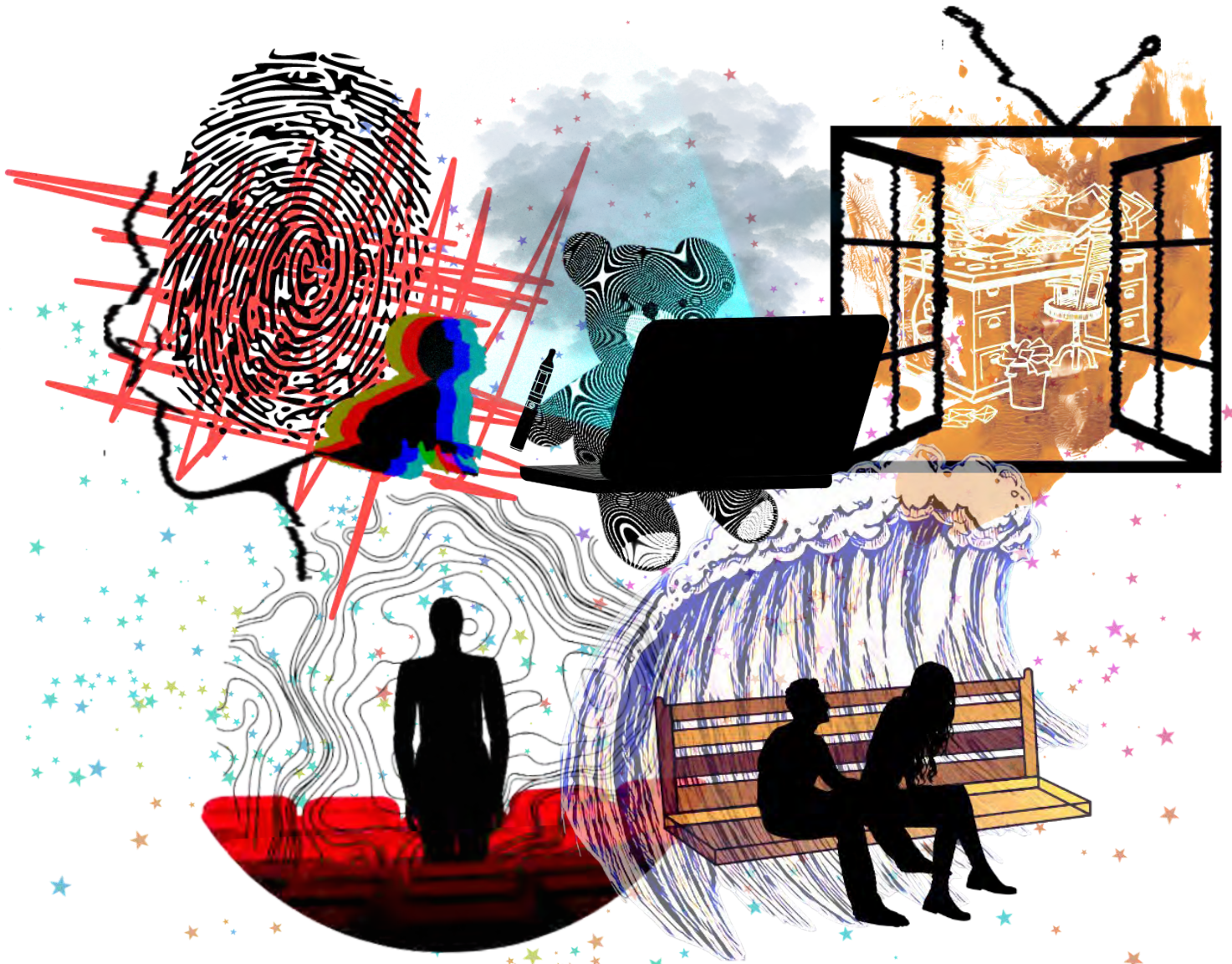




Centre for Drama, Theatre & Performance Studies  
**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**



# DIRECTORS' SHOWCASE



## **BAŅUTA RUBESS, COURSE INSTRUCTOR**

Dr. Baņuta Rubess pioneered feminist theatre, and contemporary opera to national renown in Canada and Latvia. She has lived in four countries and writes in two languages. In Canada, she created groundbreaking works for Nightwood Theatre, Theatre Direct, and Tapestry New Opera Works. As Associate Artist at Theatre Passe Muraille, she threw open the doors to a new generation of theatre creators. In 1998, she moved with her family to Riga, Latvia. She created productions across the

country, ranging from an immersive version of *La Ronde* to an adaptation of *The Trojan Women* performed on a beach. For many years she was a regular columnist in the national newspaper. Baņuta returned to Toronto in 2012. A Rhodes Scholar with a doctorate in history from the University of Oxford, she recently acquired an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Guelph. She has been nominated for many awards and has won a few, including Best Play, Best Director, Best Short Story. She teaches theatre at the University of Toronto where she is lucky to mentor an amazing new wave of theatre makers.

## **SNEZANA PESIC, SET DESIGNER**

Snezana is a performance designer and educator. She has collaborated with companies such as the Canadian Opera Company, Canadian Stage, Confederation Centre of the Arts, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Banff Centre, Theatre New Brunswick, *Against the Grain*, *Ghost River*, *Obsidian*, *Odyssey Theatre* and *Native Earth*, among others. Snezana's work has been presented in numerous international exhibitions, including *World Stage Design* in (2009, Seoul; 2013, Cardiff) and the *Prague Quadrennial* (2007, 2015). In 2019, she designed and curated the Canadian National Exhibition at the *Prague Quadrennial*, where designer Michael Levine received Canada's first-ever PQ Award for Excellence in Performance Design. Snezana won the Betty Mitchell Award for outstanding lighting design and production, was nominated for a Prix Rideau Award, and was shortlisted for the Pauline McGibbon Award.



# LET IT ENFOLD YOU

*WRITTEN BY CHARLES BUKOWSKI*



**DIRECTED BY  
BOHONG FU**

**DEC 2ND  
7:30 PM**

**DEC 3RD  
2:00 PM**

# Director's Notes

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I was thinking about / my future. / I was thinking about / all the things uncertain. / I was thinking about / how I should live my life / as a man / and as a human being...

Angst, anxiety, / fear and depression... / I am losing grip on reality.

I know I complain too much. / My complaints don't even sound valid to me. / Look at how privileged I am - / I am sitting in a heated and technologically advanced theatre, / with a warm cup of coffee and freshly baked donuts from Tim Hortons. / Yet at this moment, / what stresses me out the most is / this show / that you are about to watch / as if the sky would collapse and my life would crumble / if one person would go home tonight thinking / this was the worst thing they've ever watched.

The show is based on a poem by Charles Bukowski, / I stumbled across it on the Internet. / I only skimmed through it at first, / but WAIT, WOAHH, / LET ME READ IT AGAIN. / I read it again and again / I entered the world of this poem again and again / I embraced it like how it embraced me. / I saw two familiar faces, / I talked to them and had hour long conversations with them / until I was confident / that I had befriended them. / I said to them: / I am doing this Directors' Showcase thing, wanna be in it? / They said: / But we can't act! I said: / You don't have to act, just be. / Why would anyone be interested in us, they asked. / Because they will see themselves in you, I said. / They laughed, and then they said: / You're so pretentious. / I laughed. I AM. / Come, I will find the best artists and designers in theatre to help me, / you guys will look so beautiful on stage, I promise, I said. / Fine, we've never been to Toronto anyway, they said. / So they hopped in / their tiny red car / (quite a marvelous one actually) / and came all the way, / to Helen Gardiner Phelan Playhouse. / You'll meet them in just a bit, / make sure you welcome them / with empathy and an / open mind!

What? / Who am I? My name / is Bo Hong Fu. / But I am not important right now. / I was simply given the task / of finding two interesting people who can / share with us / the story of their lives.

Mr. Bukowski, I hope I won't embarrass you tonight.

Thank you for coming, enjoy the show!

(To view the director's note in its original form, go to [tinyurl.com/enfoldyou](http://tinyurl.com/enfoldyou))

# Cast Biographies



## **MARIA-FEDRA ARCHIMANDRITI, ACTOR**

Fedra is a third-year student at U of T specializing in drama and majoring in cinema studies. All the way from Greece, she has come to Toronto to pursue her passion: performing arts. Fedra grew up as a competitive dancer, however as much as she loves dancing, she finds acting the most cathartic performing art through which she grows and reinvents herself. Besides dance and acting, Fedra is a multidisciplinary artist who enjoys every type of visual art, plays the piano, creates playlists

and short videos, and spends hours watching every film that has ever existed! She is very excited to be back on stage working on a piece by a very beloved poet, and she feels lucky to be working with such a great team!

## **TIMOTHY-PAUL CHEVALIER, ACTOR**

Timothy is in his fourth year at U of T specializing in management and majoring in international relations. He is passionate about poetry and putting poetry into motion, and he is excited to be bringing this beautiful work of Bukowski to life in a raw and harrowing light. His role in *Let It Enfold You* is bringing him back to center stage for the first time in over three years. Through it, he hopes to spark a flame of intimacy, introspect, self-criticism, and self-empathy with the audience.



# Creative Team Biographies

## **BO HONG FU, DIRECTOR**

Bo Hong Fu is an actor and musician in his fourth year at U of T majoring in drama and sociology. Having performed on stage since he was little, he moved to Toronto from Montreal in 2019 to pursue his acting dream and diversify his artistry. Since then, he has been an active member of U of T's campus theatre, performed in various short films around the city, and has written and produced music as an independent musician. He has a tremendous love for comedy – it won't be hard to sense his humour in his work. He can't wait for you to see *Let It Enfold You*. He feels very lucky to be working with such a talented and passionate group of actors and theatre artists, and he is very grateful for all the help and inspirations he has received. For more of his work, go to his website at [bohongfu.com](http://bohongfu.com)



## **SELINA JIA, COSTUME DESIGNER**

Selina is a costume designer originally from Vancouver who is studying theatre at the University of Toronto. Specializing in illustrations and dressmaking, Selina has been involved with the world of stage ever since a young age: she has experience in dance, music, and graphic arts. Selina has worked with companies such as Theatre by the Bay, The Howland Company, and is one of the head dressers for Toronto Fashion Week. Selina will soon become an IATSE member and hopes to attend New York Fashion Week!



## **CASS IACOVELLI, LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Cass Iacovelli is a producer, performer, and theatre-maker in Toronto. You will most often see Cass running around producing this year's season at Victoria College Drama Society while choreographing, directing, and designing shows in the city. In addition to *Let It Enfold You*, Cass brought some light and colour to other shows such as *Rosmersholm* (SMCT) and *Sea Sick* (CDTPS). This is the third year that Cass has had the privilege of working on the Directors' Showcase, and it was such a joy to get to work with Bo and everyone at the Centre on this show.

## **KIMIA KARACHI, MOVEMENT COORDINATOR**

Kimia Karachi is an Iranian-Canadian actor, director, and choreographer. She recently graduated from the University of Toronto with a specialist degree in drama, theatre & performance studies. Kimia was a part of the CDTPS's Mainstage Shows *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *TomorrowLove*, and directed *Drowning Ophelia* in last year's Directors' Showcase.



## **CHELSEA YOUNG, STAGE MANAGER**

Chelsea is in her fifth year studying cinema, chemistry, and drama. Growing up, she was a competitive dancer and always enjoyed playing different instruments, which is where she developed her love for the performing arts. Currently, she spends her time in the arts writing, acting, directing, and of course watching movies. She is ecstatic to be working as the stage manager for *Let It Enfold You*.



## ALIX SIDERIS, INTIMACY COACH

Alix is an accomplished actor, intimacy professional, movement director/choreographer, movement instructor, physical performer, writer, director, and meditation leader. Alix's recent intimacy professional work includes: *Civil* (Netflix); *Happily Undead After* (Canadian Film Centre); *Hamlet* (Stratford Festival); *Sin and Sorrow Are Common to All*, *The Judas Kiss* (Talk is Free Theatre); *Salome Learns to Dance* (Hawkeye Pictures, 2021); *Pomegranate Opera* (Buddies in

Bad Times, 2019) to name a few. Some recent performance credits include *Room* (u/s, Mirvish Productions); *The Cherry Orchard* (Modern Times Theatre); *Pride and Prejudice* (Theatre Calgary/National Arts Centre); *Metamorphoses* (National Arts Centre). Alix was a resident actor in the National Arts Centre's English Theatre Ensembles in its 2012/13 season. Recent media credits include *Assassins Creed: The Odyssey, Valhalla* (Ubisoft). Alix's short documentary film, *chemography: a study in light*, can be found on CBC Gem. Online: [alixsideris.com](http://alixsideris.com).



## Special Thanks

I want to thank Banuta Rubess, Michael Reinhart, and Snezana Pesic for helping me tirelessly throughout my turbulent exploration of this beautiful piece. They have given me the space and confidence I desperately needed to make this show come to life. I also want to thank our intimacy coordinator Alix Sideris for her professionalism and creating a safe, friendly space for artists to explore their work.

Thank you for coming, enjoy the show!