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**A bold and angry comedy about sexual assault receives its Toronto premiere at the 2018 Next Stage Theatre Festival:**

# JONNO

**Written by Alix Sobler and directed by Paul Van Dyck.**

*Photo by Tanja Tiziana*

TORONTO: November 28, 2017 — After a successful world premiere at the 2016 Winnipeg Fringe Festival, **JONNO** by **Alix Sobler** receives its Toronto debut at the Next Stage Theatre Festival this January. Inspired by recent events, **JONNO** tells the story of a beloved Canadian radio personality— a man whose endearing exterior proves to be the disguise of a violent, insecure, and narcissistic sexual predator. Angry, visceral, and disturbingly funny, the play takes an honest look at the violence perpetuated against women, and forces a light onto the men who engage in it. **JONNO** is directed by **Paul Van Dyck** and produced by **Rabbit in a Hat Productions**, and runs from January 3-14th at the **Factory Theatre Mainspace** as part of The Toronto Fringe's **Next Stage Theatre Festival**. [www.rabbitinahatproductions.com](http://www.rabbitinahatproductions.com)

Jonno is the host of a successful Canadian radio show, a newly published novelist, and a proud feminist. Jonno also violently abuses his sexual partners. As the details of his aggressions threaten to become public knowledge, Jonno desperately tries to rationalize his abusive behaviour to himself via a series of conversation with Mr Donkey Long Ears, a stuffed toy come to life and Jonno's only friend. Meanwhile, four survivors of Jonno's abuse struggle to come to terms with their experience, and find the "correct" response to their assault. Through its whip-smart dialogue and dark, surreal imagery, **JONNO** asks its audience to frankly confront difficult questions about sex, power, and consent—all while challenging the notion that these questions have a "right" answer at all.

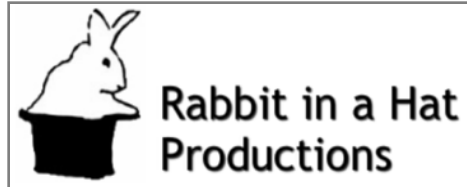
"A smart, challenging, and often harrowing piece that delves deep into current conversations about everything from victim-blaming to the ways in which women tear each other down for not doing feminism right. Whatever you do, don't miss this show".



- Jen Zoratti, *The Winnipeg Free Press*

**JONNO** is written by New York-based playwright **Alix Sobler**, whose hit play *The Secret Annex* was produced at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre and the Segal Centre in Montreal, and received a staged reading at the Stratford Festival in 2015. It is directed by **Paul Van Dyck**, Artistic Director of **Rabbit in a Hat Productions** and director of *Blood Wild*, which was produced at the 2016 Next Stage Theatre Festival. Starring: **Jason Deline** (*Star Trek: Discovery*, CBS) as Jonno; **Glenda Braganza** (*Saving Hope*, CTV/eOne) as Bernadette; **Allan Michael Brunet** (*Bully*, Floating Rock Films) as Mr Donkey Long Ears; **Alanis Peart** (*Frankie Drake*, CBC/Shaftebury Films) as Maureen; **Parmida Vand** (*Monsters by Nature*, Kindling Collective)

as Dana; and **Erica Anderson** (*Romeo & Juliet*, *Lost & Gone*) as Marcy. Other company members include: Costume Designer **Christine Urquhart** (*Rootless*, *Red Orange Projects*), Lighting Designer **Steve Vargo** (*Old Times*, *Unit 102*), and Music & Sound Designer **Richard Feren** (*Daughter*, *Theatre Centre/QuipTake/Pandemic Theatre*).



**Rabbit in a Hat Productions** was founded in Montreal in 2001 with a mandate to produce new Canadian Independent Theatre. The collective relocated to and has been producing work in Toronto since 2015. Find out more at [www.rabbitinahatproductions.com](http://www.rabbitinahatproductions.com)

## **JONNO**

at the 2018 Next Stage Theatre Festival:

Playwright - Alix Sobler  
Director - Paul Van Dyck

Dana - Parmida Vand  
Marcy - Erica Anderson  
Bernadette - Glenda Braganza  
Maureen - Alanis Peart  
Mr Donkey Long Ears - Allan Michael Brunet  
Jonno - Jason Deline

Producer - Mirka Loiselle  
Production Manager - Michael Panich  
Costume Designer - Christine Urquhart  
Lighting Designer - Steve Vargo  
Sound Designer - Richard Feren

### **Factory Theatre Mainspace**

125 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON

Wednesday, January 3 - 7:45pm  
Friday, January 5 - 9:45pm  
Saturday, January 6 - 4:15pm  
Sunday, January 7 - 4:15pm  
Monday, January 8 - 9:00pm  
Wednesday, January 10 - 6:45pm  
Thursday, January 11 - 7:15pm  
Saturday, January 13 - 1:45pm  
Sunday, January 14 - 7:00pm

TORONTO  
**FRINGE**  

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**NEXT STAGE**

**Runtime**

75 minutes

**Content Warning**

This show contains strong language, sexual content, graphic violence and depictions of sexual assault.

**Tickets**

\$15 / ticket

Tickets and passes available as of November 27, 2017. Purchase online at [www.fringetoronto.com](http://www.fringetoronto.com), or by phone at 416-966-1062.

Early Bird savings of 15% can be accessed until December 4, 2017

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