

THE INTERNATIONAL PICK OF THE FRINGE IS BACK!

**BRIDE4BUY**  
A Wife for Lila

BE CHARMED BY  
OUR LOVELY BRIDES

"I ENJOYED  
MYSELF SO MUCH  
I WATCHED IT  
**THREE TIMES!**"

- Jeanise Jones, BORAT 2

Lila



Do you want to buy me?

Supported by  
  
NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

# MAIL ORDERED

An Interactive Comedy Performance by Shanice Stanislaus

HOUSE PROGRAMME

# SHOW SYNOPSIS

Lila, a poor village girl arrives in Canada, looking for a husband who's just her type - *any man who can buy her for \$100,000.00*

Featuring a team from Singapore and Calgary, this interactive comedy delivers hilarious Asian melodrama tropes and parody.

Join us for a show audiences have described as "Wildly Funny" and "Delightfully Interactive" as Lila showcases her impressive dance moves, charming giraffe jokes and extreme domestic skills.

*Who knows... you might even leave with your very own Mail Ordered bride!*



# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This show began on a cold Calgary morning in January 2022 with the discovery of a wedding dress. Shanice put it on, went behind a curtain, and a few moments later Lila walked out on stage for the first time. Quickly we discovered why she was there: she wanted a husband. But how did she get there? And was this really who this woman was? Or was she playing a role?

Of course we all play roles in our lives. We may be one person at work and then a different person at home. One person with our friends, and another with our family. Sometimes we choose these roles and sometimes they're chosen for us. And sometimes it's hard to tell which one is the real one. Maybe all of them. Maybe none of them. Maybe it's something we rediscover every day.

We are delighted to be taking the show on the road this summer, starting in Toronto and ending in Edmonton with stops along the way. Every performance of this show is unique and we're excited to be discovering it with you each time.

Enjoy!

Aaron Coates

# CREATING LILA

I stumbled across the character of Lila when writing for a show in an artist residency in January 2022 - a poor Southeast Asian girl signing up for the mail order bride business after being promised the dream of a better life and the desire to honor her family.

Having spent my adult years teaching girls like Lila in poverty ridden villages of Cambodia and having had the experience of growing up in a more conservative Chinese-Indian household where my parents had a very specific idea of how a girl should be, I could relate deeply to Lila. She is a girl who is just trying to survive in poverty and do the right thing, of how she was taught what the right thing is in her home.

Perhaps the story of a reality so dark would be more palatable through the lens of comedy. Hence, 'Mail Ordered' was born with a touch of parody, tropes of Asian melodrama, music, rituals, dance numbers and comedy. After all, Lila loves being lighthearted, lovable Lila. This one is for all the little Lilas with big dreams."

-Shanice Stanislaus (Creator)



# MAIL ORDERED TEAM

Playwright & Choreographer	SHANICE STANISLAUS
Director	AARON COATES
Music director	EUGENE YIP
Sound designer	YEN YU TING
Composer, Mix and Mastering Engineer	EDRIC HUANG
Arranger, Editing Engineer	GRACE LIM
Choreography (Fan dance)	ANTONIO VARGAS
Make up Design	DIAN MAYASARI
Performed by	SHANICE STANISLAUS AS LILA
Voices	DENNIS SOFIAN ANDREA GREENING NATHAN CROCKETT
Lyrics	DENNIS SOFIAN SHANICE STANISLAUS
Producer	MICHELE LIM
Production Stage Manager	CAARYN SADOWAY
Production Assistant	NG YUAN JIE
Marketing Creative Director	JON TAN
Graphic Designer	NG YUAN JIE
Photographer (Key Art)	JOELLE QUEK

# THE SHOW

## USING HUMOR TO TALK ABOUT SERIOUS ISSUES

This interactive comedy puts a spotlight on displaced peoples, human trafficking as a result of circumstances in home countries, and empowerment of women.

Through the use of humor and comedy, audiences will gain a deeper understanding of Lila's story, shedding light on the harsh reality of human trafficking in the mail order bride industry, displacement and what empowerment can look like for some women.

This poignant and powerful production tackles the difficult topic of the sale of women and children from Asia to North America, with Lila's story at its heart.



# THE SHOW

## AN INTERACTIVE PERFORMANCE

This is interactive performance that will interest audiences who enjoy being part of a show :

- The audience will be engaged in assisting Lila with her attempts to sell herself.
- Lila regards the audience as her first real friends in Canada. She seeks their help in various tasks like changing her luck, participating in a lottery (audience members might win money) and eventually helping her decide what to do next as she realizes what is involved in selling herself.
- Depending on the choice made by the audience, the ending can differ for each performance.



# THE COLLABORATION

## AN CANADIAN-SINGAPOREAN COLLABORATION

Aaron's and Shanice's shared interest in using play and comedy to create performances has been greatly influenced by their training with French Clown Master, Phillipe Gaulier in Paris who has trained the likes of actors from Sacha Baron Cohen, Helena Bonham Carter, Emma Thompson.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/18/arts/television/philippe-gaulier-clowns.html>

Their love for improvisation and creating opportunities for dialogue on sensitive/difficult issues have brought them together to create 'Mail Ordered'.

Despite being on opposite sides of the world, the internet has enabled the artists to work across countries in creating "Mail Ordered" for the Canadian Fringe Festivals.

### 2022

*JAN*

CALGARY

Creation of work in an artist residency at the Centre for Artistic Development

*MARCH*

CALGARY

Featured at the International Artists' Festival 2022

*SEPT*

VANCOUVER

First Fringe Festival in Vancouver. Winner of Pick of the Fringe and nominee for Artistic Risk Award



# TEAM BIO



## SHANICE STANISLAUS

Creator/Performer

With a successful career that has taken her around the world, Shanice has established herself as an actor, clown artist and creative director/producer. In 2022, her solo clown-comedy show "Mail Ordered" won the Pick of the Fringe award, nominated for the 'Artistic Risk' award at the Vancouver Fringe Festival, and was featured in the International Artists' Festival in Calgary, Canada. She was also a featured artist in the award winning production 'Dance to Death' for El Festival Del Grec in Barcelona. She has had the opportunity to work with some of the most respected names in the theatre industry, including French master clown and theatre teacher Philippe Gaulier, Flamenco Dance maestro Antonio Vargas, UK Director David Glass, Spanish director Alberto Velasco, and award-winning Broadway jazz choreographer Sue Samuels. She has also trained with the contemporary clown theatre company, Spymonkey(UK).

In addition to her work in theatre, Shanice has also made a name for herself on screen, with credits including the web series NSFTV and commercial work with companies such as Twitch, McDonald's, Changi Airport, Traveloka, and DBS Bank. She was also recognised as one of the 100 youth founders in Singapore by the National Youth Council as part of the 2022 Sandbox Somerset initiative.

She is a Bachelors of Arts with Honours from Yale-NUS College and has trained with NYU:Tisch School of the Arts and E'cole Phillippe Gaulier (Paris). Shanice is also the recipient of the Yale-NUS Alumni Arts Development Grant for the Performing Arts. In addition to her acting and producing career, Shanice is a creative entrepreneur and the proud founder of Creatives Inspirit, a Singapore-based creative arts company. With her company, she teaches clown, play-based and dance workshops with diverse communities around the world.

# TEAM BIO



**AARON COATES**

Director

Aaron is a Canadian director, writer, and actor. Directing credits include: Ticket to Love, The Bat, Figaro's Wedding, NYC Meets YYC, Prison Divas, Archibaldo, The Bachelor, La Bohème, The Phantom of the Opera Sing-Along, The Sound of Music Sing-Along (Cowtown Opera); Nemorino and the Magic Potion, Cinderella, The Magic Flute, The Scorpions' Sting, Hansel and Gretel, Hannaraptor (Calgary Opera); The After Party, The Way of All Fish (Lunchbox Theatre); Dying City (Pangloss), The Old Neighborhood (Rogues Theatre), Iraq and Back (Ghost River Theatre), and The End of the Rope (Vertigo Theatre).

Aaron spent nine seasons as Co-Artistic Producer of Dirty Laundry, Calgary's live improvised soap opera, where he directed over 150 episodes. He is also an instructor at Company of Rogues Actors' Studio in Calgary, Canada.



**MICHELE LIM**

Producer

Michele is an independent producer, arts educator and arts management consultant from Singapore. This is her second production with Shanice. She produced for Shanice in her first production 'La Mariposa Borracha', a community based performance project involving caregivers and people suffering from illness.

Producing credits include: Kingdoms Apart by Chong Tze Chien, an Esplanade commission for Esplanade's new Singtel Waterfront Theatre which opens in 2022, Between 5 Cows and the Deep Blue Sea... by A Yagnya part of Esplanade's Kalaa Utsavam Festival 2022; Alice's Topsy Turvy Tea Party by Melissa Quek and The Kueh Tutus presented at Esplanade's inaugural March On Festival in 2021; 《六根不宁》 I Came At Last to the Seas, conceived & directed by Kuo Jian Hong, an Esplanade Huayi Festival commission(2018); Returning 《回归》 conceived by Mdm Goh Lay Kuan commissioned by Singapore International Festival of Arts 2015; Dream Country, A Lost Monologue conceived by Marion D'Cruz, commissioned by the Singapore Arts Festival 2012.

Michele is a founder member of the Singapore Drama Educators Association (SDEA), Centre 42 Ltd, SCAB Ltd and STYAR, the Singapore Theatre for Young Audience Research (Collective).

# TEAM BIO



**CAARYN SADOWAY**

Production Stage Manager

Caaryn Sadoway is Stage Manager born and raised in Canmore, Alberta (Canada). She loves art, cozy video games, and spreadsheets. Caaryn is excited to be back working on this wonderful show again after its success at Vancouver Fringe 2022, with the best international team she could ask for! Select credits include: Countries Shaped Like Stars (Lunchbox Theatre), Murder on the Orient Express (Vertigo Theatre), Mary Jane (Fire Exit Theatre), The Canmore Summer Theatre Festival (2018-2020, 2022, Pinetree Players), Bard on Bower Festival (2021, Prime Stock Theatre Co).



**EUGENE YIP**

Music Director

With over 15 years of experience in the vocal music industry, Eugene began in the American A Cappella circles with the CARA, RARB, and ICCA award winning group Gentlemen (GMen) which led to his involvement in the Blues circuit in New York City. Upon returning to Singapore, he has continued to light up stages with MICappella, clinching awards for their bilingual vocal band performances, with songs charting from both their debut (Here We Go), subsequent albums (Reloaded) and (Love, MICappella), as well as signing a record deal with Universal Music.

As a Music Producer/Coach, Eugene has worked with acts such as The Sam Willows, The Glad Stones, Celina Kimble, Bear Culture, Jawn Chan, as well as Music Directorial/Supervisory roles in the theatre space with productions such as "Big Brown Girl", "Kidstart Undersea Adventures", and the cross-continent "Mail Ordered"—using his signature production and coaching styles in and out of the recording studio to bring out the best the talents have to offer. Additionally Eugene has songwriting and production credits with various companies and artistes including Reuby (Warner Music), his own band MICappella, and UMPG—charting on iTunes, Spotify, Long Hu Ban, CARA, reviewed with the highest honours on RARB, and winning accolades from the Hong Kong Asian Pop Music Festivals."

# TEAM BIO



**YEN YU TING**

Sound Designer

Yu Ting has worked on projects with international brands such as Marvel, Disney, Discovery Channel and the Travel Channel. He also works on many projects with major brands here in Singapore.

Prior to GRYD, he worked at the Full Sail Dubbing Stage on several short and feature films after graduating with a BSc Degree in Recording Arts (Salutatorian Honours) from Full Sail University in Florida, USA. After this he moved to New York City to work as a Sound Editor on many reality documentaries.

Yu Ting discovered his passion for Film Sound while studying Digital Media and 3D Animation at Singapore Polytechnic. He observed and understood the importance of good sound to bring out the best in any form of visual media.

Yu Ting hopes to bring film sound in Singapore to the next level by raising awareness of the importance of good sound in visual media.



**NG YUAN JIE**

Production Assistant

Yuan Jie is the Production Assistant and Graphic Designer for Mail Ordered. He is currently completing his undergraduate degree in Linguistics and Multilingual Studies at the Nanyang Technological University.

Prior to Mail Ordered (2023), Yuan Jie was attached to Shanice's various other projects — as a production assistant on her theatre production *La Mariposa Borracha* (2019), as a line producer on her documentary *Dance of the Ageing Body* (2019), and as the B-camera operator on Shanice and Jon Tan's (of ROTOTORO) talkshow *Tropical Arts Club: Season One* (2018).

Yuan Jie is grateful to be attached to such amazing projects, and is excited to be assisting Mail Ordered!

# TEAM BIO



**DENNIS SOFIAN**

Cast

A Royal Central School of Speech and Drama acting graduate , Dennis dabbles in rap and plays the violin.

Dennis' Singapore stage credits include: A Midsummer Night's Dream (Singapore Repertory Theatre), An Inspector Calls (W!LD RICE), The Change (Gangguan Theatre), Fat Kids Are Harder to Kidnap (How Drama), McBeat and the Lil Shake Crew (Esplanade FYI, co-writer) Tartuffe (W!LD RICE) The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged (Singapore Repertory Theatre), Skin (Toy Factory), The Hawker (The Second Breakfast Company)

His international stage credits include: Mail Ordered (Vancouver Fringe Festival, Winner of Pick of the Fringe), The Caucasian Chalk Circle (Engineer Theatre, London)

IG: @densofian



**ANDREA GREENING**

Cast

Andrea Greening is a Calgary-based performer and 25+ year Veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces. She is a graduate of the Master Class Program at Company of Rogues Actors' Studio in Calgary. She has studied Improv at Dad's Garage, Atlanta and Clown with Jon Davison, Christopher Bayes and The Completely Ridiculous Conservatory. She is a founding member of Night Ducks, the Calgary based artists' collective working to showcase dynamic female characters "past the slippery season of youth." Her recent credits include Tunnel at the End of the Light by Jonathan Guy Lewis (Alumnae Theatre, Toronto), The Winter's Tale (Shakespeare's Globe, UK), Phaedra by Euripides (Hydrama, Greece), Seagulls by Caryl Churchill (Night Ducks, Outstanding Production at the Calgary One-Act Festival), Bluebirds by Vern Thiessen (Night Ducks), and The Last of Us (HBO). Andrea is represented by RJ Talent, Calgary.

# TEAM BIO



**NATHAN  
CROCKETT**

Cast

Nathan Crockett is an emerging artist from Calgary who has had the great honor and pleasure to work on "Mail Ordered" He has a knack for comedy and has a fiery passion for acting whether it be film, theatre or voice over. He graduated from the Masterclass Program at Company of Rogues Actors Studio in Calgary and had kept busy in the arts since. He was part of the inaugural Theatrical Engagement Team at the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo in the summer of 2022 and has been nominated for a Calgary Armature Theater (CAT) award for his role in the farce No Sex Please, We're British. Nathan loves to collaborate with his peers and create shows from the ground up. Recently he worked with the Night Ducks, Andrea Greening's theatre company, to play the role of Cliff in Seagulls by Caryl Churchill which won a regional one act festival. He also was a part of a one minute film festival where he collaborated with a team of Company of Rogue peers to make a one minute film for the "Got a Minute" Film Festival in Calgary and Edmonton, Nathan, being the writer of the original script. Recently, this year, Nathan did his first touring show as a puppeteer called A Dinosaur Tale where he played a multitude of dinosaur puppets in a show that went as far east as Winnipeg and as far West as Vancouver island! On Nathan's downtime you can see him playing his favorite games, tabletop and video games alike. Nathan is excited to be working in the arts and enjoys meeting new people with every project he does and hopes to keep the ball rolling and to keep working on amazing projects like "Mail Ordered"



**“ONE OF THE FUNNIEST AND SHARPEST  
FISH-OUT-OF-WATER ENTERTAINMENTS SINCE  
SACHA BARON COHEN WAVED AN  
AMERICAN FLAG AS BORAT.”**

PARTON AND PEARL, Glenn Sumi



# AUDIENCE REVIEWS

*"The performance was joyfully subversive and Shanice and her whole team spin the idea of buying a bride into a buffon confection of laughter and gentle provocation. Go she is a joy!"*

-David Glass, Award-Winning Theatre Director

*"Shanice's performance was so awesome, I felt the writing was really really good. I went to every performance and enjoyed myself!"*

- Jeanise Jones, Borat 2



*"An incredible display of hilarity and authenticity. I couldn't stop laughing, and I couldn't look away - definitely a show that keeps you guessing until the very end."*

- Lyndsay Pearson

*"Mail Ordered is a wonderfully comedic show! The jokes are well-timed and the energy is unmatched thanks to the genius of Shanice and the amazing team supporting her! Definitely worth checking out!"*

-Kyra Cloud

*"Mail Ordered is wildly funny, while also being jarringly thoughtful. Shanice Stanislaus is so engaging and impressive as a performer, and her script is well designed to keep you immersed and entertained throughout the entire play."*

- Glynna Mackenzie

*"Mail Ordered is the best show I've seen all year! Shanice is pure perfection as the young Lila, giving a standout comedic performance. This brilliant story had me totally absorbed in Lila's world and made me truly feel her ups and downs. Mail Ordered will make you question what you would sacrifice to save your family. A must see!"*

- Tamara Van Horne



# AUDIENCE REVIEWS

*"Mail Ordered is an irreverent improvisational gem with heart and nerve. Shanice's energy had me locked in & laughing from beginning to end. You might not buy this bride, but you should buy tickets to this show!"*

-Bryan David Sandberg

*"Mail Ordered's comedic story perfectly juxtaposes the magnitude of the subject, revealing a dark underworld through the eyes of innocence. Stanislaus' ground-breaking topic and masterful script, supported by an outstanding cast, will leave you laughing out loud, even when you know you shouldn't."*

-Shannon Steele



*"The show provides a funny entry point into a complex mass of issues that many would rather not peer into. But Mail Ordered disarms us and draws us into the heart of it all. Don't get me wrong-it is great entertainment and likely to get better! but after the laughter has subsided and the curtains have fallen on the evening, and quiet reflection begins to creep into your space, the issues are there, in front of you"*

-Benjamin Chua

*"Mail Ordered is the best show I've seen all year! Shanice is pure perfection as the young Lila, giving a standout comedic performance. This brilliant story had me totally absorbed in Lila's world and made me truly feel her ups and downs. Mail Ordered will make you question what you would sacrifice to save your family. A must see!"*

- Tamara Van Horne

# SPECIAL THANKS TO

Lim Wei Zhen  
KPZHAO  
Liew Zhi Hao  
Chin Rui Yuan



**ROTOTORO**

**GRYD**  
MUSIC | POST PRODUCTION | SOUND DESIGN

Company of Rogues (Calgary, Canada)  
Creatives Inspirit Pte Ltd (Singapore)

Stanis Benjamin  
Santhi Narayanasami  
Antonio Vargas and Daphne Huang Vargas

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in Toronto, Mr Chua Chia-yi

Singapore Tourism Board, Rachel Loh and Jayne Yeo

Team at Toronto Fringe Festival  
Team at Native Earth Performing Arts: Aki Studio Media

And everyone who has supported Shanice and her team in one way or another to  
make "Mail Ordered" in this year's Canadian Fringe Festivals tour possible

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SINGAPORE

# OUR 2023 TOUR

**TORONTO FRINGE FESTIVAL**

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19-30 JUL

**CALGARY FRINGE FESTIVAL**

4-12 AUG

**EDMONTON FRINGE FESTIVAL**

17-27 AUG

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SOPHIA LAUCLIN-HIRT & JEROD BLAKE IN  
"THE WEST END" BY CHRISTIANE HIRT  
PHOTOGRAPHER: JENNIFER CHIPPERFIELD

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