

Vancouver Moving Theatre and Jumbliies Theatre
in association with
the Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival
Community Arts Council of Vancouver
and **Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation**
present

THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE
Arts4All
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INSTITUTE



NOVEMBER 12-20 2009
DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE
VANCOUVER • BRITISH COLUMBIA

UKRAINIAN HALL
805 EAST PENDER STREET
CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE
401 MAIN STREET
GALLERY GACHET
88 EAST CORDOVA STREET

Welcome

It is our pleasure and honour to welcome you to Vancouver, to the Downtown Eastside and to the Downtown Eastside Arts4All Institute. Produced for the first time in Western Canada—and especially tailored for our Downtown Eastside community—the institute will provide an in-depth introduction to principles and practices of art that engages with community and builds community.

We are delighted to partner with Jumblied Theatre on this endeavour. We are joined by key members of the Canadian community play movement in Canada: visiting artists Ruth Howard (originator of the Arts4All concept) from Toronto's Jumblied theatre; Cathy Stubington from Grindrod's Runaway Moon theatre; and Varrick Grimes, an associate artist of both these companies. We're assisted by Lina de Guevera from Victoria's Puente Theatre and by facilitators, panellists and presenters reflecting an exciting spectrum of Vancouver's community-engaged performing arts activity.

Like most community art projects, the people participating in this institute represent a diversity of backgrounds, skill levels, interests and purposes. All share an interest in gaining skills and insights in processes that engage with communities.

Some are veterans in the field who want to revisit the basics, challenge weaknesses in their skill sets and learn from and share with peers. Some are professional and emerging artists who want to engage

more effectively with communities and learn how this differs from mainstream arts presentations. Others have organized or participated in a variety of arts-related community activities and want to learn how to go about becoming professionals in the field. Some want to figure out how to put Downtown Eastside-created projects onto the road to share with their friends and relatives; to shed light on realities of city life and inspire other communities to put on their own plays.

Many have lots of ideas but lack tools to get them going. Most have big or small projects in mind and are looking for tips and tools on project start-ups; facilitation, communication, conflict-resolution and delegation; preparing (and maintaining) budgets, business plans, funding proposals; forming partnerships and assembling collaborative creative relationships; documentation, evaluation, legacies.

Several are pondering big questions. What do professional artists need to know to work successfully with community members on community-arts projects? How do you create projects that are accessible to diverse levels of experience, age, cultural and social backgrounds and openness? How do you ensure that community-engaged artists deal with a community's real issues of the day and understand – when risking the opening of old wounds with tough themes – how



Greetings from Toronto

I am so proud and delighted to have been invited by Vancouver Moving Theatre to orchestrate this week-long adventure.

A few years ago, I noticed that a lot of people were coming to Jumblied with the same questions, and it struck me that, if I brought the people together and answered the questions all at once, it would be more efficient. I organized 12 half-day sessions, drawing from my own experience and inviting in some guest presenters. This was a great success. The next time we tried it out as a 5-day intensive course, partly to make it accessible to out-of-town participants. This was even better, and everyone agreed that it wasn't long enough. Next time we added a sixth day. Initially Jumblied's main partner in this venture was Davenport Perth Neigh-

bourhood Centre, where we had been running a project since 2001 under the name of Arts4All. Arts4All Essentials was, therefore, the name we chose for our intensive course: an idea that has grown organically, and that has now migrated to Vancouver as the Downtown Eastside Arts4All Institute.

The warmest of thanks to the funders, colleagues and artists who have contributed to the growth of this idea, to Savannah and Terry for their vision and hospitality, and to all the B.C. friends and participants who have jumped aboard to make

this possible.

**Ruth Howard, Artistic Director
Jumblied Theatre**



Welcome continued

to ensure that these communities and individuals will be okay after the artists leave?

We very much look forward to sharing with you six exciting days of learning, discussion, idea sharing, art-making, mutual support and inspiration.

Enjoy the Institute everyone!

**Savannah Walling, Artistic Director
Terry Hunter, Executive Director
Vancouver Moving Theatre**



Ruth Howard & Savannah Walling

CALENDAR OF IN-HOUSE EVENTS

THURS. NOV. 12 INSTITUTE LAUNCH: ILLUSTRATED TALK Carnegie Theatre

"What's it all about?" with Ruth Howard

7:00-9:00 Open to the Public

FRI. NOV. 13 DAY ONE Ukrainian Hall

9:30-10:00 Arrivals, refreshments, greetings

10:00-12:30 Introductions and art activities

12:30-1:30 Lunch – courtesy Community Arts Council of Vancouver

1:30-3:00 Community arts, what is it? Definitions and core principles

3:00-4:30 Brief history of Canadian community plays and permutations

4:30-5:00 Wrap-up, questions

7-9 pm PANEL – May I have this dance? Ukrainian Hall

Forming Community Partnerships *Open to the Public*

SAT. NOV. 14 DAY TWO Carnegie Theatre

9:30-10:00 Arrivals, refreshments and greetings

10-12:30 Project basics – How to get started

12:30-1:30 Lunch – bring your own

1:30-3:30 Neighbourhood Tour of places where art-making is happening

3:30-4:30 Playing with images, words and movement

4:30-5:00 Wrap-up, questions

6:00-9:00 pm FILMS – Carnegie Theatre *Open to the Public*

SUN. NOV. 15 DAY THREE Ukrainian Hall

9:30-10 Arrivals, refreshments, greetings

10-12:30 Grant-writing

12:30-1:30 Lunch - bring your own

1:30-4:30 Arts-based and oral history research

4:30-5:00 Wrap-up, questions, feedback

MON. NOV. 16 DAY OFF

TUES. NOV. 17 DAY FOUR Ukrainian Hall

9:30-10:00 Arrivals, refreshments, setting in

10-12:30 Diversity, safety and conflict

12:30-1:30 Lunch - bring your own

1:30-4:30 Facilitation: tips and varied approaches

4:30-5:00 wrap-up, questions, feed-back

7:00-9:00 PANEL – Making Room at the Table Gallery Gachet

Open to the Public

WED. NOV. 18 DAY FIVE Ukrainian Hall

9:30-10:00 Arrivals, refreshments, settling in

10-12:30 Collaborative creative explorations

12:30-1:30 Lunch - bring your own

1:30-3:30 Creative process continued

3:30-4:30 Presentations / Performance

4:30-5:00 Wrap-up, questions, feed-back

THURS. NOV. 19 DAY SIX Ukrainian Hall

9:30-10:00 Arrivals, refreshments, greetings

10-11:30 Ethics and Aesthetics

11:30-12:30 Legacy and sustainability

12:30 – 1:30 Lunch – bring your own

1:30-2:30 Evaluation: art-friendly methods

2:30-4:00 Evaluation and reflections for the week

4:00-5:00 Wrap-up, final questions and comments

7:00-9:00 Group meal and party – provided

PUBLIC EVENTS



ART TALK "What's it all about?" with Ruth Howard Thursday November 12, 7pm-9pm Carnegie Community Centre Theatre 401 Main Street, free

Join us for an introduction to the Downtown Eastside Arts4All Institute. Learn about community plays and projects in Toronto and beyond, and pick up a few tips on principles and practices of community-engaged arts. Visiting artist Ruth Howard has lots of experience designing community plays across Canada, producing community operas in Toronto and developing mentoring programs. She is Artistic Director of Jumblies Theatre, a company that makes art with, for and about the people and places of Toronto. Presentation, video clips and time for questions and discussion.

The evening will start with the launch

of the book *A Journey into the Downtown Eastside Community Play, 'In the Heart of a City'*, a travelogue of the play's creative process, containing photos and interviews with artists, community participants and spectators of the play along with the reflections of the author, Valerie Methot, Roundhouse artist-in-residence.

ART TALK AND PANEL May I have this dance? Forming Community Partnerships Friday November 13, 7pm-9pm Ukrainian Hall, 805 East Pender Street free

Moderator: Michael Clague

How do you go about forming a network of partnerships to support community arts projects? What are the issues surrounding partnerships with social agencies, schools,



parks boards, neighbourhoods and global organizations? How do you safeguard an artistic vision while respecting your partners' agendas? How can community partners support you in entering unknown and possibly risky social territory?

We will be joined by panellists Judith Marcuse (co-director of Vancouver's Centre of Arts for Social Change); Cyndy Chwelos (Moberly Arts and Cultural Centre and formerly of Arts Starts) Ruth Howard (Jumblies Theatre), Dafne Blanco (Headlines Theatre) and jil p. weaving (Vancouver Park Board).

DOCUMENTARY FILM NIGHT AT THE CARNEGIE Community-engaged Art Practice Saturday November 14, 6pm-10pm Carnegie Community Centre Theatre 401 Main Street, free

An evening of talk and documentaries in cooperation with Documentaries for Thinkers, coordinated by Colleen Carrol and Margot Butler of UBC's Humanities 101. Margot will host the evening.

6:00-8:00pm Dignity and Grace (60') Dale Hamilton

The Story of the Eramosa Community Play produced by Dale Hamilton of Rockwood, Ontario; a play that sparked a movement across Canada. Produced and directed by Charlie Fox and Mark Hamilton.

Something from Nothing 2004 (10') Runaway Moon Theatre - Cathy Stubington

A video about the Enderby and District Community Play, a production that transformed a town and inspired the Downtown Eastside Community Play.

Bringing Shadows into Light 2008 (25') Vancouver Moving Theatre

A film created by Squamish film-maker Cease Wyss about the making of *We're All In This Together: The Shadows Project - Addiction and Recovery*, a community arts project produced by Vancouver Moving Theatre in association with urban ink and the Roundhouse Community Centre

PUBLIC EVENTS

DOCUMENTARY FILM NIGHT continued

Cups for Everyone 2009 (20') Jumblies Theatre

Exploring the pursuit of Utopia in the history of Camp Naivelt, an 85-year old and still-existing socialist, secular, Jewish summer community, through a week-long re-enactment of a Soviet Jewish Children's Work Commune, and subsequent performance of "Oy di velt vet vern yinger – Oh the world will grow younger." Edited by Charles Ketchabaw.

8pm-9pm

A Big Big Picture: Arts for Social Change Around the World—a talk with Judith Marcuse

Despertar (Awake) 2004 (17')

A video directed by Scott Smith, documenting the first International Earth Symposium, a five day gathering which brought to Vancouver 300 delegates from 23 countries to dialogue, perform and workshop for social change.

9pm

Good Vibrations—Gamelan in Prisons 2007 (12mins)

Produced by Good Vibrations and Peterborough Prison, UK, this project helps prisoners, secure hospital patients, ex-prisoners and others develop crucial life and work skills through participating in intensive *gamelan* (Indonesian bronze

percussion) courses. Rodrigo Caballero will briefly speak about his own research on Good Vibrations.

Stock Characters: The Cooking Show (13' demo reel) Elaine Carol

MISCELLANEOUS Productions brings professional artists to collaborate with culturally diverse, multi- barred youth. Directed by out lesbian, Elaine Carol this demo reel from the film explores her process with her artistic team and the community of youth working to create and produce a hip hop musical play satirizing the Japanese Iron Chef cooking shows and the lives of East Vancouver youth in post-apocalyptic world.

POWER (8'demo reel) Elaine Carol

This demo reel of MISCELLANEOUS Productions' creation of a hip hop musical cabaret explores the most personal issues in the challenging lives of youth while they work in a "theatre boot camp" run by "benevolent drill sergeant" Artistic Director, Elaine Carol.

ART TALK AND PANEL

Making Room at the Table Diversity in Community Arts Tuesday November 17, 7pm-9pm Gallery Gachet, 88 East Cordova Street free

Moderator: Amir Ali Alibhai

How do you attract, invite and help diverse groups and people feel included in community-arts projects? How do you bring them together in a way that allows honesty and safety, so that all the contributions are strong and valued? Panellist Lina De Guevera (Puente Theatre) will look at practical strategies to embed diversity from day one. Rosemary Georgeson (Urban Ink) will look at how we navigate and negotiate the multi-cultural spectrum of a community and the protocols that make its varied groups feel safe and welcomed. Cathy Stubington (Runaway Moon theatre) will address the inclusion of all ages and Bruce Ray (gallery gachet) will speak from his experiences with mental health issues. There will be lots of opportunity for questions and contributions from the audience.



EARTH=home - a Judith Marcuse Project



We're All in this Together workshops - Vancouver Moving Theatre



Presenter and Facilitator Bios

Amir Ali Alibhai is an interdisciplinary artist who's worked a gallery educator and curator at the Richmond Art Gallery; co-founded the Rungh Cultural Society; co-developed the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre (recognized as a leader in community cultural development); served on the Board of the Canada Council for the Arts (and as board liaison with the Racial Equity in the Arts Committee); and is Executive Director of the Greater Vancouver Alliance for Arts and Culture.

Dafne Blanco has participated in grassroots organizations and art groups since arriving from Mexico, including a human rights observers training organization) and uses her visual arts background to create multimedia presentations on social issues. She's outreach coordinator for Headlines Theatre—a professional company who produces hundreds of community-initiated, issue-linked theatre projects and has pioneered development of live, interactive forum theatre and web casting. Daphne was community outreach coordinator of Headlines Theatre's Here and Now production exploring—with members of the Indo-Canadian community—connections between gang violence and issues at home.

Rodrigo Caballero, a PhD candidate and teaching assistant in the University of British Columbia's Ethnomusicology program, focuses on the applicative potential of music programming in human and social development. He has

directed music outreach programs for individuals with disabilities; performs with the community Balinese ensemble Gamelan Gita Asmara; and traveled to England to participate in the Good Vibrations Gamelan in Prisons Project. Rodrigo is working with UBC students to develop the community engaged Downtown Eastside Community Gamelan Project (debuting Nov. 28-Dec. 1)

Elaine Carol is an artist, writer, interdisciplinary performance artist, director whose work has been viewed internationally. As Artistic Director of MISCELLANEOUS Productions, Elaine directs, co-writes, produces live and video performances (including *THE REENA PROJECT* and *POWER*). Merging high art and grassroots development with popular culture, Elaine specializes in art and new media projects with integrated groups of at-risk, experiential and mainstream youth. www.miscellaenous-inc.org

Cyndy Chwelos focuses on roles culture plays in community to improve quality of life, strengthen community connections, retain cultural heritages and activate for social change. Her practice began as an artist working on lower-mainland community- art engagement projects with schools and community groups and includes Programmer (Art Starts in Schools); Faculty Member (Department of Recreation, Langara College); and most recently, Community Arts Programmer (Moberly Arts & Cultural Centre). She actualizes cultural



programming offering social innovation and inclusion, supports the role of the artist as a cultural worker, and encourages partnerships that enhance access/ development of the arts.

Michael Clague works in adult education, social policy and planning, and community development and teaches and publishes on public policy issues, community development, and social planning. He was executive director of the Britannia Community Services Centre, the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria, and the Social Planning and Research Council of BC. From 1996 to 2005 he was director of the Carnegie Community Centre where he provided leadership in the development of community arts programming as a major instrument for community renewal. He is a director of the Community Arts Council of Vancouver and a recipient of the Order of Canada.

Lina de Guevara is the Chilean-born Artistic Director of Victoria's Puente Theatre, a group that uses theatrical experience as a bridge between cultures, creates community plays which explore and relate the experiences of immigrants to Canada and performs works from other cultures. An actor, theatre director, playwright and drama teacher, she specializes in Transformational Theatre, Theatre of the Oppressed and Commedia dell'Arte. She's written and directed the community plays *Sisters/Strangers* and *Storytelling Our Lives I, II and III* (the last of which toured seven cities in BC in 2006).

Rosemary Georgeson's family has been intertwined with the Downtown Eastside since it was beach, trees and clam beds. She provided outreach and story consultation for The Downtown Eastside Community Play; co-wrote *We're All In This Together: The Shadows Project*. In her role as urban ink's Aboriginal Community Director she worked on the

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Women in Fish Installation / CBC radio drama (giving voice and paying tribute to women who lived, worked and survived in the drowning west coast fishing industry) and directed The Downtown Eastside Women's Writing Group production of *Dreamcatchers*. Rosemary and urban ink are collaborating on a community play project with the Twin Fish theatre collective of Nelson, B.C. and Williams Lake Community, looking at the impact of the legacy of patriarchy, colonization and stampede culture on Williams Lake and the surrounding First Nations.

Susan Gordon—Originally from Montreal, Susan moved to Cordova Street in the Downtown Eastside in 1979 and started working at the Carnegie when it opened in 1980. She worked in a number of locations for the City, eventually taking the position as Co-ordinator of Arts and Culture for the Park Board in 1991. Since retiring in 2007, she has worked in co-coordinating conferences, one of which was the 4th National Canadian Community Play Exchange Symposium in 2008. Susan sits on a number of Boards including the Community Arts Council of Vancouver where she serves as secretary.

Varrick Grimes is a Newfoundland-bred director based in Ontario who's directed collaborative community plays, spectacle and site-specific theatrical events in Toronto, BC and England and has experience in puppet theatre and promenade performance. As Associate Director of Theatre Newfoundland

Labrador, he spearheaded the Gros Morne Theatre Festival. In Toronto, he's worked as a community artist with Kytes (Kensington youth theatre and employment skills), and SKETCH—working studio for street-involved youth and Jumblied Theatre. He's directed community opera for Jumblied Theatre and open air productions for BC's Runaway Moon Theatre. Recently he directed *Something in Common* in Sussex, United Kingdom, working with Jon Oram of Claque Theatre. (104)

Ruth Howard is the founding Artistic Director of Jumblied Theatre, a Toronto-based company inspired by her own work with communities, and by the community play form introduced to Canada from Britain by Dale Hamilton. Ruth creates multi-year and multi-faceted community arts residencies leading to large-scale interdisciplinary performances and events. She has designed collaborative community plays in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Enderby and Torquay and Manchester, England, worked across Canada as a set and costume designer, and taught at various universities, colleges and schools. She has won several awards for her work and productions, including a 2005 Toronto Community Foundation, "Vital People" award, and a 2007 Dora Nomination for costume design for *Bridge of One Hair*, for which production Jumblied was also awarded an Ontario Trillium Foundation "Great Grants" award.

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Terry Hunter is co-founder and Executive Director of Vancouver Moving Theatre with whom he has toured four continents and developed a unique form of drum dancing. A Jessie Award recipient, Terry was Producer of *In the Heart of a City: The Downtown Eastside Community Play*; *We're All in This Together: The Shadows Project*, and *A Downtown Eastside Romeo and Juliet*. Terry is Artistic Producer of the Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival; served as cultural development consultant on the new Leigh Square Community Arts Village (Port Coquitlam); and was a recipient of the 2008 British Columbia Community Achievement Award and the 2009 City of Vancouver Mayor's Arts Award (Community Art).

Keith McNair joined Jumblied as Managing Director after more than 20 years in Toronto's social development sector, including 9 years as Executive Director of Davenport Perth Neighbourhood Centre from where he worked with Ruth Howard and Jumblied Theatre to establish Arts4All. During the 1990s he was Artistic Director of the Peace Child Toronto/Volgorad project and writer/director of the Hillary Chronicles, a multimedia soap opera depicting the fall of the Harris government.

Judy Marcuse's career spans over forty years of professional work as a dancer, choreographer, director, producer, teacher, writer and lecturer in Canada and abroad. With many original works

for live performance and choreography for film and television, she has produced seven large-scale arts festivals. The five year issue-based *ICE*, *FIRE* and *EARTH* projects involved thousands of young and older people in Canada and overseas. Co-director of the new International Centre for Arts and Social Change (ICASC) with Simon Fraser University, she has received many honors, including Canada's two major choreographic awards and an honorary doctor of laws degree from SFU.

Bruce Ray, born in Williams Lake, now lives in the Downtown Eastside. He's been drawing and cartooning all his life, writes and illustrates newsletters, published a book of poetry, and presents exhibits of his art at Gallery Gachet. He has a history of mental illness, is diagnosed as having schizophrenia, is stable and under treatment. Bruce is a storyteller, whose art work comes out of his experiences of being an outsider. Over the years, he's learned to keep things simple—yet evoke complexities. His mental illness feeds him and keeps his imagination broad. He has been with the Gallery Gachet collective for nine years and is one of its governing members.

Cathy Stubington, based in Grindrod (Enderby) BC, is artistic director of Runaway Moon theatre, a professional theatre company specializing in innovative puppet theatre and multi-generational community art experiences that engage the imagina-

tion, offer alternative perspectives and bring together artists and public. A puppet designer, puppeteer, writer, singer, community-based artist, Cathy has produced theatre with puppets and actors in unusual settings for thirty years, and created touring works in Canada and Chiapas (Central America). As Runaway Moon's artistic director, she's originated projects engaging hundreds of people from all walks of life including the Enderby and District Community Play *Not the Way I Heard it* and *Enough is Enough*, a community shadow play on a Drive-in screen. Most recently Runaway Moon created a two year cycle of seasonal performances focused on locally grown food. Currently, in a partnership between her community and a health education program in Kenya, she's developing a new community art project celebrating water. www.runawaymoon.org

Savannah Walling is founding Artistic Director of Vancouver Moving Theatre, with whom she's toured four continents and created over forty productions. A theatre artist and playwright trained in music, dance, and mime, she collaborates with artists of many genres and traditions to create interdisciplinary repertoire influenced by Vancouver's Pacific Rim culture and her inner city neighbourhood. Walling now focuses on community-engaged artistic projects tailored for her inner city home of 30 years: co-founding the Strathcona Artist at Home Festival and Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival; overseeing (and co-writing) complex, multi-layered original productions that integrate localized content, accessible storytelling, spec-

tacle, live music (e.g. *The Downtown Eastside Community Play* and giant-screen shadow play *We're All In This Together*). She writes articles and lectures on VMT's interdisciplinary and community engaged practice at conferences and educational institutions (Canada, USA), and received a Jessie Richardson Award for Significant Artistic Achievement in Spectacle Design; the 2008 British Columbia Community Achievement Award, and the 2009 City of Vancouver Mayor's Arts Award (Community Art).

Will Weigler, a community-based theatre director, teacher and playwright for over 25 years, wrote the award-winning book *Strategies for Playbuilding: Helping Groups Translate Issues into Theatre* (Heinemann, 2001) and co-edited the book *We are Strong: A Guide to the Work of Popular Theatres Across America*. Will collaborated with the community of Darrington, Washington and members of the nearby Sauk-Suiattle First Nations band to create a large-scale musical play about their two communities (*Common Wealth*). Will has taught the course Making Things Happen – Community-based Arts as an Engine of Positive Change for the University of Victoria, and is currently a Teaching Assistant for the Theatre Department's Introduction to Applied Theatre. A doctoral candidate in Applied Theatre at UVic, his dissertation project involves researching how people's attitudes or preconceptions can be suddenly changed or challenged by the act of witnessing something presented on-stage in a play.

Jil p. weaving is an artist who for 30 years has explored and engaged with issues, artists, audiences, and community participants. She was a founding member of the Association for Noncommercial Culture, an artist-run collective; has created community-based arts projects and residencies; worked as a provincial researcher with the jointly funded Artists and Communities Pilot Funding Program (instigated by the Canada Council for the Arts); served on the BC Arts Council's Community Arts Advisory Committee and coordinated the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation's city-wide Artist-in-Residence Program. Currently she is Arts and Culture Coordinator for Vancouver Parks and Recreation.



Arts4All Essentials Institute (2008) – Jumblies Theatre



Bridge of One Hair - Jumblies Theatre

PRODUCERS

VANCOUVER MOVING THEATRE

(VMT) is a professional arts company founded in 1983 in the Downtown Eastside by Terry Hunter and Savannah Walling. VMT develops art that celebrates the power of the human imagination and spirit; creates shared experiences that bridge cultural traditions, social groups and artistic disciplines; and gives voice to residents of the Downtown Eastside and beyond. VMT researches and creates original interdisciplinary repertoire; produces multidisciplinary events, festivals and residencies for diverse audiences; provides cultural services, information, educational and legacy resources; operates with an attitude of cooperation and respect for community needs. They advance their art form by striving for a balance of experiment and accessibility, mixing high art with popular and community art: the resulting aesthetics is raw, refined and heart-felt. After touring internationally for 15 years,

VMT is now recognized for its pioneering arts-based community-development projects tailored with and for its Downtown Eastside community. In 2003, they co-produced with Carnegie Community Center *In the Heart of a City: The Downtown Eastside Community Play*. This dramatic catalyst established the Heart of the City Festival (2004-)—an annual multi-disciplinary celebration co-produced by VMT with over 40 community partners, hundreds of artists, a hundred events and over 30 locations – and launched a series of large scale productions including the giant screen shadow play *We're All In This Together* (2005-07), *A Downtown Eastside Romeo and Juliet* (2008) and *The Downtown Eastside Music Theatre Showcase* (2009). In addition to multiple Jessie Richardson theatre awards for their productions, the company was awarded the 2008 City of Vancouver Cultural Harmony Award.



In the Heart of a City: The Downtown Eastside Community Play – VMT/ Carnegie

JUMBLIES THEATRE is a Toronto-based company founded in 2001 by Ruth Howard. Jumbliés makes art in everyday and unexpected places with, for and about the people and stories found there, thus creating transient utopias and lasting ripples, saying, “everyone is welcome”, and grappling with the artistic and social implications of meaning it. Jumbliés undertakes multi-year residencies; forms cross-sector partnerships; employs and mentors artists; collaborates across disciplines and traditions, and moves through phases of research and development, creation, production and legacy. Jumbliés large-scale productions have included *Oy di velt vet vern yinger* (2008) with Camp Naivelt and remounted for the 2009 Mayworks Festival in Toronto; *Bridge of One Hair* in Etobicoke (2007), premiering at Harbourfront Centre’s New World Stage Festival; *Once a Shoreline* at Davenport Perth Neighbourhood Center (2004), and South Riverdale’s *Twisted Metal and Mermaid Tears* (2000). As a result of Jumbliés’ legacy

and sustainability phases, Arts4All (now in its 8th year) and MABELLEarts (the Etobicoke project, now in its 6th year) are thriving with new leaders, initiatives and events. Meanwhile Jumbliés is now in its second year of a new residency in East Scarborough. Responding to increasing demand from artists for apprenticeship, mentoring, training and professional development opportunities in community arts, Ruth and Jumbliés have developed a more formal training and mentoring thread, called the Jumbliés Studio, which has been running for over three years, with development funds from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Metcalf and Toronto Community Foundations, the Toronto Funding Network (through Tides Canada), the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Ontario and Toronto Arts Councils. One element of the Jumbliés Studio is Arts4All Essentials, a week-long orientation workshop, which has been adapted to a Vancouver setting with the Downtown Eastside Arts4All Institute.



Bridge of One Hair - Jumbliés Theatre

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

THE CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE is located at Hastings and Main in the heart of Vancouver's oldest neighbourhood, the Downtown Eastside. Home to Vancouver's first public library and museum, the Carnegie building has been a hub for community arts throughout its history. Operating as a community center since 1983, the doors are open 14 hours a day, seven days a week with facilitates that include the most utilized public library/reading room in the city, as well as ongoing writing, theatre and music programs. In 2006, the Carnegie Opera Project produced *Condemned – the Opera*, the first community opera created by, with and for the Downtown Eastside.

THE UKRAINIAN HALL's history dates back to 1928 when it was built as the Ukrainian Labour Temple at Pender and Hawks. From its founding, the centre sponsored a full slate of cultural and social activities. During the depression years, the hall became a focal point in struggles of the 1930's, serving as the organizational headquarters of the On-to-Ottawa Trek of 1935. Today the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians sponsor Vancouver's longest running folk orchestra, the Barvinok Choir, the AUUC School of Dancing, the semi-professional Dovbush Dancers ensemble and host concert events throughout the year.

GALLERY GACHET is a collectively run arts exhibition, studio and presentation space located in the Downtown Eastside. Unique in Canada, the gallery provides artists marginalized by their mental health illness, trauma or abuse experience with opportunities to exhibit, curate, perform, teach and develop leadership skills. Members are mentored and supported in their goals for developing sustainable arts practices and careers, while contributing to the artist run centre. Through the display of art and public discourse events, Gachet aims to make clear and more comprehensible issues related to mental health and promote avant-garde art.



Arts4All Essentials Institute (2008) – Jumblies Theatre

COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL OF VANCOUVER

For more than 60 years, CACV has been contributing to the cultural and community development of Vancouver by creating art projects that engage the community and facilitating, supporting, and advocating for initiatives, facilities, and programs that increase community participation in the arts. Our interests are to increase understanding of how the arts create community, grow our appreciation of our cultural differences, and engage the community in the art of developing community.

VANCOUVER BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

The Board's Arts and Culture mandate is guided by an arts policy, developed in 1993, that affirms the vision of a city where the arts are a part of everyday life; where the Board, through its community centers and parks, plays an active role in enabling citizens to learn and create; and where the city becomes a place in which the individual can experience a sense of belonging, see cultural traditions respected, and participate in building community.



Bridge of One Hair - Jumblies Theatre

Vancouver Moving Theatre

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604-628-5672

www.vancouvermovingtheatre.com and www.heartofthecityfestival.com

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CANADIAN COMMUNITY PLAYS

Back in 1991, Dale Hamilton and director Jon Oram brought to Canada an innovative collaborative community play form inspired by the work of British playwright Ann Jellicoe in the 1970's and the Colway Theatre Trust (now Claque Theatre). The British "community play" form, in the words of Ruth Howard, combined "theatre on an epic scale with a philosophy of whole-hearted social inclusion and an astonishing capacity for social change".

When Dale moved back to her hometown of Rockwood, Ontario, she discovered her family farm-land sold off to land developers and the whole rural community about to be superseded by commuter suburbs. While seeking a way to respond to this through her art and activism, she heard about the British community play movement and headed off to England to study with the Colway Theatre Trust, then directed by Oram. Greatly inspired by what she saw, she wrote and produced the first Canadian Colway-style collaborative community play, *The Spirit of Shivaree*. This ground-breaking production inspired several company members to run for Municipal Council and helped develop a new town plan; sparked community-arts activities ongoing to this day; and inspired through a chain-reaction the creation of a host of original collaborative community plays across the country.

Ruth Howard had the good fortune to be the costume designer for the *Spirit of Shivaree*, which united her interests in art, community-building and activism as never before. Ruth went on to design several community plays across Canada and in the U.K., and, at the same time, started to produce her own arts projects that both drew from and adapted the community play model.

Canadian adaptations of the form have been produced in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia (Enderby and Vancouver's Downtown Eastside), and new companies have sprung from its compelling aesthetics and values, for example Regina's *Common Weal* (founded by Rachael Van Fossen), Enderby's *Runaway Moon* (founded by Cathy Stubington), Ontario's *Everybody's Theatre Company* (founded by Dale Hamilton), and *Jumblies Theatre* (founded by Ruth Howard).

Incorporating a variety of disciplines from theatre arts to music, from opera to video production, from shadow screen to clown, from sewing to ceramics, from murals to performance art, from quilts to processions, from feasts to celebrations – community play projects arrive in all shapes and sizes, permutations and parallels – they're multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and very exciting.

- 1990 *The Spirit of Shivaree: The Eramosa Township Community Play*, Ontario
- 1992 *Pa'Ko'Pi'Ci'Wak: /The Gathering: The Calling Lakes Community Play*, Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask.
- 1998 *All Over the Map: Guelph/Eramosa Township Community Play*, Ontario
- 1999 *Not the Way I Heard It: The Enderby and District Community Play*, B.C.
- 2003 *In the Heart of a City: The Downtown Eastside Community Play*, Vancouver
- 2004 *Enough is Enough: A Community Shadow Play*, Enderby, B.C.
- 2004 *Once a Shoreline: Jumblies*, Davenport Perth Neighbourhood Centre, Toronto, Ontario
- 2007 *Bridge of One Hair: Jumblies*, Etobicoke, Toronto
- 2007 *We're All in This Together: The Shadows Project – Addiction and Recovery*, Vancouver
- 2008 *A Downtown Eastside Romeo and Juliet*, Vancouver



A Kernel of Truth – Runaway Moon Theatre

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Guest Artistic Director and lead facilitator

Producer and facilitator

Coordinator

Video documentation and social event

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Jumblies Associate Facilitator

Art Talk: What's it all about?

Book Launch: Valerie Methot

Community Partnerships Panellists

Moderator Michael Clague

Making Room at the Table Panellists

Moderator Amir Ali Alibhai

An Evening of Talk and Documentaries

Moderator Margot Butler

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THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

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Once a Shoreline – Jumblies Theatre