



# IMMANENT WORK IN AN IMMINENT WORLD

## ANNUAL REVIEW 2022



IDEAL ENTERTAINMENT  
FOR THE  
END OF THE WORLD

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The Last Minutes Before Mars, Milan (Development). Photo: Manuel Ahneumueller

# MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Photo: Dries Lagos Hoof



First things first. Art is great, but love, sex and babies are better, which is why the first thing we want to brag about this year is the birth of THE FIRST MAMMALIAN BABY! Give it up for: Marie-Lou Eiting!! While directing *All the Sex I've Ever Had* in Ghent, long-time collaborator Jana Eiting took a fancy to our sound technician Dries Lagos Hoof, expressed that interest to the Sound Designer Laurens Mariën,

who relayed it to Dries. After two days of contractions, a code red and an emergency c-section, Marie-Lou officially joined the company as the youngest member on the 7th of June, 2022, a Gemini Tiger! At 3.7kg, she was also the lightest member of the company. Congrats to all three, and a quick question for Marie-Lou: when do you think you might be ready to tour?

I'm also very excited to announce the birth of Heidi Brenner. 68-year-old Heidi joined our Zürich *All the Sex I've Ever Had* as Heinz Brenner and, after 51 years of knowing that she felt much more like a she than a he, it's now actually happening. In an email to us and her friends, she writes:

*"All the Sex I've Ever Had was the first time in my life that I felt what it really means to be accepted as I am... With this group I discovered a world on Zürich's Werdinsel that I myself never dreamed of. Zürich, Aargau, Germany, Canada, Scotland, Japan and Australia, all on my doorstep, and we have all created a work together that goes far beyond theatrical performance. Simply wonderful. Those of you who were present at a performance experienced my coming-out live: "Now I'm Heidi, a woman who loves women." Always in front of a full house. Always with conviction and at the same time, a slight tremor... Since Thursday, February 16th, 2023 it is officially official: Ms. Heidi Brenner, born September 17, 1954."*

If you're not choked-up up after reading that, I don't know how to help you. Good luck Heidi, we love you; you got this!

But 'nuff about flesh 'n' bones and trans babies, let's talk about our artistic babies!

As the virus continues its relentless campaign against humanity, 2022 saw things slowly returning to a slightly more familiar landscape within the performing arts sector, as the public slowly dimmed their screens and cautiously dipped their toes back into the theatres.

It was a year that saw everyone on our team stepping up, stretching our capacities, trying new things, and working together in new and powerful ways. We are managing to get great work done, while always making sure that we're (almost) always having a ton of fun. Working together in Mammalian, even across massive distances, is a joyous experience. Why else would we keep on doing it? Can't stop; won't stop!

A sector-wide caution worked to our advantage as our key outdoor (and most Covid-safe) performance—*Nightwalks with Teenagers*—was presented eight times over the course of the year in Bologna, Brisbane, Modena, Cork, Brooklyn, Toronto, and Salisbury. Eight times! Three of those were in Italy, where we are spending a year in residence with Emilia Romagna Teatro, Bologna's National Theatre, on multiple *Nightwalks with Teenagers*; continuing our development of *The Last Minutes Before Mars*, co-commissioned & co-produced by Triennale Milano Teatro and ZONA K; as well as doing some research into the possibility of hosting socially-engaged artist residencies in the country. Any culture that distributes free potato chips with a late afternoon aperitivo is a place where we fully intend to die.

While continuing to tour *Nightwalks with Teenagers*, *All the Sex I've Ever Had*, *These Are the People in Your Neighbourhood* and *Haircuts by Children*, we still had time to focus on developing our new works: *Everything Has Disappeared*; *These Are the Artists in Your Neighbourhood*; *The Last Minutes Before Mars*; and *Walk With Me While I Remember You*, all set to premiere across 2023/24. The latter two projects, in particular, are focusing on grief, anxiety, depression and the growing mental health crisis among the young people of the world.

*Immanent Work in an Imminent World* continues the trend of our last couple of missives with an increasing focus on our many international collaborators. This year's innovation: rather than profiling them, we're stepping aside, giving them some space and inviting a few to address you directly, with their own takes on our collaboration and their practice, independent of Mammalian. We've never had so much going on at once, we've never been working with so many great people all over the world, we've never been so engaged in so many artistic forms and approaches, and we've never stretched ourselves in so many exciting directions. The overall sensation these days is a radiant calm abiding: something is about to happen; we got this.

Darren O'Donnell



Nightwalks with Teenagers, Toronto.  
Photo: Andrew Williamson

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Mammalian has been extremely quick to act in redeploying our performances across the globe.

While keeping my fingers crossed, it might be safe to say that the world is slowly finding its way to the 'new normal' we hoped for over the last two years. With a majority of people participating in getting vaccinations, the world has slowly been able to open up. Mammalian has been extremely quick to act in redeploying our performances across the globe. However, knowing that another world-altering event could be around the corner, we continue to develop our digital work and cross collaborate to make new exciting discoveries for our future. After watching Mammalian Diving Reflex steer through the turbulent waters of Covid-19, it has become clear that we are well equipped with the expertise, flexibility and can-do attitude to tackle any future issues that present themselves.

This year, I had the pleasure of seeing a small workshop presentation of our 360° video performance: *The Last Minutes Before Mars* in Milan. By pure chance, I happened to be in Milan during my solo trip in Europe and brought along a few friends I met on a Gondola to see the work in development. The experience is one that I'll remember for a lifetime, watching the youth enthusiastically interact during the performance, the candid nature of our Directors at work, and the paradoxical feeling of creating a familiar yet Nuevo experience was one to behold. I also had the pleasure of crashing on Darren's fold-out couch in Milan, where we shared a take out meal from a restaurant nearby which happened to be a Michelin star (we hilariously did not find out until our meal was prepared). During my stay with Darren, I also learned about the intricacies of the 360° video project on an intimate level that I could never have over our board meeting reports. Given my experience of the developmental phase of the project, I have no doubt that the project is in good hands.

Our team has continued to keep the international project engine revving, with performances in ten different countries, and a further two of which proudly took place at home in Toronto.

Looking forward, Mammalians had another great year and will no doubt come out swinging in 2023, with a number of exciting major projects in the pipeline. I thank everyone for their continued support and I hope we have the pleasure of meeting in person during a project near you.

Anthony Tran

**Nightwalks with Teenagers,  
Salisbury.**  
Photo: SnowyTheDog Photography



# ARTIST STATEMENT

Mammalian Diving Reflex seeks to redefine the way the world looks at itself.

We explore the creative potential in the everyday by bringing ordinary people together in new and unusual ways, devising replicable, tourable, but very flexible processes as instigators and containers for these encounters.

We create moments that obliterate the separation between artists and audience members and between performance and casual reality, providing face-to-face encounters that are desperately needed in this time of intense polarization.

We look for contradictions to whip up into aesthetically scintillating performances, trigger understanding, and in turn, develop new ways of being together. We bridge divides and ignite understanding across differences. We make the ordinary beautiful.

We make contemporary performance art for regular-ass people.

# 2023 ARTISTIC VISION & GOALS

**Nightwalks with Teenagers, Bologna.**  
Photo: Margherita Caprilli



## Premiering a suite of new works, by:

- Presenting the local, national and international premiere of *Walk With Me While I Remember You* in a variety of natural landscapes in 2023.
- Combining script, social-engagement, mentalism and technical elements during the final year of development for *Everything Has Disappeared*, which will premiere at Prairie Theatre Exchange in Winnipeg, Manitoba in early 2024.
- Premiering our audio work, *These Are the Artists in Your Neighbourhood* at Public Energy in Peterborough, Ontario in March 2023.
- Constructing and releasing a 360° video software that facilitates audience participation, in order to find unique methods of presenting socially-engaged work for the wider performing arts industry.
- Pursuing youth-engagement methods that accurately reflect current and evolving youth mental health needs.

## Foster deep-rooted, long-term connections within Italy, by:

- Training the Milanomaliens to create and tour our socially-engaged work, to promote local Italian creations.
- Continuing our long-term partnerships in Italy, including new creations with local Italian collaborators, peers and partners.
- Exploring the feasibility of creating a socially-engaged workshop and residency hub via social and infrastructure regeneration subsidies.

## Celebrate our 30th Anniversary milestone, by:

- Connecting with long-time presenters and artistic collaborators to celebrate the company so far, and consider what the future might look like.
- Hosting Camp Mammal, a series of mini-conferences, artist talks, and development workshops, bringing together Mammalians, and new artists and collaborators throughout the world, promoting our unique brand of socially-engaged practice to find new creative connections and concepts.
- Imagining what the next 30 years will hold.  
For example, can you tell if this Annual Review was written by AI? It wasn't... but can you tell?

# IMPACT

In 2022, our projects were seen by **4,130** people across **4** continents and directly engaged with **250** Collaborators, **37** Young Mammals, and **7** Associates & Interns.

We were mentioned and featured in **144** media articles.

We had **9,335** followers on our online platforms, with **30,961** people visiting our website.

We offset **123** metric tons of carbon in Canada in collaboration with CarbonZero.

We took part in **10** international artist talks.

We were featured in the article **En/Countering Ageism Together: All the Sex I've Ever Had by Mammalian Diving Reflex** by Heunjung Lee.

We were awarded the: **Dong-A Award** for Best New Conceptual Play, for *All the Sex I've Ever Had*: Gwangmyeong Edition.



All The Sex I've Ever Had, Seoul.  
Photo: Sang Hoon Ok

Through our distributed touring model, and by engaging with local communities and local artists (as opposed to touring performers like a conventional theatre company), we conserved approximately **254** metric tons of carbon.

Lieutenant Governor's **Ontario Heritage Award for Community Leadership**, awarded to City of Toronto's *Awakenings* Program, of which *It's Been a While* was an exciting and important part.



# IMMANENT WORK

# IN AN IMMINENT WORLD



All the Sex I've Ever Had, Chicago.  
Photo: Jeremy Lawson

**Immanent:** 1: Indwelling, Inherent.  
2: being within the limits of possible experience or knowledge.

**Imminent:** 1: Ready to take place, happening soon.



Haircuts by Children,  
Québec City.  
Photo: Charline Clavier

# **THE WORLD IS RAPIDLY CHANGING AND SO ARE WE.**

**The themes in Mammalian's work are immanent to the work itself; we don't just make shows about certain topics, these topics actually manifest in real life in the experiences we craft.** For example, we don't just make projects about the right of teens to occupy and enjoy public space, we create the opportunity for them to actually exercise these rights. Our themes come alive in our audience's lives and our own, not just sealed off in a piece of art, easily dismissed by a round of applause.

We do this with the faith that if—bit by bit, performance by performance, artwork by artwork—we tweak the remote corners of reality, presenting new models of being and interacting together, that we will hit a tipping point, with new realities surging into existence. This is the way of the world: small unnoticed changes accumulate under the radar until critical mass is reached and then new ideas, new behaviours, new norms, new ways of being together explode into awareness, seemingly out of nowhere. But it's never out of nowhere.

Currently, there are a number of strands of activity that are about to set off big changes, the ultimate directions of which are, at this time, hard to predict, but all of which are super exciting.

We've developed a love affair with Italy, where we've managed to develop long term relationships with a number of presenting partners, as well as a crew of young people in Milan. We share an ethic of long-term engagement with these partners and an acute curiosity with respect to a new role that art institutions can play within the community. We have used this as a springboard to investigate even longer term possibilities in the country with a period of research dedicated to the feasibility of creating a long-term socially-engaged residency program. Stay tuned.

We've been dabbling with the digital since 2019: audio, 360° video, and immersive experiences, with some exciting success, but no clear direction emerging. This is about to change with three new works coming over the next year: *The Last Minutes Before Mars*, *Everything Has Disappeared* and *These Are the Artists in Your Neighborhood*.

*Everything Has Disappeared*, premiering in 2024, is our collaboration with the magnificent Hazel Venzon and her Filipino-focused company, UNIT Productions, where we are stretching our engagement skills with a collaboration with the Catholic Church. Yes, you read that right! We're combining faith, migrant labour, VR, mentalism, and audience participation to create something. We're not exactly sure what, to be honest. But whatever it is, it's *imminent*.

*These Are the Artists in Your Neighbourhood*, led by the brilliant Virginia Antonipillai in collaboration with Peterborough's Public Energy combines the community engagement of *These Are the People in Your Neighbourhood* with the audio aspect of *It's Been a While*, our collaboration with the City of Toronto, also led by Virginia. This work smashes together a few Peterborough high school students, a few Peterborough artists and listens to what they all say about each other in front of and behind each other's backs. It premieres in March 2023.

And finally, in terms of new work, we tested out a small pilot of *Walk With Me While I Remember You*, a collaboration with Toronto's Evergreen Brick Works and a small group of young people, all of whom have experienced the death of a parent. It is directed by Glasgow's Craig McCorquodale, who first jumped onboard back in 2018 on *The World is a Wedding*, and has since become a regular and vital collaborator. We continue to develop this work, expanding the scale and, together, facing our fear of this very difficult topic. This work, as well as *The Last Minutes Before Mars* signal our interest in expanding our approach to include difficult topics like death, mental health, and future-fear. Seems like a good time to fold that into our repertoire, all things considered...

The world is rapidly changing and so are we.



# MAMMALIAN'S ITALIAN ADVENTURES

A desire to find new long-term and meaningful ways to engage artists, presenters, collaborators and audiences.



## Mammalian's Italian Adventure

Text by Chiara Prodi (Milan)

With two *Nightwalks* performances in Bologna, as part of FUORI!, and one in Modena as part of Collettivo Amigdala's Periferico Festival, we got a unique look at Italian youth. In Bologna in June, the first performance was led by a group of second generation boys obsessed with football; another in November was run by a group of girls who go to the clubs at night and the mall during the day. Same city, two completely different social dynamics, but both performances featured friendships and love stories, gossiping, and playing, and a continuous dialogue between the teenagers and the audience.

Michele Pascarella of Gagarin Magazine wrote:

"The boys, on foot or by bicycle, with microphone or megaphone and Arabic music with a dance rhythm, lead the procession and encourage participation, lighting here and there some coloured smoke bombs... *Nightwalks* is theatre in the etymological sense: a place of gazes and visions."

In Milan, we continued to develop *The Last Minutes Before Mars* with the Milanomalians, a co-production with the Triennale Milano Teatro and ZONA K. The Milanomalians opened their homes to us, we ate with their families, and spent days together shooting with a 360° camera. We collected a wide archive of their intimate and private spaces, which will be set in a dystopian ever-so-near future. Using a VR headset to view the 360° footage, it is like being with the teenagers wearing pyjamas preparing for sleep. It allows you to keep your teenage-self alive, no matter how old you might be...

**Nightwalks with Teenagers, Bologna.**  
Photo: Alessandro Morana

## Casa Italia: A Research Project

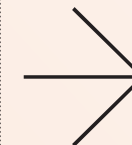
Text by Chiara Prodi (Milan)  
and Alice Fleming (Melbourne)

Mammalian's work in Italy has been focused on a consistent group of young people, the Milanomalians, engaged through the company's relationships with the Triennale Milano Teatro and ZONA K, as well as partnerships with organizations in neighbouring regions including Modena's Periferico Festival and Bologna's Emilia Romagna Teatro, one of Italy's National Theatres.

Through our collaborators, Mammalian learned of a recent initiative led by the Italian Government to foster a comprehensive network of residencies dedicated to the performing arts. Over the late summer, together with an urban planner, an architect, a handful of local artists and producers, we began on-location research to understand the context of "dying regional towns" and the feasibility of setting up a socially-engaged residency space in Italy.

This portion of the research was led by Graduate of Architecture, Mia Fleming, who focuses on how architecture can shape community, in collaboration with Melika Ramic, Fjoralba Qerimaj, Chiara Prodi and Alice Fleming. We are grateful to Wonder Grottle, Farm Cultural Park, Linda Di Pietro, Silvia Bottiroli, Liam Oxlade, Andrea Bartoli, and Florinda Saieva, for sharing the knowledge of the sector as we dip our toes into this landscape.

The research is ongoing, but it is driven by a desire to find new long-term and meaningful ways to engage artists, presenters, collaborators and audiences, and to keep finding new and unusual ways of being together. If you're interested or have a potential lead for a property in Italy—get in touch!



## ARTIST PROFILES

### SILVIA BOTTIROLI



**As a performing arts curator and researcher based in Bologna, I first encountered Mammalian Diving Relfex's work over a decade ago**, as part of my curatorial research on performing arts, public space and publicness at large.

In 2022, when conceiving the project FUORI!—I invited Mammalian to develop a long-term collaboration. The intuition of multiplying *Nightwalks with Teenagers* into a series, therefore connecting the company to the year-long programme, opened up a different layer to the collaboration. By involving Bologna-based artists, there was an artistic exchange and mutual empowerment for all the people involved.

Working with youth in post-pandemic times gave me the opportunity to radically rethink both collaboration and public space, moving them to the core of my practice, without compromising on the qualities and the potential of artistic propositions. I understand art and culture as two separated, somehow even opposite, entangled fields. I believe it is art's role to raise questions, to provoke, disorient, propose different logics, appropriate its own uselessness and make it into a political posture.

### FJORALBA QERIMAJ



**I'm Fjoralba and I am 21 years old. I am from Albania but I live in Italy.** I first got involved with Mammalian in 2018, when Darren and Alice came back to Milan after *Teentalitarianism* to start working on *The Last Minutes Before Mars*.

Since then, I have toured to Portugal, the USA, Australia and Italy, and have taught the masterclass *Compelling Telling* in Modena, Italy. With Mammalian, I love working in teams where we're mixed ages. It creates a family environment and makes me feel worthy and more confident. It made me discover a side of myself which I didn't even know existed.

I like when we work in Italy; the performances give the Italian youth a new way to discover their relevance in our country.

I believe that art has many shapes: it can be visible, it can be heard, it can be felt, it can be touched and even tasted. It's everywhere and nowhere at the same time.

### ANDRADA CICCOTTO



**I'm Andrada, a 21 year old, from Milan.** In 2018, Mammalian came to my school for the project *Teentalitarianism*, it was a mind-opening experience.

Working on *The Last Minutes Before Mars* has been a long process because of the pandemic. It is a performance that shares the idea that everyone struggles, and that we must be kinder to each other. This project will help remind us about how lucky we are and how strong we can be. We don't know what people are going through.

Art can help people understand different perspectives, cultures, stories and religions, and by doing so, it helps people open their minds. For centuries, art has been the clearest means of communication. We need to know each other better. Once we do that, we will be able to really progress.

"Nightwalks is theater in the etymological sense: a place of gazes and visions. An opportunity to literally slip from the semantic to the somatic level."

—Michele Pascarella, Gagarin Magazine (Bologna)

"It's an intentional contradiction: a show for adults, conceived and led by local teenagers. A journey on foot through a city at night. An exploratory social art experiment, in which the youth let us experience the streets through their eyes."

—Anna McGahan, The Guardian (Brisbane)

**Nightwalks with Teenagers, Brisbane.**  
Photo: Atmosphere Photography



**Nightwalks with Teenagers, Cork.**  
Photo: Jed Niezgoda



**Nightwalks with Teenagers, Modena.**  
Photo: Davide Piferi De Simoni



**Nightwalks with Teenagers, Bologna.**  
Photo: Margherita Caprilli



**Nightwalks with Teenagers, Toronto.**  
Photo: Andrew Williamson



**Nightwalks with Teenagers, Bologna.**  
Photo: Alessandro Morana



**Nightwalks with Teenagers, Salisbury.**  
Photo: SnowyTheDog Photography



**Nightwalks with Teenagers, Brooklyn.**  
Photo: Rebecca Greenfield

# EVERYTHING HAS DISAPPEARED

*Utang na loob* must be the way of the future.

**Everything Has Disappeared  
(Development).**  
Image: David Oro



## Everything Has Disappeared

Text by Hazel Venzon (Winnipeg)  
and Darren O'Donnell (Toronto)

In 2022, *Everything Has Disappeared's* development included on-location research in Trondheim, Norway and Hamburg, Germany in residencies hosted by Rosendal Theatre and Kampnagel, as well as regular remote work throughout the year.

One major finding of this research was that the people who remained most dedicated to collaborating with us were the people we had met through the church, a recruitment site that had been proposed by our newly minted Emerging Producer Isabel Ahat, who never misses a Sunday service. We were very excited by the size and enthusiasm of the church community, and their very warm welcoming of us with pancit (noodle stir fry), adobo (chicken stew), and pizza (pizza, you know: pizza).

The Filipino concept *Utang na loob* was on display as everywhere we went, we were treated with total generosity. This concept is commonly translated as "inner debt," a definition that Dr. Virgilio G. Enriquez, the father of Filipino psychology, has refined by suggesting that it should be understood to be a combination of gratitude and solidarity, without the burden that 'debt' tends to imply. *Utang na loob* is a concept that motivates many Filipinos to leave their family, travel overseas, and make sacrifices that benefit others, with no immediate compensation to themselves.

This cultural concept/quality of *Utang na loob* seems to fit very well with some key aspects of the Catholic ethic, so it's no surprise that the Filipino Catholic community has provided us with an ingenious casting strategy. We spent a couple of weeks chilling at the church, talking about their work trajectory, their contribution to Hamburg, their relationship to the Philippines, and their views on the global importance of Filipino labour. We had such a good time that we've been back twice, and visited the Catholic churches that we are now linked with. We are excited about the conceptual potential of this collaboration between us godless artists and these wonderful people of faith. We both share the desire for our work to make the world a better, more generous place, and agree that *Utang na loob* must be the way of the future or we're all toast. It's an odd pairing, but it works.

## UNIT Productions

Text by Hazel Venzon (Winnipeg)

U N I Together Productions (UNIT) is based in Winnipeg, Treaty One. We're a multi-media producing company creating every hybrid entertainment combination imaginable.

Combining the artistic talents of myself and David Oro, UNIT produces culturally bending content that brings new stories to the forefront. I have a background in sculpture, acting, directing and theatre making, and David's career has stretched over graphic design & layout, digital painting, storyboarding, concept design for video games, films and animation.

We share a deep interest in helping bring more Filipino stories to the mainstream through our dedication to supporting the artist and their unique pathway as they develop into budding storytellers. As of 2019, UNIT became a service organization for writers, devisers, creators and artists of Filipino descent offering 1:1 mentorship, consultation, dramaturgy and producing support.

At the moment, UNIT is in residence at Winnipeg's leading theatre company for new works, Prairie Theatre Exchange, who will also present the World Premiere of *Everything Has Disappeared*, a project generously supported through the National Arts Centre's National Creation Fund. We are: mentoring Bahay Perlas—a Filipinx Drag Duo—on dramaturgy and directing *DEBUT*, a new work that queerifies Filipino traditions. As well as supporting Alyssa Capulong through her thousand voices project, Nayden's *Renaissance of Memory* series of media poetry, Charles Venzon's photographic video series *Poise 6-10* and Marie Barlizo's play *Warrior*.

UNIT's recent live-action animation short *Places We Go* won awards of recognition by Indie FEST Film Awards for Animation, Experimental, Woman Filmmakers, Asian and Children/Family Programming. *Places We Go* is currently streaming on Stratfest@Home available in episodes of full length.

We call for more equitable representation in the cultural sector.



# WALK WITH ME WHILE I REMEMBER YOU

Text by Craig McCorquodale (Glasgow)

In November, I travelled from Glasgow to Toronto to lead development of a new project, *Walk With Me While I Remember You* (working title). Working in collaboration with four local young people who had all lost a parent, we shaped a performance walk through nature in Evergreen Brick Works, to be experienced by one audience member at a time. The process was supported by grief therapist, Jodi Gorham and unfolded as a gentle intervention around the landscape.

Each stranger walked alone at different times with each young person, who one after another shared memories of their parent. Among the changing leaves of Fall—the season of fire and farewell—we heard from them about dragonflies, city parks, songs by the Beatles and piano keys playing flats and sharps. Small glimpses of a life lived and lost. Stories told and retold. Routes traversed and retraced.

This is the second piece of work I have directed within the last year concerning young people and the question of death. It has become an enduring inquiry for me. In the summer of 2022, I made *When the Time Comes* in an old church in Edinburgh, performed by eight eight-year-old girls and an embalmer.

For years, I have been interested in the ways young people experience the world in its full complexity—with its suffering, beauty and constant change. I've made work and been inspired by artists using children as aesthetic provocations to confront the presumption that they aren't old enough to comprehend the confusing systems of life—a narrative that warrants their exclusion from full participation in society.

During the pandemic, I noticed that adults were being forced to negotiate a new lexicon with children. For the first time, teachers, parents and politicians had to talk to children about dying. Death and the incommunicable nature of grief, change and growing up all offer interesting frameworks to explore life itself, and to dismantle projected adult ideals of what young people should talk about and how they should behave.

In the case of *Walk With Me While I Remember You*, the structure is simple and the invitation is raw. You walk outdoors with four young people—the youngest, 8, the oldest, 23,—as they guide you through life's heartbreak and life's beauty. They lead the way, ask questions, and hold space for you to carry someone, too. Because in the end, we are all living, doing what we can, despite everything, including the inevitable end.

*Walk With Me While I Remember You* will premiere in 2023.

**Walk With Me While  
I Remember You, Toronto.**  
Photo: Sjwilliams



# THESE ARE THE ARTISTS

Text by Isabel Ahat (Toronto)



**These Are the Artists in Your Neighbourhood, Peterborough.**  
Photo: Michael Morrill

# IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

**“I never knew that there were so many artists in my town.”**

—Grimm McKay, Youth Participant

*These Are the Artists in Your Neighbourhood* is a mash-up of popular touring project *These Are the People in Your Neighbourhood*, and our award winning audio series *It's Been A While*, culminating in a brand-new artist intervention and audio work in Peterborough, Ontario, in collaboration with Public Energy.

*These Are the Artists in Your Neighbourhood* smashes together a Grade 10 art class from Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School, and six artists from in-and-around the metropolis of Peterborough.

The artists, Nicole Bauberger, Anita Murphy, Kathryn Durst, Alice Olsen Williams, Gillian Turnham, and Melanie Marion McCall, create in a range of mediums, from quilting to children's illustration. Each artist prepared an educational art workshop for the class, and the next day, they were grilled by the group of inquisitive high school students.

The ground rules: The youth interview the artist and can ask any question they want, the artists can choose to answer or not answer; then we flip it. The artist asking, the youth answering. Finally, we kick out the artist and interview the youth on what they *really* thought.

The whole thing is audio recorded and edited down to six heartfelt and silly conversations covering the whole spectrum of art, growing up, and pets. The audio pieces will be presented as part of Peterborough's First Friday Art Crawl in March 2023.

Going into the project, I was worried that the youth wouldn't be receptive to the idea, but they jumped right in. They were excited to try new forms of art, meet local artists and pry into their lives.

This was Mammalian's first adventure in Peterborough, and now we know the area by heart. We've survived snow storms, escaped zombies and narrowed down the best place for hot chocolate—it's Cork and Bean, in case you're cold and thirsty. Give us a call if you ever need a tour of the Electric City!

Stepping foot back in high school has been a surreal experience. It's been ages since I graduated, but it's as if I haven't left. They still have gender neutral washrooms, spirit weeks, and the familiar smell of pressure and expectation still wafts through the halls. I've never felt more judged than when a rush of students were leaving school while I was having a photoshoot in full costume for Western Day. Strutting in my prairie dress, bolo tie and sparkly pink cowboy hat, I could have easily been mistaken as a student, except a true Gen-Z would not participate in themed school events, not even for Halloween. I am old. At least through interviewing the students and artists, it is a relief to know that every generation can connect over a love of art and a consensus that High School is cringe.

As of December 2022, the audio has been recorded, now what's left is editing them down to the best bits. Once the audio pieces are finalized, we'll be installing listening stations for the public in Peterborough in March 2023. Just a hop, skip and a GO bus away from wherever you are in the world!

*These Are the Artists in Your Neighbourhood* is supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, and Ontario Trillium Foundation's Resilient Communities Fund.







## YOUTH PROFILES

### AJ LIVINGS



I'm AJ and I am from Keene, Ontario. I go to Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School and I am a Visual Arts student in the Integrated Arts program. I really enjoy spending most of my time making art not just for me, but for my friends too. When I first heard Mammalian's name I was honestly a little confused, but I was also very intrigued. During this project I got to explore different mediums and make different kinds of art, like making prints and quilting. It was a really fun experience and a great way to inspire creativity. I also got the opportunity to interview Kathryn Durst, an amazing artist who introduced me to printmaking. We've both had pet chickens.

**These Are the Artists in Your Neighbourhood, Peterborough.**

Photo: Michael Morritt

### GRIMM MCKAY



I'm Grimm and I live in Peterborough, Ontario. I'm a student at Thomas A. Stewart, participating in the Visual Arts program. I have been a classical musician for ten years and I am a big fan of trying new things and getting new experiences. I was initially worried about how *These Are the Artists in Your Neighbourhood* would go, but those worries were short-lived. I was able to try out new styles of art that I wouldn't have thought of doing on my own. I never knew that there were so many artists in my town. I had the chance to understand the lifestyle of a full-time artist and hear their stories. I was also interviewed by artist Gillian Turnham, giving me the chance to think about my art and what I wanted to do with it.



**All the Sex I've Ever Had, Hull.**  
Photo: Tom Arran

"I've certainly never had any experience quite like it and can't imagine I ever will again. I cannot recommend it enough."

—McKenzie Fitz, Unpublished Zine (Chicago)

"*All the Sex I've Ever Had* shows the fullness of life and manages to place human existence, which loves and suffers above all in the present, in the proportionality of a lived life. And so it is thanks to the cast that life finally seems relative, amazing and comforting in sum. You go—I go—with hope from the evening."

—Katharina Nill, Kultur Züri (Zürich)

# OUR TOURS

## HAIRCUTS BY CHILDREN

Québec City (February 26–27)

PRESENTED BY  
Mois Multi

## ALL THE SEX I'VE EVER HAD: CHICAGO EDITION

(March 24–31)

PRESENTED BY  
Museum of Contemporary Art  
Chicago

## NIGHTWALKS WITH TEENAGERS

Salisbury (June 9–11)

PRESENTED BY  
Salisbury International  
Arts Festival

## NIGHTWALKS WITH TEENAGERS

Pescarola, Bologna (June 11–12)

PRESENTED BY  
Emilia Romagna Teatro's FUORI!

## NIGHTWALKS WITH TEENAGERS

Brooklyn (June 15–18)

PRESENTED BY  
Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM)

*USA Premiere*

## NIGHTWALKS WITH TEENAGERS

Cork (June 17–19)

PRESENTED BY  
Cork Midsummer Festival

*Irish Premiere*

## HAIRCUTS BY CHILDREN

Bochum (June 11–12)

PRESENTED BY  
Schauspielhaus Bochum

## NIGHTWALKS WITH TEENAGERS

Toronto (July 14–16)

PRESENTED BY  
The Bentway

*Toronto Premiere*

## NIGHTWALKS WITH TEENAGERS

Brisbane (September 15–17)

PRESENTED BY  
Brisbane Festival

## ALL THE SEX I'VE EVER HAD: HULL EDITION

(September 1–3)

PRESENTED BY  
Freedom Festival

## THESE ARE THE PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

St. Pölten (October 6)

PRESENTED BY  
Zukker

## ALL THE SEX I'VE EVER HAD: SEOUL EDITION

(October 8–9)

PRESENTED BY  
Elephant's Laugh  
AND  
Seoul Performing Arts Festival

## NIGHTWALKS WITH TEENAGERS

Modena (October 29–30)

PRESENTED BY  
Collettivo Amigdala's  
Periferico Festival

## WALK WITH ME WHILE I REMEMBER YOU

Toronto (November 12)

PRESENTED BY  
Evergreen Brick Works

*First Public Performance*

## NIGHTWALKS WITH TEENAGERS

Castel Maggiore, Bologna  
(November 12–13)

PRESENTED BY  
Emilia Romagna Teatro's FUORI!

## ALL THE SEX I'VE EVER HAD: ZÜRICH EDITION

(December 8 – January 18)

PRESENTED BY  
Theater Neumarkt

# DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Text by Isabel Ahat (Toronto)

“This little big world Mammalian is exploring is a big step ahead. I’ve been experimenting with virtual reality goggles and it’s crazy how real everything feels.”

—Fjoralba Qerimaj (Milan, Italy)

After two major new works that include mixed-reality, *The Last Minutes Before Mars* and *Everything Has Disappeared*, we are taking the next steps to diversify our toolbox, and in turn the industry, through custom created software.

Through funding from Canada Council’s Digital Greenhouse, we’ve been building a 360° application that allows users (well, audiences...) to vocally interact with performers and each other while watching live and pre-recorded 360° video. This project is piloted by our Lead Developer, Holger Heißmeyer, and assisted by Roman Miletitch. Holger previously collaborated with us in 2020 as the VR and Technology Consultant for *The Last Minutes Before Mars*.

The team has developed proof concepts of the software’s most important parts and assembled an open source technology stack. We’re currently working on the integration of the individual functions into a system. So far it looks like it’ll work with VR browsers! Next steps will be testing the system with an ensemble of artists as the test audience, with a focus on compatibility, syncing, and switching between tasks.

Once all the bugs are squashed, we hope to launch the software for public use in 2023.

**The Lockdown Resolution, Bristol.**  
Photo: Paul Blakemore

# INVESTMENT WITH **REAL** **IMPACT**

Support for our projects allows us to deliver meaningful outcomes for young people.

Text by Virginia Antonipillai (Toronto)

**Fundraising is a critical component of supporting the young people who work alongside all our projects.** We're able to do this thanks to investment from a range of donors and philanthropic organizations who believe that targeted work yields the highest impact. It is through support from the sector that we have been able to spend over seventeen years working closely and carefully with the same youth, to nurture, mentor, and offer paid and meaningful work opportunities that are now seeing the next set of artistic and creative practitioners enter the sector.

Our work will continue to pave the way, working to reduce barriers into the industry. We are sincerely grateful for the support of those who have come on the journey with us and continue to do so.



With generous support from the Kingfisher Foundation.



**Nightwalks with Teenagers, Toronto.**  
Photo: Andrew Williamson



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## The Torontonians

We've been working with one of my oldest friends, Isabel Ahat, since 2007 when she, at age eleven, presented her talking Minnie Mouse velvet picture frame in our short film *Show and Tell*, created in collaboration with the entire student body of Parkdale Public School. Since then, Isabel has been working with us constantly. After years of spending her Saturdays signing our cheques as our part-time Finance Coordinator, Isabel now signs our cheques 5 days a week as our full-time Assistant Finance Manager & Emerging Producer! She's been hard at work producing *Everything Has Disappeared* and is an integral Producer across our local work.

Wendell Williams is still kicking it as our Associate Artist. We are grateful that he has his licence, and can jump into projects as we find ourselves travelling throughout Ontario.

I am full time and loving it. My progression at the company has seen me join as a youth member in *Nightwalks with Teenagers* when I was 14, to being contracted to mentor other youth and deliver projects across the world. In 2020, I became a full time employee who leads, conceives, and feeds into the company's day-to-day in the role of Creative Producer & Operations Coordinator. I was very busy on the road in 2022, having visited four countries and six festivals this year! I'm also now the lead on our operational grant writing and reporting—we have to keep this ship afloat and it's amazing that I'm a part of that.

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## The Milanomalians

In 2018, Fjoralba Qerimaj, Jerwin Mostiero, Sara Ben Hamouda, Mervin Kyle Fajardo and Andrada Ciccotto were connected to us as local youth in *Teentalitarianism* in Milan. In 2022, they form part of a small pool of youth—the Milanomalians—all who are now graduating from being participants to co-leading our projects across Italy and beyond. As we amped up for an exciting return to Milan in 2023 to premiere *The Last Minutes Before Mars* with ZONA K and Triennale Milano Teatro, Fjoralba has been taking the reins in production and helping us navigate every single VR tech issue we've experienced. We're happy to say that she has solved every one of them... so far.

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## The Mammals of London

After several years of working with students from Duke's Aldridge Academy School and The Vale School, we were eager to bring them on the road! Malik Caba and Finn Banks joined our *Nightwalks with Teenagers* tours in Ireland and Canada. Malik being a part of our Toronto edition of *Nightwalks with Teenagers* was particularly special, as the entire team was made up of Young Mammals from all of our key long-term youth engagement locales: Canada, Germany, Italy and the UK!

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## Mit Ohne Alles

As our German youth members entered their early 20s, they were spread across our various projects, mentoring youth, and sharing their expertise and experience in the process. Dario was shaking it up with the seniors in Hull, Eeske and Lynn paraded the streets of St. Pölten, Pascal got a snazzy haircut from a 10-year-old hairstylist in his hometown and delivered a workshop for dance artists in Mainz, and Nana definitely got her steps in as she guided two groups of teens in the creation of *Nightwalks with Teenagers*, one based in Brooklyn and the other in Toronto. Honing in on these skills, Nana began an internship with the Humboldt Forum in Berlin to create socially-engaged work with a classroom of young people throughout the next few years.

The various pathways continue to grow as we steward young people into paid and meaningful work in the arts and culture industry.

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## The Rufins

We were blessed to have Julienne Rufin return to Mammalian after first encountering us at Parkdale High School in 2007, joining our team in 2020 as Finance Manager. We knew eventually that, as her schedule shifted, someone else would have to step in. That's when her father, Joseph Rufin, who is also a certified CPA and handles the finances for the SickKids Hospital in Toronto, took on her responsibilities to keep our finances on point. Mammalian simply can't get enough of the Rufins, so we added the second youngest child, Jenylle Rufin (yup, the whole family has J names!), as a Project Coordinator on *Haircuts by Children* in Québec City and *Nightwalks with Teenagers* in Salisbury. We know there are more Rufins and we can't wait to work out a way to work with them too. We're obsessed with the rousing Rufins.

*Nightwalks with Teenagers, Toronto.*  
Photo: Andrew Williamson



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## YOUNG MAMMAL PROFILE

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# FINN BANKS



I'm Finn (he/they), I'm 19 years old and I live in London. I first got involved with Mammalian in 2018, when I was in *Nightwalks with Teenagers* at LIFT. I really appreciated being taken seriously as an artist and being able to create what I felt. Since then, I've toured *Nightwalks with Teenagers* to Cork Midsummer Festival in Ireland.

Personally, I find comfort in expressing myself in the truest form. Presenting and creating what I feel is important to me is something I have brought to my role at Mammalian. My favourite thing was being able to connect with the youth. I liked getting to know the individuals and being able to aid them in their creative process.

When I'm not working with Mammalian, I'm at college. I'm currently studying Travel and Tourism. My interests lay in travelling, in particular trains. The railway is something I have always adored. My passion for the tourism industry is something that influences my artistic practice. There's a motivation to create, explore and meet new people.

Art shapes culture in the way that we all feel a pull to inspire, reflect and form connections with one another.

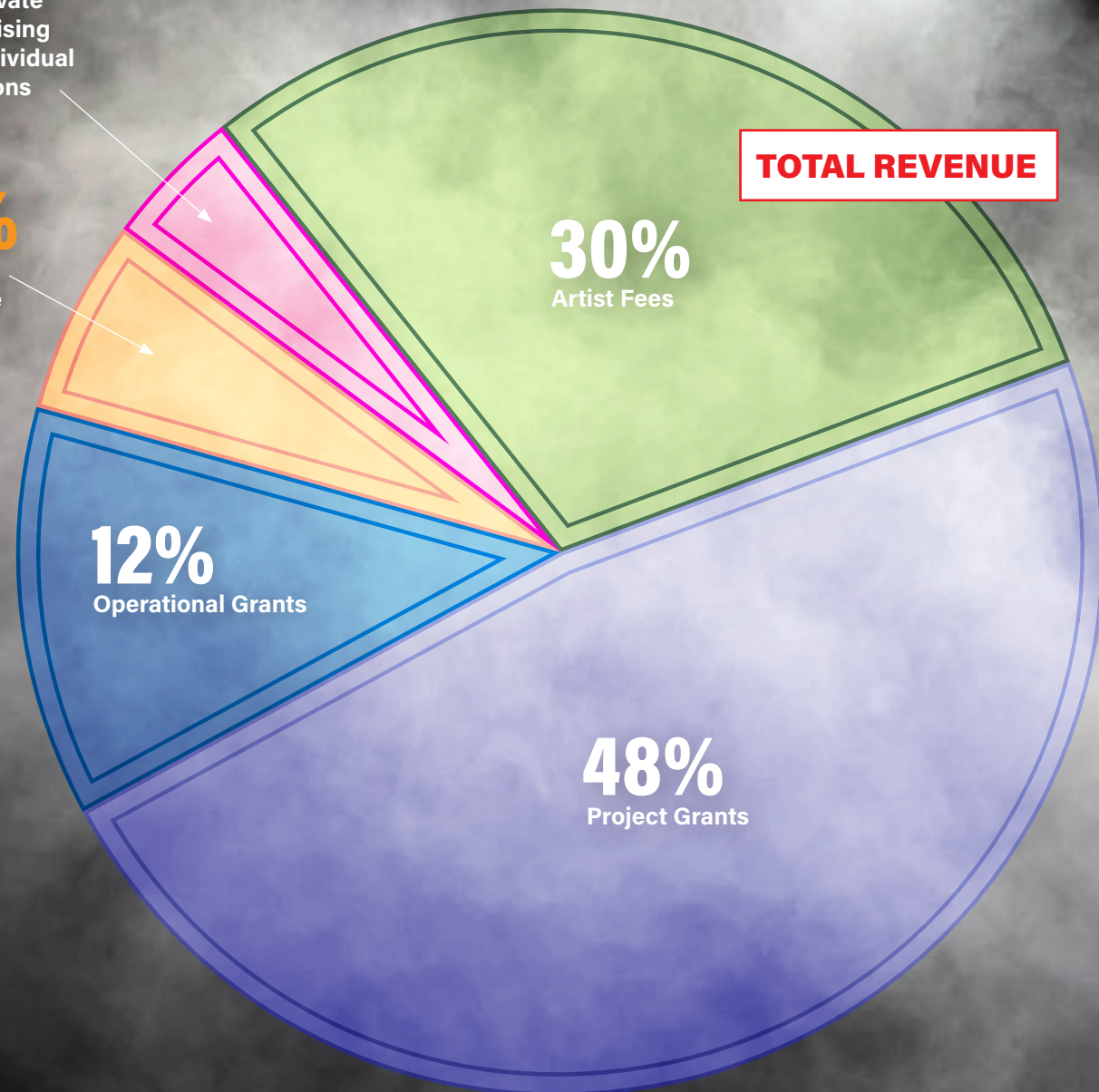
# 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

4%

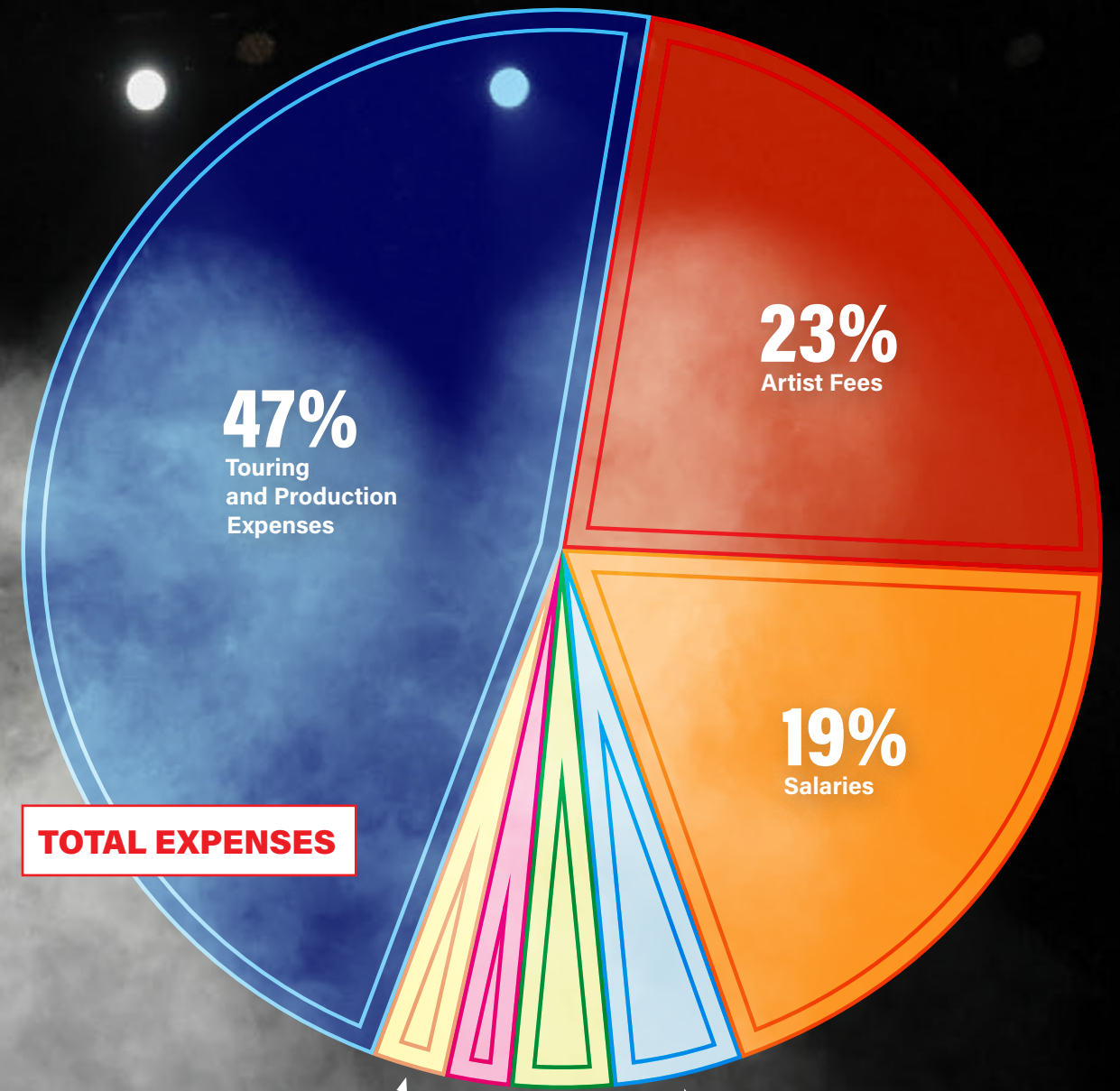
Corporate and Private Fundraising and Individual Donations

6%

Other Income



TOTAL REVENUE



TOTAL EXPENSES

2% Marketing and Development

2% Rent

3% Other Expenses

4% General Operational Costs

All the Sex I've Ever Had, Chicago.  
Photo: Jeremy Lawson





**Haircuts by Children, Bochum.**  
Photo: Magiel Castillo

# 2023 FINANCIAL VISION & GOALS

Going into 2022, the transformative impact of the pandemic on our touring slowly but surely dissipated, though we are still reeling from its drastic social impact.

Our long-term Financial Vision and Goals are to:

- Invest in long term artistic mentoring to continue to diversify the authors of our concepts and work.
- Develop meaningful corporate and private fundraising connections with like-minded organizations, to eventually make up 10% of total revenue.
- Source diversified revenue streams through the creation of new work and co-productions to join our existing works in repertoire.

We continue to strive to form connections with Canadian Foundations that value our work and our impact. This outreach has started bearing fruit, and we are very grateful for the new support of the Kingfisher Foundation.

As we enter 2023, we hope to capitalize on our 30th Anniversary to increase corporate and private fundraising revenue, new work and co-production opportunities, and tour our work to both new presenters and our old favourites.



# THE MAMMALIANS

## OUR STAFF

Darren O'Donnell  
*Artistic Director*

Ryan Lewis  
*Senior Producer & Communications Manager*

Virginia Antonipillai  
*Creative Producer & Operations Coordinator*

Isabel Ahat  
*Assistant Finance Manager & Emerging Producer*

Marie Lola Minimo  
*Company & Communications Assistant*

Alice Fleming  
*Strategic Advisor*

Annalise Prodor  
*Acting Partnerships Coordinator*

Joseph Rufin  
*Finance Manager*

Julienne Rufin  
*Finance Officer*

Wendell Williams  
*Associate Artist*

Kanon Hewitt  
*Associate Artist*

## BOARD

Anthony Tran  
*President*

Vayantha Anupa Perera  
*Secretary & Vice-President*

Alana Wilcox  
*HR & Nominations Representative*

Jenifer Papararo  
*Director*

Philip Dyke  
*Treasurer*

Ngawang Luding  
*Director & Young Mammal*

Bianca Spence  
*Director*

## COLLABORATORS & YOUNG MAMMALS:

Alessandro Morana	Jack Tully	Nana Adutwum
Alex Rand	Jaimin Yoon	Nathan Stoneham
Alicia 'ayo' Ohs	Jana Eiting	Otez Gary
Allyson O'Sullivan	Jana Wiechers	Pascal Ulrich
Amélie Zimmermann	Jed Niezgod	Philip Frowein
Amy Cassello	Jenna Winter	Rebecca Greenfield
Andrada Roberta Ciccotto	Jenylle Rufin	Rolf Laureijs
Andrea Bartoli	Jeremy Lawson	Sakura Yamamoto
Andrew Williamson	Jerwin Mostiero	Sang Hoon Ok
Angel Dominguez	Jinyeob Lee	Sara Ben Hamouda
Anna Gallagher-Ross	Jodi Gorham	Silvia Bottiroli
Aroa El Horani	Johanna Figl	Sjwilliams
Atmosphere Photography	John Hoobyar	SnowyTheDog Photography
Birgit Rogl	Kanoko Tamura	Sophia Senn
Bonita Appleblunt	Katelan Braymer	Stephanie Reumann
Briony Adams	Kathy Vuu	Susan Holland
Cathrin Rose	Kaylee Dempsey	Susanne Zoth-Schwankhart
Charline Clavier	Laura Beddows	Tara Aisha Willis
Chiara Prodi	Laura Jasper	Tara Venzi
Christian Horoszczak	Laura Petrucci	Tenzin Chozin
Christian Raschke	Lee Ashcroft	Thipeeshan Balakrishnan
Craig McCorquodale	Lena Weiderbauer	Tina Fance
Cybèle Zinsli	Liam Oxlade	Tine Milz
Daina Pignatti	Lilli Gehrke	Tom Arran
Danielle Goldfinger	Linda Di Pietro	Valerie Deshaies
Dario Scheffler	Linsey Hall	Wonder Grottle
Davide Piferi De Simoni	Louise Dancy	Wonsuk Choi
Eeske Hahn	Luca Gadler	
Eleanor Burke	Lukas Kalteis	
Elizabeth Bergeron	Lynn Dokoohaki	
Emma Rose	Maile Zox	
Eneas Prawdzc	Malik Caba	
Eva Geatti	Manuela De Meo	
Fanny Ponsard	Margherita Caprilli	
Farm Cultural Park	Mariona Roigè	
Federica Rocchi	Martina Merico	
Felicity Nicol	Matt Nolan	
Finn Banks	Maxine Kenneally	
Fjoralba Qerimaj	Melika Ramic	
Florinda Saieva	Mervin Kyle Fajardo	
Fritz Rickenbacher	Michael Tobin Fiore	
Gianluca Benvenuti	Mikey Martins	
Hoyeon Lee	Min Collie-Holmes	
Irene Baraldi	Miriam Gomez	

# THANK YOU

We would like to offer our gratitude on behalf of each and every Mammalian to the following Government Supporters, Foundations, and Private Donors, for their support in 2022.



With generous support from the Kingfisher Foundation.

## BECOME A MAMMAL LOVER

If you would like to support the imminent work of Mammalian Diving Reflex, which will directly foster youth artistic mentorship within Canada and beyond, you can donate securely online at [mammalian.ca/support-us](https://mammalian.ca/support-us), via the QR code or send a cheque to our address on the back of this review.



## MAMMAL LOVERS:

Anna Gallagher-Ross  
Anthony Tran  
Anupa Perera  
Christian Ziegler  
Clarissa Lewis  
Craig Andrew Lewis  
David Danzon  
Dev Aujla  
Donal O'Reardon  
Dylan T. Reid  
Felicity Nicol  
Hazel Venzon  
Ian Carpenter  
Isabel Ahat  
Isorine Marc  
Joseph Wilson  
June-Etta Chenard  
Karim Aujla  
Kaven Kafshbarghi  
Kelly O'Donnell  
Kiera O'Brien  
Krys Verrall  
Lianne O'Donnell  
Maria Carneiro  
Mayuran Ganesathas  
Melissa Tsang  
Michael Shamata  
Morag Morrison  
Myles Kitagawa  
Naomi Campbell  
Ngawang Luding  
Nirmala Basnayake  
Philip Dyke  
Ryan Lewis  
Tenzin Chozin  
Troy O'Donnell  
Anonymous x4

All the Sex I've Ever Had, Zürich.  
Photo: Philip Frowein





DIVING REFLEX

# CONTACT US

We are always open to new collaborations and exploring other-worldly ideas. Let's connect.

Head to **mammalian.ca** to sign up to our quarterly e-Newsletter.

Email us at **hello@mammalian.ca**

On the off-chance that one of us is off tour and in the office; you can call us at

**+1 (647) 224 3843**

Send all ransom notes to:

**Mammalian Diving Reflex**

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CANADA

