

Loss

Created and Performed by Ian Kamau
Produced by The Theatre Centre

June 14-18
Harbourfront Centre Theatre



Photo by Bryan Brock

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LOSS

Harbourfront Centre Theatre

June 14-18

Runtime: 90 minutes, no intermission

Luminato Festival Toronto presents Ian Kamau's *Loss*
produced by The Theatre Centre

Created and performed by
Ian Kamau

Written by
Ian Kamau & Roger McTair

Composer and Music Director
Performer, Piano and Synth
Bruce A. Russell

Dramaturg and Rehearsal
Director
Aislinn Rose

Tenor Saxophone
Dennis Passley

Actor
Dedra McDermott

Guitar
Dyheim Stewart

Stage Manager
Tara Mohan

Costume Designer
Cat Calica

Assistant Stage Manager
Hazel Moore

Filmmaker
Tiffany Hsiung

Production Manager and
Technical Director
Daniel Bennett

Contributing Videographer
Ty Harper

Associate Production Manager
and Technical Director
Maya Royer

Co-Sound Designer
David Heeney

Producer
Rachel Penny

Co-Sound Designer
David Mesiha

Outreach Coordinator
Bruce Ramsay

Lighting Designer
Shawn Henry

Producer for the Theatre Centre
Alexis Eastman & Beth Wong

Environment Designer
Javid Jah

Composer of "PULSING"
Njo Kong Kie

Video Designer
Jeremy Mimmagh

For show access guide:
luminatofestival.com/loss



About Loss

Loss is a deeply honest, live retelling of an intergenerational family story, written by Ian Kamau and his father Roger McTair.

This multi-media performance begins as a mirror into a winter of depression, then slowly unravels the mystery surrounding the death of his paternal grandmother Nora Elutha Rogers.

An orchestration of memories using live music, video, and storytelling — *Loss* is an exploration of grief in Afro-Caribbean communities, and an immersive experience towards healing shared with the audience.

Loss was developed in Residency at The Theatre Centre.

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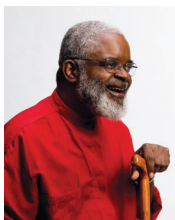
Artist Biographies



Ian Kamau | Creator, Performer, Writer

Ian Kamau is an artist, writer, and designer from Toronto. He has released seven music projects including the self-produced album *One Day Soon* (2011) and has published articles, short stories, and poems in publications by Vice, Coach House Press, and Book Thug. The son of pioneering filmmakers, he was the founding executive director of Nia

Centre for the Arts, has a Bachelor in Design and a Masters in Environmental Studies from York University, and a Masters in Strategic Foresight and Innovation from OCAD University. His research includes cultural production, storytelling, and critical city building with a focus on mental health and actualization.



Roger McTair | Co-Writer

Roger McTair is a writer, pioneering documentary filmmaker, and poet. He graduated from Ryerson Polytechnic Institute where he studied film. He taught Media Writing at Seneca at York in Toronto, and has a keen critical interest in literature, theatre and philosophy. His stories and poems have been published in the Caribbean, Canada and the U.S.



Tara Mohan | Stage Manager

Tara Mohan enjoys working on theatre, dance, musicals, and everything in between. Favourite credits include: *The Chemical Valley Project* (Broadleaf Creative), *Here Are The Fragments* (On ECT Collective/The Theatre Centre), *Now You See Her* (Quote Unquote Collective), *Le Grand Continental* (Luminato), *The Seat Next To The*

King (Minmar Gaslight).



David Mesiha | Co-Sound Designer

David Mesiha is a, Toronto and Vancouver based, award-winning music composer, interactive designer, sound/video designer and co-artistic director of Theatre Conspiracy. Select Credits: *15 Dogs* - Crow's Theatre, *Same Difference* - Theatre Conspiracy and *asses.masses* - With Milton Lim, Patrick Blenkarn and Laurel Green.



Tiffany Hsiung | Filmmaker

Filmmaker Tiffany Hsiung is a Peabody award-winner for her film *THE APOLOGY*. She is based in Toronto, Canada, listed as one of DOC NYC's 40 under 40, and is a two-time Canadian Screen Award winner; Her film *SING ME A LULLABY* (2020) won the Oscar qualifying Grand Jury Prize at DOC NYC, the inaugural Toronto International

Film Festival 'Share Her Journey Short Cuts Award', The DGC Best Short Film Award, and is listed as TIFF Canada's Top Ten of 2020. Hsiung's work has played in over 150 film festivals and has earned over 25 awards internationally, released and broadcasted globally.



David Heeney | Co-Sound Designer

David Heeney has stepped into the role as Co-Sound Designer for *Loss*. He is grateful for the opportunity to work on this multimedia production with a team of talented people. When not working on *Loss*, David is an Event Operations Supervisor at Canada's Wonderland installing seasonal large-scale events as well as freelancing during his off times.



Jeremy Mimmagh | Video Designer

Over the last 10 years, Jeremy has been involved in still photography, film, AR, projection, and sound works that ask unanswerable questions contending with, and relevant to, living in this world today.



Daniel Bennett | Production Manager and Technical Director

Daniel Bennett is the Technical Director for Canadian Stage. He is also the Associate Artist at the National Theatre School in the Production Design and Technical Arts Program of which he is also a graduate. He also holds a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience and Psychology from

the University of Toronto, is obsessed with spinning, and loves to eat delicious food.



Javid Jah | Environment Designer

Javid Jah is an interdisciplinary artist and designer interested in the traditional origins of sacred geometry. His practice explores a variety of interventions, from temporary architectures to sculptural installations, designing and fabricating work that is site-specific, spatial and symbolically aligned to cosmic archetypes.



Hazel Moore | Assistant Stage Manager

Hazel Moore (she/her) is an emerging stage manager and producer based in Tkarón:to. Selected credits include: *Paint Me This House of Love* (Tarragon Theatre), *Crazy Dave Goes to Town* (Centre for Indigenous Theatre), *My Sister's Rage* (Tarragon Theatre) *2 Pianos 4 Hands* (Marquis Entertainment), *The World Goes 'Round*

(Nightwood Theatre), *I'm Walking Here* (CIT).



Maya Royer | Associate Production Manager and Technical Director

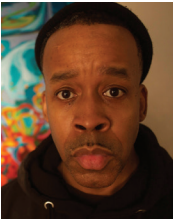
Born and raised in Toronto, Maya has always been passionate about her city and its culture. She is grateful to be part of the Toronto performing arts community as a Production Manager. Maya holds a BFA from Toronto Metropolitan University, in Performance Production and Design.



Shawn Henry | Lighting Designer

Shawn Henry is a Toronto based Production Manager and Lighting designer; Her Theatre credits include; *Bentboy*, *La Forestera*, *Russels World*, *Three Ordinary Men*, *Comedy is art*, *Hybrid by design*, *21 Black Futures*, *Maman La Mer*, *Riot*, *rock.paper.sistahz.*, *Cycle of a Sari*, *30 people watching*, *Hiding words for you*, *Saltnfish Girl*, *Wise*

Woman, *Hook up*, *How to succeed in business without really trying*, *Lady of Spills*, *I Marcus Garvey* and *Love & Marriage*. She is also the resident Lighting Designer for the Ismailova Theatre of Dance.



Ty Harper | Contributing Videographer

Tyrone 'Ty Harper' Callender has been covering Toronto's Black music scenes for well over a decade: first as co-host and creator of 'O.T.A. Live!' on FLOW 93.5 FM, and later as co-founder of cityonmyback.com. Ty is currently a producer on 'Commotion with Elamin Abdelmahmoud' and 'q with Tom Power', on CBC Radio One. He also

hosted and produced CBC's award-winning 'This Is Not a Drake Podcast'.



Dyheim Stewart | Guitar

Dyheim is a Hamilton based guitarist who is starting to get his music career off the ground. Growing up in a musical family, Dyheim was inspired at a young age to learn and listen to many different genres including jazz, soul, rock, and blues. Now as a developed musician, he is primarily working in the r&b and neo-soul space. Through

live performances and recordings, he has had the opportunity to play for great Canadian artists such as Jully Black, Melanie Fiona, Kardinal Offishall, Glenn Lewis and many more emerging artists in the Toronto area.



Bruce A. Russell | Composer & Music Director Performer, Piano and Synth

Bruce A. Russell studied at York University. He is a self-taught pianist. He composed for dance and theatre and later spent 20 years outside of the arts world, returning during the pandemic. He is Composer in Residence at Arraymusic. Recent commissions include Gryphon Trio and Thin Edge New Music Collective.



Dennis Passley | Tenor Saxophone

Dennis has been working as a professional creative for the better part of the last 25 years. Most of his work has been while playing saxophone on various projects that cross genres from Jazz, Funk, Hiphop, Soul, Reggae, Punk, Rock.





Cat Calica | Costume Designer

Cat Calica is a wardrobe stylist, creative director and production designer. She works in TV and Film and with different musical artists on music videos and press tours. Cat loves to create visuals that invoke whimsical and playful feelings that connect her inner world and her Filipino roots. She is inspired by otherworldly, dysfunctional, fun things like nature, the deep sea, oscillating creatures, and textures. Most recently Cat has worked on *Lido TV* (TIFF '22), *True Dating Stories* (Fuse TV), *This Place* (TIFF '22, VT Nayani). Cat is currently using her eye for style creating millinery and accessories with her company Kabuté.



Njo Kong Kie | Composer of “PULSING”

Beside picnic and ping pong, Kong Kie enjoys composing for dance, theatre and opera. Works include *Picnic in the Cemetery*, *I swallowed a moon made of iron*, *Mr. Shi and His Lover*. Kong Kie was the long-serving music director of La La La Human Steps. For music links, please visit www.musicpicnic.com



Aislinn Rose | Dramaturg and Rehearsal Director

Aislinn was named The Theatre Centre's Artistic Director in 2019, having previously held the role of Creative Producer. Prior to joining The Theatre Centre team in 2014, she worked most significantly as an independent producer and theatre-maker working with companies across the city. In her time at The Theatre Centre, she has focused on supporting the development of new work, collaborating with national and international touring companies and presenters, and solidifying the company's reputation as an international live arts incubator.

From the creators of *Loss*

In 2011 I had a winter of paralyzing sadness. I hid it and avoided my part in the events that sparked it. My interest in why so many of us battle depression and anxiety started that winter and led me to make Loss. Loss is a life project, I've been more interested in the personal process than its presentation, it is about me, my father, my family, and the death of my paternal grandmother Nora Rogers. It has been developed through an artist residency at The Theatre Centre and the unwavering support of Aislinn Rose.

- Ian Kamau

Ian and I started meeting weekly in 2016. My predecessor Franco Boni and I had met with him and he'd told us that our Residency model wasn't useful to him. It wasn't something we were used to hearing, so we asked "what do you need?". It's a key question for us at The Theatre Centre, but a question we sometimes forget to ask. It led to a conversation about a completely different model of working for Ian's project Loss, starting with those weekly meetings. What I didn't realize at the time was how many years we would spend working together — through Ian's two Master's degrees and a global pandemic — or that those meetings would lead to one of the most meaningful creative relationships of my career. A few special shout-outs to the artistic community who have been in it with us: Luminato & Naomi Campbell, Why Not Theatre & Ravi Jain (who was the person who first recommended Residency to Ian), the entire team at the NAC's National Creation fund, TO Live & Josephine Ridge, and all the exceptional folks I get to work with at The Theatre Centre, past & present.

- Aislinn Rose

About The Theatre Centre

The Theatre Centre is a nationally recognized live-arts incubator and community hub, located at 1115 Queen Street West. Our mission is to offer a home for creative, cultural and social interactions to invent the future. **Residency** is a structured multi-year program providing groups/artists with the necessary space, funding and mentorship to craft ideas still in their infancy into finished works that are provocative, innovative, and ambitious. Residency is generously supported by BMO Financial.

Theatrecentre.org



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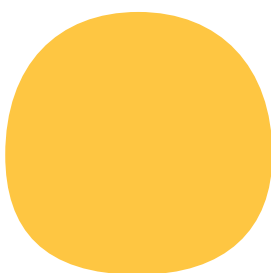
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