

GENDER? I HARDLY KNOW THEM

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY
ELENA ELI BELYEA & SYD CAMPBELL



PRODUCED BY TINY BEAR JAWS

PRESENTED BY DOWNSTAGE

OCTOBER 12 - 16, 2022

ARTS COMMONS, MOTEL THEATRE



Downstage is a locally-based company dedicated to developing and producing new theatre that creates meaningful conversation around social issues. Find us on the second floor of Arts Commons and connect with us:



www.downstage.ca - info@downstage.ca - 403.294.7459

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Tiny Bear Jaws is making theatre with teeth. Since 2015, we've had 85+ performances in 5 cities and worked with over 150 artists.

"Tiny Bear Jaws may be small but it's sharp of tooth (and eye and ear)."
- Liz Nicholls, 12thnight.com



Creative Team

Created and performed by Elena Belyea and Syd Campbell

Directed and additional writing by Paul Blinov

With Musical Guest Miranda Martini

Sound Design, and Production/Stage Management by Tori Morrison

Produced by Tiny Bear Jaws

Dramaturgical support by Rochelle Laplante

Technical Direction by Lauren Acherson

Publicity by Aldona Barutowicz

Special Thanks

Frances Girard, Steven Sobolewski, Fringe Theatre, Geoffrey Simon Brown,
David Walker and Alberta Theatre Projects

The show runs approximately 60 minutes

(no intermission)

Join us after the show for a 20-minute post-show conversation



All images of Syd and Elena by Nico Humby

A Note From Syd and Elena

Thanks so much for joining us. This is the last stop on our national tour, and it means a lot to be sharing this show with a home-grown audience of prairie queers, back here in 'Berta. (Moh'kins'tsis, colonially known as Calgary, is also home to our amazing and much beloved guest artist Miranda "Mimi" Martini).

So many queer narratives that take place in conservative backdrops are characterized by grief, alienation, and violence. Gender? I Hardly Know Them was born to provide an alternative which centres queer joy and friendship.

While our primary goal is to make you laugh til you pee, we believe that sharing work that celebrates queer existence (especially in this moment, where LGBTQ2SAAI+ folks, particularly queer and trans children and teens, are being systemically targeted in the US and beyond) is essential to our community's survival.

Thank you for coming to party with us and also reflect on the actions we can (individually and collectively) take to make a more loving and accepting world for all.

Gender is dead, welcome to the funeral.

- Syd & Elena

A Note From the Downstage Team

The Downstage team is thrilled to host the Moh'kins'tsis-Calgary premiere of Gender? I Hardly Know Them. We are excited to celebrate the spectrum of queerness, gender and sexuality with these badass art makers who bring such care to the process of making and sharing their work. We welcome the conversations that this comedy stirs up as we centre queer experiences and grow together in community.

Artist Bios



ELENA (or ELI) BELYEA (they/she) ~ co-creator, performer ~ is a queer/non-binary playwright, performer, producer, arts educator, and **Artistic Director** of **Tiny Bear Jaws**. They were born and raised in Amiskwaciwaskahikan (colonially known as Edmonton) on Treaty 6 territory and have had work produced across Turtle Island and internationally. She's a graduate of the University of Alberta and the National Theatre School of Canada (Playwriting), and an Olympic crier (**classic Pisces**). More at elenabelyea.com / [@belyeache](https://twitter.com/belyeache)



PAUL BLINOV ~ director ~ is a **Canadian Comedy Award-nominated** writer, director, and performer. He has been improvising with Rapid Fire Theatre since 2006, and is currently the company's Associate Director of Education (Youth), as well as being a part of its award-winning corporate entertainment ensemble. He is one-half of acclaimed sketch duo **Gossamer Obsessions** (with co-creator Amy Shostak), and has toured nationally. Paul has taught and performed comedy in Vancouver, Toronto, Winnipeg, Seattle, Atlanta, and Chiang Mai. / [@jaulpb](https://twitter.com/jaulpb)



SYDNEY CAMPBELL ~ co-creator, performer ~ is a queer, non-binary theatre artist and recent graduate of the University of Alberta with a degree in Drama + Gender Studies. They are a senior ensemble member of **Rapid Fire Theatre**, performing weekly as part of multiple troupes (including Sphinxes, a troupe for AFAB, gender non-conforming, trans, and non-binary performers). They teach at **Rapid Fire Theatre** and **Blind Tiger Comedy**. Syd is widely recognized as Edmonton's **proudest Leo**, because of course they are. / [@sydncmpbl](https://twitter.com/sydncmpbl)



MIRANDA MARTINI ~ musical guest ~ is a musician and writer. She co-wrote music for “John Ware Reimagined,” a musical about the life and impact of Alberta cowboy John Ware, which was produced at the Blyth Theatre Festival in Ontario in September 2022. Miranda’s music and face can also be seen and heard in the 2020 NFB documentary “John Ware Reclaimed.” Miranda was the music dramaturg for Tiny Bear Jaws’ “I Don’t Even Miss You” as part of RISER Edmonton in April, and is excited to be closing out her time as the touring musical guest for “Gender? I Hardly Know Them” in her hometown of Calgary. / @mandsypan



TORI MORRISON ~ sound design, production management, stage management ~ is a designer, producer, and production manager from Amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton, AB). She is the Executive Director and Artistic Producer of Tiny Bear Jaws and she also co-produces work with writer David Gagnon Walker as Strange Victory Performance. Recent credits include sound/video design for *This Is the Story of the Child Ruled by Fear* at SummerWorks (Toronto, 2022), High Performance Rodeo (Calgary, 2022) and Pi Theatre (Vancouver, 2022), sound design and producing

for *Gender? I Hardly Know Them* at the rEvolver Festival (Vancouver, 2022), and sound design and production management for Pyretic Theatre’s premiere of *Michael Mysterious* (Edmonton, 2021). Find out more about what she does at her website torigmorrison.com.



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Resources



Centre for Sexuality provides programs and services that address sexual health issues in a comprehensive way, including sexual health education in schools, client counseling and specialized programming for specific populations, including youth, 2S LGBTQ+ youth and adults, older adults, parents, etc.

Our training centre provides educational workshops to professionals from many sectors to better equip them to integrate healthy sexuality policy and practice into their work and workplace culture. We provide subject matter expertise to all levels of government to help shape healthy, inclusive public policy that is rooted in equality and respect for all individuals. For more information about our programs and services please check out our website: <https://www.centreforsexuality.ca/>



Pansy Club is a queer + trans run art collective and monthly party. Our goal is to foster connections and community within our queer spaces, as well as showcase local queer artists. Follow us and join the Club at @pansyclubyyc on Instagram or email us at pansyclubyyc@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved!

ENJOY THE SHOW? KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING!

1. TAG US WHEN YOU SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON SOCIALS

@DownstageYYC
@tinybearjaws
@genderihardlyknowthem

2. JOIN IN THE POST SHOW DISCUSSION!

All performances are followed by a post-show discussion that lasts about 20 minutes.

If you stick around, you can expect a fascinating chat with other audience members about the themes of the show, moderated by Downstage staff. You can share your thoughts and questions or just sit back and listen.

3. PAY IT FORWARD

Whether you're on a low or fixed income, want to "try out" the experience of going to theatre before committing to a price, or have another reason, everyone is welcome to use Downstage's Pay It Forward Program.

Reserve your no-cost tickets to the show up to 30 days in advance by visiting www.downstage.ca/payitforward or by calling 403.294.7459

4. BECOME A PAY IT FORWARD PATRON

Make a donation of any size to the program to help pay for someone else's ticket at www.downstage.ca/support.

Coming Up at Downstage!

2022  2023

THE  WORD

WORLD PREMIERE

Presented by Alberta Theatre Projects
A Downstage production in association with
Handsome Alice and Theatre Calgary
February 9 to 19, 2023
Martha Cohen Theatre, Arts Commons

STAGE IT

Festival of New Works
presented by Downstage
May 11 - 14, 2023
Motel Theatre, Arts Commons

Learn More Here!

