



**MISCELLANEOUS
PRODUCTIONS**



NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 2018

June 2, 2019

MISCELLANEOUS Productions Society

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Following our AGM in 2018 we added one more director to our Board, Jacob Rutgers who brings to us experience in finance, bookkeeping, and directors' and officers' liability insurance. In addition, we've received interest from three other potential directors, who, if elected, would round out the skills of the board and leave us well positioned for the future.

In 2018, we completed a successful adult-mentored, youth-led performing arts workshop and film screening tour for *MONSTERS*. We worked with Indigenous youth, youth in juvenile detention programs, immigrant/refugee youth agencies and youth at-risk in several Canadian cities including Westbank First Nation/West Kelowna/Kelowna, Prince George, Mission/Abbotsford, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg and Toronto.

We also gave dozens of workshops to youth in the Lower Mainland in schools, community centres, etc. and cast our new performance, *AWAY with HOME*. In addition, our *Next Generation* project produced a satirical video entitled *Ghosts of Productions Past*.

We were also successful at attaining a Canada Council for the Arts Sectoral / Capacity Building grant late in 2018 and in 2019, are pleased to welcome Barbara Chirinos as our Operations Manager, a role sorely needed in the organization.



Throughout the last several years the Society has been challenged with finding qualified bookkeepers who understand arts based organizations, their funding, and who have the capacity to take on clients. After several changes in part-time bookkeepers, we have decided the services of a larger organization would be meet our needs and so we have engaged with BDO.

I had the pleasure of attending the Open Rehearsal/Community Forum of *AWAY with HOME* earlier in May 2019. This is MISCELLANEOUS Productions' newest project with a great cast of young performers tackling very personal issues that will resonate with almost anyone. Several other projects are also underway, including a refresh of the Next Generation team who are upcoming leaders in the performing arts.

Sincerely,

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

Kurt Horne, President
MISCELLANEOUS Productions

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS

2018 was another busy, exciting and successful year for MISCELLANEOUS Productions Society! We developed original works, cast youth in a new performance entitled *AWAY with HOME*, created new films, gave workshops and screenings from Vancouver to Toronto, and travelled to regions in English-speaking Canada to present and share our work with other youth, staff, artists and supporters.

Before I set out the highlights of this past year, I would like to thank our incredible Board of Directors for their dedication and work with our Society: Kurt Horne, Robert Wilson, Michael Parfett, Colleen Rogan and Amneet Dhillon. Amneet left the Board in July 2018 as she got into a law school in California. We thank her for her tenure on our Board, her insight into issues of culture and expression for youth, and wish her the best as she studies to become a lawyer.

HIGHLIGHTS in 2018 included *MONSTERS* which was in its final creation/production phase of the film of the play performed in late 2017, leading up to screenings and workshops from Prince George to Toronto. Professional artists were representative of the Lower Mainland and worked on our projects with passion and enthusiasm.

Written in 9 languages/dialects and loosely based on Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, *MONSTERS* explored the concept of 'monsters' as found in culturally diverse, historical and traditional storytelling, integrating folk tales, feminist interpretations of decolonized myths and legends with the youth performers' personal experiences of bullying/being bullied—the monsters they have encountered and the monsters they find within themselves. Using some plot from Shelley's *Frankenstein* as a framework, the play combined myths about monsters from many cultures with transdisciplinary performance. It explored how and why a community creates and supports a 'monster,' how collusion functions and how incredibly damaging bullies can be. Our goal was to inspire artists, youth and audiences to interpret the world we live in and envision our shared future as one of a celebration of uniqueness. The youth performers in *MONSTERS* included immigrant and refugee youth of colour, Indigenous, mixed-race and QTBIPOC youth.

With roots on 6 continents, they spoke Taiwanese, Cantonese, Lithuanian, Kazhak, Vietnamese, Spanish, Tagalog/other Filipino dialects in addition to English - all were incorporated into the script of *MONSTERS*. This Vancouver-based project was our most successful – in terms of aesthetics, audience attendance and engagement with youth and their supporters.

In September 2018, Vtape, an internationally renowned artist-run artists' media distribution centre has signed with Elaine Carol for the distribution of MISCELLANEOUS Productions' entire catalogue of films and videos.

Throughout 2018, *MONSTERS'* cast members and professionals went on tour in BC to Westbank First Nations/West Kelowna/Kelowna, incarcerated youth from throughout the province in the Cariboo Action Training Program, a rehabilitation facility near Prince



George, alternative school in Mission and throughout the Lower Mainland bringing professional performing arts workshops and our films to youth normally denied access to professional performance. These events use free performance opportunities to bring marginalized Indigenous and immigrant/refugee youth, incarcerated youth, youth in foster care together to create space for them to talk about burning issues they face using transdisciplinary art.

Our aim is to give access to young people who have never had previous access to professional artists, foster dialogue and community and to show participants through the example of MP cast members how performance can empower them to effect change. The workshops allow us to share our work with other artists, educators, support workers and allies in communities that are otherwise severely underserved with respect to at-risk and experiential youth.

Activities in 2018-preliminary outreach/development/community consultation for *Refuge, Refugee, Reconciliation* (RRR – working title), our next major creation project now entitled *AWAY with HOME* with auditions in October; training/rehearsal process; completion of the *MONSTERS* film; pre-production on *Ghosts of Productions Past* film; Central and Western Canadian Workshop and Screening Tour with professionals for youth at-risk, artists and the general public: Westbank First Nations, Mission Alternative School, Cariboo Action Training Society/Prince George, MOSAIC, United Native Youth Association/East Vancouver, Vancouver School Board Secondary Schools.

In 2018, we toured with eight youth and professionals to present screenings and conduct workshops with new partners in Calgary (Metis Institute and Sunworks Productions), Toronto (Jumbies Theatre and Blake Boulton Youth/Eastview Community Centre), Winnipeg (University of Winnipeg–Arts and Macdonald Youth Services) and Regina (University of Regina–Arts and Rainbow Youth Society) for screenings and workshops with locally representative youth. Our national and international tours are always extraordinarily successful in terms of art and engagement, and the appreciation in remote and marginalized communities is often overwhelming. MP is the only professional arts organization in Canada to work with these young people.



2018 was also Year 1 of *THE NEXT GENERATION*, a three-year project undertaken by MP and funded by the Vancouver Foundation. In this project we are significantly expanding the internship process that we have informally offered many years - formalizing it into an innovative professional training program for emerging artists. The goal is to develop a new, truly diverse cohort of emerging arts professionals who will have the skills and experience to step into positions of leadership in the future. We are pleased with the progress of the project; the youth interns are learning the skills and multi-faceted commitment needed to be a working, professional artist in Canada. This is a central part of our succession plan.

Activities in 2018 included community consultation, auditions, creation, rehearsals for *Refuge, Refugee, Reconciliation* (RRR) – now entitled *AWAY with HOME*, our next major creation project; auditions (October 2018); training/rehearsal process (October 2018 – September 2019 – show in September 2019); pre-production on film component; production, post-production and screening of second short satirical film; Canadian Screening and Workshop Tour with professionals for youth at-risk, artists and the general public: Westbank First Nations/West Kelowna, Mission Alternative School, Cariboo Action Training Society/Prince George, MOSAIC, United Native Youth/East Vancouver, Vancouver School Board/East Vancouver, Rainbow Youth Centre/Regina, Macdonald Youth Services/Winnipeg, Eastview Community Centre/Blake Boulton Youth/Toronto; film screenings: Jumblies Theatre, Toronto (World Premiere); University of Winnipeg; University of Regina and ANNEX/Orpheum in Vancouver.

In 2018, we began to plan a possible performing arts project with La Porte Peinte, an artists' residency centre, two Medieval towns, middle and secondary school students from three institutions in Noyers-sur-Serein and Tonnerre in Burgundy, France. Elaine will be going to negotiate with their directors, principals and mayors in June 2019. If the negotiations are a success, this project will be scheduled for 2020.


In 2018, we began to develop our next major creation project, a MISCELLANEOUS Productions' anti-colonialist take on the tales of the Brothers Grimm. In addition to our usual wide-ranging dialogue with artists, youth and youth-serving organizations, Artistic Director Elaine Carol, professional artists and youth will work closely with Grimm Brothers, fairy tale and folklore expert, Jack Zipes. In this new work, we will explore the issues of consent, #MeToo, #TimesUp and subvert/decolonize the original brutal Grimm's Tales as cautionary tales for girls and young women from an intersectional, anti-oppression perspective.

I want to recognize the talented and generous staff, board and volunteers for their belief in MISCELLANEOUS Productions' work, their willingness to collaborate with culturally and socially representative youth in the community, and their passion for employing art as a tool for personal transformation and social change. With continued growth 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 young people 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 aesthetic and ethic in youth performing arts and committed support of the young people in our programs!

With thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine Carol". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elaine" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Carol".

Elaine Carol
Artistic Director, MISCELLANEOUS Productions



DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR PROJECTS

MONSTERS: MISCELLANEOUS Productions' professional Artistic Team continued work with culturally and socially diverse, multi-barriered youth to create, produce and present a film of our music theatre performance work, exploring monsters from culturally diverse cultures (historical, pre-modern, Indigenous and traditional) as well as futuristic monsters in popular culture, which youth learned to understand and eventually meaningfully integrate into stories from their own lives. We compared, contrasted and juxtaposed these Monsters with their own "monsters within." We presented successful screenings and youth-led, adult-mentored performing arts workshops from Prince George to Vancouver to Toronto.

Refuge/Refugee/Reconciliation (working title in 2018 – now entitled **AWAY with HOME**) is currently being developed and implemented. It brings 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/homeland, belonging and identity.

The concepts and exchange of oral history performance will bring all the youth together as we use art as a vehicle for reconciliation. Leaving their homelands, integrating into Canadian society, dealing with generational divides and mental health issues, these histories, imprinted on their bodies, minds and souls bring them together through the vehicle of music theatre and performance art to a new understanding and empathy for each other.

THE NEXT GENERATION PROJECT: *The Next Generation* is an innovative professional training program for culturally and socially diverse MISCELLANEOUS Productions young artists/ professionals struggling with racism, homophobia, various mental, physical and developmental disabilities as well other issues of marginalization; as well as a socially innovative public education campaign directed at artistic leaders, and arts-based funders.

The vision is to develop un- and under-employed young arts professional within a unique career skill development environment, working alongside professional artists and arts administrators; and push forward a message about their vision of the future. Through an artistic educational campaign (short films for social media developed by the youth interns and staff, and distributed on social media) which will begin with an analysis of intersectionality and tokenism in the hiring practices in the next generation of artistic leaders, conduct outreach to arts organizations and relevant funders and promote a message of a representation of diverse artists in their hiring practices and educate powerful leaders about community-engaged artistic practice.

Our history working with marginalized youth makes us uniquely positioned to meet their needs by providing them with tailored opportunities to gain the necessary professional artistic and business skills to promote these innovative ideas in the arts sector, to advocate for pro-active systemic change in the arts and create possible models to address the imbalance of artistic leadership in BC.

GRIMM BROS, INTERNATIONAL AND INDIGENOUS SISTERS – FAIRY TALE, FOLKLORE AND MYTHS PERFORMANCE PROJECT – EARLY DEVELOPMENT

In 2018, we began to develop our next major creation project, a MISCELLANEOUS Productions' anti-colonialist take on the tales of the Brothers Grimm. In addition to our usual wide-ranging dialogue with artists, youth and youth-serving organizations, Artistic Director Elaine Carol, professional artists and youth will work closely with Grimm Brothers, fairy tale and folklore expert, Jack Zipes.

In this new work, we will explore the issues of consent, #MeToo, #TimesUp and subvert/ decolonize the original brutal Grimm's Tales as cautionary tales for girls and young women from an intersectional, anti-oppression perspective.

In the next three years, professional staff will begin work on this project with the very original Brothers Grimm tales – translated by Jack Zipes. These tales are *not* for children as they are bloody, brutal and horrific – typical of many German cautionary folkloric tales. With Jack's aid, we will find analogous fairy tales and folklore – memes – from the cultures of those youth involved and cast in the project. There will be a conscious process of deconstruction, decolonization and radical contemporary, intersectionality in our versions of these complex stories – originated as oral history performance in the centuries before the Grimms' collected them in the first edition 1812–1815.

MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS VISION STATEMENT

PURPOSE & 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 representative 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 representation and employ an anti-racism, anti-violence, anti-poverty and anti-homophobia educational framework,
- To pioneer 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
- 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 (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. For example, in recent years we have found a second home with the youth and professionals at the Centre d'Art I Natura, City of Sort, Pallars Sobira, Catalonia and its secondary school, Hug Roger Institut.

We are currently at work on our 2018 / 2019 project entitled *AWAY with HOME*, exploring themes of identity, belonging, immigration, racism, mental health, bullying, maturation, family and victimization. This performance will be presented at The Dance Centre Faris Studio Theatre on September 27 and 28, 2019.

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 representative contemporary audience that extends far beyond the world of "high art."

IN 2018, MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS WAS SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING FUNDERS, SPONSORS AND DONORS

OPERATING/CORE FUNDERS



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
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NEXT GENERATION FUNDER

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AWAY WITH HOME FUNDERS



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Generous Individuals: James F. Pond, R. Cole and Muriel Harris, Elaine Carol,
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