



**TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 2021
JUNE 20, 2022**

MISCELLANEOUS Productions Society

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2021 was another challenging year for everyone, but an exciting one in many ways as MISCELLANEOUS Productions continued to adapt and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was the Board's privilege to support artistic director Elaine Carol and her team as they responded to the global health crisis with a series of events and workshops exploring the issues raised by the pandemic as they impact youth in culturally and socially representative communities.

We look forward to the work ahead as we prepare for the public presentation in 2023-24 of our next production, *Plague*, informed by the experiences of youth as related in the events and workshops mentioned above.

The contemporary relevance and importance of MISCELLANEOUS Productions' projects has never been more sharply focussed, and the Board looks forward to another year of discovering and sharing important stories.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Jung, President - Board of Directors
MISCELLANEOUS Productions



MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome all to our Annual General Meeting. Today, we launch our new Annual Report! In 2021, we continued to look at the pandemic as a challenge and an opportunity to present our work in a new way, using digital technologies and presenting/filming work in outdoor venues.

Our Board members, staff and volunteers deeply believe in using the arts as a vehicle to encourage and empower the culturally and socially representative, at-risk and experiential youth we collaborate with. Presenting our artistic work to the public, no matter the medium, is part of our process as community-engaged, co-creation artists.

Throughout the pandemic MISCELLANEOUS Productions has used digital means and outdoor site-specific live art to safely continue our work to empower youth and forge better connections to BIPOC, QBIPOC, Indigenous, immigrant and refugee youth in Vancouver/Lower Mainland, throughout BC, nationally and internationally.

Over 2021, we substantially increased our outreach to Indigenous bands, immigrant/refugee-serving agencies and youth-serving organizations and schools.

We continue to build future relationships and open up opportunities throughout this challenging period. In 2021, we established an active Youth Arts Advisory Council in 2021. We also reached new audiences in our work with internationally renowned fairy tale/folklorist Jack Zipes. Throughout 2021, we focused our work on youth across British Columbia, and are currently working with children and youth age 5 to 25 years old.

In 2021 we had to postpone touring throughout BC, Western Canada and Ontario, and Dublin/Galway/Inishbofin, Ireland. We continued to produce and present digital art, creating a strong foundation for new, important work. We also worked diligently

to ensure the online safety of young participants, Board members, volunteers, and staff through the exceptional work of our technical and production management team headed by Katja Schlueter.

We kept everyone as safe as possible through this period of plague and uncertainty, utilizing completely digital and/or outdoor performance and digi-filmmaking to direct and supervise the pre-production/production of our original work including our major production for 2021, *OVERWHELMED!*

All online work, in development and production in 2021, is currently being presented, distributed and preserved in 2022. All was and continues to be available for free online. Please see www.miscellaneousproductions.ca for links and details.

Throughout 2021 we produced and presented more than 20 new free events and activities.

In July 2021, the Canada Council for the Arts granted us major funding as part of their Digital Now! program for MISCELLANEOUS Productions' *OVERWHELMED!*

Throughout 2021, we prepared for our BC-wide, Western Canada and Ontario tour, which is now scheduled for the summer/fall of 2022.

In 2021, the Society continued our tradition of anti-oppression work with pioneering diversity consultant, Eric D. Wong, known as the creator and writer of the Anti-Racist Toolkit for the First Nations Education Steering Committee and his work with the First Nations Schools Association of British Columbia. Eric's foundational work with MISCELLANEOUS Productions is the pedagogical and philosophical backbone of our organization.

We continue to collaborate with other learned folx and advisors such as Dr. Charles Ungerleider, who assisted us with evaluations of our projects with and for youth, and with the creation of the open-ended questions that served to guide the artists and activists in *OVERWHELMED!*

I would like to extend a special thank you to our youth participants, partnering youth workers and social workers from agencies across BC and Canada, arts organization partners, staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, funders, sponsors and The Dance Centre for supporting our work.

We are deeply thankful for your generous support throughout this complex time.

We plan to continue working with youth in the community throughout the pandemic, and throughout this period of transition to re-opening. Please stay in touch with us as we go forward with cautious hope, and develop new, accessible digital work by and for youth in our 22nd year.

Be well, take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elaine Carol', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elaine Carol



MAJOR PROJECTS

2021 saw the completion of several initiatives under the umbrella of “Pandemic Projects”, addressing issues around the ongoing COVID pandemic. These projects included:

RESURRECTING DEAD FAIRY TALES - A Jack Zipes Lecture

With the goal of, as he describes it “unburying and reinvigorating dead fairy tales and their creators”, internationally recognized expert on folklore and fairy tales Jack Zipes gave an online lecture on February 17, 2021, discussing his recent work exploring important tales from the first half of the twentieth century, and his founding of his own publishing house, Little Mole and Honey Bear to bring back in print works from the 1940s that have been neglected in favour of flashier commercial products, breathing life into older fairy tales that deliver messages important to our times.

In discussing these works Zipes introduced participating children and youth to what they might be missing by not being taught about certain periods of history, such as the early rise of fascism at the beginning of the twentieth century. As Zipes states, “History is doomed to repeat itself. We must preserve the things that make us human, and stand up to forces that would tear our society apart”.

The lecture was filmed at the Victorian Upson Room at the Walter Library at the University of Minneapolis, directed by Elaine Carol in collaboration with a professional crew, was broadcast as a Facebook Watch event, with an opportunity for a live Q&A.

In 2021 *Resurrecting Dead Fairy Tales* was made available from our distributor Vtape [here](#).



OVERWHELMED

This original digital work saw senior and mid-career professional composers, choreographers, emerging artists, spoken word artists and young emerging/pre-professional community-engaged participants explore feelings of being overwhelmed in dance, performance poetry, experimental film and live performance.

This generationally/culturally representative group of artists employed many musical, dance and performance disciplines including R&B/soul, hip hop, jazz fusion/psychedelic rock, World music, contemporary dance, Streetdance, performance art and experimental documentary which were merged to make a work about uncontrollable emotions in complicated times.

A live component of this project was filmed on the rooftop garden of The Dance Centre, with four featured elder artists/writers: Renae Morriseau, Grace Eiko Thomson, Zachery C. Longboy, and Eric D. Wong.

PLAGUE - An International and Indigenous Fairy Tale and Folklore Project

An authentic reading of the original fairy tales compiled in 1812 by the Brothers Grimm is grim indeed. MISCELLANEOUS Productions' next community-engaged and youth-centred theatre work, *Plague*, will explore issues that have arisen during the COVID-19 pandemic, viewing the plague through fairy tales, myths, and animal wonder tales from Indigenous and international cultures.

The creators of *Plague* worked with Jack Zipes, a leading expert in folklore and fairy tales, and throughout the creation process participating youth, in collaboration with professional artists, worked to subvert/decolonize the original Grimm story of plague,



“The Pied Piper”, from an intersectional, anti-racist, anti-oppression, queer feminist perspective. Indigenous and international folklore and fairy tales will be featured in this exploration of dis/ease, child abuse and, the powerful, tragic consequences of broken promises in a time of plague, anxiety and uncertainty.

This music theatre work will be presented at The Dance Centre in 2024. A documentary film will be created that will incorporate elements of the final stage production, workshops, and the virtual performance-lecture by Zipes.

DISTANCE HATS

The creation of *Plague* included a series of *Distance Hats* costume and visual art creation workshops held via Zoom with youth from throughout BC, and a virtual performance-lecture by Zipes filmed in Minneapolis by MISCELLANEOUS Productions’ professionals. Central to the process has been the idea of working with youth to explore the fairy tales, folktales, and myths from their own Indigenous and international cultures, learning to meaningfully integrate those tales with stories from their own lives.

The project began with the distribution of 200 art kits to representative youth groups in British Columbia. Participating youth engaged via Zoom with professional costume designers, a woodworking master and stilt walker, a theatre and film director, and a visual artist specializing in using recycled objects. The artistic team worked with youth participants to create a collection of imaginative big hats, each relating to the youths’ interpretations of fairy tales and folklore from their own cultures, and from their imaginations.



With an emphasis on process rather than product, the workshops were based on a project coming out of schools in South China and were focused on serving the particular needs of artistic youth during this complex time of plague and uncertainty.

After the hats were created, and through a series of theatrical improvisations, youth participants were encouraged to create fantastical characters from their respective cultural backgrounds and/or their imaginations with which to explore movement and sound within the confines of the “Zoom Box”.

This workshop was filmed for the purposes of documentation for our website, social media platforms, grant applications, and promotional material.

I AIN'T NO SUPERMAN

Pre-production and production of this new Streetdance video, directed by Elaine Carol via Zoom at the height of the first wave of the pandemic featured the work of choreographer Natasha Gorrie and incredible performers, with music by MISCELLANEOUS alumni, Natasha Pheko (Phé).

Adapted from *AWAY with HOME*, MISCELLANEOUS Productions formed a new partnership with Magnafire Media who provided 75 percent in-kind technical and editing services for *I Ain't No Superman*. Release for this video was June 11, 2020 so by the time we meet for our AGM, we will begin to see results due to an aggressive social media campaign by Barb Snelgrove at megamouthmedia.



FILM FOR BEGINNERS - A Workshop with Ann Marie Fleming

This free two-hour online workshop with internationally renowned filmmaker Ann Marie Fleming was designed to share knowledge and resources and foster connections with marginalized youth who wish to work in the film and television industries but do not otherwise have access to professional film/TV programming or training.

In this project we connected with lower income youth in communities that are chronically underserved /underrepresented in access to training and educational opportunities in film.

Ann Marie talked about and shared clips of her impressive body of work and discussed how to work with adapted and biographical material, and how she collaborates with other professionals when she makes a film. She also provided some information as to where young people who want to become filmmakers can apply to reputable film schools, apply for grants and bursaries, and volunteer for community art projects where they can get their first professional experiences.

OUR 20th ANNIVERSARY FACEBOOK WATCH PARTY

In March of 2021, in the final instalment of the online celebration of our 20th Anniversary, MISCELLANEOUS Productions presented the world premiere of *AWAY with HOME*, a professionally produced 57-minute video of a live community-engaged, co-creation performance at The Dance Centre in October 2019. We presented this Watch Party in March, 2021.

For a full year, director Elaine Carol worked with youth who drew from their own personal experiences. With MISCELLANEOUS Productions' professional team



of artists, community support workers and technicians, we created a work that explores issues of immigration, racism, mental health, bullying, maturation, family, victimization, identity and belonging.

AWAY with HOME is a transdisciplinary performance work featuring five youth ranging in age from 14-21. *AWAY with HOME* combines contemporary and Streetdance, neo-soul and hip hop music, Taiko drumming, image theatre and performance poetry together to examine the thematic questions.

After the online screening, we held a live Q&A with the cast of *AWAY with HOME* moderated by Elaine Carol.

MUSIC 101 - THE SUSAN POND MUSIC 101 PROGRAM FOR YOUTH

The Susan Pond Music 101 Program for Youth is a series of Music Industry 101 workshops for youth and young people interested in becoming professionals in the music industry.

This focused series is for youth in under-served British Columbia communities, with the goal of sharing knowledge and resources, and fostering connections between musicians, composers and other music industry professionals and marginalized youth who do not otherwise have access to professional arts programming or training, because they live in communities that are chronically under-served in this regard.

The program is named in memory of Susan Pond (1939 To 2019) and her important contributions to MISCELLANEOUS Productions.



MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS CREDITS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 2021

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President **Marilyn Jung**
Vice-President **Rob Gloor**
Secretary-Treasurer **Beyhan Zor**
Ex-Officio **Elaine Carol** (non-voting)

2021 VOLUNTEERS @ ADVISORS

Eric D. Wong, Dr. George Tien, Dr. Charles Ungerleider, Mary Ungerleider, Oparin Ortiz, Kay Higgins, Howard Jang, Kenji Maeda and Judith Marcuse.

FOUNDERS

**Rebecca Bishop
Yuki Matsuno
Jo Ann Chew
Elaine Carol
Jules Rochielle**

MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS STAFF, CONSULTANTS @ CONTRACTORS

Artistic Director/General Manager/Director
Elaine Carol
Production Manager/Technical Director
Katja Schlueter
Diversity Consultant **Eric D. Wong**
Indigenous Youth Consultant **Dakota Prince**
Outreach & Counselling Team **Alex Danard, Leah McGraw, Imaan Jeraj, Dominique Wakeland, Brishkay Ahmed and Julia Farry**
Assistant Directors **Brishkay Ahmed, Alex Danard and Dominique Wakeland**
Social Media **Barb Snelgrove of megamouthmedia consulting**
Writer/Editor **Kevin Dale McKeown of KDM Communications**
Graphic Design **Corporate Graphics**
Hip Hop and Streetdance Choreographer/
Teacher **Natasha Gorrie**
Hip Hop & R&B/Soul Composer
Natasha Pheko
Composer/Musician/Teachers **Tonye Aganaba, Robin Layne and Jaya Story**
Music Coordinator **Barry Warne**
Film for Beginners Teacher/Role Model
Ann Marie Fleming
Film Editors **Mary Ungerleider and Thom Stitt**



Sound Designer/Mixer **Dennis Burke**
Directors of Photography **Steven Miko**
Burns, Sarah Thomas Moffat and
Thom Stitt

Set Designer **Yvan Morrisette**
Set Design Assistant **Marcus Vaillant**
Storyboard Artist **Tiffany Yang**
Costume Designer/Visual Artist/Teachers
Megan Leson, Valeria Maichen, and
Tiffany Yang

Clown/Performance Art Teacher
Sharon Bayly

Consulting Physician **Dr. Aida Sadr**
Social Psychologist **Dr. George Tien**
Evaluation Design **Dr. Charles Ungerleider**
Professional Chartered Professional
accounting firm, **Rolfe Benson LLP**
Chartered Professional Accountants
Todd Lilley and Linden Horswill
Insurance **HUB International** and **Encon**



IN LOVING MEMORY

MISCELLANEOUS Productions is deeply indebted to the late Eric Wong for his work with the company over many years as our diversity consultant.

As an educator and consultant Eric was a champion of education as a tool for promoting a diverse, inclusive, and respectful society. Prior to founding his private practice, Eric was the multicultural education consultant for the Vancouver School Board and worked with the City of Vancouver equal employment opportunities office. He was later promoted to manager of training and programs for the Hastings Institute, which is dedicated to providing multicultural and employment equity training and organizational development for the public and private sectors.

As a consultant, Eric worked with organizations, schools, and businesses, including the Province of British Columbia, the Canadian Department of Justice, and the City of North Vancouver. He developed and taught the Vancouver Police Department's course on diversity, and engaged in similar work with the Vancouver and Port Coquitlam Fire Departments. School districts throughout BC called on his expertise for workshops and training programs, both for staff professional development and educational programs for students. He created the Anti-Racist Toolkit for the First Nations Education Steering Committee, which included curricula and activities for the classroom.

The founders of MISCELLANEOUS Productions Society met with Eric in January 2001 to enlist him as our Diversity Consultant.

Instantly, we knew that he was the man for the job – he had a deep understanding of our community-engaged art, its quest to be used as a tool to empower and give a strong voice to culturally and socially representative youth, how crucial it was that we craft clear messages against oppression in our performances and films, and how creating compassionate relationships was key to our work.

We paid him once for his early work with our board and staff, and then he donated back every fee for the following 21 years of this foundational work.

Eric worked with our youth and professionals on issues of diversity, racism, ableism, homophobia and accentism, and assisted MISCELLANEOUS Productions in our development and over our 22 years history. He was an enormously positive influence on the youth, as he believed in bringing people together and widening the circle. Eric taught staff how to listen to youth, build relationships, and how to teach youth that deal with multi-barriers, how to tear down those walls with sensitivity and humanity.

Eric was extremely generous in so many ways, and that benevolence was made evident in that he agreed to be one of two featured interviews in our recent digi-film, *OVERWHELMED!*

We will miss him.



SPECIAL THANKS TO

The Dance Centre

Jack Zipes

Carol Dines

Hanna Zipes

Kay Higgins

Kenji Maeda

Howard Jang

Mirna Zagar

Mavis Reimer

Rick Gooding

Kathryn Shoemaker

Marnie Rice

Cherryl Masters

Linda Nordstom

Jenny Kwan, MP

Dr. Hedy Fry, MP

Dr. Aida Sadr

Oparin Ortiz

Charles Ungerleider

Mary Ungerleider

James Pond

Terry Hunter

Savannah Walling

Judith Marcuse

Ruth Howard

Simran Ghesani

Laura Funay

Chris Lam

Alice Jones

Darren Rayner

Jon Hunwick

Christian Noël

Randy Crimp

Janine Fuller

Julie Stines

Kate McMillan

Kate Burrows

Karelya Medialdea

Nicole Werstiuk

Kailyn Johnson

Britt McDougall

The Dance Centre

Prince George Immigrant and Multicultural
Services Society (IMSS)

Westbank First Nations - Youth Programs

Kitsumkalum First Nation – Youth Programs

Northwest Inter-Nation Family &

Community Services Society “NIFCS”

Victoria Indigenous Friendship Centre

Britannia Community Services Society –

Teen Centre, Indigenous Youth Group

Britannia Latinx Youth Group

Vancouver School Board (VSB)

Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School

Dance Department

Gladstone Secondary School Dance

Department

DIVERSEcity – Surrey-based Youth

Integration Program

Surrey Public Library



RayCam Community Centre – Youth
Programs

Chutzpah Festival!

JCC Jewish Book Festival

DanceHouse

The Cultch

Downtown Vancouver Holiday Inn

Vinnie the dog

Merlin the dog

Families of all youth participants

All our funders, sponsors, community
partners and donors

MISCELLANEOUS Productions' Volunteer
Board of Directors and volunteers

Credit Union VanCity Credit Union
Insurance HUB Insurance International
and Encon
Chartered Professional Accountants
(Review) 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)

IN 2021, MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTIONS WAS SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING FUNDERS, SPONSORS AND DONORS

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