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# Undercover

Sep. 19 - Oct. 29  
A world premiere!



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CO PRODUCED BY

**TARRAGON** THEATRE  
**vertigo**  
THEATRE

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created by **Rebecca Northan** with **Bruce Horak**  
directed by **Rebecca Northan**

starring **Christy Bruce, Dennis Cahill, Terra Hazelton,**  
**Bruce Horak, Jamie Northan & Rebecca Northan**  
costume designer **Brandon Kleiman**  
sound designer **Mike Rinaldi**  
lighting & set designer **Glenn Davidson**  
dramaturg **Craig Hall**  
creative consultant **Mark Bellamy**  
stage manager **Marcie Januska**  
apprentice stage manager **Katherine Belyea**  
rehearsal assistant **Ali Froggatt**

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## **Creator's Note: Rebecca Northan**

It has always been my dream to entice non-theatre-goers into the theatre. Magic happens once we get them through the door.

This is why my work appears to have a 'gimmick' attached to it: "*Spontaneous Theatre – where one audience member is cast in a lead role, and anything can happen!*" The result, however, is surprising and profound. What initially attracts with the promise of laughs and a voyeuristic good time, subtly unfolds, inviting a deeply empathetic leaning in. When we celebrate and support the non-performer by surrounding them with a highly structured narrative experience that is sturdy enough to sustain their spontaneous input, we demonstrate in real time the joy of play, the gift of adaptability, the wonder of surprise, and most importantly, the birth of community. For the duration, whatever that person does is "right", and the entire cast will shift the play around them in order to conspire in their greatness. Collectively, the audience shares in the question, "What if that were me up there?" and they leave with a newly minted curiosity about their own capacity for risk taking. "What would I have done, what else am I capable of?"

I write regular plays too, but less and less. The complicated intersection of playwriting, improvisation, and non-performer is too juicy a realm to just flirt with. Ten years in, and I feel I am only just beginning.

Rebecca Northan  
*Undercover* creator, director, and actress

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## **Artist Note: Bruce Horak**

At the age of 18 months Bruce Horak lost over 90% of his eyesight to cancer and identifies as Legally Blind/Visually Impaired. Using assistive technology, acrylic, oil, and canvass his paintings celebrate the vision which remains by delighting in the play of light and shadow.

Bruce's work is currently on display in the lobby. More of his work can be seen online at [www.brucehorak.com](http://www.brucehorak.com)

Bruce Horak  
*Undercover* co-creator, actor, and artist

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## Dear *Undercover* Audience

We value consent.

We only choose a “detective” who is open to playing with us. If you are willing to participate in the performance, please introduce yourself to one of our cast members in the lobby before the show and they will add you to our ‘maybe’ list.

If you end up on stage, be yourself and enjoy the ride! We are here to take care of you and make sure you have a nice time.

The event taking place in this theatre may be videotaped/recorded for archival purposes only. By entering this theatre you hereby grant to Rebecca Northan, Northan Industries Inc, and Tarragon Theatre the right to photograph your image and record your voice, and to own, license, assign and/or use the same forever and throughout the world in Rebecca Northan’s “Archival Materials”, and other programming thereof. You will not receive any payment for such use and waive any right to bring any action in law or equity against Rebecca Northan, Northan Industries Inc, Tarragon Theatre, affiliates, divisions, and their past, present, and future officers, agents, representatives, employees, successors, and assigns for such use.

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## Artists’ Biographies



**MARK BELLAMY *creative consultant*** Mark is extremely happy to be joining Tarragon and Vertigo Theatre to work on *Undercover*. Mark previously worked with Rebecca Northan on the world premiere of her action adventure epic *Kung Fu Panties*. Mark is formerly Artistic Producer of Lunchbox Theatre (2014-2017) and Artistic Director of Vertigo Theatre (2004-2012). He has been honoured with numerous awards for his work as a director and choreographer, as well as the 2006 Greg Bond Memorial Award, the 2012 Harry and Martha Cohen Award and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his contribution to the arts in Alberta. Some of his favourite directing credits include: *Sweeney Todd*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Games Afoot* (Vertigo Theatre), *Our Man in Havana* (Persephone/Vertigo), *As You Like It* (The Shakespeare Company) *Around the World in 80 Days*, *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (ATP), *Avenue Q* (Stage West), *Scarlet Woman* (Lunchbox Theatre), *Urinetown: The Musical* (GZT/Hit & Myth).



**KATHERINE BELYEYEA *assistant stage manager*** Katherine is delighted to join Tarragon and the exciting world of Spontaneous Theatre. Other work: *Arash* (Modern Times); *Louis Riel* (National Arts Centre); *X, No Strings (Attached)* (Sunny Drake); *Faust, The Brothers Grimm, The Bremen Town Musicians* (Highlands Opera Studio); *Faust, As You Like It* (Theatre By The Bay); *The Terrible Parents* (Cabaret Company); *The Rape of Lucretia, Béatrice et Bénédicte* (MYOpera); *rock.paper.sistahz* (b current); *Watch Out WildKat, Swordplay* (Sex T-Rex); *Contempt, Nature of the Beast* (Safeward); *The Castle* (Red One); *The Magic Flute, Il barbiere di Siviglia, Il trovatore* (Opera York); *You Detective* (Fratwurst); *Nightmare Dream* (IFT/Obsidian); *tick, tick ... BOOM!* (Angelwalk). Thanks to Marcie, the

company, and everyone at Tarragon.



**CHRISTY BRUCE** *Lia Da Costa* Christy began her career improvising at The Loose Moose Theatre in Calgary where she studied with Keith Johnstone and Dennis Cahill. Upon moving to Toronto, she was hired by The Second City where she has been performing and teaching for over 15 years. For the last five years, she has been playing “Mimi” in *Blind*

*Date* across Canada (including here at Tarragon in 2015 and 2017) and in London’s West End. Other Select Theatre: *Murder In The Cottonwoods* (Annex Theatre), *Legend Has It* (ATP), *DINK!* (The Factory Theatre), *This is Cancer* (Halifax), *The Forum* (Stratford Festival), and *Private Lives* with Kim Cattrall and Paul Gross (New York). Select TV credits: *The Handmaid’s Tale*, *Reign*, *Newborn Moms*, *The Strain*, *Orphan Black*, and *The Odd Squad*. Christy can also be found performing and teaching at The Bad Dog Theatre in Toronto. Twitter: @christybruce11



**DENNIS CAHILL** *Graeme Nelson* Dennis is the Artistic Director and founding member of The Loose Moose Theatre in Calgary, Alberta. He has developed, directed, and appeared in numerous productions over the past 40 years. Dennis is on Faculty at the Citadel/Banff Centre Professional Theatre Program and is a principal instructor

at the International Improvisation School in Calgary. He has toured extensively, performing and teaching improvisation in various places in the world. He is delighted to be working with Spontaneous Theatre, Tarragon Theatre, and Vertigo Theatre.



**GLENN DAVIDSON** *lighting & set designer* Glenn has been designing sets and lighting for 40 years, across Canada and internationally. He is thrilled to return to the Tarragon.

Recent credits include; international tours of *Galileo*, *House of Dreams*, *Circle of Creation* and *Tales of Two Cities* (Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra), *Stuff Happens* (Lighting, National Arts Centre), *Bombers* (Set Design, 4th Line Theatre), *Freud’s Last Session* (Lighting, Harold Green Jewish Theatre), and *The Witch of Niagara* (Set and lighting, Centre for Indigenous Theatre). Upcoming: lighting for the new Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa, the Australian tour of *Circle of Creation* (Tafelmusik), *Les Z’Inspirés*, (Set and lighting, Theatre Francais de Toronto) and *The Story* (Lighting, Common Boots Theatre). His work has garnered two Dora Mavor Moore awards, a Harold award, and he is a past recipient of the Pauline McGibbon award.



**ALI FROGGATT** *rehearsal assistant* Ali is thrilled to be part of the *Undercover* team. Ali is a graduate of Randolph Academy for Performing Arts and a senior ensemble member at The Loose Moose Theatre Company. Ali has taught and performed improvisation on numerous stages across Canada as well as in Norway, Holland, and the United Arab Emirates.

Ali is the Artistic Director of both The Canmore International Improv Festival and Sour Dog Theatre. Selected credits include: *An Undiscovered Shakespeare* (Stratford Festival/Rebecca Northan), *7 Stories* (Sour Dog Theatre/Dennis Cahill & Shawn Kinley), *Dog Sees God* (Sour Dog Theatre/Ali Froggatt), *Into The Woods* (Randolph Theatre/Tim French),

*Stuff Happens* (Annex Theatre/Steve McCarthy). Ali is keen to wear many hats in the entertainment industry. Apart from performing, she has worked as a lighting and sound technician, screenwriter, producer, director, and recently studied Film and Video production at SAIT Polytechnic in Calgary.



**TERRA HAZELTON *Brook Pounsbury*** Terra is a true Renaissance woman! She is a Canadian Jazz Vocalist & Band Leader, Record Producer, 2 time Canadian Screen Award Nominated Actress, (former) National Radio Host, (former) plus model, and Visual Artist. Hazelton grew up in Calgary Alberta, where she was lucky enough to study improv and acting at the famed The Loose Moose Theatre Co., under world renowned Keith Johnstone and Dennis Cahill. It's safe to say that Terra has no plans on slowing down anytime soon, and hopes to continue making art and creating music, theatre, film & television long into her old age.



**BRUCE HORAK *co-creator, Peter Vinen*** Bruce is originally from Calgary, Alberta where he trained in theatre and improvisation. He has been a part of the *Blind Date* team since 2010. He has won numerous awards for his work as an actor, writer, and director. His latest work *Assassinating Thomson* combines his two great loves: storytelling and painting. Horak paints a portrait of the entire audience while he tells the tale of becoming one of Canada's only Legally-Blind Visual Artists and solves the mystery of who killed Tom Thomson. His work can be seen at [www.brucehorak.com](http://www.brucehorak.com)



**MARCIE JANUSKA *stage manager*** Marcie has been working as an arts administrator and stage manager in Canadian theatre for over 20 years. She is co-founder and producer at reWork Productions ([reWorkproductions.com](http://reWorkproductions.com)), and has worked in a producer/associate role position for Theatre Direct, Eldritch Theatre, Appledore Productions, Coal Mine Theatre, fu-GEN Theatre, and Spontaneous Theatre. She has held admin positions at The Banff Centre's opera training program, the Vancouver Opera, and the Calgary International Children's Festival. As a stage manager, she has worked on over 150 shows, including over 70 new plays, with companies including Studio 180 Theatre, Necessary Angel, Nightwood Theatre, Coal Mine Theatre, Modern Times, Canadian Stage, Red Sky Performance, Crow's Theatre, Signal Theatre, Alberta Theatre Projects, Vertigo Theatre, Theatre Calgary, and Lunchbox Theatre. She has worked as a mentor to emerging stage managers throughout her career, most recently at the National Theatre School of Canada, her alma mater.



**BRANDON KLEIMAN *costume designer*** Brandon is a set and costume designer based in Toronto. Recent credits include: *Our Town* (costumes, Theatre Rusticle), *The Little Mermaid* (costumes, The Globe Theatre), Designer in Residence Sudbury Theatre Centre, *Reframed* (set, AGO & Musical Stage Co.) *One Night Only* (set, Factory Theatre, Dora Mavor Moor Audience Choice Award 2016); *Blind Date* (set, Tarragon Theatre, Dora nominated Outstanding Production);

*Sousatzka: The Musical* (set design associate, Teatro Proscenium Ltd.) Upcoming: *Life After, A New Musical* (set, Canadian Stage & The Musical Theatre Co.) *My Name is Asher Lev* (set and costume, Harold Green Jewish Theatre & Studio 180) *Shrek; The Musical* (costumes, The Globe Theatre). For more information and a portfolio please visit [www.brandonkleimandesign.com](http://www.brandonkleimandesign.com)



**REBECCA NORTHAN** *creator, director, Georgie Vinen, Roberta Collins* Rebecca is an actor, director, playwright, and improviser. She created the hit show, *Blind Date*, in 2010, which has since seen over 600 performances in three countries, with eight different actors trained to play the lead role. In the fall of 2016, a Queer adaptation premiered

at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in collaboration with Evalyn Parry. Rebecca received a Dora Award for the Tarragon production of *Blind Date* in 2015, and is thrilled to be back with *Undercover*. Her other creations in the “spontaneous theatre” genre include: *Legend Has It* (playRites Festival 2014, Alberta Theatre Projects, Brooklyn Academy of Music, NYC, and soon to be workshopped and adapted for YTP in Toronto) as well as *An Undiscovered Shakespeare* (in development at the Stratford Festival). Recently, Rebecca wrote & directed, *Slipper*, a panto adaptation of *Cinderella* for Alberta Theatre Projects, and has been commissioned to create their Holiday Family Show for 2018, 2019, and 2020. Her other scripted play, *Kung Fu Panties*, won an Audience Choice Award for its sold out run in Calgary. *Undercover* is slated to play at Vertigo Theatre in Calgary, and the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton. @rebeccanorthan @spontaneousYYZ #UndercoverYYZ [www.spontaneoustheatre.ca](http://www.spontaneoustheatre.ca)



**JAMIE NORTHAN** *Daniel Murphy* Jamie likes to do plays without scripts. His most recent professional endeavours include runs in New York, all across North America and a run in London’s West End, in a variety of roles (creation, performance and producing) in *Legend Has It*, *Blind Date*, *KILL HARD, NE: The Show, Truth or Dare, Micetro Impro*,

*Super Scene*, *Gorilla Theatre*, *Die Nasty*, and some other roles he’s forgotten to mention. His formative theatre experiences include messing around with The Loose Moose Theatre Company for the last 25 years, student loan debts from the (no longer with us) Theatre Arts program at Mount Royal University, and decades of general misbehaviour and unruliness.



**MIKE RINALDI** *sound designer* Mike is an actor, sound designer, writer based out of Hamilton. He has designed for many of Canada’s most exciting companies, such as: GCTC, Blyth Festival, Common Boots, Theatre Calgary, Vancouver Playhouse, The Arts Club, Factory Theatre, Electric Company Theatre, Old Trout Puppet Workshop, and many

more. He has been nominated for multiple awards in acting, collective creation, and design, most recently a 2017 Dora Award for Outstanding Sound design, and the OAC’s 2017 Pauline McGibbon Award for Emerging Designer. He’s very happy to be back at Tarragon, where he put together the sound design for *Within The Glass*, by Anna Chatterton.

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## **A note about the *Undercover* cast**

The cast have all known and worked with each other in some capacity since 1988. They all met as volunteers at the Loose Moose Theatre Company in Calgary, with Dennis Cahill as the Artistic Director. The pictures you see on the set have not been photoshopped, they are actual candid shots from moments gone by. Jamie and Rebecca are brother and sister, so they've known each other just a little bit longer.

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## **The *Undercover* team would like to thank**

Keith Johnstone, Craig Hall, Mark Bellamy, Christopher Oldfield, Richard Rose, Jesse Lynn Anderson, Paul Bates, Debrah Iozzi, David Miller, Garry Grinton, Brian Pincott, Shelley Carroll, the Tarragon Production Team and Front of House who have been improvising along side us, The Great Moose, and last, but not least, all of our rehearsal volunteers who showed us what else our show needed.

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## **About Spontaneous Theatre**

Through the generous support of Crow's Theatre, and the RBC Emerging Director Award, Rebecca has assembled a significant group of diverse artists in the City of Toronto who are interested in studying the principals of Spontaneous Theatre. They have been working together on a weekly basis over the last three months, and are planning future Spontaneous Theatre productions. Stay tuned!

[www.spontaneoustheatre.ca](http://www.spontaneoustheatre.ca) @spontaneousYYZ

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## **About Vertigo Theatre**

Vertigo Theatre is unique. We are the only professional theatre in Canada producing a series of plays based in the mystery genre, the BD&P Mystery Theatre Series. Located at the base of the Calgary Tower in the heart of downtown Calgary, it is home to the organization and its two performance venues. We also provide a performance home annually for some of Calgary's most beloved arts organizations and are committed to mentorship and training in all areas - artistic, production and administration. Our artistic mandate allows exposure to a broad demographic and our diverse audience includes all walks of life.

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**CELLULAR PHONES IN UNDERCOVER GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY**



**GIZMOGRIND**

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## On stage at Tarragon this November



Jordan Cheng, Derek Kwan

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### Mr. Shi and His Lover

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Nov. 7 -  
Dec. 17, 2017  
Mainspace

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**Text by Wong Teng Chi**  
**Music & musical direction by Njo Kong Ki**  
**Directed by Tam Chi Chun**  
A Macau Experimental Theatre/  
Music Picnic/Point View Art  
Association Production

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**STARRING**  
Jordan Cheng  
Derek Kwan

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An espionage scandal rocks the political world in this intriguing contemporary opera about the delusion of love. Featuring performers from Toronto and Macau, *Mr. Shi and His Lover* illuminates the real-life affair of a French diplomat in China who falls in love with a mysterious opera singer. But is she who she says she is? This classic tale is told through music inspired by Chinese opera and vintage pop from both East and West.

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Sung in Mandarin  
with English surtitles



Nicola Correia-Damude

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### Marine Life

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Nov. 8 -  
Dec. 17, 2017  
Extraspace

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**Written & directed by Rosa Laborde**  
Produced in collaboration with  
Aluna Theatre

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**STARRING**  
Nicola Correia-Damude  
Justin Rutledge  
Matthew Edison

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Save the world or save yourself?  
Sylvia is on a mission to clean up microplastics infesting our oceans. Can our heroine save the world from environmental disaster, fall in love with an unscrupulous corporate lawyer and caregive her obsessive brother, a one-man Mariachi band? When the rains come and the flood water rises, who will survive the deluge?

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Tarragon Theatre is an active member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT), the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA), Creative Trust Working Capital for the Arts, and Theatre Ontario, and engages professional artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement.