Gailey Road PRODUCTIONS

20th Anniversary Conference

Friday October 16, 2026, 10AM-6PM
The Nexus Lounge, OISE

Funded by the New College Initiatives Fund

MARK S. BONHAM CENTRE FOR SEXUAL DIVERSITY STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO OISE | ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO NEW COLLEGE

Jackman Humanities Institute UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

AGENDA

10AM	Indigenous Welcome with Nicole-Joy Fraser
10:15AM	Welcome by Tara Goldstein & Jenny Salisbury
10:20AM	Director Panel: The First Decade
11:30AM	Break
12PM	Gailey Road Writing Letters: The First Decade
1-2PM	Lunch in OI 12-199
2PM	Words from Tara
2:10PM	Director and Artist Panel: The Second Decade
3PM	Gailey Road Writing Letters: The Second Decade
4PM	Cake
4:15PM	Performance by Kael Reid & Don Kerr
4:30PM	Closing Remarks by Bishop Owis
5-6PM	Mingling

PANELISTS & LETTER WRITERS

Asher Rose (they/them) is an award-winning actor and writer born and raised in Tkaronto. On-screen they are known for *The Boys, Violence,* and *The Players*. They have recently been seen on Toronto stages in *Romeo & Juliet* (Canadian Stage), *CHILD-ish* (Tarragon Theatre), and *Pastoral* (Shakespeare in the Ruff). Asher's debut short film screenplay, *The Lift*, was an official selection of eight festivals across Canada, the US, and UK, and Asher's performance won multiple Best Actor awards.
In addition to writing and acting, Asher is a dedicated community advocate. They were instrumental in the creation of the world's first award for Best Non-Binary / Gender-Nonconforming Actor (ACTRA Toronto Awards), and are one of the authors of the Best Practices for Working with Trans Actors guide. They are proud to stand alongside organizers fighting for decolonial justice for all, from Turtle Island to Palestine.
Find more at @asherjuderose and www.asherjuderose.com

benjamin lee hicks, PhD (they/them) is a visual artist, educational researcher, and elementary school teacher. Their graphic scholarship infuses the process of teacher professional learning with conversations about comic art as pedagogy, arts-based ethnography, contemplative teacher practice, and the importance of activism for equity in education. They received their PhD in Curriculum and Pedagogy from OISE / University of Toronto in June, 2022. Their dissertation is titled, To Do This Discussion Differently: Queering Teacher Professional Learning Through Comic Art and Graphic Stories. In addition to their work in academia and elementary school classrooms, benjamin has been facilitating visual art and creative bookmaking programs in community contexts for the past 25 years.
benjaminleehicks.com

Bishop Owis (they/them) is a writer, interdisciplinary scholar and Assistant Professor of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Saint Mary's University. Bishop's research critically examines a praxis of care at the intersections of disability, gender, sexuality, racial capitalism and settler- colonialism in educational institutions. Bishop's work explores the nuances and relational ethics of care work through art-making and storytelling with disabled QTBIPoC.

PANELISTS & LETTER WRITERS

Diana M. Barrero-Jaramillo (she/her) is a feminist researcher, educator, and organizer. She is currently completing her Ph.D. at the University of Toronto with a collaborative specialization in Women and Gender Studies. In her research, Diana draws from transnational feminist approaches to memorialization of violence in post-conflict societies. Her active participation with various Toronto-based Latinx organizations has opened the door for transnational collaborations with artists, activists and scholars interested in human rights, arts, and education.

Jenny Salisbury (she/her) is proud to be co-artistic director, with Tara Goldstein, of Gailey Road productions and works as a director, theatre creator, and arts educator. She teaches critical arts pedagogy at OISE. She is a founding director of the Centre for Spectatorship and Audience Research, an international research hub focused on audience experience and affect. Since completing her Ph.D. Dr. Salisbury held a post-doctoral fellowship with Tara Goldstein titled 50 years of QTBIPOC Activism and Care which included a verbatim theatre project with The ArQuives, Canada's oldest 2SLGBTQ archives. This work now continues as part *Gatherings: Archival and Oral Histories of Performance*.

Joanne Latimer (she/her) is a Toronto based actor and director, and a U of T alumna. She first worked with Gailey Road playing Harriet in *Harriet's House*, and again in a reading of *Ana's Shadow*.
Other theatre credits include Josephine Vitale in *Tony and Tina's Wedding* (Second City), Margaret Ryan in David French's *That Summer* (4th Line Theatre). Aunt Dan in Wallace Shawn's *Aunt Dan and Lemon* (Shadowtime Productions); Vi in Norm Foster's Halfway There (Globus Theatre); Carol in George F. Walker's *Risk Everything* (Cement Factory Theatre). She wrote and performed the solo theatre piece *Washed Up*, and wrote and directed *Snap!* for the Toronto Fringe Festival. Most recently, she directed *Kathryn: A Life Almosting* (The Junes).
Select film and TV: *Gray* (AGC/Lionsgate), *Kings of Napa* (OWN), *Living In Your Car* (HBO), *Frankie Drake Mysteries* (CBC), *Love Under Construction* (Lifetime) and *A Home For the Holidays* (Shaftsbury).
A passionate proponent of lifelong learning, Joanne has learned a great deal from the hundreds of young actors she has worked with as a director; teacher of scene study, text analysis and Shakespeare; and audition coach. She is a great admirer of Tara's work in Education, and is proud to support the important equity-based work that Gailey Road is doing with both educators and students.

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Jocelyn Wickett (she/her) is a trained theatre artist, who has been working for the Toronto District School Board for almost 20 years as a teacher. She teaches secondary English and Drama, and co-directs the specialized Musical Theatre Production Program at Don Mills Collegiate. Jocelyn also has her MA from U of T with a focus on the arts and equity in education and continues to work on equity initiatives and programming through the arts in her school. Jocelyn is a mom to twin boys, a lover of mountains and rivers, and all things adventure.

Jorie Morrow (she/her) is no stranger to Gailey Road Productions. She has performed, Worried mother in *Pound Predators*, Anita in both *Harriet's House* and *Ana's Shadow*. She has also played a number of diverse roles in our production of *Out At School*. Jorie is a Toronto based actor/producer and loves to dance! For two years she was a guest speaker on *Aboriginal Voices Radio*, exploring both medical model approaches and indigenous practices in relation to women's mental health. She has produced many indie productions of new works here in the GTA. When not on stage, Jorie is an activist, social worker/therapist working in community mental health. She is a certified mindfulness meditation facilitator for artists and non-artists. In November she will be dancing with the award winning Moonhorse Dance Theatre in Toronto at the Citadel dance theatre. She is writing her own play, just think of the PITT, except set right here in Toronto, in the streets with a team of mental health professionals. To say that she is thrilled to be here today and share in the Gailey Road celebrations is a massive understatement. Love to her dear ones, Bob and Hailee for their ongoing relentless support and inspiration. Her proudest work to date, by far, is her fabulous family.

Kael Reid (they/them) is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies at York University, here in Toronto, where they teach core and elective courses in Children, Childhood, and Youth Studies. With a background in music-making and performing, Kael collaborates with young people and adults to help them document their perspectives and stories through songwriting, singing, and recording. In their spare time, Kael loves doing stuff outside and hanging out with their 3 cats.

PANELISTS & LETTER WRITERS

Mary Ellen MacLean (she/her) (a proud East coaster) is a performer, creator, educator, director, and producer who works in theatres across Canada and abroad. With a strong foundation in physical theatre, movement, character development, and improvisation, Mary Ellen has over three decades of experience in the theatre world. She studied with theatre/mime mentor Tony Montanaro in Maine, USA. She was a founding member of the Halifax physical theatre ensemble, Jest in Time, touring worldwide for twenty years as well as starring in three national CBC television specials. NS Theatre Merritt Awards for Best Production (Trip) and Lifetime Achievement (Jest). Her one-woman play *Frankie* toured across Canada and aired on Bravo TV. Her play *Velocipede* used 21 bicycles, 7 dancers/performers to tell the story of how the bicycle played a role in the emancipation of women as a symbol for freedom. Since 2023 Mary Ellen has been offering ElderQueers Storytelling at The National Arts Centre in Ottawa both in person and online and this past year at Halifax Pride.

Her artistic journey is fueled by a dedication to helping performers/people discover their unique artistic voice. By blending body, mind, and spirit, Mary Ellen empowers artists to unlock their full potential and express their individuality on stage and beyond. Mary Ellen MacLean is committed to cultivating an atmosphere of creativity, support and most importantly a place to play, push your limits and have fun.

Moynan King (she/her) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre, Dance & Performance and an award-winning Interdisciplinary Artist. Dr. King holds a PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies at York University and completed her Post-Doc at Western University in 2024. Her critical writing on theatre and performance is widely published. She was the editor of *Queer Performance: Women and Trans Artists (CTR 149)*, the book *Queer/Play: An Anthology of Queer Women's Performance and Plays*, and co-editor of *Sound & Performance (CTR 184)* with Megan Johnson.

Moynan was the recipient of a Canadian Screen Award for her writing on CBC's *Baroness von Sketch Show* on which she also made regular appearances as an actor. She is the author of six plays, the creator of multiple performance art works including *Trace*, *Mothering*, and, most recently, *WET*. Moynan was co-founder and director of the *Hysteria Festival*, co-director of the *Rhubarb! Festival* for four years and has curated multiple cabaret events including *Cheap Queers*. She was an Associate Artist at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre for a total nine years, where she developed such works as *The Beauty Salon* and *Bathory* among many others. Moynan has held artistic residencies across Canada including at Nakai Theatre in Whitehorse and Studio 303 in Montreal.

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Nicole Joy-Fraser (she/they-Tsa'tinée, Nehiyaw, Métis, Settler) is an award-winning, multidisciplinary artist with mixed Settler and Indigenous bloodlines from Horse Lake First Nation, AB. For over 25 years they have been storytelling for stage and screen, across Turtle Island and beyond, and they are also a regular facilitator of Community Arts, invited Cultural Carrier and Oshkabewis or "Helper to the Elder." As a proud Bear clan matriarch, 60's scoop witness and 2Spirit Helper, supporting each other through healing and the Indigenous arts continues to be a passion of theirs and they are grateful to the urban Anishnaabe and Haudenosaunee Communities in Southern Ontario who continue to support Nicole's personal reclamation.

Pam Baer (she/they) is an educator, researcher, and community-engaged scholar with a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Pedagogy from the University of Toronto (OISE). Pam's research explores how performance, storytelling, and arts-based methodologies can be reimagined as collaborative approaches to queer and trans pedagogy with children and youth from diverse backgrounds.

Grounded in participatory action research and community-engaged practice, Pam's SSHRC-funded doctoral work examined the use of the arts to facilitate conversations about gender and sexual diversity with children from 2SLGBTQ+ families. Across Pam's scholarship, she is committed to developing creative, intersectional, and anti-oppressive approaches to education, research, and social change. Pam has held leadership roles on major research initiatives, including the LGBTQ Families Speak Out Project and the Addressing Injustices Project, where she contributed to innovative research, film, and theatre-based knowledge mobilization.

With over eighteen years of experience in community development and more than a decade of university teaching, Pam is passionate about fostering critical inquiry, inclusive learning environments, and collaborative approaches to education that support equity, creativity, and social justice.

PANELISTS & LETTER WRITERS

Ryan Singh (they/she/he) is a Toronto-based performer and educator with over 15 years' experience in equity & inclusion, community development, organizing, and arts education. They love movies, theatre, wine, and books, and consider the ending of the movie *Before Sunset* to be perfect. For Gailey Road, they performed in both *Out at School* & *The Love Booth and Other Plays*. Other select directing credits: 7 Stories and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Fly By Night Theatre), *Even Better Living* (Bread & Circus), and *Matt & Ben* (The Theatre Elusive). Ryan has a Master's degree in Gender, Feminist, and Women's Studies and a BA (Hons) in Sexuality Studies, both from York University. She has worked on political campaigns, in theatre, building 2SLGBTQ+ community, and has taught EDI to students, educators, and in myriad workplaces from St. John's to Whitehorse.

Sashoya Simpson (she/her) is an Afro-Jamaican cultural leader and multi-disciplinary creator whose artistic work reimagines Caribbean ancestral narratives into contemporary framework. She's the founder of The Walking Griot collective, a space designed specifically for young Black audiences where they engage with stories rooted in their cultural mythology, Caribbean knowledge systems, and embodied experiences. Her stage play, LULU, won the Patron's Pick Award at the Toronto Fringe Festival (2025), and her debut children's picture book, *Have You Ever Heard a Calabash*, is forthcoming in 2027 (Annick Press). She is the 2025 recipient of the Toronto Arts Foundation Che Kothari Artist and Instigator Award (2025) as well as a Johanna Metcalf Performing Arts Prizes Protégé (2025).

Sochi Fried (she/her) grew up in New York City and Ottawa, and has been based in Toronto for 20 years. Primarily a stage actor, she has worked in theatres across North America, and is currently wrapping up her fourth season at the Shaw Festival in *Heartbreak House* and *Amadeus*.

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Tammy Chan (she/her) born and raised in Hong Kong, obtained a BA in Comparative Literature at the University of Hong Kong and completed a MA in Drama at the University of Toronto. She performed with the Campiello Players in a series of performances centred on immigration experiences across Canada. In 2020, she made her directorial debut directing *Hong Kong, Canada*. Her experience spans intercultural acting and directing, multilingual research, and, more recently, international education initiatives and data-informed analysis within the higher education sector.

Tara Goldstein (she/her) is an award-winning playwright and Founding Artistic Director of Gailey Road Productions, an independent theatre company where research meets theatre and theatre meets research. Established in January 2007, Gailey Road has worked with over 65 writers and 155 theatre artists and artist researchers. In 2022 theatre director and artist-researcher Jenny Salisbury joined Tara as Co-Artistic Director. Together they re-instated the Artist Researchers Creation Unit at Gailey Road to work on Tara and Gailey Road's verbatim theatre project *The Love Booth and Six Companion Plays*, seven short plays about queer activism in the 1970s and early 1980s.

Ty Walkland (he/him) is a writer, educator, and researcher based in Toronto, where he is currently completing a doctorate in Curriculum & Pedagogy at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). Ty has spent over 15 years working with learners of all ages to confront power, privilege, and the possibilities of more just and equitable futures both on and off the page—first as a classroom teacher and now as a university writing instructor and program administrator. Most days you'll find him helping fellow thinkers dream up, document, and disseminate their ideas. Ty previously served as a research assistant as part of Tara Goldstein's *LGBTQ Families Speak Out* project, and, moonlighting as an actor and voice artist, performed in the stage and audio productions of Gailey Road's *Out at School* and *The Love Booth and Six Companion Plays*. When he's not hunched over a keyboard pouring over works-in-progress, Ty's either outside under the sun or scarfing down popcorn at the movies.