

A **Nightwood**Theatre ●●● production
in association with **Buddies in Bad Times**

SHEDDING A SKIN

BY AMANDA
WILKIN

DIRECTED BY
CHERISSA
RICHARDS

STARRING
VANESSA SEARS



**April 22 –
May 4, 2025**

**Buddies in Bad Times
12 Alexander Street**

SHEDDING A SKIN

A **Nightwood Theatre** production in association with **Buddies in Bad Times Theatre**

Playwright **Amanda Wilkin**

Director **Cherissa Richards**

Performer **Vanessa Sears**

Set Designer **Jung-Hye Kim**

Costume Designer **Ming Wong***

Lighting Designer **Shawn Henry**

Associate Lighting Designer: **Nathan Bruce**

Sound Designer & Composer **Cosette "Ettie" Pin**

Associate Sound Designer **steph raposo**

Projection Designer **Laura Warren***

Stage Managed by **Laura Baxter**

Production Manager **Maya Royer**

Dialect Coach **Peter N. Bailey**

Shadow Director & Production Associate **Emerjade Simms**

Publicist **Katie Saunoris**

Technical Director **Sebastian Marziali**

Head Technicians **El Patey, Darren Shaen, steph raposo**

Crew **Van Ward, Anthony Allan, Julie M. Li, Frank Incer, Mike Dowdall, Antel Kollenberg, Mike Grdosic.**

Performance time is approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

**Indicated designers on this production are represented by the Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659.*

NightwoodTheatre 

buddies
IN BAD TIMES THEATRE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit and intent of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations, Nightwood Theatre acknowledges the land on which our work is created and where our offices are located 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 home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

We acknowledge them and any other Nations who care for the land (acknowledged and unacknowledged, recorded and unrecorded) as the past, present, and future caretakers of this land, the traditional territory named Tkarón:to, the Mohawk word for "the place in the water where the trees are standing." The treaty for this particular parcel of land (Treaty 13), collectively referred to as the Toronto Purchase, applies to lands east of Brown's Line to Woodbine Avenue and north towards Newmarket.

We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples on this land. We commit ourselves to addressing and disrupting the systems of oppression and the colonial forces that undermine, distort, or erase the vital role of Indigenous peoples and recognize stewardship as a shared responsibility of all those who reside in a territory, as is the spirit of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement.

- Nightwood Theatre & Buddies in Bad Times Theatre

Nightwood Theatre



ABOUT NIGHTWOOD THEATRE

As Canada's preeminent feminist theatre, Nightwood cultivates, creates, and produces extraordinary theatre by women and gender-expansive artists, liberating futures, one room at a time. Founded in 1979, Nightwood Theatre has created and produced award winning plays, which have won Dora Mavor Moore, Chalmers, Trillium and Governor General's Awards.

NIGHTWOOD TEAM

Andrea Donaldson	Artistic Director
Naz Afsahi	Managing Director
Laura Pomeroy	Producer
Ashley Elliott	Administrator - Operations & Partnerships
Jade Silman	Artistic Associate & Head of Communications
Isa Chiu	Digital Communications Associate
Pip Bradford	Director of Facilities & Production, Nancy & Ed Jackman Performance Centre
Intisar Awisse	Program Director: Write From The Hip
Chris Mustard	Financial Advisor, Young & Associates
Faith McQueen	Website Maintenance

Founding Members: Cynthia Grant, Kim Renders, Mary Vingoe, Maureen White

NIGHTWOOD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jill Schoolenberg (Chair), Paul Butler (Secretary), Shreya Lathia (Treasurer), Edina Cavalli, Anthea Chan, Devin Jarcaig, Natasha Su-Lee Kinnear, Janice Nathanson

877 COMMITTEE

Edina Cavalli, John Dalrymple, Monica Esteves, Barbara Moses

Nightwood Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actor's Equity Association. It is a member of the Toronto Alliance for Performing Arts (TAPA) and Theatre Ontario.

Registered Charitable Number: 123709339 RR0001



BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES TEAM

Artistic Director - **ted witzel**

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Production Manager - **Rebecca Vandavelde**

Producer - **Aidan Morishita- Miki**

Rhubarb! Festival Director - **Ludmylla Reis**

Marketing Manager - **Katie Clarke**

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Hosting Lead - **Byzmuth Ffrench**

Facility Manager - **Paul Therrien**

Tallulah's Cabaret Manager - **Al Thomas-Hall**

Rentals Coordinator - **Katherine Teed-Arthur**

Chamber Coordinator - **Amber Pattison**

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Head of Security - **Aidan McKendrick**

Emerging Creators Unit Director - **Amanda Cordner**

Hosting Team

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Bar Personnel

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SHEDDING A SKIN TEAM BIOS



Amanda Wilkin – Playwright (she/her)

Amanda is a playwright and actress based in London, UK. In 2020 she won the Verity Bargate Award for her play *SHEDDING A SKIN*, which she performed at Soho Theatre to huge critical acclaim in both summer 2021 and spring 2022, and which was also shortlisted for the Susan Smith Blackburn Award 2022. Her play *RECOGNITION*, about the C19th's famous dual heritage composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, was presented originally as an audio play by 45North Ltd/Ellie Keel Productions in 2021, and then as a full-length piece for Talawa in 2023 as their headline show for Croydon's City of Culture 2023. Her play *AND I DREAMT I WAS DROWNING* was selected for Theatertreffen Stückemarkt from over 350 plays submitted to have a reading as part of the festival in Germany in May 2022, and she won the prize of a commission of a new work – *THE BRIDGETOWER SONATA* - which will be staged at the Schauspiel Leipzig in April 2024. Amanda was commissioned by Audible as part of their Emerging Playwrights Programme and her original radio play *WEEDS* is now available on the platform. She was Writer in Residence at Headlong 2021/2022, and is under commission to them, and was part of the Young Women Opera Makers residency 2021/22 at Festival D'Aix-en Provence. In screen, she is writing her first feature for Joy Productions / Film 4.

SHEDDING A SKIN TEAM BIOS



Cherissa Richards – Director (she/her)

Cherissa Richards has directed theatre from coast to coast throughout Canada. Recent directing credits: Controlled Damage (NAC/Neptune Theatre); Rapunzel: A Merry (Hairy) Holiday Panto (Capitol Theatre); Deadline (NTS); Sleuth (Vertigo Theatre); Middletown (Dalhousie U); Julius Caesar (Bard on the Beach); Trouble in Mind (Royal MTC/Citadel Theatre); Red Velvet (Crow's Theatre); Harlem Duet (Bard on the Beach); Meet me at Dawn (Theatre by the River). Cherissa's production Red Velvet received six Dora Mavor Moore Award Nominations, winning Outstanding Direction and Outstanding Production in the General Theatre category in 2023. She is a Crow's Theatre RBC Rising Star Emerging Director recipient-'21, Why Not This Gen Directing Fellow-'21, she received a directing diploma from National Theatre School directing residency in independent study-'21. Directing residencies: Bard on the Beach, Shaw Festival, Stratford Festival. Upcoming Directing: Stag & Doe (Thousand Islands Playhouse), The Last Wife (Royal MTC).



Vanessa Sears – Myah (she/her)

Vanessa Sears is a Dora Award, Toronto Theatre Critics Award, BroadwayWorld Award and Critic's Pick Award winning artist. She has starred on stages across Canada and recently made her Broadway debut as an original cast member in 'New York, New York'. Selected credits include Juliet in Romeo and Juliet, Olivia in Twelfth Night, Why We Tell the Story, Little Shop of Horrors, Billy Elliot, (Stratford Festival); Holiday Inn, An Octoroon, The Magician's Nephew (Shaw); Kinky Boots (Mirvish); Caroline or Change, Passing Strange (Obsidian Theatre and Musical Stage Company); Is God Is (Obsidian Theatre and Canadian Stage); Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz, Mary in Mary Poppins (Young People's Theatre); King Lear, Queen Goneril (Soulpepper), Red Queen in Alice in Wonderland (Bad Hats). Vanessa also works in film, television, animation, and is an emerging director. Huge love and thanks to Cherissa and the whole creative team, Nightwood, Buddies, and my fiancé Richard Lam.

SHEDDING A SKIN TEAM BIOS



Jung-Hye Kim – Set Designer (she/her)

Jung-Hye is a Toronto based set and costume designer. Her recent design credits include Cambodian Rock Band (Arts Club Theatre Company), Something Rotten (Theatre Sheridan), Guilt a love story (Tarragon Theatre), Lady M (1S1 Theatre), The Chinese Lady (Studio 180, Dora award for outstanding costume design), The Nightingale of A Thousand Songs (CCOC), Jesus Christ Superstar (Theatre Sheridan), Hamlet-911 (Stratford Festival), An Imm-Permanent Resident (Why Not Theatre), Hilot Means Healer (Cahoots Theatre), Dry Powder (Evermore Theatre), Now You See Her (Quote Unquote Collective, Dora nomination for outstanding costume design).



Ming Wong – Costume Designer (she/her)

Ming is an award-winning Toronto costume designer working in theatre, dance, opera, and film & television for over 15 years. She is a graduate from the Ontario College of Art & Design. For Nightwood Theatre: Debut. Selected credits: The Wedding Party, Julius Caesar, Uncle Vanya, Red Velvet, The Master Plan, Natasha, Pierre, & The Great Comet of 1812 (with Musical Stage Company), The Wrong Bashir, Rosmersholm, Wights (Crow's); Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (Young People's Theatre); Kim's Convenience, Three Sisters, De Profundiis, The Guide to Being Fabulous, Sizwe Banzi is Dead, Pipeline (Soulpepper); Once (Thousand Islands Playhouse); Salesman in China, Rent, Hamlet 911 (Stratford); Candida, Just to Get Married, Trouble in Mind (Shaw Festival); Public Enemy, Is God Is, The Wizard of Oz (Canadian Stage); Alice in Wonderland (Bad Hats); Peter's Final Flight, Alice in Winterland (Ross Petty Productions); The Color Purple (Citadel/RMTC); Things I Know to be True (Company Theatre/Mirvish); Hansel und Gretel (COC). Upcoming Projects: Flex (Crow's Theatre); Wait Until Dark (Shaw Festival); After The Rain (Tarragon/Musical Stage); A Strange Loop (Soulpepper/Crow's). More: 2021 recipient of the Virginia & Myrtle Cooper Award; two-time Dora Award winner Social Media: @mingwongdesign, mingwongdesign.com

SHEDDING A SKIN TEAM BIOS



Shawn Henry – Lighting Designer (she/her)

Shawn Henry is a Toronto based Production Manager and Lighting designer; Her Theatre credits include; Russel's World, 21 Black Futures, Comedy is Art, Maman La Mer, Riot, Hybrid by design, rock.paper.sistahz., Cycle of a Sari, 30 people watching, Hiding words for you, Saltfish Girl, Wise Woman, Hook up, How to succeed in business without really trying, Lady of Spills, I Marcus Garvey and Love & Marriage. She is the resident Lighting Designer for the Ismailova Theatre of Dance.



Nathan Bruce – Associate Lighting Designer (he/him)

Nathan is a Toronto based Projection and Lighting Designer and New Media Artist. Recent theatre credits include projection design for 'The Magic Flute' (The Royal Conservatory of Music), lighting design for '18 Jews Order Chinese Food' (Persephone Theatre, Saskatoon), and video design for 'WIGHTS' (Crow's Theatre). Recent installations include creator of 'Try To Forget' (St. Anne's Parish Hall, Long Winter), co-creator of 'After The Flood' (Charles Street Video) and co-creator of 'Love Across Distance' (The ArQuives, Nuit Blanche). He has recently concluded a mentorship role with an emerging artist to create a multimedia installation from January-April 2025 with Charles Street Video.

SHEDDING A SKIN TEAM BIOS



Cosette "Ettie" Pin – Sound Designer & Composer (he/she/they)

COSETTE "ETTIE" PIN is an international, multi-disciplinary designer and artist based out of New York City. As a proud trans Canadian-American designer living in the United States and witnessing firsthand the silencing and persecution of political dissenters, they are deeply dedicated to art and theatre as a tool of political activism and advocacy. They believe now, more than ever, it is important to be loudly and unwaveringly in support of freedom from oppression for all. It is for that reason they are in loud support of a free and liberated Palestine. A portion of their design fee from Nightwood will be donated to Anera for direct humanitarian assistance to Palestinian refugees in solidarity with the innovators program participants of 2023/24. Education: National Theatre School of Canada. Their work and credits can be found at www.cosettepin.com



steph raposo – Associate Sound Designer (they/them)

steph raposo is a toronto-based theatre designer. as a trans artist they have a deep interest in presenting queer histories, uplifting queer communities, and celebrating queer joy through their work and within their life. they know that no one is free until everyone is free, and believe firmly in the fight for liberation from Turtle Island to Palestine. a portion of their artist fee from working on this project will be donated to ANERA in solidarity with the innovators program participants of 2023/24, and they highly encourage any who are able to donate when possible. other amazing charitable organizations include: Davenport Aid Brigade, Friends of the Congo, Sudan Solidarity Fund, Palestinian Children's Relief Fund, 1492 Land Back Lane Legal Fund, and Toronto Indigenous Harm Reduction.

SHEDDING A SKIN TEAM BIOS



Laura Warren – Projection Designer (she/her)

Laura Warren is a Saskatchewan-raised, Ontario-based, designer for theatre, dance, live music, and opera.

Selected Credits: Fat Ham (Canadian Stage); Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (YPT); Qalb: A Journey of the Ego (1S1 Theatre); Aportia Chryptych (COC); seven methods of killing kylie jenner (Obsidian); Shaniqua in Abstraction (Crow's/paul watson productions); Zahhak (CCSD/Tirgan); No Save Points (Outside the March/Starvox); Of the Sea (Tapestry Opera/Obsidian); #34 (Globe Theatre); The Queen in Me (COC, Nightwood, Amplified Opera, Theatre Gargantua); Is God Is (Canadian Stage, Obsidian, Necessary Angel); 21 Black Futures (Obsidian/CBC Arts); Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes (Tarragon); In Absentia (JDdance); Pomegranate (Pomegranate Opera); The Black Drum (Deaf Culture Centre/Soulpepper); Grace (Nightwood/Crow's); Unholy (Nightwood); Oratorio: A Theatrical Mixtape (Obsidian/Soulpepper); Bearing (Signal Theatre/Luminato).



Laura Baxter – Stage Manager (she/her)

Laura has been a stage manager for over 15 years, working for companies such as Buddies in Bad Times, Soulpepper Theatre, Young People's Theatre, Factory Theatre, Obsidian Theatre, Canadian Stage, Studio180, Theatre Passe Muraille, Tarragon Theatre, Blyth Festival, Common Boots Theatre, Cahoots, Native Earth, Dance Immersion, Caravan Farm Theatre, Harold Green Jewish Theatre, Sudbury Theatre Centre. Laura trained at the National Theatre School of Canada. Thank you to my amazing wife Shawn and our child Amari for your unconditional love and support.

SHEDDING A SKIN TEAM BIOS



Maya Royer – Production Manager (she/her)

Born and raised in Toronto, Maya has always been passionate about her city and its culture. She is grateful to be a member of the Toronto performing arts community as a Production Manager. Excited to see what the future holds, she appreciates every opportunity that gives her the chance to grow as both an artist and as a person. Maya holds a BFA from Toronto Metropolitan University, in Performance Production and Design. Select credits include: Madame Minister (Talk Is Free Theatre); YENSA Festival (Lua Shayenne Dance Company); Mad Madge (Nightwood Theatre); Sweeter, Our Place, Three Ordinary Men (Cahoots Theatre Company); Loss (The Theatre Centre); Beautiful Renegades (Peggy Baker Dance Projects); Mahabharata, Mashup Pon Di Road (Whynot Theatre); The Events (Necessary Angel); Pygmalion (Guild Festival Theatre).



Peter N. Bailey – Dialect Coach (he/him)

An actor, playwright, voice and dialect coach, Peter is a graduate from the Humber College Theatre Performance Program. Peter's voice and dialect coaching credits include: Serving Elizabeth, Much Ado About Nothing, Wedding Band, Get That Hope, (The Stratford Festival), The National Theatre School of Canada, Canadian Film Centre, and Sheridan College.

Peter is a member of the Patsy Rodenburg Associate Program and is working toward his PRA certification. Peter has also recently become an award winning playwright, with his first play Tyson's Song which won a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best New Play in the Independent Theatre Division. He is currently working on a new play that has been commissioned by the Blyth Festival Theatre.

SHEDDING A SKIN TEAM BIOS



Emerjade Simms – Shadow Director & Production Associate (she/her)

Emerjade Simms is a Jamaican-Canadian actor and storyteller. She is a graduate of the Acting program at the University of Windsor and holds a BFA degree. Emerjade is also a 2016/17 graduate of the Mechanicals program at Factory Theatre. Select theatre credits include *White Taffeta Silk: or Don't Do It Bestie* (TIFT), *Every Day She Rose* (Black Theatre Workshop), *Sweeter** (Cahoots/Roseneath), *Redbone Coonhound* (Arts Club), *Calpurnia* (RMTC/NAC), *The Mountaintop* (Persephone Theatre), *1851: Spirit and Voice* (Soulpepper/Myseum), *21 Black Futures: Omega Child* (Obsidian/CBC), *Peter Pan* (Bad Hats/Soulpepper), *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play*** (Obsidian/Nightwood), *The Bird Killer* (Let Me In). Television credits include *Forbidden*, *Fear Thy Neighbor*, *See No Evil* and *Paranormal 911*. Emerjade enjoys napping in her downtime and loves her mom like cooked food. *Dora Award Nomination for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble (TYA) **Dora Award Winner for Outstanding Production



Katie Saunoris | KSPR – Publicist (she/her)

Katie is a Toronto-based publicist and communication strategist for arts and culture organizations across Ontario and beyond. Selected upcoming: the Toronto Ukrainian Film Festival; *The Roof is Leaking* (Pleiades Theatre); *Garden of Vanished Pleasures* (Soundstreams); the Indigenous Voices Awards; the Festival of Literary Diversity; and the Capitol Theatre Port Hope summer season.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

APR
25

Black Out Night

Nightwood Theatre & Buddies in Bad Times invite all self-identified Black audience members to join us on Friday, April 25th for Shedding a Skin Black Out Night! Following the performance, community organizer, **Najla Nubyanluv** will moderate a post-show talkback with director **Cherissa Richards** and playwright **Amanda Wilkin**.

More on Shedding a Skin Black Out Night can be found [here on our website](#). Contact Jade Silman at jade@nightwoodtheatre.net with any questions.

APR
26
MATINEE

Future Artistic Leaders Panel

Come chat with three up-and-coming arts leaders from our Nightwood Shadow Residencies: **Trisha Harlan**, **Tsholo Khalema**, and Shadow Director for Shedding a Skin, **Emerjade Simms**! We'll get their POVs on the industry today and hear about their hopes for the years to come.

APR
26
3:30 - 5 PM

Youth and Elder Session

Buddies is Bad Times is back with the latest session of their Youth and Elder program, hosted by **Carol Thames** & **Franki Forte**. [Register here](#) to spend the afternoon in intergenerational community! Note: This is a masked event to prioritize community care and well-being, and registration does not include a ticket.

APR
29

Black Cultures — Sharing Canadian & UK Perspectives Panel

Let's chat about Black Cultures on both sides of the pond. Join panellists **Cherissa Richards** and **Lamesha Ruddock** with moderator Intisar Awisse in a conversation that explores these cultures — their unique histories, similarities, and differences.

NEXT AT NIGHTWOOD



ANNIE - THE 2025 LAWYER SHOW

Each year, Nightwood Theatre's annual fundraiser, the Lawyer Show hosts up to 40 members of the legal community to stage an exhilarating, entertaining production. Led by a team of professional directors, designers and vocal coaches, this year, the lawyers are excited to present the iconic musical, ANNIE.

June 5 - 7, 2025
Jane Mallett Theatre

[LEARN MORE](#)



2025 - 2026 SEASON

After a stellar 45th season, Nightwood Theatre is gearing up for another season of fantastic performances, festivals, workshops, programs, and much more! This will also be our first full season in the Nancy & Ed Jackman Performance Centre, our new home at 877 Yonge Street!

Stay tuned for our 2025-2026 Season
Announcement this spring!

[LEARN MORE](#)

COMING UP AT BUDDIES

A PODCAST BY VIVEK
SHRAYA, CO-PRODUCED WITH
BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES

I WON'T ENVY

FEATURING CONVERSATIONS WITH
PYTHIA + DENIM, ALOK, KIRAN
RAI, PAUL SEPUYA, SARA QUIN,
AND ALICIA ELLIOTT

EPISODES 1-3 OUT NOW!

BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES
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NEW HO QUEEN

QUEER ASIAN LOVE

A BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES PERFOR-
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NEVER WALK ALONE BY JULIE PHAN
REINA BY AUGUSTO BITTER

MAY 21 - 31, 2025

YOUR FAVOURITE QUEER BAR

TALLULAH'S CABARET

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[BUDDIESINBADTIMES.COM/EVENTS](https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/events)
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FOR UPCOMING EVENTS



QUEER PRIDE

buddies
IN BAD TIMES THEATRE
JUNE 10 - 29
12 ALEXANDER ST

GET TICKETS AT [SHOWPASS.COM/O/BUDDIES-IN-BAD-TIMES-THEATRE](https://showpass.com/o/buddies-in-bad-times-theatre)

Nightwood Theatre



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Friend (\$250-499)

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Ally (\$25 - 249)

Anonymous x 24, Azita Gerami & Ahmad Afsahi, Naz Afsahi, Alma Bjelosevic, Margaret Bryce, Danielle Bourgon, Jan Caruana, Anne Clarke, Joan Cranston, BJ Danylchuk, Julia Dickson, John Dalrymple, Anne Morris-Dadson, Barbara Fingerote, Harriett Grant, Richard Greenblatt, Catherine Gordon, Lia De Groot, Paula Grgurich, Natasha Kinnear, Corinne Leon, Jeanne LeSage, Jaime Martino, Mary Milne, Rosalba Martinni, Susan Moellers, Lorna Niebergall, Eleanor O'Connor, Mary Oko, Breanne Oryschak, Mike Payette, Judith Parker, Colleen Pollreis, Georgia Quartaro, Marcia Ross, Marsha Sfeir, Paula Shewchuk, Marlis Schweitzer, Imre Szeman, Jill Schoolenberg, Delaine Tiniakos-Doran, Hanlon Uafàs-Àlann, Victoria Urquhart, Lori Willcox, Anthea Windsor, Jonathan Warren, Elaine Wong, Hersh Zeifman, Joyce Zemans

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Donations received from July 1, 2024 to January 13, 2025. If your name has been misspelled or omitted, please accept our sincere apologies, and don't hesitate to reach out.

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Nightwood Theatre



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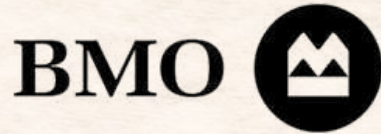


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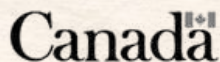
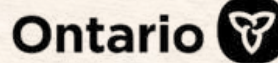


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Intisar Awisse
Roya DelSol
Sedina Fiati
Trisha Harlan
Tsholo Khalema

Jeremy Mimmagh
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Emerjade Simms
Theatre Gargantua