

*Green Kids Inc
Presents*

Bike

and

2024
Circuses





THIS IS FINE

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY LOC LU AND HEATHER RUSSELL-SMITH

Jesso and Shelly lead a fine life, with fine clothes, a fine house, and a VERY fine lawn. Everything is fine!

What could possibly go wrong?

Quote: "I want you to act as if your house is on fire. Because it is. - Greta Thunberg

UNDERLANDER

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY TANJA FAYLENE WOLOSZEN

The same three tasks recur across cultures and epochs: to shelter what is precious, to yield what is valuable, and to dispose of what is harmful.

Shelter (memories, precious matter, messages, fragile lives).

Yield (information, wealth, metaphors, minerals, visions).

Dispose (waste, trauma, poison, secrets).

Into the underland we have long placed that which we fear and wish to lose, and that which we love and wish to save." - Robert Macfarlane

Quote: "We are the keepers of the generations yet to come"- Autumn Peltier

NIIN ANISHINAABEKWE

CREATED AND DIRECTED BY NOVA COURCHENE

PERFORMED BY KATHLEEN STARR

COSTUME DESIGN BY AMY MCPHERSON

CLOWN COACH - CYNTHIA WOLFE-NOLIN

MEDICINE PERSON AND TRADITIONAL TEACHER - SHIRLI EWANCHUK

Join Bae (short for Ah-nish-eh-nah-Bae) on a brief adventure in her daily urban life. Bae, an Ojibwe woman and "Contrary" (a ceremonial role as a mirror and teacher to society), navigates her day and suddenly finds herself stranded. This piece reflects the predicaments Urban Indigenous folks face, using humor and clownery to grapple with lack of access to traditional territories, knowledge and connections to land. It deals with themes such as how resilient Urban Indigenous folks are and explores how easily blood memory is reignited through reconnection to the land, honouring reciprocity, inherited traditional knowledge, food security and land stewardship.

Quote: "The land knows you, even when you are lost."

- Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants

RESPONSIBILITARIAN

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY BRITTANY + MARIO LAGASSÉ

Croakinole and Croakette are expecting tadpoles any day now. But parenthood has made them start to question the safety our lakes, ponds and rivers. Responsibilitarian explores how we can make waters a friendly place for frogs, tadpoles and humans alike.

Quote: "To damage the earth is to damage your children." - Wendell Berry



ULTRHSOWND

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY CHARLENE VAN BUEKENHOUT

What are you?

Get your diagnostic results with WANDA, the ultrasound wand. Find out what your internal sound waves bounce off of and echo back to you in this non-invasive and painless procedure.

Quote: "We are part of the land. The land is not separate from us. The land sustains us. And if we don't take care of her, she won't be able to sustain us, and we as a generation of people will die." - Freda Huson

ONLY HOME

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY HERA NALAM

What does it take for a plant to grow? Only Home is an invitation to pause and take a moment to appreciate our home planet and to remind ourselves of the power it holds when we choose to care for Mother Earth.

Quote: "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow"- Audrey Hepburn

BECOMING MULTISPECIES MUSICIANS

CREATED BY SATIVA KAWAKAMI

Come plug yourself into an entangled ecosystem and hear how trans-species connections sing! Plants, fungi, and other life forms will join us in this participatory performance. Energy flows between us; a digital instrument and laptop will translate this energy into music. The sounds are unpredictable, so come curious to slow down and embrace vegetal time. How can these multispecies performances thicken our human relations with more-than-human players?

Quote: "Paying attention is a form of reciprocity with the living world, receiving the gifts with open eyes and open heart." - Robin Wall Kimmerer

SLOW DOWN

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY LIL BORGER + ANNE-MARIE WILLIOT

Humans keep speeding up. We continuously increase buying, selling, and producing, and we've created a system that is now too fast for the Earth to keep up. A combination of circus arts (cyr wheel), spoken word, and accordion comes together in this piece to show the struggling relationship between this human-made system and the natural world it threatens to destroy. It makes us wonder... Is continuous economic growth essential? How could we exist instead?

Quotes: "The environment and the economy are really both two sides of the same coin. If we cannot sustain the environment, we cannot sustain ourselves."
-Wangari Maathai

"The Earth is a fine place and worth fighting for." - Ernest Hemingway



Bike and Circuses Land Acknowledgment

We are on Treaty 1 land, the home of Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Long Plains First Nation, Peguis First Nation, Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation, Sagkeeng First Nation, Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation, Swan Lake First Nation and the birthplace of the Red River Métis.

We acknowledge that our drinking water in the City of Winnipeg is sourced from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, a community who from 1997 until just two years ago lived under a boil water advisory, while Winnipeggers used this resource from their land with little thanks and no reciprocity.

Green Kids is working to educate and inspire future generations of environmental stewards, while following the lead of Indigenous knowledge keepers and water and land protectors, the original environmentalists on this land.

As we present Bike and Circuses in Whittier Park, we are humbled not only by its beauty, but also by its historical significance. Our event takes place near Fort Gibraltar, a monument to Métis history in Manitoba. The neighboring park, Lagimodière-Gaboury, is the birthplace of Métis leader Louis Riel, founder and first Premier of Manitoba and leader of both the Red River and North-West Resistance. We are excited to be sharing our production with Winnipeggers in this special place.

This Land Acknowledgement will grow and change as we do.

CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION

Lil Borger - Creator / Performer

Hi, I'm Lil! I am a circus performer, community worker, and human being closely connected to social justice, especially involving the environment. I have been practicing circus arts since I was 7 years old, specializing in Cyr wheel, aerial silks/hoop, and acrobatics (find me @lil_circus)! Since then, I have added stand-up comedy, burlesque, and drag to my performance shenanigans. I strive to create art and spaces where people are invited to think, feel, and be open to changing their worldview. This often involves the environment, specifically conversations about our current interactions with it and the ways in which we can and must improve. I can't wait to share this new piece with you all!

Jo Burdon - Host / Production Assistant

Jo Burdon (they/them) is so pleased to be a part of Bike and Circuses this year! Jo loves riding their bike in almost any capacity; commuting to work (yes, in the winter too!), racing gravel or cyclocross, a casual group ride with friends, running errands, or coaching mountain bike fundamentals with the Manitoba Cycling Association.

Outside of cycling, Jo is an all-around creative striving to learn as much as possible in this life.

May your tires stay filled with air and rubber side down!

Julia Cote - Sewer

Julia graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Honours in Design for Theatre and Film at University of Winnipeg, was a part of the inaugural year of The Village Conservatory and the 2023/24 Creative Manitoba Mentorship Program. Some of her recent works include Wardrobe Coordinator on *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Iago Speaks (SIR)*; Apprentice Set & Costume Designer on *Clue (Royal MTC)*; Scenic Designer on *From Up Here (University of Winnipeg)*; Design Assistant on *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder (DryCold)* and on *Twelfth Night (SIR)*; Associate Designer on *The Arsonists* and *Something Rotten (MTYP)*.

Kirby Cote - Accessibility Consultant

Hello friends, I am a vision-impaired person who loves art and riding her bike! I am passionate about creating accessible and inclusive spaces where people of all abilities are inspired to choose their own adventure.

Nova Courchene - Creator / Director

Nova Courchene is a multi-passionate Anishinaabekwe dedicated to making theatre accessible to Indigenous youth and communities. As Co-Director of Native Youth Theatre, she brings a wealth of experience as an Anishinaabemowin Language Learner, Visual/Graphic Design Artist, emerging Playwright, Writer, and Outreach Drama Educator. Currently, she collaborates with the Pembina Trails School Division, creating large-format murals inspired by Anishnaabe traditional knowledge and teachings.

Nova also works with Manitoba Theatre for Young People in the Theatre School Outreach Program, providing theatre workshops and Indigenous Storytelling to rural Manitoba schools. She incorporates local oral histories and traditional knowledge, often concluding workshops with performances by the young participants.

Her writing projects include the full-length play *Waawaashkeshiwag Wabano*, a commissioned short play for Boca Del Lupo's Plays2Perform project, credits for APTN's *Michif Country Season 4*, and collaborations with Echo Theatre.

Keith Damboise - Carpenter

Keith has a theater degree from the University of Moncton, and has been living in Winnipeg since 2004. He has experience in many theatrical departments, including: acting, directing, stage managing, lighting, sound, set design and set building. He also performed as a magician for many years while living in New Brunswick. Oh, and he LOVES to play curling!

Greetings from THE MINISTER

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Bike and Circuses 2023. Bringing together theatre and cycling (or walking) to increase environmental awareness is a wonderful innovation. As you move through the different performances by the Green Kids Inc. company, I'm sure you will be engaged by their talent but also their message.

On behalf of my colleagues in Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, I commend Green Kids Inc. for over thirty years of programming – nurturing the creativity



and talent of Manitobans but also putting the environment at the forefront. I extend our appreciation to the staff, performers, volunteers and sponsors who have invested so much to ensure the success of this event. I wish you all an enjoyable and memorable Bike and Circuses 2024.

Honourable Glen Simard
Minister of Sport, Culture, Heritage
and Tourism

Black Thunderbird / Shirli Ewanchuk - Medicine Person and Traditional Teacher

Shirli is a member of the Swan Lake First Nation. She was born into a family of Ojibwe Bear Clan medicine people who gave her access to the knowledge medicine, ritual, and ceremonial ways. She was a lodge helper for many years before learning to conduct ceremonies for her family and the community. Shirli learned and worked alongside many gifted Ojibwe, Cree, and Dakota Elders and knowledge carriers and teaches Indigenous ways of healing, being, and doing in school divisions, universities, and in the community at medicine camps and workshops. She was invited to share teachings on the ways of the sacred clown beings and was honoured to do so.

Sativa Kawakami - Creator

Sativa Kawakami (she/her) is a settler/Red River Métis woman born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She is a proud sister, daughter, urban fruit tree enthusiast, as well as an artist- student. With time, tiva's artistic practice has become research oriented: exploring the relational and imaginative possibilities of plant-human collaboration. Her recent work connects ecological, sensorial, and technological systems using film and electronic music. Rather than product, tiva centers her research-creation in process. Thus, tiva's work exhibits participatory performances, wherein humans, plants, and other more-than-humans equally, yet distinctly, participate in acts of making art. She hopes that collaborating with plants might thicken one's attunement to a local world. Further, tiva wonders what trans-species creations might offer to environmental justice and decolonial action.

Adrianna Kollar - Performer

Adrianna has extensive experience with clowning, theatre performance as well as musical theatre. She graduated from the University of Winnipeg in 2016 with an honours degree in theatre performance and spent two consecutive summers studying clown performance with John Turner and other extraordinary teachers at "The Clown Farm". Adrianna is passionate about health & wellness, expressing herself through clown performance, acting as well as singing. She hopes to continue spreading love & joy in the world through the very things that fill her with the most love & joy in return.

Brittany and Mario Lagassé - Creator / Performers

Brittany and Mario are the musical duo behind 'Responsibilitarian', the environmental spinoff to 'Bleb', a children's musical about frogs. When they're not singing about frogs, the couple likes to play and perform music and theatre.

Loc Lu - Creator / Performer

Loc Lu brings over two decades of experience in the performing arts to the cultural landscape. With a background in devised theatre, movement, film, mask, and clown, Loc has brought a dynamic flavor to his work across various roles and organizations.

He has collaborated with organizations such as Manitoba Theatre for Young People (MTYP), Prairie Theatre Exchange (PTE), Artist In Schools, Manitoba Drama Educators Association, Green Kids, Autism Learning Centre, Rady JCC, Monica's Danz Gym, and Expressions Film School. His extensive involvement has provided him with a deep respect for the performing arts and its transformative potential.

Loc's roles as a former company member, drama educator, and board member for Green Kids blend his talents with environmental advocacy to further the cause of sustainability through the arts.

Amy McPherson - Costume Designer

Indigenous costume designer, custom clothing and jewelry creator. Owner of Fashion Ikwe Designs. So happy to join in on this production. It's so fun and great people.

Previous productions:

2020 MTYP - Frozen River, Assistant Costume Designer

2023 MTC - Secret to good tea, Assistant Costume Designer

2023 WJT - A Pickle, Costume Designer

2023 WJT - Pals, Costume Designer

2024 MTC - The Comeback, Associate Costume Designer

Hera Nalam - Creator / Performer

Hera, a true inter-disciplinary artist whose craft transcends boundaries. With a soul of endless curiosity, Hera has woven her magic within the threads of music, theater, film and fashion. Blending pop, jazz funk and RNB influences with a twist of drama from Original Pilipino Music, Hera's sweet voice and playful lyrics have swayed listeners in local stages. Her music and natural stage presence has also charmed audiences as far as New York city.

Emily Payne - Host / Production Assistant

Emily is joining the Bike and Circuses team for the first time this year. She is an avid cyclist - adventuring on mountain bike trails, gravel roads, city streets and frozen pathways. Emily works in a local bike shop, and is a year round cycle commuter.

Emily has a lot of "Auntie Energy", and likes to help kids of all ages enjoy adventures outside on two (+) wheels. She has many years of experience guiding bike tours, coaching mountain bike clinics, and leading group rides with local cycling organizations.

Emily's favourite place is outside. She enjoys exploring the how the natural world engages the senses, and finding connections between art and science. Life is better on a bike, and bikes are best enjoyed with friends. Let's go ride!

Eric Rae - Host / Production Assistant

Eric is a Green Kid in every way he can be, except for one. Eco-green and money green are incompatible, and so Eric strives to increase the focus on Eco-green while reducing the focus on money green in his life and his art. He's been working with Green Kids for... he thinks over ten years now? He takes every opportunity he can to do theatre that makes a difference, and started his own company, Rose Coloured Apocalypse, whose focus has evolved over time to become "Theatre for the Revolution".

Heather Russell-Smith* - Creator / Performer

Heather (she/her) is a theatre artist living and creating in Treaty 1 Territory. She has worked with many of the theatre companies in Winnipeg, and is very excited to have this chance to clown around with Green Kids! These days her favourite role is as mom to her 3 year old, who loves riding his bike, and only sometimes makes her feel like she's living in a circus!

Ash Singh - Graphic Design

Hi! My name is Ashley but you can call me Ash!

I'm a graphic motion designer and illustrator, passionate about creating meaningful designs that make a lasting impact. I've worked with Green Kids Inc. on numerous projects and always enjoy seeing the transitions of ideas to design work from beginning to end. I'm excited to participate in this process again and look forward to another great event of Bike and Circuses!

Claire Sparling - Cutter/Stitcher

I have always felt a need to learn how things are put together. Throughout my life, I have followed this instinct by developing skills in everything relating to textiles. From a very young age, I have been sewing, knitting, spinning and weaving, never missing a chance to add new skills to my repertoire.

Kathleen Starr - Performer

Hello my name is Mashkode Bizhiki Ikwe or otherwise known as Kathleen Starr. I am a former T.A for NYT at the Manitoba Theater for Young People. I was in two productions with my highschool, Matchmaker heartbreaker which was back in 2022 (written by our lovely drama teacher) and in 2023 I played the role of the Mad Hatter in our Alice and Wonderland production! I enjoy acting so much and I was accepted into the University of Winnipeg's theater and film program. Thank you for reading, I cannot wait to add on with my theater journey!

Sarah Struthers - Host / Production Assistant

Sarah (they/them), is a queer and non-binary multidisciplinary theatre maker, collage artist and emerging costume designer. They graduated from the University of Winnipeg with a BA in Theatre and Film, specializing in Devised Theatre research and creation.

Sarah is drawn to improvisational movement for its freedom of expression and methods of storytelling. They enjoy a hands-on approach to creation, and were led to costume design because of their love for colour, tactile elements, and the quest for the right pieces. Sarah's practice as a collage artist enriches their design knowledge, and helps them learn about various styles and fashion trends throughout history. Their background in performance allows for vibrant collaboration, having both a perspective as the performer and now as the designer.

As a lover of bikes, clowns, and nature, Sarah is excited to be joining the team for Bike and Circuses this year!

Charlene Van Buekenhout* - Creator / Performer

Charlene finds time to relocate bugs found in her house to the outdoors, except spiders. Spiders can stay.

Originally from Dauphin in Treaty 2 territory, Charlene is a Metis/French/Belgian/ADHD theatre artist in Treaty 1. Charlene has done many things in her career such as act in a lot of plays, produce many theatre productions, perform dance in styles like tap and go-go, make and play with puppets and crankies, parent a child and run a theatre company with best husband Kevin Klassen. They have 3 cats and lament not having enough time and space to home more animals. Charlene is bad at gardening but continues to try. You can use she/her to talk about her behind her back. www.echotheatre.net @echotheatretreaty1

* The participation of this Artist is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance•Opera•Theatre Policy.

Greetings from the WINNIPEG ARTS COUNCIL

The Winnipeg Arts Council's vision statement begins with the words "Winnipeg is a city of the arts, where art is woven into all people's lives." We are proud to provide support to all kinds of artists and arts organizations, because we believe that art is a big part of what defines us as a city. We're pleased to support Green Kids' 2024 Bikes and Circuses performances, along with hundreds of other events and performances across Winnipeg all year long.



Greetings from PAYWORKS

Payworks proudly supports Bike and Circuses presented by Green Kids Inc. Their innovative approach to environmental education through theatre captures imaginations and inspires communities to engage in meaningful environmental action.



Steven Vande Vyvere - Carpenter

Steven has been working on the production side of theatre since 2008 and takes a lot of joy from working with folks to help them see their ideas transformed into physical objects. As much as possible, he prefers to reuse materials both in an attempt to be frugal as well as to keep things out of the landfill. In addition to working with wood products, Steven has in the past few years moved to doing more building out of steel and plexiglass, building shows such as *The War Being Waged* (PTE). It is a career highlight for him to have been a part of the exceptional team that brought the set of *Clue* (RMTTC) to the stage. He hopes that you all enjoy the show and the magic of outdoor theatre.

Anne-Marie Williot - Creator / Performer

Anne-Marie Williot is a trilingual multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter hailing from rural Quebec, and now based in Winnipeg. A honed poet and performer, she writes and sings in a deliciously melodic blend of old and new sounds, often evocative of candle-lit cafes. She spends her days koala-like in tree tops, caring for trees as a professional arborist. She is also a skilled carpenter and gardener and has helped communities build and maintain their own sustainable, edible gardens. In recent years, the accordion has become her main instrument. In 2020, she released her latest album, entitled *Cheval Géant*. Her passion for nature and human nature is woven deeply into all of her pursuits.

Cynthia Wolfe-Nolin - Clown Coach

Cynthia Wolfe-Nolin, a member of the Métis Nation, is a trained clown, filmmaker, and playwright who attended The Manitoulin Conservatory of Creation and Performance and the Weengushk Film program. As an Asper Centre of Theatre and Film alumna, she uses her artistry to inspire hope and empowerment, sharing wisdom fully with a passion for preserving others' rights and dignity. As a Theatre Arts Educator for the Native Youth Theatre program, which operates out of Manitoba Theatre for Young People, she has full heartedly assisted Indigenous youth in developing essential theatre skills over the past fourteen years. As a playwright, Cynthia completed her first finished play with the assistance of the Pimootayowin writers circle. Her play 'Non-machinable' was performed by a team of actors hired by The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre. This July, she will be performing in *Agency* by Barb Janes, under the direction of Marsha Knight. Cynthia is grateful for the opportunity to work with Green Kids.

Tanja Faylene Woloshen - Creator / Performer

Tanja Faylene Woloshen (MFA, BA Hon, BEd) is an Independent Dance Artist/ Educator/ Collaborator from and currently creating on Treaty 1 Territory. She has performed and studied across NA, EU, and SE Asia. Selected recent activities include the creation and filming of "Field of Desire" for future making of a dance film (MB 2023); creation and performance of "Cat's Cradle"- with her mom!, for *Waking Death* (AB 2023); creation and performance of "Beautiful Loser", for *Art Holm* (MB 2021); National Dance Ed. Assoc. Conf. Presenter (GA 2022, MB 2021); Dance Studies Assoc. Conf. Presenter (MB 2022, IL 2019); One Trunk Theatre's "Western Chronicle"- choreographer (MB 2021); "Memorials for Lost Bodies"- death studies in performance research & performance with *Happy Phantoms Collective* (MB 2020). Tanja is currently on faculty with the Winnipeg Holistic Expressive Arts Therapy Institute, and Winnipeg School Division, with prior teaching engagements at ULeithridge, UWinnipeg, UBC-Okanagan, MTYP, RWB, and The Wellness Institute.

www.tanjafaylenewoloshen.org



Greetings from WINNIPEG TRAILS

We love Bike and Circuses for how it celebrates the sheer joy of moving on top of this planet. And what better way to celebrate the potential of the human body in motion than through movement, dance, theatre, and wonder. Winnipeg Trails is extremely proud to be helping make this happen. DO NOT MISS IT.



THANK YOU

Théâtre Cercle Molière, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Manitoba Theatre For Young People, Royal Manitoba Theatre Center, Christopher Sobczak, Deborah Gay de Vries, Diane Leitold, Devin Glazer-McLean, Alexandra Elliott, Ace Art,

And the many volunteers who have helped make this happen!



Daina Leitold - Event Producer

Daina Leitold (she/her) is a settler living and working on Treaty 1 Territory. She started working with Green Kids in 1996 and has been the Executive Director since 2011, creating eco-savvy theatre for schools and public events across Western Canada. In her time with Green Kids, Daina has worked as a producer, writer, designer and performer. When designing for projects beyond Green Kids, Daina strives to bring her love for salvaging, thrifting and reusing materials into her work.

Favourite low-impact design credits: among men (RMTC and TPM) The Dark Lady* (SIR & Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan), Glad To Be Here, Meet Me at Dawn and Edward II (TBTR), Fame (WST), Bike and Circuses 2022 (GKI), Timon of Athens (SIR), Red Earth** (One Trunk & TPM), Awaken (Zone41 and SIR), The Cherry Orchard (TBTR and Echo).

*SATAward Nomination for Production Excellence

**Evie Award for Outstanding Production Design

Brenda McLean - Event Producer

Brenda is a theatre artist living and working on Treaty I Territory in Winnipeg; she has been thinking about, training in, and making theatre for 30 years. Brenda creates, designs, directs, teaches, and produces for theatre and interdisciplinary theatre/dance productions. She specializes in movement, physical theatre, clown, and costume design.

She had a busy summer costuming designing for Shakespeare In the Ruins, "Midsummer Night's Dream," and "Iago Speaks," and doing the set and costume design for Thunder Bay's Magnus Theatre's "Romeo and Juliet." Brenda is thrilled to be co-producing "Bike and Circuses" again and to bring her love of the circus, active environmentalism, and theatre together in this wonderful park!

Green Kids Board of Directors - Delaine Russo, Michael Hancharyk, Jessica McGlynn, Lisa Bellemare, Alissa Watson, Eric Rae

Riva Billows - Social Media Coordinator

Anais Bossé - House Management Support

Eric Bossé - Technical Support

Seraph-Eden Boroditsky - Consultant

Greg Klassen - Publicist

Jessica McGlynn - Volunteer Coordinator

Mike Peters - Photography and Video

Dave Pruden - Graphic Design of "Lady on Bike"

Carla Schroder - Painter

Funders

We are honoured to have financial support from:



Partners

We are proud to have the in-kind support from:



The Bike Dump

