

"Childhood is a knife  
stuck in the throat.  
It can't be easily  
removed."

**KWLT**  
Kitchener-Waterloo Little Theatre  
*presents*

Written by WAJDI MOUAWAD  
Translated by LINDA GABORIAU

# SCORCHED

Directed by HIYAM MAHRAT

**KITCHENER-WATERLOO LITTLE THEATRE**

9 Princess St. E, Waterloo ON

**JUNE 13-15**

**20-22**

**27-29**

**Fri/Sat - 7:30PM Sun - 2:00PM Tickets: \$25**

Discounts for members, groups & youth


For more information, visit [www.kwlt.org](http://www.kwlt.org)



## Land Acknowledgement

With gratitude and appreciation, we bring this story from the land of cedar trees, green mountains, and the Mediterranean Sea, to the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee. We are honoured to be working on and benefiting from this land that these Nations of people have been living on and caring for from time immemorial and continue to do so today. We acknowledge the violent, colonial, and oppressive history. We hold ourselves accountable and commit to the decolonizing work in our community. Acknowledging the colonization of this land includes resisting any form of ongoing colonization and joining hands to fight all forms of land theft and genocidal regimes.

- Hiyam Mahrat

	<p><b>KWLT Annual General Meeting</b></p> <p>Date: July 2, 2025 Where: 9 Princess St E. Time: 7:30pm More Info: <a href="http://www.kwlt.org">www.kwlt.org</a></p>
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## Director's Notes

It's my great pleasure to bring to you this humble experience of *Scorched*! The beautifully written script by Wajdi Mouawad, translated by Linda Gaboriau, will take you on a journey of unravelling secrets of the past and discovering roots.

Presenting on stage political theatre written or created by racialized Canadian artists is integral to my work. It's unfortunate to say that after many years, the story is still relevant with what is still happening in the region of Lebanon, Palestine and Syria.

In this production of *Scorched*, I'm focusing on how war keeps us stuck in cycles of loss of identity, generational trauma, and anger. The effects of war are not only there while it's happening. The war echoes are felt ahead of time and its remnants of displacement and destruction stay for many generations after. I'm talking specifically about the war that is rooted in colonization and the desire to conquer. The colonization that created borders and divided people based on religion, sect, and class.

In the rehearsal process, I have used some of my learnings of MT Space's methodology of devised physical theatre, developed by the late founder, Majdi Bou-Matar, with a focus on the physicality while centralizing the actors' lived experience.

### Donate to Kitchener-Waterloo Little Theatre

KWLT relies on the generous support of our communities to continue our operations. As a registered charity, we provide tax receipts for donations over \$20. Please scan the QR code or visit [kwlt.org/donations](http://kwlt.org/donations) to support us.



I hope you get a sense of what violent wars and colonization are capable of doing, and the unbearable ugly results and effects they have on people and land. I encourage you to leave the theatre hall today with thoughts on your connection and roots with the land that shape how you ground yourself and resist all forms of colonialism. Scorched is a reminder that relationship building and bridging with our loved ones require effort and time. It's an investment and belief in the power of the collective rather than escaping to individualism.

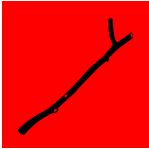
Scorched is not only a play to watch, it's a conversation starter. Let us continue to keep the important difficult conversations going beyond the theatre doors. The opportunity to bring Scorched to life through KWLT is invaluable to me at this stage of my career as an emerging director. I would like to thank every person who helped in bringing this production to life. Without you, we couldn't have made it.

- Hiyam Mahrat

### Hiyam Mahrat - Director

Hiyam Mahrat is a Syrian Canadian artist, born and raised in the United Arab Emirates. Hiyam came to Canada in 2018 and studied Performing Arts at Sheridan College. Besides her passion and work in the administrative field, she is a growing artist in theatre, film, and music. Through her work, she focuses on issues of belonging, identity diffusion, and cultural erosion. Hiyam is the recipient of the Waterloo Region Emerging Artist Award 2023, the Canadian Arab Institute 30 Under 30 Award 2025, and is currently the General Manager of MT Space in Waterloo. After performing in Ali and Ali's KWLT production in 2022, she's excited to come back as the director of 'Scorched' in the 24-25 Season.

## KWLT's 2025–2026 Season



**God of Carnage**  
People are animals  
By Yasmina Reza  
Translated by Christopher Hampton  
Directed by Ryan Bassett  
Auditions: August 24–26, 2025  
Performances: November 21–December 7, 2025



**The Popcorn Plays Showcase 2025**  
Ten short plays presented by ten theatrical explorers  
Supported by the Arts Grant Fund and the Motz Family Endowment hosted at WRFC  
Performances: August 2025



**The Unpopped Kernels Festival**  
A workshop of short pieces by local playwrights  
Presented by KWLT's New Works Collective  
Performances: September 2025



**A VHS Christmas Carol**  
Music and Lyrics by Clark Baxtresser  
Originally produced by StarKid Productions  
Directed by Diana Skrzydlo  
Auditions: TBD  
Performances: Dec 18–20, 2025



**March Madness 2026**  
The 13th edition of the competition – feeling lucky?  
Auditions: February 28, 2026  
Performances: March 7, 2026



**And...?**  
Propose a smaller scale production and have a chance to see your vision come to life!  
See the call for Studio Series submissions:  
<https://kwlt.org/category/calls/>



**The Prince**  
All the world's a stage, and I need a word with the director  
By Abigail Thorn  
Directed by Eliza Grafton  
Auditions: October 19–21, 2025  
Performances: January 30–February 15, 2026



**You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown**  
Good grief  
Based on The Comic Strip "Peanuts" By Charles M. Schulz  
Book, Music and Lyrics by Clark Gesner  
Additional Dialogue by Michael Mayer  
Additional Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa  
Directed by Elisabeth Wallis  
Auditions: March 22–24, 2026  
Performances: June 12–28, 2026

## **Cast**

*(order of appearance)*

Alphonse Lebel, Elhame.....Katherine Schill  
 Simon, Wahab.....Aslam Abdul Rahim  
 Janine.....Nawal Hussain  
 Ralph, Nihad, Abdessamad, Militiaman.....Martin Glassford  
 Nawal.....Jasmine Rajaballey  
 Jihane, Guide, Man.....Revati  
 Nazira, Antoine, Janitor.....Laura Chartier  
 Sawda.....Anusha Ramachandran  
 Abdelmalak, Chamseddine, Doctor.....Alper Arikan

## **Crew**

Director.....Hiyam Mahrat  
 Stage Manager.....Todd Davies  
 Assistant Stage Manager.....Ward Khobiah  
 Assistant Stage Manager.....Mel Mah  
 Technical Director.....Noah Snow  
 Co-Technical Director.....Josh Brach  
 Co-Technical Director.....Hillary Graham  
 Set Designer.....Diana Lobb  
 Lighting Designer.....JoAnne Ford  
 Costume Manager.....Ifigeneia Giannakoudi  
 Fight Director.....Nick Oddson  
 Sound Designer/Music Composer.....J Hopkins  
 Props Manager.....Michael L. Davenport

## **Production Notes**

“Incendies” was first presented in France, on March 14, 2003, at l’Hexagone Scène Nationale de Meylan, and subsequently in Québec, on May 23, 2003, at Théâtre de Quat’sous during the tenth edition of the Festival de théâtre des Amériques. The production was directed by Wajdi Mouawad.

“Scorched”, the English-language adaptation of “Incendies”, was made possible through the assistance of the National Arts Centre (Ottawa) and with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official Languages Communities (ipolc), an initiative of the Department of Canadian Heritage. “Scorched” was first presented in a staged reading at The Old Vic Theatre in London, as part of “4play Canada,” a showcase event co-presented by the National Arts Centre (Ottawa) and the Canadian High Commission (London uk). The reading was directed by Braham Murray, Artistic Director of the Royal Exchange Theatre Manchester.

“Scorched” is produced by permission of the author and Simard Agence Artistique.



## Playwright

### Wajdi Mouawad

Wajdi Mouawad (author of *Scorched*, *Tideline*, *Forests*, *Heavens*, among others) has established himself as a uniquely original player on the contemporary theatre scene. His plays have been translated in more than twenty languages and presented all over the world. In all his work, from his own plays and adaptations, from the productions he has directed to novels he wrote, Wajdi Mouawad expresses the conviction that “art bears witness to human existence through the prism of beauty.” He is recipient of numerous awards and honors for his work. He is currently Director of La Colline—théâtre national in Paris.

## Translator

### Linda Gaboriau

Linda Gaboriau is a literary translator and dramaturg based in Montreal. She has specialized in translating drama and has translated more than 120 plays, including the works of some of Québec's most prominent playwrights. Her translations have been published and widely produced across Canada and abroad. Her work has garnered many awards, including the Governor General's Award for Translation in 1996 and again in 2010 for *Forests*.

## Cast

### Katherine Schill - Alphonse Lebel, Elhame

Katherine has been active in community theatre for several years, primarily with Kitchener-Waterloo Little Theatre (KWLT) but also performing with Guelph Little Theatre, Innovative Productions, Outfest, and at the Guelph Fringe Festival. Most recently, they appeared in KWLT's production of *Pippin* and was involved in this year's *She Speaks* with Flush Ink Productions. They'd like to thank their partner for their endless support and encouragement, both on and off the stage.

### Aslam Abdul Rahim - Simon, Wahab

"For the most part of my life, I had felt that I was in front of an imaginary camera, being watched by an imaginary audience in an imaginary theatre and that was what got me into acting." Aslam is a newcomer and an award nominated actor. He stepped into the world of theatre with *Romeo and Juliet: A Cyberpunk Story*, a KWLT production of a rebooted Shakespearean play, directed by Jonathan C. Dietrich, for his role in which he was nominated for the Most Promising Newcomer Award by the Western Ontario Drama League. Being a newcomer, he has a lot to learn and is excited for it. For him, theatre is not only a place to learn but also a place to find joy and make valuable friendships

### Nawal Hussain - Janine

Nawal is new to both theatre and the Kitchener-Waterloo Little Theatre. *Scorched* is her first experience and she's excited to play Janine. She'd like to thank her friends and family for all their support.



**KWLT is an entirely volunteer-run organization**

Looking to get involved? There are always lots of opportunities to help out on-stage and behind the scenes! Check out our current volunteer needs at [kwlt.org/volunteer](http://kwlt.org/volunteer)

## Cast

### ***Martin Glassford - Ralph, Nihad, Abdessamad, Militiaman***

Martin is excited and thankful for the opportunity to be immersed once again in the local theatre community through this production of *Scorched*. He is grateful to his family and friends for their support. Martin's last KWLT production was as the director of the 2016 season's *Hunting Cockroaches* by Janusz Glowacki. Locally, he also acted and/or dramaturged for several seasons of the theatre festival *Outfest* (2016–2018). He wishes to highlight the inspiring commitment of the cast, crew, and director, whose passion for this work has been deeply moving. His next goal: a show more age-appropriate for his six-year-old to attend!

### ***Jasmine Rajaballey - Nawal***

Jasmine (any pronouns) is excited to return to the stage with their KWLT debut in *Scorched*. They're a multidisciplinary theatre artist and recent UWaterloo Theatre and Performance Program graduate, with Indo-Guyanese and French-Canadian roots. She has previously acted as Riley in *The Rehearsal* (The Innovative Productions), Ava in *Say the Words*, Potts in *Beauty and the Beast: Take Two*, and director of *The Waiting Room* (UWaterloo). They want to thank Hiyam and Nada for their trust and guidance, the cast and crew of *Scorched* for being the loveliest, and her beautiful, bold Agie (grandmother) for inspiring their characterization of Nawal.

### ***Revati - Jihane, Guide, Man***

Revati is a passionate actor and theatre artist whose journey began in her early teens. She performed with The Theatrewaalas in Mumbai in the children's play *Drop a Story, Pick a Tale* at NCPA in 2022, and went on to appear in *Odd One In* at Scrapyard Theatre, Ahmedabad in 2023. Now continuing her theatre journey in Canada, Revati brings depth, heart, and dedication to every role she takes on. With a strong belief in the transformative power of storytelling, she is committed to creating honest, moving work—and is always excited to collaborate with like-minded artists.

### ***Laura Chartier - Nazira, Antoine, Janitor***

Laura has been performing at KWLT since 2016. Highlights include *Scrooge*, *Macbeth*, and *March Madness* multiple times. Most recently, she worked behind the scenes of KWLT's cyberpunk version of *Romeo & Juliet*. Laura gives thanks to Hiyam for this opportunity, her castmates for inspiration and collaboration, and her husband Craig for all his loving support.

### ***Anusha Ramachandran - Sawda***

Anusha Ramachandran is a multidisciplinary artist active in theatre, with her most recent theatre works at the University of Waterloo Theatre and Performance program. She has performed in 'Paper' plays, appearing in the story 'Paper Route' and most recently in 'Power Plays'. With a rich background in classical Indian dance, Anusha brings a unique, movement driven approach to theatre that explores identity, emotion and cultural storytelling. She thanks her fellow cast, crew and mentors for their constant inspiration, energy and support in her artistic journey.

## Cast

### ***Alper Arikan - Abdelmalak, Chamseddine, Doctor***

Alper Arikan is a film and television actor by profession with a range from comedy to drama, historical epics to documentaries, and more. He has appeared in over 80 television series and films in multiple countries and languages. Alper also comes from an extensive background in economics and business management, and has worked as a freelance English Tutor for the past twenty years. His love of travel, cultures, and linguistics has taken him across many continents, living in many countries, and finally landing in Canada as his home of choice.

## Crew

### ***Todd Davies - Stage Manager***

After directing *The Funeral to End All Funerals* for KWLT in 2023, Todd is happy to return to stage managing for *Scorched*. He has directed, produced and stage managed many shows in the past 25 years. Upcoming he will be directing *The Game's Afoot* for Guelph Little Theatre in October, 2025.

### ***Ward Khobiah - Assistant Stage Manager***

Ward has done a performing arts preparation program at Sheridan College. He has been performing in shows in Levantine Dabkeh dance in the region and worked in the IMPACT Festival with MT Space in Waterloo. He has worked as an editor and proofreader for the LGBTQ+ Arabic activist online community. He plans to continue studying in the theatre field to work towards his passion.

### ***Mel Mah (they/she) - Assistant Stage Manager***

Mel has been with KWLT since 2013. They've helped with many productions at KWLT offstage, including: *Bat Boy: the Musical (ASM)*; *What Happened in Vegas (Producer)*; *Venus in Fur (Producer)*; *The Dover Road (Producer)*. You may have also spotted them minding the bar, the DMs of KWLT's social media, or [info@kwlt.org](mailto:info@kwlt.org).

### ***Diana Lobb - Set Designer***

Diana Lobb has played many roles at KWLT. She has been an actor, a stage manager, a producer, and a director in a variety of shows. When she's not exploring the theatre, you can find her at St. Jerome's University at the University of Waterloo where she is a lecturer in English language and literature.

### ***JoAnne Ford - Lighting Designer***

JoAnne has enjoyed the challenge of visualizing *Scorched* through lighting. Recent credits include lighting and set design for *Kafka's Dick* at KWLT (2024); and lighting design at GLT for *Can Lightning Strike Twice* (2023), *5 Alarm* (2024) and *Rehearsal For Murder* (2025). Thanks to everyone for sharing their creative spirit!

### ***Ifigeneia Giannakoudi - Costume Designer***

Ifigeneia Giannakoudi is making her debut as costume designer at KWLT. She is very excited to be working on this production of *Scorched*.

## Crew

### ***J Hopkins - Sound Designer/ Music Composer***

J has been working as a multidisciplinary theatre artist in Ottawa for over 10 years. This being her first production in K-W, she is ecstatic to be working alongside KWLT's fabulous team on this important piece of theatre. Past composition credits include Mauritius and Almost, Maine (Kanata Theatre). A huge thanks to Hiyam for her trust and leadership, and her amazing partner, friends, and family for believing in her all these years. You're all brilliant.

### ***Michael L. Davenport - Props***

Davenport previously did props for Cinderella (KWLT, 2015) and You're a Good Man Charlie Brown (JM Drama, 2018). He's more known for being on stage, e.g. Pippin (KWLT, 2025), Firebringer (KWLT, 2024), but enjoys the prop-py excuse to hang out at Kwartzlab and make things.

## Board of Directors

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## Special Thanks

The cast and crew of SCORCHED wish to give a special thank you to these exceptionally talented volunteers, who have helped make this show come to life

<i>Marketing</i> .....	Steven Elliott Jackson
<i>Poster Designer</i> .....	Phi Doan
<i>Fight Co-ordinator</i> .....	Martin Glassford
<i>Photography</i> .....	Ange Clayfield
<i>Communications Committee</i> .....	Katherine Schill, Matt Walsh, Mel Mah, Adrienne Dandy, Min Ling

Special thanks to Nada Humsi, ArabyOn, Myles McQuade, Rania Al-Hammoud, Mada Theatre, MT Space

Build and lighting assistance: Michael L Davenport, Matthew Koopmans, Peter Kotwicz, Mel Mah and Elske Schonlau