

Deafy

Chris Dodd | Canada

April 22–23, 2022

Part of CoMotion International Deaf and Disability Arts Festival

Fleck Dance Theatre, Harbourfront Centre

### About Deafy

Deaf public speaker Nathan Jesper has arrived at his venue desperately late. As he launches into his speech, he soon realizes that things are not what they seem. Written and performed by Deaf actor Chris Dodd, Deafy is a stand-up/sit-down tragicomedy blending ASL, the spoken word and surtitles, which leads you on an unexpected journey of belonging.

60 minutes, no intermission.

“Disability is political. Disability is community. Disability is identity. Disability is an experience of living in a world with a ‘one size fits one’ design. An international artistic and cultural movement is growing, and Deaf and disabled artists are shouting ‘We exist!’” — Alex Bulmer, CoMotion Curator

### Special Thanks:

Vern Theissen, Milane Pridmore-Franz, Heather Inglis, Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre, Darrin Hagen, Andrea Fraser Konowalec, Pam Brenneis, Marion Brant, Honor Carlyon, Rachel Marks, Shay Erlich, Becky Gold, Sean Lee, Eliza Chandler, Syrus Marcus Ware, Véronique Leduc, Kyle Rawn and Colin McCarthy.

Thank you to our supporters: Site Partners - the Government of Canada, the City of Toronto. Programming Partners – the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, the City of Toronto, Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund. Corporate Site Partner – Labatt.

### Biographies:

Chris Dodd – Actor/Playwright – is an award-winning Deaf actor, playwright and accessibility advocate. He is the founder and artistic director of SOUND OFF, Canada’s annual national theatre festival dedicated to the Deaf performing arts. Notable performances include Ultrasound with Theatre Passe Muraille, and recent film credits include the role of Odin in the upcoming feature film Finality of Dusk.

Ashley Wright – Director – is an award-winning actor, playwright and director. In his 30 year career, Wright has worked at every major theatre in Canada, and in 2017 he earned an MFA in directing from the University of Alberta.

Sarah Karpyschin – Lighting Designer (She/Her) – is an Edmonton-based theatre designer who has worked on shows across Canada. She has her BFA in Theatre Design from the University of Alberta and a Diploma of Fine Arts from MacEwan University.

Dave Clarke – Sound Designer – is an award-winning Edmonton-based actor, playwright and sound designer. His most recent play, Songs My Mother Never Sung Me, is a bilingual piece, performed in sung English and ASL.

Roxanne Côté – Stage Manager – is an Edmonton-based stage manager who loves the sun, reading, travelling and pigeons. Some of her previous credits include the production of Hamlet online with Thou Art Here Theatre, Une exploration en attendant with l'UniThéâtre and a production of A Christmas Carol with Carter-Ryan Productions in Banff, AB.

Ainsley Hillyard – Choreographer – is an Amiskwacîwâskahikan (Edmonton)-based choreographer, performer and educator who works in contemporary dance and theatre. Hillyard has worked as a choreographer and performer for various theatre and dance companies in Amiskwacîwâskahikan and received numerous Sterling nominations and awards for her performances and choreographies.

#### Production Credits

Written, Performed by Chris Dodd

Director: Ashley Wright

Stage Manager: Roxanne Côté

Sound Designer: Dave Clarke

Lighting Designer: Sarah Karpyschin

Choreographer: Ainsley Hillyard

ASL Coach: Amorena Bartlett

Photographer: Marc J. Chalifoux

Additional Photographs: Katherine Fogler

Audio Description Production: Superior Description Services

Audio Describer: Letizia Binda-Partensky

AD Dramaturg: Kat Germain

Quality Assurance: Lauren Wu

Audio Engineer: Dev Ramsawakh

ASL Interpreter Coordinator: Gaitrie Persaud: Phoenix The Fire

ASL Interpreters: Marcia Adolphe, Amanda Hyde, Timothy Keslick

Harbourfront Centre Staff

Chief Executive Officer: Marah Braye

Chief Programming Officer: Iris Nemani

CPO Executive Assistant: Chris Scholey

Cultural Engagement

Manager, Interim: Diana Webley

Associate Producer: Pam Briz

Assistant Producers: Andrea Castaneda, Melanie Dubois

Company Manager: Rosie Driscoll

Accessibility Coordinator: Katherine Hale

Production

Director: Jamie Rodriguez

Senior Manager: Andrea Strachan

Production Manager: Sterling Bogie

Production Manager, Theatres: LJ Savage

Production Coordinator: Mary Margaret Annab

Senior Technical Coordinator: Ryan Borshuk

Front of House

Manager: Christopher Hackett

Assistant Manager: Ian McNulty

Manager, Hospitality: Norm Maschke

Hospitality Supervisor: Michelle Grimaldi

Front of House Supervisor: Stephanie Dotto

Harbourfront Centre Theatre

Head Electrician: Giulia D'Amanzo

Stage Carpenter: Mike Susz

Audio Engineer: Howie J. Howlett

Stage Technicians at the Harbourfront Centre Theatre and Fleck Dance Theatre are represented by Local 58 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, its territories, and Canada.