

TomorrowLove

Cast

'Til Skype Do Us Part: Ben Van Dinther and Hannah Spracklin

Reality Hurts (Purple Cast, Friday March 19): Prithvi Kahlon and Teodora Djuric

Reality Hurts (Green Cast, Saturday March 20): Eashan Sharma and Abigail Lewis

Perfect: Kimia Karachi and Lagan Maheshwari

I Wrote You This Letter: Hannah Waldman and Moyukh Syeed

Artistic Team

Production and Costume Designer – Snezana Pesic

Sound Design and Composition– Verne Good

Digital Facilitator – Nicole Eun-Ju Bell

Digital Design Consultant – Ian Garrett

Associate Director, *Reality Hurts* – Adrian Pavone

Associate Director, *Reality Hurts* – Ross Slaughter

Associate Director, *Perfect* – Abigail Esteireiro

Associate Director, *I Wrote You This Letter*– Isaac Pilozo

Assistant Sound Design – Casey Hua

Technical Team

Stage Management Team – Nicole Eun-Ju Bell and Casey Hua

Lighting Consultants – Janice Fraser and Andrew Leeke

Sound Technician – Casey Hua

Manager of Theatre Operations – Ariel Martin-Smith

Technical Director – Andrew Leeke

Production Manager – Janice Fraser

Faculty

DRM 403 Performance Course Instructors – Dylan Trowbridge and Graham Abbey

DRM 403 Performance Course TA – Ross Slaughter

DRM 354 Design Course Instructor – Snezana Pesic

DRM 354 Design Course TA – Anna Paliy

DRM 355 Production Course Instructor – Janice Fraser

Poster Design – Dante Camarda

Director's Notes

Creating theatre right now is an act of artistic rebellion. Attending theatre is an act of rebellion too. The dominant opinion is that theatre is defined by its liveness; by audience and artists assembling in a shared physical space. And of course, it is! But when live assembly becomes impossible, how we respond as storytellers is crucial. And exciting. Theatre people — creators and audiences alike—are tenacious, and it has inspired me to witness the many ways that we have all adapted over the last year.

When we began in September, our mission was to find a play that would satisfy many complex criteria: It was vital that the play provide a great opportunity for these students to learn about acting. It had to be a true ensemble piece. We were also determined to select a play that would benefit from being re-imagined for a digital platform. And we wanted to tell a story that would bring people joy.

We spent the first two months of class experimenting with a variety of possibilities. As a class we quickly decided that our ideal situation would be to tackle both a classical and contemporary text. After much exploration we determined that we would spend the class reimagining William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for this new medium. Our next task was to find a great contemporary play to compliment *Dream*. When we read Rosamund Small's *TomorrowLove* we were floored: The yearning for connection present in each of the beautifully crafted plays excited us greatly. And we were inspired by Rosamund Small's imaginative exploration of future technologies and their impact on human relationships. This felt like a piece that would resonate powerfully on a digital platform.

In the opening scene of *Dream*, Lysander famously tells Hermia that “the course of true love never did run smooth.” This line of text binds these two very different works together for us thematically. *TomorrowLove* is about the pursuit of positive transformation. It's about having the courage to overcome insurmountable obstacles in the name of love. Both plays beautifully expose the truth that love is messy, painful, unpredictable and sublime. This pursuit of positive transformation has been a touchstone for us throughout our study of acting in this class. We work to fight for the light; to maintain hope against great odds. This is what brings a scene to life.

It's been a honour to collaborate with this very talented ensemble of actors; and it has been a tremendous joy to build these two plays with such superb designers and technicians. We would like to extend our gratitude to the faculty, staff and students of the CDTPS and to the huge, beautiful, imaginative team of collaborators who have brought these worlds so brilliantly to life.

Cast

Teodora Djuric – **Shannon**, *Reality Hurts*



Teodora Djuric is a third-year student double majoring in Performance and Psychology. *TomorrowLove and the Digital Dream* is Teodora's CDTPS acting debut, though she plans to expand her career horizons into musical composition and directing. Thank you so much Dylan and Graham for pushing us all to play with hope and truth and thank you to Kate Lynch for helping me find Shannon with the right questions.

Prithvi Khalon – **Chris**, *Reality Hurts*



Prithvi is completing his fourth and final year as a student at the University of Toronto, majoring in Neuroscience and Theatre. He is fluent in three languages: English, Punjabi and Hindi. He has over a decade's experience in playing the piano at regional festivals. In 2017, alongside his team members, he earned first place in the provincial DECA competition for the Creative Marketing Project subsection, as well as top-10 in the international competition in Anaheim, California for the same chapter. Currently, he is pursuing a career in acting with an aim and dedication towards classical Shakespearian plays, his dream role being Marc Antony in *Julius Caesar*. He is an alumnus of the Soulpepper Youth Academy (2018-2019) and trained as a part of Canada's National Voice Intensive Program. Campus theatre credits include *Tales of the City by the Sea*, *Lone Island Lovers*, *Happy Days*, and *Lone Island Lovers* (the staged reading).

Kimia Karachi – **Addison**, *Perfect*



Kimia Karachi is a Toronto-based actor, dancer and choreographer in her third year at the University of Toronto. She is currently pursuing a specialist degree in Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies. Her passion for performance stems from her obsession with creating detailed character playlists, jumping into random improv breakouts and giving her characters a strong female voice and presence. Kimia would like to thank her family for always encouraging her to dream big, love what you do and follow your passions. She is also profoundly grateful to Dylan and Graham for their faith in her and for their guidance and support. Her most prominent roles include: Julia in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Nora in *A Doll's House*, Sarah in *When All This Is Over*, Alice in *Rejection! or, Will Date For Food*. Other credits include: Stage Manager and Choreographer for *Chamber Music*. She is so thankful to the exceptionally talented cast and crew, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Abigail Lewis – Chris, *Reality Hurts*



Abigail is a third-year French Literature and Drama student, focusing on performance and design. When her life is not being consumed by theatre and an overwhelming email inbox, she enjoys eating Domino's pizza in bed. She would also like to thank her mother, who doubled as a stagehand, her high school drama teacher Ms. Code, and this amazing cast! She had a fabulous time working with this cast and crew and dearly hopes you all enjoy the show!

Selected credits: Flight Attendant (*Connections*, TCDS), Cass (*Tropical Depression*, TCDS), Other credits: Assistant Stage Manager (*Legally Blonde*, Hart House), Costume Designer (*Tropical Depression*, TCDS), Costume Designer (*The Shape of a Girl*, CDTPS), Costume Designer (*Constellations*, CDTPS), Director (*bare: A Pop Opera*, TCDS).

Lagan Maheshwari – Pat, *Perfect*



Lagan Maheshwari is a fourth-year U of T student completing a Drama Specialization with a focus on Performance. She is an international student from Bombay, India and hopes to further explore theatre and film/TV once she graduates

She is also currently co-directing *Chamber Music* with the SMC Troubadours, which will premiere at the end of March. Recent credits include *Peter & the Starcatcher* (Peter), *The Shape of a Girl* (Sofie), and *Uncle Falling* (Chorus).

Eashan Sharma – Shannon, *Reality Hurts*



Eashan Sharma is in his fourth year at the University of Toronto, double majoring in Performance and Economics. Outside of academics he really enjoys boxing, however, he believes he's not that quick on his feet yet. He would like to thank Dylan and Graham for all their hard work, and for always pushing our class to reach our best. Credits: *Bobby* (*Tough!*, CDTPS), *Biff Loman* (*Death of Salesman*, CDTPS), *Vivie Warren* (*Mrs. Warren's Profession*, CDTPS), *Jake* (*The Boy Who Cried*, U of T Drama Festival).

Hannah Spracklin – Devon, *'Til Skype do Us Part*



Hannah is a fourth-year student at the University of Toronto pursuing a double major in theatre and performance and the philosophy of religion. Over her past four years at U of T, she has been involved in campus theatre both on and off the stage.

Selected (on stage) credits: Braidie in *The Shape of a Girl* (CDTPS); Margaret in *Lady Margaret* (SMC Troubadours); *Invasion of the Molepeople* (SMC Troubadours).

Hannah is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work with Dylan, Graham, and the rest of the wonderful cast and crew this past year.

Moyukh Syeed – Sasha, *I Wrote You this Letter*



Moyukh Syeed is an actor, singer and aspiring screenwriter. She is pursuing a double major in Drama, Theatre, and Performance, and Peace, Conflict, and Justice Studies at the University of Toronto. Moyukh began her artistic journey at a young age, training under renowned classical vocal teachers Prosenjit Deoghoria and Ian Garret. Recognizing her deep passion for acting, Moyukh started her training and education at U of T and now celebrates the end of her undergraduate journey with *TomorrowLove* and *The Digital Dream*. She would like to thank and send a virtual hug to the cast and crew for being such a warm and supportive community during these

challenging times. A big thank you goes out to Dylan and Graham for dedicating their time and effort to support her training, especially on this new virtual medium. Finally, she would like to thank her family and all her teachers for giving her the courage to pursue her big and ambitious dreams. Moyukh is excited to continue her education, as well as work as a professional in the industry. As of now, she is preparing for a lead role in a short film set to release in 2022!

Ben Van Dinther – Rory, *'Til Skype Do Us Part*



Ben is an actor and writer in his fourth year at the University of Toronto. With a concentration in theatre performance at the CDTPS, Ben has extended his passion for the arts through his studies in English and Cinema Studies. Ben continues his work in comedy as an actor and writer for *The Bob Comedy Revue*, which was showcased digitally this past December. At the beginning of 2020, Ben performed with his colleagues from The Bob at the National College Comedy Festival in Saratoga Springs, New York where they were the only group representing a Canadian university. He has thoroughly enjoyed working alongside a talented cast and crew and would like to thank Dylan and Graham for their guidance and devotion to the theatre. Ben

ultimately hopes to bring a smile to your face in *TomorrowLove*.

Hannah Waldman – Hunter, *I Wrote You This Letter*



Hannah is thrilled to have been part of such an incredible creative process. Although this is not the mainstage performance she was expecting, she is so thankful to everyone involved for finding ways to still create art and have fun doing it in a time when so much has been put on pause. She is double majoring in English, and Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies. Throughout her time at U of T, she has been involved in many shows both on stage and as a choreographer, including *Hairspray*, *Mamma Mia*, *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Peter and the Star Catcher* and most recently *Antigone, Presented by the Girls of St. Catherine's*. She believes art is such a powerful way to connect with people and is so happy this story of hope is the story we told. She wants to thank all the mentors she has met at the Drama Center for all they have taught her and for their encouragement. Much love to all who supported her through this journey.

Creative Team Biographies

Dylan Trowbridge - Director & DRM 403 Course Instructor



Dylan Trowbridge is a Toronto-based actor, director and teacher. He began his career at the Shaw Festival, where he played the title role in Christopher Newton's production of *Peter Pan*. Other Shaw Festival credits include leading roles in *The Lord of the Flies*, *The Matchmaker*, *Widowers' Houses*, *The Coronation Voyage* and *Rutherford and Son*. Dylan made his West End debut in 2009, playing Neil Kellerman in *Dirty Dancing* at London's Aldwych Theatre. He also spent two seasons at the Stratford Festival, appearing in *Mary Stuart*, *Measure for Measure*, *Titus Andronicus* and *The Grapes of Wrath*. Additional theatre credits include: *Tribes*, *Julius Caesar* (Canadian Stage), *Taking Care of Baby* (Critics Pick Award for Best Supporting Actor), the English language premier of Wajdi Mouawad's *Tideline* (Factory Theatre) and *Tiny Dynamite* (Theatre Smash).

Dylan is a founding member of Theatrefront, with whom he co-wrote and performed in *Return (The Sarajevo Project)*, earning a Dora nomination for best new play. Film and television credits include *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Anne with an E*, *V Wars*, *Impulse*, *American Hangman*, *Dark Matter*, *Private Eyes*, *Alias Grace*, *Orphan Black*, *Bomb Girls* and *Hemlock Grove*.

As a director, Dylan's productions of *The Harrowing of Brimstone McReedy* and *Space Opera Zero!* for Toronto's Eldritch Theatre have earned multiple Dora nominations and one win. Other recent directing credits include *Herringbone* and *The Yalta Game* (Talk is Free Theatre) and *Every Brilliant Thing* starring Gavin Crawford (Festival Players).

Dylan is the Artistic Associate of Theatrefront, the Associate Artistic Director of The Festival Players of Prince Edward County, and the Co-Founder/Co-Creative director of GhostLight, Canada's online platform for mentorship in the theatre (ghostlight.ca).

Graham Abbey - Director & DRM 403 Course Instructor



Graham has been a leading actor and director at the Stratford Festival for the past 21 seasons. Selected roles include Romeo, Macbeth, Henry V, Henry VIII, Iago, Berowne, Jaques, Aufidius and Petruchio. His adaptation of Shakespeare's history cycle entitled *Breath of Kings* made its debut at Stratford in which Graham served as Associate Director and Creator while playing the title role of Henry IV in the two-part adaptation. Graham has appeared in theatres across North America including two seasons at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre with Brian Bedford in *The Molière*

Comedies and *School for Scandal*.

On the film and television front Graham spent three seasons starring on the CBC series *The Border* as Detective Gray Jackson and has appeared in several feature films including *Casino Jack*, *Take this Waltz* and *Defendor*.

Recently, Graham adapted and directed *The Front Page* for the Main Stage at The Stratford Festival. He is a graduate of the Michael Langham Conservatory for Classical Direction and has served as an associate director for four seasons under Tim Carroll, Antoni Cimolino, Martha Henry and Weyni Mengesha.

Graham is the founder and Artistic Director of the *Groundling Theatre Company* based in Toronto. Groundling's inaugural production of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* received five Dora nominations including Outstanding Direction and won the Dora for Outstanding Production of the Year in Toronto. Other Groundling productions include *Measure for Measure* starring Lucy Peacock and Brent Carver, and *Lear* starring Seana McKenna and Colin Mochrie.

Graham is also the Artistic Director of The Festival Players of Prince Edward County. He holds an honours degree in Politics from Queen's University where he was a Rhodes scholarship candidate.

He currently lives in Stratford with his wife Michelle and four-year-old daughter Vivienne.

Nicole Eun-Ju Bell – Digital Facilitator & Stage Management



Nicole is a Toronto based mixed-race multidisciplinary artist. She is an actor, projection designer, technician, writer and musician. More recently, she has branched out into producing podcasts and the live-stream medium. She's worked on shows at Theatre Passe Muraille, Toronto Fringe, Next Stage, Summerworks, CanadianStage and Hart House Theatre. As a recent graduate of the CDTPS, she's grateful for the opportunity to come back to the Centre and work on the mainstage show.

Janice Fraser – DRM 355 Course Instructor & Production Manager



Janice Fraser is a proud alumna of the Centre for Theatre, Drama, and Performance Studies program at the University of Toronto. Janice has had the pleasure of working at world-class venues such as the Banff Centre for the Arts, the CBC's Toronto television studios and as the Head Electrician at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. Pre-pandemic, she also helped create a brand-new arena tour for Cirque du Soleil called *Messi10*, as the Interim Head of Lighting and Video. She is a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (Local 58). In addition to her technical work, Janice has the pleasure of teaching at the University of Toronto and at the National Theatre School in Montreal. She is very proud of all the dedicated CDTPS students who worked so hard on this year's production of *TomorrowLove and the Digital Dream*.

Ian Garrett – Digital Design Consultant



Ian Garrett is a designer, producer, educator and researcher in the field of sustainability in arts and culture. He is the director of the Centre for Sustainable Practice in the Arts; Associate Professor of Ecological Design for Performance at York University; and Producer for Toasterlab. He maintains a design practice focused on ecology, technology and scenography. Through Toasterlab's Mixed Reality Performance Atelier, recent work includes *The Stranger 2.0* with DLT Experience; *Groundworks* with Rulan Tangen and collaborating artists from Pomo, Wappo and Ohlone communities; The locative audio project *TrailOff* with Philadelphia's Swim Pony; and *Transmission* (FuturePlay/Edinburgh and Future of Storytelling Festival/New York). Notable projects include the set and energy systems for Zata Omm's *Vox:Lumen* at the Harbourfront Centre and Crimson Collective's *Ascension*, a solar 150' wide crane at Coachella.

With Chantal Bilodeau, he co-directs the Climate Change Theatre Action. His writing includes *Arts, the Environment, and Sustainability* for Americans for the Arts; *The Carbon Footprint of Theatrical Production* in Readings in Performance and Ecology, and *Theatre is No Place for a Plant* in Landing Stages from the Ashden Directory. He serves on the Board of Directors for Associated Designers of Canada. He was the Curator for the US for the 2019 Prague Quadrennial and is co-chair for World Stage Design 2022 in Calgary.

Verne Good - Sound Design & Composition



Verne has worked in theatre for 25 years as a freelance technician, lighting designer and sound designer. Favourite shows include Sound and Composition for *Othello* (Stratford), *Birds of a Feather*, *Outside* (Roseneath), *You Will Remember Me* (Tarragon/Studio 180), *The Normal Heart* (Studio 180), *The Atomic Weight of Happiness* (StandUp Dance); Sound Design: *Pericles*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Hirsch* (Stratford); *The Mountaintop*, *Art*, *Fences* (The Grand); *The Pigeon King*, *New Canadian Curling Club* (Blyth); *The 39 Steps* [Dora Nomination] (Soulpepper); *Up The Garden Path* (Obsidian); *Bang Bang* (Factory); *Communion*, *Was Spring*, *Cake and Dirt* (Tarragon); *Free as Injuns* (Native Earth); *Mamma Mia*, *Legally Blonde* [The Lawyer Shows] (Nightwood Theatre).

Snezana Pesic - Production and Costume Designer & DRM 354 Instructor



Snezana is Serbian Canadian scenographer and design educator.

Her work has been seen across Canada at the 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, the Prix Rideau Award and is a Pauline McGibbon Award nominee. She has participated in numerous international exhibitions including the 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 the Excellence in Performance Design, recognizing the work of exhibiting designer Michael Levine.

Rosamund Small, Playwright



PLAYWRITING: Rosamund's theatre work includes writing a classic novel adaptation for Soulpepper (*Sisters*, 2018), immersive dramas for the experimental company Outside the March (*Vitals*, 2014/ *TomorrowLove*, 2016), and the text for the dance-theatre hybrid project *Orpheus Alive* with Robert Binet and the National Ballet of Canada (2019). She has multiple Dora Awards and the Nora Epstein National Literary Award, and has been published by several small Canadian presses. Most recently, she co-wrote a drama podcast with Nicolas Billon (*Saving Grace*, on CBC's *Play Me Podcast*).

TELEVISION: Rosamund is a story editor on CBC's *Kim's Convenience*, season five, and story editor on another yet-to-be announced CBC project that is currently in production. Previously she was junior story editor on CBC's *Workin' Moms* and story co-ordinator of CBC's *Tall Boyz*.

Rosamund has an undergraduate degree from U of T in Sexual Diversity Studies and Theatre, and is a graduate of the Soulpepper Academy, a two-year master study in playwriting. She is currently artistic associate with Outside the March, and a part-time playwriting instructor at George Brown College.

Abby Esteireiro – Associate Director, *Perfect*



Abby Esteireiro is a theatre maker and designer in her fourth and final year at the University of Toronto. Recently, she directed a digital production of Nick Payne's *Constellations* (CDTPS 2020), and Marjorie Chan's *The Madness of the Square*, which received the 2019-2020 U of T Drama Coalition Award for Best Direction. She designed productions of *Eurydice* (CDTPS 2019), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (VCDS 2020) and *All Of 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 April, 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 information:

<https://abbyeste.wixsite.com/portfolio>

Casey Hua – Assistant Sound Design & Stage Management



Casey is a third-year university student from Hong Kong, double majoring in English and Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Toronto. She is currently taking the DRM 355 Production II course and is working as an assistant stage manager/assistant sound designer for the first time at U of T on this production. She also works as the Technical Director for the SMC Troubadours and has helped facilitate and live stream four of their productions online. She would like to thank Janice and Verne for their continuous support and guidance throughout this production.

Adrian Pavone – Associate Director, *Reality Hurts*



This is Adrian's final year at the University of Toronto, where they double major in Performance and Psychology. Having trained with Armstrong Acting Studios, and currently training with LB Acting Studios for on-camera acting, Adrian is itching to continue their education and soon apply for a master's degree in acting. Selected credits: *Pink Tax*, Blonde Mamba Productions (2021), Netflix's *Grand Army* (2020), CBS' *Star Trek: Discovery* (2020), *Flood*, Canadian Film Centre (2019, TIFF, VIFF, FNC, Inside Out).

Isaac Pilozo – Associate Director, *I Wrote You This Letter*



Isaac Pilozo is a student and actor based in Toronto. He is currently in his fourth year at the University of Toronto, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a Drama major (Performance), and double minors in English and Equity studies. He has acted in productions both within the U of T community and the local Toronto film/ television industry.

Selected campus credits include roles in *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *A New Brain*, *Mamma Mia*, *Luv - A New Musical*, and *The Theory of Relativity*. He has also had the opportunity to direct two campus theatre productions

including the student-written play *One Slow Summer* and *Antigone, Presented by the Girls of St. Catherine's*. Selected television credits include *Remedy*, *Mayday* and *Slasher*.

Isaac is super grateful to have had this opportunity to work with Dylan and Graham along with the entire cast/creative/production team. He is grateful for their talent, support and dedication to this digital theatre experience.

Ross Slaughter- DRM 403 TA & Associate Director, *Reality Hurts*



Ross is a third year PhD student at the CDTPS. His PhD thesis focuses on Videocabaret and their *History of the Village of the Small Huts* 21 play cycle, which stages Canadian history from 1534 to 1993 in their signature style: a mix of over the top satire, 'black box' staging and 60 scenes a minute pacing that some have (for lack of a better word) termed a 'comic strip history.' His other research areas include performing history, community engaged theatre, dramatic literature and Racine's *Phaedra*.

Special Thanks

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