

## WINTER 2011

Winter 2011: snow flurries and a flurry of new season activities ... themes echoed in Mixed Company Theatre's offices! Follow MCT's flurry of activities as we:

- ... *prepare for our 2011 Educational tour season!*
- ... *make progress* on the much anticipated revamp of *MCT's web site.*
- ... *make our mark on Conferences and Workshops across Ontario.*

Get the details on each story, alongside MCT's Artistic Director, Simon Malbagot's aptly named: "*MCT - It's all about ACT-ivity!*" - and find out more about our changing faces in "*Meet the Outreach Team!*"

This new year brings news from Mixed Company's Management team too! General Manager, Daniel Booth, reports on grants and supporters in "*Grant News is Great News!*" As snow falls and flurries scurry, there's a familiar swirl of activity for MCT's Outreach team, as telephones ring, emails blast, and the tour calendar fills, signaling the seasonal bustle of Tour Booking and Workshop requests.

Deidre Budgell and Maureen Verboom update readers on tours of *Mixed Messages*, *Project ACT*, and new shows: *A Fine Line* and *The Green Show* along with a 'sneak peak' at *MCT's Professional Development Workshop* - PA Day Series for Teachers, Classroom Workshop opportunities - and *MCT's customized Workshops*.

Happy New Year and thank you for checking in on what's new at Mixed Company Theatre!

## IN THIS ISSUE

### ON THE ROAD with PROJECT ACT



### CHANGE IS A GOOD THING!

### MIXED MESSAGES Delivers a CLEAR MESSAGE



## MCT's WINTER/SPRING TOUR LINE-UP

After one of the busiest Fall tours on record, MCT is thrilled to present our Winter/Spring Line-Up: offering 3 shows for all ages and tackling diverse issues.



**New for Winter 2011!**  
**Touring January 24–**  
**March 11**

#### GRADES: 9-12

A new forum theatre production about sexual harassment. Created in collaboration with youth and the Canadian Safe Schools Network (formally ESP), *A Fine Line* catalyzes dialogue about this timely issue facing youth.

## GRANT NEWS IS GREAT NEWS!

MCT Cooks up some Legislative Theatre with Toronto Community Housing Corporation



### INTERACTIVE THEATRE goes INTERACTIVE ONLINE!

#### GRADES: 7-9

A three-tiered interactive performance about physical activity, healthy eating, and substance misuse prevention. Sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion & Sport, Healthy Communities Fund.



**EXTENDED!**  
**Touring January 24–**  
**March 11**



MCT—Mixing it up at Conferences and Workshops All Over Ontario



**New for Spring 2011!**  
**Touring April 4–22**

#### For Grades 1-6 (2 Versions: 1-3/4-6)

An engaging and ECO-taining look at being environmentally friendly. Students learn how to: reduce their ecological footprint, reduce/reuse/recycle and 'greenify' their environment!

## JUST ANNOUNCED!!

Mixed Company Theatre's  
 2nd Annual STARS Awards Gala 2011



## Interactive Theatre Co. Goes Interactive On-line!

This January, life imitated art as MCT - Toronto's *interactive* forum theatre for social change—established an *interactive* on-line experience for its audiences.

Known for our interactive techniques it's not surprising that we've brought these to our web site! MCT's new site promises to engage visitors in an *on-line* interactive *experience shadowing* the *real life experience* audiences engage in with any of the company's *live forum theatre productions*. New features include streaming navigation, user-friendly enhanced options, a Mixed Company Blog and new social media options along with an interactive tour calendar.

Add MCT to your "Favourites;" - <http://www.mixedcompanytheatre.com/> - check in on our progress, and join our on-line conversations. We already interact with you on stage... now it's time to share the MCT interactive experience on line!



### MCT—It's All About ACT-ivity

- Simon Malbogat, Artistic Director

It is Winter 2011, Mixed Company's 28<sup>th</sup> year in operation. And with

MCT's very existence—past, present and future—predicated on this notion of "act"ivity, it is both fitting and timely to be writing about MCT's goings on! Since its inception—in the 1980's as an artist run collective—and throughout its history, MCT's vision and mission remains to create innovative, interactive drama as a tool for positive change.

Nationally recognized for our work in schools, the community and the workplace, we use forum theatre and other collaborative methods to engage, educate and empower our audiences, creating solutions to challenging issues in their daily lives.

A globally recognized Centre of Forum Theatre since 1992, Mixed Company Theatre today partners with **schools, corporations and community organizations** across Canada and around the world. As we enter 2011, our partnership with these groups is reaching new heights. Catch up on our growth and expansion with these important MCT partners throughout the pages of this edition of Mixed News and learn about those who sharing our commitment to life-long learning - a pledge we remain loyal to in all of our endeavours.

I am delighted to be sharing our latest changes with you and thank all of you, our loyal audiences, government and community supporters, colleagues, friends, creative community and partners, and the outstanding MCT team - for your contributions and support all through these years of positive change together.



## 10 THINGS YOU need to know about mixed company theatre



MIXED COMPANY THEATRE'S OFFICIAL ACRONYM = MCT



FORUM THEATRE is defined as "INTERACTIVE THEATRE which involves AUDIENCES IN DEVELOPING REAL TIME STRATEGIES for dealing with SOCIAL AND PERSONAL ISSUES."



SPECT-ACTORS - A TERM COINED BY Augusto Boal describing FORUM THEATRE AUDIENCES - unique in their DUAL ROLE as BOTH SPECTATOR and ACTOR.



FORUM THEATRE IS A UNESCO-RECOGNIZED (UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION) TOOL FOR POSITIVE SOCIAL CHANGE.



MCT DELIVERS CUSTOMIZED CORPORATE WORKSHOPS ON SITE AT EACH WORK PLACE - EFFICIENTLY ENGAGING, EMPOWERING AND EDUCATING BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS.



ANNUAL COMMUNITY INITIATIVE PROJECT - FOR 2 DECADES MCT has offered a FORUM and VOICE for people battling issues of drug addiction, homelessness and violence. The 2011 initiative is THE COMPASS PROJECT.



MCT OFFERS WORKSHOPS FOR ALL AGES!



SINCE 1983 - MCT's EDUCATIONAL TOUR, HAS DELIVERED 4-6 PERFORMANCES ANNUALLY - ENGAGING, EDUCATING and EMPOWERING ONTARIO STUDENTS.



THE LOW DOWN ON SHOWDOWN - SHOWDOWN RETURNED BY POPULAR DEMAND FOR A SPECIAL FALL 2010 EDUCATIONAL TOUR ANTI-BULLYING WEEK - NOV 15 - 19



2011/2012 @ MIXED COMPANY— SNEAK PEEK COMING THIS MONTH! STAY TUNED!



## MCT partners with Toronto Police for DISS remount

Mixed Company Theatre is proud to announce a new partnership with the Toronto Police Services Board to bring DISS—MCT's groundbreaking gang violence production—to schools throughout the Toronto area this spring. Thanks to generous funding, 25 priority schools will have the opportunity to participate in this interactive performance in May—June 2011.

Originally created in 2009, in collaboration with professional artists including Chalmers Award-winning playwright, Rex Deverell, hip-hop artists Tru-Paz and Miles Jones, and Toronto area youth affected by violence in their communities, DISS has played to over 5,000 Toronto high school students and has been recognized by the Toronto Police Service as an effective tool to engage and educate youth on this current and hot-button issue.

A new component for this tour will be the addition of post-show discussion after the performances facilitated by Toronto Police and members of community organizations that focus on gang and violence-related issues with Toronto area youth. This new component will help solidify the message and act as forum for youth to further discuss the issues with members of their own community who have front-line experience with and understanding of violence.

DISS employs Mixed Company Theatre's unique forum theatre technique, with youth performing raps based on their experience with violence while a DJ spins live beats throughout the show. The play presents worst-case scenarios of gang involvement, catalyzing audience members to express their voices, making our communities safer.



### All Ages Fall for MCT's Fall Educational Tour and Workshops

Mixed Company's Fall Educational Tour and Workshop options prove that Life-Long Learning remains an MCT Cornerstone. From *Mixed Messages* in Ontario Universities, *Clowning Around* in Southern Ontario with grades 2-6, activating *Project ACT* in Ontario's four corners for grades 7-9, and all the while delivering *Professional Development Workshops* for educators, social workers, community leaders, theatre professionals, students and workplace professionals & employees, MCT is contributing to positive social change through forum theatre in life-long learning environments. Proud to share this cornerstone of our heritage, read about each of our projects and remember to contact us to book a performance or workshop wherever you teach, learn or work - MCT is committed to delivering performances and workshops for learners of all ages.

## GRANT NEWS is GREAT NEWS!

- Daniel Booth, **General Manager**

Our offices are buzzing with enthusiastic activity thanks in part to tour and operating grant funding MCT has received for our 2010/2011 initiatives. Support from the Toronto Arts Council (TAC), the City of Toronto Drug Prevention Community Intervention Program, and the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) are helping move forward our mandate to engage, educate and empower. We're excited about sharing details of this news with you and extend our gratitude to these benefactors.

MCT's Community Initiative for 2010/11 - *The Compass Project* - is made possible thanks to the generosity of the City of Toronto's Drug Prevention Community Intervention Program. MCT artists will collaborate with youth aged 16-25 who have experienced substance use to develop an original, interactive, and issue-based play. Working with the Canadian Safe Schools Network (formerly Empowered Student Partnerships), this dynamic team of 8 Compass participants will perform for 10 youth audiences in priority neighbourhoods across Toronto. The Compass Project will provide opportunities for youth to develop communication skills, for positive community interaction and personal growth, while empowering approximately 200 marginalized youth from diverse backgrounds to find solutions to substance abuse issues.

The OAC's Touring Grant helps artists and organizations reach and develop new audiences, fostering collaboration between touring companies and local artists, organizations and communities. For MCT, this assisted our efforts to expand the geographic boundaries of the Fall 2010 Educational tour.

Mixed Company is also happy to announce that through the Government of Ontario, Ministry of Tourism and Culture, we have received additional funds to support organizational sustainability from the Arts Investment Fund. Administered by OAC, Executive Director John Brotman stated that this fund aims, "to build private sector support, grow earned revenues and invest in audience development." Ongoing operating support has also been received from both the OAC and the TAC.

We're always grateful for the tour and operating grant funding bestowed upon us and look forward to this year being MCT's best ever!

### 2011 @ MCT is ALL NEW!

2011's Winter season plan follows Fall 2010's commitment to Life-Long Learning and interjects some NEW NEWS! Back by popular demand, *Project ACT* is, touring in repertoire with an all new production about harassment - *A Fine Line* for grades 9-12. Spring 2011 awakens young audiences to their role as earth citizens as *The Green Show* teaches students how to: reduce their ecological footprint, reduce/reuse/recycle with savvy, and to brainstorm how to GREENIFY their environment as responsible "ECO" citizens.

Proud to share this cornerstone of our heritage, read about each of our projects in the stories that follow and remember to contact us to book a performance or workshop wherever you teach, learn or work - MCT is committed to delivering performances and workshops for learners of all ages.



## On the Road Again with Project ACT

In the wake of rave reviews from its' Spring pilot - Project ACT - this three-tiered, interactive, entertaining, and age-appropriate approach to empowering students, sponsored by Ontario's Ministry of Health Promotion & Sport, kicked off its full, 100 performance, province-wide tour at the end of September in Thunder Bay.

Touring Ontario's four corners Fall 2010 was both exhausting and exhilarating for MCT's outstanding cast; performing to audiences - North, East, West, and South, culminated in the fall season finale on December 16<sup>th</sup> at Markham's Little Rouge PS with honoured guests from the York school board, York Public Health, and the Minister of Health Promotion and Sport - The Honourable Margaret Best.

Project ACT's Winter 2011 Season Debut was held at Windsor's Catholic Central H.S., where school board officials, local teachers, and CBC Windsor amazed at the power of the performance in engaging students to recognize and overcome the barriers that prevent them from leading active, healthy lives - forum theatre at its best! Overwhelmed by Windsor schools' enthusiasm, MCT has been invited to return to the area February 22<sup>nd</sup>/ 23<sup>rd</sup>. Project ACT performances are planned through until March 11<sup>th</sup> to schools in Hamilton, Durham and Toronto.



## A Fine Line Connects in Rep with Project ACT

MCT's new production: A Fine Line- a new play about harassment - explores how teens negotiate their sexuality in a society that is hyper-sexualized. Created in collaboration with youth, A Fine Line presents an exacting portrayal of dialogue, language, and conduct in an effort to accurately depict and reach youth

Also new is Mixed Company's touring methodology for A Fine Line and Project ACT this winter. The two are touring in repertoire - that is to say, the actors in the company perform both plays while on tour.

This pairing and methodology though new for MCT has proven to be a successful combination.

Advanced bookings for both performances are reportedly stronger than any advance ticket sales in MCT history!

## PROJECT ACT ROLLS OUT TO ONTARIO'S FOUR CORNERS

The McGuinty government is committed to improving the overall well-being of individuals and their broader communities.

Working together with organizations like Mixed Company Theatre will help Ontarians enhance and maintain their most valuable asset - their health."



-Minister of Health Promotion, Honourable Margaret R. Best

## PROJECT FACTS

- Developed in collaboration with youth and Community Partners including national health organizations from across the province, this interactive presentation empowers young people to incorporate the Foundations for a Healthy School into their lives and their communities.
- Focusing on target areas of Physical Activity, Healthy Eating, and Substance Abuse Prevention, students are helped to recognize and overcome blocks, excuses, barriers and deflections.
- Educators know that learning is enhanced and behaviours changed when the learning environment encourages participation. This practice of learning by doing underpins all of Mixed Company Theatre's productions and is especially true of Project ACT's three-tiered approach.
- In **Tier One**, The Play and The Interactive Forum experience invite audiences to become "spect-actors."
- In **Tier Two**, The Post Show Discussion, local health and wellness facilitator partners join MCT's touring company to facilitate small group, conversation with students and educators. Through this, safe and encouraging environment, the interactive forum is extended with a myriad of issues and excuses brought forward for closer examination and discussion. This forum works to activate and deepen student knowledge and understanding on the importance of formulating positive situational choices, connected to life-long outcomes. .
- While Tiers One and Two are powerful components to the success of Project ACT, it is the inclusion of **Tier Three** - Activating Student Learning - that ensures lasting positive outcomes for youth audiences. Long after the company and local facilitators leave, the Teacher Resource tool kit and guide remain with educators and students to continue building on the learning and changes activated by Tier One and Two experiences. Created by teachers for teachers, the guide includes a series of modules with pre and post performance activities and lesson plans packaged alongside a host of resources and contacts, all working in unison to help students take ACTION in bringing healthy programs to their school community.

## MIXED MESSAGES Delivers a CLEAR MESSAGE

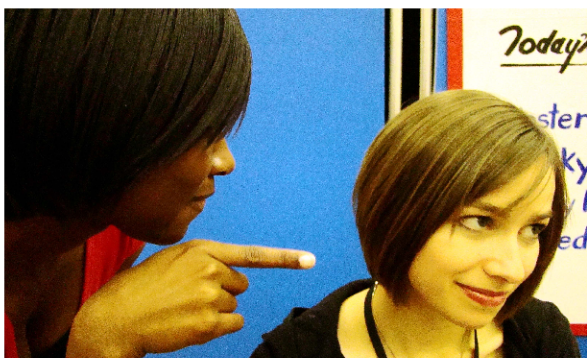
Closing its third season tour at the end of September 2010, the *Mixed Messages* cast reflected on the power it continues to deliver to young audiences about acquaintance rape (also known as date rape): the clear and simple message that: “No means No!”

Duncan McCallum, MM’s tour director summarizes: *The production this year has captured the confusion and uncertainty which occurs during the first moments of attraction. When youth enter into University and College there is so much freedom and exuberance that their boundaries and choices become cloudy. As individuals, we allow others to convince us into activities we don’t really feel sure about. When drugs and alcohol become involved, youth can be in danger of over stepping boundaries and going to places one’s sober self does not want to be, which can lead to a multitude of worst case scenarios. Mixed Messages helps to shine a light on these moments during the beginning of post secondary life, and helps to enlighten and empower the youth about being aware and conscious of their choices.*

Aimed at educating and engaging students on the issues connected to acquaintance rape, *Mixed Messages* portrays events and decisions that lead to a situation of acquaintance rape, as well as the aftermath of the event from the perspective of the victim, the perpetrator and a bystander.

MIXED MESSAGES addresses the sensitive issues surrounding acquaintance rape; by offering students the opportunity to consider the impact on all of the characters in the play, and in its interactive forum half, the “spect-actors” propose alternative courses of action.

Ryerson University and University of Toronto student feedback is clear that *Mixed Messages* delivers a powerful and clear message



### MCT’s Mixed Messages Cast Receives A Letter from Ryerson University

*“As a counselor who has for years worked both with survivors and perpetrators of sexual assault, as well as with drug and alcohol issues, I thought that the original script was very realistic, yet not simplistic, and that the actors were real with their possible errs in judgment and behaviour. The storyline and the dialogue created scenarios in which one could easily imagine oneself in the same situations or saying the same things. The forum format provided students with the opportunity to recreate each scene, allowing them to practice their assertive and communication skills and/or to better appreciate just how difficult these situations can in fact be, inebriated or not.*

*I have seen numerous forum productions over the years and while all of the components of the performance are important, it is the facilitation that has always struck me as the most critical. With this show, it was the approach of the facilitator, Duncan McCallum, who made all the components of the production come together.*

*This format only works as well as the audience feels safe and supported to express their views and to play out their perspectives. With his stellar cast, Duncan finds the perfect balance in creating this safe environment, doing this both in the non-judgmental manner in which he approaches each person and situation, but also in the way in which he educates on some points (e.g., re responsibility if having sex with someone who is drunk) and the easy way he is also quick to address any inappropriate comments or behaviours from the audience. Moreover, he seemed so comfortable in his role that I was left feeling that he had no idea just how good he is at what he does - a charming attribute in any leader.*

*I would highly recommend this performance to any educational institution (i.e., high schools, colleges and universities) or to any organization whose membership is largely teenagers or young adults.”*

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Johnston

Cynthia Johnston, M.Ed., Counselling  
Psychology, RCC Counsellor, Centre for  
Development and Counselling

### Dating Violence Themes Playing to High School Venues 2011/2012

- **2011 SPRING TOUR SEASON** - MCT’s Artistic Director, Simon Malbagot will be directing Sheatre’s *FAR FROM THE HEART*, touring Toronto and Saskatchewan tours in Spring & Fall 2011. *FAR FROM THE HEART* is a production spotlighting dating violence, rape, sexual assault, and teaching teens about safe relationships. **Far From the Heart— developed in collaboration with a group of teens under professional direction—** aims to help youth recognize the different forms of pressure and violence in dating relationships, and explores the issues that lie beneath this behaviour. This interactive forum theatre play presents problematic scenarios that end in a dilemma to deliberately stimulate audience members into action. Interactive forum theatre techniques utilizing improvisation are employed immediately, inviting students to solve the problems.
- **MCT ADDS MIXED MESSAGES TO THE 2011/2012 SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TOUR LINE UP.** Teacher feedback indicates that there is a need for this performance for Secondary School students; to that end, work is underway to adapt the performance for high schools for the 2011/2012 MCT Educational Tour season.

## Meet the MCT Outreach Team!

### Maureen Verboom

Maureen brings to the Outreach and Communications Coordinator role 20 years of experiences in the Financial Services sector where she focused on Sales and Marketing, Communications and Project Management. Her education and volunteer activities also support her appreciation for MIXED COMPANY's social change goals, objectives and methodology.

Holding an Ontario Teacher Certificate, she is a regular contributor to and assistant editor of the on-line women's publication *Glamamama*. Maureen volunteers on the Fund Raising committee for Distress Centre Durham and is currently serving as Vice-President of Media Relations for *Cycle to Help* - a not-for-profit organization committed to mental health education and suicide prevention awareness.

Settling in to her new role, Maureen enthused: "I am excited to have the opportunity to work with MIXED COMPANY THEATRE and contribute to communicating the power of Forum Theatre as an interactive teaching tool that fosters social change in individuals and society." The company looks forward to Maureen being a key contributor to its continuing success.



### Deidre Budgell

A key contributor who helped ensure successful tours last season, Deidre has assumed the role of Administrative Coordinator with MCT.

In her own words Deidre shares, "I am something of an arts world chameleon. Having just completed my Master's Degree in Theatre Studies at York University, I'm now leaving academia to join Mixed Company Theatre as Administrative Coordinator after a history of volunteering with the company." By day Deidre's committed to research and arts administration, but by night she enjoys moonlighting as a stage manager, having worked in Toronto and extensively in her native St. John's. She's thrilled to be working with MCT and believes strongly in theatre for social change.



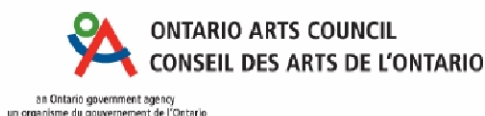
MCT's Annual STARS Awards Gala returns this spring on Friday, May 13 at The Lower Ossington Theatre! MCT mix things up in 2011 by offering an afternoon showcase of *DISS* for students and educators, as well as the evening event, which will feature our awards ceremony, artistic showcases, guest speakers, and of course, hors d'oeuvres! Stay tuned for details and book your ticket early!

### MCT Announces OAC Theatre Creators' Reserve Recipients

Dozens of entries and hours of deliberation later, MCT is please to announce the 3 recipients of the Ontario Arts Council Theatre Creators' Reserve, as recommended by Mixed Company Theatre. **UnSpun Theatre** (*One Block*), **Joan Chandler** (*Desperate Road to Freedom*), and **FLASHQUIZ** (*The School PROJECT: now*) will all receive grants for their upcoming projects.

The program assists Ontario-based professional theatre creators, and informal collectives of creators, by funding them to create work. This is a third-party recommender program, with Mixed Company Theatre serving as one of 43 recommenders for the 2010-2011 season. Priority was given to individuals or groups who share MCT's mandate of using theatre as a tool for positive social change.

MCT wishes all recipients the best of luck with their projects and looks forward to seeing the finished products. Congratulations!



### THE COMPASS PROJECT - Direction for Toronto's At Risk Youth

Winter 2011 and it's cold outside but MCT is feeling the warmth of support and our partnership with The City of Toronto as we commence planning for the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of MCT's Community Initiative Project, engaging at-risk youth.

Dubbed "The Compass Project" this year's focus - drug misuse and abuse - is garnering interest as youth sign up for auditions in early February. Over a four week period, 8 young people between the ages of 15-25 will be given the opportunity to work on an original, interactive, and issue-based play. Follow The Compass Project's progress on our web site as they ready themselves for their 10 venue exclusive Toronto school tour, March 28<sup>th</sup> - April 6<sup>th</sup>.

*"This project kept me focused on my journey staying clean off drugs, not only did it give me the inner strength, however it also brought my self-esteem up to where I now feel more confident about myself"*

- BJ Morris, Community Initiative Project Participant and Mixed Company Theatre Volunteer

## MIXING IT UP AT CONFERENCES AND CUSTOM WORKSHOPS ALL OVER ONTARIO!

Mixing it up is all about adding a new element to tried and true successful strategies and at MCT we've been 'mixing it up' with new client requests for Customized Work Place Workshops this fall. Each *customized* approach creates a *new* space for solving problems and practicing solutions where Staff, Workers, Management, and Community Professionals learn how to take effective action, exploring choices and consequences by critically examining responses to real-life situations. Amazed by how MCT was able to mix their unique needs with forum theatre techniques, Sheridan College's Management team shared their feedback:

*"Thanks to the creative talents of the Mixed Company Theatre group, we were able to present thought provoking live 'case studies' to our management group. The actor's ability to engage our audience and improvise around participants who were invited to share their ideas on how to resolve issues was amazing. The discussion around the issues that were raised will continue. Thank you"*

- Lynn Rutherford, Manager Equity and Human Rights Services, Susanne Wodar, Manager Organizational and Employee Learning and Development, Sheridan College

MCT has also been mingling, teaching and sharing while 'mixing it up' at Conferences and Trade

Shows all over Ontario! Travelling to Elliot Lake to the NeORA Educational Forum and Trade Show for the first time (NorthEastern Ontario Recreation Association) just prior to our fall tour of Project ACT assured our Northern neighbours an opportunity to meet us in advance of the tour and learn more about offerings MCT can bring to them. OISE's Safe School conference, where Artistic Director, Simon Malbogot gave his time in a half day workshop, is equally important to MCT. The balance of new and old connections, current and customized strategies is part of how MCT continues to Mix it up!

**MCT @  
2010/2011 CONFERENCES  
& WORKSHOPS**



**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**  
OISE | ONTARIO INSTITUTE  
FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION



2010 NeORA Educational Forum and Trade Show

*OISE Student Services Presents: Educating for  
Peace and Justice: Action for Safe and  
Equitable Classrooms, Schools and  
Communities*



**Toronto Community Housing**



**Sheridan**

### Rooming with Toronto Community Housing: MCT Creates Legislative Theatre with tenants, administration

2010 saw Mixed Company Theatre forge a strong partnership with Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC). Creating the enormously successful *Up For Eviction*, which explored the issue of tenant eviction with TCHC staff, encouraged the housing corporation to continue working on further projects, like the *Home Sweet Home*. Using common children's games combined with theatre games and techniques over a period of several weeks, MCT's was able to help tenants, staff and administration from Toronto Community Housing create a Legislative Theatre play to help develop a new Charter of Rights for tenants and staff. Participants in the project, who originally defined each other as adversaries within TCHC in the past, were able to bind together through theatre to find their common goal, discovering that they were all part of the same community—and that theatre could help them find answers to the problems ailing their community.

- Luciano logna, Playwright, TCHC Projects

### How to Cook A Community Theatre Project for Legislative Theatre

#### Ingredients:

- 2 dozen Toronto Community Housing (TCHC) tenants, staff, and administrators
- ½ dozen Interviews and Workshops with Focus Groups
- 2 Additional Sessions - peeled.
- 4 Weeks of Theatre Training, Exercises, Children's games
- 2 weeks of Rehearsals
- 1 Facilitator or more as needed
- 1 Design Team
- Laughter (to taste)
- Patience and Energy

#### Directions/Method:

1. In a large room, take several dozen Toronto Community Housing (TCHC) tenants, staff, and administrators - who see themselves as adversaries to one another.
2. Combine with half a dozen interviews and workshops with focus groups to glean the critical issues and resources.
3. Peel two audition sessions to determine creative and performance teams.
4. Blend in four weeks of theatre training, exercises, and children's games to bond a group.
5. Simmer until a script is developed.
6. Add two weeks of rehearsals.
7. Stir in facilitation and design teams.
8. Add laughter to taste.
9. Garnish with patience and energy.
10. Serve the performance to a willing and eager audience.

Serves over 180,000 TCHC tenants and staff with awakening social responsibilities and policy changing Legislative Theatre

# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

## SEASON SPONSORS

---



Ontario  
Trillium  
Foundation



Fondation  
Trillium  
de l'Ontario



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts  
du Canada



Canadian  
Heritage

Patrimoine  
canadien



## PROJECT SPONSORS

---



Ontario

MINISTRY OF HEALTH PROMOTION  
& SPORT



Boys and Girls Clubs  
of Thunder Bay



Drug Prevention  
Community Investment  
Program  
*working with communities*



GEORGE LUNAN  
FOUNDATION



Rotary Club  
of Toronto

Saint Luke's United Church  
Ms. K.E. Lyn Royce

*Thank you to all that supported  
Mixed Company Theatre in 2010 and  
we are looking forward to a successful 2011!*

---

### MIXED COMPANY THEATRE

A division of Maple Leaf Theatre for Social Responsibility  
157 Carlton Street, Suite 201  
Toronto, Ontario CANADA M5A 2K3  
T: 416-515-8080 | F: 416-515-9251

info@mixedcompanytheatre.com | www.mixedcompanytheatre.com

Registered Charitable Tax Number - 11903 1870 RR0001

**engage • educate • empower**