

NEW WORDS FESTIVAL

# flight of fancy, hold me close

Presented by



WRITTEN BY  
**Adjani Poirier**

DIRECTED BY  
**Rose Plotek**

APRIL 29 TO MAY 6  
Ludger-Duvernay Theatre  
Monument-National



# SYNOPSIS

The not too distant future: Public Apologies™ have become the hottest reality TV show, and Sol, a young pop star, finds herself struggling to remain relevant amidst this new cultural phenomenon. In a world haunted by the desire to commodify remorse she grapples with what it means to forgive, to love and to be an artist. *flight of fancy, hold me close* is an exploration of human connection, celebrity culture and the duality of our dreams and nightmares.

# CAST



**Calla Adubofour-Poku** <sup>A3</sup>  
(Salt Spring Island)  
(Unceded traditional territory of the  
Saanich, Cowichan, Coast Salish  
and Chemainus First Nations)  
Celina



**Jasmine Case** <sup>A3</sup>  
(Markham, ON)  
(Treaty 13 Territory, Mississaugas  
of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the  
Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and  
the Wendat peoples)  
Sol



**Emma Hennig** <sup>A3</sup>  
(St. Albert, AB)  
(Treaty 6 Territory)  
Bev  
[Fight captain]



**Jeremy Lewis** <sup>A3</sup>  
(Île-Perrot, QC)  
(Tio'tia:ke, unceded  
Kanien'kehá:ka Land)  
Robin



**Madeleine Scovil** <sup>A3</sup>  
(Kingston, ON)  
(Treaty 57 Territory)  
Sleep Paralysis Demon



**Mackenzie Wojcik** <sup>A3</sup>  
(Winnipeg, MB)  
(Treaty 1 Territory)  
Apologies  
[Composer, "Hold Me Close"]

# CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION TEAM

## GRADUATING STUDENTS



**Adjani Poirier** <sup>PW3</sup>  
(Montreal, QC)  
(Tio'tia:ke, unceded  
Kanien'kehá:ka Land)  
Playwright



**Fernando Maya Meneses** <sup>SCD3</sup>  
(Mexico City, Mexico)  
Set Designer



**Anthony Allan** <sup>PDTA3</sup>  
(Burlington, ON)  
(Brant Tract Treaty Territory)  
Lighting Designer



**Charlotte Baker** <sup>PDTA3</sup>  
(Waterloo, ON)  
(Traditional territory of the Neutral,  
Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee  
peoples)  
Technical Director



**Isabella Robert** <sup>PDTA3</sup>  
(Kitamat, BC)  
(Unceded Haisla Territory)  
Sound Designer



**Zachary Weibel** <sup>PDTA3</sup>  
(Renton, WA)  
(Treaty of Point Elliot, territories  
of the Duwamish, Stillaguamish,  
Suquamish, and Muckleshoot)  
Video Designer



**Jo Natale** <sup>PDTA3</sup>  
(Orangeville, ON)  
(Treaty 18 Territory)  
Production Manager

# CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION TEAM

## PROFESSIONALS

Costume Designer

**Sarah Chabrier** (Set and Costume Design 2022)

## STUDENTS

Stage Manager

**Andrea McMillan** <sup>PDTA2</sup>

Head of Video

**Bea Crowther** <sup>PDTA2</sup>

Flyperson

**Eiden French** <sup>PDTA1</sup>

Assistant Stage Manager

**Zoe Daca** <sup>PDTA1</sup>

Head of Sound

**May Nemat Allah** <sup>PDTA2</sup>

Crew

**Alex Sykes** <sup>PDTA1</sup>, **Bea Freedman** <sup>PDTA1</sup>,  
**Eiden French** <sup>PDTA1</sup>

Set Design Assistant, Costume Design  
Assistant and Props Designer

**Claire Aldridge** <sup>SCD2</sup>

Video Assistant

**Alex Sykes** <sup>PDTA1</sup>

Costume, Props and Scenic Paint Team

**Clémence Archambault** <sup>SCD1</sup>, **Lola  
Cordreaux** <sup>SCD1</sup>, **Hailee Jake Friesen** <sup>SCD1</sup>,  
**Jess Jandera** <sup>SCD1</sup>, **Augusta Lutynski** <sup>SCD1</sup>,  
**Clara Pinto** <sup>SCD1</sup>

Head Electrician

**Matt Lalonde** <sup>PDTA2</sup>

Lighting Assistant

**Bea Freedman** <sup>PDTA1</sup>

# COACHES

Dramaturgy  
**Myekah Payne**

Music  
**Jonathan Patterson**

Movement  
**Rebecca Harper**

Voice  
**Lauren Maykut**

Fight Director  
**Anita Nittoly**

Set Design  
**Michael Gianfrancesco**

Props  
**Angela Rassenti** (Set and  
Costume Design 2008)

Lighting Design  
**Noah Feaver**

Video Design  
**T. Erin Gruber**

Sound Design  
**Brian Kenny** (Production Design  
and Technical Arts 2014)  
Production Management  
**Andrea Lundy**

Stage Management  
**Neha Ross**

Technical Direction Coach  
**Lee Tucker** (Production Design  
and Technical Arts 2018)

Technical Coach  
**Marjorie Lefebvre**

Scenic Painting  
**Véronique Pagnoux**

Stage Carpenter  
**Jérémie Bérubé**

Master Carpenter  
**Guillaume Simard** (Création et  
production 2010)

Assistant Head Carpenter  
**Christian Laroche**

Head of Lighting  
**Francis Hamel** (Création et  
production 2011)

Head of Sound  
**Bianca Bernier**  
Costume Project Managers  
**Julia Metzger** and **Michael  
Slack** (Set and Costume Design  
2001)

Wardrobe Storage Managers  
**Daria Miscia** (Set and Costume  
Design 2021) and **Mayumi Ide-  
Bergeron** (Set and Costume  
Design 2021)

Sewist  
**Zoé Trudel**

Costume Patina/Breakdown  
Consultant  
**Mélanie Turcotte**

Hair Consultant  
**Stéphane Scotto di Cesare** and  
**Sess 'Missladyblu' Elusme**

Makeup Consultant  
**Véronique St-Germain**

This year, The NTS Graduating class is working with Settlement Reparations MTL, a mutual aid initiative that facilitates relationships of reparations between settlers and Indigenous folks in need of financial assistance.

If you're a non-Indigenous person living in Montréal/Tioh'tià:ke and you have financial stability,\* consider becoming a monthly donor to local Indigenous people in need of support.

#### How it works

1. Decide an amount you can sustainably give each month.
2. We'll match you with a local Indigenous person who has requested monthly support.
3. Send an e-transfer to that person on the 25th of each month.

Want to sign up or ask a question? Send an email 

[SettlementReparationsMTL@gmail.com](mailto:SettlementReparationsMTL@gmail.com)

\*Financial stability: You don't worry about paying rent and buying groceries each month, you can regularly afford non-essential expenses like your own Netflix account, you don't have debt, you have inherited wealth, etc. Everything helps people get the stability they deserve.

All amounts are helpful – whether you can afford \$5, \$10, \$50, or \$100.



We are currently gathered in the area known as Tio'tia:ke in the language of the Kanien'kehá:ka, as Mooniyang in Anishinaabemowin and colonially referred to as Montreal. This place has long served as a meeting place for many First Nations, including Kanien'kehá:ka of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Huron/Wendat, Abenaki, and Anishinaabeg.

The New Words Festival is the artistic and academic culmination of our time here, on Tio'tia:ke. As artists we are the sum of the people we've worked with, and the places we've worked on. As students, we are forever indebted to Tio'tia:ke as the place where we grew together. It has been the place that has supported us unconditionally, and will continue to be here long after we've graduated.

Wherever we may end up individually in the professional world, we aim as a collective to always respect and advocate for the land we work on, and the Indigenous people who have been living and telling stories here long before institutions like The National Theatre School of Canada ever existed. It has been a privilege to be a guest here on Tio'tia:ke, and for that we say thank you.

As colonization continues to exploit this land and harm the people who have lived in relationship with it since the dawn of time, so does the fight toward Indigenous sovereignty and decolonization. We would like to urge settlers to engage in ongoing direct financial support of indigenous people(s) through the mutual aid initiative shared with you in the festival's program. This initiative pairs settlers directly with Indigenous people for regular financial aid.



The land on which we are gathered has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations. It is part of the traditional unceded territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka, whose rich cultural heritage continues to teach us that respect, dialogue and peace are pillars of democratic governance.

The public performances of the National Theatre School's graduating class represent the culmination of years of training for many of Canada's future playwrights, actors, directors, designers, and production personnel. Everything seen on stage and all that goes on behind the scenes is created by the students under the guidance of professional guest artists. The National Theatre School of Canada is a school for the arts. It is the premier professional theatre training institution in the country. The School offers incomparable training in all theatre arts.

Alisa Palmer, Executive Artistic Director of the English Section  
Frédéric Dubois, Executive Artistic Director of the French section  
Fanny Pagé, CEO

# UPCOMING SHOWS

## **NEW WORDS FESTIVAL: SYCOPHANT**

by **Nora Vision**

Directed by  
**Jonathan Seinen**

April 29 to May 6, 2023

Monument-National Campus

## **AS YOU LIKE IT**

by **William Shakespeare**

Directed by

**Haysam Kadri**

May 2 to 5, 2023

Saint-Denis Campus

## **SPECTACLE DE CHANT**

Artistic Director

**Monique Richard**

May 11 to 14, 2023

Saint-Denis Campus

(show in French)

More information and full programming at [ent-nts.ca](http://ent-nts.ca)

# PARTNERS

NTS would like to thank its partners, who contribute to the success of the students.



**TD READY**  
**COMMITMENT**

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Funded by the Government of Canada

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