

# Neptune Theatre selects Annie Valentina for new role: Artistic Accomplice

**June 28, 2018 (Halifax, NS)** – An accomplice could be seen as a partner-in-crime, a sidekick, or someone operating just outside of the rulebook.

Neptune Theatre is certain their newly-appointed Artistic Accomplice will bring a fresh perspective, talent and vision that is anything but a crime. Neptune Theatre is proud to announce that Annie Valentina is joining their staff as Artistic Accomplice, a newly-created role that will work closely with Artistic Director Jeremy Webb.

Valentina will work closely with Webb on implementing the 2018-19 season; participate in the planning of Neptune's 2019-20 season; assist with the choosing of plays, casting, project and production development, and donor and sponsor relations, with an emphasis on new performance creation.

"We were thrilled with the response to this job posting," says Artistic Director Jeremy Webb. "We had a large number of high-quality applicants from across the county. I look forward to working with Annie and hatching plans and finding more ways to grow Neptune's reputation as a cultural incubator."

"The Artistic Accomplice role is part of my plan to enhance Neptune's role in the Nova Scotia arts community," continues Webb. "Coupled with our newly-formed emerging artist program, The Chrysalis Project, Neptune now clearly has its eye on nurturing the next generation of theatre practitioners."

Neptune was searching for someone who has an established practice of creating new theatre work, an affinity for boundary-pushing art and a passion for independent producing/performance; someone experienced with community-engaged, intercultural artistic practices and will be 'on board' to join the Artistic Director in challenging convention and pushing well-worn boundaries. Valentina fit the bill.

"I'm beyond thrilled to be joining Jeremy and the Neptune Theatre family as Artistic Accomplice," says Valentina. "I look forward to contributing to the Neptune vision and sharing my passion for contemporary theatre with a poetic, rebellious heart."

Annie Valentina has been a stalwart of the Halifax arts scene since the early 2000s, as both creator and producer of independent theatre. She is the head of The Doppler Effect Productions – the award-winning company she co-founded with Michael McPhee which has put ten world premieres on local stages. Annie is a strong believer in supporting Atlantic Canadian talent, new work development, and art as catalyst for sociocultural change. In her own artistic practice, she is a playwright, director and performer, best known to local audiences for her autobiographical solo show *Alien* which earned her a 2015 Merritt nomination. She is a film and TV actor and in her (alleged) spare time, she enjoys gaming, yoga, and smashing the patriarchy.

Find out more about Neptune Theatre on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube channel NeptuneHFX.

Neptune Theatre is wrapping up its 55<sup>th</sup> season and kicking off its 56<sup>th</sup> season with the summer productions *Argyle Street Kitchen Party* and *Five Guys Named Moe*. The remainder of the new season has been announced and subscriptions available for purchase. Located at 1593 Argyle Street, Neptune boasts two newly renovated stages: Fountain Hall and the Scotiabank Stage, plus a year-round Theatre School and a province-wide Young Neptune Company Tour.

