

CONSTELLATIONS

BY NICK PAYNE

er
EXACT RESEMBLANCE



**BLUE
CIRCLE
SERIES**


**SID WILLIAMS
THEATRE**
SOCIETY

SHOW PROGRAM
SUN MAR 8, 2026

EXACT RESEMBLANCE
PRESENTS

CONSTELLATIONS

BY NICK PAYNE

DIRECTED BY
CRISTIANA RIPEANU

WITH

GILLIAN CLARE
AS MARIANNE

&

JACOB MACHIN
AS ROLAND

DESIGNED BY
VICTORIA BELL

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
HANNAH BEL DAVIS

ART DIRECTION & DESIGN BY
ANNIKA MCFARLANE

SET CONSTRUCTION BY
GRAHAM MCDONALD

ASSISTANT DIRECTED BY

JACK BUMBALA

ALEXIS HOPE

SOPHIA SAUGSTAD

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THE FUND FOR THE ARTS ON THE NORTH SHORE

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ASTRA LUND-PHILLIPS ANNIKA MCFARLANE HANNAH BEL DAVIS GRAHAM MCDONALD

CONSTELLATIONS is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC,
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In conversation with director Cristiana Ripeanu

What drew you to produce and direct Constellations?

Cristiana Ripeanu: What struck me about Constellations from the very beginning was its resonance with the human experience. Love, with all its complexities, is something every person can relate to. The play delves into various facets of love – excitement, awkwardness, bliss, heartbreak, loss – making it a compelling narrative that speaks to universal themes across different realities.

The exploration of free will versus predestination is a central theme in the play. How did you approach this philosophical dilemma during the production process?

CR: The dichotomy between free will and predestination is indeed evident in the storyline and structure of the play. It's a concept that I personally grapple with, and I found it fascinating to explore through the characters of Constellations. As we age, we often question whether our choices truly shape our lives or if there's a predetermined path we're meant to follow. I wanted the audience to ponder this question rather than provide a definitive answer.

Can you elaborate on your choice of staging and set design for the production?

CR: Given the play's fragmented structure and fluid movement through universes, I opted for a minimalist approach to staging. I wanted to keep the focus on the relationship between the characters, so I minimized the set and used nondescript elements. The set design, conceptualized as a broken beehive resembling molecular structures, metaphorically represents the laws of nature. Lighting played a crucial role in transitioning between universes, enhancing the storytelling experience.

How did you navigate the non-linear structure of the play during the creative process?

CR: Working with a non-linear structure was both stimulating and demanding. Ensuring coherence in the storytelling while allowing emotional investment from the audience required careful attention. We filled in gaps in the narrative with lyrical moments, adding depth to the scenes and characters. The play is also a challenge for the actors; creating compelling characters while hardly ever returning to the same characterization twice in the course of the performance requires incredible acting gymnastics. Both Gillian and Jacob are very talented and able to do this through the precise and very intelligent acting choices they make.





Cast & Creative Team

Hannah Bel Davis (she/her) | Production Photographer

Hannah Bel Davis is literary and visual artist and photographer. She has an MA in Creative Writing from Concordia University and a BFA in English and Film from Simon Fraser University. She lives with her family and animals on the unceded and unsundered land of the Halkomelem-speaking peoples.

Victoria Bell (she/they) | Designer

Victoria (V) is a Vancouver based scenographer (lighting, sound, set, and projection designer), technical director and Studio 58 graduate. Victoria is an ADC and IATSE 118 member. She is also a Stir recognized "Game Changer" in this year's fall arts guide.

She sees her work as focusing on the depth in shadow and its necessity to show detail in the light. Working between vibrant colours and muted tones, while using Physical structure to fully infuse her designs into the world of the piece. Using physical structures on stage with the performance creates a more literal connection to the lights, she very specifically doesn't want to just work in the grid "above" the performance, she is entangled with the performance as a whole, not just its outward final presentation. She wishes her designs to be objects wielded by and into the metaphor of the text.

Jack Bumbala (they/them) | Assistant Director

Sprouting in the unceded traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinabe Nation (Ottawa, ON), Jack Bumbala (They/Them), graduated from The Canterbury Dramatic Arts Program before rooting down in Vancouver, BC where they finished their formal education at Studio 58 (production). Jack is an eccentric artist, who hopes to translate their love of learning and observation into unique and impactful theatre. Credits include: Assistant Director for "In My Day" directed by Shawn MacDonald, Assistant Director for "My Little Tomato" directed by Cameron Mackenzie and Director of the staged reading of "Equinox" as part of "Zee Zee's Theatre" Trans Playwriting Unit.

Gillian Clare (she/her) | Marianne

Gillian is a French and English-speaking actor, dancer, and theatre producer. Having trained in the US in classical ballet and modern dance, she went to theatre school in Toronto before returning to her hometown of Vancouver. Some favourite theatre credits include Ruth in Blithe Spirit, Myrrha in Metamorphoses, and Olivia in Twelfth Night, and appearing with the Riotous Youth at Bard on the Beach and the Guerrilla Ruff Squad at Shakespeare in the Ruff. Now primarily working in film and TV, she will next be seen in the upcoming series 'The Last Stand of Ellen Cole'. She is repped by Helen Campbell at Webster Talent.

Alexis Hope (she/her) | Assistant Director

Alexis Hope is an aspiring playwright and director, who is working as an actor in Vancouver. Her recent theatre credits include two Ovation Award nominated shows: *Monster* (Direct Theatre Collective) and *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* (CTORA), as well as *Thy Neighbour's Wife* (United Players Club) and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (UBC Players Club). A VanArts Acting for Film & Television grad, she's now the co-founder and executive producer of *Girls That Giggle Productions* - her first short with them, *Us, Janus*, recently completed a successful film festival run. She's been writing scripts and poems for years and hopes to continue growing and sharing her work. One of her plays, *Her Crown*, a story about Black womanhood and friendship, will be premiering at the *Women At Play(s) 6 Festival* in Toronto. Alexis is in pre-production for several short films and a music video she is directing later this spring.

Jacob Machin (he/him) | Roland

Jacob's career started in pantomime before finding a brief but successful calling in stand-up comedy, winning the 2007 Melbourne International Comedy Festival's 'Class Clowns' competition. Jacob went on to various theatre productions such as *Death Of A Salesman*, *Next To Normal*, *Young and Jackson*, directed by Wayne Harrison, *August: Osage County*, and *Much Ado About Nothing* with Melbourne Shakespeare Company. Now based in Vancouver, Jacob has recently appeared in 'Big Sky,' 'Supernatural,' and 'Twilight Zone.'

Annika McFarlane (she/her) | Art Direction & Design

Annika McFarlane is a designer, illustrator and emerging artist based in North Vancouver. She is a recent graduate of Capilano University's IDEA School of Design where she received numerous awards from the BC Arts Council, Advertising and Design Club of Canada, the Association of Registered Graphic Designers and the Design Professionals of Canada (DesCan). Graphic, bold and playful in nature, her work charms and delights while communicating meaningful messages or quirky stories.

Cristiana Ripeanu (she/her) | Director

Cristiana is an award-winning Romanian-Canadian theatre director and educator who has worked across North America and Europe. Her work has been staged at major state theatres in Romania and performed in multiple languages at festivals across Europe, including the Balkan Theatre Festival, International Theatre School Festivals (Greece, Netherlands, Albania), and Freistil Festival (Germany). In Canada and Germany, Cristiana has worked as an acting teacher and director for independent theatre companies and organizations. She also works in community-building and social outreach programs with sociocultural organizations in Germany. After spending the last 14 years in Germany, Cristiana has now relocated to Vancouver, where she looks to join other creators in the effort of enriching the Canadian theatre scene.

Sophia Saugstad (she/her) | Assistant Director

Sophia Saugstad (she/her) is a performer, director, and theatre creator. Originally from Bowen Island, she is now privileged to live and work on the stolen land of the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and Musqueam First Nations. Directing credits include: 30 Neo-Futurist Plays (Bramble Theatre Collective), The Importance of Being Earnest (UBC Players Club), Unraveling (OR Festival/Fabulist Theatre), and Venus and Moon (Ignite Festival, Vines Festival). Other recent theatre credits include creating and performing her own solo show Long Live Lexi Bezos at the Vancouver Fringe Festival and assistant directing Snow White at Carousel Theatre. Sophia is a graduate of the Studio 58 Acting Program and will graduate with an Honours Degree in Theatre Studies from UBC this spring. She is the recipient of the John F. Parker award for Demonstrating Exceptional Promise in Theatre Arts.



About Exact Resemblance

Exact Resemblance is a Vancouver-based theatre company co-founded by Gillian Clare and Cristiana Ripeanu with the goal of making theatre that thrills, moves, and asks more questions than it answers. The company aims to showcase and promote women-identifying, gender-diverse, refugee, and immigrant artists. Their first production, Slawomir Mrozek's *The Emigrants*, premiered at the Vancouver Fringe Festival, and was immediately pick up by the STAND Festival 2023, and will be included in the Presentation House Theatre's 2024 Season.

Find more at www.exactresemblance.com

Facebook: Exact Resemblance

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Artistic Programming

Bringing in diverse acts from across Canada and the world which would not otherwise tour to the community. Plus hosting free programming like our Family Films Series and many Sid Docs Series events.

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Expanding community access to cultural events through a complimentary ticket program distributed through local service organizations.

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TINA LEON

SUN MAR 22, 2026 | 7:30 PM

A singer-songwriter from Montreal who draws her inspiration from the Motown generation and the soul music of the last decades. Describing it as a rainbow of soul, her debut album *Push & Pull* is a colourful journey through jazzy, funk, and pop rhythms with rich and enchanting melodies.

TICKETS \$39 (includes taxes & fees)



OPERA, ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

FRI APR 10, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Opera's greatest hits presented in a fun, down-to-earth showcase guaranteed to leave you filled with laughter and a new appreciation for opera. An internationally renowned roster will amaze and delight with beloved arias and duets from the world's most popular operas plus a few hidden gems thrown in for kicks. Singers will be joined by solo violin and piano accompaniment.

TICKETS \$41 (includes taxes & fees)



LESBIHONEST

SAT APR 11, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Winner of Just for Laughs' "Outstanding English Comedy Award", this hilarious and sentimental autobiographical show is part stand-up/part storytelling and reflects on a single journey that spans 3 decades of change in perceptions and treatment of LGBTQ+ people. As an ex-religious Queer Laura grapples with a shifting identity and unease in sense of self, eventually navigating her way to Pride.

TICKETS \$29 - 35 (includes taxes & fees)

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The Golden Anniversaries

By Mark Crawford

BLUE
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SUN MARCH 29, 2026 | 7:30 PM

TICKETS \$53 | INCL. ALL TAXES & FEES **Ages 14+ ONLY**

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Two people. One cottage. Fifty years. Join Glen and Sandy Golden as they recount the good, the bad, and the ugly of spending half a century together. From the writer of *Bed and Breakfast* and *The Birds and the Bees*, *The Golden Anniversaries* is a comedy-drama about marriage, memory, and a long-term love for the ages.




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