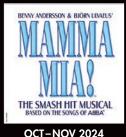
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