

AlvegoRoot Theatre

2021 **LIVE** Fall Season at Somerville 630



OF GODS AND MACHINES

Written and Directed by KYDRA RYAN

A Note from Adam



At the very core of AlvegoRoot Theatre is new play development. For me this is one of the great joys in theatre; working to support the development of local stories by local playwrights. What also delights me in this work is the vast variety of plays that get created at AlvegoRoot. Just this season we have presented plays set as far back as the 1850s and now we present a play set in the not too distant future!

I am really proud we get to share *Of Gods and Machines* now live on stage. I will always treasure working as dramaturg on this play; being witness to the many exciting creative discoveries Kydra Ryan made while writing this play.

This company of actors has been part of this play since the first workshop. The development of this play was given an extra year, due to what became of 2020. In the meantime we created an audio drama version of the play with this same ensemble of actors. They have played a very meaningful part in the development of this work. They have been working with the characters they will be performing today since December of 2019. It has been a rare treat to get to see actors spend so long with characters. You are in for something special, in so many ways, I am so glad you can be here.

- Adam C-H, Artistic Director



AlvegoRoot creates work on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples as well as nations both recorded and unrecorded who have been caretakers of this land for time immemorial. These lands are connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum.

OF GODS AND MACHINES

Written and Directed by KYDRA RYAN

Cast

Yunike Soedarmasto - Hannah

Casey Cornell - Ben

Dan Ebbs - the Robot

Artistic Credits

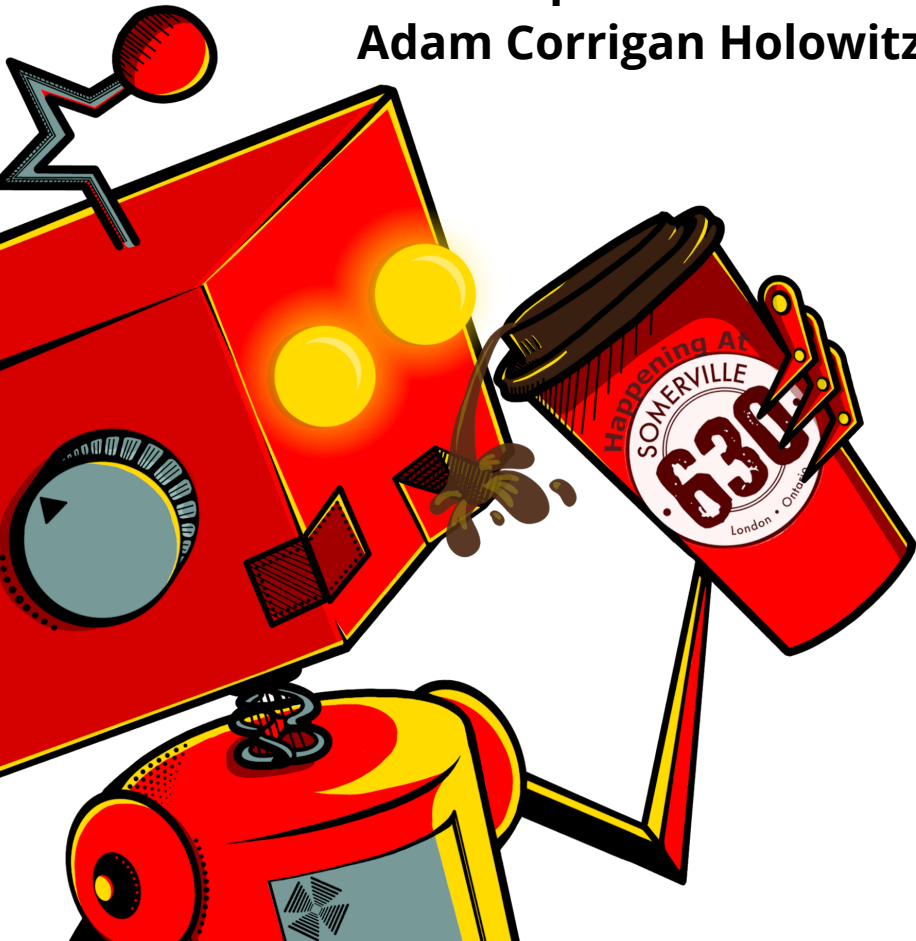
Kydra Ryan - Director

Adam Corrigan Holowitz - Dramaturg

Kydra Ryan - Designer

Stephen Holowitz - Composer

Adam Corrigan Holowitz - Sound Design



Playwright and Director's Note

When I first started writing of Gods and Machines, I was fresh out of Algonquin College where I learned not only playwriting but screenwriting as well. I wanted to use my unique experience to tell a story that reflected my blended education. This animated image came into my head of a girl and her poetic robot debating the usefulness of art in the apocalypse. While they sifted through a dumpster full of canvases behind an old art gallery. Being fresh out of school at the time, I was very much reflecting on my own experiences. With only six months of freedom left before my bank account would begin withering away to nothing, I felt this ticking clock towards the end of "freedom." And so, Of Gods and Machines was born. At its core it is about young people struggling to prove themselves, believing in what they are doing, but still not certain why. The play explores the societal and personal pressure to reach unrealistic goals in a short period of time. One of the key themes I have been exploring is the death of youth and the birth of responsibility. What do we do when time is up; when it's time to stop playing pretend and start playing professional? Now, of course, two and a half years later, I am no longer in the same place I was. As I am in the twilight period of my career as an emerging artist, I have answers I didn't have then. Of Gods and Machines has grown with me but remains set in the mindset of twenty-nineteen me. It's very personal to me despite its lighthearted delivery and I know personal stories are universal. We've all been young, lost, and blindly optimistic. - *Kydra Ryan*



Top: Casey Cornell as Ben and Yunike Soedarmasto as Hannah.
Bottom: Dan Ebbs as the Robot, Casey Cornell as Ben and Yunike Soedarmasto as Hannah.
Photos by Richard Gilmore.



The Ensemble



Casey Cornell, 3rd Season

2021 Season: Arthur in Pirates of Long Point and Ben in Of Gods and Machines. 3rd Season for AlvegoRoot. Previously with AlvegoRoot: Ben in Of Gods and Machines (audio play), Performed in Cambium, Michael/Syd in Fools and Lovers. Casey Cornell most recently appeared in The Chimes, Danger from the Dead (Fanshawe Pioneer Village), Pterodactyls (The Peanut Gallery) . Casey has appeared in multiple online videos for the website: Diply.com. He is a graduate of Fanshawe's Theatre Arts Performance program where he appeared in Of Mice and Men and Timon of Athens.



Adam Corrigan Holowitz, Founding Artistic Director, 13th Season

2021 Season: Director/Co-Creator of The Bicycle Play, Director/Playwright of Pirates of Long Point, Performer/Director of Tales for a Reaney Day, Dramaturg for Of Gods and Machines. Adam works as a dramaturg, director and playwrights. Works Adam has directed for AlvegoRoot include: Fools and Lovers, The Wind in the Willows (playwright), The Boy with an R in His Hand (playwright), Welcome to Bon Echo, Sixty-Seven (playwright), Dominion Day, The Cheese Poet (playwright), The Big Lad, The Angel of Long Point (playwright), Running Rude, Press Cuttings, Colleening (creator), Endgame, Beard, Macbeth, Uncle Vanya and Waiting for Godot. For Village Opera Adam has directed: John Beckwith and James Reaney's The Great Lakes Suite, Menotti's The Telephone and Shaw's Village Wooing. For Theatre Aezir he directed Gary Kirkham's Falling: A Wake. He was the dramaturg for David Yee's play rochdale (York University/Summerworks). Adam holds a BA Honours from York University where he studied Dramaturgy. He is the recipient of The Iris Turcott Memorial Award for dramaturgy from York University.



Dan Ebbs, 3rd Season

2021 Season: Performer/Creator of The Bicycle Play, Admiral Moorhead in Pirates of Long Point, Jack in Of Gods and Machines. Previously for AlvegoRoot: Performer in Cambium, Jack in Of Gods and Machines (audio play), Mole in The Wind in the Willows and Troyer/Browne in Fools and Lovers. Dan Ebbs got his theatre training at Humber College in Toronto the 1980s and was rejected by all of the professional theatres there. Thus he learned his first important lesson in theatre: humility. He considers himself an amateur actor because he does not have an Equity or an ACTRA card, but he acknowledges that the Latin root of the word amateur is 'love'. He is just happy to be on the stage and working with dedicated, creative people and, as long as he can do that, life is good.

The Ensemble



Kydra Ryan, 5th Season

2021 Season: Performer/Creator of The Bicycle Play and Josephine in Pirates of Long Point, Director/Playwright of Of Gods and Machines, Performer/Director of Tales for a Reaney Day. Past AlvegoRoot credits include: Playwright/Director of Of Gods and Machines (audio play), Writer/Performer in The Manor Park Evening Post, Ratty in The Wind in the Willows, Rosa/Dorothia in Fools and Lovers, Annie Pixely in Shall Not Be Taken, The Boy with an R in His Hand, Welcome to Bon Echo, Elsie: Dreams and Sketches, and Dominion Day. Kydra was Assistant Director for Six Characters in Search of an Author and Timon of Athens both at Fanshawe College.



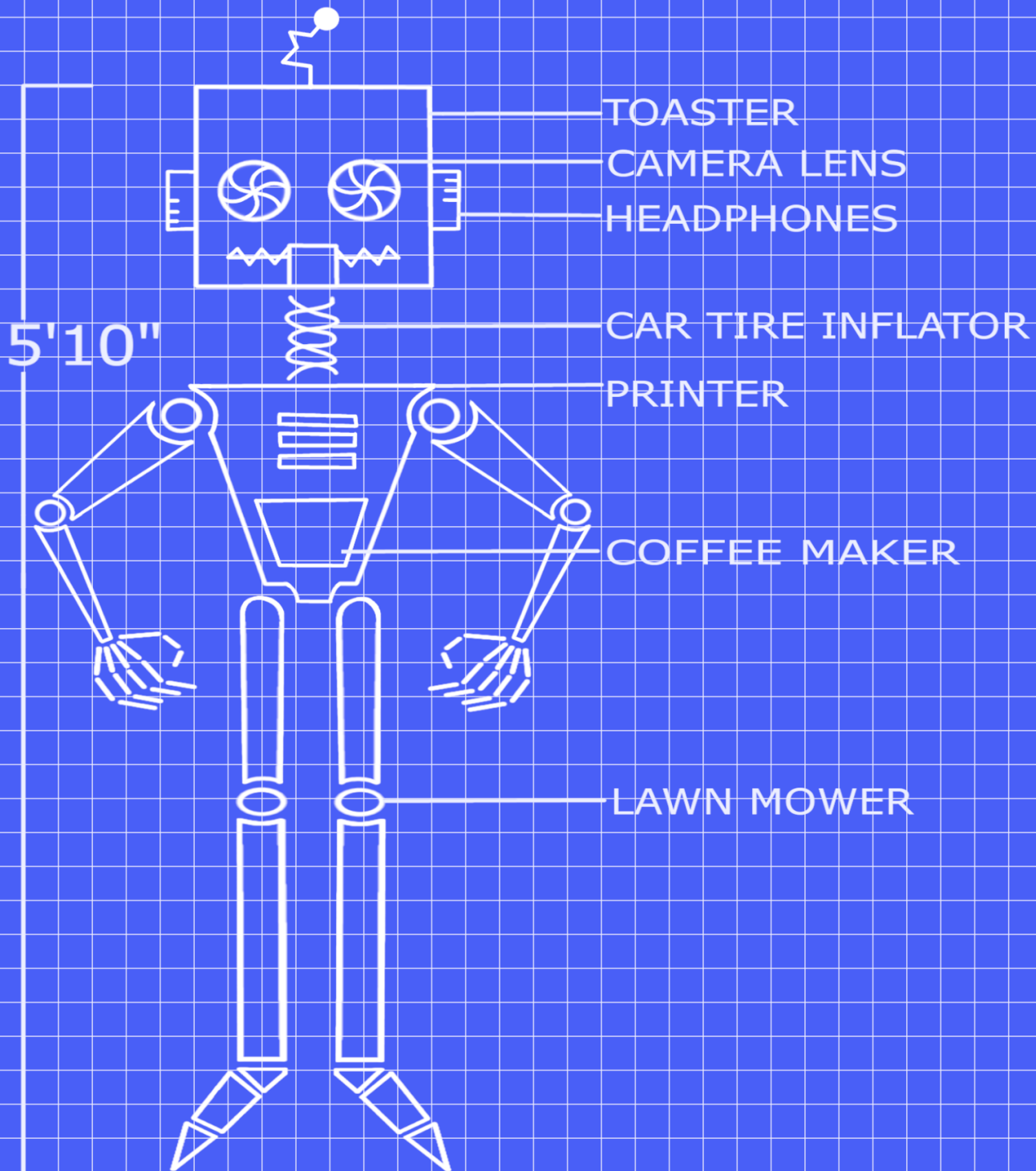
Yunike Soedarmasto, 2nd Season

2021 Season: Hannah in Of Gods and Machines. Past AlvegoRoot credits: Hannah in Of Gods and Machines (audio play), Sue in Miles of Life and Performer in Cambium. 2nd Season for AlvegoRoot. Yunike is a Theatre Performance graduate from Fanshawe College. Aside from being onstage, Yunike has played several other roles behind the scenes including assistant director, music director, and dance captain. Yunike is also part of the musical theatre faculty at North London Dance Centre. She believes in the intimacy and magic of theatre, and is thrilled to be sharing the stage in-person once again!



Dan Ebbs as the Robot in Of Gods and Machines.
Photo by Richard Gilmore.

***"I design the blue prints. He makes the adjustments.
But we disagree on literally everything because of it
and it drives me up the wall!"***



Our Deepest Thanks to Our Donors

- Carolyn and Allister Cameron
- Pamela Cameron
- Teresa Corrigan and Stephen Holowitz
- Ed Corrigan
- Paul Connolly
- Maya Clark
- Claudia Day
- Suzanne Edmundson
- Chris McAuley
- Joyce Orchard
- Laurraine Sigouin
- John and Wendy Thorpe
- Susan Turner
- Marie Wilson
- Susan Wallace and James Reaney
- Richard Allan Yake

Special thanks to Kathy Navackas,
Somerville 630 and Fireroasted Coffee.
Special thanks to The Reaney Family



Casey Cornell as Ben in *Of Gods and Machines*.
Photo by Richard Gilmore.

Telling Local Stories, Creating Local Theatre

AlvegoRoot Theatre is based in London Ontario. AlvegoRoot produces plays about London and the surrounding area. AlvegoRoot develops new plays based on local stories and people. With one eye to the world and another on Southwestern Ontario, AlvegoRoot has created a specific style of theatre that carries on the Souwesto theatre and arts tradition. AlvegoRoot collaborates with Fanshawe Pioneer Village to present a repertory summer theatre season in the village's heritage barn. 2021 marks AlvegoRoot Theatre's 13th Season.

*An encore performance of AlvegoRoot's production of
Tales for a Reaney Day,
followed by a conversation with the artists and a
reading of Colleen Thibodeau's Wild Turkeys*

.



2021 JAMES REANEY MEMORIAL LECTURE

Tales for a Reaney Day: Two Great Writers, Three Short Stories

Performed by Kydra Ryan and
Adam Corrigan Holowitz

words
THE LITERARY AND CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

Saturday, November 6th ▲ **2:00 pm**

Live Streamed
www.wordsfest.ca

Join us for a public screening of

THE BICYCLE PLAY

By Dan Ebbs, Kydra Ryan
and Adam Corrigan Holowitz



Friday November 12 at 7:30 PM

Somerville 630, 630 Dundas Street

Followed by a Q&A with the creators of the play and city leaders.

AlvegoRoot Theatre





2021 SEASON: THE BICYCLE PLAY PIRATES OF LONG POINT
TALES FOR A REANEY DAY OF GODS AND MACHINES