

Visual Story for
the Relaxed Performance of
***Lilies; Or, The Revival of a
Romantic Drama***



Relaxed Performance:
Sunday, May 19, 2:30PM
Buddies in Bad Times Theatre
12 Alexander St., Toronto, ON

About the Show

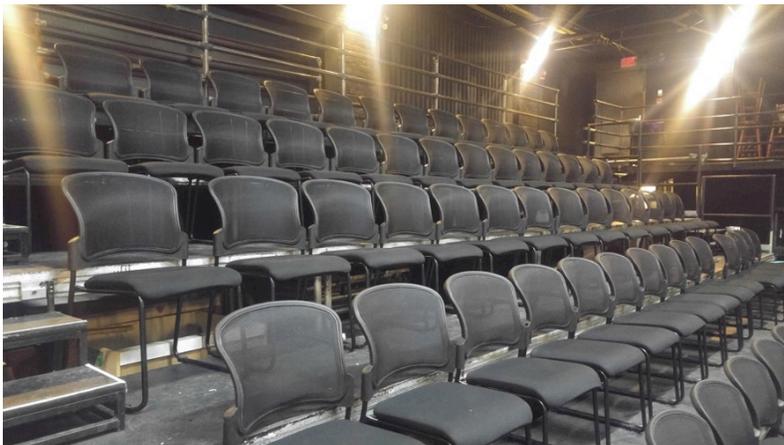
The show is about one hour and fifty minutes long with no intermission.

The show takes place in the Chamber space at Buddies. An usher will help you find your way. While you are entering the space, you will notice an art display by **The Confluence Collective**, created in response to *Lilies; Or, The Revival of a Romantic Drama*. The Confluence Collective is a group of artists who have come together over a shared investment in dignity, humanity, and justice for people experiencing incarceration.



This is the Confluence Collective display

There is no assigned seating in the theatre, so you may sit in any unoccupied seat, unless it has a reserved sign on it.



This is the audience seating area

The stage is set up with four pews facing away from the audience, and a raised platform in the centre back of the space. You may notice some tables with props and costume pieces along either side of the space.



This is a photo of the set

What to Expect

The Story

Lilies; or the Revival of a Romantic Drama is a play written by Michel Marc Bouchard. It is set in a prison in Montreal in 1952. An aging inmate named **Simon Doucet** has invited a childhood friend (now the **Bishop Bilodeau**), to visit him in prison. Unbeknownst to Bilodeau, Simon has been preparing a play with his fellow inmates that they will perform for Bilodeau in order to get him to confront their shared past, and confess his involvement in the incident that landed Simon in prison.

The play within a play is set in Roberval, QC in 1912, when **Young Simon** and **Jean Bilodeau** are teenagers. Along with another school boy named **Vallier**, they are performing in a school play, *The Martyrdom of Saint-Sebastian*, directed by **Father Saint-Michel**. When the **Countess de Tilly** (Vallier's mother) walks in on Young Simon kissing Jean Bilodeau and later reveals this to Simon's father,

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Timothee Doucet, Simon is forced to hide his sexuality. When a young French aristocrat, **Mademoiselle Lydie-Anne** arrives in Roberval for a vacation, Simon takes the opportunity and gets engaged to her.

This new production of *Lilies*, a play that was written in 1987, employs identity-conscious casting, with a cast of predominantly Indigenous and Black artists reflecting the high incarceration rates of these populations. The team has also incorporated Indigenous language and traditions into the piece, with drumming, movement, and some song and text delivered in Blackfoot and Anishnaabemowin.

Violence

There is some violence on stage, as well as discussion of violence, in *Lilies*. In the prison setting, you will see Simon act aggressively towards the Bishop Bilodeau, at times taking him by the throat, strangling him, or threatening him with a knife. Within the play set in 1912, Young Simon talks about being beaten by his father. Near the end of the play, we see Vallier strangle his mother, the Countess Marie-Laure de Tilly.

Fog Effects

There is a fog effect used near the end of the play that creates the illusion of a fire and smoke. The fog emerges on the upstage right platform (from the audience perspective this is the far left, away from the audience).

Music and sound

Throughout the play there is music – you may notice this in between scenes, when the ensemble of actors sing some lines of poetry as sets are being moved around. This poetry is written by Yolanda Bonnell and set to music by Deanna Choi. There are also drumming and traditional songs, composed by Aqua Niibii Waawaaskone.

The show also features some loud sound effects, including the sound of prison doors slamming, and the sound of fire. The volume of these sounds has been lowered for the relaxed performance.

Meet the Performers and Characters



Walter Borden

Walter plays *Simon Doucet* in 1952 – he has told his story to his fellow inmates, and staged a play that for the sake of the Bishop Bilodeau. In the retelling of the story (set in 1912), Simon is playing **Timothee Doucet** who is Young Simon's father, and a footman to Vallier.



Alexander Chapman

Alexander plays **Bishop Bilodeau** – Bilodeau knew Simon Doucet when they were teenagers, and holds a secret that led to Simon's wrongful imprisonment and other consequences.



Tsholo Khalema

Tsholo plays an inmate named **Gaps** participating in Simon's play. In the 1912 story he plays **Young Simon**, a high school boy known for his exceptional beauty. He is his father, Timothee Doucet's, pride and joy.



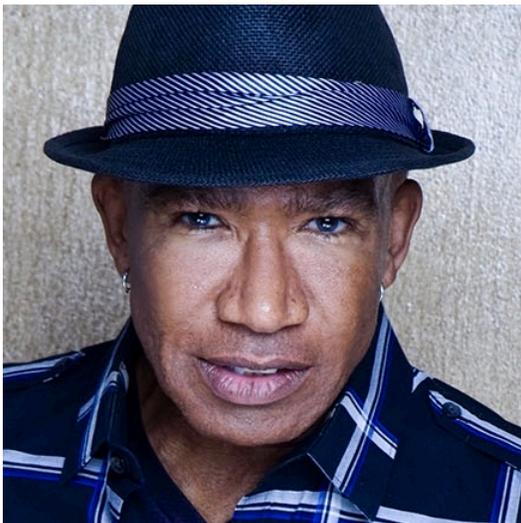
Waawaate Fobister

Waawaate plays a Two-Spirit inmate named **Wiisaande** participating in Simon's play. *In the 1912 story he plays **Count Vallier De Tilly** who is a young french man, new to Roberval, descendant of the Bourbons, with the nick-name 'Lily-White'*



Indrit Kasapi

Indrit plays the **Prison Guard** participating in Simon's play. In the 1912 he plays **Jean Bilodeau** (the Bishop Bilodeau in his youth) who is a young peer of Vallier and Simon.



Mark Cassius

Mark plays an inmate named **Ronald** participating in Simon's play. In the 1912 story he plays **Father Saint-Michel**, a teacher at Simon, Vallier, and Bilodeau's school who is directing the school play, *The Martyrdom of Saint Sebastian*. He also plays the **Baron de Hue**, a French doctor vacationing at the Hotel Roberval.



Troy Emery Twigg

Troy plays a **Two-Spirit inmate named Piip'sii** who is participating in Simon's play. In the 1912 story he plays the **Countess Marie-Laure de Tilly**, the mother of Vallier. Originally from Paris, she refers to her house as "the manor" and the local lake as "The Mediterannean." Many of the inhabitants of Roberval call her 'crazy' for these fantasies.



Ryan G. Hinds

Ryan plays an **anonymous inmate** participating in Simon's play. In the 1912 story he plays Mademoiselle **Lydie-Anne de Rozier**, a French aristocrat who has arrived in Roberval in her hot air balloon. She later becomes engaged to Young Simon.



Joseph Zita

Joseph plays an inmate named Rafael participating in Simon's play. In the 1912 story he plays **A Young Student** who goes to school with Vallier and Young Simon. He also plays and **Baronness De Hue** the **Baron de Hue's** wife.

After the show



After the show, as you exit the theatre, there is a station where you may smudge with sage – this is completely optional. Smudging with sage (wafting the smoke from the burning sage over yourself) is a cleansing ceremony practiced by several Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island.

This is the smudging station

Credits

These people created the show:

by **MICHEL MARC BOUCHARD**

translation by **LINDA GABORIAU**

directed by **COLE ALVIS**

featuring **WALTER BORDEN, MARK CASSIUS, ALEXANDER CHAPMAN, WAAWAATE FOBISTER, RYAN G. HINDS, INDRIT KASAPI, TSHOLO KHALEMA, TROY EMERY TWIGG + JOSEPH ZITA**

associate director **NIKKI SHAFFEEULLAH**

outside eye **DONNA-MICHELLE ST. BERNARD**

assistant director **TY SLOANE**

scenographer **JAY HAVENS**

assistant set designer **KARIS JONES-PARD**

costume designer **JOANNA YU**

assistant costume designer **BEATRIZ AREVALO**

lighting designer **MICHELLE RAMSAY**

assistant lighting designer **SENJUTI SARKER**

sound designer + composer **DEANNA H. CHOI**

composition **AQUA NIBII WAAWAASKONE**

assistant sound designer **PHOEBE WANG**

Visual Story for *Lilies; Or, The Revival of a Romantic Drama*

stage manager **NEHA ROSS**
apprentice stage manager **EMIE SABANDAL**
head of wardrobe **ALLIE MARSHALL**
head of props **ACE FALKNER**
poet **YOLANDA BONNELL**
music captain **MARK CASSIUS**
fight captain **INDRIT KASAPI**
assistant facilitator **JAMIE MILAY KASIAMA**
production manager **SUZIE BALOGH**
producing intern **ANDY WANG**
technical director **ADRIEN WHAN**
house technician **AMBER PATTISON**
crew **MATT ARMOUR, LUKE DOBSON, MIKE DOWDALL, IAN
KELLY, SEBATIAN MARZIALI, SHANE MCKINNON, JP PREVOST,
MEGHAN SPEAKMAN, AIDAN SHEPHERD, CARLOS VARELA +
BECKY WONG**
scenic painter **EDITH NATAPRAWIRA**
cutter **ROBYN CLARKE**
Blackfoot language keeper **BEVERLY HUNGRY WOLF**
Anishinaabemowin language keepers **ROGER FOBISTER SR +
DON KAVANAUGH**

The show is produced by **lemonTree creations, Buddies in
Bad Times Theatre, and Why Not Theatre**

For more information about getting to Buddies in Bad Times
Theatre, you can find the visual story for our theatre here:

[http://buddiesinbadtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/Visual-
Story-Buddies-in-Bad-Times-Theatre.pdf](http://buddiesinbadtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/Visual-Story-Buddies-in-Bad-Times-Theatre.pdf)