

# What You Won't Do For Love



Photo of Dr. David Suzuki and Dr. Tara Cullis by Dahlia Katz.

## THE COMPANY

### Written by

Tara Cullis, Miriam Fernandes, Ravi Jain, David Suzuki

### Director

Ravi Jain

### Associate Director

Miriam Fernandes\*

### Performed by

Sturla Alvsvåg, Tara Cullis, Michelle Mohammed\*, David Suzuki  
Miriam Fernandes will appear for Michelle Mohammed  
on March 3, 11, and 20.

### Lighting Designer

Andre du Toit\*\*

### Sound Designer and Composer

Meg Roe

### Film Interlude Co-Directed by

Ravi Jain & Kevin Matthew Wong

### Cinematography and Editing

Pool Service Production

### Projections Editor

Noel Pendawa

### Dramaturgy

Kevin Matthew Wong / Broadleaf Creative

### Production & Stage Manager (Tour)

André du Toit

### Production & Stage Manager (Ottawa)

Crystal Lee

### Producer

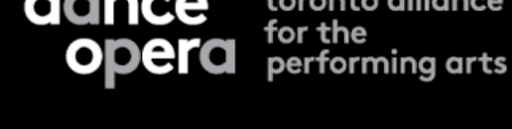
Nika Jalali

The filmed segments of *What You Won't Do For Love* were filmed on Quadra Island, the territory of the Laich-kwil-tach: the We Wai Kai, Wei Wei Kum, and the Kwaiakah Nations.

Why Not Theatre is a proud member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA).

\* The participation of these artists is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance•Opera•Theatre•Policy (DOT).

\*\*Indicated designers on this production are represented by the Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659.



*What You Won't Do For Love* received its world premiere at Luminato Festival in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, in June 2022, produced by Why Not Theatre.

*What You Won't Do For Love* was originally commissioned and produced with the support of TO Live and Soulpepper Theatre.

The play text of *What You Won't Do For Love* is published by Coach House Books.

[VIEW THE BOOK](#)

## PLEASE NOTE

### Running Time

90-minute performance followed by a 20-minute talk back.

### Thank You

Why Not Theatre acknowledges the ongoing support of the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, Clearview Foundation, Lindy Green Family Foundation, and Wuchien Michael Than Foundation.

Why Not Theatre gratefully acknowledges *What You Won't Do For Love* production sponsors: McLean Smits Family Foundation, Anonymous (Lead Sponsors); Deep and Sonya Jain, Douglas Knight and Shelley Ambrose (Supporting Sponsors); and the David Suzuki Foundation.

### Special Thanks

The company of *What You Won't Do For Love* would like to extend special thanks to The David Suzuki Foundation, New Data Enterprises, Deanna Bayne, Susan Johnston, Sarah Fox, Sherry Yano, Malkeet Sandhu, Judy Harquail, all the venues who hosted the show, and the staff of Why Not Theatre.

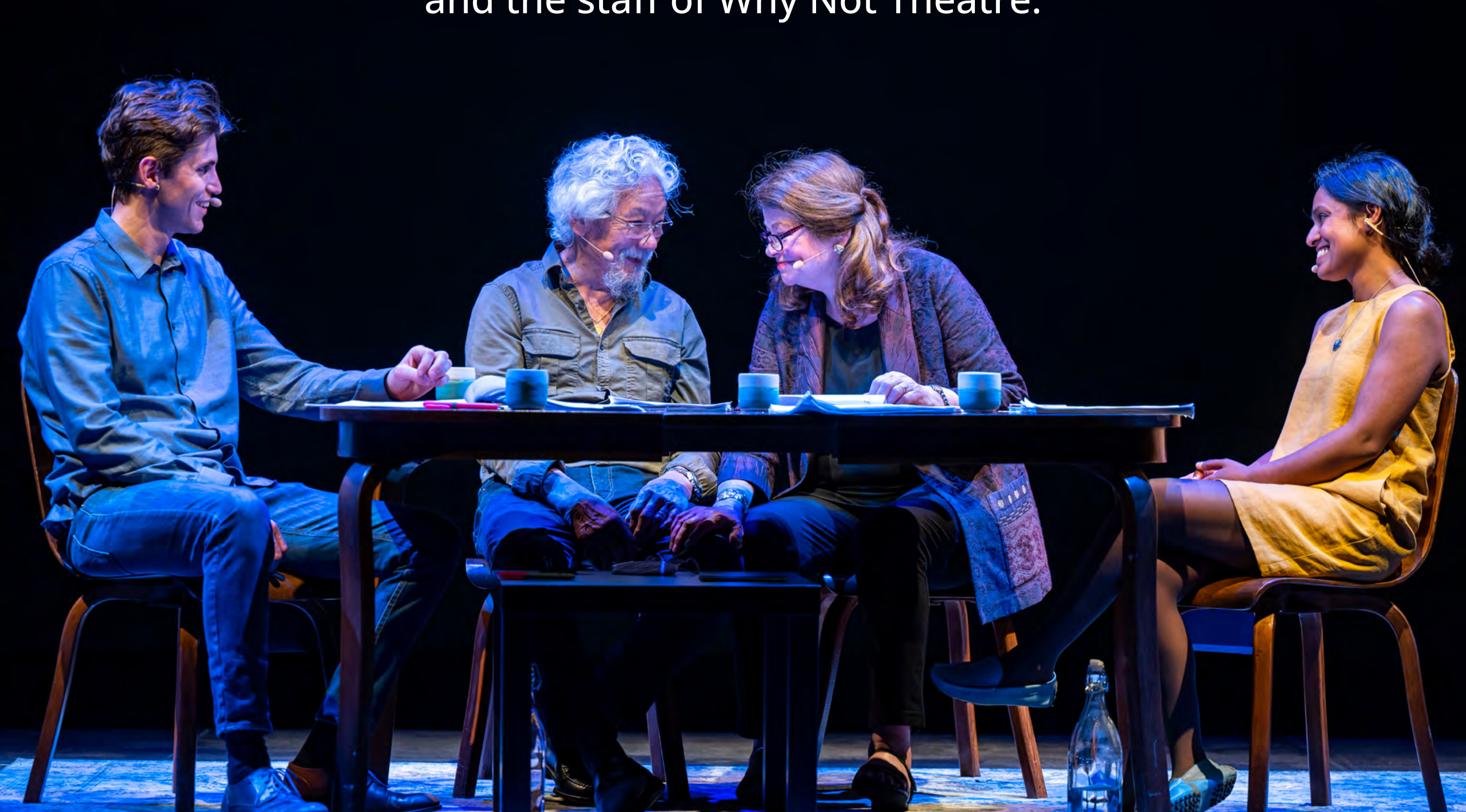
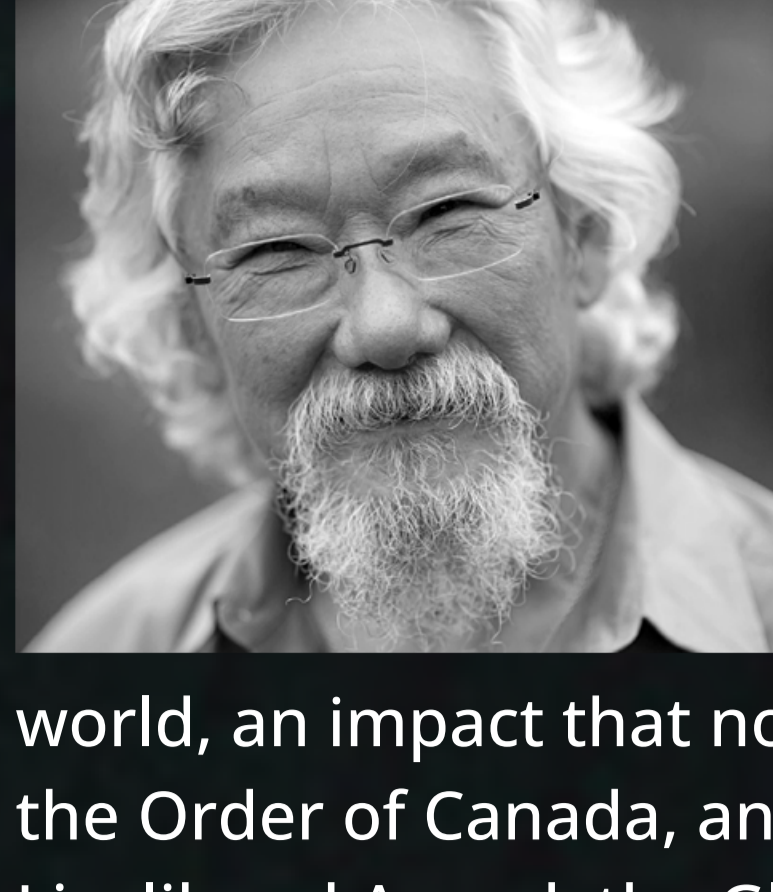


Photo of Sturla Alvsvåg, Dr. David Suzuki, Dr. Tara Cullis, and Miriam Fernandes by Dahlia Katz.

# CAST & CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES



## DR. DAVID SUZUKI

**Co-writer, Performer, Award-Winning Scientist, Environmentalist, and Broadcaster**

David Suzuki is a scientist and Emeritus Professor of Genetics at the University of British Columbia. Through radio, television (*The Nature of Things*), and 56 books, he has communicated humanity's collective impact on the natural world, an impact that now threatens the future of human life. He is a Companion of the Order of Canada, and has received UNESCO's Kalinga Prize for Science, the Right Livelihood Award, the Global 500, and 33 honorary degrees from Canada, the U.S. and Australia. Dr. Suzuki has been honoured with adoption and names from eight Indigenous First Nations in Canada and Australia. [davidsuzuki.org](http://davidsuzuki.org)



## DR. TARA CULLIS

**Co-Writer, Performer, Award-winning Author, Activist, President of the David Suzuki Foundation**

An award-winning writer, Tara Cullis has been a key player in environmental movements in the Amazon, Southeast Asia, Japan and British Columbia. Dr. Cullis earned her PhD in Comparative Literature, her thesis defining the rupture between science and society characteristic of Twentieth Century German, French and English Literature. On graduation she joined the faculty of Harvard University, teaching non-fiction writing. After five years she resigned to co-found, with David Suzuki, the David Suzuki Foundation "to collaborate with Canadians from all walks of life, to conserve our environment, and to find solutions that will create a sustainable Canada through science-based research, education and policy work." Tara founded or co-founded nine other organizations before The David Suzuki Foundation. She was also a founder of the Turning Point Initiative, now known as the Coastal First Nations Great Bear Initiative, which brought First Nations of British Columbia's central and northern coasts into an historic alliance, protecting the ecology of the region known as the Great Bear Rainforest. Tara has been adopted and named by the Haida, Gitga'at, Heiltsuk and Nam'gis First Nations. [davidsuzuki.org](http://davidsuzuki.org)



## RAVI JAIN

**Co-writer, Director, Original Performance Concept Why Not Theatre Founder and Co-Artistic Director**

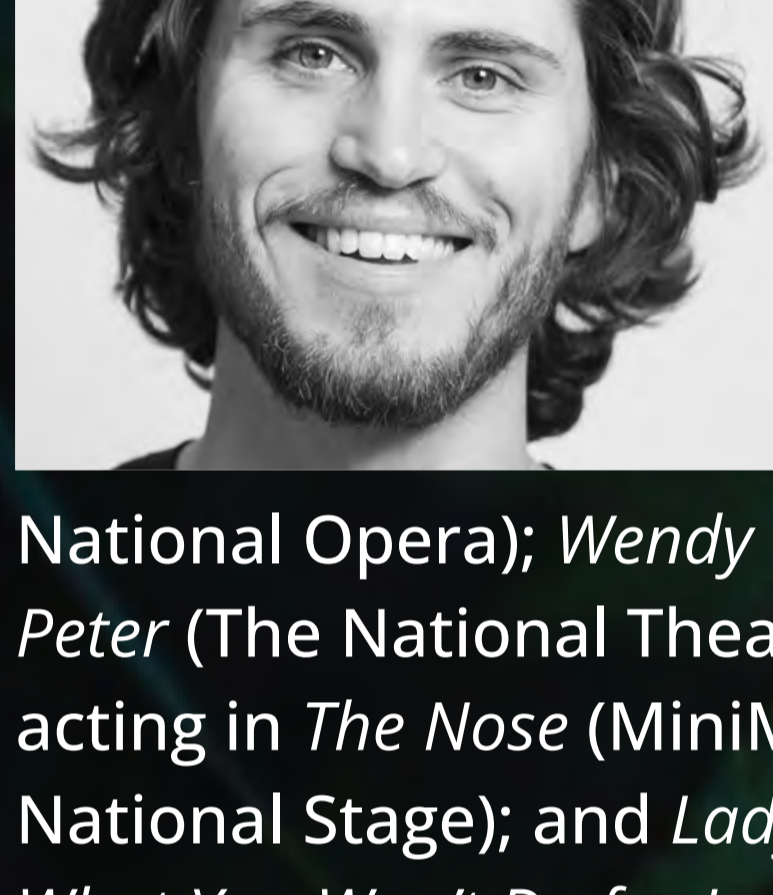
Ravi Jain, Co-Artistic Director of the Toronto-based international company Why Not Theatre, is a highly acclaimed theatremaker known for creating politically bold, accessible, and thought-provoking theatrical experiences that are changing the face of Canadian theatre. A visionary artistic director, versatile director, astute producer, and playful actor, he has spent his career reimagining what theatre can be, impacting the lives of both audiences and artists alike. With Why Not Theatre, Ravi has created over forty collaborations and performed over five continents. His work tours for many years after it is made, and has been presented across Canada and internationally at major festivals. His recent adaptation of *The Mahabharata* premiered at the Shaw Festival and toured to sell out the Barbican Theatre in London, and the Lincoln Centre in New York. Ravi is the 2025 Siminovitch Prize Laureate, he was awarded the 2012 Pauline McGibbon Award for Emerging Director, the 2016 Canada Council John Hirsch Prize for direction, and the 2022 Johanna Metcalf Foundation Performing Arts Prize. He is a graduate of Ecole Jacques Lecoq in France. [whynot.theatre](http://whynot.theatre)



## MIRIAM FERNANDES

**Co-Writer, Associate Director Why Not Theatre Co-Artistic Director**

Miriam is the Co-Artistic Director of the Toronto-based international company Why Not Theatre, and has worked as an actor, director, and theatre-maker around the world. She is the co-creator/associate director for *Mahabharata* (Why Not Theatre/Shaw Festival/Barbican Centre) and the co-creator/associate director of *What You Won't Do for Love* with Drs. David Suzuki and Tara Cullis. She is currently in development for a number of new works including a new adaptation of Han Kang's *The Vegetarian*. Directing credits include *Sangen fra Verdens Ende* (The National Stage, Bergen, Norway); *The Courage to Right a Woman's Wrongs* (Stratford Festival Meighan Forum); *Metamorphoses* (The Centre for Drama, Theatre & Performance Studies at the University of Toronto); *Hayavadana* (Soulpepper Theatre); *Nesen* (MiniMidiMaxi Festival, Norway); *The First Time I Saw the Sea* (YVA Company, Norway). She is a graduate of Ecole Jacques Lecoq (Paris); and has trained with Anne Bogart and the SIT Company. Her plays have been turned into films, published and produced across Canada, the UK, Australia and Norway. [whynot.theatre](http://whynot.theatre)



## STURLA ALVSVÅG

**Performer**

Sturla Alvsvåg is an actor and theatre-maker from Bergen, Norway. A graduate of Ecole Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris, Sturla has created and performed with companies from across Australia, France, Norway, and Canada. Select works include: *Il Turco In Italia* (Bergen National Opera); *Wendy and Peter Pan*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Jul I Svingen* and *Shockheaded Peter* (The National Theatre of Norway). As a creator he's been making theatre and acting in *The Nose* (MiniMidiMaxi Festival); *The Song From the End of the World* (The National Stage); and *Lady M* (1S1); *Rosmersholm* (Crow's Theatre); *Prince Hamlet* and *What You Won't Do for Love* (Why Not Theatre) in Canada.



## MICHELLE MOHAMMED

**Performer**

Committed to storytelling that bridges borders and nurtures a more empathetic global culture, Michelle Mohammed is a Toronto-based artist working both nationally and internationally as an actor, director, and arts leader. Recent acting stage work includes *Trident Moon* (Crow's Theatre/INAC); *Yerma* (Coal Mine Theatre); *A Poem for Rabia* (Tarragon Theatre); and directing workshops for *The Dumb Waiter*, *Man-Man*, and *Machinal*. Internationally, she joined Theatertreffen's *International Forum* (Berlin, Germany 2025); a prestigious residency for the world's most exciting emerging theatre-makers, and worked with Katie Mitchell at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (London, UK 2024). Her screen credits include *Murdoch Mysteries*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Ruby* and *The Well*, and the 2025 Disney+ feature *A Very Jonas Christmas*. [michellemohammed.com](http://michellemohammed.com)



## ANDRÉ DU TOIT

**Lighting Designer, Production Manager, Stage Manager**

André du Toit is a Toronto-based lighting designer for live performance based in Toronto, however, his designs have been seen across Canada and beyond. He has production and/or stage managed for Why Not Theatre tours including *Brimful of Asha*, *Prince Hamlet*, and *SPENT* around Canada, the US, UK, and Australia. He has received five Dora Mavor Moore Awards for Outstanding Lighting Design. His recent designs include *Public Consumption*, *HONEY I'M HOME* (Lester Trips); *CHILD-ish* (Tarragon Theatre); *The Drawer Boy* (Thousand Island Playhouse); *Takwahiminana* (Punctuate Theatre); *Last Landscape*, *Italian Mime Suicide* (Bad New Days); *Fat Ham*, *Maanomaa*, *My Brother*, *Love and Information* (Canadian Stage); *Qalb: A Journey of the Ego*, *Lady M* (1S1 Theatre); *Three Sisters* (Soulpepper); *Universal Child Care*, *Now You See Her*, *Mouthpiece* (Quote Unquote Collective); *speaking of sneaking* (Buddies in Bad Times); *The Queen in Me* (Canadian Opera Company, Nightwood Theatre, Theatre Gargantua) and *Prince Hamlet* and *What You Won't Do For Love* (Why Not Theatre).



## MEG ROE

**Sound Designer and Composer**

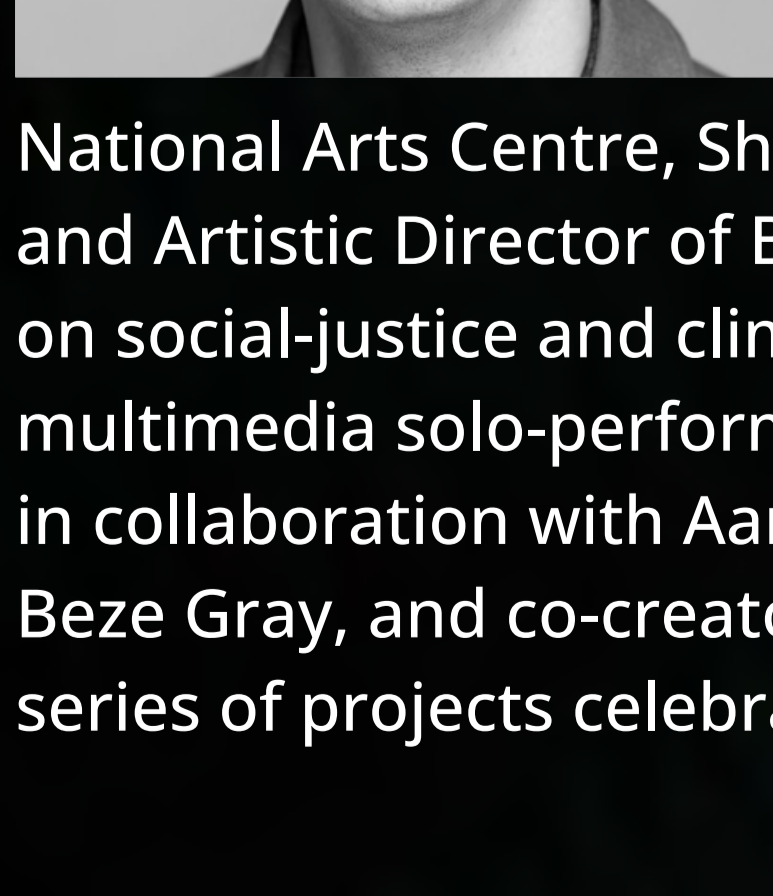
Meg's work as an actor, director, dramaturg, composer, and sound designer has been seen across Canada at Crows Theatre, Shaw Festival, Theatre Calgary, Canadian Stage, Factory Theatre, PuSh Festival, Alberta Theatre Projects, Bard on the Beach, Theatre Junction, Citadel Theatre, Ruby Slippers Theatre, Electric Company Theatre, Blackbird Theatre, Theatre Aquarius, Arts Club Theatre Company, The Belfry Theatre, Theatre SKAM, Manitoba Theatre Centre, Catalyst Theatre, RealWheels, Intrepid Theatre, Elbow Theatre, Vancouver Playhouse, Western Canada Theatre, National Arts Centre, Centaur Theatre, The Banff Centre, Yukon Arts Centre, Why Not Theatre, Savage Society, and internationally with the American Conservatory Theatre (San Francisco), Center Theater Group (Los Angeles), and as a collaborator with Crystal Pite's renowned dance company Kidd Pivot.



## CRYSTAL LEE

**Production Manager, Stage Manager (Ottawa) (She/Her)**

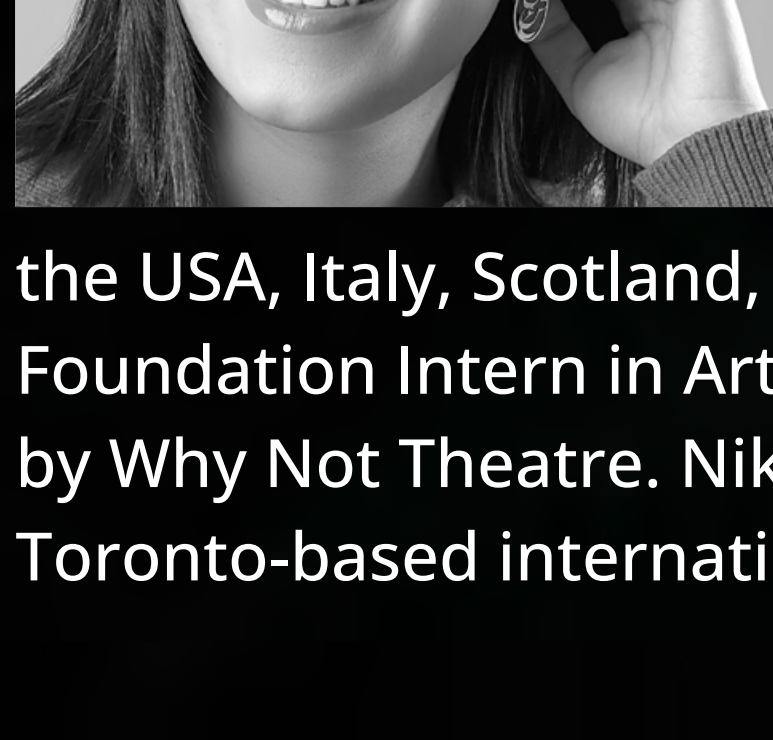
Crystal Lee is a Chinese-Canadian theatre practitioner originally from northern New Brunswick. She graduated from The National Theatre School in their Production, Design and Technical Arts program and has since worked at the National Arts Centre on their production and producing teams. Crystal broke into her independent career as a freelance Production Manager in Toronto where she received a Harold Award for her contributions to the community, and passion for mentorship. In her spare time, Crystal teaches Production Management at Sheridan College and sits on the national board for the Canadian Institute for Theatre Technology chairing the IDEA committee and Communications & Advocacy committee. Crystal currently works full-time with Why Not Theatre as their Director of Production and Technical, leading many of their large-scale, international projects.



## KEVIN MATTHEW WONG

**Dramaturg, Why Not Theatre Executive Producer and Artistic Associate**

Kevin Matthew Wong is a theatre creator, producer, dramaturg and video artist. Kevin has also created, produced and toured projects across Canada and internationally at organizations like Barbican Centre (UK), National Arts Centre, Shaw Festival, and Lincoln Centre (USA). He is the Founder and Artistic Director of Broadleaf Creative, which creates live performance based on social-justice and climate-justice topics. His work *The Chemical Valley Project* is a multimedia solo-performance about environmentalism and reconciliation, created in collaboration with Aamjiwnaang First Nation Water Protectors Vanessa Gray and Beze Gray, and co-creator Julia Howman. Kevin's Dora award-winning Benevolence series of projects celebrates Hakka history in Canada. [kevinmatthewwong.com](http://kevinmatthewwong.com)

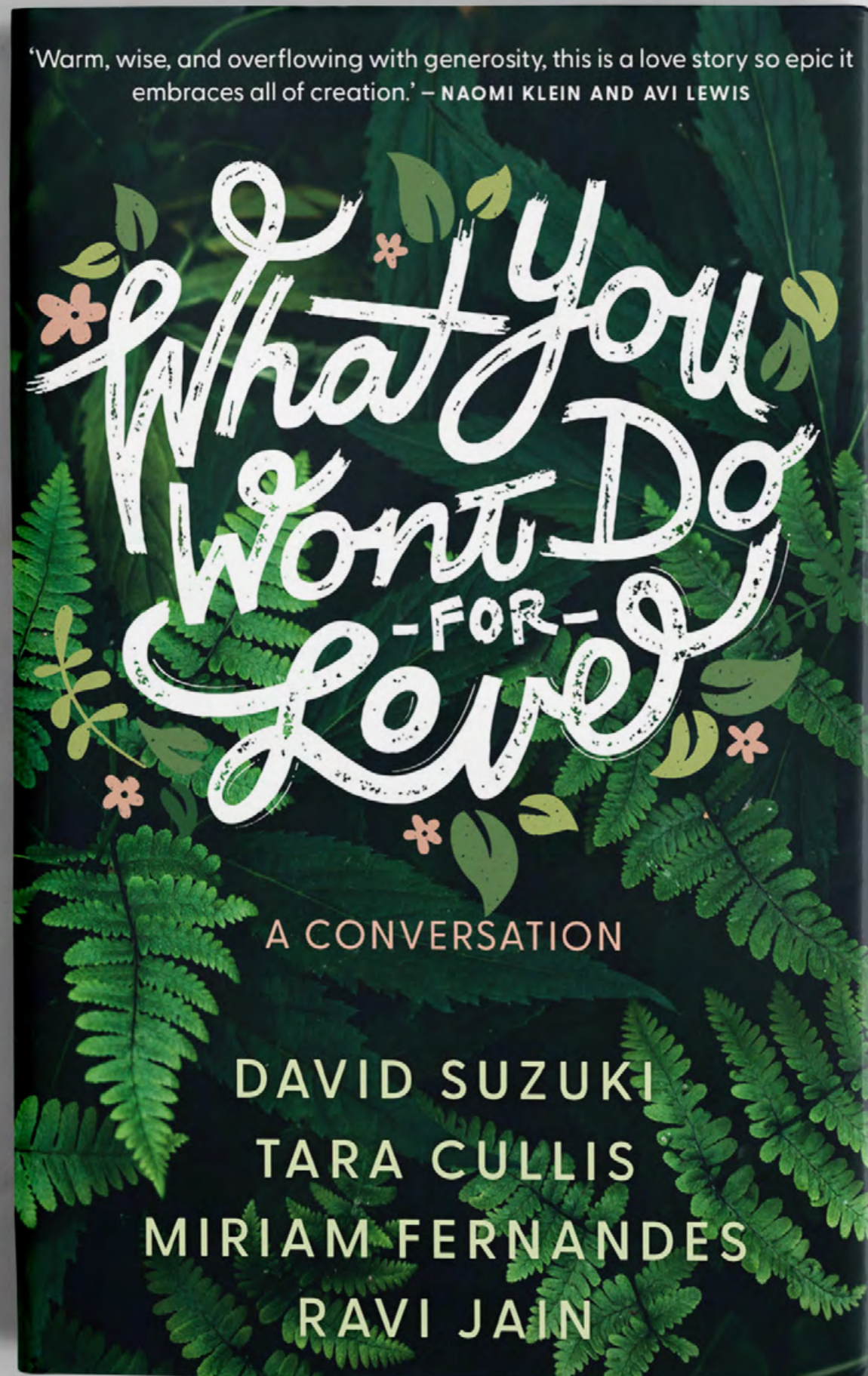


## NIKA JALALI

**Why Not Theatre Producer**

Nika Jalali is an Iranian-Canadian producer and multidisciplinary artist dedicated to amplifying Middle Eastern voices on international stages. Her work spans theatre and interdisciplinary collaborations, with projects presented across Canada and internationally in Australia, the USA, Italy, Scotland, the Czech Republic, and Germany. She was the 2024 Metcalf Foundation Intern in Artistic Producing and most recently toured with *Mahabharata* by Why Not Theatre. Nika currently serves as the Associate Producer at the Toronto-based international company Why Not Theatre.

# WHAT IF WE COULD LOVE THE PLANET AS MUCH AS WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER?



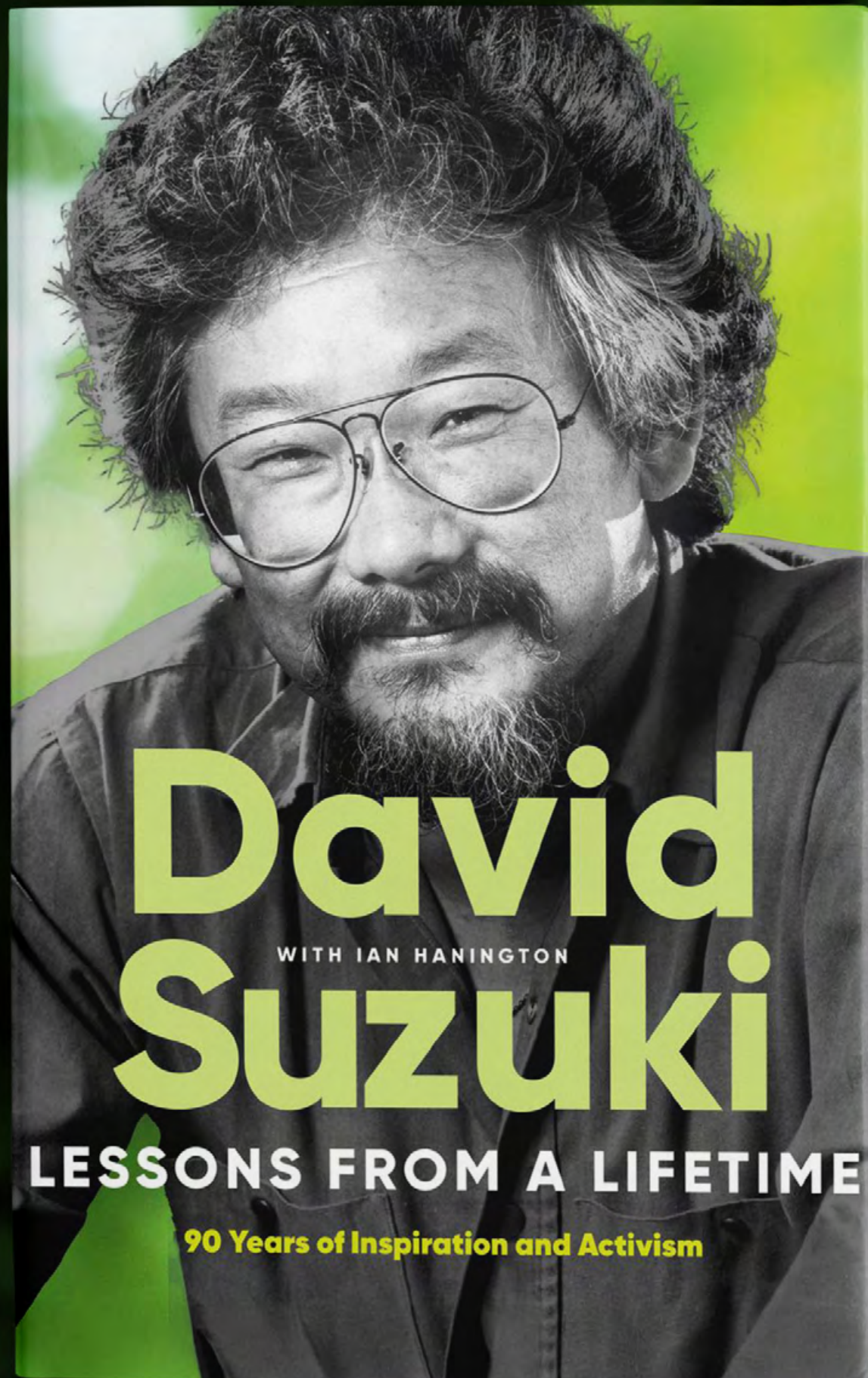
*“Warm, wise, and overflowing with generosity, this is a love story so epic it embraces all of creation. Yet another reminder of how blessed we are to be in the struggle with elders like David and Tara.”*

– Naomi Klein and Avi Lewis

**Get your copy of the transformative and inspiring conversation about love and the environment.**

**BUY THE BOOK**

# A STUNNING TRIBUTE TO A FEARLESS TRUTH-TELLER!



Across his 90 years on planet Earth, David Suzuki has inspired generations of his followers to fight for environmental and social causes with courage and conviction.

In *Lessons From a Lifetime*, Suzuki shares pearls of wisdom and hard-earned lessons for the next generation of activists, alongside personal stories and heartfelt contributions from his friends and family, his admirers, and even his opponents.

**BUY THE BOOK**

# ONTARIO 2026 SPRING TOUR

What You  
Won't Do  
-FOR-  
Love



Date	Location	Link
<b>Wednesday, February 18</b>	Sudbury Theatre Centre, presented by YES Theatre	
<b>Sunday, February 22</b>	The Registry Theatre, Kitchener	
<b>Thursday, February 26</b>	Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts	
<b>Sunday, March 1</b>	River Run Centre, Guelph	
<b>Tuesday, March 3</b>	Chatham Capitol Theatre	
<b>Thursday, March 5</b>	Algonquin Theatre, presented by Huntsville Festival of the Arts	
<b>Saturday, March 7</b>	Flato Markham Theatre	
<b>Sunday, March 8</b>	Burlington Centre for the Performing Arts	
<b>Wednesday, March 11</b>	Kingston Grand Theatre	
<b>Friday, March 13</b>	FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, St. Catharines	
<b>Sunday, March 15</b>	FirstOntario Arts Centre Milton	
<b>Thursday, March 19</b>	Sanderson Centre, Brantford	
<b>Friday, March 20</b>	The Fleck at Harbourfront Centre Theatre, Toronto	
<b>Saturday, March 21</b>	The Fleck at Harbourfront Centre Theatre, Toronto	
<b>Monday, March 23</b>	The Rose Theatre, presented by Brampton on Stage	
<b>Wednesday, March 25</b>	Shenkman Arts Centre, Ottawa	

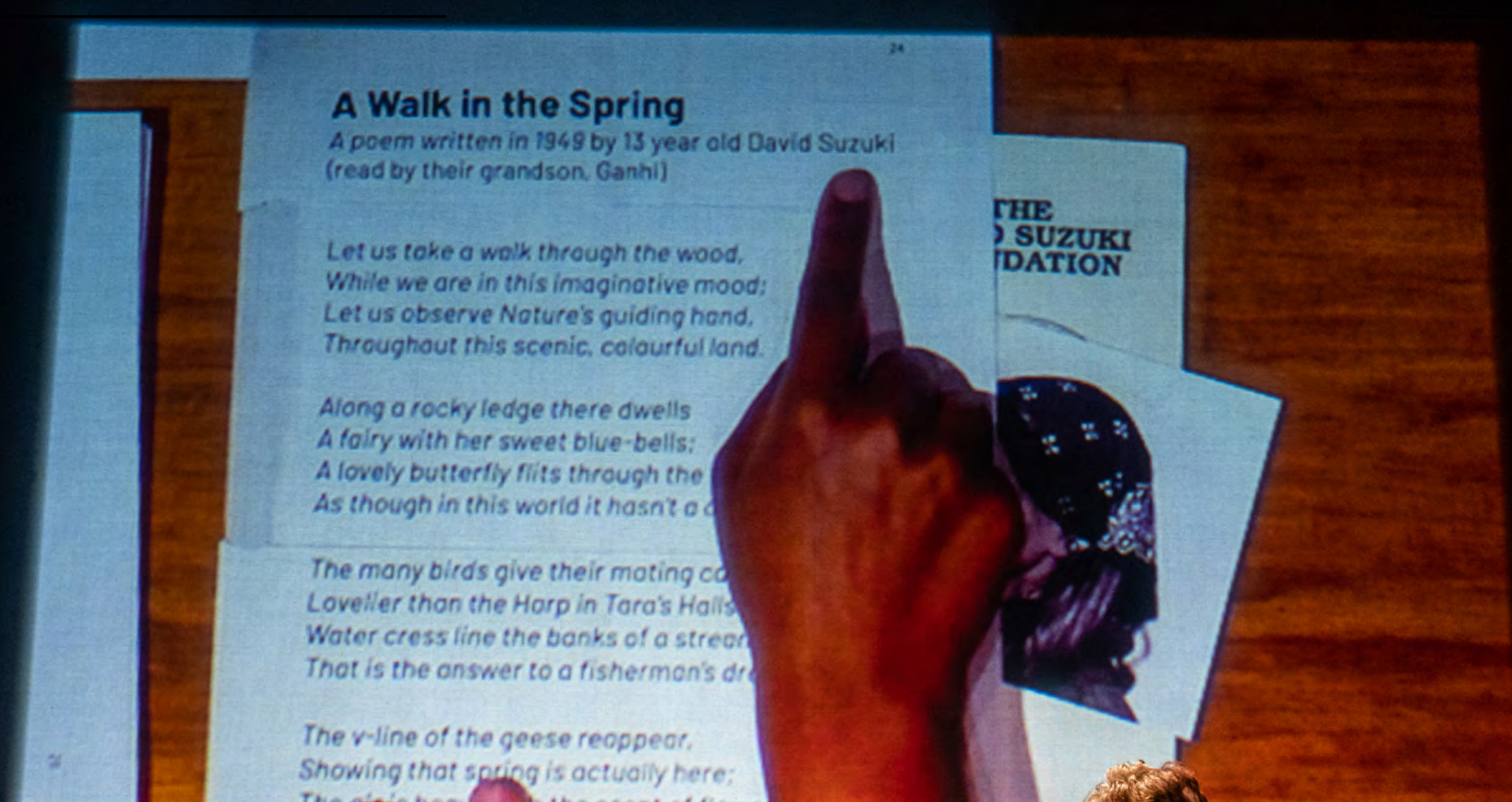


Photo of Miriam Fernandes, Dr. David Suzuki, Dr. Tara Cullis, and Sturla Alvsvåg by Dahlia Katz.

# ABOUT WHY NOT THEATRE



**Why Not Theatre** is an award-winning, critically acclaimed, international theatre company based in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. For almost 20 years, Why Not has been creating work that is visually stunning, physically virtuosic, and playfully provocative. To date, Why Not has developed 55 new works with 81 tour stops to 40 cities and 11 countries, including the world-wide hit *A Brimful of Asha*, performed more than 300 times around the world, and the two-part epic *Mahabharata* which has played Canadian Stage in Toronto, the Barbican in the UK, Perth Festival in Australia, and Lincoln Center in the US.

Why Not Theatre, led by Founder and Co-Artistic Director Ravi Jain, Co-Artistic Director Miriam Fernandes and Executive Director Karen Tisch, has built a reputation for creating cutting-edge, cross-cultural theatre, and for facilitating opportunities for underrepresented artists.



- Ravi Jain ..... Founder & Co-Artistic Director
- Miriam Fernandes ..... Co-Artistic Director
- Karen Tisch ..... Executive Director
- Kevin Matthew Wong ..... Executive Producer and Artistic Associate
- Nika Jalali ..... Associate Producer
- Intisar Awisse..... Artistic Producer (ThisGen Fellowship)
- Michelle Mohammed ..... Artistic Associate
- Crystal Lee ..... Director of Production and Technical
- Sarah Newkirk ..... Finance Director
- Karishma Bristy ..... Associate Director of Development
- Erin Brandenburg ..... Grants Manager & Artistic Associate
- Carrie Sager ..... Senior Marketing Consultant



## FOLLOW US!



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**whynot.theatre**  
**contact@whynot.theatre**

# SUPPORTERS

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