



Presents



HAMILTON
FRINGE

Synopsis

A corrupt Senator. A mysterious cheque. An embattled Prime Minister. Steps away from Parliament Hill, two backroom advisers concoct a plan to save a conservative brand in jeopardy. Locked in an office together with no way out except with a solution, Nathan and Shelly have seemingly seen and weathered all that Ottawa can throw at them. But now they must contend with an ever-growing political firestorm as well the disparate nature of their beliefs on how best to handle it. And before the lights go down on this darkly satiric drama, sacrifices will be made and only one will get out alive.

Inspired by the Harper government's recent Senate scandal, and created by Hamilton's newest theatre company, ***Finding Mr. Right*** takes aim at the political culture of Ottawa and asks audiences the price of loyalty and the value of integrity in Canadian politics... just in time for an election year!

Company Profile

Same Boat Theatre is a Canadian theatre company based in Hamilton, ON. Founded by Hamilton theatre artists Aaron Joel Craig, Stephen Near, and Lauren Repei, Same Boat Theatre is dedicated to telling authentic and provocative stories onstage that challenge the heart and confront the mind. With a focus on new and established plays, we strive for compelling theatre that gives voice to urgent ideas and speaks to our community.

Same Boat Theatre will premiere their first production as a company in this year's Fringe Festival with ***Finding Mr. Right***. Previous to this year, the company founders collaborated together as part of Reaching Symmetry Theatre and staged productions at the Hamilton Fringe Festival. In 2013, Aaron, Stephen and Lauren premiered the LARP-themed play ***Test*** to both critical acclaim and enthusiasm from Fringe audiences. In 2014, the company co-founders were back at the Fringe with the premier of the short, paranoia-fueled play ***The Conspiracy of Michael*** as part of the Gallery mini-Series.

Production History

Finding Mr. Right was first conceived as a one-man show tackling the Harper government's recent Senate scandal involving former Senator Mike Duffy and former Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister, Nigel Wright. Playwright Near originally sought to write a one-man show that would look at the life of Wright as well as the scandal alongside Near's own recollections of growing up as a political junky in Ottawa. It would also address his own ideas about ideology and belief in the wake of his mother's passing from cancer which happened at the same time as the scandal was unfolding in Ottawa.

As Same Boat Theatre embarked on this project, however, it became clear that a much more dramatic and immediate story lay in a fictional retelling of the Senate scandal with two characters representing opposing views of the government's handling of and responsibility over the scandal. Near began writing a new script in concert with director Craig and company dramaturge/co-star Repei. A first draft of the script was completed and workshopped as part of Near's playwriting residency at Artscape Gibraltar Point.

Further revisions and rehearsals by the company have further evolved ***Finding Mr. Right*** and delved into issues of integrity and duty as part of public service and further inspired the company to advocate for artists to take a stronger stance in political issues both onstage and off.

Biographies



Stephen Near (NATHAN/Playwright)

Stephen Near is a playwright and performer from Ottawa, ON and a graduate of York University. His plays have been performed across Canada and in a variety of festivals including the Toronto Fringe, the Hamilton Fringe, the New Ideas Festival and Summerworks. He is an alumnus of the Sage Hill Writing Experience and the Banff Centre and has studied playwriting with Sheldon Rosen, Linda Griffiths, David Copelin, Floyd Favel Starr, Daniel MacIvor, Brian Quirt, and Beverley Cooper. In 2015, Stephen established the First Stage Series of new play development at the Players Guild of Hamilton. Stephen is a member of the Playwright's Guild of Canada and the Theatre Aquarius Playwrights Unit. Recent writing credits include *Monstrous Invisible* (Theatre Aquarius), *Interface* (2011 Hamilton Fringe - New Play Contest 1st Prize), *Test* (2013 Hamilton Fringe - New Play Contest 2nd Runner-Up), *The Conspiracy of Michael* (2014 Hamilton Fringe), and *Plain Speak* (2012 HAMILTEN Festival).



Lauren Repei (SHELLY)

Lauren Repei is a long time Hamiltonian who graduated from McMaster University with a BA in English and Theatre and Film. Some past theatre credits include Elizabeth in *Pride and Prejudice* (Black Box Fire), Sarah in *Company* (Hammer Entertainment), and Janet in *Waiting for the Parade* (The Citadel). She directed Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* and Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* with Black Box Fire, and *Cakewalk* with Dundas Little Theatre. She has served on the steering committee for the Hamilton Arts Awards for two years and is a participant in the Hamilton Fringe's ALERT program.



Aaron Joel Craig (Director)

Aaron Joel Craig is a theatre director and lover of comic books and cheeseburgers. He grew up in Edmonton, Alberta, studied Theatre Performance at Redeemer University and lives in Hamilton with his wife, Cath and daughter, Georgia. Recent works include *Conspiracy of Michael* and *Test for Reaching Symmetry*, *Power Play* for Redeemer University and *The End and the Beginning* for ClipClop productions.

Company Press and Media Links

Finding Mr. Right and background

Same Boat Theatre site

- [On development of the script *Finding Mr. Right*](#)
- [Character of NATHAN](#)
- [Character of SHELLY](#)

About the **Mike Duffy Senate expense scandal**:

- [Mike Duffy trial: Your Senate expenses primer](#)
- [Mike Duffy trial: Chronology of the Senate expense scandal saga](#)
- [Who is Nigel Wright, the man who bailed out Mike Duffy?](#)

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Company members work on play *Test*

“Ranting soul-baring intensity at The Fringe” by Gary Smith; **The Hamilton Spectator**, July 19, 2013. Check the [feature review in Hamilton Spectator](#) for details on company production of *Test*.

Hamilton Spectator REVIEW: “You don’t have to know, or care, about geek culture to become involved with these likable characters. You’ll just surrender to who they are. Near’s play is a sophisticated, stylish affair, both smart and funny... an insightful look at the way relationships begin, bloom and sometimes end. Near and Weber act the play with a sweet undertow of vulnerability.”

“Hamilton Fringe 2013 Reviews” by Patricia Bradbury; **The View**, July 25 – 31, 2013. Check out [feature review The View](#) for details on company production of *Test*.

The View REVIEW: “A wonderful show directed by Aaron Joel Craig. Writer Stephen Near has strategic fun moving the characters through their gaming personas: sorcerers privy to exotic language, grand gestures and fantasy love.”

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Company members work on play *The Conspiracy of Michael*

“Murder, Sherlock, sci-fi and paranoia at The Fringe” by Gary Smith; **The Hamilton Spectator**, July 18, 2014. Check out the [feature review in Hamilton Spectator](#) about our production of *The Conspiracy of Michael*.

Hamilton Spectator REVIEW: “Stephen Near is an elegant writer with a dark, fomenting heart... *The Conspiracy of Michael* is quivering theatre. Lauren Repei and Near give taut, exacting performances. Aaron Joel Craig directs without intrusion. Two good actors, two sturdy chairs, a play that engages the intellect — what could be better?”



Stephen Near as NATHAN in *Finding Mr. Right*.
Photo credit: Ryan Miller

Lauren Repei as SHELLY in *Finding Mr. Right*.
Photo credit: Ryan Miller





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Finding Mr. Right* is political satire for Hamilton audiences**

New Hamilton theatre company takes aim at Senate scandal for the Hamilton Fringe Festival

June 14, 2015 – The new Hamilton theatre company *Same Boat Theatre* will premiere a new dramatic satire inspired by the Harper government's Senate scandal in ***Finding Mr. Right***.

"Some of the most elegant writing I've heard from a local playwright" - *Hamilton Spectator*

From the critically-acclaimed team behind *The Conspiracy of Michael* (2014 Hamilton Fringe Gallery mini-Series) and the award-winning *Test* (2013 Hamilton Fringe; New Play Runner-Up) comes a dramatic political satire. Written by award-winning Hamilton playwright **Stephen Near** and directed by award-winning director **Aaron Joel Craig**, ***Finding Mr. Right*** stars Hamilton performer **Lauren Repei** alongside Near as part of the 2015 Hamilton Fringe Festival.

"Near's [writing] is a sophisticated, stylish affair; smart and funny" - *Hamilton Spectator*

A corrupt Senator. A mysterious cheque. An embattled Prime Minister. Steps away from Parliament Hill, two backroom advisers concoct a plan to save a party in jeopardy. But sacrifices must be made and only one gets out alive. Inspired by the headlines, ***Finding Mr. Right*** takes aim at the political culture of Ottawa and asks audiences the price of loyalty and the value of integrity... just in time for an election year!

"Two good actors, two sturdy chairs, a play that engages the intellect – what could be better?" - *Hamilton Spectator*

Finding Mr. Right is the premiere production of *Same Boat Theatre*, a Hamilton-based company founded in 2014. Following successful collaborations in previous Fringe Festivals, Aaron and Stephen and Lauren established *Same Boat Theatre* as a new company dedicated to telling provocative stories that challenge the heart and confront the mind.

Finding Mr. Right will show at **Mills Hardware** on 95 King Street East, Hamilton, ON at the following times. Ticket prices are **\$10** (\$5 Fringe Backer Button is required for admission)

Latecomers will NOT be admitted.

OPENING:	Friday, July 17 at 9:00 PM	Show 5:	Friday July 24 at 9:30 PM
Show 2:	Saturday July 18 at 9:30 PM	Show 6:	Saturday July 25 at 6:30 PM
Show 3:	Sunday July 19 at 8:00 PM	CLOSING:	Saturday July 26 at 3:30 PM
Show 4:	Tuesday July 21 at 6:00 PM		

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For media inquiries regarding this show, please contact:

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sameboattheatre.com
[@sameboattheatre](https://twitter.com/sameboattheatre)
[#FindingRightplay](https://www.facebook.com/findingrightplay)

For ticketing information, please go to:
hamiltonfringe.ca or call the Hamilton Fringe at **289.698.2234**