

# MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS



## TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 2019

June 12, 2020

### MISCELLANEOUS Productions Society

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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While this report covers MISCELLANEOUS Productions' (MP) 2019 year, I cannot help but begin with a recognition that 2020 has been, and will continue to be, a year of tremendous challenge for most of us. I want to recognize up front the tireless work of the staff at MP for ensuring we are in as good a position as possible to weather this unprecedented pandemic.

Several directors stepped down in 2019; recruitment done in 2017 and 2018 means we still have a breadth of skills among the five remaining directors. Some of us are nearing the time to step down from the board and we have reached through to our networks for new board members. At the time of writing there is a strong candidate whom we hope to see on the directors' slate for election at this Annual General Meeting. A board size of five or six dedicated directors is ideal for us and so we will likely seek one more director in 2020-21.

This was my last year as president and I have spent some time preparing others for the role. I will continue as a director for one more year in order to support the next president. Michael, our treasurer has also stepped away from the role and I would like to thank him for his service over the years. Michael will also stay on the board for an additional year to support the new treasurer.

2019 saw the creation of *AWAY with HOME* with performances and filming in September. We successfully brought youth-led/adult-mentored performance workshops and screenings of the demo reel, many involving incarcerated and Indigenous youth, to audiences across the province. The appetite to engage others in this performance work continues to the present. Editing of the film is nearing completion and we look forward to its release soon. MP also continued its work with youth cast members beyond performances, this year with continued therapy and food security.

Our relationship with artists in France continues to grow and strengthen, with our artistic director travelling for meetings and presentations in Paris and Noyers-sur-Serein. This has set the stage for a partnership to create new performances in English for 2021-2022.

Several other projects were also started in the year, such as three sessions with fairy tale and folklorist Jack Zipes that are to occur in 2020, participation in the Jobs Creation Program with three participants working with MP since August, a decolonized *Alice in Wonderland* play with planned production for 2022-23, and development of the Emerging Artists/Next Generation film project "The Patties".

We've also increased our focus on marketing, particularly our social media, and I hope you've recently been to our Facebook, Instagram, or other social media account to see what we are doing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kurt Horne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Kurt Horne**, President  
MISCELLANEOUS Productions

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS

On July 28, 2020, MISCELLANEOUS Productions Society will turn 20 years old.

2019 was one of our most exciting and successful years. We made and presented a new performance work entitled *AWAY with HOME*, created new films, gave workshops and screenings in France, Westbank First Nation, and Victoria, BC, and continued to present and share our work with other youth, staff, artists and supporters. Over the past year, our diverse projects proved to be very successful, not only from the perspective of our audiences locally and internationally, but also in the hearts and minds of our excellent professional staff and youth participants from the community.

I would like to thank our incredible board of directors for their dedication and work with our society: Kurt Horne, Robert Wilson, Michael Parfett, Robert Wilson, Jacob Rutgers, Aman Mahli, Linda Leigh Downs and Colleen Rogan. Colleen Rogan left the Board in 2019 and Robert Wilson in 2020, and this coming year will be the last year for our current president and treasurer. We extend our thanks for keeping our ship steady all these years as we sail towards continued growth.

I would also like to thank a superlative team of contractual staff who have created an organization like no other. The myriad highlights of the organization are listed on Page 4 in this annual report.

2019 began with the tragic loss of beloved singing coach and vocal arranger Natasha D'Agostino to a car accident. We miss her every day, and remember her every time we raise our voices in song.

After closing out one of our most successful years, I am writing this message as staff are grappling with the challenges of COVID-19, physical distancing and trying to develop under-funded digital strategies to reach our youth participants and audience as we wait for a vaccine to be developed. Because we are a community-engaged, charitable non-profit arts organization without any employees (we are all contractors) who collaborate with culturally and socially representative, at-risk and experiential youth, we are falling through the cracks of arts and culture COVID-19 emergency funding. We are applying to every funding program that we are remotely eligible for but want to remain realistic about the challenges to come.

Currently our youth participants, many from refugee backgrounds, do not have equal access to cell phones and tablets for online schooling, homework and community-engaged educational arts activities. This is normally the purview of publicly-funded BC secondary schools and Ministry of Education but once again, low-income youth have been overlooked. Youth and their families have been told that they need not worry about online education because they will not be failed. I felt that this added further injustice to an educational system already rife with inequities so I have been



lobbying government and the corporate sector. We hope to see some changes made so that youth living in poverty, including refugee families of eight sharing one cell phone and one laptop, will be equally served by educational and artistic programs as affluent young people.

I am very proud of our work of MISCELLANEOUS Productions but am pragmatic about how demanding 20 years of this work has been. We hope to continue MISCELLANEOUS Productions' work throughout the pandemic, adapting it for physical distancing and online strategies into a time in which a vaccine is developed, and the world is healed, including the marginalized youth with whom we collaborate. However, we are focused on the opportunities that will come with a third decade of creating new, innovative, empowering community-engaged artistic projects featuring the burgeoning talent of the exceptional youth we collaborate with!

Sincerely,

**Elaine Carol**

Artistic Director, MISCELLANEOUS Productions

# DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR PROJECTS

## 1. *AWAY with HOME*

- a) Continued creation, training and rehearsals at The Dance Centre – January – early June.
- b) Open Rehearsals in May and June at The Dance Centre.
- c) Intensive summer rehearsals for *AWAY with HOME* – July to September.
- d) Performances and filming of *AWAY with HOME* at Faris Studio Theatre, The Dance Centre - September.
- e) Editing and post-production of *AWAY with HOME* film – September and ongoing.
- f) *AWAY with HOME* workshop tour to Westbank First Nations, West Kelowna and Victoria Native Friendship Centre, Victoria for Indigenous children and youth - October.
- g) Preparation of *AWAY with HOME* workshop tour to Prince George with Cariboo Action Training Program/Camp Trapping for incarcerated boys age 15 – 18 years old and Prince George Multicultural and Immigrant Services Society.

## 2. *Jack Zipes Events*

- a) Preparation for three events with Jack Zipes:
  1. A private creation/philosophical pedagogical meeting with artistic staff of International and Indigenous Fairy Tale and Folklore project;
  2. A public lecture at the Dance Centre's Faris Studio Theatre, and
  3. A three-hour workshop with 20 drama students from Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School.

Preparation for all three ongoing since January.

## 3. *Other Projects & Activities*

- a) Therapeutic work with individual youth and groups.
- b) Food security work with individual youth and groups.
- c) France – screenings, meetings and presentations in Paris and Noyers-sur-Serein. Initiation of partnership with the artist-run centre/residency La Porte Peinte and Collège Miles de Noyers, Noyers-sur-Serein, Yonne, Burgundy, France. This would see a group of MISCELLANEOUS Productions' professionals going to Noyers for one month to create a new performance in English with Collège Miles de Noyers students in 2022. Preparation for possible tour in 2022.
- d) Jobs Creation Program projects – three participants in various technical and promotional jobs through the Jobs Creation Program – federal and provincial government. August to today.
- e) Preparation for the creation of a new decolonized *Alice in Wonderland* play to be produced in 2022-23.
- f) Fund development, marketing and social media projects.
- g) Development of Emerging Artists/Next Generation film project, *The Patties*.

# MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS

## VISION STATEMENT PURPOSE & ACTIVITIES

### *Our Vision*

MISCELLANEOUS Productions envisions a community that supports youth of all cultural and lived experience backgrounds in telling their own stories, in their own voices, through community-engaged performance art.

### *Our Mission*

MISCELLANEOUS Productions' mission, in pursuit of our vision, is to work with youth of all cultural and lived experience backgrounds to create art for all. We integrate artistic disciplines with community development and popular culture, and educate the public and professional artists about prevention of, and responses to, the challenges facing youth who deal with multiple barriers.

### *Our Activities*

- Exploring transdisciplinary art and new artistic practices with representative artists and allies in the Lower Mainland of BC, as well as in other urban, suburban and rural contexts.
- Making art that deals with current, relevant, and engaging issues with an emphasis on works that celebrate representation and employ an anti-racism, anti-violence, anti-poverty and anti-homophobia educational framework.
- Pioneering innovative approaches to transdisciplinary performance art, theatre, new media, video, film, public / community-engaged art as well as collective art events.
- To educate culturally and socially representative people about new and emerging approaches to art and the creative process, and to facilitate access to those innovative art forms.
- To integrate multi-barriered and mainstream, culturally and socially representative young people and adults directly into our artistic works and create original pieces that authentically reflect their lives, and
- Investigating and pushing aesthetic boundaries employing and melding various mediums, including but not limited to theatre, performance, new technologies, visual and time-based art/film/video/web-based art, public art and community-engaged art.

## ABOUT MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS

MISCELLANEOUS Productions (MP), founded in 2000 in Vancouver, Canada, is best described as “a hip hop theatre boot camp” developed for culturally and socially representative youth who face multiple barriers. We present an original work every two years, and tour, give free peer-run workshops to at-risk youth, and make films about our performances.

A non-profit organization and registered charity, MP is currently in its 19th year of collaborating in a long-term model with youth in creating performances and film and media works for the public.

Developing pioneering performances with and for youth, MP is the only organization of its kind in Canada. With accessibility and representation as central pillars of our mandate, we are passionate about the exploration of interdisciplinary community-engaged performance and new artistic practices, and about the intersections of art making, community development, crime prevention, and education. We provide youth with innovative and inspiring opportunities to empower themselves and effect social change and personal transformation.

Working with artist-activists who are audacious enough to make performance that has relevance to an audience beyond the establishment art world, we integrate art with community development and crime prevention models. In doing so we help educate the public and professional artists about the challenges to youth facing multiple barriers, and share new ideas for dealing with and eliminating those barriers.

As community-engaged artists it is our job to respond to community needs, not by imposing our artistic vision but by collaborating with youth as equal partners. Through a rigorous transdisciplinary training process we encourage youth to think and act as professional artists, with a critical eye, helping them acquire the skills and confidence to tell their own stories in their own voices.

This work teaches both professional artists and youth to think and act outside the established categories that have marginalized them in the past. It gives them a voice with which to speak out about sexism, racism, homophobia, classism, addiction, poverty, and violence. We don't believe in sugarcoating difficult issues, and neither do the youth with whom we collaborate. They are adamant that our work reflects a deeply progressive and visionary morality.

The youth of our artistic teams collaborate with nationally and internationally recognized performing arts professionals, including theatre and film directors, musicians, singer-songwriters, choreographers, and lighting, set, costume, and sound designers. They also draw on the counsel of one of Canada's most experienced diversity consultants and other community-engagement resources.

Our work is revolutionary, often disturbing the powerful dominant culture. The excellence of our work inspires others, and creates templates that are shared and applied in other communities across Canada and internationally.



# MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS CREDITS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 2019

## FOUNDERS

Rebecca Bishop  
Yuki Matsuno  
Jo Ann Chew  
Elaine Carol  
Jules Rochielle

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President **Kurt Horne**  
Vice-President **Robert Wilson**  
Secretary-Treasurer **Michael Parfett**  
Directors At Large **Colleen Rogan,**  
**Jacob Rutgers, Linda Leigh Downs** and  
**Aman Malhi.**

## 2019 VOLUNTEERS

**Eric D. Wong, Dr. George Tien, Oparin Ortiz** and design students from **Studio 58, Langara College.**

## MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS STAFF, CONSULTANTS & CONTRACTORS

Artistic Director **Elaine Carol**  
Composers In-Residence - Music Teachers  
**Bonnie Soon** and **Jason Overy** of **Uzume Taiko** and **Natasha Pheko**  
Singing Coaches/Vocal Arrangers -  
**Juhli Conlinn, Emily Best, Natasha D'Agostino** and **Dawn Pemberton**  
Hip Hop and Streetdance Choreographer/  
Teacher **Natasha Gorrie**  
Contemporary Choreographer/Teacher  
**Amber Funk Barton**  
Parasol Dance Choreographer **Elaine Carol**  
Hip Hop & R&B/Soul Composer  
**Natasha Pheko**  
Assistant to the Choreographers  
**Dominique Wakeland**  
Assistant Directors **Brishkay Ahmed,**  
**Alex Danard** and **Dominique Wakeland**  
Production Manager/Production Supervisor/  
Technical Director/Live Sound  
**Katja Schlueter**  
Senior Film Editor **Mary Ungerleider**  
Sound Designer/Mixer **Dennis Burke**  
Director of Photography  
**Steven Miko Burns**

Sound Recordist **Art Young**  
Set and Props Designer **Yvan Morissette**  
Costume Designer **Megan Leson**  
Lighting Designer **Brad Trenaman**  
Community Support Worker/Office Manager  
**Alex Danard**  
Office Intern **Zefanya Hardhian**  
Workshop Coordinator & Community  
Outreach **Dominique Wakeland** and  
**Alex Danard**  
Indigenous Intern/Indigenous Outreach/  
Administrative Assistant **Michelle Leona Vine** and **Dakota Prince**  
Set Assistant **Marcus Vaillant**  
Live Sound **Roland Choe**  
Financial Manager **Hannah Davies**  
Social Media Consultant **Barb Snelgrove**  
Marketing Content Writer/Editor  
**Kevin Dale McKeown**  
Web Designer **Julian Anton**  
Film and Music Projects Supervisor  
**Brishkay Ahmed**  
Film Coordinator **Lidiya Bejiga**  
Production Coordinator **Renzo Pastorino**  
Music Coordinator **Barry Warne**  
Diversity Consultant/Educator **Eric D. Wong**  
Grant Writers **Elaine Carol** and  
**Melanie Thompson**  
Social Psychologist/Evaluator  
**Dr. George Tien**  
Credit Union **VanCity Credit Union**  
Insurance **Callow Insurance Associates Ltd., HUB Insurance International** and  
**Encon**  
Accountant **BDO**  
Auditor **Rolfe Benson**

## MEMBERSHIPS

MISCELLANEOUS Productions is a member of the **B.C. Alliance for Arts + Culture** and the **Association of Community Educators of British Columbia (ACEbc)**

## ARTISTIC/PRODUCTION CREDITS

### –2019 PROJECTS

#### *Away with Home*

Artistic Director, Creator and Dramaturge

**Elaine Carol**

Assistant Director/Assistant Choreographer

**Dominique Wakeland**

Assistant Directors **Brishkay Ahmed, Alex**

**Danard and Michelle Leona Beatch**

Community Support Worker **Alex Danard**

Indigenous Outreach Consultants **Dakota**

**Prince and Michelle Leona Beatch**

Outreach **Dominique Wakeland, Alex**

**Danard, Megan Solis de Leon, Jesse**

**Charles Cowell Jesse Cheung, Veronica**

**Berezowsky, Jorge Alcala and Sabera**

**Hamid**

Youth Writer/Performers **Zefanya Hardhian,**

**Lennox Johnston-Yu, Lucy Luo, Kevin**

**Nguyen and Arjun Panesar**

Contemporary Choreographer/Teacher

**Amber Funk Barton**

Hip Hop and Streetdance Choreographer/

Teacher **Natasha Gorrie**

Parasol Dance Choreographer **Elaine Carol**

Hip Hop & R&B/Soul Composer **Natasha**

**Pheko**

Singing Instructors/Vocal Coaches **Dawn**

**Pemberton, Juhli Conlinn, and Emily**

**Best**

Breathing Instructor **Zoe Green**

Taiko Composers and Teachers **Bonnie**

**Soon and Jason Overy of Uzume Taiko**

Production Manager/Technical Director

**Katja Schlueter**

Stage Manager **Melanie Thompson**

Set & Prop Designer **Yvan Morissette**

Costume Designer **Megan Leson**

Costume Assistant **Valeria Maichen**

Costume Dresser **Jessica Sheck**

Make-up Artists/Instructors **Zoraida**

**Martinez, Amanda Keleher, Alyssa**

**Satow, and Yukie Shigemoto**

Hair Stylist **Jessica Stotts**

Production Coordinator **Renzo Pastorino**

Film Marketing Coordinator **Lidiya Bejiga**

Set Designer's Assistant **Marcus Vaillant**

Film Document Director **Elaine Carol**

Director of Photography **Steven Miko**

**Burns**

Second Camera **Thom Stitt, Renzo**

**Pastorino and Trona Garvie**

Location Sound Recordist **Art Young**

Editor **Mary Ungerleider**

Sound Editor/Designer **Dennis Burke**

Publicist **Marnie Wilson of Artsbiz Public**

**Relations**

Social Media Management **Barb Snelgrove**

of **megamouthmedia consulting**

Marketing Content Writer/Editor **Kevin Dale**

**McKeown of KDM Communications**

Website Design **Julian Anton**

Publicist Assistant **Kelly Phelan**

Graphic Design **Corporate Graphics**

Studio Photography **Amanda Skuse**

Live Documentation Photography

**Chris Randle**

Bookkeeper/Accountants **Ashley**

**Slobodian, Anna Duhn and George**

**Skivranos of BDO Canada**

Auditors **Todd Wiley and Linden Horswell**

of **Rolfe Benson**

Insurance **Callow Insurance**

**Associates Ltd., HUB International**

and **Encon**

### SPECIAL THANKS TO

**Jack Zipes**

**Marnie Rice**

**Cherryl Masters**

**Metha Brown**

**Sue-Ellen Gerritsen**

**Monique Lacerte**

**Erin Macklem**

**Cathy Hunt**

**Sandy Garossino**

**David Lau**

**Jenny Kwan, MP**

**Dr. Hedy Fry, MP**

**Melanie Mark, MLA**

**Shane Simpson, MLA**

**Carven Li**

**Julia Al-Kuwatli**

**Don McDonald**

**TELUS Vancouver Community Fund Staff**

**Nini Baird**

**Dr. Aida Sadr**

**Colleen Rogan**

**Michelle Leona Beatch**

**Oparin Ortiz**

**Charles and Mary Ungerleider**

**James Pond**

**Terry Hunter**

**Savannah Walling**



Judith Marcuse  
Ruth Howard  
Mirna Zagar  
Robin Naiman  
Alice Jones  
Dance Centre staff: Andrea Isea, Ashka  
Dudzic, Laura Funay, Chengyan Boon,  
Heather Bray and Mauricio  
Larry Garnot  
Karelya Medialdea  
Nicole Werstiuk  
Kailyn Johnson  
Dakota Prince  
Brenda Prince  
Cariboo Action Training Society – Camp  
Trapping  
Prince George Immigrant and  
Multicultural Services Society (IMSS)  
Westbank First Nations - Youth Programs  
Victoria Indigenous Friendship Centre  
Love Intersections  
Britannia Community Services Society –  
Teen Centre, Indigenous Youth Group,  
and Latin American Youth Group Teen  
Centre

Vancouver School Board (VSB)  
VSB's Engaged Immigrant Youth Program  
Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School  
Dance Department  
Gladstone Secondary School Dance  
Department  
S.U.C.C.E.S.S. (Surrey)  
DiverseCity  
QMUNITY/GAB – Queer Youth Group  
Presentation House Theatre  
Capilano University Technical Theatre  
Program  
Elia Kirby  
Families of all youth involved in *AWAY  
with HOME*  
All our funders, sponsors, community  
partners and donors  
MISCELLANEOUS Productions' Volunteer  
Board of Directors

# IN 2019, MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS WAS SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING FUNDERS, SPONSORS AND DONORS

## FUNDERS



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
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### Generous Individuals

James F. Pond, R. Cole and Muriel Harris, Elaine Carol,  
Kurt Horne and Brenda Joy Lem



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