

PORTFOLIO



THEATRE ARTIST

EMILY MARISABEL

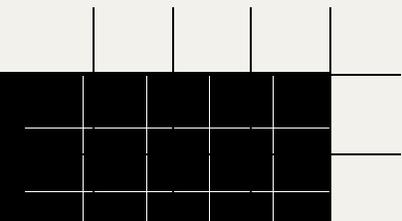
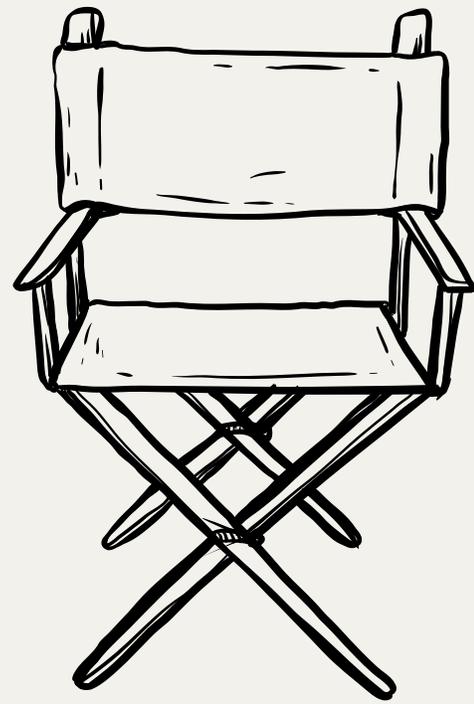
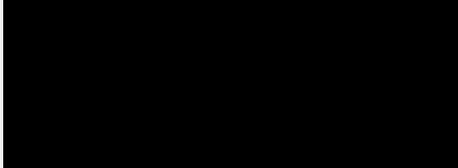


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ABOUT ME

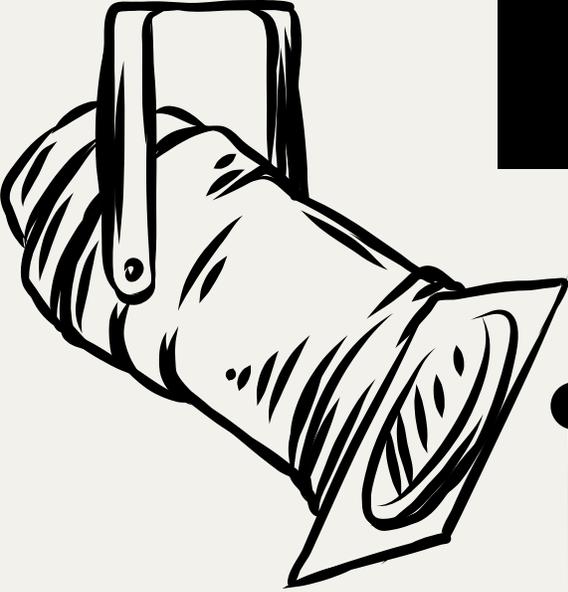
I am an Alberta based theatre director, producer, actor, and administrator.

Being proudly neurodiverse, most of my artistic work focuses on accessibility, harm prevention and reduction, healing, understanding, support, and ensuring all individuals have what they need to flourish.

This focus on accessibility includes bridging the divide between urban artistic opportunities and rural artistic isolation as well as analyzing, challenging and improving current theatrical, artistic and societal systems to develop more inclusive, diverse and uplifting attitudes and environments.



EDUCATION



(2017) ROSEBUD SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

2015 - Diploma in Acting

2017 - F.R.S.A in Acting

(four year program)

(2018) BANFF CENTRE FOR ARTS AND CREATIVITY

Completion:

Women's Directing Intensive

Directing Contemporary Shakespeare

Intimacy Directing Intensive

(2022) YALE UNIVERSITY

Certificate:

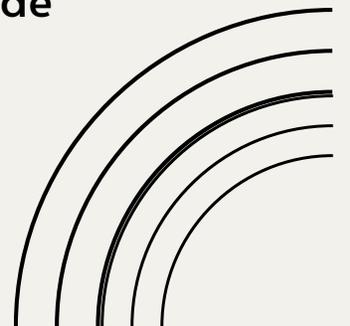
A Practical Approach to Directing

(2023) YORK UNIVERSITY

Degree:

Specialized Honours Bachelor of Arts in

Theatre - Summa Cum Laude





DIRECTING



THE CANADIAN BADLANDS PASSION PLAY



The Canadian Badlands Passion Play is an annual summer production that is performed on the largest outdoor stage in North America. This outdoor amphitheatre is the size of six football fields (6.92 acres) and seats over 2000 audience members.

The production utilizes between 80 to 150 actors of all ages and a team of 4 to 6 directors depending on each year's specific script needs.

The Canadian Badlands Passion Play tells the story of Jesus Christ. However, each year this production is considered a new work as the script is modified every summer and the production team changes. A complete rewrite of the script happens every 2-5 years, and each rewrite is focused on a different gospel in the Bible.



I have been part of the directing team of The Canadian Badlands Passion Play since 2016, starting as an Intern and now working as one of the main directors of the production.

In the following pages, I will describe each script version and my specific directorial position for each.

LUKE SCRIPT

BY BARRETT HILEMAN

Company: Canadian Badlands Passion Play

Role: Intern Director

Year: 2016 & 2017

Location: Badlands Amphitheatre - Drumheller AB



While finishing my post-secondary schooling at Rosebud School of the Arts, I had discovered, through taking an introduction to directing course, that my true passion was analyzing and bringing to life the full world of a play instead of a single character. I also discovered that my mindset and talents were much better suited for visualizing the full spectrum of a play, focusing on what a script was trying to say to its audience and then, shaping and evoking that world into life.

Therefore, I began searching for opportunities to learn, observe and shape my directorial passion and aptitude.

I was then hired by The Canadian Badlands Passion Play as their Intern Director for 2016 & 2017 where I was mentored by many professional directors including Brian Jensen, Jacqueline Dymont, Kyle Kimmerly, Jessica Hickman and Barrett Hileman.



99 TO 1: THE MUSICAL

BY BARRETT HILEMAN

Company: Canadian Badlands Passion Play

Role: Assistant Director

Year: 2018 & 2019

Location: Badlands Amphitheatre - Drumheller AB



The Passion Play underwent a major shift in 2018 & 2019 by creating a musical version of the story of Christ. This production included over 120 actors, 20 live musicians, a new outdoor sound system, a new costume design, and a new set design which, on this stage, includes landscaping and even constructing a new full scale set building.

For this production, I was promoted to Assistant Director which allowed me the opportunity to put what I learned as an intern into practise. I participated in dramaturgical script changes, directed small groups of actors, collaborated on the directorial vision and script analysis, contributed to the creation and delineation of the choreography and supplied actors with notes throughout the rehearsal process and runs.



PUNCH UP!

BY KAT SANDLER

Company: Light in the Dark Theatre

Role: Director, Producer & Designer

Year: 2019

Location: Rumsey, Alberta Community Centre



Light in the Dark Theatre was commissioned to bring a comedic theatrical production to Rumsey, Alberta in association with the Rumsey Agricultural Society.

The action we focused on throughout this production was people need help from other people to help them find the comedy in their own tragedies.

Through this production, I learned I have a knack for comedic timing as well as staging physical comedy.



NEVER SWIM ALONE

BY DANIEL MACIVOR

Company: Light in the Dark Theatre

Role: Director, Producer & Designer

Year: 2019

Location: Edmonton International Fringe Festival



Never Swim Alone is an exploration of what happens when the desire to be first outweighs the compassion for others. Many times, in life, we are faced with the choice to be first/win the race, or to help someone else instead.

These characters, at first glance, were difficult to relate to for the actors. One actor, who had to conduct an act of lengthy violence against the other, really struggled to find their character relatable.

I worked with this actor to uncover and develop their understanding of why someone might do what their character does. When we tapped into the character's pain, and ultimately their fear, the actor was able to relate to their character and in turn, their performance deepened.

(Note: Images were taken during dress rehearsal in the rehearsal venue.)

CARMEL

BY ROBERT WINSLOW & IAN MCLACHLAN

Company: 4th Line Theatre

Role: Assistant Director

Year: 2019

Location: The Winslow Farm - Millbrook ON



Carmel was performed on an outdoor stage using live animals, vehicles, smoke effects, and both professional and volunteer actors of all ages.

During this production, I took the lead on directing the large crowd scenes that included a lot of storytelling through movement. I also directed the staged intimacy using my intimacy directing training and directed the many youth actors performing in the production.

I love directing outdoor shows and incorporating the Canadian landscape into theatrical stories. Through my substantial experience directing outdoor productions, I have become well versed in the different storytelling needs, styles, techniques and safety precautions required for large scale outdoor works.



MATTHEW SCRIPT

BY ROYAL SPROULE

Company: Canadian Badlands Passion Play

Role: Crowd Director

Year: 2022

Location: Badlands Amphitheatre - Drumheller AB



After being closed for two years and undergoing financial strain due to COVID-19, the Passion Play shifted to a smaller scale production in comparison to their musical version. They returned to a play format, with 70 actors and the use of the natural amphitheatre acoustics.



For this production, I was promoted to the Crowd Director which is one of the main directors of the production. I participated in all the directorial preparation, script analysis, planning and design collaborations. In this position, I was specifically in charge of the choral movements and storytelling of the chorus members (like a Greek chorus). I shaped the 'picture' of each scene to make every moment dynamic and throw the focus of the audience to the correct spot on stage. I also worked with the lead actors on action, motivation and movement.



MATTHEW SCRIPT

BY ROYAL SPROULE

Company: Canadian Badlands Passion Play

Role: Crowd Director

Year: 2023

Location: Badlands Amphitheatre - Drumheller AB



I was rehired as the Crowd Director for the 2023 Badlands Passion Play production.

Before rehearsals, I assisted with dramaturgically analyzing the script to better streamline the story and increase the audience's connection to the narrator, Matthew. I also analyzed the archival footage from last season's production in order to highlight areas where our visual storytelling could be stronger.

Throughout rehearsals, I was in charge of choral movements and storytelling, choreography, and visually shaping each scene using the 75 ensemble actors.

We received many positive reviews stating that this year's production was the best Passion Play audience members had ever seen.



THE NOTEWORTHY LIFE OF HOWARD BARNES - THE MUSICAL

BY MICHAEL KOOMAN AND CHRISTOPHER DIMOND

Company: Light in the Dark Theatre
Role: Director & Producer & Set Designer
Year: 2023

Location: Edmonton Fringe Festival - Westbury Theatre



This musical was the largest undertaking my company Light in the Dark Theatre has performed and, with a cast of ten, is the largest indoor production I have directed and produced. I was able to implement many of my harm prevention and reduction, supportive, healing, and accessible rehearsal processes and systems. I received feedback from the artists involved that this creative process was the healthiest they have ever been a part of. As for the show itself, we sold out the Westbury Theatre and received incredible audience reviews including:

“I don’t usually give standing ovations, but did for this!”

“ Everyone should see this show!”
“I can say, without hesitation, you made my day. Heck, you actually made the 42nd Fringe!”

“Nothing short of unequivocally excellent!”



METEOR SHOWER

BY STEVE MARTIN

Company: Theatre Calgary

Role: Assistant Director

Year: 2024

Location: Max Bell Theatre



For this production, I had the privilege of assistant directing the talented Lezlie Wade. I absorbed her comedic brilliance. As well, I learned a lot about assertion and being a female director amid a male dominate profession.

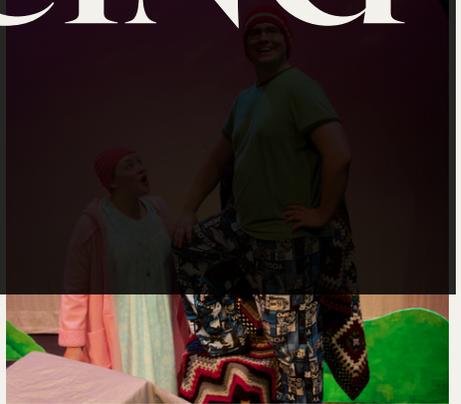


This was also the most technically heavy production I have worked on to date. With a state of the art sound system, microphones and music composition; video and animation using an LED wall; a revolving stage; special effects, as well as moving and colour changing stage lights, I learned more about communicating as a director with multiple designers to create a cohesive story.





PRODUCING



LIGHT IN THE DARK THEATRE

Role: Founder & Artistic Director

Year: 2017-current



I founded Light in the Dark Theatre in 2017, and I have been the Artistic Director since its creation.

Light in the Dark Theatre focuses on telling stories of hope and healing and bringing these stories to rural and remote communities in Alberta which have minimal arts opportunities due to their physical location.

With this company, I have personally produced the following productions:

2017: Dani Girl the Musical

2019: Punch Up!

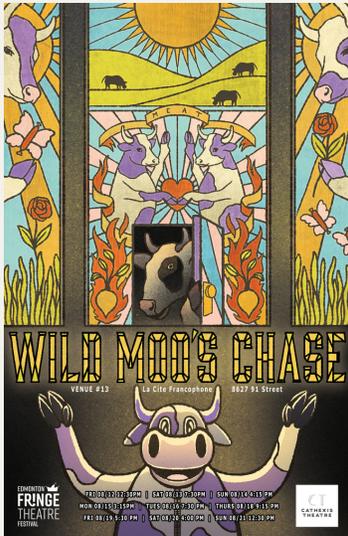
2019: Never Swim Alone

2023: The Noteworthy Life of Howard Barnes



CATHEXIS THEATRE

Role: Producer
Year: 2019 - 2023



From 2019 to 2022, I was the resident producer for Cathexis Theatre, an Edmonton-based, independent theatre company.

Cathexis Theatre is dedicated to creating brave, eccentric new works. They believe that theatre should push boundaries and raise questions and therefore, they explore controversial issues with eccentricity, empathy, and humour.

I have produced the following productions with this company:

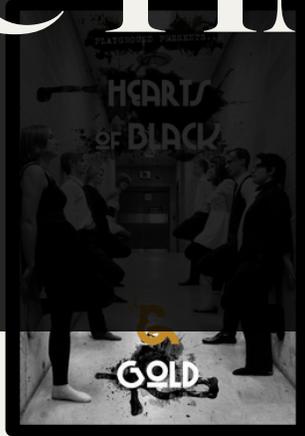
- 2019 - The Big Bright
- 2022 - Wild Moo's Chase

I have also organized and produced multiple fundraising events for this company.





ACTING



CANADIAN BADLANDS PASSION PLAY

Role: Adulterous Woman & Bride / Shoshana & Eden
Year: 2012 & 2014



I started acting and singing at a young age, first taking musical theatre, singing and piano lessons while participating in community theatre.

Then, when I went to university to specifically study theatre, I spent my summers acting in the Canadian Badlands Passion Play.

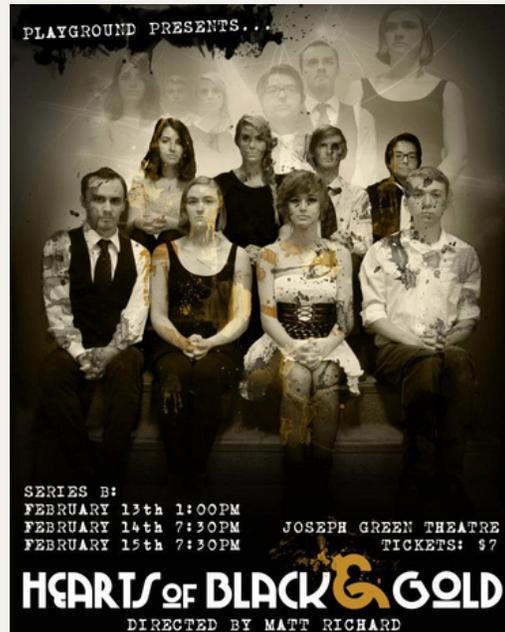
Through this experience, I learned how the space you are working in affects and changes the type of acting needed to tell the story well. In this space, subtlety is not an option. The space is so large that any gesture, facial expression or movement needs to be exaggerated for the audience to see it and also, to pull focus when appropriate as there is no lighting to direct the audience's attention.



HEARTS OF BLACK & GOLD

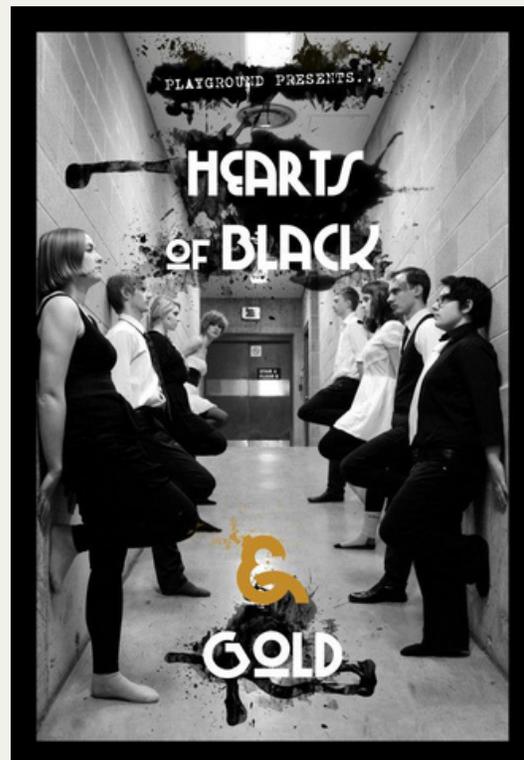
Role: Actor (Safety) & Creator

Year: 2013



When I attended York University, I specialized in Devised Theatre where I developed my creativity, artistic vision, and directorial eye for emotionally evoking images, and my love of physical theatre and movement.

I collectively devised a physical theatre piece that was performed at Theatre@York's playGround Festival. This piece focused on the human conscience - that inner feeling of right and wrong. What happens when you listen to that feeling, and what happens when you don't?



THE TEMPEST

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Role: Miranda

Year: 2014

Company: Suspension of Disbelief



This was my first experience performing a full Shakespeare play. We performed in a small outdoor amphitheatre which was a great naturalistic setting for The Tempest.

Miranda is so playful, joyful, and naïve; yet, she is full of love for both her father (mother in our production) and Ferdinand. I remember feeling very free when I played her; I think this is because of her child-like innocence. She is willing to jump whole-heartedly into love with Ferdinand without hesitation, and this gave me the permission to do the same as I explored this role.



THE MASQUE OF BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

BY MICHAEL ELLIOT BRILL

Role: Actor (Narrator) & Creator

Year: 2014

Company: Theatre359



This was a devised theatre piece based on the script *The Masque of Beauty and the Beast* by Michael Elliot Brill. We used this script as our base; then, under the direction of Peter Balkwill, my classmates from Rosebud School of the Arts and I created a gender swapped version of the tale “Beauty and the Beast.”

The audience was not encountering the usual Disney telling of “Beauty and the Beast” but instead a story of self esteem. This version had a female ‘beast’, who desired so badly to be like the women she sees in the tabloids and on the movie screens.

Pressured to be what society considers beautiful, she adds more and more makeup until her own face has become so distorted she decides that she is and always will be ugly – a beast.



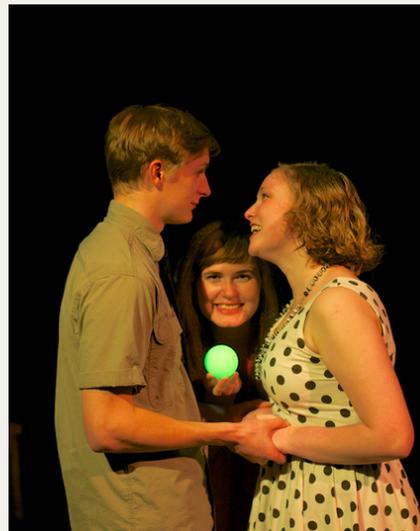
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Role: Hermia
Year: 2015
Company: Theatre359



Hermia is such a beautiful and fun character to play. I love her fire, passion and self-confidence. My kinetic energy, which I have naturally onstage, proved beneficial during the fight scene between the four lovers. Later in my journey at Rosebud School of the Arts, I focused on how to channel this kinetic energy into stillness. However, in this role I could let all that energy boil over! Shakespeare's texts are great for big emotional responses. Hermia goes on a roller coaster of emotions in this text, and every single one of them is huge and completely real.



NEW BLOOD: DANCE SHOW

BY DEANNE BERTSCH &
EULALIA RUNNING RABBIT

Role: Dancer & Actor (Trout)

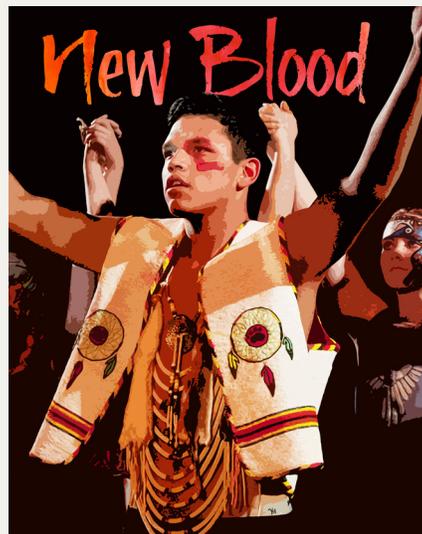
Year: 2016

Company: Theatre359



It was truly an honour to be part of this show. New Blood is a widely acclaimed production that blends Blackfoot music and contemporary music by Peter Gabriel to create an amazing piece of theatre celebrating Blackfoot history and traditions.

Featuring poetry, music, contemporary and traditional dance, the show is inspired by the life of Chief Vincent Yellow Old Woman and his experience as a child in residential school, how he reclaimed his way of life and became chief of his people.



A WRINKLE IN TIME

BY MADELEINE L'ENGLE

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY RON REED

Role: Mrs. Whatsit
Year: 2016
Company: Theatre359



Mrs. Whatsit is a powerful and delightful character. I loved using my lower resonance for this role. When my voice dropped into this character, I felt grounded. I found her wisdom, joy, and fearlessness through working from my voice. Then, I used that to discover her physicality of grace and frumpiness which she seemed to carry all at once. Although it was difficult to relate personally to a used-to-be star who was now a centaur-like winged being, I did relate to her uniqueness and her desire for everyone to be full of light instead of darkness

FRANK DICKENS' CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY JAYBO RUSSEL & MARIE RUSSEL

Role: Robert Cratchette

Year: 2016

Company: Theatre359



This show is a Canadian version of Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol told through the eyes of his son, Frank Dickens, who historically moved to Canada and became a member of the RCMP. It was such an honour to play Robert Cratchette in this show - a character I never imagined getting the opportunity to play.



The director of this production cast the person best for each role, regardless of gender, which I greatly appreciated.

TWISTED TALES: SNOW WHITE

BY ADAM FURFARO

Role: Dani

Year: 2017

Company: Rosebud Theatre



This was my first theatre for young audiences show. It was so much fun! I played the evil queen, and I loved getting the children to really dislike me. The more convincing I was, the more engaged in the story they were. This show asked for audience vocal participation. Just as one rides the wave of laughter from an audience, I rode the comments the children were shouting to keep up the show's pace and energy.



DANI GIRL: THE MUSICAL

BY MICHEAL KOOMAN &
CHRISTOPHER DIMOND

Role: Dani

Year: 2017

Company: Light in the Dark Theatre

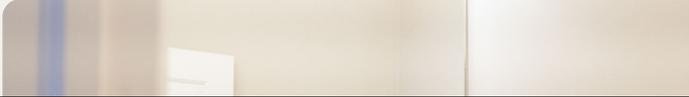


This was Light in the Dark's first production. I produced and acted in it.

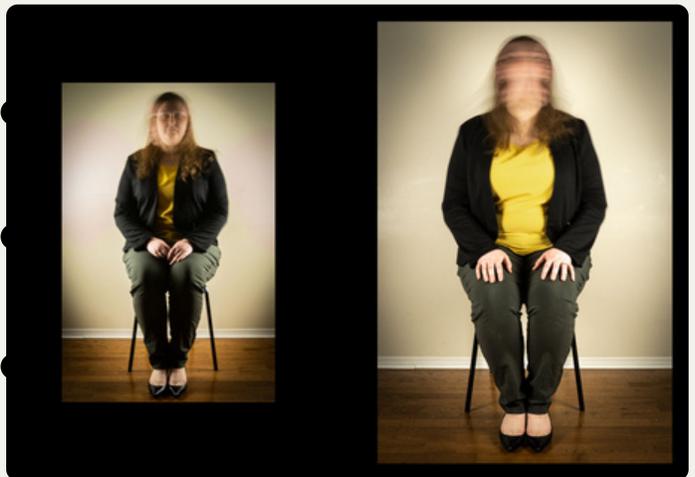
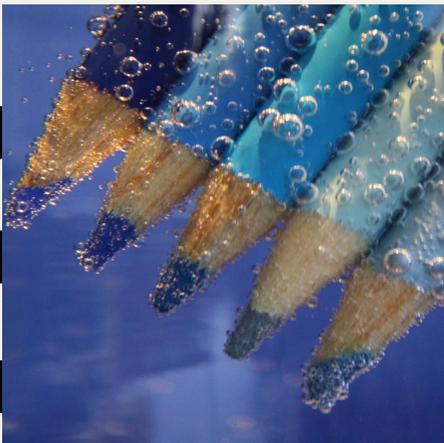
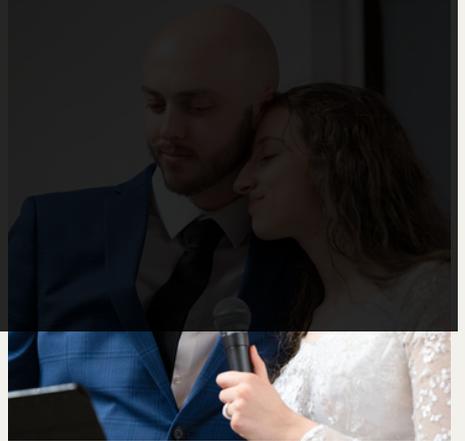
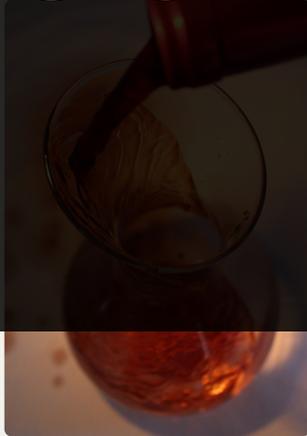
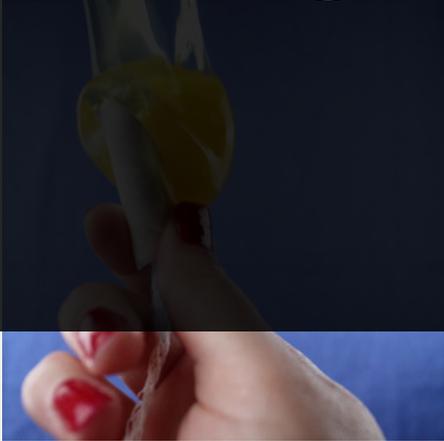
Dani Girl is about a spunky, imaginative nine year old girl, with leukemia, who will stop at nothing to answer this question: Why is Cancer?

As Dani in this musical, I returned to the joy of playing in the rehearsal hall. It reminded me how effective play can be to awaken impulses. I allowed myself to connect to my inner child and, with no fear of consequences, I let my body lead me. Some of my boldest and best acting came out of this.





PHOTOGRAPHY



FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

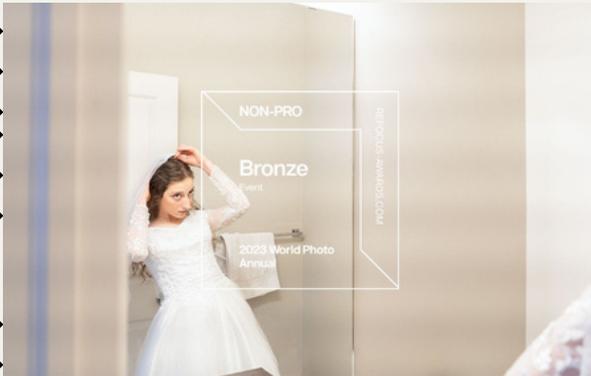


When Covid-19 occurred, all my theatre directing contracts were cancelled, and I began to crave creativity. So, I took up the artform of photography. Through this medium I was able to create art as an individual. I created evocative and emotional photos that often depicted my life as a neurodiverse female.

Photography challenged me to focus on telling a story through only one or two images. I am including some of these images within this portfolio to display my sense of composition, use of light and colour, motion and my ability to evoke emotion through the visual which is one of my strengths as a theatre director.



FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

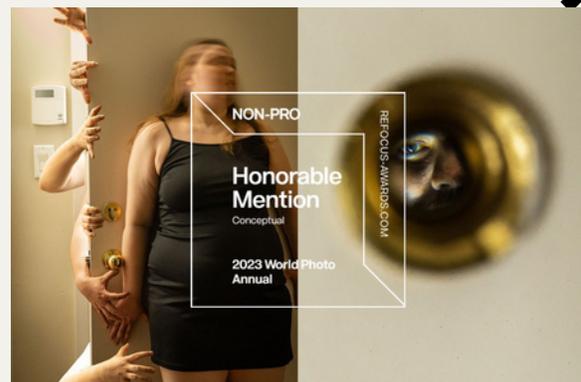


Through my short time as a photographer, I have received many accolades including:

Bronze in the Event category for
reFocus Awards: Annual World
Photography Competition
2023

People's Vote Award
in the Still Life category
reFocus Awards: Annual World
Photography Competition
2023

Honorable Mention in the
Conceptual Category
Chromatic Awards: International
competition in color photography
2022



YORK
UNIVERSITÉ
UNIVERSITY



AWARDS



Rosebud
School of the Arts



THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ALBERTA EMERGING ARTIST AWARD

Year: 2018



The Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Arts Awards Foundation established the Emerging Artist awards to support and encourage Alberta's most promising artists at an early stage in their careers.

I was honoured to receive this award in 2018 for my work and skills as a theatre artist, for my establishment and work with Light in the Dark Theatre, my dedication to telling stories of hope and healing and bringing these works to remote locations in Alberta.

The Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Award is the highest honour for emerging artists in Alberta.



SELECTED AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS



YORK
U



LIGHT
IN THE
DARK
THEATRE



Rosebud
School of the Arts

Continuing Student Scholarship: York University | For outstanding academic results | 2021 & 2022

Smoke Signal Media Award | For demonstrated pursuit of post-graduation employment in the film or theatre industry | 2016

Gordon E. Taylor Scholarship | For talent and skills and exemplary servanthood | 2016

Greeno Memorial Scholarship | For overall performance in all areas of study based on marks from the previous year | 2015

Erickson Arts Administration Award | For sound strategy in implementing an upcoming entrepreneurial project in the arts | 2015

York University Entrance Scholarship | Academia: For students who graduate high school with an average above 90% | 2011

Rutherford Scholarship | For students who maintain 75% or above in 5 designated subjects in all years of high school | 2011

Junior Citizen of the Year | Volunteer work and citizenship in Claresholm, Alberta | 2010-2011



CONTACT



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