

SHAKESPEARE BY THE SEA & EASTERN FRONT THEATRE PRESENT



FAT JULIET

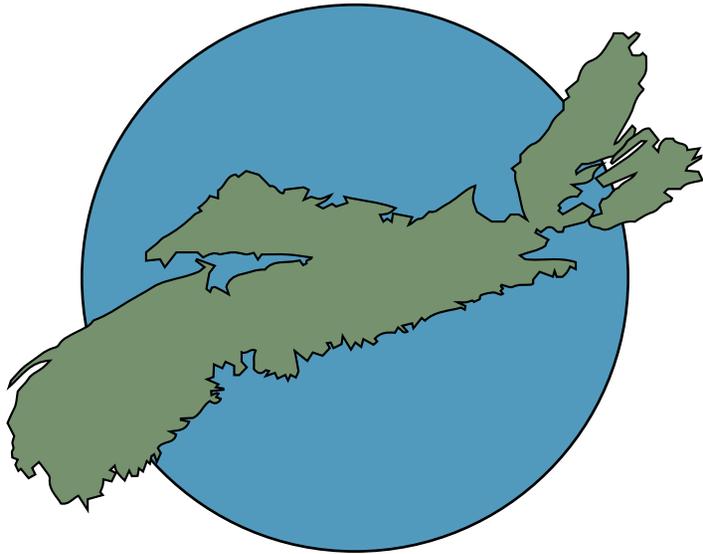
A NEW PLAY BY STEVEY HUNTER
BASED ON ROMEO & JULIET BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



ALDERNEY LANDING THEATRE
OCTOBER 22ND - 31ST 2021



THE FAT JULIET TEAM



KNOW THE LAND

SBTSHalifax and Eastern Front Theatre performances take place in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. The territory is covered by the Treaty of Peace and Friendship, which Mi'kmaq and Maliseet People first signed with the British crown in 1725.

We are forever grateful to be able to live and create art in this place, and we hope that our work joins the tradition of storytelling that has existed here long before us, documented and undocumented, acknowledging those whose names we know, and appreciating those whose names we may never know.

We are all treaty people.

To learn more about Treaty Education in Nova Scotia, please visit:

www.native-land.ca

CAST

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

CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR Kat McCormack
PLAYWRIGHT Stevey Hunter
SCENIC DESIGNER Eli Zagar
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
VIOLINIST Rosanna Burrill

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER Patricia Vinluan
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Brenda Duran

SCENIC DESIGNER MENTOR Struan Robertson
COSTUME MENTOR Leesa Hamilton
COMPOSER + SOUND MENTOR Aaron Collier
VIDEO + PROJECTION MENTOR Anna Shepard

ACCESSIBILITY CONSULTANT Sara Graham
ASL INTERPRETER Rhonda Kaassamani
ASL INTERPRETER Carolyn Carter

FOR SHAKESPEARE BY THE SEA

MANAGING & CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Elizabeth Murphy
CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Jesse MacLean
ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE Drew Douris-O'Hara
STUDIO DIRECTOR & RESIDENT ARTIST..... Jade Douris O'Hara

FOR EASTERN FRONT THEATRE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Kat McCormack
GENERAL MANAGER Elsa Pihl
MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER Roberta Schultz
SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNITY COORDINATOR Daniel Wittnebel



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.



KAT MCCORMACK
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

A Merritt-nominated performer and five-time winner of The Coast's Best Theatre Actor, Kat has co-created over fifteen new Atlantic Canadian works with local companies including Zuppa Theatre, Shakespeare by the Sea, Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia, and others. FAT JULIET marks the beginning of Kat's second season with EFT.



ELSA PIHL
GENERAL MANAGER

After twelve years working as a Stage Manager, Elsa made the switch to Arts Administration and hasn't looked back. She has been with EFT for three years.



ELIZABETH MURPHY
MANAGING & CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

A Co-Founder of SBTSHalifax, Elizabeth has enjoyed a long career in Canadian theatre, and has been with the company since 1994.



JESSE MACLEAN
CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Jesse has directed over 30 productions for SBTSHalifax since 2003, and became Co-Artistic Director in 2012.

CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTORS NOTE



Both Shakespeare By The Sea and Eastern Front have supported this project at various stages of development, and on behalf of both organizations, we can finally say that we are incredibly excited to be teaming up for the first time ever to co-produce Stevey Hunter's timely and important reimaging of the world's most famous love story!

We would like to acknowledge the support and patience of everyone who has been involved with this project. As with many productions around the world, this one had been ►

delayed by COVID-19, but we feel so grateful that we are in a place now to be able to safely present this work to our audiences.

This project features the talents of several of Halifax/ Kjiptuk's most exciting emerging professional theatre creators, and it has been our absolute pleasure to support them all as they continue to develop into the next generation of artists who will tell stories on our stages.

Finally, we are all overjoyed that EFT is back "home" on the Dartmouth/Punamukwatijk side of the harbour, and we can't wait for audiences to rediscover the joy of live theatre at Alderney Landing!

Enjoy the show!

- Elizabeth, Jesse, Kat + Elsa



PLAYWRIGHTS NOTE



Growing up fat, I was told that love stories weren't for me. I never felt like Juliet was a character I could relate to. But in real life, fat people fall in love all the time. So FAT JULIET is a contemporary retelling and reclaiming of the classic teen romance, Romeo & Juliet. Except Juliet is fat.

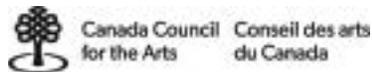
I'd like to acknowledge and recognize the privileges I have as a white-settler in a constantly fluctuating small to mid fat sized body. As I began working on this show, it opened my eyes to the expansive Fat Acceptance community. There are many different types of fat people and different challenges we face. From the neglect of the health care system that ignores our needs and villainizes us depending on our BMIs (something completely made up and based off of the weight of white cis men), to society constantly telling us to lose weight everywhere we go. Fatphobia exists and is upheld by a colonial ▶

and capitalist society and is something that negatively affects people of all genders. The fat and body positivity movement wouldn't exist if it wasn't for the work of fat Black women. 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 a constant war for them being something they're not. Thank you for watching.

FAT JULIET has been in development since 2017. Stevey is honoured to be premiering this piece thanks to Shakespeare by the Sea and Eastern Front Theatre. 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. Special thanks to Kat, Jesse, Petey, and Jenny, who have made it possible to be here today.

- Stevey Hunter

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DIRECTORS NOTE



To me the thesis of FAT JULIET is right in the title - what does it change if Juliet is fat? Anything? Everything? I think that feeling physically inadequate or unworthy of love is a universal experience, and I think in that way, we can all relate to our Juliet. What good is adoration if society has made you feel like you don't deserve it? Personally, I'd never related to Juliet growing up - she appeared small and feminine at an age where I was loud and crawling through neighbourhood sewers. But I still wanted love, even though I was aware I didn't fit the bill of "ingenue." As I grew older, I started to see Romeo and Juliet's relationship for the undesirable scenario it is - hasty, foolish, and what's worse: a rebound! I've always loved Shakespeare for the "blank canvas" it presents, allowing new stories to be woven out of old ones, and setting FAT JULIET in a ▶

modern world allows us to really comment on this relationship and how it might actually play out today, especially with a Juliet who doesn't fit the antiquated bill of what it is to be beautiful. I am so proud to tell this new take on an old story with so many invested storytellers.

I have been so lucky to have been supported, trained, and inspired by so many local theatre artists in my career. Huge thanks in particular to Jesse at Shakespeare by the Sea, who put his faith in this work at an early stage and put in the hours that got us here. Thank you to the team at Zuppa Theatre, whose playful work ethic has shaped my understanding of what it is to be an artist, and whose work I emulate today. Thank you to the incredible directors and artists I've been so very fortunate to work with and learn from: Jesse, Elizabeth, Alex, Ben, Stewart, Sue, Richie, Natasha and so many others. Thank you to my parents, who supported me from the beginning, and always showed me I was worthy of love. And thank you to Stevey, for writing this gem, and taking me along for the ride. This one is for Jenny.

- Kat McCormack

CONTENT & ACCESSIBILITY NOTES

Running time: 75 minutes with no intermission.

FAT JULIET explores themes and issues such as fatphobia, dieting, power abusive relationships, and drug use/pills.

There are Active Listeners available for each performance, as well as a designated quiet Chill-Out Space. Please see an usher to be guided to these areas, should you feel the need.

All washrooms are designated as All Gender.

If you have specific concerns about content or accessibility, please email Kat@EasternFrontTheatre.com.



Jenny Munday was a talented actor, director, playwright and dramaturge, as well as a fierce advocate for Atlantic Canadian theatre-makers. Well-loved for her salty humour, quick wit, and total honesty, we are so thankful to have had Jenny's invaluable feedback as dramaturge for FAT JULIET. She is missed dearly and remembered often, and though she hated Shakespeare, we hope she would have been proud of this production in its final form.

CAST & CREW (in alphabetical order)



LOU CAMPBELL
ANGEL

Lou Campbell (they/them) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Kijipuktuk/Halifax. They work across several disciplines as an actor, writer, director and sound artist. They also co-run a cross province collective called Probably Theatre. Recent credits include: "Eventide" for 50 Things with Zuppa Theatre and the EAC, "This Inescapable City" with Probably Theatre Collective at the Halifax Fringe, "Leaving Home" a reading with Matchstick Theatre at Stages Festival, "Listen to the Wind" with Steady Theatre Co, and "PRUDE" their solo show.



MOLLIE CRONIN
ILLUSTRATOR

Mollie Cronin is a cartoonist, illustrator, writer, and curator from Kijipuktuk (Halifax, NS). In 2015 she received a BA in Art History from NSCAD University before accidentally becoming a cartoonist that same year. Her comics and fat-positive illustrations have been featured on the hit Hulu show "Shrill," illustrated Sofie Hagen's 2019 book "Happy Fat," and have been made into clothing, tattoos, and a newspaper comic strip called "Art Brat Comics." Cronin currently teaches comics classes in NSCAD's extended studies program and is writing her first graphic novel.



BRENDA DURAN
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

This is Brenda's first production with EFT. Originally from Toronto she has been in the show business for 12 years wearing many hats in each department. She earned a BFA in Theatre Production and Design at York University. She has worked all over the GTA on shows like Fashion Art Toronto, Toronto Fringe Festival, TIFF, Big Music Fest, and Much Music Awards. Since living in Nova Scotia she shifted gears and worked behind the scenes in wedding events, local exhibitions, festivals, and private functions. Brenda is excited to be back in the theatre and working alongside a very talented team.



JACKSON FAIRFAX-PERRY
COMPOSER + SOUND DESIGNER

Composer, sound designer, performer, and multi-instrumentalist Jackson Fairfax-Perry (he/him) blends synths, samples, acoustic instruments, and effects in a distinctive approach to creating music. Jackson studied music composition at Dalhousie University, and later worked as sound designer and conductor for Dalhousie's 2018 production, Drums and Organs, as well as composer and sound designer for Keep Good (Theatre) Company's live production of Adventures, and Adventures, The Book. He has performed widely in Canada and abroad as a member of indie pop group Hillsburn.



EVERETTE FOURNIER
COSTUME DESIGNER

Everette Fournier (they/them, he/him) is an emerging artist practicing in K'ijipuktuk [Halifax], Mi'kma'ki [Nova Scotia]. They graduated from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) with a B.F.A, majoring in Textiles and Fashion in 2021. They coordinated and showed work in the NSCAD Wearable Art Show (2018-2020) and 'NSCAD Fashion Gala' (2018-2019). They presented their self-produced performance short, 'Fairy-tales from the Inbetween,' exhibited at the Anna Leonownens in 2020. Everette views their practice as multidisciplinary, rooted in elements of performance, fashion and design.



SARA GRAHAM
ACCESSIBILITY CONSULTANT

Kijipuktuk-based deaf and disabled accessibility consultant, activist, improviser, comedian, and workshop educator. I use my work to advocate for accessibility in arts and creative spaces created by and for Deaf and disabled people. Creating art and spaces that acknowledge and address the need for inclusivity and accessibility for all artists and consumers is my passion. I graduated from Dalhousie University with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and minor in Gender and Women studies. I have taught spoken word workshops and writing workshops focused on youth engagement all across Canada.



CHRISTIAN LUDWIG HANSEN
VIDEO + PROJECTION DESIGNER

Christian Ludwig Hansen (he/him) is a Projection Designer and Actor from Germany who now lives in Kjiptuk/Halifax. He feels truly honored to be joining such amazing team of established and emerging artists in making this wonderful play come to life. Other

Theatre Credits [Acting]: Midsummer Night's Dream (Shakespeare by the Sea); Mary Stuart, Machinal, Concord Floral, and Ephemera (FSPA); Settle Elsewhere (Theatre du Poulet); What the Owl Said To The Orangutan (The Unnatural Disaster Theatre Company). [Design]: #IAmTheCheese (Halifax Theatre for Young People); Hamlet (Halifax Regional Arts).



STEVY HUNTER
PLAYWRIGHT + JULIET

Stevy Hunter is an actor/writer/comedian based in Kjiptuk/Halifax. They are a member of award winning improv troupe Hello City & have worked with numerous NS theatre companies such as: Neptune Theatre, Ship's Theatre Co, Zuppa, & more. Last spring

they performed their first solo show "When You Leave Please Say Nice Things About Me", funded by Arts NS & produced by the BST Writer's Circle. TV: FROM (Epix), Moonshine, Diggstown (CBC). FAT JULIET is a project that has been near and dear to their heart for many years. Big love to their family & the dream team making this happen.



JESSICA LEWIS
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Jessica has been working in K'jiptuk (Halifax) as a Lighting Designer, Production Manager and Stage Manager for close to 20 years. She has taken Productions across Canada, throughout the Southern States and Asia. Selected works include: Neptune Theatre

(Fully Committed, The Last 5 Years, Dickens' A Christmas Carol, Shakespeare In Love), Zuppa Theatre (Tiny, Slowly I Turn, How Small, How Far Away), Eastern Front Theatre (Stages Theatre Festival) Jessica is also an accomplished musician, performing as Cactus Flower.



KATHRYN MCCORMACK
DIRECTOR

Kat is a theatre artist from Dartmouth/Punamuwatijk with a passion for playful, devised work and collective creation. Since training at Dalhousie University, Kat is grateful to have worked with Shakespeare by the Sea, Zuppa Theatre Co., Mermaid Theatre of

Nova Scotia, Neptune Theatre, The Villains Theatre, Ship's Company Theatre, 2b Theatre and multiple indie groups before taking on her new role as Artistic Director at EFT. Kat is thankful to be creating once again with such a generous and talented team.



PETER SARTY
ROMEO

Peter (he/him) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Kjiptuk/Halifax. Peter is a member of Hello City! An award winning improv troupe. As an actor and sound designer, Peter has worked with: Ship's Company Theatre, Shakespeare by the Sea, Eastern Front

Theatre and Zuppa Theatre. Peter's sci-fi musical Journey to the Zone is currently in development for its 3rd iteration as a live-streamed virtual experience. Peter is immensely proud of sweet Stevey and their beautiful play.



NATHAN SIMMONS
TYBALT

A graduate of the Fountain School of Performing Arts, Nathan D Simmons is an award winning Halifax-based actor and musician, whom you might have see On screen in Diggstown or Hustle and Heart, for which he won an award, or on the Neptune

stage in plays like Controlled Damage and Salt Water Moon. Coming from the community of East Preston Nova Scotia, his enticing talent and charismatic energy has blessed many stages, not only in Nova Scotia, but across the country.





ZOMI TOMBING
CHOREOGRAPHER

Zomi (she/her) is a dance artist and instructor at House of Eights Dance Studio in Halifax. While the foundations of her movement vocabulary stem from Hip Hop, Street, and Club dances, learning from others along the way has also nurtured her love for

Contemporary and Jazz styles. Incorporating what she learns as a student and guest in various dance forms and cultures, her work is known for precise musicality, unique textures, and being constantly innovative for the benefit of her students. Zomi is excited and honoured to work with the cast and crew of Fat Juliet in bringing the story to life!



PATRICIA VINLUAN
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Patricia is a stage & production manager based in Kjiptuk/Halifax. Patricia has enjoyed many roles in live event production, including: arts admin, festival coordination, design & technical direction. She has managed both small-scale and international

touring shows and has been involved in the development of over a dozen world premieres. Patricia is dedicated to implementing sustainable and ethical production practices and is motivated by a desire to establish safe and socially responsible work spaces for all. She is from the west coast but has called Nova Scotia home for the past 7 years.



ELL ZAGAR
SCENIC DESIGN

Ell Zagar (they/them) is a theatre artist and technician based in Halifax. They began creating theatre at the student-run King's Theatrical Society at the University of King's College. Ell is passionate about queer expression in live theatre and wrote their English Honours thesis on gender defiance in

Romeo and Juliet. They were the Technical Director at Shakespeare by the Sea for the 2021 season. They are excited to be working on this exciting new play with Eastern Front Theatre!

VIOLINIST Rosanna Burrill
SCENIC DESIGNER MENTOR Struan Robertson *
VIDEO + PROJECTION MENTOR Anna Shepard
COSTUME MENTOR Leesa Hamilton
COMPOSER + SOUND MENTOR Aaron Collier
WARDROBE ASSISTANT Sal McKinnell

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* Courtesy of the Mermaid Theatre Loft Residency Program

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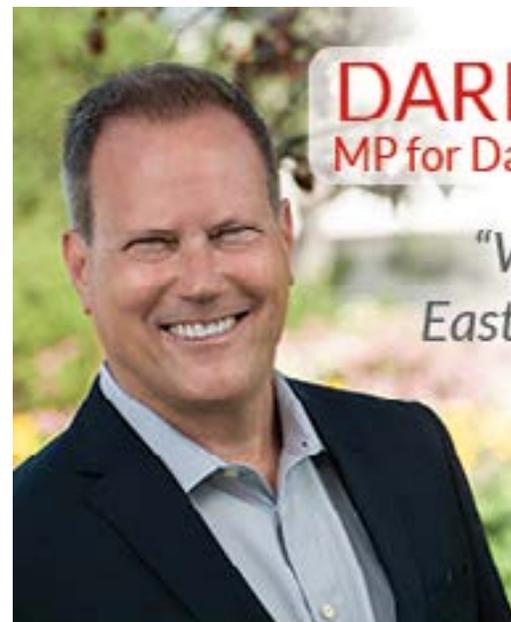


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