



**LITTLE DIPPER  
THEATRE CO.★**

# Nowheresville, BC

by Chantal Gallant



# DIRECTOR'S NOTES

We are so grateful to have you with us for Little Dipper Theatre's inaugural production! Chantal Gallant has generously entrusted us with a script that effortlessly blends laughter and play with tears and grieving. We have a passionate team of artists and producers that have rallied together to bring this show to life. From sound to lights to costumes and set, from stage management to the publicity team, we are all excited for you to experience this labour of love that is the World Premiere of "Nowheresville, BC!"

Some griefs are too big to process on our own. We need the help of friends, family, community, or a stranger's listening ear. This is a story about two people who work together to give a friend in pain the strength she needs to remember, to grieve, to laugh, and to re-encounter her home. This is a story about play-acting as therapy, allowing Mia—through pretend—to touch on hurts that are too painful to address directly. You, the audience, are also a part of Mia's journey as a compassionate, listening ear. Thank you for coming and providing that essential final ingredient. Enjoy!

Nicola Shannon

# PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES

"How in the world did *that* get the green light?"

I was driving through my Grandparent's small town, when that question crossed my mind. I had just passed the odd roadside attraction — which I'd done numerous times — and realized how bizarre it was. It didn't make any sense! Why that *thing*?

I found myself chuckling, imagining how the initial conversation may have gone. What a riot! And just like that, *Nowheresville, BC* was born. Its eccentric little characters took root in my subconscious and a tale began.

I started writing this play just before the pandemic. It kept me busy during the lockdowns, and made me feel like an artist when I had almost given up. It allowed me to connect to home when going to the island was literally off limits. It gave me a platform to explore grief. Could I do that and still laugh? Is there a way to find levity with such a heavy topic? Is that even possible?

Maybe.

I'm so happy you choose to take time out of your day to come here and be part of this story. Is it fictional? Absolutely. But you know what that say, "Write what you know... to be true."

So welcome to Nowheresville, BC.

Chantal Gallant



# The CREATIVE TEAM (alphabetical order)



## **Uliana Akulenko - Set/Costume/Prop Designer**

Uliana completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting at TWU. She has designed for *Tigers Be Still, Here We Are*, and *Mary's Wedding* (Stone's Throw Productions), *A Kind of Alaska* and *AWAKE* (SAMC Theatre), as well as Gallery 7's *A Wrinkle in Time*. Uliana is excited to be a part of this production. This show has made her both laugh and cry. Uliana hopes that you will step into Nowheresville, BC's summer adventure and pause to enjoy all it has to offer.



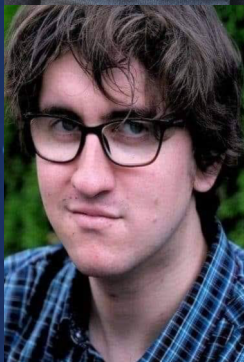
## **Jaira Brownlee - Mia**

Jaira has been acting in theatre since she was 13, and is thrilled to be debuting the role of Mia! Ever since graduating from Vancouver Acting School last year, she has acted in as many short films as she can get in on, and most recently played Medda in Creative Edge's production of *Newsies*. She currently lives in Vancouver, living off bagels, working 4 jobs, and listening to Broadway musical soundtracks. This role is truly a dream come true for her, and she would like to give a shout-out to everyone who worked so hard to make the show happen, and everyone who is coming to support it. ♥



## **Chantal Gallant - Playwright**

Chantal (She/Her) is a teacher, actor and playwright. Chantal studied acting and creative writing at the University of Victoria (BFA ) and is an island girl at heart. Playwriting projects include; *Nosegate* and *Nowheresville, BC*. Select acting credits include; *Mother of the Maid* (Pacific Theatre); *Nosegate* (Stone's Throw Productions); *Riding with Change* (MONOVA); *The Comedy of Errors*, *Gut Girls* (Phoenix Theatre); *Antigone* (MFA Phoenix Theatre). She hopes you enjoy this little slice of home!



## **Michael Holman - Kolby**

Michael has been acting in community theatre in the Fraser Valley for five years and is honoured to be a part of Little Dipper's inaugural production. Recent acting credits include the narrator and every character from the movie *It's a Wonderful Life in This Wonderful Life* (G7), and Beadle Bamford in *Sweeney Todd* (Secondary Characters). Michael would like to thank his friends and family for their support in his endeavours, and his mentors in the theatre world who have helped to shape him into the artist and person he is now.



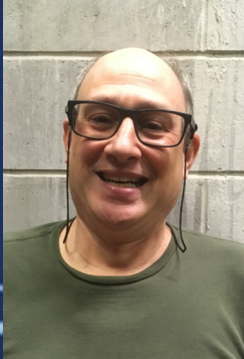
## Joshua Osborne - Sound Designer

Josh is a Vancouver based sound designer, musician, and composer. He's very fond of noises, and has been listening to them his entire life. Recent sound design work includes *Cauldron* (Vital Spark Theatre), *Dinner With Friends* (Theatre in the Country), *Trying* (Gallery 7), and *Last Train to Nibroc* (Gallery 7). He's excited to be finally getting the chance to compose for theatre, honoured to be collaborating on an original production, and hopes you enjoy the show!



## Ron Reed - Dramaturg

Ron Reed is the founder and Artistic Director Emeritus of Pacific Theatre. He has an MFA in acting, but has just as much enthusiasm for directing, writing, and developing scripts. Favourite new plays he has worked on include *Tent Meeting*, *Remnant*, *You Still Can't*, *Mercy Wild*, *A Bright Particular Star*, *Refuge Of Lies*, *Re:Union*, *Common Grace*, *Tolkien*, *Jesus Freak*, and... *Nowheresville*! Heartfelt congratulations, Chantal and Nicola, on the premiere of a wonderful new play and the launch of a brand new theatre! I'm honoured to be part of it.



## Philip Schulze - Lighting Designer

Phil is an award-winning lighting designer, set builder, technical director/coordinator, and technical theatre instructor/designer. Select credits include: *Trouble in Tahiti* (Vancoco), *In the Heights*, *Bad Girls* (Dramatrix Productions), and *Music Man* (RGT). He has instructed for the VSB, ABCDE, SDTA and TheatreBC, and has assisted with lighting and/or stage production for countless school productions. Phil was a Follow Spot Operator for Paul McCartney, U2, Opening/Closing Ceremonies of the 2010 Olympics, and most recently Van Opera's *HMS Pinafore*. Thanks to the lighting crew and all who have assisted with bringing this show to production. Welcome back to LIVE Theatre!



## Nicola Shannon - Director

Nicola is a director and actor who recently completed a directing apprenticeship at Pacific Theatre (2019/20 Season). She is also an acting instructor at Bez Arts Hub. Recent directing credits include *Last Train to Nibroc* (G7), *Jewel* (TIC), *Mary's Wedding* (Stone's Throw), and *Pride and Prejudice* (G7). Recent acting credits include Puck in *Midsummer Night's Dream* (G7) or Sister James in *Doubt* (G7). Nicola is a graduate of the Trinity Western University Theatre program. Many thanks to her husband James for his unending support. [www.nicolashannon.ca](http://www.nicolashannon.ca)



### **Sahana Sidhu - Liz**

Sahana is fairly new to acting—beginning in late October of 2021, but she is extremely new to stage acting. *Nowheresville, BC* is Sahana's theatre debut. Sahana has worked on numerous short films, but she has never been given the opportunity to work in a theatre production until now. Sahana would like to give a special thanks to everyone involved in *Nowheresville* for their patience, guidance, and giving her this opportunity. She would also like to thank her family for their amazing and unwavering support.



### **Brittany Suderman - Stage Manager**

Brittany began in theatre through her small college's arts program. Recently, she has enjoyed the challenge of stage managing for *Last Train to Nibroc* (Gallery 7) and *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Gallery 7). Previous acting credits include chorus in *The Fiddler on the Roof* (Gallery 7) and Becky Thatcher in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (Gallery 7). Brittany is honoured to be a part of this world-premiere and Little Dipper's inaugural show. She would like to thank all those inside and outside the theatre who have encouraged and mentored her thus far.



### **Cassie Unger - Assistant Director**

Cassie is a Langley-based artist. She is an instructor with Bez Arts Hub and with Cast and Crew Youth Theatre. She holds a Bachelors in Creative Arts and Drama and has taught and performed with groups across Canada and the US. Recent acting credits include May in *Last Train to Nibroc*, Myra Bennet in *Tempting Providence* (Gallery 7), Marjorie in *Jewel* (TIC), and Tracy Lord in *The Philadelphia Story* (TIC Online). Recent directing credits include *The Man who Came to Dinner* and *Charley's Aunt* (TIC Online), *Leapday* and *The Enchanted Bookshop* (Cast and Crew Youth Theatre).