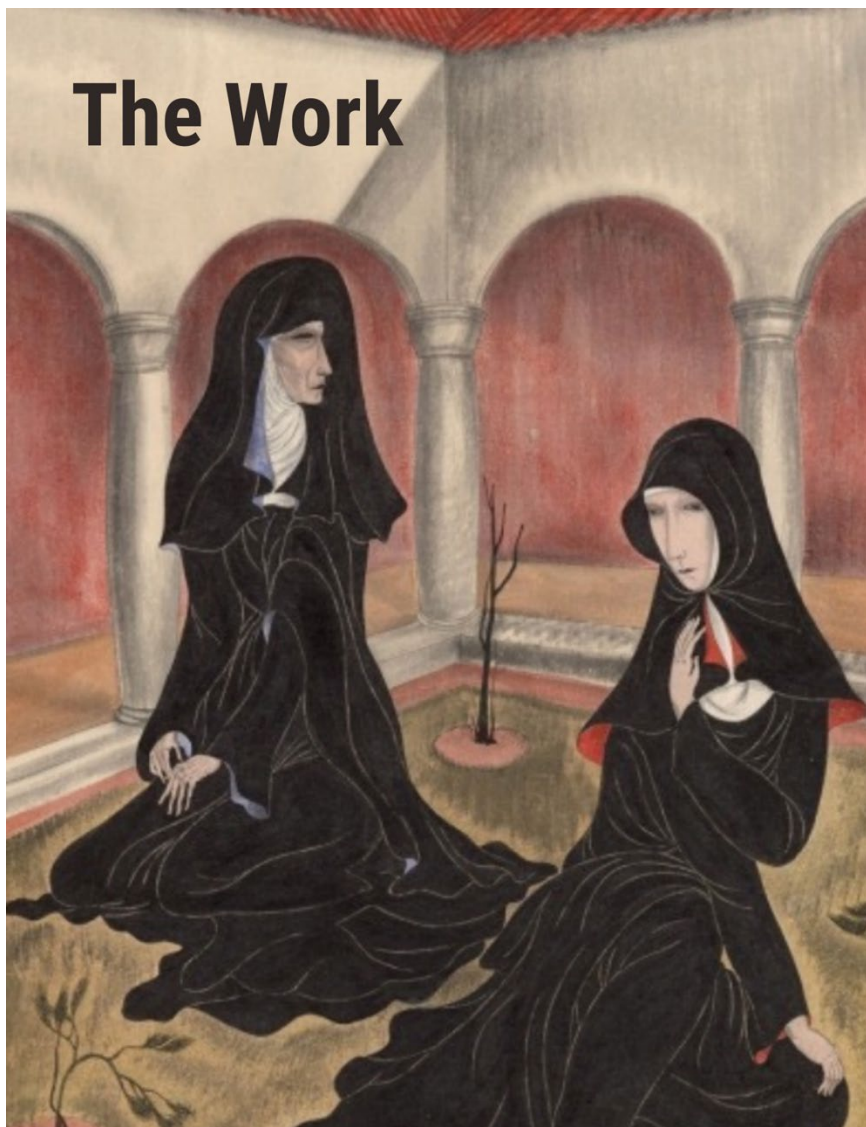


THE ALUMNI SHOW INCUBATOR PROJECT PROGRAM

The Work



The Work

Artistic Team

William Dao - Director and Editor

Brad Gira - Writer and Associate Director

Margaret Rose - Director and Producer

Frosina Pejcinovska - Writer

Stephanie Zeit - Writer

Abby Esteireiro - Costumer

Jamie Macnaughton - Sound Designer and Guitar Player

Cast

Taranjot Bamrah - Rosa

Frosina Pejcinovska - Mayol

Joanne Perez - Mira

Stephanie Zeit - Joy

Dmitry Chepovetsky - The Monk and The Wolf

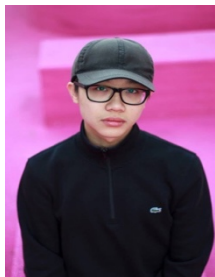
Synopsis

France, in the Middle Ages. An elite group of monks invite all the nuns in the country to live in their prestigious monastery during the men's sudden hiatus. Only four disparate and desperate women manage to answer the letter's call. Problems arise when the monastery was not what was promised: the soil is dry, the building is in shambles, a wolf stalks the premises at night, and there are far too few of them. Everything starts to seem like a scam. The women's faith and friendships are tested more and more by increasingly mysterious events. They disagree about what is happening and the basic facts of their life.

This digital exposé of *The Work* will introduce you to our group of young women and their isolated world. As a compilation of scenes and artefacts of a larger story, this video project is a

relic of the developing play and popcorn entertainment in its own right.

Biographies



William Dao is a director and actor based in Toronto. Most recently, William has directed *The Boy Who Cried* written by Brad Gira at the U of T Drama Festival. *The Boy Who Cried* garnered many awards and marks the third time that William and company have won the President's Award for Best Production (*Lone Island Lovers* in 2019 and *The Rhythm Method* in 2018, both written by Mick Robertson). William has also

won the Robert Gill Award for Best Direction twice, both for his work on *The Boy Who Cried* and *Lone Island Lovers*, adjudicated by Aaron Jan and Autumn Smith respectively. At the CDTPS, William has directed *Eurydice* by Sarah Ruhl for the Directors' Showcase and performed in the Mainstage production, *House on Fire* directed by Martha Ross. He was an assistant director for last year's Mainstage production, *The Winter's Tale*. He spent the summer as an intern for GhostLight as an assistant creative director and teaching assistant. Next, he will be a dramaturg and associate director for a workshop of Martin Julien's new play, *The Man That Got Away: A Special Appearance* directed by Peter Hinton.



Brad Gira is a writer, director, and set designer. He recently graduated from the University of Toronto, where he studied History, Drama, and Semiotics. This year, Brad wrote a play called *The Boy Who Cried*. The play won Best Playwriting and Best Production at the 2020 UofT Drama Festival. He is currently writing a novel.



Margaret Rose is a Toronto-based actor and theatre maker who graduated from the University of Toronto with a double major in Drama, Theatre and Performance and Equity Studies. During her time as an actor she performed in Martha Ross's main stage devised production *House on Fire* and in the U of T Directors' Showcase as Eurydice in *Eurydice* and Sarah in *East of Berlin*. She also assistant directed Graham Abbey's U of T main stage production of *The Winter's Tale*. She made her film debut in *Notes on A Performance* directed

by Jennifer Law-Smith. In addition to acting, she made her directorial debut in a collaborative video piece titled *Milk* which premiered at the Digital Fringe 2020, as well as co-producing and curating the multidisciplinary art exhibit *Honeymoon: An Arts Spree!* in 2019. She spent the summer interning with Graham Abbey and Dylan Trowbridge's digital theatre company GhostLight as assistant creative director and teaching assistant.



Taranjot Bamrah is a recent graduate of Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies and Women and Gender Studies at the University of Toronto. Taranjot has previously been a part of the CDTPS's *The Winter's Tale* and *Tales of a City by the Sea*, and the award-winning U of T Drama Festival shows *Boy Who Cried*, *Trust Nobody: A Comedy* and *The*

Rhythm Method. She just completed a short film with the AMY project titled *Undertow*, which premiered at the 2020 Summerworks Festival. Besides Performing, Taranjot was also a writer in AMY Project's *The Breath Between* and assistant directed *Tales of a City by the Sea* at Theatre Passe Muraille. Taranjot continually aspires to showcase riveting and necessary stories which challenge social norms and ideologies. You can keep up

with all her adventures on IG @itstarann.



Frosina Pejcinovska is a Toronto-based actor. Frosina graduated from the University of Toronto majoring in both English and Drama, with a minor in Media Studies. Her acting credits include: *House on Fire* (CDTPS); *Alien Creature* (CDTPS); *The Rhythm Method* (Piss & Vinegar). She won Best Performance at the U of T Drama Coalition Awards for her performance as Ms. Oddi in *All Our Happy*

Days Are Stupid (SMC Troubadours) and the Donald Sutherland Award for Best Performance at the 2019 U of T Drama Festival for her work as Lady in *Lone Island Lovers* (SMC Troubadours). Most recently, she appeared as Lady in *Milk* (Piss & Vinegar), a visual monologue, produced for the 2020 Toronto Fringe Festival. She is currently finishing her Master's of Teaching at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education where she is learning how art and technology can be incorporated into education in a productive manner that works for the children born in a digital age.



Joanne Perez recently graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in Drama. Recent credits include *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Victoria College Drama Society) and *Uncle Falling* as part of last year's CDTPS's Directors' Showcase.



Stephanie Zeit is a Toronto actor and recent graduate from the CDTPS. She has since been working with GhostLight theatre education, assisting Sadie Berlin and Maev Beaty. Recently, she played Hermione in *The Winter's Tale*, Orpheus in *Eurydice*, and Peter in *Peter Fechter: 59 Minutes*. Stephanie is currently playing Roland in an online production of *Constellations*. She will also be acting in the short film *Privileged* with the Toronto Film School. Stephanie received the award for Best Performance in a play for her performance

in *Peter Fechter: 59 Minutes*.

Special thanks to Clea Christakos-Gee, Leigh Fisk, Magg Ruffman and Daniel Hunter.

shiva
becca willow moss

Company

Becca Willow Moss – Director & Performer

Sarah DaCunha – Accompanist

Isaac Lloyd - Dramaturg

Andrew Leeke – Master of Technology

Becca's Mom (due to COVID) – Production Assistant

Synopsis

Becca Willow Moss is a Jewish actor, singer, writer and visual artist based in Toronto. In this piece, she explores the performativity of mourning in the context of her Jewish upbringing. Through mishigas*, Mourner's Kaddish, mortality, and music, Shiva is inspired by Becca Willow's one-woman show: Fried Onions.

*craziness



Becca Willow Moss

Becca is an advocate for using artistic outlets to express the emotional landscape contained within the body. As a singer, actor, writer, director and photographer, she employs all art forms to communicate with others. Maintaining her mandate to tell honest stories, Becca Willow hopes her personal experiences will resonate with others.

BROS / LES GARS

By Art Babayants



Արտ Բաբայանց

ԲՐՈՍ / ԼԵՍ ԳԱՐՍ

Artistic Team

Art Babayants – Playwright and Director
Myrto Koumarianos – Dramaturg
Tsz Ting Lam – Stage Manager
Videography by Jacky Tran

Cast

Augusta Monet
Nikolai Afanasev
Riaz Mahmood
Dante Camarda

Biographies



Art Babayants/ Արտ Բաբայանց

Art is a Canadian-Armenian theatre artist who has worked with professional, semi-professional and amateur theatre makers in Russia, Malta, Latvia, Bulgaria, the UK, the USA, and Canada. He founded his first theatre company in 2004 and almost reluctantly started a directing career, which

eventually comprised musicals such as *Share and Share Alike* (2007), *Seussical. The Musical* (2009), *Gypsy* (2011), *Godspell* (2014), and *Spring Awakening* (2019), contemporary Canadian drama *Couldn't We Be* (2008) and *The...Musician: An Etude* (2012 and 2014), devised performances (*In Sundry Languages*, 2015-2019) and opera (*The Diary of One Who Disappeared* by Leoš Janáček). Even though he would never admit it, he actually quite enjoys being a performer too. He spent 2010 and 2011 being part of a marginally insane collective The DitchWitch Brigade and ended up performing the male lead in the second and third reincarnations on the multimedia hilarity called *in 2010 – Miss Toronto Gets a Life in Parkdale* and *in 2011 – Miss Toronto Acts Back*, directed by Antje Budde and produced by a leader of Canada's indie stage – Pandemic Theatre.

In 2012, he started another independent theatre company, The Toronto Laboratory Theatre. In 2013, drawing from his vast acting and teaching experience Art created a unique course - *Embodied English* – now a sought-after pronunciation and communication course for advanced learners of English living, studying or working in Canada. Art's performance-installation VIVISECTION (in collaboration with Marina Black, Paul J. Stoesser and Dmitry Zhukovsky) was featured at Toronto's Nuit Blanche 2015. His best-known work, a devised collaborative multilingual production *In Sundry Languages* was presented at Toronto Fringe (2017) and Caminos (2017) and called by NOW “a compelling critique of Canadian inclusiveness.” In 2019, thanks to the support of the Toronto Art Council, Ontario Art Council and Canada Council for the Arts, the show enjoyed a tour of GTA and Ottawa. The script of *In Sundry Languages* was published by Playwrights Canada in 2019 and by the *Canadian Theatre Review* (April 2019).



Myrto Koumarianos

Myrto is a Greek-Canadian theatre artist and scholar living in Toronto. As a doctoral candidate at the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies and at the Women and Gender Studies Institute at the University of Toronto, Myrto is crafting an auto/ethnographic account of her embodied research with the internationally composed Open Program of the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards in Italy, the US, and Brazil. Her work explores the potential for performance to be experienced as a kind of prayer and has been supported by a number of awards, including a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship, a SSHRC Connection Grant, and two JHI Program for the Arts grants. In her local theatre work, Myrto has collaborated in various performance projects and in various capacities with Ars Mechanica, the Ditch Witch Brigade, the Digital Dramaturgy Lab, the Toronto Theatre Laboratory, and others. In 2018, she designed and taught a course entitled, Grotowski Intersections: Theory and Practice of the Actor's Craft at the University of Toronto. Through the ongoing pandemic, Myrto is maintaining a singing practice with a small group of women (in her 'bubble') in Toronto and is heading up the

initial online stages of an international project in women's traditional mourning practice.

In response to the devastating war in Artsakh / Nagorno-Karabagh, which started on Sep 27, 2020, we encourage our public to donate money to ArmeniaFund. After only 44 days of the war, the Artsakh population was turned into refugees and its major cities were destroyed. Proceeds from ArmeniaFund's fundraising activities support humanitarian, civilian and medical relief response efforts.

Established in 1994 in Los Angeles, California, Armenia Fund, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-governmental, non-political corporation that has implemented over \$120 million of infrastructure development assistance and humanitarian aid worldwide.

<https://www.armeniasfund.org/>

Alumni Incubator Project: Moderator Biographies

Antje Budde 安琪。布德



Antje Budde is a conceptual, queer-feminist, interdisciplinary experimental scholar-artist and an Associate Professor of Theatre Sciences, Cultural Communication and Modern Chinese Studies at the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies, University of

Toronto. Antje has created multi-disciplinary artistic works in Germany, China and Canada and works tri-lingually in German, English and Mandarin.

She is the founder of a number of queerly feminist performing art projects including most recently the (DDL)² or (Digital Dramaturgy Lab)Squared - a platform for experimental explorations of digital culture, creative labour, integration of arts and science, and technology in performance.

Most recent projects:

Oct.8 Rattling the Curve <https://www.ddlsquared.rocks/2020-rattling-riga>

Trailer <https://vimeo.com/user5601852>

Oct.27 With ArtSci Salon and Sensorium Lab: Kaleidoscopic Imaginations <https://artscisalon.com/kaleidoscope/>

Trailer <https://vimeo.com/user5601852>

Yizhou Zhang 张伊舟



Yizhou Zhang is a theatre artist and PhD student at the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Toronto. Informed by her background in Comparative Literature and Classical Studies, Yizhou likes to study theatre against literature and philosophy. Yizhou has created performances in London, Beijing and Toronto as a writer,

dramaturge, director, and production designer. Through theatre, Yizhou talks back to the "masters" and "masterpieces." Her current project experiments with Brechtian techniques as a solution to censorship and problems in intercultural theatre.

Recent works:

TTD: a new adaptation of The Tin Drum (postponed to 2021)

War Eagle: the sexual fantasies of a Schizophreniac as retold by a Middle-Class College Girl at the police station on New Year's Eve (2019)

《马拉/萨德》 *Marat/Sade* (2018, Chinese premiere)

Dan Petrenko



Dan Petrenko is an MA student at the Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies. He is a Toronto-based director, playwright, producer, and educator. Since 2015, Dan has been leading JDY Theatre as its founding Artistic Director. There, he staged some of his original work, including an award-

winning drama *Train for Two* (based on his family's true story in the Holocaust), which toured North America, as well as *The Old House*, a musical-comedy that follows Dan's family heritage to the 1970s Soviet Union. More recently, Dan began his role as executive director at Olive Branch Theatre, a non-profit company dedicated to providing opportunities for new-generation artists. Dan also teaches public-speaking and theatre courses at UMCA — a high-school in Vaughan. His research interests lie in Jewish theatre, Soviet literature, as well as the intersection between politics, economics, and performance. He is a recent graduate of the University of Toronto, holding an honours bachelor in theatre and international relations.

George Bwanika Seremba



George Bwanika Seremba, actor, playwright and scholar. He was born in Uganda. George holds an M. Phil, and a PhD in Theatre Studies from Trinity College, Dublin. In 1980, having barely survived a botched execution by the Military Intelligence, he fled into exile, resettling in Canada (1983). He has performed in numerous plays including his own, *Come Good Rain*, which was awarded a Dora Award (1993). In addition, he published a number of edited play collections including *Beyond the pale: dramatic writing from First Nations writers & writers of colour* co-edited by Yvette Nolan, Betty Quan, George Bwanika Seremba. (1996).

George was nominated for the Irish Times' Best Actor award in Dublin's Calypso Theatre's for his role in Athol Fugard's *Master Harold and the Boys*. In addition to theatre, he performed in several movies and on television. His doctoral thesis (2008) entitled "Robert Serumaga and the Golden Age of Uganda's Theatre (1968-1978): (Solipsism, Activism, Innovation)" will be published as a monograph by CSP (UK) in 2021.



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