



Annual Report

2018-19



PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

JUNE-JULY 2018



Mixed Company recreated the launch version of the production *Photographic Evidence* to create a 60-minute long professional play about the life of Geraldine Moodie, Canada's first female photographer.

Written by Rex Deverell and directed by Simon Malbogat, the play explores themes of feminism, colonialism and Indigeneity, representation, and the 'ownership' of stories, land, and art. MCT had the honour of presenting the play at the Hamilton Fringe 2018.

Photographic Evidence reached an audience of 550 across its 2 runs, one being at Walk the 6 West: History on the Humber (an Ontario 150 event), and the other at The Zoetic Theatre as part of the Hamilton Fringe Festival.

11 performances

550 patrons

Excerpt from a patron's review of Photographic Evidence:

“Photographic Evidence is an entirely satisfying reexamination of the cultural moment we currently inhabit, from the land acknowledgement read at the beginning by actor Lisa Nasson, to the call to live into that acknowledgement at the end. The question is: what are we to acknowledge? This is the question that Deverell asks in this somewhat documentary history play.”

MIXED MESSAGES UNIVERSITY TOUR

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2018



In Fall 2018, Mixed Company continued our contribution to Frosh Week learning and engagement activities by performing the university-appropriate annual production of *Mixed Messages*. This Forum Theatre production addresses themes of consent, gender-based violence, sexual assault, alcohol and drug abuse, technology, peer pressure, and allyship.

The interactive aspect of the play allows University students to imagine, practice, and evaluate strategies for mitigating sexual assault in their student communities. Incorporating new technological and social media themes to the 2018 version of the play, we partnered with UTSC and Woodsworth College (UofT – St. George Campus) to engage 1200 students in critical inquiry and consciousness around the issue of sexual consent.

3 performances 1200 youth

ART FOR INTEGRATION | HOME AWAY FROM HOME

SEPTEMBER 2018 - FEBRUARY 2019



Mixed Company Theatre partnered with three community groups (The Syrian Canadian Foundation, the Arab Community Centre of Toronto, and the Scadding Court Community Centre) in the *Art for Integration* project. This project engaged 180 refugees and newcomers to Canada in theatre-making centred around the challenges and nuances of integrating into Canadian life.

In a series of workshops between September and December 2018, community participants discovered similarities and differences between their experiences through use of image theatre, movement-based 'human sculpting', tableaux exploration, and improvisation. From the workshops, which were facilitated in both English and Arabic by Natalie Abdou and Jobran Kanji, two "universal stories" about integration into Canadian life emerged. These stories were developed into two Forum Theatre scenes by the participants and facilitators. In the first scene, a young woman attending university in Canada struggles to reconcile the social expectations of her new Canadian friends versus the culturally-ingrained expectations of her strict father; in the second scene, a man struggles with feelings of isolation and depression as language barriers and narratives of hegemonic masculinity stop him from reaching out for help. These two scenes formed the base of a Forum Theatre production called *Home Away From Home*, which was

performed in December 2018 by a cast of ten community participants and which also included performances of spoken word and physical theatre.

Like the *Art for Integration* workshops, the production *Home Away From Home* was community-oriented and facilitated bilingually in English and Arabic. Speakers of both languages were invited to replace actors onstage to "rehearse" problem-solving strategies and work toward a positive outcome and address the challenges presented in the scenes. Between the two performances of *Home Away From Home* on December 15th and 16th, 2018, this free Forum Theatre production was attended by over 150 audience members.

In January and February 2019, Mixed Company Theatre facilitated meetings with the community members who had participated in the *Art for Integration* project. At this meeting, we were delighted to hear that some of our participants were organizing to develop their own theatre company with a specific focus on newcomer and refugee stories. This collective has become SYEATRE, with whom we collaborated later in 2019.

2 performances

150 patrons

44 community participants

- 90% of survey respondents from our community participant groups indicated that the workshops allowed them to further develop their creative and artistic skills, while 80% indicated an increase in their ability to communicate with friends, family, and their communities.
- Among our community audience for *Home Away From Home*, 80% of survey respondents felt they had learned new strategies for addressing the challenges presented in the play, and 98% indicated that the stories presented were realistic and relatable to them.

IN YOUR HEAD - Mental Health in Schools

NOVEMBER 2018 - MAY 2019



Written by Luciano Iogna and directed by Simon Malbogat, *IN YOUR HEAD* (formerly titled *My Friend, My Ally*) is a Forum Theatre production which toured 11 schools and had 16 performances across the GTA in April and May 2019. Developed in consultation with communities of students, educators, and mental health professionals, *IN YOUR HEAD* follows the character of Rayna as she struggles to be an ally for her brother Sam, whose recent struggles with his own mental health have created fallout for both Sam and Rayna in their school community.

The participatory nature of *IN YOUR HEAD* empowers youth ages 12-18 to think critically about allyship and mental health stigmatization, and to imagine and actively work toward safer, more inclusive school communities.

In order to maximize *IN YOUR HEAD* as a participatory tool for arts-based learning, Mixed Company encouraged teachers to continue conversations around student mental health in their classrooms by developing and disseminating an educators' guide. The educators' guide references plot points from *IN YOUR HEAD* as jumping-off points for critical discussion, and provides teachers and students with a list of local resources to whom they can turn for mental health-related care.

13 performances

12 schools

5200 patrons

- In our post-performance survey, 100% of student audience members came away from the production having learned effective ways to stand up against stigmatizing behaviour, as well as appropriate ways to offer support to peers experiencing mental health issues.
- In our post-performance survey, 100% of educators who saw IN YOUR HEAD told us the scenarios presented were realistic and age-appropriate, and that they would recommend the production to other educators.

AGING WITHOUT VIOLENCE

MAY-JUNE 2019



Mixed Company performed *The Golden (C)Age* at the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH) in early 2018, and the experience left both organizations eager to work with the other again. We have partnered with OAITH on an Ontario-wide project called *Aging Without Violence* which will address systemic challenges faced by seniors, especially senior women, in the context of dealing with abuse.

In June 2019, Mixed Company Theatre completed the first phase of its activities and conducted a successful arts-based story-gathering workshop with the a community of seniors including women who have experienced violence.

Based on the stories gathered and issues raised throughout the community workshop, Associate Playwright Roselyn Kelada-Sedra has begun developing a Forum Theatre Script which will be further defined in collaboration with OAITH staff, who will help ensure the script accurately depicts systemic resources, processes, and potential gaps.

Mixed Company is prepared to begin the next phase of this project, which is to continue script development in further consultation with OAITH and with communities of seniors who have experienced violence. Upon its completion, the script will be developed into a Forum Theatre play which will tour to communities of older women experiencing housing insecurity across the GTA.

1 workshop | **12** participants | **1** script

SOCIAL JUSTICE, EQUITY + DIVERSITY TRAINING

YEAR-ROUND IN 2018-19 SEASON



In 2018, we successfully widened the reach of our social change mandate to include workplaces and community organizations. Organizational Training projects not only extends our work to the workplace but also helps build MCT's financial sustainability. Our trainings are unique in that they present a practical, experiential solution to learning workplace skills. We engage workplace staff in our new **Lightning Forum Theatre format**.

This format focuses on the theatrical presentation of the point of conflict, and the immediate actions/situations that build up to it. It is therefore a concise format that is flexible and can be easily adapted to the various social justice and equity themes our community partners wish to address through Forum Theatre.

Making use of this new format, Mixed Company Theatre continued our ongoing practice of collaborating with organizations and workplaces to address issues such as gender-based violence, ageism, mental health stigma, cultural equity, and effective cooperation and teamwork.

We worked on the following organizational projects:

Civility and Inclusion:

In August 2018, we partnered with the City of Toronto to develop *Teamwork and Civility*, a duo of Forum Theatre scenes that engaged an audience of 500 recreation and management staff. The interactive Forum Theatre presentation encouraged them to “rehearse” modes of action that would lead to a more comfortable, cohesive, and respectful working atmosphere for all.

2 performances | **500** leadership, management and executive staff

Violence against Women and Anti-Discrimination:

November is Violence Against Women month annually, and in 2018 MCT partnered with the Violence Prevention unit of the Settlement Assistance and Family Support Services (Scarborough) to engage 200 police, lawyers, judges, Children’s Aid Society workers, and frontline workers including counsellors and social workers, in a Forum Theatre presentation. The objective was to create a platform for their diverse professionals to challenge their perspective in cases of domestic violence and abuse and look at these women-centric issues as a “men’s issue”. We also worked with City of Toronto for the 4th time in November 2018 to engage their staff in anti-discrimination training and dialogue.

6 presentations | **400** legal, criminal justice, social service, and City professionals

Applying Theatre in Education:

In March 2019, Mixed Company worked with staff from the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) to share effective methods of incorporating drama into learning at the elementary level.

1 workshop | **24** educators

Ageism and Intergenerational Relationships:

We partnered with North York Community House to facilitate a Forum Theatre workshop for seniors in August 2018 . Through a partnership with the Estelle Craig Act II Studio, Mixed Company also presented two Forum Theatre scenes during the Stella Awards at the Chang School of Continuing Education, Ryerson University, in June 2019. The scenes addressed issues of caregiver burnout, age-based discrimination, elder abuse, and assisted suicide.

3 performances + workshops | **215** patrons + participants

LIGHTNING FORUMS + WORKSHOPS IN SCHOOLS

YEAR ROUND IN 2018-19 SEASON



This year, alongside our customizable single-class Forum Theatre workshops, we implemented our Lightning Forum Theatre presentations in schools across the GTA.

The Lightning Forum format allows schools to choose one of three topics which may pose a particular challenge to their school community. These topics, which were decided upon based on student feedback in previous productions, are: sexual consent; mental health stigmatization; and LGBTQ+ discrimination.

During the 2018-19 academic year, we brought condensed and cost-effective Lightning Forum productions and customizable Forum Theatre workshops to 14 schools across the GTA, reaching a cumulative audience of over 1400 students.

14 presentations + workshops | **1420** students

THEATRE FOR ACTION: ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

YEAR-ROUND IN 2018-19 SEASON



This year, Mixed Company took the step to spread our annual Professional Development workshops across the year so as to increase accessibility and long-term engagement with educators, community activators, and social workers.

We designed and facilitated workshops to provide professional development in Forum Theatre to artists and community workers. We explored various nuances of Forum Theatre, the Rainbow of Desire, and the Masks of Manipulation through a series of one and two-day workshops aimed at helping artists, social workers, and educators integrate Forum Theatre in their work. In support of these workshops, we have also created six Forum Theatre Training videos to ensure the sustainability and longevity of future community Forum Theatre projects.

4 workshops

19 participants

100% of the participants reported they are likely to use Forum Theatre in their community work.

Testimonial from a Participant in Mixed Company's Masks of Manipulation Workshop:

"I am so grateful. This is my first time. The workshop helped me to open up myself. It was so hard to express my emotions but I made my baby step at the workshop. So much healing has happened last 3 Saturdays with tears. I felt I have found my safe space in me by attending the workshops. Thank you very much for the opportunity and generosity of sharing your learning with rest of the world. I am grateful for all who made the workshop possible."
- Maureen, Student at George Brown College

2018-19: AN OVERVIEW

9,940 *People reached*

28 *School / University Partners*

10 *Community Partners*

7 *Volunteers and Interns*

994 *Volunteer and Intern Hours provided*

STAFF

Artistic Director - Simon Malbogat

General Manager - Swetha Ranganathan

Artistic Program Manager - Malia Rogers

We are proud of the work we have created because we strive to be inclusive, artistically compelling and collaborate with the community we serve. Your contributions will help us to continue showcasing inspiring stories of our community and shed light on the stories that we so desperately need to tell.

MCT'S BACKGROUNDER

Mixed Company Theatre produces innovative, socially relevant drama as a tool for positive change, in an engaging and entertaining way. For the last 35 years we have been committed to community engaged theatre, both in creation and in presentation. Mixed Company Theatre (MCT) develops workshops and presents original Forum Theatre focusing on educational and community issues. A globally recognized Centre of Forum Theatre since 1992, MCT today partners with schools, workplaces and community organizations across Canada and around the world.

Over 160 Forum Theatre productions have been developed for people of all ages and backgrounds, spotlighting issues of diversity, family relationships, peer pressure, sexuality (including STI and HIV under the City of Toronto's Public Health), racism, homelessness, leadership, drug and alcohol abuse, and violence. Mixed Company has toured extensively in Canada as well as internationally, facilitating Forum Theatre projects from Helsinki to Kiev, Istanbul to Rio de Janeiro.

Company awards and citations include the City of Toronto's Mayor's Community Safety Award, a Mayor's Award for the Arts, a Mayor's Commendation for Dedication to Social Justice, The Safe City Award, the Pauline Julienne Award, five Dora Mavor Moore Award nominations and The Montreal Gazette's Best New Play Award.

WHAT IS FORUM THEATRE?

Forum Theatre is an interactive approach that involves the audience in developing real-time strategies for dealing with social and personal issues.

In a Mixed Company production, a story representing an issue is created, rehearsed and performed. The story is then presented again—only this second time, audience members can intervene in the story, as “spect-actors,” to create a positive alternative ending. A trained Forum Theatre facilitator (the Joker) prepares and encourages participants to replace the actors on stage and to change the story in a constructive way.

Although many of the methods used by Mixed Company were researched, developed and adapted by internationally renowned theatre director and author Augusto Boal, several aspects of the work come directly from Mixed Company artists, as well as others in the Forum Theatre community. The Sweet Medicine Teachings of the Metis Medicine Society, in particular, the tyrant oppressor wheel, as well as Simon Malbogat's Masks of Manipulation, have contributed to the model of Forum Theatre used by Mixed Company.

OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

St. Luke's United Church

Neighbourhood Arts Network

ArtBridges

Arts Reach

Toronto Alliance for Performing Arts (TAPA)



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Ontario Seniors' Secretariat

**George Lunan
Foundation**

**J.P. Bickell
Foundation**



An agency of the Government of Ontario.
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CONTACT INFORMATION

LEGAL NAME

Maple Leaf Theatre for Social Responsibility

OPERATING NAME

Mixed Company Theatre

CHARITABLE REGISTRATION

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WEBSITE

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MCT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Accenture Global Management: Consulting

Joined: Aug, '08
Treasurer: Dec, '09
Elected President: Nov '10
Re-Elected President: Dec '12
Re-Elected President: Dec '14
Re-Elected President: Dec '16
Re-Elected President: Dec '17
Re-Elected President: Dec '18

VICE-PRESIDENT

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Counsel at Dentons Canada LLP

Joined: April 28, '11
Elected Secretary: Nov '11
Elected Board Member: Dec '13
Re-Elected Board Member: Dec '15
Elected Vice-President: Dec '16
Re-Elected Vice-President: Dec '17
Re-Elected Vice-President: Dec '18

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Joined: Aug 14, '06
Elected President: Dec '09
Interim Treasurer: Aug '09
Elected Treasurer: Nov '11
Elected Vice-President: Nov '11
Re-Elected Vice-President & Treasurer: Dec '13
Re-Elected Vice-President & Treasurer: Dec '15
Re-Elected Treasurer: Dec '16, '17 and '18

BOARD MEMBER

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Joined: Aug 26, '17

BOARD MEMBER

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McMaster University – Professor Emeritus in various departments
Past Director – McMaster University Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

Joined: Sep 20, '17

FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of June 30, 2018

	AMOUNT (CAD)
ASSETS	
Current	
Cash	43,994
Short term investment	-
Accounts receivable	4,821
Government remittances receivable	7,161
Prepaid and deposit	1,728
	57,704
Equipment	490
	58,194
LIABILITIES	
Current	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	19,324
Deferred revenues	35,125
	54,449
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted net assets	3,745
	58,194

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

	AMOUNT (CAD)
Cash Provided by (used in):	
Operating Activities	
Excess of revenues over expenses for the year	(16,853)
Add item not affecting cash:	
Amortization	123
	(16,730)
Net change in non-cash working capital amounts	
Short term investment	15,000
Accounts receivable	4,522
Prepaid and deposit	-
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	11,707
Government remittances receivable	999
Deferred revenue	16,243
Net Increase (decrease) in cash during the year	31,741
Cash, beginning of year	12,253
Cash, end of year	43,994



MIXED COMPANY THEATRE

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