

## THE *DISARMING VENUS* CAST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER:



**Julie Burris** is thrilled to be part of Act 3's *Disarming Venus* Fringe 2024 show. She last performed with Act 3 in the production of *Who Am I*, in 2023. Other favourite theatre credits include playing Mary, in *Mary Stuart* with East Side Players and Diedre, in *Daughter of the House* at Alumnae theatre. For fun, Julie is also part of the *Neon Riders Toronto* cycling group. She would like to thank her close friends for always supporting her passions and projects.



**Heather Cherron** is pleased to be joining ACT 3 in this wonderful adventure. She has acted and had her written short plays presented in various ACT3 performances. For over 25 years, she has been an associate artist for Mixed Company Theatre, acting, writing, facilitating, directing and composing online and in person plays for various communities. This Year in the Women at Plays Festival, she directed Alexis Hope's *Her Crown*. She reprised her role as Marissa in Catherine Frid's *Two Sided Mirror*. She also reprised her role as bell hooks in *A Conversation* by Elva Mai Hoover.



**Beth Anne Cole** began performing at fifteen on CBC radio and television. For twenty-two years, she delighted kids on *Mr. Dressup*. She has appeared extensively in theatre roles, notably at the Shaw Festival and Carnegie Hall, NYC, and in concerts across Canada and the U.S. Her latest CD is *Perhaps the Gods of Love*. Beth Anne is also a visual artist, composer, and a poet. More information about her music can be found at [www.bethannecole.com](http://www.bethannecole.com)



**Rita Shelton Deverell** has stood out for her innovation, creativity, and inclusion throughout her career in broadcasting, journalism and theatre. She co-founded VisionTV, where she produced *Skylight* (Gemini, Best Lifestyle Information) and *It's About Time* (Gemini, excellence in mainstream television reflecting Canada's cultural diversity). From 2002 to 2005 she was news director at APTN Network, and mentored her Indigenous successor. In 2005, she returned to drama. Her play *Who You Callin Black Eh?* won the Teen Jury prize at the 2019 Toronto Fringe, and she received a 2022 Canada Council grant to create a digital version.



**Michele George** is a director, actor, singer, writer who has been active in the theatrical arts for sixty years. She is a founding member of Peter Brook's International Centre for Theatre Research. She has created theatre and music internationally and been active in Canadian theatre, both as actor and director and master teacher. She was the co-director of York University's first Masters Program in Theatre. Michele is currently the Director of Re:Sound, offering sessions in Theatrical Vocal Work and Therapeutic Voice Discovery. She is a current member of Act 3 Women's Theatre Collective.



**Nina Keogh** is a third generation puppet builder, puppeteer, performer and visual artist with over 50 years of experience on stage and screen as a puppeteer or host on iconic, award winning TV series, including *Mr Dressup*, *Friendly Giant*, *Today's Special*, *Sesame Park*, *Polkadot Door* and Jim Henson projects. She has done one woman shows and medical conferences with her puppet character Dr. Beryl Freud. Recent projects include consultant on two television history retrospectives to museums, and producer of the award winning documentary *Mr Dressup - The Magic of Make Believe*.



**Anastasia Kokolakis** has performed on various stages across Canada including Canadian Stage, NAC, Buddies in Bad Times, Huron County Playhouse and most recently in Broken Branches at the Aki Studio. Anastasia performed in the first ever Toronto Fringe Festival in a performance of *The Laundry* directed by Greg Kramer. Some of her tv and film credits include *Fargo*, *What We Do In the Shadows*, *In The Dark*, *Reign* and *Hemlock Grove*. Anastasia is thrilled to be joining Act 3 as one of its newer members



**Jorie Morrow** is thrilled to be back at the Toronto Fringe in her seventh show in the past 9 years!! Shows such as; *Hey Good Lookin'*, *Women*, *Check-point 300* and *SNAP*. "There is only one solution if old age is not to be an absurd parody of our former life, and that is to go on pursuing ends that give our existence a meaning – Devotion to individuals, to groups, or to meaningful causes, social, political, intellectual or creative work" (Simone de Beauvoir). Jorie is a long-standing, proud member of ACT 3 Theatre Collective giving voice to older women. Enjoy!



**Linda Joyce Nourse** was born and raised in Montreal. Linda came to acting late in life. As a legal administrative assistant, Linda worked in Moncton, Toronto, and New York. After retiring in 2014, she returned to Montreal where she embarked upon a journey toward fulfilling a lifelong dream to be an actor. The proud mom of 3 and doting grand-mom of two, she is a member of ACTRA, UDA and Equity. Besides spending time with family and friends, she also enjoys reading, shopping, and knitting.



**Dawn Obokata** has been acting professionally since 1980, and was a long-time artistic collaborator with Toronto's Actor's Lab Theatre (LeTHAL) where she created several image and movement-based performances. Dawn has toured Canada and Europe with her solo performances *Soulscape Wilderness Trilogy*, and *IKI: Delight of the Beckoning Stillness*. Other stage credits include the title role in *Naomi's Road* (YPT); *Phoenix Cabaret* (Cahoots); *Restless Night in Late Spring* (Shadowpath), and the premiere of *Mizushobai* (Tableau d'Hôte Theatre Montreal). She has also performed in *Women at Play(s) 5 & 6*. Dawn has been a member of Act 3 since 2020, and contributed original pieces and performed in several Act 3 presentations.



**Morrie Sinkins** is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, NYC, Morrie has many film and television credits to her name, including writing, starring in and producing her own Award Winning Short Film: *WHO?* Other film/tv credits include guest- starring on *Cagney & Lacey*; *Medicine Woman*, *Border Town*; *Distant Thunder*; and *Saturday Night Live*. Her theatre credits include productions at *Torun International Theatre*, *Poland*; several New York productions such as *Actors Creative Theatre*, *Ernie Martin* and *Manhattan Playwrights*, as well as several Canadian productions including *Shaw Festival*.



**Marni Walsh** the Founder of Act 3, was also Artistic Director, actor and playwright for *Cullen Dinner Theatre*, an Equity house in north Toronto in the 1980's and 90's, where she directed over 75 productions and acted in film, TV, and commercials. Her romantic comedy *Laneway Cafe* went online with *Theatre Orangeville* in 2022; her one act play *The Trial Of Rosie McDougall* was produced in Toronto at "Women At Play(s)" in 2024; and her one act play *Ghost Story* will be produced at the *Peterborough Theatre Festival* in September. This fall she will be busy producing *Disarming Venus* at *Theatre Collingwood*, *Orillia Opera House*, and *Theatre Orangeville*.



**Tricia Williams** is an actor/singer/writer whose select theatre credits include Fringe favourite *Hymns and Hearse* (writer/actor), *The Sorcauren Book Club* (Toronto Fringe Festival Patrons' Pick), *The Mary-Go-Round Project* (actor/writer), *Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God*, *In the Dark*, *She Never Bought Me an Easy-Bake Oven* (actor/writer) and *The Martha Stewart Projects* (actor/writer). As a singer, Tricia's performances with the *Delightful Divas* includes *5 Minute Feminist Cabaret* and *An Evening with Jack Layton*. Selected television/film credits - *Dan for Mayor*, *The Border*, *Da Kink in My air* and *Plague City*. Tricia is a founding member of the *Obsidian Theatre Company*.

## ADDITIONAL CREATIVES:



**Rehearsed with Marianne Mclsaac** who holds a BFA in Performance and worked for stage, film and T.V. She trained in Master classes with *Stella Adler* and *Uta Hagen* in NYC. She garnered both *Genie* and *Gemini* nominations. Selected acting credits include *Blyth*, *Factory*, *T.N.B.* *Toronto Fringe*, *Buddies*, *Magnus*, *Gryphon* and *NNPF*. Series regular includes *The Baxters*, *High Hopes* and principal roles in feature films. Selected directing credits include *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *The Laramie Project*, *Hello Again*, *Brilliant Traces*, *Arcadia*, *Suburban Motel*, *Old Love*, *The Hypochondriac*, and *The Crucible*, as well as the *Dora* nominated *Paradise By The River*.



**Lighting Designer Jim Plaxton** has a background in architecture, and over the past 40+ years, he has designed sets and/or lighting and projections for over 500 stage productions [dance, theatre, musicals and opera]. He has received 8 *Dora Mavor Moore Awards* for Outstanding Design, a *Canada Council Grant*, a *Chalmers Award* and *Production Designed* 4 independent feature films, a television documentary and adapted designs from stage plays for television. He served as *Associate Artistic Director* for *Theatre Passe Muraille* in the mid 1980's, architecturally designed the complete renovation of 3 theatres [Toronto, Peterborough & Montreal] as well as





**Sound Technician Alan Cohen** is a pianist, bandleader, accompanist, arranger, music producer and most recently soundtrack composer (film: *St. Lawrence*). Alan led The Alan Cohen Orchestra for twelve years and was Musical Director and resident pianist for over eight years at the Fairmont Royal York. As an established pianist and vocalist, Alan's versatile repertoire covers jazz and blues to R&B, with a soft spot for "saloon tunes". He has performed throughout the U.S. and in every province across Canada. Alan is a proud member of the American Federation of Musicians for over 50 years!



**Rehearsal Stage Manager Lauren Allen** is a storyteller from Treaty 6 Territory (Saskatoon) and she is so delighted and humbled to be among the wonderful creators of *Disarming Venus*. Lauren works as an actor, stage manager, script supervisor, and more. She also provides behavioural rehabilitation for cats and has helped over 30 furry friends find fur-ever homes through Action Volunteers for Animals. You can learn more about her at [lauren-allen.net](http://lauren-allen.net)



**Show Stage Manager Leanna Rose-McLurg** began her theatrical journey by working in community theatre at 15 in Northern Ontario. There she fell in love with behind the scenes on shows such as *Hello Dolly*, *Sound of Music* and *Mary Poppins*. After several years, she moved south to learn more at Sheridan's Technical Production for the Performing Arts and Live Events. While studying, Leanna majored in paint, props and stage management. During her studies, she worked on shows such as *Pippin*, *Concord Floral*, *Nine*, and various *first draft* productions.

### **Additional writers for *Disarming Venus*:**



Victoria Lidia Ilgacs is an Ottawa born artist, now living in Toronto for over 40 years. A self taught artist, who's mediums are abstract drawing, digital photography, writing, poetry. She has been part of group photography shows, winning awards for a number of her pieces. We migrate between two worlds... chaos and order. We're built to see patterns, which are actually stories saying something to us. Key is to see patterns in chaos, so that we can begin to make sense. Using creative mediums, Victoria endeavors to conceptualize the constant interplay between chaos and order, so others can also behold.



**Denise Norman** has spent most of her performing career in Toronto, indulging in small original theatre work, either as actor, singer, director or creator. Her rent was paid by teaching Voice and Text in several colleges and Universities around Toronto. Favourite roles have included Mary Pickford in Dean Burry's one person musical "Sweetheart"; The title role in "The Vile Governess" and H.H. Holmes in "The Good Doctor Holmes and His Children of God".



**Trish O'Reilly-Brennan** is a singer/actor, writer, and arts educator who embraces the adventure of creating new theatre pieces “from scratch.” Performance credits include Sudbury Theatre Centre, the Canadian Opera Company, Tapestry Music Theatre — and the Blyth Festival, where she premiered roles in two new Canadian plays. Trish’s first experience with collective theatre creation was in the popular show *Women in Utero* at the Toronto Fringe Festival in 1992. Since then she has produced and co-created the experimental clown-opera performance piece *The Figaro Project* and written, produced, and performed in *Carrying On*, a script based on real-life stories of Canadian women in WWII.



**Rochelle Porter** was a trained, professional child actor performing on radio, television, in film, and on stage. Career highlights: Last of the Mohicans, the first Hollywood co-production with CBC television; a weekly radio series Peter and the Dwarf; and Emperor's New Clothes, Colonnade Theatre. As an adult, Rochelle managed the communications department connecting Southwestern Ontario audience to CBC. Promotion producer, program marketing coordinator, and public relations, her multimedia marketing campaign for CBC Radio 1550 won an International PromaxBDA Award



**Patricia Tedford** is an actor, director and teacher, Patricia has lived in Montreal, Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa and Sudbury. Her first full length play, *St Ella of the Camino* was written, produced and performed in 2019. She has directed numerous productions at TFS and Laurentian University, and taught Acting and Voice in Ottawa, Sudbury and Toronto. A favorite film project, *Perspective* was developed in yearly chapters over nine years. The Founder/Artistic Director/Producer of Ottawa Lunchbox Theatre 2002-2006, and Text Me Productions since 2011, favorite productions include Faith Healer and Shakespeare's Will. She holds a BFA (Concordia) and MFA in Acting and Voice Teacher Diploma (York).



**Marcia Tratt** has been a writing/producing/acting/directing member of Act 3 Theatre since its nascence during Covid-19 when all meetings took place on Zoom and members didn't meet in-person until our premiere production of The Mary-Go-Round Project at Aki Theatre. Acting credits feature several seasons at the Stratford Festival, plus roles in mega musicals in Toronto, and theatres across Canada. Her varied directing credits include several plays at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia.



**Carole Zorro** was born in Northern Quebec. She graduated from the National Theatre School in Montreal and then studied at the Herbert Berghof Studio in New York City and the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. She has worked at most professional Canadian Theatres in French and English and has appeared in six films. She is married to Dean Hawes, an Actor and Playwright and they have one son, Danann Hawes a Toronto Lawyer and legal book publisher.

**Cast in Alphabetical Order:**

Julie Burris, Heather Cherron, Beth Anne Cole, Rita Shelton Deverell, Michele George, Nina Keogh, Anastasia Kokolakis, Jorie Morrow, Linda Nourse, Dawn Obokata, Morrie Sinkins, Marni Walsh, Tricia Williams.

**Additional writers in Alphabetical Order:**

Trish O'Rielly-Brennan

Victoria Ilgacs

Denise Norman

Rochelle Porter

Patricia Tedford

Marcia Tratt

Carole Zorro

**Creative Team:**

Act 3 Theatre Founder & Producer Marni Walsh

Rehearsed with Marianne Mclsaac

Lighting Designer Jim Plaxton

Sound Designer/Technician Alan Cohen

Rehearsal Stage Manager Lauren Allen

Show Stage Manager Leanna Rose-McLurg

Art Director and Puppet Master Nina Keogh

Fringe Promotional Team: Julie Burris, Jorie Morrow, Tricia Williams

Show Photographer & Program Designer Victoria Ilgacs

