

## NIGHTWOOD THEATRE 4x4 FESTIVAL Goes Global

The DIRECTORS SUMMIT AND JOYRIDES for 30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

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Toronto, ON... Nightwood Theatre announces **The Directors Summit** and **Joy Rides** as part of its milestone **4x4 Festival: An Off-Road Event of Women Directors** taking place from October 26 to November 22, 2009.

**The Directors Summit** hosts a landmark gathering of theatre professionals in a provocative exchange with audiences on the art of direction. Featured theatre luminaries include Quebec director **Brigitte Haentjens**, Newfoundland's **Jillian Keiley**, Alberta Theatre Projects Artistic Director **Vanessa Porteous**, U.K. director/actor **Josette Bushell-Mingo**, Shaw Festival AD **Jackie Maxwell**, rising American stage director and native South African **Liesl Tommy**, celebrated Mexican playwright/director **Sabina Berman**, renowned South African playwright/director **Yael Farber**, eminent German director **Johanna Schall** and acclaimed Toronto directors **Nina Lee-Aquino**, **Eda Holmes**, **Weyni Mengesha**, **Yvette Nolan** and **Jennifer Tarver**.

The Summit consists of provocative public dialogues, showcase events and exciting master classes. Selected highlights include: **'Staging Africa'** - Yael Farber and Liesl Tommy discuss bringing issues of Africa to the world stage, **'Broadway Bound'** - multi-award winning American actor **Brian Dennehy** and Canada's rising star director Jennifer Tarver discuss their working relationship in the hit production of *Krapp's Last Tape* at The Stratford Festival, and **'The Penelopiad Directors' Showcase'** a presentation where 10 exciting directors stage their distinct vision of Margaret Atwood's *The Penelopiad* featuring an ensemble of actors courtesy of the Shaw Festival.

**The 4x4 Joy Rides** are a series of public events fashioned for all the hard working women of the world, including crash courses and forums led by distinguished speakers such as **Ilse Treurnicht** (CEO, MaRS Centre), **Judith Humphrey** (The Humphrey Group) and celebrated Canadian actor **Sonja Smits**. The public will get to try their hand at playwriting workshops, sit in on a rehearsal of *THAT FACE* and participate in rousing forums about social change, leadership and the commercialization of innovation.

The 4x4 Festival grew from the idea of an examination of the director's practice as well as an in-depth look at gender equity in Canadian Theatre and beyond. The four productions featured in the festival are: **THAT FACE**, **YELLOWMAN**, **NO EXIT** and **SERIOUS MONEY**.

**For Details on all programming see pages 3-6**

### ABOUT NIGHTWOOD THEATRE

Nightwood Theatre – Artistic Director Kelly Thornton, Producer Monica Esteves, Chair Susan Quinn.

As Canada's national women's theatre since 1979, Nightwood has launched the careers of many of the leading theatre artists in the country. We have won Canada's highest literary and performing arts awards and more than ever our success proves the need for theatre that gives voice to women and celebrates the diversity of Canadian society. We remain actively engaged in mentoring young women and promoting women's place on the local, national and international stage.

## Festival Supporters and Partners:



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### 4x4 Summit and Joy Rides Details

#### DATES:

October 26 to November 22, 2009

#### SUMMIT TIMES:

*The Kick Start Reception and Cocktail Party*, Friday, November 13, 5:30pm, The Hub, Free  
*The Marketplace*, November 14, 10am, The Hub, by application  
*The Canadian Vanguard*, Saturday, November 14, 6:30pm, The Hub, \$10  
*Kalideography*, November 14, 2-5 and November 15, 10-1pm, \$85  
*The Penelopiad Directors' Showcase* (in association with The Shaw Festival),  
 November 15, 3pm, Dancemakers Studio Theatre, \$15  
*The Agony and Ecstasy of Staging New Work*, Monday, November 16, 6:30pm, The Hub, \$10  
*The Directors Toolkit*, November 16, 17, 10-1pm, \$85  
*POV: Playwriting from the Director's Chair*, November 16,17, 2-5pm  
*Staging Africa*, Tuesday, November 17, 6:30pm, The Hub, \$10  
*Relevance and Irreverence: Context and Cultural Mythologies*, Wednesday,  
 November 18, 6:30pm, The Hub, \$10  
*The Business of Art: What an Aspiring Artistic Director Needs To Know*, November 18, 10-1pm, \$25  
*Broadway Bound*, Thursday, November 19, 4:30pm, Berkeley Street Theatre Downstairs, \$10  
*New Blood Cabaret*, November 19, 8pm, The Hub, Admission Free

#### JOY RIDES TIMES:

*Open Rehearsal*, Saturday October 3, 10am, Nightwood Studio, Free  
*Women Piloting Innovation*, Wednesday October 28, 7:30am, MaRS Centre, \$25  
*High Tea*, Saturday November 7, 4pm, Berkeley Street Theatre Lobby, \$10  
*Taking the Stage*, Wednesday November 11, 9:00am, Verity, \$125  
*Girls Gone Mild*, Sunday November 15, 1pm, The Hub, Free  
*Writers Ink*, November 21, 22, 10-5pm, Nightwood Studio, \$100

#### LOCATIONS:

Berkeley Street Theatre, 26 Berkeley Street  
 The Hub (CSC Rehearsal Hall), 26 Berkeley Street  
 MaRS, 101 College Street  
 Verity, 111d Queen Street East  
 Nightwood Studio, 55 Mill Street #315, The Cannery Building  
 Dancemakers Studio, 55 Mill Street #313, The Cannery Building

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#### Press contacts:

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[www.nightwoodtheatre.net](http://www.nightwoodtheatre.net)

## Directors Summit

The Directors Summit is a gathering of theatre professionals from across Canada and around the world to connect and exchange ideas on the art of interpretation.

Motivated by the desire to propel career opportunities for women through showcase, training and discourse, Nightwood has assembled a roster of renowned national and international directors. Join us for this exciting week of revelation, introspection and innovation in theatre.

### The Kick Start Reception and Cocktail Party

Nightwood launches this landmark gathering of artists with social revelry and celebration. Welcoming remarks by Nightwood Theatre AD, Kelly Thornton and Shaw Festival AD, Jackie Maxwell. We look forward to seeing you there.

Friday, November 13, 5:30pm, The Hub, Admission Free

## In Conversation

### The Canadian Vanguard

Two Siminovitch Award-winning directors discuss the creation of brave new theatrical styles from distinct Canadian cultures. Quebec's most revered directorial matriarch, **Brigitte Haentjens** and Newfoundland's favourite daughter, **Jillian Keiley** come together to discuss their innovative techniques and what it meant to win Canada's most prestigious award.

Saturday, November 14, 6:30pm, The Hub, \$10

### The Agony and Ecstasy of Staging New Work

Playwriting is "an art of composing in the medium of the actor", and so is the art of the director, Susan Letzler Cole observes. What the director "sees" into reality is the end point of a process of exploring the nature of the script by enacting possibilities in rehearsal. How do you maintain fidelity to "what was written" and to "what was meant" while navigating the precarious terrain of an uncharted dramatic landscape.

*Panelists: Cahoots AD, Nina Lee-Aquino; Alberta Theatre Projects AD, Vanessa Porteous; Shaw Associate AD, Eda Holmes; and Director Liesl Tommy (South Africa/US).*

Monday, November 16, 6:30pm, The Hub, \$10

### Staging Africa

Renowned South African directors **Yael Farber** and **Liesl Tommy** discuss bringing issues of Africa to the world stage. "I strive to create theatre which plunders imagination, burgles our fragile human emotions and stalks truth and beauty with absolute ferocity," says Tommy. Of her play *Molara*, Farber posits, "I ha[ve] long been interested in creating work that explores the journey back from the dark heart of unspeakable trauma and pain toward the choice between revenge or redemptive forgiveness."

Tuesday, November 17, 6:30pm, The Hub, \$10

### Relevance and Irreverence: Context and Cultural Mythologies

Anne Bogart, visionary director, wrote that the artist is engaged in the "violent act of articulation" and that this articulation "begins a new organization of the inherited landscape". How does cultural context inhabit our work? How do we explore, explode, inform and transform our cultural mythologies?

*Panelists: Directors Weyni Mengesha; Yael Farber (South Africa); Native Earth AD, Yvette Nolan; Sabina Berman (Mexico); Johanna Schall (Germany).*

Wednesday, November 18, 6:30pm, The Hub, \$10

## Broadway Bound

Multi-award-winning American actor **Brian Dennehy** and Canada's rising star director **Jennifer Tarver**, disclose the story of an artistic alchemy that culminated in the hit production of Samuel Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape* at The Stratford Festival. As the play goes on to Broadway, **Tarver** and **Dennehy** discuss the intimate and often complex relationship between a director and her actor.

Thursday, November 19, 4:30pm, Berkeley Street Theatre Downstairs, \$10

## Master Classes

### Kalideography

**Jillian Keiley** of **Artistic Fraud** of Newfoundland leads this crash course in Kalideography, a system of synchronized movement harmonics, which make possible the creation of layered and complex stage landscapes. "Like symphonic music" explains Keiley, "but created with an actor's speaking voice, natural movement, technical elements and blocking."

November 14, 2-5 and November 15, 10-1pm, \$85

### The Business of Art: What an Aspiring Artistic Director Needs To Know

Art is a serious business. When hiring, theatres seek leaders with both artistic vision and entrepreneurial chops. Participants will receive the 101 on fiscal and strategic planning, revenue diversification, stewardship and more from these established professionals: **Philip Akin** (Obsidian), **Richard Rose** (Tarragon), **Leslie Lester** (*Soulpepper*), **Monica Esteves** (Nightwood) and other established professionals.

November 18, 10-1pm, \$25

### The Director's Toolkit

Two of the director's most vital relationships are with actor and playwright. **Liesl Tommy**, renowned director and instructor at Juilliard and Brown University leads participants in an exploration of the tools of collaboration: understanding the playwright's process, the art of dramaturgy, and interpretation and illumination within the actor's journey.

November 16, 17, 10-1pm, \$85

### POV: Playwriting from the Directors Chair

**Sabina Berman**, multi-award-winning Mexican playwright and director, writes from the multiple perspectives of author, director and designer. She "builds a building with spaces where actors can create". Join Berman in this master class exploring how image inspires narrative when writing from a directorial POV.

November 16, 17, 2-5pm, \$85

## Special Events

### The Market Place

Anna Shapiro, 2008 Tony Award-winning director, said "I'm pretty sure the only way you get to have a life in the theatre is if somewhere in your life you come upon a group of people who, although they don't need you, make room for you." The Market Place is a speed dating frenzy between Canada's most prominent Artistic Directors and our most exciting directors to watch.

Saturday November 14, 10-1pm, The Hub, Free by submission

### The Penelopiad Directors' Showcase

In Association with the Shaw Festival

In the culmination of this week-long experimental master class, ten provocative directors present their distinct vision of Margaret Atwood's *The Penelopiad*. Led by renowned world stage director Yael Farber and Josette Bushell-Mingo, director of the acclaimed London and National Arts Centre productions, the presentation of this epic drama features an exciting ensemble of actors courtesy of The Shaw Festival.

November 15, 3pm, Dancemakers Studio Theatre, \$15

## **New Blood Cabaret**

The 4x4 Directors Summit is an opportunity to present our brightest young talent! The *New Blood Cabaret* is an evening of theatre from the minds of the next wave of directors. Nightwood provides a stage for ten fresh emerging directors to show their wares. Join us for this rare and raw event, and stay for a late night party.

Thursday, November 19, 8pm, The Hub, Admission Free

## **JOY RIDES**

### **Audience Events for Women in the Driver's Seat**

Whether your director's chair is in a rehearsal hall, a Bay Street board room or in your own home, don't miss this unique menu of events geared to all the hard working women of the world. Stimulating and illuminating, join us for these truly dynamic excursions.

## **CRASH COURSES**

### ***The Humphrey Group – Taking the Stage®***

This program has been developed for business women who wish to become strong and confident when they speak. Celebrated founder **Judith Humphrey** and her associates will show you how become comfortable in the spotlight and get your message across every time you speak. This seminar also includes two complimentary tickets to a 4x4 production of your choice.

Wednesday, November 11, 9:00am-12:00pm (8:30am Optional Breakfast)

Where: Verity, 111d Queen Street East

Admission: \$125 (All proceeds to Nightwood Theatre)

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### ***Writers Ink.***

Always wanted to try playwriting but never had the chance or know-how? Well, this weekend playwriting workshop with writer/director **Maja Ardal** is for you. Spark your imagination and learn the nuts and bolts of the craft in a professional and nurturing environment.

Sat Nov 21 & Sun Nov 22, 10:00am-5:00pm

Where: Nightwood Studio, 55 Mill Street

Admission: \$100

### ***Assembly Required: An Open Rehearsal***

Sit in on a rehearsal of *That Face!* An innovative learning opportunity for you to get an inside look at how director, Kelly Thornton, with the actors, breakdown and reassemble a play. What do they do behind closed doors to get the play on its feet and shape the final production?

Saturday October 3, 10:00am-1:00pm

Where: Nightwood Studio, 55 Mill Street

Must Reserve in advance – attendance is limited

# FORUMS

## ***Women Piloting Innovation***

Presented by Nightwood and MaRS Centre

How do we build an innovation economy that harnesses the full capacity and creative energy of women? Will a more inclusive framework emerge, or will we see the proliferation of new and innovative businesses as more women rise into leadership positions in the new economy? What is the contribution of women at the forefront of breakthrough discoveries, and building knowledge-based enterprises?

In this forum, we hear from trailblazers who have moved technologies and innovation strategies out of the idea stage and into actionable plans delivering timely results. Moderated by **Ilse Treurnicht** (CEO, MaRS).

Wednesday, October 28, 7:30am-9:15am (includes breakfast)

Where: MaRS Centre, Auditorium, 101 College Street

Admission: \$25

## ***Girls Gone Mild?***

Are the times a-changing?? Some are calling this newest generation of young adults the long-awaited “fourth wave” of feminism (or at least the *beginning* of a wave) – a new kind of political activism for women’s rights that is a fusion of social justice and proactive spirituality. Many disagree. Join us for a raucous and heated debate-style forum on the state of gender equity.

Sunday, November 15, 1pm-2:30pm

Where: The Hub, 26 Berkeley Street

Admission: Free

## ***High Tea with Sonja Smits***

Indulge in opulent teas and delicacies in an intimate tea party with **Sonja Smits**, star of THAT FACE, and indisputably one of Canada’s most celebrated film, television and theatre performers. Hosted by **Barbara Linds** (of the Waterfall Tea Room) and moderated by Nightwood Producer **Monica Esteves**, this event takes place immediately following the November 7 matinee performance of THAT FACE.

Saturday, November 7, 4-5:15pm

Where: Berkeley Street Theatre Lobby

Admission: \$10