

MountAllison  
Motyer-Fancy Theatre

2025-2026 SEASON  
RESISTANCE & RESILIENCE

A PUPPET CABARET

# NOCTURNAL VARIATIONS

BY IAN McFARLANE &  
STUDENT CREATORS

DIRECTED BY IAN McFARLANE

# Directors' Note

The process of putting together a new performance is always a bit of a freefall, one that demands bravery and trust; trust in your collaborators to observe your mistakes graciously, trust in the materials to offer you something unexpected, and trust in yourself to find your feet in the darkness. This stumbling, awkward and challenging journey isn't so very far removed from how we navigate change in our lives, whether it be a crisis or an intentional shift. We put one foot in front of the other and hold on to the hands of those close to us as we move deeper into the unknown. As our world appears ever more darkened by uncertainty and tragedy, these practices of adaptation and resilience, this seeking out of a not-yet, feel ever more relevant. I am in awe of the bravery of this ensemble and their eagerness to dream together.

Ian McFarlane

Transformation was a large part of my thought process when joining the cabaret; I didn't realize that I would transform also. The potential to transform does not just exist on stage, but in the hearts and minds of those who are willing to accept transformation. Our space is liminal; the stage does not end where the seats wait for you. Dreams are the transformation of our deepest thoughts and ideas, and the student creators have brought to life their own creations through their daydreams. Since working on this project, my world is simply more joyful and filled with wonder. And now, we welcome you to our world; anyone may borrow a song, an idea, or an action, and transform within your own life.

Kayla Trites

# CREATIVE TEAM



## Ian McFarlane (He/They) Director

Ian is the Resident Designer of the Drama and Screen Studies Program. Ian has worked with such companies as the Canadian Academy of Mask and Puppetry, Bread and Puppet Theater, The River Clyde Pageant, as well as co-founded Mudfoot Theatre and North Barn Theatre. He received an MFA in Contemporary Art from Simon Fraser University.

## Kayla Trites (She/Her) Assistant Director\*

For the last 5 months, I have launched myself into the world of puppetry, abstraction and pure joy from collaborating with Ian and my fellow puppeteers! It has been an honour to direct such talented humans, including The Night Crew, who are characters created out of our love for laughing! Thank you to the Drama faculty, my family, Daniel, and my friends for supporting me this year!



## Teagan Stewart Exhibition Curation

Teagan Stewart is a BFA student who loves birds: watching birds, drawing birds, being birds, etc.

\*Indicates 4011/4950/4951 Project

# CREATIVE TEAM



## Erica Duncan (She/They) Set Designer

When I first heard what Nocturnal Variations was going to be about, I knew I had to be a part of it. Themes of light and dreams have always intrigued me, especially when they reflect the world around us. Getting to work with everybody's original ideas and see how they all come together has been such an amazing and unique experience.

## Percy Austin (any pronouns) Sound Designer

Percy is a fourth year English, Religion, and Drama studies student here at MTA. With this being all devised and student created, he's been lucky to be part of the process from the beginning and seeing the development of each of the student scenes as a part of their own design process. Percy have also been able to work closely with each creator not only on the ideal sound effects needed for each scene (for which there are a lot!), but also on developing background music/ambience to go along with each scene to add another dimension to the story telling.



## Clark Schaufe Piano

Alberta-born pianist Clark Schaufe enjoys a multi-faceted career, spanning genres beyond classical piano. On both the keyboards and the double bass, he has been involved in many performances, tours, and studio recordings, ranging from classical to jazz to country and folk. Recent performances have taken him to Japan, Taiwan, Australia, Austria, Germany, Holland, Poland, and throughout Canada, notably including performances at Stratford Music Festival, Regina Chamber Music Festival, The Bonff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Rudolstadt Festival, and the Orlando Festival; and has collaborated with a wide range of artists including Mark Fewer, Lenka Lichtenberg, and Jayme Stone.

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# The Part You Throw Away

## The Puppeteers



Name: Ben Blue  
Pronouns: He/Him  
Program: BA Drama  
Artist Statement: Ben is a drama and music student. Having participated in The Dark and the Swamp Parade last year, Ben couldn't wait to try out a different perspective on puppetry. He auditioned for this show because of the unique lens it offers into theatre and the challenge it presents to an actor. While he operates several puppets, the character that brings him the most joy is Vincent.

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Artist Statement: Kody is a third-year arts student, majoring in Drama and minoring in screen studies. After performing in The Dark, Kody fell in love with puppetry and was ecstatic to be able to bring his own piece to a show.

Name: Kayla Trites  
Pronouns: She/Her  
Program: BA Drama and English  
Artist Statement: Bringing Tanya to life has been one of the most rewarding tasks throughout this production. The bond I have created with this entertaining, lovable diva is the reason why I proposed my 4951, and why I get to wake up every day just a bit happier. Thanks to the cast and crew for giving me the confidence to shine!

Music By: Tom Waits

# Enter Night

## The Puppeteers



**Name:** Percy Austin

**Pronouns:** Any Pronouns

**Program:** BA

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**Program:** BFA

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**Name:** Magdalyn Livingstone  
**Pronouns:** She/Her  
**Program:** BA  
**Artist Statement:** Magdalyn is a first year at MTA, and this is her first production with the Motyer Fancy Theater! Magdalyn is a puppeteer and she created the "Tribute to Palestine" scene. Magdalyn has performed on stage, worked on tech, directed and written in a variety of different projects throughout the three or four years she has been involved in theater, and can't wait to see what the Motyer Fancy Theater has to offer!



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**Name:** Violet Troop  
**Pronouns:** She/Her  
**Program:** B.Sc Math  
**Artist Statement:** Violet is a second-year math student. She has been involved in MFT shows "The Dark" and "Victor '25" as an ASM. In Nocturnal Variations, she has gotten to build and operate puppets, as well as assist in devising scenes with them. She finds puppets very interesting, and is grateful for this opportunity to learn more about them.



# Boy and Firefly

Devised by: Kayla Trites and Erica Duncan

"Kayla and Erica created the firefly scene with the intention to showcase childlike wonder, explore light and loneliness, and most importantly, they wanted to include a transformation that we have all experienced: the natural fluorescence of life to beacons that blind us."

## The Puppeteers



Name: Percy Austin  
Pronouns: Any Pronouns  
Program:

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Pronouns: She/Her  
Program: BFA

Artist Statement: Teagan Stewart is a BFA student who loves birds: watching birds, drawing birds, being birds, etc.

# Anti-Anxiety Dance #1

## The Puppeteers



**Name:** Ben Blue  
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**Program:** BA Drama  
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# Emu the Eighth

Devised by: Teagan Stewart

““Comedy in the Land-Upover” is inspired by a mother-daughter trip on the West Coast of Australia, where we had many encounters with strange animals, the most ridiculous of them all being the emu. I hope Emu VIII brings you great joy and laughter.”

## The Puppeteers



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Program: BFA  
Artist Statement: I'm here because I love puppets! I want to thank Tom Servo for inspiring me, Teagan for writing the role of a lifetime in Emu Dad, Ian for everything generally, and all my fellow collaborators for creating these lovely scenes.



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# Bunny Big, Bunny Small

Devised by: Kody Hatfield

“Big Bunny, Little Bunny is a story of discovery, overcoming grief and depression through the power of a loved one and a new point of view. A personal story of growth and the importance of loving those around you”

## The Puppeteers



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# Anti-Anxiety Dance #2

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**Music By: The Beatles**

# Tribute To Palestine

Devised by: Magdalyn Livingstone

“ I created the "tribute to Palestine" piece showing the horrible reality of our world and the pain people are feeling, and the twinkle of hope in everyone's story for a better future. I created this piece as a form of protest against war and violence, I wanted to pay my part in supporting and acknowledging the families that are being torn apart across the world, hoping to show people there is no winning in war, only loss and pain. I hope for a better future for the world, a kinder one. “

## The Puppeteers



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# Tribute To Palestine

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# Lonely Astronaut

Devised by: Violet Troop

This scene details the story of an astronaut, isolated from earth, attempting to return home. It is a story about helplessness, acceptance, and the dangers of tightrope walking in space.

## The Puppeteers



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**Name:** Violet Troop

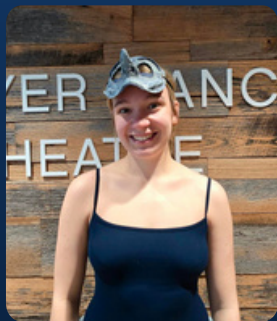
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# The Night Crew

## The Performers

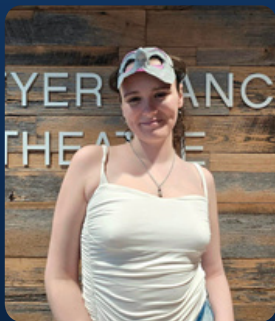


Name: Ella Boudreau

Pronouns: She/Her

Program: B.A English

Artist Statement: I've had an absolute blast working with the night crew to help bring this dream land to life. My character embodies so much joy, silliness, and laughter, and I truly believe everyone should have a Bonk in their life.



Name: Skylar Côté

Pronouns: She/Her

Program: B.MUS

Artist Statement: Getting to work in mask again has been such a joy. I loved working with Kayla in developing my persona for the show, a very upbeat and overly-energetic waitress at the Cabaret. Getting to live in this dream realm with my fellow Maskians has been a dream come true!



Name: Kylie Vienneau

Pronouns: She/They

Program: B.A Drama

Artist Statement: Kylie plays Holly, the head of the stage crew. A character who is a bit more grounded than her counterparts and much more focused on putting the show together. Her role felt obvious once she stood with the crew!



# Technical Team



**Rachael Liddel (She/They)**  
Stage Manager\*

BA Drama

I feel extremely honored that for my first time stage managing, I got to work alongside a very unique cast of characters that certainly pulled a few of my strings! Get ready to immerse yourself in our dream-like production!

**Jax Bailey (They/Them)**

Assistant Stage Manager

BA VMCS

This is Jax's first show as an assistant stage manager! It has been so fun for them to work with the cast and track all the props and puppets! Shoutout to Party Chicken, the official ASM puppet!



**Taylor Campbell (She/Her)**  
Assistant Stage Manager

For MFT: A Very Carole Christmas Carol. Taylor is a 3rd year Music student from Halifax, NS. She is excited for her ASM debut and extremely grateful to be a part of this thought-provoking, silly, student-led show. Many thanks to her friends and family, and especially her dog Max for their continuous support. @oh.hey.its.taylor

\*Indicates 4011/4950/4951 Project

# Additional Credits

Puppet Consultation

Laura Stinson

Lighting Designer

Andrew Kerr

MLX

Danica Jollimore

Sound Operator

Keira MacDuff

Head Scenic Carpenter

Dawson Cormier

## Puppet Design

Ian McFarlane, Ben Blue, Erica Duncan,

Kody Hatfield, Magdalyn Livingstone,

Teagan Stewart, Kayla Trites, Violet Troop



# Technical Team

## Paint

Percy Austin, Jax Bailey, Taylor Campbell,  
Skylar Cote, Erica Duncan, Neema Naderi,  
Teagan Stewart, Kayla Trites

## Lighting

Vera Baranova, Grace Gilbert,  
Laura Torriero, Kylie Vienneau

# Honourable Mentions

## Special Thanks

Neema Naderi

Renée De Laat

Jay Whitehead

Dr. Stephanie Dotto

J.E.A Crake Foundation

## MOTYER-FANCY THEATRE

SARAH FANNING | Director of Drama & Screen Studies

VALMAI GOGGIN | Instructor in Applied Theatre

IAN MCFARLANE | Resident Designer

ANDREW KERR | Production Manager

ALEX FANCY | Professor Emeritus

JAY WHITEHEAD | Crake Drama Fellow

STEPHANIE DOTTO | McCain Postdoctoral Fellow

PAUL GRIFFIN | Drama Studies Lecturer

### Student Technicians

DAWSON CORMIER | Carpentry & Paint

SIMON FOOTE | Screen

DANICA JOLLIMORE | Costume & Props

CATE MCNAIR | Front of House

LAURA TORRIERO | Theatre

KAYLA TRITES | Marketing & Publicity

# Next at the MFT

MountAllison  
Motyer-Fancy Theatre  
2025-2026 SEASON

## ***EXIT '26***

BY JEAN-PAUL SARTRE  
& TINTAMARRE

SCRIPT & MISE-EN-SCÈNE BY **ALEX FANCY**

A BILINGUAL PRODUCTION | UN SPECTACLE BILINGUE



**MARCH 4-7, 7:30 P.M.**

**Motyer-Fancy Theatre** | Purdy Crawford Centre for the Arts

**DRAMA@MTA.CA**