



CORPORATE FINCH BY TAYLOR MARIE GRAHAM ONTARIO SUMMER 2023 TOUR

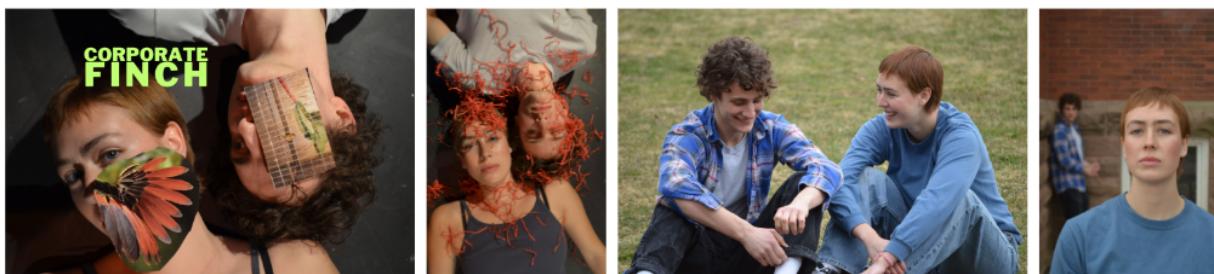
It's midnight in St. Jacobs, Ontario, and two local teenagers are breaking into an old abandoned factory. Will both of them make it out alive? Better come see for yourself! This creepy new one act thriller was one of three winners of Flush Ink Production's 22 hour horror playwrighting contest. Catch it this summer on our Ontario tour!

Corporate Finch was born summer 2022 in an old factory in St. Jacob's, Ontario. In the hopes of shaking up her writing routine, playwright **Taylor Marie Graham** joined the Flush Ink 22 hour playwrighting contest where playwrights are sent to creepy locations to write a new horror in 22 hours.

The goal for Taylor was to write a full one act thriller rooted in South Western Ontario in 22 hours and that's exactly what she did! At first she thought that it was likely that *Corporate Finch* would just be an exploratory writing experiment, one designed to help her achieve her goals for some other writing projects. What ended up happening in that factory late at night was Taylor wrote a play that engages with important issues of our time including teen sexual assault, consent, imagined Canadas, and rural identities. Flush Ink named *Corporate Finch* one of three winners of the contest and produced a workshop version in the Unhinged Festival in Kitchener, Ontario, December 2022 which Taylor directed. Throughout the audition process Taylor met her two key artistic collaborators associated with this project: Rainbow Kester, a fabulous emerging Anishinaabe actor in her early 20s, and Matthew Ivanoff, a talented former gymnast turned actor and technical theatre aficionado also in his early 20s. These two incredible budding theatre makers took on this high stakes two-hander as teenagers Finch and Jacob for the Unhinged production. They are excited to continue working on the play for upcoming productions at the Toronto Fringe, Here For Now Festival in Stratford, and Fringe North in Sault St. Marie summer 2023.

Matthew Ivanoff: "I am incredibly thankful to be playing a role in *Corporate Finch* because I believe that horror is an underserved genre in theatre spaces. It has the capacity to explore themes surrounding love, memory, morality, and absence in a way that isn't quite possible in other genres. This is clear from mediums ranging from film to video games; and *Corporate Finch* takes the genre to the live-theatre space in a new and heart-breaking way. I am excited to further develop the sound design and the role of Jacob to help bring love and horror to new audiences Summer 2023."

Rainbow Kester: "I am so grateful to get to play 'Finch' in *Corporate Finch*. I feel that the 2023 workshop process with Matt and Taylor taught me a lot about compassion and self-dignity. Plus, it made me a more confident actor. I can't wait to see what *Corporate Finch* has to teach me in 2023!"



Taylor Marie Graham: "I was blown away by both Matt and Rainbow's ability to sink into these roles to create dynamic and connected performances for the workshop. One important goal for this summer is to share their immense talent with new audiences in Toronto, Stratford, and Sault Ste Marie. I hope this play moves our audiences, scares them a little, and challenges their expectations. I hope they have conversations afterwards about what happens in the play and have questions about who has the potential of being dangerous in society. I hope we create an arresting experience full of a variety of emotions and feelings, a complex array of what it means to be human. I hope this play empowers women, empowers Indigenous performers, and pushes against misogynist stereotypes often found in the horror genre. Horror as a genre has some cleaning up to do, some reckoning with a misogynist past that is required. I hope audiences see the potential in horror to expose the difficult sides of human nature often hidden to empower those mistreated. I hope *Corporate Finch* demonstrates how talented young performers can be. I hope *Corporate Finch* highlights how accessible and affecting rural stories can be for urban/rural audiences alike. I hope this play prompts questions about Canadian identity. I hope this play takes the audience on an unexpected, yet deeply satisfying journey."



What Others are Saying:

Judith Thompson: "Taylor Graham is like no other playwright —she has truly found a voice and she is working that unique voice in the best way possible. I am looking forward to seeing her new play *Corporate Finch* Summer 2023 which after reading, I can say is so uniquely Taylor: real, magical, troubling in the best way, and deeply theatrical. It's wonderful that she has cast Rainbow Kester and Matthew Ivanoff in the play as well, who I have had the pleasure of teaching in playwriting, ensemble, and theatre theory classes as a professor at the University of Guelph. Both Matthew and Rainbow have long careers ahead of them as theatre makers in Canada. They are fabulous actors and artists, who are ready to make significant contributions to the Canadian theatre scene. What a wonderful way to start their professional careers, acting as Finch and Jacob this summer in *Corporate Finch*."

Nicole Smith (Waterloo Region Director and Playwright): "Huge congratulations to the *Corporate Finch* team. It's really magical & guttural & fairtalesque but grounded in so much reality & rooted in place & I just loved every second"

Deanna Kruger (Guelph Playwright) "Corporate Finch by Taylor Marie Graham is an eerie and startling play that's packed with suspense. Its story and characters are also deeply connected to the geography and stories of Southern Ontario"

Paddy Gillard Bentley (Waterloo Region Playwright and Producer) "A wonderful play and excellent performances by both actors"

Ciaran Myers (Waterloo Region Playwright) "Corporate Finch makes meticulous use of a celebrated and nuanced genre by taking it a step further. It tickles the audience's psyche as each fresh turn of the story makes us ask ourselves, what would I do? What am I afraid of? What am I capable of? This is an intimate one-act horror at its best."



TAYLOR MARIE GRAHAM → Playwright / Director

Taylor Marie Graham (she/her) is an award winning playwright, librettist, director, theatre researcher, and educator. She lives and works in Cambridge, Ontario, on Treaty 3, Haldimand Tract. Both her creative and scholarly work often explores rural feminist identities, the decolonization of bodies in space, and relationships to land/environment. Her plays and operas have been described as, “arresting and funny” (Lynn Slotkin), “an uncommonly cool theatrical experience” (MoT), “charmingly twisted” (Toronto Star), “searingly written” (Bill Mandel) and “profound, beautifully crafted . . . one of the most exciting new Canadian plays I’ve seen in a long time” (Christopher Hoile). She holds an MFA in Creative Writing and is completing a doctoral degree in English/Theatre at the University of Guelph. She also loves working with students as a sessional theatre professor at various institutions in South Western Ontario. www.taylormariegraham.com



RAINBOW KESTER → Actor “Finch”

Rainbow Kester is an Anishinaabe actor from Temagami, Ontario. She is currently finishing her fourth year at the University of Guelph, majoring in Theatre Arts. Most recently, Rainbow performed in University of Guelph’s School of English and Theatre Studies ensemble project as ‘Frankie’ in her self-written play *Sundried Tomatoes and Radio Shows!* Rainbow loves to play music, draw, paint, read, write, and explore nature. She wishes to bring new perspectives into people’s lives by spreading love and understanding with her art.



MATTHEW IVANOFF → Actor “Jake” & Sound Designer

Matthew Ivanoff is an actor and sound designer finishing up his theatre degree at UGuelph. Matthew gravitates toward roles and productions that explore identity shaped by generational and personal memory, reflections on food and environmental sustainability, and the de-stigmatization of mental health. Having performed in several theatre productions since 2014, his credits include roles in *Lord of the Flies*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Flick*, *War of the Worlds*, *Memories*, *Sundried Tomatoes and Radio Shows*, and *Amaryllis*. He has also appeared in several radio plays and fictional podcasts. His approach to sound design often comes from a musical place, as he spends much of his free time playing, repairing, and modifying instruments. Matthew is an alumnus of the Soulpepper City Youth Academy.

Other personnel include: lighting designer **David DeGrow**, stage manager **Lindsay McDonald**, set/costume designer **Terre Chartrand**, producer **Sabrina Spence**, fight director **Jennifer Dzialoszynski**, and administrative associate **Sebastian Biasucci**.

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