

THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE
PRESENTS:

DON'T CRY WHEN CONSTELLATIONS BEG TO BURN



MAKING THINGS
HAPPEN
THAT MATTER.

CONCORDIA
FINE ARTS

April 10 at 7:30pm (Opening)

April 11 at 1:30pm

April 11 at 7:30pm

at the Concordia Theatre

DON'T CRY WHEN CONSTELLATIONS BEG TO BURN

BY HO KA KEI / JEFF HO

CREATIVE TEAM

Director – Sophie Gee
Assistant Director – Mélyssa Oubrayrie
Stage Manager – Eva Loren
Assistant Stage Manager – Beck Creasey
Assistant Stage Manager – Isabella Jenkin

Set Designer – Jiyeon Lee
Assistant Set Designer – Elaf Wehbe
Costume Designer – Mia Rideout
Assistant Costume Designer – Olivia Steer
Assistant Costume Designer – Taïga Troy
Daneau
Lighting Designer – Kris Hodder
Assistant Lighting Designer – Linya Zhang
Props Designer – Stella-Charles Fisher
Assistant Props Designer – Kimberly Müller
Assistant Props Designer – Charlotte Pezeril
Projection Designer – Nadia Agredi
Sound Designer – Lea Spatz
Assistant Sound Designer – Taras Petryk

PERFORMERS

(IN ALPHABETICAL
ORDER)

Clarisse Bell
Jake Blom
Amelia Campbell-Reidhead
Charlie Cash
Ronan Chassin de Kergommeaux
Laure-Anais Chroné
Quinn de Pencier
Zoe Dupasquier
Kristina Fragias
Emma Goodfellow
Iris Guillemin
Jessica Halpern
Naomi Hoedemaker-Purvis
Rose Kain-Waterman
Sofia T. Occhipinti
Fisher Robinson
Lottie Sleath
Quinn Vinneau

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

First, let me address the setting. I was born and raised in Canada, and my arts education was very Euro-centric. This is something I am set on changing. With expanding the repertoire of plays performed by theatre schools, we come upon a dilemma: many racialized playwrights, for a good reason, write for their own cultural communities, but the student body might not be reflective of the cultural makeup of the characters. How then do we approach casting and setting this play? Do we say that the characters in *Constellations* are not Chinese? Or, if we say that all the characters are Chinese, would it be considered yellow face for a non-Chinese cast to perform it?

(And of course, putting on a play in an educational setting is different than in a professional context, where job opportunities have been long denied to racialized theatre artists and where racialized artists have fought for their space on stage without being whitewashed).

This play is set in a place inspired by China or set in "China" as playwright Jeff Ho says, but it is not China. I've chosen to keep Iris' name as Iris Yang, as well as the reference to Cantonese as a nod to "China". I focused on what the characters do instead of their ethnicity. An actor cannot "play Chinese", but what they can play is a desire to do a school assignment properly, they can play enjoying reading a book, they can play worrying for a friend when they are in trouble, and they can play fighting for what they think is right.

Theatre is a place where we as audience and performers gather as a temporary, unique community and give our attention to a story. In these troubled times where the world is being taken over by authoritarianism and where the arts, libraries and teaching institutions are being endangered by funding cuts, what kinds of stories should we give our attention to?

My thanks to the Concordia Theatre Department for agreeing to produce this imaginative, funny, dark and political play, to Jeff for entrusting me with this story, and to the actors, designers, and production team for bringing it to life with commitment and creativity.

HO KA KEI (JEFF HO)

Jeff Ho is a theatre artist, originally from Hong Kong. As an actor, he has toured as Ophelia in Why Not Theatre's Prince Hamlet across Canada and the United States over a span of five years. Other credits include: I Forgive You (Artistic Fraud/NAC), Orestes (Tarragon Theatre), trace (Remount – NAC/Factory Theatre), Box 4901 (Buddies in Bad Times), camera obscura (hungry ghosts) (the frank theatre/QAF – Jessie Richardson Award for Outstanding Production – Small Theatre), Hana's Suitcase (Young People's Theatre, tour: Toronto, Montreal and Seattle), Kim's Convenience (CBC), The Handmaid's Tale (Hulu), and Orphan Black (BBC America).

As a playwright, his works include cockroach, Iphigenia and the Furies (On Taurian Land), Antigone: 方, and trace. His plays are published by Playwrights Canada Press.

Upcoming Premieres: Prophetess at Tarragon Theatre 26.27 Season – starring Karen Robinson. pastoral with Shakespeare in the Ruff, Summer, 2026.

Jeff is grateful to have been honoured with the LAMBDA Award for Best LGBTQ+ Drama; Toronto Theatre Critics Award for Best New Canadian Play; the Jon Kaplan Legacy Fund Award for a Young Canadian Playwright; finalist for the Playwright's Guild of Canada's Drama award; finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award; nominated for four Dora Awards. He is a graduate of the National Theatre School, and holds an MFA from York University, where is also an Adjunct Professor. He is the Associate Artistic Director of Tarragon Theatre.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Jen Strahl, *Supervisor, Performance Production and Venues, Faculty of Fine Arts*
Tristynn Duheme, *Stage Supervisor, Concordia Theatre*
HeatherEllen Strain, *Venue Coordinator and Stage Management Coach*
Riley McManus-Jarand, *Work-Study*
Corey Weiser, *Technical Coordinator*

Production assistants

Serena Rita Hardan

COSTUME SHOP

Head of Costume Shop - Christyna Franklin
Costume Crew - Eve-Line Beaudry, Gregory Chae, Liliane Bessette, Nyla Moshenko, Mikaela Ventura

SCENE SHOP

Head of Scene Shop - Marlène Lucas
Shop Crew - Emily Rasinger, Wren Nehme, Olivia Séguin, Lauriane Desharnais,

PROPERTIES SHOP

Head of Properties Shop - Dominique Coughlin
Prop Crew - Sophia Nathaniel, Naomi Owen, Castille Provost

Technical and Lighting

Corey Weiser, *Technical Coordinator, Lighting*
Tristynn Duheme, *Stage Supervisor, Concordia Theatre*
Head Electrician - Trinity McQuillan
Crew - Sahara Romero, Axelle Michel, Lilie Riopel,
Rigging - Claire-May Coubard, Sotoudeh, Mariji, Neo Walsh

Video and Sound

Petro Cerone, *Technical Coordinator; Multimedia*
Crew - Aidan Traoré, Henry Trevanion, Alyda Hirsh,
Serena Rita Hardan, Gregory Chae

Public Relations and Ushers

Flavie Couturier

FULL-TIME FACULTY

Ana Cappelluto, Professor & Chair
Shauna Janssen, Associate Professor
Meghan Moe Beitiks, Assistant Professor
Raymond Marius Boucher, Senior Lecturer
Jessica Carmichael, Associate Professor
Noah Drew, Associate Professor
Gene Gibbons, Associate Professor
Ursula Neuerburg-Denzer, Associate Professor
Robert Reid, Associate Professor
Luis C. Sotelo Castro, Associate Professor
Mark Sussman, Professor
Gabriela Petrov, Limited-Term-Appointment
Emma Tibaldo, Artist-in-Residence
Jimmy Blais, Artist-in-Residence
Sophie Gee, Artist-in-Residence
Lara Kramer, Artist-in-Residence

RESERVE PROFESSORS

Paolo Gruni
Seyed Hamidreza Hosseini

PART-TIME FACULTY 2025-2026

Amy Keith, Brian Mitchell Peters, Cathia Pagotto,
Elisabeth Couture, Jean-François Gagnon, Joe De Paul,
Leslie Baker, Lizabeth Valdez, Mark Krupa, Rose Plotek,
Suzanne Cerreta

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Sandi Chase-Caron, Department Administrator
Karl Lebel-Viens, Department Assistant
Katie Scribner, Department Assistant
Violette Maréchal, Office Assistant