

GRAND ONSTAGE
PLAYBILL



FAT JOKE

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED
BY CHEYENNE ROULEAU
NEWORLD THEATRE
(VANCOUVER)



ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

A mixture of stand-up comedy, storytelling, and fact-blasting, Fat Joke puts fatphobia under the spotlight. Drawing upon personal experience and research, comedian, actor, and writer Cheyenne Rouleau dissects this often-untalked-about topic with eviscerating wit. Think: *Nanette* by Hannah Gadsby meets *Inside* by Bo Burnham.

This one-person show invites us to confront assumptions. It's all the stuff people don't feel comfortable talking about turned into a comedy show!

“As a fat person, I never thought of myself as ‘sexy.’ Society never allowed me to be. So I got funny.”

— *Cheyenne Rouleau*

Content Warning: This show contains significant discussion of fatphobia and diet culture. Additionally, it contains sensitive themes, mentions of abortions, complicated pregnancies, slavery, eugenics, racism, systemic oppression, and sexual assault. And it's really funny. Promise.



Explore additional resources [here](#)





SHOW CREDITS

Written and performed by Cheyenne Rouleau

Directed by Chelsea Haberlin

Dramaturgy by Jiv Parasram

Set Design by Jennifer Stewart

Sound Design by Mary Jane Coomber

Lighting & Projection Design by Andie Lloyd

Original Costume Design by Jessie Jade Churchill

Tour Costume Design by Alexa Fraser

Stage Management by Jasmin Sandhu

Community Development Consultant: Layla Cameron

Accessibility Consultant: Siobhan Barker

Community Outreach Coordinator: Alexa Fraser

Original Production Manager: Raes Calvert

Tour Production Manager: Jasmine Chen

Technical Director: Jamie Sweeney

Assistant Technical Director: Brianna Bernard

Newworld Theatre Credits

Artistic Director: Chelsea Haberlin

Managing Director: Alen Dominguez

Producer: Jasmine Chen

Community Engagement Manager: Angelica Schwartz

Resident Technician: Brianna Bernard

LEAD Ensemble Producer: Daniela Atiencia

Fat Joke was made possible with the support of the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival, the Province of British Columbia, and the Canada Council for the Arts.



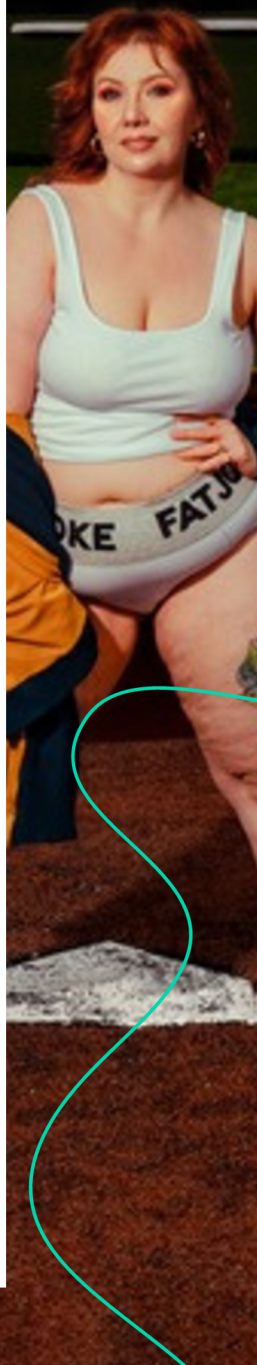
MESSAGE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

I'm not funny because I'm fat, I'm funny because my parents got divorced. That's just science.

What started as a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation on Fatphobia meant to educate some shitty coworkers at my shitty office job has somehow turned into this. I'm so grateful to Chelsea for encouraging me to go down the rabbit hole of stories, facts, and introspection that has become *Fat Joke*, made possible by an enthusiastic producing team at Newworld, and made comprehensible by a hilarious and astute dramaturg, Jiv.

If there is one thing I've figured out from writing this play it's that fatness is simultaneously incredibly important and completely irrelevant. And comedy is simultaneously incredibly unimportant and completely relevant.

- Cheyenne Rouleau



ABOUT NEWWORLD THEATRE

We create, produce and tour plays and performances that explore who we are through different perspectives, privileges, and lived experiences. We challenge existing systems of oppression by telling stories that are as complicated and contradictory as the world we live in.
newworldtheatre.com

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Website](#)

The logo for NewWorld Theatre features the words "NEWWORLD" and "THEATRE" stacked vertically in a bold, white, sans-serif font. This text is partially enclosed by a thin white circle on the right side.

NEWWORLD
THEATRE

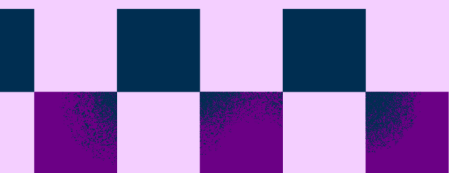


CAST & COMPANY BIOS



**Cheyenne
Rouleau**

is an actor, director, writer, and producer from Burnaby BC. Their smash hit play, *The After After Party*, has garnished them multiple awards including The Georgia Straight's Critic's Choice Award, Pick of the Fringe, and the CULTCHivating the Fringe Award, as well as 5 stars across multiple national publications, and their play *SUNRISE BETTIES*, produced by ITSAZOO, premiered this past February at the Russian Hall, to an almost completely sold out run. Their recent acting appearances include *Blockbuster* (NBC) *The Good Doctor* (ABC) and *Grease: Rise of the Pink Ladies* (paramount +)



CAST & COMPANY BIOS



Jenn Stewart

is a multi-disciplinary theatre artist working on the unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷə́yəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) peoples. Selected credits include: Selfie (Seizieme, set and costumes), Wet (Itsazoo, set), Kuroko (VACT, props), She Mami Wata... (Frank, set) and S'effondrent les vidéoclubs (Seizieme, set). She has been part of the stage management team at Bard on the Beach since 2013 and has worked in a variety of roles at Caravan Farm theatre. Jenn is excited for her first collaboration with the artists at Newworld. She studied at Studio 58 and UBC and is a member of CAEA and the ADC659. www.jenniferannstewart.com



CAST & COMPANY BIOS



**Jasmin
Sandhu**

(she/her) is a stage manager & production manager working & living on the traditional, unceded, and occupied territories of the Coast Salish peoples of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlíl̓wətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. Select stage management credits; How Black Mothers Say I Love You (ASM, the frank theatre), Truth & Lies (Pi Theatre), Teenage Dick (ASM, ACTC), The Three Little Pigs (CTYP), Otosan (Little Onion Puppet Co.), Classic Country Roads (ASM, Chemainus Theatre Festival), NOW, WAVE/S, HORIZON/S, OVERTURE/S, Reveal + Tell & What If (ASM, Ballet BC), East Van Panto: Alice in Wonderland (ApSM, Theatre Replacement), No Child (ApSM, ACTC), It's a Wonderful Life & Herringbone (ApSM, Patrick Street Productions), Next to Normal & The Nether (West Moon Theatre). Select other credits; Uninterrupted (VR Staging Manager, Canada Wild Arts Society) & Amélie the Musical (Production Manager, West Moon Theatre).



CAST & COMPANY BIOS



**Mary Jane
Coomber**



{they/them} is a collaborative music and sound artist who primarily works on the unceded, sovereign territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh people. Recent theatre collaborations include Hurricane Mona (Touchstone), How Black Mothers Say I Love You (Frank), The Tempest (Studio 58), Division Infinity Saves The World! (Newworld), Rubaboo (Grand/Arts Club), My Little Tomato (vAct/ZeeZee), Me Love Bingo (Arts Club), In My Day (ZeeZee), YAGA (Touchstone), To Perfection (Shameless Hussy), Kindred (Belfry), White Girls in Moccasins (Frank Theatre), Oz and Ladies & Gentlemen Boys & Girls (Carousel Theatre), and Beautiful Man (Pi Theatre). They are a member of ADC and graduate of the School of Contemporary Arts at SFU.

CAST & COMPANY BIOS



Jivesh (Jiv) Parasram

is a multidisciplinary artist of Indo-Caribbean descent. He is the founding Artistic Producer of the (once less unfortunately titled) socio-political collective “Pandemic Theatre” which he runs with close collaborator Tom Arthur Davis, and the Artistic Director of Rumble Theatre. These days he is based primarily on the Unceded Coast Salish Territories of the xʷməθkwə́yəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlíl̓wətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, as well as the waterways of the Sto:lo people – AKA Vancouver. Jiv has received numerous awards and nominations for his work both in terms of artistic output and community service over the years. He is a recipient of Two Harold Awards, a Herald Angel from the Edinburgh Festival, and the Toronto Arts Foundation Emerging Artist Award.

CAST & COMPANY BIOS



**Chelsea
Haberlin**

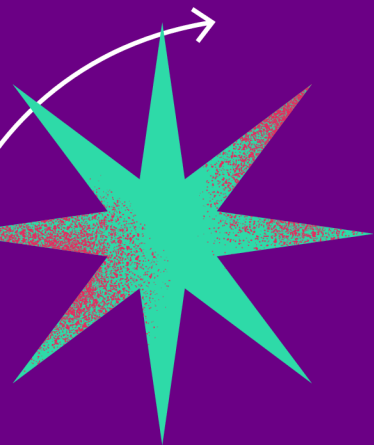
BFA (UVic), MFA (UBC) has lived most of her life on the traditional and unceded territories of the Coast Salish people, specifically the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlíl̓wətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and is honoured to call this gorgeous place her home. She is the Artistic Director of Newworld Theatre and Associate Artist with ITSAZOO Productions, a company she co-founded in 2006. As a director she has worked with: ITSAZOO Productions, Newworld Theatre, Arts Club Theatre, Firehall Arts Centre, Theatre SKAM, Pacific Theatre, Delinquent Theatre, Studio 58, and many more. Chelsea is forever searching for new ways to surprise and engage an audience and is particularly passionate about meaningful collaboration, immersive environments, community engagement, and reconciliation. She is the recipient of the Sydney J Risk award in directing, the Ray Michal award for outstanding body of work by an emerging director and a two-time winner and five-time Jessie Richardson Award nominee for Outstanding Direction. She is a member of the advisory committee for Balancing Act, sits on the boards of the Vancouver Creative Space Society, Creekview Housing Coop (where she is grateful to live!) and Aenigma Theatre.

CAST & COMPANY BIOS



**Dr. Layla
Cameron**

(they/them) is an academic and filmmaker whose research and creative projects are grounded in queer cultural studies and fat studies. Layla is currently a Lecturer in the Department of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies at the University of British Columbia - Okanagan, and in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University. Their first film, *Fat Hiking Club*, was completed in 2018, and they are currently working on a second film, *Baby Weight*, with the BC and Yukon Studio of the National Film Board of Canada. Layla also produces and directs the *fatten* podcast. You can read more about Layla and their work at www.laylacameron.com.



CAST & COMPANY BIOS



**Andie
Lloyd**

is a queer & disabled interdisciplinary artist and community advocate. They work in a multitude of capacities, including, but not limited to: lighting and projection design, interaction development, digital platform consultation, production management and interdisciplinary collaboration. Andie studied Theatre Production at Studio 58, and is currently a Co-Digital Technologist at Progress Lab 1422. Notable recent projects include: LAKBAY (Joshua Ongcol, Rumble Theatre), and whip (Montréal, arts interculturels, FakeKnot). In 2022, they will be working on the world premiere of Clean/Espejos (Newworld Theatre), and presenting a full-length hybrid production of Selfie, both written by Christine Quintana.GFHG SDGM. Land Back.



CAST & COMPANY BIOS



Siobhan Barker

(They/Them) is a Nationally recognized bilingual social justice and equity advocate sought as a Public Speaker, Community Engagement Organiser, Writer, Facilitator, Performer, Poet, Singer and Storyteller. Siobhan's stories often centre on culturally linked myths and fables, sometimes featuring creation tales or stories that emphasize preserving global resources. They have toured various regions performing and public speaking to raise awareness and stimulate discussion within diverse communities. Siobhan has developed and implemented community engagement programs and projects focussed on equity, parity, disability justice and anti-colonialist practice, guiding capacity building, professional development, education initiatives and stakeholder development through a social justice framework.

CAST & COMPANY BIOS



Alexa Fraser

(they/them) is a performer, director, designer, producer and facilitator who creates and lives on the unceded and occupied territories of the xʷməθkʷə́yəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations colonially known as “Vancouver, British Columbia”. They are co-founder of theatrecorps, a design based contemporary theatre company with Matthew Winter. Alexa is a self-identified plus sized queer artist and proud performer, producer and historian within “Vancouver’s” burlesque and cabaret scenes. They are a graduate of Simon Fraser School for the Contemporary Arts, holding a BFA in Theatre Performance (2018). They are artistic director and founder of Juicy Gems, an all fat and plus sized cabaret collective, that was recently featured and became an award winning group at Fatlesque Northwest (Seattle, 2024). Recent theatre work includes: Divine Figures (Newworld Theatre, 2023), Blood Wedding: A Trans Fantasia (Angelica Schwartz, 2023), SUPER HEAVY Pop III **Death** °  (Jarín Schexnider, 2023), Archive (The Darlings, 2023), Gestural Symphony No.1 (theatrecorps, 2022), Are You Watching? (Eve Middleton- Meyer, 2021), New Societies (Summerworks, In The Soil, Kick & Push, rEvolver, SFU SCA 2019-2023), Juicy Gems (2021), Richmond Maritime Festival Featured Storyteller (2020), The Democratic Set (Back to Back Theatre, PuSh Festival 2020), These Violent Delights (Cole Lewis, SummerWorks Festival, 2017). Alexa’s other interests reside in researching and sharing “Vancouver” nightlife and sex work history, collecting vintage cabaret and playboy ephemera as well as watching the sun set on the Salish Sea/Fraser River in their former neighborhood in “Richmond, B.C”. You can check out their technicolour world of wonder at alexanmfraser.com

The City of Kingston acknowledges that we are on the traditional homeland of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat, and thanks these nations for their care and stewardship over this shared land.

Presented by Grand OnStage and the City of Kingston Arts & Culture Services Department.

Learn more about Grand OnStage at
KingstonGrand.ca.

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the Government of Canada.



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The City of Kingston recognizes IATSE Local 471 as
the exclusive bargaining agent for stagehands
working at Kingston Grand Theatre.
