



HERBIE BARNES
Artistic Director

NANCY J. WEBSTER
Executive Director

Immediate Release

Back by Popular Demand, Young People's Theatre Presents
YOU AND I
Theatre for "Walking Babies" (and their adults!)

Created by Maja Ardal
Directed by Allen MacInnis

March 15–26, 2023

TORONTO, ON (March 3, 2023) – [Young People's Theatre's](#) (YPT's) much-loved [You and I](#) returns to the Studio Theatre for a very special limited engagement. Created by celebrated theatre veteran **Maja Ardal** and directed by former YPT Artistic Director **Allen MacInnis**, *You and I* is a multi-sensory, playfully interactive adventure specially designed for "walking babies" – ages 18 months to 3 years. This one-of-a-kind experience engages little explorers (and their caregivers) in discovery through colour, sound, touch and movement. Following its world premiere at YPT in 2020 and tours in 2022, *You and I* returns to YPT **Mar. 15-26** after visiting the Great Canadian Theatre Company in Ottawa (Mar. 8-12).

"This play, made specifically for what we call 'walking babies', was such a pleasure to create from scratch," says **MacInnis**. "To our delight, Maja's research and our collective hunches paid off and the children and their caregivers were completely engaged. Why haven't we been creating plays for this age group all along? Reviving the show last year and playing to babies who were born during COVID-19 was completely enthralling. It underscores that live, human connection is vital — for us all, not just babies!"

You and I features **Kih Becke** (*Elf the Musical*, The Grand Theatre) and **Amy Lee** (Jasp of *Morro and Jasp* - the Dora and Canadian Comedy Award-winning clown duo). The performance is followed by playtime, in which Becke and Lee playfully engage with audience members (both babies and caregivers) using elements from the production.

"*You and I* is a joyful and lively show that connects caregiver and child," says Artistic Director **Herbie Barnes**. "It offers that first theatrical experience for our youngest audience members."

Additional credits include: Designer: **Lokki Ma**; Sound & Lighting Designer: **Joshua Hind**, Dramaturgy: **Stephen Colella**; Stage Management: **Maya Bowers**.

YPT's 2022.23 season is proudly supported by **The Slight Family Foundation as Lead Donor**
and **BMO as Season Presenting Sponsor**.

You and I

Created by Maja Ardal

Directed by Allen MacInnis

Featuring Kih Becke and Amy Lee

Performances:

Weekdays: March 15, 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24 at 11:00AM & 2:30PM

Saturdays: March 18 & 25 at 11:00AM & 2:30PM

Sundays: March 19 & 26 at 11:00AM & 2:30PM

Recommended for ages 18 months to 3 years

Tickets:

Baby/Youth 1-18/Senior 65+: \$5 (no service charge on child ticket)

Adult 19+: \$20 (plus HST & service charges)

Purchase Online: youngpeoplestheatre.org **Box Office: 416.862.2222**

KIH BECKE as Dee

Kih Becke (she/they) is a Trinidadian Canadian theatre artist and educator based out of Tkaronto who is incredibly honoured and excited to be making their YPT debut! An internationally-trained artist, Kih is a graduate of the Musical Theatre Performance program at St. Clair College (2020), as well as the Performance Acting program at the Atlantic Technological University in Sligo, Ireland (2021). Kih recently made her professional theatre debut in *Elf the Musical* (The Grand Theatre, 2022) and is looking forward to their future as a performer. Kih would like to thank her support system of her family, her friends David, Tat, Justin, and Travae, as well as Jessica and Sarah for getting her to where she is today.

AMY LEE as Elo

Amy is thrilled to be back at YPT, her beloved home away from home. In addition to performing at YPT in *James and the Giant Peach*, *Cinderella*, *Here to Hear*, *The Invisible Girl* and *Hana's Suitcase*, Amy has assistant directed *Annie* and *Emily's Piano*, and taught thousands of students across the GTA through her work as a Resident Artist Educator. She is Co-Artistic Director of U.N.I.T. Productions and plays Jasp in the Dora and Canadian Comedy Award-winning clown duo Morro and Jasp, which has allowed her to tour all over the globe making people laugh. Amy has played with Factory Theatre, Theatre Columbus, Theatre Brouhaha, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Winnipeg Jewish Theatre, Manitoba Theatre for Young People, Carousel Players, and more. She has mentored with the Paprika Festival, the AMY Project, and taught clowning to people across the country. Amy's favourite role is as Mama to Sadie and Pearl, her walking babies.

MAJA ARDAL, Creator

Maja has been working in Canadian theatre for 53 years. She wrote and performed *One Thing Leads to Another* (YPT, two Dora Awards); and the hit shows *You Fancy Yourself* (Dora Award) and *The Cure for Everything* (Dora Nomination). Maja has toured her shows to the UK, the US and across Canada. Additional writing credits include: *HER2* (Nightwood Theatre); *The Hero of Hunter Street*, *Wishful Seeing* (4th Line Theatre); and *Prisoner of Tehran* (in association with Theatre Passe Muraille). Maja was the Artistic Director of Young People's Theatre from 1990-98, and spent seven seasons with CBC Disney's *Road to Avonlea* as Mrs. Potts. She travelled with Talk Is Free Theatre to Australia's Adelaide Festival in 2020 with *For Resting and Breeding*. In 2022 she wrote and performed *She Visits* for Talk Is Free Theatre. In 2022 she was a company member of the Canadian Stage "Dream in High Park". Maja makes her home in Muskoka where she runs the writer's group "Voices of Muskoka Women".

ALLEN MACINNIS, Director

Allen has been directing for over 30 years at theatres from coast to coast across Canada, including: Belfry Theatre, Victoria; Globe Theatre, Regina; Alberta Theatre Projects, Calgary; Shaw Festival, Ontario; Centaur Theatre, Montreal; and Neptune Theatre, Halifax. Past productions include: *The Secret Garden*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Annie* (TYA), *Blue Planet*, *Cinderella – a RATical retelling* (2013 Dora Award for Outstanding Direction), *A Year With Frog and Toad*, *Touch the Sky*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Seussical* (2007 Dora Award for Outstanding Direction), *Bunnicula*, *Hana's Suitcase*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *The Princess & the Handmaiden*, all for Young People's Theatre (YPT). Other favourite productions include *In Good King Charles's Golden Days* (Shaw Festival); *The Stone Angel* (Centaur Theatre, Montreal); *A Doll's House*, *Walking on Water*, *fareWell*, *Crackpot* and *Joni Mitchell: River* (Prairie Theatre Exchange). Allen spent eight years as Artistic Director of Winnipeg's Prairie Theatre Exchange. He was the Artistic Director of Young People's Theatre from 2002 to 2021.

LOKKI MA, Designer

As the head of props at Young People's Theatre from 2012-2021 designing a show for the first time at YPT was such a joyful collaboration between many creatives who are also colleagues and friends. Lokki would love to thank Allen for his trust and encouragement on this special show.

JOSHUA HIND, Lighting & Sound Designer

Joshua Hind is a Toronto-based designer, project manager and consultant who's been contributing to ambitious theatrical projects for over 20 years, including nine years with Cirque du Soleil where he was a key player in the design and renovation of Los Angeles' legendary Dolby Theatre, as well as the Mandalay Bay Theatre and Luxor Showroom in Las Vegas, and the Cirque du Soleil Theatre at Walt Disney World, Orlando. Joshua has also contributed design and management expertise to the creation of The Han Show in Wuhan, China; the Panamania Festival at Toronto's 2015 PanAm Games; the renovation of rigging systems at the historic Winter Garden Theatre in Toronto; and during four seasons as Director of Production at Young People's Theatre, Toronto's oldest professional theatre company. Joshua is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada and is the original designer of the world-famous TORONTO sign.

STEPHEN COLELLA, Dramaturg

Stephen is the Associate Artistic Director & Literary Manager at YPT. Past projects here include: Director/Dramaturg for *Selfie* (Dora Award – Outstanding TYA Play, PGC TYA Award) and Co-Director/Dramaturg for *Antigone: 方*; Dramaturgy for over two dozen world premieres including: *Hana's Suitcase, i think i can* (Dora Award – Outstanding New Musical), *Scarberia, Sultans of the Street* (Dora Award – Outstanding TYA Play) and *Minotaur* (YPT/Polka Theatre/Theatre Clwyd); Co adapter of *Love You Forever...And More Munsch* (Dora Award – Outstanding TYA Production/Canada Council TYA Prize) and *Munschtime!*. Other work includes: Director – *Tiny Treasures* (Manitoba Theatre For Young People); Dramaturgy – Alameda Theatre, Marionetas de la Esquina/Kennedy Center, fu-Gen Theatre, Theatre Direct and The Paprika Festival. He has served on the boards of LMDA, LMDA Canada and ASSITEJ Canada, where he was president for five years.

MAYA BOWERS, Stage Manager

Maya is a Toronto-based stage manager. Recent work includes Assistant Stage Manager for *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* (Crow's Theatre/Modern Times Stage), *On Golden Pond* (Drayton Entertainment); Assistant Production Manager for *Musik für das Ende* (Soundstreams); Apprentice Stage Manager for *Antigone: 方* (Young People's Theatre), *The Curious Voyage* (Talk Is Free Theatre), *Sweat* (Canadian Stage/Studio 180), *Actually* (Harold Green Jewish Theatre/Obsidian Theatre), *The Christmas Express*, *The Great Kooshog Lake Hollis McCauley Fishing Derby*, *Knickers!*, *Boeing Boeing* (Upper Canada Playhouse).

About Young People's Theatre

Young People's Theatre (YPT) has launched the next stage in the company's 57-year history, co-led by Artistic Director Herbie Barnes and Executive Director Nancy Webster. This new era also marks the unveiling of YPT's expanded and renovated theatre complex, more than 10 years in the making. As Canada's largest and oldest professional theatre for young audiences, the company produces and presents a full season of theatre and arts education programming, serving approximately 150,000 patrons annually. With the purchase of a multi-use building across the street from its historic theatre, YPT 161 Studios, YPT has expanded its footprint, increased its accessibility, refreshed its lobbies, and upgraded the theatrical equipment capabilities of its 450-seat Ada Slight Stage and 115-seat Studio. United in vision, the two facilities now anchor the corner of Front and Frederick Streets in downtown Toronto creating Canada's largest theatre complex for young people. [Learn more.](#)

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Connect with Young People's Theatre



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