

W. R. O. L. (Without Rule of Law)

by

MICHAELA
JEFFERY

Mysterious Disappearance

Shocks Alberta Town

By EMILY MARSHALL

In the town of Meadowbrook, Alberta, four young girls have reportedly gone missing. The local police department released a brief statement about the missing girls, but no one seems too alarmed. After all, kids sometimes get lost and turn up eventually. The names and ages of these girls have not been officially shared. Many assume they have just run away.

ONE CAN ASSUME THAT
GIRLS OFTEN WANDER OFF,
DON'T THEY?

The local media coverage has been minimal, as if the story is not particularly pressing. Despite the initial shock, the story seems to be losing traction, overshadowed by other events and daily routines. The missing girls' faces, once a common sight, are now coming just another part of the town's backdrop. As the days by Meadowbrook returns to its serene with the mystery of the four missing girls slowly fading from memory. Life, after all, must go on.

Already

Already forgotten

Already forgotten

Sheriff Morgan assured the community that the girls' disappearance is likely unrelated to the Shelton Commune disappearance.

VENUE #1: ATB WESTBURY
THEATRE, FRINGE THEATRE
ARTS BARN, 10330 84 AVE NW



EDMONTON
FRINGE
THEATRE
FESTIVAL



FRIDAY, AUGUST 16 - 4:30PM
SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 - 12:00PM
MONDAY, AUGUST 19 - 2:00PM
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20 - 10:15PM
THURSDAY, AUGUST 22 - 8:45PM
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24TH - 6:15PM

W.R.O.L (Without Rule of Law)

by Michaela Jeffery

Presented By Light in the Dark Theatre

Cast

Maureen.....Jordan Empson
Jo.....Robyn Clark
Robbie.....Baran Demir
Vic.....Astrid Deibert
Sarah..... Emily Thorne



Artistic Team

Director & Producer.....Emily Marisabel
Assistant Director.....Shyanne Duquette
Stage Manager & Sound Designer.....Phoenix McLeod
Costume Designer.....Annika Schultz
Set Designer.....Amanda Bertrand
Props Designer.....Kevin Cambridge
Lighting DesignerChelsea Payne Evason
Projection Designer.....Harjot Bassi
Fight Director.....Jacquelin Walters

Land Acknowledgement

When colonizers first arrived on Turtle Island, the land was not empty. For centuries, this place – ᑭᓐᖃᓴᗵᓐᖁᓐᖅ, Amiskwacîwâskahikan, has been a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and travelling route of the Nêhiyawak (Cree), Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Dene, and Nakota Sioux. Before the arrival of my colonial ancestors, these communities had their own customs, rules, commerce, religions, art, traditions, medicine, and societal structures. Amiskwacîwâskahikan was a bustling Indigenous meeting place for over 3000 years before the arrival of Europeans in the late 18th century to early 19th century. In 1876, Treaty 6 negotiations ended with promises of health care, education, hunting rights and freedoms in exchange for *sharing* the land to the depth of a plough. Instead, the Canadian government passed the Indian Act which pushed Indigenous people out of their homeland and onto reserves. Violence, famine, and disease were then used to force assimilation and colonialism. Residential schools were created in an attempt to physically and ethnically erase Indigenous people and their culture. When the Canadian government began to phase out compulsory residential school education in the 1950s and 1960s, (although the last of these ‘schools’ were not closed until 1996) they then conducted a mass removal of Indigenous children from their families; they placed them into the child welfare system – ‘The Sixties Scoop’. This government-issued child abduction was to continue their forced assimilation but in a more covert manner. Many Indigenous children floated from foster home to foster home or lived in institutionalized care. Like in Residential schools, physical and sexual abuse was not uncommon, but it was usually covered up. However, as much as colonizers tried, and continue to try, to assimilate Indigenous people, they still resist. Indigenous people and their beautifully diverse culture are still very much alive today!

WROL (Without Rule of Law) discusses the concept of those in power forcibly getting rid of communities which simply choose to live their lives differently. Colonialism inherently has a scarcity mindset. It includes the belief that the number of those who hold power is limited and therefore the

fear of losing control is prominent. Consequently, this means that colonialism views those who live their lives differently as a threat to this power, and therefore, see the removal of these different communities as a necessity to maintain power.

“Like even if they didn’t *say* so, but just *lived their lives* in a different way, where things had different values, people had different values, it was too threatening. It was just like we looked at them and thought . . . *how dare they.*” – *WROL (Without Rule of Law)*

WROL (Without Rule of Law) also discusses how, when forced removals occur, those in power control the narrative of this removal. They publicly broadcast whatever narrative places them in the best light. This is why we are only recently ‘discovering’ mass graves on residential school sites. This narrative was covered up by those in power, even though the Indigenous communities knew all along that their children never returned home.

As a theatre company currently residing on Treaty Six territory, and as a descendant of colonizers myself, the company and I acknowledge that we are guests on this land. It is our responsibility to learn about the true history that has occurred here and to educate ourselves on Indigenous laws, customs, worldviews and protocols. We want to be the best guests that we can be, and therefore, we strive to, not only state our acknowledgment but actively build meaningful relationships with local Indigenous people.

- Emily Marisabel





Company Bios

Jordan Empson – Maureen



Jordan Empson (she/they) is an Amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton) artist who recently graduated from the BFA Acting Program at the University of Alberta. She is a multi-disciplinary artist trained in acting, clown, singing, movement, and stage combat. Movement in any form is a passion of hers, and she can often be found improvising and exploring the interesting physical skills their body can do. She is also a skilled musician who plays multiple instruments, including but not limited to: guitar, violin, piano, and saxophone. Jordan hopes you enjoy the show! Select theatre credits include: Melanie in *Rough Magic* (Studio Theatre), Aeneas in *Troilus and Cressida* (Studio Theatre), Death in *Everybody* (Studio Theatre), Arviragen/Helen in *Cymbeline* (Bleviss Laboratory Theatre), and Antigone in *Welcome to Thebes* (ABBEDAM).





Robyn Clark is a Métis emerging theatre artist and educator from Sikóóhkotok (Lethbridge) currently residing in amiskwacîwâskahikan (Edmonton). She is a recent graduate of MacEwan University's Music Theatre Performance BFA and also completed two years at the University of Lethbridge in the Drama Education BFA/BEd program. They frequently volunteer with local theatre companies including Workshop West Playwright's Theatre, Freewill Shakespeare Festival, Grindstone Theatre, Walterdale Theatre (Edmonton), and New West Theatre (Lethbridge). Robyn is passionate about increasing accessibility in the arts and art education, and recently facilitated an arts-based research project that intended to assist emerging artists in discovering and expressing complex and marginalized artistic identities through cabaret performance. She also enjoys collecting double-decker teapots. Credits include Olivia in *Twelfth Night*, Assistant Director/Pilar in *Legally Blonde*, Starbucks Girl in *London Road*, Fraulein Knuppledick in *Spring Awakening* (MacEwan University), Nurse in *So Long.*, and Raven in *The Murder* (Theatreextra).





Baran Demir – Robbie

Baran Demir (He/Him) is a Turkish-Canadian Edmonton-based artist. He is currently enrolled in his second year at the University of Alberta in the BFA acting program. In addition to acting, he improvises with University Improv Group at the U of A. He is also a musician with proficiency in guitar and singing. A passion of his is finding the humour in any kind of scene and show and he loves to work with comedy in any form.

Past credits include: Bill (*Never Swim Alone*), Morris/Fate (*Burning Down The House*), Dick/Ensemble (*9 to 5 - The Musical*)



Astrid Deibert– Vic

Astrid is an Edmonton-based artist and graduate of the MacEwan University Theatre Arts Program. Her recent credits include *The Noteworthy Life of Howard Barnes* (Light in the Dark Theatre) and *Harvey* (Walterdale Theatre). As an enthusiastic dancer, a proficient violinist, and a lover of comedy, she finds herself involved in the performing arts in any way she can. She's desperately grateful to have friends and family as supportive as they are, and she's so excited to bring this story of girlhood and adventure to life at Fringe! IG: @astrid_deibs

Emily Thorne – Sarah



Emily Thorne (They/Them) is an interdisciplinary artist, originally from the Coast Salish Territories. After moving for school, they graduated with a Bachelors in Acting, and have continued to work as an actor and artist in Edmonton. As a queer and neurodivergent actor, they strive to create art that is inclusive and joyful. When not creating, you can find them at home with their dog, Marshmallow, and their partner; Usually playing TTRPGs, reading, and dueling imposter syndrome. Thank you for supporting live theatre!



Emily Marisabel – Director & Producer



Emily is a professional Alberta-based theatre artist whose work is governed by the ethics of love - the belief that everyone is connected, that other people's well-being enhances your own, and that every person is innately deserving of being treated with care, commitment, knowledge, respect, and trust. Emily has directed for theatres across Canada, produced several theatre productions for multiple Alberta-based theatre companies and is also the founder and artistic director of Light in the Dark Theatre, this company which is dedicated to telling stories of hope and healing. In 2018, Emily was awarded the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Emerging Artist Award for her work with Light in the Dark Theatre and her practice of utilizing live theatre to inspire hope, incite positive change and build community. Emily would like to thank her husband, family, and friends for their support, love, and encouragement.

Selected previous directing credits include:

The Noteworthy Life of Howard Barnes (Light in the Dark Theatre, 2023) - Director

Meteor Shower (Theatre Calgary, 2023) - Assistant Director

Badlands Passion Play: Matthew Script (Badlands Amp, 2022, 2023, & 2024) – Crowd Director

Carmel (4th Line Theatre, 2019)

Never Swim Alone (Light in the Dark Theatre, 2019)

Punch Up (Light in the Dark Theatre, 2019)



Shyanne Duquette – Assistant Director

Shyanne Duquette is a Cree mixed-blood multidisciplinary theatre artist based in Amiskwacî (Edmonton). Since graduating from the University of Alberta with a BA in Drama in 2021, they have taken on various roles in the theatre industry, including acting, administration, directing, playwriting, and producing. Shyanne is a community-focused artist committed to breaking down barriers to entry in the arts and beyond. Their work often focuses on themes of identity, community, and things that set people's teeth on edge.

Shyanne is currently developing a new script, *Skinhead*, with support from The Major Matt Mason Collective's Wildfire Development Unit and Alberta Playwrights Network's IBPOC Writers in Residence. Their previous show, *Omisimawiw*, was supported by Common Ground Arts' Riser (2023) and Tarragon Theatre's Young Playwrights Unit (2022). They have also participated in Nextfest's Emerging Artists Producing Program (2023).

Selected previous directing credits include:

The Visit (Skirts A Fire - Off The Page Cabaret, 2024) - Director

The Herd by Kenneth T. Williams (The Citadel Theatre, Tarragon Theatre, 2022) - Apprentice Director



Phoenix McLeod – Stage Manager & Sound Designer

Phoenix McLeod (They/Them) is an emerging Stage Manager and Sound Designer, and 4th year Stage Management student at The University of Alberta. Previous credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (UofA, Sound Designer), *Through The Leaves* (UofA, SM), *Indecent* (UofA, ASM), *The Noteworthy Life of Howard Barnes* (Light In The Dark Theatre, SM/Sound Designer), *The 39 Steps* (UofA, SM). Upcoming credits include *Wildfire* (UofA, SM) and *The Laramie Project* (UofA, ASM).



Annika Schultz – Costume Designer

Annika Schultz (they/them) is delighted to be back working with Light in the Dark Theatre for their second Fringe. They are an emerging theatre artist heading into their second year at the University of Alberta, specializing in Theatre Design. Annika believes strongly in accessible and sustainable practices in theatre and works to implement them in all of their designs. Past credits include *The Hand That Feeds* (Metamorphoses Theatre, Wardrobe/Props/Projections Design, 2024), *Lola* (New Works Festival, Set/Props Design, 2024), *Tomato Girl* (New Works Festival, Set/ Props Design, 2024), and *The Noteworthy Life of Howard Barnes* (Light in the Dark Theatre, Wardrobe Design, 2023).

Amanda Bertrand – Set Designer



Amanda (She/Her) is a designer, director, and actor perusing her Bachelor of Education (Drama) at the University of Alberta. Amanda's passion for the theatre has led her to her most notable accomplishments of production design for *Everythin'* (Liam Witte/ Take 5 Theatre Festival 2022), directing *The Picture of Elias Graham* (Angie Bustos/NewWorks 2024), and her performance of *...And Others* (Dennis Bush/ Edmonton Fringe Festival 2023). In her years in theatre, she has grown an extraordinary love for how the beauty of theatre, inside of rehearsal and out, can inspire connection across communities. She is eager to continue her journey as a designer and hopes that you will join us in the world of this show and that the immense care and passion that has gone into every element is felt in every moment.





Kevin Cambridge – Prop Designer

Kevin (He/Him) is thrilled to be making his Prop Designer debut with this show! Based in Amiskwacîwâskahikan, colonially known as Edmonton, he is a recent graduate from the inaugural class of MacEwan University's BFA in Music Theatre Performance. Select Theatre Credits: Howard Barnes in *The Noteworthy Life of Howard Barnes*, Bill in *Never Swim Alone*, Duncan in *Punch Up!*, Marty in *Dani Girl* (Light in the Dark Theatre), Munchie Moo in *Wild Moo's Chase* (Cathexis Theatre), Fr. Kaulback in *Spring Awakening*, Gordon in *London Road*, Lt. Brannigan in *Guys and Dolls*, Tinsworthy in *9 To 5: The Muscial* (MacEwan University), Josh Cohen in *The Other Josh Cohen* (Birnton Theatricals), as well as various roles over eleven seasons with the *Badlands Passion Play* in Drumheller, AB including being the Jesus Understudy. Kevin thanks his wife, Emily, for all her love and support; his dog, Fiyero, for all the cuddles when he gets home; and everyone involved with this production. He also thanks you, the audience, for supporting this independent theatre company by attending this show! Without you, none of this would be possible. Enjoy the show and Happy Fringing!!

@kevin.adam.cambridge

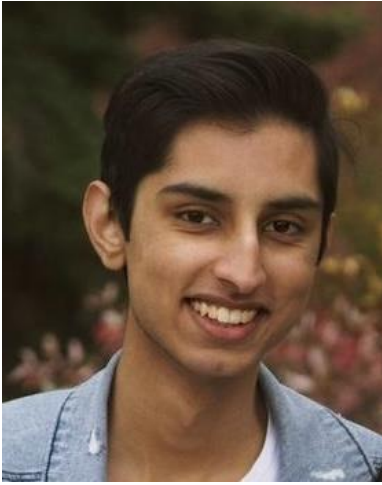
www.kevincambridge.com



Chelsea Payne Evason – Lighting Designer

Chelsea is an MFA design student here at the University of Alberta. Chelsea holds both a Bachelor of Arts Theatre, and a Bachelor of Arts Music Studies degree presented by the University of Guelph, ON. Her past work includes Costume Design for *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl* by Morris Panych, Lighting assistant for *War of Worlds* by Orson Welles, Lighting Designer, and Co-crew head for *The Remarkable Flight of Marnie McPhee* by Daniel Karassik, Master Electrician, Lighting Designer for *Taunton House* by Megan Van Der Merwe. As well as the Master Electrician and Lighting Designer of *Plaything*, an Opera done in collaboration with Musique 3 Femme. Work outside of the University setting includes lighting design and cinematography for *I'm Fine*, a short film by Rianna Morgan, the role of Peter, Costume design, Practical lighting, and set design for *Peter/Wendy* by J. M. Barrie. The role of the King/Monk 1 in *Robin Hood* by Norris, and the role of Tove 1 in *The Jabberwocky* by Andrew Kay, Malcolm Middleton, and Peter Phillips. She has also worked with music ensembles for three years to achieve effective sound staging of orchestral performances. She performed vocally in student and art department showcases, completing nationally with a classical band receiving high silver, gold, and bronze medals. Chelsea is originally from Orangeville, Ontario.

Harjot Bassi – Projection Designer



An aspiring Technician with a passion for all things behind-the-scenes, best known in his community for designing elaborate Halloween displays inspired by Disneyland's Haunted Mansion! Check out his work on Instagram! @harjot._.b



Michaela Jeffery - Playwright of *WROL (Without Rule of Law)*



Michaela is an Alberta based playwright and graduate of The National Theatre School of Canada. Recent writing credits include: *The Extractionist* and *Incendiary*, both commissioned by Vertigo Theatre (Calgary, AB), text creation for *Persephone Bound*, Imago Theatre (Montreal, QC), *Wolf on the Ringstrasse*, Spirit Fire Theatre (Calgary, AB), *The Listening Room*, Cardiac Theatre (Edmonton, AB) in conjunction with The Azimuth Theatre & Downstage Performance Society; *The Listening Room* received its American premiere Off Broadway in November 2019 with Nylon Fusion Theatre Co. (NYC, NY).

Michaela was a recent finalist for the international Jane Chambers Excellence in Feminist Playwriting Award (2021) and Alberta Playwrights Network Alberta Playwriting Competition (2019) with her play *WROL (Without Rule of Law)* as well as a finalist for the Playwrights Guild of Canada's RBC Emerging Playwright Award for her play *The Listening Room* and recipient of the national Enbridge Playwrights Award (Emerging Category) for her developing play, *Going West*.

About Light in the Dark Theatre:

Light in the Dark Theatre believes that light shines the brightest in the darkest of places. Therefore, we choose to share stories which illuminate hope, stories which make the glimmer of the world brighter, and stories which inspire an infectious flicker that continues to spread even after the curtain goes down.

Light in the Dark Theatre believes in the healing power of storytelling, and we view theatre as a spark that can ignite a more caring, understanding, compassionate and empathetic humanity. Therefore, we choose to share stories that exemplify and inspire personal as well as community and societal healing, and we endeavour to provide creative environments where both artists and audiences are cared for physically, mentally, and emotionally.

In an effort to bridge the divide between urban artistic opportunities and rural artistic isolation, we often bring these stories to small, rural communities in Alberta which have minimal arts opportunities due to their physical location.



Light in the Dark Theatre's past shows:

Dani Girl

by Micheal Kooman and Christopher Dimond;
performed in Rosebud, Alberta, 2017

Twisted Tales: Snow White

by Adam Furfaro;
performed in Peace River, Alberta, 2018

Punch Up!

by Kat Sandler;
performed in Rumsey, Alberta, 2019

Never Swim Alone

by Daniel MacIvor
performed at the 38th annual
Edmonton Fringe Festival, 2019

The Noteworthy Life of Howard Barnes

by Micheal Kooman and Christopher Dimond;
performed at the 42nd annual
Edmonton Fringe Festival, 2023

If you would like Light in the Dark Theatre to bring a theatrical production and/or a theatrical learning opportunity to your community, email us at: lightinthedarktheatre@gmail.com

Wondering what else to see at the Fringe?

Regression

Presented by [Cathexis Theatre](#)

The bright and enthusiastic citizens of Prior are obsessed with the past. Their free time consists of going to operas, museums, old art galleries, and Shakespeare plays. As the community plunges deeper into nostalgia, a group of artists starts to notice a regression in society and their creative rights.

Location: The Playhouse (Venue 30-); 10033 80 Ave

Performance Schedule:

Aug 15 (Thu) 8:00 pm

Aug 16 (Fri) 9:30 pm

Aug 17 (Sat) 4:00 pm

Aug 18 (Sun) 1:30 pm

Aug 18 (Sun) 7:30 pm

Aug 20 (Tue) 7:00 pm

Aug 21 (Wed) 4:30 pm

Aug 23 (Fri) 3:00 pm

Aug 24 (Sat) 9:00 pm

Aug 25 (Sun) 6:30 pm



Get tickets here: <https://tickets.fringetheatre.ca/event/601:5898/>

Thank you so much for supporting independent live theatre!