

2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT



REPORT FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

I am so pleased to report on the myriad of successes in Nightwood’s 2017-2018 Season. This year we found ourselves at the epicentre of a deeply relevant social dialogue with our audience. Indeed, the world experienced a larger cultural shift and we were excited to not only be ahead of the wave but to be defining the conversation around women and systemic power imbalances.

Just days before we opened our two-play series and symposium, The Consent Event, which included the world premieres of *Asking For It* by Ellie Moon and *Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)* by Rose Napoli, the Harvey Weinstein case broke in the news. As the #MeToo movement unleashed itself these two young writers were “bringing the dialogue about sexual assault to the next level” (Susan Cole, *NOW Magazine*). *Asking for It* played a sold out run and was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Ensemble, while *Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)* was nominated for Outstanding Performance for the electrifying Vivian Endicott-Douglas along with Outstanding New Play. First developed in our Write From The Hip emerging writers unit, we’re thrilled that *Lo* will be produced this coming season at the Great Canadian Theatre Company in Ottawa and Neptune Theatre in Halifax, fulfilling our mission to disseminate more widely the voice of women in Canadian theatre.

Further to this, *The Globe and Mail* named our revival of Diane Flacks’ *Unholy* as one of the top ten theatre performances of 2017, and called it “a sharp script other theatres across Canada should look into picking up now that director Kelly Thornton’s excellent inaugural production has had two tours of duty.” We are thrilled to have brought it to Zoomer Media in the Fall of 2018 where it was filmed for Vision TV in front of a live studio audience. This deeply relevant look at women, religion and systemic power continues to garner interest across the country.

Indeed, many of our shows have ignited a pertinent dialogue this season, and captured widespread attention. *Calpurnia* by Audrey Dwyer was a searing look at the collision of race, class and gender in the home of a wealthy Jamaican-Canadian family. Upending the beloved novel *To Kill A Mockingbird*, it spared no one in a confrontation with our blind spots. Yet it also revealed our intersectionality and called for allyship as we go forward. “Destined to be one of the most talked-about shows of the season” (*NOW Magazine*), *Calpurnia* enjoyed a sold out run and picked up a Toronto Theatre Critics Award for Best Performance for the astonishing Carolyn Fe.

Of course, Amy Nostbakken and Norah Sadava’s *Mouthpiece* also enjoyed a stellar revival after returning from a private performance for Jodie Foster and friends in Los Angeles. This world-class production also garnered a Stage Award at the Edinburgh Festival and its film adaptation by Patricia Rozema opened the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival.

In the 2017-2018 Season brochure, I mentioned that the electrical current that ran through our season was embodied in the question raised in our pop-up show *7th Cousins* by Christine Brubaker and Erin Brubacher: “How Can We Be Together?” As we grapple with our world, our differences and our collective hopes and dreams for our future, these triumphs on stage have made Nightwood an undeniably relevant institution on the national landscape.

I salute the astonishing efforts of our staff, the steady and determined hand of my co-executive Beth Brown, our dedicated Board of Directors, the lawyers of our wildly successful Lawyer Show, and all of the artists, audiences, donors, sponsors and public funders who sustain us. We share our success with all of you.

Kelly Thornton

– Kelly Thornton



Photo: Brooke Wedlock

REPORT FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

It has been yet another successful season at Nightwood Theatre and we are extremely proud of the effect that we continue to have on artists, audience members, donors, and advocates for female identified voices.

Operationally, one of our priorities over the past four years has been the financial stability of the organization. We are proud to have finished the 2017-18 Season with an operational surplus of \$24,456, leaving us with an accumulated surplus of \$41,488. This financial success was largely due to an extremely well received production season, with overall box office revenues surpassing original projections by \$33,198, as well as an increase in individual donations of \$27,238.

Our success at the box office can be attributed not only to the robust programming, and the extensive reach of our marketing efforts but also to “outside of the box” marketing approaches such as hiring Kim Katrin Milan, a multidisciplinary artist, activist and educator who facilitates radical community dialogue, to promote *Calpurnia* via social media to her extensive list of followers.

We had unprecedented media exposure this season, with the success of Nightwood Theatre over recent years being featured in The Globe and Mail. Artistic Director Kelly Thornton was also a sought-after voice in the wake of the viral #MeToo movement and was interviewed on CBC’s The Current with Anna Maria Tremonti as well as Metro Morning with Matt Galloway.

We have begun engaging “angel donors” who provide financial assistance to specific activities undertaken by Nightwood. These donations increased our private sector revenues and helped us invest more money into play development and various productions. We are very grateful to those individuals who financially support our organization and help us increase our capacity to elevate more female voices than we have been able to in the past.

We greatly value our talented and dedicated staff at Nightwood and it is our priority to ensure they are appropriately compensated for their work. Our goal of increasing our Director of Marketing & Development and our Business Manager’s salaries to a competitive rate in two years was accomplished after only six months. We now provide full-time staff with health benefits that are covered by Nightwood Theatre.

Our board continues to be instrumental in ensuring the good health of Nightwood Theatre and have been very generous with their time and expertise. All members are donors, actively engaged in governance, advocating for our organization and supporting our fundraising efforts. We were thrilled to have Chantria Tram join our Board of Directors in September 2018.

Overall, this season has been a huge success and it can be attributed directly to the support and work of Nightwood’s extremely talented staff, board members, donors, audience members and volunteers, including the many lawyers who volunteer their time working on our annual fundraising event, The Lawyer Show. This success attests to the passion and drive that Artistic Director Kelly Thornton brings to Nightwood Theatre and her insight into selecting high-calibre productions that bring forward relevant and fulsome dialogues addressing issues faced by society today. With another successful season under our belts both artistically and administratively, we are excited for the future of Nightwood Theatre.

Beth Brown

– Beth Brown

REPORT FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

As the Chair of the Board of Directors of Nightwood Theatre, it is my privilege to work with the Management, Staff and Board of this passionate organization.

2017-18 was an exceptional year, by any measure.

First and foremost, the company once again mounted a season we were all truly proud of, which kept its finger on the pulse of society's relevant conversations and garnered unprecedented media coverage. Nightwood continued to further its mission to produce theatre for everyone, made by women, and the season was both critically acclaimed and recognized at the Dora Mavor Moore Awards.

Strong management and success at the box office ensured that Nightwood once again finished the year in a healthy financial position with an accumulated surplus of \$41,488. Our financial health is crucial for the company's continued growth and ensures that talented women in theatre are able to continue to find a base and a voice with Nightwood.

The Board continued to be active, creative and committed. Governance remained in good hands under The Hon. Sarmite Bulte, and Hilary Green continued to lead our Development committee with vision and discipline. We are indebted to Dr. Barbara Moses, who has devoted countless hours to the crafting of a corporate training program, and who held a fundraiser at her lovely home. Sharlene Kanhai completed her first year on the board and made valuable contributions and introductions in the advancement of the corporate training program. Maria Zakos once again provided focused and attentive input to all board activities. We are indebted to Karon Bales, our past chair, for her wise guidance and perspective. We were also delighted to welcome Chantria Tram, who will sit on our Finance committee. Finally, Board Secretary, Brent Vickar took a star turn in this year's Lawyer Show production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, proving that his lawyer and board member skills are just the beginning of his talents!

Speaking of the Lawyer Show, *The Drowsy Chaperone* played to rave reviews and sold out houses at the St. Lawrence Centre. This important fundraiser not only helps to support the company financially, but allows members of the legal community to experience the magic of theatre. We are so proud and grateful for the commitment that all of the Lawyer Show participants show to Nightwood.

Our Dinner with Friends event welcomed many of Nightwood's long-standing supporters to Le Sélect Bistro for an evening of food, wine, conversation and a preview of the 2018-19 Season. We were also thrilled to see many new guests of our Board of Directors in attendance. We look forward to more of these events in the year ahead.

It has been a terrific year with Nightwood. I have loved getting to know the Management, Staff and Board Members better and I am energized and excited for the year to come.

– Susan Hodgkinson



MISSION AND VISION

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 provoke a deeper conversation about the diversity of our lived experiences.

Empowerment

Theatre is a tool of empowerment for the individual and for the community.

Feminism

We believe in equality for all genders. Theatre has the power to challenge stereotypes and social assumptions about race, gender and sexuality.

Inclusivity

We have a responsibility to produce art 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 mentor and share knowledge with emerging talent and 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.



Heath V. Salazar as Gay Jesus



ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT



DEVELOPING PLAYS, DEVELOPING PEOPLE

“I AM A PLAYWRIGHT, A DIRECTOR, A
TEACHER, A DRAMATURGE AND MOST
RECENTLY AN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR –
THANKS TO NIGHTWOOD’S IMPACT ON
MY CAREER FOR THE TEN PLUS YEARS
I’VE HAD A RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM.”

– Audrey Dwyer (Playwright and Director, *Calpurnia*)

One of the greatest contributions Nightwood makes to Canadian theatre is through artistic development. Our dedication to both artist development and play development has a huge impact on the theatre ecology, both locally and nationally.

Significant time and resources are dedicated as we shepherd world premiere productions from page to stage. It is no surprise that this often results in accolades and dissemination of our plays across the country. In the past two years, we have enjoyed Dora Mavor Moore Award nominations for Outstanding New Play for Diane Flacks’ *Unholy* (2017) and Rose Napoli’s *Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)* (2018), and stirring responses to Audrey Dwyer’s *Calpurnia*, Ellie Moon’s *Asking For It* and Erin Brubacher & Christine Brubaker’s *7th Cousins*.

Nightwood offers a platform for these burgeoning voices, giving them broader exposure and the necessary resources to achieve a world-class production. Investing time in an artist gives them a safe place to experiment so they can succeed in the long run. From Napoli’s development as a playwright, graduating from Write From The Hip to our mainstage and beyond, to Dwyer’s development as a playwright and director, through Write From The Hip and an Artistic Direction residency, we are not only a pipeline for plays, but also people. This is where Nightwood has been excelling. We identify talent and we invest in it, giving independent artists a platform from which to establish themselves.

This year, we welcomed 15 emerging artists into our Young Innovators program, where they received mentorship in fundraising, marketing and producing. Their training culminated in the sold-out Fempocalypse, a cabaret in celebration of International Women’s Day, with all proceeds going to Sistering. We also welcomed Sadie Epstein-Fine as Intern Artistic Director, thanks first to Canada Council and then the Metcalf Foundation. Other interns included Tsholi Khalemi and Michelle Langille as Assistant Directors for *Calpurnia* and *Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)*, respectively, and Angie Ho as a Co-op student from Centennial College, who upon graduation was hired as our Marketing & Development Assistant. We are thrilled to have her join the team.

In play development we launched six new plays in our annual Groundswell Festival with readings by Elena Belyea, Deanna Kruger, Michelle Langille, Gitanjali Lena, Hannah Rittner and Lisa Ryder. Anna Chatterton joined us as Playwright In Residence with her play *Heroine*, and we hosted a fruitful workshop with her collaborator Shahrzhad Arshadi. In June, the two travelled to the Kurdish Mountains to meet with female resistance fighters as research for their play. Playwright Karen Hines also received a week-long workshop in the Spring for her play *All The Little Animals I Have Eaten*, which read to a captivated audience in our studio.

 new
groundswell
festival

Clockwise from Top Left:

Michelle Langille, Deanna
Kruger, Elena Belyea,
Hannah Rittner, Lisa Ryder,
Gitanjali Lena.



This page: Carolyn Fe, Audrey Dwyer, and Meghan Swaby. Photo: Victoria Laberge.
Page 7, at top: (Clockwise from top left) Adriana DeAngelis, Julie Foster, Bryn Kennedy, Lauren Wolanski, Kelly Thornton, Keshia Palm, Melissa Taylor, Andrea Rankin, Cathy Huang, Cate McKim, Bárbara Cotado Martínez, Samantha Vu, Mirka Loiselle and Justine Christensen. Not pictured: Ellen Denny, Natalie Liconti, Lucy McPhee and Rachel Mutombo.

THE CONSENT EVENT

ASKING FOR IT

An In Association production, in association with Crow's Theatre,
Nightwood Theatre and Necessary Angel Theatre Company

Cast:

Christine Horne
Steven McCarthy
Ellie Moon
Jaa Smith-Johnson

Creative Team:

WRITTEN BY	Ellie Moon
DIRECTED BY	Brendan Healy
MUSIC & SOUND DESIGN	Richard Feren
LIGHTING DESIGN	André du Toit
STAGE MANAGER	Jordana Weiss

2018 Dora Mavor Moore Award nomination for
Outstanding Performance - Ensemble

"[THE] DISTURBING CONCLUSION, OFFERING
NO CLEAR ANSWERS BUT LOTS OF QUESTIONS,
IS JUST ONE REASON WHY THIS PLAY IS
ESSENTIAL VIEWING."
— NOW MAGAZINE

"ONE OF THE MOST TIMELY AND IMPORTANT
SHOWS TO HIT A TORONTO STAGE IN YEARS."
— TANISHA TAITT



Ellie Moon and Jaa Smith-Johnson in *Asking For It*. Photo: Jeremy Mimmagh.

THE CONSENT EVENT

LO (or Dear Mr. Wells)

A Nightwood Theatre production in association with Crow's Theatre

Cast:

Vivien Endicott-Douglas
Sam Kallilieh

Creative Team:

WRITTEN BY	Rose Napoli
DIRECTED BY	Andrea Donaldson
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Michelle Langille
LIGHTING DESIGN	Kaileigh Krysztofiak
SOUND DESIGN	Deanna H. Choi
STAGE MANAGER	Ken James Stewart
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Suzie Balogh
COSTUME COORDINATOR	Kathleen Johnston
PROPS COORDINATOR	Care Robertson

2018 Dora Mavor Moore Award nomination for
Outstanding New Play

2018 Dora Mavor Moore Award nomination for
**Outstanding Performance – Female
for Vivien Endicott-Douglas**

"NAPOLI'S SKILL AS A
WORDSMITH (PARTICULARLY
FOR WRITING DIALOGUE) SHINES,
AS DOES A MESMERIC CENTRAL
PERFORMANCE IN WHICH VIVIEN
ENDICOTT-DOUGLAS' PARTICULAR
TALENTS AND ATTRIBUTES LOCK
INTO A ROLE THAT PERFECTLY
SUITS THEM."
— TORONTO STAR

"WE NEED MORE
PLAYWRIGHTS LIKE
NAPOLI. SHE'S A REAL
TALENT WITH SOMETHING
POWERFUL TO SAY
AND THE ABILITY TO
COMMUNICATE IT WITH
CANDOUR AND CLARITY."
— NOW MAGAZINE



Sam Kallilieh and Vivien Endicott-Douglas in *LO (or Dear Mr. Wells)*. Photo: Cylla von Tiedemann.

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

Nightwood was thrilled to expand the conversation beyond the stage this year to discuss the pertinent issues raised by our productions.

In the Fall we presented The Consent Event, a symposium facilitated by Catherine Hernandez, featuring a diverse group of experts and activists engaging in two panels – Get Consent and Sex Talk – along with a candid conversation with playwrights Ellie Moon of *Asking For It* and Rose Napoli of *Lo (or Dear Mr. Wells)*. Covering a multitude of perspectives, panelists for Get Consent included Deepa Mattoo, Director of Legal Services at Barbra Schlifer Clinic; Wendy De Souza, ReAct Youth Program Coordinator at METRAC; Carly Boyce, MSW, working in body autonomy, queer sexual health, trauma and consent; and Alexander Waddling, grassroots organizer engaging young men on gender equality issues. Our Sex Talk panel explored human relationships from a sex-positive perspective. Panelists included award-winning speaker Dr. Jessica O'Reilly (Dr. Jess), sexologist; Carlyle Jansen, Founder of Good for Her; and Andrew Gurza, host of *Disability After Dark*, shining light on sex and disability.

Our remount of Diane Flacks' *Unholy* saw lively post-show discussions on the issue of misogyny and religion. We welcomed back provocateur and pundit Gretta Vosper, the self-proclaimed Atheist Minister of the United Church of Canada, as well as a panel with representatives from the Jewish and Muslim communities of Toronto: Cynthia Levine-Rasky and Sabreena Ghaffar-Siddiqui from Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom; Shlomit Segal from the Winchevsky Centre; and writer and community activist Farheen Khan.

In preparation for *Calpurnia*, playwright Audrey Dwyer visited Toronto bookstores to read from her play and discuss the lasting impact of so-called classic novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The book crawl toured A Different Booklist, Another Story Book Shop and Glad Day Bookshop, offering a provocative discussion, as well as recommended reads on race and class, challenging us to discuss issues of oppression, minus the white lens. During the production we hosted a Community Meal at The Theatre Centre catered by Catherine Hernandez, Artistic Director of Sulong Theatre, featuring delicious Filipino home cooking! We also engaged with renowned international activist Kim Katrin Milan to further our reach for the show culminating in a workshop on Race, Intersectionality and Allyship led by her partner Tiq Milan. In celebration of Black History Month we hosted a post-show talkback, moderated by Kayla Carter.

Our remount of *Mouthpiece* by Amy Nostbakken and Norah Sadava enjoyed post-show talkbacks led by acclaimed Canadian filmmaker Patricia Rozema and renowned activist and author, Michele Landsberg, O.C.

Our pop-up presentation of Christine Brubaker and Erin Brubacher's *7th Cousins* toured to a multitude of community-based venues throughout the season, instigating a conversation around common humanity in a divisive age. The final performance was a partnership with the Ismaili Centre in Toronto and Minister Gretta Vosper's congregation at West Hill United Church.

It was undeniably a year of upheaval and social change in our world and Nightwood showed itself to be a leader in this pertinent discussion. In the words of Artistic Director, Kelly Thornton, "This is about power imbalance, be it gender, race, class, or sexuality. Our responsibility to humanity is to redress these structures, through our voices, through allyship, through love and through art... Art is our weapon. Keep fighting."

2017-18 BY THE NUMBERS

85
Public performances
& literary readings

14
Works performed

8623
Attendees

6889
Tickets sold
(including by
subscription)

179
Subscribers

83
Artists

10
Artistic &
administrative
positions

6068
Volunteer hours
(including Lawyer Show)



“AS POLITICS AND NEWS
CONTINUE TO STIR THE
CONVERSATION AROUND
EQUALITY, TORONTO'S
FEMALE-FRONTED
NIGHTWOOD THEATRE HAS BEEN
BURNING BRIGHTER
THAN EVER.”
— THE GLOBE AND MAIL,
DECEMBER 2017



“ART IS OUR WEAPON.
KEEP FIGHTING.”
— KELLY THORNTON

UNHOLY

A Nightwood Theatre production

Cast:

Diane Flacks
Barbara Gordon
Niki Landau
Blair Williams
Bahareh Yaraghi
Kevin Bundy (appearing in the role of Richard from November 23-26)

Creative Team:

WRITTEN BY	Diane Flacks
DIRECTED BY	Kelly Thornton
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Sadie Epstein-Fine
MUSIC & SOUND DESIGN	Richard Feren
LIGHTING DESIGN	Bonnie Beecher
ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGN	Noah Feaver
SET & COSTUME DESIGN	Lindsay C. Walker
PROJECTION DESIGN	Laura Warren
ORIGINAL MOVEMENT DIRECTION	Viv Moore
WARDROBE COORDINATOR	Christine Urquhart
STAGE MANAGER	Christina Cicko
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Suzie Balogh
ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER	Adriana DeAngelis

★★★★☆ (OUT OF 4)

“BRILLIANTLY ACTED, IT’S AT TIMES MOVING AND, AT OTHERS, SURPRISINGLY STEAMY.”

— THE GLOBE AND MAIL

★★★☆☆ (OUT OF 4)

“COMPLETELY IMMERSSED IN THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONVERSATION OF 2017”

— TORONTO STAR

“DIANE FLACKS HAS WRITTEN EXACTLY THE RIGHT PLAY TO SEE RIGHT NOW.”

— STAGE-DOOR.COM

CALPURNIA

A Nightwood Theatre and Sulong Theatre co-production

Cast

Don Allison
Matthew Brown
Carolyn Fe
Natasha Greenblatt
Andrew Moodie
Meghan Swaby

Creative Team:

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY	Audrey Dwyer
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Tsholo Khalema
SET DESIGN	Anna Treusch
COSTUME DESIGN	Jackie Chau
LIGHTING DESIGN	Bonnie Beecher
SOUND DESIGN	Johnny Salib
PROPS COORDINATOR	Christine Urquhart
ASSISTANT SET DESIGN	Megan Cinel
ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGN	Emma Welsh
STAGE MANAGER	Christina Cicko
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Neha Ross
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Suzie Balogh
ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER	Adriana DeAngelis

“AUDREY DWYER’S GUTSY NEW COMEDY WILL LEAVE YOU CRINGING IN YOUR SEAT AS IT FEARLESSLY CONFRONTS THE RACISM AND INEQUALITY FESTERING UNDER THE SURFACE OF LIBERAL TORONTO.”

— TORONTO LIFE

★★★☆☆ (OUT OF 4)

“...LIKELY TO PROMPT MANY A SOUL-SEARCHING CONVERSATION ABOUT HOW RACE, PRIVILEGE, AND GENDER INTERSECT... IT’S MORE OUTSPOKEN AND INSIGHTFUL ABOUT THESE ISSUES THAN ANY CANADIAN PLAY I’VE SEEN.”

— TORONTO STAR

NNNN

“RACE POLITICS, CLASS DIFFERENCES AND ONE OF THE MOST BELOVED NOVELS OF OUR TIME GET SAVAGELY SKEWERED IN AUDREY DWYER’S NEW SURE-TO-SELL-OUT PLAY THAT WILL GET YOU LAUGHING, THINKING AND (OCCASIONALLY) SHIFTING UNCOMFORTABLY IN YOUR SEAT.”

— NOW MAGAZINE



Niki Landau and Barbara Gordon in *Unholy*. Photo: John Lauener.



Andrew Moodie and Meghan Swaby in *Calpurnia*. Photo: Dahlia Katz.

MOUTHPIECE

A Nightwood Theatre presentation of a Quote Unquote Collective production,
in association with Why Not Theatre

Cast | Creative Team:

CREATED & PERFORMED BY

DIRECTED & COMPOSED BY

MOVEMENT DIRECTION & DRAMATURGY

LIGHTING DESIGN

SOUND DESIGN

STAGE MANAGER

Amy Nostbakken and Norah Sadava

Amy Nostbakken

Orian Michaeli

André du Toit

James Bunton

Rebecca Vandeveld

★★★★

– THE GLOBE AND MAIL

★★★★☆

“AN ENGROSSING AND
VIRTUOSIC PERFORMANCE”

– TORONTO STAR

★★★★

“A SMART SHOW, BEAUTIFULLY PUT TOGETHER
AND PERFORMED, AND ONE THAT SPEAKS UP
FOR ALL THE WOMEN WHO DAILY BITE THEIR
TONGUES.”

– THE GUARDIAN

Norah Sadava and Amy Nostbakken in **Mouthpiece**. Photo: Joel Clifton.

7TH COUSINS

A Nightwood Theatre presentation of a 7th Cousins production

Cast | Creative Team:

CREATED & PERFORMED BY

COLLABORATORS

Erin Brubacher and Christine Brubaker

Samantha Gignac

Kaitlyn Hickey

Erum Khan

Andrea Nann

Simon Rabyniuk

Christopher Stanton

Christine Brubaker and Erin Brubacher in **7th Cousins**.



OUR SUPPORTERS

Every year we are continually impressed with the depths of our supporters’ commitment and engagement with our organization. Our 2017-18 Season was no exception, with the continuation of new traditions such as our second annual Dinner with Friends, celebrating an exclusive Season Launch in the company of our closest supporters. We were thrilled to welcome a few new faces to the event who joined the Nightwood family as season subscribers to the upcoming 2018-19 lineup.

The Artistic Director’s Social Circle for donors of \$1,000+ continued to thrive as we worked with Write From The Hip alumna Jordi Mand alongside hosts Karon Bales and Charles Beall to plan a group trip to Stratford Festival’s production of *Brönte: The World Without* in September 2018. We also welcomed some esteemed new members into the circle this season thanks largely to an intimate fundraising soirée at the home of our board member Dr. Barbara Moses. For the second year in a row, Barbara opened up her stunning home to guests to enjoy scintillating excerpts performed by the artists in our season. It has been so impactful to be able to share a taste of our work with such an intimate and passionate group of people every year.

The increase in major gifts this season played a huge part in allowing us to celebrate a surplus for the second year in a row. Some of our “angel donors” expressed an interest in supporting a specific production, artist, or activity; such as Kate Amesbury, who was particularly keen to invest in the exceptional talents of Quote Unquote Collective’s Amy Nostbakken and Norah Sadava, in their return engagement of *Mouthpiece*. Meanwhile, two of our strongest supporters of new work created the Paul Butler and Chris Black Play Development Fund through the Toronto Foundation, committing to an annual contribution of \$2,000 over the next five years. Alternatively, some of our major donors simply want to see their funds dispersed into the areas of greatest need. We cannot understate the value these long-term gifts have in the health and longevity of our company.

The Lawyer Show is always a fast-paced, hugely ambitious, and absolutely unforgettable way to cap off our season. The cast of the 9th annual Lawyer Show was a particularly tight-knit group, with fast friendships forming around our production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*. It was such an honour to work with these 40 passionate theatre lovers to bring the hilarious Toronto-born musical to the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, raising over \$145,000 for Nightwood Theatre through their tireless efforts, helping us secure sponsorships, donations and program ad sales, in addition to selling out the entire three-night run.

This passion and commitment demonstrated by our supporters is central to our success at Nightwood and we are eternally grateful for your engagement.

The 2018 Lawyer Show production of **The Drowsy Chaperone**. Photo: John Lauener.

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, Toronto Arts Council

CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

BMO Financial Group, CIBC, Scotiabank, TD Bank Group

FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

Citrine Foundation, Metcalf Foundation, S.M. Blair Foundation, Theatre Ontario

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The AMY Project, Big Rock Brewery, Bombay Palace, Incredible Printing, Phancy Food and Catering, Sublime Catering, The Food Dudes

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

\$10,000+

Anonymous, Kate Amesbury, Barbara Moses PhD, Tamara Zielony

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous, Anonymous**, Kingfisher Foundation**, Theresa Mersky, McLean Smits Family Foundation, Nancy's Very Own Foundation

\$2,500 - \$4,499

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

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous, Anonymous*, Anonymous**, Jacqui Allard, Diane Blake, Dr. Susan Brunt, The Hon. Sarmite D. Bulte, PC, Susan Cumming, Heather Gardiner, Susan Gerhard, Shelley Hobbs, Valerie Hussey, Astrid Janson, Michele Landsberg & Stephen Lewis, Frances Macklin**, John McGowan**, The Pat & Tony Adams Freedom Fund, The Paul Butler and Chris Black Foundation at Toronto Foundation, Brent Vickar, Waterford Property Group**, Peggy Wentte, Julie White, Maria Zakos

\$500 - \$999

Zanana Akande, Karon C. Bales & Charles E. Beall, Krishna Balkissoon, The Butterfield Family Foundation, Philip & Joyce Epstein, Lisa Goodfellow, Kamala-Jean Gopie, Hilary Green, Michael Healey, Lawrence Hill, Jessica Jennings, Sharlene Kanhai, Sam Marinucci, Amy Maree Pollitt, Steven Rayson, John Rider & Karim Karsan, Priyanka Sheth & Heather Turnbull, Caroline Ursulak, Andrew Valentine**, Lyane van Schaik-Munk*

\$250 - \$499

Anonymous**, Anderson Wilson LLP**, Artbooks, Jennifer Babe**, Catherine Bate**, Keri Bennett**, Kim Blackwell, Yvonne Bland**, Anne Brown, Viviana Comensoli, Laurence Dabin, Sandie Drake, Linda Silver Dranoff, Jocelyn Edmison, Andrew Fleming**, Margot Franssen, Judy Gladstone, Peter Hamiwka**, Shira Hart, Harvey Kalles Real Estate LTD., Brokerage**, Pamela Hillen, Taras Hrycyna, Judith Huddart, Jane Hutcheson, Donna Inch, Elizabeth Janak, Danny Kastner**, Brett Ledger & Patricia Olasker, Lois Lorimer-Nunn, Mr. Larry Lubin, Jenna Zuschlag Misener, John & Lissa Peck, Judith Ramirez, Sharon Ranson*, Deanna Rosenswig, Jill Schoolenberg, Shelley Scott, Katie Severs, Katherine Siminovitch, Avery Swartz, Leeanne Weld, Firth Whitwam, Catherine Wiley

\$100 - \$249

Anonymous X 4, Anonymous** X 3, Anonymous**, Ahmad Afsahi, Craig Allardyce, Moira & Ed Bacon, David Barrons**, Jeff Berryman**, Henry & Marcia Blumberg, Dianne Bradley, Jean & Dave Brown, Margaret Bryce, BSIDE Beauty**, Betty Carlyle, Saara Chetner in honour of Shelley Hobbs, Susan Coyne, BJ Danylchuk, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP**, Misha Dubbeld, Hugh Dyer**, Kinnon Elliott, Elsie Sparks & Ross Tucker, Karen Ewing**, Cidalia Faria, Lois Fine, Barbara Fingerote, Matt Fowler**, Lib Gibson, David Goldbloom, Good For Her**, Dean Gresdal**, Liz Hache**, Valerie Hay, Dany Horovitz, Rose Janson, Alicia Jeffery, Joyce Jennings, Diane Karnay, Sarah King, Cecil King, Eva Klein, Erica Kopyto, Cathy Lloyd, Kelly MacIntosh, Robin Mackie, Nancy MacTavish, John Maillard, Sheila Martin, Mary Milne, Jerome Morse*, Mark Murray**, Miriam Newhouse, Tara Nicodemo, Eva Nicols, Penny Noble, Ed Nowina, Eleanor O'Connor, Brigid O'Reilly, Oasis Aqualounge**, Shelley Page**, Judith Parker, Colleen Pollreis, Evguenia Potachenskaia, Catherine Riggall, Ken Rosenstein**, Nika Rylski, Janice Sandomirsky**, Geri Sanson, Douglas Scott, Linda & Alan Slavin, E. Jane Thompson, Catelyn Thornton, John Thurlow**, Donald Toumey**, Denise Trottier**, Nadya Tymochenko, Wendy Vance**, Martin Wasserman, Barbara Watson, Anthea Windsor, Hersh Zeifman

\$1 - \$99

Anonymous X 3, Anonymous**, Anonymous** X 2, Naz Afsahi, Diane Baker Mason**, Barbara & Jack Millar, Mike Berger**, Mary Bredin**, Beth Brown, Julia Burgess**, Pamela Cameron, Micheline Chevrier, Colin Chant & Jen Mactaggart, Evelyn Crea**, Elizaville Beekeepers Association, Kevin Genirs**, Amanda Hale, Joan Harvey, Karen Hines, Veronika Hurnik, Devin Jarcaig**, Pamela Johnston, Ashwin Joshi**, Jim Kirkwood, Melanie Kneis**, Barbara Linds, Esther Louis**, H. Ian & Dorothy Macdonald, Alissa Markovic**, Linda McLaughlin, Daniela Moretti**, Flynn Paquin**, John Penn**, Catherine Pickett, David Portilla**, Anne Prowse**, Georgia Quartaro, Patrick Rennick**, Janet Rubinoff, Harveen Sandhu in memory of Jon Kaplan, Ellen Schoenberger, Lindsay Schwiect, Allyson Scott, Paula Grgurich Shewchuk in memory of Angelica Milo, David Sobel, James Sonne**, Ms. Rebecca Sugarman, Delaine Tiniakos-Doran, Rhys Trenhaile**, Janet Walker, Sybil Wilkinson**, Sandy Wu

Donations between April 2017 and July 2018

In support of **7th Cousins*

In support of **Asking For It

****In support of the **2018 Lawyer Show***

2017-2018 STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

REVENUES	2018	2017
Earned:		
Single ticket sales	\$ 138,774	\$ 111,305
Co-productions	26,443	-
Other	6,507	4,878
Workshops, classes and events	1,815	4,420
Private Sector:		
Donations and sponsorships	245,906	218,721*
Fundraising events	78,721	71,710
Foundations	38,861	54,300
Public Sector:		
Federal	102,500	106,767
Provincial	62,948	61,321
Municipal	75,932	93,000
TOTAL	778,377	726,422
EXPENSES		
Artistic and Programming:		
Artistic salaries and fees	256,038	206,167
Venue rental	61,659	54,348
Production and technical fees	47,164	27,757
Production costs	18,582	8,915
Royalties	12,486	9,161
Marketing and Development:		
Fundraising costs	77,668	83,098
Marketing salaries and fees	68,656	46,765
Other marketing costs	7,971	6,484
Advertising purchases	7,746	13,313
Administration:		
Administration salaries and fees	131,096	118,136
General administrative costs	64,342	62,461
Amortization	513	720
TOTAL	753,921	637,325
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	24,456	89,097
NET ASSETS (DEFICIT) - BEGINNING OF YEAR	17,032	(72,065)
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 41,488	\$ 17,032

*Includes tax-receiptable portion of Lawyer Show tickets.

THE TEAM

STAFF

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Hodgkinson (Chair), Sharlene Kanhai, Ana Sainz (Treasurer), Brent Vickar (Secretary), Karon Bales, The Honourable Sarmite Bulte, Hilary Green, Dr. Barbara Moses, Chantria Tram, Caroline Ursulak, Maria Zakos

ENSEMBLE

Mainstage Actors Don Allison, Matthew Brown, Erin Brubacher, Christine Brubaker, Kevin Bundy, Vivien Endicott-Douglas, Carolyn Fe, Diane Flacks, Barbara Gordon, Natasha Greenblatt, Christine Horne, Sam Kalilieh, Niki Landau, Steven McCarthy, Andrew Moodie, Ellie Moon, Amy Nostbakken, Norah Sadava, Jaa Smith-Johnson, Meghan Swaby, Blair Williams, Bahareh Yaraghi **Groundswell Actors** Shelly Anthony, Dalal Badr, Raoul Bhaneja, Augusto Bitter, Rachel Cairns, Diane D’Aquila, Monica Dottor, Leah Doz, David Ferry, Deidre Gillard-Rowlings, Angel Gladly, Carman Grant, Janet-Laine Green, Cynthia Hicks, Fiona Highet, Elvira Kurt, Jesse Lavercombe, Diana Luong, Faith-Ann R. Mendes, Jane Moffatt, Rachel Mutombo, Nicole Nwokolo, Liisa Repo-Martell, Lisa Ryder, Meghan Swaby, Richard Young

Playwrights/Creators Erin Brubacher, Christine Brubaker, Audrey Dwyer, Diane Flacks, Ellie Moon, Rose Napoli, Amy Nostbakken, Norah Sadava **Directors** Andrea Donaldson, Audrey Dwyer, Brendan Healy, Amy Nostbakken, Kelly Thornton, Sadie Epstein-Fine (Assistant Director), Tsholo Khalema (Assistant Director), Michelle Langille (Assistant Director) **Choreographers** Cathy Bate, Orian Michaeli, Viv Moore, Sadie Epstein-Fine (Fight Coordinator) **7th Cousins Collaborators** Samantha Gignac, Kaitlyn Hickey, Erum Khan, Andrea Nann, Simon Rabyiniuk, Christopher Stanton **Write From The Hip Playwrights** Elena Belyea, Deanna Kruger, Michelle Langille, Gitanjali Lena, Hannah Rittner, Lisa Ryder **Playwrights In Residence** Anna Chatterton, Amy Nostbakken, Norah Sadava **Set & Costume Designers** Jackie Chau, Rachel Forbes, Anna Treusch, Lindsay C. Walker, Kathleen Johnston (Costume Coordinator), Care Robertson (Props Coordinator), Christine Urquhart (Set and Costume Coordinator), Megan Cinel (Assistant Set Designer), Adriana DeAngelis (Assistant Costume Designer), Emma Welsh (Assistant Costume Designer) **Lighting Design** Bonnie Beecher, Kaileigh Krysztofiak, Steve Lucas, André du Toit, Noah Feaver (Associate Lighting Designer) **Composers/Sound Designers** James Bunton & Amy Nostbakken, Deanna H. Choi, Richard Feren, Johnny Salib **Musicians** Paul Moody, Ethan Rotenberg (Assistant) **Media and Projection Design** Laura Warren **Stage Managers** Christina Cicko, Ashley Elliot (Assistant Stage Manager), Neha Ross (Assistant Stage Manager), Kaitlyn Smith, Ken J. Stewart, Rebecca Vandevelde, Jordana Weiss **Production Managers** Suzie Balogh, Christina Cicko, Rebecca Vandevelde, Adriana DeAngelis (Assistant Production

Manager) **Producers** Catherine Herdandez, sandra Henderson, Kelly Read, Geneviève Trottier **Production Personnel** Christine Urquhart (Head of Props), Charissa Wilcox (Head Carpenter) **Lawyer Show Participants** Craig Allardyce, Cathy Bate, Mike Berger, Edina Cavalli, André Chamberlain, Anthea Cheung, Daniel Cook, Alexis Dill, Ben Edgecombe, Courtney Evans, David Feldman, Linda Galessiere, Henry Gluch, Mel Herbin, Shelley Hobbs, Dany Horovitz, Karen Jackson, Devin Jarcaig, Lisa Jørgensen, Danny Kastner, Brian Kuchar, Heidi LeBlanc, Valerie Lord, Ilana Ludwin, Diane Baker Mason, Kate McNeece, John McGowan, Llana Nakonechny, Christine Naycalo, Tracy A. Pratt, John Rider, Emma Romano, Alia Rosenstock, Leo Salloum, Robin Senzilet, Marah Smith, John Sorensen, Brent Vickar **Young Innovators** Justine Christensen, Bárbara Cotado Martinez, Adriana DeAngelis, Ellen Denny, Julie Foster, Cathy Huang, Bryn Kennedy, Mirka Loiselle, Lucy McPhee, Rachel Mutombo, Keshia Palm, Andrea Rankin, Melissa Taylor, Samantha Vu, Lauren Wolanski **Interns** Bryn Kennedy, Mirka Loiselle, Rebecca Ostroff **Volunteers** Brynn Cutcliffe, Sarah Marchand, Lauren Maykut, Arianna Moodie, Kate Morrison, Gillian Reed, Isabela Stille, Emma Westray, Myriam Zitouni

PARTNERS

7th Cousins Productions, Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, Crow’s Theatre, In Association, Necessary Angel Theatre Company, Quote Unquote Collective, Sulong Theatre, Why Not Theatre



Left to right: Beth Brown, Andrea Donaldson, Angie Ho, Kelly Thornton, Victoria Laberge, Sadie Epstein-Fine and Naz Afsahi. Photo: Brooke Wedlock.