

TO BE HONEST

TBH

THE MUSICAL

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION PRODUCTION



2026

READ MORE FOR RESOURCES TO HELP
YOU WITH YOUR FIRST YEAR AT UW!





PREMIERE PERFORMANCES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 • 3:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 • 3:00 P.M.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 • 7:00 P.M.

ORIENTATION PERFORMANCES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 • 7:00 P.M. & 8:45 P.M.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 • 7:00 P.M. & 8:45 P.M.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Waterloo acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is centralized within the Office of Indigenous Relations.

WHAT IS IN THE SHOW?



UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO PRODUCERS

Sandra Gibson (she/her), Manager, Health Education and Promotion, Campus Wellness, University of Waterloo
sandra.gibson@uwaterloo.ca

Becky Wroe (she/her), Orientation & Member Transitions Manager, Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association
rlwroe@uwaterloo.ca



THE CAST

Sarala Edirisinghe (she/her) as Akasha



Sarala Edirisinghe (she/her) is a 4th year Electrical Engineering student. She's been involved in many performances and musicals since the age of 9, including with UW Student Theatre, with favourite roles as Natalie Goodman (Next to Normal), Heather Chandler (Heathers), Sharpay (High School Musical), Moana (Moana) and Jack Kelly (Newsies). Her one piece of advice to first years is to not hesitate to get involved, and allocate time for the things you love.

Agraj Joshi (he/him) as Nick



Agraj Joshi (he/him) is a 4th year Accounting and Financial Management student at UW. He has been heavily involved with the UW Student Theatre Club over the last two years playing roles like Dan in Next to Normal and Seymour in Little Shop of Horrors. He is also overly proud of having played Baljeet in the Phineas and Ferb virtual parody musical M.W.C.A. Outside of theatre, he is very passionate about terrarium building. He hopes you'll laugh, sing, cry, dance, and enjoy TBH this year!

Ada Liu (any pronouns) as Heather



Ada Liu (any pronouns) is a recent graduate of the Master's in Accounting program with an undergrad in Accounting and Financial Management. She's been a member of Animusic Ensembles for four years and is the founder of the school's Pokémon Club! Though her musical theatre journey has been on pause during university, her release from the shackles of studying has given her extra time to dive headfirst into the arts, with performances in TBH and Rent with the KW Little Theatre.

Kylie McCracken (she/her) as Sam



Welcome warriors! Kylie (she/they) is a recent graduate of the Environment, Resources and Sustainability program, and is very excited to share this year's rendition of TBH with you! This is her second year as a cast member and can't wait to reprise her role as Sam! During her time at Waterloo, Kylie was very involved with the UW A Capella club, including the Water Boys! She encourages you to enjoy all you can in your first year, it'll go faster than you think!

Renee Walker (she/they) as Dani



Renee Walker (she/they) is a 4th year Theatre and Performance student. She's been involved in many musicals and performances over the past 10 years, and has also had the chance to work behind the scenes in some productions within her program. Renee is excited to be back on stage for TBH, and can't wait for everyone to see this amazing show!

Jasmine Ward (she/her) as Grace



Hey ya'll! Jasmine Ward (she/her) is a recent alumni from Waterloo with a bachelor's in Communications. She has participated in several productions at Waterloo, was previously the Event Coordinator for the Theatre Students Union for the past two years, and is beyond excited to be a part of TBH this year! She hopes TBH will kick off a great start to your UWaterloo journey!

Zaneerah Zaheer (he/him) as Jesse



Zaneerah Zaheer (he/him) is a fourth year Honours Music and English RMPC (Rhetoric, Media, and Professional Communication) Major. He's done theatre in middle and high school, as well as various choirs and music ensembles on campus. He's an active part of the UW A Cappella Club on campus, having directed, arranged for, and been a member of many of the groups within it. This is his first post-secondary musical and he hopes that everyone can relate to and resonate with key moments in the show as he does.

Chauvin Zhou (he/him) as Curtis



Chauvin Zhou (he/him) is an alumni of the Arts Department at UW, where he studied English and French. He spent much of his university career engaged with many student clubs, including Warriors Esports, UW A Cappella Club, and starting his own barbershop quartet. This is his first acting role since elementary school, so he's super excited to hit the stage for TBH 2026!

CREATIVE CREDITS

Eric da Costa (he/him) - Director
Paula Bornacelli (she/her) - Stage Manager & Assistant Director
Olivia Rossel (she/her) - Assistant Director, Assistant Stage Manager, & Dance Captain
Lauren Simmons (she/her) - Choreographer
Dani Jazzar (he/him) - Intimacy Coordinator
Amanda Kind (she/her) - Consultant
Carlos Fernandez (he/him) - Technical Coordinator
Katie Hickey (she/they) - Technical Lead
Rafik Alsamkary (he/him) - Sound Designer
Sam Hillifer (he/him) & Noah Stolee (he/him) - TBH Interludes
Areebah Akhtar (she/her) - Photographer, WUSA
Miho Nagayama (she/her) - Creative Lead, WUSA
Sonia Tessaro (she/her) - Marketing Specialist, WUSA

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome Warriors!

Thank you for joining us for the 2026 production of *To Be Honest: The Musical*. We are thrilled to have you here and excited to share this special experience with you. This show was created with first-year students in mind, to welcome them to the University of Waterloo and remind them that, as they begin this new chapter, they are not alone. University life brings exciting opportunities, new challenges, and countless experiences. Throughout it all, there are people, programs, and resources ready to support students every step of the way. Throughout this production, we shine a light on the importance of belonging and acceptance, building connections, and encourage students to reach to supports throughout their university journey.



To Be Honest: The musical is a high-energy, heartfelt, and often hilarious musical, and this cast embodies all of those qualities and more. It has been a true privilege to work alongside such a talented group of performers, crew members, and creative team members.

Huge thanks to the incredible team behind this production: Sandra, Becky, Amanda, Lauren, Olivia, and especially Paula for her unwavering support and countless late-night phone calls. A special thank you as well to our amazing cast for their openness, trust, dedication, and hard work throughout this journey. Everything you are about to see on stage is the result of their hard work, passion, and dedication.

We hope you enjoy watching the show as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to life. Welcome to Waterloo and enjoy the performance!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric da Costa". The script is fluid and cursive.

Eric da Costa

Director, *To Be Honest: The Musical* (2026)

Eric da Costa (Director)

Eric (he/him) is very excited to be part of the TBH team this year, for the very first time. He is a singer, actor, and educator who has spent many years pursuing theatre professionally, as well as teaching and coaching vocal music and acting. He studied musical theatre at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City and Los Angeles, and is currently furthering his education studying Community Music at Wilfrid Laurier University. He has performed with theatre companies across Canada, as well as toured internationally in 2b theatre's *Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story*, and most recently played the role of Ethan in Drayton Entertainment's production of *The Full Monty* this summer. When not performing, Eric can be found teaching at Pop Nation Canada, the Drayton Entertainment Youth Academy, and coaching students through his private studio. Eric is also the director for K-W Musical Productions' upcoming production of *RENT*, playing at the Conrad Centre for the Performing Arts in Kitchener this December.



TBH – An Award Winning Production

To Be Honest: The Musical is an award-winning production that has helped thousands of students navigate the transition to university. In recognition of its impact, the show received the Canadian Association of College and University Student Services (CACUSS) Innovation Award, which celebrates innovative programs that make a meaningful contribution to student success. We are honoured to have this work recognized and proud to continue sharing its message of connection, resilience, and support with new students each year.



TBH: TO BE HONEST LYRICS

Verse 1

Everything feels like it's moving
so fast
Can't keep up but I can't go back
Away from my family
For the first time
One my own, leaving home
Hope I get it right

Pre-Chorus

Who am I?
Who do they want me to be?
Who am I?
Do I even know me?

Chorus

To be honest, I don't know
Exactly how this is gonna go
To be honest, I'm a bit of a mess
I don't have it figured out just yet
But I'm trying, redefining
Stumbling to find my way
To be honest, I'm afraid
Hope everything'll be okay
TBH

Bridge

Excited, nervous, feeling the
pressure, can I keep it together?
Where am I going?
Feel like I should know this.
Am I good enough?
I wanna be good enough.

Chorus

To be honest, I don't know
Exactly how this is gonna go
To be honest, I'm a bit of a mess
I don't have it figured out just yet
But I'm trying, redefining
Stumbling to find my way
To be honest, I'm afraid
Hope everything'll be okay
TBH

Listen and download the original
'TBH: To Be Honest' song at:



Spotify



MUSIC



**BE KIND TO
YOURSELF
AND OTHERS**

**EMBRACE YOUR
AUTHENTIC SELF**

**TAKE PRIDE IN
YOUR PROGRESS**



scan for Be You info

Be **YOU**
at Waterloo



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

Campus Wellness

CAMPUS RESOURCES

CAMPUS WELLNESS

uwaterloo.ca/students/health-and-well-being

ACCESSABILITY SERVICES

uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & ANTI-RACISM (EDI-R)

uwaterloo.ca/equity-diversity-inclusion-anti-racism

INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

uwaterloo.ca/indigenous

SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION & RESPONSE OFFICE

uwaterloo.ca/sexual-violence-prevention-response-office

ATHLETICS AND RECREATION

athletics.uwaterloo.ca

CAMPUS HOUSING

uwaterloo.ca/campus-housing

MULTI-FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY RESOURCE TEAM

uwaterloo.ca/multi-faith-spirituality-resource-team

OMBUDSPERSON OFFICE

uwaterloo.ca/ombudsperson

WATERLOO UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (WUSA)

wusa.ca

STUDENT SUCCESS

uwaterloo.ca/students

THE CENTRE

uwaterloo.ca/the-centre

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE CENTRE (IEC)

uwaterloo.ca/international-experience

CENTRE FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

uwaterloo.ca/career-development

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity

SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE

uwaterloo.ca/sustainability





We're like your
high school's
main office...
but friendly!

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- Quest course enrolment
- Updating your student record
- WatCard

uwaterloo.ca/the-centre

askthecentre@uwaterloo.ca • 519-888-4567 ext. 42268

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOU

- Mental health and well-being resources to help you lead a healthy and balanced life.
- Connect with your peers, get involved and build community.
- Access your UWaterloo support system and more!



Join the Office of Indigenous Relations for...



**National Day for Truth and
Reconciliation walk September 30th**

A safer way to get where you're going.



Connect with trained volunteers who can walk with you so you do not have to travel alone.

wusa.ca/walksafe



WATERLOO UNDERGRADUATE

WUSA

STUDENT ASSOCIATION

@yourwusa



Curious about WUSA?

A pocketbook in your
Orientation kit has
all the inside scoop
—go check it out!



wusa.ca

Student-Run Services

From
WUZA



Peer support service for undergraduate students.



Serves to address racism and xenophobia on the Waterloo campus through education and advocacy, peer support, and community building.



Aims to provide a supportive environment on campus for all women and trans* folks.

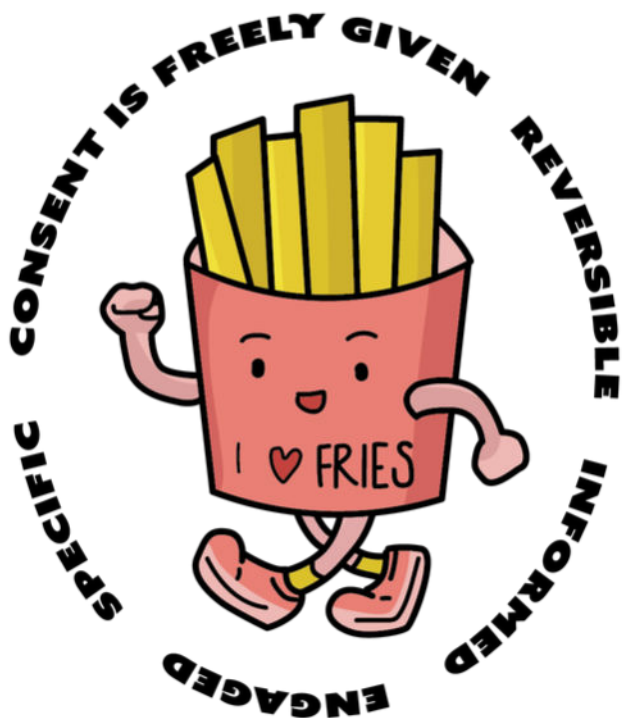


Promotes a healthy attitude towards all sexual orientations and gender identities & provides a wide variety of peer support, social events, advocacy work, and resources.

Visit wusa.ca/services for all the details



F.R.I.E.S. FOR FRIES



Stay informed. Stay respectful.

For more information, you can visit:



[uwaterloo.ca/sexual-violence-
prevention-response-office/
events-programming-listing/
consent-week](https://uwaterloo.ca/sexual-violence-prevention-response-office/events-programming-listing/consent-week)



[wusa.ca/reclaim-
the-red-zone/](https://wusa.ca/reclaim-the-red-zone/)

Consent Is:

F - Freely Given

Provided without pressure, manipulation, or threats. It's your choice.

Example: You agree to go out with friends because you want to, not because you feel obligated, pressured or forced. If you say no they respect this the first time you say it.

R - Reversible

You have the right to change your mind at any time, and so do others.

Example: You agree to share a ride with someone, but if you start feeling uncomfortable, you can ask to get out at any point.

I - Informed

You have all the information needed to make an educated decision. Everyone involved knows what they are consenting to.

Example: If you're asked to take on a new responsibility at work, you should be provided all the information about the task.

E - Engaged

Involves active participation and communication. Everyone involved should be fully present and responsive in the decision-making process.

Example: During a group project, everyone shares their ideas and agrees on the plan together, making sure everyone is involved and comfortable with the direction.

S - Specific

Consent is specific to each situation. Agreeing to one thing does not mean "yes" to other things.

Example: Saying "yes" to one type of touch like a kiss does not mean "yes" to other forms of touch such as sex.

Remember:

Consent isn't just about saying "yes" or "no." It's about **respect, communication**, and ensuring everyone involved feels **safe and valued**. Always check in, and do not make assumptions about what others may want or need. **Consent is continuous** and happens everyday with all our interactions.

No issue is too big or too small

From stress, financial insecurity, nutrition, and more. You can get the support you need, confidentially.

Empower Me:

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to learn more



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confidential **#MentalHealth**
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students in Ontario,
available **24/7/365**.



CALL: 1-866-925-5454



**TEXT: 'GOOD2TALKON' TO
686868**



VISIT: GOOD2TALK.CA

 @Good2TalkON





"DON'T LET YOUR DRINKING DO YOUR THINKING"

#PLAN

Plan your drink count and your ride home before your night begins.
Don't let anyone influence how much alcohol you consume.

#POUR

Pour and measure your own drinks. It can be easy to overpour.
Your body needs approx **60-90 min** to process one standard drink.

#COUNT

Track the number of drinks you consume. Know your own limits.

#TIME

Limit yourself to **1 drink per hour**. Pace yourself by alternating your drinks with water/juice/pop.

#BALANCE

Eat before and while you are drinking. Remember you can't chase a night out with a pizza. The alcohol has already been absorbed.

IT'S SIMPLE - TIPS:

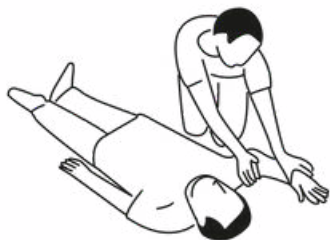
drinksmart.ca/tips

@DrinkSmart.ca

#DrinkSmartTips

THE RECOVERY POSITION

1



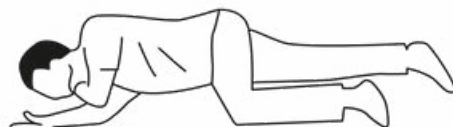
2



3



4



How to move a person into the recovery position:

1. Kneel beside them and bend the arm closest to you at a right angle, with the hand near their head.
2. Place their other hand (back of hand) against their opposite cheek and hold it there.
3. Lift their far knee so the leg is bent, then pull it toward you to roll them onto their side. Leave the knee bent to keep them stable.
4. Tilt their head back slightly to open the airway. Check for anything blocking their mouth and remove it if safe.
5. Stay with them and keep checking their breathing.

Confidential. Fair. Independent.

The Ombuds Office helps students understand University policies, explore their rights and options, and navigate academic or non-academic challenges.

Drop-in

Virtual Drop Ins

Wednesdays, 1PM – 4 PM on Zoom

In Person Drop Ins

Thursdays, 1PM – 4PM at
SLC 3107 + 3108

Appointments

Book online:



GET THE **UWATERLOO SAFETY APP** AND STAY SAFE

uwaterloo.ca/emergency-notifications



- Instant alerts and updates in a critical situation.
- Know where to go and what to do during an incident.
- Search 'Regroup Mobile' in the app store.



PORTAL

portal.uwaterloo.ca

WHAT IS PORTAL?

Portal is the University of Waterloo student digital assistant.

It's a personalized app and website made exclusively for Waterloo students to keep them informed of campus services, events, and news, and to provide tailored academic information in one convenient platform.



Download the UWaterloo Portal app from the App Store and Play Store.

» the road to success is

paved with integrity



respect

responsibility

trust

fairness

honesty

UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO



Our Values

At the University
of Waterloo, we
think differently,
we *act with purpose,*
and we *work together.*

uwaterloo.ca/values

STUDENT LIFE AND WELLNESS INFORMATION

@UofWaterloo

Follow University of Waterloo's main Instagram account for multi-faceted information related to students, faculty, alumni, innovation, and more.

@UWaterlooLife

The official UWaterloo Student Life account. Your one-stop place for important updates, events, and resources!

@yourWUSA

Run by elected student leaders who advocate for an accessible, affordable, accountable, and high quality post-secondary experience.

FEEDBACK

Your feedback is an integral part of our show. Please share your thoughts by completing the online feedback form.

