



FRI FEB 10



# THE SPENCER SISTERS

(Season 1)

Press Kit

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## SERIES SYNOPSIS

### **Logline**

After her life in the city blows up, former police officer Darby Spencer (Stacey Farber) is forced to return home to her estranged mother, renowned mystery novelist Victoria Spencer (Lea Thompson), where the two embark on the unlikeliest of ventures – becoming partners in a private detective agency.

### **Synopsis**

**THE SPENCER SISTERS** is a light-hearted, one-hour procedural that follows mother-and-daughter duo Victoria (Lea Thompson, *Back To The Future*, *CAROLINE IN THE CITY*) and Darby Spencer (Stacey Farber, *VIRGIN RIVER*, *SCHITT'S CREEK*), as they tackle puzzling new cases in the fictional town of Alder Bluffs, Ont.. After a string of bad luck, former police officer Darby Spencer is forced to return home to her estranged mother, internationally renowned mystery novelist Victoria Spencer (who insists the two look like sisters). But after the duo is thrust into solving a crime together, Darby discovers a side to Victoria she never knew, and ultimately takes the plunge into the unlikeliest of ventures: becoming her partner in a private detective agency. Despite their opposing personalities, differing sensibilities, and complicated history, they discover they may have more in common than they thought. Each episode brings a new case to solve, and a new bone to pick. And while the tightly-wound Darby and the carefree Victoria may never quite see eye to eye, they discover that maybe – just maybe – they need each other more than they realize.

## SERIES OVERVIEW

### **Short Overview**

When police officer Darby Spencer (Stacey Farber, VIRGIN RIVER, SCHITT'S CREEK) is disciplined for disobeying a superior officer's instructions in order to apprehend a suspect, she quits her job out of frustration, only to return home to find her boyfriend cheating on her. With no job and no place to crash, she's forced to make the difficult decision to leave the city and stay with her estranged, bestselling novelist mother Victoria Spencer (Lea Thompson, *Back to the Future*, CAROLINE IN THE CITY) at her palatial home in Alder Bluffs, Ont..

Burdened by a long and complicated history, Victoria and Darby quickly fall into old patterns, bickering and opening old wounds. But when Darby's childhood friend Kaia (Jennifer Hui, STAR TREK: STRANGE NEW WORLDS, *Sugar Daddy*) is wrongfully expelled from university for plagiarism, Victoria and Darby join forces to investigate. Both are surprised to discover that they actually work quite well together, and may have more in common than they thought. And when they combine to exonerate Kaia, uncovering a wide-ranging admissions scandal in the process, Darby decides to stick around. Their first case leads to many others and The Spencer Sisters Detective Agency (aptly named because Victoria insists that they look like sisters) is born.

Along the way, Darby and Victoria encounter a host of other colourful characters, including Darby's high school best friend and now Alder Bluffs cop, Zane Graham (Thomas Antony Olajide, *Learn to Swim*, *White Lie*); Darby's high school flame Lucas Collins (Edward Ruttle, *Jigsaw*, GOOD WITCH); Victoria's "IT Consultant" (read: hacker), Alastair Dhumal (Husein Madhavji, SAVING HOPE, *Donkeyhead*); and Victoria's feisty literary agent Sarita Stark (Ayesha Mansur Gonsalves, SORT OF, STAR TREK: DISCOVERY). As their reputation grows, the lead detective of Alder Bluff's police force, and Zane's boss, Jeremy Harris (Adam Hurtig, THE BORDER, BURDEN OF TRUTH) takes note of the dynamic duo and becomes a thorn in The Spencer Sisters' side.

### **Long Overview**

When police officer Darby Spencer (Stacey Farber, VIRGIN RIVER, SCHITT'S CREEK) is reprimanded for disobeying a superior officer's instructions in order to apprehend a suspect, she quits her job out of frustration, only to later return home and find her boyfriend with another woman. With her life at loose ends and nowhere else to go, Darby is forced to make a difficult decision: she hops in her beat-up sedan and drives out of the city, past suburbs and rolling fields, to a palatial home in the tranquil town of Alder Bluffs, Ont.. Waiting on the driveway is a woman wrapped head-to-toe in Chanel: best-selling mystery novelist and socialite extraordinaire, Victoria Spencer (Lea Thompson, *Back to the Future*, CAROLINE IN THE CITY) – a.k.a. Mom.

Victoria is delighted to see Darby (who has avoided coming home for years), believing she's there to attend a book reading for Victoria's latest novel. But the two quickly fall into familiar patterns, bickering and salting old wounds. Darby chooses to keep secret the real reason she has come back to town, while Victoria has a secret of her own – her last two novels were flops, and she's been struck by a crippling case of writer's block. But when

Darby's childhood friend Kaia Zhang (Jennifer Hui, *STAR TREK: STRANGE NEW WORLDS*, *Sugar Daddy*) is wrongfully expelled from university for plagiarism, Darby and Victoria come together to investigate, successfully uncovering a wide-ranging admissions scandal. Despite their opposite personalities, differing sensibilities, and complicated history, Darby is forced to admit that she may have more in common with her mother than she originally thought.

Their first successful case leads to a second, where it becomes apparent to the mother-and-daughter duo that their contrasting personalities and approaches to investigation are key to their success. Inspired by the cases and the prospect of mending her relationship with her daughter, Victoria is able to break through her writer's block and proposes to Darby the unlikeliest of ventures – becoming partners in a private detective agency.

Darby and Victoria's business partnership doesn't come easy, as both have to learn to respect each other's boundaries, trust their conflicting detective instincts, and rely on each other while stumbling through each case. When the going gets tough, Darby relies on her best friend, local Alder Bluffs cop Zane Graham (Thomas Antony Olajide, *Learn to Swim*, *DESIGNATED SURVIVOR*) and his much-loved restaurateur husband Antonio Pereira (Rodrigo Massa, *RESIDENT ALIEN*, *Merry Textmas*), to be her sounding boards. However, when she starts leaning too much on Zane's police access to help their cases, it puts Zane at odds with his boss (and The Spencer Sisters' nemesis) Detective Jeremy Harris (Adam Hurtig, *THE BORDER*, *BURDEN OF TRUTH*).

Meanwhile, Darby's stay in Alder Bluffs, a town she didn't think she'd ever return to, brings up old feelings and old flames. Her high school ex, Dr. Lucas Collins (Edward Ruttle, *Jigsaw*, *BATWOMAN*) is now engaged to a hotshot corporate lawyer, Lindsay Yip (Kaitlyn Leeb, *SPINNING OUT*, *HEARTLAND*), much to Darby's chagrin. And later on, The Spencer Sisters end up getting hired by Des Lewis (Andrew Bushell, *HUDSON & REX*, *STRAYS*), an old high school classmate of Darby's who admits he had a secret crush on her back in the day.

For her part, Victoria is inspired by her daughter's return, and introduces a new character to her long-running Bryn Martell mystery series, Bryn's long lost daughter Clodagh. Victoria's agent, Sarita Stark (Ayesha Mansur Gonsalves, *SORT OF*, *STAR TREK: DISCOVERY*) is so excited by this new character that she reveals the publisher is thinking of commissioning a multi-book deal with the possibility of re-starting the Bryn Martell movies again. Afraid of igniting Darby's old resentments (towards Victoria's career, her father's death, and Darby's abandonment issues), Victoria keeps mum about the book tour.

To complicate things further, Victoria meets the handsome and mysterious Billy West (Paul Popowich, *MAYOR OF KINGSTOWN*, *HEMLOCK GROVE*), whose obscure background raises Darby's suspicions, as well as those of Alastair Dhumal (Husein Madhavji, *SAVING HOPE*, *UTOPIA FALLS*), an "IT Consultant" (read: hacker) who helps The Spencer Sisters with their cases and secretly pines for Victoria. When the truth of the

book tour finally comes out, Victoria discovers Darby and Alastair have been covertly looking into Billy's background, and the future of The Spencer Sisters is jeopardized.

## **EPISODIC SYNOPSES**

### **Episode 101: “The Scholar’s Snafu” (\*SERIES PREMIERE\*)**

**Director:** April Mullen (TINY PRETTY THINGS, WYNONNA EARP)

**Writer:** Alan McCullough (PRIVATE EYES, ROOKIE BLUE)

**Guest Star:** Jennifer Hui (STAR TREK: STRANGE NEW WORLDS)

**Airs:** Friday, February 10 at 9 p.m. ET/PT on CTV, [CTV.ca](http://CTV.ca) and the CTV app

**Logline:** When Darby’s (Stacey Farber) friend is wrongfully accused of plagiarism, she and her estranged, best-selling mystery novelist mother Victoria Spencer (Lea Thompson) must put aside their differences and investigate.

**Synopsis:** Called to the scene of an attempted robbery, police officer Darby Spencer (Stacey Farber) disobeys a direct order from the detective in charge and captures the would-be thief red-handed. But instead of being rewarded for her instincts, she’s reprimanded – and the hot-headed Darby quits in a fit of pique. Returning home, she finds her boyfriend cheating on her with another woman. With nowhere else to go, she hops in her car and heads out of the city, to the palatial home of her bestselling mystery novelist mother, Victoria Spencer (Lea Thompson), in the small town of Alder Bluffs, Ont. Darby and Victoria have a very strained relationship and Darby has no intention of sticking around. But after being roped into attending a book reading for Victoria’s latest novel, Darby learns that her childhood friend Kaia (guest star Jennifer Hui, STAR TREK: STRANGE NEW WORLDS) is being wrongfully expelled from university on a plagiarism charge. Darby volunteers to look into the problem and Victoria joins in, uninvited. Meanwhile, Darby reconnects with her old best friend Zane Graham (Thomas Antony Olajide) and runs into her old high school ex, Lucas Collins (Edward Ruttle)...as well as his fiancée, Lindsay (Kaitlyn Leeb). Darby also discovers that her mom’s latest novel has been panned by critics and that Victoria is suffering from crippling writer’s block while her agent, Sarita Stark (Ayesha Mansur Gonsalves), chases her for the latest pages. Seeing Victoria in a different light, Darby temporarily sets aside their differences and works with her mother to uncover an admissions scandal and exonerate Kaia.

### **Episode 102: “The Executive’s Elegy”**

**Director:** April Mullen (TINY PRETTY THINGS, WYNONNA EARP)

**Writer:** Jessie Gabe (WORKIN’ MOMS, HUDSON & REX)

**Guest Star:** Nancy Sorel (THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE)

**Airs:** Friday, February 17 at 9 p.m. ET/PT on CTV, [CTV.ca](http://CTV.ca) and the CTV app

**Logline:** When pharmaceutical CEO Marlina (Nancy Sorel) comes home to find her fiancé drowned, Victoria (Lea Thompson) and Darby (Stacey Farber) investigate whether he was a victim of corporate espionage or Marlina’s own progeny.

**Synopsis:** Now that The Spencer Sisters have officially solved their first case, Victoria (Lea Thompson) offers their services to her friend and pharmaceutical executive Marlina Briggs (guest star Nancy Sorel, THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE), after Marlina finds her much-younger fiancé Danny drowned in her pool. With no job prospects on the

horizon, and eager to earn the \$10,000 Marlina has offered, Darby (Stacey Farber) agrees to investigate another case with her mother. Doing their best to avoid Alder Bluffs' inept local detective, Jeremy Harris (Adam Hurtig), Darby and Victoria conclude that the crime scene wasn't simply a home invasion, but rather a deliberate murder – possibly by one of Marlina's own children – who weren't keen on the prospect of sharing their family wealth with Danny. Meanwhile, Darby runs into Lucas (Edward Ruttle) again and learns that he's feeling overwhelmed by his upcoming nuptials to Lindsay (Kaitlynn Leeb). Victoria enlists her friend, computer whiz Alastair Dhumal (Husein Madhavji), to hack into the clinical trials database at Marlina's company, allowing Victoria and Darby to track down the true culprit. With a second case under their belts, Victoria proposes that she and Darby form their own private detective agency.

**Synopses Info for Episode 103-110 to Be Posted on [TheLede.ca](http://TheLede.ca) Closer to Broadcast.**

## **CHARACTER SUMMARIES**

### **Victoria Spencer** (Lea Thompson)

Smart, charismatic, and adventurous, Victoria (Lea Thompson) is a renowned best-selling author of mystery romance novels, currently living in comfort and glamour in the picturesque town of Alder Bluffs, Ont. When her estranged daughter Darby (Stacey Farber), a former police officer, returns for a visit, Victoria seizes the opportunity to try to heal the wounds between them – though her attempts to build bridges come across more like meddling to her temperamental daughter. An impulsive woman with a vivid imagination, Victoria also has a practical side, having grown up in more modest circumstances, and married at a young age to Darby's father Sam (who was also a cop). After Sam's sudden death in the line of duty, Victoria channeled her grief into writing and became an overnight success when her first novel sold millions of copies -- but it came at the cost of a growing wedge between her and Darby. Recently, Victoria's career has taken a hit as her last book didn't perform well and she has been struck with crippling writer's block. But when Darby arrives back into town and the two are thrust into solving a crime together, Victoria is inspired by the experience – and the possibility of a mended relationship with her daughter – to sit behind the keyboard once more.

### **Darby Spencer** (Stacey Farber)

Intelligent and opinionated with a mouth that's triggered as quickly as her temper, Darby (Stacey Farber) is a passionate, hot-headed, and brave beat cop with the intellect and intuition of an experienced detective. Her father Sam was Darby's whole world, so when he died suddenly in the line of duty, Darby turned inward, feeling isolated and resentful of mom Victoria's (Lea Thompson) detachment – the two of them unable to properly grieve together. When Victoria announced their move to Alder Bluffs, Darby was a teen whose last desire was to be uprooted, and her bitterness towards Victoria grew deeper. After a turbulent time in high school – alleviated only by her best friend Zane (Thomas Antony Olajide) and high school crush Lucas (Edward Ruttle) – Darby left as soon as she could to enroll in the police academy and follow in her father's footsteps, to Victoria's stark disapproval.

### **Zane Graham** (Thomas Antony Olajide)

Zane (Thomas Antony Olajide), Darby's (Stacey Farber) oldest friend and closest confidant, is a small-town cop who joined the force to do good, hands-on policing work – from stopping purse snatchers to rescuing Mittens from a tree – in the community he's known all of his life. Smart and capable, Zane could probably have become a detective years ago but never aspired to it, preferring the simplicity of uniformed patrol, though the arrival of Alder Bluff's newest (and most annoying) detective, Jeremy Harris (Adam Hurtig), has caused him to rethink his choices. A son to lawyers, Zane is a toe-the-line, rule-follower type who's happy to sidestep the limelight and defer to his happy-go-lucky, well-loved husband, Antonia Pereira (Rodrigo Massa). But he'll quickly snap to DEFCON 1 if anything threatens Antonio, their two-year-old adopted daughter Lucy (Melody Jin and Mercedes Jin), or BFFs Darby and Victoria (Lea Thompson).

### **Lucas Collins** (Edward Ruttle)

If someone paged Dr. Handsome, Lucas (Edward Ruttle) would arrive early with the perfect smile and the perfect bedside manner. Intelligent and down-to-earth, he followed in his father's footsteps to become an ER doctor at the local Alder Bluffs hospital. As Darby's (Stacey Farber) 'one that got away', Lucas's furtive high school glances with her went from sparks to firestorm one rainy night when he picked her up on the side of the road after a bitter fight with Victoria (Lea Thompson). Despite promises to stay together through college, Darby felt the pull of the big city and painfully ghosted him. No prescription would mend his broken heart, until he met and got engaged to Lindsay Yip (Kaitlyn Leeb) – a headstrong and whip-smart lawyer. Together, they're Alder Bluff's portmanteau couple. That is, until Darby's return.

**Alastair Dhumal** (Husein Madhavji)

Off the grid and always online, Alastair's only relationships include his gaming buddies and Victoria (Lea Thompson), whom he met when he responded to a cryptic message left on an online forum seeking the services of an 'I.T. Consultant' who's dabbled in the dark web (for her latest novel, of course!). After some correspondence, he agreed to meet her at a coffee shop – unsure if it was a date or not. Unfortunately for him, it wasn't. However, Victoria's sharp eye spotted more to the man and her sharp tongue got him to reveal his background. A self-proclaimed, 'White Hat Hacker', he made enemies across the globe when he Robin Hood'ed CEOs and their offshore, shell corporations. Forced into hiding, he found refuge in Alder Bluffs, where he maintains a low profile, leaving no digital fingerprints. Over the years, he's become Victoria's tech consultant and sometime confidant. Always ready with Victoria's favourite Portuguese candy, Alastair relishes the rare conversations he has with Victoria, having developed an unrequited crush on her.

**Sarita Stark** (Ayesha Mansur Gonsalves)

A savvy, silver-tongued workaholic whose vacation days are spent reading manuscripts by her backyard pool, Sarita was a junior literary agent when she discovered Victoria's (Lea Thompson) first novel. With all her might, she moved mountains for a book and client she believed in. Little did she know it would spawn massive multi-book deals, a string of movies and even car dash bobbleheads of the recurring lead character Bryn Martell. Now a partner at the top literary agency in Canada, Sarita juggles the gamut of authors in her rolodex – only playing favourites when it comes to Victoria. Over the years, they've become close, though both understand the professional limits to their personal relationship. And when it comes to Victoria's writer's block, we'll see how earnestly – though clumsily – Sarita will try to help.

**Antonio Pereira** (Rodrigo Massa)

Antonio is Zane's (Thomas Antony Olajide) husband and co-parent to their daughter Lucy (Melody Jin and Mercedes Jin). A warm and steady person who takes a genuine interest in everyone he meets, Antonio has been fully embraced by his adopted community. He hand-delivers fresh-baked cookies to his vendors, starts every brunch/dinner shift with his employees' coffee orders in hand, and lends his ear and shoulder to anyone in the neighbourhood who needs it. Eight months ago, Antonio achieved his lifelong dream: opening a successful Brazilian bistro in Alder Bluffs called Bem Vindo that provides a

second 'home base' for Darby (Stacey Farber) and Victoria (Lea Thompson) – and he's happy to serve and listen to the tea they spill privately about each other.

**Lindsay Yip** (Kaitlyn Leeb)

Clever and ambitious, some might call Lindsay a 21<sup>st</sup> century version of Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde* – but she didn't fall forward, she leapt. Sorority president, debate team, cheer squad, valedictorian, Big Sisters volunteer with a 4.0 GPA, Lindsay was also voted 'Next Prime Minister' of her graduating class (twice!) to no one's surprise. She went on to become a corporate lawyer for a prestigious law firm and – glass ceiling be damned – she climbed the ranks two steps at a time in her Manolo Blahniks. When she encountered a grieving Lucas (Edward Ruttle), still wounded from Darby's (Stacey Farber) disappearing act, Lindsay became his confidante and caretaker – mindfully and patiently restoring his faith in love once again.

**Detective Jeremy Harris** (Adam Hurtig)

Detective Harris is the epitome of the idiom: "All hat and no cattle." Unable to move up the ranks in his former precinct, eight months ago he used his big city bluster to land the role of detective on the Alder Bluffs force, much to the chagrin of local candidates. His subordinates were willing to play ball with their new boss, except Harris proved to be incompetent. Police work isn't something you can bluff your way through, but Harris's impostor syndrome and inability to solve simple cases has made him rely heavily on Zane (Thomas Antony Olajide). And it gets decidedly worse once Darby (Stacey Farber) and Victoria (Lea Thompson) open up shop and start solving cases right under his nose...

## **CAST BIOGRAPHIES**

### **LEA THOMPSON** (Victoria Spencer)

Lea Thompson has had a remarkable career as an artist of many colours over the last four decades. She is probably best known for her roles in *Back to the Future* and SWITCHED AT BIRTH, but her career has encompassed acting, directing, singing, dancing in ballet, theatre, films, and television.

Lea started in ballet at the Minnesota Dance Theater and the Pennsylvania Ballet. She moved into acting in more than 50 feature films such as *Red Dawn*, *Back to the Future*, *Some Kind of Wonderful*, *Howard the Duck*, *Little Rascals*, *Dennis the Menace*, *Beverly Hillsbillies*, *All the Right Moves*, *J Edgar*, *Little Women*, and *The Trouble with the Truth*. In television series, highlights include CAROLINE IN THE CITY, JANE DOE, SWITCHED AT BIRTH, and many guest star spots, such as FRIENDS, TALES FROM THE CRYPT, and SCORPION. As a veteran director now in television, Lea has helmed JANE DOE, SWITCHED AT BIRTH, THE GOLDBERGS, STAR GIRL, and STAR TREK: PICARD. *The Year of Spectacular Men* was her feature film directorial debut, collaborating with her daughters, Madelyn and Zoey Deutch. Stage singing and acting credits include *I love My Wife* and as Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* on Broadway.

Lea often performs at events for the Alzheimer's Association, The Michael J. Fox Foundation, and breast cancer charities. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband of 33 years, Howard Deutch, and a menagerie of dogs, fish, horses, and chickens.

Follow Lea on Twitter (@LeaKThompson), Instagram (@Lea Thompson) and Facebook (Lea Thompson).

### **STACEY FARBER** (Darby Spencer)

Stacey Farber is known for her dynamic performances in numerous hit TV series – both dramatic and comedic. She recurs as grief-stricken Tara in the Netflix chart-topper VIRGIN RIVER and played villainous Leslie Larr in the CW's breakout SUPERMAN & LOIS. She can also be seen in the award-winning comedies SCHITT'S CREEK (CBC, Pop TV), GRACE AND FRANKE (Netflix), and 18 TO LIFE (CBC) as well as UNREAL (Lifetime), THE BRAVE (NBC), DIGGSTOWN (BET+), CHICAGO JUSTICE (NBC), SAVING HOPE (CTV/IonTV), and ROOKIE BLUE (ABC). For seven years, Stacey portrayed the fan-favourite character Ellie Nash in DEGRASSI: THE NEXT GENERATION.

Stacey is based in Brooklyn. She is represented by The Characters Talent Agency, Ethos Entertainment, and A3 Artists Agency.

### **THOMAS OLAJIDE** (Zane Graham)

Thomas Antony Olajide is a Canadian Screen Awards-nominated and two-time Dora Mavor Moore Award-nominated actor of screen and stage, a published playwright, and a graduate of the Canadian Film Centre, and the National Theatre School of Canada.

Thomas began his training at the Brenda Crichlow Acting Studio in Vancouver while attending high school. Upon graduation, he was accepted into the National Theatre School of Canada. He would go on to attend the Birmingham Conservatory at the Stratford Festival, as well as The Canadian Film Centre.

Thomas has amassed a significant body of work including *Mariner* (2016 TIFF Top 10 Official Selection, 2021 TIFF Black Future Selection), *Inhuman Condition* (2017 Canadian Screen Award Nominee for Best Digital Program), and *White Lie* (2020 TIFF Official Selection, Canadian Screen Award Nominee for Best Picture). Thomas has also recently appeared in the French-Language Québécois television series LES NOMADES II, a recurring role for which he was nominated for Best Actor at Canada's 2020 Prix Gémeaux.

Thomas starred in Thyrone Tommy's debut feature film *Learn to Swim*, which he was recognized with a Canada Screen Awards nomination for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role, as well as an ACTRA Award nomination for Outstanding Performance. *Learn to Swim* premiered at the 2021 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), where Thomas was also named a 2021 TIFF Rising Star. The film made its theatrical release March 2022.

Most recently, Thomas guest starred on AMC's INTERVIEW WITH A VAMPIRE as the character 'Jonah'. Thomas just finished filming CTV's upcoming original drama series THE SPENCER SISTERS in Winnipeg.

#### **EDWARD RUTTLE** (Lucas)

Edward Ruttle is a Canadian actor from Oshawa, Ont. At age 20, he moved to Vancouver with his dog Dumau to pursue acting. Edward's first role was playing 'Beer Luge Guy' opposite John Cusack and Chevy Chase in MGM's feature *Hot Tub Time Machine*. He has since appeared in the horror classic film *Jigsaw* and most recently in the indie feature *Broken Diamonds* starring Ben Platt.

Edward is best known for playing the recurring role of Tommy Pembroke in the series ARCTIC AIR, starring Adam Beach for CBC about the life of northern bush pilots. Other notable television appearances include guest starring roles on Netflix sci-fi series ANOTHER LIFE, Hallmark's THE GOOD WITCH, and CW's BATWOMAN, as well as the Hallmark TV movie JUST ONE KISS.

Edward currently resides in Vancouver.

#### **HUSEIN MADHAVJI** (Alastair Dhumal)

Stage and screen actor Husein Madhavji has taken on diverse roles throughout his career, including playing Dr. Shahir Hamza for five seasons in CTV's original hospital drama SAVING HOPE, and on stage starring in the Soulpepper production of Yasmina Reza's *Art* in Toronto. He was also in the Emmy award-winning season of SCHITT'S CREEK.

Husein can currently be seen in acclaimed Netflix film *Donkeyhead*, the Disney+ animated series MIRA, and ROYAL DETECTIVE and STAR TREK: STRANGE NEW WORLDS on Paramount+. Prior to acting, Husein was a TV presenter where he hosted a daily national entertainment show in Canada, interviewing some of the most famous and celebrated faces in the world.

**AYESHA MANSUR GONSALVES** (Sarita Spark)

Ayesha Mansur Gonsalves is a Canadian actress, born and raised in Toronto. She started her professional career as a dancer, having trained at the prestigious Alvin Ailey American Dance Center in New York City. She performed in both Toronto and New York, as well as choreographing several pieces through her own company, Womb Dance Co.

After attending film school at the City University of New York, Brooklyn College, Ayesha turned her attention to the craft of acting and has been on screens in the US and Canada ever since. She is currently recurring as Mumtaz in the second season of HBO Max/CBC Gem's award-winning comedy SORT OF. Other recurring roles include Priya Khan in FX's Y: THE LAST MAN and Dr. Adya Livingston in Nat Geo's THE HOT ZONE. Ayesha has also played guest star roles in STAR TREK DISCOVERY, KIM'S CONVENIENCE, PRIVATE EYES, and DESIGNATED SURVIVOR, among others.

Ayesha's select film credits include *Tammy's Always Dying* – starring Felicity Huffman, Brandon Cronenberg's *Possessor*, and *Don't Hang Up* – starring Wendell Pierce and Lauren Holly. She is currently writing her first short film, and a comedic series, *The Girls*, based on four characters she created over the pandemic. All of whom she performs herself.

**RODRIGO MASSA** (Antonio Pereria)

Born and raised in Brazil, Rodrigo is an actor, singer and TV host who started his career in Mexico after studying at the acting school that belongs to Televisa, the biggest television network in Latin America. His first role on film was Agent López on *Instructions Not Included*. The movie was a massive hit, still holding the record as the most lucrative Mexican film of all time.

Following that, Rodrigo booked his first big part on TV, in EL COLOR DE LA PASIÓN (THE COLOR OF PASSION) playing the villain Amador Zúñiga, which was syndicated worldwide. After a long streak of Mexican shows, he joined the cast of the US hit DESTINATION WEDDING as AJ. In 2018, he joined the cast of Netflix's LA PILOTO, where he played Aldo Tapia. He then went on to join the next Netflix Original series EL DRAGÓN – RETURN OF A WARRIOR, where he was cast as Piero Scarinci, and was in Netflix's Top 10 most-watched list in more than 30 countries.

At the best moment of his career, he decided to move to Canada and landed his first lead in a U.S.-based production, *Merry Textmas*, which premiered on Lifetime in December 2022. He also sings the main song, *How Could I Have Known*, within the soundtrack alongside European popstar Andra. Recently, Rodrigo joined the cast of URBAN LEGEND, written and produced by Eli Roth. It premiered on the TRVL channel and is

now available on Discovery+ worldwide. He also landed a leading role in the feature film *Cheat*, which is currently in post-production.

All of that while working tirelessly on music releases that have won the hearts of hundreds of thousands of people, such as *Acabo De Soñar Contigo*, *El Mejor Amor Que Nunca He Tenido*, *Al Fin Te Encontré*, *Una Mujer Diferente*, and the Polish-Spanish hit *Poczuj Bicie Serca*, which now has more than 1.1 million views on YouTube™.

Rodrigo recently joined the cast of CTV original drama series, *THE SPENCER SISTERS*. He is represented by Jessica Martins and Jessica Brown of Hero Artists.

### **KAITLYN LEEB** (Lindsay Yip)

Kaitlyn Leeb's breakout role was as the iconic 'Three-Breasted Woman' playing alongside Colin Farrell in the Sony feature *Total Recall*. Since then, she has worked steadily playing the series regular role of Leah in Netflix's *SPINNING OUT*, the lead role of Dr. Tasha in the UPtv trilogy *Christmas With A Prince*, *Christmas With A Prince: The Royal Wedding*, and *Christmas With A Prince: The Royal Baby*.

Kaitlyn has appeared in the recurring role of Cassandra in seven seasons of CBC's *HEARTLAND*. She recurred as Camille in the Freeform science fiction series *SHADOWHUNTERS* as well as two seasons of *BITTEN* (CTV Sci-Fi Channel/Syfy) in the role of Amanda. Kaitlyn can be seen in the lead role of Jessica in *Romance in the Wilds* and *Christmas in the Wilds* (Brain Power Studios), as Det. Monica Lincoln in Lifetime's *The Fallen Angels Book Club*, and in the lead role of *Piper in Be Mine*, *Valentine* (Incendo Productions).

Other select credits include lead roles in *The Hazing Secret* (Lifetime) and *Christmas With A View* (Netflix), series lead in *SLASHER: THE GUILTY PARTY* (Netflix), supporting role in *Crossword Mysteries: Abracadaver* (Hallmark), and a guest-starring role in CityTV's *THE WEDDING PLANNERS*.

In 2013, Kaitlyn played the lead role of Liv in the short film *Alive*, which received a 2014 Canadian Screen Awards nomination for Best Direction in a Youth Program, a 2014 Emmy nomination for Outstanding Children's Program, and won Best Short in the 2013 ReelWorld Film Festival.

### **ADAM HURTIG** (Detective Jeremy Harris)

Adam Hurtig was born in August of 1985 in Winnipeg. His interest in performing was sparked in high school after being thrust into a musical by a long-time family friend and drama teacher. From there he continued his pursuit of the craft through post-secondary education at the University of Manitoba. Although this was a short-lived endeavour, the seed was firmly planted – leading Adam to a more individual exploration of performance until ultimately landing in his current passion of film and television.

Adam has appeared in supporting roles in feature films *Flag Day* (2021) with Sean Penn, *The Ice Road* (2021) with Liam Neeson, and *Winner* (2023) with Connie Britton, Zach

Galifianakis, and Emilia Jones. He was recently cast in the recurring role of Detective Jeremy Harris for CTV Original drama series *THE SPENCER SISTERS* (2023). Adam can be seen in a wide range of romantic comedies, action, and horror movies over the past decade, including the horror franchise *Chucky* in both *Curse of Chucky* (2013) and *Cult of Chucky* (2017).

When not performing, Adam has a wide range of hobbies and enjoys interior design, carpentry, gardening, writing, and coaching budding actors for film and television.

## **FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **JOCELYN HAMILTON**

#### **Executive Producer/President – Canada, Television, eOne**

Jocelyn Hamilton leads all Canadian operations for Entertainment One's (eOne) television business which includes the strategic planning and day-to-day management of eOne's television development and production activities in Canada. In her role, she focuses on building and broadening strong relationships with creative talent and Canadian broadcasters, while overseeing all aspects of the studio's original slate across all genres. Jocelyn also spearheaded the creation of eOne's podcast network.

As Executive Producer, Jocelyn has helped bring to life such high-profile projects as *CARDINAL* (CTV/Hulu); *MARY KILLS PEOPLE* (Lifetime/Global); *NURSES* (Global/NBC); *PRIVATE EYES* (Global/ION); *RANSOM* (Corus/CBS); *BURDEN OF TRUTH* (CBC/CW); *MOONSHINE* (CBC); and the upcoming series *THE SPENCER SISTERS* (CTV). Jocelyn also oversees all unscripted content including *ARCTIC VETS* (CBC/Roku), *BORDER SECURITY* (Global/Netflix); *PROJECT BAKEOVER* (Food Network); *THUNDER BAY* (Crave); *MAKE IT TO THE MOON* (Discovery); *CHICAGO STRANGLER* (Discovery+); and *DEATH IN THE BAYOU: THE JENNINGS 8* (Discovery ID).

Jocelyn has more than 30 years of creative, strategic, and business experience in the entertainment industry. Prior to eOne, she served as Vice President, Programming & Original Productions for Corus Entertainment, where she was responsible for all content strategies, programming, and original productions – both affiliated and independent across all networks and then later focused specifically on Corus Kids networks, which included YTV, Nickelodeon, Nick Jr, Disney Channel, Disney Jr., Treehouse, Teletoon, and Cartoon Network. She held a number of other key roles over many years at Corus Entertainment, which included overseeing Comedy and Drama original programming for all Corus specialty networks, as well as Movie Central and HBO Canada.

Jocelyn is on the board of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television and Hollywood Suite, was Board Chair for Women in Film and Television for five years. She has won numerous awards over the years including Emmy®, Gemini, and Canadian Screen awards, and was named the recipient of the 2022 Women in Film & Television – Toronto Crystal Award for Outstanding Achievement in Business.

### **TECCA CROSBY**

#### **Executive Producer/Executive Vice President, Scripted Programming – Canada, Television, eOne**

As Executive Vice President of Scripted Programming, Tecca Crosby oversees current production for eOne Television in Canada, as well as a robust development slate that includes numerous one-hour dramas, limited series, and half-hour comedies in development with Canadian broadcasters. She manages relationships with a variety of

Canadian and international co-producing partners, and worked on titles including BITTEN (Bell Media), PRIVATE EYES (Corus), MARY KILLS PEOPLE (Corus), MOONSHINE (CBC), and THE SPENCER SISTERS (Bell Media).

Before joining eOne, Crosby was VP, Drama for Temple Street Productions from 2008-2011, where she oversaw the development slate (including programming for children, tweens, and adults), as well as provided production executive services on Temple Street's critically acclaimed series BEING ERICA (CBC) and WINGIN' IT (The Family Channel). Prior to that, Tecca was Senior Vice President, Dramatic Programming at CTV from 1995-2007 where she oversaw the development of a robust slate of award-winning TV movies and series including DEGRASSI: THE NEXT GENERATION, THE ELEVENTH HOUR, and FLASHPOINT.

### **ALAN MCCULLOUGH**

**Executive Producer, Writer/Showrunner, Episodes 101, 110**

Alan McCullough is an award-winning writer/executive producer with a long list of television credits to his name, including drama series, science fiction, kids' shows, and animation. Most recently, he acted as Consulting Producer on RUBY AND THE WELL (BYUtv/Family). Prior to that, he show-ran the hit Canadian procedural PRIVATE EYES for three years, winning the 2020 Golden Screen Award for most popular Canadian series.

Alan has written and produced episodes of ROOKIE BLUE for Shaw/ABC, REIGN for CW Network, *Cracked* for CBC, and LOST GIRL for Showcase. Before that, he spent seven years in Vancouver, working on STARGATE: SG-1, STARGATE ATLANTIS, STARGATE UNIVERSE, and SANCTUARY (all Space/Syfy).

Alan has received numerous accolades for his work, including a Gemini Award nomination (now known as the Canadian Screen Awards) for Best Writing in a Dramatic Series (STARGATE ATLANTIS), seven Leo Award nominations with two wins for Best Dramatic Series and Best Screenwriting in a Dramatic Series (STARGATE ATLANTIS, SANCTUARY), and a People's Choice Award for Best Science Fiction Series (STARGATE ATLANTIS). In addition, he received a Writers Guild of Canada Award nomination for SANCTUARY.

### **JENN ENGELS**

**Executive Producer, Writer/Showrunner, Episodes 104, 109**

Jenn Engels is an award-winning television writer and producer of many critically acclaimed drama and comedy series on a variety of Canadian and international networks.

Jenn's TV career began on the first season of comedy-drama series LESS THAN KIND (HBO Canada), with showrunner Mark McKinney. Over the course of the show's four seasons, Jenn moved from Story Editor to Co-Executive Producer, garnering two Writers

Guild of Canada Award nominations, and nominations at the Genie Awards and Canadian Screen Awards, for her scripts.

In 2011, Jenn earned a place on *Playback's* '10 to Watch' list for the best and brightest new Canadian talent. For the next three years, Jenn continued writing and producing on several award-winning Canadian comedy series including SEED, SATISFACTION, INSECURITY, and DAN FOR MAYOR.

Jenn pivoted towards drama in 2014, and began working as a writer/producer on numerous award-winning series including BITTEN, CARTER, TRANSPLANT, and the final season of ORPHAN BLACK, from which her mid-season climax episode was chosen as VOX's episode-of-the-week. Most recently, Jenn served as Co-Executive Producer and Writer on Seasons 1 and 2 of the internationally acclaimed, Canadian Screen and Peabody Award-winning television series SORT OF (CBC/HBO Max).

As an educator, Jenn has served as mentor and consultant for both the Canadian Film Centre's Prime Time Television Program, the National Screen Institute's Totally Television Program, and the Pacific Screenwriting Scripted Series Lab in Vancouver, B.C.

Jenn is a bilingual born-and-bred Montréaler, who now lives with her husband, children, and a growing menagerie in Toronto, Canada.

## **PHYLLIS LAING**

### **Executive Producer, Buffalo Gal Pictures**

With a keen sense of business acumen, creative vision, and a desire to make Winnipeg the epicenter of the Canadian film and television industry, President Phyllis Laing established Buffalo Gal Pictures in 1994 and has continued to expertly guide the company to its present success.

The list of credits to her name is as impressive as it is extensive. Joining forces with a variety of producing partners, Phyllis has ensured that Buffalo Gal Pictures has been at the forefront of quality Canadian production for over three decades, executive producing feature films such as *My Winnipeg* (2012), *Siberia* (2018), and *Flag Day* (2021).

Phyllis's vision of inclusivity in film and television extends to Buffalo Gal's sister company Kistikan Pictures, having produced the feature film *Through Black Spruce* (2019) and the CTV Comedy series ACTING GOOD (2022).

## **JENNIFER BEASLEY**

### **Executive Producer/Creative Producer, Buffalo Gal Pictures**

A Writers Guild of Canada-nominated writer with comedy and drama television screenwriting credits to her name, Jennifer has been active in the film communities in both Toronto and Winnipeg for over two decades.

Having written and story edited for such series as the award-winning LESS THAN KIND, CRA\$H & BURN, and MEN WITH BROOMS, she joined Winnipeg-based Buffalo Gal Pictures in 2016. As a production executive, she was integral to both the development and production divisions and is adept at shepherding a project from initial stages through financing to delivery. As a supervising producer and production executive, Jennifer's credits include *A Very Sordid Wedding* (2017), *Look Away* (2018), *Siberia* (2018), and *JT Leroy* (2018).

In the fall of 2017, Jen was named Head of Development at Buffalo Gal Pictures. In 2021, she became Vice President of Development, currently overseeing the company's diverse feature and television slate. Most recently, she was a producer on the half-hour comedy series ACTING GOOD (Kistikan Pictures/Bell Media), and an executive producer/creative producer on the one-hour CTV original drama series, THE SPENCER SISTERS (eOne / Bell Media.)

Jennifer has served since 2020 as Co-Chair of On Screen Manitoba's Board of Directors.

## **DARREN GIBLIN**

### **Vice President, Current Scripted Programming – Canada, Television, eOne**

As Vice President of Current Scripted Programming for Entertainment One (eOne), Darren Giblin oversees all creative across the studio's wide-ranging slate of on air and in-production scripted programs. Past and present series under Darren's supervision include Sheri Elwood's CSA-nominated dramedy MOONSHINE (CBC), legal drama BURDEN OF TRUTH (CBC/The CW), medical procedural NURSES (Global/NBC), global smash PRIVATE EYES (Global/ION), CSA-winning drama MARY KILLS PEOPLE (Global/Lifetime), Emmy-nominated drama CARDINAL (CTV/Hulu), and Frank Spotnitz's Budapest shot procedural RANSOM (Global/CBS), as well as the upcoming light-hearted procedural THE SPENCER SISTERS (CTV).

Prior to joining eOne, Darren served as Director of Current Programming & Development for DOWNTON ABBEY producer NBCUniversal International in London, where he worked across several genres, formats and markets. In addition to developing an array of original scripted series with top British talent, projects on Darren's production slate included the Emmy® and BAFTA winning Australian YA series NOWHERE BOYS (ABC3), long running crime procedural MOTIVE (CTV/ABC), international co-production CAMP (NBC), and BAFTA winning MADE IN CHELSEA (E4/Bravo), to name a few.

## **APRIL MULLEN**

### **Co-Executive Producer, Director, Episodes 101,102**

April Mullen directs the first two episodes of new procedural series THE SPENCER SISTERS, from eOne, Bell Media/CTV and Buffalo Gal Pictures.

A true maverick in the feature film world, Mullen is known for her bold and stunning visuals, ambitious shooting style, strong performances, and unique voice. Her latest

feature directorial offer, *Hello Stranger*, is a syfi thriller starring Sam Worthington, Simu Liu, Robbie Amell, and Jordana Brewster. Her last feature *Wander* (2021) is a conspiracy thriller starring Aaron Eckhart, Tommy Lee Jones, Heather Graham, and Katheryn Winnick.

April directed *Below Her Mouth* (2016), a relentless love story shot entirely by an all-female crew, which had its World Premiere at the 2016 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). She was honoured with the TIFF Birks Diamond, a tribute to Women in Film, that same year.

Previous features include action thriller *88* (2015), and *Dead Before Dawn 3D* (2012), which confirmed April Mullen as the youngest person and first woman to direct a live action stereoscopic 3D feature. The film was celebrated for its technological achievement, and named winner of the Perron Crystal Award for Best Live Action 3D Feature Film.

Selected directorial TV credits include CBS's new season of BLOOD & TREASURE, and Netflix's TINY PRETTY THINGS, LETHAL WEAPON, THE ROOKIE, and WYNONNA EARP.

Mullen is co-founder of the independent production company Wango Films, alongside Tim Doiron. The company has produced six films to date.

**JENNICA HARPER**  
**Co-Executive Producer, Writer, Episodes 103, 108**

Jennica Harper is showrunner and co-creator of the award-winning comedy series JANN (CTV/Hulu), starring Jann Arden, which has run for three seasons and includes a companion holiday special. Jennica has written and produced a wide range of TV genres, from dark crime dramas to kids' multi-cam comedies. She was a writer and co-executive producer on the medical adventure drama SKYMED (Paramount+/CBC), horror-comedy cult favourite THE ORDER (Netflix), and critically acclaimed thriller CARDINAL (Hulu/CTV), among others.

Jennica has won two Writers Guild of Canada awards for Best Script – one for kids' comedy SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED, the other for the pilot script of JANN.

**TASHI BIELER**  
**Senior Vice President Production, eOne**

As SVP Production at eOne, Tashi Bieler oversees the studio's diverse and impressive slate of scripted television series and features shooting in Canada and abroad.

Her credits include such as upcoming series THE RECRUIT (Netflix) and THE SPENCER SISTERS (CTV); MOONSHINE (CBC); BURDEN OF TRUTH (CBC/CW); PRIVATE EYES (Global/ION); fan favourite DESIGNATED SURVIVOR (Netflix); international hit

RANSOM (CBS/Global); as well as the critically acclaimed NURSES (NBC/Global); RUN (HBO), and MARY KILLS PEOPLE (Lifetime/Global).

Prior to joining eOne, Tashi made her mark producing and line-producing films and television. A well-respected veteran of the industry, Tashi has more than 20 years of experience producing world-class content in Canada, the US, and Europe.

**DAVID WELLINGTON**  
**Director, Episodes 103, 104**

David Wellington is a director and producer based in Toronto, Canada. His first feature film, *A Man in Uniform*, premiered in the 'Director's Fortnight' at the Cannes Film Festival. He followed up with a screen adaptation of Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, which won the award for best feature film at TIFF.

David's extensive television credits include THE KIDS IN THE HALL, QUEER AS FOLK, THE ELEVENTH HOUR, ROOKIE BLUE, SAVING HOPE, ORPHAN BLACK, KNIGHTFALL, and VIKINGS. He has directed commercials for clients such as Bell, Coke, Kellogg's, Ikea, Westjet, Molson and Coors. His work has garnered dozens of nominations and awards worldwide.

David is a member of both the DGA and the DGC. He is represented by Creative Artists Agency

**JOYCE WONG**  
**Director, Episodes 105, 106**

Joyce Wong is an award-winning director and writer. She is an alumna of the 2008 Berlinale Talent Campus and the 2016 TIFF Talent Lab, was named on CBC's 17 for '17 list featuring great Canadian filmmakers of the future, and described by the *LA Times* as "a major talent to watch."

Joyce's debut narrative feature *Wexford Plaza* is a dark comedy that screened in competition at Slamdance in 2017, was awarded the Comcast Best Narrative Feature Award by San Francisco's Center for Asian American Media, and was nominated for the Toronto Film Critics Association's Best Canadian Film Award, and the John Dunning Discovery Award by the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television.

On the television side, Joyce has directed on shows such as THE BARONESS VON SKETCH SHOW (IFC), SORT OF (HBO Max), FAKES (Netflix), WORKIN' MOMS (CBC/Netflix), and RUN THE BURBS (CBC).

**MELANIE ORR**  
**Director, Episodes 107,108**

Melanie Orr is an award-winning director who has also been nominated for three Emmy® Awards. She expertly balances her projects between one-hour dramas and half-hour comedies. Melanie is most known for her work on THE HARDY BOYS and CHILDREN RUIN EVERYTHING (CTV), as well as her innovative directing style.

Starting out as a script supervisor, Melanie spent 15 years protecting the story, before transitioning into directing and was thrilled to be the one to tell the story. While balancing a dual career, it was her work as a script supervisor and second unit director on ORPHAN BLACK that sparked her creatively to pursue directing in episodic television.

In 2015, Melanie was selected for the highly competitive Shaw Media and NSI Diverse TV Director's Program and has been busy directing television ever since. With more than 85+ episodes of television to her credits, her work can be seen on Apple+, Hulu, Netflix, Amazon, CTV, NBC Universal, Nickelodeon, Family Channel, YTV, CBC, Sesame Workshop, MTV, and PBS.

In 2019, she received her first Emmy® nomination for Outstanding Direction in a Children's Program for her work on ODD SQUAD Season 2. Then in 2021, she received two more Emmy® nominations for Outstanding Direction for her work on Apple+ shows GHOSTWRITER and HELPSTERS.

Starting in the half-hour kids and family genre, and with a passion for all stories young adult, Melanie expanded into one-hour dramas with multiple episodes on both of the YA series UTOPIA FALLS (Sonar/Hulu) and THE HARDY BOYS (Corus/Hulu). In 2021, she won both the DGC Award and the Canadian Screen Award for Outstanding Direction. She has also won the 2022 DGC Award for THE HARDY BOYS Episode 107, in Season 2. Melanie returned to Season 3 to direct the series finale.

Melanie is also drawn to complicated family stories and loves to use interesting, out-of-the-box layers to inject drama, comedy and heart into family dynamics. This led her to direct the pilots for the series THE PARKER ANDERSONS and AMELIA PARKER: two different shows, one family. Following this, she tackled her first network comedy, CTV's CHILDREN RUIN EVERYTHING, where she directed half of the first season and returned for Season 2 to also direct half of that season. Melanie directed multiple episodes of RUN THE BURBS, a new half-hour comedy for CBC, which aired in March 2022. She was nominated for the DGC Award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in a Comedy Series for her work on RUN THE BURBS.

In the summer of 2022, Melanie joined Amazon's new comedy THE LAKE.

## **DOUGLAS MITCHELL**

### **Director, Episode 109**

Douglas Mitchell is a Winnipeg-based film and television director. His most recent credits include CTV's THE SPENCER SISTERS (2023), CBC's BURDEN OF TRUTH (2017-

2020), Marvista Entertainment's Christmas movie *Snowmance* (2017), and second unit directing on Seasons 1 and 2 of SyFy's hit series CHANNEL ZERO (2016-2017).

Douglas has built a successful career in the film and television industry in Canada since premiering his award-winning short film *Mkultra* at the Montreal World Film Festival. He made his television directing debut with three episodes of HBO's Gemini Award winning series LESS THAN KIND. He followed that up with six episodes of action adventure detective series THE PINKERTONS, and second unit directing on Universal's *The Cult of Chucky*.

In addition to directing, Douglas has more than 25 years of experience working as an assistant director on feature films, television series, movies, and commercials. He has been a proud member of the DGC since his start in film, and has worked across Canada in Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, and his current hometown of Winnipeg. Douglas was born in Toronto, and grew up in the small town of Orangeville, Ontario. He attended Sheridan College's Media Arts Program, majoring in Film.

### **AMANDA TAPPING**

#### **Director, Episode 110**

Amanda Tapping enjoys a fulfilling career in television and film, having spent 12 seasons on STARGATE: SG-1 and its spinoffs STARGATE: ATLANTIS and STARGATE: UNIVERSE in the role of Air Force Colonel Samantha Carter. She then took on the lead role of Dr. Helen Magnus on the television series SANCTUARY, a project she had been nurturing from its inception on the internet.

Amanda has directed such television shows as STARGATE, SANCTUARY, PRIMEVAL: NEW WORLD, ARCTIC AIR, CONTINUUM, STRANGE EMPIRE, OLYMPUS, DARK MATTER, VAN HELSING, THE MAGICIANS, ANNE WITH AN E, X COMPANY, TRAVELERS, SUPERNATURAL, THE 100, SIREN, BLINDSPOT, THE FLASH, and CHILLING ADVENTURES OF SABRINA, and served as producing director for two seasons of MOTHERLAND FORT SALEM. She has earned four Leo Awards for Best Actress, has been nominated for two Gemini Awards and four Saturn Awards, and won the 2005 Saturn Award for Best Supporting Actress. Amanda won the Jurors Choice award at Cannes Film Festival diversity corner for *Reel Women Seen*, the short film she directed.

Amanda is a strong advocate for mentorship in the film industry and sits on the Women in Film and Television's Advocacy Committee. She launched the charitable foundation Sanctuary for Kids in 2009 to support both local and global charities helping children in crisis. The foundation raised more than \$1,000,000 during 10 years of work, which took them from the downtown east side of Vancouver to Nepal.

Amanda was honoured with Women in Film and Television's Woman of Vision award, the YWCA Women of Distinction Connecting the Community award, and was recently awarded The Jules Verne Award in Paris for her humanitarian work. She received an

Honorary Doctorate of Laws from The University of Windsor, and in 2015 was named ACTRA's Woman of the Year. She was also named the DGC BC's Women in Entertainment Honouree.

## **EVANY ROSEN**

### **Supervising Producer, Writer, Episode 105**

Originally from Toronto, Evany Rosen attended university in Halifax, where she became a founding member of the sketch troupe Picnicface, with whom she created hit Comedy Network series PICNICFACE. Since then, Evany has become an accomplished and in-demand television writer, having worked on numerous live-action series including BARONESS VON SKETCH SHOW (CBC/IFC), GAMING SHOW (Disney) and THIS HOUR HAS 22 MINUTES (CBC), as well as several animated series including PINECONE & PONY (Dreamworks/Apple TV), TOTAL DRAMARAMA (Cartoon Network), and THE ZHUZHUS (Disney).

Evany enjoys a thriving career in voice acting with series regular roles on *Hotel Transylvania* (Disney), TOTAL DRAMARAMA (Cartoon Network) and MYSTICONS (Nickelodeon). Her debut book of humour essays, *What I Think Happened: An Underresearched History of the Western World* (Robin's Egg Books) has earned praise from comedy heavyweights like Paul F. Tompkins and Samantha Bee and is already in its second printing.

Most recently, Evany co-created, co-show-ran, and co-starred in the critically acclaimed Crave comedy NEW EDEN.

## **NATHALIE YOUNGLAI**

### **Supervising Producer, Writer, Episode 106**

TV writer and director Nathalie Younglai founded BIPOC TV & Film, a not-for-profit organization advocating meaningful representation of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour in front and behind the camera. She has mentored many BIPOC creatives and spoken on panels and juries across Canada.

In 2019, Nathalie hauled her Asian parents to the Daytime Emmys® after being nominated for her writing on DINO DANA. She was honoured to receive the 2020 CSA Humanitarian Award and the WGC Alex Barris Mentorship Award, and to be named one of *NOW Magazine's* 2020 Trailblazers, as well as one of *The Globe and Mail's* 22 Changemakers in Canadian film and TV in 2022.

Nathalie was executive producer and showrunner on HELLO (AGAIN), a CBC Gem k-drama-romcom web series she co-created with Simu Liu, and writer and co-executive producer on Season 4 of CORONER (CBC/CW), for which she wrote all previous seasons. She is supervising producer on CTV's THE SPENCER SISTERS, and has a one-hour drama series in development with a streamer.

Nathalie likes to write stories about kick-ass queer Asian women, twisted relationships, and tales from the heart... with a bite.

## **JESSIE GABE**

### **Writer, Episode 102**

Jessie Gabe is a television writer and executive producer who began her screenwriting career on BEING ERICA (CBC). She garnered a Writers Guild of Canada award, a Canadian Comedy award, and two Gemini nominations (including one win) for her work on the show.

In 2012, Jessie was awarded the Bell Media National Fellowship Award of Distinction. She joined the MR. D (CBC/Hulu) writing staff in its second season, quickly moving up to showrunner and executive producer. Jessie directed her first episode of network television on the show.

Her first feature film, *Cas & Dylan*, was directed by Jason Priestley and starred Richard Dreyfuss and Tatiana Maslany. She has since adapted and directed a series of short films based on material from *The Globe and Mail's* 'First Person' column, and written for FRANKIE DRAKE (CBC), HUDSON & REX (CityTV), RUN THE BURBS (CBC), THE SPENCER SISTERS (CTV), and WORKIN' MOMS (CBC/NETFLIX), on which she also served as executive producer, co-showrunner, and director for its final season.

Jessie is currently in development on several television and film projects.

## **ROSA LABORDÉ**

### **Writer, Episode 107**

Rosa Labordé is a critically acclaimed Chilean-Canadian playwright, screenwriter, director, and actor. She's been called "a young writer who deserves both attention and respect" by *The Toronto Star*, while *NOW Magazine* asked, "Is there anything this multi-talented artist can't do?"

As a screenwriter, Rosa wrote two episodes of HBO Canada's Emmy®-nominated show SENSITIVE SKIN, starring Kim Cattrall, co-wrote two episodes of A SWEET RIDE with comedian Mary Walsh and developed for Shaw/Global, and wrote two episodes of the dark comedy KILLING IT, created by Susan Coyne and developed by CBC. She created her own original comedy MOSTLY SUNNY for CTV/Bell Media, co-wrote three episodes of the action packed surveillance drama FIVE EYES, created by Paul Gross and John Krizanc and acquired by Jerry Bruckheimer Television, and co-adapted the award-winning novel *Far To Go* for House of Films.

Rosa co-created the sexy political drama CONGRESS with Malcolm MacRury and David Weaver. She also co-created the web series NESTING, which was recently acquired by Crave, and has developed television and film projects for production companies such as

Sullivan Entertainment, Rhombus Media, Pier 21, Alcina Pictures, Frantic Films, Big Coat, and Force Four, and broadcast networks CBC, Shaw-Global, and CTV/Bell Media.

As a playwright, Rosa's plays have been produced across Canada at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Tarragon Theatre, The Great Canadian Theatre Company, Neptune Theatre, Touchstone Firehall Theatre, and The Belfry Theatre, with performances at both Playwright's Horizons and the Arthur Seelen Theatre in New York City.

For her writing, Rosa has been nominated for the Dora Mavor Moore Award, has been a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama, and received the KM Hunter Artist's Award for Theatre. Currently she has commissions for Factory Theatre, Tarragon Theatre, and The Stratford Festival of Canada.

Rosa is a graduate of the Oxford School of Drama in Oxford, England, and the Canadian Film Centre's Primetime Television Writing Program.

## **JASON IP**

### **Co-writer, Episode 107**

Jason Ip is a Toronto-based television writer, most recently serving as the Script Coordinator & Story Editor for CTV's upcoming, THE SPENCER SISTERS. Earlier this year, he was selected as 1 of 16 recipients to receive financial support and mentorship through the 2022 Rogers-BSO Script Development Fund. He's also an alumnus of BIPOC TV & Film's 2022 Drama Lab Intensive. As a member of the 2SLGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities, he's committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in all his work.

## **SEASON 1 PRODUCTION CREDITS**

A CTV original series, THE SPENCER SISTERS is produced by Entertainment One (eOne) and Buffalo Gal Pictures.

The series is created by Alan McCullough, and executive produced and co-showrun by McCullough and Jenn Engels. Jocelyn Hamilton and Tecca Crosby serve as Executive Producers for eOne. Phyllis Laing and Jennifer Beasley are executive producers for Buffalo Gal Pictures. For Bell Media, Carolyn Wu is Development Executive; Rachel Goldstein-Couto is Head of Development, Original Programming; Mitch Geddes is Production Executive; Sarah Fowlie is Head of Production, Original Programming; Carlyn Klebuc is General Manager, Original Programming; Pat DiVittorio is Vice-President, CTV and Specialty Programming. Justin Stockman is Vice-President, Content Development & Programming, Bell Media. Karine Moses is Senior Vice-President, Content Development & News, Bell Media and Vice Chair, Québec, Bell.

The series is produced with the Canada Media Fund, the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit, the Manitoba Film and Video Production Tax Credit, and the Ontario Film and Television Tax Credit.

THE SPENCER SISTERS is distributed internationally by eOne.

## **CORPORATE PROFILES**

### **ABOUT eOne**

**Entertainment One Ltd. (eOne)** is a talent-driven independent studio that specializes in the development, acquisition, production, financing, distribution and sales of entertainment content. As part of global play and entertainment company Hasbro (NASDAQ: HAS), eOne's expertise spans across film and television production and sales; production, distribution and brand management of kids and family properties; and digital content. Through its extensive reach and scale, and a deep commitment to high-quality entertainment, eOne unlocks the power and value of creativity.

eOne brings to market both original and existing content, sourcing IP from Hasbro's portfolio of 1500+ brands, and through a diversified network of creative partners and eOne companies.

### **ABOUT BUFFALO GAL PICTURES INC.**

Founded in 1994, Buffalo Gal Pictures has become one of Canada's leading independent production companies, developing and producing a multitude of challenging and diverse projects by creating collaborative relationships with creative talent and building successful co-production partnerships. The company has continued to establish itself as a significant content developer for film (*The Stone Angel*, *Hyena Road*) and television (LESS THAN KIND, SUNNYSIDE, THE PINKERTONS), and as a highly sought after service partner (*Heaven is For Real*, *Siberia*, *JT Leroy* and the Sean Penn-directed *Flag Day*.)

### **ABOUT CTV**

CTV is Canada's #1 television brand. CTV provides unparalleled entertainment programming across two broadcast television networks; a powerful suite of specialty channels including CTV Comedy Channel, CTV Drama Channel, CTV Life Channel, and CTV Sci-Fi Channel; and digital channels CTV Throwback and CTV Movies, streaming on demand from CTV.ca and the CTV app. CTV has been Canada's most-watched television network for the past 21 years in a row and features a wide range of sports and information programming, including CTV News, Canada's highest-rated national and local newscasts. CTV's parent company is Bell Media, Canada's premier multimedia company with leading assets in television, radio, digital, and out-of-home advertising.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

### **Twitter:**

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