

Jumblies Theatre

Annual Report July – June 2004/05



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Overview:

Our 2004/05 season was a time of transitions – parting ways with one community and getting to know a new one: returning us to the start of our multi-year residency cycle. Because it is not a big production year, we have time for artistic reflection, networking, outreach and strengthening ourselves as an organization.

Arts For All, Davenport Perth Residency

We maintained a part time presence at Davenport Perth Neighbourhood Centre, supporting and implementing the following:

- **Documentation and Archiving:** Consolidation of four years of project materials
- **Evaluation and Visioning:** Gathering feedback and wishes for the future
- **Fundraising:** long and short-term fundraising strategies and implementation



- **Transformation of Sanctuary Space:** Planning and fundraising for renovation of Sanctuary to become a permanent community arts workshop and performance space
- **Transition of Project Management/Direction:** by December 2005
- **Weekly Arts Drop-In:** Monday afternoons, Intergenerational arts activities
- **Monthly Art Activities within regular DPNC Programs (seniors, adults, youth)**
- ***Your Name is Written in the Stars:*** A team of theatre artists worked with community participants to create a performance based on naming stories.
- **Community Mosaic Project:** design and creation of outdoor mosaic, with *Red Pepper Spectacle Arts* and Vancouver artist, Glen Anderson.
- **Spanish Seniors' Dance Troupe, and Audio Youth Training Project:** Initiatives that were nurtured by through *Arts For All*, which are now self-sufficient elements

Etobicoke Project, Phase 1– Bridge of One Hair

Our new project is taking place in Central Etobicoke, with the main partners being Montgomery's Inn, and Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC). The project builds bridges between the Inn and it's immediate neighbourhood, especially Mabelle, a nearby TCHC, high-rise complex. The project is unfolding in four phases:

YEAR 1 (2004/05) – Research, Development, Outreach, Artistic Exploration

YEAR 2 (2005/06) – Artistic Creation, Presentation of Work-in-Progress

YEAR 3 (2006/07) – Production and Performance

YEAR 4 (2007/08) – Legacy and Sustainability

The Community: The main cultural groups living at Mabelle are Somali, Caribbean, Korean, and Eastern European. The overall neighbourhood contains extremes on both sides of the economic spectrum: with the wealthy Kingsway and a golf course being moments away from the densely populated Toronto Community Housing buildings, and the Inn placed anachronistically in the middle.



Activities: Artistic activities during the research & development phase included:

- Dec.: A winter parade with the Inn and the local BIA
- March to June: Community Mapping and Oral History workshops with various senior's and adult groups
- April, May: Youth theatre training project
- May, June: Weekly Somali dance group
- *Where I'm From*, June 4: A weeklong installation placing the creations of the youth project in the Montgomery's Inn museum. The opening event included a parade from Mabelle to the Inn, Irish and African music, Somali dance and food, and a short performance by the youth project.



Artists:

Artists working with Jumblies Theatre in 04/05:

- Ruth Howard – Artistic Director
- Faye Dupras – Assistant Artistic Director
- Loree Lawrence – Youth Project Director
- Leah Houston – Theatre Artist
- Varrick Grimes – Director
- Liz Rucker – Writer
- Noah Kenneally – Puppeteer/Circus Artist
- Sharada Eswar – Storyteller
- Habon Ali – Videographer
- Mariam Adam – Somali Dancer
- John Vainstein – Videographer
- Dan Harris – Technical Director
- Chris Clifford – Technical Consultant
- Malina Bondi – Assistant Designer
- Mary Ford – Costume Maker
- Red Pepper Specatle – Mosaic Project
- Herry Renwick – Drummer

Educational Projects:

Youth Theatre Project: This project took place in from April to June 05, lead by artist Loree Lawrence, and involved Mabelle youth in our artistic development process.

School Projects: We implemented workshops in two primary schools in the DPNC neighbourhood, and made initial contact with Islington Community School (the primary school that serves Mabelle), with the intention of offering workshops there in 05/06.

Conferences, Networks, Critical Discourse:

- *Documenting Engagement* video suite distributed internationally
- *Arts For All* project included in IFS field book on “Social Inclusion” initiatives
- Ruth Howard nominated for Urban Institute Leadership Award
- Critical essay from *Off The Radar* Symposium placed on Canada Council Website
- Continued communications with *Community Play Exchange* and *Raucous Caucus*
- Oct. 04: R. Howard visited B.C. to see community arts shows & meet with producers
- Oct. 04: Guelph Community Play Symposium – Jumblies Theatre contributed
- Oct. 04: Jumblies presents to York University Community Arts Symposium
- Nov. to Feb. – R. Howard makes presentations at OCAD, Brock and York Universities
- Dec.04: R. Howard participates in Artist in Residence Retreat, Regina
- Feb.05: R. Howard attends *Performance Creation Canada* Conference, B.C.
- March 12: Training workshop for St. Catharine’s Arts Board given by R. Howard
- May 05: R. Howard gives workshop at Community Arts Ontario annual conference
- Spring 05: Jumblies’ Project selected as one of 5 nation-wide projects to be presented at Harbourfront Centre in 2006 through the *Fresh Ground* Commissioning Program

Training and Internships:

In 04/05 we provided the following internship/training opportunities:

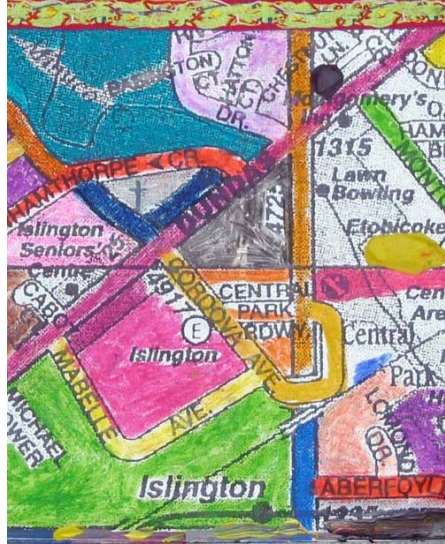
- Faye Dupras: Asst. Artistic Director for year (Metcalf intern)
- Leah Houston: 20 week Artistic Direction Internship (Theatre Ontario)
- OCAD Interns: 2 students from M. Fernandez's Community Arts course
- Margo Charlton: practicum for Masters and ISIS studies
- Youth Internships: paid positions for 4 Mabelle youth

We are also planning to develop a new community arts training program that will be piloted in our coming seasons.

Partners:

Partners formed and/or maintained in 04/05 include:

- Davenport Perth Neighbourhood Centre
- The Stop Community Food Centre
- The South Asian Women's Centre
- Carleton Village Public School
- St. Mary and the Angels Catholic School
- Davenport Perth Community Church
- Toronto Community Housing Corporation
- Montgomery's Inn
- Albion Neighbourhood Services
- Village of Islington BIA
- Islington Seniors' Centre
- Changing Ways Violence Prevention
- Art Gallery of Ontario
- VIVA! Youth Singers
- *Voulgarii* Video Productions
- York University Dept. of Environmental Studies



Funding

We now have annual/ organizational funding from the Toronto Arts Council and the Ontario Arts Council. We also received project funding during 04/05 from:

- The Canada Council for the Arts
- Canadian Heritage, Capacity Building Program
- The Social Investment Fund (TCHC)
- The Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Theatre Ontario
- The Laidlaw Foundation
- The Metcalf Foundation
- The S. & S. Bronfman *Urban Issues* Program
- The John McKellar Foundation
- The Metro Credit Union
- Ontario Works Initiatives
- *Job Connect*

Photos by Michaela Otto