




*In The Next Room  
(or)  
The Vibrator Play  
by Sarah Ruhl*

Director.....Myrna Wyatt Selkirk  
 Assistant Director.....Shanti Gonzales  
 Costume Design.....Catherine Bradley  
 Set Design.....Corinne Deeley  
 Lighting Design.....Keith Roche  
 Sound Design.....Mikey Schanz

*Cast:*

Anurag Choudhury.....Dr. Givings  
 Clara Nizard.....Sabrina Daldry  
 Jacqueline Geday.....Anna  
 Nathaniel Hanula-James.....Leo Irving  
 Sandrine Jaumard.....Elizabeth  
 Sophia Metcalf.....Catherine Givings  
 Tom Gould.....Dick Daldry

## *Production Team:*



### **Stage Manager**

Sarah McFadden

### **Assistant Stage Managers**

Claire Beck  
Maia de Graaf

### **Set Crew**

Alice Bouchard  
Rana Liu

### **Props Crew**

Linna Na  
Tutu Cheng  
Yasmin Bitar

### **Sound Operator**

Daniel Austin Boyd

### **Lighting Crew**

Desi Goldwater  
Katherine Kellner

### **Set Decorator**

Chip Limeburner

### **Production Manager**

Corinne Deeley

### **Technical Director**

Keith Roche

### **Wardrobe Manager**

Catherine Bradley

### **Costume Class**

Aletha Persaud  
Ambre Battistella  
Chloe Bernert  
Éléonore Lamothe  
Erinn Farmer  
Felicity Stasser  
Izzy Kalichman  
Léa Tuizat  
Lucie Alden  
Manon Meyre  
Sarah McFadden (Work Study)

### **Hair Styling**

Kessara Ol  
Antonella Anania

### **Poster Design**

Sophie London

## *Director's Note:*

In the Rehearsal Room: for the Vibrator Play

Behind closed doors, we found ourselves whispering in pillow forts, charging through cold autumn nights, and constantly experimenting: creating electric charge and magnetic pull.

As directors, we found ourselves drawn to this piece - moths to a lamp - due in no small part to the vivid world Sarah Ruhl invented. A world that - despite its carriages and corsets - finds its fullness in the contemporary imagination. In spite of the otherworldliness of turn-of-the-century Saratoga Springs, New York, history finds itself revived on a Montreal stage. So much is the same between the two. The same buzz of distraction. The same November chill. The same throb of attraction. The same echoing loneliness. The convergence of two dissonant temporalities helped us create the aesthetic for this production: *Vibrator Punk*. Alive in this liminality and simultaneity - it peppers every corner of Moyse Hall Stage: in the wired accents of Mrs. Daldry's hat, the coiled cords looping in the decor, and the unfettered energy in the actor's work.

This process has been both exploration and adventure: allowing our fingers to wrap around the corset laces of daily life, and find the strength to break free of the cords that once bound us.

## Biographies:

Sarah Ruhl makes it clear in her note that the "things that seem impossibly strange in the following play are all true - such as the Chatanooga Vibrator and the vagaries of wet-nursing." Those aren't the only strange truths. We must also demystify the concept of feminine (and human) agency - consent doesn't exist in this onstage medical practice, and this erasure is still at work today. Non-male bodies continue to be Othered. Open expressions of sexuality continue to war against the command "just close your eyes and think of England." It's time to open our eyes.

This play is about (re)learning to see - without the white noise of human constructions.

Extinguish the wired glow.  
A cold, bright inhale.  
Moonlight on snow.

Myrna Wyatt Selkirk and Shanti Gonzales

**Lucie Alden** (Costumes) is a third year student at McGill, where she studies English Literature and Economics. She has been onstage in many productions and is elated to bring her passion for theater backstage. She would like to thank her costuming team and its fearless leader, Catherine Bradley!

**Daniel Austin-Boyd** (Set Crew) is U3 Geography student with a minor in Political Science. Over the last three years he has taken on a number of roles in the McGill theatre community. These have included the role of John Darling in *Peter Pan* (Players), Dr. Rance in *What The Butler Saw* (Players), Stage Manager for AUTS's production of *Chicago* last year, and director of these years AUTS production of *Rent*. Daniel is happy to be have worked with all the lovely people in this production of *In The Next Room!*

**Ambre Battistella** (Costumes/ Hair and Make-up) is in her second year at McGill. She plans to graduate with a degree in Political Science and Psychology. This is her first time designing and making costumes, as well as getting involved in a play at McGill. Additionally, she will be helping with hair and make-up backstage during the show. Ambre is very excited to be a part of such a creative and talented community!

**Claire Beck** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a third year student who has just recently joined the English Department's Drama & Theatre Program. This is her first time working backstage on a theatrical production, and she is excited to help stage manage *In the Next Room*. Theatre credits include acting in: *Hamlet* (Stratford Shakespeare Theatre School), *The Wizard of Oz* (Branksome Hall Theatre Department), *The Sound of Music* (Branksome Hall Theatre De-

partment), and *Peter Pan* (Branksome Hall Theatre Department). Claire is thrilled to be working alongside such an amazing cast and crew!

**Chloe Bernert** (Costumes/ Hair and Makeup) is a U3 student at McGill studying History and Russian. Other than reading Chekov, she costumes, runs, and performs with her burlesque troupe *Le Fishmongers*. Chloe is very happy to be making corsets for university credit in a play about vibrators.

**Alice Bouchard** (Set) is a second year U1 Physiology student at McGill. She is from New Milford, CT and has always loved technical theatre. She had loads of experience in sound and is excited to work on a different aspect this show. In the past she has worked with Player's Theatre for the McGill Drama Festival and numerous plays and musicals at her high school in Connecticut. She is extremely excited to work with this team!

**Catherine Bradley** (Costume Designer) teaches Costuming and History of Costume at McGill University. She is the founder of the *Virtual Textile Project*, and the *Textile Resource Center*. Her current research project is the creation of an online textile dictionary. Catherine has worked on costumes for theatre, television, opera, and ballet at numerous venues across Canada. Her costume designs are currently included in an exhibit in Moscow entitled *Costume Design at the Turn of the Century*. Catherine has had the pleasure of working with a terrific team on this production.

**Tutu Cheng** (Set/Props) is an exchange student in the English Department. She is in the set and props group in this year's fall production of *In the Next Room*. Tutu is really excited about working in this project. This is an unforgettable experience for her in McGill. She is now exploring some cool places around Montreal and the rest of Canada. If you have got some good places to recommend, contact her!

## Biographies cont:

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**Anurag “El-Diablo a.k.a. Brown Sugar” Choudhury** (Dr Givings) is currently undertaking his U2 in Drama & Theatre at McGill. He grew up in the Middle East, with a big dollop of India and a wee sprinkle of England. Sarah Ruhl's *In The Next Room* has proved to be a novel and exciting experience for Anurag. He owes everything to his two lovely directors, his fantastic costume team, and to his marvelous crew. He is playing the role of Dr. Givings, thus he wishes for the production to GIVE a great time to all.

**Erinn Farmer** (Costumes) hails from a Boston suburb, where she participated in theatre from an early age, at first in the spotlight, and later backstage. She is a U2 student in the English Department's Cultural Studies Program and is costuming *In the Next Room* with Catherine Bradley's costuming class. Theater credits include: Assistant Costume Designer, *H.M.S. Pinafore* (McGill Savoy Society), Director, *A Play with Words* (MHS Dessert Theater), and many others, especially with the Sudbury Savoyards. Erinn would like to thank her grandmother and father for her interest in period theater and craftsmanship, and her mother for teaching her those first tentative stitches.

**Jacqueline Geday** (Anna) is a final year Cultural Studies major and a Communications and Marketing minor. This is her first role in a McGill Production, but was heavily involved in high school productions, is an avid musical theatre and film geek, and has a collection of signed playbills. After graduation this December, she hopes to be working in the film distribution industry. Jacqueline is extremely excited to get the chance to work with such an amazing cast and crew, and hopes you enjoy the show as much as she enjoys performing it for you!

**Desi Goldwater** (Lighting Technician) is now a second year student in the English Department's Drama & Theatre Program. She is excited to be working behind the scenes for the first time. Theatre credits include: *Certainly Not Sullivan Cabaret*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Le Regole Della Natura*. Desi is thrilled to be working with such a wonderfully creative and accomplished team.

**Shanti Gonzales** is a U3 Honours Drama & Theatre Student with a minor in Anthropology. Montreal theatre credits include *lower(the)depths* (actor, MAI), *Blue Planet* (actor, Moyses Hall), *Look Back in Anger* (director, TNC), McGill Drama Festival (director, Players' Theatre), and *Cloud 9* (actor, Moyses Hall). She is also the founder and executive artistic director of *CoffeeSpoons Theatre Project*, a community theatre company based in Boston, MA. She is abuzz with joy and gratitude to have had the opportunity to work on *The Vibrator Play* with this electric collective of humans.

**Tom Gould** (Mr. Daldry) is a second year Arts student. This is the first production he has been involved with at McGill. Theatre credits include: *Flames Over New Jersey* (Double Edged Drama, showing in West End and Edinburgh Fringe), *The Union* (Double Edged Drama), *Is He Dead?*, and *Attempts On Her Life*. Tom is very much looking forward to getting to know the Drama & Theatre Program as well as working with this specific cast and crew.

**Maia de Graaf** (Assistant Stage Manager) grew up in various countries across East Africa where she first participated in a stage production, which was an Africanized Macbeth as a stage manager. She continued to pursue her stage managing dreams for the rest of her High School years. Upon arriving at McGill she infiltrated the theatre community as lighting designer of the Savoy Society's productions of *HMS Pinafore* and *Mikado*. She presently is the assistant producer of Savoy Society's *Merry Widow*.

## Biographies cont:

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**Nathaniel Hanula-James** (Leo) is a U3 Drama & Theatre Major at McGill University. He has a minor in European Culture. Previous credits include: *Blue Planet* (McGill Theatre Lab), *Timon of Athens* (Tuesday Night Cafe Theatre), and *Tick, Tick...BOOM!* (Tuesday Night Cafe Theatre). Thank you to the phenomenal cast and crew of *In the Next Room* for an electrifying experience.

**Sandrine Jaumard** (Elizabeth) is a first-year Master's student in the French Department at McGill University. Previous productions include *Les Belles Soeurs* (Player's) and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Technical Director - AUTS). Sandrine would like to thank Myrna and Shanti for their amazing dedication- she learned so much from them- as well as everyone who worked on this production. Bon spectacle!

**Izzy Kalichman** (Costumes) is in U1 at McGill University. This is her first time being involved in a McGill production and she plans on being a part of many more. Theater credits include: *Guys and Dolls* (Peters Theater), *Noises Off* (Salter Theater), *Romeo and Juliet* (Peters Theater) and *The 39 Steps* (Peters Theater). Izzy is thrilled to be working with such an unbelievable cast and crew!

**Katherine Yvonne Kellner** (Lighting Technician). Katherine is very pleased to be debuting her technical skills at the beautiful Moyses Hall this year. Her previous work in theatre includes stage managing for the McGill Drama Festival and for the upcoming AUTS production of *RENT*. She first began at McGill in Psychology but couldn't resist the pull of the stage and all its glamour. She is now pursuing Drama & Theatre as her major and career path. Katherine thanks her wonderful team for the great experiences she has gained!



**Eléonore Lamothe** (Costumes) is a U2 student studying Drama and Mathematics here at McGill. You will usually see her on stage doing what she loves; acting. Credits include *Oh! What a Lovely War*, *Round Dance*, *In Praise of Love* (Players' Theatre). For this production, she has the privilege of being part of Catherine Bradley's costuming class, and is in charge of corsetry. Although she has been sewing since the tender age of six, this is the first time she is working on the aesthetic aspect of a theatre production. Eléonore is absolutely thrilled to be working with such a vibrant team and hopes to explore the art of costuming more often.

**Linna Lin** (Her Chinese name is Na Lin, Set/Props Crew) is an exchange student in the Faculty of Law for one semester. As a law student in China, she seldom has chance to be the part of a professional play. Linna is excited to take this challenge and work with the amazing team in her exchange semester!

**Rana Liu** (Set Construction) is a second year student double majoring in Political Sciences and Drama & Theatre at McGill. Theatre credits include: *H.M.S. Pinafore* (Savoy Society), *Thyestes* (McGill Classics Play) and *9 to 5: The Musical* (Marianopolis Theatre Company). Rana is extremely grateful to have worked alongside such an amazing cast and crew, and hopes you enjoy the show!

**Sarah McFadden** (Stage Manager/ Costume Assistant) is a fifth year McGill student double majoring in English Drama & Theatre and History. Sarah has enjoyed working on costumes for the last four Department of English shows and is very excited to be working on this show from the completely new and exciting side of stage managing. Sarah loves working on Moyses Hall mainstage shows and could not have asked for better classmates, cast and supervisors to share in this production with.

## Biographies cont:

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**Sophia K. Metcalf** (Mrs Givings) is a second year student at McGill University studying Music and Psychology. Past appearances on McGill stages include: Boatswain (*HMS Pinafore*), Clown (*Oh What A Lovely War!*), Dr Muller (MDF: *Madness Machine*), and as a soprano in Schulich Singers. She is so pleased to be playing Catherine Givings in the English Department's production of *In the Next Room*. Love to cast, crew, family, and friends. Enjoy the show!

**Manon Meyre** (Costume Crew Head) is in her third year at McGill University doing a Bachelor's degree in Management, focusing on marketing and international business. For this year's production Manon has joined the costuming team. Her interest in costuming comes from her ballerina background. Manon is more than happy to be working in such a stimulating and creative environment!

**Clara Nizard** (Sabrina Daldry) is in her fourth and final year of an honours program in Drama & Theatre at McGill. Previous stage credits include *Cloud 9*, *Panic!*, *Oh! What a lovely war*, *Round Dance* and most recently *lower(the)depths*. She is thrilled to be working with the Moyses team again this year, and thanks all of them for the hours of labour and dedication put into this project.

### **Kessara Ol and Antonella Anania (freelance hairstylists and instructors).**

Kessara and Antonella, masters of their craft, keep up with the latest techniques and hair trends as they appear on the fashion scene. They are constantly working on their own innovative techniques always pushing the boundaries of hair. They regularly style hair for fashion shows, photo shoots and theatre productions.

**Aletha Persaud** (Costumes) is a final year Fibres major from Concordia University. She is now taking transfer credits in the McGill Drama & Theatre program. This is Aletha's first time working in theatre, and she is excited to experience the McGill vibe!

**Mikey Schanz** (Sound Designer) is a 4th year Math major. When not balancing equations he can be found at the different theatres across McGill. As the production manager of Players' and as the technical director for AUTS, he has his hands full, but that doesn't stop him from being very proud to bring you the sound design for this semester's show.

**Myrna Wyatt Selkirk** (Director) is an Associate Professor in McGill's Department of English Drama and Theatre Program where she teaches acting and directing. At McGill, she has directed *Blue Planet*, *Cloud 9*, *A Dream Play*, *The Good Person of Sichuan*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Zadie's Shoes*, *The Sea*, *A Streetcar*, *Tooth and Nail*, *Bonjour la Bonjour*, *Twelfth Night* and *Life and Limb*, among other productions.

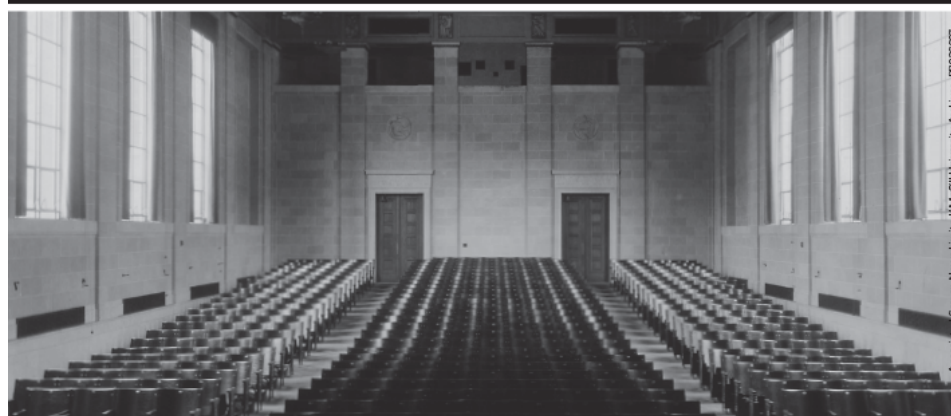
**Felicity Strasser** (Costume Crew Head) is in her fourth year at McGill, majoring in Theatre and Psychology. Last year she performed in Moyse Hall in *Blue Planet* and she is thrilled to work on this stage again. She would like to thank the entire cast and crew for their incredible hard work, and energy. Felicity is extremely excited to be working with such an amazing team.

### **Special Thanks To:**

Julien Brousseau, Marrison Lewis, Heather Mac-Intosh, Gilles McSween, Evika Page, Kira Page, Brendan Roche, David Surette, McGill School of Architecture, Centaur Theatre and The National Theatre School.

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For further information, please contact:  
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