



*Fort Heart Productions*

**FREE ACTING WORKSHOP**

**SATURDAY, MAY 4TH**  
**10 am - 6 pm | Uptown SJ**  
**Pre-Registration Required!**

Lunch Provided - Spots Limited - Ages 16+

---

**PRESS KIT**

---



SCAN FOR  
MORE  
WORKSHOP  
INFO



---

# PRESS KIT

---

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

## **Fort Heart Productions Returns to Saint John, New Brunswick with Free Introductory Workshop on May 4th, 2024**

**Saint John, NB** - April 5, 2024 - After a hiatus brought on by the global pandemic, Fort Heart Productions is proud to announce its return as it relaunches in the vibrant arts scene of Saint John, New Brunswick. Founded in Vancouver in 2017 by Mariel Kathryn Hunter, Fort Heart Productions quickly made a name for itself, producing 20 shows and theatrical pieces alongside numerous community-building events and skill-focused workshops before the pandemic forced a pause in operations in 2020.

Now, with Hunter's return to her hometown of Saint John, Fort Heart Productions is poised for a triumphant resurgence. Hunter, an accomplished playwright, director, and performer, brings with her a wealth of experience and a passion for creating compelling and thought-provoking theatrical experiences.

As part of the company's re-launch, Fort Heart Productions will be hosting a free acting workshop on May 4th, 2024, providing an opportunity for members of the local thespian community to work with Hunter and learn more about her vision for the company's future. The workshop will serve as an introduction to Fort Heart Productions' mission of fostering creativity, collaboration, and artistic excellence within the Saint John community.

"I am thrilled to be bringing Fort Heart Productions back to my hometown of Saint John," said Mariel Kathryn Hunter, Founder and Artistic Director of Fort Heart Productions. "Saint John's arts community is flourishing, and I am excited to contribute to its growth and vitality. The goal was always to be able to bring my professional experience from Vancouver to play a part in the expansion of the arts in Saint John and I'm elated to finally have that opportunity."

Following the introductory workshop, Hunter plans to hold auditions and produce Fort Heart Productions' first play in Saint John this summer, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the company.

Hunter is no stranger to the Saint John stage, having last performed in the city in 2017 when she brought her one-woman play "I Want to Come Home" to the Fundy Fringe Festival, where it received acclaim from sold out audiences and earned her a Fan Favourite award. Subsequently, Hunter took her talents to the Halifax Fringe Festival in 2018, where she garnered awards for Best of Fringe, Best New Script, and Best Solo Show.

Fort Heart Productions invites the Saint John community to join them in celebrating their return and to participate in the free acting workshop on May 4th. For more information and to register for the workshop, please visit [Fort Heart Productions website].

### **For media inquiries, please contact:**

Mariel Kathryn Hunter, Founder & Artistic Director  
604-723-6165 | marielkhunter@gmail.com

### **About Fort Heart Productions:**

Fort Heart Productions is a theater company founded by Mariel Kathryn Hunter in Vancouver in 2017. Dedicated to producing engaging and thought-provoking theatrical experiences, Fort Heart Productions aims to foster creativity, collaboration, and artistic excellence within the communities it serves. Now based in Saint John, New Brunswick, Fort Heart Productions looks forward to contributing to the vibrant arts scene of its hometown and beyond.

### **About Mariel Kathryn Hunter:**

Hunter grew up on the West Side of Saint John, New Brunswick. Intrigued by theater and performance from a young age, she made the leap to Vancouver in 2012 to pursue training as an actor. From there, she has gone on to work in theater, film and television on both sides of the curtain and the camera. Hunter currently works remotely for film and television producers, directors and writers.



SCAN FOR  
MORE  
WORKSHOP  
INFO

Fort Heart Productions



# PRESS KIT

## THE WORKSHOP

### Morning Session

Company Warm Up  
Acting Exercises & Games

### Lunch Seminars

Line Learning  
Seminar  
Casting 101  
Seminar

### Afternoon Session

Monologues &  
Scene Work  
Wrap Chat - Q & A

**SATURDAY, MAY 4TH**

**10 am - 6 pm | Uptown SJ**

**Pre-Registration Required!**

Lunch Provided - Spots Limited - Ages 16+

## MEET YOUR NEW ACTING COACH



Mariel Kathryn Hunter was raised in Saint John and moved to Vancouver in 2012 to pursue a career in film & theatre. There she founded Fort Heart Productions in 2017 which led to award winning Fringe shows and full seasons. As a coach she fostered a community of acting students, many of whom have since gone on to successful careers in various aspects of film, television and theatre.

*"When I left Saint John, the goal was always to bring all I could possibly learn back to my hometown. I'm thrilled to be back at home, and can't wait to get to work rebuilding Fort Heart while working alongside all the incredible talent Saint John has to offer. Let's get to work!"*

-m.



SCAN FOR  
MORE  
WORKSHOP  
INFO

Fort Heart Productions

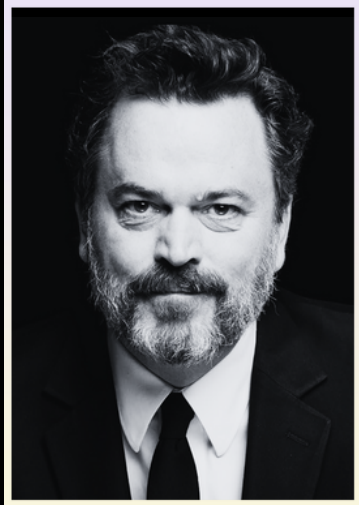


---

# PRESS KIT

---

## REFERRALS



**Bill Marchant**



**Creative Director  
at Vancouver Film School  
Credits Include: Corner Office,  
Chappie, Godzilla, Stargate  
SG-1, The 100**

Mariel Kathryn Hunter, founder of Fort Heart Productions, is a creative force like no other. Where others see a blank void, a cold and empty space, Mariel only ever sees more, a safe haven for the wild, beating heart, a studio, a stage, the opportunity for a thousand new stories to be told. She does not see adversity; she is forever witness to your right to share your fire with a cold and waiting world. She is a maker, a shaker and creator of things, the maximum, the minimal, always the magical. As the song goes, she kicks at the darkness until it bleeds daylight.

Mariel Kathryn Hunter is an actor, an artist, a storyteller, a creator, a producer, a writer, a director, a beacon. She does it all. Equal parts sweat, inspiration, dreams, truth and ferocious play. When you're ready, she is the waiting heart to embrace your every aspiration and banish your fears. Approach that heart. Fort Heart.



**Josh Collins**



**Credits Include: Tracker,  
Monarch: Legacy of Monsters,  
Joe Pickett, The 100,  
Batwoman, Supernatural**

I've worked with Mariel on several stage productions—ranging from large ensemble pieces to small intimate casts. Mariel is a fantastic and engaging director, a passionate producer, and all around a wonderfully creative person. From casting, to booking space, to running rehearsals all the way to opening night, Mariel exhibits unwavering commitment to the production and everyone involved. She's in your corner, from beginning to end, and you're likely to make a phenomenal friend in the process.

Fort Heart Productions is a wonderfully supportive company and Mariel has spent countless hours building that company from the ground up. Nothing but positive things to say and highly recommend anyone her way who has the opportunity to work with her and her company. I'm looking forward to future collaborations with Mariel and Fort Heart Productions.



SCAN FOR  
MORE  
WORKSHOP  
INFO

Fort Heart Productions



---

# PRESS KIT

---

## REFERRALS



Mariel Kathryn Hunter is a dedicated, caring artist with a knack for welcoming theatre lovers and theatre makers of all experiences. Her onstage presence is charming and warm. I highly recommend working with her and getting to know her unique take on performing.

### **Franny McCabe-Bennett**

International Award  
Winning Fringe Artist,  
including: Performer's Choice  
Award - Fundy Fringe 2017



If you love acting, or even think you might love acting, Fort Heart is the place to go. Not only does Mariel give you the creative freedom while instilling the fundamentals, she also establishes a supportive community built on wanting people to succeed in their creative journey. If it wasn't for Mariel and Fort Heart I wouldn't have even known where to start.

### **Devin Kotlowski**



Credits Include: You Can't  
Teach Love, Funhouse,  
Hitler's Last Stand.



SCAN FOR  
MORE  
WORKSHOP  
INFO

Fort Heart Productions



---

# PRESS KIT

---

## REFERRALS



I've done a lot of my best work with Mariel and Fort Heart. She is everything you could want: a force that will push you to be your best with the warmest, most supportive core at the heart of it all. I've never felt more like the artist I want to be than when I have with Mariel at my side. If you want the same, I cannot recommend her more.

**-Taylor M. Carlson**  
BA Major in Theatre,  
Minor in Creative Writing



Mariel is a great coach. She is a generous guide that helped me to discover characters safely and give them more dimension and humanity while also stirring me in the right direction of what the character needed but also what I needed to explore as an actor. Training with her made me feel courageous with my choices while her care made me feel safe and compassionate to myself and others. I would love to work with her again.

**-Marielle Ortinez-Cásares**



I did Mariel's workshop when I was feeling a little disconnected from my craft. I wanted so badly to do something outside my comfort zone but I couldn't find anywhere I felt safe to do it, until I found her. I asked her to give me a crazy and explosive character and that's exactly what I got! I had so much fun while still feeling safe in the environment. I miss Mariel and her classes. There is nothing like it!

**-Samantha Peçanhuk**



SCAN FOR  
MORE  
WORKSHOP  
INFO

Fort Heart Productions