



Girls Like That

Apr. 17 - May 27, 2018

TARRAGON THEATRE

Girls Like That

Written by Evan Placey

CREATIVE TEAM

Esther Jun
Director

Shannon Lea Doyle
Set Designer

Kaileigh Kryzstofiak
Lighting Designer

Ming Wong
Costume Designer

Miquelon Rodriguez
Sound Designer

Alyssa Martin
Choreographer

Jennifer Dzialoszynski
Fight Director

Diane Pitblado
Dialect Coach

Helen Monroe
Assistant Director

Marinda de Beer
Stage Manager

Troy Taylor
Apprentice Stage Manager

ENSEMBLE

Tess Benger

Nadine Bhabha

Shakura Dickson

Allison Edwards-Crewe

Lucy Hill

Cynthia Jimenez-Hicks

Rachel VanDuzer

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Artist's Note

Written by Nadine Bhabha



Just thinking about puberty makes me feel awkward, self-conscious, sweaty (like no-reason sweatiness) and confused. I remember being sixteen and though I projected an air of “I don’t care what anyone thinks, I’m a quirky, confident weirdo”, inside I felt the aforementioned self-deprecating list of despair. As I gained a whole whack of new-fangled things (boobs, hair in weird places, a monthly “gift”), I also desperately tried to adjust to a new set of rules. What was baffling was that these rules didn’t necessarily come directly from the patriarchy outright, but more so from my relationships to other women; a self-imposed, or perhaps

cyclical, measuring stick to compare myself to my fellow females. Why? When did this start? When did I switch from seeing women as peers to considering them competition? Present-Nadine would say to sixteen-year-old Nadine that this was very unsisterly.

Girls Like That unapologetically explores what happens when women turn on women. Playwright Evan Placey was able to encapsulate the intricacies of the female experience in a truly realistic yet brutal way. Thankfully for me, the play also offers a beacon of hope. We learn that the world is not dichotomous. We don’t have to be divided into prudes and sluts, smart or hot, popular or unique. We can have it *all*. Aha! There’s that pesky choice our foremothers fought so hard to give us. To all the female-identifying audience members: you are in control. Women are magical *and* powerful *and* just friggin’ cool.

It’s been a dream to work with this cast. I was asked frequently during the process: “A cast of seven women and a female director? Did you deal with a lot of cattiness?” And every time I got to triumphantly say, “Nope”. Esther led us and our stellar creative team by being what all women should aspire to be - whatever the hell she feels like. Her ferocity, passion, nurturing and excitement are contagious. She brought us together. We are doing this play in the midst of what actor Francis McDormand called “a tectonic shift” in the industry. This play is our own micro-Women’s March. It is our tiny part in the Time’s Up movement. It is our ripple in the next wave of feminism. Yes, representation. Yes, female-driven narratives. Yes, women letting their power hang out!

“Who run the world?” Girls. And the first step is sticking together.

Artist Biographies



TESS BENGER Tess is incredibly grateful to be making her Tarragon debut in *Girls Like That*. Select credits include Dora award-winning *Chasse Galarie* (Soulpepper/Storefront), *Top Girls*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Next Whiskey Bar*, *Cabaret*, *The Philadelphia Story* (Shaw Festival), *Mamma Mia* (Citadel), *Grease* (Elgin Winter Garden), *Sunday in the Park with George* (T.I.F.T), Anne Shirley in *Anne of Green Gables* (Charlottetown Festival), *Camelot* National Tour, Top 10 on CBC's Triple Sensation Season 2. Thank you to Esther, the creative team, crew, everyone here at Tarragon, and this incredible cast of women.



NADINE BHABHA Nadine Bhabha is thrilled to make her Tarragon debut in *Girls Like That*. She is a Toronto native, and a graduate of York University's Acting Conservatory program. Past credits include *Bluenose* (Black Theatre Workshop), *Antony and Cleopatra*, *The Birds*, *Brebeuf's Ghost*, *Cloud 9*, *A Comedy of Errors*, *Love and Information* (Theatre@York). Film/TV: *Imposters* (Bravo), *Holiday Joy* (Freeform). Nadine has also been exploring her writing ambitions. She assisted in writer's rooms for web series in development, such as *Beattie and Mae* and *What Got Did*. She is a self-published author of a collection of poetry called *sweat*, which is available on amazon.ca and in the Tarragon lobby! Thank you to her family and friends for their unconditional love and support. Thank you to the cast and crew for making it the most fun to be a girl like that.



MARINDA DE BEER *Stage Manager* Marinda has been an Equity stage manager for over 20 years. She is also an administrator and a producer. Selected stage management credits: *The Millennial Malcontent*, *The Realistic Joneses*, *Enemy of the People*, *The Real World?*, *Other People's Children*, *The Misanthrope* (Tarragon Theatre); *Idomeneus*, *Picture This*, *Vimy*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *Incident at Vichy*, *Speed-the-Plow*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *Our Town*, *Time of Your Life*, *Billy Bishop Goes to War*, *The Price*, *Ghenghary Glen Ross*, *Faith Healer*, *Doc* (Soulpepper Theatre); *Minotaur* (YPT); *Crash* (TPM/Gateway); *The Passion Play* (Sheep No Wool/Outside the March); *I, Claudia* (Crow's

Theatre); seven summers with Dream in High Park (SM/ASM); *Palace of the End, Lucy, Keely and Du* (Canadian Stage). Administrative producer: *Secret Life of a Mother* (Theatre Centre, Dec 2016, Dec 2017 workshops. Upcoming Nov 2018 production), *Obeah Opera* (PANAMANIA).



SHAKURA DICKSON Shakura is honoured to be making her Tarragon debut. She is so grateful to Esther for giving her such a wonderful opportunity. Previous Credits include: *Jerusalem* (Outside the March), *The Story* (Common Boots/Soulpepper), *Other Side of the Game* (Obsidian/Cahoots), *Treasure Island* (Solar Stage). Shakura is a graduate of Sheridan's Music Theatre performance program. She'd like to thank her Mama for being an endless source of love and support. Girl power!



SHANNON LEA DOYLE *Set Designer* Shannon Lea Doyle is a performance designer from Toronto. She is thrilled to be making her Tarragon debut. Recent Design credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (The Chekhov Collective), *The Story* (Common Boots Theatre), *John* (Company Theatre), *The Last Wife* (The Belfry Theatre / GCTC), *Boy In The Moon*, *Breath In Between* (Crow's Theatre), *Vimy*, *The Just*, *The Dybbuk*, (Soulpepper Theatre); *I'm Doing This For You* (Hayley McGee, Directed by Mitchell Cushman), *Billy Elliot* (YES Theatre). Shannon holds a BFA in Sculpture and Installation from OCAD University and is a graduate of the Soulpepper Theatre Academy. In 2017 she won a Dora Mavor Moore award for her set design of *John*, was nominated for the Pauline McGibbon Award and a Prix Rideau Award for her set design of *The Last Wife* at GCTC. Shannon is a co-founder of Triga Studio, a sustainable design collective. www.shannonleadoyle.com @shanoui



JENNIFER DZIALOSZYNSKI *Fight Director* Jennifer is a proud member of The Academy of Dramatic Combat where she is an Instructor and Fight Director. She has been training, teaching, and directing fights for theatre for over a decade, including productions for Ryerson University, Humber College, York University – Glendale College, Shakespeare Bash'd, Neil Munro Intern Directors Projects at The Shaw Festival, Beacon Theatre, Summerworks Festival and Toronto Fringe Festival. Also an actor, Jennifer has appeared in theatres across Canada including: four Seasons at The Shaw Festival, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, The Citadel, Canadian Stage Shakespeare In The Park, St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare

Bash'd, Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company, The Grand Theatre, among others.



ALLISON EDWARDS-CREWE A graduate of Sheridan College's Musical Theatre Program, Allison has traveled across Canada performing. She is so excited to be making her Tarragon debut with such an amazing group of women. Selected credits include: *Da' Kink in My Hair* (Theatre Calgary, National Arts Centre); *How Black Mothers Say I Love You* (Factory Theatre), *All ShookUp* (The Globe Theatre, Stage West Mississauga & Calgary); *Othella* (Make Art Theatre); *Hairspray* (Rainbow Stage); *Binti's Journey* (Theatre Direct); *Dreamgirls* (The Grand Theatre) Upcoming: *Marry Me* (House + Body Theatre). Many thanks to Esther, the creative team and Tarragon family for making this such a wonderful experience. Love to my family, friends and Jess Rapp for their ENDLESS support.



LUCY HILL This is Lucy's debut at Tarragon Theatre. Select theatre: *I, Claudia* (Neptune Theatre, Imperial Theatre, Globe Theatre), *Antony & Cleopatra*, *The Three Musketeers* (St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival), *The Cure for Death by Lightning* (Western Canada Theatre), *Tails from the City* (Common Boots Theatre), *The Night's Mare*, *The Tragical Comedy of Punch & Judy* (Caravan Farm Theatre), *That Summer*, *The Clockmaker* (Theatre North West), *Romeo & Juliet*, *A Date with the Night*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *Sleeping Beauty* (Globe Theatre). Lucy is also a member of the Bad Dog Repertory Players at Bad Dog Theatre in Toronto and has appeared in *TO*, *I Love You*, *La Grande Jatte*, and *The Curator*. Recently Lucy was nominated for Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role for *I, Claudia* at Neptune Theatre. This summer Lucy will be co-producing and starring in her first film, *Shut Up*. Thanks to Esther and the rest of the dream team.
www.lucyadelehill.com



CYNTHIA JIMENEZ-HICKS Cynthia is grateful to be making her Tarragon debut with this team of strong and incredible women. Originally from Edmonton, Cynthia trained at the National Theatre School and is currently based in Toronto. Cynthia's theatre credits include: *Boys, Girls and Other Mythological Creatures*, *Spelling 2-5-5* (Carousel Players); *Pinocchio*, *Robin Hood* (Torrent Productions); *The Hothouse Prince* (Teatro La Quindicina); *Hello Again* (The Artillery Collective); *Scorched* (NTS); *Cleave* (New Words Festival). Cynthia was

the managing director for HATAW Performing Arts and a co-producer for SMOOTHIELAND Performance Projects. Cynthia has proudly participated in the development of many new Canadian plays; she was in fu-GEN's 2017 Kitchen Creation Unit and she was the Studio 180 RBC Emerging Playwright this year. Love as always to Cameron and the family for their endless support.



ESTHER JUN *Director* Esther Jun is thrilled to be making her Tarragon directing debut with *Girls Like That* and the upcoming *Theory* in October 2018. She is the Assistant Artistic Director at Tarragon and the Co-Artistic Director & Co-Founder of Directors

Lab North. Esther originally trained as an actor in NYC and then completed her directing degree at Drama Centre London in 2006. Esther was part of the 2016 Michael Langham Workshop for Classical Direction at The Stratford Festival, and was the 2015 Neil Munro Intern Director at the Shaw Festival. Selected Credits: *Amadeus* (Talk is Free); *The Last Wife* (The Belfry, GCTC); *Tales from Folks-Laos & Mongolia* (Soulpepper); *Rococo* (Shaw Festival); *And Now, The End* (Ante Up); *Bremen Rock City* (Song Trolley); *Cowboy Mouth* (Heart In Hand); *Yellow Face* (Hart House), *Trout Stanley* (Heart in Hand), *Fear & Misery of the Third Reich* (DeusXM), *First Hand Woman* (Fire Up Productions). Co-director: *Hiding Words* (Eventual Ashes), *Strange Mary Strange* (Theatre on the Verge).



KAILEIGH KRYSZTOFIAK *Lighting Designer*

Kaileigh is delighted to be making her Tarragon debut. Kaileigh's recent work includes: *Salt Water Moon* (Mirvish, Factory, Why Not); *Lo, or Dear Mr. Wells* (Nightwood); Nagata Shachu's *Full Cycle, Half Moon*; *Honk!* (Drayton Entertainment); *El Retorno* (Riser Project); *Wildfire* (RARE, Soulpepper); *The Emancipation of Ms. Lovely*, *The Breath in Between* (Crow's); *Superior Donuts* (Coal Mine); *Laurier* (Charlottetown Festival, TNB); *Beaver* (Storefront); *Noises Off* (Soulpepper); *A Line in the Sand*, *The Crackwalker* (Factory Theatre); *Hana Hashimoto* (Carousel Players). Kaileigh has collaborated with musicians Elizabeth Shepherd, Nagata Shachu, and Plants and Animals. She is an alumni and instructor at the National Theatre School of Canada and a two time Dora nominee. Upcoming: *The Comedy of Errors* (Stratford Festival), *Harvest* (Thousand Islands Playhouse).



ALYSSA MARTIN *Choreographer* Alyssa Martin is a Toronto-based choreographer and performance maker. She is very happy to be making her Tarragon debut alongside this incredible team. She is the Artistic Director of Rock Bottom

Movement, a dance theatre company she founded in 2012 as a home for her work. Her most recent full-length choreographic works include: *string quartet no. 14 in g major* (DanceWorks CoWorks), *Dolphin* (Dance Ontario Creative Commission and SummerWorks Performance Festival) and *MANICPIXIEDREAMGIRLS* (Dance Ontario, Center for Performance Research and Next Stage Theatre Festival). She has researched in residency with Toronto Dance Theatre, adelheid dance and Ryerson School of Performance. Alyssa is a graduate of Ryerson University's Dance Program where she now works as a guest choreographer and instructor in the theatre department. Enormous thanks to Esther, the Girls and the team for filling this process with so much trust and joy!
www.rockbottommovement.com



HELEN MONROE *Assistant Director* Helen Monroe is a Toronto-based director and theatre artist. The services of Helen Monroe were made possible through Theatre Ontario's Professional Theatre Training program, funded by the Ontario

Arts Council. Past credits at Tarragon include; *Hamlet*, *Sequence* (Asst. Dir.) and *Peace River Country* (Script Coordinator). Other credits include; *Apple Butter* with Jewel Weed Theatre Company (Director/Producer), *Four Hours* with Alumnae Theatre Company (Director), *The Postman* with Appledor Productions (Asst. Dir), and *Avaricious* with Theatre Gargantua (Artistic Intern).



DIANE PITBLADO *Dialect Coach* For Tarragon: *Communion*, *The Oxford Roof Climbers' Rebellion*, *Skylight*, *Sideman*. Diane has worked with Soulpepper Theatre Company since its inaugural season coaching over 60 shows. Other theatre

includes National Theatre Centre, Mirvish Productions, Studio 180, Canadian Stage, Buddies in Bad Times, Dallas Theatre Centre, among others. Diane regularly coaches for film and television including *Suicide Squad*, *Room*, *It*, *Away from Her*, *Scott Pilgrim*, *Cinderella Man*, *Hannibal*, *Flashpoint*, and the upcoming *Condor*. She has worked with actors Margot Robbie, Mads Mikkelson, Bree Larson, Emma Watson, Max Irons, Hilary Swank, Kristen Stewart, and Justin Timberlake.



EVAN PLACEY *Playwright* Evan is a Canadian-British playwright and screenwriter who lives in London, UK. His debut play *Mother of Him* won the inaugural RBC National Playwriting Award at Tarragon. The play went on to be produced

internationally and was adapted for BBC Radio. *Girls Like That* is his second Canadian production, following *Scarberia* at Young People's Theatre. His other plays include *Jekyll & Hyde* (West End), *Consensual* (West End), *Pronoun* (National Theatre), *WiLd!* (UK tour), *Holloway Jones* (Unicorn), and *Banana Boys* (Hampstead). Awards include: Jugend Theatre Preis Baden-Wurtemberg (Germany), Scenic Youth prize (France), Samuel French Canadian Play award (USA), King's Cross Award, Brian Way Award and Writers' Guild Award (all UK). He is Creative Writing Fellow at the University of Southampton and teaches playwriting for the National Theatre and in prisons. His work continues to be produced around the world, and he is currently under commission to the National Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse/New National Theatre Japan, Out of Joint, National Theatre Company of Korea/Birmingham REP, Synergy Theatre, as well as writing numerous projects for film and television.



MIQUELON RODRIGUEZ *Sound Designer* Miquelon Rodriguez is a sound designer, music composer, and actor based in Toronto. He attended York University for Theatre Studies with a specialization in Devised Theatre and has been working in the Toronto

theatre industry for over 12 years. He co-curated both the Tiger Bamboo Festival and the Shen Development Series at Soulpepper and is currently the Apprentice Artistic Director at Factory Theatre. Select sound design and composition credits include: *Good Morning Viet Mom* (Soaring Skies Collective/NSTF); *Tough Jews* (Spadina Avenue Gang/Storefront Theatre); *This Is The Point* (Ahuri Theatre/The Theatre Centre); *7 Stories* (Hart House Theatre); and *Brotherhood: The Hip-Hopera* (bCurrent/Buddies In Bad Times). Connect with him on Facebook, Twitter (@djtronix), Instagram (@troysteel), and in real life (Mickey).



TROY TAYLOR *Apprentice Stage Manager* For

Tarragon: *The Millennial Malcontent*, *Girls Like That*. Other Theatre Credits Include: *Come From Away* (Mirvish), *Salt Water Moon* (Factory Theatre/Mirvish), *All But Gone* (Necessary Angel/Canadian Stage), *Something Fishy* (Lighthouse Festival Theatre), *The Seagull* (Crow's Theatre/Canadian Stage), Dance Weekend

Ontario 2017 & 2018 (Dance Ontario), *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare in the Ruff), Fall for Dance North (Fall for Dance Festival @ The Sony Centre), *MANICPIXIEDREAMGIRLS* (Rock Bottom Movement), *Chasing the Path*, *Armband* (Human Body Expression), *One Song Glory* (Acting Upstage). Production Assistant at the Stratford Festival. Much love to family Rene, Erika, Madison, and David.



RACHEL VANDUZER Rachel is thrilled to be making her Tarragon debut alongside this incredible group of women in *Girls Like That*. She is a recent graduate of the joint Theatre and Drama Studies program between Sheridan College and University of Toronto. Theatre credits include *Hedda Gabler*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Comedy of Errors*, *How to Make Love in a Canoe* (Theatre Erindale), *The Second Self* (Edmonton Fringe Festival), *With/Out the Lens* (Re:Current Theatre). Film/TV: *Marine Disasters* (Discovery ID), *Three Identical Strangers* (Saloon Media), and upcoming horror feature, *Lifechanger*. Huge thank you to my family and friends for the love and support! www.rachelvanduzer.com



MING WONG Costume Designer Ming is a costume designer, stylist, and wardrobe technician based in Toronto. She has worked on a variety of projects ranging from theatre to film & TV. Selected credits include: *Life After* (Musical Stage/Canadian Stage); *hang* (Obsidian Theatre); *The Wedding Party* (Crow's Theatre-Dora Nomination); *Strangers, Babies* (Theatre Panik); *Crazy For You*, *Footloose* (Theatre Sheridan); *La Cecchina* (Glenn Gould Opera School); *Breathing Corpses* (Coal Mine Theatre); *Rocking Horse Winner* (Tapestry Opera-Dora winner, Outstanding new opera); *Gertrude & Alice* (Buddies in Bad Times Theatre-Dora nomination); *Domesticated* (Company Theatre/Canadian Stage); *The River* (Coal Mine Theatre); *Supers* (Pilot, Good Film & TV); *Scales* (Short film, Jessica Lea Fleming); *Pelleas Et Melisande* (Against The Grain); *The Wanderers* (Cahoots Theatre Company); *Gorey Story* (Thistle Project-Dora Nomination). Ming was nominated for the Virginia & Myrtle Cooper Award for Costume Design (2017).

Tarragon Theatre

Tarragon Theatre has been Canada's home for groundbreaking contemporary plays since 1970.

For 48 years, Tarragon has created, developed and produced new plays by home-grown artists as well as significant works from the world stage. Tarragon assists over 30 emerging and established playwrights each year through residencies, grants, dramaturgical support, and training programs. Since its founding, over 190 works have premiered at Tarragon and over 500 scripts have been created and workshopped, receiving The Trillium Book Award, as well as 34 nominations and 11 wins for the Governor General's Literary Award.

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2018/19 Season

Harlem Duet

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Tue. Sep. 18 - Sun. Oct. 28, 2018

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Written by Jason Sherman

Wed. Nov. 7 - Sun. Dec. 16, 2018

Kiviuq Returns: An Inuit Epic

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Sun. Dec. 30 - Sun. Jan. 20, 2019

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Guarded Girls

Written by

Charlotte Corbeil-Coleman

In association with Green Light Arts

Tue. Mar. 26 - Sun. May 5, 2019

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