

# YOLANDA BONNELL

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Fort William First Nation Status Indian  
 Equity Member

Playwright's Guild of Canada member

Literary agent: Jackie Kaiser, Westwood Creative Artists

## THEATRE PERFORMANCE

<b>Kamloopa (2022)</b>	<i>Edith / Indian Friend #1</i>	Soulpepper / Native Earth Performing Arts	Kim Senklip Harvey
<b>White Girls in Moccasins (2021)</b>	<i>Miskozi</i>	Buddies in Bad Times Theatre / manidoons collective	Cole Alvis, Samantha Brown
<b>bug (2020)</b>	<i>The Girl and others</i>	Theatre Passe Muraille / Native Earth Performing Arts / manidoons collective	Cole Alvis
<b>Two Odysseys: Pimootewin/Gállábártnit(2019)</b>	<i>Narrator / Bear Son</i>	Signal Theatre / Soundstreams	Michael Greyeyes, Cole Alvis
<b>The Unnatural and Accidental Women (2019)</b>	<i>Valerie</i>	NAC Indigenous Theatre	Muriel Miguel, Penny Couchie
<b>Four Sisters (2019)</b>	<i>Doctor 2 / Abby 3</i>	Paradigm Theatre / Luminato Festival	Susanna Fournier
<b>Kamloopa (2018)</b>	<i>Edith/ Indian Friend #1</i>	Western Canada Theatre / Persephone Theatre / Gordon Tootoosis Níkāniwin Theatre	Kim Senklip Harvey
<b>bug (2018)</b>	<i>The Girl and others</i>	Luminato Festival National tour 2018 - 2019	Cole Alvis
<b>White Girls in Moccasins (2018)</b>	<i>Miskozi</i>	Buddies in Bad Times Theatre Rhubarb Festival	Clare Preuss
<b>Cake (2017)</b>	<i>Femi</i>	Theatre Passe Muraille / New Harlem	Clare Preuss
<b>The Breathing Hole (2017)</b>	<i>Ipruq / Atugauq</i>	Stratford Festival	Renelta Arluk
<b>Treasure Island (2017)</b>	<i>Fanny / Roberta</i>	Stratford Festival	Mitchell Cushman
<b>Silenced (2016)</b>	<i>Self</i>	Red Sandcastle Theatre: HERstory Counts	Jennifer Neales
<b>Two Indians (2016)</b>	<i>Roe</i>	Summerworks 2016	Jessica Carmichael
<b>Zahgidiwin/Love (2016)</b>	<i>Namid – staged reading</i>	bCurrent – rock.paper.sistahz Fest	Frances Koncan
<b>The Crackwalker (2016)</b>	<i>Theresa</i>	Factory Theatre	Judith Thompson
<b>bug (2016)</b>	<i>The Girl/Manidoons</i>	NEPA Weesagachek Festival	Cole Alvis
<b>Approaching Zero (2016)</b>	<i>Theresa/Witness</i>	Humber Theatre - Calm, Cool & Collective	Collective
<b>This Side of Heaven (2015)</b>	<i>Rose/Venus</i>	Humber Theatre	Varrick Grimes, Keirsten Tough
<b>The Fight (2014)</b>	<i>Student</i>	Humber Theatre	Marie Beath Badian

Twelfth Night (2014)	<i>Sir Toby Belch</i>	Humber Theatre	Paul Dejong, Cathy Mckinnon
The Poe Project (2013)	<i>Angel of the Odd</i>	Humber Theatre	Tatianna Jennings
The Laramie Project (2010)	<i>Zubaida/Barbara/Catherine/Tiffany</i>	Cambrian Players	Michael Sobota
RENT (2010)	<i>Coat vendor/Chorus</i>	Applauze Productions	Spencer Hari, Denise Krawczuk
Albertine in Five Times (2010)	<i>Albertine at 30 – staged reading</i>	Occasional Arts Productions	Heather Esdon
Halo (2009)	<i>Pearl/Fanny</i>	Cambrian Players	Gabe Ferrazzo
The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas (2009)	<i>Jewel</i>	Frankly Scarlet Productions	Allison Miecznikowski
Vagina Monologues (2008)	<i>Performer</i>	Frankly Scarlet Productions	Heather Esdon
Trigger Happy (2008)	<i>Sonia Wolfe – staged reading</i>	NB Films Legacy	Andrew Paulsen
Steel Magnolias (2008)	<i>Truvy</i>	Frankly Scarlet Productions	Jesica McNabb

### WORKSHOPS / SCENE STUDIES

<u>Kuiryaq design workshop (2024)</u>	<i>Marie</i>	<i>Akpik Theatre</i>	Reneltha Arluk
Animikiig Creator's Unit (2019)	<i>Various</i>	<i>Native Earth Performing Arts</i>	Quelemlia Sparrow, Tai Amy Grauman
Indigenous Text Workshop (2019)	<i>Various</i>	<i>Stratford Festival</i>	Keith Barker, Aria Evans
Pawâkan Macbeth (2018)	<i>Keskore</i>	<i>Stratford Festival</i>	Reneltha Arluk
Animikiig Creator's Unit (2018)	<i>Various</i>	<i>Native Earth Performing Arts</i>	Ty Sloane, Audrey Dwyer, Jani Lauzon
Indigenous Director's Initiative (2016)	<i>Various</i>	<i>Stratford Festival</i>	Keira Loughran, Muriel Miguel, Jill Carter, David Latham, Santee Smith, Cathy Mackinnon, Yvette Nolan
The Election (2015 – 2019)	<i>Sky</i>	<i>Common Boots Theatre</i>	Jennifer Brewin
54ology (2015)	<i>Various</i>	<i>New Harlem</i>	Yvette Nolan
Poetry Project (2015)	<i>Ensemble</i>	<i>Humber Theatre</i>	Richard Lee, Clare Preuss
Street Scene (2014)	<i>Mrs. Olsen/Mrs. Jones</i>	<i>Humber Theatre</i>	Diana Belshaw
The Oresteia (2014)	<i>Cassandra</i>	<i>Humber Theatre</i>	Alex McLean, Marissa Zinni
The Beaux' Stratagem (2014)	<i>Mrs. Sullen</i>	<i>Humber Theatre</i>	Kelly McEvenue
Machinal (2013)	<i>Stenographer/Nurse</i>	<i>Humber Theatre</i>	Nancy Palk

### FILM / TELEVISION / ONLINE / VOICE PERFORMANCE

Audio book: Small Ceremonies (2025)	<i>Tannyce Shields</i>	Penguin Random House Canada	Jaclyn Gruenberger
Time Rebuilt (2023)	<i>Soldier</i>	Other Hearts / Rabiya Mansoor	Lora Campbell
Audio book: A Grandmother Begins the Story (2023)	<i>Betsy</i>	Penguin Random House Canada	Sonia Vaillant
Audio book: Book of Rain (2022)	<i>Speaker</i>	Penguin Random House Canada	Beverly Cooper
All the Colours (2022)	<i>Maya</i>	Bad Shorts 5 senses digital short, Bad Hats Theatre	Fiona Sauder, Matt Piliapiak

<b>Dreamer &amp; the Turtle (2022)</b>	<i>Auntie</i>	New Bad Ideas digital short, Bad Hats Theatre	Fiona Sauder, Matt Pilipiak
<b>Audio book: bug (2022)</b>	<i>The Girl and others</i>	Scirocco Publishing	Glenda Mcfarland
<b>Centennial College Academic Upgrading (2020)</b>	<i>Voice over</i>	Teeva Media	Molly Donovan
<b>Music Video: You by Jean Paul DeRoover (2010)</b>	<i>Dancer/Party guest</i>	Applewagon Films	Curtis Jensen

## WRITER / CREATOR

### THEATRE

#### *bug*

- Recorded Audio book by Scirocco Publishing, 2022
- Published by Scirocco Publishing, Oct 2020 – *shortlisted for Governor General Literary Awards, Fiction*
- Produced at Theatre Passe Muraille in partnership with Native Earth Performing Arts and manidoons collective in February of 2020
- Performed in Superior Robinson Treaty Territory, Fall 2019
- Performed at Kainai High School, Kainai First Nation January 2019
- Performed at High Performance Rodeo, Treaty 7 Territory, January 2019
- Dora Nominated 2019 – *performance in a lead role, new play, outstanding production, lighting design*
- Performed at Luminato Festival, Toronto June 2018
- Performed at rEvolver Festival, Vancouver BC May 2018
- Performed at UNOfest, Victoria BC May 2018
- Workshop residency and performance at Summerworks August 2016
- Excerpt staged at Rhubarb Festival, Buddies in Bad Times Feb 2016
- Excerpt staged at Weesageechak Begins to Dance, Native Earth Performing Arts Nov 2015

Support: *Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, National Arts Centre – The Collaborations, Native Women in the Arts, Luminato Festival*

#### ***White Girls in Moccasins***

- Published by Scirocco Publishing, 2023
- Produced at frank theatre with Talking Stick Festival and Full Circle: First Nations Performance 2022
- Produced at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre with manidoons collective 2022
- Two-week workshop and public reading, Buddies in Bad Times with manidoons collective, February 2019
- Excerpt staged at 2 Spirit Cabaret, Buddies in Bad Times with Native Earth Performing Arts, November 2018
- Excerpt staged at 39<sup>th</sup> Rhubarb Festival, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, February 2018
- Developed at Banff Playwright's Lab, Banff Centre for the Arts April 2018
- Excerpt staged at Weesageechak Begins to Dance, Native Earth Performing Arts, November 2016
- Developed as part of the Animikiig Creator's Unit, Native Earth Performing Arts 2016-2017

Support: *Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts*

#### ***My Sister's Rage***

- Published in *Staging Coyote's Dream, an anthology of Indigenous theatre and performance works vol 3*, Playwrights Canada Press, Co-edited by Monique Mojica, Ric Knowles and Dr. Lindsay Lachance
- Produced at Tarragon Theatre in partnership with Studio 180 and TO Live, fall 2023
- Winner of the 2021 Tom Hendry Award for Drama; included in the 2021 PGC Tom Hendry Awards Shortlisted Play Collection
- One week workshop, supported by TO Live and Studio 180 2021
- Developed at the 2019 Gros Morne Playwrights' Residency in Newfoundland with Playwright's Workshop Montreal

Support: *Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, TO Live*



*Saint Sebastian's Theme*  
*Simone's Attic Adventures*  
*The Aerostat*  
*The Countess' Theme*

Commissioned by lemonTree Creations for *Lilies, or the Revival of a Romantic Drama*  
 Reimagined into songs by Deanna Choi for the production 2019

*McIntyre*  
*Nibi*

Commissioned by Black Ice Sound for the Canadian Chamber Choir for *Where Waters Meet 2017*  
 Reimagined into songs by Carmen Braden  
 Toured East and North Canada 2017 – 2019

*Red Waters*

published in Red Rising Magazine, 2017

*Anishinaabe Kwe 1 & 2*  
*Blood Cells, Pow Wow*  
*Red Waters. Turtle Island*

Commissioned by Spectrum Music Collective for *Tales from Turtle Island 2017*  
 Reimagined into songs by Olivia Shortt and performed live

## PLAYS IN DEVELOPMENT

### **Scanner**

- The Bedrock Creator's Initiative at Factory Theatre 2020
- Dramaturgy by Matt McGeachy 2016 - 2020
- Playwright in Residence with piece at Factory Theatre 2018/2019
- Staged reading as a part of *Sparks Fly*, Factory Theatre March 2018
- Continued development as part of Deep Development unit, Factory Theatre 2016-2018
- Staged reading at Springworks Festival, Stratford Oct 2017
- Workshopped as part of *The Other Side Project* with second year theatre students at Humber College under guidance of Marie Beath Badian and Matt McGeachy, Nov 2016
- Excerpt reading at ACTRA Diversity *Working the Scene in Colour* July 2016
- Excerpt reading as a part of *Sparks Fly*, Factory Theatre June 2016
- Developed as part of The Foundry, a new creator's unit, Factory Theatre 2015-2016

Support: *Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, Elliot Hayes Playwright Development Fund: Tyrone Guthrie Awards, Stratford 2017*

### ***The Eighth Fire Series: The Great Migration and Bagosenim/Have Hope***

- Workshop and read – Suitcase in Point, In the Soil Arts Festival, 2024
- Workshop and read – Nightwood's Groundswell Festival, 2023
- Developed at Banff Playwright's Lab, Banff Centre for the Arts, April 2022
- One week workshop at Native Earth Performing Arts supported by Nightwood Theatre and a private donor 2022
- Developed at Banff Playwright's Lab, Banff Centre for the Arts online April 2021
- Selected from commission pitches for Nightwood Theatre 2020

Support: *Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, Kate Amesbury*

### ***Savaugesse; a wild love story***

- *Commission from frank theatre*

Support: *frank theatre, Ontario Arts Council RGTC*

## PUBLISHED ARTICLES

*The Importance of Indigenous Storytelling:*  
*A Conversation between Devery Jacobs and Yolanda Bonnell*  
*She Does the City*, August 2021  
 Edited by Jen McNeely

*Artist Self Care: Making Space for Your Full Self*

She Does the City, April 2021

Edited by Jen McNeely

*This Isn't Funny; or how I became a cafe tycoon sensation*

Open studios - Queer, Far, wherever you are; Buddies in Bad Times blog, May 2020

*How I'm Falling in Love with Myself in Isolation*

She Does the City, May 2020

Edited by Jen McNeely

*Why I'm Asking White Critics to Not Review My Show*

Vice Magazine, February 2020

Edited by Cole Alvis

*Fat Is Not a Bad Word: The Battle with My Body*

She Does the City, September 2018

Edited by Jen McNeely

*The Strength and Resilience of Indigenous Women*

She Does the City, August 2018

Edited by Jen McNeely

*Something Is About to Happen: How I Faced My Cancer Head-On*

She Does the City, July 2018

Edited by Jen McNeely

*The City with Two Faces:*

*A Response and Recollection about Seven Fallen Feathers and Thunder Bay*

She Does the City, July 2018

Edited by Jen McNeely

*The Magic of Rhubarb*

40th Rhubarb Festival - Buddies in Bad Times blog, June 2018

Published in anniversary brochure, 40 Years of Queer, 2018

## DIRECTING

*Bones of a Giant* by Brian Thomas Isaac

Penguin Random House – Audio book (2025)

*Small Ceremonies* by Kyle Edwards

Penguin Random House – Audio book (2025)

*Co-Existence* by Billy Ray Belcourt

Penguin Random House – Audio book (2024)

*The Big Splash* by Angela Ahn

Penguin Random House – Audio book (2024)

*The Exhale* by Lisa Alves (*workshop*)

Surge Theatre (2024)

*Swimming into Trouble* by Angela Ahn

Penguin Random House – Audio book (2024)

*Moon of the Turning Leaves* by Waubgeshig Rice

Penguin Random House – Audio book (2023)

<i>My Sister's Rage</i>	Tarragon Theatre / Studio 180 / TO Live (2022)
<i>White Girls in Moccasins – staged reading</i>	manidoons collective / Buddies in Bad Times Theatre (2019)
<i>Plum Bomb</i> by Bilal Baig	Paprika Festival (2016)
<i>Jesus Christ Superstar – AD/SM</i>	Migliazza Productions (2013)
<i>True Directions</i>	New Noise Productions (2011)
<i>A Memory, Monologue, Rant &amp; a Prayer</i>	Frankly Scarlet Productions (2009)

## ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

### **Part Time Faculty** **Sheridan College 2020, 2021**

- *Facilitator of Creative Acting Project class*

### **Juror**

- **NTS Theatre Festival – high schools** **2018, 2019**
- **TAC project and operating grants** **2017, 2019, 2020, 2024**

### **Producer**

**manidoons collective 2017 – present**  
**Animikii Creations 2024 - present**

- *A circle of artists creating Indigenous performance. Shared artistic leadership includes Yolanda Bonnell (Ojibwe-South Asian) and Carmen Alvis (Métis) both based in Tkarón:to.*
- *Producing tasks include grant writing, manage budgets up to \$60,000, negotiating contracts, tour organizing, ensuring safety and care for cast and creative teams*

### **Administrative Assistant / Artistic Associate**

**Native Earth Performing Arts 2015 – 2017**

- *Administrative duties including answering phones, file organizations*
- *Box office and front of house*
- *Tour coordination*
- *Grant juror*
- *Weesagachek Begins to Dance festival curator*

### **Student Liaison**

**Humber Theatre, summer 2014**

- *Orientated first year theatre students into the performance program; answered questions, assisting with registration under direction of program coordinator*
- *Assisted with audition process for theatre performance program; registered potential students, answered questions, toured the facility*

## WORKSHOP FACILITATOR

### **Storytelling**

- *Weesagachek Begins to Dance Festival 36 storytelling workshop, 2023*
- *Studio 180's In Class series, creation workshops with high school students in the GTA based around themes in *My Sister's Rage* and land-based storytelling, 2020-2024*

- Urban Land Based Institute, City of Toronto 2022
- bug tour - workshops for Indigenous youth, women and 2 Spirit folks in tandem with each stop, 2018 – 2020.  
Worked with local friendship centers and hired Indigenous liaisons from each community
  - Victoria, BC – Intrepid Theatre 2018
  - Vancouver, BC – The Cultch 2018
  - Toronto, ON – Luminato Festival 2018
  - Calgary, AB – High Performance Rodeo 2019
  - Kainai First Nation – Kainai High School 2019
  - Thunder Bay, ON – FWFN, Cambrian Players 2019
  - Toronto, ON – Theatre Passe Muraille 2020
- AVNU youth workshop, Thunder Bay 2016

### **Acting/Performance**

- Brampton Performing Arts, Center Stage Conservatory Program for youth, 2021 – 2024

### **Self Creation**

- Suitcase in Point Electric Innovations for youth, 2023, 2024
- University of Toronto Theatre & Social Justice class, 2022
- The Art of Negotiation, It's All Queer Pride sessions, 2022
- Crossing Gibraltar; creation residency for refugees and newcomers, Cahoots Theatre, 2021
- York University Acting class, 2019

### **Playwrighting/Poetry**

- University of Toronto TDS BIPOC student association, 2023, 2024
- Jayu Poetry Unit – 4-week facilitation, 2021

### **Land Based/Land Acknowledgement**

- City of Toronto's Cycling and Pedestrian Projects unit, 2023
- University of Toronto Contemporary Avant Garde Class, 2022
- Musical Stage Co. Marquee, 2021
- Theatre Direct Forward March Festival (as manidoons collective) 2020
- Paprika Festival, 2018 - 2020 - youth

## **DRAMATURGY/MENTORSHIP**

Workshop of *Chez Moi* by Elizabeth Staples, 2025

Workshop of *Does that Make me Crazy* by Syrus Marcus Ware, 2024

Weesagachek Begins to Dance Festival 36 mentor, *Dreamer and the Turtle* by Dakota Ray Hebert, 2023

TAC Newcomer and Refugee Artist Mentorship Program, *Broken Sea* by Paz Jarudo, 2023

Zee Zee Theatre Queer and Trans Playwrighting Unit, *One Heart and Sev* by Smokii Sumac, 2023

Intrepid Theatre, *Ethnically Ambiguous* by Danica Charlie, 2022

Playwright's Atlantic Resource Center, *Koqm* by Shalan Joudry, 2022



## ACCOLADES / NOMINATIONS

Shortlisted – Johanna Metcalf Performing Arts Prize 2024

Nominated – TAC Indigenous Arts Award, 2023

Nominated – OAC Indigenous Arts Award, 2023

2022 Dora Mavor Moore Awards Nominated – Outstanding Performance in a Featured Role, *Kamloopa*

Winner of the Playwright's Guild of Canada Tom Hendry Award for Drama 2021, *My Sister's Rage*

Shortlisted for the Governor General Literary Awards 2020, *bug*

Winner of the 2020 Jayu Arts for Human Rights Award (Indigenous Artist)

2020 Dora Mavor Moore Awards Nominated - Outstanding Performance by an Individual, *Two Odysseys: Pimootewin/Gállábárnit*

2019 Dora Mavor Moore Awards Nominated - Outstanding performance in a lead role, Outstanding new play, Outstanding production, *bug*

2018 Jessie Richardson Awards Nominated - Outstanding Ensemble, *Kamloopa*

## EDUCATION & CREATOR'S UNITS

**Bedrock Playwright's Initiative 2020-2022**

Factory Theatre, *Mel Hague*

**Playwright in Residence 2019/2020**

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, *Mel Hague*

**Playwright in Residence 2018/2019**

Factory Theatre, *Matt McGeachy*

**Blind Imaginings 2018**

Accessibility workshop, *Alex Bulmer*

**Deep Development Program 2016-2017**

Factory Theatre, *Nina Lee Aquino*

**Animikiig Creator's Unit 2016 – 2018**

Native Earth Performing Arts, *Diana Belshaw*

**The Foundry 2015-2016**

Factory Theatre, *Nina Lee Aquino*

**Approaching New Plays 2015**

Native Earth, *Elley Ray Hennessy*

**Spoken Word 2015**

Humber, *Donna-Michelle St. Bernard*

**Humber College School for the Creative and Performing Arts**

Advanced Diploma

**– Theatre Performance 2015**

Awards: *Barndt-Sweetman Scholarship Award, Mark Schoenberg Award, Humber Theatre Award, The Board of Governors Achievement Award*