

Soulpepper



A SOULPEPPER AND OBSIDIAN THEATRE COMPANY CO-PRODUCTION

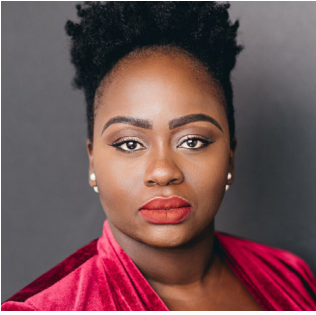
TABLE FOR TWO

Written by and Starring Akosua Amo-Adem

Directed by Djanet Sears



Photo of actor Akosua Amo-Adem by Dahlia Katz



My journey at Soulpepper started over a decade ago in the third installment of the Soulpepper Academy. I was one of eight young up and coming artists in the program who was eager to stretch and hone my craft as an actor. I had incredible instructors who challenged me to bring all of myself into the characters that I played. It was from this year of rigor, growth, and exploration, that the seed of *Table for Two* was formed. The idea came out of an assignment we were given to do while working on a play called *Waiting for Godot* with our instructor at the time Daniel Brooks. The assignment was to write and perform a piece about waiting and it had to either be highly political or highly entertaining... I chose highly entertaining!

Nine years and seventeen drafts later here we are!

I want to say thank you to all the people who said yes to this play along the way. Who poured their time, energy, and talent into the many workshops over the years to get me to this point. Tawiah M'Carthy, Natasha Mumba, Virgilia Griffith, Yvonne Addai, Weyni Mengesha, Djanet Sears, Ins Choi, Obsidian Theatre, Soulpepper Theatre, and Diaspora Dialogues. You all have guided me and provided space and resources throughout the process of writing this play and because of that *Table for Two* now has a world premiere in the place where it all began. To my family and friends I thank you for your love and support especially my cousin Dorothy who said to me, "don't tell me about the script, I want to SEE it, on stage, opening night!" Well Dorothy, your ticket is waiting!

Writing this play over the years has helped me process and begin to heal a complex and sometimes painful part of my life; and I hope that it can do the same for others. *Table for Two* is my love letter to the perpetually single woman. To the friend in the group who never has a plus one, to the woman who spent hours daydreaming about the husband and children she would have and as time passes she sees those dreams slowly slip away. *Table for Two* is for the hopeless romantic who, in spite of the tragedy that is the dating scene in Toronto, still believes in love and the possibility of finding it. *Table for Two* is for that immigrant child who is the bridge generation between Canada and back home. Who, like me, is constantly navigating their identity between two different cultural experiences and expectations. Writing *Table for Two* is my way of saying to those women and people that I see you. You are not alone and my play is waiting with open arms ready to embrace you! Thank you for coming and enjoy the show!

AKOSUA AMO-ADEM

Playwright, *Table for Two*

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

Cast

Akosua Amo-Adem

Abena (Abby)

Ryan Allen

Reggie Johnson/Patrick/
Terrance/Marcus007

Meghan Swaby

Janelle/Server

Bola Aiyeola

Mom

Creative Team

Akosua Amo-Adem

Playwright

Maddie Bautista*

Sound Designer

Emilie Aubin

Assistant Stage Manager

Djanet Sears

Director

Malika Daya

Assistant Director

Lisa Karen Cox

Intimacy Director

Astrid Janson

Set/Costume Designer

Arianna Moodie

Associate Costume Designer

Addie Moody

Assistant Lighting Designer

Nick Blais*

Lighting Designer

Ada Aguilar

Stage Manager/
IntimacyCaptain

Production

Andy DeVries

Head Carpenter

Greg Chambers

1st Props Builder/Buyer

Gwyneth Whalen-Hughes

Cutter

Bill Stahl

1st Carpenter

Gunes Agduk

Lighting Operator

Erin Halls

Stitcher

Paul Boddum

Head Scenic

Jason Shindle

Sound Operator

Jacqueline Robertson-Cull

Head of Wigs

Hilda Chu

Scenic Painter

Ellie Koffman

Head of Wardrobe

Brooke Logie

Dresser

Lisa Nighswander

Head of Props

Claudia Matas

Assistant Head of Wardrobe

This production is an ode to Black [W]holeness. - Djanet Sears

Special thanks to: Malika Daya, Adrien Whan, Video Cabaret, Terese Sears, Kyla Charter, Tammy Carter, Janie Kim, and Megan Cinel.

Thank you to the following artists who have contributed to the development of TABLE FOR TWO: Matthew Brown, Meghan Froebelius, Natasha Mumba, Ordena Stephens-Thompson, Yvonne Addai, Nadine Whiteman Roden, Araya Mengesha, Dejah Dixon-Green, David Chinchilla, Robert Harding, Virgilia Griffith, Derick Agyemang, Satori Shakoor, Annie Clarke and Joanna Falck.

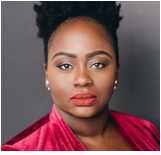


Soulpepper Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages professional artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the terms of the jointly negotiated Canadian Theatre Agreement



*Indicated designers on this production are represented by the Associated Designers of Canada, Local ADC659.

**Running time:
1 hour and 40 minutes**



AKOSUA AMO-ADEM was born in Ghana, West Africa and raised in Toronto, ON. FOR OBSIDIAN AND SOULPEPPER: *Table for Two, Three Sisters*. FOR OBSIDIAN: *Venus' Daughter, School Girls..* FOR SOULPEPPER: *Billie, Ella, and Sarah: Revolutionary Women in Jazz, Pipeline* (2022), *Streetcar Named Desire* (2019), *Innocence Lost* (2018), *Idomeneus* (2018), *For Colored Girls... , Father Comes Home I, II, III, The Crucible*. OTHER THEATRE: *Much Ado About Nothing, Les Belles Soeurs, Death and the King's Horseman* (Stratford Festival); *The Middle Place, Domesticated, Tartuffe* (Canadian Stage); *The Assembly* (The NAC); *The Home Project* (The Howland Company). FILM & TELEVISION: *Frankie Drake Mysteries; 21 Black Futures* (Obsidian); *In The Dark, Most Dangerous Game; American Gods; Kim's Convenience*.



ADA AGUILAR was born in Panama City, Panama and raised in Toronto, ON. FOR OBSIDIAN AND SOULPEPPER: *Table for Two* FOR OBSIDIAN: *Is God Is* (Canadian Stage, NAC); *School Girls; or, The African Mean Girls Play* (Obsidian/Nightwood *2019 Dora Award winner); FOR SOULPEPPER: *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train; Art; 88 Keys; August Osage County; Noises Off; Father Comes Home from the Wars - Parts I, II and III;* OTHER THEATRE: *Rosmersholm; Wedding Party* (Crow's); *As I Must Live It* (Theatre Passe Muraille); *Into the Woods* (TIFT); *Vierge* (Factory); *1939* (Stratford); *White Girls in Moccasins* (Manidoons/Buddies); *Spectators' Odyssey – o dell'Inferno* (DLT/TOLive); *The Runner* (Human Cargo *2019 Dora Award winner); *Risky Phil, Munschtime!* (YPT); *Tributaries* (LuminaTO 2017); FILM AND TELEVISION: *New Monuments* (CBC/Canadian Stage), *RIOT* (Renaissance Theatre/StratFest@Home); OTHER: "Cultural identity is a matter of becoming, it is unfixed and a subject of the continuous play of history, power and culture. Cultural identity is not a past waiting to be found or recovered, it is how we position ourselves in the memeory, fantasy and narrative and myth of our our past histories" - Stuart Hall Thank you for trusting me.



BOLA AIYEOLA was born in Shagamu, Nigeria. She moved to the UK at the age of 12 and immigrated to Canada as a young adult. FOR OBSIDIAN AND SOULPEPPER: *Table for Two*; OTHER THEATRE: *Hedda Gabler, Les Belles Soeurs, Death and the King's Horseman* (Stratford Festival); *The Container* (Canadian Stage), *Petra* (Theatre Direct), *Death and the King's Horseman* (Royal Exchange, Manchester), *The Beatification of Area Boy* (Everyman, Liverpool), *Medea* (Royal Exchange, Manchester) FILM AND TELEVISION (selected): *Clarice, Coroner, Lucky Day, The Expanse, Damien, 11.22.63, Da Kink In My Hair*.



RYAN ALLEN FOR OBSIDIAN AND SOULPEPPER: *Table for Two*; BROADWAY: *Book of Mormon*; OTHER THEATRE: *The Color Purple* (Neptune, Citadel, MTC); *Twelfth Night* (Theatre Calgary); *Controlled Damage* (Neptune); *Martyr* (ARC); *Metamorphosis* (NAC); *Oil and Water* (Factory and Canadian Tour); FILM AND TELEVISION: *Cross* (Amazon); *Shoresy* (Crave); *Five Days At Memorial* (Apple TV); *Titans* (HBOmax); *Between* (Netflix); Other: Ryan is a classically trained singer and most recently was the Tenor Soloist in Mozart's Requiem with the Guelph Symphony Orchestra .UPCOMING: Ryan has just finished principal photography on the upcoming action movie '*Normal*' opposite Bob Odenkirk, so keep an eye out for it in theatres!



EM AUBIN is a stage manager for theatre and live performance based in Tkaròn:to. FOR OBSIDIAN AND SOULPEPPER: *Table for Two, Three Sisters*; FOR OBSIDIAN: *Is God Is* (Necessary Angel / Canadian Stage); *Cast Iron* (Factory Theatre); *21 Black Futures* (CBC Gem), *Pass Over, School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play, hang*; FOR SOULPEPPER: *Billie, Sarah, & Ella: Revolutionary Women in Jazz,; Art;* OTHER THEATRE: *2 Pianos 4 Hands* (Marquis Entertainment / Mirvish); *Come Home: The Legend of Daddy Hall, Cockroach 甲由* (Tarragon Theatre); *Century Song, Infinity* (Volcano Theatre).



MADDIE BAUTISTA is a Bi, Filipina sound designer who calls Tkaronto's West End home. FOR OBSIDIAN AND SOULPEPPER: *Table for Two*; FOR OBSIDIAN: *seven methods of killing kylie jenner*; FOR SOULPEPPER: *Wildwoman, Fool for Love*, Associate Sound Design. OTHER THEATRE: *Craze, Interior Design* (Tarragon); *King James* (Theatre Aquarius and Alberta Theatre Projects); *Get That Hope, Les Belles-Sœurs, I Am William* (Stratford Festival). OTHER: She is a 2-time Dora Mavor Moore Award winner for *Love You Wrong Time* (Sound Design Ensemble), and a 3-time nominee.



NICK BLAIS currently resides in Toronto, ON. FOR OBSIDIAN AND SOULPEPPER: *Table for Two*; FOR OBSIDIAN: *Seven Methods of Killing Kylie Jenner*; FOR SOULPEPPER: *The Death of Walt Disney, Wildwoman, Lessons In Temperament* OTHER: *R.A.V.E, Dr. Silver, Jerusalem, Terminus* (Outside the March); *Case for the Existence of God, The Effect, Marjorie Prime* (Coal Mine); *Things I Know to be True* (Mirvish/Company); *Glass Menagerie* (Grand); *Vespers* (Royal Winnipeg Ballet); *West Side Story* (Citadel); *Brantwood* (Sheridan). Nick Blais designs across Canada in all manner of discipline and venue: from theatres, parks, abandoned buildings, schools, storefronts, living rooms and concert halls. Nick specializes in creating and facilitating thematic, impactful designs, and transforming unconventional spaces into immersive, dramatic environments. Nick has received Dora Mavor Moore awards in Toronto for both set and lighting design, and various other awards and nominations across the country. Nblaisdesign.com



MALIKA DAYA was born and raised in Calgary, AB. FOR OBSIDIAN AND SOULPEPPER: *Table for Two* (as Assistant Director); FOR SOULPEPPER: (As assistant producer), *Queen Goneril, King Lear, Bad Parent, 'da Kink in my Hair, English, Billie, Sarah and Ella, The Seagull, Sizwe Banzi is Dead*; .OTHER THEATRE: *At the End of Kaliyuga* (Director: Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2024); *What Can Indian Look Like: Can it Look Caribbean?* (Director: Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2023); *What Can Indian Look Like: Redefining Indian Identities* (Director: Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2023); *We are Proud to Present* (Assistant Director: UTSC, 2020).



ASTRID JANSON FOR OBSIDIAN AND SOULPEPPER: *Table for Two*; FOR OBSIDIAN: *The Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God* (National Arts Centre, Centaur Theatre, Mirvish Productions). FOR SOULPEPPER: *A Delicate Balance, Vimy, For Coloured Girls....* OTHER THEATRE: *Mad Madge* (Nightwood Theatre); *Hamlet* (Opera Cologne); *Fences* (Grand Theatre); FILM AND TELEVISION: Numerous films and series beginning with *The King of Kensington*; OTHER: Silver Ticket Recipient, Honorary Doctorate Wilfrid Laurier University, Dora Awards.

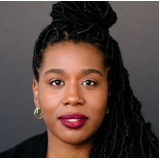


ARIANNA MOODIE FOR OBSIDIAN AND SOULPEPPER: *Table for Two*; OTHER THEATRE: Assistant Costume Designer; *One Man, Two Guvnors, The House That Will Not Stand* (Shaw); Costume Designer; *The Bee's Knee's* (The Theatre Centre); *Zayo Emergence* (Dance Immersion); *Baldwin v Buckley: Art of Ideas* (Shaw). FILM AND MUSIC VIDEO: Costume Designer; *Astro and Azrael* (2024), *Life of the Party* (2024), *Sam Fam* (2025), *Matilda* (2025); OTHER: Arianna is currently a cohort member of Obsidian's Young, Gifted & Black program.




DJANET SEARS was born in London, England, and raised in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and Oakville, Ontario. FOR OBSIDIAN AND SOULPEPPER: *Table for Two*; FOR OBSIDIAN: *The adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God* (National Arts Centre, Centaur Theatre, Mirvish Productions, Nightwood Theatre) FOR SOULPEPPER: Director: *for colored girls...* OTHER THEATRE: *Harlem Duet* (Tarragon Theatre; Stratford Shakespeare Festival; Canadian Stage; Nightwood Theatre); *Fences* (Grand Theatre);;

Penelopiad (Royal Shakespeare Company; National Arts Centre); *Charming and Rose* (Nightwood Theatre); *The Mother Project* (Crossroads Theatre). OTHER: Honors & Awards: Governor General's literary award, Canadian Screenwriting Award, Dora Award for Writing and Directing; Floyd S. Chalmers Canadian Play Award; Martin Luther King Jr. Achievement Award, Honorary Doctorate - St. Francis Xavier University. Djanet is also an assistant professor at the Centre of Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Toronto.



MEGHAN SWABY was born and raised in Toronto, ON. FOR OBSIDIAN AND SOULPEPPER: *Table for Two*; FOR OBSIDIAN: *Venus' Daughter*; OTHER THEATRE: *Interior Design* (Tarragon Theatre), *Prodigal* (Howland/Crow's Theatre), *Controlled Damage* (Neptune Theatre/ b current), *Calpurnia* (Nightwood), *All Our Happy Days Are Stupid* (Harbourfront/The Kitchen - NYC), *Family Story* (Birdtown and Swanville/ Summerworks), *In This World* (Roseneath). FILM AND TELEVISION: *Accused S2*, *Brilliant Minds*. VOICE OVER: *Let's Go Bananas!*, *Kiya and the Kimoja Heroes*, OTHER: Meghan's play *Venus' Daughter* is published by Scirocco. Meghan also created and co-hosts *Beneath The Ceiba Tree*, a podcast about Caribbean folklore from a contemporary diasporic lens.



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Thank You!

Young Centre

Thanks to our wonderful legion of Young Centre volunteers for their continued support!

Young Centre Facilities Funding:



All front of house staff – floor captains, patron service representatives, baristas and ushers - working for the Young Centre for the Performing Arts are represented by Local B-173 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

House and Stage Technicians employed by the Young Centre for the Performing Arts are represented by Local 58 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

OBSIDIAN THEATRE COMPANY STAFF AND BOARD

Obsidian is Canada's leading culturally specific theatre company whose threefold mission is to produce plays, develop playwrights and train emerging theatre professionals. We are passionately dedicated to the exploration, development, and production of the Black voice.

Founded in February 2000, Obsidian Theatre Company is an award winning organization producing plays from a worldwide canon focusing primarily on the works of highly acclaimed Black playwrights. We provide artistic support and development, offering training and mentorship programs for emerging Black artists.

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General Manager

daniel jelani ellis

Artistic Producer

Cherise Solomon

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Playwrights Unit Facilitator

2024/2025

d'bi.young anitafrika

Young Gifted and Black Program

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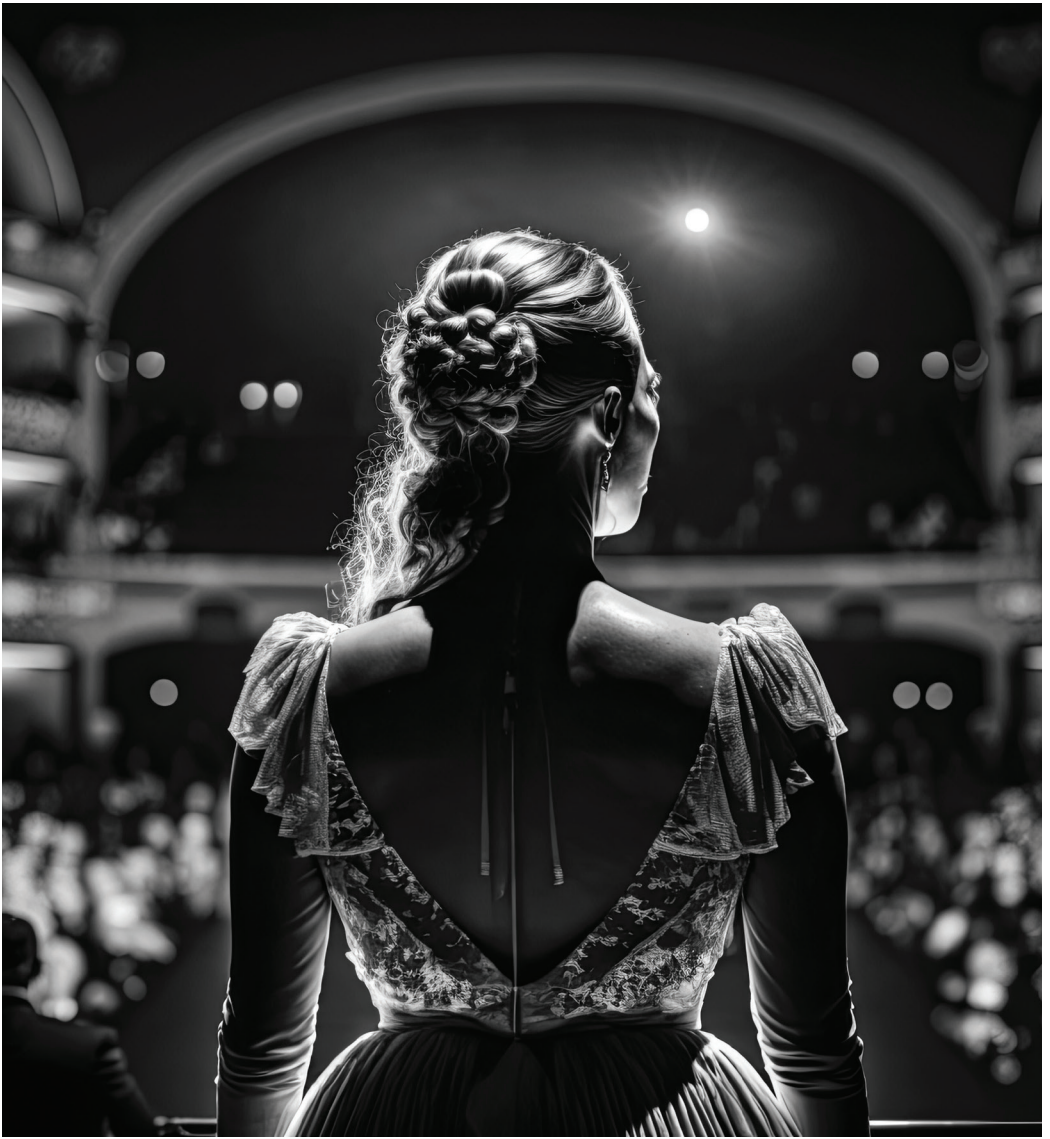
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The artists and staff of Soulpepper, Obsidian Theatre Company, and the Young Centre for the Performing Arts acknowledge the original caretakers and storytellers of this land —the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabe, and the Wendat First Nations. We commit to honouring and celebrating their past, present and future.