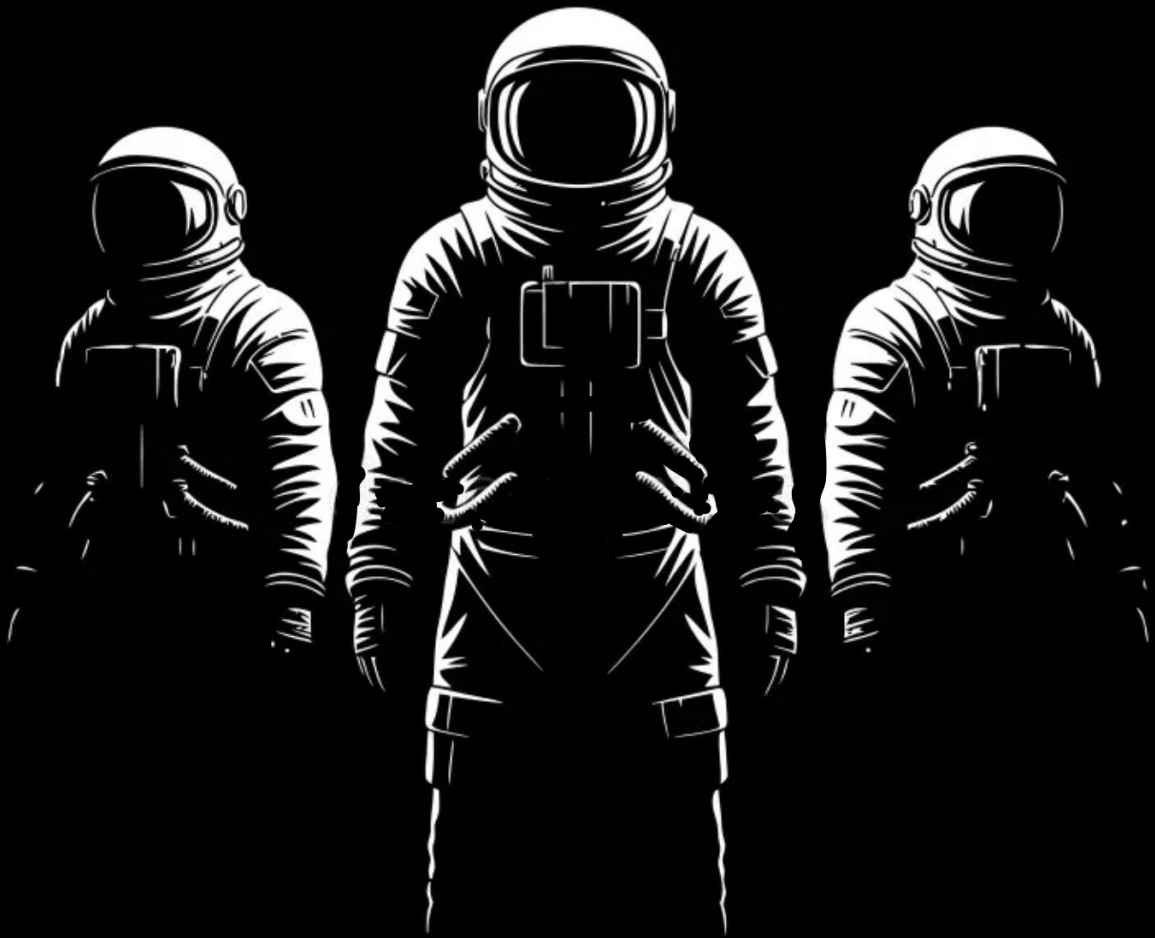




POWER PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

BREATHING THE SAME AIR

BY SHARON KING-CAMPBELL



**Featuring: Sharon King-Campbell, Paul David Power, Amanda Vallis
Directed by Azal Dosanjh**

**July 24, 25 at 8 pm Resource Centre for the Arts
July 26, 27 at 6 pm Bowring Park Amphitheatre**

Project Acknowledgements

This project is supported by the Office of Public Engagement's Accelerator Award, the J. R. Smallwood Foundation, and the Institute of Social and Economic Research.

The proposal for this research has been reviewed by the Interdisciplinary Committee on Ethics in Human Research and found to be in compliance with Memorial University's ethics policy. If you have ethical concerns about the research, such as your rights as a participant, you may contact the Chairperson of the ICEHR at icehr.chair@mun.ca or by telephone at 709-864-2861.

Special thanks to Jessica Ozon as our assistant stage manager and official mask distributor!

Audience Contribution

**Please fill out the post-show survey at
<https://tinyurl.com/pandemicplayssurvey>**

Playwrights Note

Sharon King-Campbell



In 2019, when I applied to do my PhD, I wanted to write on the process of collaboration in creating new works for the theatre. By the time I started the program in the fall of 2020, the world had changed in a way I would never have predicted. I did my coursework sitting on the floor in my living room, with a just-long-enough ethernet cable stretched from my laptop to my modem because none of the technology in my home was built to handle Zoom. 2 months in, I had shifted my focus – how could I not? – to the impact of COVID-19 protocols on the live theatre experience.

But there is no shifting away from collaboration when you're working in the theatre. The script you are about to hear is built out of the words of my colleagues, the theatre workers who did an interview with me and who have generously allowed me to name them: Geoff Adams, Bruce Brenton, Gaylene Buckle, Donna Butt, Ann Connors, Azal Dosanjh, Mike Hammond, Willow Kean, Brian Kenny, Amanda

Klein, Crystal Laffoley, Paul Power, Alix Reynolds, Nicole Rousseau, Jamie Skidmore, and Bernardine Stapleton.

I have supplemented their perspectives with my own words, occasionally written for this play, but mostly drawn from these interviews and from my own writings from "the early days" (up to January 2021). What you are about to see is so much more than the written-down words: the work of the incredible, enthusiastic, give-it-your-whole-self artists assembled for this project by Power Productions.

"The collaboration between work and audience [is] the final, and arguably most important, collaboration in the process," I wrote in my PhD application, and that, at least, is still true. Thank you for collaborating on this piece of theatre with us.

To collaborate on the research too, please fill out the post-show survey at <https://tinyurl.com/pandemicplayssurvey>

Sharon

Director's Note

Azal Dosanjh



How do we direct a PhD thesis? Andrew Hawthorn of CBC asked me this question the other day – I had asked myself the same when Sharon King-Campbell invited me to direct “Breathing The Same Air”. The answer quickly became pretty clear, however: we just had to direct a play, a beautifully written and thought out play. It just happens that this play is also the coolest PhD research subject.

“Breathing The Same Air” asks us – how did we all do theatre when COVID-19 pandemic halted our lives? Why did we want to do theatre or make art when many lives were at stake? The world was crumbling (is crumbling) yet artists kept running against the wind. Why? In that sense, beyond the conversation of pandemics, “Breathing The Same Air” is an artistic investigation – why do we even love theatre? What do you love about theatre?

I invite audiences to join our cast – and to join the multitude of voices from our theatre community that they portray – as they celebrate, grieve, and reflect on the collective experience of an artist amidst a global crisis.

Thank you for coming. Thank you for your contribution to this outstanding subject of research and I hope you enjoy the show!

Azal

CAST

Sharon King-Campbell



Sharon King-Campbell is an artist and scholar with a passion for the connective and change-making power of theatre. She has performed and directed for companies across Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland), including Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland, Best Kind Productions, New Curtain Theatre, PerSIStence Theatre, Grand Bank Regional Theatre, Stephenville Theatre Festival, Girl Power Inc. and Power Productions. Sharon is Artistic Director of Shakespeare by the Sea Festival, and Producer with Kittiwake Dance Theatre. She is an award-winning writer with two published books: a collection of poetry, *This Is How It Is* (2021) and a play, *Dayboil* (2024). Her other plays include *Fighting Fire with Snow* (World's End Theatre), *Give Me Back* (skc originals/FTLOL), *Original* (skc originals/PerSIStence), and *Melody and the Fishes* (Salt Teeth). Sharon holds a BFA Theatre and a MA English from Memorial University of Newfoundland, and is currently pursuing her PhD.

Paul David Power



Paul David Power has spent the past 30 years working as a writer, playwright, actor and director. His formal training includes holding a BA in English with a concentration in theatre and a BAA in Journalism.

His leadership positions include President of the Liffey Players Drama Society in Calgary AB for three years, Artistic Director for Hubcity Theatre in Moncton NB for five years and Artistic Associate for the Shakespeare by the Sea Festival in St. John's NL for two years along with his current role as founder and Artistic Director for Power Productions.

Amanda Vallis



Amanda Vallis (she/her) is a performer from St. John's who has worked with theatre groups like St. John's Players, Theatre CBS and most recently, Power Productions playing Mollie in Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap". She has spent her life learning stage craft under the guidance of Barbara Barrett, Gord Billard, Jamie Skidmore, Jillian Keiley and many more. Amanda is a Power Productions Board Member, and last August took on the role of Artistic Associate, working closely with Paul. Working on this show has been such a gift. Thank you, especially to Sharon and Azal for having such faith in me.

CREW

Pat Dempsey (Technical Designer)



Pat Dempsey is a Theatre Practitioner based out of St. John's, NL. For the past 25 years, he has taken on a wide variety of roles in the theatre and film scene both on and off stage. Recent design credits include Video Design for *Drive* (Dir P. Bromley), *Everything Has a Hole*, *I'm a Genius: Does Anybody Here Know me?* (NAX), *Song Seekers*, *Remnants* (White Rooster), *Alice and Other Wonderlands* (Kittiwake Dance Co.), and *Be More Chill* (Best Kind Productions), Light Design for *The Strange Case of Madame D* (RCAT/Wreckhouse Theatre), and *Drinking Again* (NAX), and Sound Design for *Men of Misfortune* (RCAT), *Heaters*, *Be More Chill*, *Fun Home*, *Impresario*, *Next to Normal*, *13: The Musical*, *Urinetown: The Musical*, and *Avenue Q* (Best Kind Productions). Pat also lead the technical side of the renovation of the Majestic Theatre in St. John's, was the Associate Technical Director of the LSPU Hall for 15 years, and taught technical theatre at the Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador for over a decade. He is also, currently in his second year as Production Manager for *Come From Away*, which is playing this summer in Gander. After the summer, Pat will spend a good part of his upcoming year working with Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland as the Technical Director/ Sound Mixer for *Between Breaths* and the Technical Director for *Man of the Year*.

Nefren Feizo-Gas (Stage Manager)



Nefren Feizo-Gas is an Arts Practitioner who has been based out of St. John's since 2002. Over the years she has taken on a wide variety of roles in the local arts community. She was the Festival Coordinator for The St. John's Short Play Festival; Company Manager for Terra Bruce Productions; and Manager for The Newfoundland and Labrador Folk Festival. She has been a writer and performer in both English and French having her work shown across Eastern Canada. As an SM and ASM she has worked with many local companies such as The Festival of New Dance, The Feast of Cohen, Power Productions, RCA Theatre, Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland, Nightswimming Theatre, White Rooster Theatre, Shakespeare By The Sea, Choral Canada, C2C Theatre, Kittiwake Dance Theatre and Poverty Cove Theatre. She is delighted to be working with such a talented team.