

# 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 (2023)</b>	<i>Edith / Indian Friend #1</i>	Soulpepper / Native Earth Performing Arts	Kim Senklip Harvey
<b>White Girls in Moccasins (2023)</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 Nīkānīwin 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	Reneltta 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
<b>Twelfth Night (2014)</b>	<i>Sir Toby Belch</i>	Humber Theatre	Paul Dejong, Cathy Mckinnon
<b>The Poe Project (2013)</b>	<i>Angel of the Odd</i>	Humber Theatre	Tatianna Jennings
<b>The Laramie Project (2010)</b>	<i>Zubaida/Barbara/Catherine/Tiffany</i>	Cambrian Players	Michael Sobota
<b>RENT (2010)</b>	<i>Coat vendor/Chorus</i>	Applauze Productions	Spencer Hari, Denise Krawczuk
<b>Albertine in Five Times (2010)</b>	<i>Albertine at 30 – staged reading</i>	Occasional Arts Productions	Heather Esdon
<b>The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas (2009)</b>	<i>Jewel</i>	Frankly Scarlet Productions	Allison Miecznikowski
<b>Vagina Monologues (2008)</b>	<i>Performer</i>	Frankly Scarlet Productions	Heather Esdon
<b>Trigger Happy (2008)</b>	<i>Sonia Wolfe – staged reading</i>	NB Films Legacy	Andrew Paulsen
<b>Steel Magnolias (2008)</b>	<i>Truvy</i>	Frankly Scarlet Productions	Jesica McNabb

### WORKSHOPS / SCENE STUDIES

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

**FILM / TELEVISION / ONLINE / VOICE PERFORMANCE**

<b>Audio book: A Grandmother Begins the Story (2023)</b>	<i>Betsy</i>	Penguin Random House Canada	
<b>Audio book: Book of Rain (2022)</b>	<i>Speaker</i>	Penguin Random House Canada	
<b>All the Colours (2022)</b>	<i>Maya</i>	Bad Shorts 5 senses digital short, Bad Hats Theatre	Fiona Sauder, Matt Pilipiak
<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>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, Canadian 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, Canadian Council for the Arts*

***My Sister's Rage***

- Upcoming publication 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*

**SHORT PLAYS / MONOLOGUES**

***Ancestor Dream Bath***    *This Inescapable City* online and in person series, commissioned by Probably Theatre, 2022

***Waazakone***                      Filmed performance released late 2023  
 Maps of Utopia anthology, commissioned by frank theatre, 2022 – 2023  
 Dramaturgy by Fay Nass

***Inose/Field Trip***                ASL interpreted version part of CoMotion Festival 2022  
*Imagining Climates* soundwalk, commissioned by Natasha Greenblatt, 2021  
 Dramaturgy by Natasha Greenblatt

***Medicine Wheel***                Created for Embodying Power and Place, commissioned by New Harlem and Nightwood Theatre  
 Dramaturgy by Donna Michelle St. Bernard

***Zaka'an***                            Upcoming publication in 2SLGBTQIA+ monologue anthology, Playwrights Canada Press Co-edited  
 by Evan Tsitsias and Bilal Baig  
 Created for QueerCab, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre 2021

***Drip***                                 Lighting the Way: an anthology of short plays about the climate crisis, 2019 (commission)  
 Published by Centre for Sustainable Practice in the Arts and The Arctic Cycle, 2020 Edited by  
 Chantal Bilodeau and Thomas Peterson

**COLLECTIVE CREATION / CO-WRITING*****The Election***

- Produced at Theatre Passe Muraille with Common Boots Theatre 2019
- Co-written with Natasha Greenblatt, 2018 – 2019
- Workshopped with Common Boots Theatre 2015 – 2019

**Balloon House Entertainment series**

- Invited to be in writer's room for *Bunker Buds* (in development) (2021)
- Invited back to write episode 3 and further treatments for other episodes (2021)
- Invited to be in writer's room for *Miss Persona* (2022)

**POETRY**

- Soft Spaces* Commissioned for *Fat Studies in Canada: (Re) Mapping the Field*  
Edited by Allison Taylor, Kelsey Ioannoni, Ramanpreet Annie Bahra, Calla Evans,  
Amanda Sriver, May Friedman  
Inanna Publications, 2023
- 12 Houses* Commissioned by Carte Blanche magazine, creative non-fiction  
Published online 2022
- My Veins are Made of Tree Branches* Commissioned by TO Live for *Transformations Project* – online 2020
- 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***

- Currently in final development phase with Factory Theatre 2023, dramaturgy by Mel Hague
- 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***

- 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: *Canadian Council for the Arts*

***Superior Project (working title)***

- Seed commission from Stratford Festival

**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

Moon of the Turning Leaves audio book (2023)	Penguin Random House
My Sister's Rage (2022)	Tarragon Theatre / Studio 180 / TO Live
White Girls in Moccasins – <i>staged reading</i> (2019)	manidoons collective / Buddies in Bad Times Theatre
Plum Bomb (2016)	Paprika Festival
Jesus Christ Superstar – <i>AD/SM</i> (2013)	Migliazza Productions
True Directions (2011)	New Noise Productions
A Memory, Monologue, Rant & a Prayer (2009)	Frankly Scarlet Productions

## 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

### Producer

manidoons collective 2017 – present

- *A circle of artists creating Indigenous performance. Shared artistic leadership includes Yolanda Bonnell (Ojibwe-South Asian) and Cole 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

- Studio 180's In Class series, creation workshops with high school students in the GTA based around themes in *My Sister's Rage*, 2020-2023
- 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 – 2023

### **Self Creation**

- Suitcase in Point Electric Innovations for youth, 2023
- 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

### **Playwriting/Poetry**

- University of Toronto TDS BIPOC student association, 2023
- 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**

Zee Zee Theatre Queer and Trans Playwriting 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**

Nominated – OAC Indigenous Arts Award, 2023

2023 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/Gállábártnit*

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**

<b>Bedrock Playwright's Initiative 2020-2022</b>	Factory Theatre, <i>Mel Hague</i>
<b>Playwright in Residence 2019/2020</b>	Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, <i>Mel Hague</i>
<b>Playwright in Residence 2018/2019</b>	Factory Theatre, <i>Matt McGeachy</i>
<b>Blind Imaginings 2018</b>	Accessibility workshop, <i>Alex Bulmer</i>
<b>Deep Development Program 2016-2017</b>	Factory Theatre, <i>Nina Lee Aquino</i>
<b>Animikiig Creator's Unit 2016 – 2018</b>	Native Earth Performing Arts, <i>Diana Belshaw</i>
<b>The Foundry 2015-2016</b>	Factory Theatre, <i>Nina Lee Aquino</i>
<b>Approaching New Plays 2015</b>	Native Earth, <i>Elley Ray Hennessy</i>
<b>Spoken Word 2015</b>	Humber, <i>Donna-Michelle St. Bernard</i>
<b>Humber College School for the Creative and Performing Arts – <i>Theatre Performance 2015</i></b>	Advanced Diploma Awards: <i>Barndt-Sweetman Scholarship Award, Mark Schoenberg Award, Humber Theatre Award, The Board of Governors Achievement Award</i>