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**FRINGE**

# NEXT STAGE

# EVERY SILVER LINING

Presented by:  
**Silver Lining Productions**

# The Solitudes



photo: Tanja Tociana

*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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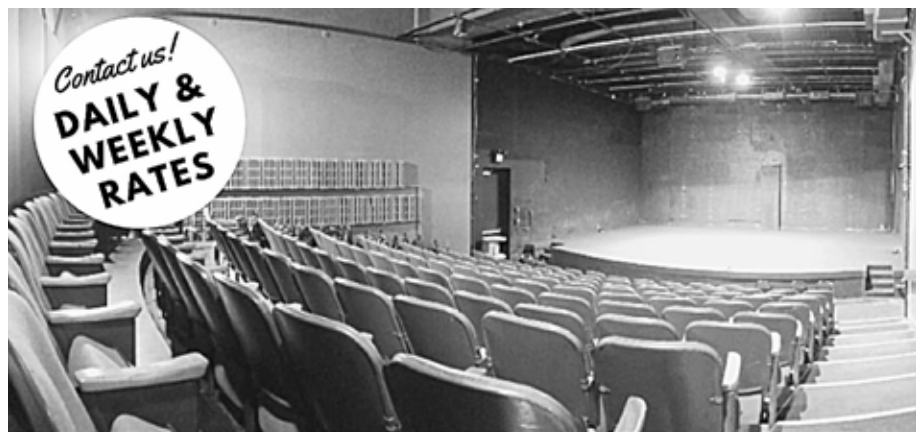
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# NEXT STAGE

## **EVERY SILVER LINING**

Presented by  
**Silver Lining Productions**

by **Laura Piccinin & Allison Wither**

Director      **Jennifer Stewart\***

Music Director      **Aaron Eyre**

Stage Manager      **Alice Ferreyra**

Featuring

**Joel Cumber\***

**Starr Domingue\***

**Alex Furber\***

**Daniel Karp**

**Luke Marty\***

**Erika Nielsen**

**Alison J Palmer\***

**Alex Panneton**

**Laura Piccinin**

**Jada Rifkin**

**Ben Skipper**

**Allison Wither**

*\*appearing courtesy of CAEA*

### **ALLISON WITHER, COMPOSER/LYRICIST (Clara)**

Allison Wither is a graduate from Sheridan College for Musical Theatre. She has been performing and composing since graduating the program in 2015. She has performed as Mrs. Banks in *Mary Poppins* (The Lower Ossington Theatre), Ali/co-writer in *Make Your Mark* (Smile Theatre), and Joanne in *Godspell* (Theatre Sheridan). Allison co-wrote *Fables from Faraway Lands*, which won Patron's Pick at the 2017 Toronto Fringe KidsFest.

### **LAURA PICCININ, PLAYWRIGHT (Emily)**

Laura Piccinin was born to tell stories. Whether as a dancer with Tokyo Disney, a writer/solo performer for Alumnae Theatre's Gay Play Day, a teacher at the Toronto District School Board, or as a musical comedienne with Just For Laughs, Laura's unstoppable passion lies in telling people all sorts of stories, in all sorts of ways, and she is beyond thrilled to share this work with you. Special thanks to her family and friends, who are the reason she is here, there, or anywhere.

### **JENNIFER STEWART\*, DIRECTOR**

Directing: *Every Silver Lining* (Toronto Fringe); *The Shape of a Girl* (Calder Theatre, London, UK); *The Music Man*, *Bye Bye Birdie* (Talk Is Free Theatre); *Emily*, *Becoming Dr. Ruth*, *Best of Enemies*, *The Heiress* (Bluff City Theater, Hannibal, Missouri); *Hairspray* (YES Theatre). Assistant directing: *Othello*, *Long Day's Journey into Night*, *HMS Pinafore* and a Michael Langham Workshop participant (Stratford Festival); *The Wedding Party* (Crow's Theatre). Jennifer holds an MFA in Theatre Directing from East 15/University of Essex in London, UK and is a graduate of the Music Theatre Performance Program at Sheridan College. Love to Daniel and Luka. [www.jenniferstewart.com](http://www.jenniferstewart.com)

### **AARON EYRE, MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Aaron is a Toronto-based music director, pianist, arranger and vocal coach. He is a graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University with degrees in Composition and Theatre, and is the recipient of the NUMUS Award for Composition for *The Poison Tree* (New Art Quartet). Selected credits as Music Director include *Trey Parker's Cannibal!* (STARVOX); *Little Women* (Theatre New Brunswick); *The Addams Family*, *Dreamgirls*, *Grand Central: Divas on Broadway* (SLC); *In Flanders Fields* (Smile Theatre); *Beauty and the Beast*, *Evil Dead: The Musical* (STARVOX); *Let the Sunshine In*, *Central Park Tango* (Theatre Sheridan/CMTP); and *The Last Five Years* (Angelwalk).

## **ALICE FERREYRA\*, STAGE MANAGER**

Alice has worked as a Stage Manager across Ontario. Favorite credits include: *Henry VIII*, *Birds of a Kind*, *Bakkhai* (Stratford Festival); *Maggie & Pierre* (Grand Theatre); *Ladies and Gentlemen*, *Boys and Girls* (Roseneath Theatre); *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Footloose*, *The Addams Family*, *Spring Awakening*, *Spelling Bee*, *Nine* (Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts); *Godspell* (Theatre Sheridan); *Seussical Jr.* (Capitol Theatre); *Anne of Green Gables*, *Evita*, *Shrek the Musical* (Lower Ossington Theatre); *The Canadian* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Hamlet* (Tarragon Theatre); *The Magic Flute* (Canadian Opera Company); *City of Angels* (Theatre By the Bay); *The Story* (Theatre Columbus); *The Test* (The Company Theatre).

## **JOEL CUMBER\* (Jeremy)**

Joel is thrilled to be back with the *Every Silver Lining* Team after a magical run in the 2019 Toronto Fringe Festival. Previous credits include: *The Adventures of Pinocchio* (YPT), *Freaky Friday* (Theatre Aquarius), *The Little Mermaid*, *Fiddler on the Roof* (Capitol Theatre Port Hope), and *Rumspunga Break!* (Next Stage Theatre Festival) for which he received the 2018 Broadway World Toronto Award for Breakthrough Performance. Joel was also recently listed as one of the 15 Artists to Watch at the 2019 Fringe Fest in Now Magazine. Joel is a proud graduate of the Music Theatre Performance program at Sheridan College (Class of 2017). Huge thanks to the entire TH team, and to my friends and family for the constant love and support! @CoelJumber

## **STARR DOMINGUE\* (Ms. Vella)**

After performing all over the United States, Europe and Canada, most recently at the Stratford Festival playing Crystal in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Starr is thrilled to be back in Toronto lending her voice to this talented company of artists. She is particularly excited to help bring new work to fruition especially this poignant piece by Allison Wither and Laura Piccinin. Here's to finding the silver lining in every challenge encountered. Love to 2 God, Mom, Fam, SG & KC

## **ALEX FURBER\* (Ben)**

Theatre: Robert Ross in *The Wars*, *Chariots of Fire* (The Grand); *The War Show*, *Marathon of Hope*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Drayton); *Jitters* (Soulpepper); Gilbert Blythe in *Anne & Gilbert* (NAC); *Red* (Sudbury Theatre Centre); Cliff in *Cabaret* (RMTC); *Taming of the Shrew*, *As You Like It* (SLSF); *Romeo and Juliet* (TNB); *Taming of the Shrew* (TBTB). Alex played Albert Narracott in Mirvish's *Warhorse*. Alex graduated from The National Theatre School of Canada. He is thrilled to be telling this beautiful story with this wonderful cast. Twitter: @alexfurber

### **DANIEL KARP (Andrew)**

Daniel is honoured to be reprising the role of Andrew in *Every Silver Lining* in the Next Stage Theatre Festival. Daniel is a graduate of the Drama program at Queen's University, as well as a graduate of the Musical Theatre Integrated Performance Program at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. Select American and Canadian theatre credits include: *Every Silver Lining* (Fringe 2019, BroadwayWorld Award Nomination), Peter Pinkerton in *Pinkalicious* (Off-B'way & Nat'l Tour), Freddy u/s in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Arts Center of Coastal Carolina), Gabe in *Next to Normal* (Blue Canoe Theatrical Productions), Jimmy Harper in *Reefer Madness*, and Tulsa in *Gypsy*. Daniel would like to thank Allison and Laura for let him help bring their story to life, Jennifer for her amazing leadership and guidance, and Toronto Fringe for giving this incredible story its debut. Rep: Carrier Talent Management.

### **LUKE MARTY\* (Kevin)**

Luke is delighted to join the cast of *Every Silver Lining* for this Next Stage performance. Recent stage credits include: *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Jersey Boys*, *Legends of Rock N'Roll* (Stage West); *Leading Ladies* (1000 Islands Playhouse); *Fitz Happens* (Lighthouse Theatre Company); and *Great Expectations* (Neptune Theatre). He can be seen on TV/Film in *V-Wars*, *Titans*, *Good Witch*, *Shadowhunters*, and more, as well as the upcoming film *Buffaloed*. Animation and video game credits include *Let's Go Luna* and *Glowbies*, and in video games such as *Assassin's Creed: Syndicate*, *For Honor*, and *Deus Ex: Mankind Divided*.

### **ERIKA NIELSEN (Cellist)**

Cellist and author Erika Nielsen performs as a Baroque, Classical, and contemporary musician. She is a Dora nominee for her performance in The Musical Stage Company's *Onegin* at the National Arts Centre, 2017. She has performed with artists such as Kanye West, and was principal cellist of the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra from 2011-13. Erika holds an Artist Diploma from the Glenn Gould School, and is on faculty at National Music Camp of Canada. Erika is also the author of bestselling memoir and wellness guide, *SOUND MIND*. She is thrilled be a part of *Every Silver Lining*! @celloerika celloerika.com

### **ALISON J PALMER\* (Judy)**

Alison is honoured to be a part of this brilliant musical. Theatre work: Melba Snyder in *Pal Joey* (TIFT), Ms. Vella in *Every Silver Lining* (Toronto Fringe Festival), Tanya in *Mamma Mia!* (Neptune), Doris in *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street* (Magnus), Hunyak in *Chicago* (Neptune), Swing/Dance Captain in *The Producers* (Mirvish), a Ross Petty Production, and productions at Port Hope Festival Theatre, Stage West, STC, etc. Film/TV credits: *Frankie Drake*, *Downsizing*, *Entertaining Christmas*, *Wayne*, *Mayday*, *Imposters*, *Designated Survivor*, *The Expanse*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, etc. Upcoming: feature film, *Big Gold Brick*, and *The Music Man* (Thousand Islands Playhouse). Follow [www.alisonjpalmer.com](http://www.alisonjpalmer.com), and @alisonjpalmer

### **ALEX PANNETON (Percussionist)**

Alex is a Toronto-based actor, writer, and multi-instrumentalist. He is excited to be making his Next Stage debut on alongside some of his favourite artists. Alex is a graduate of the Bachelor of Music Theatre Performance program at Sheridan College. Select Theatre: *Songs for a New World*, *Urinetown* (We Are Here); *James and the Giant Peach*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Violet*, *Beauty and the Beast* (YES Theatre); *The Buddy Holly Story* (The Globe); *Back to B4* (Smile Theatre). Musician: *Mitch, Please* (Buddies in Bad Times), *Mamma Mia* (YES Theatre), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Ovation), *Floyd Collins* (Theatre Sheridan).

### **JADA RIFKIN (Bev)**

Jada is thrilled to be reprising her role in *Every Silver Lining* at Next Stage! 2019 Theatre Credits include: Mrs. Pye/Blewett in *Anne of Green Gables* (LOT), Bev in *Every Silver Lining*, Mr. Kisses in *Clitoria* (Toronto Fringe), and Jack/Swing in *Beanstock* (All Together Now Entertainment). This past year, Rifkin debuted her sold-out, one-woman show, *I'M PERFECT\** at 120 Diner, and did voice-overs for University of Windsor. Upcoming: Full Cast Swing in *Goldirocks!* Tour (All Together Now Entertainment). Rifkin is a graduate of Randolph College for the Performing Arts. @jadarifkin

### **BEN SKIPPER (Sam)**

Ben is so excited to be back telling this beautiful story once again. Selected theatre credits include: Jacobi/Roosevelt in *Newsies*, Merlin the Cat in *Hoard-ing: A Musical*, Philippe in *The House of Martin Guerre* (Theatre Sheridan), Shrek in *Shrek: The Musical* (Eastwood C.I.), Roger in *Grease* (KW Musical Productions), and Toodles in *Peter Pan: The Panto* (Drayton). Ben wishes to thank his parents and brother for their constant love and support as well as this amazing cast and crew for their fearlessness and hard work.



## THANK YOU

We would like to thank our families and friends for all of their support and contributions, to our work and to our lives. We would like to thank our cast, crew, and creative team for their endless efforts in bringing this show to life; everything is better because you are here. Finally, thank-you to our audience, for without you, there would be no show.

We would especially like to thank: Jennifer Stewart for providing such a beautiful vision for our show, Aaron Eyre for colouring our music with his talent, Alice Ferreyra for running our ship, and Gabriella Okuda for her stunning imaging and design.

Thank you to Larry Silverberg, who has, and always will be, a pillar of Canadian Theatre.

Thank you to the Ontario Arts Council and Toronto Arts Council for giving us the moral and financial boost we so dearly needed in the early stages of our development.

Thank you to Factory Theatre and Next Stage Theatre Festival for welcoming us into the community, and gracing our show with this beautiful space.



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## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We acknowledge that the land we are situated on is not ours to own, but ours to share. Together with our indigenous, immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters, we are tasked with taking care of this land, and of each other. Let us aim to use this space to create art for a better future, and promote inclusion and reconciliation for all those who call this place home.

## **CREATORS' NOTE**

Allison and I wrote this piece to honour those who left us too soon.

When we first began down this path together almost four years ago, we had no idea where it might lead. As strangers, we shared the intimate experiences of losing our friends in our youth, with the goal of making sense of our grief through art. Today, we proudly present our work; a piece we have come to consider an homage to our younger selves, in hopes that we may inspire those with grief in their hearts to find its path back to love.

To all of those who were special to us in our lives, who live on in our memories and in our actions, our work is for you, and those who love you.

- Laura

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**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

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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 Lightwala), 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 Vandeveld, Kat Germain, Peter Tsatsanis.

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Erin Poole, Yuchio Inoue, and Pupa Muechbama in Bin Chicken (2019). Photo by Oliver Vasker.

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**Lynn Nottage**

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Studio 180 co-production

**studio180 theatre**

**JAN 14 - FEB 2**

photo: Dahlia Katz

# how to fail as a popstar

WRITTEN + PERFORMED BY  
**Vivek Shraya**

**FEB 18 - MAR 1**



photo: Heather Saitz



af

CREATED + DIRECTED BY  
**Sandra Laronde**  
**+ Neil Coppen**

A Red Sky Performance production  
presented by Canadian Stage

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featuring **MEASHA BRUEGGERGOSMAN**

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**Caroline, or Change** Book and Lyrics by TONY KUSHNER Music by JEANINE TESORI

**CAROLINETORONTO.COM**

Jully Black in CAROLINE, OR CHANGE. Photo by: Max Teizerow.