

CASTING CALL: WAKE UP

*A musical by Tricia Arden Caldwell
Quebec City — December 2026*

Synopsis

In the wake of her mother's death, Lisa embarks on a quest in the forest, where she meets several uniquely Canadian animals who guide her back home. WAKE UP is a coming-of-age story that explores grief, literary absurdity, and emotional transformation. Hare drives the journey forward, pulling Lisa into the forest's strange rhythms. Ruth, his grounded wife, encourages reflection and emotional honesty. Vixen disrupts Lisa's path, forcing her to confront fear, doubt, and desire. The solemn, eclectic, yet triumphant score evokes the melodies of our natural Canadian heritage, grounded in the idea that you are never quite alone when walking in the dark.

Production Snapshot

Book, Music & Lyrics: *Tricia Arden Caldwell*
Direction & Choreography: *Amanda Kusler*
Production: *Dominic Cardinal*
Musical mentorship: *Rémy Tremblay*
Musical Arrangements: *Jean-Philippe Côté & Sébastien Champagne*
Vocal arrangements: *Tricia Arden Caldwell & Philippe Girard*
Age Guidance: *Youth & General Audiences*
Running time: *~75 minutes*
Number of Acts: *2*
Genres: *Fairy tale & Fantasy*
Cast: *Large: 18-26 performers*
Setting: *Canadian Boreal Forest in wintertime*
Dancing: *Minimal to expert depending on role*

Song List:

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Wake Up Call | 6. All My Best Friends | 11. Pure Amour |
| 2. Hear My Cry | Are Sellouts | 12. Be Free |
| 3. I Wanna Be Here | 7. Diddly Dah | 13. Love Remembers |
| 4. You Can Stay | 8. Sacrificial Lamb | 14. Remember Me |
| 5. Unto the Depths | 9. Under the Weather | 15. Father I Never Knew |
| Interlude | 10. Unto the Depths | 16. The Offering |

Audition Process

Casting has been reopened as the production seeks approval under an applicable ACTRA low-budget agreement. Auditions will be conducted by self-tape.

Please submit your audition video to tricia.arden@gmail.com by **July 21 at 12:00 p.m. ET.**

Applicants will receive the applicable role-specific audition materials, including vocal and choreography excerpts.

Casting decisions will be based on the submitted audition materials. Applicants may be contacted if additional information or clarification is required.

ACTRA members will receive preference of audition and engagement in accordance with the applicable ACTRA agreement. Roles will be confirmed following completion of the ACTRA casting and production approval process.

Music, scripts and choreography videos will be made available for learning following final casting.

Commitment

Required Rehearsal Dates

Rehearsals will take place in Québec City on Sunday afternoons and early evenings.

August

- August 30: Read-through and welcome dinner

September

- September 13
- September 20
- September 27

No rehearsal September 6.

October

- October 4
- October 18
- October 25

No rehearsal October 11.

November

- November 1
- November 8
- November 15
- November 22
- November 29: Full run-through

Performers are expected to attend all required rehearsals and arrive prepared with assigned material learned in advance.

Tentative Production Dates

Tentative filming dates:

December 2–3, 2026

Tentative live performance date:

December 5, 2026

The final filming schedule, performance schedule and venue will be communicated before casting offers are issued.

Performers must disclose any known conflicts affecting the rehearsal or production period when applying.

Live Performances

The current production plan includes live performances on:

Saturday, December 5, 2026

Tentative performance times:

- 2:00 p.m. — Matinée
- 7:30 p.m. — Evening performance

The final venue, performance schedule and call times remain to be confirmed.

Filming and Broadcast

Filming is tentatively scheduled for **December 2–3, 2026**, in Québec City. Filming and public broadcast remain subject to final production approval. All performers must be comfortable with filming and public broadcast. Filmed engagements will be governed by the applicable ACTRA agreement and approved production terms.

Compensation

WAKE UP is a paid, low-budget independent production currently seeking approval under an applicable ACTRA agreement. Compensation for filmed performances will be governed by the applicable ACTRA agreement and approved production terms. Applicable agreement details and performer rates will be communicated before final casting offers are issued. Compensation will also be provided for required rehearsals and live performances. These terms will be communicated before final casting offers are issued. ACTRA members will receive preference of audition and engagement in accordance with the applicable ACTRA agreement.

Non-members may be considered where appropriate. Any engagement of a non-member for filmed work will be subject to ACTRA approval and the applicable permit process. No non-member will participate in filmed work without an approved ACTRA permit.

We are committed to compensating artists fairly for their learning, rehearsal, filming and performance time.

Professional Expectations

- arrive on time and prepared for all scheduled rehearsals
- learn assigned material in advance
- maintain consistent attendance throughout the rehearsal and performance process
- communicate promptly and professionally regarding any conflicts or illness

Due to the collaborative nature of the work, reliability, preparation, and respect for others' time are essential.

Production Note

This production will proceed with live performances as scheduled. Filming and public broadcast are dependent on external funding confirmation and will be communicated transparently as updates are available.

Casting Breakdown

LISA (Lead), girl

Age: 12–16

Species: Human

Vocal: Mezzo-Soprano, G3-G5 (Contemporary pop & ballad, **strong pop mix required**)

Dance: Movement-based, emotive choreography

Acting: Carries the emotional through-line of the show

A resilient and introspective teenager navigating grief and transformation.

Key songs: *Wake Up Call, Hear My Cry, I Wanna Be Here, Sacrificial Lamb, Love Remembers, Remember Me, Father I Never Knew, The Offering*

HARE (Lead), man

Age: 30–50

Species: Snowshoe Hare

Vocal: Tenor, A2-A4 (80s pop, **strong mix required**)

Dance: Specific physicality (cane work, deliberate gait)

Acting: Warm, energetic, deeply empathetic, **represents denial in the stages of grief**

Kind and protective. Walks with a cane and has a stutter.

Key songs: *I Wanna Be Here, All My Best Friends Are Sellouts, Under the Weather, Love Remembers, Remember Me, The Offering*

VIXEN (Lead), woman

Age: 25–35

Species: Red Fox

Vocal: Mezzo-Soprano, F3-A5 (R&B/jazz, **strong belt required**)

Dance: Sensual, emotionally charged movement (tango influence)

Acting: High emotional and psychological range, **represents anger in the stages of grief**

Complex, alluring, and volatile.

Key songs: *Wake Up Call, Hear My Cry, You Can Stay, Sacrificial Lamb, Be Free, Remember Me, The Offering*

RUTH (Heavy Supporting), woman

Age: 30–50

Species: Snowshoe Hare

Vocal: Soprano, B3-C6 (Classical, **strong classical technique required**)

Dance: Expressive, minimal choreography

Acting: Maternal presence with emotional clarity, **represents acceptance in the stages of grief**

Nurturing and grounded. Carries key musical material within the story.

Key songs: *Wake Up Call, Hear My Cry, I Wanna Be Here, You Can Stay, Under the Weather, Love Remembers, Remember Me, The Offering*

GAVIA (Heavy Supporting), woman

Age: 20–30

Species: Loon

Vocal: Soprano, B3-C6 (Modern contemporary ballad, **strong vocal agility required**)

Dance: Very strong contemporary/ballet required, **featured dance soloist**

Acting: Poetic, abstract, expressive, **represents depression in the stages of grief**

An introspective presence embodying emotional depth and stillness.

Key songs: *Wake Up Call, Hear My Cry, Unto the Depths Interlude, Unto the Depths, Love Remembers, Remember Me, The Offering*

JUSTIN (Heavy Supporting), gender neutral

Age: 20–40

Species: Moose

Vocal: Baritenor, A2-F4 or A3-F5, (Pop punk, **strong vocal grit required**)

Dance: Minimal

Acting: Charismatic, erratic, intense, **represents bargaining in the stages of grief**

Driven by a deep obsession with justice. Energetic, unpredictable, and articulate.

Key songs: *Wake Up Call, Hear My Cry, All My Best Friends Are Sellouts, Pure Amour, Love Remembers, Remember Me, The Offering*

NARRATOR (Supporting), gender neutral

Age: 30–60

Species: Human

Vocal: Baritone/Contralto, F#2-D4 or F#3-D5, (Power ballad, **strong versatility required**)

Dance: Minimal

Acting: Commanding storyteller with warmth and clarity

Guides the story throughout

Key songs: *Wake Up Call, Hear My Cry, Love Remembers, Remember Me, The Offering*

FESTER (Supporting), gender neutral

Age: 25–50

Species: Beaver

Vocal: Tenor/Soprano, C3-B4 or C4-B5 (Québec folk, **strong comedic voice required**)

Dance: Rhythmic, comedic timing

Acting: Comic relief. Physical comedy; sharp repartee

Francophone required; approximately half of the role is performed in French.

Key songs: *Wake Up Call, Hear My Cry, Diddly Dah, Pure Amour, Love Remembers, Remember Me, The Offering*

AL (Supporting), gender neutral

Age: 25–50

Species: Beaver

Vocal: Baritone/Mezzo Soprano, Bb2-E4 or Bb3-E5, (Québec folk, **strong comedic voice required**)

Dance: Rhythmic, comedic timing

Acting: Comic relief. Deadpan, a little dense, warm, and steady.

Francophone required; approximately half of the role is performed in French.

Key songs: *Wake Up Call, Hear My Cry, Diddly Dah, Love Remembers, Remember Me, The Offering*

LEVERETS (Supporting, 4–8 performers), gender neutral

Age: 12–17

Species: Leverets (young hares)

Vocal: All voice types welcome

Dance: Lively, expressive movement

Acting: Strong group chemistry; quick transitions

Represent facets of grief and emotional states.

Key songs: *Wake Up Call, Hear My Cry, I Wanna Be Here, Love Remembers, Remember Me, The Offering*

FEATURED DANCERS (Supporting, 4–8 performers), gender neutral

Age: 16+

Vocal: Not required

Dance: Strong technical dancers; advanced contemporary ability

Featured throughout the production and responsible for the most demanding choreography.

CAIN (Featured), man

Age: 30–40

Species: Red Fox

Vocal: Non-singing role

Dance: Strong tango/contemporary partnering

Acting: Magnetic, intense

A charismatic and dangerous presence. Featured in a dance-driven confrontation.

We are committed to inclusive casting and welcome performers of all gender identities and expressions. Artists are encouraged to submit for any role they feel aligns with their artistic range.

Audition Materials

Audition excerpts, accompaniment tracks, choreography materials will be sent within 24 hours (often less!) of receiving your application.

We kindly ask that all provided materials remain private and not be publicly shared or redistributed.

Video Submission Requirements

Please submit a simple video audition filmed in one continuous take, in the following order:

1. Begin by briefly introducing yourself and indicating which character or characters you are interested in auditioning for.
2. Please prepare the provided short vocal excerpt(s) for the role(s) you are interested in, using the provided key(s) and accompaniment track(s).

Artistic interpretation and variation are welcome but not required. We are primarily interested in truthful storytelling, musicality, emotional connection and vocal suitability for the role.

3. **Choreography**

Please prepare the provided choreography combination.

A simple phone recording is perfectly acceptable. The complete video submission should be no longer than approximately **2–2.5 minutes**. We are most interested in an authentic, unedited performance. 😊

We look forward to assembling a strong, committed group of performers for this production of *WAKE UP*.

To apply:

<https://forms.gle/jgA1StOjBfdyX1U96>