

SHAKESPEARE BY THE SEA &
EASTERN FRONT THEATRE PRESENT

FAT JULIET

A NEW PLAY BY STEVEY HUNTER
DIRECTED BY KAT MCCORMACK



A SLEEPOVER ROMP BASED ON ROMEO + JULIET



MARCH 20 – 29



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PRESENTS

A HANDSHAKE THAT CHANGED THE WORLD



CASEY & DIANA

WRITTEN BY **NICK GREEN**

DIRECTED BY **RICHIE WILCOX**

APRIL 22 - MAY 18, 2025

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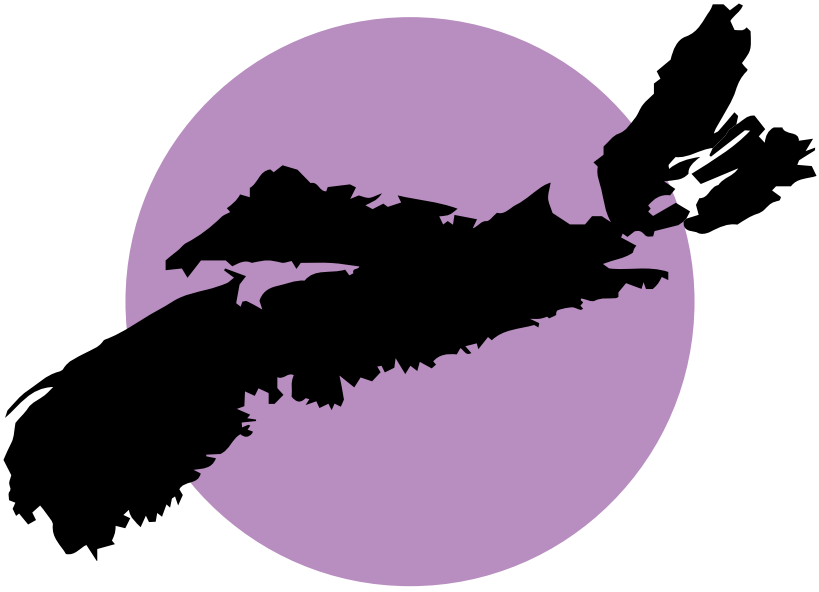
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This production takes place in Mik'ma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. As a settler run organization, we are active participants in the story of this land -- past, present and future.

It is our responsibility to seek truth, and to work towards peace and friendship as we share this land.

We encourage our audiences to read the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation commission.

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Read the National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation Reports

nctr.ca/records/reports

Search the Mi'kmaw Place
Names Digital Atlas

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Eastern Front Theatre was founded by Gay Hauser, Wendy Lill, and Mary Vingoe in 1993 as a Dartmouth-based company supporting the work of Atlantic Canadian playwrights.

Over the past 30 years, EFT has championed and supported countless Atlantic Canadian artists through commissions, workshops, our annual STAGES and Early STAGES Theatre Festivals, and development efforts like our Design Mentorship Program, Playwrights Unit, Study Groups, MACRO/micro Creation Series and The Accessibility Project. EFT has produced or presented over 200 original Canadian plays, 34 of which were World Premieres. EFT has four Governor General Award nominations, one Nova Scotia Masterworks nomination, and 31 Robert Merritt Awards (out of 103 nominations).

In 2021, EFT came back to its Dartmouth-based roots with Artistic Director Kat McCormack and General Manager Elsa Pihl at the helm, returning as the theatre company-in-residence at Alderney Landing.

#DartmouthIsForTheatreLovers



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Shakespeare by the Sea (SBTS) excites the audience with the wonder of words and the unique joy of live performance while shedding light on the human condition with the greatest plays and stories in the world, in great settings for a great price.

Shakespeare by the Sea is:

- a very accessible presenter of live theatre in Atlantic Canada
- the largest outdoor summer theatre festival east of Montreal
- dedicated to creating original works based on classic tales and legends
- committed to the ongoing development of Canadian theatre artists

Shakespeare by the Sea is an artist-driven collaborative organization. Under the guidance of a Board of Directors, the company offers a full repertory season of outdoor summer theatre, traditionally ranging from July 1 to Labour Day.



@sbtsHalifax

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FAT JULIET



CAST

JULIET Stevey Hunter
ROMEO Peter Sarty
TYBALT Nathan Simmons
NURSE Lou Campbell

CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR Kat McCormack
PLAYWRIGHT Stevey Hunter
SCENIC DESIGNER Brenda Duran
COSTUME DESIGNER Everette Fournier
LIGHTING DESIGNER Jessica Lewis
COMPOSER + SOUND DESIGNER Jackson Fairfax-Perry
VIDEO + PROJECTION DESIGNER Christian Ludwig Hansen
CHOREOGRAPHER Zomi Tombing
ILLUSTRATIONS Mollie Cronin

STAGE MANAGER Don Brownrigg
PRODUCTION MANAGER Jesse MacLean
CO-PRODUCERS Jesse MacLean, Kat McCormack & Elsa Pihl

DESIGN ASSISTANTS Urvi Bhatt
..... Letitia Fraser
..... Meghan Sivani-Merrigan

STUDENT ASSISTANT Mahthin Mahthin

ORIGINAL SET DESIGN Ell Zagar
with assistance from Brenda Duran

ORIGINAL STAGE MANAGEMENT Patricia Vinluan

ORIGINAL DESIGN MENTORS Aaron Collier
..... Leesa Hamilton
..... Struan Robertson
..... Anna Shepard



continued >

SHAKESPEARE BY THE SEA

MANAGING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Jesse MacLean
ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Drew Douris-O'Hara
STUDIO DIRECTOR & ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE Jade Douris-O'Hara

EASTERN FRONT THEATRE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Kat McCormack
GENERAL MANAGER Elsa Pihl
DIGITAL CONTENT MANAGER Daniel Wittnebel
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR ... Emma James
SPONSOR AND PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER Isaac Mulé



Shakespeare by the Sea and Eastern Front Theatre are members of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engage professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the terms of the jointly negotiated Canadian Theatre Agreement.



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PLAYWRIGHTS NOTE



I started writing this play when I was 21 and just about to graduate from theatre school. I had spent my life struggling with body dysmorphia and was drowning in my limiting beliefs that if I ever wanted to be loved – I had to be smaller. Growing up fat, I was told by society that love stories weren't for me. As an actor, I was made to feel like Juliet wasn't a character I could relate to – that I should stay in my lane as the funny side kick. But in reality... fat people fall in love all the time.

FAT JULIET is a contemporary reclaiming of the classic teen romance, Romeo & Juliet. Except Juliet is fat and struggling to love herself, let alone anyone else. As I began working on this show, it opened my eyes to the expansive fat acceptance community. I learned that there are many types of fat people and different challenges we all face. From the neglect of the health care system to society constantly telling us to lose weight everywhere we go. Fatphobia is upheld by a white colonial and capitalist society and is something that negatively affects people of all genders. This play and the journey it's taken me on has taught me what's possible when I choose to accept myself exactly for who I am.

I hope this show encourages you to reevaluate your relationship to your body. Our bodies are our bodies and we should spend more time accepting and loving them for what they are rather than choosing to be at war for them being something they're not.

Special thanks to Kat, Jesse, Petey, and Jenny, who have made it possible to be here today. Love always to dad, Wanda, and my mother, Heather, who have always supported and encouraged me to be exactly who I am.

- Stevey Hunter

FAT JULIET has been in development since 2017. Stevey is honoured to have premiered this piece with Shakespeare by the Sea, Eastern Front Theatre, and the dreamiest most talented creative team. Stevey would also like to acknowledge and give thanks to the support from:

The Fountain School of Performing Arts, for awarding Stevey with their first grant which funded the beginning development of the script; Ship's Theatre Company who supported a script development workshop in 2018, which also introduced Stevey to FAT JULIET's dramaturg, Jenny Munday; and Arts Nova Scotia, for their funding that helped to complete the final draft in a script workshop during Spring of 2020.





MARCH	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		20 7:30 PM	21 7:30 PM	22 1:00 PM 7:30 PM	23 1:00 PM
	26 7:30 PM	27 7:30 PM	28 7:30 PM	29 1:00 PM 7:30 PM	

"FAT JULIET pillow-fights overdone trends into a gloriously contemporary, deeply self-aware total f*ing riot."**

— Tara Thorne

"such a magical, affirming, important piece of theatre!"

— Leah Inman

"Jaw-dropping, heartwarming, an absolute delight."

— Taryn Hanrahan

"Jam-packed with heart and charm."

— Ann-Marie Kerr



TICKETS



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★ CAST ★



Stevey Hunter (they/them) is a queer actor, writer, and comedian. they grew up in winnipeg before moving to halifax where they graduated from dalhousie's fountain school of performing arts acting program. stevey is dedicated to creating engaging work and telling stories that highlight radically honest perspectives. stevey is an award winning comedian – they are a proud founding member of halifax improv company: hello city and now perform regularly in toronto with soft hands

(comedy is art festival) and hard YAS (bad dog theatre). hey – go check out their short film MICKEY on cbc gem! // getting to do FAT JULIET again with their best friends is a dream come true and only exists because of an incredibly talented team and one person who believed in them and the story (hi kat!!) love always to peter, dad, and wanda. this show is dedicated to their beautiful mom, heather.



Peter Sarty (he/him) is an actor, musician and sound designer based in Toronto. As a sound designer he has worked with Eastern Front Theatre, Ships Company, Probably Theatre, and Friends First Productions. A graduate of the Recording Arts Canada Audio & Music Production program, Peter makes music as Petite Pete and his work can be found on all streaming platforms. As an actor, Peter has enjoyed working in film and theatre in both the Maritimes and Ontario.

Peter won the Robert Merritt Award for Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role for his original portrayal of Romeo in the 2021 premiere of FAT JULIET and he is thrilled to be returning to this fantastic team and script. Film Credits include: Overcompensating (A24/Amazon), Hudson & Rex (City TV), Bystanders -Nominated for Screen Nova Scotia Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role- (AfroViking) and Sullivan's Crossing (CTV). -So grateful to be on stage with my love Stevey once again. Love to Mom, Dad, Robert, Aura, Michael, Kyla, Adeline, Heather and Daddy Doug & the boys: M&W. This one's for you!

Lou Campbell (they/them) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Kijipuktuk/Halifax, NS. Their practice traverses many mediums including performance, clown, stand-up, drag, poetry and sound. They create work that unpacks the inner workings of their own experiences, usually manifesting in the open sharing of mortifying past mistakes. Their award winning solo show **PRUDE** premiered here at EFT at the stages festival. It has since toured across the country to festivals such as rEVolver, High Performance Rodeo, Outfest, and Next Stage Festival. Lou also co-runs a cross-province collective based in Toronto and Halifax called **Probably Theatre**. This collective creates performance work devised from poetry, and runs events and exhibitions that facilitate the creation of new work by other artists.



Nathan D. Simmons (he/him) is a Canadian actor from the historical Black communities of East and North Preston in Nova Scotia. A graduate from the Fountain School of the Arts, he has appeared in theatrical productions across Canada. Having won THE COAST's best theatre actor in 2022, he has also appeared in several tv shows, most recently MGMplus' FROM. Nathan is so excited to remount this masterpiece of a show, and hopes you all will enjoy the party!



★ CREATIVE TEAM ★



Kat McCormack (she/they) is a theatre artist from Dartmouth/Punamu'kwati'jk with a passion for playful, devised work and collective creations. As the Artistic Director of Eastern Front Theatre, Kat aims to create a supportive and accessible environment for artists to push the boundaries of Atlantic Canadian storytelling, as well as their own artistic practice. As an artist, Kat has helped to create new works with companies such as ZUPPA, Shakespeare by the Sea, Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia, The Villains Theatre, Eastern Front Theatre and others. Kat has been named "Best Theatre Actor" in The Coast's Best of Halifax issue five times, and is a four-time nominee for the Theatre Nova Scotia Merritt Awards for Outstanding Supporting Actor and Outstanding Direction. Kat is a firm believer that #DartmouthIsForTheatreLovers.



Stevey Hunter (they/them) is a queer actor, writer, and comedian. they grew up in winnipeg before moving to halifax where they graduated from dalhousie's fountain school of performing arts acting program. stevey is dedicated to creating engaging work and telling stories that highlight radically honest perspectives. stevey is an award winning comedian — they are a proud founding member of halifax improv company: hello city and now perform regularly in toronto with soft hands (comedy is art festival) and hard YAS (bad dog theatre). hey — go check out their short film MICKEY on cbc gem! // getting to do FAT JULIET again with their best friends is a dream come true and only exists because of an incredibly talented team and one person who believed in them and the story (hi kat!!) love always to peter, dad, and wanda. this show is dedicated to their beautiful mom, heather.



Brenda Chicas-Duran (she/her) is an eclectic artist drawing from her Salvadorian heritage and shaped by her upbringing in Ontario's diverse cultural surroundings. From a young age, she found passion and inspiration in the world of theatre, dedicating her time to honing her craft and cultivating her artistic voice. After completing her studies and working in Toronto with a BFA in Theatre Production and Design at York University, her journey took her to Nova Scotia in 2017. This is a full circle moment for Brenda, her first theatre credit in Nova Scotia was working as a PA for the premier of Fat Juliet in 2021. Her recent theatre credits: 76 Centimeters (Todos Productions/ RCAT

continued >

Newfoundlanded (Todos Productions) Goodnight Moon (Mermaid Theatre), Heathers: The Musical (Neptune YPCo), Dance Nation (Heist/ Keep Good Theatre) Alice in Wonderland/Twelfth Night (Shakespeare By The Sea), Downed Hearts (Ships Company Theatre / EFT), Miracle on 31st Street (Saint John Theatre Company), Glass Menagerie (ARC), #iamthecheese (HTFYP/EFT).



Everette Fournier (they/them) is an artist and designer practicing in Tkaronto [Toronto,ON]. Everette graduated from NSCAD University with a BFA in Textiles and Fashion in 2021. They have been the costume designer for productions such as PRUDE, #IAMTHECHEESE and Punch Up. They were Head of Wardrobe for Women of the Fur Trade With Native Earth Performing Arts, and Assistant Costume Designer for Purgatory, a short film by Nikki Shaffeeullah. Their artistic projects include creating immersive large scale installations and the occasional short film piece. Everette continues to pursue a career in costuming as well as developing their own sustainable clothing brand; Gurlie Guy. They are excited to once again be costuming Fat Juliet, a show near and dear to their heart.



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Jess Lewis (she/her) has been working in Mi'kma'ki (Nova Scotia) as a Lighting Designer and Production Manager for over 15 years. She has toured with productions across Canada, throughout the Southern States, Asia and the UK. She is very excited to return to Fat Juliet! Selected works include: Eastern Front Theatre (Fat Juliet, Stages Theatre Festival, Early Stages Theatre Festival), Neptune Theatre (Little Shop of Horrors, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Addicted, The Play That Goes Wrong, Billy Elliot, Ballad of the Motherland, Dickens' A Christmas Carol), Zuppa Works (The Movements, The Archive of Missing Things, Tiny, Slowly I Turn, How Far, How Far Away), Votive Dance (Don't Wake The Lions, Strike Tone, WHODUNIT?), Live Art Dance (Coastal Currents), Mermaid Theatre (Guess How Much I Love You, The Very Hungry Caterpillar & Other Eric Carle Favorites)



Jackson Fairfax-Perry (he/him) is an award winning African Nova Scotian composer, sound designer, musician and musical director living in Kijipuktuk, Mi'kma'ki whose work blends synthesizers, samples, acoustic instruments, and effects in a distinctive approach to creating music. For years, Jackson honed his skills touring and recording with celebrated local indie-pop band Hillsburn, and has been an in demand saxophonist and keyboardist across genres, playing with artists such as David Myles, Ben Caplan and Jerry Granelli to name a few. Since 2023, Jackson has been a collaborator and musical director on numerous projects with local Hip Hop and R&B artist Aquakulture. Since 2021 Jackson has enjoyed a busy career as a sound designer and composer working with various theatre and dance companies in Atlantic Canada. His work in this field has been acclaimed, having won two Robert Merritt awards for outstanding sound design for both Fat Juliet and Downed Hearts. Jackson recently completed a 2 year residency with 2b theatre company, and is continuing to develop a new album and live show under his electronic music moniker, TYNES, which explores his biracial heritage and connection to his African Nova Scotian roots. Recent credits include Matriarchs (Aquakulture, Nocturne), Dance Nation (Keep Good (Theatre) Company, Heist), Sea Unseen (Mocean Dance, The Sable Island Institute), Still Dancing (Ships Company Theatre) Deepwater (The Villains Theatre), Unicorn (The Bus Stop Theatre), Beneath Springhill/Sidewalk Chalk (Theatre New Brunswick Young Company), Downed Hearts (Ship's Company Theatre, Eastern Front Theatre, Matchstick Theatre), In The Dumps (Zuppa, Tarragon Theatre), To Dance Is...(Kinetic, Nocturne), and The Three Questions (Phin Performing Arts).



Christian Ludwig Hansen (He/Him) is a Video and Projection Designer as well Performer with special focus in Collaboration, Puppetry, and Stage Combat. He is from Northern Friesland by the German-Danish border and now lives in Kijipuktuk/Halifax.

Select Design Credits: The Movements (Zuppa), Bluebirds (TNB), The Glass Menagerie (ARC), The Proletariat (HAT), #IAmTheCheese (HTYP & EFT), Fat Juliet (EFT & SBTS).

Acting Credits: Midsummer nights dream (SBTS), Settle Elsewhere (Theatre du Poulet).



Mollie Cronin (she/her) (otherwise known by her pen name Art Brat Comics) is a cartoonist and illustrator from Kijipuktuk (Halifax, NS). She is temporarily based in Tkaronto (Toronto, ON) as a PHD candidate at York University where she is researching representations of fat women in comics.



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Zomi Tombing (she/her) is a versatile artist who first nurtured her passion for dance, choreography, and teaching at House of Eights Dance Studio in Halifax for several years. Since deciding to pursue movement, she has performed and choreographed for numerous events, showcases, music videos, and performance videos. Some notable performances include Atlantic Fashion Week, Nocturne Halifax, Mayworks Kjiptuk/Halifax, "Dancing Soles", Culture Shock International Choreographers' Showcase in Ottawa, and Thesis Dance Event in Tampa, Florida. Currently based in Ottawa, Ontario, Zomi invests her training in the Street Dance community and its many forms, focusing on Hip Hop Freestyle. She serves the Ottawa community through PNL Dance Co. as the team's co-director, and as a teacher with Moov Ottawa Dance, the Flava Factory, and other studios across the city. Through immersion in Ottawa's dance scene, Zomi has had the opportunity to battle, teach, and showcase. She is a humble guest in Street Dance forms pioneered by Black and Brown communities, heeding culture as part of one's dance foundation while teaching all ages. In 2022, Zomi received the "Outstanding Choreography" award for her work in FAT JULIET at Theatre Nova Scotia's 2022 Robert Merritt Awards. She is ecstatic to be a part of FAT JULIET's return to Halifax once again!

♥ THANK YOU ♥

Co-operators Community Funds for their generous contribution to the Collaborative Design Mentorship Program

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EFT recognizes the support of the Province of Nova Scotia.

We are pleased to work in partnership with the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage to develop and promote our cultural resources for all Nova Scotians.

PRESENTATION SPONSOR



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Jesse MacLean (he/him) is a director, performer and sound designer based in Halifax/Kjipuktuk. He is currently serving as Managing Artistic Director of Shakespeare By The Sea. Over the course of a twenty-year career he has directed more than 30 productions for SBTS. Jesse has toured extensively throughout North America and Asia as a puppeteer with Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia, and his evocative sound designs have been used in productions at Neptune Theatre, Eastern Front Theatre, SBTS and The Chester Playhouse. Jesse was the Programming Director for The Chester Playhouse from 2019-2021 and has twice been a guest faculty member at his alma mater, Bishop's University in Quebec.



Don Brownrigg (he/him) is a poor man's polymath, with an unquenchable curiosity about the world and its workings, and a poet's attention to its details and meanings. As a songwriter, he has released 3 critically acclaimed full length albums and several collaborations. As a theatre worker he has worked with companies like Eastern Front Theatre, 2b Theatre, QueerActs and even as a Puppeteer and Stage Manager with Mermaid Theatre. As an arts producer, he has worked at organizations like the National Arts Centre and Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. Born and raised in Katalisk, Ktaqmuk/Codroy Valley, Newfoundland, and a resident of central Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia for several years, Brownrigg is often between worlds—not defined by any one thing— and with focus always forward to the next fascinating thing. This gives him a unique perspective from which to observe, experience, and ultimately create.





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