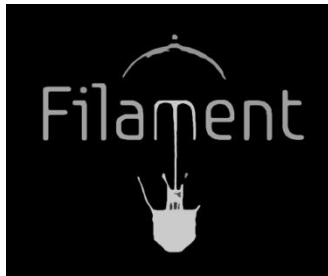


Paradise Comics to Close Filament Incubator's Inaugural Season



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George has flown the coop, leaving thirteen year-old Beans and her mother, Janie to clean up the mess. In the process of removing his clutter from their home, the pair is charged not only with organizing the transport of an entire comic book collection, but forced to face the responsibility they shared for a man they each knew so differently. *Paradise Comics* contemplates the trials of adolescence and parenting, and how families grieve. *Paradise Comics* is written by Caitie Graham (*poseball*, New Ideas Festival) with direction from Darwin Lyons (*Well Born*, SocoTheatre/Truth'n'Lies Theatre) and dramaturgy from Paula Wing (*Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, Souleppper Theatre).

Set in an intimate basement in Kensington Market, *Paradise Comics* is the eighth and final piece of theatre in Filament Incubator's 2016 season and part of their #8showsIn8months, opening after Lauren Griffiths's *'Til Death do Us Part* and Aaron Jan's *Swan*, a co-production with Little Black Afro. It will star **Sherman Tsang** (Hart House, Youth Ensemble Theatre), **Maddie Bautista** (2016 SummerWorks Spotlight Award for Performance), **Sarah Naomi Campbell** (*We Three*, Cue 6; *The Winter's Tale*, Leroy Street Theatre), and **David Ross** (Shakespeare BASH'd). *Paradise Comics* was workshopped in Tarragon's Young Playwright's Unit in 2013 and again in Ryerson's 2014 New Voices Festival under Sheldon Rosen.

FILAMENT INCUBATOR was founded with the express intent to be a launching pad for underproduced and underrepresented emerging artists, programming them on a consistent, monthly basis in the Queen West Area. The Incubator is the collective brainchild of Daniel Bagg, Aaron Jan, Andrew Markowiak, and Zachary Parkhurst.

This is a Canadian Actors' Equity Association production under the Artists' Collective Policy.

PLEASE ADD TO YOUR LISTINGS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paradise Comics

by **Caitie Graham**

November 23-December 3, 2016

56K Kensington Hall



Produced by Filament Incubator

Directed by Darwin Lyons

CAST

BEANS: Sherman Tsang

HANNAH: Maddie Bautista

JANIE: Sarah Naomi Campbell

GEORGE/MARVIN: David Ross

Stage Manager: Sama Kokabi

Lighting Design: Sharmylae Taffe-Fletcher

Sound Design: Deanna Choi

Publicity Photography: Jordan Laffrenier

This is a Canadian Actors' Equity Association production under the Artists' Collective Policy.

Location: 56k Kensington Hall

Showtimes and Ticket Prices:

Preview: November 22nd: 8pm, \$10

Opening Week: November 23-27, \$15

Closing Week: November 29-Dec 3, \$18

Tickets: www.paradisecomics.bpt.me

For information on Filament Incubator: www.filamentincubator.wixsite.com

[facebook.com/filamentincubator](https://www.facebook.com/filamentincubator)

OUR TEAM



Caitie Graham - WRITER/PRODUCER - Paradise Comics

Since graduating from the Performance Acting Program at Ryerson University in 2014, Caitie Graham has become a committed member of the theatre and youth education community in Toronto, as well as an advocate for work that engages young women. Her play, *Paradise Comics*, was developed at the Tarragon Theatre's Young Playwright's Unit; a program for which she now acts as Assistant Writing Instructor. It was first produced in her graduating year at the Ryerson New Voices Festival, and has since received dramaturgical support from Paula Wing in preparation for the remount with Filament Incubator this November. Her writing work has most recently appeared at the Alumnae Theatre's New Ideas Festival (*POSE BALL pt.1*), and with Then They Fight's *10/10/10 Project* (swimmer), and has always reflected her interest in, and commitment to, the storytelling of Toronto youth. Catch a staged reading of *pose ball* in its entirety this fall at the Tarragon Theatre.



Zachary Parkhurst, PRODUCER (Filament Incubator)

Zachary is an actor, producer, and writer. He co-produced *BILL* (Filament Incubator), and co-wrote, co-produced, and performed in *And Now, The End* (Summerworks 2014).

Recent acting credits: *Aladdin; Wizard of Oz* (Hampstead Stage Company), *Rowing* (Then They Fight), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Shakespeare BASH'd), *The Winter's Tale*, *A Midsommer Nightmare* (Leroy Street Theatre), *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (Ryerson Theatre School, dir. Soheil Parsa). For screen: spots for Koodo Wireless, The End of the Tour (A21 Films).

Zach is thrilled and privileged to bring Paradise Comics to life in Kensington Market and thanks Caitie and Darwin.



Darwin Lyons - DIRECTOR

Darwin is an Actor, Producer, Director and Teacher. Favourite Directing credits include: *Well Born* (SoCo and TruthnLies Theatre) *Desperately Seeking Something* (Toronto Fringe); *Something Unspoken* (Inaugural Playwright Project). As an actor she has performed all over Ontario, at the Magnetic North Festival in Kitchener/Waterloo; Theatre by the Bay in Barrie, and the Ottawa Fringe. Favourite roles include: *Butcher in Dead Roads* (The RISER Project at the Theatre Centre, in residence at KABIN and Factory Theatre 2016/2017); Theresa Small in *Ambrose TO* (SingleThread Theatre Company); Flo in *This is Not a Picnic* (32Teeth Collective); MacDuff/Ross/Weird Sister in *Macbeth* (Theatre by the Bay); Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* (Hart House Theatre); Tina in *Tough!* (Factory Theatre at the Magnetic North Festival). A film she associate produced and starred in, *99.7%* was an Official Selection at the Austin Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in 2014. Darwin is the Artistic Producer of The Paprika Festival.



Sherman Tsang - BEANS

Sherman is thrilled to be a part of Paradise Comics.

As a young POC, Sherman strives to break stereotypes and engage herself in the community. Mainly focusing on Canadian contemporary theatre, Sherman took the stage as LUCY in George F. Walker's *We The Family* and recently in *TOUGH* as Jill at Youth Ensemble theatre. She believes that change is within us and that we have the power to set things in motion.

Explore, be brave, and always, always, laugh.



Maddie Bautista - Hannah

Maddie Bautista is a Saudi Arabia-born Filipino theatre maker and performance artist. Credits: *The Girl in My Nightmares Wear White* (SummerWorks 2016 Spotlight Award for Performance), herself in *The Stranger* (DLT), Norelle in *Plum BOMB* (Paprika Festival 2016). Sound design credits include *Dead Roads* (RISER 2016), and *The Tartan Lady* (Sundown Theatre). A recent graduate of Humber Theatre. She was a member of Carlos Bulosan Theatre's Tagsibol Collective - churning out new work by and for Filipino-Canadians. She is committed to creating work for survivors of sexual assault through her solo show *Jeddahwi* - developed at Humber College.



Sarah Naomi Campbell- JANIE

Sarah is beyond thrilled to be working on this beautiful play with Filament Incubator. Favourite credits include: Mariam/Woman in *Keffiyeh/Made in China* (Afsah Theatre), Jamie in *We Three* (Cue6 Productions), Paulina in *The Winter's Tale* (Leroy Street Theatre), Chris in *The Indigo Forest* (New Ideas Festival) and Kate in the art-house installation piece *In the Bathroom* (Cue6). Sarah is a proud graduate of the ACADEMY at Black Box Acting in Chicago, as well as the Humber Theatre Performance Program. After taking an extended hiatus from acting, Sarah is grateful and overwhelmed by the acceptance and support she has received from the Toronto and Chicago acting communities since returning to the stage.



David Ross - GEORGE/MARVIN

After years of working on Shakespeare's plays, David's thrilled and honoured to be working with Caitie & Darwin and the talented group Filament has assembled for this production of *Paradise Comics*.

Past work includes : *Hamlet, King John, Macbeth, Romeo & Juliet* (Shakespeare Bash'd); *Richard III* (Shakespeare in the Ruff); *Brave Hearts* (Harry Warren Theatre - Brooklyn); *Waiting for Godot* (Sudbury Theatre Centre); *Half Life* (Brampton Theatre Festival); *HMS Pinafore* (Drayton Entertainment).

David would like to thank his family and friends for their wonderful support of his career.



Sama Kokabi - STAGE MANAGER

Sama is a graduate of Ryerson University's Performance Production BFA program. She has had numerous creative responsibilities including roles in stage management, front of house management, and directing. Her recent industry experience includes theatre administration roles at the Toronto Fringe and stage management with NovelSidewalk Productions. Her work in the wider community includes helping with non-profit film projects, such as the Illumine Media Project. Previously, she stage managed Caitie's Graham's *Paradise Comics* at New Voices Festival.



Deanna Choi - Sound Design

Selected credits: sound designer/composer: *The Laurier Project* (TNB/Charlottetown Festival), *Osia* (SummerWorks), *This Is How We Got Here* (SummerWorks), *Tiger Bamboo* (Soulpepper), *Damn Tank* (Toronto Fringe). **Sound assistant:** *The Death of the King* (Modern Times), *Macbeth* (Stratford), *Father Comes Home From the Wars* (Soulpepper), *Everything I Couldn't Tell You* (Cahoots), *Chimerica* (Canadian Stage).

Upcoming: *Alien Creature* (TPM), *The Boat* (TNB)

Etc.: Deanna Choi is a performer, designer, and researcher with a degree in behavioural neuroscience. She co-founded the Badass Brahms Chamber Collective, and completed residencies with the National Youth Orchestra, the Banff Centre, the NAC, and Stanford. Her life goal is to have as much Zen as a three-toed Bradypus sloth. www.deannahchoi.com



Sharmylae Taffe-Fletcher - LIGHTING DESIGN

Sharmylae is an emerging theatre artist with a passion for lighting that spans her entire life. She is a recent participant in Obsidian Theatre's Mentor/Apprentice program.

Other theatre credits include lighting design apprentice for *The Wild Party* (Acting Up Stage), *Death of the King* (Modern Times), *Ultrasound* (Cahoots Theatre), as well as lighting designer for *Bleeders* (Watah Theatre, Summerworks 2016), *Letters to the Universe* (Buddies in Bad Times), *She, Mami Wata, & the Pussy WitchHunt* (Watah Theatre), *PoseBall* (New Ideas Festival) and *Finding Temperance* (The Muddy Mary Project).

Thank you to her supportive family and friends.



Jingjia Zhang is a set and costume designer from China and a recent Theatre Production graduate of York University. She is very excited to be the set and costume designer for *Paradise Comics*. Recent credits: Set Design Apprentice for *Acquiesce* (Factory Theatre; fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre); Costume Designer for *Brebeuf's Ghost* (Theatre at York); Fabric Construction for *Burnish* (SummerWorks) and Costumer for *Shakespeare In High Park* (Canadian Stage). Jingjia would like to thank her lovely family for giving her this chance to study and work in Canada, and for supporting her choice to pursue a career in theatre. "Do what you want to do while you are young, and you won't have regrets when you are older."