

**A ONE YELLOW RABBIT PRODUCTION**

Written by Blake  
Brooker & Music  
by David Rhymer

**Jan 14 to 24, 2026**  
Big Secret Theatre

# DREAM MACHINE



## FOR DAVID

**David Rhymer, Composer  
(1953 - 2024)**



Photo by Sean Dennie

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

### **My Body speaks: I think it is my God**

An oratorio is a musical composition for voices and orchestra on a religious theme without costumes, scenery, or dramatic action. The Beat Movement and its activities were many and varied: proponents advocated experimentation in all forms – faith, food, sex, travel, art and work and through this formed their own strange orthodoxy. Dream Machine started off as a musical investigation of the lives of some of the Beat luminaries (William Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg and Brion Gysin) then it became something else. Fittingly, perhaps, and under the sway of the furious experimentation and playfulness the Beats were famous for, we began to experiment ourselves.

Could we create a musical without characters or plot?

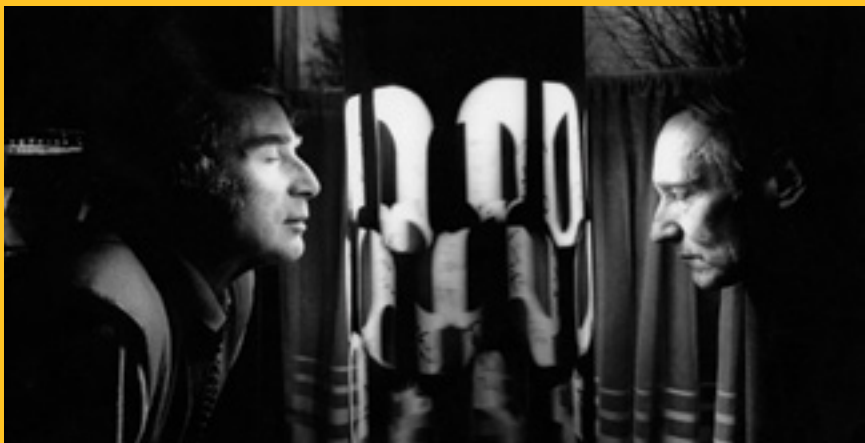
Could we musically induce in the audience the emotions of these courageous, idiosyncratic and frustrated minds?

The Beats embodied a new kind of faith. Their belief in the benefits of multicultural synthesis, sexual tolerance, and resistance to commercial and societal conformity continue to permeate contemporary culture. If the Beats are a kind of religion, and an oratorio is a kind of love letter to religious feeling, then Dream Machine is our kind of oratorio – our billet-doux to this gang of notoriously wild outsiders who made our world better. Or if not better, they made it easier, just a little easier to be different.

**Blake Brooker**, Writer/Director

## WHAT IS A DREAM MACHINE?

The Dream Machine was a device that produced flickering light, invented by Brion Gysin and Ian Sommerville in 1960. The copy used in One Yellow Rabbit's production has been built according to Gysin and Sommerville's exact specifications. Their machine was meant to transport the user into a waking dream state. The inventors knew that it was capable of producing a drugless high, and hoped that it would become a common household appliance. It never caught on.



Brion Gysin and his Dream Machine, William Burroughs, circa 1970, London

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A ONE YELLOW RABBIT PRODUCTION

# DREAM MACHINE

Big Secret Theatre, Werkbund Centre  
January 14 - 24, 2026

Written by **Blake Brooker** & Music by **David Rhymer**

Featuring the performances of

**Denise Clarke** • **Andy Curtis** • **Kris Demeanor**  
**Jonathan Lewis** • **Allison Lynch** • **Peter Moller**  
**Geoffrey Simon Brown** • **Augustine Yates**

Directed by **Blake Brooker**

Staged by **Denise Clarke**

Musical Direction by **Jonathan Lewis**

Sound Designed and Composed by **Dewi Wood**

Scenic Design by **Chris Cran**

Wardrobe Support by **Ralamy Kneeshaw**

Big Secret Theatre Technician and Lighting Designed by **Dylan Bauer**

Stage Managed by **Meredith Johnson**

Production Assistance by **Natalie Inga Gauthier**

Production Management by **Nole Richardson**

Technical Direction by **Mike Skwara**

Company Management by **Johanne Deleeuw**

Dream Machine Fabrication by **Scott Christian**

Original Sound Design by **Richard McDowell**

Fragments of text from America and A Dream Record by **Allen Ginsberg**

Produced by **Oliver Armstrong**

Dream Machine takes place in the poetic space occupied by the Beat Poets

The performance runs 80 minutes with no intermission

## CAST & CREATIVE TEAM



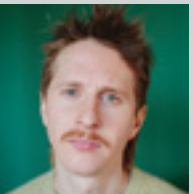
### DYLAN BAUER

Since graduating from the University of Lethbridge, Dylan has settled in to the Calgary arts scene. He loves all things technical; seeing a show come together and the impact it has on an audience is what keeps him passionate about his work. He is grateful for the opportunities One Yellow Rabbit has given him with getting back into lighting design, and hopes that his work on Dream Machine is faithful to its previous versions while also being bold and supportive of this presentation.



### BLAKE BROOKER CM

One Yellow Rabbit co-founder and Artistic Director, Blake is a graduate of the University of Calgary. He has created and collaborated on many projects as writer, director, or dramaturge, specializing in new works. Blake is a member of the Order of Canada and a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.



### GEOFFREY SIMON BROWN

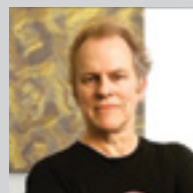
Geoffrey Simon Brown is an award-winning Albertan actor, playwright, and theatre creator. He's a founding member of the Major Matt Mason Collective where he has produced small-scale independent theatre since 2010. His plays include Static, Michael Mysterious, The Circle, Night, Progress, If I Could Tell You Everything (with Theatre Junction's high school ensemble), and the current adaptation of A Christmas Carol for Theatre Calgary. As an actor he has worked on most of the major stages in Calgary as well as some living rooms and basements. He is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada. More at [geoffreysimonbrown.com](http://geoffreysimonbrown.com)



### DENISE CLARKE CM

Denise Clarke is a theatre artist who works as a choreographer, actor, director, playwright and teacher. She is the Associate Artist and a permanent member of the One Yellow Rabbit Theatre Ensemble and the director of the OYR BeautifulYoungArtist program.

Clarke was awarded the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Distinguished Artist Award in 2007 and the City of Calgary Mayor's Distinguished Artist Award in 2011. She received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Calgary and was appointed a member of the Order of Canada, both in 2013.



### CHRIS CRAN RCA

Chris Cran is a Canadian visual artist living in Calgary. In 2016 he had a large survey exhibition (1984 – 2016) at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa that combined exhibitions from the Art Gallery of Alberta (2015) and the Southern Alberta Art Gallery (2015). More recently he has had exhibitions at the Glenbow Museum, the Nickle Art Galleries and the Whyte Museum in Banff. As well, he was awarded the Royal Canadian Geographical Society's Lawrence J. Burpee Medal in 2018. He is represented by Trépanier Baer Gallery in Calgary and Wilding Cran Gallery in Los Angeles.



### ANDY CURTIS

Andy is a longtime ensemble member and has performed, played and toured with One Yellow Rabbit since 1987. A few favourites (among many) are Nightingale Alley, Featherland, Doing Leonard Cohen, Mata Hari, and Alien Bait. Some faves outside the company include: The 39 Steps and The Woman in Black for Vertigo, Waiting For Godot with Black Radish Theatre, and Making Treaty 7.



### KRIS DEMEANOR

Kris Demeanor is a singer/songwriter and long time One Yellow Rabbit collaborator, appearing in 'Calgary, I Love You But You're Killing Me' and 'Moon, Moon, No Moon'. He's been involved with the Making Treaty 7 Cultural Society since its inception, and often works with Ghost River Theatre. Kris was the first Poet Laureate of Calgary 2012/13. Kris would like to honour Michael Green and acknowledge the impossibility of stepping into his wild shoes.



### NATALIE INGA GAUTHIER

Natalie is a musician, audio technician and voice coach. Originally trained as an actor, she studied at Clown Farm and Voice Intensive after theatre school. Highlight acting performances include one-person shows I, Claudia by Kristen Thomson and Easter Island by David van Belle. She has since focused her performance energy on her original music ([natalieinga.com](http://natalieinga.com)), and playing in local bands including L'omelette, Deicha & The Vududes, Joe Vickers, etc. She has also developed a passion for being offstage, playing technical roles. Thanks to the Dream Machine Dream Team for a wonderful experience, and love to Alex.





### MEREDITH JOHNSON

Meredith is a Moh'kinstsis (Calgary) based stage manager who is overjoyed to be remounting such an exciting piece of theatre! For One Yellow Rabbit: Gilgamesh Lay-Z-Boy, Room 333, Nightingale Alley. She has also worked with companies, large and small, throughout Alberta and Canada. Meredith is indebted to Johanne for being the first Rabbit to welcome her, the Ensemble for being such a good chosen family and David Rhymer, for all the beautiful music. This one's for you, Maestro.



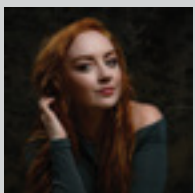
### RALAMY KNEESHAW

Ralamy is delighted to be associated with One Yellow Rabbit and the Rodeo as she gets to hang out with the cool kids! She is deeply grateful for all the talented hands and very large hearts who have made the High Performance Rodeos possible over the many years. Prior Rodeo: Goblin:Oedipus (Spontaneous Theatre). Ralamy loves collaborating with many folks in the city. Recently, she designed Wizard of Oz at ATP. She is honoured to currently be working on Ribstone with Lunchbox Theatre and, this spring, A Doll's House and Come From Away with Theatre Calgary. Enjoy the Rodeo!!!



### JONATHAN LEWIS

Jonathan David Lewis is a Canadian musician and composer. His career has led him to many corners of the world, both geographically and culturally, from flamenco to jazz manouche, to greek rembetika music and beyond. He has brought his musical experience to the stage many times since his first theatre experience in 1995, Mata Hari with One Yellow Rabbit. As both a performer and as a composer, he has been heard on stages from Vancouver to Ottawa, to Mexico City. Most recently, he composed the music for Sense & Sensibility at the Stratford Festival. Jonathan lived in Calgary for many years, but now calls Mexico City home.



### ALLISON LYNCH

Allison is thrilled to be back in her hometown with the Rabbits! A five-time Betty winner, and the Avenue 2024 Top 40 Under 40, Allison has appeared at The Stratford Festival, NAC, Theatre Calgary, The Grand, Drayton Festival, Arts Club, Vertigo, Persephone, Rainbow Stage, Catalyst, Mayfield, Lunchbox, Theatre Junction, Shakespeare Company, ATP, Chemainus, Forté, and with the Calgary and Malaysian Philharmonic. You can find Allison's music on all streaming platforms. Allison dedicates this performance to her beloved friend and mentor, The Maestro David Rhymer and blues master, Tim Williams — Thank you for the music. Love to Joe and the fam. [www.allisonlynchmusic.com](http://www.allisonlynchmusic.com)



### PETER MOLLER

Peter Moller is a Calgary-based musician/designer/painter/performer. He has run Egg Press Co., a graphic and sound design establishment since before you were born... probably. Peter was involved with the creation of Dream Machine over 20 years ago and what a long strange trip it has indeed been. For Michael. For Richard. For David. For Brigitte, for when we met and fell in love as the Dream Machine train began. To see and hear: [eggpress.ca](http://eggpress.ca)

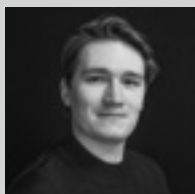


### DEWI WOOD

This design has been an opportunity to follow in the footsteps of OYR's inspirational sound designer and "Compuser," Richard McDowell, with heartfelt respect. It has been both a learning experience and an honour to strive to remain true to the original design while meeting the challenges of reimagining it.

With a lifetime of experience composing music and creating sound design across dance, film, documentary, advertising, immersive installations, live events, and digital media, Dewi is guided by one constant: serving storytelling.

It is a privilege to contribute to this inspired work and collaborate with the exceptional talent assembled. [www.infinitemloop.com](http://www.infinitemloop.com)



### AUGUSTINE YATES

Augustine Yates is a soloist, chamber musician, and composer who enjoys a career in multiple genres of music. He frequently plays in venues across Canada and has performed and recorded with many ensembles, including The Augustine Yates Piano Trio, The Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, The Dennis Kwok Jazz Orchestra, and The Rob Lee group. Yates shines as both a composer and performer. His music values improvisation and focuses on interplay within the ensemble.

Yates holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Humber College in Toronto. His primary teachers have included many of Canada's finest musicians, including Brian Dickinson, Robi Botos, and Adrean Farrugia.

### Equity Acknowledgement

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