

Soulpepper

ACT III
*
OCTOBER
-
NOVEMBER
2023

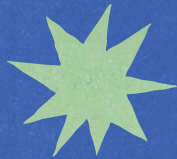


{ her words }
FESTIVAL

MAJOR SPONSOR &
COMMUNITY ACCESS PARTNER

Scotia Wealth Management.

WELCOME TO ACT III OF OUR 2023 SEASON



The artists and staff of Soulpepper and the Young Centre for the Performing Arts acknowledge the original caretakers and storytellers of the land on which we are situated – the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishanabek First Nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit. We commit to honouring and celebrating their past, present and future.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the third act of our season: 'Her Words'.

We are thrilled to present a program of work by women writers and creators developed through our residency programs, and our Six Women Writing commissioning program.

Kat Sandler, Sandra Caldwell and Raha Javanfar are three incredible artists at the top of their game, and to produce all three of their World Premieres on our stages is an immense privilege.

Kat's *WILDWOMAN* is a bold and sexy new comedy that explores gender, class and power. Sandra's *The Guide to Being Fabulous* tells her unbelievable life story through an intimate and immersive experience. Finally, Raha Javanfar's *Sympathy For The Devil* concert examines the long history of music and its fascination with the Devil.

Alongside the three mainstage productions, the 'Her Words' festival hosts a wealth of programming from special guest speakers, masterclasses, open mics, public readings and more.

It is well known there is a gap in our industry of mainstage work by women creators across the country. We thank all of the supporters who contribute to our Women Centre Stage program and to all of you for being here with us, and joining in celebrating these powerful voices.

We hope to welcome you back to explore all the festival has to offer.

Weyni Mengesha
Artistic Director

Gideon Arthurs
Executive Director

OCT 5
-
OCT 29

WORLD PREMIERE

WILDWOMAN

KAT SANDLER

Who is the real beast?

Based on the shocking true story that inspired *Beauty and the Beast*, *WILDWOMAN* examines the lives of three very different women as they wrestle for survival and legacy in the 16th Century French Court of King Henry II.

Newly-arrived in France, Queen-to-be Catherine de Medici must contend with her unruly husband, a scheming maidservant and the king's much-older mistress, as she struggles to give the kingdom what it needs most: an heir. But it's Pete, the King's pet wildman, a caged-odddity kept for amusement, who has the most surprising impact on their lives.

A viciously bold and sexy comedy, *WILDWOMAN* explores cyclical notions of gender, class and power, while asking what happens when we let the monster out.

PRODUCTION SPONSOR

**DIANE BLAKE +
STEPHEN SMITH**

WILDWOMAN is a commission of Soulpepper's Six Women Writing Program supported by: BMO Financial Group, Kevin & Roger Garland, Women Centre Stage.

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY

Kat Sandler

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Luke Reece

CAST

**Rosemary
Dunsmore**
Didi

Dan Mousseau
Pete

Rose Napoli
Catherine

Tony Ofori
Henry

**Gabriella
Sundar Singh**
Kitty

CREATIVE TEAM

Maddie Bautista
*Sound Design
& Composition*

Nick Blais
Set Designer

Angel Everett
Assistant Set Designer

Kimberly Purtell
Lighting Designer

Michelle Tracey
Costume Designer

Tamara Protic
Stage Manager

Seren Brooke Lannon
Assistant Stage Manager

PERFORMED IN

**The Marilyn
& Charles
Baillie Theatre**





OCT 24
-
NOV 12

WORLD PREMIERE

THE GUIDE TO BEING FABULOUS

SANDRA CALDWELL

Get a front row seat to a life well lived.

The Guide to Being Fabulous features stories and original songs that follow Sandra Caldwell's journey from a pickpocketing youth to a star of stage and screen.

Along the journey she joins the frontlines of the Stonewall riots, the New York Ballroom scene, parties at Studio 54 and performs everywhere from the Moulin Rouge to Broadway. It's not all glam and glitz though as her prison time in Montreal and New York can attest to. Sandra's story is as inspiring as it is incredible, and her decades of experience are a testament to survival in a world that denied her existence.

An award-winning actress, trailblazer, and icon, Sandra is an inspiration within and beyond the Trans community.

The Guide to Being Fabulous is a commission of Soulpepper's Six Women Writing Program supported by: BMO Financial Group, Kevin & Roger Garland, Women Centre Stage.

WRITTEN BY & STARRING
Sandra Caldwell

DIRECTED BY
Weyni Mengesha

CREATIVE TEAM
Rodney Diverlus
Choreographer

Anahita Dehbonehie
Set Designer

Frank Donato
Video & Projection
Designer

Thomas Ryder Payne
Sound Designer

Michael Shand
Music Director
& Piano-Conductor

Michelle Ramsey
Lighting Designer

Ming Wong
Costume Designer

Robert Harding
Stage Manager

Madison Kalbhenn
Assistant Stage Manager

PERFORMED IN

Michael Young
Theatre

NOV 16
-
NOV 26

WORLD PREMIERE SOULPEPPER CONCERT

SYMPATHY FOR THE DEVIL

RAHA JAVANFAR

The Devil has the best tunes.

An exploration of the Devil in music, all the way from the Baroque era to modern day rock 'n roll.

Faust's bargain with the devil has been a popular story in music for centuries. Artists have gravitated towards stories of evil, sin and mischief, orchestrated by that naughty character known as Old Nick. And in turn, Lucifer has had his own obsession with musicians – entering their dreams with virtuosic compositions and offering them tempting deals of eternal fame and fortune.

Soulpepper multi-instrumentalist Raha Javanfar fronts a stacked band with Juno nominated SATE to take you on a musical journey to the crossroads of music and the devil.

MUSIC SPONSOR

THE
SLAIGHT
FAMILY

PIANO SPONSOR

STEINWAY PIANO GALLERY
TORONTO

CREATOR &
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Raha Javanfar

WRITER

Sarah Wilson

DIRECTOR

Sabryn Rock

FEATURED PERFORMERS

Raha Javanfar
SATE

PERFORMED IN

The Marilyn
& Charles
Baillie Theatre

Raha Javanfar

Photo By Daniel Malavasi





OCT
-
NOV

THE MOST EXCITING PLAYWRITING & EMERGING VOICES

HER WORDS FESTIVAL

Her Words puts women front and centre, discussing the future of playwriting from the female lens.

Alongside the three mainstage productions, the *Her Words Festival* includes a wealth of additional programming options:

- Special Guest Speakers
- Open Mics
- Masterclasses
- Public readings and More!

Full schedule of events will be announced this summer.

her words
FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL SPONSOR



NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORTERS



Kevin & Roger Garland

WOMEN
CENTRE
STAGE



Queen Goneril by Erin Shields premiered at Soulpepper in the fall of 2022. It was a commission of Soulpepper's Six Women Writing Program supported by: BMO Financial Group, Kevin & Roger Garland, Women Centre Stage.

Cast Members Pictured (L-R): Virgilia Griffith, Vanessa Sears, & Helen Belay. Directed By: Weyni Megnesha. Design Team: Set, Ken MacKenzie; Costumes, Judith Bowen; Lighting, Kimberly Purtell; Sound Design; Thomas Ryder Payne. Photo By: Dahlia Katz.

Visit soulpepper.ca/performances/herwordsfestival for info & updates

PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	2	3	4	5 WILD (7:30) +	6 WILD (7:30) +	7 WILD (7:30) +
8	9	10 WILD (7:30) +	11 WILD (7:30) +	12 WILD (7:30) Ⓣ	13 WILD (7:30)	14 WILD (1:30/7:30)
15 WILD (1:30)	16	17 WILD (7:30)	18 WILD (1:30◇/7:30)	19 WILD (7:30)	20 WILD (7:30)	21 WILD (1:30/7:30)
22 WILD (1:30) [R]	23	24 WILD (7:30) GUIDE (8:00) +	25 WILD (1:30/7:30) GUIDE (8:00) +	26 WILD (7:30) GUIDE (8:00) +	27 WILD (7:30) GUIDE (8:00) +	28 WILD (1:30/7:30) GUIDE (8:00) Ⓣ
29 WILD (1:30) GUIDE (2:00)	30	31 GUIDE (8:00)				

NOVEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 GUIDE (2:00◇/8:00)	2 GUIDE (8:00)	3 GUIDE (8:00)	4 GUIDE (2:00/8:00)
5 GUIDE (2:00) [R]	6	7 GUIDE (8:00)	8 GUIDE (2:00/8:00)	9 GUIDE (8:00)	10 GUIDE (8:00)	11 GUIDE (2:00/8:00)
12 GUIDE (2:00)	13	14	15	16 DEVIL (7:30) Ⓣ	17 DEVIL (7:30)	18 DEVIL (1:30/7:30)
19 DEVIL (1:30)	20	21	22 DEVIL (1:30◇/7:30)	23 DEVIL (7:30)	24 DEVIL (7:30)	25 DEVIL (1:30/7:30)
26 DEVIL (1:30/7:30)	27	28	29	30		

Visit soulpepper.ca for info & updates

ACT III PERFORMANCE GUIDE

WILD – Wildwoman
GUIDE – The Guide to Being Fabulous
DEVIL – Sympathy for the Devil

Ⓣ OPENING NIGHT PERFORMANCE
+ PREVIEW PERFORMANCE
[R] RELAXED PERFORMANCE
◇ MASK REQUIRED PERFORMANCES

TICKET PRICING

FLEX PACK DISCOUNTS* – BUY MORE, SAVE MORE!

Valid Until August 13 – Buy a Flex Pack and get first access to book ancillary festival programming.

BUY 2 – Save 10%

BUY 3 – Save 15%

PREVIEW PRICE	FACILITY FEE	SERVICE CHARGE	H.S.T.	TOTAL
\$35.00	\$3.75	\$5.50	\$5.75	\$50.00
\$25.00	\$1.25	\$2.50	\$3.75	\$32.50

REGULAR PRICE	FACILITY FEE	SERVICE CHARGE	H.S.T.	TOTAL
\$65.00	\$3.75	\$5.50	\$9.65	\$83.90
\$45.00	\$3.75	\$5.50	\$7.05	\$61.30
\$25.00	\$1.25	\$2.50	\$3.75	\$32.50

OTHER OFFERS:

- PAY WHAT YOU CHOOSE TUESDAYS FOR *WILDWOMAN* AND *THE GUIDE TO BEING FABULOUS*
- FREE 25 & UNDER PROGRAM – OPEN TO BOOK PREVIEWS TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE. POST OPENING NIGHT YOU CAN BOOK THE DAY OF SUPPORTED BY SUN LIFE FINANCIAL
- RUSH† – \$25 “DAY OF”
- ARTSWORKERS TICKETS – \$25 “DAY OF”
- GROUP & STUDENT DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

FOR MORE INFO VISIT: SOULPEPPER.CA/WAYSTOSAVE

*\$25, Pay What You Choose and Preview tickets aren't eligible for Flex Pack discounts.

†Rush tickets available one hour prior to performance – subject to availability.

HOW TO GET YOUR TICKETS

ONLINE
soulpepper.ca

BOX OFFICE
In person: Tue-Sat, 1-8pm

PHONE
416.866.8666

SOULPEPPER THEATRE COMPANY
Young Centre for the Performing Arts
50 Tank House Lane, Toronto, Ontario M5A 3C4

IN 2020, SOULPEPPER LAUNCHED ITS SIX WOMEN WRITING INITIATIVE

THIS PROGRAM SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WORKS BY CANADIAN WOMEN PLAYWRIGHTS.

The Six Women Writing program gave me the opportunity to take artistic risks throughout the process knowing I would be supported every step of the way. It was a dream come true to see Queen Goneril come to the stage with such an incredibly talented team of artists.

— Erin Shields

What can I say but WOW! How fortunate I am to be able to tell my story in my way, surrounded by care, love and respect. Soulpepper has given me a new home in Toronto! The Guide To Being Fabulous... what an adventure! Thrilled beyond belief to have taken this journey with the remarkable Soulpepper theatre company. Come on everybody let's play!!!

— Sandra Caldwell

What an absolute honour (and a blast!) to be part of such an epic initiative from Soulpepper promoting the incredible work and wild ideas of women! I'm so lucky, grateful, and totally inspired to have had the opportunity to create alongside these powerhouses!

— Kat Sandler

What an extraordinary set of women. I feel lucky. I had this hilarious thought, when I read who was in the group, which was, "I am happy I have lived to see this".

— Hannah Moscovitch

FESTIVAL SPONSOR



NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORTERS



Kevin & Roger Garland



SOULPEPPER SUPPORTERS — WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING:

MAJOR SPONSOR & COMMUNITY ACCESS PARTNER



TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT



MUSIC SPONSOR



CORPORATE & PROGRAM SPONSORS



KEVIN & ROGER GARLAND

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

The Joan & Clifford Hatch Foundation

Pitblado Family Foundation



The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation



METCALF FOUNDATION

SOULPEPPER ACADEMY



Sylvia Soyka

Kingfisher Foundation



The Norman & Margaret Jewison Charitable Foundation

SOULPEPPER ON THE STAGE

DIANE BLAKE + STEPHEN SMITH



MIDDLEFIELD RESOURCE FUNDS

Sylvia Soyka



MEDIA AND IN-KIND SPONSORS



GOVERNMENT SUPPORT



Soulpepper



FACEBOOK.COM/
SOULPEPPERTHEATRE



@SOULPEPPER



@SOULPEPPERTHEATRE



YOUTUBE.COM/
SOULPEPPERTHEATRE

BOX OFFICE — 416 866 8666

**VISIT [SOULPEPPER.CA](https://www.soulpepper.ca) FOR THE MOST
UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION!**

2023 Season Illustrations by Gracia Lam

