



AN AXIS THEATRE PRODUCTION

# WHERE HAVE ALL THE BUFFALO GONE?

BY TAI AMY GRAUMAN

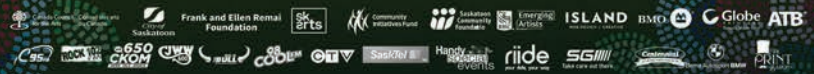
INSPIRED BY HISTORICAL EVENTS OF  
THE MÉTIS PEOPLE OF CANADA.

**November 15, 2025 | Youth Series**

On Tour to Schools in Saskatchewan November 17 - December 5, 2025

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Persephone Theatre is located on the beautiful lands of Indigenous peoples who have lived here since time immemorial, including the Nêhiyawak, Nêhithawak, Anishinabek, Nakawe, Nakota, Nehinawak, Lakota, Dakota and Dene peoples.

This place is also the homeland of the Métis. At Persephone, we also like to acknowledge the contributions of the Whitecap Dakota and Round Prairie Métis peoples in establishing our city of Saskatoon. Persephone Theatre is located on Treaty 6 territory and is committed to living in good relations with our Indigenous neighbours, in the spirit with which the Treaties were intended.



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INSPIRED BY HISTORICAL EVENTS OF  
THE MÉTIS PEOPLE OF CANADA.

PRESENTED IN THE



Persephone Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement.

Professional artists are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

Production staff are members of I.A.T.S.E. Local 300.

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## CAST

Kassandra Sison ..... Marie  
Izzy Bull Bear ..... Jean  
Samantha Kerr ..... Buffalo

## CREATIVE

Tai Amy Grauman ..... Playwright  
Amanda Testini ..... Director  
Chris McGregor ..... Co-Director & Sound Designer  
Jessica Adamson ..... Stage Manager  
Dusty Hagerüd ..... Production Designer / Props Designer / Puppet Designer  
Alaia Hamer ..... Costume Designer  
Kathleen Nisbet ..... Fiddle Player (recorded)  
Amy Harris ..... Set Builder/Scenic painter  
Eloi Homier ..... Jig Choreographer

\*Designer represented by the Associated Designers of Canada (ADC), IATSE Local 659.

## ABOUT AXIS THEATRE COMPANY

In the age of "looking down" at electronics, Axis Theatre draws young eyes up to engage them in interactive experiences that educate, inspire, and transform. Telling stories in Axis Theatre Company exists to create physical theatre for the young and young-at-heart - exploring aspects of clown, commedia dell'arte, music, movement, and puppetry to produce unique ways, Axis Theatre is guided by these words: inventive, youthful, kinetic, multicultural, smart, and engaging.

Axis Theatre's rich 49-year history has inspired 60+ new creations. Our productions tour all over BC across Canada, into the United States and sometimes, overseas. We have been recognized with many Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards and as Touring Company of the Year by the BC Touring Council.

Axis Theatre is led by Artistic Director, Chris McGregor and Managing Producer, Daune Campbell. The administrative team includes Tour & Production Coordinator, Jillian Perry, Booking & Marketing Coordinator, Petrice Brett.

Axis Theatre acknowledges that we live, work, and play on the unceded and traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples – swxwú7mesh (Squamish), selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), and xməkəyəm (Musqueam) nations. Our offices are located at 1405 Anderson St. Vancouver, BC. V6H 3R5



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## LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

We are so excited to welcome you to the first play in our 2025-26 Season Youth Series, *Where Have all The Buffalo Gone?* by Tai Amy Grauman. Inspired by Tai's own family stories, and generations of Métis history, right here on Treaty 6 Territory, *Where Have All the Buffalo Gone?* is rooted in Métis storytelling and historical events of the Métis people of Canada and explores their love and kinship to the buffalo. This play embodies the notion of time immemorial and evokes a tangible understanding for young people of what those words mean for past, present, and future generations.

It is always a joy to host Axis Theatre, who have travelled here from the West Coast in Vancouver, B.C. with this beautiful play, filled with meaningful story, fiddle music and a life-like buffalo puppet. For both of us, having lived on the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations in British Columbia, sharing this beautiful story centering Treaty 6 history, brings these two places we have called home, together.

We are grateful to Tai and to Axis Theatre for bringing this beautiful story to the stage, and for creating a stunning production to share this important story and its meaningful values with the youth and families of Saskatchewan.



Brianne Harmon  
Executive Director



Heather Cant  
Artistic Director



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## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2025/26 season at Persephone Theatre, on beautiful Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis.

Now in its 51st season, Persephone Theatre continues to be a vital part of Saskatoon's cultural landscape, offering audiences the shared joy of experiencing stories brought to life on stage. Theatre, at its heart, is storytelling —which constantly reminds us of the enduring power a great story has to connect, heal, and inspire.

From its roots in 1974 to its permanent home at River Landing, Persephone has remained committed to enriching lives through the performing arts. Whether exploring timeless classics or bold new voices, each season contributes to building a stronger, more vibrant community.

A great story draws us in, invites reflection, and stays with us long after the final curtain. It brings us together in laughter, in empathy, and sometimes in challenge —always reminding us of our shared humanity.

Congratulations to Persephone Theatre on more than five decades of storytelling excellence. We look forward to another season of unforgettable performances and the continued positive impact of theatre in our city.

To everyone bringing this year's productions to life —on stage, behind the scenes, or in the audience —may the transformative power of live theatre continue to inspire and uplift you.

Cynthia Block  
Mayor



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## DAVID EDNEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Edney Community Library is a collection of plays and theatre-related books, hosted at Persephone Theatre, for community use. The Library includes a wide array of items, including: technical books, theory books, contemporary and modern playwrights, Canadian playwrights, Indigenous playwrights, Queer playwrights, playwrights from the Global Majority, and European, British and Greek classical theatre, among others.

All books from the Edney Community Library are free to borrow. You are welcome to stay and enjoy the Tier 2 Lounge while you read, or take the book with you. All we ask is for all books to be returned to the library when finished.

The Library launched in the fall of 2022. It was made possible by an initial donation from David Edney, which was supported with further donations from Phillip Adams, Derek Butt, Heather Cant, Grahame Kent, Yvette Nolan and the Sask Playwrights Centre. It has continued to grow with support and donations from other members of our community. We are so grateful to these folks for helping us bring this resource to our community.

Do you have plays or theatre books you would like to donate to the library? Please contact Grahame Kent, Artistic Associate – Community Building at [grahame.k@persephonetheatre.org](mailto:grahame.k@persephonetheatre.org).

We gratefully accept both books and monetary donations to keep the library well stocked each year with fresh titles.



# PLAYDATE

This program gives parents and caregivers the opportunity to see a show on the Main Stage, while their children (aged 4-12) participate in a fun Theatre School program at the same time.

***A Christmas Story: December 7, 2025***

***The Romeo Initiative: February 8, 2026***

***RUBABOO - A Métis Cabaret: March 15, 2026***

***Blithe Spirit: May 3, 2026***



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True dread builds slowly. Certain imagery is built into our collective consciousness, poised to prick up our anxieties and set gooseflesh licking up the back of our necks. A coven of witches slowly marches from the forest to the river to perform their rituals and cast their curses. Stills from the New Jacobin Club music video, *The Priestess*, guide the viewer through this phantasmal scenery. Foreboding and mysticism are intentionally captured throughout the entire work.

A ghost, fortune teller, and witch escort us further down the trail. These staples of moody darkness expand our awareness of shadow and light. Colour brings us to the alien shape evoked by the only image of a human face. When the veils and abstractions are pushed aside, what remains is not the comforting visage of a woman but an arched and curved monster.

*"The Woman In Black* is a play which centres itself around atmosphere rather than brutality. I draw my inspirations from the same stalking ground, with a preference for eerie horror and brooding menace. In these dark places I find myself elevated and entranced; the fascination that transfixes me among the shades is what I want to share with my audience. Together we can wrap ourselves in the night and come to understand the chill touch of the dark."

- Kathryn Trembach



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## CAST & CREATIVE TEAM



**JESSICA ADAMSON (she/her) | Stage Manager**  
VISITING ARTIST

Jessica Adamson hails from the Skatin Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. She is an artist with a degree from UBC in Indigenous Studies, as well as First Nations Endangered languages. She has worked as a performer and in production for festivals, such as The Talking Stick Festival, The Drum is Calling, The Vancouver Folk Festival, The Vancouver International Children's Festival, and The Vancouver International Jazz Festival. Stage Management in theatre has included *So Damn Proud* (Holy Crow Arts), *The Ballad of Georges Boivin* (Western Gold Theatre), *White Noise* (Savage Society), and *White Girls in Moccasins* (Frank Theatre).



**IZZY BULL BEAR (they/them) | Jean**  
VISITING ARTIST

Izzy is very excited to be playing Jean/Ensemble. They are originally from Treaty 7 territory, Mohkinstsis (Calgary, Alberta) belonging to the Siksika Nation. They're also a Studio 58 Graduate, with credits including: *TomorrowLove*, *Cerulean Blue*, *EVERYBODY*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, and their play *Old Man Little Man*. Since graduating they have had the pleasure of working on a couple of projects, which include: a tour of *The Mixolydian*, with Green Thumb Theatre, a tour of *Th'owxiya: The Hungry Feast Dish*, with Axis Theatre and the world premier of *Echoes of the Homesick Heart*, with Western Canada Theatre.



**TAI AMY GRAUMAN (she/her) | Playwright**  
VISITING ARTIST

Tai Amy Grauman (MFA) is Métis Cree from Ardrossan, Alta. She is a Callihoo and Beauregard from St. Paul des Métis from her paternal lineage and a Turner from Cutknife, Sask from her maternal lineage. Tai is a writer, actor, director, and producer. She has been involved in over 20 theatre productions across the country. Her work is all about the archival of Métis Women's stories. Her play *'You used to call me Marie'* has been produced all over Canada and toured Métis communities across Alberta and Saskatchewan, while also having productions at the Arts Club, the National Arts Centre, and The Cultch. Tai is currently working on her next plays; *'Rose and James: A Metis Scottish love story'*, which is traveling to Scotland in February for a staged reading, and *'Wiwimaw'*, which will have a presentation at Métis Crossing this winter.



## DUSTY HAGERÜD

Production Designer / Props Designer / Puppet Designer

### VISITING ARTIST

Dusty Hagerüd, a member of the Ktunaxa/Kinbasket people of the Lower East Kootenays, has been obsessed with the animated object from childhood. A puppeteer, puppet designer and fabricator at Color Sound Lab, Dusty has been performing and designing in Puppetry for 25 years in Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver for theatre, advertising, film and television. He was brought on Nickelodeon's *The Barbarian and the Troll* as Puppet Wrangler and On Location Puppet Fabricator. He continued his passion in the same roles with The Jim Henson Creature Shop on *Fraggle Rock Back To The Rock* (which he received an Emmy for in 2025).



## ALIA HAMER | Costume Designer

### VISITING ARTIST

Alia is a Vancouver theatre designer, originally from the Gulf Islands. Recent projects she has worked on include: costume design for *Million Dollar Quartet*, *The Cull*, *Beneath Springhill*, *The Birds and the Bees* (Arts Club), *The East Van Panto: Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid* (Theatre Replacement), *HMS Pinafore*, *Carmen Up Close and Personal* (Vancouver Opera), *Beautiful Man* (PI Theatre); set design for *God Said This* (Pacific Theatre), *Seventeen* (Western Gold). She has worked on a variety of smaller shows through Vancouver and has a passion for costuming dance. Alia is a graduate of the UBC Theatre Design program in 2017 and holds an English literature degree from 2012.



## AMY HARRIS | Set Builder & Scenic Painter

### VISITING ARTIST

Amy has an absolute passion for her craft, with skills ranging from designing, puppet making, scenic carpentry, scenic painting and prop manufacturing. Originally from South Africa, she has gained extensive experience touring internationally with world-renowned Musicals, including *Jersey Boys*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* and *Chicago the Musical*, which has taken her across the globe. Amy obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Performing Arts Technology (Cum Laude) at the TUT, South Africa. She recently won an Ovation Award for the puppet build of Audrey 2 in *The Little Shop of Horrors* at the Arts Club Theatre Company.

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Illustrations by Keylianne Smith



## Eloi Homier | Jig Choreographer

### VISITING ARTIST

Born and raised on traditional Algonquin territory, Eloi Homier usually dances, canoes, and stargazes on the unceded territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm, Sḵwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətał Nations. Everything Eloi undertakes – from dance and theatre, to storytelling canoe adventures, to sash-weaving, to astronomy – has its raison d'être in his search for authentic identity. With family lines stretching back 400 years and beyond on the territory now called Québec, Eloi is on a lifelong journey to weave his distant Gallic origins with his sprinkling of Wendat, Abénaki, Algonquin, and Nipissing roots in a way that gives a voice to his ancestors.



## SAMANTHA KERR (she/her) | Buffalo

### VISITING ARTIST

Samantha is thrilled to be a part of *Where Have All the Buffalo Gone?* with Axis Theatre! She is grateful to be living and working on the traditional and unceded territory of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Sam has been passionate about performing since she was a toddler, using every opportunity to express herself through acting, singing, movement and music. Since graduating from the Acting program at Studio 58, she has produced original theatre productions and films, and is excited to continue crafting original work for the stage and screen, empowering the female voice. Recent theatre credits include: *BFF-less* (Roomie Productions), *Blood Wedding*, and *The Tempest* (Studio 58).



## CHRIS MCGREGOR (he/him)

### Co-Director & Sound Designer

### VISITING ARTIST

Chris is the Artistic Director of Axis Theatre and a third generation settler from Scotland and England. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Drama from Bishop's University and a Masters in Theatre in Directing from the University of British Columbia (UBC). He has taught physical theatre, Commedia dell'arte, mask and Red Nose Clown at UBC, Simon Fraser University, Bishop's University and Studio 58. He has directed more than 60 productions across Canada, has received four Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards and been nominated for three Ovation Awards for directing. Chris has adapted the children's books: *THE LITTLE OLD MAN*, *SOMEBODY LOVES YOU*, *MR. HATCH*, *FROG BELLY RAT BONE*, *CRY*, *HEART*, *BUT NEVER BREAK* and *ZORGAMAZOO* into puppets plays for the stage and Axis Theatre.



**KATHLEEN NISBET | Fiddle Player (Recorded)**

**VISITING ARTIST**

Kathleen Nisbet is a fiddle player, multi-instrumentalist, singer and composer from Vancouver. Classically trained early on, she returned to her Métis roots, pursuing more traditional folk music. Since then she has worked with artists in a variety of genres. A regular accompanist with V'ni Dansi, Métis traditional dance, credits also include work with the Arts Club, Pacific Theatre, Mortal Coil, Citadel Theatre and Mascal Dance. Kathleen is an active member of Vancouver's thriving bluegrass, old time and folk scene. She performs and tours internationally with her band Viper Central and is known for her live music productions, including the East Van Opry.



**KASSANDRA SISON (she/her) | Marie**

**VISITING ARTIST**

Kassandra is a Métis/Ukrainian actor from Winnipeg — Treaty 1 Territory and the homeland of the Red River Métis — currently based on the traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. She is deeply honoured to join the team bringing this beautiful script to life. Previous credits include Damion LeClair's *ROUGAROU*, Pivot Theatre's *Moonglow* (2024 Theatre BC Mainstage Award for Best Supporting Actress), *Doin' Time at the Alamo* and *Aboveboard* (North Van Community Players), and *Five Alarm* (Deep Cove Stage Society).



**AMANDA TESTINI (she/her) | Co-Director**

**VISITING ARTIST**

Amanda Testini (she/her) is an Italian-Canadian choreographer and director based on the unceded and ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. Amanda has worked with Arts Club Theatre Company, Bard on the Beach, the Cultch, Theatre Replacement, Firehall Arts Centre, Belfry Theatre, Gateway Theatre, Savage Society, Theatre Under the Stars, shameless hussy productions, Newworld Theatre, Studio 58, TheatreUBC, Electric Company, Vancouver Opera, Axis Theatre, the Glimmerglass Festival, and Edmonton Opera. After working on three iterations of Tai's *You Used to Call Me Marie*, she is grateful to be directing *Where Have All The Buffalo Gone?* with Chris McGregor and Axis Theatre.

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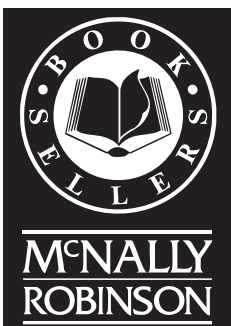
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Curated for

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If you would like more information about the Directors Circle or monthly giving contact Ericka Bold, Development Officer, at [ericka.b@persephonetheatre.org](mailto:ericka.b@persephonetheatre.org) or by phone at 306-384-2126 ext. 244.



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Louise Braun  
Norma Briskar  
Lynn Brown  
Frances Burgess  
Chris Butchko  
Phyl Cameron  
Charmaine Campbell  
Orpha Campbell  
Larry Carter  
Wendy Carter  
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Miguel Estrada  
Erika Facca  
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Marcia Fortier  
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Janice Fraess  
Ashton Frances  
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Tracy Gao  
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Monty Gendall  
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Lily Chin

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Robin Davis  
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Laurel Beyer,  
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Experience these concurrent exhibitions in Saskatoon. Dawit L. Petros: *From the Edge of the Horizon I* is on view at Remai Modern until March 8, 2026. *From the Edge of the Horizon II* is on view at the College Art Galleries at University of Saskatchewan until December 19, 2025.

## Dawit L. Petros: From the Edge of the Horizon



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Above: Dawit L. Petros, *Matthios*, 2005, archival pigment print, 76.2 x 95.3 cm. Courtesy of the artist, Bradley Ertaskiran Gallery, Montreal and Tiwani Contemporary, London © the artist, 2025

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