

A 25TH STREET THEATRE PRODUCTION



what if

BY KATEY HOFFMAN

what if

Written by Katey Hoffman

Originally Commissioned and Produced by:
Green Thumb Theatre
Vancouver, BC

WHAT IF is staged by arrangement with Meaghan Denomme at GGA,
www.ggagency.ca

thank you to our supporters

This production would not be possible without the financial support of the following organizations and many generous individuals. Live performing arts enrich our community and spark important conversations.

We are grateful to have arts allies in our community who recognize this and choose to support the work we do. Thank you.



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land acknowledgement

This production of *What If* by Katey Hoffman toured to the following lands as part of 25th Street Theatre's Collaboration Station+: In Schools program:

Treaty Six Tour Stops

Blaine Lake - Blaine Lake Composite School
Spiritwood - Rivier Elementary School
North Battleford - Ecole Monsigneur
Wilkie - Norman Carter Elementary School
Kerrobert - Kerrobert Composite School
St. Louis - St. Louis Public School
Hague - Hague Elementary School
Saskatoon - Sherbrooke Community Centre & Nutrien Wonderhub

25th Street Theatre was founded and operates on Treaty Six Territory which is the traditional lands of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Dene, and Lakota, and is recognized as the homeland of the Métis Nation.

Treaty Four Tour Stops

Central Butte - Central Butte School
Hodgeville - Hodgeville School
Kincaid - Kincaid School
Shaunavon - Shaunavon Public School
Cabri - Cabri School

Treaty Four encompasses the lands of the Cree, the Saulteaux, the Dakota, the Nakota, the Lakota, and is also recognized as the homeland of the Métis Nation.

Treaty Ten Tour Stops

Beauval - Valley View School
Buffalo Narrows - Twin Lakes Community School

Treaty ten covers approximately 220,000 square kilometres of northern Saskatchewan, and northeastern Alberta, including the traditional lands of the Cree, the Chipewyan, and other First Nations.

As an organization, we aim to respect and honour the ancestral stewards of all these lands by acknowledging the harms of the past, committing to truth and reconciliation, and following their footsteps in teaching compassion, advocating for equity, and helping to build a more sustainable future that protects our natural resources. We are all treaty people.



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cast

(in alphabetical order)

Milo Kody Farrow
Nicky Rachel McLaughlin
Milo/Nicky Understudy Ashton Turner

creative team

Director Anita Smith*
Stage Manager Lauren Griffin

Audio Designer Tim Bratton
Costume Designer Morgan Carter
Set/Props Designer Philippa Williams

Education Consultant Angela Christie
Scenic Carpenter Jeff Kirzinger
Scenic Painter Dillon Person
Media Publicist Britainy Zapshalla

*The participation of this Artist is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance•Opera•Theatre Policy.

25th street theatre staff

Artistic & Executive Director Anita Smith
Community Relations Manager Philippa Williams
Operations Manager Katie Blackburn-Dust
Production Manager Drew Mantyka
Executive Assistant Rebecca Spilchak

a message from the director/ artistic & executive director

When I read Katey Hoffman's play *What If* not only did I know that it would be a great fit for our Collaboration Station+: In Schools program, I knew that I wanted to be at the helm as the Director.

Because I grew up in rural Saskatchewan, where I devoured every theatrical opportunity placed in front of me, rural kids with a flare for the dramatic hold a special place in my heart. I know that there are other kids out there with that same passion for storytelling and performing, and our Collaboration Station+: In Schools program creates an opportunity not only for them to see a professional play in their school, but it creates a chance for them to learn from professional performers. A chance for them to flex their creative muscles and push their imaginations. Something that I would have been over the moon about.

I was drawn to this show because of the character, Nicky. She reminds me so much of my daughter who has her own anxiety struggles, but in speaking with people about this show, I have learned that there may be more people like Nicky than there are like Milo. And the statistics back this up. Youth mental health in Saskatchewan is amongst the worst in the country. There are supports out there that we want to be sure all kids have access to, and sometimes the best support can be a friend.

Finally, I absolutely love kids. I think they are the most magical people in the world while also being the most brutally honest audience members. If they don't find your show entertaining, you will know, so we have tried to pack every moment of theatrical entertainment that we could into this production with the hopes of holding their attention. And the creative team on this show has understood the assignment from day one. They have created a world and characters that are playful and dynamic that we are sure will hold the attention of our audience members.

I hope that this show will leave a lasting impact on our young audience members whether they be more like Nicky or like Milo. And that we all walk away remembering that we make the world a better place when we judge less and support more.

Anita Smith

Artistic & Executive Director of 25th Street Theatre
Director of *What If*



special thanks to those who lent a hand to make this tour a success

Eric Anderson
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meet the team



tim bratton (he/him) ~ audio designer

Tim is thrilled to be working with 25th Street Theatre again and hopes you enjoy his sound design for *What If*. Based in Saskatoon, Tim has worked in this community as an actor, sound designer, dramaturge, playwright, and director, and also serves as the Artistic Associate for Burnt Thicket Theatre. Sound design credits include *Richard II*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *As You Like It*, & *Cymbeline* (Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan), *This Is How We Got Here* (Persephone), *LEAR* (NNS, GTNT, & LTDJ), *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Evergreen*, *The Unplugging*, and the acclaimed audio drama series *We Treaty People* (Burnt Thicket Theatre). Tim lives in the King George Neighbourhood with his lovely wife, Amy, and their two very active kids.



morgan carter (she/her) ~ Costume Designer

Morgan Carter (she/her) is a costume designer and multidisciplinary artist based in Saskatoon. Most recently, she was the costume designer for *Goodnight Desdemona*, *Good Morning Juliet* (Fatal Fem/Live Five) and *The Boat* (Highway 55 Productions/Live Five). She also designed costumes for *Zastrozzi: Master of Discipline* (Eisenschmetterlinge Collective/Live Five), *Entre plaine et savane 2* (La Troupe du Jour), *Heathers: The Musical* (Sparrow Theatre), and was props designer for *The Art of French Cooking* (25th Street Theatre). In her spare time you can usually find Morgan trying to read through her ever-growing pile of books with her cat, Junji.



kody farrow (he/him) ~ milo

Kody Farrow is a theatre artist and educator based out of Saskatoon who holds a BFA from the University of Saskatchewan and a B.Ed from Memorial University of Newfoundland. With a lifetime of experience in youth programming through 4-H and teaching, he is excited to work on his first TYA show! After growing up in a small town, it's such a privilege to have the chance to be a rural kid's first introduction to live theatre. Recent credits include *Twelfth Night* (NNS), *Zastrozzi* (Eisenschmetterlinge Collective), *Hamlet, Done/Undone* (Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan), *LEAR* (NNS, GTNT, LTDJ), *Men Express Their Feelings* (25th Street Theatre) and *Measure for Measure* (The Coterie).

meet the team



lauren griffin (she/her) ~ stage manager

Lauren Griffin (she/her) is a writer, actor and stage manager from Treaty Six Territory. Lauren graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a BFA in Drama and minors in Psychology and English. Lauren's recent credits include acting in *Paper Wheat*, stage managing *The Art of French Cooking* and assistant stage managing *Men Express Their Feelings* at 25th Street Theatre and apprentice stage managing for *Miracle on 34th Street* and *A Christmas Story* at Persephone Theatre. Lauren's publications include "Frost" (1st place Hybrid Grain Contest, *Grain* Vol.51.3) and "Excavation" (Guild Prize winner, *Freelance* Vol.53 No.4). Her play *The Mooneaters* was awarded Best Local Show at the Saskatoon Fringe Festival in 2025.



rachel mclaughlin (she/her) ~ nicky

Rachel McLaughlin (she/her) is a theatre artist/educator based in Treaty Six Territory, who holds a BFA(hon.) from the UofS. Always honoured to have the opportunity to create, learn, and grow in her hometown, Rachel has been working alongside many local theatres, including Ferre Play Theatre, Sum Theatre, SOTS, Whirlygig Theatre Co, and Two Good Shoes Co, collecting inspiration and joy from its wonderful artistic collaborators. She is thrilled to continue making these lasting connections in her community, now again with new and old friends at 25th Street Theatre! Off-stage, Rachel can be found snuggled up with her cat Juniper, enjoying an iced coffee or daydreaming about her next adventure.



ashton turner (they/he) ~ nicky/milo understudy

Ashton Turner (they/he) is an interdisciplinary emerging artist who calls Saskatchewan their home. They are honored for the ability to create and perform on Treaty 6 territory. Primarily an actor, Ashton graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 2023 with their Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting. Always looking to create diverse and accessible art, Ashton dabbles in design, sketching and painting when not acting on stage. Selected credits include *Terra Nova*, and *The Margin of the Sky* (Greystone Theatre) and a current co-host on the radio show *Mom I'm a Thespian*. Ashton gives thanks to all his friends and family for their support! And to you for seeing the show!

meet the team



anita smith (she/her) ~ director

Anita (she/her) is an actor, director, producer, and mother who is also the Artistic & Executive Director of 25th Street Theatre. An active member of the Saskatoon theatre community, Anita is proud to have directed *The Art of French Cooking* (25th Street Theatre); *J. Caesar, As You Like It, Done/Undone* (Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan); *The Birds and the Bees*, and *The Invisible Girl* (Persephone Theatre). She appeared in *The Revolutionists*, *Boeing Boeing*, *Trout Stanley*, *Quick Bright Things* (Persephone Theatre); *Fruitcake* (25th Street Theatre); *The Penelopiad* (Ferre Play Theatre); *Twelfth Night*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *Love's Labour's Lost* (Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan) among others. A passionate feminist, Anita is a founding member of Ferre Play Theatre whose productions of *The Penelopiad* and *Breaking the Curse* received a combined seven SATAwards. Anita is proud to be a three-time nominee for the SATAward for Excellence in Direction, a recipient of the YWCA Young Woman of Distinction Award and a recipient of the SATAward for Excellence in Leadership.



phil (they/she) ~ set/props designer

Phil (they/she) is an actor, administrator, and scenic artist from England. They are best known as the Community Relations Manager at 25th Street Theatre, and previously as the Interim Head of Scenic Paint at the Globe Theatre and Interim General Manager at Saskatoon Summer Players. Phil doesn't design much, but they do think kids have the best style, and she is very grateful to Anita, Drew, Katie, Jeff, and Dillon for helping make this playtime a reality. Also to Norm Daschle and Stephen Wade for their guidance. Above all else, Phil is passionate about building better theatre practices, where workers are valued as much as their work.

Up next: *Assassins* (sorry/grateful Theatre)

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