



SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 2016

June 4, 2017

MISCELLANEOUS Productions Society

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

After 2016, 2017 is a year of renewal for the Board. Late last year, past President Kathleen Smith's work took her elsewhere in the country and we thank her for staying on a few extra months to ensure a smooth transition. It will be my focus over the next year to build the new Board's working relationship with Elaine and ourselves. We've planned a financial fluency session to learn more about arts-based societies from Wendy Orvig in May. In July, we'll dive deeper into Board and staff development with Lori Baxter. We have some great directors with energy and passion for MISCELLANEOUS Productions that makes me excited for what the future holds.

The Society has had a great year with an impressive group of socially and culturally diverse youth beginning work on our current project *Monsters*. It was wonderful to see their first Open Rehearsal/Community Forum in April. As a relatively new director myself, nothing could have been more powerful in showing the work we do than being there for this session. I encourage any of our members, partners, and funders to come see one of these sessions or the final production.

We've caught up with 95% of the deficit from last year. In early 2016, Elaine secured funding to embark on a tour to Prince George, Abbotsford/Mission, and Kelowna working with at-risk youth and covering themes of *Monsters* and *Haunted House*. The tour featured our young choreographers, assistant directors and youth performers co-leading workshops with Elaine. Our small Society continues to have positive impact in the community serving more than 500 youth through our outreach work.

Sincerely, Kurt Horne

President, MISCELLANEOUS Productions



All photos by Chris Randle



A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS

I am pleased and proud to report that 2016 was another busy and successful year for MISCELLANEOUS Productions Society.

Before I get into an overview of our activities, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a very special thank you to our fabulous 2015-16 Board of Directors: Kurt Horne, Rob Wilson, Shiv Mysuria, Kathleen Smith, Ella Young and Shirley Ley. Best wishes to Kathleen Smith, Shiv Mysuria, Ella Young and Shirley Ley who will not be returning to the Board in 2017 – we are grateful for your contributions. We want to give a special thanks to Shiv Mysuria, who spent countless hours assisting us in bringing our accounting up to the highest standards. We wish Shiv and Kathleen all the best of luck in Toronto. I also want to welcome new Board members, Kurt Horne and Robert Wilson. In 2017, we added new board members, Michael Parfett and Amneet Dhillon.

2016 saw the tour of *Haunted House* and *Monsters* workshops and the lead up to the *Monsters* project's auditions as well as other successful projects:

- *Haunted House*: This project asked extremely challenged youth to deal with very intense, personal subject matter, and 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 well before opening night. The show was so in demand that - given the chance - we could have sold out another forty shows! As always it has been 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 includes several “alumni” (young adult leaders who were youth participants in past projects): for instance, Natasha Pheko (a *POWER*



cast member) worked with Chin Injeti on a hip hop piece that was the theme/main dance number as well as other *POWER* alumni including choreographers Megan de León Solís and Sabera Hamid. Jorge Escobar (*Kutz @ Dawgs* cast member) was also on set as a production assistant.

- *Haunted House* and *Monsters* tour and performing arts workshop series: In early 2016, a contingent of young professionals, youth performers from *Haunted House* and Elaine went on tour and visited various youth-serving organizations in Surrey, Kelowna, Prince George and Abbotsford/Mission, BC. This BC tour, funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage Youth Take Charge, was a great success and the *Haunted House* youth who came with us gained a lot of awareness of how their strength could also inspire other culturally and socially diverse, at-risk youth. The following incredibly underserved communities welcomed us warmly for continued performing arts workshops and screenings of *POWER* and *Kutz @ Dawgs* in 2016 including: Prince George Immigrant Social Services, Cariboo Action Training Program – Prince George, Fraserview Learning Centre, Youth Adult Partnership/VYPER, Boys & Girls Club of the Okanagan Valley, Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Kelowna, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Surrey, YMCA Surrey, YWCA Vancouver, Vancouver School Board Engaged Immigrant Youth Program, Multicultural Helping House, QMUNITY/GAB, Aunt Leah's Place, Gladstone Secondary School and Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School.

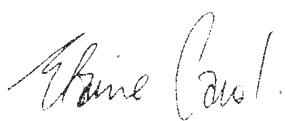
I am very proud of the work the youth leaders put into assembling the tour. They greatly prepared themselves to share their experiences with youth across BC and along with me, facilitated a number of workshops in early 2016. The “dream team” of alumni youth include Mitchell Saddleback and Derek Kwan (from the *Haunted House* cast), Assistant Directors Laura Contreras and Jorge Alcalá (*Kutz @ Dawgs*) and hip hop choreographers and Assistant Directors Megan de León Solís and Sabera Hamid (*POWER*). In the summer and early fall of 2016, Mitchell, Sabera, Megan and I facilitated workshops for *Haunted House* and *MONSTERS*. We continued to conduct more free professional performing arts workshops for young people in many of the same youth-serving organizations we visited earlier in the year along with more locations in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland. Elaine solidified connections with many service providers to youth throughout BC, interviewing them about their issues in their various communities and taking the results of that outreach back to government funders.

- *Monsters* is MISCELLANEOUS Productions' new major project. In its early creation phases in 2016, we continued to pursue support from major funders, and also continued with preliminary research and creative development. I am pleased to have been working on the methodology for research for this fascinating new project with Kaspar Saxena, a graduate student in Interdisciplinary Studies at York University who specializes in *Monsters* and mythical creatures in international cultures.
- Megan de León Solís and I worked with various Vancouver School Board multicultural workers, various City of Vancouver community centre youth programs and youth-serving social service agencies in the Lower Mainland and North Vancouver to conduct presentations and workshops for youth in preparation for *Monsters*. We screened *POWER* and *Kutz @ Dawgs*, both of which continue to be free and available online, as well as in the curriculum of the Chicago Public School District as an anti-gang, anti-bullying tool. It is also used by youth groups throughout Canada, Mexico, France, Belgium, Catalonia, Taiwan, Brazil and internationally.
- In late fall 2016 we held auditions for *Monsters* and cast a diverse group of youth in October. We began the work of creating a new anti-bullying musical based on Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. The cast of culturally and socially diverse youth were trained by the best professional team in Canada. We began to research monsters from their own cultures, write, block and choreograph this new play and prepared for the upcoming Open Rehearsal scheduled for April 28, 2017. I also began to work with our brilliant team of designers on this work set in a mythical and yet industrial era, apocalyptic, strange and fascinating. This is one of our most talented casts and though this group of youth have many challenges and barriers, they are courageous, resilient and powerful. We look forward to continuing to create and perform this provocative and innovative work.
- We received a grant from the First People's Cultural Council and hired Michelle Leona Vine to work with us as an administrative intern. Michelle is Status Indigenous of the White River First Nation Band in the Yukon. Michelle was incredibly organized and thrived as an administration assistant and assistant director of *Monsters*. On our behalf, she contacted every band office and Indigenous youth-serving program in British Columbia and promoted the work of MISCELLANEOUS Productions. She updated our database of Indigenous bands and youth-serving programs. Her background in theatre made her the perfect candidate to work with the diverse youth and company of professionals.
- In 2016, we undertook significant board and staff development - the most noteworthy and empowering being with Human Resources Consultant, Sarah Markwick of Light the Lamp. She worked with junior and senior staff to carve out improved working relationships and teach younger staff how to manage their time, prioritize, objectives, goals, tasks, expectations and fulfill their work responsibilities. She assisted us with work-life balance issues. We also worked with Mary Ann Anderson of Little Dog Consulting and others to enhance our fund development strategies and projects.

- Another important accomplishment in 2016 was the solidification of our relationship with a wonderful community partner: The Dance Centre. They continue to provide us with subsidized rehearsal, office 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 youth cast members have received from The Dance Centre staff. A special thank you goes out to Mirna Zagar, Robin Naiman, Ashka Dudzic, Alice Jones, Tacky, Maurucio and other staff 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 and we are deeply grateful. 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.”

I want to recognize 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 continued development and vision, we lay the groundwork for a better future for young, underserved artists and to provide them with unique and very professional opportunities. MISCELLANEOUS Productions brings the arts to youth from marginalized communities, providing accessible creation and production opportunities to youth who have little to no access to the professional performing arts. We continue to be recognized locally, nationally and internationally for our seamless delivery of the pinnacle of aesthetics in youth performing arts and deeply committed support of the young people in our programs.

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* will work to produce solo and ensemble performance pieces that will be site-specific, all taking place in and around an old Vancouver house.

MONSTERS: MISCELLANEOUS Productions' professional artistic team began work with culturally and socially diverse, multi-barriered youth to create a new music theatre performance work for children, exploring Monsters from culturally diverse 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 completed 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.

Refuge/Refugee/Reconciliation (working title) is currently being developed and implemented. It will bring together a team of professional artists that would not otherwise have the opportunity to collaborate with each other along with an exceptional group of youth. MP's professional artistic team will work with youth to create a new music theatre performance work exploring the concept of 'refuge / refugee / reconciliation' from culturally diverse cultures – Indigenous and settler, which youth can learn to understand and eventually meaningfully integrate into stories from their own lives. This participatory research would focus on the art and literature from diverse international cultures around concepts of home, belonging and identity. Based on the diverse cultures and/or social issues of the young people involved, we will develop a



customized curriculum for this project. The curriculum will be designed to introduce participants to the idea of what “home,” “belonging” and “identity” means to them and others in order to develop the work with the youth. The stories chosen will reflect the very diverse cultures of the young people involved and come from their own oral histories.

For Indigenous youth participating in this project, these ideas will run deeper and differently from settler youth, but the concepts and exchange of oral history performance will bring all the youth together as we use art as a vehicle for reconciliation. In the past few years, we have worked with many Indigenous and refugee youth – and there are many threads in their oral histories that can bring them together. Being forced out of their homelands, experiencing genocide and violence, these histories, imprinted on their bodies, minds and souls bring them together through the vehicle of music theatre and art to a new understanding and empathy for each other.



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,
- 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, 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 "a music theatre boot camp for at-risk youth" – 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 MISCELLANEOUS Productions helps them maintain mental and physical health, keeps them off the streets and out of criminal detention, and helps 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 pretentious art world.



MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS 2016

Board of Directors

President Simon Hayes (until March 2016)

President Kathleen Smith (Vice-President until March 2016, President until April 2017)

Vice-President Kathleen Smith (until March 2016) | Kurt Horne (from November 2016)

Secretary Ella Young (until April 2017)

Treasurer Shiv Mysuria (until July 2016)

Directors Shirley Ley (until November 2016)

Robert Wilson

Michael Parfett

Amneet Dhillon

Founders

Elaine Carol

Jules Rochielle

Rebecca Bishop

Yuki Matsuno

Jo Ann Chew

2016 Volunteers

Eric D. Wong, Dr. George Tien, Oparin Ortiz,

Roy Dilibert, Jr., King Duque, Sandra Fellner,

Kevin Dale McKeown

MISCELLANEOUS Productions Staff, Consultants & Contractors

Artistic Director Elaine Carol

Accountant Winnie Kwan

Diversity Consultant/Educator

Eric D. Wong

Grant Writers

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

Social Psychologist/Evaluator

Dr. George Tien

Indigenous Intern Mitchell Saddleback

Composers In-Residence - Music Teachers

Chin Injeti, George Rahi, Cris Derksen

Senior Film Editor Mary Ungerleider

Sound Designer/Mixer Dennis Burke

Director of Photography Steven Miko Burns

Sound Recordist Jeff Carter

Set and Props Designer Yvan Morissette

Costume Designer Megan Leson

Lighting Designer Adrian Muir

Workshop Coordinator & Community

Outreach 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 (ACEbc)



ARTISTIC/PRODUCTION CREDITS – 2016 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, Suk-min “Suki” Kang, Derek Kwan, Arjun “Arc” Panesar, Jared Ringland, Mitchell Saddleback, Ridge Zhang

Hip Hop Composers Chin Injeti and Natasha Pheko

Choreographers Megan de León Solís, Sabera Hamid, Shallom Johnson

Set Design Yvan Morissette

Lighting Design Adrian Muir

Costume Design Megan Leson

Singing Coaches Dawn Pemberton, Shane Raman

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

Technical Director Elisha Burrows

Production Manager Katja Schlueter

Documentary Production Manager

Megan de León Solís

Youth Counsellor Zoe Green

Theatre Teacher of Canadian Plays

Professor Jan Lermite

Dance Captains Arjun “Arc” Panesar and Mitchell Saddleback

Assistant Projection Designer Cameron Fraser

Make-up Artists - Studio Photos Krysten Merrick, Tia Dumaresq and Alyssa Satow
Hair Stylist - Studio Photos Tracey Newton

Costume Dresser - Studio Photos Elle Buckle

Costume Dress – Shows Valeria Maichen

Make-up Artists –Shows Karly Paranych and Alyssa Satow

Indigenous Beadwork Artist Kazezsemaka Myra Pierre

Youth Interns / Stage Crew Cecelia Muirhead, Jorge Escobar, Jesse Mark, Josh Silicka, Gurvir Singh Jammu

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

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,
Jeff Carter, Sandor Gyurkovics, Lisa Kolisnyk,
Mark Barry, Nick Peterson

Editor Mary Ungerleider

Publicist Marnie Wilson

Studio Photography Amanda Skuse
Photography

Live Stills Photography Chris Randle
Photography

Graphic Artists Corporate Graphics

Fund Development Mary Ann Anderson of
Little Dog Consulting, Elaine Carol & Melanie
Thompson

Rehearsal Space The Dance Centre
Community Outreach Zoe Green & Elaine
Carol

Accountant Marianna Scott of Quantum
Accounting

Legal Consultant Daniel W. Burnett

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

**Assistant Directors/Community
Developers/Youth Counsellors** Megan
de León Solís, Sabera Hamid, Jorge Alcala,
Michelle Leona Vine

Choreographers Megan de León Solís,
Sabera Hamid

Indigenous Intern Michelle Leona Vine

**Workshop Coordinator/Community
Outreach/Interning Artistic Director**
Megan de León Solís

Dance Therapist & Yoga Teacher Veronica
Berezowsky

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

**MONSTERS Hip Hop Theme Lyricist &
Performer** Natasha Pheko

Singing Coaches Dawn Pemberton, Marc
Petrunia

Costume Design Megan Leson

Lighting Design Adrian Muir

Props and Set Design Yvan Morissette

**New Music Composer/Musicians Cello,
Loops, Electronics** Cris Derksen

Production Manager Katja Schlueter

Fight Choreography David Bloom,
Nathan Kay

Circus Training Katie Cresswell

Monster/Mythical Creature Research

Methodology & Sourcing Kaspar Saxena

Director of Photography Steven Miko Burns

Sound Recordist Jeff Carter

Editor Mary Ungerleider



Board and Staff Development Projects

Sarah Markwick, Savannah Walling, John Grimes, Dakota Prince and Mary Ann Anderson

Special Thanks to those who went the “extra distance” for us in 2016:

Cherryl Masters
Douglas D. Durand
Marnie Rice
Marg Specht
Claude Schryer
Sue-Ellen Gerritsen
Lys Stevens
Danielle Roy
Monique Lacerte-Roth
Dan W. Burnett
Dr. Aida Sadr
Family of Eric D. Wong
Jack Zipes
James Pond
Susan Pond
Jenn McGinn
Terry Hunter
Judith Marcuse

Katie Gove
Klodyne Rodney
Jenny Kwan, MP
Dr. Hedy Fry, MP
Lindy Sisson
TELUS Staff
Meriko Kubota
Nini Baird
Rachel Von Fossen
Edward “Ted” Little
Savannah Walling
Beverly Naidus
Mirna Zagar
Robin Naiman
Alice Jones
The Dance Centre staff: Ashka Dudzic, Tacky and Mauricio
LJ Opina
King Duque
Charles and Mary Ungerleider
Families of all youth involved in *Haunted House* and *MONSTERS*.

**IN 2016, 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*" and "*Looking Back to Laurier*" funded by the Government of Canada.

SPONSOR



Generous Individual 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, Fiona Old, Ella Young and Margo Kane.

MONSTERS

FUNDERS

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



East India Carpets
Contemporary & Classic Designs since 1948

SPONSOR



Generous Individual Donors: James Pond, Susan Pond, Eric D. Wong, Dr. George Tien, Shiv Mysuria, Kevin Dale McKeown, Fiona Old, Megan de Leon Solis, Kathleen Smith, Fir Street Properties, Shiv Mysuria, Elaine Carol, Margo Kane, Steer Davies Cleeve – Laura Sidi, Kaspar Saxena, Brenda Joy Lem and R. Cole Harris



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Charitable donations to MISCELLANEOUS Productions are always welcome.