



# CENTAUR THEATRE

NOVEMBER 16 – DECEMBER 5, 2021

## ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS



WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY REBECCA NORTAN

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CENTAUR THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

# ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY REBECCA NORTAN

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With

**Mariah Inger** Marge  
**Gabe Maharjan** Nog  
**Amelia Sargisson** Ginger

Creative Team

**James Lavoie** Set and Costume Designer  
**Andrea Lundy** Lighting Designer  
**Bruce Horak** Sound Designer  
**Murdoch Schon** Assistant Director  
**Merissa Tordjman** Stage Manager  
**Luciana Burcheri** Assistant Stage Manager  
**Robert Montcalm** Fight Director

*All I Want for Christmas* was originally commissioned in 2020  
by Wesley Colford and the Highland Arts Theatre Company  
in Cape Breton, NS.

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#AllIWantForChristmas #centaurtheatre



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RUNNING TIME 80 MINUTES WITH NO INTERMISSION

PRODUCTION PARTNER



PARTNER SINCE 1999



## WELCOME BACK!

It's hard to imagine that it is finally possible to welcome you, our precious audience, back into the building and yet here you are! You stood by us in so many ways over the last 19 months – as generous donors, viewers of our various online offerings or visitors to the Portico Projects – and we are so very grateful for your steadfast support. Last March we were able to see a few of you for the socially distanced remount of *Mob*, Catherine-Anne Toupin's searing thriller, and some of you joined us for *Brave New Looks* this September, when we proudly presented *Okinum*, Emilie Monet's moving elegy to her Anishnaabe heritage.

Now you are here to enjoy our very first new production since Covid shut us down and it's a doozy! I am thrilled to welcome Rebecca Northan and her exquisitely eccentric comic talent back to Centaur with her new play, *All I Want for Christmas*. Rebecca wowed us with her inventive 'spontaneous theatre' offering, *Blind Date*, back in pre-pandemic 2019. Now she is working with a brilliant creative team and some of the most gifted and generous actors in town to hook up a delirious holiday call-out from some seriously overworked elves in Santa's workshop.

We have more theatre lined up for you in the coming months including the English language world premiere of Michel Marc Bouchard's new play, *Kisses Deep*, which comes to Centaur following its sold-out run in French at Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, which co-produced the show with us. I directed both productions and it has been a dream come true to work on both sides of Montreal's language divide. The Wildside Festival will celebrate 25 years in January and in the spring we look forward to bringing you *A Play for the Living in a Time of Extinction*, a provocative new play about the world we are living in right now. Directed by our Associate Artist, Rose Plotek, and written by the prolific American playwright Miranda Rose Hall, it is one woman's big-hearted journey into what we lose when a species becomes extinct – even one as lowly as the little brown bat.

We are overjoyed to have you back in your seat and we look forward to seeing you all year long, so sit back and prepare to be delighted!



Eda Holmes



## INDIGENOUS STORIES @ CENTAUR



While we hunkered down to ride out the pandemic storm, we used the time to take a long hard look at our place in Montreal's cultural landscape by creating the **Artistic Diversity Discussion @ Centaur**, which has generated a number of new initiatives including our inaugural **Indigenous Artist Residency**. This residency supports the interdisciplinary artist, Ange Loft, and her project **Talking Treaties: Tioṭià:ke** - an in depth theatrical exploration of the history of the land that we are on. Ange is gathering stories from a variety of sources in the area including Kahnawake elders and Catholic Church archives. I look forward to sharing more about this potent production as the work evolves over the year.



The Honorable Murray Sinclair, leader of the original Truth and Reconciliation Commission, says the path to healing the relationship between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous people of Canada is through respect, education and positive action. In place of a land acknowledgement, I encourage you to visit the website of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at [nctr.ca](http://nctr.ca). We all have so much to learn from one another.



**The Talking Treaties Tioṭià:ke Collective, with (top to bottom) Barbara Kanerattonni Diabo, lehente Foote and Ange Loft, inaugurates Centaur Theatre's first Indigenous Artist Residency.**

**REBECCA NORTAN**

I love the holiday season: I love the music, I love the snow, I love giving gifts—and I have thoroughly enjoyed adding to North Pole mythology.

In the summer of 2020, during second lockdown, my friend Wesley Colford, Artistic Director of the Highland Arts Theatre in Cape Breton, put out a call on social media asking for recommendations of “holiday shows for three actors, preferably a comedy, preferably Canadian, preferably written by a woman.” I messaged them immediately and offered to write something. Wesley’s only other request was that Santa not appear on stage. By the end of our first phone call, the nugget of the show had already formed in my mind.

The holidays can be a challenging time filled with familial pressures, expectations, unspoken needs... secrets. I wanted to write something full of ribbons and bows, good cheer and tinsel, while staying tapped into an undercurrent of human truths. All I Want for Christmas is about a couple of exceptional elves and a holiday surprise, but it is also about loneliness and transition, and finding the courage to speak your needs and your truths out loud - while giving others the space to do the same.

It’s also about LAUGHS! And LOVE! After the last two years I couldn’t think of a better gift to offer audiences returning to the theatre!

[Learn more about Rebecca and her innovative creative process in our blog: Serious Comedy.](#)





## **REBECCA NORTHAN** PLAYWRIGHT AND DIRECTOR

Rebecca Northan is a Calgary-born actor, director, improviser, and playwright. Centaur audiences will remember her hit show, *Blind Date*, which has been touring for over 10 years, and has played across Canada, the US, and the UK. Rebecca has pioneered the ‘Spontaneous Theatre’ genre where an audience member is cast in the lead role of a live performance. Aside from *Blind Date*, this includes: *Legend Has It* (Alberta Theatre Projects, Magnetic North Festival, Brooklyn Academy of Music), *Undercover* (Tarragon Theatre, Vertigo Theatre, Citadel Theatre), and *An Undiscovered Shakespeare* (Stratford Festival, Grand Theatre). She has also penned several more traditional scripts including: *ZORRO Family Code*, *SLIPPER: A Cinderella Story*, *Kung Fu Panties*, and most recently, *All I Want for Christmas*. Rebecca is thrilled to be returning to the Centaur Theatre.



## **MARIAH INGER** MARGE

Mariah Inger has been acting for over 25 years. She works in theatre, film/TV, voice, video games (performance capture) and radio. She is grateful to have had the chance to work with some of the best in the business, both in front and behind the camera.

She is also a director, producer, content creator, the VP of Black Wealth Media, a teacher and mentor to emerging marginalized artists, and the Co-coordinator of Black Theatre Workshop’s AMP (Artist Mentorship Program). She is a member of multiple committees - helping to implement better diversity/inclusion policies throughout the industry - such as Vice Chair of the current Montreal ACTRA - DEIB Committee (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging).

“I hope to continue to shed light on those that have been cloaked in darkness for far too long. May all art and creators shine equally one day...”

Film/TV credits include: Recurring role of Rhoda on CTV’s/NBC’s *Transplant*, *Home*, *Seasoned with Love*, *Skal*, *19-2*, *The Art of More*, *Fatal Vows*, *Broken Trust*, *The Bold Type*. Theatre acting & directing: *L’Histoire du Soldat* (English version), *Rejoindre les Étoiles*, *Black Is the Warmest Color*, *LSDFH*, *The West Woods*, *Under the Influence*, and *Black Media*.



### GABE MAHARJAN NOG

After spending this long year working digitally and in person across the country, Gabe's thrilled to be returning to the Centaur stage. As a co-founder of bigT collective, Gabe creates socially engaged work centering trans/GNC narratives; they have focused on community advocacy and currently serve as co-president of the Quebec Drama Federation (QDF) board of directors.

Stage credits include Theaturtle's touring solo-show *Alphonse in the Park*, Sermo Scomber's award-winning bouffon clown show *Don't Read the Comments*, and Cabal's fully immersive *La Somnambule* (META nominated – Outstanding Lead Performance). You can catch them in Mattias Graham's new film, *Bleach*, and their voice can be heard on Netflix and Ubisoft projects.

Gabe co-created *E-TRANSFERS* as part of the Buddies ECU; their play, *Eva in Rio*, was shortlisted for the 2020 PGC Emerging Playwright Award; and they recently published *Our Tree* as part of Centaur/Boca del Lupo's P2P@H series. This spring, Geordie Theatre will be premiering Gabe's adaptation of Kai Cheng Thom's popular Canadian children's book *From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea*.

[gabemaharjan.com](http://gabemaharjan.com)



### AMELIA SARGISSON GINGER

Amelia is a theatre monster born and raised in Montréal. She's delighted to be back at Centaur, where she made her professional acting début at 14 and appeared most recently as Eve in *Paradise Lost*. She's performed on stages and in festivals across the country including Stratford, Canadian Stage, Tarragon Theatre, SummerWorks, Crow's Theatre, Talk Is Free Theatre, Carousel Players, Usine C, Porte Parole, CORPUS, Imago Theatre, Talisman Theatre, and Repercussion Theatre, with whom she recently co-created and toured *Summer of Sonnets*.

Recent TV credits include: *See* (Apple TV+/Anders Egstrom) and *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC/Sharon Lewis). Amelia has narrated several audiobooks for Penguin Random House, and is currently writing two new plays: *Bloodshot* and *Fer Shame*.



### **JAMES LAVOIE** SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

James is a Montréal based set and costume designer who has designed nearly 100 productions of theatre and circus. He has collaborated with such theatre companies as Centaur Theatre, the National Arts Centre, Canadian Stage Company, Productions Juste Pour Rire, and Buddies in Bad Times, among many others. He is also a regular collaborator for Cirque du Soleil, designing costumes for several productions including *Joya* in Riviera Maya (Mexico), and *Twas the Night Before* at Madison Square Gardens. Through his work with Cirque du Soleil and other international companies, such as Les 7 doigts de la main, James' work has been experienced by live audiences in over 20 countries across 5 continents.



### **ANDREA LUNDY** LIGHTING DESIGNER

Andrea Lundy is an award-winning lighting designer and production manager who has worked professionally across Canada and internationally for 36 years. Andrea is the recipient of 9 Dora Mavor Moore Awards and 2 Montreal English Theatre Awards for Outstanding Lighting Design. She has worked extensively with the National Arts Centre, the Shaw Festival, Tarragon Theatre, Soulpepper Theatre, Canadian Stage, Necessary Angel Theatre, and Geordie Theatre, among others. For Centaur Theatre she has recently designed *The 39 Steps*, *Choir Boy*, *Constellations* and *The Last Wife*. Andrea is proud to have been Director of the Production Design and Technical Arts Program at the National Theatre School of Canada for the last 10 years.



### **BRUCE HORAK** SOUND DESIGNER

Bruce Horak is originally from Calgary, Alberta where he trained in theatre and improvisation. He has worked as an actor, writer, musician, and composer. He will be seen in the upcoming *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* for Paramount Plus in 2022. When not creating new works and performing onstage, Bruce devotes his time to painting.

His works can be seen at [www.brucehorak.com](http://www.brucehorak.com).



### **MURDOCH SCHON** ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Murdoch Schon is a nonbinary director, dramaturg and puppeteer. Born and raised in Treaty One Territory (Winnipeg), they have been involved in the Tiohtià:ke (Montreal) English theatre scene for almost a decade. Murdoch is fascinated by provocation, vulnerability, and the role of risk and failure in art making. They believe that theatre rises to its true power through the practices of ritual liminality, community and imagination. They insist on the wondrous nature of theatre as a transformative space where rulers can fail, heroes can rise and monsters seem more familiar than angels. Murdoch is a graduate of the Nation Theatre School directing program and has a BFA with a Specialization in Theatre and Development from Concordia University.



### **MERISSA TORDJMAN** STAGE MANAGER

Merissa has been stage managing in eastern Canada for over 15 years. Previous Centaur credits include: *MOB*; *Alice and the World We Live In*; *Successions*; *The 39 Steps*; *The Game of Love and Chance*; *God of Carnage*; *The Madonna Painter*; *Age of Arousal*; *Forever Yours*, *Marie-Lou*; *Mambo Italiano*; *The Cripple of Inishmaan*; *Moon for the Misbegotten*; and *The Gin Game*. Other selected credits include: *The Watershed* and *Seeds* (Porte Parole); *The Tashme Project* (Tashme Productions); *Funny Girl*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *Waiting for the Barbarians*, *Equus*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, *Geometry in Venice*, and *Educating Rita* (The Segal Centre); *We Are Not Alone* (2b/Crow's/Segal); and *Eternal Hydra* (Crow's Theatre).



### **LUCIANA BURCHERI** ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Luciana is an established Montreal stage manager whose career expands over two decades. Selected favourite credits (amongst too many to mention): *Okinum* (Imago Theatre/Onishka); *Paradise Lost*, *The St-Leonard Chronicles*, *Good People*, *Paradise by the River* and *In Piazza San Domenico* (Centaur Theatre); *Mythic*, *Once*, *Prom Queen: the Musical*, *The Secret Annex*, *Funny Girl*, *Othello*, *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz: the Musical*, *Cabaret*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, (The Segal Centre); *Corpus*, *Where the Blood Mixes* (Teesri Duniya) and many more. Luciana also translated and adapted for the stage Antoine de St-Exupéry's fable *The Little Prince*, premiered by Montreal's Geordie Theatre in 2008 and since produced in Ontario and Australia. Her French translation of *The 39 Steps* toured Quebec in 2012. Directing credits include: *Better Late*, *Forever*, *Patsy Cline* (Theatre Lac Brome); staged readings of *Once Upon a Melody* and *When Blood Ran Red* (Segal Centre's Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre) and the 2017 Montreal English Theatre Awards' Ceremony.

**ROBERT MONTCALM** FIGHT DIRECTOR

Robert is a certified fight instructor with Fight Directors Canada as well as an advanced actor combatant. He has worked as an actor and stunt performer in feature films, video games, theatre, television, Chinese opera, and western opera. He has also worked as a fight director for Centaur Theatre, Repercussion Theatre, Geordie Theatre, Segal Centre, Persephone Productions, Urban Ink/Black Theatre Workshop, Witchboy Theatre, and several independent theatre companies. He owes a great debt of gratitude to his Fight Master Jean-François Gagnon for all the knowledge that he has passed on and for the care in which it was done.

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Centaur Theatre Company is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement Centaur Theatre Company performs under the auspices of the Centaur Foundation for the Performing Arts.

[centaurtheatre.com](http://centaurtheatre.com)

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**Holly Hilts**

**Hannah Kirby**

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**Fanny Dvorkin** Props Assistant

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**Maryse Gosselin** Makeup artist

**Safia-Azahra Hidara** Props Assistant

**Samuel Lemieux** Props Assistant

**Sabrina Miller** Head of Props

**Öykü Önder** Props Assistant

**Angela Rassenti** Costume props

**Margaux Tabary** Seamstress

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