

METAMORPHOSES

Based on the Myths of Ovid

Written and originally directed by

Mary Zimmerman

Directed by

**Miriam
Fernandes**



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Written and Originally Directed
by Mary Zimmerman

Directed by Miriam Fernandes

Performed by the students of DRM403

Jordan Shing Hei Chan
Qingxi Mei Cheng
Molly Dunn
Chloë Flowers
Bo Hong Fu
Valerio Greganti
Dixon John
Cankurt Perek
Raquel Ravivo
Sina Sasanifard
Sabrina Weinstein

Artistic Team

Set, Costume, and Projection Design - Snezana Pesic
Sound Design - Thomas Ryder Payne
DRM403 TA - Sarah Robbins
Stage Manager - Taylor Young
CDTPS Technical Director - Andrew Leeke
CDTPS Manager of Theatre Operations - Ariel Martin-Smith
Assistant Stage Manager - Casey Hua
Assistant Projection and Assistant Costume Designer - Zoey Lu
Assistant Costume Designer and Prop Master - Aylin Salahshoor
Assistant Projection Designer - Benny Soave

Director's Note

Welcome to *Metamorphoses*!

The process of bringing this play to you has been a wild ride and we are thrilled to finally be able to share it with you. The theme of *Metamorphoses* has lived with us in unique ways over this past year. This state of change and constant unknown was the backdrop of our work on this production. Weekly, sometimes daily, the rules of what was possible were in flux - masks, no masks, distancing, in person, online... and the thing about change is that it's unsettling, it's destabilising, because suddenly we realise, we are not in control.

So what do we hold onto in the midst of the storm? For us, the one fixed point we had over the past year was that we would meet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to explore storytelling; through our voices, through our bodies, through design... we worked within, and pushed against the constraints of the world, trying to figure out how to breathe life into these stories.

The stories in *Metamorphoses* are thousands of years old, and at their heart, explore the mystery of transformation. Can we change? If so, what will it take? These are the questions that I am left with as we emerge out of the Covid-19 pandemic and rediscover the world together. What have we learned? What will we change? And how can stories help to spark our imagination of what is possible for that new world?

We hope you enjoy the show, thank you so much for joining us.

Miriam Fernandes

Cast Biographies

Jordan Shing Hei Chan



Through a childhood composed of growing up in both Canada and Hong Kong, Jordan Chan has been exposed to a multitude of performance art mediums since a young age. Such exposures have not only influenced his methods in artistic expression and outlook, but further encouraged him to pursue a Specialist Degree in Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Toronto. A big believer in collaboration, Chan places heavy emphasis on the notion that great

ideas never come from one single person. Rather, they are born through the passing of inspirations from one creative mind to another. Currently active as both an actor and director, Chan finds inspiration through developing contemporary methods to provide new perspectives in both canonicals and recent texts for stage and screen productions.

Qingxi Mei Cheng



Chinese, Canadian, Concentric, Cosmic, Conscious. Graduating with Double Majors in LCT and Drama, Minor in CSES. Currently, in the process of becoming a stage and screen actor; understanding cultures, aesthetics, and traditions; art, literature, and religion; auto/narrative/s in theory and practice; through interdisciplinary and intersectional lenses, in efforts to incorporate thought- and affect-

provocations into work spanning modes and media. On my own Spiritual Path; contemplating many 'performances' of text/uality, id/entity, self/hood, person/a/lity, and critical/ity, as well as the il/liberal human/ism/s pertaining to collective group/ings, individual being/s. Previous Work: UC Follies, The AMY Project, Zaita Media. Now Working On: *Together But Apart*, a Play for Hart House Drama Festival.

Molly Dunn



Molly Dunn is a writer and actor based in Toronto, Ontario. She is currently completing her undergraduate degree in English and Drama. She is an enthusiastic participant in campus theater, having appeared in on-campus productions such as *Overminded*, *Northrup Frye Has an Existential Crisis in McDonald's*, *Agamemnon* and more. Molly is also a published writer, specializing in short fiction and hybrid poetry. Her short fiction has

appeared in journals such as *Meat for Tea: The Valley Review* and *Mnerva*. Her poetry has been published in *Penumbra*

Literary and Arts Journal and featured on the podcast *A Moment of Your Time*. Molly is very excited to be part of *Metamorphoses*, and so grateful for the opportunity to train with Miriam Fernandes alongside such an amazing cast!

Chloë Rose Flowers



Chloë Rose Flowers is a Toronto-based actor, director, and playwright. She is currently in her fourth year in the University of Toronto's Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies Specialist program. Chloë has a passion for bringing classical, historical, and mythological stories into the realm of the present. She also loves devising theatre and working with contemporary pieces that highlight the female voice. Select credits include Cassandra in *Agamemnon* (TCDS), Brutus in

Julius Caesar (TCDS), and Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible* (The Art Project Collective). She would like to extend her gratitude to Miriam Fernandes and Sarah Robbins for their incredible guidance, and a massive thank you to the entire CDTPS faculty for their dedication and support for this show!

Bo Hong Fu



Bo Hong Fu is a Toronto-based actor and musician, currently majoring in Drama and Sociology at the University of Toronto. He speaks three languages, goes to the gym a lot, occasionally raps and is obsessed with anything banana-flavoured. Recently as an actor, he has taken part in various theatre and film productions such as *18 Palace Rd.* by Shreya Jha, *Chamber Music* by Arthur Kopit and *Silence* by Harold Pinter. He is very grateful to have

the opportunity to work with his fabulous DRM403 classmates on this amazing show. He feels very inspired and has learned a lot from each and every one of them. Want to know more about Bo? Visit his personal website at bohongfu.com. Enjoy the show!

Valerio Greganti



Valerio Greganti is an Italian national in his 4th year at U of T. He is double majoring in Drama and International Relations. He has performed in multiple productions in Europe, the US, and Canada. He is fluent in Italian, English, and French and he hopes that his international experience will contribute to his performance's success. He has performed in plays such as *Radium Girls*, *Julius Caesar*, *Moby Dick*, as well as musicals like *Oklahoma*, *Damn*

Yankees, and *18 Palace Rd.* Valerio is a multi-faceted actor with a particular interest for comedic and satirical theatre. As he is

passionate about history and politics, Valerio finds that humor is essential for tackling our time's major themes and criticizing those responsible for injustices of all kinds. Additionally, Valerio has always cultivated an interest in cultures different from his own, as he believes that, in life as well as on stage, people across the earth can learn a lot about one another. He is a strong supporter of infotainment and experimental theatre, as he believes that the two can be combined in order to stimulate the audience and introduce concepts and ideas they would have never met otherwise.

Dixon John



Dixon is an actor, and writer-director from Scarborough. He is excited to be working with a talented group of artists to bring this show to life. He recently directed his first short film that is currently being submitted to film festivals. He enjoys collaborating with different artists and creators, you can connect with Dixon on Instagram: @dixon_john.

Cankurt Perek



Cankurt is in his final year of the Drama Specialist Program at the University of Toronto. With his primary focus on acting and his secondary focus on writing, he aims to bring to life authentic and intriguing interpretations of the human condition. He has starred in award-winning short films such as the coming-of-age comedy *A Summer's Day at Sherwood Park*

and the first date romcom *Friday Night Fish*. His proudest works

thus far are the short films he has authored such as the Chinese-Canadian family drama *Farewell my Melody* and *The Joytale*, an introspective drama about dealing with the grief of a loved one's passing. He is excited to have you along for the journey he and his peers have prepared.

Raquel Ravivo



Raquel is completing her fourth and final year as a Drama and Philosophy major at the University of Toronto. She loves stories that grapple with timeless themes and call attention to the experiences that shape our relationships, identities and individual ways

of navigating the world. She hopes to take the skills she's learned through her theatre training and on-campus productions to build upon her professional repertoire. Raquel wants to extend her gratitude to the cast and crew with special thanks to Miriam for giving the team the tools to bring these myths to life. She hopes you enjoy watching as much as she enjoyed the process of bringing *Metamorphoses* to the stage!

Sina Sasanifard



Sina Sasanifard is a bi-lingual artist and has been pursuing his theatre passion since he was twelve. Some theatre credits include: *Birthday Present*, *9428*, *Winter of '88* (Toronto Fringe Festival); *Salt-Water Moon* (UofT); and *Heart of a Dog* (Tirgan Festival). Sina is currently a fourth year of Drama Specialist at the University of Toronto and recently performed in *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* at Canadian Stage. Sina gives thanks to his instructor and director,

Miriam Fernandes, for all the great lessons as well as for providing a storytelling opportunity for him and his wonderful peers.

Sabrina Weinstein



Sabrina Weinstein is an actor, director, producer and stage manager in her 5th year at the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies specializing in performance and

directing.

As an actor, Sabrina has been in many shows across campus including *Agamemnon* (TCDS), *Falsettos* (TCDS) and *The Theory of Relativity* (SMCT). She landed her first professional acting gig over the summer of 2021 working at Pirate Life Theatre Company. Last year she had the pleasure of directing *The Shape of a Girl* as part of the 2020 Directors' Showcase, and last semester directed *The Rocky Horror Shadowcast* with the UC Follies. She has been a producer for the past three years, having produced 16 productions, and was honoured to be taken on as an Indie Producer at Theatre by the Bay in Barrie Ontario over the summer of 2021. She hopes you enjoy the show, and all the various noises she makes throughout.

Artistic Team Biographies

Miriam Fernandes, Director



Miriam Fernandes is the Co-Artistic Director of Toronto-based company, Why Not Theatre, and has worked as an actor, director, and theatre-maker around the world.

As a director her work includes *Metamorphoses* (University of Toronto, Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies), *Hayavadana* (Soulpepper Theatre), *Nesen*, (MiniMidiMaxi Festival, Norway) *The First Time I Saw the Sea* (YVA Company, Norway). As a creator, she is currently co-writing/adapting for the stage the ancient epic, *Mahabharata* (Why Not Theatre/Shaw Festival), is developing a Deaf/hearing production of *Lady Macbeth* (in partnership with 1S1 Collective) and is a co-writer and performer in *What You Won't Do for Love* with Drs. David Suzuki and Tara Cullis. Miriam has trained with Anne Bogart's SITI Company, and is a graduate of Ecole Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris. She is the recipient of the JBC Watkins Award and was nominated for the inaugural Johanna Metcalf Performing Arts Prize.

Snezana Pesic - Set, Costume and Projection 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, Theatre New Brunswick, Against the Grain, Ghost River, Obsidian, Odyssey Theatre, Native Earth, and Cahoots.

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.

Sarah Robbins – DRM403 Teaching Assistant



Sarah Robbins has over a decade of experience working in theatre and performance. Her graduate research focuses on acting training programs in Canada.

Her work has been published in *alt.theatre* magazine and *HowlRound Theatre Commons*. She is scheduled to defend her dissertation in March 2022.

Thomas Ryder Payne, Sound Designer



Thomas Ryder Payne is a composer and sound designer for theatre, dance and film. Selected past theatre work includes designs for Stratford, Shaw, Mirvish, Soulpepper, CanStage, Tarragon, Factory, TPM, YPT, Crows, Modern Times, Aluna, BIBT, Nightwood, Toronto Dance Theatre, NAC, Theatre Calgary, GCTC, RMTCC and many others. Thomas has received 4 Dora awards and 25 nominations.

Taylor Young, Stage Manager



Taylor Young is a Toronto-based stage manager and production manager, originally from Calgary, AB. They hold a BFA from X University in Performance Production.

Some of their recent projects include: Stage Manager, *Ursa: A*

Folk Musical, The Uncommon Folk Collective at the Next Stage Festival (2022); Stage Manager, *Citadel Dance Mix 2021*, Citadel + Compagnie (2021); Production Stage Manager, *Allies & Friends*, Wind in The Leaves Collective in Residence at Citadel + Compagnie (2021); Assistant Stage Manager, *The Spectator's Odyssey – o'dell'Inferno*, DopoLavoro Teatrale & TOLive (2021); Stage Manager, *Night Shift 2021*, Citadel + Compagnie (2021); Stage Manager, *I Love the Smell of Gasoline*, Pencil Kit Productions in residence at Aluna Theatre (2021 Workshop); Stage Manager, *White Muscle Daddy*, Pencil Kit Productions in Residence at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre (2021 Workshop); Production Manager, Paprika Festival (2019-current); Production Coordinator & Assistant Stage Manager, Toronto Dance Theatre 2020/2021 Season; Stage Manager, *hollow mountain*, Rock Bottom Movement (Wildside 2020).

Casey Hua, Assistant Stage Manager



Casey is a fourth-year student double majoring in English and Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies at the University of Toronto. She is a Hong Kong-Canadian artist based in Toronto with a focus on theatre production and design. Her recent work includes Assistant Stage Manager for *The Digital Dream* (CDTPS 2021), Associate Sound Designer for *TomorrowLove* (CDTPS 2021), Sound Designer for *Porcelain*

Tigers (UC Follies 2021), and Sound Designer for *Fetch* (CDTPS 2021). She would like to thank Miriam, Taylor, and Ariel for their support and guidance throughout this journey. She hopes you all enjoy the show!

Zoey Lu – Assistant Projection and Assistant Costume Designer



4th year student. Double major in Drama & Art History. Minor in English & Cinema Studies.

Aylin Salahshoor - Assistant Costume Designer and Props Master



Aylin Salahshoor is a Toronto-based actor. She has been actively pursuing her love for theatre in Toronto since 2018, has attended several workshops in recent years, and is currently enrolled in the Drama, Theatre & Performance Studies program at the University of Toronto. Aylin has performed in several theatre productions in Toronto, most recently in *Heart of a Dog* (Next Stage – Toronto Fringe Festival, January 2022), *9428* (Fringe Theatre Festival 2020) *Swim Team* (Theatre

Centre, November 2019), and *Sisyphus and Death* (Alumnae Theatre, May 2019). She has also appeared in *The Dance of Torn Papers* (Dance Makers, November 2018) and *The Only Way Possible* (George Ignatieff Theatre, June 2018).

Benny Soave – Associate Projection Designer



Benny Soave is the Associate Projection Designer for *Metamorphoses*. He is a third-year student taking a double major in Cinema Studies and Drama. Benny has a passion for visual arts, especially for producing pieces that cross the boundaries of more than one artistic medium. For the show, Benny has focused on producing the projection designs by means of digital animation.

Special Thanks

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