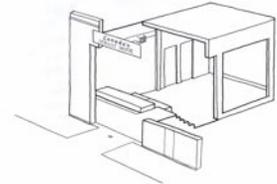
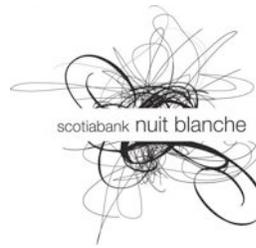


## MEDIA RELEASE

September 22, 2011



Canada's Smallest Theatre

# Tell YOUR Story

-a social sculpture-

[www.theatrelocal.org](http://www.theatrelocal.org)

In her 5<sup>th</sup> year participating in Toronto's Scotiabank Nuit Blanche (*Open Field Study*, *SMASH! Droppin Stuff*, *Bouncing Brides*), local artist and Wychwood Barns resident Rebecca Singh teams up with celebrated Berlin theatre designer Hendrik Scheel from Berlin on a project that has been over a year in the making. "Canada's Smallest Theatre" is a conceptual art work and installation that transforms an actor's studio into a "12-seat pop-up theatre", the setting for ***Tell YOUR Story***.

The Artscape Wychwood Barns are a refurbished street-car repair facility and the home of the Wychwood Artists' Colony, and the old neighborhood of Marshall McLuhan who said "*We shape our tools and they in turn shape us.*". This quote inspired the social sculpture; ***Tell YOUR Story***, where, for one night only, at Scotiabank Nuit Blanche, the community gets to take the stage and star in the show.

Rebecca has represented Canada as an artist abroad and works here as a freelancer and creating and developing new projects for major institutions such as the Luminato Festival. Hendrik works full time as a designer in the German theatre system and has received awards for his development of experiential educational projects dealing with difficult subject matters. He recently won a national prize for a project about the Berlin Wall: "*AUF DER MAUER, AUF DER LAUER*" *Stories and art from children for children.*

## Public Participation

During Scotiabank Nuit Blanche members of the public are invited to tell up to six-minute stories in an intimate theatre setting. Members of the public who would like to come dressed up are encouraged to do so and grace the stage of "Canada's Smallest Theatre". Some costume elements and guidance to get started will be provided, but the courage to perform is up to you! ***Tell Your Story*** is a social sculpture open to all and shaped by its participants, everyone is heartily invited to come and be a part of the art!

To inspire and encourage public participants, ***Tell YOUR Story*** features some 6-minute performances by local artists on the theme "tell your story" or personal stories. These performances will come from the diverse diaspora of Toronto performers and groups:

The Indigenous Youth Leadership Team will present “Skywoman”, an indigenous myth from the rich tapestry of our oral history. Cathy Gordon and Jonathan Heppner create work that breaks the fourth wall and challenges convention. Neema Bickersteth whose training and background is as a singer comes to us from the world of contemporary opera and will present her first devised work, a physical and personal statement about self-expression through song. Rutz a visual artist working in Toronto since the 70’s and new to the theatre form will take the stage to present her story, a life explored through a graphic novel narrative. Litmus Theatre brings a fresh and highly inventive spin on classical theatre that packs a punch in tight spaces.

***Tell YOUR Story Schedule*** (Saturday OCTOBER 1, 7PM , Duration: 12 hours)

Location: 601 Christie St. Meet in Barn 2

Nuit Blanche Map: Zone A-20

Members of the public will be able to present a short story all night long but to help keep things going we have pre-booked some people to kick things off every hour. The following is a little bit of information on them and of course please do come and be surprised by who and what you will find onstage on the night!

7:00pm

The Indigenous Youth Leadership Team will present a shadow puppetry rendition of the story Skywoman. Skywoman is a Haudenosaunee creation story that reveals all the mysteries of how the earth began on Turtle Island, better known as North America.

8:00pm

Performance artist Cathy Gordon ([www.cathygordon.com/](http://www.cathygordon.com/)) performs an improvisational piece.

9:00pm

Opera singer Neema Bickersteth sings Rachmaninoff a capella while dancing.

10:00pm

Storyteller Gail Nyoka tells the story of her first meeting with her father.

11:00pm

Litmus Theatre shares a snippet of their story- an eerie yet magical re-imagining of the Macbeth story.

12:00am

Rebecca Singh and Hendrik Scheel tell the story of how they met and Canada’s Smallest Theatre came to be.

1:00am

Local producer and artist Jonathan Heppner tells a story

2:00am

Ruth Tait shares her story through Film and Graphic Novel format

3:00am

LIVE! From Nuit Blanche in Paris! Coleen MacPherson and Nina Gilmour tell THEIR story live via satellite!

\*\*\*\*Please note: All schedule information is subject to change

**Tell YOUR Story** in “Canada’s Smallest Theatre”\*

Produced by

Theatre Local [www.theatrelocal.org](http://www.theatrelocal.org)

SIDEviews [www.side-views.de](http://www.side-views.de)

Scotiabank Nuit Blanche 2011

Produced by



**MEDIA CONTACT:**

**INFO@THEATRELOCAL.ORG** OR REBECCA SINGH 416-879-3416

## **Rebecca Singh, Creator**



Rebecca is a freelance artist and performer. Her work is often creation based and interdisciplinary and has been presented in theatres, at multidisciplinary festivals and literary events. She has been performing since 1994. She’s appeared in *FLASHPOINT*, was a regular on *Fries With That?* and ran and performed with the popular comedy troupe, *The Montreal All-Star Cheerleaders* for four years. She has represented Canada as an international artist and met the artists on this project during a residency with Volker Lösch in Germany. She manages *Theatre Local* as an ongoing project and is also a singer and a published poet and author. [www.cheerleaderchronicles.com](http://www.cheerleaderchronicles.com)

## **Hendrik Scheel, Designer**



Hendrik began his theatre education in the Arts Academy in Dresden in 1995 studying stage and costume design. In 1997 he attended Central St Martins College of Arts in London, England, specializing in set design; in 1999 he received his Masters at the Arts Academy in Vienna, Austria. He finished his education with the rare honour of achieving “Meisterschüler” (Master Student) in Dresden in 2001.

From 1994 to 2004 he worked as an assistant stage designer at theatres in cities all over Europe. He started his own design career in 1998 and has created designs for the Theatre Academy in Munich, the Directors Institute in Hamburg and the Palucca Dance School in Dresden. Since 2005 he has worked at the State Theatres in Stuttgart and Schwerin, as well as theatres in Graz/Austria, Halle, and the world-famous Volksbühne in Berlin.

His body of work ranges from the classically produced “Käthchen von Heilbronn”, to a cross-disciplinary presentation of “Parzival”. Hendrik has designed for contemporary dance, puppet theatre, and in 2007 he was commissioned to architecturally transform and redesign the stage and auditorium at the 120 seat Werfttheatre in Halle/Germany. In the 2009/10 season Hendrik designed the set and costumes for a 40-room 40-actor site specific processional political new creation entitled “Kommunalka” as well as a educational project in elementary schools about the Berlin Wall which involved 100 participants. Hendrik is the co-founder of Side-Views <http://www.side-views.de/> an award-winning company specializing in cultural education for children and adults through experiential education workshops and games and documentation and media projects including video interviews and interview workshops. [www.hendrikscheel.de](http://www.hendrikscheel.de)

## **Caitlin Weld, Producer**



Originally from Calgary, AB, Caitlin moved to Toronto to complete her BFA in Performance Production at Ryerson University. Since graduating Caitlin has worked with Soundstreams Canada as the Production Associate under the direction of Jennifer Green. Caitlin currently works for the Luminato Festival producing the theatre, dance, magic, and indoor music events. Caitlin also produces for Human Cargo Theatre, and has successfully toured shows to Gananoque, ON, Iqaluit, NU and Pond Inlet, NU.

## **David Tate, Fabricator**



David has been working in Toronto as a fabricator and carpenter for many years. This marks his first time participating in Nuit Blanche.

## **Rae Powell, Technician**



Rae is a freelance technician and technical manager. She enjoys two year round positions as Production Manager for Suburban Beast and Technical Coordinator of the Pia Bouman School for Ballet. Rae is also a pretty big fan of brunch.

## **David DeGrow, Technical Consultant**



David DeGrow is a designer, manager, technician, actor, and pretty much anything in a theatre. Recent designs include The Rocky Horror Show (Randolph), Head a Tete (Theatre Direct), Oh My Irma (Theatre Passe Muraille), Roshni (Theatre Passe Muraille), and Almighty Voice and his Wife (Native Earth - National Tour)  
Photo: AL Ballard

\*“Canada’s Smallest Theatre”<sup>®</sup> is a conceptual artwork conceived and designed by Rebecca Singh (Toronto) and Hendrik Scheel (Berlin). “Canada’s Smallest Theatre”<sup>®</sup> is currently installed at Rebecca’s Studio in the Artscape Wychwood Barns.

## **Bios of some of the artists signed up to participate in Tell YOUR Story, Scotiabank Nuit Blanche 2011**

### **Cathy Gordon - cathygordon.com**



Cathy is a multidisciplinary artist known for crawling across Toronto in a public divorce ceremony and building a 10ft wedding cake topped with trampolines for Nuit Blanche 2009. Current projects include *Jardin Communautaire* opening in Montreal on October 15, 2011. She is also the co-director of hub14 art & performance works ([hub14.org](http://hub14.org)).

### **Ruth Tait (a.k.a. Rutz)**



Ruth Tait has a trained observer's eye, used over several years. She locates her practice within both a fine art painterly sphere as well as commercial illustration. She works as a graphic designer and web designer. She also has an alter-ego: Rutz -- who ventures into the primordial world of comic books, exploring themes of a somewhat feminist nature. She self-publishes her graphic novels as chap books. Currently, along with her regular employment, she has returned to Ontario College of Art to complete a degree in Design/Illustration. Her studio is located at the new Artscape Wychwood Barns complex.

### **Neema Bickersteth**



Neema Bickersteth majored in opera at the University of British Columbia, where she received both a Bachelor and Master of Music. Neema has performed operatic roles internationally including works by Mozart, Puccini, and Weill. She has also performed contemporary creations with Urbanvessel, Nightswimming, Artistic Fraud, and Tapestry New Opera Works.

### **Indigenous Youth Leadership Team**



This youth collective is a group of young Indigenous artists from across Canada with a passion for the arts! This team has been sharing traditional stories with a contemporary twist through shadow puppetry together for two years. During Nuit Blanche they will be featuring a story called Skywoman. Skywoman is a Haudenosaunee creation story that reveals all the mysteries of how the earth began on Turtle Island, better known as North America. Come out and enjoy a story that will illuminate your evening!!

## **Jonathan Heppner**



Jonathan Heppner is a Toronto-based director and producer. Recent credits include: *Headbangers* (2010 Rhubarb Festival), *Dirty Girls* (2009 Toronto Fringe – “Outstanding Direction” NOW Magazine), *Instructions to any future socialist government wishing to abolish Christmas* (Asst Director, Centaur Theatre / Crow’s Theatre), and 3 seasons with *Dusk Dances* (Producing Manager).

## **Gail Nyoka**



Novelist, playwright and storyteller Gail Nyoka won the Chalmers Canadian Play Award with her stage play *Mella Mella*. Her novel for eight to thirteen-year olds, *Mella and the N’Anga: An African Tale*, was a finalist for the Governor General’s and several other awards.

She tells stories in schools and libraries.

## **Matt Walker (Litmus Theatre)**



Matt is a director, producer and actor, and a founding member of Litmus Theatre Collective (Toronto) and DMV Theatre (Halifax). He currently works between Toronto and Halifax where he is a Co-Artistic Producer of DMV Theatre. Matt directed the acclaimed *Matchbox Macbeth* in November 2010 for Litmus Theatre, which was named one of the Top Ten Plays of 2010 by Now Magazine. Matt taught acting at York University from 2007 – 2009.

## **Adriano Sobretudo Jr (Litmus Theatre)**



Adriano has appeared in theatre productions spanning the US, Australia, and Canada. In January 2011 he joined DMV Theatre in Halifax for the Canadian Premier of Marius von Mayenberg’s *The Ugly One*. In November of 2010 he played Duncan and Witch 1 in the acclaimed *Matchbox Macbeth* (Litmus Theatre). Recent screen credits include *The Border* (CBC), and *Combat Hospital* (ABC.)

## **Claire Wynveen (Litmus Theatre)**



Claire is an actor, producer and teacher. Recent stage credits include Lady Macbeth in *Matchbox Macbeth* (Litmus Theatre Collective), Juliet and Ophelia with The Classical Theatre Projects (dir. Charles Roy), Queen Mariana in *The Bewitched* (dir. Nigel Shawn Williams), Isabella in *Measure for Measure* (dir. Alan Dilworth) and Glass in *Seven* (dir. Sarah Stanley.) Claire is a member of Toronto’s Cowgirl Choir, and is a founding member of Litmus Theatre Collective.

CLAIRE WYNVEEN