

Vancouver Moving Theatre presents

# 4th National New Directions

Canadian Community Play Exchange Symposium



April 27 – 30, 2008

Downtown Eastside

Vancouver, British Columbia

**Russian Hall** 600 Campbell

**Carnegie Community Centre** 401 Main Street

**Roundhouse Community Centre** Davie and Pacific

**Segal School of Business** #2800 - 500 Granville Street

NEW DIRECTIONS



## **SYMPOSIUM PRODUCING TEAM**

**Artistic Director**

Savannah Walling

**Producer**

Terry Hunter

**Coordinator**

Susan Gordon

**Hospitality**

Sharon Kravitz

**Coordinator's Assistant**

Brendan Boylan

**Rapporteurs:**

**National**

Rachel Van Fossen

**Downtown Eastside**

Patrick Foley

**Technical Assistants**

Steve Edwards

Elwin Xie

**Volunteers**

Elizabeth Murdoch

## **PHOTOS**

Cover

*In the Heart of A City: The Downtown Eastside Community Play*  
(VMT/Carnegie) photo: John Endo Greenaway

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*Once A Shoreline* (Jumblies Theatre) photo: Cylla Von Teidemann

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*A Kernal of Truth* (Runaway Moon)

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*Once a Shoreline* (Jumblies Theatre) photo: Cylla Von Teidemann

*Get a Real Job!* (Myths and Mirrors Community Arts)

*Were All in this Together: The Shadows Project*

(VMT w/ Carnegie/Roundhouse/urban ink- Fathom Labs) photo: Ken Tabata

Back Cover

*Bridge of One Hair* (Jumblies Theatre) photo: Katherine Fleitas

Thanks to the Russian Hall, the Carnegie and Roundhouse Community Centres, Judith Marcuse and the International Centre of Arts for Social Change

The 4th Canadian Community Play Exchange Symposium has been made possible with the generous support of the InterArts Section of the Canada Council Artists and Community Collaboration Program and BC Gaming.



## WELCOME

It is our pleasure and honour to welcome you to Vancouver, to the Downtown Eastside, and to the 4th National Community Play Exchange Symposium.

With the theme of *New Directions*, this year's Symposium will explore new styles of collaborative community play building, honour the legacy, examine logistics of interdisciplinary creation, and build new local, provincial and national connections among Canadian community play artists

From theatre arts to music, from opera to video production, from shadow screen to clown, from sewing to ceramics, from murals to performance art, from quilts to processions, from feasts to celebrations - community play projects in Canada are arriving in all shapes and sizes: they're multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and exciting.

We very much look forward to the next four exciting days of idea sharing, discussion, mutual support and inspiration with you.

Enjoy the Symposium everyone!

**Terry Hunter** Executive Director  
**Savannah Walling** Artistic Director

## Presenter and Participant bios

**Dalannah Gail Bowen** is a jazz and blues vocalist, playwright and musical activist who resides in the Downtown Eastside and debuted as an actor in the *Downtown Eastside Community Play*. In 2007, Dalannah presented her one-woman show *The Returning Journey* at the Firehall theatre and released her new CD, *Mamma's Got The Blues*. Dalannah is honoured to be part of these sessions.

**Gina Bastone** trained in mask design and clown at the Dell Arte School of Physical Theatre (USA) and toured internationally with BASTA! Productions and Cirque du Soleil. One of Vancouver's top Commedia Dell'Arte actors, Gina has received four Jessie Richardson Theatre awards for performance and writing in plays such as *The Number 14*, *Millions Die*, *The Suzy and Uncle Joe Family Show* and *Map of the Senses*. The Director of *A Downtown Eastside Romeo and Juliet*, Gina is a world-renowned mask maker who has written several professional comic plays with secondary students, specializing in adaptations of familiar classics.

**Elaine Carol** is an artist, writer, interdisciplinary performance artist, theatre and film director whose work has been viewed internationally. The Artistic Director of MISCELLANEOUS Productions, Elaine has directed, co-written and produced live and video performances: *THE REENA PROJECT / Outcasts & Angels* (2001), *What You Carry With You...* (2003); *e-race* (2005 and 2006 video adaptation) and *Stock Characters: The Cooking Show*, (2007 and 2009 documentary) a hip hop and world musical play and documentary in collaboration with professional artists and experiential youth of East Vancouver. For more on Elaine's community-engagement process using art as a vehicle for social change, visit [www.miscellaneous-inc.org](http://www.miscellaneous-inc.org).

**Lina de Guevara**, originally from Chile, is an actor, theatre director and drama teacher. A specialist in Transformational Theatre, Theatre of the Oppressed and Commedia dell'Arte, Lina is the artistic director of PUENTE Theatre in Victoria BC, creating and producing plays about the immigrant experience. She's written and directed over 20 plays, including the community plays *Sisters/Strangers* and *Storytelling Our Lives I, II and III*, the last of which toured seven cities in BC in 2006. Other director's credits include *I wasn't born here*, *Crossing Borders*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *Mother Courage*, *Uthe/Athe* and *Emergence*.

**David Diamond**, Artistic Director of Headlines Theatre, has since 1981 directed over 400 community specific theatre projects on a diverse array of issues locally, nationally and internationally. He has also been involved in the writing and/or directing of *NO`XYA` (Our Footprints)*, *Out of the Silence*, *The Dying Game*, *Mamu*, *Squeegie*, *Corporate U*, *THIR\$TY*, *Don't Say a Word*, *Practicing Democracy*, *Here and Now* and *Meth*. His book, *Theatre for Living: the art and science of community-based dialogue*, which has a foreword by renowned physicist and systems theorist, Fritjof Capra, is available at all major on-line outlets in print and e-book.

**Lisa Marie DiLiberto** is Artistic Coordinator of Arts4All with Jumblies Theatre at The Davenport Perth Neighbourhood Centre. As a Metcalf Intern, DiLiberto was Assistant Director of *The Bridge of One Hair* at the Harbourfront Centre. An alumnus of Second City and a graduate of George Brown Theatre School, her most recent training was in physical theatre at École Philippe Gaulier in Paris. A four time Ontario Arts Council grant recipient, she has been a guest artist with Vancouver Moving Theatre and Common Weal in Saskatchewan. Lisa Marie's company, FIXT POINT THEATRE has toured work across Canada and in Europe.

**Rosemary Georgeson**, born into a fishing family from Galiano Island, lived in the Downtown Eastside in the 1970's. "My

family has been intertwined with the Downtown Eastside (since) it was still just trees and beach and clam beds." She assisted the Downtown Eastside Women's Writing Group; co-wrote *Rare Earth Arias*; was story consultant /out-reach worker for the *Downtown Eastside Community Play*; co-wrote, and provided hospitality for *The Shadows Project*. As Aboriginal Community Director of the urban ink Fathom labs project, she worked on the *Women in Fish* installation and CBC radio drama, involving 100 participants - decades of women in fish giving voice and paying tribute to women who lived and worked in the west coast fishing industry.

**Dale Hamilton** has been writing, producing and directing theatre for over 25 years and instrumental in the "Collaborative Community Theatre" movement in Canada, following an apprenticeship in the late 1980's with England's Colway Theatre Trust. She is the founding Artistic Director of Everybody's Theatre Company and a Project Manager for Action for Neighborhood Change in Toronto. In 1990, she co-produced with Colway Theatre Trust *The Spirit of Shivarree*, a 2-year, 120 cast community play in Eramosa Township, Ontario. Since then, Dale has produced six similar projects. She is co-president of Lateral Strategies, an international consulting company in New York City, specializing in performance-based community development. Lateral Strategies has conducted workshops in Canada, the US and Africa.

**Patrick Foley** is active in local community plays and in the local theatre community in the Downtown Eastside. He has attended the Carnegie Theatre Workshop with Jay Hamburger, went on a writing retreat to Galiano Island with Vancouver Moving Theatre, took a playwrighting workshop with Chris Gatchalian at the Fire Hall, and was one of the community writers who wrote the opera *Condemned*. He also acted in the DTES community play *In the Heart of A City* and was a lighting assistant in the *Shadow's Project*. Patrick has written



# The 4th National Canadian Community Play Exchange Symposium

	<b>Sunday April 27</b> Russian Hall	<b>Monday April 28</b> Carnegie (day only)	<b>Tuesday April 29</b> Russian Hall/Harbour Centre	<b>Wednesday April 30</b> Roundhouse	
9:00 AM	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #cccccc; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <span>Open to the Public</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #e0e0e0; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <span>Symposium Participants only</span> </div>	Light Breakfast and day orientation	Light Breakfast and day orientation	Light Breakfast and day orientation	9:00 AM
10:00 AM		<b>Mike Stack</b> Mr. Bill Shakespeare 10am - 12noon	<b>Gina Bastone</b> Mask & Comic Acting Workshop 10am - 12noon	<b>PUBLIC EVENT</b> <b>BC Presenters</b> Marcuse, Miscellaneous, Stubington 10am - 12noon	10:00 AM
11:00 AM				11:00 AM	
12:00 PM		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	12:00 PM
1:00 PM		<b>PUBLIC EVENT</b> <b>Presentations</b> Working in the Inner City: Carnegie, Hunter (VMT), Diamond (Headlines) 1pm-3pm	<b>Interdisciplinary Script Show and Tell</b> Hosted by Ruth Howard 1pm - 2:45 pm	<b>PUBLIC EVENT</b> <b>National Presenters:</b> Fossen, Hamilton, Howard & McGauley 1pm - 3pm	1:00 PM
2:00 PM	<b>PUBLIC EVENT</b> <b>DTES Romeo and Juliet</b> Performance 2pm - 4pm		Break 2:45pm - 3pm		2:00 PM
3:00 PM		Break 3pm - 3:30pm		Break 3pm - 3:30pm	3:00 PM
3:30 PM		<b>PUBLIC EVENT</b> <b>DTES Community Participants Speak</b> 3:30pm - 5:00pm	<b>Futures Discussion</b> led by jil p weaving 3pm - 4:30pm		3:30 PM
4:00 PM	<b>Reception</b> 4pm			<b>Closing Discussion: Next Steps</b> led by jil p weaving 3:30pm - 5:00pm	4:00 PM
4:30 PM			Light Supper		4:30 PM
5:00 PM					5:00 PM
6:00 PM					6:00 PM
7:00 PM	<b>Supper and Orientation for Core Participants</b> 7pm		<b>PUBLIC EVENT</b> <b>Dialogue session: Developing the next Generation</b> led by Judy Marcuse Segal School of Business #2800 - 500 Granville Street 6:30pm - 8:30pm	<b>Closing Supper &amp; Discussion: Next Steps Continued</b> Rahda Yoga and Eatery 728 Main Street 6pm	7:00 PM
8:00 PM		<b>Dessert, Wine and Conversation</b> 7:30pm			8:00 PM
9:00 PM					9:00 PM

several one-act plays about life in the Downtown Eastside, his main stomping grounds. *You Are What You Eat* is about to go on tour with Theatre in the Raw in its swing through western Canada.

**Leith Harris** has, for over twenty Downtown Eastside years, lived, worked, played sports, and participated in this community's cultural projects with her two sons. As a cultural outreach worker, she has facilitated workshops, organized events and encouraged Downtown Eastside residents to join in. As a performer and writer, she has sung, shouted, laughed and cried on stage and on paper. The challenges have been great, the benefits even greater and hope for the future the greatest challenge of all. Be brave and go forward.

**Nigel Harvey's** professional involvement in the arts spans 24 years since graduating from SFU's Centre for the Arts BFA program in the mid 1980's. With over 40 professional productions as actor, writer, director and producer across Canada, he is the artist in residence for Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows and is mandated to help create a model of collaborative art that engages, challenges and mobilizes citizens. Community art being a collaborative process, Harvey worked with a local writer, visual artist and members from the Maple Ridge Meth Task Force to create Anger Mountain, performed in June of 2007 with a cast and crew of over 60 with ages ranging from 6 to 85.

**Ruth Howard** is the founding Artistic Director of Jumblied Theatre, a Toronto-based company that "spends time in urban places, making art for, about and with the people and stories found there." She has created and produced many original theatre events combining visual imagery, performance, music and story gathering and telling - including *Bridge of One Hair* in Etobicoke (2007), *Once A Shoreline* at Davenport Perth Neighbourhood Centre (2004), and South Riverdale's *Twisted Metal and Mermaids Tears* (2000). With experience in Canada and England as a

set and costume designer, she has also designed large-scale community plays in Rockwood and Blythe, Ontario; Fort Quappelle, Saskatchewan; Enderby, BC; and Torbay and Manchester, England. She is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada and the University of Toronto. <http://www.jumbliedtheatre.org/>

**Terry Hunter** is co-founder and Executive Director of Vancouver Moving Theatre (1983) with whom he has toured Canada, USA, Europe, Asia and Australia. A Jessie Award recipient, Terry was the Producer of the groundbreaking *In the Heart of A City: the DTES community play* (2003), *We're All In This Together: The Shadows Project – addiction and recovery* (2007), and *A Downtown Eastside Romeo and Juliet*. Terry is also the Artistic Producer of the Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival. He also recently served as a cultural development consultant on the new Leigh Square Community Arts Village (Port Coquitlam). Terry is a recipient of the 2008 British Columbia Community Achievement Award.

**Loree Lawrence** is the founder of Red Wagon Collective and Lead Artist of The Gathering Space, an initiative using maps, photographs, text, film, visual art, and objects to research, reflect, and respond to people's ideas, stories, and memories. Her community-engaged art initiatives span 20 years. She was Theatre Director at Kensington Youth Theatre and Employment Skills in Toronto; Creative Director at Projections in Vancouver, a film program for street-involved youth; Director of Leaky Heaven Circus youth project; and worked with Jumblied Theatre's *Bridge of One Hair* project and *Where I'm From*. Loree completed an MA in Arts Education and is a partner in Resonance Creative Consulting which recently completed a national study of the evaluation of community arts projects.

**Stephen Lytton** (Interior Salish Thompson First Nations) is originally from Lytton, BC and has lived in the Downtown Eastside since 1992. Stephen sits on a number of

boards and committees in both mainstream and aboriginal communities that address issues of the day, including the Carnegie Community Centre and the British Columbia Aboriginal Network Disabilities Society. He is also involved in theatre as an actor, participating in the groundbreaking *In the Heart of A City: the downtown eastside community play* (2003); *Crime and Punishment* (2004) and the *Shadows Project* (2007). His hobbies are poetry and creative writing. He loves the strength, spirit and soul of his community – the Downtown Eastside.

**Judith Marcuse's** career spans over 40 years of professional work as a dancer, choreographer, director, producer, teacher, writer and lecturer in Canada and abroad. With many original works for live performance and choreography for film and television, she has produced seven large-scale arts festivals. The five year issue-based *ICE*, *FIRE* and *EARTH* projects involved thousands of young and older people in Canada and overseas. Co-director of the new International Centre for Arts and Social Change (ICASC) with Simon Fraser University, she has received many honours, including Canada's two major choreographic awards and an honorary doctor of laws degree from SFU.

**Laurie McGauley** gathers people together to create art, dialogue, dissent and mischief. She has been co-founder of Sticks and Stones Theatre and Poetic Justice Theatre, Myths and Mirrors Community Arts whose mediums include murals, performance art, mosaics, theatre, gardens, music, celebrations, rituals, installations, video, film, and games. Based in Sudbury, Ontario, a northern mining town, the company is committed to "planting seeds of creativity and hope in slagheaps of burnt rock and to joining others in the creation of our common future." McGauley is a Professor of Women's Studies at Laurentian University. In 2006, she completed an external review of the Canada Council for the Arts' Artist and Community Collaboration Program.

**Mike Stack** (workshop leader) is a graduate of Studio 58 Professional Theatre Training Program at Langara College and a specialist in Shakespearean acting, physical theatre, comic-acting, mask and mime. Since 1999, he has been Coordinator of the Young Shakespearians Summer Workshops program at Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival. Mike is resident guest director for Theatre Temp at Templeton Secondary School in East Vancouver, and he has adapted several Shakespeare plays for performance by multi-age groups of home learners. Recently he toured internationally in *The Number 14* for Axis Theatre Company.

**Cathy Stubington**, puppeteer/ community based artist, works around Enderby, BC, through Runaway Moon Theatre. This year the focus is locally grown food, with visual art projects that feed into spectacles marking the seasons. Large-scale projects produced by Runaway Moon with Spallumcheen Band Health Department include *Open Air* and *By the River*, and *Enough is Enough* a shadow play on a Drive-in screen. Cathy initiated *Not the Way I Heard It*, the Enderby Community Play. Puppeteers offer a metaphor for ghosts, animal souls, political strongmen, inner voices. Puppets range from giants accompanying live orchestra to miniature folk in a suitcase world. Cathy is working on a partnership with a health education program in Kenya. Her three children are part of all the projects. [www.runawaymoon.org/](http://www.runawaymoon.org/)

**Marina Szijarto** (AKA Design Diva) is a Visual and Celebration Artist, who has designed and built Costumes, Sets, Props, Installations and Public Art for theatre (professional and community engaged), dance, large-scale outdoor multidisciplinary community celebrations and public spaces. A Downtown Eastside resident for 20 years, she has worked in this community on *The Footprints Project*, (mosaics and banners), *Public Dreams Circus of Dreams*, *VMT's In the Heart of A City* and *Downtown Eastside Romeo and Juliet*, Leaky Heaven Circus (both set,





costume and poster design) and Mortal Coil's the *Ultimate High Project*. Marina has received 2 Jessie Richardson Awards. Marina is the resident designer at Mountain View Cemetery's Night for All Souls. [www.msdemeanour.ca](http://www.msdemeanour.ca)

**Rachel Van Fossen** is an award winning playwright, director and teacher of theatre. Since the early nineties, she has been an innovator in community-engaged theatre. In Saskatchewan, she founded Common Weal Community Arts, bringing communities and professional artists together for social change. In 1992, Van Fossen produced, co-wrote and co-directed *The Gathering*, a collaborative community play involving over a hundred cast members from the Qu-Appelle Valley. In 1990, she co-directed *The Spirit of Shivarree: The Eramosa Community Play* in Ontario. Her current artistic preoccupations include research into the role of aesthetics in community-engaged theatre practice. Von Fossen is working as creative director in Rights Here!, a performance and exchange project in theatre for human rights.

**Savannah Walling**, an artist trained in dance, mime and music, is Artistic Director of Vancouver Moving Theatre, a company she co-founded with Terry Hunter in 1983. For over 25 years as a writer, director, choreographer, interdisciplinary performer, contemporary dancer, stilt dancer, musician, singer, actor, lecturer and teacher, she has collaborated to create accessible theatre influenced by Vancouver's Pacific Rim. She co-developed community-engaged projects for Vancouver's Downtown

Eastside community including Strathcona Artist at Home Festival, *In The Heart of A City: the downtown eastside community play* and the Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival. Walling co-wrote and oversaw development of *We're All in This Together: The Shadows Project*, a community-engaged giant screen shadow theatre production. Savannah is a recipient of the 2008 British Columbia Community Achievement Award.

**Ethel Whitty** is in her fourth year as Director of the Carnegie Community Centre in the Downtown Eastside. Prior to this, Ethel worked in the non profit sector and at one time in her life as an actress, writer and dramaturge. She has supported the creation of the Downtown Eastside opera, *Condemned-a work in progress*, and is currently working on another opera with the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Gardens which involves First Nation and Chinese Canadian artists and the relationship between their cultures. In her capacity as Director of the Carnegie Community Centre, Ethel works with individuals and community organizations to promote active participation in the arts. She believes that the measure of a creative community is the number of people actively engaged, and she is thrilled to work in a community that holds the arts in such high regard.

**Will Weigler** is a theatre director, producer, playwright and the author of *Strategies for Playbuilding: Helping Groups Translate Issues into Theatre* (Heinemann, 2001). Will worked with the community of Darrington, Washington northeast of Seattle and with the members of the nearby Sauk-Suiattle First Nations band to create Common Wealth, a joint music/theatre production involving over 60 people and celebrating their separate and intersecting histories. Will is currently a doctoral student in theatre at the University of Victoria. His proposed dissertation project involves researching how people's attitudes or preconceptions can be suddenly changed or challenged by the act of witnessing something presented onstage in a play.

## FACILITATORS

**Amir Ali Alibhai** is an interdisciplinary artist, musician, independent curator and writer. He has held several positions in the artistic community of Vancouver, and recently left the position of Arts Programmer at the Roundhouse which he held for 11 years. He has taken a new position in the newly formed Office of Cultural Affairs in North Vancouver. Before that he worked as an educator and guest curator at the Richmond Arts Gallery and was Assistant Curator at the Surrey Art Gallery. Alibhai has a Masters Degree in Curriculum Studies on cross cultural collaboration. He is also currently a Member of the Board of the Canada Council for the Arts.

**jil p. weaving** is an artist who for 25 years has explored and engaged with issues, audiences, and community participants. She was a founding director with Artists for Noncommercial Culture, an artist-run collective, has created community-based arts projects and residencies; worked as a provincial researcher with the jointly funded Artists and Communities Pilot Funding Program, and coordinated the city-wide Artist in Residence Program with the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation. Currently she is Arts and Culture Coordinator for Vancouver Parks and Recreation.

## Vancouver Moving Theatre

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