



**The
Directors
Summit**

November 13-20, 2009
Toronto, Ontario

The Directors Summit is a gathering of theatre professionals from across Canada and around the world to connect and exchange ideas on the art of interpretation.

Motivated by the desire to propel career opportunities for women through showcase, training and discourse, Nightwood has assembled a roster of renowned national and international directors. Join us for an exciting week of revelation, introspection and innovation in theatre.

THE KICK START RECEPTION AND COCKTAIL PARTY

Nightwood launches this landmark gathering of artists with social revelry and celebration. Welcoming remarks by Nightwood Theatre AD **Kelly Thornton** and Shaw Festival AD **Jackie Maxwell**. We look forward to seeing you there.

Friday, November 13, 5:30pm // The Hub (Canadian Stage Rehearsal Hall, 26 Berkley Street) // Admission Free

IN CONVERSATION

The Canadian Vanguard

Two Siminovitch Award-winning directors discuss the creation of brave new theatrical styles from distinct Canadian cultures. Quebec's most revered directorial matriarch, **Brigitte Haentjens** and Newfoundland's favourite daughter, **Jillian Keiley** come together to discuss their innovative techniques and what it meant to win Canada's most prestigious award.

Saturday, November 14, 6:30pm // The Hub // \$10

The Agony and Ecstasy of Staging New Work

Playwriting is "an art of composing in the medium of the actor", and so is the art of the director, Susan Letzler Cole observes. What the director "sees" into reality is the end point of a process of exploring the nature of the script by enacting possibilities in rehearsal. How do you maintain fidelity to "what was written" and to "what was meant" while navigating the precarious terrain of an uncharted dramatic landscape.

Panelists: *Cahoots AD, Nina Lee-Aquino; Alberta Theatre Projects AD, Vanessa Porteous; Shaw Associate AD, Eda Holmes; and Director Liesl Tommy (South Africa/US).*

Monday, November 16, 6:30pm // The Hub // \$10

Staging Africa

Renowned South African directors **Yael Farber** and **Liesl Tommy** discuss bringing issues of Africa to the world stage. "I strive to create theatre which plunders imagination, burgles our fragile human emotions and stalks truth and beauty with absolute ferocity," says Tommy. Of her play *Molara*, Farber posits, "I ha[ve] long been interested in creating work that explores the journey back from the dark heart of unspeakable trauma and pain toward the choice between revenge or redemptive forgiveness."

Tuesday, November 17, 6:30pm // The Hub // \$10

Relevance and Irreverence: Context and Cultural Mythologies

Anne Bogart, visionary director, wrote that the artist is engaged in the "violent act of articulation" and that this articulation "begins a new organization of the inherited landscape". How does cultural context inhabit our work? How do we explore, explode, inform and transform our cultural mythologies?

Panelists: *Directors Weyni Mengesha; Yael Farber (South Africa); Native Earth AD, Yvette Nolan; Sabina Berman (Mexico); Johanna Schall (Germany).*

Wednesday, November 18, 6:30pm // The Hub // \$10



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Broadway Bound

Multi-award winning American actor **Brian Dennehy** and Canada's rising star director **Jennifer Tarver**, disclose the story of an artistic alchemy that culminated in the hit production of Samuel Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape* at The Stratford Festival. As the play goes on to Broadway, Tarver and Dennehy discuss the intimate and often complex relationship between a director and her actor.

Thursday, November 19, 4:30pm // Berkeley Street Theatre Downstairs // \$10

SPECIAL EVENTS

The MarketPlace

Anna Shapiro, 2008 Tony Award-winning director, said "I'm pretty sure the only way you get to have a life in the theatre is if somewhere in your life you come upon a group of people who, although they don't need you, make room for you." The Market Place is a speed dating frenzy between Canada's most prominent Artistic Directors and our most exciting directors to watch.

Saturday, November 14, 10am-1pm // The Hub // By Application (application info available at www.nightwoodtheatre.net)

The Penelopiad Director's Showcase

In Association with The Shaw Festival

In the culmination of this week-long experimental master class, ten provocative directors present their distinct vision of Margaret Atwood's *The Penelopiad*. Led by renowned world stage director **Yael Farber** and **Josette Bushell-Mingo**, director of the acclaimed London and National Arts Centre productions, the presentation of this epic drama features an exciting ensemble of actors courtesy of The Shaw Festival.

Sunday, November 15, 3pm // Dancemakers Studio Theatre // \$15

Presented with permission of Margaret Atwood, Curtis Brown (UK) and the National Arts Centre

New Blood Cabaret

The 4x4 Directors Summit is an opportunity to present our brightest young talent! The New Blood Cabaret is an evening of theatre from the minds of the next wave of directors. Nightwood provides a stage for ten fresh emerging directors to show their wares. Join us for this rare and raw event, and stay for a late night party.

Thursday, November 19, 8pm // The Hub // Admission Free

MASTER CLASSES (space limited - reserve your spot now!)

Penelopiad Director's Lab

The Penelopiad Directors Lab is a week-long master class (November 8-14, 2009) culminating in a one-night theatrical showcase. We are seeking, through a juried selection process, 10 emerging or mid-career female directors. These directors will have established themselves as professional artists in their community and will have proven their commitment to artistic excellence.

Working with professional actors (courtesy of The Shaw Festival) the participants will be mentored by both **Josette Bushell-Mingo**, director of Margaret Atwood's *The Penelopiad* (Royal Shakespeare Company/National Arts Centre) and world renowned stage director **Yael Farber**. Atwood's original script will be divided and assigned to selected directors who will work alone and in collaboration on their assigned portion of the text. The play will be presented in its entirety in a showcase to the public on Sunday November 15.

Each participant will be charged a \$75 Lab Fee. Nightwood Theatre and The Shaw Festival have greatly subsidized the costs of this program to ensure that The Penelopiad Directors Lab and The 4x4 Directors Summit are accessible to all worthy artists.

November 8-15 // By Application (application info available on our web site or [click here](#))



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Kalideography

Jillian Keiley of Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland leads this crash course in Kalideography, a system of synchronized movement harmonics, which make possible the creation of layered and complex stage landscapes. "Like symphonic music" explains Keiley, "but created with an actor's speaking voice, natural movement, technical elements and blocking."

November 14, 2pm–5pm and November 15, 10am–1pm // \$85

The Director's Toolkit

Two of the director's most vital relationships are with actor and playwright. **Liesl Tommy**, renowned director and instructor at Juilliard and Brown University leads participants in an exploration of the tools of collaboration: understanding the playwright's process, the art of dramaturgy, and interpretation and illumination within the actor's journey.

November 16 and 17, 10am–1pm // \$85

POV: Playwriting from the Director's Chair

Sabina Berman, multi-award winning Mexican playwright and director, writes from the multiple perspectives of author, director and designer. She "builds a building with spaces where actors can create". Join Berman in this master class exploring how image inspires narrative when writing from a directorial POV.

November 16 and 17, 2pm–5pm // \$85

New Blood Program

The New Blood Program is an opportunity for emerging female directors to debut their work to the professional theatre community and to foster connections with peers, mid-career and senior artists. Nightwood will select 10 emerging female directors to participate in the program based on the merit of their application. We are seeking artists in the beginning stages of a professional career who have demonstrated style and ingenuity as directors. The program will run throughout the week of the 4x4 Director's Summit November 13–22, including a showcase of their work in the New Blood Cabaret on November 19.

Each participant will be charged a \$50 Lab Fee. Nightwood Theatre has greatly subsidized the costs of this program to ensure that The New Blood Program and The 4x4 Directors Summit are accessible to all worthy artists.

November 16-19 // By Application (application info available on our web site or [click here](#))

The Business of Art: What an Aspiring Artistic Director Needs To Know

Art is a serious business. When hiring, theatres seek leaders with both artistic vision and entrepreneurial chops. Participants will receive the 101 on fiscal and strategic planning, revenue diversification, stewardship and more from: **Philip Akin** (Obsidian), **Richard Rose** (Tarragon), **Leslie Lester** (Soulpepper), **Monica Esteves** (Nightwood) and other established professionals.

November 18, 10am–1pm // \$25

AVAILABLE NOW!

THE \$44 DIRECTORS SUMMIT INDUSTRY PASS:

Enjoy every event in the Summit for 33% off.

Also get 15% off all Master Classes (Penelopiad and New Blood excluded)

**For more information or to reserve a spot in any of the Master Classes,
In Conversations and Special Events, or to buy a \$44 Industry Pass
please contact Denyse Karn, Associate Artistic Producer**

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