

NightwoodTheatre ●●●●

2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT



REPORT FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Nightwood Theatre's 2018-2019 Season has been a year full of buzz, hard work, dedication and celebration. This season held a great deal of change for the company in sending off Kelly Thornton, after 18 years of outstanding service, to lead the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, a company that not long ago would have been an unlikely destination for a woman to helm. The announcement of her departure marked the beginning of a huge shuffle of leadership within our community at Soulpepper, Cahoots, Theatre Passe Muraille, Necessary Angel, Paprika Festival, Rhubarb Festival, and Write From The Hip.



For Nightwood, this shift was exciting, re-energizing, and of course, a challenge. While Kelly valiantly straddled the needs of two theatres and prepared for her relocation, our Managing Director, staff, and our Board of Directors were charged with upholding their usual ambitiousness, while adding the pressure of an Artistic Director search—and then transition—to a full calendar of events. And yet through all of this goodbye-ing, hello-ing, visioning and adjusting, Nightwood had a triumphant season by all accounts. Our staff was resilient, our audiences and donors were generous, and our works were powerful, entertaining, and rewarded with numerous nominations and awards.

The Season launched with the Groundswell Festival, hosting 6 new play readings. On the mainstage we unleashed the world premiere of *Now You See Her*, “an insurrectionary outburst of original music, words and movement,” exploring the diverse ways women fade from sight in our culture, with co-producers Quote Unquote Collective and Why Not Theatre. The show played to sold-out audiences and garnered widespread critical acclaim. It was thrilling to transfer Diane Flacks’ *Unholy* to Zoomer Studios, staging it for cameras and a live studio audience for VisionTV. We were proud to produce *Grace* by Jane Doe, instigating a vital discussion on the failures and limitations of the legal system. Nightwood partnered with Obsidian Theatre on Jocelyn Bioh’s hilarious and potent *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play*. This Ghanaian story provided a commentary on the perversity of the beauty ‘contest’, revealing the shattering impact that notions of western beauty have on African girls and around the world. The production was nominated for 7 Dora Mavor Moore Awards, winning Outstanding Production and Outstanding Direction, as well as 2 Toronto Critics Awards for Best Director and Best Supporting Performance. *A Blow in the Face* was produced by Bald Ego Theatre in association with Nightwood, and was unabashedly theatrical, taking an Alice in Wonderlandian look into Postpartum Depression. *Inner Elder*, a co-presentation with Native Earth Performing Arts, took audiences on a journey of transformation through real-life memories of Cree artist Michelle Thrush. Nominated for a Betty Award for Outstanding New Play and Outstanding Production, Thrush won for Outstanding Performance. We were thrilled to be able to expose Toronto audiences to Thrush’s storytelling.

Nightwood supported two internships, six emerging creators through Write From The Hip, and fifteen emerging artist/producers through our Young Innovators Program, forging relationships that will long surpass their tenure with us. We played a vital role in capacity building for several smaller companies, and in sharing resources with larger companies. We benefited from these partnerships, equally initiated by us as approached by others, with projects that expanded and enriched our canon. This model of reciprocity encouraged stability, goodwill and a chance to share best practices.

As we enter our next season, we carry all of the strength gained through Kelly Thornton’s tremendous tenure, and are poised to recharge and refresh our loyal audiences, looking inward and making steps toward change and growth. I applaud the astonishing efforts and loyalty of our staff, the knowledge and unwavering dedication of my co-executive Beth Brown, and the passion and guidance of our Board of Directors, as well as the many artists, audiences, donors, sponsors and public funders who sustain us. Lastly, I wish to offer my deep thanks for the warm welcome I have received from Nightwood’s countless stakeholders, who have entrusted me with this incredible company, leading it into an incredible future.

- Andrea Donaldson, Artistic Director



REPORT FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

It has been quite an ambitious year at Nightwood Theatre and we are proud of everything that has been accomplished! We are thrilled to have continued to make positive headway toward achieving our strategic goals as per our strategic plan covering Seasons 2016 – 2020. Financially, we are on stable footing with an operational surplus for the third year in a row. This accomplishment leaves us with an accumulated surplus of \$51,263, which is just above our goal of \$50,000. This goal was put in place to ensure there would be no cashflow issues throughout the season and to secure the financial viability of Nightwood Theatre. Nightwood is one of the few theatre

organizations in Canada who receive a large portion of their funding from Private Sector Revenues—48% this past season. We are extremely grateful to the many supporters of our work!

This past year in particular saw great success for the Lawyer Show with the addition of a fourth performance. Sponsorships were at a record high of \$53,000 and overall the production grossed \$195,000, netting over \$100,000 for Nightwood Theatre's production and play development activities. Our staff are an incredible team who have been able to successfully wrangle one of our busiest seasons to date. We brought on some additional contract workers to assist in the marketing department during our busiest time of year. Our team was also supplemented this year with the addition of a full time Arts Management Intern, a position supported through the Ontario Arts Council's Compass Grant.

With six productions this past year, we continued to build important relations with venues in the city, including Buddies in Bad Times Theatre and Crow's Theatre, and we were welcomed to new venues and communities, which included The Theatre Centre and Zoomer Studios. With additional funding secured through TD Bank this past season, we were able to increase our audience engagement experience by offering a symposium consisting of two panel discussions on *The Psychology of Memory* and *The Failure of the Justice System* for our production of *Grace* by Jane Doe. We also expanded our interactions with the audience through increased talk back and panel conversations held post performance. Study guides were created for each of our productions and our engagement of high school and university students increased as a result.

I am truly appreciative of the work of our Board of Directors who rolled up their sleeves and devoted a great deal of their time and expertise during the process of searching for and transitioning between Artistic Directors. I am also incredibly grateful to all of those individuals who donated their time to Nightwood on the search committee and in the background providing support, documents, and thoughts around the process of finding the right Artistic Director for Nightwood. I cannot thank Board Chair Susan Hodkinson enough for her time, patience and ability to implement the feedback of various individuals throughout the process. Thank you so much for your incredible heart! And to the truly talented staff who make the magic happen, thank you for all of your hard work, dedication and for sharing your talents to make Nightwood the success that it is. While we were greatly saddened by Kelly's departure, I am thrilled to be working alongside Andrea Donaldson in moving this organization forward with renewed visioning.

- Beth Brown, Managing Director

REPORT FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

2018-2019 was a year of tremendous success and new beginnings for Nightwood Theatre, with a couple of bittersweet farewells and joyous hellos along the way.

Artistically, the company mounted an ambitious six productions, including the recording of a live performance of *Unholy* by Diane Flacks by Zoomer Media for national broadcast. In association with Obsidian Theatre, we presented *School Girls; or, the African Mean Girls Play*, and saw the production take home the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Production and Outstanding Director in the General Theatre Division.



We all watched with delight when *Mouthpiece*, part of our 2017-18 season, was adapted for the screen and shown at TIFF. An incredible time was had by all as former intern Artistic Director Sadie Epstein-Fine directed the Lawyer Show. Four sold out performances of *Mamma Mia!* further extended Nightwood's reach into the legal community. The success of this production, along with continuing strong donor support and excellent financial stewardship by management, enabled the company to finish the year with another operating surplus, adding to the financial health of the organization.

It was with a little sadness but a great sense of pride that we saw Kelly Thornton leave Nightwood after 18 years to take on the position of Artistic Director at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Company in Winnipeg. Kelly's continued success is an illustration of the fulfilling of one of Nightwood's core goals: to propel the careers of women in theatre in Canada. We are delighted that Andrea Donaldson agreed to join us as our new Artistic Director in the Spring. Andrea has been part of the Nightwood Theatre family for some time, given her involvement with the Write From The Hip program. Andrea's creative vision, inclusive leadership style and passion for Nightwood have made her transition into her new role seamless and full of optimism and positivity. We are so proud of the way Andrea represents us in the theatre community.

Beth Brown enters her 6th year as Managing Director of the company, and her steady hand and commitment to Nightwood, especially during this year of transition, have continued to be remarkable. The Board worked very hard this year and greatly supported the process of the search for a new Artistic Director. We were saddened to bid farewell to two retiring Board directors. Karon Bales was a Board Member for 10 years and chaired the Board for 7 of those years. Brent Vickar was on the Board for 6 years and was the Board's Secretary for 5 years. Thankfully, both Brent and Karon continue to be involved in the Lawyer Show, so we know we will keep in touch. We were thrilled to welcome Paul Butler as a new Board Member. Paul has been a supporter of Nightwood for many years, and we feel very fortunate that he has agreed to expand his involvement in this way. We also owe a debt of gratitude to continuing Board Members The Hon. Sarmite Bulte, Hilary Green, Chantria Tram, Barbara Moses, Edina Cavalli, Sharlene Kanhai, and Maria Zakos for their ongoing commitment to Nightwood Theatre.

2020 will mark the 40th anniversary of Nightwood Theatre. We are incredibly excited about our future, and eagerly look forward to celebrating our past and the great women who have contributed to the building of the company into Canada's foremost feminist theatre company. It continues to be a great privilege to chair this Board. Thank you.

- Susan Hodkinson, Chair of the Board



MISSION AND VALUES

OUR MISSION

As Canada's foremost feminist theatre, Nightwood provides an essential home for the creation of extraordinary theatre by women.*

OUR VISION

To be a world-renowned cultural centre for provocative theatre, bringing audiences, artists, and activists together to elevate women's voices.

OUR VALUES

Provocation

We use theatre to spark empathy and provoke action through a deeper conversation about the diversity of our lived experiences.

Empowerment

Our theatre empowers audiences and artists alike by giving voice to varying perspectives, and offering opportunities for growth and a space to connect.

Feminism

We promote intersectional feminist values and equity. We believe theatre is a potent vehicle to challenge historical and systemic power imbalances in all aspects of what we do.

Inclusivity

We are committed to produce art that is driven by - and that gives voice to - the diverse society we live in.

Integrity

It is critically important to operate with integrity, be truthful in our interactions and accountable for our actions.

Opportunity

It is our responsibility to create meaningful opportunities for women in our field, prioritizing folks with numerous intersecting identities. This value shapes our hiring practices, and the mentoring and sharing of knowledge with emerging talent in order to seed a new generation of Canadian theatre practitioners.

Respect

All of our relationships, whether with artists, producers, employees, donors or audiences must be conducted with full transparency, open communication and an emotional intelligence that approaches human relationships with fairness and collaboration.

*Our definition *expressly* includes trans women.



ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPING PLAYS - DEVELOPING PEOPLE

Beyond producing contemporary works of the highest calibre, Nightwood is the leading champion of women theatre artists in our country. We pride ourselves on launching and advancing the careers of our nation's finest women artists through a multiplicity of programs and support systems. This past season, Nightwood offered professional development workshops to emerging writers by Andrea Donaldson, and a physical theatre workshop hosted by Quote Unquote Collective. We played a vital role in capacity building for fledgling companies, providing resources and support through partnerships and co-productions to help usher work to the stage.

We added to our immense legacy as a home for emerging and established female playwrights through play development, paired with our commitment to premiering and presenting new Canadian works such as *A Blow in the Face* by Lisa Ryder, *Grace* by Jane Doe, and *Inner Elder* by Cree artist Michelle Thrush. We developed and launched six new works in our annual Groundswell Festival, featuring plays from our Write From The Hip emerging playwrights unit: Intisar Awisse, Monica Garrido, Meghan Greeley, Ali Joy Richardson, Chelsea Woolley, and co-writers Andrea Scott and Nick Green. We also workshoped Karen Hines' *All the Little Animals I Have Eaten*, slated for production in our 2019-2020 Season, as well as *Children of Fire* by Shahrzad Arshadi and Anna Chatterton, and *Between the Sheets - Parts 1 & 2* by Jordi Mand.

Our team of writers, directors, performers, designers, and production personnel continued to boast unprecedented female-driven metrics in our field. In order to continue building upon this growth, Nightwood provides female practitioners and arts producers various training, resources, and employment opportunities to excel in their chosen fields. Practitioners were supported through internships, such as with Grace Phan-Nguyen in Arts Management. Sadie Epstein-Fine continued her internship in Artistic Direction, and was then invited to direct our annual Lawyer Show production of *Mamma Mia!* In our Young Innovators Program, we trained 15 next generation artists in the art and business of theatre, guiding them toward self-producing Fempopocalypse—a cabaret in celebration of International Women's Day, with proceeds benefiting the Assaulted Women's Helpline. We offered our studio at reduced rates or free of charge in order to help independent women-driven companies get their work to the stage, also providing our studio to Why Not Theatre's Riser Project as a Senior Partner. It is these numerous endeavours that maintain our place as Canada's essential home for the creation of extraordinary theatre by women.



NOW YOU SEE HER

October 16 - November 4, 2018



Co-produced by Nightwood Theatre, Quote
Unquote Collective, and Why Not Theatre

**CREATED AND
PERFORMED BY**
Amy Nostbakken
Norah Sadava
Raha Javanfar
Maggie Huculak
Lisa Karen-Cox
Cheyenne Scott

CREATIVE TEAM

Directors | Amy Nostbakken and Norah Sadava
Choreographer | Orian Michaeli
Composition | Amy Nostbakken
Dramaturgy | Lisa Codrington and Falen Johnson
Set, Prop, & Costume Design | Jung-Hye Kim
Asst. Costume Design & Head of Wardrobe | Sim Suzer
Head of Props | Kira Duff
Lighting Design | André du Toit
Video Design | Kaitlin Hickey and Lily Ross-Millard
Sound Design | James Bunton
Additional Composition | Raha Javanfar, Motion and DJ L'Oqenz
Creative Contributors | Émilie Monnet and Natasha Mumba
Production Manager | Suzie Balogh
Technical Director | Adrien Whan
Stage Manager | Tara Mohan
Assistant Stage Manager | Emily Maxwell
Live Sound Engineer | Amy Fort

"Now You See Her radiates wit, urgency and theatricality."
- NNNN, NOW Magazine

★★★ 1/2 (out of 4) - Toronto Star

2018 Dora Mavor Moore Award nominee for Outstanding New Play,
Outstanding Costume Design (Jung-Hye Kim), and Outstanding Sound
Design/Composition (James Bunton & Amy Nostbakken).

GRACE

January 8 - 26, 2019

A Nightwood Theatre production
in association with Crow's Theatre



CAST

Rose Napoli
Michaela Washburn
Conrad Coates
Brenda Robins

CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright | Jane Doe
Director | Andrea Donaldson
Assistant Director | Sadie Epstein-Fine
Set & Costume Design | Joanna Yu
Lighting Design | Michelle Ramsay
Projection Design | Laura Warren
Sound Design & Composition | Deanna H. Choi
Assistant Sound Design | Cosette Pin
Stage Manager & Associate Lighting Design | Christina Cicko
Production Manager | Pip Bradford

"Many people wonder about what next steps to take in the aftermath of #MeToo. Nightwood Theatre has stepped up with the beautifully acted and powerfully written play, *Grace*."

-NNNN, NOW Magazine

"Instant transport back about 60 or so years... dynamite, exquisite... I can't find a word or words which would give the impact of this performance justice ... just let me say that it was like a shamanic clearing for me. I wake this morning feeling more at peace and no longer needing to carry the 'responsibility' ... the fault." - An audience member gave us permission to share her heartwarming words after joining us at *Grace*.

SCHOOL GIRLS; OR, THE AFRICAN MEAN GIRLS PLAY

March 5 - 24, 2019

An Obsidian Theatre production
in association with Nightwood Theatre



CAST

Akosua Amo-Adem
Allison Edwards-Crew
Melissa Eve Langdon
Bria McLaughlin
Tatyana Mitchell
Natasha Mumba
Rachel Mutombo
Emerjade Simms

CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright | Jocelyn Bioh
Director | Nina Lee Aquino
Assistant Director & Movement | Tawiah Ben M'Carthy
Dialect Coach | Ausar Stewart
Fight Director | Richard Lee
Lighting Design | Michelle Ramsay
Sound Design & Composition | Reza Jacobs
Set Design | Rachel Forbes
Costume Design | Joanna Yu
Head of Props | Vanessa Janiszewski
Head of Wardrobe | Chanti Laliberte
Stage Manager | Emilie Aubin
Assistant Stage Manager | Ada Aguilar
Production Managers | Rebecca Vandavelde & Alanna McConnell
Producer | Luke Reece

"*School Girls* tackles shadism with wit, humour and endearing performances." ★★★ (out of 4) - The Globe and Mail

NNNN - NOW Magazine

★★★ 1/2 (out of 4) - Toronto Star

2018 Dora Mavor Moore Award winner for Outstanding Production and Outstanding Direction (Nina Lee Aquino). Nominated for Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role (Natasha Mumba), Outstanding Performance in a Featured Role (Bria McLaughlin), Outstanding Scenic/Production Design (Rachel Forbes), Outstanding Costume Design (Joanna Yu), and Outstanding Sound Design/Composition (Reza Jacobs).

A BLOW IN THE FACE

March 26 - April 14, 2019

A Bald Ego Theatre Production
in association with Nightwood Theatre



CAST

Tess Degenstein
Selina Martin
Jordan Pettie
Lisa Ryder

CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright | Lisa Ryder
Based on characters created by
Selina Martin & Lisa Ryder
Director & Choreographer | Monica Dottor
Set & Costume Design | Monica Dottor
Lighting Design | Oz Weaver
Composition | Ricahrd Feren & Selina Martin
Fight Choreographer | Louisa Zhu
Assistant Fight Choreographer | Tammy Everett
Cloud Construction Assistance | Taylor Young
Stage Manager | Troy Taylor
Production Manager | Suzie Balogh
Producers | Lisa Ryder & Kim Blackwell

"[Ryder] finds pockets for laughs at the height of tragedy, when empathy is most needed and the most uncomfortable to offer."

- Mooney on Theatre

"*A Blow in the Face* is an incredible portrayal of the unraveling of a new mother's mind. This play, and hopefully, the discussion will bring more insight and understanding into this very complex, very misunderstood disorder."

- Grażyna Mancewicz, Social Worker/Therapist with the
Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre



INNER ELDER

May 8 - 12, 2019

Co-Presented by Native Earth Performing Arts
and Nightwood Theatre

Written and Performed by
Michelle Thrush

CREATIVE TEAM

Director | Karen Hines

Lighting & Scenic Design | Sandi Somers

Composition | Sandy Scofield

Sound Design | JP Lord Sound Design

Stage Manager & Lighting Director | Cimmeron Meyer

Producer | Grant Burns

"In the era of Truth and Reconciliation, Michelle Thrush's one-woman show, *Inner Elder*, is an engaging breath of fresh air."

- Mooney on Theatre

★★★★ "A master storyteller... Thrush's recollection is so vivid, it sears itself into your consciousness."

- Calgary Herald



UNHOLY LIVE AT ZOOMER STUDIOS

November 16 - 18, 2018

A Nightwood Theatre
and Vision TV Presentation

CAST

Diane Flacks
Barbara Gordon
Niki Landau
Blair Williams
Bahareh Yaraghi

CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright | Diane Flacks
Director | Kelly Thornton
Assistant Director | Sadie Epstein-Fine
Lighting Design | Bonnie Beecher
Sound Design | Richard Feren
Original Costume Design | Lindsay C. Walker
Wardrobe Coordinator | Christine Urquhart
Original Movement Direction | Viv Moore
Stage Manager | Christina Cicko
Producers | Beth Brown & Colin Rivers



AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

As always, Nightwood invested heavily this season in creating conversations around the themes and questions of the plays on our stages. For every production, we invited audiences to remain after the show for exchanges hosted by a varying selection of the artists who helmed the works, giving audiences direct contact with some of the finest theatre-makers in our country. We were passionate about connecting our works to secondary and post secondary schools, offering special performances and conversations for all of our productions. We were also thrilled to connect with new Community Partners such as Bechdel Tested, with whom we co-hosted a Women in Theatre panel in October 2018, followed by a screening of *A Raisin in the Sun* at the Revue Cinema.



Our season opener was *Now You See Her* by Quote Unquote Collective. Unpacking the play's themes of disappearance, and examining systemic power imbalances that continue to exist in contemporary womanhood, we hosted a special post-show conversation with expert guests Andrea Werhun author of *Modern Whore*, The AMY Project's Artistic Director Nikki Shaffeeullah, and Anti-Oppression Educator and Consultant Rania El Mugammar. Additionally, we hosted a talk back with the full artistic team: Norah Sadava, Amy Nostbakken, Lisa Karen Cox, Maggie Huculak, Cheyenne Scott, and Raha Javanfar.

Later in the Fall we entered the sphere of TV, transferring Diane Flacks' hit stage-play *Unholy* to Zoomer Media, staging it for cameras and a live studio audience for VisionTV. We are thrilled to explore this new model of audience engagement, transferring works that extend beyond the stage and onto the screen.



For our winter production of *Grace* by Jane Doe, we instigated a vital discussion on the failures and limitations of the legal system and we were honoured to organize a symposium where two powerhouse panels discussed The Failure of Justice and The Psychology of Memory. Panels included field experts The Hon. Justice Rebecca Shamai; defence lawyer

Megan Savard of Addario Law Group; Deepa Mattoo, Director of Legal Services at the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic; psychotherapist Brenda Ponik, founder of the GTA Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse Service Provider Network; Dr. Amy Gajaria, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist at CAMH; with moderators Christine McGoey, Retired Lawyer and Chair of the Death Investigation Oversight Council; and Dr. Lori Haskell, academic research associate with the Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children. Both panels were stimulating for legal professionals and laypeople alike, addressing the themes and provocations that were a main through-line in this documentary-theatre production. Additionally, we held several talkback performances with the actors and the director of the show, Conrad Coates, Rose Napoli, Brenda Robins, Michaela Washburn, and Andrea Donaldson, hosted by Sadie Epstein-Fine, Kelly Thornton and Victoria Laberge.



Nightwood and Obsidian Theatre hosted talkbacks with key artists Akosua Amo-Adem, Allison Edwards-Crewe, Melissa Eve Langdon, Bria McLaughlin, Tatyana Mitchell, Natasha Mumba, Rachel Mutombo, and Emerjade Simms from our forth offering, *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play*. We invested in special moderators on three separate evenings, including Ghanaian Artist Esie Mensah, Toronto artist-provocateur Daniel Carter and Myekah Payne, Obsidian Theatre's resident Dramaturge.



A Blow in the Face included ancillary talkbacks with Amanda Munday, author of *Day Nine: A Postpartum Depression Memoir*, founder and owner of The Workaround, a co-working space with childcare in Toronto. As well, we offered audiences a chance to chat with the cast, including performer/playwright Lisa Ryder whose experience with Postpartum inspired the work.

Inner Elder, our co-presentation with Native Earth Performing Arts, exposed Toronto to Alberta-based Cree artist Michelle Thrush's inventive storytelling. We were thrilled to share this work with high school aged students through the Regent Park School of

Music, and shared intimate details of the origins of the piece through talkbacks between Andrea Donaldson, Karen Hines and Michelle Thrush.

Lastly, Fempopocalypse acts as great training in producing and curating for our Young Innovators, as well as an excellent opportunity to invite a younger audience to join the Nightwood family. This one-night celebration of International Women's Day was filled to capacity and showcased the works of a dozen emerging artists.

It is our belief that these conversations and contact points have enriched our audiences' experience of our works. We are proud of our ongoing endeavors to create deeper connections with the art, seeding investment with Nightwood's future offerings and in the culture our city has to offer.



Photos from our 2018-19 Season Launch party



2018-19 YOUNG INNOVATORS UNIT

From left to right: Max Fearon, Leah Pritchard, Arielle Zamora, Amanda Lin, Kai Taddei, Melissa MacKenzie, Victoria Laberge, Haley Vincent, Rochelle Richardson, Jasmine Cabanilla, Brittany Banks. Not pictured: Ellie Ellwand, Emma Welsh, Marina Gomes, Rais Clarke-Mendes.



BETWEEN THE SHEETS - PARTS 1 & 2 BY JORDI MAND

In April 2019, we experienced a little bit of theatre magic. As part of Kelly Thornton's swan song, we brought the band back together for a public reading of *Between the Sheets - Parts 1 & 2* by Jordi Mand, starring Susan Coyne, Christine Horne, and Timothy Dowler-Coltman, and directed by Kelly Thornton. It was electric to see these phenomenal performers reprise these roles, and so incredible to be able to catch up with the characters eight years later. Thank you to everyone who joined us, and to the generosity offered in support of this workshop, in memory of Margaret Hirsch Zielony.



GOODBYE KELLY

After 18 years as Nightwood Theatre's Artistic Director, we feted our beloved Kelly Thornton with an unforgettable farewell bash as she prepared to set off to start her new role at the helm of the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre. Orchestrated and hosted by Sadie Epstein-Fine the celebration included surprise performances for Kelly, many shared memories, many tears, and of course, an epic dance party.



DINNER WITH FRIENDS

Our annual Dinner With Friends fundraising event is always a wonderful opportunity to connect with our supporters and artists, and to celebrate the launch of the upcoming season.





2019 LAWYER SHOW - MAMMA MIA!

Our 10th annual Lawyer Show fundraiser was a smash hit! We were so thrilled to celebrate the milestone anniversary edition of the event by adding a special matinee performance. From June 6-8, 2019, Nightwood welcomed close to 2,000 audience members to our sold-out run of *Mamma Mia!*



10TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

Since the Lawyer Show's inception in 2010, some 220 legal professionals have appeared in 10 shows to raise more than \$1,000,000 for Nightwood to give voice to women in theatre. We were honoured to take the opportunity to raise a glass to this outstanding success story and get reacquainted with the unique "Lactor's Community" at a Reunion Party celebrating the past decade of the Lawyer Show!



2018-19 SUPPORTERS

Nightwood is grateful for the invaluable support of our generous community of donors and partners.

GOVERNMENT FUNDERS



Canada Council
for the Arts



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



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Stikeman Elliott



Brent Vickar

2018-19 INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

Donations received between July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

\$15,000 +

Anonymous

\$10,000 - \$14,999

Kate Amesbury, Tamara Zielony

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous X 2, McLean Smits Family Foundation, Sylvia Chrominska Fund

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Susan Hodgkinson, The Patricia J. Fleming (FBG) Fund at Toronto Foundation, Jan Ruby & Mary Thomson, Maria Zakos

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous X 2, Jacqui Allard & Burke Paterson, Karon C. Bales & Charles E. Beall, The Hon. Sarmite D. Bulte, P.C, Edina Cavalli, Susan Cumming, Enchanted Entertainment Inc.***, Susan Gerhard, Grant Crawford & Watson LLP***, Shira Hart, Shelley Hobbs & Joan Jamieson, Howie, Sacks & Henry LLP***, Valerie Hussey, I.A.T.S.E. Local 58***, Astrid Janson*, Michele Landsberg & Stephen Lewis, Elvira Pain**, The Pat & Tony Adams Freedom Trust, The Paul Butler and Chris Black Foundation at Toronto Foundation, Margaret Wente, Julie White & Ross McGregor

\$500 - \$999

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\$250 - \$499

Anonymous***, Anderson Wilson LLP***, Catherine Bate***, Nathalie Bonjour, Anne Brown, Viviana Comensoli, Laurence Dabin, Jocelyn Edmison, Lois Fine, Patty Fleming, Hilary Green, Harvey Kalles Real Estate LTD.***, Hogg, Shain, Scheck Professional Corporation***, Judith Huddart, Jane Hutcheson*, Brett Ledger & Patricia Olasker, Larry Lubin, Fern & Peter Martin**, Rae-Anne Miller, Iris Nemani, Lissa & John Peck, Audrey Ramsay, John Rider & Karim Karsan***, Shelley Scott, Elizabeth Seldon, Katie Severs, Linda Silver Dranoff, Sue Simington, Victoria Steele, Firth Whitwam in honour of Alison Whitwam

\$100 - \$249

Anonymous X 5, Anonymous* X 3, Anonymous*** X 2, Ahmad Afsahi & Azita Gerami, Moira & Ed Bacon, Irene Bailey, Crystal Balint**, Neil & Elsie Bargaen**, Anne-Marie Bergman*, Arei Bierstock, Henry & Marcia Blumberg, Judy Bornstein**, Dianne Bradley, Jean & Dave Brown, Margaret Bryce, Ines Buchli*, Oscar Cadeau*, Betty Carlyle, Susan & Jerry Cohen**, Peggy Dean, Deb Dillistone**, Hugh Dyer, Kinnon Elliott, Kalyn Falk**, Alex Fallis*, Margaret Genovese, Vickie Hansen-Richardson, Joan Harvey, Dr. Lori Haskell, Joyce & Grahame Henry, Liza Hersh*, Dany Horovitz, Kent James, Alicia Jeffery, Vishmayaa Jeyamoorthy*, J.J. Johnson**, Keith Jones**, Sharlene Kanhai, Kastner Law, Tabitha Keast, Zsuzsa Kelemen, Sussannah Kelly, John & Sara Klassen**, Geoff Kolomayz in honour of Melanie Herbin***, Nicolas Lea**, Finn Lindsay*, Robert Lindsay*, Jessica Luscombe, Kelly MacIntosh, Robin Mackie, Paul Mark*, Catherine May*, Tracy McCulloch**, Miriam Newhouse, Michelle Nielson**, Ed Nowina, Eleanor O'Connor, Christopher Pain**, Catherine Pickett, Colleen Pollreis, Joanna Prager, Queen's University Faculty Association*, Lisbie Rae*, Steven Rayson, Catherine Riggall, Lisa Robertson**, Nika Rylski, Allyson Scott, Jon Shell**, Andrew Sherbin**, Jerrard & Diana Smith**, Helen Spitzer**, Lib Spry*, Richard Stall & Lisa Berger, Sarah Garton Stanley*, Marie Stauch*, E. Jane Thompson, Kelly Thornton, Chantria Tram, Mara Tramontin, Martin Wasserman, Barbara Watson, Tamara Weir-Bryan, Jennifer Whincup, Hersh Zeifman

\$1 - \$99

Anonymous X 5, Anonymous* X 2, Anonymous**, Anonymous*** X 3, David Antoniuk**, Rebecca Anweiler*, Anusha Aruliah***, Sharlene Atkins***, Mike Berger***, Satinder Besai***, Darla Biccum**, David Bidini**, Melanie Bradshaw***, Pamela Cameron, Holly Cole*, Jennifer Copping**, Shelley Cox**, BJ Danylchuk, Courtney Evans***, Margaret Evans**, Patricia Flood*, Stephanie Fung*, Phil Furgiuele, David Gale**, Linda Galessiere***, Jillian Garner*, Krys Goldstein, Vicki Hambley*, Megan Hamilton*, Anne Hardcastle*, Dominic Hardy*, Gerd Hauck**, Melanie Herbin***, Cathy Heuft**, Suellen Hoffman**, Donna Inch, Devin Jarcaig***, Blake Johnson*, Peter Johnson***, Cecil King, Melanie Kneis***, Saroja Kuruganty***, Thomas Labanick**, Allison Lahikainen**, Roberta Lamb*, Jeanne LeSage**, Amanda Lin*, John Maillard, Liz Martin*, Megan McCoy**, Luci McEachern, Christine McGoey, John McGowan***, Barbara & Jack Millar, Mary Milne, Elizabeth Leigh Moffatt*, Stephanie Morgenstern**, Llana Nakonechny***, Sarah Neville, Mary Oko, Audrey Orr, Brian Owen**, David Pain**, Nicola Pantin**, Heather Paterson***, Emily Piggford**, Lynn Pineau*, Tracy Pratt***, Shari Roberts*, Tamara Roberts**, Matt Rogalsky*, Lorna Rosenstein, Alia Rosenstock***, Janet Rubinoff, Matt Salton*, Ellen Schoenberger, Lindsay Schwietz, Robin Senzilet, Sarah Shell**, Cal Shell**, Dawn Shell**, Wilhelm Siemens**, Shira & Stu Slayen**, Daniel Smith**, Rebecca Stroud Stasel*, Carla Tauber**, Mandy Thomson, Arlene Toop**, Chris Walmsley***, Jen Woltemade**, Lana Wright, Shelagh Young*

*In memory of Kim Renders

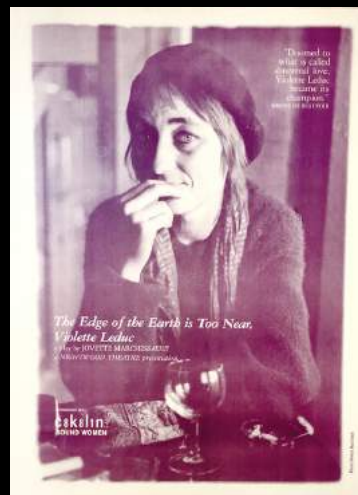
**In support of *A Blow in the Face*

***In support of the 2019 Lawyer Show

REMEMBERING KIM RENDERS

"I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of an incredible woman, one of Nightwood's founders, Kim Renders. Over my desk, I have a poster of one of our earliest shows, *The Edge of the Earth is Too Near*, *Violette Leduc* by Jovette Marchessault, which starred Kim. Her quiet penetrating gaze towards the camera with the signature glint in her eye is like a dare to her viewer, and this essence spilled forth in everything she did.

In the wild frontier of Canadian theatre in 1979, our founders Kim Renders, Mary Vingoe, Cynthia Grant and Maureen White claimed space for women's voices on a stage still dominated by British and American male playwrights.



Next year, Nightwood celebrates our 40th anniversary and the original impulse of these four women has translated into a bountiful legacy of women's voices, where generations of female identifying artists and their inspired audiences have been impacted. In our 25th anniversary celebration I asked many of the key artists of Nightwood's history to offer a wish to the world. Kim said, 'I wish for access to education for all women globally. "Educate a man and you educate an individual; educate a woman and you educate a community." – Ghanaian proverb.'

I did not know Kim well, but I always admired her, and heard of her ongoing work through the students she taught at Queen's University. Her immensely powerful energy and the deep commitment she pursued for a more just world lives on in the multitude of people she touched. While this is a brutally sad loss and she is gone far too early, her life force has made a powerful and indelible mark on many and for this we are indebted. Now let our voices continue to rise in her memory. We must look back to understand the shoulders we stand on, and face forward for the work to be done."

- Kelly Thornton

July 17, 2018

2018-19 STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

REVENUES

Earned:

Single ticket sales	\$82,703	\$138,774
Co-production	42,736	26,443
Fees, commissions, and guarantees	28,250	-
Other	7,518	6,507
Workshops, classes, and events	2,281	1,815

Private sector:

Donations and sponsorships	280,437	245,906
Fundraising events	74,444	78,721
Foundations	59,000	38,861

Public sector:

Federal	130,000	102,500
Provincial	87,342	62,948
Municipal	73,000	75,932

867,711

778,377

EXPENSES

Artistic and programming:

Artistic salaries and fees	316,627	256,038
Venue rental	79,406	61,659
Production and technical fees	36,437	47,164
Production cost	9,371	18,582
Royalties	3,190	12,486

Marketing and development:

Fundraising costs	95,798	77,668
Marketing salaries and fees	81,465	68,656
Other marketing costs	7,375	7,971
Advertising purchases	2,774	7,746

Administration:

Administration salaries and fees	153,756	131,096
General and administrative costs	70,518	64,342
Amortization	1,219	513

857,936

753,921

EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES

9,775

24,456

NET ASSETS (DEFICIT) - BEGINNING OF YEAR

41,488

17,032

NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR

\$51,263

\$41,488

THE TEAM

STAFF

Kelly Thornton (Outgoing Artistic Director), Andrea Donaldson (Incoming Artistic Director and Write From The Hip Program Coordinator), Beth Brown (Managing Director), Naz Afsahi (Business Manager and Artistic Associate), Victoria Laberge (Director of Marketing & Development), Taylor Trowbridge (Incoming Director of Marketing), Sadie Epstein-Fine (Intern Artistic Director), Angie Ho (Marketing & Development Assistant), Grace Phan-Nguyen (Arts Management Intern), Cate McKim (Distribution Manager), Kinnon Elliott (Graphic Designer), Chris Mustard of Young & Associates (Financial Advisor).

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Cynthia Grant, Kim Renders, Mary Vingoe, Maureen White.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Hodgkinson (Chair), Brent Vickar (Secretary), Karon Bales, The Honourable Sarmite Bulte, Edina Cavalli, Hilary Green, Sharlene Kanhai, Dr. Barbara Moses, Chantria Tram, Maria Zakos.

HIRING COMMITTEE

Susan Hodgkinson (Chair), Karon Bales, Audrey Dwyer, Diane Flacks, Sharlene Kanhai, Andrew Moodie, Barbara Moses, Caroline Ursulak.

ENSEMBLE

MAINSTAGE PERFORMERS Akosua Amo-Adem, Conrad Coates, Tess Degenstein, Allison Edwards-Crew, Diane Flacks, Barbara Gordon, Maggie Huculak, Raha Javanfar, Lisa Karen-Cox, Niki Landau, Melissa Eve Langdon, Selina Martin, Bria McLaughlin, Tatyana Mitchell, Natasha Mumba, Rachel Mutombo, Rose Napoli, Amy Nostbakken, Jordan Pettie, Brenda Robins, Lisa Ryder, Norah Sadava, Cheyenne Scott, Emerjade Simms, Michelle Thrush, Michaela Washburn, Blair Williams, Bahareh Yaraghi **GROUNDSWELL & WORKSHOP PERFORMERS** Herbie Barnes, Elena Belyea, Ashley Botting, Amanda Cordner, Susan Coyne, Joella Crichton, Shakura Dickson, Philippa Domville, Timothy Dowler-Coltman, Arlene Duncan, Ellie Ellwand, David Patrick Flemming, Janet-Laine Green, Christine Horne, Richard Lee, Araya Mengesha, Rick Miller, Libby Osler, Tamara Podemski, Alicia Richardson, Khadijah Roberts-Abdullah, Sofia Rodriguez, Andrea Scott, Adrian Shepherd-Gawinski, Arlen Aguayo Stewart, Meghan Swaby, Jillian Welsh, Bahareh Yaraghi **PLAYWRIGHTS & CREATORS** Jocelyn Bioh, Lisa Karen-Cox, Jane Doe, Diane Flacks, Maggie Huculak, Raha Javanfar, Jordi Mand, Amy Nostbakken, Lisa Ryder, Norah Sadava, Cheyenne Scott, Michelle Thrush **WRITE FROM THE HIP PLAYWRIGHTS** Lara Arabian, Catt Filippov, Katherine Gauthier, Tabia Lau, Anyika Mark **WRITE FROM THE HIP MENTORS** Nicolas Billon, Anna Chatterton, Diane Flacks, Maria Milisavljevic, Hannah Moscovitch, Marcus Youssef **GROUNDSWELL PLAYWRIGHTS** Intisar Awisse, Monica Garrido, Meghan Greeley, Nick Green, Ali Joy Richardson, Andrea Scott, Chelsea Woolley **PLAYWRIGHT IN RESIDENCE** Anna Chatterton **DIRECTORS** Andrea Donaldson, Monica Dottor, Sadie Epstein-Fine (Lawyer Show Director, Assistant Director), Karen Hines, Nina Lee Aquino, Melissa MacKenzie (Lawyer Show Assistant Director), Tawiah Ben M'Carthy (Assistant Director), Amy Nostbakken, Norah Sadava, Kelly Thornton **CREATIVE CONTRIBUTORS** Tammy Everett (Assistant Fight Director), Richard Lee (Fight Director), Tawiah Ben M'Carthy (Movement Director), Orian Michaeli (Choreographer), Louisa Zhu (Fight Director), Lisa Codrington (Dramaturg), Falen Johnson (Dramaturg), Émilie Monnet, Natasha Mumba, Ausar Stewart (Dialect Coach).

ENSEMBLE (CONTINUED)

SET & COSTUME DESIGNERS Monica Dottor, Rachel Forbes, Erin Gerofsky, Jung-Hye Kim, Sandi Somers (Scenic Design), Christine Urquhart (Wardrobe Coordinator), Emma Welsh (Assistant Costume Designer), Joanna Yu **LIGHTING DESIGNERS** Bonnie Beecher, Christina Cicko (Associate Lighting Designer), André du Toit, Steve Lucas, Michelle Ramsay, Sandi Somers, Oz Weaver **COMPOSERS & SOUND DESIGNERS** James Bunton, Deanna H. Choi, Richard Feren, Amy Fort (Live Sound Engineer), Verne Good, Reza Jacobs, Raha Javanfar, JP Lord Sound Design, Selina Martin, Motion and DJ L'Oqenz, Amy Nostbakken, Cosette Pin (Assistant Sound Designer), Sandy Scofield **MEDIA & PROJECTION DESIGNERS** Kaitlin Hickey, Lily Ross-Millard, Laura Warren **STAGE MANAGERS** Ada Aguilar (Assistant Stage Manager), Emilie Aubin, Christina Cicko, Gerry Egan, Ashley Elliott (Rehearsal Hall Stage Manager), Emily Maxwell (Assistant Stage Manager), Cimmeron Meyer (Stage Manager & Lighting Director), Tara Mohan, Troy Taylor **PRODUCTION MANAGERS** Suzie Balogh, Pip Bradford, Siobhan Grennan, Alanna McConnell, Rebecca Vandeveld **PRODUCERS** Kim Blackwell, Grant Burns, Sandra Henderson, Kelly Read, Luke Reece, Lisa Ryder **PRODUCTION PERSONNEL** Kira Duff (Head of Props), Yehuda Fisher (Carpentry), Vanessa Janiszewski (Head of Props), Chantelle Laliberte (Head of Wardrobe), Sim Suzer (Head of Wardrobe), Adrien Whan (Technical Director), Taylor Young (Cloud Construction) **LAWYER SHOW PARTICIPANTS** Sharlene Atkins, Diane Baker Mason, Cathy Bate, Charles Beall, Sirius Biniaz, Melanie Bradshaw, Edina Cavalli, The Honourable Justice André Chamberlain, Anthea Cheung, Daniel Cook, Valérie Duchesneau, Kaley Duff, The Honourable Justice Gloria Epstein, Marco Figliomeni, Allison Gaw, Rona Ocean Ghanbari, Mel Herbin, Shelley Hobbs, Susan Hodgkinson, Dany Horovitz, Devin Jarcaig, Peter Johnson, Brookelyn Kirkham, Nisha Kumar, Saroja Kuruganty, Heidi LeBlanc, Valérie Lord, Matthew E. McCarthy, Christine McGovern, Cameron McKeich, Khryстина McMillan, Kate McNeece, David Mills, Astrid Mrkich, Heather Paterson, Leeza Marie Pece, Tracey Pratt, John Rider, Emma Romano, Calvin Rosemond, Leo Salloum, Marah Smith, Brent Vickar, Jennifer Whincup, Tamar Witelson, Sally Wong, Tamara Zdravkovic, Garrett Zehr **LAWYER SHOW MUSICIANS** Craig Allardyce, Ilana Ludwin, John McGowan, Paul Moody (Music Director), Ethan Rotenberg (Assistant Music Director), The Honourable Justice Russell Silverstein, John Sorensen **YOUNG INNOVATORS** Brittany Banks, Jasmine Cabanilla, Rais Clarke-Mendes, Ellie Ellwand, Max Fearon, Marina Gomes, Amanda Lin, Melissa MacKenzie, Leah Pritchard, Rochelle Richardson, Kai Taddei, Haley Vincent, Emma Welsh, Arielle Zamora **VOLUNTEERS** Clare Blackwood, Justine Christensen, Alexandra Côté, Arianna Moodie, Kate Morrison, Rebecca Ostroff, Alberta Tam.

PARTNERS

Assaulted Women's Helpline, Bald Ego Theatre, Bechdel Tested, Big Rock Brewery, Crow's Theatre, Feminist Art Collective, Happy Healthy Women, Incredible Printing, Inside Out LGBT Film Festival, Native Earth Performing Arts, Obsidian Theatre Company, Pantry, Phancy Food and Catering, Quote Unquote Collective, Sistering, Sublime Catering, The AMY Project, Toronto Rape Crisis Centre - Multicultural Women Against Rape, University of Toronto Centre for Ethics, We Talk Women, Why Not Theatre, Women in Capital Markets, Women in Film and Television Toronto, Women's Art Association of Canada.

NightwoodTheatre 

NIGHTWOODTHEATRE.NET

PHOTO CREDITS

Cover photo: *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play*. Photo of Tatyana Mitchell, Natasha Mumba, Rachel Mutombo, Emerjade Simms, Bria McLaughlin by Cesar Ghisilieri. Set Design Rachel Forbes | Costume Design Joanna Yu | Lighting Design Michelle Ramsay | Head of Wardrobe Chantelle Laliberte.

Page 2: Photo of Andrea Donaldson by John Lauener.

Page 3: Photo of Beth Brown by John Lauener.

Page 5: *Now You See Her*. Photo of Maggie Huculak, Lisa Karen Cox, Norah Sadava, Cheyenne Scott by Dahlia Katz. Set, Prop and Costume Design Jung-Hye Kim | Assistant Costume Design and Head of Wardrobe Sim Suzer | Head of Props Kira Duff | Lighting Design André du Toit.

Page 7: *Now You See Her*. Photo of Amy Nostbakken, Norah Sadava, Lisa Karen Cox, Raha Javanfar, Maggie Huculak and Cheyenne Scott by Dahlia Katz. Set, Prop and Costume Design Jung-Hye Kim | Assistant Costume Design and Head of Wardrobe Sim Suzer | Head of Props Kira Duff | Lighting Design André du Toit.

Page 8: *Grace*. Photo of Rose Napoli, Brenda Robins, Conrad Coates, and Michaela Washburn by Dahlia Katz | Set and Costume Design Joanna Yu | Lighting Design Michelle Ramsay | Associate Lighting Design Christina Cicko | Projection Design Laura Warren.

Page 9: *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play*. Photo of Rachel Mutombo, Emerjade Simms, Tatyana Mitchell, Natasha Mumba, Melissa Langdon, and Bria McLaughlin by Cesar Ghisilieri. Set Design Rachel Forbes | Costume Design Joanna Yu | Lighting Design Michelle Ramsay | Head of Wardrobe Chantelle Laliberte.

Page 10: *A Blow In The Face*. Photo of Lisa Ryder, Selina Martin, and Tess Degenstein by Dahlia Katz. Set and Costume Design Monica Dottor | Cloud Construction Taylor Young | Lighting Design Oz Weaver.

Page 11: *Inner Elder*. Photo of Michelle Thrush by Elyse Bouvier. Lighting & Scenic Design Sandi Somers.

Page 12: *Unholy*. Photo of Niki Landau, Bahareh Yaraghi, Diane Flacks, and Barbara Gordon by John Lauener. Lighting Design Bonnie Beecher | Original Costume Design Lindsay C. Walker | Wardrobe Coordination Christine Urquhart.

Page 17: *Mamma Mia!* Photos of the cast of The 10th annual Lawyer Show by Jeremy Mimmagh @jeremy.mimmagh.photography