

DIGGERS

RELAXED PERFORMANCE CONTENT & SENSORY WARNINGS

Note:

This play is in a realistic style with some fanciful moments. There are occasions when the actors speak directly to the audience. There are also three “dream” sequences, two of which are dance numbers (one with a woman in white and one with all three diggers).

One character also pretends to have an invisible dog, and another character talks about the dog as if it’s real.

Content Warning:

This play deals with mature subject matters: sickness, death and burial. The main setting in *Diggers* is a cemetery. Throughout the performance, actors will speak of a sickness affecting a population and the burial of many bodies. There are actors who wear hazmat suits that drop off “body bags”. There is a natural disaster that occurs involving water which is depicted.

Sensory Warning:

There is music played while you enter the theatre. There will also be points in the play where music is played on a “radio” which includes static. There are 2-3 instances where the actors will yell. One of the actors wears a whistle around his neck that he will blow a couple of times throughout the play. The sound of the natural disaster is quite loud.

Sensory/Allergy Note:

The material used to represent dirt is actually mulch made of compressed rubber tires and is dust-free.

A theatrical hazer is used to give the theatre lights a hazy effect. The haze is composed of water vapour.

MEET THE ARTISTS



Jahlani Gilbert-Knorren (he/him)

Bai

From 17 years dedication to football, to a random theatre class taught by an inspiring professor, to graduating from Concordia University with a Major in Theatre, Jahlani's path is just getting started in the arts. Suggested for his first role by local theatre director/professor, Liz Valdez, Jahlani landed his first role in Tableau D'Hôte Theatre's *Blackout*, co-directed by Tamara Brown and

Mathieu Perron and choreographed by Rodney Diverlus. Jahlani is excited to return to the stage after a two-year hiatus during the pandemic.



Chance Jones (he/him)

Abdul

Chance Jones is a John Abbott Professional Theatre Alumni. He signed with DaVinci Talent after graduating. Quickly booked various roles walk on speaking roles on television series and movies such as: *Transplant*, *Wong and Winchester*, *The Bold Type*, *Best Sellers*. Became the Voice for Dr.Pepper commercials, featured in various Commercials: Ruffles, Moslen, Lotto 6/49. Despite all the multi-

media exposure, theatre is where Chance began his acting journey. Working with Black Theatre Workshop has always been a goal of his, and for this to be his first professional theatre debut is a dream come true.



Christian Paul (he/him)

Solomon

Christian Paul has been performing in Theatre, TV and Film for over 25 years. He is excited to be back at BTW for *Diggers*. His last theatre credits include *She Said/He said* and *The Meeting* where he played Dr. Martin Luther King. You can catch him on a French TV series called *Avant Le Crash*. He is currently finishing his short film *Maljo* to be released in 2024.

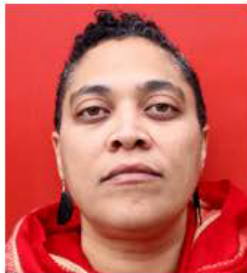
MEET THE ARTISTS



Warona Setshwaelo (she/her)

Sheila

Warona Setshwaelo is a Tio.tia:ke (Montreal) based artist, with Tswana and Zulu roots. She moved to North America 16 years ago to pursue her career. Thus far she has been fortunate enough to have worked in TV; shows such as *The Disappearance, 19-2* and *Quantico*. Some of her film credits include *Death Wish, On the Basis of Sex* and *White House Down*, and video games: *Assassin's Creed Origins, Valhalla* and *Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon* to name a few. Her first love, the stage, still featured prominently in her life and she has formed healthy relationships with theatre companies across Canada, such as Imago, Centaur, Segal Centre, Teesri Duniya, RMTTC, The Belfry, Tarragon, Repercussion and Scapegoat Carnivale. Warona is a mother and activist and is so excited to finally work with Donna-Michelle St. Bernard, a Canadian icon.



Donna-Michelle St. Bernard (she/her)

Playwright

Donna-Michelle St. Bernard aka Belladonna the Blest is an emcee, playwright and agitator. Her main body of work, the 54ology, includes: *The First Stone, Cake, Sound of the Beast, A Man A Fish, Dark Love, Roominhouse, Salome's Clothes, Gas Girls, Give It Up, The Smell of Horses*, and *Diggers*. Commissioned works include: *Reaching For Starlight* (Geordie Theatre), *Say the Words* (Wrecking Ball), *The House You Build* (GTNT). Opera libretti include: *Forbidden* (Afarin Mansouri/Tapestry Opera) and *Oubliette and Nucleosynthesis* (Ivan Barbotin/Tapestry Opera). DM has collaborated on the creation of *The Only Good Indian* with Jivesh Parasram and Tom Arthur Davis, *Hope Is a Story* with Sunny Drake, *They Say He Fell* with Nir Bareket and *507: Toronto in Transit* with Justin Manyfingers and Bob Naismith. She is co-editor with Yvette Nolan of the Playwrights Canada Press anthologies *Refractions: Solo* and *Refractions: Scenes*, as well as editor of *Indian Act: Residential School Plays*. DM is currently the associate artist at lemonTree Creations, and artistic director of New Harlem Productions.