

### Production Dramaturg Note:

If the play is about courage  
Then the play is about fear  
You must be scared

If the play is about talking  
Then the play is about silence  
What lives there?

If the play is about being understood  
Then the play is about being misunderstood  
What would you like them to know about you? What's your truth?

If the play is about shame  
Then the play is about pride  
What parts of you do you claim  
Which do you not

If the play is about small talk  
Then the play is about the void that exists in all of us  
The one that holds everything, that empties you out  
That you hover above, that you scream at and cry to and bargain  
with and turn from and embrace

In the face of it you are nothing, a speck, or a wild animal, rabid, tail  
between your legs whimpering for survival  
Because you want to live  
Desperately  
You want to live

Despite the fear  
Despite the silence  
Despite the shame  
Besides the constant misunderstanding  
The hiding  
You know you want to live

If the play is about living  
Then the play is about fighting  
Zoë Heffring

### FULL-TIME FACULTY

Meghan Moe Beitiks, *Assistant Professor*  
Raymond Marius Boucher, *Senior Lecturer*  
Ana Cappelluto, *Professor*  
Jessica Carmichael, *Associate Professor*  
Shana Carroll, *Artist-in-Residence*  
Noah Drew, *Associate Professor; Department Chair*  
Lesley Ewen, *Artist-in-Residence*  
Peter Farbridge, *Artist-in-Residence*  
Gene Gibbons, *Associate Professor*  
Shauna Janssen, *Associate Professor*  
Ursula Neuerburg-Denzer, *Associate Professor*  
Robert Reid, *Associate Professor*  
Luis C. Sotelo Castro, *Associate Professor*  
Warona Setshwaelo, *Artist-in-Residence*  
Mark Sussman, *Professor*  
Emma Tibaldo, *Artist-in-Residence*

### ADJUNCT PROFESSORS

Kevin Pinvidic, Raissa Simone

### PART-TIME FACULTY 2023/24

Leslie Baker, Suzanne Cerreta, Elisabeth Couture, Janet Feindel,  
Jean-François Gagnon, Amy Keith, Amanda Kellock, Mark Krupa,  
Gabriela Petrov, Rose Plotek, Koby Rogers Hall, Harry Standjofski,  
Alessandro Simari, Liz Valdez

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Maud David Lerebours, *Department Administrator*  
Karl Lebel Viens, *Department Assistant*  
Katherine Scribner, *Department Assistant*  
Samantha Treglia, *Receptionist & Office Assistant*

### Visual Poster Design for Season 2023-24

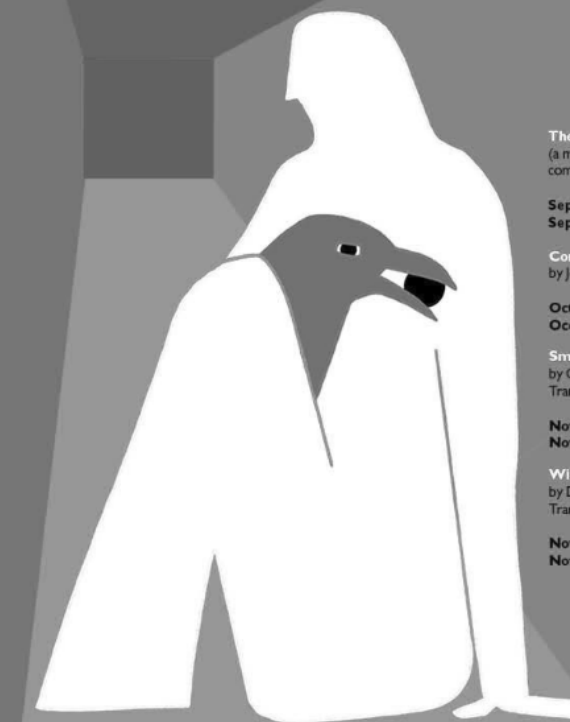
By Rim Fekhar  
Supervision by Raymond Marius Boucher

The Department of Theatre presents

## STAGED READINGS

OF CANADIAN  
CONTEMPORARY PLAYS

Directed by Emma Tibaldo



*The Birds*  
(a modern adaptation of Aristophanes' comedy) by Yvette Nolan

September 28th, 2023 at 7:30pm  
September 30th, 2023 at 3pm

*Concord Floral*  
by Jordan Tannahill

October 21st, 2023 at 3pm  
October 24th, 2023 at 7:30pm

*Small Talk*  
by Carole Fréchette  
Translated by John Murrell

November 7th, 2023 at 7:30pm  
November 9th, 2023 at 7:30pm

*Wildfire*  
by David Paquet  
Translated by Leanna Brodie

November 28th, 2023 at 7:30pm  
November 30th, 2023 at 7:30pm



MAKING THINGS  
HAPPEN  
THAT MATTER.

CONCORDIA  
FINE ARTS



November 7, 2023 7:30pm  
November 9, 2023 7:30pm

John Molson Building  
1450 Guy St, Montreal MB 7.270

[concordia.ca/theatre](https://concordia.ca/theatre)

## Small Talk

### CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright- Carole Fréchette

Translator- John Murrell

Director- Emma Tibaldo

Stage Manager- Oliver Gullikson

Production Dramaturg- Zoë Heffring

Set Decor- Natalie Harrison

Designer, Lights- Gill Hurd

Designer, Sound- Eric Von Arx

Technical Director- Elisabeth Nyveen

Board Operator- Bella Jenkin

Production Assistant- Angela Millette, Ines Mentec

### CAST

Julie- Sarah Rodricks

Timothy, Ian- Noah Kaulbach

Narrator- Julien DaSilva

Queenie (Julie's mother)- Madeline Savoie

Charlie (Julie's brother), Marvin- Schuyler Garfield

Galina (Charlie's girlfriend), Rachel- Esmé Steadman Gantous

Earl (Julie's father), Larry- Jackson Thompson

Kristin (Earl's second wife), Coach, Anita, Sylvia- Anika Paterson

Sheila (Julie's co-worker), Janet, Marguerite- Violette Perron

Dean (Julie's co-worker), Frank, Ernie, Kevin- Milo Chauveau

Emmett Goodman, John, George, Luke-TV Director- Joseph

d'espinoze de Lacailliere

**Special thanks** to Carole Fréchette for speaking to us about her work, and her process of writing this beautiful play. This play examines our human struggle to communicate.

Thank you to the following musical contributions: The Riddle Song, cover by Doc Watson and Put your Head on my Shoulders by Paul Anka.

### Sound Design note:

The silence in this play is immense. As the sound designer this stumped me for a bit. But what unlocked it was THE VOID! THE VOID is something that I believe we all go through one way or another. The void is scary, some learn how to deal with it. Some chose to ignore it. But some chose to face it. Overall, my training as an actor is something I wanted to put into sound. How can sound be a character. Someone who is scary at first but becomes something completely different as the script and the actors make their choices. I hope for all of us to not run away from the void, not to ignore it. But face it, face it and you might even end up changing not just your life but someone else's too.  
Eric Von Arx

### Lighting Design note:

Darkness drowns. Darkness silences everything. It catches in your throat and suffocates. Darkness is all encompassing. But Small Talk is not about darkness. Small Talk is a flicker of light in the face of overwhelming dark. A flame trying against odds to stay lit in a hurricane of solitude. Connection is our anchor. But how do we go on when connection fails? When you're stumbling around in the dark, silent and alone, what can you do? Be courageous. The light is always there if you have the courage to find it.  
Gill Hurd

**Content advisory:** During this play we will see characters struggle with suicidal ideation, and describe a suicide that occurred before the events of the play. Additionally, an implied suicide will occur onstage. This play also contains a description of gun violence, as well as sexually explicit language.

The play is two hours in length, with no-intermission.

## PRODUCTION

### STAFF

Jen Strahl, *Supervisor; Performance Production and Venues Faculty of Fine Arts*

Peter Cerone, *Technical Coordinator; Multimedia*

Jon Cleveland, *Technical Coordinator; Lighting*

Tristynn Duheme, *Stage Supervisor; Concordia Theatre*

John Davis, *Stage Supervisor; Loyola Campus Performance Venues*

HeatherEllen Strain, *Performance Production Assistant; Front of House & Box Office Coordinator*

### COSTUME SHOP

Laura Acosta, *Head of Costume Shop*

### SCENE SHOP

Marlène Lucas, *Head of Scene Shop*

### PROPERTIES SHOP

Dominique Coughlin, *Head of Properties Shop*

### COMING UP NEXT:



**November 8-10, 2023**