

## RUTH HOWARD - Selected Credits – October 2019



2001- Present: **Founding Artistic Director of Jumblies Theatre & Arts**, a Toronto-based company with a national and international reach. Jumblies makes art in everyday and extraordinary places, with, for and about the people and stories found there, undertaking multi-year residencies and interdisciplinary projects and productions, involving dozens of artists and hundreds of people of mixed ages, cultures, abilities and economic levels, as well as sparking and supporting a network of offshoots & running an integrated learning & mentorship program.

### Community-engaged Residencies & Productions: (Role: Concept Creator, AD, Designer, Producer)

- 2018-19 **Odaabanaag** (a new musical & interdisciplinary work with Soundstreams), **Who Knew?** (telling personal stories through mixed art forms with Bernard Betel Centre for Seniors, North York), **Grounds for Goodness**, an exploration on the theme of social goodness/hope.
- 20013-18 CityPlace Residency, based at The Ground Floor (132 Fort York Blvd):  
Projects including: Talking Treaties, Under the Concrete, Soft CityPlace, What Was My Backyard?, leading to the **Touching Ground Festival**, June 2017.
- 2008-12 East Scarborough Residency, based at Cedar Ridge Creative Centre  
Projects including: Nesting, 3 Lands of Scarborough, Family Suite, culminating production: **Like An Old Tale**, Dec. 2011 – resulting Offshoot: Community Arts Guild.
- 2006-09 Naivelt Residency, Brampton, with the United Jewish People's Order  
Projects including: the 12<sup>th</sup> Jewish Children's Community Re-enactment & production of **Oy Di Velt Vet Vern Yinger**, at Camp Naivelt (2008) & Mayworks Festival, Toronto (2009).
- 2005-08 Etobicoke Residency, based at Mabelle Ave. Toronto Community Housing  
Projects including: Where I'm From, Tea & Bridges, culminating production: **Bridge of One Hair**, May 2007 (at Harbourfront Centre's World Stage) – resulting Offshoot: MABELLEarts.
- 2001-05 Davenport West Residency, based at Davenport Perth Neighbourhood Centre  
Projects including: Davenportraits, More or The Magic Fish, Land of 3 Doors, culminating production: **Once A Shoreline**, May 2004 - resulting Offshoot: Art4All.
- 2000-01 Lawrence Heights Residency, culminating production: **I'm Tapingi Too!**
- 1998-00 South Riverdale Residency, culminating production: **Twisted Metal & Mermaids Tears**.

### Jumblies Touring Projects: (Role: Concept Creator, AD, Designer, Producer)

- 2015 **Train of Thought**, 7-week cross-country journey of community arts and (re)conciliation with 75 travelling artists, 25 stops, 95 partners & hundreds of participants.
- 2016-18 **Four Lands**, interdisciplinary evolving galleries in North Bay/Nipissing, Northwest Ontario, Nova Scotia, Vancouver, Saskatchewan, Winnipeg, Montreal, Toronto & Art Gallery of Mississauga, Feb. to April 2018.

### Other Independent & Pre-Jumblies Projects & Productions:

- 2013-15 Costume and Set Designer, Aanmitaagzi's *When Will You Rage*, Choreographer Penny Couchie, performed at Capital Centre North Bay & Harbourfront Centre's Planet Indigenus.
- 2014 Concept/Lead Artist, *Toronto Seder Project*, an adapted Passover Seder telling Toronto's Indigenous history.
- 2010 Librettist, *Being Margolia*, composed by Martin van de Ven, commissioned & performed by the Toronto Children's Chorus, about the history and voices of Toronto's Jewish Left.
- 2002 Production Designer, *The Landau Papers*, new opera by Rachel Feldberg, Random Acts, Leeds, U.K.
- 2000 Production Designer: *E-Time*, Salford Community Play, U.K.
- 1999 Costume Designer: *Not The Way I Heard It*, Enderby Community Play, BC
- 1998 Co-Creator, Designer: *Arum Dem Fayer*, outdoor Pageant at Camp Naivelt, Brampton
- 1998 Production Designer: *All Over The Map*, Everyone's Theatre Company, Guelph County
- 1997 Production Designer: *Pilgrim In Time*, for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. James Cathedral

1995 Set & Costume Designer: *Torbay Tempest*, Torquay Community Play, Devon, U.K.  
1993 Costume & Puppet Designer, *Many Hands*, Blyth Community Play, Blyth Festival Ontario.  
1992 Set, Mask & Puppet Designer: *Pa'Ko'Pi'Ci'Wak*, Fort Quappelle Community Play, Sask.  
1990 Costume, Mask & Puppet Designer: *Spirit of Shivaree*, Rockwood Community Play, Ontario  
1987-01 Freelance Theatre Designer across Canada including Montreal's Black Theatre Workshop, Young People's Theatre, National Arts Centre, Regina's Globe Theatre, Caravan Farm Theatre, Magus Theatre, Sudbury Theatre Centre, Alberta Theatre Projects, Catalyst Theatre, Western Canada Theatre Co.

### **Teaching:**

**Jumblies Studio:** Founder (in 2006): an integrated & itinerant program for learning and mentorship in arts that engage with and create community, including courses, workshops, internships, publications & resources.

**Colleges and Universities:** Part-time Faculty, Centennial College (2018-19); Guest & sessional faculty at colleges and universities including University of Toronto, Concordia, Guelph, York, Brock, NSCAD & Queens Universities; George Brown & Sheridan Colleges; Resident Designer, Mount Allison University (1988-89).

**Schools:** Numerous projects in primary, junior and secondary schools.

**Publications & Presentations:** Many publications and conference presentations in Canada, US & UK.

### **Education:**

Sept. 1982 to May 1986 The National Theatre School of Canada, Design, under Francois Barbeau.

Sept. 1977 to May 1981 University of Toronto. 4-yr B.A. in English, with 'Special Distinction'.

Sept. 1975 to May 1976 Eastbourne College of Art and Design, England, Foundation Course.

### **Awards:**

2018 – Recipient of Toronto Arts Foundation Celebration of Cultural Life Award

2015 - finalist for *Margo Bindhardt and Rita Davies Award* for Cultural Leadership (Toronto Arts Foundation)

2012 - *George Luscombe Award* for Mentorship (Dora Awards)

2012 - *City Soul Award* for Cultural Leadership, Canadian Urban Institute

2012 – Ontario Trillium Foundation province-wide *Great Grants Award* for Jumblies Studio

2007 - Ontario Trillium Foundation *Great Grants Award* to Jumblies for *Bridge of One Hair*

2007 - *Dora* nomination: Outstanding Costume Design for *Bridge of One Hair*

2005 - *Vital People Award*, Toronto Community Foundation

2002 - Community Arts Ontario, *Best Practices Award*, for *More or The Magic Fish*

2000 - *Our Millennium Award*, City of Toronto Cultural Services, for South Riverdale Lives and Legends

2000 - South Riverdale Community Health Centre - *Citizen of the Year Award*

### **Selected Consultancy & Advisory Committees:**

2019 – Consultancy for Tangled Arts, through leadership transition (City of Toronto Live Arts Mentorship Program);

2010-17 - Consultancy (organizational, project, artistic) to Community Arts Organizations, including, In Toronto: Arts4All, MABELLEarts, Making Room, Community Arts Guild, Red Dress Productions, Fixt Point, Ahuri Theatre, AMY Project; In Ontario: Aanmitaagzi (Nipissing First Nation), Thinking Rock (Algoma), Myths & Mirrors (Sudbury), Ottawa Valley Creative Arts Open Studio; In Canada: Vancouver Moving Theatre, Common Weal (Saskatchewan), Contactivity (Montreal), Wonder'Neath (Halifax), and many other organizations, projects & artists.

2008 to 2015 - Chair of Toronto Arts Council Community Arts Assessment Committee

2005 - 2008 - York University, Community Arts Practice Program Advisory Committee Member

2005 to 2007 - Art Gallery of Ontario - Arts Access Project, Advisory Committee Member

### **Board Memberships:**

2019 – Aanmitaagzi (Nipissing First Nation)

2011 to 2019 – Fixt Point Theatre, Founding Member

2008 to 2015 - Toronto Arts Council

1992 to 1994 - Common Weal, Regina, Founding Member

2015 to Present - Shadowland Theatre

2003 to 2005 - Community Arts Ontario

1990 to 1993 - Associated Designers of Canada