

LyricCANADA 2010

October 21-23

LyricCANADA 2010 National Conference

Showcases Programme

Thursday the 21st 19h00

Friday the 22nd 20h00

Saturday the 23rd 20h00,
October 2010

Venue: Studio Theatre
Shaw Festival
10 Queens Parade
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0
(905) 468-2172

(excerpted from the full conference programme)

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SHAW THEATRE
FESTIVAL

Marilyn I. Walker
School of Fine &
Performing Arts

Brock University
Faculty of Humanities

Table of Contents

WELCOME!	3
CONFERENCE OVERVIEW	4
PLENARY SPEAKERS	5
DAY 2/FRI OCT 22	8
ABSTRACTS <i>FOR DAY 2</i>	9
DAY 3/SAT OCT 23	17
ABSTRACTS <i>FOR DAY 3</i>	18
SHOWCASES	33
Thursday SHOWCASE (Youth)	33
October 21, 2010 19h00 - 21h00	
<i>Concrete Daisy</i>	33
<i>Big Box Story</i>	33
<i>Marathon of Hope</i>	35
Friday SHOWCASE	37
October 22, 2010 20h00 - 22h00	
<i>Dancing in the Coal Dust</i>	37
<i>Henry's Wife</i>	39
<i>Cassandra and Mother of Kings</i>	41
<i>One Step Forward</i>	42
<i>Biggish Kids</i>	42
Saturday SHOWCASE	45
October 23, 2010 20h00 - 22h00	
<i>Fallen Voices: Time will Erase</i>	45
<i>Gothic</i>	47
<i>Hansel & Gretel: Typographic Play</i>	48
<i>Tapestry New Opera</i>	49
<i>Maria Severa</i>	50
Credits	51
Map	53

Welcome!

On behalf of the students, staff and faculty of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts welcome you to LyricCANADA 2010. This is the inaugural meeting of theorists and practitioners from across this dynamic field both in Canada and the United States in what we hope shall be the first of many such gatherings. We strongly believe this will become one of the principal platforms for continued collaboration, future and mutual sharing of research and the showcasing of spectacular talent. From workshops to performances, panels to keynote presentations, our goal is to focus and stimulate meaningful dialogue on the vital contributions of lyrical theatre to our cultural and creative practices. This initiative is not without its challenges and we would hope that you will share in our desire to establish a network through which we can exchange and promote our mutual interests.

On behalf of our hosts Professors Virginia Reh and David Vivian of the Department of Dramatic Arts, I take this opportunity to welcome each of you to Brock University and the Niagara Region and to wish you continued success.

Derek J.J. Knight

Marilyn I. Walker Chair in Imagination, Creativity and Innovation
Director, Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts

Welcome to LyricCANADA 2010! Lyric because it embraces the full range of music theatre creation and Canada because its primary focus is on that lyric creation in Canada. Welcome too to our participants and guests from outside our boundaries. We welcome your inspiration and valued perspective from beyond borders.

LyricCANADA was launched 30 months ago. It grew out of a desire to bring scholars and researchers together with creators to enhance the status of lyric theatre in Canada. It grew out of a sense that the barriers among different forms of lyric expression are coming down and that there may be new genres and disciplines emerging. Our participation here over the three days is not a culmination, but a beginning. We have gathered here, a very diverse, talented, passionate group, to explore what is lyric theatre in Canada today and more importantly to look ahead to where it is going. We cannot predict the outcome of this gathering, but we can know with certainty that each of us participating will come away with new understandings, challenges, ideas and challenges. This is the beginning of a dialogue. Let us celebrate this coming together with open eyes, ears and minds.

We have enjoyed working at a distance with all of you to create LyricCANADA 2010. We are very happy to welcome you here in person.

Virginia Reh and David Vivian

Co-Directors
LyricCANADA 2010

Conference Overview

DAY 1/THURS OCT 21

13h30 -15h30	Registration SANKEY CHAMBERS, Brock University
15h30 - 16h00	WELCOME Orientation with coffee POND INLET, Brock University
16h00 -17h00	PLENARY Jim Betts POND INLET, Brock University
17h00 - 19h00	DINNER BREAK suggest GUERNSEY MARKET, Brock University
19h00 - 21h00	Thursday SHOWCASE (Youth) followed by Wine Reception; SHAW Festival Studio Theatre, Niagara-on-the-Lake <i>Concrete Daisy</i> <i>Big Box Story</i> <i>Marathon of Hope</i>

DAY 2/FRI OCT 22

8h30 - 9h00	Morning Coffee POND INLET, upstairs, Brock University
9h00 - 10h00	KEYNOTE Stewart Wallace POND INLET, Brock University
10h00 - 10h30	Coffee Break POND INLET, upstairs, Brock University
10h30 - 12h00	PANEL 1: <i>Discovering our stories in Lyric Theatre</i> POND INLET, Brock University Denyse Lynde, Helen Zdriluk, Ted Baerg PANEL 2: <i>Breaking the Sound Barrier</i> SANKEY CHAMBERS, Brock University Mel Atkey, Julie Salverson
12h00 -13h30	Lunch Break suggest GUERNSEY MARKET, Brock University
13h30 - 15h00	JOINT SESSION #1: <i>Capturing the Moment</i>; POND INLET, Brock University Kathryn Harvey and Francesca Marini; Jean Bridge and Sarah Pruyn
15h00 - 15h30	Coffee Break POND INLET, upstairs, Brock University
15h30 - 17h00	ROUNDTABLE: Future Directions in Lyric Theatre in Canada POND INLET, Brock University Jim Betts, Marjorie Chan, Wayne Strongman, Tracy Michailidis, David Warrack
17h00 - 19h00	Dinner Break suggest GUERNSEY MARKET, Brock University
20h00 - 22h00	Friday SHOWCASE; SHAW Festival Studio Theatre, Niagara-on-the-Lake <i>Dancing in the Coal Dust</i> <i>Henry's Wife</i> <i>Cassandra</i> and <i>Mother of Kings</i> <i>One Step Forward</i> <i>Biggish Kids</i>

DAY 3/SAT OCT 23

8h30 - 9h30	Information Table OPEN POND INLET, upstairs, Brock University
9h30 - 10h30	PLENARY Sarah Schlesinger POND INLET, Brock University
10h30 - 11h00	Coffee Break POND INLET, upstairs, Brock University
11h00 - 12h30	PANEL 3: <i>Celebrating the Singer: Strategies in Song</i> POND INLET, Brock University David Playfair and Gordon Portman, Helen Pridmore, Susan Blyth-Schofield PANEL 4: <i>Kissing Qwerty: New Horizons</i> SANKEY CHAMBERS, Brock University Meryn Cadell, Sheldon Rosen and Darren Russo
12h30 -13h30	Lunch Break POND INLET, upstairs
13h30 -15h00	PANEL 6: <i>The Elephant in the Lyric Castle</i> POND INLET, Brock University Ruth Howard, Graham Wolfe, Gretchen Helbig PANEL 5: <i>Getting it up and Putting it on: Producing Challenges</i> SANKEY CHAMBERS, Brock University Sandy Thorburn, Ian McAndrew and Gordon Portman, SG Lee
15h00 - 15h30	Coffee Break POND Inlet, upstairs, Brock University
15h30 - 17h00	JOINT SESSION #2: <i>Familiar Histories in Foreign Lands: The Future of Lyric Theatre in Canada?</i> POND INLET, Brock University Robert Walsh, Wayne Strongman
17h30 - 19h30	Closing Dinner Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club, 143 Front Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake
20h00 - 22h00	Saturday SHOWCASE SHAW Festival Studio Theatre, Niagara-on-the-Lake <i>Fallen Voices: Time will Erase</i> <i>Gothic</i> <i>Hansel & Gretel: Typographic Play</i> Tapestry's Creative Process: Marjorie Chan, Writer in Residence as hostess; A writer/composer team from the most recent LIBLAB; 2 Opera Briefs <i>Maria Severa</i>

Showcases

Thursday SHOWCASE (Youth)
SHAW Festival Studio Theatre,
Niagara-on-the-Lake

October 21, 2010 19h00 - 21h00

Concrete Daisy

MM Robinson High School, Burlington, ON

Big Box Story

Stratford Central SS, Stratford, ON

Marathon of Hope

Sheridan College, Oakville, ON

Concrete Daisy

MM Robinson High School
Burlington, ON

Book by Stephen Park & Jeff Murray
Music and lyrics by Steven Boyle
Direction: Sara Jeffries, Helen Zdriluk
Musical Direction: Sara Jeffries

CAST - in order of appearance

<i>Billy</i>	Adam McLaughlin	<i>Alex</i>	Emily Reimer
<i>Mick</i>	Jeremy Klaus	<i>Amy</i>	Elisha Corbett
<i>Sarah</i>	Melissa MacGougan	<i>Kelly</i>	Rheanne Trottier
<i>Jake</i>	Matt Hutchinson	<i>Angel</i>	Jon Graham
<i>Zip</i>	Ethan Nagy	<i>Alicia</i>	Meagan Warwick

ENSEMBLE

Shelby Ciarrocchi, Alex Dryla, David Graham, Jordon Johnson, Mary Powell, Isabela Sguario, Karlie Starchuck, Chelsie Williams

Concrete Daisy tells the story of 16-year-old Alicia Johnson, who ran away from an abusive home life to live on the streets, and of her new "family" of street kids. The play is the result of research with runaways, street kids, family members, social workers and other professionals. Written collectively by students Stephen Park and Jeff Murray, with music and lyrics by 17-year-old Steven Boyle, the piece was work-shopped and produced at Burlington Central High School. It was later sponsored by the community for two performances in Hamilton Place Studio Theatre, made into a video used by Halton Adolescent Support Services, and published in a Sears Drama Festival anthology of original one-act plays, entitled *Concrete Daisy and Other Plays*. This excerpt is presented by students of MM Robinson High School's music theatre class, with music direction by teacher Sara Jeffries and co-direction by Ms. Jeffries and Helen Zdriluk.

Big Box Story

Stratford Central SS
Stratford, ON

Written by Britta Johnson

Directed by Anika and Britta Johnson

CAST

<i>Clarke</i>	Christopher Fulton	<i>Roxie</i>	Olivia Kramer
<i>Reg</i>	Anika Johnson	<i>Harold Hoggs</i>	Johnny Woolley
<i>Penny</i>	Tess Dingman	<i>Mardy</i>	Jake Stern
<i>Cheryl</i>	Carly Degenstein	<i>Catherine</i>	Bronwyn Pel
<i>Angel</i>	Laura Darby		

CHORUS

Olivia Sinko, Jared Degenstein

Britta Johnson, piano

Big Box Story, a satire inspired by creator Britta Johnson's hometown's real-life battle against big-box retailers, is a tale of corruption, greed, integrity and hope set in a fictitious discount retailer outlet called HoggsMart. In a corporate world out of control, a plot to undermine the competing discount giant sets up a life-or-deathsales competition that threatens to destroy the community at the local franchise and forces the store's employees to look to the world outside the box.

At the age of 16, Britta Johnson began creating *Big Box Story* as a writing co-op at Stratford Central Secondary School. She wrote the book and lyrics, composed the songs, directed the 38-cast member production, and accompanied the show live on piano. Community support launched *Big Box Story* into an extended run and a one-night-only performance on the Avon Stage of the Stratford Festival. Britta returns to direct several of the original cast in this excerpt from *Big Box Story*.

Marathon of Hope

Sheridan College
Oakville, ON

Creative Team

John Connolly, Book, Music and Lyrics
Jim Betts, Director, Additional Material
Michael Mulrooney, Musical Direction, Arrangements, Additional Material
Allison McCaughey, Choreographer
Magi Oman, Stage Manager
Ben Graham, Assistant Stage Manager
Bob Hewus, Bass

Featuring Jeff Schissler as Terry Fox

Ensemble

(in alphabetical order)

Loretta Bailey, Ryan Brown, Rhoslynne Bugay, Jon Cullen, Laurel Denning, Meaghan Ing, Becky Johnson, Ben Kunder, Nathan Leung, Allison McCaughey, Kelly McNamee, Leah Oster, Louie Rosetti (Greg in WIDE OPEN), Nancy Silverman, Emma Smit, Keenan Viau

Special thanks to Sheridan College, Greg Peterson, Martin Zwicker, Trevor Williams, Geoffrey Tyler, Sandy Thorburn, Calvin Presbyterian Church, Uwe Meyer and the Port Hope Festival Theatre.

Marathon of Hope is a contemporary musical written and composed by 27-year old PEI native John Connolly. The show is an intimate portrayal of Terry Fox's struggle to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research. Originally showcased as part of the Bold Strokes program at Sheridan College, the show is full of youthful energy, determination and optimism.

JOHN CONNOLLY is a Canadian composer, playwright and performer. *Marathon of Hope* is his second musical and he is thankful to work with this amazing team.

Recently, John has been involved in a range of projects: His new album, *The Wind*, has just been released. He served as musical director for the Opening Ceremonies of the 2009 Canada Games and performed at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver.

John is a graduate of Sheridan College's Musical Theatre Program and spent the last three summers as a company member with The Charlottetown Festival.

John would like to thank the cast and creative team with special thanks to Jim Betts and Michael Mulrooney.

MICHAEL MULROONEY studied conducting, piano, and voice the University of Toronto, and has pursued an eclectic musical career centering on theatre. He has served as pianist, conductor and/or musical director on nearly 200 productions, frequently contributing arrangements or original music as well. He has participated in the development of many new works, including numerous small productions in the regional theatres, as well as the pre-Broadway Toronto productions of *The Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Show Boat*, and *Ragtime*. He currently teaches at Sheridan College, serves regularly as a mentor for the National Academy Orchestra, and has taught musical theatre at the Randolph Academy and York University.

Friday SHOWCASE
SHAW Festival Studio Theatre,
Niagara-on-the-Lake

October 22, 2010 20h00 - 22h00

Dancing in the Coal Dust

David Warrack with Elizabeth Beeler

Henry's Wife

Randall Eng and Alexis Bernier

Cassandra* and *Mother of Kings

Ian McAndrew and Gordon Portman

One Step Forward

Leslie Arden

Biggish Kids

Bram Gielen with Tracy Michailidis

Dancing in the Coal Dust

David Warrack
with Elizabeth Beeler

David Warrack, conductor, composer, pianist
Elizabeth Beeler, director

CAST

<i>Ginger Goodwin</i>	Cory O'Brien	<i>Mag O'Hara</i>	Elizabeth Beeler
<i>Mary Clark</i>	Allie Hughes	<i>Terry Carson</i>	Robin Stalder
<i>Joe Naylor</i>	Barrie Wood	<i>Joseph Shaw</i>	Jonathon Dick
<i>Bette Farland</i>	Kelly Holiff	<i>Robert Rushford</i>	Ryan Whittal
<i>Dan Campbell</i>	Greg Finney	<i>Peggy Manson</i>	Lona Davis
<i>Wragge</i>	Daniel Lucifora	<i>Blaylock, Devitt</i>	Donnie Macphee
<i>Wolverton</i>	Kellan Ziffle	<i>Helen Clark</i>	Eden Richmon
<i>Arthur Boothman</i>	Patrick Whalen	<i>Jimmy Randall</i>	Kevin Clarke

Dancing in the Coal Dust is a new musical based on the life and times of the legendary Ginger Goodwin, a coal miner and union activist who lost his life under suspicious circumstances in July, 1918.

The story traces Ginger from his arrival in Cumberland, B.C. in 1910; through his development into a leadership role as part of the fledgling unionization of coal miners; his part in the dramatic Strike by Smelter Workers in Trail (1916); his subsequent military re-classification from "D" (unfit for active service) to "A" (ready for action); his many appeals; his flight from the authorities; to his death at the hands of a deputy with little respect for the ambiguities of a manhunt for a declared pacifist.

The love story between Ginger and Mary Clark is balanced by the sub-plot of the unrequited relationship between Zhang Lee, from Chinatown, and Bette, the proprietress of the Bucket of Blood Saloon.

The country was young, the world was in turmoil, and the story is enriched by magnificent, larger-than-life characters whose interaction makes for great drama, and consequently wonderful theatre.

ELIZABETH BEELER was an original member of Hal Prince's Show Boat, (T.O/NY) *Les Miserables*, (Cosette), *Beauty and The Beast* (Feather Duster), *Aspects of Love* (Rose), and *Jane Eyre*. Toured North America as concert soloist with Eric Kunzel. New works; *Moll*, *Larry's Party*, *Dracula*, *Colours in The Storm*, *Assembly Women*, *Evangeline*, *Rob Roy*. Recently, titles in: *Countess Maritza*, *Lady In The Dark*, *The Merry Widow*. And a stint as The Beggar Woman in *Sweeney Todd*. Her own CD "Unlaced" features musical theatre standards and new Canadian works. She also works as a director/ drama coach and writer.

DAVID WARRACK has had the opportunity throughout his career to work extensively in a compelling variety of disciplines. He toured and recorded with Maureen Forrester for the last fifteen years of her storied career, as conductor and/or accompanist for concerts which displayed the breadth of her ability to perform Mahler or Sondheim with equal distinction. Their recording of *Interpretations of a Life*, with Maureen singing songs David wrote for her, is a marvelous tribute to a Canadian treasure. He has been a guest conductor with orchestras across North America. David is the founding conductor of the Canada Pops Orchestra, which is now in its ninth year. They have performed at Massey Hall, the Hummingbird Centre, the Toronto Centre For the Arts and the Downtown Toronto Jazz Festival, featuring an all-Canadian guest list which has included such artists as Jeff Hyslop, Carol Welsman, Jackie Richardson, Louise Pitre, Guido Basso, The Men of the Deeps and the Three Cantorial Tenors.

He has been musical director for over 250 productions on stage, radio, and television including *Shenandoah* on Broadway, *Closer than Ever* (Dora Mavor Moore Award), the cross-Canada tour of *Jacques Brel*, *Unforgettable: The Story of Nat King Cole* in Vancouver and nine Christmas Pantomimes produced by Ross Petty at Toronto's elegant Elgin Theatre. He was Musical Director/Arranger for a tribute to Oscar Hammerstein II at the Hummingbird Centre with the Mendelssohn Singers and from 2006 to 2009 he was the MD for the brand new Showcase Festival on Vancouver Island, where he was commissioned to write the coal miners' musical *Dancing in the Coal Dust*. More recently he MD'd Brubeck's Oratorio *Light in the Wilderness*, performed by the celebrated Elora Festival Singers.

As a composer, his credits include works for orchestra, chamber groups, choirs and stage bands. He has written or collaborated on over 70 professionally produced musicals, including many of the longest-running shows in Canadian Theatre History. In 2006, he took on the position of Organist/Choir Director at Hillcrest Christian Church in Toronto, and he has created a considerable body of new sacred compositions for them. That same year, The Port Mansion Theatre in St. Catharines presented *The Magic of Music*, featuring 39 of David's over

2,000 songs. In August, his new musical *Rob Roy* had the honour of premiering at the celebrated Edinburgh Fringe Festival to great acclaim. The CD and Songbook for that show were released in 2007. His musical *Catwalk* (written with J. Sean Elliott) has been optioned for a film. He is currently working on two new commissions – *Eva*, based on the legendary vaudevillian Eva Tanguay, and *Dance with Duarte*, a musical set in the traditional Spanish “All Souls’ Day”.

At the piano, David is featured on the concert circuit with programs ranging from classical to musical theatre to jazz, including ongoing appearances. This summer he was featured at the Elora Festival in a tribute to Musical Theatre along with megawatt Diva Jackie Richardson. In the 2010/2011 season he will anchor a *Theatre Giants* series in the George Weston Concert Hall at the Toronto Centre for the Arts.

David was born in Calgary, where he first was heard on radio at the age of five. He studied at the University of Calgary, the Berklee School of Music in Boston, the Royal Conservatory, and the University of Toronto. He lives in Toronto with his wife Lona Davis, a gifted pianist and musical director, and has been blessed with three children, Gordon, Cayleigh and Levi.

Henry's Wife

Randall Eng with Alexis Bernier

Randall Eng, composer
Alexis Bernier, librettist

CAST

James Sasser as Henry
Amy Justman as Marisa

Henry's Wife is a love story, a mystery, a family drama, a ghost story. It is a piece about being stuck in the past, about embracing the future, about creative inspiration, a piece where a stranger arrives and disrupts the status quo. At the work's center is the question of the natural order of the world—whether it exists, whether it is desirable, what our place is in it, how much we can affect the progress of our lives.

The story takes place on the secluded estate of Henry, a famous, reclusive artist. He lives with his second wife, Pascal, and his daughter, Marisa. It is eventually revealed that Henry's dead first wife (Marisa's mother) has been coming to him in his dreams and has informed him that the following will happen:

1. Henry will summon a journalist, Daniel, to the estate to take Henry's first interview in decades.
2. Daniel and Pascal will fall in love at first sight.
3. They will leave and start a new life together.
4. Most difficult of all, Marisa must also leave.

This, in fact, is what happens. With varying levels of awareness of the "plan", the four characters alternately embrace, resist, and accept the directives of Henry's dream.

The score is in turn propulsive and lyrical, operatically passionate and theatrically intimate, and is equal parts jazz, opera, and musical theatre.

Henry's Wife has received developmental support from Tapestry New Opera and American Opera Projects. The Center for Contemporary Opera presented the first complete piano-vocal reading of the work in New York in 2009.

ALEXIS BERNIER'S plays have been critically acclaimed across Canada. Over four seasons, five of her plays have been work-shopped at the Stratford Festival, including *Still Life*, *Vicious Circle*, and *Some People's Children*. For Skazmos Theatre Toronto, she has directed seven of her plays, including *Truce*, *The Pride*, and *Breaking Character* ("one of the richest, most subtle scripts of the year..." Jon Kaplan, *NOW*), starring such esteemed actors as, Martha Henry, Diana Leblanc, R.H. Thomson, David Fox, Maria Ricossa, Karl Pruner, and Oliver Dennis. For Princeton Entertainment and the Kennedy Center, Alexis has written gala concerts and Christmas shows starring Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer, and Joel Grey. *Henry's Wife* is her only full-length libretto. Her books and lyrics for musicals include *Musical Chairs*, *Vicious Circle*, and *Choose*, a children's show for which she also served as composer. Current projects: for Skazmos, a trilogy of one-woman rants (*Apologia*, *Penance*, *Paradise*); the adaptation of her play *Some People's Children* into a musical for the Cell Theatre in New York; and *Years of Wednesdays*, a screenplay for Dame Cleo Laine.

Hailed as "one of the most brilliant young composers of his generation" (*New Music Connoisseur*), **RANDALL ENG** has devoted his career to mining the territory between opera, music-theatre, and jazz. His opera *Florida* was given a workshop production at Lyric Opera Cleveland in 2006; reviews praised the score as "brilliant", "captivating", "luminous", "thrilling", "beguiling", "haunting", "delectable", "a significant, snazzy work" (Donald Rosenberg, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*). *Florida* was previously presented at New York City Opera's VOX festival and the Public Theater's *New Work Now!* festival.

In addition to *Henry's Wife*, Randall's theatrical works include *Cocktails* (Circle East), *Usher*, *Falling* (Opera Vindaloo Festival), and the video opera *The Woman in the Green Coat* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival). Non-theatrical works include commissions for Albany Symphony Orchestra's Dogs of Desire, Mirror Visions Ensemble, and baritone Marcus DeLoach. He has been awarded prizes and residencies from Tapestry New Opera, American Opera Projects, the Eugene O'Neill National Music Theatre Conference, the Civitella Ranieri Foundation, the Frederick Loewe Foundation, the Virginia Arts Festival, the Bang on a Can Summer Institute, Boston Metro Opera, and New Dramatists.

A former *Jeopardy!* champion, he is a graduate of Harvard University, Cambridge University, and New York University (GMTWP), where he currently teaches.

Cassandra* and *Mother of Kings

Ian McAndrew with Gordon Portman

Ian McAndrew, composer

Gordon Portman, librettist

Performers: Ramona Carmelly, mezzo-soprano and Jennifer Tung, piano

Programme: Grieving Queens: 2 Arias by Ian McAndrew and Gordon Portman

1. "All the years" (Clytemnestra) *Cassandra* (2003)
2. "My womb cries out" (Eleanor) *Mother of Kings* (work-in-progress)

IAN McANDREW was born in Vancouver in 1958, where he attended the University of British Columbia as an opera major, studying voice and stagecraft with French Tickner and composition with Dr. Stephen Chatman. After working for Pacific Opera Association as Production and Acting General Manager, in 1981 Mr. McAndrew moved to Toronto where he has performed frequently with Toronto Operetta Theatre and was a founding member of The Victoria Scholars Male Vocal Ensemble in 1993. During this time he also wrote two full-length stage plays and was a member of the Tarragon Theatre's Six Playwright's Unit in 1983-1984.

In 1998, Mr. McAndrew began to turn his attention to composition. In addition to writing several short vocal, choral and chamber pieces, his first opera, *Benjamin Brown*, a one-act chamber work for young audiences, was composed in 1999 and recorded in 2000. His full-length chamber opera based on the story of the Trojan princess and prophetess, *Cassandra*, with a libretto by Gordon Portman, received its world premiere on 25 May 2003.

Mr. McAndrew is currently working on two more operas with Gordon Portman, *Mother of Kings*, the story of 12th century queen Eleanor of Aquitaine, and *The Other Boat*, based on the short story by E.M. Forster, as well as a musical, *Storyville*, with book and lyrics by Charlotte Fielden.

GORDON PORTMAN is a multi-disciplinary theatre professional currently based in Brandon, MB. As a playwright, his plays have been presented on stages from Victoria to Halifax and have won several awards. He has been a member of playwrights' units at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Theatre Passe Muraille and The Banff Centre, and was a playwright in residence at the Shaw Festival. As a director, upcoming productions include Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* (Brandon University School of Music, Brandon MB), where he recently directed a well received production of Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring*. As an actor, Gordon has been acting professionally for almost twenty five years, most recently in *ART* for Pet Projects Productions in Brandon. Finally, Gordon also teaches several courses at Brandon University – creative writing, screenwriting, opera workshop, and this fall will be covering scene study classes in the drama department.

One Step Forward

Leslie Arden

Arden will sing songs from *One Step Forward* (music & lyrics by Leslie Arden, book by Tim French & Berni Stapleton), followed by a song from a show in development with Norm Foster, *Ned Durango*.

LESLIE ARDEN has written over a dozen musicals, including the critically acclaimed and multi-award winning *The House of Martin Guerre* and the Chalmers Award winning *The Happy Prince*. Leslie's musical adaptation of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* (with book by Berni Stapleton and Tim French), *The Boys are Coming Home*, was produced by Chicago's American Musical Theatre Project in Chicago in August, 2006, and this musical was chosen to be showcased by The National Alliance of Musical Theater in New York City later that same year. This musical has been renamed *One Step Forward*, and will receive a concert production by Talk Is Free Theatre in December. Leslie composed the music for Toronto's Canadian Stage Company's productions of *The Beard of Avon* and *It's a Wonderful Life*, as well as the Stratford Shakespeare Festival's 2009 production of *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Her family musical, *The Princess and the Handmaiden*, was premiered at LKTYP last fall. Leslie collaborated with Norm Foster on the oft produced musical murder mystery, *The Last Resort*, and currently, Leslie and Norm are working on a new musical called *Ned Durango*. Finally, Leslie is at work on a contemporary musical version of *Moll Flanders*.

Biggish Kids

Bram Gielen with Tracy Michailidis

Bram Gielen, composer

Tracy Michailidis, producer

performers: Sara Farb, Allie Hughes, Alex Samaras, and Felicity Williams.

Biggish Kids is a collection of songs that deal with the particularities of growing up today, now. Through the acknowledgment and occasional subversion of recognizable popular music idioms, the songs attempt to deal with issues of growth and interpersonal connection unique to the post-industrial age. For example, since from childhood, people are already so acquainted with the common tropes of love, lust and heartbreak through their iterations in Pop culture, there is now a large set of expectations to be satisfied (or not) when these feelings are finally encountered in "real life". The songs of *Biggish Kids* aim to convey the experiences of people trying to work out these tough spots and others, while conversing with the cultural manifestations of these scenarios, either through rejection, acceptance, or blissful naiveté.

BRAM GIELEN is a bassist, pianist and composer living in Toronto. On the heels of a childhood spent studying classical piano, Bram went on to study double bass in the Jazz program at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music in 2004. While a student, he was a

recipient of several awards and scholarships, including the Duke Ellington Society Scholarship and the Prince Edward County Jazz Festival's "Rising Young Star" award. In addition to various studio and live work, Bram can regularly be seen performing as a member of the band T H O M A S, as well as in the backing bands of Steve McKay and Allie Hughes. Bram's first large musical project, *Biggish Kids*, premiered in August 2010, as part of Summerworks' inaugural Musical Works in Concert series.

SARA FARB is thrilled to be able to perform *Biggish Kids* once again, following an incredibly successful evening at SummerWorks' Musical Works in Concert series. Sara is a frequent cabaret performer around Toronto (and once at the esteemed Joe's Pub in NYC) and has been performing in this city since she was very small. Favourite credits include *Jane Eyre*, *Oliver!*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Songs for a New World*, *The Sisters Rosensweig*, and *Edges: A Song Cycle*, which she also co-produced. She also has extensive film, TV, and voice-over credits. This past summer, Sara produced a presentation of Akiva Romer-Segal and Colleen Dauncey's musical work *The Subway Songs*, in which she also performed, and in which Bram lent his skills on the bass. *The Subway Songs* will soon be granted a more official run. Sara is very grateful that Bram asked her to participate in one of the most inspiring, original, challenging pieces she has ever had the pleasure of singing. Sara can almost taste the sweet freedom of graduating from the University of Toronto with a BA in English, where she has been a student for about 6 years. Literally.

Besides her own music project, which is her focus right now, **ALLIE HUGHES** is known for being in the top ten contestants on CBC's *How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria?*, and was a member of the original cast of the new Ben Elton/Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, *The Boys in the Photograph* (Mirvish). She was also seen last in Toronto's first production of *A New Brain* (Acting Upstage), and in *Camelot* (Drayton). Allie trained in classical piano and voice in high school at the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, and in musical theatre performance at Sheridan College.

ALEX SAMARAS has studied at the University of Toronto (Jazz Performance) and the Banff Centre for Creative Music. Alex is currently a freelance vocalist/musician performing in Toronto and New York. He has worked with Marvin Hamlisch, Helmuth Rilling (Bach Festival Singers) and performs with the Meredith Monk Vocal Ensemble. Alex is also Music Director for Toronto Youth Theatre (*Seussical*) and the Children's Theatre Project (*Sweet Charity*). You can catch Alex every month at Toronto's Gate 403 and other venues with "The Sondheim Jazz Project."

FELICITY WILLIAMS is an active member of Toronto's vibrant music community. Since graduating from York University's music program in 2006, she has been establishing herself in the jazz/creative music and indie scenes as a musician with an ambitious approach to the role of the voice in a variety of ensembles. In 2007, she attended Dave Douglas's workshop at the Banff Centre for the Arts, where she forged connections with musicians in Vancouver, Montreal, New York, and Boston. Based in Toronto, she is busy as a side person in a number of ensembles, and is also a member of the chamber folk-jazz quartet Hobson's Choice. Last year, Hobson's Choice released two albums, including many of her compositions. She leads

the Al Purdy Project, featuring her compositions based on the poems of Canadian poet laureate Al Purdy. Recently she sang in Manhattan on David Garland's NPR broadcast, *Spinning on Air*, with the Alex Lukashevsky Trio. She has worked as a side person with Broken Social Scene, Snowblink, and John Southworth, as well as participated in a number of modern jazz and indie recording projects.

Saturday SHOWCASE

SHAW Festival Studio Theatre,
Niagara-on-the-Lake

October 23, 2010 20h00 - 22h00

Fallen Voices: Time will Erase

Kristin Mueller-Heaslip and Virginia Reh

Gothic

Cathy Elliott

Hansel & Gretel: Typographic Play

Sheldon Rosen and Darren Russo

Tapestry's Creative Process: Marjorie Chan, Writer in Residence as hostess; A writer/composer team from the most recent LIBLAB; 2 Opera Briefs

Marjorie Chan

Maria Severa

Paul Sportelli, Jay Turvey, and members of the Shaw Company

Fallen Voices: Time will Erase

Kristin Mueller-Heaslip with Virginia Reh

Alex Eddinton, composer

Kristin Mueller-Heaslip, soprano

Virginia Reh, director

Jen Wardle, saxophone and production design

Time Will Erase, written and performed by Kristin Mueller-Heaslip and composed by Alex Eddington, is the first in a trilogy of short operas entitled *Fallen Voices*, which debuted in Toronto in September, under the direction of Virginia Reh. The operas were written for soprano and saxophone (Jen Wardle) and each is about a fascinating woman. *Time Will Erase* delves into the life and work of Russian poet Anna Akhmatova.

TIME WILL ERASE

Before the revolution of 1917, Anna Akhmatova was one of Russia's most famous poets. After the revolution her work was condemned as bourgeois and trivial and she was unable to publish. She wrote very little and lived in poverty.

In 1935 her only son Lev (referred to as Lyova in this work) was caught up in the Terror. Like many women whose loved ones were being held, Anna waited daily outside of the prison for a chance to see her son, to give him food and gifts, and to plead for his life. The central

incident of this work, where Anna is accosted by another grieving woman, actually happened:

One day somebody in the crowd identified me (...) and asked me in a whisper (everyone whispered there): 'Can you describe this?' And I said: 'I can.'

From this experience Anna began to write *Requiem*, her tragic masterpiece. Still unable to publish and in danger of arrest, Anna and the other underground poets of her circle would memorize their work, then burn the hard copies. Late in her life, after Stalin's death, Akhmatova was honoured and allowed to publish again, and was able to recreate many of those burned works.

ALEX EDDINGTON - Composer, musician, playwright and actor Alex Eddington completed his Master's degree in composition at the University of Alberta, where he studied with Howard Bashaw, Paul Steenhuisen and Andriy Talpash. His undergraduate training was in his native Toronto with Gary Kulesha, Alexander Rapoport and John Hawkins. He has attended workshops for emerging composers including the National Arts Centre Young Composers' Programme in 2006, and the 2008 Quatuor Bozzini "Composer's Kitchen" in Montreal.

His musical works have been commissioned and performed in Canada and internationally by established artists and presenters, including Quatuor Bozzini, the Talisker Players, members of L'Orchestre de la Francophonie Canadienne, the Edmonton Saxophone Quartet, the Toronto Chamber Choir, and Vox Novus, as well as a younger generation of professionals such as Kristin Mueller-Heaslip, Jeremy Maitland, Catherine Carignan and the Silver Birch String Quartet. In 2008, his orchestral work *Reiteration* was the winner of the Orchestras Mississauga Emerging Composer Competition. He received a 2004 SOCAN award for his monodrama *Death to the Butterfly Dictator!*, and in the same year, *Dance Attack!* for orchestra was a finalist in the Toronto Symphony Orchestra's 'New Creations' young composers' competition.

In 2005 Alex Eddington was the recipient of a SSHRC grant for a project exploring new intersections of music and theatre/dance. Mr. Eddington has toured the Canadian Fringe festival circuit in his own original plays: *WOOL* (2006), *The Fugue Code* (2007) and *Old Growth* (2008); and an original production of TJ Dawe's comic monologue *Tired Clichés* in 2009. Alex Eddington combined his two loves - music and theatre - in his 2008/09 Urjo Kareda Residency at Tarragon Theatre in Toronto, where he work-shopped a new play (*Emily C.*) and apprenticed with three professional sound designers. Mr. Eddington is a member of the Edmonton Composer's Concert Society, and an Associate Composer of the Canadian Music Centre.

KRISTIN MUELLER-HEASLIP - Kristin is known to Canadian audiences as an intelligent and sensitive performer of new and unusual music. Winner of the 2008 Eckhardt-Grammate National Music Competition, Kristin performed across Canada on the winner's tour. Recent appearances include Elvira in Opera in Concert's production of *I Puritani*. With her husband

Benjamin Mueller-Heaslip, Kristin is a founding member of The Parkdale Revolutionary Orchestra.

VIRGINIA REH'S multi-faceted career embraces directing, acting, teaching, theatre, music theatre, opera, film, T.V. A founding Co-Director of Script Lab and former Artistic Director of the Gryphon Theatre and, she has worked with the Edmonton, Canadian and Vancouver Opera Companies, Opera Lyra, Tapestry Singers, Theatre on the Grand and Shakespeare in the Square. She directed several productions at Toronto Operetta Theatre, as well as adapting the libretto for the Canadian work *Leo the Royal Cadet*. Virginia is on the faculty of the Department of Dramatic Arts at Brock University, where she teaches acting and directing, with a focus on lyric theatre. She was Drama Coach and Production Manager for the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus for fourteen years and has been Dramatic Consultant to Opera In Concert for twenty-seven years, working on over fifty operas.

JEN WARDLE, saxophones/production design - Saxophonist and visual artist Jennifer Wardle studied music and visual art at York University and O.C.A.D. She has studied saxophone performance in Toronto with Paul Brodie, at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique (Paris) with Claude Delangle and has performed at masterclasses of Jean – Marie Londeix and James Houlic. Jennifer represented Canada at the Tenth World Saxophone Congress and has performed with earshot! ensemble and for many composers of new music as a soloist and as a member of the All-Girls Saxophone Duet, the Sky People Saxophone Quartet, and the Parkdale Revolutionary Orchestra. Jennifer participates in solo and group shows with her drawings, paintings and installations. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and festivals in Canada, the United States, Hungary and Italy and is included in several corporate collections.

Gothic

Cathy Elliot

Gothic is a novel musical romance about a man who is in love with writing, but has been confined by the "Bible" rules of Dark Love Novels, a publisher of gothic tomes for teens. He's been writing under a female pseudonym, drifting away from the protocol, and is forced to write three novels in forty-eight hours or return his advances. How hard can it be? There's "always an always" to guide him along, and stock characters to move around. Simply open three documents, type three titles and go! Only problem is, his Goth editor keeps interrupting and his stock characters are bored with the rules too, and a little more than pissed off that he's putting them through this marathon.

This is a work in progress, which features four actors in an army of characters spanning hundreds of years, thousands of miles, and a dizzying array of music genres. (All sung and played by Cathy Elliott - no stranger to multiple jobs and personalities.)

CATHY ELLIOTT'S artistic experience spans 20 years as designer, actor, writer, and composer. Selected roles: Jo *Cowgirls*, Maggie *The Princess and the Handmaiden* (LKTYP), Miss Shields *A Christmas Story* (Theatre Orangeville), Esther *Breaking Up is Hard To Do* (Stage West Toronto), Elizabeth, *Oil Rush* (Victoria Playhouse), Hanna, *Spitfire Grill* (Theatre London), Sharon in her one woman musical *Moving Day* (Talk is Free). She received a Dora nomination for The Swallow in Leslie Arden's *Happy Prince*. Her musical *Fireweeds* premiered at the Red Barn Theatre and is now a musical for nine women. *Moving Day* was featured in regional festivals: NSTF Toronto, SNTF Halifax and Apollo 11's 40th Anniversary in Alliston Ontario. She has been working with the DAREarts Foundation as a facilitator for the Aboriginal Arts Program "First Roots" in First Nations remote communities. She wrote the script and composed film score for documentary *Webequie* narrated by Graham Greene, now released.

Hansel & Gretel: Typographic Play

Sheldon Rosen with Darren Russo

Jonathan Aitken, "kinetic typographer"

Sheldon Rosen, librettist

Darren Russo, composer

performers: David Coomber, Anthony Malarky, Jesse Nerenberg, Christina Opolko
Helen Kopec, cello

Hansel and Gretel is an imaginative new creation set in a concentration camp found in a dark, German forest in 1940 and told by a concentration camp inmate. Using animated graphic design, music, text and theatrical dialogue, this is a work-in-process that travels between the unique, yet connected, worlds of music theatre, opera, and choral work. Currently writing and teaching in Toronto, Rosen has written 17 plays produced throughout United States and Canada. *Hansel and Gretel* is the fruit of a Creative SSHRC Grant awarded in 2008-10. Rosen will be accompanied by composer Darren Rosen (Montreal), David Coomber, Christina Opolko, Jesse Nerenberg and Niagara-on-the-Lake cellist Helen Kopec, and others.

JONATHAN AITKEN is currently an Associate Professor at Emily Carr University of Art and Design. Previous to that, he was an Associate Professor at Ryerson University. As well, he owned and operated a graphic design studio, Pages Design, for 15 years. His area of creative research is in the field of kinetic typography. He has recently completed working on a project funded by an SSHRC Research/Creation Grant in Fine Arts. This project combines kinetic typography with interactive live performance with the goal of creating a believable "typographic character".

SHELDON ROSEN: 17 plays produced throughout United States and Canada. *NED AND JACK* was produced at the Stratford Festival in Ontario, Canada, in 1979 and 1980 and won the 1980 Canadian Author's Association Award for Drama and was directed on Broadway in 1981 by Colleen Dewhurst and nominated for an Association of Canadian Television and Radio Award. Published by Samuel French in 1983. Playwright- in-residence at the National Arts

Centre in Ottawa, the Stratford Festival in Stratford, Ontario (twice), the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the Lake, Toronto Free Theatre in Toronto and at San Jose State University. Received three Canada Council Arts Awards and several Ontario Arts Grants. Chairman of the Guild of Canadian Playwrights for 1979-80. Mr. Rosen was selected to be a member of the New Dramatists in New York 1984. In 1990 he received the first annual Joe A. Callaway Award for playwriting at New Dramatists. Created and directed the playwriting program at the National Theatre School of Canada for eight years. Currently writing and teaching in Toronto and is an Assistant Professor of Creative Performance Studies at the Ryerson University Theatre School where he won the McConnell Curricular Innovation Award in his first year of full-time teaching.

DARREN RUSSO, composer and pianist based in Montréal, Québec began studying piano at an early age. It wasn't until his late teens, however, that he discovered composition which quickly became his dominant source of musical satisfaction. Since starting his undergraduate degree in composition and theory at McGill University's Schulich School of Music in 2006, he has enjoyed numerous successes as a composer and pianist on both the academic and professional front. He is a recipient of the McGill University Music Entrance Scholarship, Sara Berlind Memorial Scholarship and Andrew Svoboda Award for composition. He was awarded two positions as composer in residence for the McGill Contemporary Music Ensemble (*Tick Tock, Bang Bang* – 2009), and the McGill University Chorus (*Missa Syllabis* – 2010). Recently, he collaborated with Sheldon Rosen on creating music for his play *Hansel and Gretel* which ran at Ryerson University in May 2009. Other collaborations include pianist and arranger for the Becket Players *Way Off Broadway* productions (Montréal, 2005-09), and first keyboards/conductor for the bilingual production of *Altar Boyz* in Montréal (2008).

HELEN KOPEC received her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Toronto, where she studied with Vladimir Orloff. She also attended master classes with Janos Starker at the Banff School of Fine Arts. She was principal cello with the Chamber Players of Toronto, and a member of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. Helen returned to Canada in June, '07, after having lived in Atlanta, GA, where she performed regularly with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Atlanta Ballet, and was a member of the Amadeus String Quartet. Her radio program, "Afternoon Intermezzo," was featured daily on WMLB, "The Voice of the Arts in Atlanta." She now lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and has performed with the Shaw Festival, Toronto Symphonia, and the Hamilton Philharmonic.

**Tapestry's Creative Process: Marjorie Chan, Writer in Residence as hostess;
A writer/composer team from the most recent LIBLAB; 2 Opera Briefs**
Marjorie Chan

MARJORIE CHAN is a writer based in Toronto. Her works have been performed in Canada, the U.S., Hong Kong and Russia. Marjorie's playwriting debut, *China Doll* was nominated for a Dora (Outstanding New Play), as well as the Governor General's Literary Award. Her other full-length plays include *a nanking winter* and *The Madness of the Square* as well as the adaptation of the Japanese modern classic, *in the garden, two suns* with Damien Atkins. Her

writing has also supported dance pieces, sound theatre, radio drama and 'cell phone' plays. As a librettist, Marjorie's work includes *Mother Everest*, as well as *Sanctuary Song*, the latter which was recognized with a Dora Award for Outstanding New Opera. Other awards include a Dora (Outstanding Performance for TYA), as well as the K.M. Hunter Artist Award. She has been in residence with Cahoots Theatre Projects, Theatre Direct Canada, SUNY (Geneseo, New York) and most recently with Theatre du Pif (Hong Kong). Current writing includes a new opera libretto, *M'Dea Undone*, and a new play with music, *Hello Cello, Goodbye Heart*. www.marjoriechan.com

Maria Severa

Sportelli, Paul and Jay Turvey with members of Shaw Company

CAST

Julie Martell as Maria

Mark Uhre as Armando

Paul Sportelli, piano

Maria Severa transports us to nineteenth-century Portugal and tells the story of the country's first fado singer. Maria, born in the slums of Lisbon, sings in her mother's tavern. She has a love affair with Count Armando di Vimioso, an aristocratic bullfighter, who helps her in her meteoric rise to fame. *Maria Severa* the musical is a portrait of the artist as a young woman.

PAUL SPORTELLI and **JAY TURVEY** have written 6 musicals to date: *Little Mercy's First Murder* (with playwright/lyricist Morwyn Brebner), *Tristan, Step Right Up!* (with playwright/co-lyricist Eric Woolfe), *Maria Severa*, *Nobody Told Me* (a cycle of songs), and most recently *Oracle*. *Little Mercy's First Murder* premiered at the Tarragon Theatre (Toronto, 2003) and won 7 Dora Awards that season. It has been produced twice since: at Touchstone Theatre (Vancouver, 2005) and at Ground Zero Theatre (Calgary, 2006). *Tristan* premiered at the Shaw Festival in 2007, after having appeared on the Shaw Festival Musical Reading Series in 2005. *Step Right Up!* premiered at Theatre Orangeville (2008). *Maria Severa* first appeared on the Shaw Festival Musical Reading Series in 2009 and will receive a full production at Shaw in 2011. *Nobody Told Me* premiered at the Berkeley Street Upstairs Theatre (Toronto, 2009), and *Oracle* is a work-in-progress. Paul and Jay have released two commercial recordings of their pop music as the jaypaul project: *j-paul* (1998) and *the story of my life* (2001), as well as a cast recording of *Tristan* (2007). Paul has been the Music Director of the Shaw Festival since 1999, where he has composed original music for sixteen plays, and has been musical director for shows in Toronto and on tour (*Aspects of Love*, *Les Misérables*, *Miss Saigon*, *Beauty and the Beast* as well as at theatre companies like Arena Stage (Washington DC), Soulpepper (Toronto) and Canadian Stage (Toronto). Jay has worked as an actor at the Shaw Festival, the Stratford Festival, and in Toronto (*Cats*, *Les Misérables*, *Miss Saigon*, *The Lion King*).

Credits

Organizing Committee:

Virginia Reh, Assistant Professor, Department of Dramatic Arts (MIWSFPA, Brock University NIAGARA)

David Vivian, Associate Professor, Department of Dramatic Arts; Director, Centre for Studies in Arts and Culture (MIWSFPA, Brock University NIAGARA)

Scott Burke, Artistic Producer, Eastern Front Theatre (Dartmouth, NS)

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Helen Zdriluk, Lecturer, Department of Dramatic Arts (MIWSFPA, Brock University NIAGARA)

Jacqueline Costa and Nicholas Carney, senior undergraduate students of the Department of Dramatic Arts (MIWSFPA, Brock University NIAGARA)

Conference Production:

Finn Archinuk, website development

Victoria Mountain, journal co-editor

Caitlin Popek, programme editor

Christopher Penney, production management

. . . all graduates of the Department of Dramatic Arts (MIWSFPA, Brock University NIAGARA)

volunteer students from the Department of Dramatic Arts:

Lauren Ellacott, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Christy Hanes, Jessica Johnston, Anna MacAlpine, Mallory Rivest, Ray Robitaille

volunteers from the community:

Renée Baillargeon

Roberta Doyle

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Barbara Worthy

The Brock Review of the Humanities Research Institute

Dr. J. Keri Cronin, Editor

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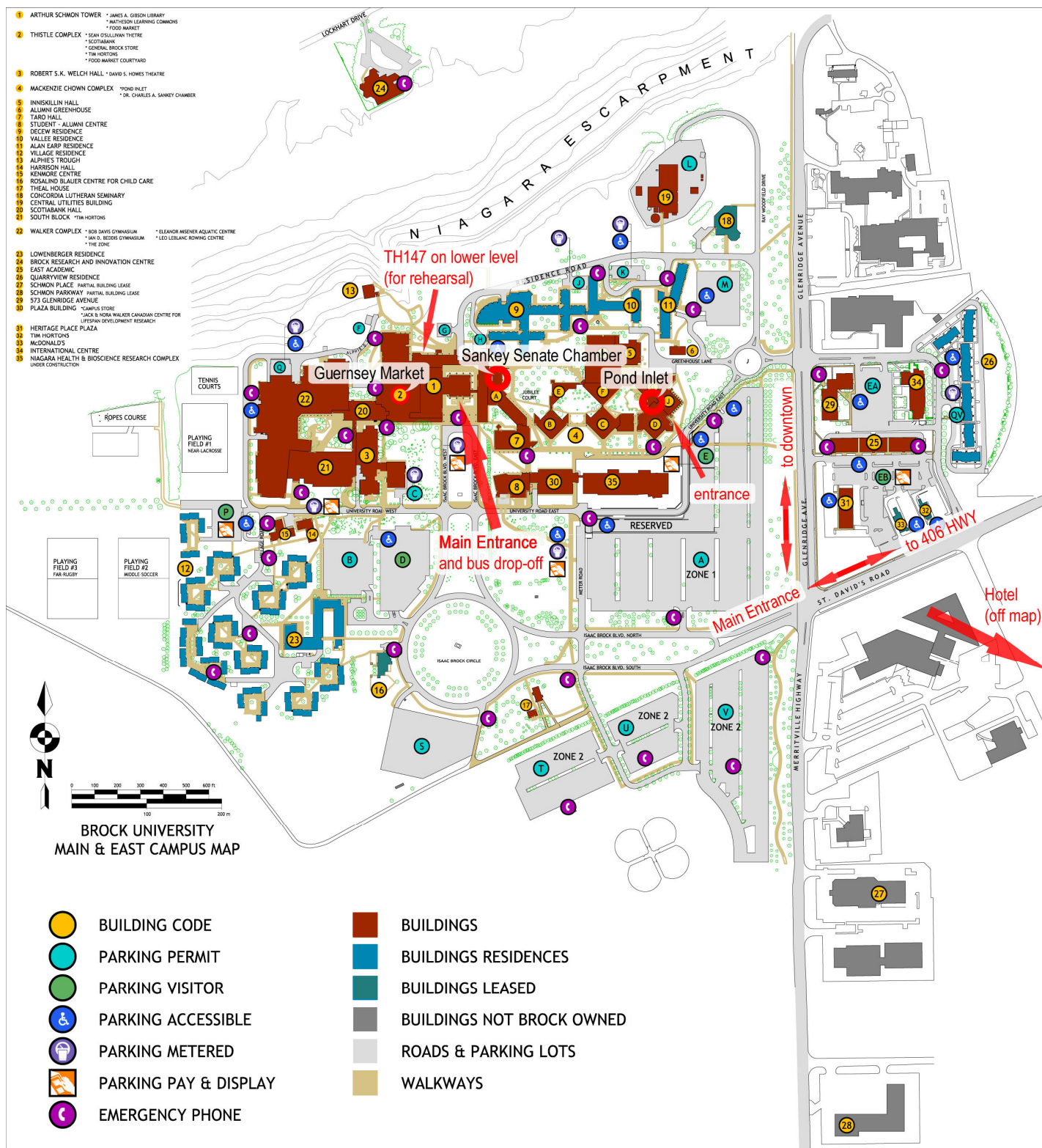
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Co-op Programs

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- Professor Stephen Johnson, Director of the Graduate Centre for Study of Drama, University of Toronto

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Camera Operator, Central Studios
Production Assistant, HorseHead Theatre
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Stage Manager, Victoria Playhouse Theatre

Recruitment Dates

Students are available to work from May to August each year. Recruitment begins in January.



Contact the Co-op Office:

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