

The University of Winnipeg Department of Theatre and Film presents

# THE WEIGHT OF ANTS

*by David Paquet*

*Translated by Leanna Brodie*

## ARTISTIC STAFF

Director ..... Hope McIntyre  
Scenic Design ..... Amanda Jones  
Costume Design / Design Instructor ..... Sean McMullen  
Lighting Design ..... Lovissa Wiens  
Text & Vocal Coach / Voice & Speech Instructor ..... Tom Soares  
Movement Coach/Movement Instructor ..... Aria Evans  
Assistant Director ..... Dakota Barker  
Research Assistant ..... Bronwyn Smyth  
Research Assistant ..... Rae Toews  
Accessibility Consultant ..... Debbie Patterson  
Intimacy Consultant ..... Heidi Malazdrewich  
Scenic Painter ..... Shauna Jones  
Hair and Makeup ..... Aileen Audette  
Original Music Composer ..... Geoffrey Heal

Stage Manager ..... Keira Jordan  
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Denby Perez

## CAST

*in alphabetical order*

Sol Choi ..... Joan & Principal's Mother & Withered Old Woman  
& Control Tower of Paradise

Mike de Jong ..... The Principal & The Man in a Suit and Tie

Olivia Di Girolamo ..... Joan & Gabriella

C. Dion ..... Olivier & Baby Baby Dance Floor Announcer

Denise Estacio ..... Bertha the Cafeteria Lady & The Mayor & Book Store Owner  
& The One Who is Hurting & Someone Else in Crowd

Veronica Ford ..... Joan & Katie-Sue the Math Teacher  
& The Woman Who Drives the Bus & Olivier's Therapist

Cyan Gargol ..... Olivier & Olivier's Mother & Nort  
& The One Who is Hungry

Geoffrey Heal ..... Olivier

Colin Hildebrand ..... Emilio Who Teaches Too Many Subjects  
& The Woman Who Sells Books While Drunk  
& Joey & Someone in Crowd

Colin Parsons ..... The Shampoo Ad & Psychologist & Mike & Janitor  
& Woman Who Applies Shampoo & Raoul & The One Who is Hot

Lauren Pickering ..... Joan & Grocery Store Cashier & The One Who is Thirsty

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Head of Lights ..... Charlie Buller  
Production Assistant.....Phoenix Charamuga  
Costume Coordinator .....Kimberly Fredrick  
Head of Set .....Neko Goertzen  
Head of Props ..... Ruby Maclean  
Head of Sound ..... Nicolas Zitaruk  
House Manager .....Alexis Hios

### COSTUMERS

Jessica Desjarlais, Lee Frketich, Charlie Henrickson, Amirah Mansilla, Precious Okpo,  
Jonalyn Tolentino, Samantha Wilson

### BACKSTAGE ASSISTANTS

Brinn Inkpen-Bailey, Kathleen Starr

### CARPENTERS / PAINT CREW

Hannah Bartholomew, Lynne Budd, Angel Cahigas, Abbie Hughes, Samantha Wilson

### TECHNICAL CREW

Clark Louise Dote Gonzales, Olivia Gamblin, Arlo Giesbrecht, Colin Hildebrand, Willow Isaac, Eshika Khurmi,  
Jordan Legace, Angela Li, Emma MacIsaac, Avery Mittermayr, Gia Linh Pham, Israel Pursina, Ayla Stewart,  
Solani Svingen, Erika Tata, Keely Rene Dawn Zacharias

### FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Department Chair ..... Adam Parboosingh  
Master Carpenter / Production Instructor ..... Aaron Frost  
Assistant to the Master Carpenter ..... Rachel Baziuk  
Production Coordinator ..... Delton Kreller  
Assistant Prod Coordinator / Production Instructor ..... Colin Wiens  
Department Technician ..... Tyler Nguyen  
Production Instructor ..... Steve Vande Vyvere  
Costuming Instructor ..... Brenda McLean  
Stage Management Instructor ..... Leslie Watson  
Poster and Layout ..... Lovissa Wiens

### Running time:

Approximately 90 minutes – no intermission

***A Quiet Room is available for anyone who requires it.  
Please see House Management in the lobby for any accessibility needs.***

### Content Information:

Climate and political anxiety; alcoholism; suggestions of violent action and self-immolation; exploration of mental wellness; depictions of grief and end of life; flashing lights and loud sounds (altered for the sensory-friendly performance).

*The Weight of Ants* was created in Montreal on November 19, 2019, by Theatre Bluff at the Fred-Barry room of the Denise-Pelletier Theatre, directed by Philippe Cyr.

### Please turn off your cell phone.

The photographing, video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.

## NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR & CAST

Although this absurd and surreal comedy explores how young people deal with the reality of a dying planet, it is also about connecting and finding hope. Both of which we were able to do throughout the process of working on the show. We found moments to be upset with the horrible things occurring in the world but also moments of joy – “You have to stay angry. Then happy. Then angry. Then happy.” This is the way to transform our world: by taking cooperative action but also appreciating it is worth fighting for.

As this is an educational exercise, casting was done collaboratively with students submitting their preferred roles. We split up the characters of Joan and Olivier – both to allow for greater opportunities to the acting students but also as a statement illustrating the fact that we can all be Joan and Olivier. These two characters make a powerful connection. Joan is hell-bent on tearing everything down and reacts to her anxiety about the dying world with rage. Meanwhile, Olivier is determined not to lose his optimism and tries to escape from his own anxious nightmares. Together they find balance and a way forward, just as we all can.

The support shown for one another throughout this process was inspiring. We are so grateful to the wonderful production team and for the many communities (family, friends, and guides) who support us. Thank you to David Paquet for his script and Leanna Brodie for both the translation, as well as joining us as we embarked on this journey in the fall.

“All flourishing is mutual.” – Robin Wall Kimmerer

As an act of reconciliation, donations should be made to <https://morganswarriors.com/>

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Prairie Theatre Exchange, U of W Experiential Learning Fund, Daina Leitold  
Audio Description provided by Vocal Image Ensemble Winnipeg (VIEW)  
I.A.T.S.E. Local 63 for its continuing support of our Production students

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Please mark your calendar for our upcoming production:

***UNITY (1918)***  
**by Kevin Kerr**  
**March 31 – April 4, 2026**