

# THE *Outside Inn*

BY SHARON BAJER  
& ELIO ZARRILLO

A Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre Production



*A transformative dark comedy about  
the mess that makes us family*

# WELCOME TO THE SHOW



Welcome to the final production of Prairie Theatre Exchange's 2023-2024 season!

This play is beautiful for so many reasons.

At the centre of it is a relationship -- one that can be seen in two ways. In the fictional story of the play, there is a mother and a child. We get to witness them both in an acute time of transition in their lives. Telling this story as playwrights (and also actors!), are two friends and colleagues, both

of whom have been members of PTE's playwright's units, both from two different generations. What a way to celebrate story, relationship, and this extraordinary Winnipeg theatre community. This is *The Outside Inn*.

The play is hilarious, too. Elio and Sharon have found a delicious setting for their play: a parent and an adult child forced to share a very small living space. With this setting comes innumerable opportunities for comedy, inviting us all to reflect on (and have a laugh about) similar times in our lives.

Even with all of the laughs, this is a profoundly moving story. It is full of truth. It is full of heart. It is courageous in its unflinching look at how, in moments of crisis, relationships can become whole again.

With *The Outside Inn*, PTE is ending the season with two beloved playwrights from Winnipeg telling their story. The feeling of this play, the love, the laughter, and the heart are a perfect segue to our next season, which similarly focuses on warmth and wit. It is a time in the world where stories of healing, hope, and joy can bring us all together and inspire us to be our best selves. Thank you for being here for this production and any other productions you've attended at PTE this season. We're so grateful you're here and can't wait to welcome you next season for a whole new selection of plays!

With love,

**Thomas Morgan Jones**  
Artistic Director

**Lisa Li**  
Managing Director

PRAIRIE THEATRE EXCHANGE IS PROUD TO PRESENT



*Featuring:*

**SHARON BAJER** *Lily*

**ELIO ZARRILLO** *Patrick*

**ANNIE VALENTINA** *Director*

**INGRID RISK** *Lighting Designer*

**WESLEY BABCOCK\*** *Set Designer/Associate Lighting Designer*

**RYAN WILCOX\*** *Assistant Set Designer*

**DASHA PLETT\*** *Sound Designer & Original Composition*

**BRIAN DRADER** *Dramaturg*

**ZAHRA LARCHE** *Stage Manager*

**KATIE SCHMIDT** *Assistant Stage Manager*

**RUNTIME: 65 MINUTES, NO INTERMISSION**

**AUDIENCE ADVISORY:** Fog is used in one scene.

[Click here for specific Content Advisories](#)

\* Indicated designers on this production are represented by the Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659.

*The Outside Inn* was originally commissioned by Prairie Theatre Exchange, Treaty 1 Territory, Winnipeg.

*The Outside Inn* originally premiered at Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre, 2022.

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

No one gets under your skin quite like family. You know what I mean?

No one but family has access to so many past versions of you, locked and loaded to be deployed at a moment's notice – in affection just as readily as in conflict.

Having people in your life who've been there since day one is a privilege, no doubt – and it often comes with some baggage. The experience of being known yet not feeling seen by loved ones is especially prevalent in LGBTQ+ communities, where coming out to family can feel like a lifelong task. They can be your biggest champions, and still refuse to let you outgrow their ideas about you.

And chances are, it also goes both ways, at least a little.

So what happens when we're called upon to not only witness, but support a close family member through drastic life change? Change that asks us to reexamine our own stakes in who they've always been? The Outside Inn engages with this question in ways I hope you will find hilarious and illuminating, messy and relatable, and occasionally, ever so slightly, provocative.

A big and heartfelt thank-you to Sharon and Elio for trusting me with this beautiful, personal story – for the second time! – to Festival Antigonish for being our onetime haven in a hurricane, and to PTE for welcoming this story to its true home. Massive shout-out also to the incredible Outside Inn team – both iterations of it – for all their hard work and good vibes.

I hope you enjoy the show. We made it for you.

Annie

Each season, we prioritize making space for Indigenous stories. This is our answer to the calls of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. To make space, to support, and to be led by Indigenous collaborators.

This is our way of honouring Treaty 1 Land, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Dakota and Red River Métis nations and the home of many other Indigenous nations and Peoples.

All of us at PTE are committed to reconciliation, and to moving forward, together, in a good way.

You are welcome here in this space on Treaty 1 Land. Thank you for supporting Indigenous voices, and for supporting the live performing arts in Winnipeg.

# FROM THE PLAYWRIGHTS

*The Outside Inn* began seven years ago as a moment of connection. On a ride home from a rehearsal, and at a time when we didn't know each other very well, we discovered that we had both had double mastectomy surgeries within the same year, albeit for different reasons.

Being theatre-makers, that point of connection quickly turned into the idea for a story and so, we began to write. Together, apart, on planes, in backyards, through a global pandemic, over FaceTime, in real-time on a shared Google doc... we went on an investigation, mining connection in the unlikeliest of places.

With the generosity and support of Prairie Theatre Exchange, the Manitoba Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, dramaturg Brian Drader and director/dramaturgs Annie Valentina and Arne MacPherson, we turned the story upside down, inside out, played it forward and backwards and forwards again, excavating our own experiences and learning about ourselves in the process.

Many thanks to The Blair Family, Mariam Bernstein, Andrea Boyd, Crescent Arts Centre, Dalhousie Fountain School & Torin Buzek, DeCoste Interiors, Coral Hackman, John Hamilton & Minoli Amit, Rob Hull, Alexa Kirste, Thomas Morgan Jones, Peter MacDonald, Stephanie MacDonald, Katherine & Mike Meuse, Dixie Monk, Neptune Theatre, Chris and Paul at Scotia Diesel, Andrea Sever, StFX Housing Office, StFX Flux Lab, StFX University - Office of the Academic VP & Provost, Geneviève Steele, Jeremy Webb and Bonita Zarrillo.

Who knew that the meaning of life could be found trapped with your family in a vintage camper in the middle of the woods!

With love,  
Sharon & Elio



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# MEET THE ARTISTS



## **Sharon Bajer** (she/her)

*Playwright/Lily*

For PTE, Sharon has premiered many of her plays including *Burnin' Love*, *Molly's Veil*, *The Gingerbread Girl* (cancelled in 2020) and over a dozen short plays for the New Works Festival. She was the director of *Little Thing*, *Big Thing*, *Fly Me to the Moon*, *Munchbusters* and *The Ends of the Earth* (for PTE's professional training company) and she has been acting in shows at PTE since 1990! Sharon has worked as a playwright, director and actor across the country, is Winnipeg's first Intimacy Director and was ACTRA Manitoba's woman of the year. Sharon is also a breast cancer survivor. [sharonbajer.com](http://sharonbajer.com)



## **Elio Zarrillo** (they/them)

*Playwright/Patrick*

Elio Zarrillo spends their days making plays and poems with and for their loved ones. Originally from Treaty 1 territory, they are currently based on the unceded lands of the x̱məθkʷəíy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ (Tsilil-Waututh) Nations, pursuing their MFA in Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia. Their newest play *PEACHES* is in development with Zee Zee Theatre's National Queer & Trans Playwriting Unit, while another, *Nik & Blanche*, is currently undergoing an experimental translation of play, to zine, to show. Next up, catch them out at the Ruins in Shakespeare in the Ruins' upcoming production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



## **ANNIE VALENTINA** (she/her)

*Director*

Annie is a Nova Scotia-based director, dramaturg and playwright with a deep passion for solving puzzles and amplifying Queer voices and identities in Canadian theatre. Directing credits include: *The Last Show on Earth(tm)!*, Neptune Theatre; *Ballad of the Motherland* (also playwright), Neptune Theatre; *Yaga*, Highland Arts Theatre; *Pleasureville*, Neptune Theatre; *Lo (or Dear Mr Wells)*, Neptune Theatre; *What to Expect When You Aren't Expected* (also playwright), The QRB Project; *King of Berlin (The Doppler Effect)*. Big thanks to PTE, love to this team. @annievalentina

An artistic illustration featuring four hands in different colored sleeves (teal, yellow, pink, green) pouring wine from bottles into glasses. The bottles are orange, purple, and green. The wine is shown as flowing streams. The central text 'PTE PAIRINGS' is in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font, with a yellow fork icon hanging below it. The background is a light pink rectangle on a teal background.

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# MEET THE ARTISTS



**Ingrid Risk** (she/her)

*Lighting Designer*

Ingrid has worked as a lighting designer and stage manager with many leading Atlantic theatre companies and toured extensively, both nationally and internationally. She has received countless nominations for her work and is the recipient of several Theatre Nova Scotia Merritt Awards. She has taught theatre stagecraft courses at Saint Francis Xavier University, mentored young professionals and is currently Production Manager and Resident Lighting Designer at Festival Antigoniish Summer Theatre.

## DRINK SENSE

### Spice up your night with a mocktail



### Jalapeño Cherry Mocktail

#### INGREDIENTS

- 2 tsp cayenne pepper
- 3 tbs coarse sea salt
- 1 oz lime juice
- 1 oz cherry simple syrup
- 1 oz orange juice
- Soda water
- Jalapeño slices and cherries, for garnish

#### TO PREPARE

Combine cayenne pepper and coarse sea salt on a plate. Run a lime wedge around the rim of a glass, dip in the salt mix and twist to coat.

Add lime juice, cherry simple syrup and orange juice to a glass and top with ice and soda water.

Garnish with jalapeño slices and cherries.

  @DrinkSenseMB

# MEET THE ARTISTS



## **Wesley Babcock** (they/them)

*Set Designer/Associate Lighting Designer*

Wesley is a Queer Non-binary set and lighting designer, and production manager who splits time between Kijipuktuk (Halifax, NS) and Tkaronto (Toronto, ON). They have been nominated for Theatre Nova Scotia Merritt Awards in Scenic Design in 2019, 2022, and 2023, and were the recipient of the Wes Daniels Design Award in 2020. This is their Winnipeg/PTE debut. ([wesleybabcock.com](http://wesleybabcock.com)) Wesley is a founding member of WhatbyWhen (WxW) (with Crystal Lee), where they develop models for sustainable production management and technical direction through praxis.

([whatxwhen.ca](http://whatxwhen.ca)) They are also a founding partner of Act1 Consulting for the Performing Arts (with Peter Henry), where they are currently working on a masterplan for Ship's Company Theatre, among other architectural projects with companies like Coal Mine Theatre. ([act1consulting.ca](http://act1consulting.ca))



## **Ryan Wilcox** (they/them)

*Assistant Set Designer/ADC design mentee*

Ryan Wilcox is a Transfemme/Nonbinary theatre creator and settler in Kijipuktuk. Ryan studied Production Design at the National Theatre School of Canada and their work has brought them across Mi'kma'ki as a designer, producer, educator, and artist advocate. Select credits include: Associate Lighting Designer *Come From Away*, You Are Here inc.; Assistant Set Designer *Ballad of the Motherland*, Neptune Theatre Company; and Sound Designer, *Grumpy and Grimm*, *Shakespeare on Trial*, Neptune Theatre's TourCo.



## **Dasha Plett** (she/her)

*Composer & Sound Designer*

Dasha is a Winnipeg-based transsexual and artist working with performance, writing, and music. As a sound designer and composer, she has worked with the Stratford Festival, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Cercle Molière, Theatre Projects Manitoba, Mammalian Diving Reflex, OneTrunk Theatre, Frances Koncan, Waawaate Fobister, Debbie Patterson, and Alexandra Elliot. She is a member of IATSE local ADC659. Dasha is also one half of We Quit Theatre, a performance collective with Gisliina Patterson that has toured nationally to

Buddies in Bad Times, stratfest@home, PushOFF, OFFTA, SummerWorks, LOMAA, and Théâtre Catapulte. Visit Dasha online at [www.princessdasha.com](http://www.princessdasha.com).

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DANIELLE

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# MEET THE ARTISTS



**Brian Drader** (he/him)

*Dramaturg*

Brian Drader's plays have been produced in Canada, the United States, and Europe. Awards for his work include the prestigious Lambda Literary Award for Drama (USA), and nominations for the Governor General's Award and the McNally Robinson Book of the Year. He has supported hundreds of projects dramaturgically, from Fringe plays to Cirque du Soleil's MJ ONE to the revamp of the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa. He served as the Director of Playwriting at the National Theatre School of Canada in Montreal from 2004 to 2017 and is now the Executive Director of the Manitoba Association of Playwrights.



**Zara Larche** (she/her)

*Stage Manager*

Originally from Gatineau, Quebec, Zahra is a 2017 graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's Production Program. Recent Credits include, as Stage Manager: *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes* (RMT), *The Hockey Sweater* (Rainbow), *The Drawer Boy* (HVT), Resident SM for the 2017/2018 Seasons of the Gros Morne Theatre Festival. As ASM: *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Segal/RMTC), *The Sound of Music* (Citadel/RMTC), *Volare* (PTE), *Into the Woods* (RMT), *Network* (Citadel/RMTC), *Calpurnia* (NAC/RMTC). Endless gratitude to Wayne, Sean, Elana, Brenda, Steve, Deb and Cari. Love to my family from Gatineau to Tasmania, Jenna, Ilana, and *The Outside Inn* team!



**Katie Schmidt** (she/her)

*Assistant Stage Manager*

Katie is glad to be back at PTE for the end of the season! Previous credits at PTE include *Space Girl* (ASM), *Bad Parent* (ASM), *VOICE* (ASM), and *Ghost Light* (ASM). Recent credits elsewhere include: *The Lehman Trilogy & The Sound of Music* (ASM) at Royal MTC; *Snow White* (Stage Manager) at Manitoba Theatre for Young People; *The Magic Flute* (Stage Manager) with The Little Opera Company; *The Prom* (Stage Manager) with Dry Cold Productions. Love and many thanks to Mom, Dad, Raya, and Felix.

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Ms. Tracey R. Loewen  
Pat & Brian MacDonald  
Ruth Magnuson  
Dr. Shelley Mahoney  
Barbara Main  
Malaya Marcelino  
Pamela A. McKechnie  
Katherine McLennan  
Linda Meckling  
Bob & Penny Miller  
Lynette Miller  
Jane Moses  
Valerie Nielsen  
Claudette Novak & Tom Anniko  
Mark & Rita O'Rourke  
Linda Olson  
Chris Pearce  
Jo-Anne & Harvey Peltz  
Denby Perez  
Eric Plamondon  
Kelsey Purves  
Eleanor Raich  
Bill & Pat Reid  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan E. Rosin  
Joff Schmidt & Mary Agnes Welch  
Mrs. Janet Elizabeth Scarth  
Jon M. Seguire  
Lynn & Bill Shead  
Louise Sloane  
Val Snyder  
Fred & Britta Spiring  
Loretta Seinbart  
Karen Stach  
Chuck & Karen Surgeoner  
Mr. Eugene Szach

Neil Taylor  
Allie Turnock  
Ms. Elaine Walker  
Teresa & Les Wiens  
Jill Wilson  
Kevin & Anita Wolfe  
Julia Zacharias  
Anonymous gifts (4)

## **Associate Level – \$60-\$84**

Mrs. Kim Armitt  
Ms. Pat Atkinson  
Ms. Sharon Bajer  
Peggy Barker  
Monica Bernard  
Ms. Tanys Bjornson  
Mrs. Geri Breddam-Taylor  
Jackie & Steve Broda-Milian  
Mrs. Kathleen Buckoski  
Mr. George Buri  
Ms. Kerri Chase  
Ms. Jillian Chemerika  
Mr. Larry Chornoboy  
Mr. Douglas Coburn  
Brenda & Edward Cotton  
Ms. Eveline Cruise  
Miss Laurel Cumming  
T. Dercola  
Mrs. Christine Freeman  
Ghislaine Giroux  
& Ken Decruyenaere  
Ms. Colleen Hailley  
Doug & Sylvia Hannah  
Ms. Diane Henkel  
Mrs. Odette Heyn  
Shirley & Michael Hill  
Mrs. Carol Hodges  
Ms. Beverley Holmes  
Mr. Robert Hornford  
Ian & Carol Hughes  
Ms. Nadia Iancu  
Ms. Elizabeth Jeffrey  
Mr. Henrii Joling  
Kris Kamenz  
Mr. Paul Kesson  
Allison Koots  
Carolyn J. Langtry

Bob Ludwick  
Mrs. Barb Markham  
William & Deanna McDonald  
Ms. Catherine McKay  
Mr. & Dr. Ian & Marlene McKay  
Ruth Morrison  
Dr. Cathy Moser  
Ms. Georgette Nairn  
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Perrin  
Martina Carmen Piehl  
Ms. Cathy Phillipson  
Susanna Portnoy  
& John Bluethner  
Beth Proven  
Ms. Charmayne Rietze  
Ms. Kelley Ritchie  
Ms. Candace Rudy  
Karn Sandy  
Ms. Linda Shum  
Mrs. Caitlin Spencer  
Karen Stach  
Mrs. Gina Sunderland  
Colleen Sveinson Geary  
Dr. James Tam  
Mrs. Danielle Tetrault  
Ms. Marjorie K. Turton  
Carol & Hugo Unrah  
Allan & Mavis Whicker  
Trina White  
Anonymous gifts (5)

## **Member Level – \$30-\$59**

Karin Archibald & Marcel Carignan  
Mr. Steve Ash-Hamon  
Ms. Cindy Bass  
Mr. Peter Baumstark  
Mrs. Marilyn Adele Begg  
Ms. Diane Bewell  
Dolores Bischoff  
Margaret Brook  
Ms. Jane Burpee  
L. K. Butler  
Ms. Anita Cauldwell  
Mr. Mike Chapin  
Ms. Catherine Clement  
David & Kathleen Connor  
Ann Connors

# ONGOING SUPPORT

Roger & Cathy Coss  
Bob & Anna Coulter  
Resby & Kathryn Coutts  
Dr. Susan Cuvelier  
Alison Darling  
Ms. Lynn K. Davidson-Young  
Irene de Graaf  
L. Donatelli  
Thomas HJ Donnelly  
Milly & Dave Dyck  
Mrs. Lois Edwards  
Ms. Carolyne Epp-Fransen  
Ms. Naomi Gerrard  
Ms. Bonnie Greschuk  
Mrs. Elizabeth Higgins  
Ann Hodges  
Valerie Holden-Rushworth  
Ms. Joan Hook  
Ms. Katie Inverarity  
Mr. Lars Jansson  
Dolores Jardine  
Paul & Joelle Johnson  
Wayne & Donald Johnson  
Arديث Johnston  
Ms. Joanne Johnston  
Pam & James Johnston  
Ms. Doreen Kerr  
Fred Kasil & Dixie Mitchell  
Lindsey Koepke  
Ms. Cathy A. Kozak  
Ms. Holly Kraft  
Ms. Anne M. La Tour  
Ms. Michelle Lagassé  
Marion Lewis  
A. Paige Lewis  
Kevin Longfield  
Ms. Sharon R. Love  
Allison MacHutchon  
Ms. Florida Martel  
Ms. Suzie Martin  
Mrs. Margret Morrison  
Carter Trim & Brenda Myall  
Ms. Melissa Novecosky  
Ms. Lorraine Elizabeth O'Leary

Andrea Paci  
Ms. Claire Pankiw  
Elizabeth Pate & Ross Kilfoyle  
Denise F. Penley  
Arlette Penner  
Mrs. Debra Peppler  
Mr. Allen Hart Pitch  
M. Plett-Lyle  
Roberta K. Rackel  
Mrs. Catherine Robert  
Mrs. Roslyn Roberts  
Ms. Betty Rogers  
Carol Runions  
Mr. Robert Sales  
Janet Scarth  
Laurel Schellenberg  
Walt Schoenhausen  
Claudia Schmidt  
Ms. Ruth Shead  
Miss Nicole Shimonek  
Terry & Sharon Silcox  
Harry A. Skene  
Ms. Inga Skundberg  
Muriel Smith  
Cathy Sokolowski  
Wilma A. Sotas  
Mr. Robert W. Stalker  
Ms. Eleanor Steeg  
Kevin & Gladys Stewart  
Chris & Linda Sunde  
Mrs. Sheila L. Tarte  
Veronica Ternopolski  
Grace Tokle  
Donna & Wayne Tremblay  
Mr. Chris Trimble  
Mrs. Roberta Tuner  
Amy Unger  
Mrs. Yvonne A. Viklund  
Gloria & Doug Waldron  
Christa Walkden  
Dr. Lori Wallace  
Veralyn Warkentin  
Ms. Alissa Watson  
Ms. Emma Welham

Ms. Susan Wellman  
Ms. Stephanie Wiens  
Mrs. Antoinette Wildman  
Ms. Susan P. Wiste  
G. Wood  
Ms. Kim Zeglinski  
Anonymous gifts (9)

## **Donor Level – up to \$29**

Ingrid Bolbecher  
Ms. Briar Boyko  
Peter Buehler  
Canadian Play Supporter  
Rod Chongva  
Jan Currie  
Robert & Gail Derby  
Jo Dixon  
Ron & Denise George  
A.J. Gorospe  
Sue A. Haralson  
Ms. Sharon Harman  
Mrs. Arlene Hints  
Brett Howden  
Sheila Jonasson  
Jessica Johnston  
Alison Kennedy  
Susan Knight  
Mr. Siegfried Laser  
Susan Loewen  
Evan & Dustin Maydaniuk  
Eleanore McMahon  
Cairn A. Moore  
Mr. Sean Richens  
Dolores Rintoul  
Ms. Heather Russell-Smith  
Ms. Elspeth Sangster  
Mr. Colin Simm  
Louise Smith  
Murray W. Vint  
Ms. Leslie Watson  
Janis Weirbicki  
Joyce Zink  
Anonymous gifts (7)

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