

TORONTO  
**FRINGE**

**NEXT STAGE**



**MORRO AND JASP:  
SAVE THE DATE**

Presented by:  
**U.N.I.T. Productions**

# The Solitudes



photo: Tanja Tuziana

*eight recipes for transforming our solitudes,  
and an invitation to sit at the table*



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# HAPPY 2020!

Our little theatre festival is now a teenager. In this 13th year of Next Stage, we are presenting a clearer vision than ever before. This line-up offers you personal stories, incredible writing, a full musical, and a Fringe-fave clown duo.



I am so honoured to be able to share this work with you from this passionate group of artists who have worked so hard to bring you their shows. I hope you can pack in as much theatre as possible over the next 12 days and join us for our Fringe Fundraiser, a one-night-only event with Tallboyz, another #StartedAtTheFringe success story, on Saturday Jan 11th at 7:30pm. We will also have treats for everyone in the heated Steam Whistle Festival Tent and a late night party in the Studio theatre so come by then or any other night to say hi to myself and the Next Stage crew.

May this be the start of a 2020 filled with theatre and joy.

All the best,

Lucy Eveleigh  
Executive Director



It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the Next Stage Theatre Festival hosted by Toronto Fringe.



Now in its 13th year, the Next Stage Theatre Festival features 11 visionary shows that showcase a vision of innovative styles and formats and represent a vanguard of indie theatre makers in Toronto. These shows range from staged readings to fully realized productions that offer an enriching program while keeping the indie spirit alive.

I am delighted that wonderful events like yours are taking place in Toronto. Events like this festival promote and encourage residents to participate in their community, connect with each other and contribute to the community's strength.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, I wish everyone an enjoyable and memorable event. Please accept my best wishes for continued success.

Yours truly,

John Tory  
Mayor of Toronto



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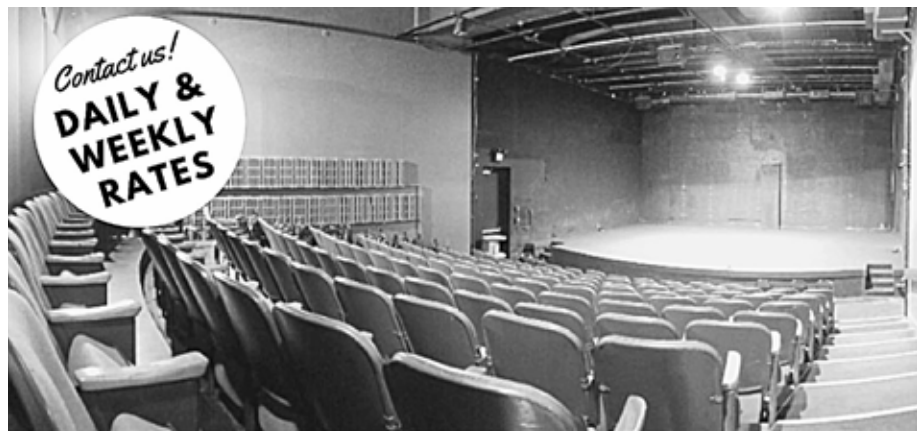
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# NEXT STAGE

## **MORRO AND JASP: SAVE THE DATE**

Presented by  
**U.N.I.T. Productions**

Creators & Performers	<b>Heather Marie Annis* and Amy Lee*</b>
With Direction from	<b>Byron Laviolette and Kat Sandler*</b>
Producers	<b>Heather Marie Annis, Amy Lee &amp; Victoria Laberge</b>
Sound & Lighting Designer	<b>Mark Andrada</b>
Set Designer	<b>Roxanne Ignatius</b>
Costume Designers	<b>Heather Marie Annis with Roxanne Ignatius</b>
Stage Managers	<b>Sarah Miller* and Ellen Brooker</b>
Clown Coach	<b>John Turner</b>
Graphic Designer	<b>Joshua Duchesne</b>
Production Photographer	<b>Alex Nirta</b>

*\*appearing courtesy of CAEA*

## **MORRO AND JASP/U.N.I.T. Productions**

U.N.I.T. Productions is in its fifteenth year and is home to Dora and Canadian Comedy Award-winning clown duo Morro and Jasp. The team has created eleven full-length plays that have toured nationally and internationally, including *The Bully Show*, *Morro and Jasp do Puberty*, *Of Mice and Morro and Jasp*, *Morro and Jasp: Go Bake Yourself*, *Morro and Jasp: 9-5*, and *Morro and Jasp in Stupefaction*. Their short films and web content include *Morro and Jasp: Behind the Nose*, *Rise and Shine*, and their TV pilot, *The End is Nigh*. Their cookbook, *Eat Your Heart Out with Morro and Jasp*, was published by Tightrope Books and won a 2015 Gourmand World Cookbook Award for Most Innovative Cookbook. Oh, and they created a video game, *Morro and Jasp: Unscripted*, which is available in the App Store and Google Play. They are currently Lab Creative Residents at Factory Theatre and working on a comedic adaptation of Sherlock Holmes.

Find out more at [morroandjasp.com](http://morroandjasp.com) and connect with us @morroandjasp

## **HEATHER MARIE ANNIS, Performer/Creator - "Morro"**

Heather is an actor, playwright, theatre creator, theatrical and therapeutic clown, and Co-Artistic Director of U.N.I.T. Productions. She has been a writer in residence at Factory Theatre and Mixed Company Theatre, as well as part of the Thundering Voices playwriting unit at Native Earth Performing Arts where she developed *Walking Forward*, *Facing Back* (Weesageechak Festival). Heather was part of Directors Lab North 2018. She is directing Julia Lederer's show *U-R-U* at Next Stage 2020, and a workshop production of the new show *Pest Me, Pet Me* with Animacy Theatre Collective in January. Most recently, Heather appeared in *A Christmas Carol* (Three Ships Collective/Soup Can Theatre) at the Campbell House.

## **AMY LEE, Performer/Creator - "Jasp"**

Amy is a Winnipeg-born, Toronto-based performer, writer, educator, creator, producer, and Co-Artistic Director of U.N.I.T. Productions. She has worked as a Resident Artist Educator at Young People's Theatre, and as a mentor with the Paprika Festival and the AMY Project. Performance credits include *Bar Mitzvah Boy* (Winnipeg Jewish Theatre); *James and the Giant Peach*, *Cinderella*, *The Invisible Girl*, *Hana's Suitcase* (Young People's Theatre); *Here to Hear* (Carousel Players); *Bright Lights* (Theatre Brouhaha). Amy has assistant directed on *Annie* and *Emily's Piano* (YPT) and *The Dog and the Angel* (Theatre Columbus.) She also recently gave birth to a tiny wondrous human named Sadie Rae.

**BYRON LAVIOLETTE, Director/Dramaturg**

Byron Laviolette is the director and dramaturg for the award-winning Morro and Jasp clown series. He also works with SummerWorks Festival's Audience Choice Winner Pearle Harbour and acclaimed puppeteer Adam Francis Proulx. Byron was also the Creative Director of The Mission Business, the Digi award-winning experience design agency whose clients included Microsoft, Autodesk, Starbucks, CBC, MetroLinx, and NASA. Byron holds a PhD in Interactive Theatre and Pervasive Transmedia Fiction from the Theatre and Performance Studies Department at York University. He also directs audio books for Penguin Random House including works by Richard Wagamese, Michael Crummy, Thomas King, and Ziya Tong.

**MARK ANDRADA, Sound & Lighting Designer**

Mark Andrada is a Canadian Comedy Award-winning performer/writer/director. On stage, Mark originated the role of Swan/Chief in the world premiere of Trey Parker's *Cannibal! The Musical*. Mark has worked as a puppeteer for The Canadian Opera Company, and as a clown for Canadian Stage. Selected lighting designer credits include Second City Toronto's 83rd Mainstage review *If I Could #Throwback Time*, Angelwalk's *Off Broadway On Stage*, and *Dinosaurs Unearthed!*, an animatronic dinosaur exhibit at the Detroit Science Centre.

**ELLEN BROOKER, Stage Management Team**

Ellen Brooker is a stage manager, production designer and builder who has been happily living and working in Toronto for a year now. Selected credits include: Stage Management for Soup Can Theatre/Three Ships Collective's 2019 remount of *A Christmas Carol* at Campbell House Museum; Stage Management for CorpOLuz Theatre's *Siranoush* in the 2019 Caminos Festival; Scenic Design and Build for the 2019 Newmarket National Play Festival; Assistant Production Management and Technical Direction for foldA 2019 (produced by SpiderWebShow); Costume and Design Assistant for Punchdrunk's *Small Wonders* in London, England. She can also be found stage managing *U-R-U* for Next Stage, and as the Design Assistant for *Brain Storm* with Lucid Ludic in association with Why Not Theatre in February.

**ROXANNE IGNATIUS, Set Designer & Costume Designer**

Roxanne Ignatius is a Toronto-based painter, costume designer, and textile installation artist. Roxanne draws inspiration from folk arts, traditional textiles and weaving, creative collaboration and community, and the natural world and our place within it. As an installation artist for live comedy, theatre, and music events, Roxanne seeks out unorthodox collaborations across art forms, and finds ways to engage audiences and build community through visual art and installation. Past projects include a 20-foot knitted crepe paper scarf for Wavelength Winter Festival, a portable vulva doorway installation for Maylee Todd, and a 300-square foot immersive blanket fort set for Caterwaul Theatre.

### **VICTORIA LABERGE, Producer**

Victoria is a Toronto-based arts administrator originally from Montreal. In addition to her role as the Director of Development for Nightwood Theatre, she is also the Publicist for Sex T-Rex Comedy and for Discord and Din Theatre's upcoming production of *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.*, as well as the Marketing Coordinator for Puppetmongers Theatre. In 2019, Victoria was honoured to receive the My Entertainment World Honourary Critics' Pick Award for Publicity.

### **SARAH MILLER, Stage Management Team**

Sarah Miller is a Toronto-based freelance stage manager for live theatre and events. She's worked with arts organizations across the country including the Canadian Opera Company, Factory Theatre, Shaw Festival, Soulpepper Theatre, Stratford Shakespeare Festival, Toronto International Film Festival and U.N.I.T. Productions. She is also a part time lecturer at Ryerson University and a mentor for theatre production students at Humber College. Most recently, Sarah stage managed Tarragon Theatre's world premiere of *Yaga*.

### **KAT SANDLER, Director**

Kat Sandler is a playwright, director, screenwriter and Artistic Director of Theatre Brouhaha in Toronto. She has staged seventeen of her original plays in the last eight years, including most recently, *Yaga* (Tarragon) and the concurrent double bill of *The Party* and *The Candidate* (The Citadel), where the same cast raced back and forth between two theatres to perform in two simultaneous plays. Her play, *Mustard* (Tarragon Theatre) won the Dora Award for Best New Play. Kat is a graduate of the Queen's University Drama Program.

**SPECIAL THANKS:** Nina Lee Aquino, Factory Theatre, Victoria and Kevin at BOMB Fitness, Amanda Hyde, Jessica Kingsbury, Aly Gouveia, Brady Madsen, Andy Perun, Nina Keogh, Laurie Shapiro, Rick Lee, Matt Burt, Alastair Forbes, and the Toronto Arts Council.



# TORONTO FRINGE

## OUR MANDATE

The Toronto Fringe is a platform for everyone to access, discover, and experiment with the arts. By valuing creative experiences, we contribute to a healthy arts economy and, ultimately, a thriving society.

## OUR VALUES

**Access** – in every sense of the word

**Accountability** – we work with integrity and respect

**Creativity** – freedom of expression permeates everything we do

**Exploration** – we let curiosity be our guide

**Support** – empowering you to take a chance

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# THANK YOU

Our families and friends, the Next Stage Theatre Festival staff and volunteers, the Next Stage Jury (Lucy Eveleigh, Laura Paduch, Derrick Chua, Owais Lightwalla), Factory Theatre patron services and bar staff, Lindsey Cassel at Steam Whistle, Jason Maghanoy at Toronto Life, Christian Ismodes at Now Magazine, Philip Riccio and Janice Peters Gibson at Intermission Magazine, Sean Lee and Kristina McMullin at Tangled Arts, Celeste Sansregret, Rebecca Vandavelde, Kat Germain, Peter Tsatsanis.

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