

NightwoodTheatre



Canada's flagship feminist theatre company since 1979
Registered charitable organization No. 123709339 RR0001

CORPORATE SUPPORT PACKAGE



Photo of Monice Peter and Adrian Shepherd-Gawinski in *Every Day She Rose* by Cylla Von Tiedemann.
Set Design by Michelle Tracey, Costume Design by Ming Wong, Lighting Design by Rebecca Picherack.

CONTACT

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ABOUT NIGHTWOOD THEATRE

As Canada's foremost feminist theatre, Nightwood provides an essential home for the creation of extraordinary theatre by women* (it should be noted that our organizational understanding of women* extends beyond the limitations of cis-womanhood). Founded in 1979, Nightwood Theatre has created, produced and toured award-winning plays that have garnered Dora Mavor Moore, Chalmers, Trillium and Governor General's awards. The company is helmed by Artistic Director Andrea Donaldson and Managing Director Beth Brown, whose leadership has received public acclaim for artistic excellence, the successful training and development of emerging female talent, and their on-going advocacy around gender equity.



Good Night Desdemona
(*Good Morning Juliet*)
by Ann-Marie MacDonald, winner of
the Governor General's Award



The Penelopiad, written by Margaret
Atwood and starring Megan Follows -
nominated for 6 Dora Mavor Moore Awards



School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls
Play, winner of the 2019 Dora Award for
Outstanding Production and
Outstanding Direction

In 2020, Nightwood entered its **fifth decade** as
the nation's leading feminist theatre company.

Nightwood has launched the careers of countless leading theatre artists in the country. As recipients of Canada's highest literary and performing arts awards, our success proves the need for theatre that propels the voices of women and celebrates the diversity of Canadian society.

Nightwood Theatre's incredible history has had a massive impact shifting the weight of what's produced, and what key artists are at the helm of projects. While we still see only 31% of plays by women, with less than 0.5% of plays by trans women, we continue to fight for parity in our industry. Our office, our rehearsal halls, including our production tables are armed with the finest artists our city has to offer. We create inclusive, intersectional spaces that seek to insert humanity into how we work, placing care at our work's centre – as with our longstanding commitment to the five-day rehearsal work-week, a trailblazing action in an industry based around a standard six-day work-week.

We believe that feminism serves everyone – and that when we centre those most vulnerable we have a greater chance at lasting change.

We'd love for you to join our circle.

PAST PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

MOUTHPIECE

Produced by Quote Unquote Collective, and presented by Nightwood Theatre as part of our 2016/17 and 2017/18 Seasons.

Mouthpiece follows one woman, for one day, as she tries to find her voice. Nominated for 9 Dora Mavor Moore Awards, and winner of 3.

We were honoured to be joined at the show by Jodie Foster and her wife Alexandra Hedison, who were so blown away that they then flew the artists to Los Angeles for a private presentation at the Odyssey Theatre.

Mouthpiece was subsequently adapted as a feature film directed by award-winning film director Patricia Rozema, and was selected as the Special Presentations Opening Night film for the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival.



UNHOLY

A Nightwood Theatre Production
World Premiere presented as part of our 2016/17 Season,
then remounted by popular demand in 2017/18.

Four female panellists face off in a wild, whip-smart public debate about religion and misogyny, posing the loaded question “Should women abandon religion?” Nominated for the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Play.

In 2018/19, we were thrilled to partner with Zoomer Studios for a Nightwood Theatre and Vision TV co-presentation, staging the play for cameras and a live studio audience.



EVERY DAY SHE ROSE

A Nightwood Theatre Production
World Premiere presented as part of our 2019/20 Season
Slated to tour in January 2022
Co-Directed by Andrea Donaldson and Sedina Fiati

The personal becomes political in this collaboratively created new work from playwrights Andrea Scott and Nick Green. When racial and queer politics collide with the Black Lives Matter protest at the 2016 Toronto Pride Parade, two best friends discover that the things that brought them together may now drive them apart. A hilarious and heartbreaking stare-down of privilege and oppression.

One of NOW Magazine's best Toronto stage shows to see in November 2019



2020/21 SEASON



GROUNDSWELL FESTIVAL

November 10-20, 2020

The 2020 Groundswell Festival was Nightwood's first-ever digital festival, offering an invitation inside the creative process with readings of brand new works from Nightwood's Write From The Hip playwright's unit, led by Program Director Donna-Michelle St. Bernard, as well as opportunities to gather for provocative conversations and workshops.

This year's festival, designed for Zoom by Michelle Tracey, shared new plays and conversations from Bilal Baig, Shelley M. Hobbs, Erum Khan, Rachel Mutombo, Pesch Nepoose and Phoebe Tsang. We took the opportunity to expand the festival offerings with public conversations and workshops, including discussions with Deaf-led collective SPiLL.PROpagation and an anti-oppression workshop with national arts advocacy collective AD HOC Assembly, as well as free professional development opportunities for playwrights and artists.

Thanks to the longstanding generosity of Nightwood's supporters, we were honoured to be able to offer the full festival programming completely free to the community and available online.

FEMINIST UNCONFERENCE

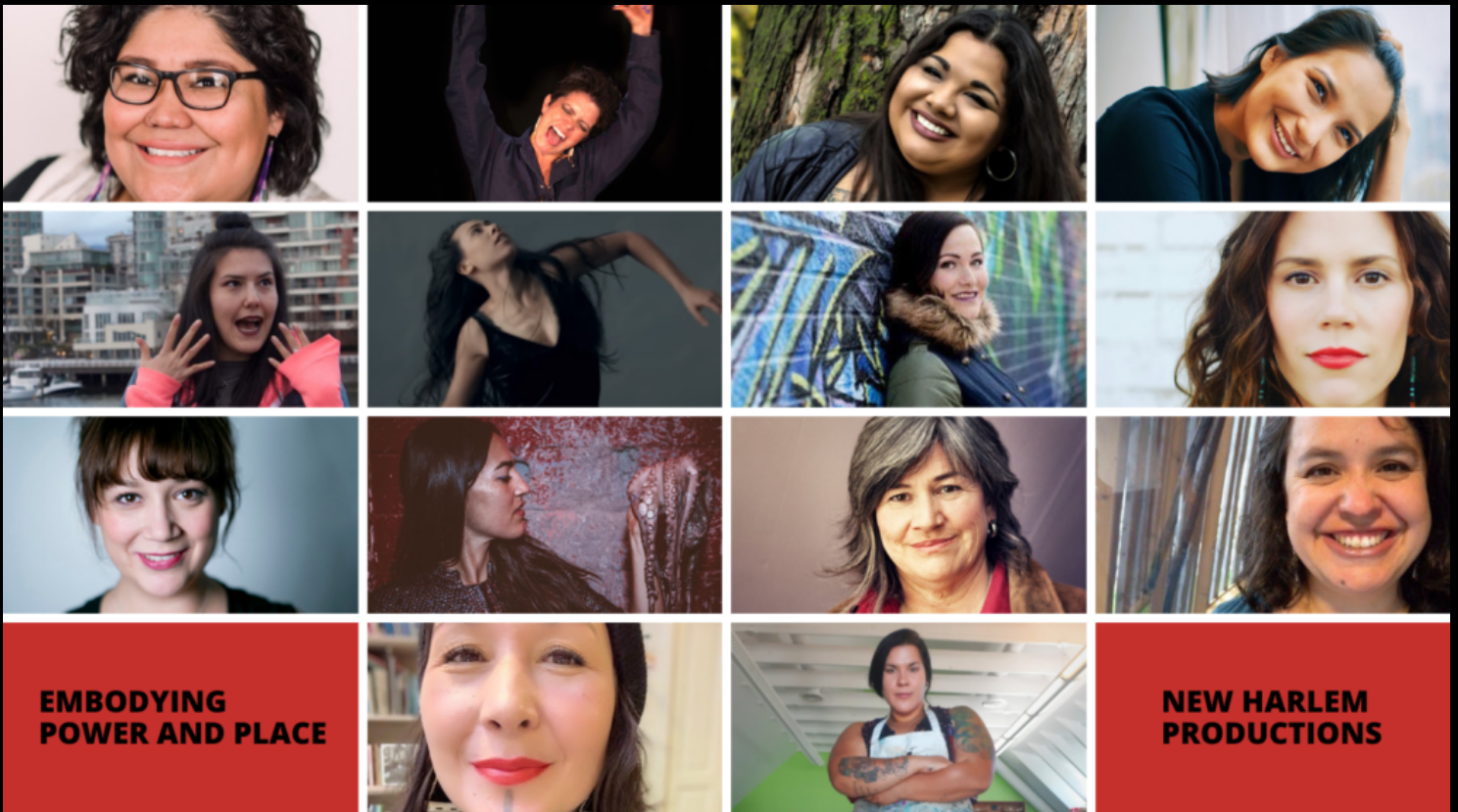
January 2021

Ring in the new year by connecting and collaborating this January, 2021!
Theatre practitioners are invited to listen, lead and unpack all things feminist at our
second annual hierarchy-smashing, participant-driven unconference.
This year our meeting-of-the-minds goes digital!

EMBODYING POWER AND PLACE

March 2021

In 2019, the federal commission on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls released their final report, Reclaiming Power and Place. In 2020 a dozen artists were commissioned by New Harlem Productions to read and respond to specific chapters of the report through their artistic medium. Embodying Power and Place weaves together visceral offerings of song, poetry, dance and theatrical works by such incredible creators as Tiffany Ayalik, Reneltta Arluk, Tara Beagan, Yolanda Bonnell, Darla Contois, Deborah Courchene, Aria Evans, Eekwol, Jessica Lea Fleming, Falen Johnson, Émilie Monnet, Yvette Nolan, Michelle Olson, Natalie Sappier and jaye simpson curated by Donna-Michelle St. Bernard and New Harlem Productions.





LOST TOGETHER

Nightwood Theatre presents an UnSpun Theatre Production
Created and performed by SHIRA LEUCHTER with MICHAELA WASHBURN

Spring and Summer 2021
Digital and Live performances

In this micro-performance, audience members enter one at a time to share a story about something they've lost. Once shared, Michaela and Shira build and present a small object that encapsulates their guest's story, which is added to an ever-evolving exhibition, reminding us that loss doesn't have to be a solitary reckoning. As this performance is for one audience member at a time, the goal is to bring the piece closer to you with four locations, starting south in the Distillery District, moving to the west side of Toronto, to the east in Scarborough and then up into Northern Ontario at the Nippising First Nation's Big Medicine Studio. An online version will also be made available to enable flexibility during these uncertain times.

COVID RESPONSE & RECOVERY INITIATIVES

ARTIST THINK TANKS

In October 2020, Nightwood held its very first Designer Think Tank, bringing together six diverse women theatre designers from across the country for three days of collective learning and resource sharing, with the goal of discovering innovative ways to pivot designing for live performance to designing for



digital theatre. The Designer Think Tank proved successful, and we were able to hire one of the artists to design our online Groundswell Festival, using discoveries from the Think Tank to ensure that our first digital festival was unique and impactful, elevating the form of online theatre. We wish to continue to provide space for learning and funds to vulnerable workers who have a great deal of knowledge and skill in an industry that is suddenly forcing them to work in a different way. Women designers are already at a disadvantage in an industry that is so heavily male-dominated, and with the additional pressures brought on by COVID, we believe that these Designer Think Tanks are the best way to support these artists while simultaneously innovating Nightwood's online season. Your support toward our mission of continuing to educate, engage, and promote these artists is vital in their well-being and continued future employability.

Nightwood Theatre and our community are undergoing massive change due to the pandemic and the urgent issues of 2020. We are galvanized by Black Lives Matter protests, and are turning a more critical eye on ourselves and others, demanding action and accountability. We have deepened our anti-oppression anti-racism (AOAR) aims-- investing in consultation, and implementing a four-year AOAR work plan that is meaningful, transformative, and sustainable. Nightwood artists, employees, and audiences have been deeply affected by COVID, as theatre was one of the first industries to close and will be the last to reopen. In the meantime, as the pandemic continues to wear on, artists are feeling the strain of being out of work and unable to practice their craft. As a feminist theatre company, we are acutely aware of the multitude of challenges that women are facing today as a result of COVID, especially those residing at the intersections of multiple marginalized identities. We are proud of how we have adapted to continue to serve our many communities.

Though we are unable to gather around live productions, we have enhanced our community and artist development offerings, increased pay for the many mentorships and contract employment opportunities we provide, and offered the majority of our offerings free of charge in recognition of the financial hardship the pandemic has caused for so many. We have established and advocated 'care' as a central value of how we have moved through this moment, which will continue beyond the troubling times we are in.

You can uphold this organization and our community by helping us support our industry's most vulnerable players. As we move from live in-person productions to digital offerings, the behind-the-scenes artists that we work with on a daily basis (including set, costume, lighting, and sound designers, among many others) are not able to hone their craft and make a living. Nightwood created the Designer Think Tanks in response to this need, connecting diverse women artists and offering financial support to shifting their skills from designing for live performance to designing for digital performance. We are sharing the findings of our first Think Tank during our Groundswell Festival with the goal of inspiring other artists and organizations to continue innovating digital theatre and supporting designers through this tumultuous time, as well as connecting with audiences nationally and around the globe.

UPCOMING INITIATIVES

Nightwood's Weekly Community Creativity Practice

"Rising Moon" – A new six-week creative writing program, offered for free to youth aged 16-19

Artist talks – intermittent public conversations and readings with artists we're supporting throughout the season

Play Club – like a book club, only plays! – with playwright guest appearances

Professional Development Workshops for theatre artists

Studio Share Residencies – \$1000+ in-kind grants for groups through a brief submission process

The Transformations Projects – several brief video commissions on the theme 'transformation' housed by the National Arts Centre, with dozens of theatre companies participating nationwide

Artistic Practice Residency Grants through brief submission process

In-house readings of works past and present

Nightwood remains actively engaged in mentoring young women and fostering emerging talent. Through ancillary activities such as our Write From The Hip play development program and Young Innovators Program for artists aged 18-30, we are proud to partner with the most exceptional artists in the community, and to shepherd the next brilliant minds to the stage.

WRITE FROM THE HIP

Now in its 14th year and led by award-winning emcee, poet and playwright Donna-Michelle St. Bernard, our annual emerging playwrights program Write From The Hip has become a key milestone for women playwrights. In it, four to seven writers meet and write over a year, each creating a full-length play that is professionally read at the Groundswell Festival, our annual festival of new works.



2020/21 Write From The Hip
Playwrights' Unit:

Anahita Dehbonehie, Celia Green,
Teiya Kasahara, Breton Lalama,
Kitoko Mai, Nikki Shaffeeulah

Program Director:
Donna-Michelle St. Bernard

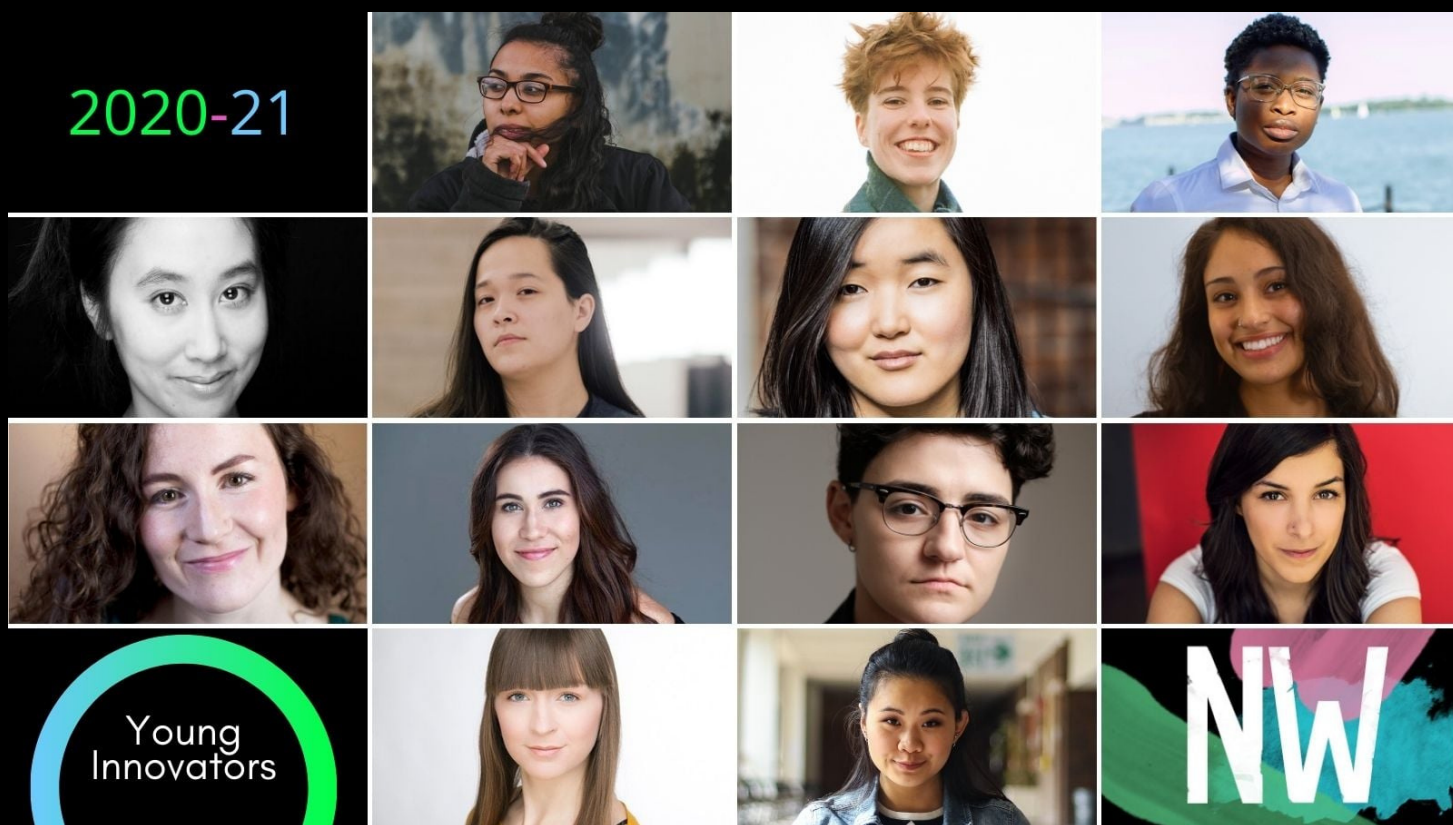
Program Associate:
Faly Mevamanana

Nightwood's Write From The Hip Program is generously sponsored by RBC



YOUNG INNOVATORS PROGRAM

The Young Innovators Program accepts a diverse group of approximately 12-15 women theatre artists aged 18-30 into this year-long program. In establishing this program four years ago, the focus has been an intentional blend of artistic and administrative practice: whether a Young Innovator joins us as a born administrator, stage manager, actor or playwright, we can deepen each participant's understanding of each dimension of professional theatre, and open them up to new complementary facets of their practice. Many participants leave The Young Innovator program with an expanded understanding of their career possibilities, which enhances their staying power in this highly competitive industry. In spending a theatre season with Nightwood, the Young Innovators attend internal and external events, participate in talks, attend workshops, as well as work as a team to produce *Fempocalypse*, a cabaret commemorating International Women's Day which has sold out every year and benefits a local charity of their choice.



2020//21 Young Innovators Unit:

Patricia Cerra, Caitlin Kelly, Kemi King, Christine Lee, Sai Macikunas, Qianna MacGilchrist, Hazel Moore, Robin Luckwaldt, Kiera Publicover, River Oliveira, Natasha Ramondino, Jessica Rose and Lucy Wong.

Nightwood's Young Innovators Program is generously sponsored by TD Bank



THE LAWYER SHOW

The Lawyer Show is Nightwood's main annual fundraiser. Every year, supported by a team of directors, designers and vocal coaches, over 40 members of the legal community rehearse for three months to be able to stage an exhilarating, entertaining, professionally led production.

Since the Lawyer Show's inception in 2010, some 260 legal professionals have appeared in 10 shows to raise more than \$1,235,000 in support of Nightwood.

This season we are producing our first audio recording for the 2021 Lawyer Show! This June 2021, look forward to *The Stars of Mars*, a new Toronto-born musical comedy born from Sheridan's Canadian Music Theatre Project and co-written by Ashley Botting (Second City Toronto alumna) and Daniel Abrahamson (Musical Director, *Boy Falls From The Sky*).

2020 Lawyer Show Sponsors:

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPORT

PRODUCTION SUPPORT \$5,000 - \$15,000

We invite your organization to join us as a Sponsor of our upcoming productions of *Embodying Power and Place* or *Lost Together* at a level of \$5,000-\$15,000. We would be pleased to create a benefits package that suits your organization's budget, and to offer a wide array of marketing and visibility benefits in exchange for your support, including:

- Advertisements in this season's digital programs

- A dedicated post on each of our social media platforms:

 - *Twitter - 8,400 Followers

 - *Facebook - 3,900 Followers

 - *Instagram - 3,800 Followers

- Logo and a link to your website included in an upcoming Care Package e-newsletter Reach: 7,000. Since launching the Social Distancing Care Packages through our newsletter, we have seen a marked increase in readership and reach across our communities.

EDUCATIONAL & ARTIST TRAINING PROGRAMMING SUPPORT \$5,000 - \$10,000

When you make a contribution in support of the Write From The Hip, Young Innovators Program, Artist Think Tanks, or any of our upcoming response and recovery initiatives, you are directly supporting the theatre industry's most vulnerable players, and providing training, mentorship and development opportunities to emerging and established artists.

LAWYER SHOW SPONSORSHIP \$2,000 - \$10,000

Lawyer Show Sponsorship levels range from \$2,000 (Justice Sponsorship) to \$10,000 (Title Sponsorship). Please do not hesitate to contact Victoria Laberge, Director of Development, if you are interested in receiving a Sponsorship Package for the 2021 Lawyer Show audio recording of *The Stars of Mars*!

Contributions are gratefully accepted at any level.
We look forward to working with you to ensure your support aligns with youthfunding priorities.

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2020/21 SUPPORTERS

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