



ANNUAL

REPORT

2015 / 2016



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Cover Photo: Olivia Hutt, Photo by Moonrider Productions

CHERYLE BEAUMONT

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

The past year has seen Green Thumb consolidate and develop the Schoolhouse site. Rental groups and use of the working space not only increased, but those using the space also returned and booked it again. The functionality of the space, the support of staff and its fitness for rehearsal is beginning to find favour with a number of groups. Marketing its best use on the east side of Vancouver will be a next goal for Green Thumb.

The Board undertook a Strategic Planning process this year to create a roadmap for the organization for at least the next five years. While excellent planning has gone into each step of Green Thumb's development over the years, we have reached the point where we need a formal Strategic Plan. The Board is engaged in the process of completing that plan, having re-examined mission and vision and our place in the market and the profession. We analyzed our strengths that need to be sustained and our challenges that need addressing. Prioritizing the goal areas and finalizing the planning document is the work currently before the Board. A major element that has arisen from the process and our debate is the need to expand and adjust our business model to respond to the current landscape of theatre, youth theatre and our changing economy. It is thoughtful, careful work that will stand Green Thumb in good stead for years to come.

The Board has also attended to succession on the Board of Directors. Robert Kosnica joined us last year at this time and this year we welcome Kathryn Aberle. Both bring professional backgrounds and knowledge to the board that allows for fulsome discussion and thorough consideration in decisions. The skill and depth of our professional staff continues to grow and it's the secret to Green Thumb's success. Their dedication and commitment guides each production and initiative to success. On behalf of all of the Board I want to acknowledge and thank our staff and the artists who work with us, continuing with productions of the exemplary calibre Green Thumb has become known for. It has been a good year for Green Thumb, full of excellent and meaningful work, maturation of the organization and a solid foundation for the future.

Cheryle Beaumont

Green Thumb Theatre Board President



2015 / 2016

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cheryle Beaumont
Victoria Henderson
Amy Peck
Talia Rosales
Robert Kosnica
Maureen McEvoy
Daniel Paterson
Amber Orchard

Board President
Past President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member

STAFF

Patrick McDonald
Nadine Carew
Shawn MacDonald
Michele Frazer
Michael Kleinberg-Bassel
Aliya Griffin
Rachel Aberle
Susan Cai

Artistic Director
General Manager
Artistic Associate
Tour Manager
Production Manager
Tour Coordinator
Community Engagement
Bookkeeper



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2015/16 SEASON

It seems incredible that Green Thumb has been creating and touring theatre for young people for 40 years! Incredible because I think our work and the dedication of our board, staff and creative personnel continues to grow stronger as we age.

The 2015/16 season was highlighted by two premiere productions, "Still/Falling" (high school touring) by Rachel Aberle and "The Crowd" (mainstage) by George F. Walker, produced in partnership with Studio 58. Our season was rounded out by elementary school tours of Michele Riml's "The Invisible Girl" and Dave Deveau's "Celestial Being".

"Still/Falling" is a funny and very moving look at one teenage girl's struggle with anxiety and depression. This solo show featured emerging actor Olivia Hutt, and her performance was superb, filled with nuance and honesty. I was especially pleased that one of the country's finest designers, Ken Macdonald, was able to take on the project. His all-white set is stunning and provides the perfect projection surface for Cameron Fraser's video design.

"Still/Falling" was a featured showcase at both Ontario Contact and the IPAY conference. The response to the production at these conferences, and at schools and public venues has been overwhelmingly positive, evoking strong emotional reactions from audience members young and old.

George F. Walker's "The Crowd" was a Green Thumb commission produced in association with Studio 58. The production was great fun to work on and featured professional actor Leslie Jones working alongside a large and talented group of students. I am very happy that as a result of our work a large cast Canadian script written specifically for university aged actors is now available for theatre schools worldwide. And the play deals with the plight of the working poor to boot!

It should be noted that our productions had extensive tours outside of BC and included school tours of Saskatchewan and theatre stops in Calgary, Vermont, Washington, New York City and several Ontario cities. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Tour Coordinator Michele Frazer who has worked so diligently for Green Thumb for the past five seasons to make sure our work is seen by as many people as possible. Thank you and good-luck with your new job.

And finally a big thanks to Nadine, the Board and staff for all the support you provide.

Patrick McDonald
Artistic Director



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

2015/16 SEASON

2015/16 was a big year for Green Thumb and a big year for me within the company. September 3rd, 1975 was our date of incorporation, making September 3rd, 2015 Green Thumb's 40th Anniversary. August 1st 2016 marked my 5th anniversary as General Manager and September 26th, 2016 marks 10 years with Green Thumb Theatre. But my history with the company goes back almost as long as the company has been producing theatre for the young people of British Columbia. As someone who grew up in Vancouver, Green Thumb Theatre was my first experience of live, professional theatre brought directly into my school.

And here we are, 40 years later, still producing some of the finest theatre for people of all ages in the world.

2015/16 was an exemplary year that showcased the breadth of work Green Thumb Theatre produces. We premiered two new works, one by emerging playwright Rachel Aberle and one by established writer George F Walker. We partnered with Studio 58, in celebration of both our milestone anniversaries, to produce George's play, "The Crowd", as a model of how professional theatre companies can work with post-secondary institutions to enrich student's learning experience. Additionally, we toured the very successful "Celestial Being" into the US and brought back a Green Thumb classic - "The Invisible Girl" - to tour BC Elementary Schools.

Throughout the season, we had many different groups utilizing our beautiful rehearsal halls, and in the Spring of 2016, we launched our Spring Break Drama Camps.

The statistics contained in this report show the reach of our impact. The number of people who see our shows, the distances we travel and the number of communities we visit. In 40 years, we have performed more than 15,000 times to more than 4 Million people. I find that awe inspiring.

As I write this, all around me is the sound of construction, as Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School's masonry building is being repaired following a devastating fire just a few weeks ago. Because of the fire, the school is closed this year. It sad to not have the noise and activity of the students that we are so accustomed to.

This site that we are on, and the school at Carleton have been the heart of the Renfrew-Collingwood Community for many, many years. As this neighbourhood changes along with the rest of Vancouver, it will be interesting to see what happens and what part Green Thumb has to play in all of it.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who makes Green Thumb run year after year-the Board of Directors for their guidance and dedication, all of our supporters -government, private foundations, corporate partners, individual donors, and of course, the amazing staff of Green Thumb who really keep things running! A special thanks and farewell to Michele Frazer, who has been with us as our Tour Manager for the last 5 years-you will be missed!

Many thanks,

Nadine Carew
General Manager

YEAR AT A GLANCE

2015/16 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS



CELESTIAL BEING

51

Number of Performances



13,551

Audience Attendance

2250 km

Distance Travelled



STILL / FALLING

68

Number of Performances

19,526

Audience Attendance



2385 km

Distance Travelled



INVISIBLE GIRL

57

Number of Performances

18,490

Audience Attendance

5826 km

Distance Travelled



170+

Performances across
Canada!

51,500+

Audience members took
in our shows!

10,450+

km travelled throughout
the season!



IN 2015/16 WE WENT TO...

Abbotsford
 Aldergrove
 Armstrong
 Ashcroft
 Balcarres
 Brampton
 Burlington
 Burnaby
 Calgary
 Cawston
 Chase
 Clearwater
 Coldstream
 Coquitlam
 Courtenay
 Cumberland
 Delta

Lumsden
 Lytton
 Maple Ridge
 Mill Bay
 Mission
 Montreal
 Moose Jaw
 New Westminster
 New York
 North Vancouver
 Okanagan Falls
 Oliver
 Ottawa
 Parksville
 Port Alberni
 Port Coquitlam
 Prince George

Edmonds
 Enderby
 Englefeld
 Estevan
 Flushing
 Fort Langley
 Kamloops
 Kamsack
 Keremeos
 Kingston
 Langenburg
 Langley
 Leader
 Leask
 Lillooet
 London

Regina
 Richmond
 Saanich
 Salmon Arm
 Saskatoon
 Shaunavon
 Sparwood
 Spiritwood
 Stanley Mission
 Surrey
 Thunder Bay
 Ucluelet
 Vancouver
 Victoria
 West Vancouver
 Weyburn

2015/16 FINANCIALS

REVENUES

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

\$569,550

EARNED REVENUE

Tour & Box Office	\$154,381
Rental Income	\$15,751
Fees from workshops, classes & camps	\$2,930
Endowment & Investment	\$454
Agency	\$1,810
Sundry	\$4,801

SUBTOTAL

\$180,127

CONTRIBUTED REVENUES

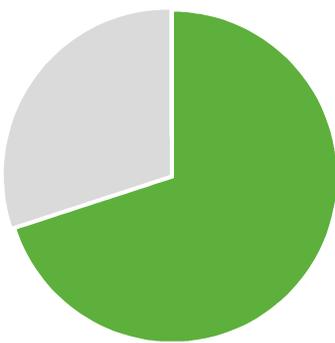
Foundations	\$43,000
Corporations	\$15,000
Individuals	\$6,858

SUBTOTAL

\$64,858

TOTAL REVENUE

\$814,535



GOVERNMENT FUNDING
70%



EARNED REVENUE
22%



CONTRIBUTED REVENUE
8%

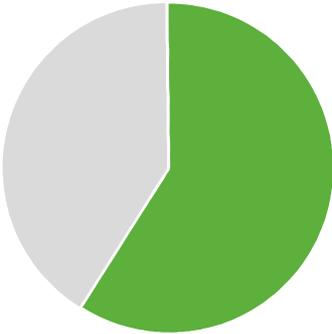


EXPENSES

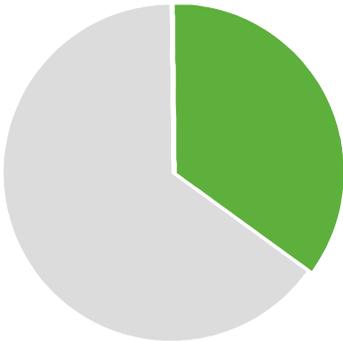
Program Expenses \$480,718
Administrative Expenses \$285,317
Facility & Amoritization \$45,988

TOTAL EXPENSES \$812,023

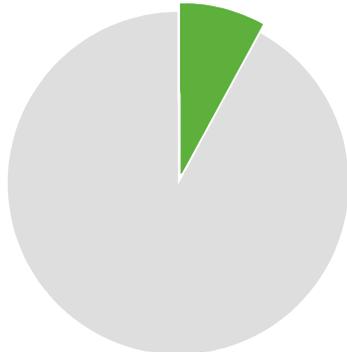
TOTAL REVENUE \$814,535
TOTAL EXPENSES \$812,023
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) \$2,512



PROGRAM EXPENSES
59%



ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES
35%



FACILITY & AMORITIZATION
6%

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On May 16th we had the opportunity to celebrate four decades of great Vancouver theatre at The Post at 750, with our friends at Touchstone Theatre, who were also celebrating their 40th Anniversary this season. Mark Halliday of Moonrider Productions grabbed photos of some of the many people who have worked with each company. Here are just a few... The list was long!





OUR PRODUCTIONS

2015 / 2016

invisible girl

by michele riml



FALL BC TOUR

SYNOPSIS

Ali isn't really invisible...In fact she used to be part of "The Ultimates", the most popular group in Grade 5. Then she made a BIG mistake. Now all her best friends ignore her. But Ali realizes she's not the only one who feels this way... As Ali begins to navigate her school without her pack of best friends, she starts to see all different kinds of kids she'd never really noticed before. **The Invisible Girl** is a smart and funny look at our culture's preoccupation with fashion, beauty and popularity. It's about being yourself and standing up for what's right, even when that means standing up to your friends.

Invisible Girl toured extensively throughout the Lower Mainland in the fall of 2016, and also made stops on Vancouver Island including Mill Bay and Victoria, and in BC's interior in communities including Kamloops, Oliver, Clearwater and Prince George.



Caitlin McFarlane in Invisible Girl



PRODUCTION CREDITS

Playwright	Michele Riml
Director	Patrick McDonald
Ali	Caitlin McFarlane
Stage Manager	Dana Paul
Set Design	Ken MacDonald

STATISTICS

No. of Audience:	18,490
No. of Performances:	57
No. of KM Travelled:	5,862

SUPPORTED BY





Celestial Being

by Dave Deveau



SPRING/FALL CANADIAN & US TOUR

SYNOPSIS

Celeste is having a hard time at school after being diagnosed with Asperger's. Isolated from her former friends, she decides she must be from outer space. Celeste knows there is a whole world of people who are just like her up in the stars, so she starts building a spaceship to bring her back to her home planet. That's when Celeste meets Martin, a new boy at school, who wants to help build the rocket. Together Celeste and Martin discover how meaningful friendship can be when it is built on a foundation of acceptance and trust. **Celestial Being** explores the world of a young girl with a big imagination and her struggle to make social connections. As we see the world through her eyes, we see the tremendous colour and joy that her inner world presents, and come to realize that seeing things differently can be a wonderful gift.

In 2016 **Celestial Being** was performed across Saskatchewan, throughout the Lower Mainland, at the Calgary International Children's Festival, the Vancouver International Children's Festival, in Edmonds, Washington and at Flushing Town Hall in Queens, New York City!



Jordan Jenkins & Katey Hoffman, Photo by Moonrider Productions

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Playwright	Dave Deveau
Director	Patrick McDonald
Celeste	Lauren Jackson / Katey Hoffman
Martin	Jordan Jenkins
Stage Manager	Susan Miyagishima
Set, Props & Costume Designer	Drew Facey
Sound Designer	Patrick Pennefather

STATISTICS

No. of Audience:	13,551
No. of Performances:	51
No. of KM Travelled:	2250

SUPPORTED BY



STILL / FALLING

BY RACHEL ABERLE



SPRING CANADIAN TOUR

SYNOPSIS

Nina has a great life. She loves her family, she does well in school, and her friends are awesome. But suddenly Nina starts feeling... off, and she finds herself slipping into a dark reality she cannot understand, let alone articulate it to the people around her. **Still/Falling** follows Nina as she tries to come to terms with what it means to struggle with anxiety and depression, and to rise above it with as much strength, and as few scars, as possible. A realistic, honest, and biting funny look at the difference between 'teen angst' and mental illness and the ways vulnerable kids can start to find their way out of the dark.

In its inaugural tour, **Still/Falling** was performed in Montreal at the 2016 International Performing Arts for Youth Conference, at the Persephone Theatre in Saskatoon and at secondary schools across Southern Ontario. In BC, the show continued to tour secondary schools in the Lower Mainland and several communities on Vancouver Island including Cumberland, Courtenay, Victoria, Parksville, Ucluelet and Port Alberni and select communities in the Okanagan including Armstrong, Enderby and Salmon Arm.



Olivia Hutt, Photo by Moonrider Productions



PRODUCTION CREDITS

Playwright	Rachel Aberle
Director	Patrick McDonald
Nina	Olivia Hutt
Stage Manager	Heather Thompson
Apprentice Stage Manager	Geoff Jones
Set Design	Ken MacDonald
Video Design	Cameron Fraser

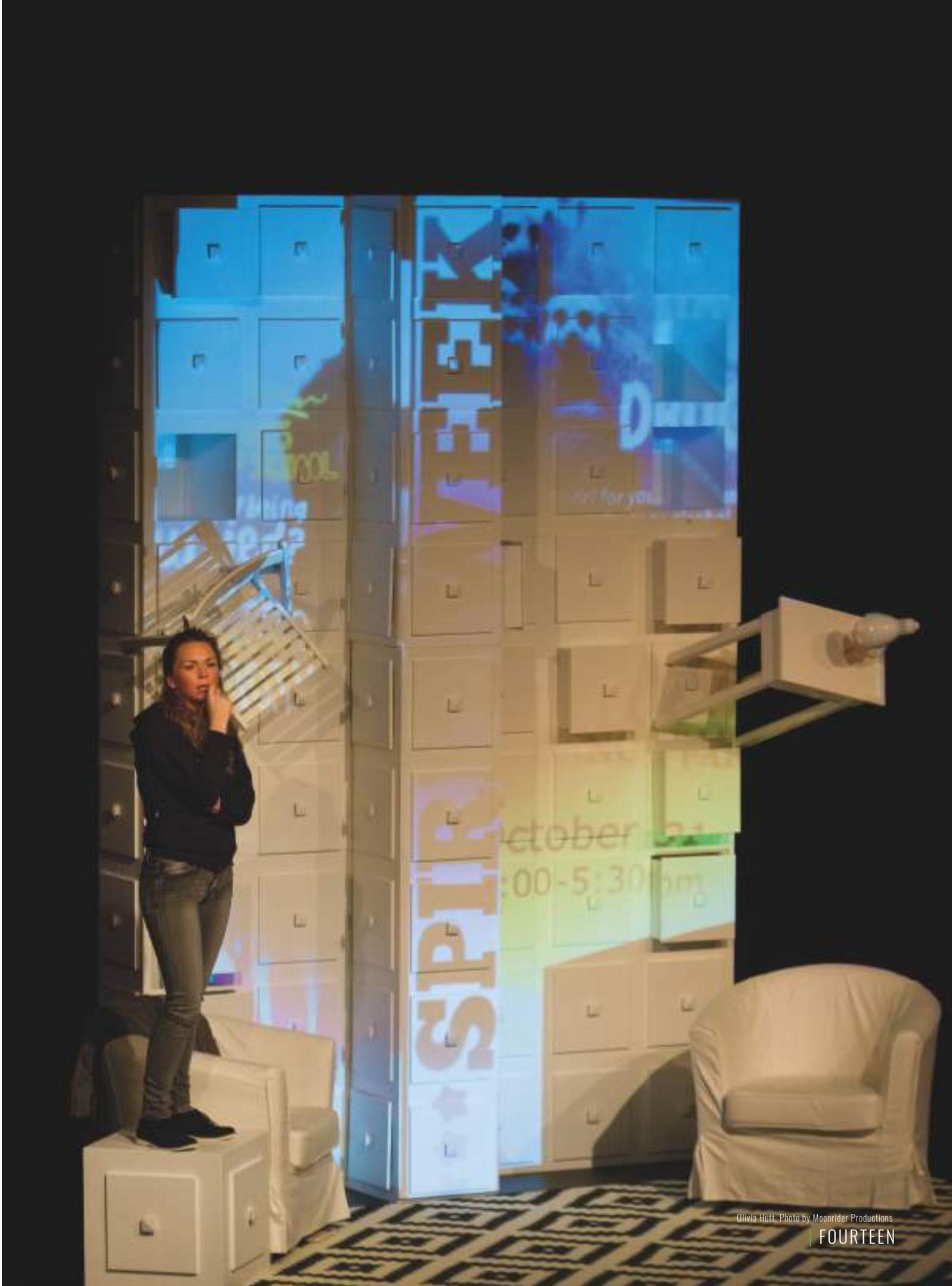
STATISTICS

No. of Audience:	19,526
No. of Performances:	68
No. of KM Travelled:	2385

SUPPORTED BY



diamond
FOUNDATION



THE CROWD

BY GEORGE F. WALKER



STUDIO 58 THEATRE

SYNOPSIS

A wedding. An arrest. A celebration. A snitch. A little gang warfare. Beyonce's greatest hits. A storm. The apocalypse? A zombie. Not actually a zombie, just a homeless person. Is there any room for love? In THE CROWD we find Tina and Bobby in deep trouble, and it's anyone's guess how they'll get out of it. The beloved young couple from TOUGH! and MOSS PARK continue the struggle to find their place in the world. With help from friends Jill, Sandy and Ricky, and a surprise visit from an undercover cop, they might figure it out this time.



Nathan Kay, Camille Legg, Quinn Cartwright, Amanda Testini, Photo by David Cooper, courtesy Studio 58

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Playwright	George F. Walker
Director	Patrick McDonald
Set & Prop Design	Pam Johnston
Costume Design	Jessica Oostergo
Lighting Design	Gerald King

Featuring the acting company of Studio 58 and Leslie Jones

STATISTICS

No. of Students:	14
No. of Audience:	1,028
No. of Performances:	18

SUPPORTED BY



vancouver
foundation



PROJECT

The 2015/16 Season marked Green Thumb Theatre's 40th Anniversary and Studio 58's 50th. In celebration of these two landmark seasons, the two organizations teamed up to bring life to a new, large cast Canadian play, written by celebrated playwright George F. Walker, a Member of the Order of Canada and recipient of the Governor General's Performing Art's Award for Lifetime Achievement. Green Thumb Theatre would undertake the commissioning and development of the piece, which would take place from the summer of 2015 through to the final production of the play in March of 2016, and would include a workshop with the students at Studio 58 who would be cast in the final production. Studio 58 would provide funding, rehearsal and performance space for the production in March. The piece would be directed by Green Thumb Theatre's Artistic Director, Patrick McDonald.

GOALS

There were three primary goals in this project. The first was to create a new Canadian play with a large cast, something relatively unheard of in Canada's contemporary theatre scene. The second goal was to provide all students involved with parts that would showcase their work and be memorable to the audience. Too often in theatre school productions, many of the students are relegated to the background, as there simply aren't enough parts to go around. Finally, the project would give students a feel for what it is like to work on a brand new script, which would continue to be developed and fine tuned throughout the rehearsal process. Working on new scripts is a central part of most Canadian actors' careers, but it something that many schools are not able to give tangible training in, as they primarily work with pre-published material.

SPRING BREAK DRAMA CAMP



In March of 2016, Green Thumb launched our inaugural Spring Break Drama Camps. Intended as a pilot project to gauge the suitability of our facilities and interest from families in the community, the camp operated as a half-day program, with students spending half the morning doing improv classes and half the morning in speech arts. Local actors Ella Simon and Kaitlin Williams were hired as teachers.

Our first year of camp programming was very successful. After some worry over a lack of early interest, enrollment picked up in the two weeks prior to the commencement of camp, and we had enough students to launch. Students were divided by age into a younger group comprised of students in grades 1-3 and an older group in grades 4-7. Feedback from both students and parents was consistent, and articulated that the camps were fun and helped build confidence, and that they would be interested in future education programming at Green Thumb.

Following the success of last year's camps, we will be programming Spring Break camps again this coming year, with the aim of strengthening and expanding the programming launched last year. The hope is to also be able to launch Green Thumb's first ever Summer Drama Camps in the summer of 2017.



RENTALS

Green Thumb's move into the Carleton School Houses three years ago gave us a permanent home with rehearsal space we desperately needed. In the years since our move, this space has also provided Green Thumb with an important revenue stream through the rental of our rehearsal halls.

In 2015-16 we rented our halls frequently, to arts and community groups from throughout Vancouver. The halls were rented as rehearsal and audition space, for arts and culture workshops, and for use as meeting spaces. Our renters included several of our friends and colleagues from within the Vancouver theatre community, including Zee Zee Theatre, Twenty Something Theatre, Patrick Street Productions, Theatre Terrific, Delinquent Theatre and Bard on the Beach. We were also able to host former Green Thumb Artistic Associate Courtenay Dobbie for Caravan Farm Theatre's Vancouver auditions for their summer show. All in all, our rentals this year boosted Green Thumb's revenue by over \$15,000.

In addition to paid rentals, we were also able to offer greatly subsidized or free rehearsal space to select emerging and independent companies including The Elbow Theatre, Slamming Door Collective, Speak Easy Theatre and Osimous Theatre. Green Thumb also provided subsidized or free use of the space to local organizations and community groups, on the understanding that those arrangements could be changed in the case of interest from a paying renter.

One group of note is a group of elderly residents from the neighbourhood who meet weekly to have coffee and connect outside the home. We believe supporting these kinds of events is an important way for Green Thumb to foster a deeper relationship with the neighbourhood within which we operate. In the case of subsidized space for emerging artists, we see it as complementary to the company's mentorship activities, providing resources to young and emerging artists beyond that of hands on guidance from our staff.

OUR SUPPORTERS

GOVERNMENT / OPERATING

Canada Council
BC Arts Council
City of Vancouver

GOVERNMENT / PROJECT

Canada Council
BC Arts Council
Province of British Columbia
Department of Canadian Heritage

PRIVATE SECTOR

RBC Foundation
Face the World Foundation
Christopher Foundation
Vancity
Diamond Foundation
Hamber Foundation
YP Heung Foundation
Vancouver Foundation





SO LONG MICHELE!

After 5 years with us, Green Thumb's Tour Manager Michele Frazer bids us farewell this fall to join Lounge Works. Michele has been an incredibly valued member of the Green Thumb team these past few years, and will be missed by all. We wish Michele all the best at her new job, and hope to see her darken our doorstep with tales from the private sector as often as she likes. If she wants to bring along her dog Stanley on those visits as well, who are we to decline?



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