

UWI COLLECTIVE COMPANY BIOS

UWI COLLECTIVE BIO:

UWI COLLECTIVE is made up of the wife and husband team of Andrea Mapili and Byron Abalos. They are Toronto-based, multi-disciplinary artists that work primarily in theatre, dance, performance art and community arts. Byron is a Dora-award winning actor, produced playwright, theatre creator, producer and fundraiser. Andrea is a dancer, choreographer, playwright, producer, arts facilitator and teacher, and a Tamalpa practitioner specializing in movement-based expressive arts therapy and education, public speaking and embodiment. They are both of Filipino descent and have been married for seven and a half years. They are currently pregnant and are expecting their first child on July 26, right after their show at the Fringe closes.

In addition to their work as individuals, they often work as a collective and have collaborated on several projects together. Their most recent collaboration in 2017 was CASSETTES 100, a community music/movement arts project involving 100 participants performing in the lobby of the Young Centre for the Performing Arts.

Byron was a co-creator and Andrea was a movement consultant on the multi-Dora Award nominated production of MONDAY NIGHTS produced by the 6th Man Collective and The Theatre Centre.

They have been developing THROUGH THE BAMBOO for the past several years and have received financial support (through OAC's Theatre Creators' Reserve/RGTC program) by companies like Carousel Players, the Toronto Fringe Festival, Cahoots, fu-GEN and most recently Theatre Direct. They have had four public readings during their development process, the first supported by Carlos Bulosan Theatre, the second at Bindlestiff Studio in San Francisco, and the final two through Soulepper through their Tiger Bamboo Festival in 2016 and Shen Series in 2017.

Themes that recur in their work include exploring our Filipino heritage, legacy, family and intergenerational relationships. Byron's first play, REMEMBER LOLO, won the Audience Choice Award in the 2005 Summerworks Festival and their recent production of CASSETTES 100 was composed by Andrea's late grandfather and National Artist of the Philippines, Jose Maceda.

CREATIVE TEAM:

Andrea Mapili (Co-playwright, Co-producer, Choreographer)

Andrea Mapili is a multi-disciplinary artist and Registered Somatic Movement Educator. She is a graduate of the Tamalpa Institute's movement-based expressive arts therapy and education program and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the

University of Western Ontario. She is a movement artist, choreographer, playwright and speaker that offers private coaching and group workshops specializing in embodied public speaking, somatic awareness and creativity for health and wellness. Her sessions are soulful and playful. Her work is movement-based and focuses on women meeting themselves from the inside out. In 2017, she was the choreographer and artistic lead of *Cassettes 100*, a community and inter-arts project that took over the lobby of the Young Centre for the Performing Arts.

Byron Abalos (Co-playwright, Co-producer)

Byron Abalos is an actor, playwright, director and theatre producer from Toronto, Ontario with a BFA from Ryerson University. Select theatre credits: *Monday Nights* (The Theatre Centre), *Twelve Angry Men* (Soulpepper – Ensemble Dora Award), *Roshni* (Theatre Passe Muraille), *The Making of St. Jerome* (eastBOUND Theatre/Next Stage), *paper series* (Cahoots Theatre) and *Banana Boys* (fu-GEN). Film/TV credits: Star Trek: Discovery, What We Do in the Shadows, Baroness Von Sketch, The Boys, Return to Christmas Creek, Designated Survivor, Taken, Flatliners, Condor, Man Seeking Woman, Defiance, Dark Matter, Covert Affairs, The Listener, Mr. Dressup and The Magic Schoolbus. Byron was a member of The Second City Toronto's inaugural Bob Curry Fellowship. He received the NBC Emerging Voices scholarship and currently teaches acting at The Second City Training Centre. He directed Cahoots Theatre's production of *Good Morning, Viet Mom* and will be performing in *Monday Nights* as part of Luminato in June 2019.

Nina Lee Aquino (Director/Dramaturge)

Nina Lee Aquino is an award-winning Filipino-Canadian director, dramaturge, and administrator in Toronto for twenty years. She was the former Artistic Director of fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company and Cahoots Theatre Company; and is now the current Artistic Director of Factory Theatre. She is the editor of Canada's first Asian-Canadian 2-volume drama anthology *love + relationships* and the co-editor of the award winning *New Essays on Canadian Theatre Volume One: Asian Canadian Theatre* (Playwrights Canada Press). Awards for her directorial work include: the Ken McDougall Award 2004, the Canada Council John Hirsch Prize 2008 and two Dora Mavor Moore Awards for Outstanding Direction.

Maddie Bautista (Sound Designer)

Maddie Bautista is a sound designer, award-winning theatre creator & performer, and artist educator. She is the 2018-2019 sound design mentor with the AMY Project, and is co-directing and developing their Design Mentorship Program training young women and non-binary youth in the GTA. Her sound design and compositions have been featured in theatre companies and festivals across the country, including Luminato, Why Not's RISER, Theatre Passe Muraille, Aluna Theatre, b current, rEvolver Festival in

Vancouver, High Performance Rodeo in Calgary, and more. Award-winning performance and creation work has included the SummerWorks Spotlight Performance Award 2016 for her work in *My Nightmares Wear White*, Nightswimming's 5x25 2017 Commission and NOW Magazine's Audience Choice Award 2018 for co-creating *4inXchange* in her performance art duo xLq.

David DeGrow (Production Manager)

David is a theatre maker, manager and thinker working in Toronto. He has been part of over 300 productions across Canada, and his designs have been nominated for three Dora awards. He is a PhD Candidate at the University of Toronto, where his research focuses on the dialogue between theatre space, performance, audience, and the city.

Michelle Ramsay (Lighting Designer)

Recent Credits: *Under the Stairs* (Young People's Theatre); *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play* (Obsidian Theatre/Nightwood Theatre); *Broken Tailbone* (nightswimming); *Grace* (Nightwood Theatre); *Obaaberima* (Buddies in Bad Times Theatre); *Acteon & Pygmalion* (Opera Atelier/The Royal Opera of Versailles/Harris Theatre Chicago); *The Royale* (Soulpepper); *Gertrude and Alice* (Independent Aunties); *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Stratford Festival); *Drawer Boy* (Theatre Passe Muraille); *Ipperwash* (Native Earth Performing Arts/Blyth Festival); *Daughter* (Quiptake/Pandemic Theatre). She has received seven Dora Awards, a SATAward, a Harold Award and the 2008 Pauline McGibbon award.

CAST:

Karen Ancheta (ISA/MOM)

Karen is thrilled to be in such fine company. Recently she completed a workshop with Cahoots Theatre for *Hilot Means Healer* by Jo SiMalaya Alcampo which makes a full production debut this September. Selected onstage credits: *In the Shadows* (RedBetty/Frost Bites Festival); *Precious* in *Future Folk* (Sulong/Passe Muraille); *Maria* in *Singkil* (fu-GEN Theatre); *Choon-yi* in *Ghost Train* (YPT); *Thaisa* in *Pericles, Taming of the Shrew* (Stratford Festival). Karen's directing credits: *In the Shadows of Elephants* (Carlos Bulosan Theatre); *The Rise and Fall of the Great Hooter Empire* (rock.paper.sistahz festival); Assistant Director for *People Power* (CBT) and *lady in the red dress* (fu-GEN). Karen teaches for Theatre Aquarius' New Comer Program, loves collaborating with Kwentong Bayan cultivating caregiver/storytellers, and is an original member of The Hamilton 7. She graduated from RTS (recipient of the Robert Christie Award). Karen is a proud mom and boss-lady at her Instagram shop: EYE MY MAGPIE

Marie Beath Badian (DALAWA)

Marie Beath is a Toronto-based theatre maker. As an actor, she was last seen as Rhoda Nunn in *Age of Arousal* (Factory Theatre). As playwright, her plays include *Prairie Nurse* (Blyth Festival), *The Making of St. Jerome* (Next Stage Theatre Festival), *Mind Over Matter* (Convergence Theatre), and *Novena* (Toronto Fringe Festival). She is published by Playwrights Canada Press and Scirocco Drama. She was a member of the 2019 Banff Playwrights Lab, developing two sequels to *Prairie Nurse*.

Marie Beath has made multiple voyages into Byron and Andrea's Land of Uwi, and is thrilled to continue the adventure with this dreamy team of artists.

UPCOMING: *PRAIRIE NURSE* at Lighthouse Theatre, July 2019 and Showboat Festival Theatre, August 2019.

www.mariebeath.com

Lana Carillo (GITING)

Lana is a Toronto-based actor and singer who is thrilled to be back at the Fringe! Theatre credits include: *The Princess of the Tower* (2018 Fringe); *Hilot Means Healer - Workshop* (Cahoots Theatre); *Cannibal! The Musical* (Starvox Entertainment), *I'm Right Here* (2015 Fringe); *James and the Giant Peach* (YPT – Dora nominee), *The Little Mermaid* (Ross Petty Productions – Toronto Theatre Critics Award: Best Supporting Actress), *Prairie Nurse* (Blyth Festival), *Just East Of Broadway* (2009 Fringe, Next Stage Festival), *Funny Business: The Musical* (2007 Fringe, Diesel Playhouse), *Grease: The Musical* (Fallen Rock Productions/Escape Productions). Animation: "Ruby" in *Max and Ruby* (Seasons 6 and 7). This tiny warrior sends MASSIVE LOVE to the dream cast and creative who brought this touching tale to life. Grateful to remain a part of this fantastical journey!!!

Joy Castro (TATLO)

Joy is SO excited to be making her Toronto Fringe debut with the world premiere production of 'Through the Bamboo'. Love & gratitude to Bryon, Andrea and Nina for letting her be a part of this very special Filipinx-Canadian story. Joy is a graduate of Studio 58 in Vancouver.

John Echano (GENERAL T/EKEK)

John Echano is a Filipino-Canadian actor and theatre maker originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba. A graduate of the Theatre Performance program at Humber College. He toured *The Paper Bag Princess: A Musical* (To Be Determined Theatre) for the past year in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. Other theatre credits include: *The Day of the Locust* (Humber Theatre), *How to Build a Flying Machine* (Humber Theatre), *New Canadian Kid* (Manitoba Theatre for Young People), *Diss* (Sarasvati Productions), and *Giving Voice* (Sarasvati Productions). This summer he will be performing at the Fundy Fringe festival in Cuil Creations new show *I Forced a Bot to Watch 1000 Hours of...*

Carolyn Fe (LOLA)

Actress, Blues Singer/Songwriter, Radio Producer/Host. A guest appearance in Raoul Bhaneja's *Life, Death and The Blues* directed by Eda Holmes (2014), the in-between Blues gigs in the music scene, and the role of "Precy" in Audrey Dwyer's *Calpurnia* (2018) that garnered her The Toronto Critics award for "2018 Best Supporting Actress in a Play" helped in the decision to make Toronto her home. She keeps a foot in both cities, performing/writing with her "music husbands", preparing for their 6th album. Her weekly Blues radio show called "Unsung and On The Side" is broadcasted on the Blues and Roots Radio network as she carries on in film, TV, Web, Voice and Theatre. After all, age is just a number isn't it? Carolyn Fe claims that she is forever 30 years old with an accelerated accumulated years of experience.

Nicco Lorenzo Garcia (MATALINO/BUNNY)

What a privilege to return to the Toronto Fringe with a show created by this group of familiar-familials! Nicco was most recently in Gateway/Pie Theatre's, *Long Division* in Vancouver and in Nightswimming's production of *Same Same but Different* by Anita Majumdar. He has co-written two plays as part of the Carlos Bulosan Theatre Collective. *People Power*, where he won the Dora Award for Outstanding Performance, and secondly, *In the Shadow of Elephants*. Other credits: *Paper Series* (Cahoots); *The Romance of Magno Rubio* and *Dust* (Carlos Bulosan Theatre); *Lady in the Red Dress* (fu-GEN); *Hana's Suitcase* (Grand); *The King and I* (Gateway); *Andrew's Tree* and *Beneath the Banyan Tree* (Theatre Direct); *Ice...Beyond Cool and Fire...* *Where There's Smoke* (DanceArts). Selected Film/TV: *5000 Years of Heroes* (TrueLegend); *Conviction* (ABC); *StreetTime* (Showtime); *Mayday* (Discovery); *DeGrassi: TNG* (CTV); *Owning Mahowney* (Alliance); *Ang Pamana: The Inheritance and Prison Dancer: The WebMusical* (DigitalSweatshop) on YouTube.

Ericka Leobrera (IPAKITA)

Ericka is thrilled to be making her Toronto Fringe Festival debut with Uwi Collective in *Through The Bamboo*. Ericka Leobrera is a Filipino-Canadian multidisciplinary artist currently based in Toronto. She will be entering her final year at Humber College's Theatre Arts-Performance program where she was a part of the collaborative creation of *Spring is a Promise* (Dir: Dan Watson), and *Odd Ones Out* (Dir: Herbie Barnes). Ericka performed in the Act Fast Theatre Festival where she originated the role of Jesse in *We are humans aren't we?*. Other theatre credits include: *A 21st Century Christmas Carol*, *The Girl with The Golden Locks*, *Robin Hood*.

Anthony Perpuse (KAPRE/KOYO)

Anthony is a Dora nominated Toronto based actor for his ensemble work in *Eraser* presented by Why Not theatre as part of the Riser Project. Selected credits as an actor include: *Theory* (Tarragon), *Madeleine Says Sorry* (Fringe), and *Rowing* (Fringe). Directing credits include *The Brothers Gentle* (Fringe), *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* (Wolf Manor), and *The Empire* (New Voices). Anthony was a Factory Mechanical (2016-17) and a recipient of the Perry Schneiderman comedy award. Anthony is super excited to share this wonderful and exciting production with you all. Thanks and salamat!

Angela Rosete (PHILLY)

For the past three years of her high school career at Loretto College, Angela Rosete has been a participant in the Ontario NTS Drama Festival (formerly known as Sears Drama Festival), acting as the lead role in her school's pieces. Last year, Loretto College moved on to the provincial level of the festival after 40 years with their piece *Play Rights*, and the same success was brought to them this year with their recent production of *A Dark Horse in Low Light*. Alongside acting, Angela Rosete took on the role of co-playwright with this piece, and won the Wayne Fairhead New Play Award in Brantford, Ontario. In 2016, she also participated in the SummerWorks Festival when her school's piece *O Nosso Fado* got picked up by the company. As a young Filipino artist, Angela Rosete looks forward to the experience of working with the team of *Through the Bamboo*.

