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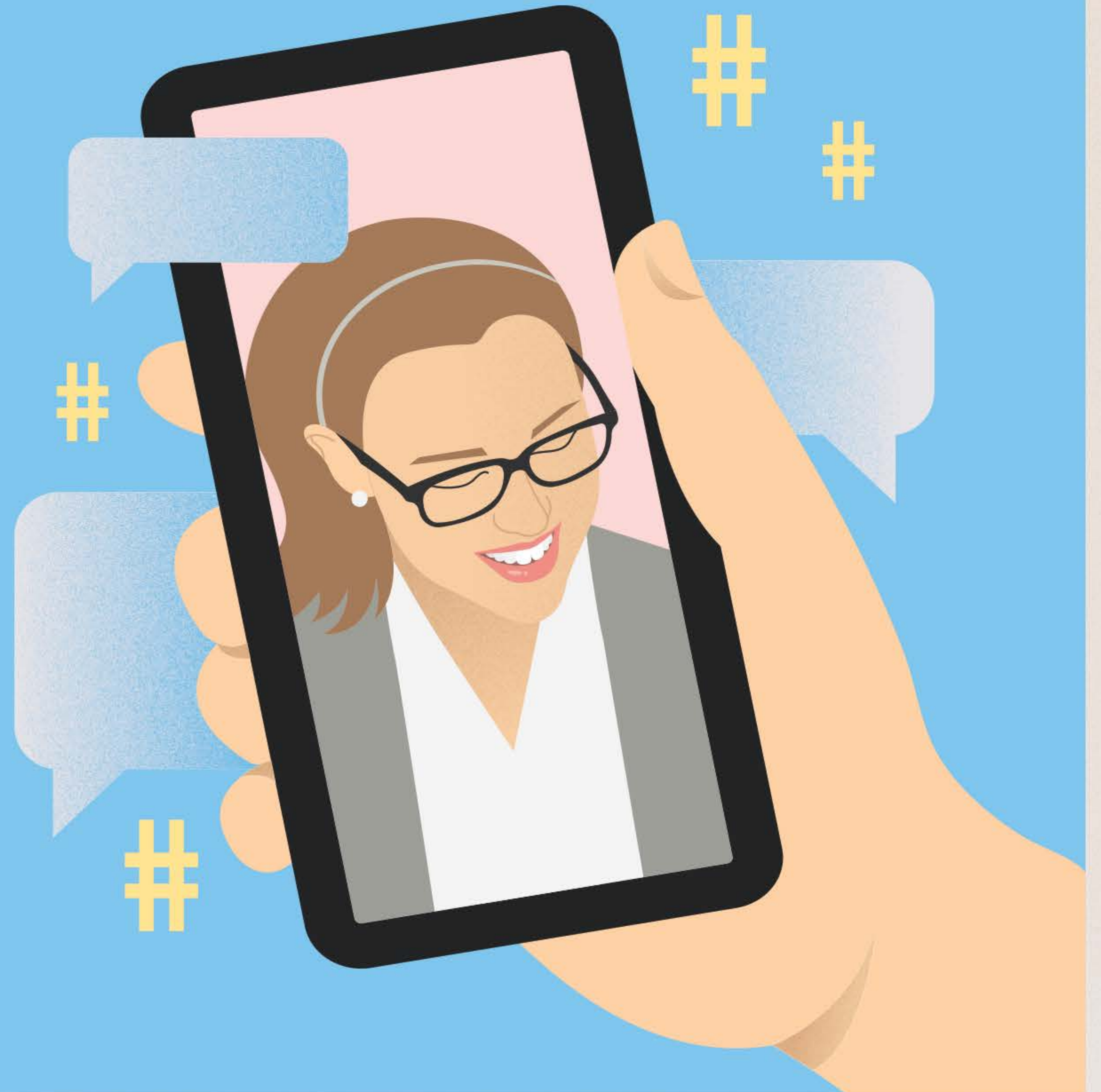
In collaboration with



BECCA

BILINGUAL PLAY / PIÈCE DE THÉÂTRE BILINGUE

**FROM FEBRUARY 7
TO MARCH 2 2024**



About the Play

Rebecca Schofield, the Riverview girl known by her nickname Becca, has an exceptional story of courage. Diagnosed with a brain tumor at the age of 15, she initiated a worldwide kindness movement in over 94 countries through the #BeccaToldMeTo campaign.

Based on her story, and with the complicity of her family, author Mélanie Léger has written this documentary drama about Becca's inspiring and all-too-short life.

Rebecca Schofield comes from an exogamous family; her mother is from the North and her father from the South of our province. This is why we decided to reach out to TNB (Theatre New Brunswick), and for the first time in the history of our two 50-year-old companies, we will collaborate on the creation of a bilingual play that will be subtitled for simultaneous presentation to both our English-speaking and Acadian-French-speaking communities.

Natasha MacLellan

Artistic and Executive Director,
Theatre New Brunswick

When Allain approached me about working on *Becca* together, my immediate response was "Oui!" A bilingual play about an extraordinary young New Brunswicker that promotes kindness, I mean, you can't say "non" to that. I am so proud of this show and hope it ignites a kindness in your heart that you will hold on to for years to come. The world needs it now. Thank you to the Schofield family, for their generosity and their willingness to let us create this play. And thank you to everyone who participated, through interviews, etc. And finally, bravo to each of these wonderful artists for all they've accomplished.





Allain Roy

Artistic and Executive Director,
Théâtre populaire d'Acadie

When the idea for this project came to mind in the fall of 2018, I said to myself that we need to tell stories like this one, to create bridges between our communities and more kindness towards one another. Five years and a few months later, when I look at our world, I think it's truer than ever. Rebecca's courageous and resilient story inspires us to choose light and kindness in our darkest moments.

From the outset, the family generously agreed to support the project. When I approached Natasha MacLellan of the TNB about a collaboration, she immediately saw it as a great opportunity to extend Becca's movement. We entrusted the writing of the play to Mélanie Léger, who has developed close ties with Becca's family. With Geneviève Pineault as stage director, we have assembled a superb team of actors and designers.

Who would have told you, Becca, that one day, all these wonderful people would come together for you?

You still bring light into our lives. Thank you, Becca. Thank you Anne, Gabrielle and Darren.



Mélanie Léger

Playwright

I'd like to thank the people who granted me an interview and whose words contributed to the script, especially Anne, Darren and Gabrielle Schofield, as well as Rachel Bernard, Katie MacLeod and Jason Tremere. Thanks to everyone whose words written in the Facebook group #BeccaToldMeTo: Becca's Battle with Butterscotch are featured in the play. Maybe you'll recognize yourself, maybe you won't... writing involves difficult choices, as there are so many acts of kindness and events we weren't able to include. The play is also an invitation to discover them.

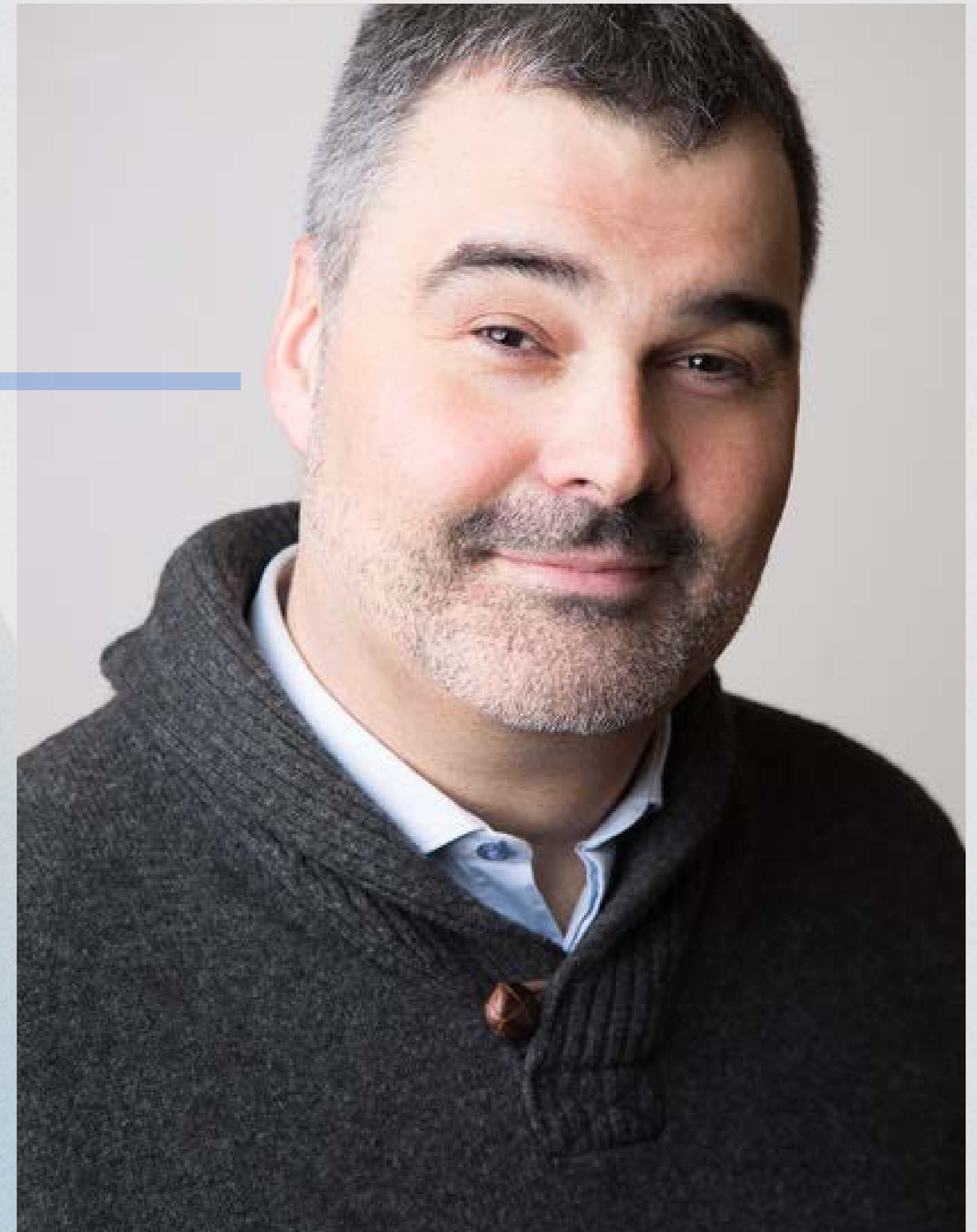
Finally, thanks to Rebecca Schofield, whose writing was added without modifications.

In adapting the story of Becca - a local heroine - for the stage, I learned above all that heroism is rarely achieved without the help of family, friends and people who, although more in the shadows, are nonetheless heroes.

Alain Boisvert

Chair, Théâtre populaire d'Acadie

Theatre has an astonishing ability to build bridges. Bridges that unite cultures. Bridges that bring different linguistic groups together. Strong links between our regions, between our similarities and our differences. Bridges between disenchantment and benevolence too. Between intention and action. And, who knows, bridges between the real and the beyond. Merci, Becca, for so much inspiration!





Deborah Burns

Chair, Theatre New Brunswick

We are thrilled to present the premiere of *Becca*, a bilingual play by native New Brunswicker Melanie Léger. *Becca* is truly a New Brunswick story, relating the compassion and altruism of Riverview's young Rebecca Schofield. Her movement to encourage people to do a good deed is known around the world and teaches us all important lessons about the meaning of kindness.

TNB is honoured to present *Becca* in association with Théâtre populaire d'Acadie, based in Caraquet. Together, we are bringing this play to audiences throughout the province.

On behalf of the TNB Board of Governors, I want to thank TPA, the cast and crew of *Becca*, and our own staff for providing this unique opportunity to the people of New Brunswick, through this wonderful New Brunswick story. I hope you enjoy the play and leave it with a renewed appreciation for the importance of doing a kindness wherever you can, because "Becca Told Me to."



Geneviève Pineault

Stage Director

Dear Becca,

On April 13, 2023, my friend and colleague Allain Roy sent me a play about you: about your cancer, but more importantly, about the worldwide movement of kindness that you ignited. I was touched by your story and most of all fascinated by the wave of kindness you created. I wanted to contribute as well.

We don't often talk about generosity, self-sacrifice, benevolence, let alone kindness, in the theatre. But we should, especially now. It seems to me that it would do us a world of good. In any case, this show and this team make me feel good (Allain - thank you for this gift... one of the nicest acts of kindness I've ever received xoxo).

I hope this show contributes to the continuation of your movement, Becca.

With all my respect and admiration,

Geneviève

#BeccaToldMeTo

Mélanie LeBlanc

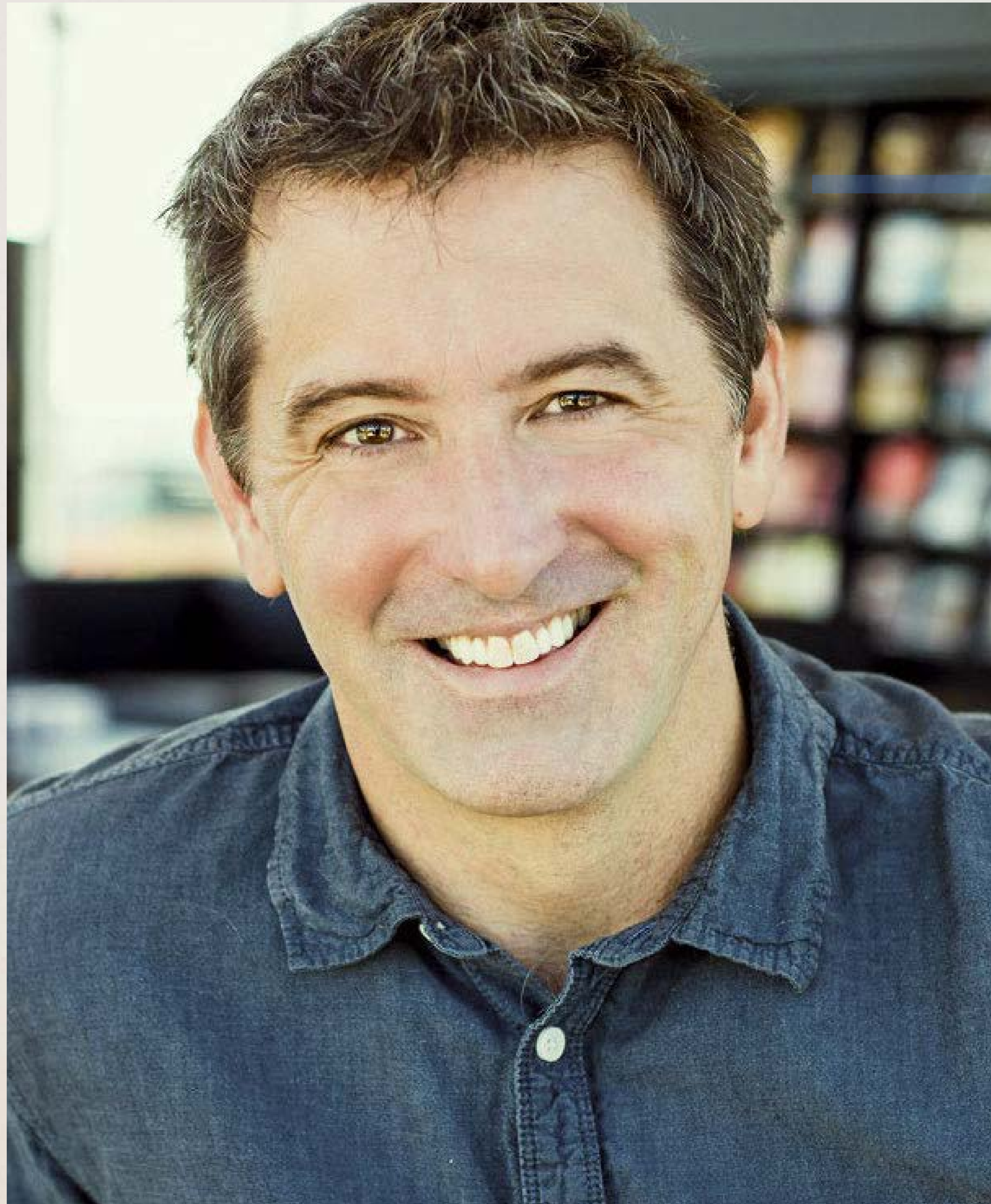
Actress

Mélanie is a versatile performer who has played many well-loved characters over the years, such as *Mary Poppins*, *Pierrette Guérin*, *The Wicked Witch of the West*, the notorious pirate *Ann Bonny*, *Lady Macbeth*, *Patsy Cline*, and *Anne of Green Gables*.

For seven years, she crooned in Vietnam, Japan, the Maldives and India, and has toured her one-woman show *Hommage aux femmes de la guerre* across Canada and in France.

Mélanie is a recipient of the Robert Merritt award. A proud New Brunswicker, she has done many productions with Theatre NB and Théâtre populaire d'Acadie and is grateful to be part of the telling of this luminous story.





Matthew Lumley

Actor

Matthew Lumley is a Kijipuktuk/Halifax-based performer who is very grateful to be a part of bringing Becca's legacy to the stage and very fortunate to be working with the incredible Acadian theatre community.

Recent theatre work includes *Wood Buffalo* (Theatre New Brunswick) *Schoolhouse*, *Macbeth*, *Elapultiek*, *Frankenstein*, *In This Light*, *Animal Farm*, *North Mountain Vanya* (Two Planks), *The Realistic Jones*, *Heaven Above/Heaven Below* (KAZAN Theatre), *Hamlet* (Below the Salt/Neptune Theatre), *The Little Years* (Matchstick Theatre), and *This Is Nowhere* (Zuppa Theatre).

TV/film work includes *Look at Me* (Afro Viking Pictures), *Sugar Highs* (Emotion Pictures), *Hopeless Romantic* (Northeast Films), *Polaroid* (Dimension Films), *Weirdos* (Shadow Shows), and *Mr. D* (CBC).

Dance work includes *Archive of Loneliness* (Sara Coffin), *Note the Weather* (Mairéad Filgate), *petites danses* (Mocean Dance), and *Partnering Apart* (Kinetic Studio). Matthew wrote and performed in *First Weekend* and *Surf Gods* (airing on CBC) and co-wrote *The Perfection of Man* (Misery Loves/Eastern Front Theatre).

Matthew studied at the Neighborhood Playhouse (NYC) and York University (Toronto).

Thank you to everyone at TPA, TNB, and the Schofields.

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

Bianca Richard

Actress

Bianca Richard is an actress and puppeteer who also writes theatre and film. Originally from Notre-Dame de Kent, New Brunswick, she graduated from the Université de Moncton in 2013 with a BFA in Dramatic Arts.

Co-founder of Théâtre la Cigogne in 2012, she participated in the company's productions until 2018 (*Le loup: l'histoire d'un incompris*, *VIOLENCES*, *Voyage Identitaire* and *Le froid est un détail de l'hiver*).

Since then, she has navigated between TV acting (*À la Valdrague*, *Newbies*), theatrical creation (*Radi*, *Les limites du bruit possible*, *T*, *Pépins*) and short film production (*Out of tune*, *llama à la maison*, *Al-Ghoula à la plage*).

In 2019, she began working on the development of the play *Parler Mal* in collaboration with Gabriel Robichaud. Between 2021 and 2023, she co-hosted two seasons of the national youth TV series *ONIVA!* (Radio-Canada.)





Danielle Toner

Actress

Raised in Riverview, New Brunswick, Danielle Toner is delighted to be back working in her home province. R

Recent theatre credits include *The S.S. Ethie* and *Ed & Ed's New B&B* (The Gros Morne Theatre Festival), *Renaissance* (Breaking Circus), and *The Ballad of the Bus Stop* (Villains Theatre).

Film credits include *Bubbles and the Shitrockers* and *Moonshine*.

Danielle graduated with a BA from Dalhousie University in 2020 with Honours in Acting and has since been a student of the Michael Chekhov Technique.

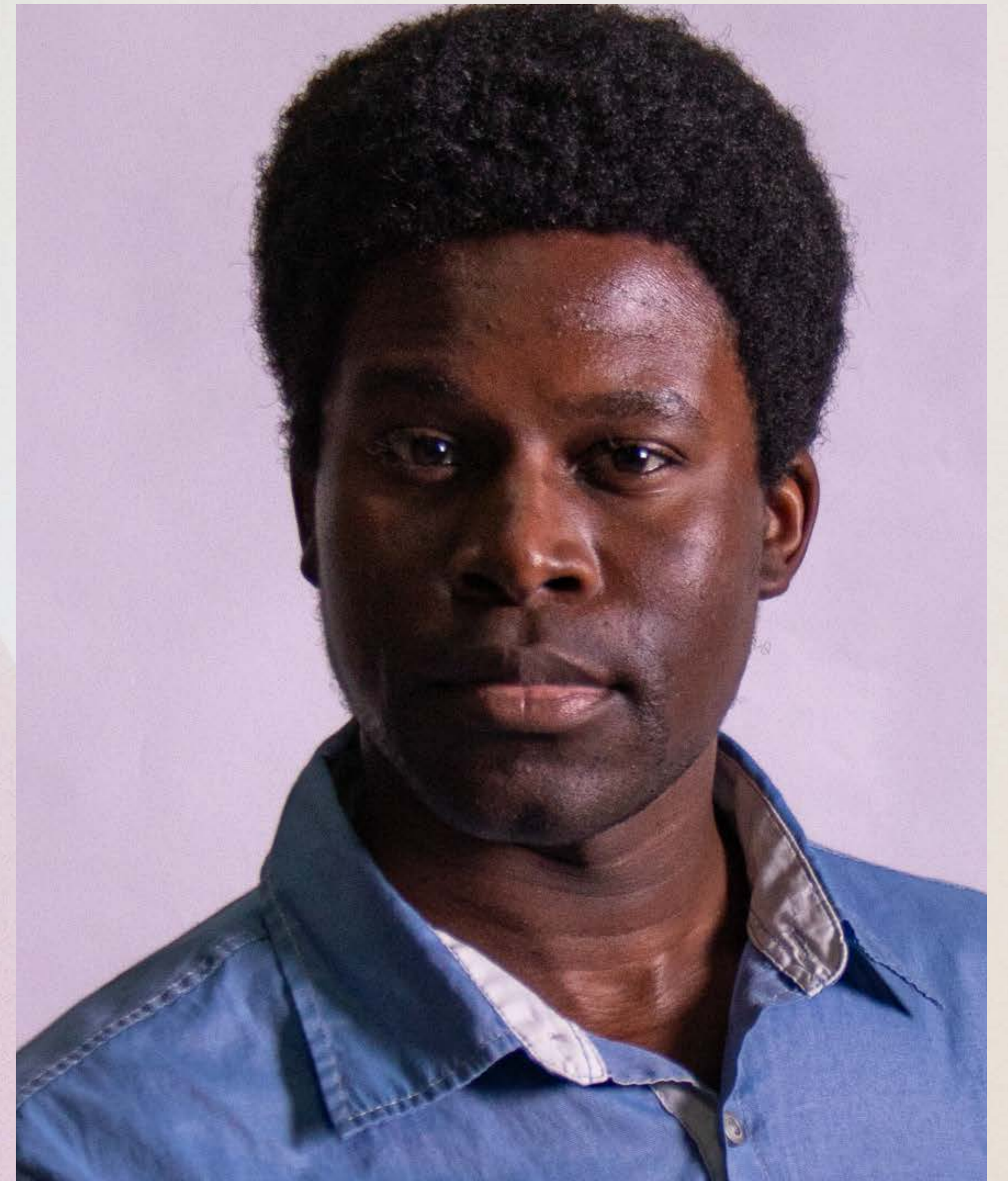
Danielle is grateful to join you in the movement of paying kindness forward.

Carlo Weka

Actor

Jean-Charles, better known as Carlo, is a recent graduate of the Université de Moncton Drama Department (2022). A native of Bathurst, he is a part-time performer and writer.

Carlo is beginning to gain experience in the arts, having acted in the theatrical event *UN.DEUX.TROIS*, as well as in a number of television series such as *Les Newbies*. As he officially enters the professional world with upcoming projects, Carlo works hard and continues to hone his craft so that one day he can contribute to the advancement of the dramatic arts in Acadia.





Stacy Arseneault

Directing Assistance and Stage Management

Stacy Arseneault is as much an artist on stage as she is behind the scenes. She completed her drama studies at the Université de Moncton in 2017. Since then, she began her career as an assistant director and stage manager on the show *[Ém + Im] migrant.e.s* (2017) written and directed by Marcel Romain Thériault.

She then continued to hone her skills as a stage manager for various dance recitals at schools such as DansEncorps and Dance Creation. She was stage manager for the 2019 revival of *La vallée des possibles : l'œuvre de Camille Lefebvre*, and stage manager for *Winslow* (2019) at Théâtre l'Escaouette. Most recently, she worked as stage manager for artist Monique Leger's creation *Tu mio corpo 12* (2023).

Josiane Benoît

Stage Direction Trainee

Dieppe-born Josiane Benoit is a recent graduate of the drama department at the Université de Moncton. Last year, you may have seen her in the TV series *Fred l'handicapé* and *Comme dans l'espace*. In the spring of 2024, you'll be able to see her in the TV series *Mont Rouge*.

Josiane was introduced to directing as part of her internship with the TPA and participated in the work process for the creation of *Becca*. She is extremely grateful for the opportunity to learn on the job; it was a pleasure to be part of this wonderful project.



*Her internship has been sponsored by the Suzanne-Cyr Award of the ATFC
Foundation for the Advancement of Francophone Theatre in Canada.*



Denise Richard

Scenography

A visual artist, set and costume designer, Denise Richard has been working in theatre, opera and dance since 2006. A teacher for nearly twenty years, she was Dean of the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design.

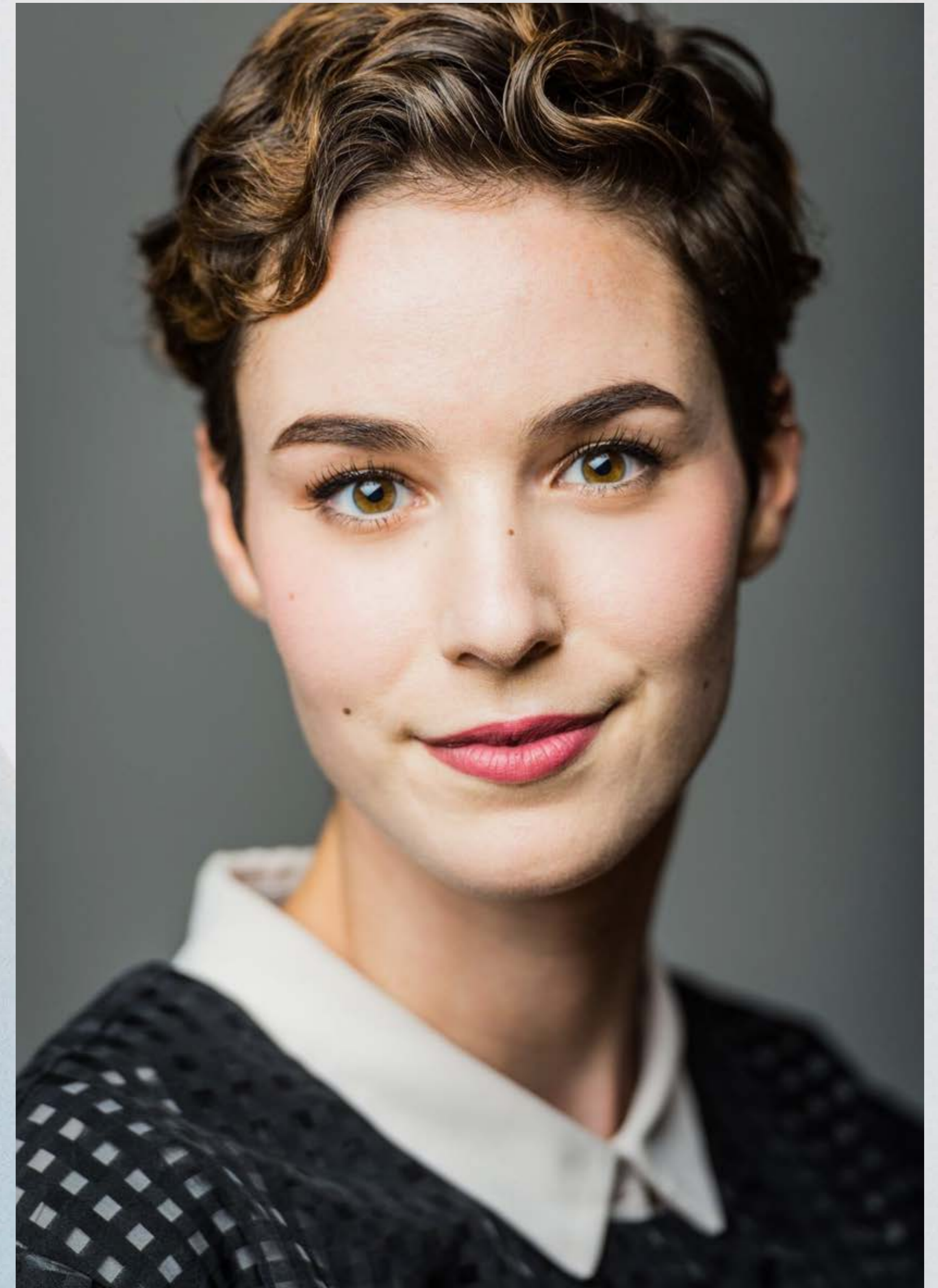
She has worked on costumes, masks and set design for a number of companies: Atlantic Ballet Atlantique Canada (*The Jungle Book, Carmen, Seussical the Musical, Sleeping Beauty, Figaro*); Bard in the Barracks' Shakespearian Theatrical Company (*The Comedy of Errors, Richard III, Pericles, Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet*); Satellite Théâtre (*Les limites du bruit possible, Grum, Golem*); Théâtre l'Escaouette (*Winslow*), Théâtre populaire d'Acadie (*Pourquoi l'Ouest?*), Théâtre de la Vieille 17 (*Intrusions*), Théâtre l'Escaouette and Théâtre À tour de rôle (*Ornithorynques*). Becca is her first production for Théâtre New Brunswick and Théâtre populaire d'Acadie.

Claudie Landry

Costumes

Claudie Landry was born in Shediac, New Brunswick. She completed her bachelor's degree in visual arts at the Université de Moncton before going on to study set and costume design at the National Theatre School of Canada. After graduating in 2019, she wasted no time in returning to her home province, where she has since collaborated with the TPA, l'Escaouette and Satellite théâtre, as well as working in costume design for film and television.

Becca will be her third appearance in a TPA production, her fourth if we count the co-production *Les Jumeaux d'Arcadie*, but it will be her first collaboration with TNB.





Christopher Saad

Lighting Designer

Chris Saad is the technical director for the Saint Thomas Black Box Theatre in Fredericton and freelances as a lighting designer.

Chris is pleased to be working on this production of *Becca* and is looking forward to the show. Chris is very proud of the hard work and dedication of the company. Break a leg everyone!

Jonathan Sonier

Musical Director or Music and Sound Environment

Jonathan Sonier is a guitarist based in Moncton, New Brunswick. He began his career as a musician in Quebec City, where he graduated from Université Laval in 2016 with a degree in jazz interpretation.

During his time in Quebec City, he had the chance to work as a guitarist, as a sound designer/composer in the theatrical field, and as an apprentice technician at Studio Pantouf in Saint-Élie-de-Caxton. After six years away from his hometown, he decided to return to Acadie in 2019. Since his return to Moncton, he has opened his own studio where he works on various recording and sound design projects.





Natalie Feheregyhazi

Surtitles

Natalie, originally from Saskatchewan, is a multilingual, interdisciplinary artist who creates in many forms. Also the artistic director/producer of the Toronto-based Apuka Théâtre, her artistic path follows everything that leads to an encounter with the other.

She loves intercultural collaborations and travels extensively abroad to bring her creations to life. A writer, playwright and adaptor, she is passionate about languages and the professions of translation and surtitled, in which she has been working since 2022.

She is extremely grateful to have been invited to contribute to this moving project and hopes that Becca Schofield's story will continue to touch and inspire others as it has done her.

Technical Crew on Tour

Stacy Arseneault - Stage Director

Rémi Ross - Surtitles Technician

Claude Lanteigne - Technician

Additional Mention

Jamie Atkinson - Head of Carpentry

Andrea Evans - TNB Production Manager, Painter

Marc Bédard - TPA Production Manager

Finn Boehm - Production Assistant

Sherry Kinnear - Head of Wardrobe



Special Mention

Our thanks to the family and friends of Rebecca Schofield for their support and generous contribution to this creation.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank **Darren, Anne** and **Gabrielle Schofield**, as well as **Rachel Bernard, Katie MacLeod, Jason Tremere** and the many people who contributed to the #BeccaToldMeTo: Becca's Battle With Butterscotch Facebook group page, some of whose messages were included in the play; especially Rebecca Schofield.

Thanks to **Jean-Guy Thibodeau, Mourad Ali-Khodja, Natacha Dugas, Myriam Beaudry.**

Courtesy of:

TEDx Moncton (TEDx talk by Rebecca Schofield, 2017)

CBC Radio (interview with Trevor Dineen for Now or Never, 2017)

Acknowledgements

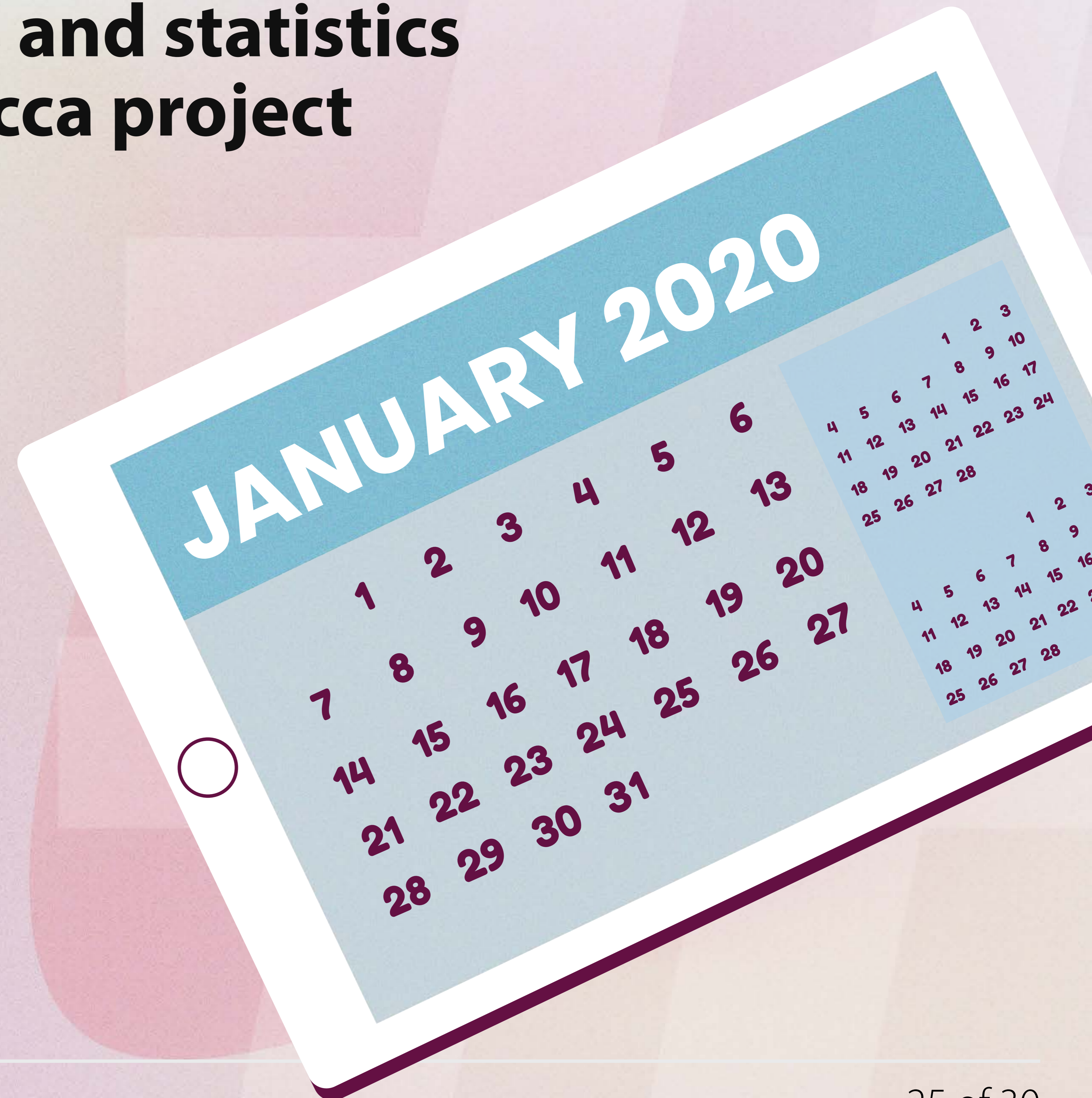
The author would like to acknowledge the contribution of organizations that supported the writing stages: **Théâtre populaire d'Acadie, CCNB campus de la Péninsule acadienne** (Le dortoir project), **ArtsNB, Fondation pour l'avancement du théâtre francophone au Canada**, and **Centre des Écritures Dramatiques Wallonie-Bruxelles**. Thanks to the **Centre des auteurs dramatiques** for dramaturgical support through a writing sponsorship on the first version of the text with **Philippe Soldevila** in 2021. An earlier version of the play was read by **René Poirier** at the **Festival à Haute-Voix 2023**.

Thanks to those who lent their voices for the final musical moment

Christine Melanson, Marc-Olivier Goguen, Guy-Philippe Goguen, Micheline LeBlanc, Philippe LeBlanc, Jacques Bothé, Sumira Bothé, Eric Arsenault, Joel Sonier, Lucien Comeau and Josiane Benoit.

Some figures and statistics on the Becca project

The writing of this
text began in
January 2020.



Some figures and statistics on the Becca project



Mélanie conducted over **20 hours** of interviews with Becca's family and loved ones.

Some figures and statistics on the Becca project

There were
approximately
24 rewrites and
versions of the text.

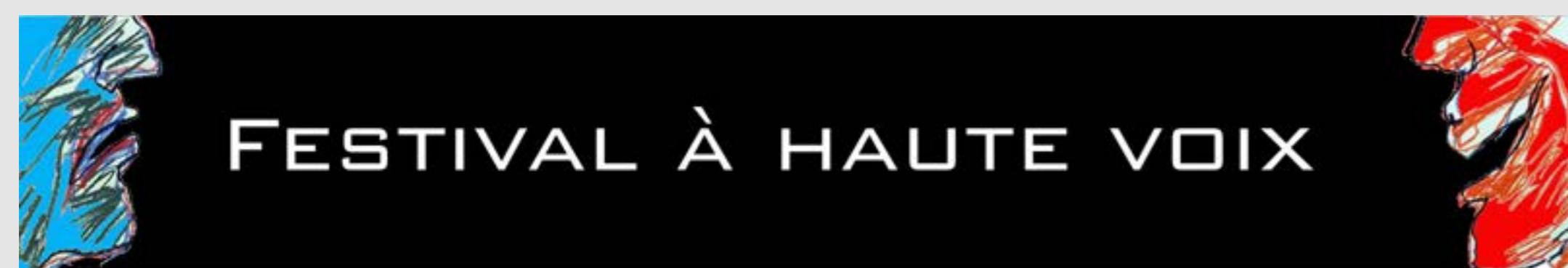


Some figures and statistics on the Becca project

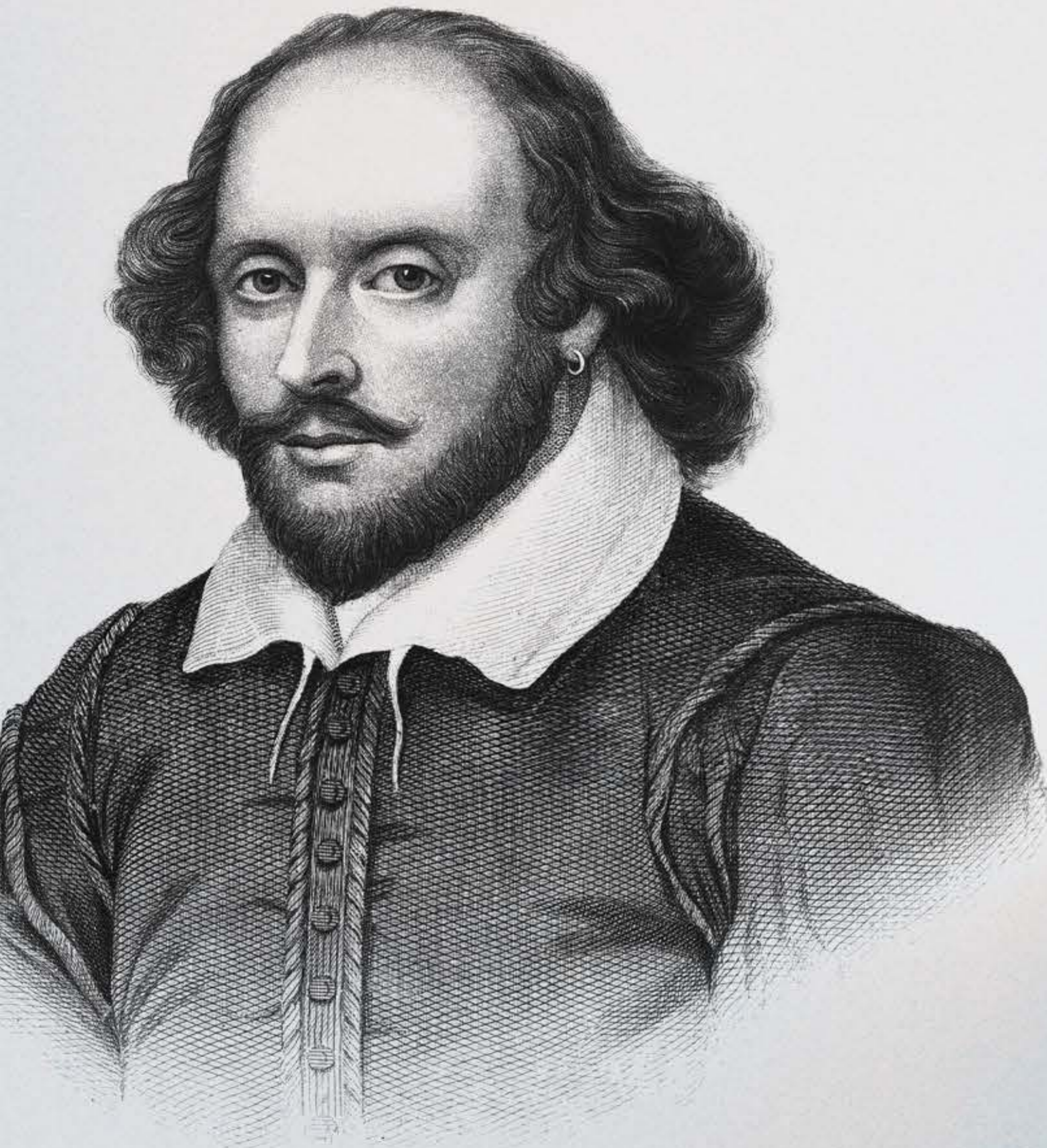


Mélanie did **2** writing residencies; one at the Dortoir du **CCNB de la Péninsule acadienne** (2021) thanks to the support of **ArtsNB** and one at the **Centre des Écritures Dramatiques Wallonie-Bruxelles** (2022) prize of the **ATFC Foundation**.

A written work and a working reading were presented at the **Festival à haute voix** de **l'Escaouette** in January 2023.



Some figures and statistics on the Becca project



The text contains **4,528**
words in **English** and
4,613 words in **French**.



Some figures and statistics on the Becca project

#BeccaToldMeTo
is mentioned **28**
times in the text.

