

# THE KILLING GAME

BY EUGÈNE IONESCO  
TRANSLATED BY HELEN GARY BISHOP



**February**  
**13–22, 2025**



# The Killing Game

by Eugène Ionesco

Translated by Helen Gary Bishop

Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director ..... Conrad Alexandrowicz  
Set Designer ..... Spencer McCairns  
Costume Designers..... Lilian Doucet & Claudia M. Fraser  
Lighting Designer..... Theon Winn  
Sound Designer ..... Jack Storwick  
Stage Manager ..... Dani Snyders-Blok

## CAST

Sierra Alexander  
Eric Barnes  
Elliot Baskin Smith  
Wynter Clermont  
Janina Ferrer  
Kaden Fleming-Holmes  
Grace Fouracre  
Ava Harvey

Azura Idu  
Maddie Irwin  
Liam James  
Simran Kang  
Zoey Stienstra  
Jack Storwick  
Sophie Taylor  
Hayden Telford

There will be one 15-minute intermission

ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

## DIRECTOR bio



Conrad Alexandrowicz, MFA, is a Professor in the Department of Theatre, where he teaches movement and physical theatre creation for actors and directs department productions. Over a decades-long career in performance, he migrated from dance to theatre and has been a dancer, dance critic, choreographer, writer of texts for dance, playwright, actor, director, and producer. He created over fifty dance and physical theatre works, many of which were presented across Canada and internationally, mainly under the auspices of the company he founded, Wild Excursions Performance.

His writing has been published in *Theatre, Dance and Performance Training*, *Studies in Theatre and Performance*, and *Theatre Topics*. His first book, *Acting Queer: Gender Dissidence and the Subversion of Realism*, was published by Palgrave in February 2020. The co-edited collection that he instigated and to which he contributed, entitled *Theatre Pedagogy in the Era of Climate Crisis*, was published by Routledge in May 2021. Another book for Routledge about actor training in the face of linked environmental crises, entitled *Performing the Nonhuman: Towards a Theatre of Transformation*, was published in the fall of 2024.

## DIRECTOR notes

While considering better-known plays by the absurdist master Ionesco I found *The Killing Game* and knew immediately that I had to direct it. Its portrayal of a deadly epidemic and all the irrational responses to it chimed so clearly with our experience of the COVID-19 pandemic that one might think it had been written yesterday rather than fifty years ago. While it depicts a contagion almost supernatural in its potency, its representation of the lunacy of conspiracy theories, the attempts of unscrupulous politicians to exploit a public health crisis, and the assumption of the privileged that they are exempt from suffering and death, will all be recognizable to audiences. One of the features of the absurdist sensibility is that laughter and horror, the comic and the tragic, are intertwined, not mutually exclusive; thus, mass death can be seen to be ridiculous and, therefore, hilarious. It seemed to me that audiences would be able to receive this play, despite its corrosive satire, given that five years have passed since our world was all but shut down. Indeed, in working on the play I came to believe that the epidemic is not really the point of the play, but rather the failure of humans, as individuals and in various institutional configurations, to deal with any kind of crisis.

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We acknowledge and respect the Lək̓ʷəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

## CREATIVE TEAM bios

### Spencer McCairns - Set Designer



Spencer (he/they) is a fourth-year student in the departments of Theatre and History at the University of Victoria with a passion for design and directing. He is fascinated by the use of contrast in shape, texture and colour to explore meaning, and he hopes to transfix audiences with the whimsy and distortion of his design. He also loves windows. Spencer's previous credits include assistant set designer *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Phoenix Theatre), senior props coordinator *The Hot L Baltimore* (Phoenix Theatre), props coordinator *Mojada* (Phoenix Theatre), and playwright of *Archive of Our Unknown* (SATCo). Outside of theatre, Spencer enjoys working as a production assistant for TV and film in Vancouver, BC.

### Lilian Doucet - Costume Designer



Lilian (they/them) is an emerging artist specializing in costume design and construction. Currently, they are working on unceded Lək̓ʷəŋən territory and pursuing a BFA in Theatre and Art Education at UVic. Lilian has a love for all things kooky and strange, always bringing a spark of whimsicality to their designs. Their recent works include *Pony and Bologna* (2024, Fringe Festival, Costume and Set Design), *FREE to a Good Home* (2024, Victoria One Act Play Festival, Co-Set & Costume Design), *Litigation Racket* (2024, Student Project UVic, Costume Design), and *100 Years of Broadway* (2024, Phoenix Theatre, Assistant Costume Design).

### Claudia M. Fraser - Costume Designer



Claudia (BFA' 26), a Theatre Design student at UVic, has been designing clothing and costumes for productions since 2015. They attended the University of the Fraser Valley's Fashion Design summer intensive course and co-designed a production of R&H's *Cinderella*. Most recently, they have designed costumes for *ON GUARD* (SATCo), Gut-Punch Theatre's Fringe production of *Infinity Garden*, and for *Brain Bees, Making the Implicit Explicit*. Prior to coming to UVic, they worked in various roles both onstage and offstage. Last spring, Claudia was the Assistant Costume Designer for the Phoenix Theatre's production of *The Hot'L Baltimore*. Additionally, Claudia has been the Assistant Hair and Makeup Design Coordinator for the University's 22-23 season and was the Hair and Makeup Stylist and Coordinator for their 23-24 run.



## CREATIVE TEAM bios

### Theon Winn - Lighting Designer



Theon is very excited to have worked on *The Killing Game* as their first mainstage lighting design. Theon is a fourth-year student at the Phoenix Theatre and had the privilege to work as the lighting designer assistant on last season's *The Hot L Baltimore*, as well as working as the lighting designer for numerous SATCo shows such as *My Own Sol*, *Archive of our Unknown*, *Stepping Out of the Frame* and more. Theon hopes you enjoy the show, as well as the

pretty lights.

### Jack Storwick - Sound Designer/Cast



Jack is a Performer / Sound Designer who is honoured to be living, learning, listening, and gathering inspiration on unceded Lək wəŋən territory. This term marks the end of the fifth and final year of his bounteous undergraduate degree here in Victoria, with his minor in music helping to educate him in sound design. Past sound designs include *The Hot L Baltimore* (Phoenix Theatre) and *The Salty Scent of Home* (ICA / Phoenix Theatre). Elsewhere: *A Stranger*

*Remains* (SATCo, Composition), *Litigation Racket* (Victoria One Act Play Festival). Upcoming: *Twelfth Night* (Phoenix Theatre). Previous performance credits include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Vinegar Tom*, and *Spring Awakening* (Phoenix Theatre). Elsewhere: *A Christmas Carol* (Theatre Calgary).

### Dani Snyders-Blok - Stage Manager



Dani is a fourth-year production and management-focused student from Calgary, Alberta, who is working towards a double major in theatre and writing and a certificate in ASL. Selected credits include: *Wedding Cheese Weekend* - Stage Manager (UVic SATCo), *100 Years of Broadway* - Performer (Phoenix Theatre), Historical Actor (Heritage Park Historical Village), *SETYA* - Stage Manager (Phoenix Theatre with ICA), the Betty Mitchell Awards

- Stage Manager (Calgary Jubilee Auditorium), *Vinegar Tom* - Assistant Costumes Stage Manager (Phoenix Theatre), *Perspective* - Stage Manager (UVic SATCo). When not working in theatre, Dani loves crocheting, writing plays, spending time with her cats, and calling home. She is thrilled to be working on this project and would like to thank the team, her boyfriend, and her family



## CAST bios



### Sierra Alexander

Sierra is a fourth-year performance student and TCU (Theatre Course Union) Vice President. She is very excited for her first mainstage, *The Killing Game*. Her previous credits include *Uncle Vanya* (Phoenix Theatre MFA), *Whale Fall* (timetheft theatre), and *Archive of Our Unknown* (SATCo). She hopes you enjoy the show!



### Eric Barnes

Eric (he/him) is a fourth-year performance student. He's DYING to perform in *The Killing Game*, his last Phoenix mainstage production. He last appeared on the Phoenix stage in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (2024). He hopes this show amuses, shocks, devastates and confuses you. You can see more of him on Instagram @ericbarnes.



### Elliot Baskin Smith

Elliot is a first-year student at the Phoenix Theatre, thrilled to join the cast of *The Killing Game*. Recently, Elliot served as the understudy for Douglas Panch in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. They are eager to continue exploring their passion for theatre and storytelling onstage.



### Wynter Clermont

Wynter (she/her) is a third-year performance student and *The Killing Game* will be Wynter's first mainstage here at the Phoenix Theatre. Her past performance credits include *The Lord Sees All* and *The Goode TV Hour* (SATCo 2023-24).



### Janina Ferrer

Janina is in the final semester of her theatre performance studies at UVic's Department of Theatre. She extends heartfelt gratitude to her professors and classmates for teaching her so much during her time here. Previous Phoenix credits: *Spelling Bee* (Marcy), *SETYA* (Swing), *Spring Awakening* (Thea). Enjoy the show! Instagram: @janinaLferrer





## CAST bios



### Kaden Fleming-Holmes

Kaden (he/him) is a 22-year-old actor who is thrilled to be appearing in *The Killing Game*. His most recent productions include *Twelfth Night* (Shksprd), *Romeo and Juliet* (Shksprd), and *Summer Bucket List* (Collectivus Theatre). He has also immensely enjoyed being a part of the Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival.



### Grace Fouracre

Grace is an actor from Victoria, BC. She is currently in her final year of the University of Victoria's theatre program. Her previous credits include *Our Lady Star of the Sea* (timetheft theatre), *Dracula: A Trilogy of Terror* (Bounce Theatre Works), and *Wind in the Willows* (Blue Bridge Theatre).



### Ava Harvey

Ava is very excited to be a part of her second mainstage production at the Phoenix! Past Phoenix credits include *The Hot L Baltimore*, *Uncle Vanya*, and two SATCo productions. Shoutout to her endlessly supportive parents and friends!



### Azura Idu

Azura (she/her) is in her third year at the Phoenix Theatre. While she has worked on a variety of shows backstage, including last year's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, she is excited to make her on-stage debut in *The Killing Game*.



### Maddie Irwin

Maddie is a third-year performance student who is overjoyed to be making her Phoenix Theatre Mainstage debut in *The Killing Game*. Some of her previous credits include *Uncle Vanya* (MFA) and *Perspective* (SATCo). She hopes you enjoy the show!



## CAST bios



### Liam James

Liam is a third-year performance student from Homer, Alaska. Liam's previous mainstage experiences include *Spring Awakening* by Steven Sater, *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde, and *100 Years of Broadway* by Mac Huff.



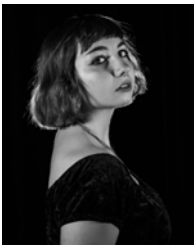
### Simran Kang

Simran is a third-year student who is elated to be a part of *The Killing Game*. She has had the privilege of performing for the Phoenix and working with her student union as the BIPOC student support liaison. With a passion for acting, social justice and all things theatre, she is thrilled to share the stage with her talented peers.



### Zoey Stienstra

Zoey is a fourth-year theatre major and is grateful to be part of the ensemble of *The Killing Game*. She has previous credits with UVic SATCo in *Road v Wade* and *Horse Girl*, as well as the UVic MFA project *Uncle Vanya*.



### Sophie Taylor

Sophie (she/they) is an actress, writer, and prop creator in her fourth year. She is very excited but also deeply sad to be embarking on their final mainstage production! Previous credits include *Hey There, Mr. Moon* (Upcoming), *The Hot L Baltimore* (Phoenix Theatre), *Scruples* (timetheft theatre), and more!



### Hayden Telford

Hayden, a second-year acting student, is honoured to perform in his first Phoenix mainstage production. He fell in love with theatre during his two years at Shawnigan Lake School, where he played the Man in *7 Stories* (2023). He hopes to infect the audience with contagious laughter.





## PRODUCTION TEAM

Operations & Production Manager  
& Stage Management Supervisor  
Production Stage Manager  
Deputy Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Managers

Stage Management Mentor  
Technical Director  
Assistant Technical Director  
Assistant Technical Directors  
Show Electrician  
Lighting Design Supervisor  
Assistant Lighting Designer  
Lighting Programmer  
Lighting Board Operator  
Asst. Sound Designer/Playback Operator  
Set Design Supervisor  
Assistant Set Designer  
Head of Scenic Construction  
Stage Carpenter/Head Flys  
Assistant Carpenters  
Lead Scenic Artist  
Scenic Painters  
Properties Coordinator  
Assistant Head of Props  
Senior Properties Coordinators  
Assistant Properties Coordinators  
Senior Props Builders/Buyers

Props Builder/Buyer  
Head of Wardrobe/Cutter  
Costume Design Supervisor  
Assistant Costume Designers  
Wardrobe Supervisor  
Coordinating Wardrobe Supervisor  
Stitcher  
Costume Shop Assistants  
Hair & Makeup Coordinator  
Hair & Makeup Assistant  
Dressers

Marketing & Communications Mgr.  
Marketing Assistants  
Audience Services Manager  
Audience Services Liaison  
Front of House Mentor  
Front of House Managers  
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Box Office Staff

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Emma Beadman  
Morgan Christopher (Costumes),  
Alexis Dunn (Props)  
Jennifer Swan\*\*  
Simon Farrow\*  
James Thurmeier\*  
Carson Loughridge, Megan Farrell (swing)  
Savannah O’Heany  
Rebekah Johnson\*  
Sasha Pisiak  
Sara Keppel  
Taya Fehr  
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Patrick Du Wors\*  
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Sierra Alexander, Eric Barnes, Kaitlyn Bergeron,  
Brock Brown, Tarn Blakely, Wynter Clermont,  
Grace Fouracre, Brigit Stewart, Zoey Stienstra,  
Julian Woodgate

## UVIC DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

### Staff

Timothy O’Gorman .....	Operations & Production Manager
Simon Farrow .....	Technical Director
James Thurmeier .....	Assistant Technical Director
Gregory Smith .....	Head of Scenic Construction
Katri Tahvanainen .....	Head of Wardrobe/Cutter
Carolyn Choo (on leave).....	Properties Coordinator
Jenna Purnell (interim) .....	Properties Coordinator
Bernadette McKelvey.....	Marketing & Communications Manager
Sandra Guerreiro .....	Audience Services Manager
Rose Cory.....	Audience Services Liaison
Mahisha Canagasuriam.....	Department Secretary

### Theatre Faculty

Dr. Allana Lindgren (Dean)  
Dr. Yasmine Kandil (Chair)  
Carmen Alatorre  
Conrad Alexandrowicz  
Patrick Du Wors  
Michael Elliott  
Fran Gebhard  
Dr. Sasha Kovacs  
Peter McGuire  
Brian Richmond  
Dr. Kirsten Sadeghi-Yekta  
Dr. Tony Vickery

### Sessional Instructors (24-25)

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Cindy Block  
Barbara Clerihue  
Rachel Ditor  
Dr. Clayton Jevne  
Rebekah Johnson  
Jacques Lemay  
Karyn McCallum  
Matthew Payne  
Jeffrey Renn

### Adjunct Professors

Dr. Christopher Balme  
Jacques Lemay  
Trudy Pauluth-Penner  
Michael Whitfield

### Professors Emeriti

Dr. Sarah Blackstone  
Dr. Warwick Dobson  
Linda Hardy  
Dr. Giles Hogya  
Dr. Alan Hughes  
Mary Kerr  
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Dr. Jennifer Wise  
Jan Wood

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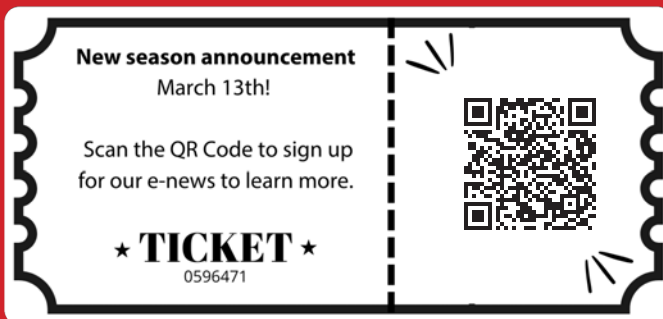
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