

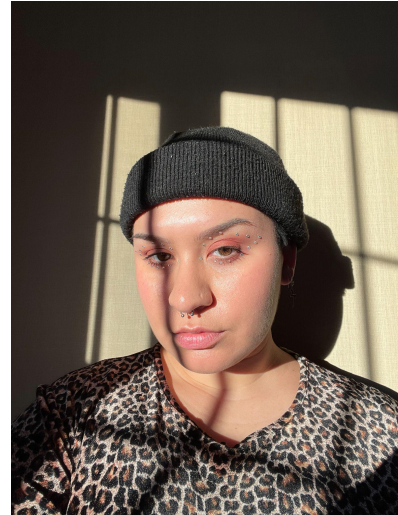
The Cafe Writers' Program

50 Cent Lemonade

by Kelsey Kanatan Wavey

Kelsey Kanatan Wavey

Kelsey Kanatan Wavey (they/them) is a non binary multidisciplinary artist currently based in so-called Vancouver. Kelsey was born and raised in Treaty 1, Winnipeg, and is a proud member of Tataskweyak Cree Nation. Kelsey attended Studio 58 to study acting, and has been working as an actor, writer, director, and curator since graduating in 2019. Kelsey is a singer and is working on self-releasing their work with their Indigenous indie pop duo “EVERBODY”, as well as sings with an all femme drumming group “M’girl”. Some of their recent theatre acting work includes The Rez Sisters, Women of the Fur Trade (MTC) and Break Horizons: a Concert Documentary (Urban Ink and The Cultch). You may have seen their recent directing work in Cerulean Blue (Studio 58) and Gather: Stories in Nature (Newworld and Pacific Theatre).



Mango Cake

by Amy Lee Lavoie & Omari Newton

Amy Lee Lavoie

Amy Lee Lavoie is an award-winning playwright and a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's Playwriting Program. Her first play, Rabbit Rabbit, received its premiere production with Infinitheatre, earning Amy Lee two MECCA's for Best Text and the Revelation Award. Rabbit Rabbit has since been produced across Canada and in the US. Other plays include Me Happy (co-written with Matthew



Mackenzie/Summerworks Festival), Stopheart (Factory Theatre) Genetic Drift (Pi Theatre/Boca del Lupo) My Tom (Railtown Lab Series), Scout's Honour (Radio Play/Imago Theatre) and C'mon, Angie! (Touchstone Theatre/Leroy Street Theatre) which was hailed as "visceral, important, life-changing theatre." Amy Lee was also the Head Digital Writer for the CBC drama Strange Empire, which won a Gracie Award (Women's Alliance Media) for Best Website in recognition of its interactive Storytelling. Up next, Redbone Coonhound will receive a rolling premiere at the Arts Club Theatre (Vancouver), Tarragon Theatre (Toronto) and Imago Theatre (Montreal) in the 2022/23 season.

Omari Newton

Omari Newton is an award-winning professional actor, writer, director and producer. As a writer, his original Hip Hop theater piece Sal Capone has received critical acclaim and multiple productions, including a recent presentation at Canada's National Arts Center. He has been commissioned by Black Theater Workshop (BTW) in Montreal to write a companion piece to Sal Capone entitled Black & Blue Matters. Omari and his wife, fellow professional playwright Amy Lee Lavoie, have received commissions from The Arts Club Theatre to co-write a new play: Redbone Coonhound. A bold and innovative satirical comedy that confronts instances of systemic racism in the past, present and future.



Omari is Co-directing the first in a series of rolling world premiere at The Arts Club Theatre in October of 2022. The play will then open in Montreal (Imago Theatre) & then Tarragon Theatre in Toronto. The husband and wife duo also just completed "Black Fly," an satirical adaptation of Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus that centers Aaron and Lavinia. Newton's work in Speakeasy Theatre's production of Young Jean Lee's The Shipment earned him a 2017-2018 Jessie Richardson Award for Outstanding Performance by an Actor, as well as a nomination for Best Direction. He has recently completed directing critically acclaimed productions of "The Mountaintop" by Katori Hall, and "Pass Over" by Antoinette Nwandu. Notable film & TV credits include: Lucas Ingram on Showcase's Continuum, Larry Summers on Blue Mountain State and lending his voice to the Black Panther in multiple animated projects (Marvel). Most recently, Omari has a recurring role as Nate on Corner Gas (the animated series) and a recurring role as Corvus of Netflix's hit new animated series The Dragon Prince.

Father's Day

by Sebastien Archibald

Sebastien Archibald

Sebastien is an actor, playwright and Artistic Producer of ITSAZOO Productions based on the stolen and unceded territories of the the x̱m̱əθkw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlíl̓wətaʔ/Selilwiltulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations, where he lives with his wife and children. For ITSAZOO, Sebastien has created numerous productions, including: The Pipeline Project (co-produced with Savage Society); Hidden (w/ UBC Botanical Gardens); The Competition is Fierce (Jessie nomination Outstanding Script). Playwriting awards include: the Bottle Tree National Playwriting Competition; Theatre BC National Playwriting Competition; Monday Magazine 'M' Award. Sebastien holds a BFA from the Phoenix Theatre, University of Victoria. Most recently you saw him in Redbone Coonhound playing at the Arts Club.



Submission

by Fay Nass & Diana Garcia

Diana Garcia

Born in Valencia (Spain), Diana moved to Canada in 2013. Diana holds a BA in Education and Child Psychology, as well as a Masters in Applied Spanish Linguistics. She's been published on different occasions in the Spanish Professional Teaching Magazine "Publicaciones Didácticas" and she's presented at several educational conferences. Diana is interested in the power of language in Dramatic Arts and explores the playfulness of language and its potential to trouble codes of linguistic semiotics. Her passion for language and human psychology has inspired her to start her journey as a playwright. She is interested in multilingual plays and how language can shift our perception. Diana is currently collaborating in The Café and is the co-playwright of "Submission". (Instagram: diagarher)



Fay Nass

Fay Nass is a queer theatre-maker, director, writer, curator, producer, educator, scholar, innovator and tireless advocate for diversity and inclusion. Her practice is dedicated to creating artful, truthful interpretations of gender, race, diaspora and cultural identity. Fay's work has been presented locally, nationally and internationally. Fay is currently the Artistic Director of the Frank Theatre Company, Vancouver.



Anna's Story

by Manami Hara

Manami Hara

Manami is an award winning actor, playwright, instructor, interpreter/translator and dramaturge originally from Tokyo, Japan. She has worked with companies across Canada including Arts Club, Boca del Lupo, Carousel Theatre, The Cultch, Factory Theatre, Firehall Arts Centre, Frank Theatre, Gateway Theatre, Globe Theatre, Grand Theatre, Horseshoes & Hand Grenades Theatre, ISTAZOO, La Luna Productions, NAC, NeWorld Theatre, One Yellow Rabbit, Pi Theatre, Playwrights Theatre Centre, Presentation House Theatre, Ruby Slippers, Rumble Productions, Theatre Passe Muraille, Theatre Replacement, Touchstone Theatre, vAct and Vancouver Playhouse. She'll be seen in a world premiere of her new play *Courage Now* at Firehall Arts Centre in November and *Hiro Kanagawa's Forgiveness* at Arts Club and Theatre Calgary in 2023. (Instagram @hara.manami)



Space Allons and Tropical Ducks

by Derek Chan

Derek Chan

Derek Chan (陳嘉昊) grew up in colonial Hong Kong, lived in Norway, and now lives and works on the stolen and ancestral lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, colonially known as Vancouver. A playwright, director, performer, translator, and producer, Derek is the Managing Artistic Director of Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre. Before that, he was co-artistic director of rice & beans theatre from 2010 to 2021. He has also worked with Playwrights Theatre Centre (artistic director apprentice), Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre (associate artistic producer), and the rEvolver Festival (guest curator). Derek received his BFA in theatre performance from Simon Fraser University. Derek has been a National Arts Centre English Theatre Artist in Residence (19/20) with yellow objects, a new installation-exhibition in support of the ongoing pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong. His play, Chicken Girl (2019/20), won the Sydney Risk Award for Outstanding Original Play by an Emerging Playwright, and was nominated for Outstanding Original Script at the Jessies. He was the co-recipient of the 2021 Simon Fraser University FCAT Young Alumni Award for his work at rice & beans theatre. (Instagram: @chicken_kitchen)



Przyjaćiółki

by Anais West

Anais West

Anais West (they/he/she) is a queer, genderfluid writer, actor and producer, as well as a Polish settler based on the occupied lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Anais's work merges theatre with film, poetry and music, using transdisciplinary art to explore the multiplicity within gender, sexuality, culture and self. Their plays have been presented by Buddies in Bad Times' Theatre & Theatre Passe Muraille in Tkaronto; by Rumble Theatre, Queer Arts Festival, Zee Zee Theatre and the frank theatre in Vancouver and by the Fresh Fruit Festival in NYC. As the co-writer of Poly Queer Love Ballad, Anais was the winner of PTC's Fringe New Play Prize and was nominated for two Jessie



Awards, including Outstanding Original Script. Recent acting credits include the national tour of Une. Deux. Trois. by Mani Soleymanlou (Orange Noyée and the National Arts Centre,) White Noise by Taran Kootenhayoo (Savage Society and The Firehall Arts Centre), and Le NoShow Vancouver (Théâtre la Seizième and Théâtre du Bunker). They are the Artistic Producer at the frank theatre company.