

# PRESS RELEASE—FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF RENOWNED CONTROVERSIAL UK PLAY *CONSENSUAL*

## **QUICK INFO:**

### ***CONSENSUAL***

**THE CONTROVERSIAL PLAY  
BY EVAN PLACEY**

**PROUDLY PRESENTED BY  
COOKIES & CREAM COLLECTIVE  
MARCH 26 – APRIL 11, 2020**



## **PUBLICIST DETAILS:**

**FOR ALL PRESS ENQUIRIES  
AND INTERVIEWS WITH  
MEMBERS OF THE  
PRODUCTION:**

**PUBLICIST & PRODUCER  
DEMI PEDERSEN  
604.700.3818  
demipedersen@yahoo.ca**

**Vancouver**—MARCH 2020—Debuting this March, at Performance Works on Granville Island, is the North American debut of Evan Placey’s explosive and thought-provoking play *Consensual*.

Premiering in 2015, in the UK, at the Ambassador Theatre, in a production by the National Youth Theatre, *Consensual* explores what happens when buried secrets catch up with you. As Head of Year 11, Diane is meant to be implementing the new 'Healthy Relationships' curriculum. But then Freddie arrives. She hasn't seen him since that night six years earlier when he was fifteen. She thinks he took advantage of her. He thinks she groomed him for months. Neither is sure. But when it comes to sex and consent, how far can you blur the lines?

With the recent cultural movements of #MeToo and #TimesUp, a pivotal moment in living history where people feel compelled —and in a safe enough space to share unsettling stories, Cookies & Cream Collective felt the time was right to bring this ground-breaking UK play to a North American audience.

Comprised of emerging and established artists, Cookies & Cream Collective aims to incite change in how we as a society view consent and sex education; not only as youths, but also as adults, particularly when for many of us, sex and relationships education at school was lacking. Cookies & Cream Collective is excited by the changes happening within our society, and wants further this conversation with work that inspires thought and make a difference.

The fact that *Consensual* is at its very core a troubling story, is felt by director, Jessica Anne Nelson. “I didn’t know whether I wanted to puke, cry, or scream. This play asks audiences to reconsider their ideas of sexual relationships and consent. Placey’s script highlights the importance of consent in creating healthy sexual relationships, while not shying away from the grey areas that life, consent, and interpersonal relationships can manifest.”

Asking difficult questions but not giving definitive answers, *Consensual* floods the audience with different perspectives and swaying emotions. The overall impression leaves audience members questioning their own moral compass, and confronting their own biases. It is a complicated and nuanced story that the entire Cookies & Cream team is eager to tackle head-on.

The original production was exceedingly well-received, and garnered high praise from the London theatrical community. One London review gave *Consensual* five stars and said, “The audience feels sympathy and horror, alternating with black and white, merging to grey over this topic at every turn. It raises questions which are difficult to answer, such as where should the line be drawn in the teacher and student relationship? We see teachers with good intentions trying to help and getting burned in the process and being investigated, suspended or at threat of losing their jobs, the danger of keeping secrets and what impact this can have on relationships and 15-year-olds acting like adults one minute and like children the next. Yet despite all the challenges and heightened emotions which we see and experience ourselves watching the play, real love and the desire to be loved are also portrayed and come through all the anger and sadness. NYT company manage this balance which reflects real life very effectively.” *Love London Culture*

Bronwyn Henderson, actor playing the role of Diane said, “I personally believe there are so many issues surrounding consent due to a gap in education. I did not receive any comprehensive education surrounding sexual consent. *Consensual* has an opportunity to bring this missing piece of knowledge to light, and to incite conversations for individuals like myself who were missing that education. I love how this play can unsettle an audience, and the immediacy of a theatrical performance only strengthens that aspect of the story, making *Consensual* a thought-provoking and controversial piece that will bring many active minds to the theatre. “

### **About Cookies & Cream Collective**

Cookies & Cream Collective strives to create high quality theatrical productions that provoke action, and create new conversations surrounding issues of sexual consent. In addition to engaging the community through their work, they implement safe intimacy practices in rehearsal for all their productions, inciting more a more thoughtful approach to staging intimacy throughout the Vancouver theatre community at large. By using theatre as a medium, their goal is to incite new and challenging conversations surrounding consent from the rehearsal hall to the stage, hopefully provoking more safe and healthy relationships throughout the Vancouver theatre community.

Since deciding to pursue *Consensual* as a project, the support the Cookies & Cream Collective has received from the local theatre community has been very encouraging. *Consensual* was selected to be a part of TheatreWire’s 2019/2020 season, as well as one of the inaugural productions selected by Boca Del Lupo to perform at Performance Works, in the Granville Island Theatre District.

In March 2019, the Collective held a staged reading of the show at the Havana Theatre, where audience members were blown away by the story and the questions the play forced them to ask themselves.

### **PRODUCTION INFORMATION:**

**SHOW: *CONSENSUAL* by Evan placey, prsented by cookies & cream collective.**

**WHO: DIRECTED BY JESSICA ANNE NELSON**

**WHEN: MARCH 26 – APRIL 11, 2020.**

**PREVIEW MARCH 26, 2020. OPENING NIGHT MARCH 27, 2020**

**PERFORMANCES:**

**TUESDAY - SATURDAY 8PM**

**MATINEES AT 2PM: SUNDAY MARCH 29, SATURDAY APRIL 4, and SUNDAY APRIL 5**

**WHERE: PERFORMANCE WORKS, GRANVILLE ISLAND, 1218 CARTWRIGHT ST, VANCOUVER**

**TICKETS: \$32 REGULAR, \$22 SENIORS AND STUDENTS**

**BOX OFFICE: [WWW.THEATREWIRE.COM](http://WWW.THEATREWIRE.COM)**

***Consensual* features a diverse team of emerging and established artists:**

#### **Producing Team**

Bronwyn Henderson, Jessica Anne Nelson, Demi Pedersen

#### **Creative Team**

**Director** | Jessica Anne Nelson, **Technical Director** | Theo Bell, **Stage Manager** | Amanda Parafina, **Assistant Stage Manager** | Melicia Zaini, **Costume Designer** | Alaia Hamer, **Lighting Designer** | Sara Smith, **Set Designer** | Kimira Bhikum, **Sound Designer** | Sammie Hatch  
**Props & Set Builder** | Gemma Harris

## Cast

**Diane** | Bronwyn Henderson, **Freddie** | Matt Reznek, **Pete & Mr. Abramovitch** | Brent Hirose\*,  
**Jake & Owen** | Graham Miles, **Mary** | Charlotte Wright, **Georgia** | Sarah Roa\*, **Destiny** |  
Madonna Gonzalez, **Taylor** | Shona Struthers, **Kayla** | Paige Louter, **Amanda** | Hailey Conner,  
**Grace** | Shelby Wyminga, **Nathan** | Damion LeClair, **Liam** | David Underhill, **Rhys** | Aidan  
Wright, **Brandon** | Matt Rhodes

*\*Member of the Canadian Actors Equity Association*

**FOR ALL PRESS INQUIRIES, INCLUDING INTERVIEWS WITH THE DIRECTOR JESSICA ANNE NELSON OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM, PLEASE CONTACT DEMI PEDERSEN: demipedersen@yahoo.ca OR CALL 604.700.3818.**

## Photo Link:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/i1vhx6rswkwvtz/AACYDufPrGjLFu\\_VBj0ZF1lVa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/i1vhx6rswkwvtz/AACYDufPrGjLFu_VBj0ZF1lVa?dl=0)

**Production Sponsors:** *Consensual* is generously sponsored by Below the Radar, Events Plus Management, and TheatreWire.

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/cookiesncreamcollective/>

**Instagram:** @cookiesncreamcollective