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# constellations

written by nick payne  
directed by abby esteireiro

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Centre for Drama, Theatre & Performance Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

# Constellations

## **CAST**

Marianne - Lauryn Sherwood

Roland - Stephanie Zeit

## **ARTISTIC TEAM**

Director – Abby Esteireiro

Stage Manager – Lauren Lacey

Set Design - Angelli McGuigan

Set Assistants - Lauryn Sherwood and Stephanie Zeit

Costume Design - Abigail Lewis

Costume Assistants - Lauryn Sherwood and Stephanie Zeit

Make-up Design - Lauryn Sherwood and Stephanie Zeit

Lighting Design - Lauren Lacey and Angelli McGuigan

Lighting Assistants - Lauryn Sherwood and Stephanie Zeit

Sound Assistants - Lauren Lacey and William Dao

Composers - Dante Camarda and Jonathan Labao

Production Design - Abby Esteireiro

Editor – Abby Esteireiro

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Directing Instructor - Banuta Rubess

Design Instructors - Janice Fraser and Snezana Pesic

Manager, Theatre Operations - Ariel Martin-Smith

Technical Director - Andrew Leeke

Production Manager - Janice Fraser

Communications & Events Officer - Tara Maher

## Director's Note

Dear reader, fellow student or passerby,

I thought it would be nice for us to talk, just us two. How have you been doing? I won't say that I completely understand what your life is like right now, we're different people, but I can gather to some extent that a lot of us are just trying to keep things together the best we can.

Can I be honest with you? I don't want to pretend like I'm not worrying about the future or thinking about my friends and family who are out of work or those who are teaching in schools. I won't pretend there weren't times where I struggled to find motivation and think positively. I won't pretend I am not burnt out. I am. I slipped into isolating myself from friends and colleagues. I got frustrated with myself because I'm not able to work with the same creativity and productivity as I do in person.

I say this because there must be people reading this who can relate to feeling a bit like a cog in a machine lately. Living each day from deadline to deadline, living each day like we could be replaced if we wear out. I want to tell you that you are not alone. You are connected to a community of people right there with you, who are also feeling left behind, exhausted, scared.

I am grateful for the community of people around me who have made this project possible. The actors, Stephanie and Lauryn, who were also our camera operators, lighting operators, costume and set assistants, and make-up designers. The crew, Lauren, Abby, and Angelli, for your patience with me, taking sudden changes and enduring the chaos of dropping off and picking up. Finally, thank you to my brilliant friends, Will, Hadiyyah, Miranda, Grace, Dante, my lovely counterpart Sabrina, and my mom who have kept me on track.

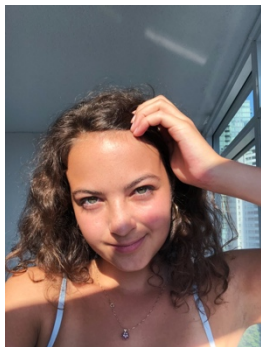
*Constellations* is about how the possibility of connection exists in every single universe. Connection is possible across any worldly concepts of time or space, life or death. I live in a delicately woven web of connections to others, to the people that have come before me and will come after me, one that defies any rational laws or understandings. Dear reader, I hope that I can try to hold these

precious strings closer to me when I start to feel like a little cog in this machine.

Thank you for reading this letter and for watching the show. I know this is much easier said than done but be kind to yourself. You're doing your best.

Sincerely,  
Abby

## Cast Biographies



### Lauryn Sherwood – Marianne

Lauryn Sherwood is enjoying her third year of theatre training at the University of Toronto, under the tutelage of Stratford Festival star Graham Abbey and award-winning actor Dylan Trowbridge, alongside her study of philosophy. Her most prominent roles include Estelle in *No Exit*, Polly in *Threepenny Opera*, and Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Fluent in both English

and French, Lauryn has several years of mime, mask and clown training from the successors of the great Marcel Marceau. Lauryn also has over eight years of classical voice training from Singapore's Khor Ai Ming, which allowed her to play Liesl in *The Sound of Music* and Papagena in *The Magic Flute*. Lauryn's passion for performance stems from her several years of professional work as a child actor at the York Theatre Royal in the United Kingdom. Dedicated to cinematography, Lauryn is also an avid film-watcher and photographer. She would like to thank her parents and sister for always encouraging her to dream big. Lauryn is very excited to be playing both the roles of Titania and Hippolyta in the upcoming mainstage performance of *Digital Dream* at the University of Toronto.



### **Stephanie Zeit – Roland**

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 *Euridyce*, Peter in *Peter Fechter: 59 Minutes* and has been moving into screen acting in a Toronto Film School short called *Privileged*. Stephanie was

also on the writing and acting team for *The Work*, a digital theatre project in incubation, which was featured at the CDTPS's Alumni Performance Incubator Event. Stephanie received the 2019–2020 Drama Coalition Award for Best Performance in a Play for her performance in *Peter Fechter: 59 Minutes*.

## **Artistic Team Biographies**



### **Abby Esteireiro – Director**

Abby Esteireiro is a theatre maker and designer in her fourth and final year at the CDTPS. Recently, she has directed *The Madness of the Square* which received the 2019–2020 U of T Drama Coalition Award for Best Direction. She designed for productions of *Eurydice*

(CDTPS 2019), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (VCDS 2020), and *All Our Happy Days Are Stupid* (SMCT 2019). Her design work was showcased as a part of the Canadian student exhibition at the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space in 2019. In the new year she will be co-directing a short digital play, *Porcelain Tigers*, by Carline Hsieh, an intergenerational Chinese-Canadian story of familial and queer love, conflict, and food.

Check out her website for more: [abbyeste.wixsite.com/portfolio](http://abbyeste.wixsite.com/portfolio)



### **Lauren Lacey – Stage Manager**

Lauren is a recent graduate of the University of Toronto, who specializes in both playwriting and theatre production. Her selected theatre credits include stage manager for

*Eurydice* (CDTPS 2019), projection design for *Cordelia* (U of T Drama Fest 2019) - winner of the IATSE Award for Technical Achievement, lighting/projection designer for *You Are More Beautiful Than Istanbul* (CDTPS 2018), and lighting design for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (VCDS 2018). Her play *Cordelia* was shortlisted for the Robert Beardsley Award by the Playwrights Guild of Canada.



### **Abigail Lewis – Costume Design**

Abigail is a third-year student studying drama, specializing in design and performance, and French literature. Her previous design theatre credits include: assistant costume designer for *The Winter's Tale* (CDTPS), costume designer for *Tropical*

*Depression* (TCDS), wardrobe running crew for *Heathers* (Hart House), *Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Hart House), and *Oh, What a Lovely War* (Hart House). She is also the costume designer for *The Shape of a Girl* (CDTPS).



### **Angelli McGuigan – Set & Lighting Design**

Angelli is in her third year studying classical civilization and drama, and drama, theatre & performance studies, specializing in design directing. She is currently the Equity Director for the Victoria College Drama Society. Selected theatre credits include costume and set

design for *The Winter's Tale* (CDTPS Mainstage 2020), and stage manager for *One Slow Summer* and *Theory of Relativity* (SMC Troubadours 2020–2021).

**Special Thanks To:**

Lauryn's roommates, the Zeit family, William Dao, Brad Gira, Marcus Matyas, Linda Phillips, Siobhan Richardson, Ted Overton, & Sabrina Weinstein



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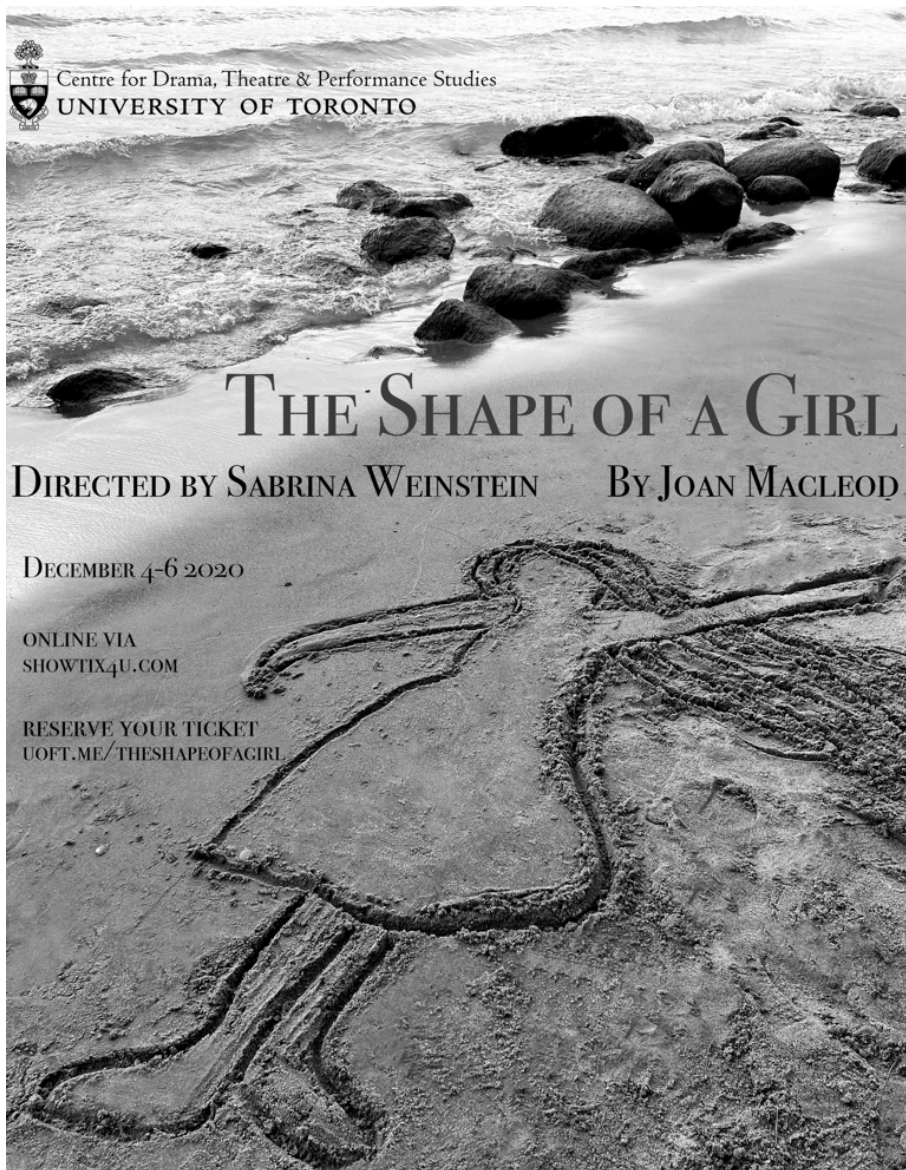
# THE SHAPE OF A GIRL

DIRECTED BY SABRINA WEINSTEIN      BY JOAN MACLEOD

DECEMBER 4-6 2020

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# **The Shape of a Girl**

## **CAST**

Braidie – Hannah Spracklin

The Voice of Sophie – Lagan Maheshwari

The Voice of Adrienne – Mei Cheng

The Voice of Amber – Brynn Bonne

## **ARTISTIC TEAM**

Director, Cinematographer, Co-Editor – Sabrina Weinstein

Stage Manager – Oriana Di Nucci

Lighting Design, Co-Sound Design & Co-Editor – Rida Ahmad

Set Design, Co-Sound Design, Co-Editor – Alison Starkey

Costume Design – Abigail Lewis

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Directing Instructor - Banuta Rubess

Design Instructors - Janice Fraser and Snezana Pesic

Manager, Theatre Operations - Ariel Martin-Smith

Technical Director - Andrew Leeke

Production Manager - Janice Fraser

Communications & Events Officer - Tara Maher

## Director's Note

“Do something, say something, anything, fight.” – Braidie, *The Shape of a Girl*.

These words have been echoing through my head for the past seven months that I have been working with this script, and their reverberations have brought forth the show you are about to watch. *The Shape of a Girl* is truly a script that fell into my lap in the right place at the right time. In a summer filled with turbulence — a global pandemic, a civil rights movement and outrage at the powers that be — this script held me in an equilibrium of self-reflection. Whether we sit back and watch in horror or stand up and fight is a choice we all must make, and that fight is at the core of *The Shape of a Girl*.

Specifically, with this production I aimed to explore time and memory as a means to accountability. How do we reshape our biases and recollections to hold ourselves accountable to times when we were ignorant? How can we reframe the narrative to see truth in our pasts? And how do we find the courage to stop sitting idly and stand up for lasting change in our communities?

I'd like to thank everyone who has made the creation of this production possible. Seven months ago, I never would have thought I would have directed, shot and edited my first feature length film in the midst of a global pandemic. But I could not be more grateful for the experience. Through the ups and the downs, the creation of this show has been an adventure I will forever cherish. To my entire creative team — who froze with me out on a beach in Pickering in the cold November mornings — I couldn't have picked a more talented and wonderful group of human beings. To my voice cast — some of whom I've never met in person — thank you for lending your voices and your stories. To Hannah, my star, thank you for your dedication, your grit and your light. And to the entire staff at the CDTPS, thank you for supporting me along this entire, extremely unconventional journey.

Finally, I would like to dedicate this show in the memory of Reena Virk, for whom this show is written, and Keshav Mayya, a first-year student at U of T who recently took his life. Theatre has always acted as a site for community healing and I hope that the University of Toronto community can come together to heal, and to demand better from the powers that be — to improve mental health services on campus, to revamp health and wellness and accessibility services and to support students in times of need. And to you, if you are still reading this, you are loved. Check in with your friends today and let them know how loved they are too. It might just make their day.

Sabrina Weinstein

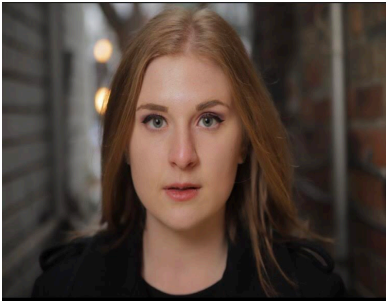
# Cast Biographies



## **HANNAH SPRACKLIN – Braidie**

Hannah has absolutely loved playing Braidie in this show and is so grateful to Sabrina for giving her this opportunity to work with her to tell this important story. Hannah is a fourth-year student at the University of Toronto studying a double major in drama, theatre and performance studies, and the philosophy of religion.

Over her past three years at U of T, she has been involved in campus theatre both on and off of the stage. She has held positions including a lead role in one of Drama Fest's productions last year (*Lady Margaret*), ensemble roles, stage manager, assistant stage manager, lighting operator, sound operator, video operator, and prop master. Hannah is looking forward to seeing where theatre takes her in the future.



## **BRYNN BONNE – The Voice of Amber**

Brynn is in her second year in the UTM/Sheridan Theatre & Drama Studies Program. Select performance credits include *Puffs* (The LOT), *Piu: A Concertino* (UTM Beck Theatre Creation

Festival), *Mamma Mia* (SMT), and the upcoming *Sunday Night at Jane's* (TCDS). She was very lucky to get to participate in the process of this wonderful play with some of her favourite people.



## MEI CHENG – The Voice of Adrienne

Formerly performer of the Internet persona Post-Modernist Musings, *pomo.muse*, a finsta project that churned out pastiche posts with a sardonic twist. For better or worse, she no longer occupies the public cyberspace in such a fashion, preoccupied instead with the mechanized rhythms — *\*ZOOM!\** — of her fun academic work weeks. A student of acting, she is trying to adapt her

practice to indefinitely digitized theatres, not without its [anti-] climactic moments. For the time being, she is in pursuit of majors in drama and LCT: literature and critical theory, but flirts occasionally with social anthropology and East Asian studies. Somewhere amid the rubble of her mind, there remains a long-time intrigue with various peoples and perspectives, especially toward the aesthetics, politics and their intermingling, of all the characters across time codified in her physicality: historical, diasporic, [inter]cultural imaginary, in all conflicting complexities.

Recent Stage Work: *The Madness of the Square* (UC Follies), *The Breath Between* (The AMY Project), and *TTD*, (CDTPS, forthcoming). On-screen shorts: *Nowhere Girl* (Zaita Media), *Brick Walls* (Ryerson U), *Triggered* (Centennial), *Ignominy* (EHSS), and *Secured in the Dark* (Festschrift Films, forthcoming).



## **LAGAN MAHESHWARI – The Voice of Sophie**

Lagan Maheshwari is a fourth-year student in the performance stream at the Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies. Her recent credits include Dorothy in *How to Care for Lavender in Winter* (U of T

Scarborough Drama Society, 2020), Peter in *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Victoria College Drama Society, 2020), and Chorus in *Uncle Falling* (CDTPS Directors' Showcase 2019). She will also be directing her first show at U of T with the St. Michael's College Troubadours in March 2021. She hopes you enjoy watching (and hearing her in) this show!

## **Artistic Team Biographies**



## **Sabrina Weinstein – Director, Cinematographer & Co-Editor**

Sabrina Weinstein is a fourth-year student specializing in drama theatre and performance studies — with a focus in directing and performance — and minoring in philosophy. She has been acting as the Executive Producer of the UC Follies Theatre Company for the past two years and this year is taking on the additional torch of President of the Society for Undergraduate Drama Students. Recent

credits include producing *The Longest Night*, *The Madness of the Square*, and *Peter Fechter: 59 Minutes* for the UC Follies Theatre Company, as well as performing in *Andy, Steve, and the Great Debate of 2020* (SMC Troubadours), *Agamemnon* (TCDS), and the currently postponed *Falsettos* (TCDS). In the world of film, she held an internship in 2019 at Lewis Kay Casting, where she learned the ropes of casting for TV and Film, and recently PA'd on

a music video shoot for the up-and-coming Toronto band *Killer Virgins*. Sabrina is so humbled to be given the opportunity to direct this show, which has grown incredibly dear to her, and to create art in the midst of a global pandemic with such an incredible team.



### **Rida Ahmad – Lighting Design, Co-Sound Designer, Co-Editor**

Rida Ahmad is a fifth-year student pursuing a double major in drama, theatre and performance studies, and fundamental genetics at the University of Toronto. In the past she has worked as an assistant lighting designer for *The Winter's Tale* (2020), assistant stage manager for *Eurydice* (2019) and *Little One* (2018), as a stage manager for *Statistics* (2019) and *Our Town* (2016), and as a lighting designer for *Love's Labour's Lost* (2017). She loves spending her time watching theatre around the city and learning new ways to do theatre digitally! With her passion for creative technology in theatre, she aspires to expand her skill set and one day use that to aid her in becoming a director. Rida would like to thank everyone on *The Shape of a Girl* team for such an amazing experience to end off her senior year!



### **Abigail Lewis – Costume Design**

Abigail is a third-year student studying drama, specializing in design and performance, and French literature. Her previous design theatre credits include: assistant costume designer for *The Winter's Tale* (CDTPS), costume designer for *Tropical Depression* (TCDS), wardrobe running crew for *Heathers* (Hart House), *Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Hart House), and *Oh, What a Lovely War* (Hart House). She is also the costume designer for *Constellations* (CDTPS). She sincerely hopes you enjoy the show!



### **Oriana Di Nucci – Stage Manager**

Oriana Di Nucci is a stage manager and director. She is an alumna of the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies (CDTPS) at the University

of Toronto. Previous stage management credits include: *All Our Happy Days are Stupid* (2019), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2018), *Sweet Girl Shrapnel* at the Toronto Fringe Festival (2018) and the CDTPS Mainstage production of *Scorched* (2018). She has also directed *Alien Creature* for the CDTPS's Directors' Showcase (2018) and was recently directing *Antigonick*, as well as a production for the Toronto Fringe 2020, which were unfortunately cancelled.



### **Alison Starkey – Set Design, Co-Sound Design, Co-Editor**

Alison Starkey is in their final year as a drama, theatre, and performance studies and art history double major (plus a minor in English). You can find them working on productions across campus as a sound designer, set designer, and as president of the U of T Drama Coalition. They give a

huge thanks to this team for being a constant and a joy to work with through this strange semester!



## Special Thanks To:

Soulpepper Theatre, Abby Esteireiro, The UC Follies, Marcus Matyas, Liam Donovan, Archie Burton Smith, Morgan Beck, Quinn Goranson, Laura Godin, Abby Palmer, the Weinstein Family, and the entirety of the CDTPS.

## CDTPS Instructors



### **Baņuta Rubess – Instructor, Advanced Directing**

Dr. Baņuta Rubess is a director and writer with a string of innovative productions to her credit for audiences in Europe and Canada. One of the first batch of women to win the Rhodes Scholarship, she has a doctorate in history from Oxford University. Most recently she received an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Guelph.

She created ground-breaking works for Nightwood Theatre, Theatre Direct, and Tapestry New Opera Works, and was Associate Artist at Theatre Passe Muraille. Significant productions include: *This is for you, Anna; Goodnight, Desdemona; Boom, Baby, Boom; Nigredo Hotel; The Stillborn Lover; Pope Joan; Thin Ice.*

Baņuta works in two languages. She directed her first show in Riga as the Soviet Union crumbled, winning the Latvian Critics' Award. In 1998, she moved to Latvia. Her productions ranged from plays by Caryl Churchill, Samuel Beckett and John Mighton, to an immersive version of *La Ronde* and a production performed on a beach. She won a Best Direction Award for her interpretation of *An Ideal Husband*. Her production of a children's opera has been running at the Latvian National Opera since 2002.

She returned to Canada permanently in 2012. Since then, she showcased a verbatim production about love and a chamber opera about the garment industry. She recently completed a novel about her father, yoga, and World War II, and has been writing for a Latvian TV series.

She teaches performance, devising, directing and Canadian theatre history at the Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies.



### **Janice Fraser – Instructor, Advanced Production & Production Manager**

Janice is a proud alumna of the CDTPS, graduating with a double major in drama and English. Over her 20+ year career in lighting, Janice has had the pleasure of working at world-class venues such as the Banff Centre for the Arts, the Canadian Broadcast Corporation, and as the Head

Electrician at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. Her more recent work includes a build of a brand new arena tour for Cirque du Soleil called *Messi10*, as the Interim Head of Lighting and Video. She is a proud member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE Local 58), and also teaches at the National Theatre School in Montreal. Janice is very proud of all of the CDTPS students who have put so much hard work into this year's Directors' Showcase.



## **Snezana Pesic – Instructor, Advanced Design**

Snezana is Serbian Canadian scenographer and design educator.

Her work has been seen across Canada within companies such as Banff Centre, The Confederation Centre of the Arts, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Theatre New Brunswick, Against the Grain Theatre, Ghost

River Theatre, Obsidian Theatre, Odyssey Theatre, Native Earth and Cahoots Theatre, among others.

Pesic is recipient of Betty Mitchell Award, as well as Prix Rideau Award and Pauline McGibbon Award nominee. With her work, she participated in numerous international exhibitions, including Prague Quadrennial (2007, 2015) and World Stage Design (Seoul 2009, Cardiff 2013). Snezana curated and designed the Canadian National Exhibition, *Individuality and Interconnection*, at the Prague Quadrennial 2019 (PQ2019). Under her leadership, the Canadian National Exhibition was honoured with the PQ2019 Award for Excellence in Performance Design, recognizing the work of exhibit designer, Michael Levine.



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