

**A SUDDEN  
VIOLENT BURST OF**

# **RAIN**

**by Sami Ibrahim**

PHOENIX



THEATRE@UVIC



**February 12-21, 2026**



**University  
of Victoria**

# A Sudden Violent Burst of Rain

by Sami Ibrahim

Presented as an amateur production by arrangement with Nick Hern Books.

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director ..... **Sophia Treanor**  
Set Designer ..... **Emma Brown**  
Costume Designer ..... **Jolie Cree**  
Lighting Designer ..... **Sasha Pisiak**  
Sound Designer ..... **Gordon Geddes**  
Stage Manager ..... **Gemma Noble**

## CAST

One / Lily ..... **Gabrielle Blake**  
Two ..... **Tarn Blakely**  
Three ..... **Anton Matsigura**  
Elif / Gran ..... **Divine Mercy Ezeaku**  
Landowner ..... **Savannah O’Heany**  
Landowner’s Son ..... **Hayden Telford**  
Gatekeeper / Ensemble ..... **Coco McElroy**  
Worker / Ensemble ..... **Pearse Carlyle**  
King’s Registrar’s Registrar’s Assistant / Ensemble ..... **Taya Fehr**  
Letters / Ensemble ..... **Mikan Munson**  
Woman / Ensemble ..... **Chelsea Sladen**

### *Understudies*

One / Lily—Mikan Munson  
Two—Taya Fehr  
Three—Pearse Carlyle

Landowner / Woman—Coco McElroy  
Worker—Anton Matsigura  
Ensemble—Freya Dixon-Reusz

There will be one 15-minute intermission

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

## DIRECTOR – Sophia Treanor



Sophia Treanor is a director, performer and educator previously based in New York City. Sophia's work has been presented in theaters and galleries in NYC, San Francisco, Vienna and Shanghai. She is the Steward of the Six Viewpoints Institute and founder of the Mary Overlie Legacy Project, which works to preserve and share Mary Overlie's work as well as maintain the Six Viewpoints vitality through community, education and research. She taught movement at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting from 2016–2024 and, as Artist in Residence at Salisbury University, is cocreating *Ephemer*, a five-year community-based multidisciplinary performance experiment. Her practice centers perception and reconnection with body and land in service of the liberation of our many possible futures. Sophia is pursuing her MFA in Directing at the University of Victoria and is so grateful to be learning from and working alongside the practitioners of the Phoenix community.

### Director Notes

As an American citizen and as a woman, I am interested in how myths form the basis of our social realities: the idea of a nation, the divine right of a king, the power of the right slip of paper with the correct letterhead. These myths have built empire and borders and legal process, as well as the idea of the citizen and recognized definitions of family. The right myth can provide opportunities for incredible collaboration. They have also been used to justify unconscionable abuse against entire populations of people and regions of the earth.

Today, the unprecedented physical realities of our climate's collapse and the global refugee crisis are piercing through the myths of nationhood that have blinded many to global interdependence. We need new myths. I see Sami Ibrahim's *A Sudden Violent Burst of Rain* as an act of mythmaking, an attempt to help us experience the truth that we cannot fathom.

It has been an immense privilege to be with Ibrahim's poetry and to breathe life into his meditation on belonging, motherhood, and the search for sanctuary with the cast and creative team here at the Phoenix Theatre. I am deeply grateful to my collaborators and supervisors, who have all contributed their hearts and hard work to this process.

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We acknowledge and respect the Lək̓ʷəŋən (Songhees and X̱wəpsəm/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

### Emma Brown

*Set Designer*



Emma is a fourth-year BFA Theatre student, focusing in Design. Past Props, Scenic, and Costume Design credits include: *Joany*, award winner at the Belfry One Act Play Festival (Pithy Productions), *The Killing Game* (Phoenix Theatre), *The Waymaker* (SATCo), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Phoenix Theatre), *Scruples* (timetheft theatre), *I Am in My Body and You Are in Yours* (SATCo), and *The Hot L Baltimore* (Phoenix Theatre). As a designer,

painter, and the Assistant Head of Props at the Phoenix, she strives for excellence down to the last detail when it comes to her art. She is so excited to design for this production, and is inspired to bring nature to the stage in both reality and whimsical impressionism.

### Jolie Cree

*Costume Designer*



Jolie (she/they) is finishing up her fifth year at UVic's Phoenix Theatre. Throughout her Bachelor's degree, Jolie has focused on costumes, both in construction and design. Jolie has been involved in the costuming of many UVic shows in one way or another. After dipping into costume construction during her first and second years, Jolie was the wardrobe supervisor for UVic's 2023 production of *Vinegar Tom*. Fantastical costuming inspired

Jolie to create, diving into the world of costume design. Jolie went on as an assistant to the costume designer for UVic's 2025 production of *Twelfth Night*. Jolie is so grateful to have the opportunity to be the costume designer for *A Sudden Violent Burst of Rain* with such a lovely team of creatives.

### Sasha Pisiak

*Lighting Designer*



Sasha is a fourth-year Theatre major focusing on Tech and Design. They work predominantly in technical theatre and rigging with the occasional design work. In their spare time, they enjoy photography and cafe hunting in search of the best London Fog on Vancouver Island. They are proud to be a part of the production team and hope you enjoy the show! Previous Phoenix Credits: Assisting with Lights on *Killing Game* and Lighting Design for *The Salty*

*Scent of Home*. SATCo Credits: *My Own Sol* (ALD), *Wedding Cheese Weekend* (ALD), and *The Goode TV Hour* (LD). Their most recent project was the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers production of *The Nutcracker* in Victoria and Medicine Hat.

## CREATIVE TEAM bios

### Gordon Geddes

*Sound Designer*



Gordon is a third-year Theatre major with a passion for all things sound. Complementing his studies in theatre sound design, he is also pursuing a minor in Music. In his second mainstage sound design at the Phoenix Theatre, Gordon aims to bring elements of realism and verisimilitude to the mystical and fable-like nature of this play through ambient soundscapes and emotionally driven musical motifs. Putting to use ancient musical

idioms like Greek modes in new modern contexts, Gordon wants to exemplify the weight of interpersonal conflict, tragic romance, and the binding nature of family in his subtle ambient musical motif.

### Gemma Noble

*Stage Manager*



Gemma is in her fourth and final year at the Phoenix Theatre, completing her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Production and Management. Selected credits include: Dresser for *100 Years of Broadway* (Phoenix Theatre); Assistant/Deputy Stage Manager for *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Twelfth Night* (Phoenix Theatre); Stage Manager for *Obitus* and *Black Eyed Bullseye* (UVic SATCo); and

Production Assistant for *Rock of Ages* and *Jersey Boys* (Drayton Entertainment). Gemma has loved working on such a powerful piece with the incredibly talented cast, crew and production team. She hopes you enjoy the journey as much as she has.



## CAST bios



### **Gabrielle Blake**

*One/Lily*

Gabrielle is a third-year performance-focused student. As an immigrant, she is thrilled and honoured to be performing as part of the cast for this production. Some of her many passions include Movement/Dance, Vocal Jazz, and Immersive and Applied Theatre. The last production she had the pleasure of working on was *The Salty Scent of Home*.



### **Tarn Blakely**

*Two*

Tarn is in her third year of a BFA in Theatre Performance at UVic. With passions for singing, movement, and management, her selected credits include *Yours Truly* (The Gold Fever Follies) and *The Lord Sees All* (SATCo). She is so honoured to be a part of this project.



### **Anton Matsigura**

*Three*

Anton is a 21-year-old performer from Calgary, Alberta, and is delighted to be continuing his second year at the Phoenix! Anton has worked with various Calgary companies, including Mind the Gap Collective and Black Radish Theatre. He is thrilled to be getting his hands on this deeply moving piece.



### **Divine Mercy Ezeaku**

*Elif/Gran*

Divine is a fourth-year theatre student and actor making her mainstage debut. She is drawn to contemporary and experimental storytelling that explores emotional depth and human contradiction. This production marks an important milestone in her training, and she is grateful to collaborate with her fellow cast and creative team.



### **Savannah O'Heany**

*Landowner*

Savannah is a third-year performance student from Whistler, BC. She is beyond grateful to perform in her second mainstage, with many of her admired peers. She hopes this production will lift up lost voices and inspire the audience to reflect on their part in the conversation. For her, this journey has been an honour.

## CAST bios



### **Hayden Telford**

*Landowner Son*

Hayden is a third-year acting student studying at UVic. You may have seen him in last season's production of *The Killing Game* (Phoenix Theatre, 2025). Hayden is honoured to work with such an amazing team, bringing this heart-wrenching story to life. He hopes you enjoy the rain, because it's sudden and it's violent.



### **Coco McElroy**

*Gatekeeper/Ensemble*

Coco is a third-year performance student at the Phoenix Theatre and is grateful to be making her mainstage debut in *A Sudden Violent Burst of Rain*. She thanks the cast and crew for their tireless work, and her family for their endless love and support. She hopes you enjoy the show!



### **Pearse Carlyle**

*Worker/Ensemble*

Pearse is a 19-year-old, second-year student at the University of Victoria's Phoenix Theatre, excited to work on his first mainstage production. Previous credit includes: *The Jesters Waltz* (SATCo, 2025)



### **Taya Fehr** *King's Registrar's Registrar's Assistant/Ensemble*

Taya is a third-year Performance student at the Phoenix Theatre. She is overjoyed to debut in her first mainstage. She hopes you enjoy where the rain and wind and sheep may take you. Some of their previous credits include Lighting Design for *Joany* and *Becoming-Stone, A Mineral Manifest*.



### **Mikan Munson**

*Letters/Ensemble*

Mikan is a second-year Phoenix Theatre student who is thrilled and honoured to be in her second mainstage this year! Past Credits include *Obitus* (SATCo), *Becoming Stone, A Mineral Manifest* (MFA), and *Our Town* (Phoenix). She would like to dedicate this performance to her family for always supporting her dreams.

## CAST bios



### **Chelsea Sladen**

*Woman/Ensemble*

Chelsea is a third-year performance student at the University of Victoria's Phoenix Theatre. While she has worked on a variety of shows backstage, including last year's *The Killing Game*, she is honoured to make her on-stage debut in *A Sudden Violent Burst of Rain*. Enjoy the show!



### **Freya Dixon-Reusz**

*Understudy for Ensemble*

Freya, a third year Applied Theatre student from Rossland, B.C., is happy to be supporting the process. Her previous credits include assistant facilitating *Stepping Out of the Frame* (SATCo., 2024), Clara Simmons in *Casino Rossland* (Gold Fever Follies, 2024), & Emma Eames in *Yours Truly* (Gold Fever Follies, 2025).

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Assistant Stage Managers

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MFA Directing Supervisor  
Intimacy Coordinator  
Technical Director  
Assistant Technical Director  
Show Electrician  
Lighting Design Supervisor  
Lighting Programmer  
Lighting Board Operator  
Sound Playback Operator  
Set Design Supervisor  
Assistant Set & Lighting Designer  
Head of Scenic Construction  
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Properties Coordinator  
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Senior Props Builders/Buyers  
Props Builders/Buyers  
Guest Props Builders  
Head of Wardrobe/Cutter  
Costume Design Supervisors  
Assistant Costume Designer  
Coordinating Wardrobe Supervisor  
Wardrobe Supervisors  
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Costume Shop Assistants

Hair & Makeup Coordinator  
Hair & Makeup Assistant  
Dressers  
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The theatre faculty, staff and students would like to thank the following for their support of the Phoenix Theatre's 2025-26 season.

Donations made between April 1, 2025–February 2, 2026.

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58

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