



DIE HARSH DIE HVBSH

A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

A GRINDSTONE
PRODUCTION
WRITTEN BY

SIMON ABBOTT AND BYRON MARTIN
SHOW TIMES AND TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
GRINDSTONETHEATRE.CA

DECEMBER
14 – 23
THE VARSCONA THEATRE



Alberta
Foundation
for the Arts

10329 83 AVE NW
EDMONTON AB

CAST MEMBERS

DAVID FINDLAY

> HANS SCHMUBER

EVAN DOWLING

> JOHN MCWAYNE

> TONY

> FITZENWIGGEN

MHAIRI BERG

> HOLLY DONAIRO

> EMMA THOMPSON

> HEINRICH

> HANS' MOM

MARK SINONGCO

> BAKAGI

> KARL

> GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

PAUL-FORD MANGUELLE

> THEO

> WINSLOW

> ARGYLE (GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT)

ADMINISTRATION TEAM

JOCELYN ANSELMO

> PRODUCER

TRINITY LOCKE

> ASSISTANT PRODUCER

ABIGAIL FULLWOOD

> DIGITAL MARKETER

DARREN PEACOCK

> BAR MANAGER

PRODUCTION TEAM

CHRIS HICKS

> PRODUCTION MANAGER

AUTUMN RUSSELL

> STAGE MANAGER

NICHOLE MAN

> SOUND TECHNICIAN

TRISTAN FAIR

> LIGHT TECHNICIAN

MIKE BRADFORD

> AUDIO CONSULTANT

CARPENTERS

> PATRICK LUNDEEN

> COREY HICKS

> CHRIS HICKS

INSTALLERS

> PATRICK LUNDEEN

> AERIN GORDON

> MIKE MIKUS

CREATIVE TEAM

BYRON MARTIN

> DIRECTOR

SIMON ABBOTT

> MUSICAL DIRECTOR

CAMILLE PARIS

> SET/PROPS

> LIGHTING

BEVERLY DESTROYS

> COSTUME DESIGN

MARK SINONGCO/MHAIRI BERG

> CHOREOGRAPHY

SPECIAL THANKS TO
THE VARSCONA THEATRE!



MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Is it a Christmas movie? Well, it's definitely a Christmas Musical.

We are thrilled to present Die Harsh at the theatre where Grindstone first got its start 13 years ago! If you saw the show last year you'll notice that not only have we expanded the show into a larger venue with a full set design, we have extended the show to two acts, added a three piece band, with new songs, scenes and much more! And if you haven't seen the show, well ... I don't know what to tell you. Maybe just be ready for some extra Christmas plot lines that aren't in the movie.

This has been an insanely large show to put on and I'd like to thank the whole production team, creative team, the producing staff at Grindstone, our patrons and our sponsors for making it all possible. It is truly a Christmas miracle as it comes together against all odds.

Thank you for coming out and supporting your local theatre and we hope you make Die Harsh part of your annual tradition!
Enjoy the show!

NEW YEAR'S EVE

fruit loop

2024

DECEMBER 31



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ABOUT THE GRINDSTONE THEATRE

The Grindstone Theatre SOCIETY is a not-for-profit Edmonton based theatre company founded in 2011 by Artistic Director, Byron Martin. The Grindstone opened its venue, The Grindstone Comedy Theatre & Bistro in 2018 and is home to independently produced improv, stand-up, sketch comedy and musical theatre troupes. Grindstone Theatre produces the hit improvised musical, The 11 O'clock Number, which is currently in its 11th season, as well as a full mainstage season and summer festivals (Grindstone Comedy Fest, Disco in the Park and Mural Massive). The Grindstone has produced original shows, including Jason Kenney's Hot Boy Summer: The Musical, which toured around the province and performed to sell out audiences both in Edmonton and abroad, and (Thunder)CATS, a favourite at Edmonton's Fringe Festival. Grindstone has an extensive education department that offers classes in acting, improv, stand-up, burlesque and more. Grindstone also offers free weekly events such as comedy open mic, karaoke, dance parties and trivia held in the Grindstone Bistro. We believe that theatre can change lives for the better; for those who participate in the performing arts, for our audiences and for our community.

Join us in making our community a better place through the arts.



ABOUT
THE
SHOW

BYRON MARTIN AND SIMON ABBOTT ARE BACK AT IT AGAIN WITH THEIR MUSICAL SATIRE BASED ON THEIR FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS MOVIE.

RETURNING FOR THE SECOND YEAR, THIS TIME EVEN BIGGER AND BETTER! SEXY GERMAN CRIMINAL ALAN RICKMAN-I-MEAN-HANS-GRUBER LEADS AN INTERNATIONAL GANG OF TERRORISTS WHO SEIZE AN OFFICE TOWER DURING A CHRISTMAS PARTY. JOHN, A COP FROM NEW YORK, IS TRAPPED ON THE UPPER FLOORS. HE'LL NEED A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE TO SAVE HIS POWER-DRESSING WIFE HOLLY AND THE OTHER HOSTAGES.

THIS DIE-HARD-CHRISTMAS-CAROL IS ABOUT AS STUPID AS IT SOUNDS WITH ACTION PACKED COMEDY, TAP DANCING FBI AGENTS AND HEARTBREAKING FLASHBACKS OF KIDS WHO ARE COUGHING TOO MUCH.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

STILLE NACHT
DIE HARSH
ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER HEIST
WELCOME TO MEIN PLAN
WHEN YOU KEEP CHRISTMAS IN YOUR HEART
SAVE YOUR SOUL
THE FITZENWIGGEN SCHLAGFEST
REPRISE HARSH

GERMAN CAROLERS
KARL, ENSEMBLE
TONY, KARL, THEO, HENCHMAN
HANS
HOLLY, MARY
TONY, DEAD HENCHMAN
FITZWIGGEN, HENCHMAN
KARL, ENSEMBLE

LETS TAKE A RIDE
CHRISTMAS IN PARADISE
JOHN'S SONG
I GIVE YOU THE FBI
THE SHOWDOWN
CHRISTMAS WILL NEVER BE THE SAME

ARGYLE
HOLLY, JOHN
JOHN
JOHNSON, JOHNSON
HANS, HOLLY, JOHN
ALL SURVIVING CHARACTERS

ACCOMPANIED BY THE HENCHMEN: SIMON ABBOTT ON KEYS, KESSLER DOUGLAS ON BASS & BIBOYE ONANUGA ON PERCUSSION

CREATIVES LIST & BIOS



Byron Martin is an Edmonton based writer, director and actor and the Founder and Artistic Director of Grindstone Theatre in Edmonton. He has been working as an improviser for the past 11 years and is the director of The 11 O'clock Number! The Improvised Musical with which he has toured internationally. Byron is a graduate of the MacEwan Theatre Arts Program and The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland MA Musical Theatre Program. Byron has worked as an actor for The Citadel Theatre, Alberta Opera, Edmonton Actors Theatre, The National Theatre of Scotland, The Citizens Theatre (Glasgow), Trunk Theatre, Malachite Theatre, and Theatre YES to name a few. He is the recipient of Theatre Alberta's Community Service Award, voted VUE weekly's Champion of the Arts and was nominated for Outstanding Artistic Director at the Mayors Celebration of the Arts. As an actor nominated for Best Supporting Actor and Outstanding Achievement in Theatre for Young Audiences at the Edmonton Sterling Awards. Directing credits include Here Lies Henry, The Adventures of Chucky and Reggie and Urinetown The Musical, (Thunder)CATS The Musical, Jason Kenney's Hot Boy Summer The Musical, and Die Harsh: A Christmas Musical (Grindstone Theatre).



Simon Abbott is a left-handed, itinerant musician based in Edmonton. He is an organist by training, and a glam rocker by disposition. He has at times struggled to feed himself as a choral conductor, jazz pianist, and musical theatre director, although he is now pleased to be gainfully employed at the Visionary Centre for the Performing Arts. He's worked with his writing partner Byron Martin on many projects with the Grindstone, including Jason Kenney's Hot Boy Summer, (Thunder)CATS, Die Harsh: A Christmas Musical and the 11 O'clock Number. If you've ever passed a cyclist pedaling through the Edmonton winter snow, it's definitely him.





NEW YEARS
& EVE
MASQUERADE

DECEMBER 31ST 2023
9PM - LATE
DRESS TO IMPRESS





David Findlay is thrilled to be the sexiest german terrorist he can be! The world is a darker place without this high-rise, action, Christmas comedy. When Dave's not singing in a saucy way he's teaching striking at Frank Lee's or at beer league hockey with his partner. Big thanks to everyone at The Grindstone for making this happen, and to his wonderful partner and fur-babies for their constant support. Past stage credits include Oliver and Equus(Citadel), Little Red Riding Hood(Alberta Opera), Ranchers and Rustlers(Souris Valley), and Big Boom Theory 1&2(Jubilation's. Enjoy the show!

Die Harsh: A Christmas Musical

DAVID FINDLAY | **HANS SCHMUBER**

at Randolph College for the Performing Arts where he met ze luff off hiss Lyfe! Past credits for Evan include: Scotty/Ed/male swing - Evil Dead: the musical international tour (starvox entertainment); Patsy - Spamalot (Lower Ossington Theatre); Featured Singer/Boy 2 - Production Cast(s) 2015-2017 (Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines); Potsy/the Fons - Buddy Holly's Happy Daze (Jubilation a Dinner Theatre); Male Swing/Tyler Shandro - Jason Kenney's Hot Boy Summer (Grindstone Theatre); Ensemble - the 11 O'clock Number (Grindstone Theatre/Winnipeg & Edmonton Fringe); Brian/Inspector - Charade (Twin Flames Theatrical Productions/Edmonton Fringe). When he's not heading out to the coast to get together and have a few laughs, Evan is building his and his wife's theatre company, Twin Flames, and purposely growing his hairline to emulate Bruce Willis. Welcome to the party pal!



Die Harsh: A Christmas Musical

EVAN DOWLING | **JOHN MCWAYNE & VARIOUS CHARACTERS**



Mhairi Berg is a theatre creative who works as performer and theatre educator in the Edmonton area. Mhairi is a graduate of MacEwan's Theatre Arts Program and holds an MA in Music Theatre Performance from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She is a Sterling Award Winner for her original score composition for Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play. Credits include: SATCo/Uniform Theatres' Ride The Cyclone (Sterling Winner), The 11 O'Clock Number, The Adventures of Chucky & Reggie (Grindstone Theatre), The Play's The Thing (Thou Art Here Theatre), The Key Of She (SkirtsAFire), Company, Active Virgin (Edinburgh Fringe/RCS), After The Fall (RCS). Mhairi is also an award-winning improviser and has toured internationally. She has been a theatre educator for Theatre Alberta's Artstrek, the Citadel Theatre's Foote Theatre School, Grindstone Theatre, as well as many schools across Alberta. Mhairi debuted her original musical, Morningside Road, that she co-wrote with Simon Abbott at this past Fringe.

Die Harsh: A Christmas Musical

MHAIRI BERG | **HOLLY DONAIRO & VARIOUS CHARACTERS**



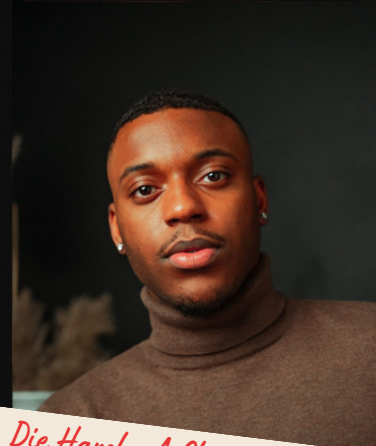
Mark Sinongco (he/him) is a proud Filipino-Canadian actor and a graduate of the Canadian College of Performing Arts. He was previously seen strutting in booty shorts as frat boy Tyler Shandro in Grindstone Theatre's Jason Kenney's Hot Boy Summer. He is excited to be in another Grindstone original musical; this time, a holiday classic. Some previous credits include: Tobias in Sweeney Todd (Plain Jane Theatre), Ricky Potts in Ride the Cyclone (SATCo and Uniform Theatre), Velociraptor of Innocence in Triassic Park (Uniform Theatre), and Cosmo Brown in Singin' in the Rain (Festival Place).

Die Harsh: A Christmas Musical
MARK SINONGCO | **JOE BAKAGI**
& VARIOUS CHARACTERS

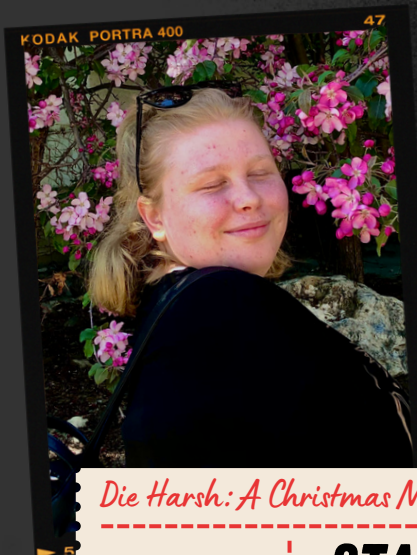
Paul-Ford Manguelle is a Canadian French and English speaking actor of Cameroonian origin. His most notable theatre credits include his performance as the blue, hip gyrating, and jovial cat Panthro in The Grindstone Theatre's Musical adaptation (Thunder)CATS in the 2019 and 2022 Edmonton Fringe Festival, the hug-loving comfort counselor Mitch Mahoney in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Grindstone Theatre), and various roles that he's excited to be reprising from last year's Grindstone production of Die Harsh: A Christmas Musical, including Theo the vault the breaker, officer Al Winslow, Argyle the rapping limo driver, and Mary the African secretary. Paul-Ford is also a local filmmaker, writer, producer, and director.

KODAK PORTRA 400

47



Die Harsh: A Christmas Musical
PAUL-FORD MANGUELLE | **THEO, WINSLOW**
& VARIOUS CHARACTERS



Autumn Russell is happy to be working with the Grindstone Theatre again, where they have worked on previous productions such as "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee", and previous years productions of "Die Harsh", in various roles. Other previous stage management credits include "Nine" at Theatre Sheridan, "Sweat" at Theatre Aquarius, and "In The Next Room" at the University of Toronto. Autumn is a semi-recent graduate of Sheridan College, with a focus in Stage Management, Lighting, and Audio.

Die Harsh: A Christmas Musical
AUTUMN RUSSELL | **STAGE MANAGER**



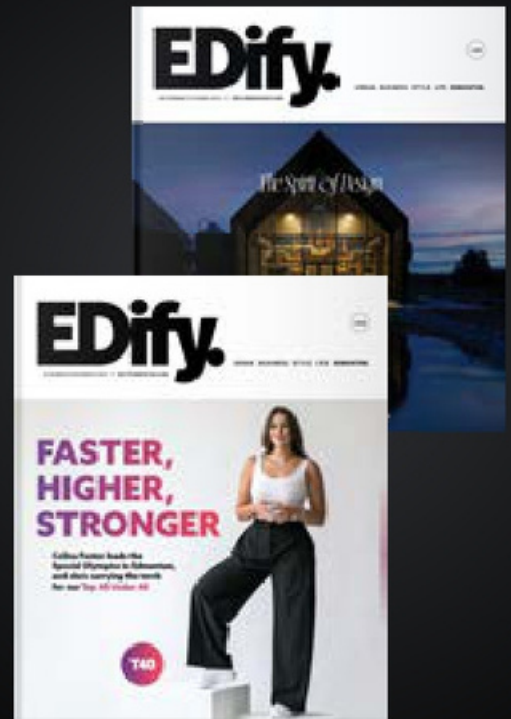
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Die Harsh: A Christmas Musical

CAMILLE PARIS | SET/LIGHTS DESIGNER

Camille Paris is a theater designer from France and is based in Edmonton since 2018. She first studied painting and drawing in fine arts of Bordeaux (France) and finished her studies at the National Theatre School of UQAM (Montreal/QC) She worked between France and Québec with various theatre companies, the National Opera of Bordeaux and the Comédie Française. Her studies in painting and art history at fine art school, and her experience as stage designer in varied areas, such as: fashion industry, retail, and events enhance her perspective regarding her creativity. Her highlights design credits include: Costumes on "Revolt! she said revolt again..." from the award winner playwright Alice Birch. directed by Suzan Martin. Lighting and costumes on "Shakespeare's dog" from Rick Chafe directed by Ann Hodges. Set and Lighting on "Les Belles-soeurs" directed by Joëlle Préfontaine. Set on "Chrysothemis" directed by Jan Selman. Set, costumes and light designer on "Secret in the wings", directed by Elizabeth Hobbs. And in the next season, costumes in "Trout Stanley" directed by Hugues Frenette (Théâtre du Niveau Parking, Québec) She is happily putting her skills in this dynamic comedy show with the Grindstone company to build an amazing theatre experience.



Die Harsh: A Christmas Musical

BEVERLY DESTROYS | COSTUME DESIGN

A multi-disciplinary artist and educator, **Beverly Destroys** started her career in fashion before venturing into costume design for tv, film, and advertising. A 2010 fashion design graduate of Istituto Marangoni, she has worked on projects for UK's Channel 4, Billy Talent, Ralph Lauren & the 2012 United States Olympic Committee. Beverly is also the founder of two clothing labels and The House of Sew, a sewing school based in Edmonton.

quickly became a sought-after player - recently completing his music degree at MacEwan University. Frequenters of live music will find Biboye hard to miss - whether behind the drums as a sideperson, with his band Good Information, in the pit at your favourite theatre production or organizing shows through the weekly Wednesday night music series, New Standards. Previous Theatre Credits Include: Little Shop of Horrors, Prison Dancer, Going Solo, Toque, Cafe Wanderlust (Citadel Theatre); Until Next Breath (Catalyst Theatre); and annual Black History Month production 5 Artists 1 Love. Biboye would like to thank his fiancé and family for all their love and support.

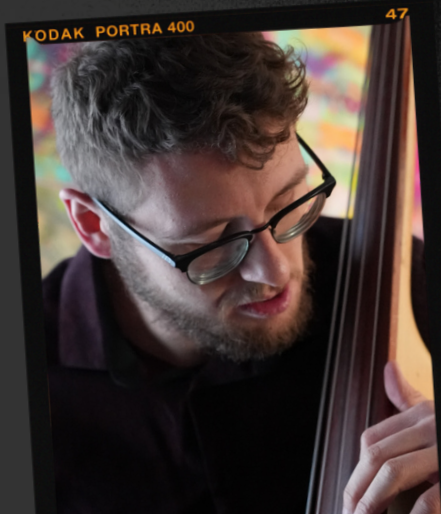
Biboye Onanuga is a versatile drummer and imaginative composer based in Edmonton.

Steeped in the arts scene since high-school, he



Die Harsh: A Christmas Musical

BIBOYE ONANUGA | PERCUSSIONIST



Die Harsh: A Christmas Musical

**KESSLER
DOUGLAS**

**BASS
& GUITAR**

Kessler Douglas is an Edmontonian multi-instrumentalist, composer-arranger-producer, budding music scholar and teacher drawing from jazz, funk, electronic music, and americana. Kessler has played venues and arts events across Edmonton and Alberta including the Yardbird Suite, the Edmonton Jazz Festival, and the Flying Canoe Festival, as well in Ottawa, Ontario during his recent two-year study period there. He has worked extensively as a bassist and sideman, including appearances with Charlie Austin, John Sweeney, Jerrold Dubyk, Jacob Do, Free Golf Clubs, the Cunningham Family Band, and Tiger's Traverse. Outside of the concert scene, Kessler has also worked with musical theatre companies (Elope Musical Theatre - Edmonton; Lost Baggage Musical Theatre - Ottawa), helped create multidisciplinary artistic exhibitions (with the ToneArt Collective, Centre d'Arts Visuels de l'Alberta), and is currently working on a music-centered video game project with an Edmonton-based studio. As bandleader and composer-arranger, Kessler has led or co-led the Kelso Pentagonal Group (KPG), the Down-Low Project, the Evergreen Trio, and the Mother-

Phunker Collective (MPC), among others. He has composed dozens of pieces of music over the years, including various instrumental and vocal songs as well as long-form works like *Drifting Apart* (2019) for jazz quintet, his self-produced album *Hellas* (2021), and *Hope and Turbulence* (2023) co-composed with Josh Krushel for ten-piece cross-stylistic chamber ensemble. Kessler also co-founded the ToneArt Multi-Arts Collective in 2021, a community for young, experimental multidisciplinary artists in Alberta.

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SPECIAL THANKS

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SARAH DOWLING

ADAM GOUDREAU

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SARON BERAKI

GRINDSTONE VOLUNTEERS

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MAT SIMPSON

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"10 OUT OF 10"
- ORLANDO SENTINAL

"HILARIOUS!
THE SHOW LEFT
ME LAUGHING
UNCONTROLLABLY!"
- EDMONTON JOURNAL ★★★★★

"FABULOUS
FOOLISHNESS
IN FIVE PART
HARMONY"
- CBC WINNIPEG ★★★★★

"WHAT THEY
DO SEEMS
VIRTUALLY
IMPOSSIBLE!"
- BREAKFAST TV ★★★★★

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THE IMPROVISED MUSICAL



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