



**MELISSA KAHAN – Actor (Justine)**

Melissa Kahan is thrilled to be on tour with Love Bomb. Melissa attended the Canadian College of Performing Arts in Victoria, BC. Recently, they put on cowboy boots for Classic Country Roads with The Chemainus Theatre Festival. In 2019, Melissa was awarded best actress for her portrayal of Anne in NTG’s festival production of The Diary of Anne Frank. Melissa has voiced several children’s audiobooks and worked on Five Nights at Freddy’s: Security Breach. Melissa, like Justine, is a singer songwriter and plans to release their own music this year.

**STEPHEN BULAT – Stage Manager, Technical Director/Lighting Designer**

Stephen has worked as a producer, composer, sound/lighting designer, musical director and musician for 25 years. Companies include Arts Club, Bard On The Beach, Pacific Theatre, and the shameless hussy productions. He is also very active performing and booking musicians for private events.

**ZAMBIA PANKRATZ – Touring Technical Director**

Zambia is a theatre technician and Production Manager for the Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers (WCD) at the Rachel Browne theatre. They studied theatre production at the University of Winnipeg for 3 years before moving on to work as a technician at various theatres around the city as well as running sound at the outdoor stage for the Winnipeg Fringe Festival. After this fall’s tour with Love Bomb, they will return to WCD for the fall/winter season.

**LANA KRAUSE – Costume Designer**

Lana has worked creating, designing and coordinating costumes for the past 30+ years. Starting out as the head of wardrobe for the Arts Club Theatre, Lana then moved into film. She is most known for Star Trek Beyond (2016), Deadpool 2 (2018) and The A-Team (2010). Lana is a founding member of shameless hussy productions.



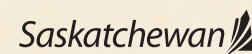
PRESENTS:



*a play with music exploring the topics of human trafficking, sexual exploitation and “love bombing” (the ways traffickers initially shower their victims with affection, creating an illusion of love, before demanding repayment on this “love”)*

**BROADWAY THEATRE  
Saskatoon Debut  
September 15, 2023**

Hosted by the City of Saskatoon, Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochik (Women Walking Together), and Mamohkamatowin (Indigenous-led faith community in Saskatoon) with financial support from the First Nations and Métis Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls + Community Response Fund Project—a program of the Ministry of Government Relations, Government of Saskatchewan



## About Shameless Hussy Productions

Established in 1995, shameless hussy productions is a company of rebellious, self-producing, theatre artists co-founded by ensemble members Renée Iaci, Deb Pickman and costume designer Lana Krause along with creative associates Ion Brand Design and Shift Consulting. The company was later joined by photography firm Pink Monkey Studios, musician Stephen Bulat and ensemble member Daune Campbell. Current Managing Producer Renée Iaci also performs double duty as Director and Tour Coordinator.



Since 1995 the company has had more than 1,000 performances and developed and produced 8 original plays. The majority of productions have premiered in Vancouver and then gone on to tour Canada and the Pacific Northwest. The company has performed in six Canadian provinces and four American states.

### The shameless hussy mission is:

*“telling provocative stories about women, to inspire the hand that rocks the cradle to rock the world.”*

All of shameless hussy's plays have been produced on the unceded Indigenous territory of Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Kwikwetlem Nations. Since they tour across Canada and into the US, they have performed on many other traditional Indigenous territories.

## About Love Bomb

Love Bomb is a play with music produced by Vancouver-based shameless hussy productions. The production has won numerous awards across Western Canada – this is the first time the play has come to Saskatoon.



### The topics covered in Love Bomb include:

**Human trafficking** - the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of people through force, fraud, or deception with the aim of exploiting them for profit. Men, women, and children of all ages and from all backgrounds can become victims of this crime, which occurs in every region of the world. People without support systems - such as those fleeing unstable homes, abuse, or other trauma - are often targeted.

**Sexual exploitation** - refers to any person profiting (financially or otherwise) from the sexual use of another person's body. Perpetrators of sexual exploitation take advantage of their victims' vulnerable or dependent state, including addictions to drugs or alcohol.

**“Love bombing”** - the ways in which traffickers initially shower their victims with affection, creating an illusion of love. Eventually the traffickers demand that their victims demonstrate their gratitude and repay this “love” by doing what the trafficker asks.

Love Bomb is based on real life criminal cases although the characters are fictional. The suggested audience is 14+. A Study Guide is available at [saskatoon.ca/LoveBomb](http://saskatoon.ca/LoveBomb).



## STEVE CHARLES – Composer/Musical Director

Steve Charles is a musician, performer, composer and musical director from Vancouver. Highlights of the past few years include: Galala; national francophone TV show, Urinetown at the Firehall, Avenue Q at the Arts Club, Brief Encounter at the Playhouse/MTC, International tours of Dance Marathon at Bluemouth Inc., Pacifique en Chanson, Chant Ouest and arranging and performing for Chelsea Hotel by the Escape Artists. He recently co-produced and MD'd Miss Shakespeare and J. Caesar with Tracey Power. He tours internationally with various bands and is active in Vancouver's music scene.



## DAUNE CAMPBELL – Actor (Lillian)

Daune has been a shameless hussy since 2003 in the west coast premiere of Marion Bridge. For the next ten years she was Managing Co-Artistic Director, producing and performing in productions such as Loveplay and Silence as well as touring with Summer Of My Amazing Luck, Woman-Idiot-Lunatic-Criminal and Sonofabitch Stew: the drunken life of Calamity Jane. During that time, Daune also toured North America with Green Thumb Theatre for Young People and performed in several co-op and Fringe Festival productions. In 2011, she took a leap and became the tour coordinator at Axis Theatre Company. She is now the General Manager of Axis Theatre and continues to pursue an administrative and performance career.

A graduate of Studio 58, Daune is thrilled to be back on stage with Love Bomb, having completed an extensive tour in 2022 and a filmed version in 2020. Always a firm believer that theatre can change the world, Daune is grateful to have a career in the arts and to perform in and advocate for powerful plays by women that inspire the hand that rocks the cradle to rock the world.

## Love Bomb Troupe



### RENÉE IACI – Director

Renée is co-artistic director, tour coordinator, and one of the founding members of shameless hussy productions. She is also a company member of Delta Stageworks. Her directing credits include the shameless hussy Jessie Richardson award-winning production of *Frozen* (Outstanding Actor), as well as *Woman Idiot Lunatic Criminal*, *My Left Breast*, *Son of a Bitch Stew*, the drunken life of Calamity Jane, and Evan Placey's hit play, *Girls Like That*. Renée was nominated for "Outstanding Director" at the 2014 Jessie Richardson Awards for *Dissolve* by Meghan Gardiner. *Dissolve* continues to tour North America on both the west coast and east coast. Renée directed *To Perfection* by Meghan Gardiner that premiered at the Surrey Arts Centre this past fall and will be presented at the Genesis Theatre this November.

Renée is the Director of *Love Bomb*. This show has won an Ovation for outstanding production and has partnered with the RCMP touring with four different casts since 2016.

Renée is a graduate of the BFA Acting program at UBC and mother to up-and-coming hussy, Sofia Reid.



### MEGHAN GARDINER – Writer

Meghan is an actor and playwright who has written plays for Green Thumb Theatre, Carousel Theatre, shameless hussy productions, Gateway Theatre, and who independently toured her one woman show *Dissolve* across North America for over twelve years. Meghan was nominated for the YWCA Women of Distinction Awards in 2011 and received the Sydney Risk Award for Emerging playwright at the 2012 Jessie Awards. She has written two screenplays; both garnering her screenwriting nominations at BC's Leo Awards and she is currently working on commissions for both the Arts Club Theatre and Carousel Theatre. She was most recently seen on stage in the Arts Club's productions of *The Sound of Music* and *The Cull* and can be found on screen in various BC-filmed TV shows.

## Post-Production Discussion Panel

The Sept. 15 evening performance includes a play set to music (approx. 1 hour) followed by a panel discussion (approx. 1 hour) to explore the topics raised in the production. The panelists represent individuals with lived experience and subject matter expertise.

## Your Hosts

The City of Saskatoon's Indigenous Initiatives Department is partnering with Iskewewuk E-wichiwitochik ("Women Walking Together") and Mamohkamatowin (an Indigenous-led faith community in Saskatoon) to host this performance of *Love Bomb*.

It's being made available at no cost to attendees thanks to the support of the First Nations and Métis Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls + Community Response Fund Project—a program of the Ministry of Government Relations, Government of Saskatchewan.

The hosts are grateful to the Saskatoon Tribal Council, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers for providing mental health supports to audience members.

In addition to the three host partners, the planning committee responsible for bringing *Love Bomb* to Saskatoon includes representation from the Saskatoon Police Service, Oskayak High School, Saskatoon Public School Division, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, and Hope Restored Canada. The hosts appreciate their support and guidance.

The hosts are grateful to the Saskatoon Tribal Council for providing mental health support to audience members on such a difficult topic. And as always, we are thankful to the Elders and Knowledge Keepers for helping us to do this work in a good way.

We would like to thank the Broadway Theatre for their support.

## Saskatoon Significance

Tragically, the issues explored in *Love Bomb* are not new or unfamiliar in this community. Indigenous women and girls are disproportionately affected by human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and "love bombing". There are numerous families in Saskatoon – Indigenous and non-Indigenous – that have been impacted.



## How Can I Help?



### IDENTIFY THE SIGNS

- Sudden interest in an older man
- Having no money and yet suddenly wearing new clothing, jewelry
- Frequent sleepovers at a “friend’s” house
- Sudden change in style of dress, make-up, appearance
- New circle of friends and isolation from old circle
- Change in attitude towards school, friends, regular activities
- Plummeting grades
- Unexplained cuts or bruises
- Using two cell phones



### REPORT A TIP

Anonymous info can be reported to Saskatoon Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. You can also file a police report by calling the Saskatoon Police Service at 306-975-8300.



### SPREAD THE WORD

Raise awareness of human trafficking through credible social media platforms and by sharing and displaying human trafficking resources. Share what you learned at the Love Bomb play + discussion panel.



### THINK BEFORE YOU SHOP

Consider how you shop and eat. Who made your clothes? Who prepared your food? Avoid spending money on any goods which may have been produced by a child or forced labor.



### VOLUNTEER OR DONATE LOCALLY

Ask anti-trafficking organizations like **Hope Restored** how you can support them. They might need volunteer or financial support, or assistance with an awareness event.



### STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date about what’s happening in our community and beyond. Keep attuned to critical updates and information on human trafficking.



### MAKE USE OF TRAINING

Take advantage of any learning or training opportunities to advance your understanding of these issues.



### RAISE YOUR VOICE

Ask community leaders and representatives how they’re addressing human trafficking. Let them know what we need. Become an advocate for meeting basic needs like housing and transportation for all persons in our community. As well as systemic changes that better support vulnerable people and putting an end to the perpetuating circumstances that continue to make them vulnerable.

## Where Can I Get Help?

- 9-1-1 for immediate assistance
- Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-833-900-1010
- Saskatoon Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (anonymous)
- **[HopeRestoredCanada.org](https://www.hoperestoredcanada.org)**
- Saskatoon Sexual Assault & Information Centre
- Saskatoon Police Service at 306-975-8300
- Reach out to a trusted adult

