

Immediate Release

Young People's Theatre Presents
CRANKED: The ReMix

The International Hip Hop Sensation, Remixed
From Green Thumb Theatre

Written by Michael P. Northey
Directed by Rachel Aberle

May 8–18, 2023

TORONTO, ON (April 19, 2023) – This May, [Young People's Theatre \(YPT\)](#) is thrilled to present [CRANKED: The ReMix](#) – an international hit from Vancouver's **Green Thumb Theatre**, seen by more than 125,000 young people around the world. Featuring a live DJ and hip hop, this pulse-pounding sensory experience is an incisive view of addiction and celebrity culture in an era of TikTok and 15-minute fame. Written by **Michael P. Northey** and directed by **Rachel Aberle**, *CRANKED: The ReMix* is presented in the Studio Theatre **May 8 - 18, 2023** and is recommended for ages 13 and up.

In *Cranked: The ReMix*, Stan - a.k.a. "Definition" - was a rising freestyle MC until his life's passion lost out to his drug habit. Now on the road to recovery and preparing for a comeback, Stan confronts his demons and recounts his harrowing journey through the wild highs and deep lows of addiction. The story reveals the realities of addiction and the redemption that can lie in recovery.

"*Cranked: The ReMix* is such an important piece because not only does it face the devastating effects of illicit drug use head on, but it also displays emphatically that recovery from addiction is possible," says **Director Rachel Aberle**. "I know more people whose lives have been touched by drug use than I can count. There is a lot of pain in their stories, but there can also be a lot of beauty. In a world that can feel very hard, I hope young people who see *Cranked: The ReMix* come away feeling like life is beautiful and worth living to the fullest, even in its complexities."

This timely production has been updated to address the current opioid crisis since it was last presented at YPT in 2008. "The subject matter is more relevant now than ever," says **Artistic Director Herbie Barnes**. "It's important to present such an insightful piece to our teen audiences, whose communities are directly affected by this epidemic."

CRANKED: The ReMix features performances by **Caleb Dyks** as Stan, and **Demi Pedersen** as the DJ.

Additional credits include: Assistant Director: **Nathan Kay**; Set Designer: **Kimira Reddy**; Costume Designer: **Melissa McCowell**; Songs & Lyrics: **Kyprios, Chin Injeti**; Stage Manager: **Anthony Liam Kearns**.

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

CRANKED: The ReMix

By Michael P. Northey

Directed by Rachel Aberle

A Green Thumb Theatre Production

Performances:

Weekdays: May 8 at 1:15PM | May 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17 and 18 at 10:30AM & 1:15PM | May 12 at 10:30AM

Weekend: May 13 at 2:00PM

Recommended for ages 13+

Tickets:

Youth/Senior 65+: \$19 (plus HST & service charges)

Adult 19+: \$24 (plus HST & service charges)

Purchase Online: youngpeoplestheatre.org

Box Office: 416.862.2222

CALEB DYKS as Stan

Caleb Dyks (he/him) is an actor and multi-disciplinary artist, originally from Ottawa, ON (the unceded traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation). He moved to Vancouver in 2018 and has the privilege to work and live on the unceded traditional territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. He is a graduate of Studio 58, and currently sits on the Board of Directors at Pi Theatre. Caleb's recent stage credits include: Bobby Strong in *Urinetown: The Musical*, Serza in *Anon(ymous)*, and Ryan in *Can We Fix It?* (Studio 58).

DEMI PEDERSEN as DJ

Demi Pedersen is an actor, musician and educator based on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) people. Since graduating from UBC in 2015 Demi has worked primarily as an actor and musician in the Vancouver indie theatre community. She is also a youth educator, teaching film, improv and sketch with Young Moviemakers - an award-winning video and production program for children and youth. Demi is represented by Kim Barsanti at Lucas Talent.

MICHAEL P. NORTHEY, Playwright

Michael is an actor and writer, who first worked for Green Thumb Theatre as an actor in George F. Walker's *Problem Child*, nearly 20 years ago. Michael was thrilled years later, when Patrick McDonald and Green Thumb Theatre gave him the opportunity to write *CRANKED!*, then consequently gave him the chance to collaborate with Kyprios again on a grander scale, with the full-length Hip Hop musical, *Ash Rizin* (Produced by Green Thumb Theatre & ATP at The Enbridge playRites Festival in Calgary, 2012).

RACHEL ABERLE, Director

A graduate of Studio 58, Rachel is a playwright, director, performer and the Artistic Director of Green Thumb Theatre. As a performer she has appeared with companies including The Arts Club, The Vancouver Playhouse, Chemainus Theatre Festival, Caravan Farm Theatre, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, and she toured The Firehall Arts Centre's hit show *Chelsea Hotel: The Songs of Leonard Cohen* across Canada for over four years. Her debut script *Still/Falling* (Green Thumb Theatre) has played to audiences across North America, and received the Jessie Richardson Theatre Award for Significant Artistic Achievement. Her second play *The Code* (Green Thumb Theatre) was recognized with a Jessie Award for Outstanding Production, the Sydney J. Risk Prize for Outstanding Original Script by an Emerging Writer, and was included on Tapeworthy's Best of Stage 2018 – selected out of almost 200 shows worldwide. Directing credits include *Not So Dumb*, *Like It or Not*, the digital adaptation of *CRANKED* for Green Thumb, and the collective creation *I Know What I Saw* at Studio 58's professional theatre training program. Rachel was selected for the 2017 Playwrights Lab at the Banff Centre and was one of only 15 international artists selected for the ASSITEJ Next Generation Program at the 2018 ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering in Beijing.

NATHAN KAY, Assistant Director

Nathan Kay is a Vancouver-based actor and educator. He has worked for some of the biggest companies in Vancouver and has been a part of many productions he's deeply proud of. Some of those include: *Bunny* (The Search Party); *King Arthur's Night* (Newworld Theatre); *Strangers on a Train* (Vertigo Theatre); *Jabber* (Newworld Theatre/Green Thumb Theatre); *All's Well That Ends Well* (Bard on the Beach). While there are more, these are the ones that have shaped the type of actor and artist he wants to be, and the type of work he hopes to do. Nathan is looking forward to what he hopes is a long career of trying to bring exceptional theatre to audiences. Nathan is a graduate of Studio 58.

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 Slaight 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.](#)

About Green Thumb Theatre

Located in Vancouver, B.C., Green Thumb Theatre is a force within the field of theatre for young audiences, not only in British Columbia, but across the country and throughout the world. In its more than 47-year history, Green Thumb has performed for over four million people and has toured to every province and two territories in Canada, 36 US States, and 11 countries overseas. Green Thumb is committed to producing excellent material that is rewarding for artists and audiences alike. [Learn more.](#)

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Connect with Young People's Theatre



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