

Show Guide for  
***i am your spaniel, or, a Midsummer Night's Dream***  
**by William Shakespeare by Gislina Patterson**



January 18 + 19, 2024  
Buddies in Bad Times Theatre  
12 Alexander St., Toronto, ON

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

<https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/Buddies-in-Bad-Times-Venue-Guide-2023.pdf>

**Relaxed Performances** – The performance anthology will feature a relaxed environment for the run, with audience members able to come and go as they please.

**Audio description** – The performance on January 19 will feature integrated audio description.

For any accessibility questions, please email [bofohlead@buddiesinbadtimes.com](mailto:bofohlead@buddiesinbadtimes.com).

## About the Show Guide

This show guide is for anyone to use, but was specifically designed with our neurodivergent and autistic patrons in mind, so folks can know what to expect when attending *i am your spaniel* at Buddies.

## About the Show

The show is approximately 90 minutes long, with no intermission. Audience members may leave and re-enter the space during the show if they so choose to. Outside of this show guide, you can find information about the show on the [Buddies website](#).

## COVID-19 Safety

Patrons, staff, and visitors are asked to remain masked for the duration of the performance, unless drinking at the bar before or after the show.

For more information regarding Buddies' COVID-19 safety policy, visit <https://buddiesinbadtimes.com/covid-safety/>

## Your Path

When you enter through the box office doors on the side of the building, a front of house staff member will greet you. Staff members will be wearing name tags. The show takes place in the Cabaret theatre space, to the left of the box office entrance.



Pictured: the box office entrance through the ramp on the side of the building, and the box office.

Here in the lobby is where you may wait for the show to begin. There are two screens above where you may view the bios and headshots of the creative team of the show.

The lobby may have people talking and walking around.

You can always ask a Buddies staff member to help you find somewhere to wait, find the washrooms, or find a seat in the Cabaret space.

# Preshow

There is no assigned seating in the Cabaret theatre space. You may sit in any unoccupied seat, unless it has a reserved sign on it. For your safety, you should not go onto the stage at any time.



*This is the audience seating in the Cabaret.*

## What to Expect

### ***The Story***

We'd like to invite you to a beginners lecture on Shakespearean First Folio text analysis. In this lecture we will cover: grammar and spelling, historical and literary context, pop culture adaptations, misplaced memories, climate disaster, violent revolution, Sam Rockwell movies, the end of the world, shoplifting, masculinity, CIA propaganda, baseball, T4T, and talking dogs. No lunch provided.

## **The Stage**



*This is the stage- without the set added.*

## **Set**

The stage floor will be covered with astro-turf, and set with an office desk and chair, with lots of drinks and papers on top of the desk.

## **Content warning**

References to and descriptions of animal abuse, familial abuse, forced marriage, classism, homophobia, eugenics, masochism, landlords, murder, gender dysphoria, childhood sexual trauma, child abuse, transphobia, dog attacks, institutionalization, memory loss, capital punishment, suicide, racism, racial capitalism, agoraphobia, violence.

## **Sensory warnings**

Sudden light changes, loud sound effects and music, layered discordant sound and image. Footage featured in the performance includes some flashing light, brief nudity, implied violence and dog attacks.



## Meet the performers



### **Gislina Patterson**

Gislina Patterson is a playwright, performer, director, and dramaturg. In this show, Gislina plays the role of an academic thespian, and later plays a dog.



### **Dasha Plett**

Dasha Plett is a Winnipeg-based transsexual writer, director, dramaturge, and performer. In this show, Dasha takes on a variety of roles throughout the show; as a sort of co-lecturer, tech support, and later dog master. Often she will be sitting in the first row of the audience.

# Credits

These people created the show:

**Gislina Patterson** // playwright + performer

**Dasha Plett** // director, dramaturge + performer

**Rebecca Vandevelde** // production manager

**Conrad McLaren** // technical director

**Darren Shaen** // lighting designer

**Diamond Srey** // head technician