

Immediate Release

## AWARD-WINNING STORYTELLING FOR LITTLE ONES AT YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE

**TORONTO, ON (Oct. 11, 2023)** – This fall, [Young People's Theatre](#) (YPT) is thrilled to present two dynamic productions for young children: **Carousel Players'** [Pop! Pop!](#) for ages 2 to 5 and **Axis Theatre's** [Th'owxiya: The Hungry Feast Dish](#) (pronounced Tho-wox-ee-ya) for ages 5 to 8. Both productions feature engaging and authentic storytelling, and make the perfect introduction to theatre for YPT's youngest audiences.

"It's never too early to introduce our youngest ones to theatre," says **Artistic Director Herbie Barnes**. "We launch this season with *Pop! Pop!*, a play about exploring and creating friendship, performed through movement and story, without words. Children will again experience the magic of theatre with *Th'owxiya*, a First Nations tale about the importance of community and friendship. These wonderful plays emphasize embracing the curiosity in every child and the importance of finding community – and each other."

A sensory-rich production, *Pop! Pop!* is written by **Linda A. Carson**, with **Monica Dufault** (Carousel Players Artistic Director), Dramaturge **Kim Selody**, and directed by Dufault. In this colourful underwater adventure, featuring live music and puppetry, two very different creatures, "Hide" (**Kaylyn Valdez-Scott**) and "Seek" (**Katherine Cappellacci**), explore an enchanting new world. Together, the dynamic duo discover uncharted territory – and each other – as fun surprises pop up along the way for viewers. *Pop! Pop!* is presented in the Studio **Oct. 14-22, 2023**.

Additional credits include: Set Designer: **Kelly Wolf**; Costume & Puppet Designer: **Alexa Fraser**; Music Composition & Direction: **Joe Lapinski**; Lighting Designer: **Brad Trenaman**; Associate Lighting Designer: **Raha Javanfar**; Stage Manager: **Sara Allison**.

Following *Pop! Pop!* is the award-winning Kwantlen First Nations legend, *Th'owxiya: The Hungry Feast Dish* (Jessie Richardson Award for Outstanding Production, TYA, 2021). The play is written by **Joseph A. Dandurand** – a recipient of the 2022 Latner Griffin Writers' Trust Poetry Prize – and directed by **Chris McGregor**, Axis Theatre Artistic Director. Audiences will immerse themselves in traditional Coast Salish and Sto:lo music, masks and imagery. This traditional tale follows a cheese-stealing mouse who must find and offer two children to the hungry ogress Th'owxiya, to make amends for a theft. With the help of Raven, Bear and Sasquatch, the sly mouse embarks on a journey to trick the angry spirit and save their family from becoming the ogre's next feast. *Th'owxiya: The Hungry Feast Dish* is presented on the Ada Slight Stage **Oct. 28 – Nov. 6, 2023**.

*Th'owxiya: The Hungry Feast Dish* features performances by: **Cassandra Bouchier, Danica Charlie, Braiden Houle, Meela Jeske** and **Damion LeClair**.

Additional credits include Production Designer: **Jay Havens**; Music Composer: **Marguerite Witvoet**; Voice of Th'owxiya: **Margo Kane**; Stage Manager: **Sophie Kaplan**.

YPT's 2023.24 Season is Proudly Supported by **The Slight Family Foundation** as Lead Donor and BMO as Season Presenting Sponsor.

## **POP! POP! | HIDE AND SEEK ADVENTURE**

A Carousel Players Production

By Linda A. Carson, with Monica Dufault and Kim Selody

Directed by Monica Dufault

### **Performances:**

Weekdays: Oct. 17-19 at 10:30AM & 1:00PM; Oct. 20 at 10:30AM

Weekends: Oct. 14, 15, 21 & 22 at 11:00AM & 2:00PM

### **Recommended for ages 2-5**

**Run time:** Approx. 45 minutes

**Tickets:** \$10-\$24 (plus HST & service charges)

**Purchase Online:** [youngpeoplestheatre.org](http://youngpeoplestheatre.org)

## **TH'OWXIYA: THE HUNGRY FEAST DISH | TRADITIONAL TALE**

An Axis Theatre Production

Written by Joseph A. Dandurand

Directed by Chris McGregor

### **Performances:**

Weekdays: Oct. 30, Nov. 1-3 and Nov. 6 at 10:30AM & 1:00PM

Weekends: Oct. 28 & 29 at 11:00AM & 2:00PM; Nov. 4 & 5 at 2:00PM

### **Recommended for ages 5-8**

**Run time:** Approx. 45 minutes

**Tickets:** \$10-\$39 (plus HST & service charges)

**Purchase Online:** [youngpeoplestheatre.org](http://youngpeoplestheatre.org)

**Box Office:** 416.862.2222

For more information, visit [youngpeoplestheatre.org](http://youngpeoplestheatre.org).

### **About Young People's Theatre**

Young People's Theatre (YPT) is Canada's largest and oldest professional theatre for young audiences, co-led by Artistic Director Herbie Barnes and Executive Director Nancy Webster. The company produces and presents a full season of theatre and arts education programming, serving approximately 150,000 patrons annually. YPT's newly renovated historic theatre houses the 433-seat Ada Slight Stage and 115-seat Studio Theatre, with a brand new education centre, YPT 161 Studios, just across the street. United in vision, the two facilities anchor the corner of Front and Frederick Streets in downtown Toronto, creating Canada's largest theatre complex for young people. Over the past 58 years, YPT has staged many of the most important plays that form the canon of work for youth in our country. YPT continues to develop new work and create partnerships with theatre companies across the country and around the world. The enriched learning experiences of YPT's Education & Participation Department, including its 54-year-old Drama School, provide young people with opportunities to develop their whole being.

[Learn more.](#)

## Connect with Young People's Theatre



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