

Gale Force Theatre presents

CRYPTHAND



Sept. 23rd, 24th, 29th + 30th + Oct. 1st
at 7:30pm

Sept. 25th + Oct. 2nd at 2:00pm

at THE BUS STOP THEATRE

Written by LILY FALK

Directed by LAURA VINGOE-CRAM

Tickets available at www.tickethalifax.com

Land acknowledgment:

Gale Force Theatre Cooperative would like to recognize that we create on the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaq. Our play takes place in Halifax, England. This reminds us that this "Halifax" wasn't always and that for millennia this place went by the name Kjiptuk, meaning "great harbour." We are grateful to get to tell this story of queer women whose history has often been erased. This is not without the complexity of doing so in a place where the stories and culture of the Mi'kmaq are obscured due to colonial violence. As a group of settler artists, we wish to acknowledge our responsibilities under the Peace and Friendship Treaties and give thanks to the caretakers of this land.



Playwright's Notes

I wanted to understand queer history better, my own history. I understood myself to be standing in a long line of women who had felt and loved like me but their faces were obscured. The stories that I had been told about them were mostly ones of pain and persecution or simple heroism. I longed to know some of these women specifically. And then I came across an article about Anne Lister and her secret coded diaries.

Eliza Raine and Anne Lister were both born in 1791. Eliza was born in Madras, India to a Tamil mother and a British father, and Anne in Halifax, England into a family of landed gentry. Eliza came to England at age 7 at a time when many children from interracial families formed during the early colonialization of India were being sent to England to be educated and brought into upper-class British life. Not much is known about their meeting at the Manor House School. Anne took great care to meticulously document her life but this moment at school we know little about. This play dreams of what that time may have been like.

When I began to write about Anne and Eliza, I wanted them to sound like my high school friends but to understand themselves within their own time and context. I was trying to understand our shared history through all of its layers including the stories that they might have used to understand themselves. I wanted time to reverberate through myth, jokes, songs, and all the eyes that would have speculated on their story. Anita Majumdar has been an invaluable (and fun!) collaborator in imagining Eliza. She's provided critical research and cultural context in what Eliza's own lyrical lineages may have been.

In the process of creating this piece, I've felt a deepening connection and complexity to these echoes in my own life. So many wonderful queer artists have brought their generous magic to *Crypthand*. I'd also like to take a moment to thank Playwright Atlantic Resource Centre and (Atlantic Playwrights' official Fairy Godmother) Pam Halstead. It's hard to describe how lucky I feel to be an emerging artist when an organization like PARC exists. Their support for Atlantic playwrights is unparalleled.

Lily Falk,
Playwright



Cultural Consultant & Dramaturg's Notes

When Lily asked me how I would like to be credited in this program you're reading and offered "Cultural Consultant/Dramaturg," I thought about the contradiction: one suggests outsider, the other insider. For many years, cultural consultancy has been treated like a government rubber stamp on a show: "Yup, you did the bare minimum and so here's your renewed passport to travel to any distant land you want."

Because that's what we do when we create plays, right? We go to those far away, recessed places in our minds to share what we've seen and learned with an audience. And we ask other artists to join our creative teams to help us communicate that vision. And yet when it comes to cultural consultancy, there's often a kind of creative gatekeeping employed. Cultural consultants are often artists in their own right, but treated like administrative umpires invited to supervise a baseball game but never asked to play.

Crypthand is the first time as a cultural consultant, I've been invited to "play"; invited, not to referee from the sidelines, but to join the conversation; the first time I wasn't there to check a box; the first time I was allowed to offer notes directly to an exceptionally talented playwright in the spirit of curiosity.

Over the last year, I've had the joy of being in dialogue with Lily, offering background context from India in juxtaposition to Eliza's history in England. For example, we had a chance to unpack what kinds of smells Eliza might have encountered in her formative years of growing up in India, what flowers and fruits her Tamil mother might have introduced her to and was local to the region in which she was raised. And what that stark contrast to her English dwelling might illicit. Digging into details like this, I'd like to think, helped inform the choices Eliza makes with Anne over the course of the story.

Ultimately, this play was brilliant before I started working on it. Lily is an astonishing writer, but what makes her a dream creator to work with is that she sees possibility with each member of her team. And acknowledges that we are all, in fact, on the same side.

Anita Majumdar,
Cultural Consultant and Dramaturg



Cast

Anne/various: Franziska Glen

Eliza/various: Mara Teare

Matron/various: Ailsa Galbreath

Musician: Alexa Kirste

Isis: Tara Taylor

Creative Team

Director: Laura Vingoe-Cram

Playwright: Lily Falk

Cultural Consultant/Dramaturg: Anita Majumdar

Dramaturg: Richie Wilcox

Stage Manager: Kevin Olson

Set and Lighting Design: Holly Meyer-Dymny

Associate Set and Lighting Design: Ryan Wilcox

Projection Design: MacKenzie Cornfield

Costume Design: Sabrina Stace

Costume Associate: Franziska Glen

Music Director and Composer: Garry Williams

Music Consultant: Suba Sankaran

Sound Design: Lily Falk

Live Audio Description: Kat Germain

Technician: Amelia George

Poster Design: Laura K. Watson

Program Design: Jordan Beaulieu

Cast & Creative Team

[in alphabetical order]



Amelia George

Amelia graduated from Acadia University's Theatre Production program in 2019 with a concentration in projection/video design. That being said, she can often be found doing a little bit of everything from lighting, to set and prop construction, to costumes, stage management, painting, and whatever needs doing in-between. Since graduating, she has worked with several local companies across Nova Scotia/Mi'kma'ki, including The Villains Theatre, Ship's Company Theatre, The Bus Stop Theatre, Valley Summer Theatre, and Quick as a Wink Theatre Society. Incapable of sitting still, Amelia is constantly in pursuit of new ways to create and present theatre that pushes boundaries.



Ailsa Galbreath

Ailsa Galbreath (she/her) is a theatre artist based in Punamu'kwat'ik (Dartmouth). Recently, Ailsa performed as part of secret theatre's How Quickly Things Change at the Stages Festival. She has worked with PARC, secret theatre, EFT, HomeFirst, Zuppa Theatre, LunaSea Theatre Co, Halifax Theatre for Young People, Villian's Theatre, and QueerActs Theatre Festival. Ailsa is 1/4th of Tea Time Creation Co, a clown troupe who seek to subvert the status quo with wacky fun. Tea Time's most recent production was A Midsummer Night's Wet Dream performed at Good Robot Brewing in the north end of Halifax. Ailsa is a certified teacher of the Interactive Teaching Method of the Alexander Technique and Co-Artistic Producer of LunaSea Theatre Company.



Kat Germain

Memberships include: Audio Description Association (UK), International Society Of Female Professionals, Canadian Deafblind Association, Canadian Association of Theatre Research, Described Video Best Practices Committee, ACTRA, Ontario College of Teachers. Description work and consultation includes: Neptune, Zuppa, LSPU Hall, Christina Martin, Confederation Centre of the Arts, LSPU Hall, Buddies in Bad Times, Roseneath, Eastlink TV, CBC, OUTv, Maple Leaf Sports Entertainment, Bell Canada, APTN & TVO, British Council, Toronto Queer Film Festival, Deaf Interiors, Stratford Festival, Luminato, National Arts Centre, Tangled Art + Disability, AGO, ROM, OCAD, WeeFestival, Young People's Theatre, X University, U of T, York U, U of Guelph, Cahoots, Tarragon, ParaPan AM Games, Native Earth Performing Arts, Indigeneity and Disability Summit, Crippling the Arts, Vibe Symposium, Soulpepper. www.katgermain.com (under construction!)



Lily Falk

Lily Falk (she/her) is an emerging theatre artist living in Kijipuktuk and co-artistic director of Gale Force Theatre. Most recently, she co-created a show delivered to parks on a tandem bike, collaborated with North Barn Theatre Collective, and was an apprentice at the 2022 River Clyde Pageant. She's currently developing a serialized audio drama for kids inspired by winter solstice folklore with help from the Canada Council for the Arts. When she isn't doing theatre, Lily works as a nature play professional, bringing the magic of the outdoors to kids of all ages and abilities. This is her first play.



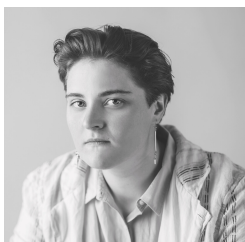
MacKenzie Cornfield

MacKenzie Cornfield (she/her) is an emerging theatre and video artist based in K'ijipuktuk/Halifax, with a focus in video/projection design for live performance. Since studying technical theatre and stage design at the Fountain School of Performing Arts (FSPA), MacKenzie has helped to build and tell stories in live and digital theatre, dance, live music, circus, and film. As a video/projection designer, MacKenzie has worked on productions including *Frequencies* (HEIST, 2021), *Mary Stuart* (FSPA, 2021), *Spring Tide Circle* (Ship's Company Theatre, 2021), *A Northern Lights Dream* (FSPA Opera, 2022) and *Refraction* (Breaking Circus, 2022). Select credits in lighting design include *Ephemera* (FSPA, 2020), *Market Dances* (FODAR, 2021 & 2022), and *Koqm* at Neptune Theatre (Nestuita'si Storytelling, 2022).



Franziska Glen

Franziska is an actor, puppeteer and theatre maker living in Kijipuktuk/Halifax. She is the co-founder of Gale Force Theatre and is thrilled to be diving back into *Crypthand* after performing in its workshop production in 2019. Franziska creates new work with Gale Force Theatre and has worked and collaborated with The River Clyde Pageant, Mermaid Theatre, North Barn Theatre Collective, Bread and Puppet, Satellite Théâtre and Bagel and Balloon. She is interested in puppetry, outdoor theatre, theatre for young audiences and engaging rural communities in Nova Scotia with art and performance. When not working she can be found cycling, cooking, sewing and cross country skiing. She likes the winters.



Alexa Kirste

Alexa (he/she/they) is an interdisciplinary artist based in K'ijipuktuk/Halifax. He enjoys playing and composing music, with an interest in expanding into production, sound and audio engineering, and theatrical technician work. They began playing classical violin at the age of six, and have since studied Gaelic and fiddling in Cape Breton, as well as picking up other traditional styles and instruments including the cello and viola. She is very excited to be involved in *Crypthand*, and is keenly looking forward to the piece's musical explorations and storytelling. Selected credits include *The Station* (Bare Theatre, 2022).



Anita Majumdar

Anita Majumdar is an acting graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada and holds a Bachelor of Arts at the University of British Columbia. She's also a classically trained Indian dancer and contemporary choreographer for over two decades. As a playwright, Anita was awarded Canada's Governor General's Protégé Prize in playwriting where she was mentored by John Murrell. She has been part of multiple writing residencies, the Banff Playwright's Lab and playwright-in-residence with Nightswimming and has been a dramaturg with Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre. Her most produced and toured work, the *Fish Eyes Trilogy*, is published by Playwrights Canada Press and can be heard in its entirety on CBC Radio's PlayME podcast. She was the recipient of Dora Mavor Moore Awards for Outstanding Performance and Outstanding New Play (*Boys with Cars*, Nightswimming/Young People's Theatre). Currently, Anita is working on a Nightswimming commission called, *A Girl Has No Gym* and a side career in digital illustration.





Holly Meyer-Dymny

Holly Meyer-Dymny is an award-winning Canadian theatre designer, artist, mentor, educator, and advocate. She creates Set, Lighting, and Projection Designs for theatre, dance, opera, and musical theatre. Her theatre work has a focus on conversation, collaboration, holistic design, and decolonialized, accessible, greener practices. When she isn't designing for the stage you can find her creating children's book illustrations, baking, gardening, reading, or somewhere in the woods with Penny the dog. Find more about Holly at: <http://www.hollymeyerdymny.com>



Kevin Olson

Kevin Olson (he/ him) is beyond thrilled to be a part of Gale Force Theatre and *Crypthand*! He is a professional stage manager who has worked on many productions for over a decade. He has called many theatres home, including The Charlottetown Festival, Lighthouse FT, Port Stanley FT, Theatre Orangeville, Theatre Aquarius, Vancouver Playhouse, Carousel Players, Young Peoples Theatre, Canadian Rep Theatre, Black Theatre Workshop, and Smile Theatre (where he was also production manager for several years). He has most recently toured internationally with Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia and with Geordie Theatre, traveling extensively to the US and to Hong Kong. Recently, he has begun to call Nova Scotia his home, and he is excited to work with all of the fantastic people he has met. He will continue to pursue ways to make the theatre process accessible, inclusive, and enjoyable for everyone!



Suba Sankaran

DORA award-winning, thrice JUNO-nominated world/fusion vocalist Suba Sankaran has performed in over 20 countries across 6 continents with Autorickshaw, Trichy Sankaran, FreePlay and Retrocity. Performance highlights include performing for Peter Gabriel, Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and performing with Jane Siberry, Lorraine Segato, Bobby McFerrin and The Swingles. Suba is an in-demand vocalist, choral director, arranger, educator, composer and sound designer. Highlights include collaborations with Deepa Mehta and the CBC. Theatre composer/sound design credits: (upcoming) *Mahabharata* (Shaw); *Jungle Book* (Kidoons); *Komagata Maru Incident*, *The Aeneid* (Stratford); *For Coloured Girls...* (Soulpepper); *The Enchanted Loom* (Cahoots); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Tarragon); *Same Same, But Different* (Nightswimming); *The Penelopiad* (Nightwood), *Bombay Black* (Nightswimming/Cahoots).



Sabrina Stace

Sabrina Stace (she/her) is an emerging costume designer and established wardrobe technician from Moncton, NB. She is thrilled to still have her toes in the waters of the Maritime Theatre Scene as Sabrina is starting her second season as the Head of Wardrobe for Western Canada Theatre in Kamloops, BC. She is ecstatic that *Crypthand* is finally taking the stage despite these ever-changing and sometimes turbulent times. Recent and upcoming design credits include *Hurry Hard* (Western Canada Theatre Winter 2023), *Where You Are* (Theatre Baddeck Summer 2021), and *Tintamarre: MURMURs* (Mount Allison University Spring 2021). Sabrina was the Wardrobe Supervisor for Ballet Jörger's 2019-2020 season, touring across Canada and parts of the US. She holds a B.A. from Mount Allison University (class of '18), Fanshawe College's Costume Production Program (class of '19), and was a Wardrobe Practicum at the Banff Centre of the Arts (Summer 2019). Sabrina is sending the biggest "break a leg" vibes from the West Coast. Enjoy the show! IG: @stace_sabrina



Tara Taylor

Tara L. Taylor is East Preston, NS born; Manager of Light House GO streaming service; CBC Information Morning Cultural Columnist; Partner / Playwright / Screenwriter / Director; Festival Director - Emerging Lens Cultural Film Festival; 2021; Recipient of the African Nova Scotian Music Awards Industry Development Award sponsored by the Black Business Initiative for her body of work in presenting musical theatre and film; a playwright, filmmaker, actress, Co-Chair - Women in Film & Television; Board Member of Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre; Visual Arts Nova Scotia member. Currently in development is *Love, Peace and Hairgrease* set for the stage in October 2022, co-produced with Eastern Front Theatre.



Mara Teare

Mara Teare is a Saskatoon raised actor, singer, writer, and creator. She is a recent graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's acting program. Through her art and work, Mara strives to create and be a part of spaces with a strong presence of marginalized voices. Just as theatre has given her a voice, she wishes to inspire and uplift others like her through the power of theatre. This is her first time performing in Halifax. Some of her selected credits include *Cymbeline*, *An Online Reading of The Tempest* (Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan); *bonus points if you have air conditioning*, *Everybody*, *Indecent* (National Theatre School); *Young Ones* (SUM Theatre). She is so grateful to Gale Force Theatre for providing her this opportunity to perform at the Bus Stop Theatre, for the first time, in this very special piece. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Laura Vingoe-Cram

Laura is the incoming artistic director of Ship's Company Theatre in Parrsboro and co-artistic director of Keep Good (Theatre) Company in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Her directing credits include *Mexico City* (Matchstick Theatre), *Love and Information* (The Fountain School of Performing Arts), *The Children* (Keep Good (Theatre) Company), *Miss N' Me* (Eastern Front Theatre), *Interactions with Art* (Halifax Theatre for Young People), *Time of Trouble* (Opera Nova Scotia), *Constellations* (Keep Good (Theatre) Company). In 2018 she completed a year at the Stratford Festival working as an assistant director under Nigel Shawn Williams and was a member of the Michael Langham Workshop for Classical Direction. In 2015 she graduated from The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow with a masters in theatre directing.



Ryan Wilcox

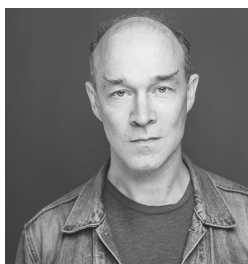
Ryan Wilcox (they/them) is a neurodivergent, nonbinary theatre creator based in Kijipuktuk, colonially known as Halifax. Ryan is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's Production Design and Technical Arts Program where they trained as a theatre designer and manager. Their upcoming projects include a staged reading of their solo show *i think i loved you (and it scares me)* at LunaSea theatre's SoloFest, and joining Festival Antigonish as the Set Design Mentee on *Outside Inn* this fall. Outside of productions, Ryan is committed to developing inclusive safety and respectful workplace practices in the performing arts.





Richie Wilcox

Richie Wilcox is an educator, dramaturg, a fiercely queer artist, and a creative collaborator. He is the founding artistic director of the live art company HEIST based in K'jipuktuk/Halifax. In their short existence, Wilcox has helped HEIST create *The Princess Show*, *Princess Rules*, *New Waterford Boy*, *Frequencies* and more. With Heist, Wilcox has produced and curated the Creative Nova Scotia Awards in 2019 and 2020. Wilcox has worked with numerous companies across the Maritimes including Neptune, Festival Antigonish, 2B Theatre, Kazan Co-Op, Opera Nova Scotia, the Highland Arts Theatre and more. Wilcox served as Artistic Associate of Theatre Outré in Lethbridge, Alberta for three years where he helped create numerous original works including *Unsex'd*, *Castrati: An Electro Drag Opera* and *How To Leave*. Wilcox is also finishing up his three-year term as the artistic director of the 36-year-old Ship's Company Theatre in Awokun/Parrsboro where his play *Good Grief* won a Merritt for Outstanding New Nova Scotia Script in 2021.



Garry Williams

Garry Williams is an award-winning composer-lyricist and theatre artist based in K'jipuktuk/Halifax. Select composing and songwriting credits include *Gonzalo's Map* (Keep Good), *Troubling Joy* (North Barn Collective), *Play Building* (Ship's Company), *King of Berlin* (Doppler Effect), *KAMP* (EFT/Neptune), *The Wizard of Oz*, *Twelfth Night*, *Peter Pan*, *Pinocchio* (SBTS), *Tyrant*, *Jew of Malta*, *Edward II* (Villains), *The FEAR Project* and *So... What About Love?* (DaPoPo Theatre). Recent acting credits include Polonius/Gravedigger in *Hamlet* (SBTS), Andrzej in *Skylark Song* (Page 1), and Rue in 333 (Theatre Outré).







Thank you to all our wonderful supporters!

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