

Real Me Touring Collective • Theatre for Young Audiences
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RE: *Real Me* a Play for Grades 4-8, Touring 2025/26

North American tour of *Real Me*, an original musical for grades 4-8 and families, about a trans dad coming out to his children

I am Hanlon Uafás-Álainn, a trans Dad, award-winning producer/filmmaker/actor, and the playwright/director of *Real Me*, a play based on my experiences of gender-transitioning with young children. In 2017, I took a play called *Unexpectedly Trans* to the Halifax Fringe Festival where it received positive feedback and reviews (Coast review [here](#)). Together with **Under the Bus Collective** and in association with [Roseneath Theatre](#), I've reworked the play for young audiences with the support of the Ontario Arts Council, the Toronto Arts Council, Lush Cosmetics (the bath bomb people) and private donations.

In the development phase, we presented two online workshops (2021 during lockdowns and 2023) to schools and families in Toronto and Grey-Bruce. **More than 90% of attendees said they wanted to see the completed work.**

September 26th, 2024 saw the world premiere of this ground-breaking play with original songs and a predominantly trans cast, crew, and creative team.
We would love to bring this show to your school or community to celebrate together!

What's it about?

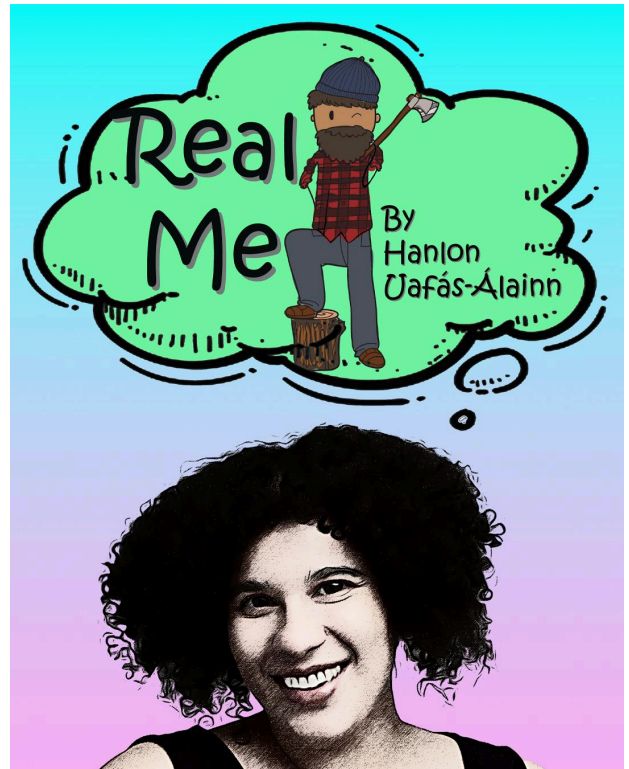
***Real Me* is the story of a family in transition; two siblings have near-opposite reactions when 'Mom' comes out as 'Papa.'** Teen-aged Blair is unbelievably supportive, whereas 7-year-old Iris is unsure. When Blair later comes out as non-binary, Aunt Jane fights with Papa over the children, but Iris and Blair come to his defence. Although Iris struggles at first, she finally realizes, "Momma's gone...but I've got the best Papa in the whole world!"

*"A celebration of queer joy on multiple levels, **Real Me** shows young people - and adults - an example of how they can live safely and with love within their family when presented with something new or unfamiliar. Using music and song, this very accessible play takes you on a fun journey and doesn't shy away from the real conversations facing families around queer acceptance - from both the children's and parents' perspectives. This important story gives incredible value to the trans experience and reminds us that trans lives matter and aren't scary at all - in fact they're worth celebrating with pride."*

~ Andrew Lamb, Artistic Director, Roseneath Theatre, Toronto

*"A funny, heartwarming, authentic family story about transition and transformation. **Real Me** is a fascinating and joyful play that offers insight and honesty, using music, comedy, and relatable characters."*

~ [Diane Flacks, stage/screen writer, dramaturge](#)



Empathy at work

We know it is essential to connect trans kids to trans stories, and it has been documented that a positive environment and the use of a trans person's correct name and pronouns is vital to the mental health of trans people, including trans and non-binary youth, and that it lowers the number of suicide attempts. It is important to us that all students in this age group learn about diverse experiences as they grow up in such a diverse province because they can model acceptance, empathy, and even celebration of people who are different to those younger than themselves.

This play has been modified to suit students in **grades 4-8** and has an interactive aspect. Each participant receives a kit containing "Magic Glasses," an inclusive pride flag, and a trans-positive button to use - when prompted - and to take home at the end. (Sorta like going to Rocky Horror Picture Show).

Running time: 1 hour and 20 minutes with a Q and A.

Cost

We strive to keep costs low for venues and schools. In order to pay the actors, the musical director, and the technician a fair wage, we ask that schools contribute up to CAD \$900 but we will work with schools and communities to try to accommodate special circumstances as we really want to get this important message out into the world.

Subsidies and free options (if needed)

If your school does not have a budget for performances, please let me know at RealMeHanlon@gmail.com or call me at 647-961-6220

If you are in Ontario, you may also apply for a subsidy to allow your school to book a performance through daytrippers.ca. Their organization helps schools who can demonstrate financial need with the cost of taking part in events that line up with the curriculum.

Space requirements

Real Me has been designed to tour; we have screens that can be easily assembled onsite and our props fit into the milk crates we use as chairs. The main things we need from schools/venues are plugs for our lights, projector, and piano, and the space in a gym or auditorium to perform. (Theatres may reach out to discuss theatre-specific requirements.)

Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions about the project - we need your help to address transphobia in this difficult climate. If you can commit to inviting us to perform that would help us secure funding. **We are currently booking school and pride performances:**

- ***Nova Scotia in June 2025***
- ***Ontario in July 2025***
- ***Ontario April/May of 2026,***

Please reach out with questions or to confirm your interest either by phone at 647-961-6220, or by email at RealMeHanlon@gmail.com

Thanks for your time and we hope to speak with you soon,

Hanlon Uafás-Álainn
Director, Producer, Playwright
Real Me Touring Collective



PS. Here's a little bit about our team:

All individuals performing or doing tech will have a vulnerable sector police check done before we hit the road.

Davrielle (back left) is a performer and songwriter who plays Papa and Henry, bringing their powerful voice and tender acting to these roles. Davrielle's music can be found on all music streaming platforms.

Neurodivergent Blair is played by emotional powerhouse and on-film and stage actor/singer/producer **Emily Nixon** (bottom left).

Spirited young Iris is exuberantly embodied by **Sarah Magni** (bottom right), founder of [Thatz Showbiz](#), who has performed with the Famous People Players, in film and theatre, and sung on stages in Toronto and New York.



Brie Doyle (top right), brings warmth and humanity to a complex character in Aunt Jane and hilarity as Iris's BFF April; Brie appeared on TV's *Knock Knock Ghost* and in several films.

Emily Andrews has taken on the huge task of playing alternate for the roles of Aunt Jane and Iris, and has appeared in and produced numerous films, TV shows, and live productions.

Trans Music Director **Rowyn Campbell** has composed beautiful and complex arrangements of Hanlon's original songs to suit the voices of this talented and diverse cast.

Brandubh Uafás-Álainn's costume, set, and makeup designs can be found in numerous short films, productions, and a music video for Rich Aucoin. Bran is Under the Bus's non-binary production designer and stage manager for this production.

Acclaimed Actor/Playwright [Diane Flacks](#), known for her works *Unholy* and *Waiting Room*, has been seen on the Stratford Festival stage in the titular role of Nathan the Wise. Diane is the dramaturg for Real Me and has been from its beginning.

Andrew Lamb, Theatre for Young Audiences expert and Artistic Director of [Roseneath Theatre](#), is a fountain of information and advice. Andrew's generosity with his time and knowledge made the evolution of this play possible.

Dante Amo is the alternate stage manager and alternate for the character of Henry which they helped develop.

Thorne Brown, a black, mad, trans playwright/actor/screenwriter, and member of Under the Bus; Thorne workshopped the role of Blair in 2021 and consulted on the script in 2023.