

# In Tongues

By James Odin Wade

NOVEMBER 4-8

7:30 PM

DAVID SPINKS THEATRE



FACULTY OF  
**FINE ARTS**  
*Piiksinaasin*

# Cast

<b>Role</b>	<b>Actor</b>
Siobhan	Emily Sharp
Cara	Geneva Murphy
Darcy	Ren Man
Michael	Reign Dyer
Lee	George Crawford

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# Creative

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>
Director	Anastasia Siceac
Set, Props & Lighting Designer	Lee Burckes
Costume Designer	Amanda Epp
Sound Designer	Kelly Roberts
Intimacy/Fight Director	Brent Clark
Production Manager	Betty-Lou Hushlak
Stage Manager	Oakley Baikie
Assistant Stage Manager	Brooke Jenkins

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The play runs approximately 80 minutes with no intermission.

**Video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.**

# About our 24–25 Alumni Season

Welcome to the 2024/2025 Drama Season! This year we are putting the spotlight not only on our current students, but also on some of our many Drama alumni. We have welcomed back former students in a variety of roles over the years (including as staff and faculty!), but this Season we are celebrating alumni as our special focus. The decision to include the play *In Tongues*, written by alumni James Odin Wade, as our second mainstage production, sparked the idea to program alumni involvement across all four productions. Our University Chancellor, Terry Whitehead (BA'94), has been a champion of the Fine Arts through support for a number of awards, such as the Spirit Prize for Indigenous art and the Play Right Prize for playwriting. Terry's support and encouragement as our Season Patron has assisted us in bringing back a number of our graduates, as directors, writers, designers, performers, devisers, and creators. Our former students bring their professional skills and experience to inspire our current students, and together they have worked hard to bring you an outstanding season of entertainment. If you are one of our former students, thank you for being part of the audience! Your support is an important piece in the success of our Drama program, and we are proud to have you join us.

# Playwright's Note

**In Tongues** came about in a transitional time in my life. I was preparing to move to the US to be with my fiancée when the opportunity came along to develop a play with the students of New Play Workshop here at the University of Lethbridge. It was around that time that a good friend of mine passed away suddenly. Unsurprisingly, the play quickly became a mix of ideas about grief, love and the terror of facing change. I'm always trying to fit my life into a legible story and when things change abruptly, I often find myself asking, "why". What happens when you need answers in order to move on, but those answers are absent? What if you can't handle the answers you're looking for? Does this have anything to do with why we're seemingly all obsessed with true crime media? During the writing of this play a friend said, "knowing why is for chumps." It turned out to be good advice. Some of the characters in this play might be chumps but try to not to judge them too harshly.

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## Development History

This play was initially developed in 2018 at the University of Lethbridge with the students of Drama 2765 (New Play Workshop), facilitated by Professor Gail Hanrahan. Trevor Rueger with Alberta Playwrights Network supported this process with dramaturgy, concluding with a public reading of an early draft in April 2018. In 2019, the play had two successive workshops with Steel River Playhouse in Pennsylvania, assisted by dramaturg Megan Schumacher. Revisions leading up to the canceled 2020 production had dramaturgical assistance by director Ron Chambers.

## Director's Note

I am beyond excited that **In Tongues** is finally making its world premiere after initially being fully rehearsed and ready to go, only to be shut down by the Covid pandemic. This production has been a long time coming, and it's an absolute privilege to see it come to life.

It's also amazing to be back at the University of Lethbridge in a new capacity, directing a show written by fellow alumni, James Odin Wade. Directing this play and working with such wonderful young talents has been an incredible gift, and I'm thrilled to share our new completed vision with you.

As we bring **In Tongues** to the stage, the vision was to create an immersive experience. By placing the audience mere meters from the performers, the intention was to intensify the emotional impact and fully draw you into the world of these characters. This intimate setting allows the raw emotions and actions to envelop you, offering a deeply engaging and powerful experience.

Thank you, and I hope you enjoy the show!

## BIOS For Returning Alumni Artists



**James Odin Wade** (BFA'11) is a writer based in Calgary, Alberta. As a playwright, he has presented work with Lunchbox Theatre, The Citadel Theatre, Workshop West, Theatre Calgary, The Road Theater Company, and many others. His work has garnered awards from Canada and the US including The Alberta Playwriting Competition (Helmut's Big Day), The National One-Act Playwriting Competition (In Case of Fire), and the Tennessee Williams Literary Festival's One-Act Play Contest (By the Book). This year he was awarded the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta's Emerging Artist Award. He holds a BFA from the University of Lethbridge and an MFA from the University of Calgary.

**Anastasia Siceac** (BFA'20) is a graduate of the University of Lethbridge with a BFA in Dramatic Arts. She began her drama studies in Europe before moving to Lethbridge in 2016 to complete her education and collaborate with many incredible local artists.



Anastasia has had the opportunity to act, direct, and stage manage numerous shows within the Lethbridge theatre community and worked with a variety of local theatre companies, including Theatre Outré, Hootenanny, New West Theatre, and Shakespeare in the Park. Her passions include theatre, collaborative creation, dance, film, and clowning. Last year, Anastasia co-directed TomorrowLove as part of the Department of Drama Mainstage series and is thrilled to be back directing **In Tongues**. She currently works as New West Theatre's Education Coordinator, where she loves watching young talents grow and helping them discover the magic of theatre. Anastasia is also known around Lethbridge community events for her performances as Lola the Clown.



**Amanda Epp** (BFA'20) is thrilled to be back working on *In Tongues* here at the University of Lethbridge. Her recent credits include *Twelfth Night* with the Lethbridge Shakespeare Performance Society, *Sound of Music* with Little Lethbridge Opera Theatre and *Full Monty* with Lethbridge Musical Theatre. She graduated from ULeTh in 2020 with a BFA Multi-Disciplinary. It's been amazing to be back on campus working with familiar faces!





**Kelly Roberts** (BFA'91) graduated from the University of Lethbridge in 1991 with a BFA (Drama Performance) and has been working as the University Theatre sound technician since October of 1999 where he's enjoyed being the Sound Designer for more than forty Drama productions and mentoring students enrolled in technical theatre classes. In September 2005 he moved to England for a year earning an Audio Engineering Diploma and Pro Tools Operator certification from Alchemea College in London. This spring Kelly was thrilled to be the Instructor for Drama 3850 Applied Sound Design and Production, and Sound Designer for the Drama production of Jesus Christ Superstar in March.



**Brent Clark** (BFA'20) is a University of Lethbridge alumnus, holding a BFA in Dramatic Arts since 2020.

The General Manager of Theatre Outré, Brent's work in both theatre and film includes acting/fight choreography for *Scavenger* (2021) and *The Play That Goes Wrong* (2023), and intimacy choreography for *Next to Normal* (2022), *Elf: The Musical* (2023) and *alterNatives* (2024). Passionate about safety in performance, Brent has acquired a PAL firearms license to further promote the safe handling of mock firearms on stage.

Brent also serves as an Instructional Assistant within Lethbridge Polytechnic, where they assist in training police cadets from various precincts, including Lethbridge, Taber, Medicine Hat, and Manitoba Blood Tribe.

## Crew

Lighting Board Operator	Gen Matsuzaka
Sound Operator	KC Chase
Dresser & Costume Technician	Ashlyn Mack
Costume Technician	Cadynce Flett
Running Crew	Katie Stang
Scene Shop/Stage Technician	Emily Sharp
Lighting Crew	Reese Cox Kacie Hilliard Evan Nisi Jackson Paquette Sara Taggart Autumn Adrian Sidryn Hodgins
Paint Lead	Jan Sharma
Paint Volunteers	Dustin Stewart Gen Matsuzaka Ruby Gaudet Lucy Du Dawson White Kacie Hilliard Kaitlyn Marynowski

## Production Staff

Kelly Roberts	Sound Technician
D.A. Smurlick	Stage Coordinator
Mike Takats	Light Technician
Arlene Curran	Scenic Carpenter
Lynn Hopkins	Costume Technician
Patricia Jonzon	Costume Technician
Terek Jonzon	Props Technician

## Department of Drama Faculty

Justin A. Blum, PhD (Chair of the Drama Department)

Lee Burckes, MFA

Nicola Elson, MFA

Gabrielle Houle, PhD (Adjunct Faculty)

Betty Hushlak

Doug MacArthur, MFA

Greg MacArthur, (MFA'16)

Shelley Scott, PhD, (BA'86)

Dave Smith, MFA

Aaron Taylor, PhD

Mia van Leeuwen, MFA

Julia Wasilewski, MFA (BA'05/BFA'07)

### FFA Dean's Office

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Manager of FA Facilities:

Niall Donaghy, MFA

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Sarah Hilliard, (BA'10)

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Finley Dupont

Zachery Elser

Cole Howg

Chase Hunter

Phoenix Keeler

Maddie McKee

Mirielle Nieuwenhuis

Ryan Procter

Emma Van Bussel

### University Theatre Staff

Kelly Roberts, (BFA'91)

D.A. Smurlick

Mike Takats

Arlene Curran

Patricia Jonzon, (BFA'14)

Terek Jonzon, (BFA'14)

Lynn Hopkins, (BFA'93)

# Special Thanks

The playwright would like to thank Trevor Rueger and Alberta Playwrights Network, Gail Hanrahan, the 2018 students of Drama 2765, Ron Chambers, the cast and crew of the canceled 2020 production, Megan Schumacher, Steel River Playhouse, The Faculty of Fine Arts, Nicholas Wade, Carol Beatty, and Sonia Saraiya.

## Thank You

Daniel J. Perryman

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## Paradise Lost

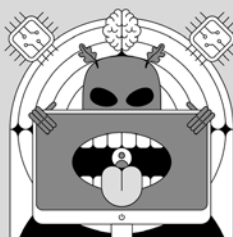
By Erin Shields

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A Speculative Cabaret

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