

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Young People's Theatre Presents *Boys With Cars*



Written, choreographed, and performed by Anita Majumdar

Directed by Brian Quirt

Produced by Nightswimming, presented in association with Young People's Theatre

Apr. 13 – 24, 2026

Ada Slaughter Stage

“A TOUR DE FORCE”

(Montreal Gazette)

TORONTO, ON (March 23, 2026) — [Young People's Theatre \(YPT\)](#) is proud to present a bold fusion of theatre and dance **tackling privilege, power, and consent** in [Boys With Cars](#).

Produced by Nightswimming, and created and performed by award-winning artist **Anita Majumdar**, this **powerful coming-of-age story for teen audiences** explores the complexities of high school relationships and the cost of fitting in. Combining raw honesty with a mesmerizing soundtrack of Bollywood bangers and hip-hop beats, *Boys With Cars* takes the **Ada Slaughter Stage from April 13-24, 2026**.

“This play delivers a fiercely profound look at the challenge of trying to find your own voice while the world is shouting over you,” says YPT Artistic Director Herbie Barnes. “Anita Majumdar uses the beauty of classical Indian dance along with a great comedic touch to offer an important reminder to young people that they’re not alone.”

Set in Port Moody, British Columbia, the production follows Naz, a South Asian-Canadian girl, striving to fit into a predominantly white society. Majumdar portrays multiple characters to reflect the clashing of cultures and the social tightrope that young women often walk.

YPT celebrates the finale of its 60th anniversary season with *Boys With Cars*, which premiered at YPT in 2017, garnering two Dora Mavor Moore Awards for Outstanding New Play and Outstanding Performance for Anita Majumdar.

“This play is as poignant today as it was when it first premiered months before the #MeToo movement first sparked,” says Barnes. “Through changing times, YPT maintains its mission of providing a safe space for young people to see their own complex realities reflected on the stage and to discover ways to navigate.”

Additional production credits include: Director & Dramaturg: **Brian Quirt**; Set & Costume Designer: **Jackie Chau**; Lighting Designer: **Rebecca Picherack**; Sound & Projection Designer: **Christopher Stanton**; Stage Manager: **Sandy Plunkett**; Producer: **Gloria Mok**.

Content Advisory: *The characters speak in authentic teenage voices, using coarse language including swearing as well as sexually explicit terminology. In the course of the story a character recounts a sexual assault.*

PERFORMANCES:

School Performances: April 13-15 & 21-24 at 10:30AM

April 20 (relaxed performance) at 10:30AM

April 21 & 23 at 1:00PM

Public: April 18 at 2:00PM (relaxed performance)

Run Time: Approx. 80 mins. + Q&A

Tickets: \$10–\$42 (plus fee and HST)

Purchase Online: youngpeoplestheatre.org

Box Office: 416.862.2222

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

ANITA MAJUMDAR, *Playwright, Choreographer, Performer*

For YPT: *Boys With Cars* (2017, Nightswimming)

Other Theatre: *Old Times* (Soulpepper Theatre), *Interior Design* (Tarragon Theatre), *Hamlet* (The Shakespeare Company), *Year of the Rat* (Factory Theatre), *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (Arts

Club Theatre), *Jungle Book* (Pasadena Playhouse/Asolo Repertory Theatre), *The Fish Eyes Trilogy* (PuSh International Performing Arts Festival, Belfry Theatre, Banff Centre, Factory Theatre/Nightswimming), *Mules* (Theatrefront), *Same Same But Different* (Theatre Passe Muraille/Alberta Theatre Projects), *Shakuntala* (Pleiades Theatre), *Bombay Black* (Cahoots Theatre/Mississauga Living Arts Centre/Arts Club Theatre), *Rice Boy* (Stratford Festival).

Film & Television: *Midnight's Children* (Hamilton Mehta Productions), *Diverted* (CBC), *Bollywood Star* (Omni Television), *Murder Unveiled* (Force Four/ CBC).

Other: Governor General Protegé Prize, two-time Dora Mavor Moore Award winner (*Boys With Cars*, Outstanding New Play & Performance), Asian Festival of First Films Award (*Murder Unveiled*, Outstanding Performance). *Boys With Cars* can be read as part of *The Fish Eyes Trilogy*, published by Playwrights Canada Press. Visual artwork can be viewed on @anitamakingart on Instagram.

BRAIN QUIRT, Director & Dramaturg

For YPT: Directed *Boys With Cars* (2017, Nightswimming) and *Rough House* by Andy Massingham (2008).

Other Theatre: Artistic Director of Nightswimming. Director of Banff Centre Playwrights Lab 2012-2024. With Nightswimming he has commissioned and developed 35 new works, toured 10 shows nationally, directed the premieres of many Nightswimming commissions, and created and toured eight of his own plays. His latest project *The Wolf in the Voice* (with Martin Julien) premiered at the Tarragon Theatre in 2025. His collaboration with Jane Miller, *These Are The Songs That I Sing When I'm Sad*, continues to tour Canada; next stop Whitehorse.

Other: He is a two-time recipient of LMDA's Elliott Hayes Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dramaturgy, recently received LMDA's Lessing Award for Lifetime Achievement in Dramaturgy, and has been nominated for four Dora Mavor Moore Awards, including for *Boys With Cars*.

JACKIE CHAU, Set and Costume Designer

For YPT: *Boys With Cars* (2017, Nightswimming)

Other Theatre: *Electric Messiah* (Soundstreams), *The Hours That Remain*, *Serving Elizabeth*, *The Gig* (Theatre Aquarius), *Annie Mae's Movement*, *Tombs of the Vanishing Indian*, *The Place Between*, *Salt Baby*, *Almighty Voice and His Wife*, *HUFF* (Native Earth Performing Arts), *Antigone Insurgency*, *Talking Masks*, (One Little Goat), *Gas Girls*, *The First Stone* (New Harlem Productions), *Romeo and Juliet*, *Midsummer Nights Dream* (High Park/Canadian Stage), *Zadie's Shoes*, *Lady Sunrise*, *Wildfire*, *The Waltz* (Factory Theatre), *Brown Balls* (Fu-Gen), *Moment*, *Dissidents*, *Oil*, *Gloria*, *Martyr*, *Rockabye* (ARC Theatre), *Cowboy Versus Samurai*, *39 Steps*,

Oraltorio (Soulpepper Theatre) and *The Komagata Maru Incident* (Stratford Festival), *Dragon's Tale* (Tapestry Opera/Luminato), *As I Must Live It* (Theatre Passe Muraille) and *Dissonant Species* (Theatre Gargantua).

Film and Television Credits (selected): Production and Costume designer: *James Joyce's Finnigan's Wake – Chapter 1-8* (One Little Goat), *You're Invited* (ARC), *One Small Visit* (Coffee Partners), *LUNE* (Open City Works), *Mini Me Makeover* series (CBC Kids/Expect Theatre).

Other: NOW magazine's Top 10 Theatre Artists of 2009, nominated for four Virginia and Myrtle Cooper Award in Costume Design, nominated for a Saskatoon Area Theatre (SAT) award, two Broadway World awards and has received 10 Dora nominations for outstanding set and costume design. Jackie has taught Theatrical Design at the University of Toronto and is currently teaching Set and Costume Design for Performance at York University.

REBECCA PICHERACK, Lighting Designer

For YPT: *Wicked Nix; Antigone: 方, Jungle Book, Boys With Cars* (2017, *Nightswimming*), *James and the Giant Peach, The Power of Harriet T, The Big League, Touch the Sky* and *Rough House*.

Other Theatre Companies (selected): Arts Club, Belfry, Buddies in Bad Times, Great Canadian Theatre Company, National Arts Centre, Tarragon Theatre, Shaw Festival, Volcano, Canadian Stage, Theatre Passe Muraille, *Nightswimming Theatre*.

Other: Rebecca has received three Dora Mavor Moore Awards for outstanding lighting design.

CHRISTOPHER STANTON, Sound & Projection Designer

For YPT: *Boys With Cars* (2017, *Nightswimming*)

Other: Christopher is an award-winning performer, director, sound designer, composer, and educator. His stage work has taken him across Canada to Toronto, Edmonton, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Montreal – and internationally to New York, Bogotà, Munich, Brisbane, Dublin, and Vienna. Past roles in artistic leadership include UnSpun Theatre, *The Room*, and ARC. He oversees the Hamilton Festival Theatre Company.

SANDY PLUNKETT (he/him), Stage Manager

For YPT: *Boys With Cars* (2017, *Nightswimming*)

Other Theatre: *Frozen, The Master Plan* (The Globe Theatre) *The Lehman Trilogy* (Theatre Calgary) *Oraculum, The Silicone Diaries* (Buddies in Bad Times) *Guilt (A Love Story), Withdraw Park, Post Democracy, Orphan Song, Bunny*, (Tarragon Theatre), *Quiet in the Land, The Farm Show: Then and Now, Resort to Murder, The Donnelly Trilogy, The Drawer Boy*, (Blyth Festival) *New, Bigger than Jesus*, (Necessary Angel) *The Fish Eyes Trilogy* (*Nightswimming*), *Dividing Lines, Madre* (Aluna Theatre), *Public Servant, Weather the Weather*, (Theatre Columbus /

Common Boots), *Gladstone Variations*, *Yichud (seclusion)* (Convergence), and seven summers with Dream in High Park Canadian Stage.

Other: Sandy is the great-grandson of Morley Plunkett of the almost forgotten WW1 Canadian Vaudeville Troupe, The Dumbbells.

GLORIA MOK, Producer

For YPT: Debut.

Other Theatre: *Woking Phoenix* (co-creator & co-producer, Silk Bath Collective/Theatre Passe Muraille); *Long Distance Relationships for Mythical Times* (creator & performer, 2b theatre/SummerWorks/Ship's Company/Pivot); *The Chinese Lady* (sound designer, Studio 180/fu-GEN/Crow's Theatre); *Blind Dates* (sound designer, Theatre Passe Muraille); *The Birds* (costume designer, The Guild Hall); *The Wolf in the Voice* (production dramaturg, Nightswimming/Tarragon).

Other: Gloria is the Producer at Nightswimming and a Co-Founder of Silk Bath Collective, a company focused on multidisciplinary plays about the Chinese diaspora. She is the proud daughter of immigrants from Hong Kong, and is grateful to her family and friends for their continued love and support. She currently splits her time between Mississauga, ON (where she grew up), and Whitehorse, YT (where she resides with her partner).



YPT's 2025.26 Season Presenting Sponsor



About Young People's Theatre

Young People's Theatre (YPT) is Canada's largest and oldest professional theatre for young audiences. Celebrating its 60th birthday in the 25.26 season, the company produces and

presents a full season of theatre and arts education programming. With the purchase and renovation of YPT 161 Studios across the street from its historic theatre, YPT has expanded its footprint, increased its accessibility, refreshed its lobbies, and upgraded the theatrical equipment capabilities of its 433-seat Ada Slight Stage and 115-seat Studio. 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.

[Learn more.](#)

– 30 –

Connect with Young People's Theatre



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