



SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 2015

September 15, 2016

MISCELLANEOUS Productions Society

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

It's with mixed emotions that I offer the Message from the President for 2015. In early 2016 we said farewell to Simon Hayes who served as President of the MISCELLANEOUS Productions' Board for six years. On behalf of the Board, I express deep thanks for the time, dedication, support and leadership he offered over so many years. He will be missed but we know he will remain part of the MISCELLANEOUS community. I am pleased to step in and carry on where Simon left off.

2015 proved to be another exciting and successful year. Elaine and her team produced an extremely special project featuring seven very talented and courageous youth. *Haunted House* was a spectacular performance - haunting, captivating, and moving. The youth revealed their fears in a daring performance in an incredible venue. We were so proud to sell out all four nights of the show at the Barclay Manor. And as if that were not enough, Elaine was able to secure additional funding to take a number of the *Haunted House* cast on a provincial workshop tour to share this incredible and inspiring experience beyond the Lower Mainland.

2016 is shaping up to be just as exciting, with Elaine continuing to build our international reputation as a leader in community-engaged arts. I cannot wait to see what she has in store for us with *MONSTERS* and other upcoming projects.

The Board will also be busy this year, revitalizing our strategic vision and continuing to build on the strengths and talents of our incredible staff to ensure a strong sustainable future. We are grateful to have been awarded two special grants to support board and staff in this area. I look forward to reporting back in next year!

Kathleen Smith

President, MISCELLANEOUS Productions





A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS

I am pleased and proud to report that 2015 was another busy and successful year for MISCELLANEOUS Productions Society.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a very special thank you to our fabulous 2015–16 Board of Directors: Simon Hayes, Kathleen Smith, Ella Young, Shiv Mysuria, K. Larisa Hansen and Shirley Ley. Best wishes to Simon Hayes and Larisa Hansen, who will not be returning to the Board in 2015–17 – we are so grateful for your many contributions! Simon led our organization as President since June 2009, and was exceptionally kind in his support of our work. His expertise in youth and learning disabilities was invaluable as many of our young participants struggle with these issues. Larisa brought her grace and knowledge of social work when she MC'ed the memorial for Astrid Herrera in 2014. Thank you once again. We will miss you both.

In 2015, we prepared and presented *Haunted House* in a very successful run, and prepared for our 2016 tour of *Haunted House* youth-led workshops to the regions of BC.

Haunted House:

In the performance of *Haunted House*, seven young performers from the community shared their fears in MISCELLANEOUS Productions' original, innovative, site-specific production.

Adding to the uniqueness of the event, the performance took place in an actual house – an historic Edwardian mansion, in Vancouver's West End. The domestic setting was particularly apt, as this haunted house is indeed inhabited by ghosts.



MISCELLANEOUS Productions' Director Elaine Carol tasked the young performers - aged 15–25 - with creating performance works in a long-term collaboration with her that reflected memories or incidents from their past that most haunt them today.

Drawing from their childhood for material, the young cast members collaborated with professional artists from the community on an array of pieces, from music to experimental theatre to dance to ritual. Some of Vancouver's top talents, including musician/ producer Chin Injeti, singers Dawn Pemberton and Natasha Pheko, choreographers Megan Solis and Sabera Hamid, and composer/musician Cris Derksen, were part of the artistic team that helped the participants develop and polish their ideas.

Haunted House ran for only four performances, with audiences limited to 30 each night. The pieces took place throughout the house, so five professional performers, the "Ghost Women", guided audience members from one area of the site to another, including outdoors, ensuring that everyone saw the entire show.

Fans of art that dares to confront dark places were in full attendance for our *Haunted House*. As audience members went through the spectral journey, hope emerged.

In this project, challenged youth were asked to deal with very intense, personal subject matter. Their willingness to commit to the process, to "go there," was extremely impressive. *Haunted House* was our most successful show to date, being sold out ten days before opening night. The show was so in demand that - given the chance - we could have sold out 20 more shows! As always it was a pleasure to work with the professional artists associated with this project, including many long-time collaborators: Adrian Muir, Chin Injeti, Cris Derksen, Megan Leson, Yvan Morrisette, Jamie Nesbitt and many more. I am also proud to note that the artistic/production team for this project included several "alumni" (young adult leaders who were participants in past MISCELLANEOUS projects): for instance, Natasha Pheko, a *POWER* cast member, worked with Chin Injeti on a hip hop piece that was the theme and main dance number; two ; other *POWER* alumni and Youth Leaders, Megan de Leon Solis and Sabera Hamid, worked as assistant directors and choreographers; Laura Contreras worked as an assistant director and Dakota Prince worked as the Indigenous Culture and History Educator. Jorge Escobar, Kutz & Dawgs' cast member and Youth Leader, was also on set as a Production Technician.

Throughout the year, Elaine and her professional film crew shot footage of the process of making *Haunted House*. A 6-minute demo reel of the process and a 9-minute demo reel of the performance can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrQwv89y-D4> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvyZqn9vQ0> respectively.

Haunted House Youth Leaders and professional staff went on tour in January – March 2015, to Surrey, Abbotsford, Prince George and Kelowna (twice, where they worked with the Westbank First Nations Youth Centre). In all these locations they gave workshops to youth-serving organizations and participated in events such as the City of Surrey Youth Leadership Conference. The tour was a success and the *Haunted House* youth leaders gained awareness of how their strength, skills and art could also inspire other youth.

In late 2015, we prepared to conduct more free professional performing arts workshops in 2016. We planned a provincial tour focusing on Kelowna, Prince George and Abbotsford/Mission to connect with new and returning youth-serving community partners and socially and culturally diverse, marginalized youth. These incredibly underserved communities welcomed us back enthusiastically – often bringing youth from other agencies, Indigenous Bands and multicultural groups!

These tours were largely funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage – Youth Take Charge Program; and to satisfy funding requirements, youth involved in the preparations for the tour, the tour itself and Open Rehearsals/Community Forums took a critical look at World War I and World War II using contemporary plays as well as the text of our own performance of *Haunted House* in a sub-project entitled *Confronting the Ghosts of War & Memory: Canadian Immigrant & Indigenous Youth Engagement Through Historical Dialogue*.

We are very proud of the work our Youth Leaders put into assembling the tour. They greatly prepared themselves to share their experiences with youth across BC and were very supportive to the youth in the regions, many of whom were struggling with depression, suicidal ideation, mental illness, bullying, violence, gangs and the challenges of the province's foster care and criminal justice systems.

MONSTERS:

MONSTERS is MISCELLANEOUS Productions' new major project. In its preliminary phases in 2015, we continued to pursue support from major funders, and also continued with in-depth research and creative development. Elaine has been working with Kaspar Saxena, a graduate student in Interdisciplinary Studies at York University, who specializes in monsters and mythical creatures in international cultures.

In early 2015 Elaine worked with various Vancouver School Board multicultural workers, various City of Vancouver community centre youth programs and youth-serving social service agencies to conduct presentations and workshops for youth in preparation for *MONSTERS*. We screened *POWER*, which continues to be freely available online, as well as *Kutz & Dawgs*, which continues to be used as an anti-gang, anti-bullying tool throughout Canada, the elementary school system in Chicago, in Mexico and internationally.

Travel/Research/International Presentations and Screenings:

In late fall 2015, I was invited to work as the Artist-in-Residence, conduct research on monsters and mythical creatures, screen our documentaries and present the work of the company in Brussels, University of Barcelona, Centre d'Art i Natura in Farrera, Catalanian Upper Pyrénées, Marseille, Paris, La Muse in Labastide-Esparbairénque and other locations in Belgium, France and Catalonia. The trip was interrupted by the brutality of the Paris attacks. This was tragic and yet illuminating as the politics of Europe are complex and seem to be without any tangible solutions for young people, especially those of Northwest African descent. I worked with Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian youth workers in Brussels and Marseille who are eager to develop their own hip hop music, theatre and dance projects for their young clients. This proved to be one of the most interesting parts of the trip as Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian youth workers in Brussels and Marseille want to use art as a tool for social and political change as they struggle towards a peaceful, egalitarian society.

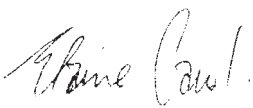
Community Partner – The Dance Centre

Another important development in 2015 was the solidification of our relationship with a wonderful community partner: The Dance Centre. They continue to provide us with subsidized rehearsal and meeting space. We are so very grateful – both for the venue itself, which is beautiful and welcoming, and for the positive, always professional treatment that our staff and especially our youth cast members have received from The Dance Centre staff. A special thank you goes out to Mirna Zagar, Anne Daroussin, Robin Naiman, Ashka Dudzic, Alice Jones, Tacky & Mauricio for their support and assistance.

Our young performers, Artistic and Production Teams, board members, volunteers, youth community participants and partners have all shown amazing support and commitment over the course of the past year. I would especially like to thank our contract workers, many of whom have donated part or all of their fees back to the organization, and have exhibited tremendous dedication to our artistic work in collaboration with our “community of communities.”

To conclude: I am very grateful to all these generous and talented people for their belief in MISCELLANEOUS Productions’ work, their willingness to collaborate with culturally and socially diverse youth in the community, and their passion for employing art as a tool for personal transformation and social change.

With thanks,



Elaine Carol
Artistic Director, MISCELLANEOUS Productions



DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR PROJECTS

HAUNTED HOUSE: *Haunted House* is about using art as a vehicle to confront the things that scare us most deeply; about how naming our fears and telling stories about them can empower us to overcome that which haunts us. Like past projects, *Haunted House* puts youth participants front and centre with professional artists in the creative, collaborative process. However, instead of developing, creating and performing a large ensemble piece in a conventional theatre setting, the youth and artist mentors involved in *Haunted House* work to produce solo and ensemble performance pieces that are site-specific, all taking place in and around an old Vancouver house.

MONSTERS: MISCELLANEOUS Productions' professional artistic team will work with culturally and socially diverse, multi-barriered youth to create a new music theatre performance work for children, exploring monsters from many different cultures (historical, pre-modern, Indigenous and traditional) as well as futuristic monsters in popular culture, which youth can learn to understand and eventually meaningfully integrate into stories from their own lives. We will compare, contrast and juxtapose these monsters with their own "monster within." This project will especially resonate for GLBTIQ youth, especially those who might experience high degrees of social alienation, and it will celebrate those young people who experience gender dysphoria.

POWER – THE DOCUMENTARY: A rare look into the challenging lives of youth living in and around East Vancouver, *POWER* explores the question "Can art be a tool for personal transformation and lasting social change?" Completed in 2014, the film follows a diverse group of young people as they work with MISCELLANEOUS Productions to create and perform "POWER" - a series of spoken word, performance art and dance pieces. The youth



use artistic expression to face their challenges head on, with bravery and vulnerability: gangs, addiction, racism, violence and dangerous love. *POWER* (the documentary) tells the story of their journey through the creation and performance process, which took place in 2008–2010, tracing the impact of the project on the lives of the youth participants. In 2015, *POWER – The Documentary* was screened throughout BC, in Montreal, Toronto, Brussels, Barcelona, Farrera and Sort, Upper Pyrénées, Catalonia, Marseille and Labastide-Esparbairénque.

Watch the film online:

<https://youtu.be/mLtor5PcFrI>

MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS

Vision Statement/Purpose and Activities

The purpose(s) of MISCELLANEOUS Productions Society are:

- a. to educate and increase the public's understanding and appreciation of the arts while providing performances of an artistic nature, and
- b. to educate the public and professionals about prevention of and responses to societal problems through various artistic works.

The activities of MISCELLANEOUS Productions Society are:

- To explore interdisciplinary art and new artistic practices with diverse artists and allies in the Lower Mainland of BC, as well as in other urban, suburban and rural contexts,



- To make art that deals with current, relevant and engaging issues with an emphasis on works that celebrate diversity and employ an anti-racism, anti-violence, anti-poverty and anti-homophobia educational framework,
- To pioneer innovative approaches to interdisciplinary performance art, theatre, new media, video, film, political art, solo works, public / community-engaged art as well as collective art events,
- To educate culturally and socially diverse 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 diverse young people and adults directly into our artistic works and create original pieces that authentically reflect their lives, and
- To investigate and push 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.

MISCELLANEOUS Productions is an arts organization that was incorporated in July 2000 by two professional artists, Elaine Carol and Jules Rochielle, and a volunteer Board of Directors including Rebecca Bishop, Yuki Matsuno and Jo Ann Chew. Our B.C. non-profit society was created as a vehicle for diverse collaborative and solo artistic projects including performances, screenings of media works and visual art exhibitions, and we have been very successful at carrying out our vision.



MISCELLANEOUS Productions is an East Vancouver-based, community-engaged interdisciplinary arts organization that brings in teams of professional artists to collaborate with culturally and socially diverse, multi-barriered youth. MISCELLANEOUS Productions' work is more plainly described as "*Glee* with Grit" – a unique, long-term music, theatre and dance program for inner-city youth who live with grave challenges. The youth involved as participant/writer/performers with MISCELLANEOUS Productions acknowledge that the company's programs keep them off the streets, out of criminal detention and the social services system, and help them find new meaning and value in their lives.

Accessibility and inclusion were among the central reasons MISCELLANEOUS Productions was created. We are passionate about the intersection and combination of art-making, community development and education, especially

when realized as collaborations between professional and non-professional artists resulting in live performance, theatre, public art, media art, documentary, publications, public education campaigns and visual art. We strive to work with artist/activists who are audacious enough to make art that has relevance to a contemporary audience that extends far beyond the elitist art world.





MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS 2015

Board of Directors

President Simon Hayes (until March 2016)

President Kathleen Smith (Vice President until March 2016, President from March 2016 until present)

Secretary Ella Young

Treasurer Shiv Mysuria

Directors K. Larisa Hansen (until April 2016)
Shirley Ley

Founders

Elaine Carol

Jules Rochielle

Rebecca Bishop

Yuki Matsuno

Jo Ann Chew

2015 Volunteers

Eric D. Wong, Dr. George Tien,
Dr. Susan Lomax, Aiden Aichele,
Roy Dilbert, Jr., James R. Gardner,
Colleen Rogan, Dimpo Pheko, Sandra Kelly

MISCELLANEOUS Productions Staff,

Consultants & Contractors

Artistic Director Elaine Carol

Accountant Marianna Scott/Quantum
Accounting (until September 2015)

Winnie Kwan (since September 2015)

Diversity Consultant/Educator

Eric D. Wong

Grant Writers

Mary Ann S. Anderson/Little Dog Creative
Consulting, Melanie Thompson, Elaine Carol

Social Psychologist/Evaluator

Dr. George Tien

Clinical Consultant – Psychiatry

Dr. Susan Lomax

Composers In-Residence - Music Teachers

Chin Injeti, Publik Secrets, Cris Derksen

Choreographers

Sabera Hamid, Megan de Leon Solis, Shallom
Johnson, Jess Dexter

Senior Film Editor Mary Ungerleider

Sound Designer/Mixer Dennis Burke

Directors of Photography Steven Miko
Burns, Thom Stitt

Sound Recordists Mark Barry, Nick Peterson,
Keith Henderson, Sandor Gyurkovics

Set and Props Designer Yvan Morissette

Lighting Designer Adrian Muir

Costume Designer Megan Leson

Singing Teacher/Vocal Coach

Dawn Pemberton

Workshop Coordinator & Community

Outreach Zoe Green, Megan de León Solís

Production Manager/Live Sound

Katja Schlueter

Web Designer Adam Skye Jones



Credit Union - VanCity

Insurance – Callow Insurance Associates Ltd. and Intercon

Member of the Alliance for Arts & Culture

Member of the Association of Community Educators of British Columbia

Artistic/Production Credits –

2015 Projects

Haunted House

Artistic Director Elaine Carol

Assistant Directors/Community

Developers/Youth Counsellors Zoe Green, Shallom Johnson, Nicole Anthony, Laura Contreras and Megan de León Solís

Indigenous Story-Telling Intern

Dakota Prince

Youth Writers/Performers Holly Hamilton, Maya Kali, Suk Min, “Suki” Kang, Derek Kwan, Arjun “Arc” Panesar, Jared Ringland, Mitchell Saddleback, Ridge Zhang

Hip Hop Composers Chin Injeti & Natasha Pheko

Choreographers Sabera Hamid, Megan de León Solís, Shallom Johnson, Jess Dexter

Dance Theatre Mentor

Tara Cheyenne Friedenbergh

Set Design Yvan Morissette

Lighting Design Adrian Muir

Costume Design Megan Leson

Singing Coaches Dawn Pemberton, Shane Raman, Nicholas Sommer

Musician/Composers Publik Secrets – Robyn Jacob & George Rahi (percussion) Cris Derksen (cello)

Technical Director Elisha Burrows

Production Manager Katja Schlueter

Stage Manager Gillian Barker

Documentary Production Manager

Megan de León Solís

Diversity Consultant Eric D. Wong

Professional Advisors Dr. George Tien, Dr. Susan Lomax, Dr. Aida Sadr

Directors of Photography Steven Miko Burns, Thom Stitt

Sound Recordists Keith Henderson, Mark Barry, Nick Peterson, Sandor Gyurkovics

Editor Mary Ungerleider

Sound Designer/Mixer Dennis Burke

Publicist Marnie Wilson

Studio Photography Amanda Skuse Photography

Live Stills Photography Chris Randle Photography

Graphic Artists Corporate Graphics

Live Sound Technician Javier Carranza

Interning Artistic Producer (until June 2015) Zoe Green



Youth Leaders on Tour Holly Hamilton, Derek Kwan, Arjun "Arc" Panesar, Jared Ringland, Mitchell Saddleback, Laura Contreras, Zoe Green, Sabera Hamid, Dakota Prince, Megan de León Solís

Dance Captains Arjun "Arc" Panesar and Mitchell Saddleback

Theatre Teacher of Canadian Plays and History

Professor Jan Lermite

Assistant Projection Designer

Cameron Fraser

Make-up Artists - Studio Photos Krysten Merrick, Tia Dumaresq and Alyssa Satow

Hair Stylist - Studio Photos Tracey Newton

Dresser - Studio Photos Elle Buckle

Dresser - Shows Valeria Maichen

Make-up Artists -Shows Karly Paranich and Alyssa Satow

Indigenous Beadwork Artist

Kazezemaka Myra Pierre

Youth Interns / Stage Crew Cecelia Muirhead, Jorge Escobar, Jesse Mark, Josh Silicka, Nyika Jones

Front of House/Ushers LJ Opina, Tiffany Shim, Louise Janine Palencia

Publicity Marnie Wilson, Artsbiz Public Relations

Rehearsal Space The Dance Centre

Community Outreach Zoe Green & Elaine Carol

Legal Consultant Daniel W. Burnett

Elaine Carol's Make-Up Artists

Karly Paranich, Nell Gagan and Audrey Himmer-Jude

Haunted House is dedicated to the memory of Astrid Herrera who played Duchess Barkuleess in *Kutz @ Dawgs*.

MONSTERS

Performance Director/Head Writer/Acting Teacher Elaine Carol

Hip Hop/R&B/Soul Composer/Producer Chin Injeti

Hip Hop Composer/Lyricist/Performer Natasha Pheko

Costume Design Megan Leson

Lighting Design Adrian Muir

Props and Set Design Yvan Morissette

New Music Composer/Musician Cello, Loops, Electronics Cris Derksen

Gamelan Composer/Musicians Robyn Jacobs and George Rahi of Publik Secrets

Workshop Coordinator/Community Outreach/Intern Megan de León Solís

Production Manager Katja Schlueter

**Special Thanks to those who went the
“extra distance” for us in 2015:**

Cherryl Masters
Douglas D. Durand
Marnie Rice
Marg Specht
Klodyne Rodney
Claude Schryer
Sue-Ellen Gerritsen
Sylvie Lalut
Monique Lacerte-Roth
Lori Dunn
Allison Bottomley
Rob Gloor
Kevin Dale McKeown
Colleen Rogan
Dan W. Burnett
Dimpo Pheko
Dr. Aida Sadr
Family of Eric D. Wong
Jack Zipes
James Pond
Susan Pond
Janet Woo
Jenn McGinn
Joanna (Joey) Holly
Judith Marcuse
Katie Gove
Libby Davies, MP
Lindy Sisson
Cine Fusion
Meriko Kubota
Nini Baird
Phyllis Loke
Rachel Von Fossen
Savannah Walling
Beverly Naidus
Terry Hunter
Mirna Zagar
Anne Daroussin
Alice Jones
Robin Naiman
The Dance Centre staff: Ashka Dudzic, Tacky
and Mauricio

Jamie Lipp • Anneke Van Vliet • Chelsea Peddle
• Ursula Cowland • Sandy Garossino • Brenda
Prince • Raven Prince • Alexina Morissette
• Brad Muirhead • Cecelia Muirhead • Larry
Garnot • Nataley Nage • John Grimes • Karelya
Medialdea • Nicole Werstiuk • Karen Oddy
• Jessica Danyk • Sandra Auguste • Amie
Johnson • Michelle Favero • K. Bruder • Sandra

Dykstra • Stephanie Doan • Bev Olfert • Dave
Stephen • Anoop Dhaliwal • Louise Smith •
Ben Macauley • Phil Peachy • Tricia Labrie •
Shelagh Turner • Joshua Desnoyers • Jackie
Leonard • Ayesha Ismail-Kanani • Colin Ford •
Jamie Smith • MISCELLANEOUS Productions
Volunteer Board of Directors

Community Partners

Kelowna Youth Probation
Pacific Community Resources
Surrey Youth Resource Centre - Guilford
Cariboo Action Training Society
Prince George Immigrant and Multicultural
Services Society (IMSS)
ARC Programs and Services - ARC Programs
Ltd.
Westbank First Nations - Youth Programs
The Bridge Services
Kelowna Boys and Girls Club
Kelowna Youth Probation
Kelowna Art Gallery
Kelowna Community Resources
Family Services of Greater Vancouver
Covenant House
Britannia Community Services Society
– Teen Centre, Indigenous Youth Group and
Latin American Youth Group
Britannia Secondary School
Vancouver School Board
Matsqui Centennial Auditorium
City of Abbotsford – Community Development
Abbotsford Community Services
City of Surrey – Youth & Community
Engagement partners and Annual Youth
Leadership Conference

Families of all youth involved in *Haunted
House*.



IN 2015, MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS WAS SUPPORTED
BY THE FOLLOWING FUNDERS, SPONSORS AND DONORS

HAUNTED HOUSE

FUNDERS



The *Haunted House* program includes the special MISCELLANEOUS Productions project, *"Confronting the Ghosts of War @ Memory: Canadian Immigrant @ Indigenous Youth Engagement Through Historical Dialogue"* funded by the Government of Canada.

Donors: James F. Pond, Susan Pond, Eric D. Wong, Dr. George Tien, Masashi and Masako Matsushita, Fern Vineberg-Karpman, Brenda Joy Lem Cole Harris, Elaine Carol, Douglas Harris, Mercedes Quiros de Carr, Judy Board, Kathleen Smith, Larisa Hanssen, Shirley Ley, Birinder "Sunny" Aujla and Ella Young.

SPONSOR



MONSTERS

FUNDERS





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Registered Charitable Business Number: 89778 5812 RR0001
Charitable donations to MISCELLANEOUS Productions are always welcome.