

# PROLOGUE TO THE PERFORMING ARTS

IMPACT REPORT – 2016-17



**PROLOGUE**  
to the Performing Arts  
• aux arts de la scène •

**50**  
YEARS  
ANS

# WELCOME TO PROLOGUE

## Who We Are

Prologue to the Performing Arts (Prologue) is a charitable, not for profit arts education organization that facilitates opportunities for young people to experience the performing arts by connecting them to high quality performances and workshops in schools and communities across Ontario.

## What We Do

Prologue is a resource for artists, educators and community presenters. We represent and promote a select group of professional artists and companies who tour to schools and communities within Ontario. We work in partnership with educators, parent groups, community representatives, arts councils, foundations, corporations and other arts organizations to bring diverse performing arts experiences to young people and their families.

## Over 50 Years of Impact

What began as the dream of five young mothers to provide access to the highest quality in performing arts to children across Ontario has since 1966 reached over 20 million young people; facilitated over 70,000 performances and workshops and toured to over 200 communities across Ontario with over 235 companies and artists.

We look forward to many more years of providing the highest quality live performing arts experiences to young people and their families across Ontario!



Photos by: Gaetz Photography, Prologue's 50th Anniversary Showcase

# MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHAIR

With over 50 years of connecting young people in schools and communities across Ontario with impactful and relevant performing arts experiences, Prologue to the Performing Arts is as vital as ever. As you will discover from this Impact Report and other Prologue material, our diverse roster of artists offer a range of performances and workshops designed to inspire, empower and spark the imaginations of children and youth.

For those who have followed Prologue for some time, you know that the organization started with a simple yet powerful idea – to increase access to performing arts experiences for young people. For those who are new to our organization, you will soon discover what live performance can bring to children and youth – truly meaningful experiences that both open up new worlds of possibility and enhance the development of critical and imaginative thinking and communication skills. From spoken word to puppetry, West African drumming to Indigenous dance and mask theatre to classic fairy tales, Prologue artists capture the power of story and the joy of creative expression; taking students on a journey of self-discovery that can only come with the performing arts.

As we move into our 6th decade, I am particularly excited to see how Prologue can support greater access to the performing arts for young people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities in communities across Ontario. Through initiatives such as the Possibility Fund and greater activity in Northern, rural and underserved communities, we are working to ensure that Prologue can fully deliver on its mission to enrich the lives of every young person through diverse and impactful performing arts experiences.

## TIM WHALLEY

*Executive Director*



Photos by: Gaetz Photography, Chair Melvin J.Hurst and Students at Prologue's 50th Anniversary Showcase

We do not know what childhood experiences affect lifetime choices. This is one of my favourite quotes when I am adjudicating Festivals nationally and internationally. We know children are inspired by live performances. Prologue to the Performing Arts engages young minds and provides this inspiration. I believe it can provide insight for today and hope for tomorrow.

As Chair of the Board, my lifetime in the Arts certainly colours my thinking. As a music professional, music educator, choral conductor, private teacher, adjudicator and parent, I see how the Arts add a beautiful dimension to life. However, they also help the way we think of others. It is this appreciation of others that makes a difference in how we react to challenges. Volunteer work could not be more rewarding. We all want to make a difference, and this is one of my choices.

## MELVIN J. HURST

*Chair, Board of Directors*

# SPECIAL INITIATIVES

In partnership with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and the Toronto Arts Council, with administrative support from Prologue, tdsbCREATES is a system-wide, grades 1 to 12 celebration of dance, drama, media arts and visual. This initiative culminates in a festival which takes place in April and May in schools, communities, galleries, and performing arts venues across the city of Toronto. **tdsbCREATES** is a Celebration of Student Voice, Creative Ideas, and Arts for All!



Photo by: Janet O'Neill, tdsbCREATES



Photo by: Mark Wilson, tdsbCREATES

Launched in 2005, **THE POSSIBILITY FUND** was established with the goal of ensuring that Prologue performances and workshops are accessible for young people in underserved communities who lack access to performing arts experiences. Presented in partnership with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), Prologue is seeking to engage new partners and supporters to further grow this initiative in order to provide more opportunities for accessible and diverse performing arts experiences to young people.

**50 PERFORMANCES FOR 50 YEARS** - In its 50th anniversary year Prologue to the Performing Arts celebrated 50 years of bringing professional artistic experiences to young people in schools and communities across Ontario with 50 Performances for 50 Years. Throughout February to June 2017, 50 scheduled performances in communities across the province were selected to help showcase and highlight the impact of the performing arts on young people. The culminating anniversary celebration took place on Thursday, June 1, 2017 in the Jane Mallet Theatre Toronto with performances by artists past and present.



Judy Jarvis Creative Dance Company



Photos by: Gaetz Photography, Prologue's 50th Anniversary Showcase



# A SNAPSHOT OF THE PROLOGUE ARTIST ROSTER

Prologue currently works with 38 individuals and companies who deliver workshops and performances in dance, music, theatre, puppetry, storytelling and more in English and French. Performing arts experiences introduce children and youth to a wide range of artistic forms while exploring issues related to social justice, mental health, gender identity and racism.

**SHAUN BOOTHE** is an award-winning hip hop artist, a TEDx speaker, and the creator of The Unauthorized Biography Series. Through biographical rap songs that capture the achievements of influential figures such as Terry Fox, Malala Yousafzai, and Muhammed Ali, Shaun repackages history in a way that connects with students and reinforces the importance of living a meaningful life.



Soprano **KYRA MILLAN** and pianist **TINA FAYE** are passionate educators whose partnership was born out of the Canadian Opera Company's outreach and education department. Millan & Faye have performed in small and large venues across Ontario.

**TRIBAL VISION DANCE** is a family dance troupe from the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. The group is comprised of champion singers and dancers with a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with young audiences and families to build a deeper understanding and appreciation of First Nations culture.



**TOTTERING BIPED THEATRE** emphasizes highly physical and social issue oriented work and was founded in 2008 by Trevor Copp. Trevor studied theatre and mime at the Marcel Marceau School in Paris and was a full-time Ballroom dance instructor and Latin/Ballroom champion before establishing Tottering Biped Theatre in Burlington, Ontario.

**IVAN COYOTE** is an author, filmmaker and storyteller who has performed at arts and music festivals from Anchorage to Amsterdam to Australia. Ivan's work often grapples with the complex and intensely personal issues of gender identity, as well as topics such as family, class, social justice and queer liberation.



# STORIES OF IMPACT

## DuffleBag Theatre and Prologue to the Performing Arts:

"Prologue to the Performing Arts was instrumental in providing our students at Johnny Therriault School on Aroland First Nation with the experience of 'live theater'. Being able to provide our students with a variety of theater experiences and opportunities is a priority for the staff at Johnny Therriault School. Your thoughtfulness and kindness has not gone unnoticed."

- Johnny Therriault School, Aroland First Nation

"Because of Prologue, I have been given the rewarding opportunity to embark on an amazing journey of sharing the love of music with young audiences and constantly rediscovering how children are spiritually nourished through the arts."

- Jack Grunsky, Prologue Artist

## Fana Soro:

"Merci pour cette performance fantastique. Cela nous a donné du soleil et de la chaleur en cette journée froide du mois de mars... tout en nous faisant découvrir la belle culture africaine :) Merci!"

- Canadian Parents for French (Ontario)

## Leslie McCurdy:

"The performance was EXCELLENT!!!!!! Leslie was terrific. Students and staff thoroughly enjoyed it. Many questions from students afterwards. Thank you."

- Brimwood Boulevard Public School

## Tottering Biped Theatre:

"Trevor Copp was amazing today. Students and teachers loved his performance."

- Leslieville Public School

## IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS - 2016/17 REACH

**1,800**

PERFORMANCES  
AND WORKSHOPS  
IN ENGLISH, FRENCH  
OR BILINGUAL

**540,000**

STUDENTS REACHED  
ACROSS ONTARIO

**175**

COMMUNITIES  
SERVED ACROSS  
ONTARIO

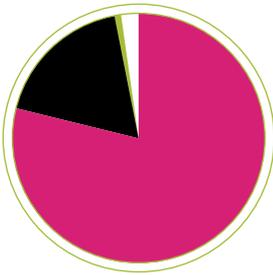
**38**

ARTISTS AND ARTS  
COMPANIES FROM  
A RANGE OF  
DISCIPLINES AND  
GENRES



Artists tour in communities of all sizes and regions of Ontario including Parry Sound, Sudbury, Peterborough, Windsor, Hamilton, Thunder Bay, Simcoe County, Dufferin County, London, Dryden, Kenora, Ottawa, Toronto, Oshawa and many more.

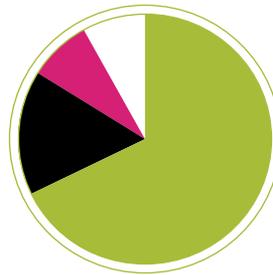
# FINANCIALS – 2016/17 OPERATING BUDGET



## REVENUE

**Total Revenue: \$1,819,713**

- Performance Revenue (\$1,428,895)
- Public Sector Revenue (\$337,047)
- Private Sector Revenue (\$13,225)
- Other (\$40,546)



## EXPENSES

**Total Expenses: \$1,809,907**

- Performance Costs (\$1,239,654)
- Salaries (\$285,294)
- Project Costs (\$145,182)
- Other (\$139,777)

## STAFF

Tim Whalley  
*Executive Director*

Claire St-Francois  
*Strategic Initiatives and Project Manager*

Tamara Weisz  
*Outreach and Market Development  
Coordinator*

Bremely Karthigesu  
*Bookings and Administrative Coordinator*

Carrie Hage  
*tdsbCREATES Program Administrator*

Shelley Cahill  
*Finance Coordinator*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Melvin Hurst, *Chair*
- Hasan Makansi, *Vice-Chair*
- Ivana Corovic, *Treasurer*
- Michelle Yeung, *Secretary*
- Timothy Fitzsimmons
- Carmen Francis
- Julie Hanson
- Marcus Lundgren (*Artist Rep*)
- Pat McCarthy
- Kevin. A Ormsby
- Christopher Rzepa

## FOUNDERS

- Jane Bishop
- Joan McCordic
- Joan Osler
- Mary Mingie
- Susan Rubes

## CORE SUPPORTERS



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