SPECIAL THANKS

Farkhondeh Faramarzi, Katie Ready-Walters, Shenda Tanchak, Rosy Hanna, Don Kendal, Hannah Wayne-Philips, Ward Jardine, Eleanor O’Connor, Maisie Mclean, Coal Mine Theatre (Wes Babcock), Theatre Centre (Natalie Gisele), Cameron Davis, The Bentway/Luminato (Billy Wolf/Sean Baker) and everyone who gave time, energy, and effort to make the show happen.

ACT ONE

Part I: 1889 — Cornwall
Part II: 1908 — Tehran
Part III: 1970 — Hampstead

ACT TWO

Part IV: 2025 — Near Kirkuk, Kurdistan
Part V: 2051 — Cornwall

FEATURING...

SAMANTHA BROWN ..................  Amy
DEBORAH DRAKEFORD .............  Ma Singer
LILY GAO ...............................  Fanny/Fan Wang
RYAN HOLLYMAN ..................  Thomas
CYRUS LANE ........................  Joss
SHADI SHAHKHALILI .............  Anne / Ana / Aminah
COURTENAY STEVENS ..........  Sam / Samuel / Nate
NABIL TRABOULSI ................  William Whitcomb  / Mr. Farouk
BAHAREH YARAGHI ............... May

CREATIVE/PRODUCTION

AVIVA ARMOUR-OSTROFF .....  Director
CHRISTOPHER STANTON .......  Director / Artistic Producer
TAMARA VUCKOVIC ..............  Stage Manager / Assistant Director / Managing Producer
ARIANE BURTIN ....................  Assistant Stage Manager
MADDIE BAUTISTA ................  Sound Designer
NICHOLAS BLAIS ..................  Lighting Designer
JACKIE CHAU ........................  Set & Costume Designer
MELISSA JOAKIM ..................  Video Designer
FARNOOSH TALEBPOUR ........  Head of Props & Wardrobe
SIMON FON ...........................  Fight Director
MATTEO DESIMONE ..............  Technical Director
CRYSTAL LEE ........................  Production Manager
VICTOR POKINKO ..................  Associate Producer
JONELLE GUNDERSON ...........  Social Media Coordinator
JULIA HOWMAN .....................  Post-show Installation Designer / Head of Lighting & Video
JULIA KIM .............................  Scenic Painter
GEOFFREY ARMOUR .............  Crew
WES BABCOCK .....................  Crew
SHANE O’SULLIVAN ...............  Crew
NICK SIMMONS .....................  Crew

ARC presents

the Canadian premiere of

by Ella Hickson

03.08 – 21.03.2020

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LILY GAO
Fanny/Fan Wang

MELISSA JOAKIM
Video Design

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SHANE O’SULLIVAN
Crew

NICK SIMMONS
Crew
Aviva Armour-Ostroff
Director

Aviva works in Toronto as an actor, director, writer, and producer. Most recently, Aviva appeared in ARC’s production of Human Animals, in which the cast was nominated for a Best Ensemble Dora Award. Previously to that, as Tereza in Susanna Fournier’s The Philosopher’s Wife.

Aviva has appeared in three previous ARC productions: Dissidents, Pomona (Dora Award Nomination for Best Ensemble) and Moment (Dora Nomination for Best Performance). Other acting credits include VideoCabaret’s The Great War (Dora Award for Best Ensemble), Berta in Hedda Gabler (Necessary Angel/Canadian Stage), Virginia in Age of Arousal (Factory Theatre), Annie Sullivan in Western Canada Theatre’s The Miracle Worker, and Layne Coleman’s film, The Shape of Rex.

Aviva was the founder and Artistic Director of The Lab Cab Festival for thirteen years. She is a producer and Director of the film adaptation of Michael Healey’s The Drawer Boy. Aviva is in postproduction for her feature film, Lune.
Maddie Bautista is a Bi, Saudi Arabia-born Filipinx sound designer and theatre artist. Maddie has been nominated for a Dora Award for her music in Eraser at RISER 2019, and also nominated for the 2020 Pauline McGibbon Award. Selected sound credits: bug (Theatre Passe Muraille), Wah Wah Wah (Wildside 2020), Private Eyes (lemonTree creations), The Winter's Tale (Shakespeare in the Ruff), Our Fathers, Sons, Lovers, and Little Brothers (b current). Her performance art duo xLq has received the Nightswimming’s 5x25 2017 Commission and NOW Magazine’s Audience Choice Award 2018 for co-creating 4inXchange, which is currently touring across Canada. www.maddiebautista.com
Nick Blais devotes his design efforts to bringing emotive and transformative visuals to life through the never-ending experimentation and exploration of creative risk. Head of Design for Outside the March, Board Member for the Associated Designers of Canada, and Resident Designer for ARC.

Recipient of the 2018 Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Set Design (*Jerusalem*), and featured in Professional Lighting and Production Magazine for his innovation in „off-the-grid“ design and site-specific scenography.

Select credits include: *The Flick, Tape Escape, Dr. Silver, Jerusalem, TomorrowLove, Mr. Burns, Terminus* (Outside the March); *Human Animals, Dissidents, Pomona, Moment* (ARC); *Marjorie Prime, Hand to God, Aliens* (Coal Mine); *Glass Menagerie* (Grand Theatre); *Vespers* (Royal Winnipeg Ballet); *Brantwood* (Sheridan).

Nblaisdesign.com
Samantha is Anishinaabe Ojibwe and European settler descent from Onaping Ontario. She is a graduate of the York University acting conservatory. She has been a part of a few theatre projects in the city and some not in the city. This is Samantha’s first ARC show and couldn’t be more thrilled. Mother daughter relationships can be... (fill in the blank). I want to presence my mother for being a guide, a force, a source of endless love, and a role model in humility. She was a single mother but had lots of help from a community of equally strong and resilient matriarchs who shaped me into the woman I am. Thank you.
With a Master’s Degree from the engineering school IMAC (Image Multimedia Audiovisual and Communication), Ariane Burtin managed projects for a digital communication agency in Paris for several years. Since her arrival in Toronto in 2018, she has been reconnecting her professional background with art fields.
Jackie has been designing sets and costumes in over 200 productions spanning over 20 years. Her work can be seen across Canada and has toured internationally. In addition, she is a production designer and art director for film and television. Selected theatre companies she has worked with include: Theatre Aquarius, NEPA, One Little Goat, Can Stage, Factory Theatre, Theatre Passe Muraille, Fu-Gen, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Nightswimming, Nightwood, Watermark Theatre, Starvox Entertainment, Second City Chicago/Toronto, CBC Kids/Expect Theatre, Manitoba Theatre for Young People, Soulpepper, and the Stratford Festival. Jackie was named in NOW magazine’s Top 10 Theatre Artists of 2009, nominated for the Virginia and Myrtle Cooper Award in Costume Design, nominated for a Saskatoon Area Theatre award, 2 Broadway World awards and has received 8 Dora nominations for outstanding set and costume design.
Deborah Drakeford has been lucky enough to work across Canada from BC to PEI. She is a proud member of ARC and has been a part of the company for 15 years. She has performed in many shows with them, including A Kind of Alaska, The City, Bea, Moment, Pomona and Human Animals.

Other recent credits include The Penelopiad (Grand Theatre), Shirley Valentine (Thousand Islands Playhouse), Portia's Julius Caesar (Shakespeare in the Ruff), Innocence Lost (Soulpepper) and Hedda Noir (Theatre Northwest). Deb has been Dora nominated 8 times (individual and ensemble).

She has also done tv, film, and audiobook recording. Deb holds a BEd and teaches for YPT, Soulpepper and for the TDSB.

She makes her home here in Toronto with her lovely husband, actor Oliver Dennis, and their two amazing kids, Charlotte and Philip.
Matteo started working in theatre in his hometown of Sudbury, Ontario working with YES Theatre on productions such as; Merrily We Roll Along, Violet, James & the Giant Peach and others as a sound designer and Head of Sound. Matteo is eager to grow his experience in Toronto theatre as a freelance technical director and sound designer and is very excited to start with ARC’s production of Oil.
Lily Gao is a Chinese Canadian actor, and artist. She was born and raised in Harbin, China, and studied at the Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute in New York. Lily’s television and film appearances include The Expanse, The Handmaid’s Tale, Through Black Spruce, KIN, Transplant, Letterkenny, Carter, and Die In A Gunfight. She strives to tell stories truthfully, through performance, and art. This is the first play in Canada for Lily, and she is very grateful to share the experience with ARC.
Jonelle is a Toronto-based actor and creator who originally hails from Saskatchewan, and is happy to be joining ARC as the social media coordinator for OIL. She primarily works as an actor in film/tv and theatre; but has also supported various companies as a writer, assistant director and choreographer... and once had to create a beaten-up giraffe costume for a very tall man. She is interested in collaboration and building community—thank you to ARC for the invitation to join theirs.

insta: @jonelle.gunderson
website www.jonellegunderson.com
Ryan Hollyman is a resident artist with Actors Repertory Company and has performed in Human Animals, Pomona and Moment. Recent theatre: Betrayal (Soulpepper), C'mon Angle (Leroy Street), Carried Away on the Crest of a Wave (NAC), Surperior Donuts (Coalmine), A Few Good Men (Aquarius) Helen Lawrence (Canadianstage).

Recent TV/Film: The Expanse (Syfy); The Derecatives, Murdoch Mysteries (CBC); Hudson and Rex (City); Suits (USA); Designated Survivor (ABC); The Strain (FX)
Melissa Joakim is a lighting and projection designer and stage manager in Toronto, Canada. She holds a BFA Spec. Hon.s from York University. She has been nominated for Dora Awards in Lighting Design and Scenic Design and for the Pauline McGibbon Award. Recent credits include: Environmental Design: Prophecy Fog (Theatre Centre and Paper Canoe Projects) Space Cats Invade the Earth (Nuit Blanche North). Lighting and Projection Design: This is the Point (Ahuri Theatre with Theatre Centre); A Side of Dreams (Paper Canoe Projects), Heathers the Musical (Hart House Theatre). Lighting Design: Isitwendam (Native Earth Performing Arts and Theatre Northwest); Balaklava Blues (Self Conscious Productions at Luminato and Latitude Festivals). Projection Design: Dissidents (ARC Stage Company), Flashing Lights (Bad New Days and Ahuri Theatre); Alien Creature (Theatre Passe Muraille).
Cyrus is makes his ARC debut in 'Oil'. Most recently: 'Four Chords and a Gun' (Fleck Theatre, TO/Broadway Playhouse, Chicago), 'Jack and the BeansTalk' (Torrent Productions) and the acclaimed Drayton Festival production of '12 Angry Men'. Toronto favourites include 'Passion Play' (Convergence, Outside the March, Sheep No Wool), 'The De Chardin Project' (Passe Muraille) and 'A Christmas Carol' (Ross Petty Productions). 6 years Stratford Festival. Cyrus plays Rupert Newsome on 'The Murdoch Mysteries' and is a graduate of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. He dreams of the day fossil fuels will be left in the ground.

Aviva Armour-Ostroff / Maddie Bautista / Nick Blais / Samantha Brown / Ariane Burtin / Jackie Chau / Deborah Drakeford / Matteo DeSimone / Lily Gao / Jonelle Gunderson / Ryan Hollyman / Melissa Joakim / Cyrus Lane / Crystal Lee / Victor Pokinko / Shadi Shahkhalili / Christopher Stanton / Courtenay Stevens / Farnoosh Talebpour / Nabil Traboulsi / Tamara Vuckovic / Bahareh Yaraghi
Crystal’s interest in technical theatre and management began in her home province of New Brunswick where she worked as a Theatre Production mentor at the University of New Brunswick. Since then she’s trained in the Opera Management Program at the Banff Centre for the Arts and is a recent graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada. Crystal has also spent a few seasons at the National Arts Centre on the management team, and is currently a freelance Production Manager in Toronto. Recent credits include working with YES Theatre in Sudbury, Cahoots Theatre, Obsidian Theatre, Why Not Theatre, Coal Mine, and The Globe Theatre.
Victor is an award-winning producer, actor, and theatre-creator. As a producer, he is committed to carving out and supporting space for new, inventive, multidisciplinary work to be developed, explored, and shared. He is the Executive Producer of Bad Hats Theatre, the Creative Producer of Bad New Days, and is a Freelance Producer, having produced and consulted with companies like Pea Green Theatre, The Three Men Collective, Goat(H)owl Theatre, Theatre Rusticle, and The Cave Collective. Victor is a graduate from Sheridan College and the University of Toronto.
Shadi Shahkhalili grew up in Iran, Pakistan and England before immigrating to Canada in her teens. Theatre credits include: The Unbelievers (Lace Productions/SummerWorks), Anton in Show Business (Rhizoma Productions), Arash the Archer (Tirgan Festival), The Melville Boys (Just Being Productions). Film and Television: Taken (NBC), To Our Bright White Hearts, Birds in Mourning (Short Film Corner, Cannes Film Festival). Honours B.A, English Literature and Theatre, York University. M.Ed, Social Justice Education, University of Toronto/OISE.
Chris’s stage work has taken him across Canada to Toronto, Edmonton, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Montreal – and internationally to New York, Bogotá, Munich, Brisbane, Dublin, and Vienna. His theatre practice is exceptionally wide-ranging, with the roles he undertakes spanning from director, to performer, writer, sound designer, and composer. He often wears many of these hats for the same project. (Maybe too many hats. Maybe too often. But he’s learning.)

Before taking the lead at ARC, Chris had a hand in running award-winning companies The Room, and UnSpun Theatre – where he developed a name for himself at the forefront of Toronto’s independent scene.

His work is mostly known for its mystery, its humour, its rhythm, and its imaginative staging. He believes that making theatre is a collaborative process, at that it is at its best when it is the product of collision and confluence – of many diverse voices in one room converging on a singular shared creation.

Christopher Stanton has been the Artistic Producer of ARC since 2013.
For years Courtenay has been waiting by the phone for ARC to invite him to play. Finally! In the meantime he’s done other things to look busy. Recent credits include: The Election (Common Boots/TPM), The Cherry Orchard (Modern Times) and The Overcoat: a Musical Tailoring (Tapestry/CanStage/VOC). He also toured as a clown on Dralion with Cirque du Soleil for four years (30+ countries) and to Europe and Asia several times with the wordless, Mr. Bean-meets-Chaplin solo show from Finland - The Pianist (Circo Aereo). Recent TV credits include The Umbrella Academy, The Boys and Suits. Courtenay also works frequently as an educator and facilitator.
Farnoosh She studied Fine Arts Cultural Studies at York University. Out in the real world she finds herself Costuming and Stage Managing. She’s happy to have been involved in the process and hopes it leaves you with lingering thoughts and questions.

Recent Credits include assistant design: Le Club des Éphémères (Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario), Lune (Open City Works Inc), The Election (Common boots Theatre Production/TPM/Nightwood/Theatre Direct), Queen of the Morning Calm (QOTMC Inc), La Seconde Surprise de l’amor (TFT), Design Credits: City Of Angels (Randolph College), Through the Bamboo (Uwi Collective),

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Nabil Traboulsi is a Canadian-Lebanese film, television and stage actor. Born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon, Nabil has lived in many cities around the world and is now happy to call Toronto home. For ARC: Debut.

Recent stage credits include: Vanishing State (London International Festival of Theatre, Kaaitheater Brussels), Sinners on a Southbound Bus (FringeNYC), La Seconde Surprise de l’amour (Théâtre Français de Toronto), Le Menteur (TFT), Les Zinspirés 6 (TFT, Dora nomination for Outstanding Performance - Ensemble). Film/TV: Titans (Warner Bros/Netflix).

Nabil is a graduate of the Meisner conservatory program at the Maggie Flanigan Studio in New York.
Tamara is a Toronto-based Stage Manager who received her BFA in Performance Production from the Ryerson Theatre School. She has been an ARC Resident Artist since 2014. She is also the resident Stage Manager for Off Centre Music Salon. Selected Stage Management credits include: Moment (ARC); The Love Crimes of Frances Lark (Buddies in Bad Times Theatre); Brilliant Traces (Tango Soul); Little Death (The Theatre Centre); Hairspray (LOT); Melancholy Play (The Empty Room); Macbeth (Sterling Theatre Company); True (Criminal Theatre); Tragedy: A Tragedy (SummerWorks Festival); Queer Bathroom Stories (Buddies in Bad Times Theatre); Old Love (Sirius Theatrical); Mrs. Warren’s Profession (Sterling Studio Theatre); The Dreamer Examines His Pillow (JR Theatre Company); Journey’s End (The Empty Room); The Biographer (Tango Co.); The Bundle (Edward Bond Festival).

Tamara is also an emerging Director. She was a recipient of Theatre Ontario’s Professional Theatre Training Program Grants, and made her directorial debut with George F. Walker’s Suburban Motel. Assistant Directing credits include: The Memo (Thought For Food); Boyfriends (Toronto Fringe Festival); Unity 1918 and The Girls Who Saw Everything (Ryerson Theatre School).

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Bahareh has been an ARC company member since 2012, with performances in Bea, Moment, and Pomona. She was most recently seen in Cost of Living, a co-production with The Arts Club & The Citadel.

Other credits: A Doll’s House, Part 2 (Mirvish/RMTC); An Ideal Husband, Julius Caesar, The Aeneid (Stratford Festival); Salt-Water Moon (Why Not); Shakespeare in Love (Citadel/RMTC); Unholy, HER2 (Nightwood); Kiss (Canadian Stage/Theatre Smash/ARC); Death of the King, Blood Wedding, Hallaj (Modern Times); Le Placard, Les Zinspirés2 (TtT); Minotaur (YPT); The Kite Runner (Theatre Calgary/Citadel).

Bahareh is a six-time Dora award nominee (Individual & Ensemble).