



poiema productions



# Anatolia Speaks

Starring Candice Fiorentino  
Written and Directed by Kenneth Brown

## Media Release

A play that celebrates the power of the human spirit.

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Poiema Productions is excited to bring their latest show to the Stage Door. *Anatolia Speaks* is the brand new one-woman show starring Cranbrook's own, Candice Fiorentino, and written and directed by acclaimed Canadian playwright, Kenneth Brown. *Anatolia Speaks* is a tale of struggle, passion, and survival when a new Canadian working at Superstore recounts her past in Bosnia to her ESL class. Candice Fiorentino gives a heart-wrenching performance of a play that celebrates the power of the human spirit. *Anatolia Speaks* is playing at the **Stage Door**, located at 11-11 Ave South, Cranbrook. The play is 55 minutes long and tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors and students.

Anatolia is a new Canadian immigrant working at Superstore after fleeing war-torn Bosnia. Today, it is her turn to present to her ESL class. She is ever-cheerful and loves her new life but questions about her past reveal a darker story beneath the smile.

Writer, Kenneth Brown, is an actor, director, musician, producer, teacher and playwright. He is the author or co-author of over thirty produced plays; his writing has been produced in five countries in three languages.

Poiema Productions is an Edmonton-based theatre company founded in 2009 by Candice Fiorentino (playing the title role, Anatolia), Melissa Heagy, Brianne Jang and Sara Vickruck. All four are graduates of the Grant MacEwan University Theatre Arts Program, where they met and built a strong friendship. The four girls envisioned a company based on hard work, solid values and theatre with a purpose. In past years, the company has brought to Cranbrook their productions of *Happily Ever After?*, *The Seminar*, and *Middleton: a folk musical*. *Anatolia Speaks* toured to the London and Edmonton Fringes this past summer.

**Venue:** Stage Door

11-11 Ave South, Cranbrook

**Showtimes:** Friday, September 20 @ 7:30pm

Saturday, September 21 @ 7:30pm

Sunday, September 22 @ 2:00pm

**Tickets:** \$20 for adults, \$18 for students and seniors

Available at Lotus Books

Available at the door 1 hour prior to show (cash only, subject to availability)

### Media Contact

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## **Full Biographies**

### **Kenneth Brown, Playwright and Director**

Kenneth Brown is an actor, director, musician, producer, teacher and playwright. He is the author or co-author of over thirty produced plays; his writing has been produced in five countries in three languages. Over the past five years, his *Spiral Dive* trilogy has garnered rave press and standing ovations across Canada. He has been honored with several Sterling Awards, two AMPIA awards, and an Edmonton Arts Excellence Award. He has acted in dozens of cities and towns across Canada and abroad, and has directed such hit shows as *Boy Groove*, *Be A Man*, *Sexe-tete*, *Joseph Andrews*, *The Old Curiosity Shop*, *Diamond Dog*, *Cowboy Gothic*, *Letters in Wartime*, and *Spiral Dive*.

He is deeply grateful to have such an excellent colleague as Candice Fiorentino for this premiere production of *Anatolia Speaks*.

### **Candice Fiorentino, Anatolia**

Candice is a co-founder of Poiema Productions and has been in the acting industry for the past eight years. Starting off on the Wild Horse Theatre Stage in Fort Steele, B.C., Candice moved to Edmonton to pursue her career by enrolling in the Theatre Arts Program at Grant MacEwan University. Since then she has been a part of the creative process of new works including RibbitRePublic's *Grimmer Than Grimm*, *Grimmer than Grimmer than Grimm*, *Passages*, the Mummers Collective, and *Happily Ever After?*, *The Seminar*, and *Middleton: a folk musical*, from Poiema Productions.

Candice seeks to do work that brings passion about and awareness to important social and community matters.

### **Poiema Productions**

Poiema Productions is an Edmonton-based theatre company founded in 2009 by Candice Fiorentino, Melissa Heagy, Brianne Jang and Sara Vickruck. All four are graduates of the Grant MacEwan University Theatre Arts Program, where they met and built a strong friendship based on laughter, love and respect. Each bring their own personal skills and individual talents to the company, making collaborative and experimental work a pleasure to create. Every member seeks to build their talents outside of the company in order to constantly improve and continue to grow. They also find great importance in working with local and emerging artists like themselves every chance they get. The four girls envisioned a company based on hard work, solid values and theatre with a purpose. As a company, Poiema hopes to enlighten, enliven and entertain. They strive to use art and theatre to bring awareness to important issues in our world and community. As writers, producers and performers, Poiema Productions promises- you will never be bored.



## **Interesting Facts!**

- Candice Fiorentino was born in Cranbrook, BC.
- Candice Fiorentino graduated from Mount Baker School.
- Every year, Poiema Productions also hosts a workshop at Mount Baker School for the drama classes.
- This year, Candice Fiorentino and Poiema Productions will be a part of Cranbrook Community Theatre's CCTalks.
- Poiema Productions is an Edmonton-based company founded by four women.
- This is Candice Fiorentino's first one-woman show.
- This show looks at the life of a new Canadian immigrant
- All prior work by this company has been self-written, self-produced and self-acted.
- This is the fourth original play produced by Poiema Productions
- Candice Fiorentino had to learn a Bosnian accent for this role.
- It was in Grant MacEwan College, that Candice Fiorentino met Kenneth Brown in the theatre arts program. He has worked with her on many collaborative projects since she graduated in 2008.
- *Anatolia Speaks* toured to the London and Edmonton Fringes to great success this past summer.
- We also took the play to the Nanaimo Centre Stage this fall.

## **Connect with us on Social Media!**

- Twitter: @poiemagals
- Instagram: @poiemagals
- Tumblr: @poiemagals
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Poiema-Productions/142465845822472?ref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Poiema-Productions/142465845822472?ref=ts)

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## **Reviews of Anatolia Speaks**

“..The new play by fringe regular Kenneth Brown, starring Candice Fiorentino, explains why this country has always needed, and should always welcome, the refugees who arrive here to build new lives. The one-woman show is brilliant, Fiorentino’s performance at the Grand Theatre’s McManus Studio is surely one of the best in this year’s London Fringe festival. In an interview last week, Edmonton-based Brown said he is proud of the script, describing it as one of his best. It is — and one can’t imagine an actor other than Fiorentino handling it...”

-5 stars out of 5, Joe Belanger, London Free Press

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“Wow! Just Wow! An excellent script, well-staged, and an absolutely brilliant performance. See this show!... Fiorentino’s performance was simply terrific. She has a sense of timing that makes the classroom situation seem real and at the same time conveys a depth of feeling one cannot help but share. She captured the upbeat, forward-looking outlook of Anatolia and still made us feel the grief Anatolia felt as she related her story...”

-4 stars out of 4, John Palmer, The Beat Magazine (London)

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“...This play reminds us of the diverse stories that make up the fabric of our country, and just how lucky we are to be Canadian. Anatolia Speaks is a definite must-see this year at Fringe.”

-Kirsten Rosenkrantz, London Fringe

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“...Fiorentino plays the part to perfection, transforming from the bubbly newcomer to the weary witness of war... Anatolia's is a story of hope and acceptance, of what this country is when it is at its best: both accepting and compassionate. It's the perfect show to remind you of both the depths of depravity humanity is capable of, while also showing how amazing we can be towards one another.”

-4 stars out of 5, Ian Kucerak, The Edmonton Sun

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