

Wayne Burns

ACTRA | CAEA | SAG Eligible

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I'm a Canadian actor and creator, raised on the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq in Wagobatik/Truro, Nova Scotia. A graduate of The National Theatre School of Canada, I've received two Theatre Nova Scotia Awards, an ACTRA Maritimes nomination, and was named a Breakthrough Theatre Artist by *NOW Magazine*. I'm best known for playing Lykos, the Prince of Athens, in Syfy's *Olympus* and Tyler Ward in Michael Ross Albert's *Miss*. I co-founded *Dark Nights*, Toronto's longest-running intersectional conversation series, and have produced work for Souleppper Theatre, Harbourfront Centre, Fall for Dance North, and others. As a filmmaker, my work has screened internationally and been supported by the NFB, CBC, OUTtv, and major Canadian arts councils. I divide my time between Toronto, New York, and Nova Scotia.

Theatre Credits

MAD MADGE	Thomas, Trudy	Nightwood Theatre, Toronto, ON
THE LAST SHOW ON EARTH (™)!	Ayo	Neptune Theatre, Halifax, NS
SUMMER OF SEMITISM	Saint	Winnipeg Jewish Theatre, Winnipeg, MN
YAGA	Det. Rapp, Henry Kalles	Highland Arts Theatre, Sydney, NS
ESSAY	Jeffery	Matchstick Theatre, Halifax, NS
GOOD GRIEF	Parker	Ships Company Theatre, Parrsboro, NS
DOCK MOTHER GOD SOCIETY	Jay	Bloodpact Theatre, Toronto, ON
FEARLESS	Daniel, Tiger Vanier	fu-GEN Theatre, Toronto, ON
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE	Kit Marlowe	Neptune Theatre, Halifax, NS
CRAVE	A	Pure Carbon Theatre, Toronto, ON
MISS	Tyler Ward	Unit 102 Theatre Co. Toronto, ON
ROMEO + JULIET	Benvolio	Shakespeare in the Ruff, Toronto, ON
LIONESS (Tour)	Maria; Writer, Creator	Dresser Drawer Productions
BOYS FROM THE BURBS	Angelo	Empty Room Collective, Toronto, ON
TOUGH CASE	Dane Timbrell	Left Foot First Productions, Halifax, NS
WITH BATED BREATH (Staged Reading)	Willy	Plutonium Playhouse, Halifax, NS
MERLIN	Arthur	Halifax Theatre for Young People, Halifax, NS

Workshops + Development

CAKE	Creator, Performer	Summerworks, Toronto, ON
DRAG QUEEN STORYTIME	Adrena Chrome	Tarragon Theatre, Toronto, ON
MERQUEER	Aiden	Pemicann Theatre, Toronto, ON
CAKE	Creator, Performer	The Theatre Centre, Toronto, ON
MAD MADGE	Thomas, Trudy	Nightwood Theatre, Toronto, ON
THE LAST SHOW ON EARTH (™)!	Ayo	PARC, Halifax, NS
NEVER GONNA GIVE YOU UP	Creator, Performer	In The Soil Festival, Sainte-Catherines, ON
MR. WONDERFUL AND I	Director, Dramaturg	Page One Theatre, Halifax, NS
TROJAN GIRLS	Talthybius, Hermes	Outside the March, Toronto, ON
GOOD GRIEF	Parker	Ships Company Theatre, Parrsboro, NS
THE HARD WORK OF ELEPHANTS	Alex	Bloodpact Theatre, Toronto, ON
HEY, MAY, HEY	Tom	Forward March Festival, Toronto, ON
FASTLOVE	Creator, Performer	Buddies in Bad Times, Toronto, ON
SILA	Thomas	Factory Theatre, Toronto, ON

Film Credits

EEL	Lead	Dresser Drawer; Dir: Wayne Burns
FASTLOVE	Lead	Dresser Drawer; Dir: Wayne Burns
SHARP CORNER	Principal	Neon; Dir: Jason Buxton
THE PLAYERS	Principal	Hawkeye Films; Dir: Sarah Galea-Davis

LONGING	Large Principal	Wishing Tree; Dir: Savi Gabizon
LIAR	Lead	Dresser Drawer; Dir: Wayne Burns
A DINNER PARTY	Lead	Lucky Dime; Dir: Michelle Kaye
WHITE NIGHT	Principal	Multiname; Dir: Matt Purdy
THE GIFT GIVER	Lead	Dresser Drawer; Dir: Denis Theriault
501	Lead	Triple 7 Films; Dir: Paul Gross
BONE DEEP	Lead	Off The Leash; Dir: Jeremy Webb
ALL THE WRONG REASONS	Principal	Shore Road Pictures; Dir: Gia Milani
BLACKBIRD	Principal	Emotion Pictures; Dir: Jason Buxton

TV Credits

SKYMED	Principal	CBS; Dir: John Stead
WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS	Principal	FX; Dir: Yanna Gorskaya
AVOCADO TOAST: THE SERIES	Principal	OUTtv; Dir: Sam Coyle
SLO PITCH	Recurring	IFC; Dir: J Stevens
SO THAT HAPPENED	Recurring	Fearless; Dir: Matkai Burmaster
MURDOCH MYSTERIES	Guest Star	CBC; Dir: Don McBeartry
REMEDY	Guest Star	Global; Dir: Anne Wheeler
OLYMPUS	Series Regular	SyFy; Dir: Nick Willing
MR. D	Recurring	CBC; Dir: Steve Wright

Voice Over

REALMS	Supporting	Beyond Capture Studios
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Filmography

SUMMER OF SEMITISM	Co-Director, Producer	Narrative Feature
FEATHERWEIGHT	Producer	Narrative Short
EEL	Writer, Director, Producer	Narrative Short
BUNKER TIME!	Producer	Narrative Short
FASTLOVE	Writer, Director, Producer	Narrative Short
GREENHORN	Producer	Narrative Short
SOAP	Producer	Narrative Short
RUN	Writer, Director, Designer	Mixed Media Installation
A QUEERS GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL LIVING	Exec. Producer	Feature Documentary
TESSEL	Producer	Dance Short
A REVOLUTION OF LOVE	Producer	Dance Short
#CANCELLED	Co-Writer, Co-Director, Producer	Narrative Short
HERE COMES THE RAIN AGAIN	Writer, Director, Producer	Narrative Short
BODY SO FLUORESCENT	Producer	Narrative Short
LIAR	Writer, Director, Producer	Narrative Short
SLY: HOW TO SELF-SUSPEND	Director, Producer	Documentary Short
CURTAINS	Writer, Director, Editor, Designer	Mixed Media Installation
CHEESE	Producer, First Assistant Director	Narrative Short
PREY	Producer	Narrative Short
THE GIFT GIVER	Producer	Narrative Short
PROJECT: CNY	Producer	Narrative Short
WANTED	Writer, Producer	Narrative Short

Residencies

- Night Shift, **The Theatre Centre**, Toronto, ON, 2024 (*CAKE*)
- **Directors Lab North**, Tarragon Theatre, Toronto, ON, 2022
- Eastern Front Theatre - Digital Macros: Connections, Dartmouth, NS, 2022 (*Run*)
- Swallow-a-Bicycle Theatre - DiscomfortLAB, Calgary, AB, 2019 (*fastLOVE*)

- **The Gladstone Hotel**, Toronto, ON, 2016-2017 (*Dark Nights: A Conversation Series*)
- **The Theatre Centre**, Toronto, ON, 2015-2016 (*Dark Nights: A Conversation Series*)

Selected Exhibitions

- Atlantic International Film Festival - Halifax, NS, 2025 (EEL)
- Inside Out LGBTQ Film Festival - Toronto, ON, 2025 (*fastLOVE*)
- Roze Filmdagen: LGTBQ Film Festival - Amsterdam, NL, 2025 (*fastLOVE*)
- Vancouver Queer Film Festival - Vancouver, BC, 2023 (*A Queer's Guide to Spiritual Living*)
- Inside Out Film Festival - Toronto, ON, 2023 (*A Queer's Guide to Spiritual Living*)
- **Malton Gallery** - "Awakenings" - Toronto, ON, 2022 (*A Revolution of Love*)
- Festival Arts Saint-Sauveur - Online - Saint-Sauveur, QC, 2021 (*TESSEL*)
- **American Black Film Festival** - Online - South Beach, FL, 2021 (*A Revolution of Love*)
- Toronto Women Film Festival - Online - Toronto, ON, 2021 (*TESSEL*)
- Screen Dance Film Festival - Online - Stockholm, SE (*A Revolution of Love*)
- Festival Internacional de Teatro Mercosur - Online - Cordoba, ARG, 2021 (*TESSEL*)
- Melbourne Queer Film Festival - Online - St Kilda, VIC, 2021 (*BODY SO FLUORESCENT*)
- **City of Toronto**: Awakenings - Online - Toronto, ON, 2020 (*A Revolution of Love*)
- Image+Nation Film Festival - Online - Montreal, QC, 2020 (*LIAR*)
- Inside Out Film Festival - "BOLD" - Online - Toronto, ON, 2020 (*BODY SO FLUORESCENT*)
- Inside Out Film Festival - "Local Heroes" - Online - Toronto, ON, 2020 (*LIAR*)
- FilmPride LGBTQ Film Festival - Online - Toronto, ON, 2020 (*LIAR*)
- Just FKN Make Film Festival - Online - Toronto, ON, 2020 (*#Cancelled*)
- Dark Day Monday: 23 - "It's Not Too Late" - The Burdock Music Hall, Toronto, ON, 2020 (*Curtains*)
- Fluid Fest - "Body in Space" - **cSpace King Edward**, Calgary, AB, 2018 (*Curtains*)
- **Image+Nation Film Festival** - Montreal, QC, 2017 (*The Gift Giver*)
- OUTEast Film Festival - Halifax, NS, 2017 (*The Gift Giver*)
- Out South Queer Film Festival - Durham, SC, 2017 (*The Gift Giver*)
- NewFest - New York, NY, 2017 (*The Gift Giver*)
- **Inside Out Film Festival** - TIFF Bell Lightbox - Toronto, ON, 2017 (*The Gift Giver*)
- REELWorld Film Festival - Toronto Youth Choice Award - Toronto, ON, 2016 (*Project: CNY*)

Community Engagement

- Jury Member - New and Emerging Creative Arts Grant - Canada Council for the Arts, 2025
- Host - *Direct Address: A Conversation Series*, 2024-Present
- Facilitator - Mock Jury Workshop - Generator/TAPA, 2024
- Jury Member - New Play Award - Toronto Fringe, 2024
- Career Mentor - ASPIRE Program - **Covenant House Toronto**, 2023 - Present
- Jury Member - Queer Your Stories Film Competition - OUTActraTO, 2023-Present
- Guest Performer - Dragging Mason County: Book Launch - GladDay BookShop, 2023
- Jury Member - New And Emerging Creators Grant - **Canada Council for the Arts**, 2023
- Guest Artist - *This Inescapable City* - Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, 2022
- Guest Speaker - Directing Actors - George Brown College, 2022
- Jury member - Canadian Screen Awards, 2021-2022
- Mentor - QueerFutures 2099 - **Soulpepper Theatre**, 2021
- Guest Speaker - "Wayne Burns" - Avocado Toast: The Podcast, 2020
- Facilitator - Toronto's International Short Film Festival, 2019
- Facilitator - "Storytelling Across Disciplines" - **The National Arts Centre** - PACTcon, 2018
- Guest Speaker - "Wayne Burns" - Natural Element Podcast, 2018
- Host, Facilitator - *Dark Nights: A Conversation Series*, 2015-2018
- Panellist - "PRIDE Toronto" - **Urban Outfitters/FujiFilm**, 2017
- Panellist - "Now What: An Emerging Artists Guide..." - Theatre Ontario, 2016
- Facilitator - "Cultivating Tomorrow's Artists" - Theatre Ontario, 2015
- Member - Youth Advisory Committee - Theatre Ontario, 2015

Grants & Commissions

- Cobequid Arts Council - Recipient, 2025 (EEL)
- Canada Council for the Arts - Arts Abroad Travel Grant, 2025 (*fastLOVE*)
- Canada Council for the Arts - Concept to Realization Grant, 2023 (*fastLOVE*)
- Ontario Arts Council - Tarragon Theatre Recommender Grant, 2022 (*fastLOVE*)
- **CBC** - Broadcasting License "Canadian Reflections", 2019 (*LIAR*)
- Toronto Arts Council - Media Arts Grant, 2019 (*SLY: How to Self-Suspend*)
- **NFB** - Filmmaker Assistance Program Grant, 2019 (*SLY: How to Self-Suspend*)
- Ontario Arts Council - Artists in Communities Grant, 2017 (*Dark Nights: A Conversation Series*)

Awards

- Future of Film Showcase - "Best Screenwriting" - Winner, 2025 (*Greenhorn*)
- Canadian Film Festival - "Best Performance in a Short" - Winner, 2025 (*Greenhorn*)
- **Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award** - "Community Leadership" - Winner, 2021 (*A Revolution of Love*)
- ACTRA Maritimes Awards - "Best Performance - Category 4" - Winner, 2021 (*LIAR*)
- Inside Out Film Festival - "Emerging Canadian Artist" - Winner, 2020 (*BODY SO FLUORESCENT*)
- Just FKN Make Film Festival - "Best Director" - Winner, 2020 (*#Cancelled*)
- ACTRA x Inside Out - "Queer Your Stories" - Winner, 2020 (*BODY SO FLUORESCENT*)
- **NOW Magazine** - Breakthrough Theatre Artist, 2018 (*Miss*)
- My Entertainment Awards - "Best Actor" - Nominee, 2018 (*Miss*)
- Canada Shorts Film Festival - Finalist, 2018 (*Prey*)
- **Inside Out Film Festival** - Film Finance Forum - Finalist, 2017 (*The Gift Giver*)
- Toronto Youth Shorts Film Festival - "Audience Choice" - Winner, 2016 (*Project: CNY*)
- Feedspot.com - "Top 20 Acting Blogs on the Internet" - Winner, 2016 (*An Actor's Life*)
- **ACTRA** Maritimes Awards - "Best Actor in a Short Film" - Nominee, 2013 (*Bone Deep*)
- Atlantic Film Festival - "Best Dramatic Short" - Winner, 2012 (*Gravity's Pull*)
- Nova Scotia Talent Trust - "Theatre Nova Scotia Award" - Winner, 2012
- Nova Scotia Talent Trust - "Theatre Nova Scotia Award" - Winner, 2011
- **Neptune Theatre** - "Edmund C. Bovey Bursary" - Recipient, 2010

Training

- Motion & Performance Capture - Ivan Sherry, Carlo Mastroni - MoCapU, Toronto, ON, 2025
- Scene Study - David LaFontaine - 102 Actors Lab, Toronto, ON, 2019 - Present
- Meisner Technique - Shaun Benson - Toronto, ON, 2022 - 2023
- Playwriting Intensive - Rosamund Small - Online, 2022
- **Audition Psych 101** - Michael Kostroff - Online, 2022
- Improv for Actors I & II - Paloma Nunez - **The Second City**, Toronto, ON, 2018
- On-Camera Class - Sarah Kay & Jenny Lewis, ACTRA Conference, Toronto, ON, 2017
- Red Nose Clown - John Beale - John Beale Studios, Toronto, ON, 2016
- Meisner Technique - Stephanie Jones - Stephanie Jones Studio, Toronto, ON, 2015-2017
- **SummerWorks Leadership Intensive Program** (S.L.I.P) - Joseph Recinos, Mumbi Tindyebwa, Michael Wheeler - Generator, Toronto, ON, 2015
- Mechanicals Program - Nina Lee Aquino, Nigel Shawn Williams - **Factory Theatre**, Toronto, ON, 2015
- Acting Program - Various - **The National Theatre School of Canada**, Montreal, QC, 2011-2014
- Pre-Professional Training Program - Lee Jay Campbell, Mauralee Austin, Sherry Lee Hunter, Alexis Milligan, Garry Williams - Neptune Theatre, Halifax, NS, 2011

Arts Management

Owner, Creative Producer

- Dresser Drawer Productions, 2015 - Present

Administrative & Producing Associate

- **Impulse Theatre**, 2025-Present

Associate Producer

- Lester Trips (Theatre), *Honey I'm Home*, 2024

Studio Coordinator, Assistant Producer

- **fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company**, 2015 - 2022

Creative Director (Co-Founder alongside Luke Reece)

- *Dark Nights: A Conversation Series*, 2015 - 2018