



MIKE NADAJEWSKI & TAYLOR GARWOOD  
IN

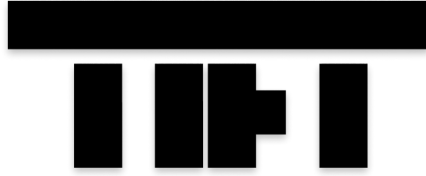
# ***ALL THE COWS ARE DEAD***

Book, Music and Lyrics by Ben Page  
Directed by Will Dao

PRESENTED BY  
BARRY PEACOCK AND ELIZABETH ANDERSON-PEACOCK  
IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH BLUFF CITY THEATER

January 22-31, 2026  
80 Bradford Street, Barrie





*Based in Barrie, Talk Is Free Theatre's office is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishnaabe people, including the Ojibwa, Ojibwe and Potawatomi Nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy.*

*Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.*

*We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit. It has been a site of human activity for at least 15,000 years.*

*This is Dish With One Spoon Territory. Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.*

# ALL THE COWS ARE DEAD

BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS BY  
BENJAMIN PAGE

ANTON  
LOUIE

CELLO

DIRECTOR  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
MUSIC DIRECTOR  
SET, COSTUME & PROPS DESIGN  
FIGHT DIRECTION

STAGE MANAGER  
PRODUCTION MANAGER  
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT/  
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER  
PUBLICITY

MIKE NADAJEWSKI  
TAYLOR GARWOOD

ALYSSA WRIGHT

WILL DAO  
GRIFFIN HEWITT  
ATHENA SO  
ALESSIA URBANI  
ANITA NITTOLY

JESS GORDON  
CARLOS VARELA

LAUREN CULLY  
KATIE SAUNORIS | KSPR

Cover photo by Dahlia Katz

[WWW.TIFT.CA](http://WWW.TIFT.CA)



WE DEDICATE THIS PRODUCTION TO THE MEMORY OF

*Steve Farley*



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SUPPORTERS OF TALK IS FREE THEATRE.

YOU WILL BE MISSED.

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**Talk Is Free Theatre** has enjoyed over twenty years of developing and producing theatre in Barrie, Toronto, across Canada and around the world. Our mission, both in our home seasons and through our many touring endeavours, is to produce a range of cutting edge theatre works and to connect them with as wide an array of people as possible—especially with new, non-urban audiences. As for our home operations in Barrie, TIFT is Central Ontario’s only professional theatre company with a full, traditional autumn-through-spring season.

Our diversity of repertoire has included over 170 immersive experiences, off-centre musicals, reinterpretations of classics, and new works large and small—from a one-person show on a city bus to a major musical at the Winter Garden Theatre in Toronto—striving every day to put artists first.

TIFT has been included multiple times on the lists of 10 Best theatre in the national media and has won several top theatre honours, including the Dora Mavor Moore Awards.



## STAFF

ARKADY SPIVAK	Artistic Producer
CARA MCRAE	Administrator
MICHAEL TORONTOW	Communications Associate
DUSTYN WALES	Associate Producer
CRYSTAL LEE	Production Consultant
RICHARD LAM	Artist BIG Program Liaison
GABI EPSTEIN	Associate Producer & ARIA Manager
NOAH BEEMER	Apprentice Artistic Producer

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JOE PAGNAN, DAVID ANDREW REID, MERLIN SIMARD  
and MICHAEL TORONTOW

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*Talk Is Free Theatre engages professional artists who are members  
of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association, under the terms of the  
Independent Theatre Agreement.*

*Talk Is Free Theatre is an active member of the  
Professional Association of Canadian Theatres.*

## COMPANY



### MIKE NADAJEWSKI

ANTON

**For TIFT (Selected):** *La Bête* (Barrie and Toronto), *Into the Woods* (New Zealand), *Sweeney Todd* (UK), *Herringbone/The Yalta Game*, *Candide*, *Sunday in the Park with George*.

**Elsewhere:** Nine seasons with the Shaw Festival, including *Tons of Money*, *Gnit*, *On the Razzle*, *Damn Yankees*, *Charley's Aunt*, *The Russian Play*, *Happy End*; Eight seasons with the Stratford Festival, including *Timon of Athens*, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream: A Chamber Play*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Jesus Christ*

*Superstar* (also Broadway), *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*; *Vinyl Cafe: The Musical* (Citadel Theatre); *Into the Woods* (RCM Koerner Hall); *Outside Mullingar*, *Cabaret* (Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre); *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Cotton Patch Gospel* (Drayton Entertainment); several productions with Canadian Stage Company, National Arts Centre, Charlottetown Festival, Western Canada Theatre, and Theatre Aquarius.

**Film/TV:** *The Understudy*, *Northern Tracks: Rufus Wainwright and Joni Mitchell* (StratFest@HOME), *Private Eyes* (Global/Entertainment One), *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC/Shafesbury Films), *Kim's Convenience* (CBC/Thunderbird Films), *Gracie & Pedro: Pets to the Rescue* (GTE Productions INC).

**Upcoming:** Mike will be playing at the Stratford Festival this season in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Othello*.



### TAYLOR GARWOOD

LOUIE

**For TIFT:** *The Frogs*, *Into The Woods*, *Outeis*, *Written In Blood*

**Elsewhere:** *White Christmas* (Shaw Festival); *A Christmas Carol* (Tweed & Co.); *Mamma Mia!* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *UnCovered: Fleetwood Mac & The Eagles, Putting It Together: In Concert*, *Get A Life: A Banks Prize Cabaret* (The Musical Stage Company).



AIDAN DESALAIZ  
IN

# COMPANY

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim  
Book by George Furth

Directed by Dylan Trowbridge

January 15-February 8, 2026  
The Theatre Centre, 1115 Queen Street West, Toronto



## COMPANY



### BEN PAGE

BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS

**For TIFT:** *The Frogs* (Musical Director)

**Elsewhere:** Jack in *Into the Woods* (Koerner Hall); *The Inheritance* (Canadian Stage—Dora nomination for outstanding performance by an ensemble); Caterpillar in *Alice* (Soulpepper/Bad Hats); *The Man That Got Away* (Buddies in Bad Times); Bear in *Ursa: A Folk Musical* (Tweed & Co).

**Other:** Cast albums: *Ursa* (The Uncommon Folk Collective), *Alice* (Bad Hats). Education: Sheridan College class of 2020. Currently studying for their Masters in Musical Theatre Writing at NYU TISCH.



### WILL DAO

DIRECTOR

**For TIFT:** Debut

**Elsewhere:** Directing: *Harm's Way* (TMU); *i love the smell of gasoline* (Pencil Kit Productions/Nightwood Theatre); *Queer Youth Cabaret*, *Peggy Picket Sees The Face of God* (Soulpepper Theatre); *The Boy Who Cried, Gulp* (Toronto Fringe). Assistant Director: *As You Like It* (Stratford Festival); *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (Canadian Stage); *Uncle Vanya* (Mirvish); *The Master Plan* (Crow's Theatre).

**Other:** Will is a graduate of the University of Toronto and the Soulpepper Academy. He's an alumni of Stratford's Langham Director's Workshop and Outside the March's Artistic Accomplice Program. His instagram is @iwannabewilldao.



### GRIFFIN HEWITT

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

**For TIFT:** *The Frogs* (Director), *Perfect on Paper*, *Into the Woods*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Cyclops: A Satyr Play* (writer/performer), *The Great Gatsby*, *Written In Blood* (writer/director), *Outheis* (writer/director)

**Elsewhere:** Bob Gaudio in *Jersey Boys*, Carl Perkins in *Million Dollar Quartet* (Tweed and Co.); Young Sam in *Beside Myself* (The Foster Festival).

**Other:** Griffin is an actor, playwright, and director, passionate about bringing new, inventive, and vital theatre to audiences. When not onstage, you may find him pacing Toronto's Cabbagetown, muttering about a creative problem under his breath. He thanks his partner Sydney, for everything. Instagram: @Griffinhewitt

## COMPANY



### ATHENA SO

MUSIC DIRECTOR

**For TIFT:** Debut

**Elsewhere:** Theatre: Keys 3 in *Frozen* (Theatre Aquarius); Keys 1 Sub in *The Lion King* (Mirvish); MD in *Grease* (Drayton); Keys/Conductor Sub in *The Secret Garden* (Shaw Festival); Rehearsal Pianist/Keys Sub in *My Fair Lady* (Shaw Festival); MD in *Soft Magical Tofu Boys* (Musical Stage Co.); MD in *OUT* (Theatre Aquarius); Rehearsal Pianist/Keys 1 Sub in *White Christmas* (Shaw Festival).

**Other:** Athena served as the Music Intern in the 2024 Shaw Festival Season. She would like to thank her partner, family, and friends for their endless support and love.  
@athenasomusic



### ALESSIA URBANI

SET, COSTUME AND PROPS DESIGN

**For TIFT:** Debut

**Elsewhere:** Theatre: Co-Costume/Set Designer of *Viva La Mamma* (UofT Opera); Costume/Set Designer of *Iris* (Says Goodbye) (Mixtape Projects); Assistant Costume Designer of *As You Like It* (Stratford Festival); Co-Costume/Set Designer of *L'enfant et les sortilèges/The Prodigal Son* (The Glenn Gould School); Co-Costume Designer of *Three Islands*, *Cendrillon*, *Il capello di paglia di Firenze*, *A Tale of Two Cities* (UofT Opera); Costume Designer of *Into The Woods*, *Million Dollar Quartet* (The Grove Theatre); Costume Designer of *Enemy Lines* (Aeris Körper); Costume Designer of *Killing Time* (Mixtape Projects).

**Other:** [alessiaurbani.com](http://alessiaurbani.com)

## COMPANY



### ANITA NITTOLY

FIGHT DIRECTION

**For TIFT:** *Jesus Christ Superstar*

**Elsewhere:** The Stratford Festival, The Blyth Festival, Canadian Stage, Soulpepper, Young People's Theatre, Perchance, Neptune, The Grand, YES, National Arts Centre, Tarragon, Buddies in Bad Times, Imago, Centaur, Segal Centre, Canadian Opera Company, Aquarius, Factory, Theatre Passe Muraille, Obsidian, Carousel Players, Cahoots.

**Film/TV:** *The Copenhagen Test*, *Star Trek: Star Fleet Academy*, *Twisted Metal (S2)*; *Law & Order: Toronto*, *SEE*, *Titans*, *The Boys*

**Other:** [www.anitanittoly.com](http://www.anitanittoly.com)



### JESS GORDON

STAGE MANAGER

**For TIFT:** Debut

**Elsewhere:** *Hansel & Gretel: The Sticky & Sweet Panto*, *Rapunzel: A Merry (Hairy) Holiday Panto* (Capitol Theatre); *Hurry Hard* (Orillia Opera House/Upper Canada Playhouse); *A Woman's Love List*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Come Down From Up River*, *Doris and Ivy in the Home* (Upper Canada Playhouse); *Heist* (Grand Theatre/Citadel Theatre); *Matilda: The Musical*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Grand Theatre); *Wendy and Peter Pan*, *Avon*

*Theatre Production Assistant* (Stratford Festival); *Jonas and Barry in the Home*, *Made in Italy* (Theatre Aquarius); *Wishful Seeing* (4th Line Theatre)

**Other:** Graduate of Sheridan College's Technical Production program.

## COMPANY



### CARLOS VARELA

PRODUCTION MANAGER

**For TIFT:** *Company*, *12 Dinners*

**Elsewhere (selected):** *Dancer of the Year*, *Afrikan Party*, *HOME* (Luminato–Dora nom., Outstanding Touring Production); *Garden of Vanished Pleasures* (Soundstream); *Rocking Horse Winner*, *Tap:Ex Versus*, *WML Concerts* (Tapestry Opera); *Dialogues of the Carmelites* (RCM); *Scott Joplin's Treemonisha* (Volcano–Dora, Outstanding Production); *Yerma*, *Hedda Gabler Appropriate* (Dora, Outstanding Production), *A Case For The Existence Of God*

(Dora nom., Outstanding Production) (Coal Mine).

**Upcoming:** *All The Cows Are Dead* (TIFT); *As I Must Live It* tour (TPM); *KARMA* (Pleiades Theatre); *Rubble* tour (TPM).

**Other:** Mission Impossible 2025 Technical Director Award Winner for *A Case For The Existence Of God*.



### LAUREN CULLY

PRODUCTION ASST./FOH MANAGER

**For TIFT:** *12 Dinners*, *Blackbird*, *Perfect on Paper*

**Elsewhere:** Set Design: *Blithe Spirit* (ACT-CO Festival Award Nominee); *The 39 Steps*, *Table Manners* (South Simcoe Theatre). Props: *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The 39 Steps*, *Hello Dolly*, *Table Manners*, *The Secret Garden*, *That December Show!* (South Simcoe Theatre).

**Other:** All the love and thanks to the TIFT team for their support, trust, and continuing invitations! Extra special thanks and love to Colin, MJ, and Mum.





# March Break THEATRE CAMP

## March 16-20, 2026

Register now for March Break Theatre Camp for kids aged 6 - 14, running **March 16-26, 2025**, at **Burton Avenue United Church!**

Theatre Camp isn't just a lot of fun—it helps build confidence, self-esteem and creativity. Plus, it's a great way to make new friends!

*March Break Theatre Camp takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Parents/guardians may opt for pre-camp (8-9 a.m.) and post-camp (4-5 p.m.) care at a cost of \$15 per service for the week.*

**\$190 PER CHILD**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:**

**[www.TIFT.ca](http://www.TIFT.ca)**

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For more information, please contact:

Arkady Spivak, Artistic Producer

705-792-1949 ext 122

[arkady@tift.ca](mailto:arkady@tift.ca)

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