



**CANADA'S MAGNETIC
NORTH
THEATRE FESTIVAL**

WHITEHORSE, YT · JUNE 9-18, 2016



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THEATRE IN THE BUSH

Concept Created by Brian Fidler

Directed by Brian Fidler

A Ramshackle Theatre (Whitehorse) Production

ENSEMBLE

Miche Genest

Jordy Walker

Geneviève Doyon

Jessica Hickman

Eric Epstein

Tara Kolla Hale

Barb Hinton

Joclyn McDowell

John Streicker

Emily Woodruffe

Cliff Cardinal

Lucas Myers

Conor Wylie

Ken Anderson

Musical Guests: Ryan McNally and Brigitte Desjardins

Theatre in the Bush is approximately 90 minutes.

Ramshackle Theatre would like to thank the following:

The National Arts Centre for their generous support.

We would like to acknowledge the traditional caretakers of this land. This piece is performed on the unceded territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nations and Ta'an Kwach'an Council. We express our thanks for the opportunity to meet and perform here today.

Ramshackle Theatre

ABOUT THE COMPANY

In our tiny studio in the Yukon's boreal forest Ramshackle Theatre creates cardboard puppet shows, outdoor theatre events and original plays for Yukon and national audiences. We keep things simple and count as our most trusted materials: hot glue, cardboard and magnets. No matter what the content of the production our starting place is: How do we create this work physically with what we have at hand? If we can't build it from found materials, buy it cheap or borrow it, we tell the story simply. Since 2006 Ramshackle Theatre has been presenting and touring original work. Under the Artistic Directorship of Brian Fidler the company has presented two productions at the [Summerworks](#)

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[Performance Festival](#) (The Cloaker and the Cabinet 2007, Broken 2012), brought our production [Sci-Fi Double Feature](#) to Victoria, Vancouver, [The Banff Centre for the Arts](#) and to the [National Arts Centre](#) in Ottawa and toured the solo play [Broken](#) about Alzheimer's Disease, across the country.



Brian Fidler- Creative Producer of Theatre in the Bush*

Brian has been on the Whitehorse theatre scene for nearly two decades, performing, directing and devising his own shows. He is the Artistic Director of Ramshackle Theatre, a Yukon based collective that creates plays for audiences from Old Crow to Toronto. He has worked extensively with *Mermaid Puppet Theatre* in Nova Scotia as a workshop contributor, performer and playwright-in-residence. In 2010 Brian began hosting *Theatre in Bush*. Originally intended as a one-off theatre bush party the event has grown into an annual community celebration that features new talent and established Yukon artists.

Cast



Cliff Cardinal*

Cliff Cardinal's play *Stitch* debuted in SummerWorks 2011, winning both The Spotlight Award for Performance, as well as Theatre Passe Muraille's Emerging Artist Award for the script's notable artistic impression. For *Huff*, about the wondrous lives of three brothers caught in a torrent of solvent abuse and struggling to cope with the death of their mother, Cardinal won the Buddies in Bad Times Vanguard Award for Risk and Innovation at SummerWorks 2012 and The RBC Tarragon Emerging Playwright Award. *Huff* recently completed a National Tour including presentations at The Push International Performing Arts Festival, The Magnetic North Theatre Festival and the Pivot Theatre Festival, and closed the studio season at the National Arts Centre in May 2014. Another play of Cliff's, *Maria Gets A New Life*, debuted at SummerWorks 2013. "This captivating tale of an off-grid mother solidifies Cardinal as one of the most talented and intriguing writers in the country." –NOWMAGAZINE. Cliff graduated from the playwriting program at the National Theatre School of Canada. His music project, *Cliff Cardinal and The Skylarks'* recently released their debut album: *This Is Not A Mistake*.



Eric Epstein

Eric was born in Vancouver and developed a love for theatre at an early age. He received a B.A. in Theatre from UBC and studied acting at East 15 Acting School in the U.K. where he also trained and began working as a director. He founded his first touring theatre company, On The Road, in London and then returned to Vancouver where he founded the Vancouver Shakespeare Festival (predecessor to Bard on the Beach.) He came to Whitehorse in 1984 to direct a play at the Guild Hall and has worked in the Yukon (and other parts of Canada) ever since. He has acted in, produced and directed numerous theatre projects and was Artistic Director of the Guild Hall for nine years. In 1988 he was approached to program the Frostbite Music Festival which was the beginning of his career as a presenter. Eric began working for the Yukon Arts Centre (YAC) in 1999 as Millennium Season Producer and became YAC Artistic Director in 2002. The programming at YAC has been adventurous and eclectic, combining some of the best Canadian and international theatre, dance, music and interdisciplinary work available. Eric is also AD of his own company, Whitehorse Theatre Ensemble.



Michele Genest

Yukon author and cook Michele Genest has lived in Whitehorse since 1994, where she moved from her hometown of Toronto in search of winter. She has written about food and culture for the past 25 years, and cooked ever since she can remember. She writes a regular cooking column for *Yukon*, *North of Ordinary Magazine* and a food and beverage column for *What's Up Yukon*. Her print credits include the *Globe and Mail*, the *Toronto Star*, the *Montreal Gazette*, *enRoute*, *Flare* and *Geist*. Her cookbooks, *The Boreal Gourmet*, *Adventures in Northern Cooking*, and *The Boreal Feast, A Culinary Journey Through the North* are National bestsellers. Michele is thrilled to be part of Theatre in the Bush and Magnetic North.

Krista Lynch

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Krista Lynch is an actor and educator currently teaching at Wildflower School in Nelson, BC. She studied theatre, clowning and art at McGill University and her interest in social justice and collective creation led her to study Theatre of the Oppressed techniques with David Diamond in Vancouver. She hopes to use theatre to create dialogue and enact change.

Lucas Myers*



Lucas Myers is a Nelson, BC based theatre artist and the artistic director of Pilotcopilot Theatre. He holds a BFA from the University of Victoria and is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada. He has created and toured multiple one person plays including *DRESS, EAST, Hello Baby!*, and *DECK*, as well as working with Theatre SKAM in Victoria and Boca Del Lupo in Vancouver. Currently, Lucas is writing a show about the town of Revelstoke and a dystopian comedy that he plans to tour by bicycle called *iShow: A play from the future*. He is interested in redefining the performance experience through audience interaction, music, and unconventional characterizations. www.pilotcopilot.com

* The participation of these Artists are arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance-Opera-Theatre Policy

Creative Team

Open Pit Theatre

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Open Pit Theatre is a professional Whitehorse theatre company dedicated to exploring new approaches to play development. The company is led by Co-Artistic Directors Jessica Hickman, and Geneviève Doyon who are both passionate about movement, devised theatre, verbatim theatre, ensemble work, and northern storytelling. Since the company's inception in 2010, Open Pit Theatre has created and produced three new plays, hosted five professional workshops with guest artists from across Canada, and will be premiering a new verbatim play called *Words of the Yukon* in spring 2017. For more information about Open Pit Theatre please visit www.openp.it.



Geneviève Doyon

Geneviève Doyon was born in Venezuela and grew up in Belgium and the Netherlands before heading to Montreal where she graduated from l'Université de Montréal in Film studies and comparative literature and completed an acting degree at L'École Supérieure de Théâtre of l'Université du Québec à Montréal. In 2011, she escaped the big city and ended up in the Yukon territory where she has lived ever since. Geneviève is Whitehorse based actor, creator, playwright and producer. She is the Co Artistic Director of Open Pit Theatre, a company focused on creating new physical theatre relevant to the North. She also works closely with local companies Ramshackle Theatre and Gwaandak Theatre as a performer/collaborator. Her playwriting credits include *Leave a Message (après le bip)* and the verbatim play *Words of the Yukon* that will premiere in 2017 in Whitehorse. Her most recent performing credits include *Map of the Land, Map of the Stars* and the touring puppet show *Sci-Fi Double Feature*. Outside of her theatre work, Geneviève produces and programs the festival Arts in the Park that provides Yukoners and visitors with performing and visual arts all summer long, downtown Whitehorse.



Jessica Hickman

Jessica Hickman is a multi-disciplinary artist, who works as an independent choreographer, director, teacher, puppeteer, and producer. Jessica is based in Victoria, BC but frequents the Yukon as the Co-Artistic Director of Open Pit Theatre. She is lucky to work continually with companies such as The Belfry Theatre, Chemainus Theatre Festival, Theatre SKAM, Gotta Getta Gimmick, VOS, Theatre Inconnu, and Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre. She currently teaches movement to pre-professional performers at the Canadian College of Performing Arts, and the Victoria Academy of Dramatic Arts. This year Jessica will be devising a new piece with Twenty Something Theatre in Vancouver, as well as directing the premiere of *Words of the Yukon* for Open Pit Theatre, and working on *Tombstone: A Sci-Fi Western* for Ramshackle Theatre. Recent choreography credits include: *Puttin' on the Ritz* (Belfry Theatre), *Elf: The Musical* (Chemainus

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Theatre Festival), *A Christmas Carol* (Belfry Theatre), *Let Me Call You Sweetheart* (Belfry Theatre). Recent directing credits include: *The Canadian Badlands Passion Play* (CBPP), *Leave a Message (après le bip)* (OPT), *Bye Bye Birdie* (GNS), and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (VOS). This is Jessica's second time creating a piece for Theatre in the Bush, and she is excited to be back. She would never pass up the chance to hang out in the woods... in the middle of the night... in the Yukon...with you!



Jordy Walker

Jordy has performed or had work shown on/at CBC, HIFI, Discovery Channel, APTN, Available Light Film Festival, Newfoundland Sound Symposium, Squarewaves Electronic Music Festival, Nuit Blanche Whitehorse, Riverside Arts Festival, National Arts Centre, Harbourfront Centre, Arts Underground, Guelph Contemporary Dance Festival, Dawson City International Short Film Festival, rEvolver Theatre Festival, Uno Fest, Screampfest LA, Pivot Theatre Festival, Subtle Technologies Festival and more. He has worked with directors and musicians such as Majdi Bou-Matar, Michael Greyeyes, Ingrid Veninger, Jesse Zubot, Tanya Tagaq, Richard Reed Parry, Little Scream, Mary Margaret O'Hara, The Burning Hell and Christine Fellows among others.



Conor Wylie

Conor Wylie is a Vancouver-based performance maker, and co-artistic director of emerging performance collectives OOOO and A Wake of Vultures. He has acted at regional theatres including Theatre Calgary, Citadel Theatre, and Arts Club, but primarily creates and performs with smaller independent and interdisciplinary companies, including many members of Vancouver's Progress Lab consortium. He has written and created original work commissioned by the PuSh Festival and *FUSE* at Vancouver Art Gallery. He is a graduate of the theatre program at Simon Fraser University. With Hong Kong Exile he created *eatingthegame*, a satirical solo-show about gentrification and affordability, Asian-Canadian identity politics, and the influence of business practices on the art world, which debuted at Club PuSh and will tour to Summerworks this year. As the current Artist-in-Residence of Theatre Replacement, he is writing and workshopping a deconstructionist sci-fi thriller about colonialism and collective consciousness featuring identical twins Anais and Veronique West, continuing work on T/R's *Town Criers* in Reykjavik, Akureyri, and Dublin, and finishing the year studying with experimental playwright Madelyn Kent in New York City. He is most passionate about performance that experiments with form and spectatorship, is collaborative, and isn't afraid to get into a bit of trouble.

Installations Artists



Ken Anderson

Ken Anderson is born and raised in the Yukon. He is of Tlingit and Scandinavian roots. He works in a Tlingit style mostly using a variety of mediums including wood, metal, acrylic and snow. Anderson has several commission pieces around Whitehorse and his work has been collected throughout the world. Anderson considers himself fortunate to be an artist and says, "It is truly a great honour and a privilege". He credits the old works and old masters as his inspiration and guiding standard.



Jon Gelinas- Installation Artist

Jon Gelinas has been in the Yukon for 14 years working in visual communications as an educator, designer and technologist. His graphic design, layout, photography and web design work has been featured on devices and publications throughout the Yukon. He currently instructs the Multimedia Communications program at Yukon College.

Tara Kolla Hale

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Born in Whitehorse 39 years ago, I have bounced around between here, Alberta and Vancouver, finally settling home more than 15 years ago. Since then, I've carved out my creative space in between jobs (florist, event planner, book cover design) and family. Married for 15 years, I have two sons, Maddox and Jonah. We are surrounded by family which informs how I view the world and how my art develops. I would say mine is northern folk art built out of the world we create and inhabit. It is made from the simplicity of our lives - bed springs found beneath oil cans in a war-time dump; another century's mining stakes crafted into frames; old bottles that held the medicines and liquids that sustained previous Yukoners. In recent years, I've also found a lightness that has made its way into my installations and the more delicate pieces of recent shows. The one constant has been the marriage of found objects and the natural world. My children have helped me hold on to the playfulness and naivety that makes its way into my pieces. All together, it's an art and aesthetic that I believe captures the territory we live in and the people we share it with.

Mobius Collective North

ABOUT THE COLLECTIVE

Mobius Collective North is a group of Yukon-based artists with backgrounds in visual arts, music, performance, writing, film, and science. We embrace our community through exploration of the relationship between humans and nature. Our goal is to present intimate community site-specific events, exploring the micro and macro workings of nature. The aim is to create intimate moments that allow us to tap into our humanity and connect to our environment, ourselves, and one another.



Jocylyn McDowell

Jocylyn's heart has leaned mostly toward Yukon, since even before she arrived in 1983. She has had many fine adventures in and out of Yukon's big wild, and takes pictures every day. Jocylyn has both art and science education and works somewhere between those places. She thinks about natural history, evolution and the logical progression of those stories, all the while, dwelling and reveling within the magic, the mystery, beauty and love.



Barb Hinton

Barb has flourished as an artist, teacher and activist in Vancouver, Regina, and several other communities in California, Mississippi, Florida, Colorado, Brazil & Uganda. She is currently living and teaching art in Whitehorse. Barb is interested in reconciling and playing with the tension between man-made and natural elements of life. She works with patterns in nature on a macro and micro scale, and the tensions that arise there, to comprehend the imbalances in our human systems and ultimately to negotiate reconciliation. She draws on organic and geometric cycles, rhythms and patterns, and the interplay of long and short cycles and the experience of time. Things are much more fluid, expansive and connected than they first appear.



Nate Wood

Nate is a plant-loving alchemist, actor and musician. He has a penchant for distorting and looping soundscapes on the harmonica and has studied sound-recording with numerous local wizards. He likes to ride his bike too fast sometimes, pet his fluffy cat Neko.



John Streicker

John is an occasional artist and a full-time enthusiast of Ramshackle Theatre's annual "Theatre in the Bush" (TitB). His kinetic sculptures are part mad science, part shoestring engineering and completely entertaining. Think interactive art meets double-take, seasoned with a little wtf. John's path to kinetic sculpture has been circuitous: nature-lover, trombonist, engineer, quilter, politician, rec director... John and his wife Susan have contributed to TitB since its magical boreal inception. They live in a pink house along Marsh Lake where Susan lets John create complicated moving electrical fixtures. So far no-one has been electrocuted.



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