

What is [Out of the Woods](#)?: *Out of the Woods* is a [Forum Theatre](#) piece that will discuss issues surrounding intimate partner abuse among Two Spirit, Queer, & Trans (2SQT+) youth, using the lens of western folktales to highlight how, when, and why abuse goes unseen or unacknowledged in queer communities. Written by two queer abuse survivors, this play will endeavour to give 2SQT+ youth the tools and words to recognize, confront, and begin healing from interpersonal relationship violence in their own lives and communities.

Who are we looking for?: Eight 2SQT+ youth between the ages of **18 to 24**. *They do not need any theatre experience to participate. Participants will also not need to disclose or share personal experiences with abuse or trauma at any point throughout the process.*

We recognize that Youth living at multiple intersections of marginalization are especially susceptible to intimate partner violence, and as such we would like to hear from a wide variety of voices and identities within the community.

When is it?: It will be a three hour workshop taking place on **August 14th, 2021 from 2 to 5PM**. We will be offering participants an **honorarium of \$60.00** for this time.

Where is it?: It will be held online via Zoom

What will we be doing?: We will be engaging in idea-generating exercises, games, and facilitated discussions around important themes related to healthy relationships as well as intimate partner violence among 2SQT+ Youth. Some examples of idea generating games and exercises include, connecting word associations pertaining to places, spaces, phrases, and actions that may be signs of abuse, collective poem & story making exercises, etc.

What will not be expected of participants: While participants are definitely welcome to share their own experiences, throughout the entire process they will not be asked to disclose personal details or share lived experiences or interactions with trauma & abuse. We will also not be using or writing any one person's real-life experiences into the play. Instead we will draw on ideas, themes, and opinions shared in the workshop to inform the plays content and characters.

There will be a second workshop held at a later date (TBD) once the first draft is completed. Participants will also be invited to this second workshop to go over the draft, & provide feedback. This workshop is not mandatory, and all participants in attendance at this first workshop will have an opportunity to read the script.

Safety & Access Note:

We recognize that throughout this process people may feel triggered or upset by the content or subjects that arise. As such, we will take precautions to ensure it is a safer space for participants, facilitators, and active listeners to be present in. Some of these include regular check-ins around access needs, clearly stated boundaries/'rules' for the space (i.e. how folks can opt in or out of conversations safely, how participants can debrief about triggering or harmful content, "ouch" "oops"), resources present before, during, and after the workshop, and an active listener (*Ronnie Ali, see bio at bottom of page*) who will be available to debrief with participants during the session.

We will also be checking in about access needs before, during, and after the workshop, as well as offering other access measures such as CART Captioning and ASL (if needed).

Feel free to email us at thickettheatre@gmail.com or riveroliveira@gmail.com. You can also fill out a contact form at <https://www.riveroliveira.com/> and we will get in touch! We welcome any questions, comments, or concerns surrounding the application process, the workshop itself, or the piece. We are also happy to provide police references & checks if needed or wanted.

Please note that we are not putting out a public call on social media as we would like to ensure that the participants are already connected to supports within the community. Although, as mentioned earlier, we will be sharing resources as well. If any youth you are engaged with are interested in referring a friend to this project, have them email us at this address.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message. For more information about the project, I have attached the proposal that was written for the purposes of our grant.

This project is being supported by [Mixed Company Theatre](#), a Forum Theatre organization in Toronto, and the [Ontario Arts Council](#)

River Oliveira (they/he)

Co-Creator & Facilitator

River (they/he) is a white, queer, trans, & disabled artist based in Toronto, Ontario. They wear many hats but are largely a writer, performer, and sound designer. Their work often focuses on community, survival, & joy - they like exploring the ways in which stories shape our understanding of ourselves and the world around us.

Max Cameron Fearon (they/them)

Co-Creator & Facilitator

Max Cameron Fearon (they/them) is a queer, non-binary, Mad, multiply-disabled, and white Ashkenazi Jewish settler. In their work as an artist, facilitator, and arts worker, Max explores how our identities, communities, and experiences help shape our understandings of self and others. They've led community-centred arts programming for over 10 years, including Forum Theatre projects with youth, seniors, and schools.

Ronnie Ali (they/them)

Active Listener

Ronnie Ali (they/them/their), is a Registered Psychotherapist and the lead consultant at Leaves on a Stream. They are trans femme, non-binary, queer, a person of colour & an immigrant-settler.