

The Listening Jar -- Cast and Crew Bios

THE DUSTY FLOWERPOT is a group of over thirty active, creative members -- and growing! Despite our size we write, rehearse and present our work through a collaborative and consensus based model of organization. We are learning to be our own facilitators and regularly hold workshops to grow and expand our skills - from anti-oppression training to mask-making, conflict transformation to costume creation. Our strengths lie not only in the talent of our members, but in our huge hearts. Individually and collectively, we are all over town presenting accessible, entertaining and inspiring work to our community and beyond. We work out of a studio collective, we run shows out of cozy community halls, and we scavenge set pieces and props from back alleys. All of our music, costumes, and scripts is done by us and by hand. Our most recent partnership with Pivot Legal Society is our first real exploration into the powerful world of art for social change. The community of East Vancouver, where most of us are living, is fertile ground for the emergence of creativity and consciousness. Sometimes the real world can be a very dark and sorrowful place; we work to sow seeds of change and stir up the dust of the sublime and the beautiful. It is from the light and dark of our own hearts that we present to you now, our newest production, The Listening Jar. Here are some of our crew and cast:

PRODUCER, *ANDREA CURTIS* -- works the outer perimeters of the boiling, creative nucleus of the Dusty Flowerpot. She uses an immense network to forge important relationships, works to tell the world what we're up to and try to make sure we break even. Some might call this administrative work. Andrea is an independent producer who can be caught at almost any moment stoking fires under new studios and theatre collectives, events, political campaigns and running every summer with the festival circuit crew. Andrea has worked with organizations from the Vancouver Folk Music Festival, International Film Festival and Public Dreams Society to the Car Free Vancouver Days, Western Canadian Wilderness Committee and the mischief makers over at the Work Less Party.

FACILITATOR & DESIGNER; STAGE/GRAPHICS, *L.BASIL MCMAHON* -- is the glue that holds many pieces of the DFC crew together. From facilitating meetings, designing the print materials and website as well as the stage design, he has the creative and compassionate capacities that hold a crew like this together. Basil is a professional visual and installation artist, stage designer, and network administrator with the DFC. Basil has his hands full running the silk screening studio with the Inkspoon Print Syndicate and managing group art shows and massive collaborations. Basil holds a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies from UBC, and has professional training in the field of community organizing. Visual exhibition creds range from local shows at The Fall and the Lumspace

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Gallery in Vancouver to international work displayed at the FLU/ORG Protocolo Nucle.ART festival in Santiago, Chile.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR AND COMPOSER, *ELLIOT VAUGHN* -- has, at the tender age of 21, almost single handedly written original scores for every (this being the third) Dusty Flowerpot production.

Talent such as Elliot's has been earning him well heeded scholarships, placing him in national competitions, and keeping him massively preoccupied with commissions. His creative work has also been selected for discussions at various symposiums and picked up by music instructors. He is currently working towards a BA in acoustic and electroacoustic music composition at SFU's School for the Contemporary Arts.

THE SEEKER, *MERIS GOODMAN* -- has taken the stage in the core role of The Listening Jar, roving through strange and soundless lands with only a small piece of a mesmerizing song. Meris is a strong performer with a haunting voice. An multidisciplinary performer and classically trained opera singer, she has performed with UBC Opera, and studied with soprano Karen Nimereala-Acampora, and tenor Roelof Oostwoud. She is an avid performer in circus arts, clowning, stilt walking and theatre. Her work has taken streets and stages from the In the House Festival to the Vancouver Folk Music Festival.

CHOREOGRAPHER, *KAT SINGLE-DAIN* -- At the age of 18 Kat Single-Dain had already exhibited her visual art in 10 professional galleries in Toronto, and at 19 became the youngest exhibitor in the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibit, the largest event of its kind in Canada. Now, eight years later Kat is an award-winning filmmaker and has a feature film screenplay in pre-production. She specializes in both film and dance, currently choreographing for Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret, PlayMore Theatre and Community Arts Workshop in Vancouver. She graduated with honors from UBC and the University of California Berkeley with a major in Film Production and a minor in Choreography. In the past three years Kat has curated for the Pacific Film Archive in California, edited film for the Museum of Anthropology Berkeley and the BC Lung Association, and taught Final Cut Pro at Berkeley High. Her delight, however, comes in the form of collaboration, environmentally focused art, strengthening community, and clowning. These passions culminated in the creation of the Trout House Collective in 2004, of which she is the founder.

COSTUMER/DANCER, *CANDICE CURLYPAWS* -- Candice is professional dancer, choreographer, costumer and musician with the Dusty Flower Pot Cabaret. Her interdisciplinary skills can also be seen in the Ancient Rugged Gypsy band, as a solo entertainer, and with the vaudeville-esque

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performance troupe Nucleus. Recently, Candice had the honor of performing under a Canada Council grant in the re-creation of *The Two Sisters* for the Sistahood Celebration Festival. Other highlight performances for Candice include the Vancouver Folk Music Festival of 2005, 2006 and 2007, and in 2005, again with the support of Canada Council, she performed in "the fire box" with Nucleus and Public Dreams for the Edmonton Street Busker's Festival. In 2005 she was invited to present an original fire-dance production, including roaming musical street theatre, and stilt dancing for the Macau fringe festival in China. Candice creates a fantastic world of grace and magic for herself with the continuous practice of music, movement and the creations of costumes and creatures. In 2006 she completed a 3 month character development through clown intensive with David McMurray-Smith and presently studies tap dancing under tap greats, Jennifer Bishop and Jim Hibbard from L.A.

MASTER PUPPETTEER, *MAGGIE WINSTON* -- Maggie is a professional puppeteer and costume designer with a certificate in Dramatic Studies and a BA in Experimental Performance Puppetry from Sarah Lawrence College (NY). She has worked since 2005 as the Artistic Director of Lost & Found Puppet Co. Her puppetry has been featured at numerous events across BC, including: Earth(ling), Activism and Art, Vancouver Fringe Festival, In the House Festival, Fearless Festival, Under the Volcano Festival and Walking Fish Festival. Maggie also works as a theatre instructor for children ages 2-19 at Arts Umbrella and a puppeteer for Kids on the Block, an educational puppet company.

CROWS/SHADOW CREATORS, *MIND OF A SNAIL PUPPET CO.* -- A compost-modern shadow puppet duo, Jessica Gabriel and Chloé Ziner have been developing a multi-layered style of visual storytelling since 2003, using an overhead projector as their main light source. Their performances combine originally crafted puppets, music, masked characters, recycled waste, and eclectic experimentations in lighting and timing. Their diverse creations have been featured at events such as Illuminaries, Parade of Lost Souls, Talking Stick Festival and Vancouver Folk Music Festival. Mind of a Snail colorfully exposes cultural quirks by developing simple stories around ideas that represent human's interconnectedness with what is natural, what is artificial, and where everything blurs in between.

MUSIC COMPOSOR, *JOANNA CHAPMAN-SMITH* -- Completing her Bachelors in Music in 2006, Joanna has worked devotedly with various musical groups - including Lily Come Down, Joanna Chapman-Smith, Women in the Round and T. Nile - playing at Festivals across Canada as well as releasing numerous recordings. She has collaborated with local

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choreographers and appeared in dance Series such as "Fling", 12 Minutes Max, New Tracks Festival, The Chocolate Festival and Bloom. Joanna has also worked as a Musical Director for the Indonesian Consulate's Gamelan Ensemble and for theatre productions such as the Fugue Free Theatre's "Out Like Flynn" in which she was one of the cast's principle actors. Joanna's instruments include: voice, clarinet, piano, guitar, percussion, lapsteel, mandolin, gamelan, penny whistle, flute, saxophone, and accordion.

DANCER, *CHRISTINA MARIANA* -- Christina is a professional facilitator, dancer and coordinator of diverse arts and community development projects. She has worked as a Project Coordinator for several not-for-profit organizations, such as Canadian Crossroads International, Katimavik and Rediscovery Foundation and is currently working towards a MA in Sociology from Simon Fraser University. From childhood to presenthood Christina has leaped and spun through a vast array of dance disciplines (folkloric, modern, flamenco and ballet) and hopes to keep leaping and spinning forevermore. She has worked with numerous dance companies around the world, such as Ninawa Dance Company (Vancouver), Ballet Potosi (Potosi, Bolivia) and Flamenco Vivo (Santiago, Chile). She is a devoted gardener of interdisciplinary art, participatory education and subversive social change. You can find her planting colourful seeds in dusty flowerpots and discovering four leaf clovers.

PUPPETTEER, *JESSICA MASON-PAULL* -- Graduating with Honours from Cardiff University's Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Theatrical Set and Costume Design, Jessica has enjoyed great success in the world of theatre. She has worked as a Scenographer for such notable directors as Mark Rosenblatt and Michael Bogdanov. Her work in puppetry, set and costume design has been showcased across Europe, including The Bath Theatre Royal, The Globe Theatre, The NoFitState Circus and at The Prague Quadrennial Centre Stage as well as on the B.B.C and Channel Four. Her puppetry and performance work has gained her a nomination for The Arts Council's Theatre Awards in the category of Design.

DANCER, *MICHAEL BEAN* -- Michael is an actor, acting coach, and founder of the kids and teens screen acting school Biz Studio. A classically trained actor, Michael's recent acting credits include roles in "The Day The Earth Stood Still" with Jennifer Connelly, "Case 39" with Renee Zellweger, and "Traveling" with Jennifer Aniston and Aaron Eckhart. Michael is based out of Vancouver, BC in Canada.