

# MASHUP

- PON DI -  
ROAD

## playwright's note

i wrote this for you. i hope you feel it.

bahia

## director's note

as i write this, we are exactly one week from our first preview, and there are so. many. feelings. there is joy, there is work, there is laughter, there is singing, there is dancing (all of this is work), there is more laughing, there is more, there is more, there is more.

step right up.

this show, this world, every piece of it, all of it has been crafted with so much care so that we can hold space for all of you to experience a moment (hopefully several moments) of lightness. bahia wrote a show that is sublimely ridiculous. (sublime in all its forms is one of her specialties.) we've all been working to make room for all of you to play. we make ourselves laugh and hope that the things that make us laugh will make you laugh, too. our deepest dream is that you will be here with us and that you will feel free, feel happy, feel like you had a really good time.

it's been a grind and it's been a delight. i can't imagine a better partner in absurd crime than bahia watson. we are grateful to the entire team of humans (a truly enormous and truly stunning team) that made this show possible. you've made it. you've come. we're so glad you came to our show.

now:

mek we get unruly.

with love

liza



## cast

**bahia watson** playwright, composer, director, performer (calypso wonderland)

**liza paul** creative producer, director, performer (toast and jam)

**chelsea russell** performer (carnita bonita brown)

**ayaka kinugawa** musician, composer, performer (spirit fingers)

**renisha henry** swing performer

## production team

**jareth li** set & lighting designer

**norblack norwhite** costume designer

**maiko munroe** music director

**monica dottor** director of choreography & movement

**jaz 'fairy j' simone** choreographer

**teo desimone** audio systems designer

**julia kim** head of wardrobe, scenic paint and soft goods

**alex gilbert** wardrobe assistant

**kyisha williams** head of props

**mia-skye sagara** scenic painter

**chris travaglini** fabricator

**adam francis proulx** puppet maker

**bahia watson** sound design and hair artist (mangrove)

**d'andra morris** hair artist (toast n jam)

**michelle yagi** producer

**crystal lee** production manager

**fatima adam** associate producer

**maya royer** assistant production manager

**anthony allan** technical director

**hayden kowal** assistant technical director

**daniel bennett** technical direction supervisor

**waleed ansari** stage manager

**kim moreira** assistant stage manager



**annie tu** site activation manager  
**matt eger** event support coordinator  
**miranda warner** artist outreach  
**perry deane** float consultant

marketing and sponsorship

**katie saunoris** publicist  
**natasha singh** marketing and sponsorships manager  
**audrey french** social media strategist  
**ariane laezza** photographer (promotional and behind the scenes)  
**taiwo bah** photographer (production)  
**slone mcgowan** videographer  
**anthony swaneveld** graphic designer (branding and posters)  
**evan mackenzie** graphic designer (programme and signage)  
**kyle purcell** graphic designer (character posters)  
**tamara jones** publicity support  
**michael steele** sponsorship consultant

crew

**aden calvin altamirano**  
**theo belc**  
**noah fennell**  
**hayden kowal**  
**barry mccluskey**  
**kim schaedlich**  
**brianna unger**

pre-show performers

**abe ladder** (freestanding circus ladder performer)  
**johnte black** (magician)  
**ray chance** (magician)  
**eman hillawi** (lollipop lyra)  
**imogen quest** (balloon artist)



**deejays**

**sammy rawal (july 27)**

**gramera/graeme mathieson (july 23)**

**event support staff**

**emily atherton**

**maha bellazzi**

**cara benjamin-pace**

**carol ann borne**

**delia clark-bautista**

**luciano decicco**

**georgia findlay**

**saayini jeyarajah**

**kali napier**

**alex smith**

**naomi stokes**

**bartenders**

**maha bellazzi**

**barry mcclusky**

**rebecca ribero**

**vendors**

**dj kreative kitchen**

**original taste jamaica**



# PRODUCTIONS INC PAUL WATSON

paul watson productions | [welcometodicircus.com](http://welcometodicircus.com)

liza paul | creative producer

bahia watson | creative director, content creator,  
website designer

founded by liza paul and bahia watson, paul watson productions is a world-building force dedicated to creating politically conscious work that doesn't take itself too seriously. pomme is french for apple, their first collaboration and international sensation, was a simultaneously caribbean and vaudevillian exploration of the absurdity of women's lives, from toronto to london to the too-tight crotch of the pants. the MASHUP universe is an extension of this commitment to awareness cloaked in absurdity and music, and MASHUP PON DI ROAD is the world's first travelling bashment circus.

paul watson productions is a company in residence with why not theatre's share programming platform.

# whynot theatre

why not theatre | [whynot.theatre](http://whynot.theatre)

we push boundaries, build community, and find new ways.  
rethink how stories are told. and who gets to tell them. we  
make great work that takes chances, and tours all over the

world. we share everything we have because more artists mean more stories. we provoke change because we believe art should be for everyone. at why not we make things, better.

connect and share: [@whynottheatre](https://twitter.com/whynottheatre)



**bahia watson | playwright, co-director,  
performer (calypso wonderland)**

**bahia watson is an award-winning actor,  
writer and director based in toronto and  
los angeles. theatre credits include the  
virgin trial; bakkhai, the last wife,  
(stratford festival); the seagull (crow's/  
company); someone else (crow's/canadian**

**stage), a raisin in the sun (soulpepper); the penelopiad (nightwood) for which she won a  
dora mavor moore award for outstanding ensemble and pomme is french for apple (paul  
watson productions) which she co-created with liza paul. bahia was twice nominated for a  
screen actors guild award for outstanding ensemble for her performances in the  
handmaid's tale (hulu/MGM), and can be seen in recent seasons of the expanse (amazon);  
star trek: discovery (CBS) as well as short films the archivists, an official selection for the  
toronto international film festival, and the death doula which won best short film at the  
caribbean tales international film festival. bahia is an award-winning voice actor  
performing in many animated series including big blue (CBC), strawberry shortcake:  
berry in the big city (wildbrain) and total dramarama (fresh TV). she is the creative  
director at indie production company paul watson productions; creator of  
programsound.fm: a new internet radio station for storytelling and is a frequent  
contributor to Intermission Magazine. bahia, with liza paul, have been commissioned by  
the public theatre's 2022 NY Voices program to further expand the MASHUP universe  
with a new cabaret show, MASHUP ting! bahia is the writer, co-director and performer for  
MASHUP PON DI ROAD.**





**liza paul | creative producer, co-director,  
performer (toast n jam)**

**liza paul is a storyteller, comedian, curator  
and producer who loves laughter, life,  
music, family, stories, all things bashment,  
impromptu dancehall-flavoured a cappella  
street jams, and pun-related non  
sequiturs. she has trained at the second**

**city's improv conservatory and was selected to join their 2017 bob curry fellowship  
program. liza, alongside bahia watson, is the co-creator of pomme is french for apple,  
which earned best of fringe toronto in 2012 and toured internationally to the edinburgh  
fringe and new york city's nuyorican poets cafe and joe's pub at the public theater in  
manhattan. she has worked extensively in theatre and radio with ciut 89.5 fm, soulpepper  
theatre company, anitafrika! dub theatre, bCurrent, the watah theatre and is a content  
creator for programsound.fm. liza writes for television on from ontario, with love (tvo)  
and big brother canada (global); is directing sketch comedy show don valley girls for the  
2022 riser festival and is the creative producer for indie production company paul watson  
productions inc. she is currently the associate artistic director at the theatre centre  
where she curates the comedy is art festival and is working to continue programming as  
many comedy shows by women of colour as possible. liza, with bahia, are recipients of the  
new york voices commission from joe's pub at the public theater, where they will be  
returning in september 2022 with another offering from the MASHUP universe called  
MASHUP ting!. liza is co-director, co-creator, producer and performer for MASHUP PON  
DI ROAD, a travelling bashment circus variety show that will hit the streets of toronto for  
its world premiere july 2022.**



chelsea russell | performer (carnita bonita brown)

chelsea russell was born in barbados and grew up in jamaica. after studying at york university's acting conservatory, she has starred in "pipeline"(2022), "bella donna"(2019), "21 black futures"(2021), which landed her a canadian screen award nomination, and many more. chelsea can be seen next in "fairview"(2023) at canadian stage

ig: @chelsearussell0



ayaka kinugawa | musician, composer, performer (spirit fingers)

ayaka is a japanese musician based in toronto who is actively involved in the comedy scene. she is a musical director at the second city and performs improv and sketch comedy on stage and on the internet. ayaka likes tomatoes.

ig: @ayaka.kinugawa



renisha henry | swing performer

renisha henry is a first gen canadian-jamaican non-threatening, triple-threat hailing from brampton! mashup pon di road will be renisha's first time working on a production with why not theatre and paul watson productions!



maiko munroe | music director

maiko munroe has been involved in the canadian performing arts for the past two decades as an accomplished singer-songwriter, actor, and vocal coach. maiko is thrilled to join the creative team for mashup as musical director and bringing this wonderful, joyful work to life with this incredibly talented cast.

ig: @maikomunroe | [www.maikomunroe.com](http://www.maikomunroe.com)



**monica dottor | director of choreography & movement**

monica dottor is a 10x dora\* nominated actor/director/choreographer. a blow in the face, the penelopiad(nightwood), bears\* (punctuate), the other (company blonde), tweet tweet, flora & fauna, circus sessions (femmes du feu), rose\*, idomeneus, eurydice, marat/sade\* (soulpepper). monica is currently completing her mfa.

[www.monicadottor.com](http://www.monicadottor.com) | ig: @monicadottor



**jaz 'fairy j' simone | choreographer**

jaz 'fairy j' simone, is dora award winning, barbadian-canadian multi hyphenate artist based in toronto on. her career spans 15 years of work in choreography, movement direction (md) vocal/dance/music and spoken word performance, movement improvisation and creative mentorship. she feels so blessed to be choreographing for mashup pon di road.



**jareth li | set & lighting designer**

born in singapore, jareth is a stage designer now based in toronto by way of calgary. he has a love for new work that examines identity politics, culture, and heritage. in addition to his artistic practice, he is a member of the howland company, as well as a stagecraft instructor at york university.



**norblack norwhite | costume design**

norblack norwhite was born out of paying respect to the past, questioning the present and creating for the future. raised in toronto, mriga kapadiya and amrit kumar moved to bombay in 2010 to explore and be immersed in their indian roots. working with a spectrum of handcrafted indian textiles, nbnw centres process, craft and people at the core of their design work. their aesthetic is a mashup of all aspects that make up their lived experience from across many worlds and this is their first exciting attempt at theatrical costume design.



**Teo DeSimone | Audio Systems Designer**

**Matteo is a freelance Technical Director, Production Manager, and Sound Designer in Toronto, who owns and operates his own livestream and recording studio in Sudbury - Night Owl Studios. Matteo began their audio career with YES theatre in Sudbury, working on Merrily We Roll Along, (Canada's debut of) Violet, Mamma Mia, to name a few.**

**IG: @nightovvlstudios**



**michelle yagi | lead producer**

**michelle yagi (she/her) is an international theatre producer and arts manager who works with theatres, festivals, dance companies and entertainment agencies across canada, the united states and the united kingdom.**



**crystal lee | production manager**

**crystal's creativity comes from her ability to facilitate conversation, coordinate ideas, and finding ways to make the art come alive. as a production manager, crystal has had many opportunities to exercise this with award winning projects and organizations across the gta.**



**fatima adam | associate producer**

**fatima adam (she/her) is a toronto-based producer, theatre creator and performer. passionate about creative collaboration, she has worked with the amy project, summerworks performance festival, blackcap, why not theatre and more. fatima hopes to continue bringing underrepresented talent to the forefront and widening accessibility for artists in the gta.**



maya royer | assistant production manager

born and raised in toronto, maya has always been passionate about her city and its culture. she is grateful for every opportunity that allows her to grow as an artist and as a person. maya holds a bfa from toronto metropolitan university, from the performance production and design program.



anthony allan | technical director

anthony allan (he/him) is a filipino-canadian technical director and sound designer from burlington, on. he is in his third year at the national theatre school of canada.

ig: @\_anthonyallan



daniel bennett | technical director supervisor

daniel bennett is a theatre practitioner predominantly working as a production manager, technical director, producer and lighting designer. he has worked as the technical director for the grand theatre and is the associate artist for the production design and technical arts program at the national theatre school. he believes that the theatre is a place where we can collectively dissect the human condition. this can empower and engage communities to talk about delicate issues necessary for meaningful change.



waleed ansari | stage manager

waleed ansari is just working with people he likes, while doing the things he loves.



kim moreira | assistant stage manager

kim moreira is a toronto-based stage manager, passionate about doing work that is fun and fulfilling, while advocating for more indian representation in mainstream canadian theatre.



kyisha williams | head of props

kyisha is a tkaronto-born, black non-binary femme dreamer, actor, director, writer, prop qwing and health equity consultant. kyisha fuses public health and digital media by creating socially relevant content that discusses health, promotes healthy sexuality and consent culture. they are deeply committed to black and indigenous joy, health and freedom.

ig: @kyisha



julia kim | head of wardrobe, scenic paint and soft goods

julia kim is a set, costume, and projection designer, working in theatre and dance. she's been working mostly in southern ontario, designing for independent theatre productions in toronto and working as an assistant designer at stratford festival and shaw festival. in 2020, she's been nominated for pauline mcgibbon award. currently, she is working as a resident designer at motyer-fancy theatre at mount allison university.

ig: @yeon.\_.studio



adam francis proulx | puppeteer

adam francis proulx (he/they) is a canadian theatre creator and puppet builder. this summer he is touring his newest award-winning solo show the family crow: a murder mystery. currently, he can be seen as fuzz the hamster on the fabulous show with fay & fluffy on family jr.



annie tu | site activation coordinator

annie loves a good party. she is an event planner, stylist and curator of vibes. she is thankful that her work involves creating environments that facilitate the coming together of people for the purpose of having fun and sharing joy.

instagram: @madisonandella  
www.madisonandella.com



mia-skye sagara | scenic painter

raised in toronto during the era of hip hop culture, mia-skye is a multi-disciplinary artist with a passion for youth mentorship and community empowerment. her background includes graffiti art, illustration, lyricism, custom sneakers, tattooing, and leading innovative arts-based programming for marginalized youth. skye currently works in the non-profit sector, designing promotional and marketing materials.



d'andra morris | hair artist (toast n jam)

d'andra morris, creator of bloom hair art is a self-taught hair artist based in toronto. she specializes in braiding and creating art through hair. she has been styling hair as a hobby from a very young age and has been doing this professionally for over 3 years. she hopes to create a space to express your inner creative self through hair and storytelling.

instagram: @bloomhairart



natasha singh | marketing and sponsorships

natasha singh is a creative consultant with over two decades of experience spanning industries from tech, marketing, fashion, and retail. culture, collaboration, inclusivity, and innovation are the values that guide her work which focuses on ground-up community building, brand, influencer, and experiential marketing.



**audrey french | social media**

audrey french is a multi-disciplinary artist, social media marketer, and founder of audrey french & co. audrey is a lover of all things creative and has years of experience in social media, content creation & development, multimedia, digital marketing, and public speaking.



**katie saunoris | publicity**

katie is a toronto-based publicist and strategy consultant. with a background in music and education, her freelance work focuses on the arts, community, and areas of social justice. she is a proud board member of the paprika theatre festival.



**ariane laezza | photographer (promotional and behind the scenes)**

ariane laezza is a toronto-based photographer, creative director and content producer with a specialist in visual culture and communications. with a career as a fashion model spanning 20 years, ariane uses her on-camera experience to help the talent she works with craft their visual identities. she is the founder of nonna life, a lifestyle brand inspired by the style, strength and simple approach to life of our beloved grandmothers, as well as style cantina, a curated collection of vintage finds she uses to style her shoots.

ig: @arianelaezza / @thatnonnalife / @stylecantina





## supporters

MASHUP PON DI ROAD is produced by **paul watson productions** in association with **why not theatre**, and supported by why not theatre's share platform which is sponsored in part by **td ready commitment**.

mashup pon di road is produced with the generous support of **canada council for the arts**, **ontario arts council**, **toronto arts council**

mashup pon di road also received grant funding as part of **artworxto: toronto's year of public art 2021–2022** ([artworxto.ca](http://artworxto.ca)), a year-long celebration of toronto's exceptional public art collection and the creative community behind it.

from june through october 2022, the **city of toronto's cultural hotspot** ([toronto.ca](http://toronto.ca)) shines a spotlight on arts, culture and communities in little jamaica and golden mile, inspiring a new vision about where culture thrives in toronto. mashup pon di road is in part supported by the cultural hotspot initiative, as a spark project to engage community members.

presented at **assembly park, york-eglinton bia** ("the heart of little jamaica") and the **bentway**; with production sponsor **quadreal property group**; and in-kind space partner **the theatre centre**.

## a special thank you to:

**why not theatre** (kelly read, miriam fernandes, ravi jain, michelle yagi, crystal lee, fatima adam, katy mountain, gabriella albino, evan mackenzie, matt eger, kevin matthew wong)

**the theatre centre** (aislinn rose, natalie gisele, navid amini, yoan holder)

**york-eglinton bia** (louroz mercader, nick alampi)

abe ladder **amanda parris** anna gallagher-ross **assembly park** big city, small world - errol nazareth **canada summer jobs students from the york-eglinton bia** canadian stage **crows theatre** darcy watt eman hillawi emily mills evan mackenzie everton paul flow water gabriella albino **glen sumi-now magazine** graeme mathieson **helen paul** james richard jestr events **johnte black** kay-ann ward lara samuel lori beazer **lost craft** luminato musical stage company najla nubyanluv **obsidian theatre** paprika festival paul dippiest peter venetas **quadreal property group** randy allan **ray chance** reset reset lounge ron allan **rp dynamics** sammy rawal **samuel coombes** sandi at carifest **shanice hart** sigrid velis **stacy lee kong** studio m **tamara jones** taylor balint **the bentway** the nia centre **the tita collective** tom arthur davis **west end phoenix** weyni mengesha **workman arts** yes theatre yigal shohat yougendran thiyagarajah **zipilo trucking company**

**PRODUCTIONS INC  
PAUL WATSON**

**whynot**  
make•share•provoke

As part of **ArtworxTO**



Canada Council  
for the Arts  
Conseil des arts  
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



FUNDED BY  
THE CITY OF  
TORONTO



**The  
Bentway**

**ASSEMBLY  
PARK**

 **TORONTO**



**THE  
THEATRE  
CENTRE** 