

# Program



**vAct**



VANCOUVER ASIAN  
CANADIAN THEATRE



# The Lichenized Movement

By  
Earthen Bodies

The Lichenized Movement is Earthen Bodies' first exploration into worlds on different scales and time feels inspired by the micro-macro cosmic existence of Lichen, our primordial symbiotic terrestrial kin.

Together, we will co-constitutively create atmospheric noise environments, movement meditations, and explore the non-linear creative nature of Life.

Earthen Bodies is a collective of creative human individuals of diverse backgrounds, connecting and co-creating as an extension of the Earth. Informed by our time together walking, sitting, moving, singing, dancing, playing, exploring and relating with the Earth as a primary collaborator and mentor.





# Family Tree

By  
**Kimmortal**

Mixing personal story and filipino folklore, I write into the spaces between the first four songs of my upcoming album. I explore glimpses of story through embodying family and an ancestor/deity working with film fragments and an ilocano folk song. Direction support from Imbali Blooming, and vAct's Anjela Magpantay and Derek Chan.

Kimmortal aka Kim (they/them) is a multi hyphenate artist and musician. They are a 2nd generation settler who grew up in Surrey and is currently living on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Their ancestry is from Pangasinan and Negros Occidental, Philippines. Their most significant learning that made them the artist they are today has been through Arrivals Legacy Project where they first learned about performing embodied works. Combining their passion for world building through experimental sound, hip hop and spoken word, visual art, theatre, and ancestral wisdom, Kimmortal strives to build worlds that make queer and diasporic weird kids feel like they belong. Their third album "shoebox" is set for release in early July.



# Hair Hair Everywhere

By  
Sarvin Esmaeli

What's your relationship with your body hair? Welcome to Hair Hair everywhere where we meet Shabnam's head hair, armpit hair and leg hair! Through shadow puppetry, live chorus loop pedal, Farsi & English songs, this experimental theatre piece tries to find out the root of anti-body hair culture from a Persian femme body perspective. Should Shabnam shave or not?

## **Sarvin Esmaeli**

Writer/Actor

Born in Tehran, Iran, سروین/Sarv is a tender queer multidisciplinary theater artist with the intention of creating stories that make theatre a spiritual, experimental, process-based and community-based experience. Sarv has written plays with cohorts like Arts Club's LEAP, Frank Theatre's Telling it bent, PTC'S Block A, Rumble theatre and Blackout Arts Society. In May 2023, Sarv will perform as an actor and puppeteer at International Theatrical Festival VALISE in Poland. In June, سروین will be at Rice and Bean's Polyphonic residency bringing more Farsi poetry and songs on stage. Sarv is a graduate of Studio 58. When سروین needs a break, they sing, pray, drum and dance at a full moon ceremony with their soul family. Sarv's email: sarvin.freedom@gmail.com

## **Chantal Gering**

Sound Designer

Chantal (they/she/he) is an interdisciplinary artist with Latinx and German roots located on the stolen lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

Chantal practices choreographies for collective liberation. They have graduated from UBC BFA Acting program: their theater creation works include Wings Over Water: A Diasporic Bird Play, Papa Records Everything, and An Ode to Diaspora.

Chantal's art practice gestures towards queer joy, poetic spellcasting, and movement improvisations. They recently finished an immersive sound exhibit at Lobe Studio with Shapeshifter Media Collective, a multimedia queer and trans initiative they co-founded with Rae Fay.

## **Bijan Karim**

Actor

Bijan Karim is a performance artist, writer, and filmmaker.

After earning a BFA from Simon Fraser University's Film Production program, Bijan began his professional practice in 2018, working in the film industry and on independent projects. Currently, he is working on a stage debut, as well as his first collection of poems. He is an Iranian-Canadian dual citizen, with ties to Turkey, where he was born. His spontaneous approach to performance is marked by a distinctive voice and free-flowing approach to combining scripting and improvisation.

## **Pamela Subía**

Assistant Director/ASM/ Actor

Pamela (she/her) is a latinx amateur artist living in unceded Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh land. She is exploring the fields of improv comedy, experimental film, experimental performance, and spoken word.

## **Tanaz Roudgar**

Actor

Tanaz is an immigrant, bilingual, trained actor, writer, poet, improviser and movement artist. Her recent co-creation: Ode To Diaspora, a poetry and movement piece questioning home and diaspora, was a part of the Stand Festival 2022. She has performed her poetry at the ignite festival 2022, nowrouz with Vancouver black library and SFU lunch poems. Her debut in film is playing the lead role in the short film “Uterus” directed by Aryo Khakpour in 2022. She has written plays with companies such as Paprika Festival and The Arts Club and her mission as an artist is to spread awareness and share POC and queer voices while dismantling systems of oppression like a warrior goddess on the unceded and stolen lands of the Coast Salish peoples.

## **Niloufar Samadi**

Director

Niloufar Samadi is an interdisciplinary artist based in Vancouver, on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. With a primary area of focus on the intersection of technology and puppetry art, she delves into the spatial and somatic relationships between puppet and puppeteer. Currently, Niloufar is dedicating her artistic endeavors to video art, utilizing her works as a means to explore gestures, feminism, and the multifaceted dimensions of identity.

## **The vActory Team**

**Christian Ching - Production Manager, Light designer,  
Operator**

**Anjela Magpantay - Producer, Dramaturg**

**Derek Chan - Managing Artistic Director, Dramaturg**

**Karla Comanda - Marketing Coordinator**

**Annie Jang - General Manager**

**Karen Tsui - Development Coordinator**

**Karen Chiang - Production Assistant**

## **Thank Yous**

**Nhi Do, Jarin Schexnider, Anabelle Ching, Phil Miguel,  
Pacific Theatre**