

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Panel Participants for *(Re)Setting the Stage: The Past, Present, and Future of Casting Practices in Canada.***

*Bringing together theatre professionals from across Canada, the panels will focus on how playwrights, directors, and actors are responding to the call for more diverse representation on Toronto stages.*

**Toronto, ON, May 27, 2021-** Organized by York University Professors Jamie Robinson and Marlis Schweitzer with support from Ph.D. graduate student Marilo Nuñez and undergraduate students Dante Jemmott, Cassandra Henry, and Zoe Marin, the event will bring together professional theatre directors, playwrights, actors, educators, and students from across Canada for a series of Zoom panel discussions organized across 2 days in May and June 2021.

*(Re)Setting the Stage: The Past, Present, and Future of Casting Practices in Canada* responds to the urgent need to address systemic racism in Canadian theatre.

The three 90-minute Zoom panels, each featuring professional theatre artists, are:

**MAY 31, 2021- 3-4:30 pm- LEGACIES OF HISTORICAL PRACTICES** with panellists Carmen Aguirre, Walter Borden, Jani Lauzon, Beatriz Pizano, and Kim Rampersad

**MAY 31, 2021, 6-7:30 pm- EMBRACING MORE INCLUSIVE/DIVERSE PRACTICES** with panellists Niña Lee Aquino, Kevin Hanchard, Marilo Nuñez, and David Yee

**JUNE 1, 2021, 6-7:30 pm- FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INNOVATION & CONNECTION** with panellists Tara Beagan, Augusto Bitter, Marjorie Chan, Emma Ferreira, and Mike Payette

**Significance of the Project**

The event is a response call for greater transparency and accountability in creative practices, including (but not limited to) casting decisions and play selection within the Canadian theatre industry. It aims to bring together professional artists to reflect on the harmful legacy of casting practices and to build towards a better, more equitable, future.

***(Re)Setting the Stage: The Past, Present, and Future of Casting Practices in Canada***

**May 31 at 3-4:30pm & 6-7:30pm, and June 1, 6-7:30pm**

More Info and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/resetting-the-stage-the-past-present-and-future-of-casting-practices-tickets-153708023837>

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