



CHILDREN'S  
PEACE  
THEATRE

Children's Peace Theatre  
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Annual Report 2010-2011

## MESSAGE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & GENERAL MANAGER

As we celebrate our 11th year of Creating a Culture of Peace with and for the children and youth of Toronto, we would like to honour everyone who has helped us to create and sustain the vision: the children, youth, artists, volunteers, community partners, members, funders and donors, and of course our dedicated staff and board of directors.

In 2010/2011 our core programs, Peace Camp, Youth Leaders Theatre Project, and Conflict Transformation, empowered over 2,000 children and youth to discover new ways of understanding and embodying the concept of peace in their own lives and in their communities. Our young people have become confident, engaged citizens and leaders, and through their artistic presentations have shared their authentic struggles, successes and visions of peace with audiences across Toronto.

Through our work with the Neighbourhood Youth Alliance (NYA), we have been able to build the capacity of even more youth in Crescent Town. In 2010/2011 Children's Peace Theatre joined forces with the NYA to make their annual Festival in June a forum for all of the local youth groups to showcase their talents and share their achievements through performance and workshops. This included a mentorship process for the youth planning the festival. The partnership between Children's Peace Theatre and the NYA has enriched the networking between youth groups in the community and laid the groundwork for enhancing the youth arts space at Children's Peace Theatre.

Peace Camp, our original collaborative theatre program since 2001, continues to transform lives, provide mentorship and employment for youth, and extend our message of peace to the community through a series of outstanding performances and workshops for the community every July.

Thank you once more to everyone who has been a part of creating and sustaining the vision of Children's Peace Theatre. We bow to you.

Karen Emerson     Susan Ryan  
Artistic Director     General Manager



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello from Children's Peace Theatre!

It is with more than a little trepidation that I put keypad to paper to summarize the 2010/2011 fiscal year for the Children's Peace Theatre. My tenure as Chair of the Board is in its infancy, having only been elected in the fall of 2011. I can only aspire to the knowledge and experience that my predecessor, Shelley Crawford, achieved and which she would draw on so skillfully to summarize the "year that was."

My experience as a board member since January 2011, however, does provide me license to speak to the passion, hard work and dedication of the individuals that sustain the Children's Peace Theatre, allowing it to continue to promote its message of peace.

In tough economic times, characterized by tightening budgets and scarce resources, it is that very passion, hard work and dedication - of the employees, artists, volunteers, members, and board members - that guarantee its existence, and fuel its growth.

In fiscal 2010/2011, Children's Peace Theatre continued to provide its strong portfolio of theatre-based programs, events and services, the overarching goal of which is to offer a safe haven for young people to explore ways of dealing with conflict and achieving peace in a creative manner. We were, and hope to always be, this resource for our youth and our community.

Our sights, however, are set higher. When I listen to our Artistic Director, Karen Emerson, describe opportunities to expand existing programs and develop new ones, I get excited. As with most not-for-profit organizations, our constraints are not creative ones, they are financial. Thanks to our General Manager, Susan Ryan, we are taking concrete steps towards the financial sustainability to realize those program opportunities. We are deeply grateful for the support we have received from federal, provincial and municipal sources, and we appreciate the invaluable support of our corporate and private donors.

Looking forward, we must renew and refocus our collective energies to identify new sources of support for our mission. We know they are out there. And through the creation of a culture of peace, Children's Peace Theatre will enrich and inspire more and more young lives, and make our neighbourhoods and our world a better place to grow up.

Steve Bissell  
Chair, Board of Directors



## ABOUT US

**The Children's Peace Theatre's** mandate is to Create a Culture of Peace by engaging young people in the practice of theatre

Conflict is inevitable but Peace is Possible

Theatre and art are the strongest possible transformational tools to inspire children and youth to discover and promote peace

There is no Peace without justice

Children and Youth will be the catalysts for creating a more peaceful world

The collaborative experience of creating theatre on subjects of importance to them gives children and youth the understanding to develop their own moral compass and further the cause of peace in their lives, in this troubled community, and in the world

"We explore the darkness of the reality, that is hidden from us...Through this experience I have discovered a brighter self. The YLTP family has a special place in my heart, I feel so privileged to have all these amazing people in my life. This has been an incredible experience."

YLTP participant 2011



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In recognition of its achievements, Peace Theatre has received the Mayor's Community Safety Award, the YMCA Peace Medallion and the Leonardo da Vinci Award for Creativity and Innovation in the Arts

"...I truly hope that this unique program will be able to continue its legacy for nurturing children, youth, artists and elders in the East York Region." Coleen MacPherson, Artist



## PEACE CAMP 2010 'THE SPACE BETWEEN'

To celebrate Children's Peace Theatre's 10th anniversary, and in honour of the closing of the UN's official Decade of Peace for the Children of the World, Peace Camp 2010 presented:

### The Space Between

The Final Frontier  
60 children and youth  
12 of Toronto's finest artists  
Their mission:  
To explore faith and reason  
To seek out truth and understanding  
To boldly go where no Theatre has gone before

Liz Pounsett, Director  
Coleen MacPherson, Assistant Director  
Brownman, Music Director  
Pierre Bimwala, Assistant Music Director  
Jerry Silverberg, Visual Arts Director  
Katy Jones, Stage Manager  
Karen Emerson, Artistic Director

### ARTISTS

Marie Beath Badian, Ben Langer, Will O'Hare, Norah Smith,  
Tanisha Taitt, Hope Terry, Naomi Tessier

### GUIDES

Peter Carey, Molly Clarke, Nigel Edwards, Julia Heximer,  
Lizzie Laywine, Isabella Lyne, Matthew Merkur, Sabrina Mercado,  
Aida Monteiro, Megan Poupore, Jayson Silvestre,  
Molly Sutkaitis, Ragavan Thurasinganathan,  
Reid Wylie, Joseph Zaleski-Cox

### GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

Ben Langer: Peace-building and Environmental Leadership student at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies in Israel. [www.arava.org](http://www.arava.org)  
Brownman: Quantum Physics and what that means to understanding the world.  
Andrea Gatti: Constitutional lawyer working for children and youth.  
Brownman Electric Trio: Faith and Reason alive in Jazz!

### THE CAST

Aaron Gill-Braun, Ajay Jaggernauth, Alejandro Chavez, Ana Robles Colom, Aron McVean  
Atanasiya Aleksieva, Blaise Lyne, Braedon Brooks, Brandy Laurette, Bruno Aguilar Flores  
Brynna Scott-Jordan, Cecilia Nejera, Chelsea Kojola, Daniel Ghermai, Devin Smith, Emma Jarvis  
Genevieve St. Denis, Hanna Walker, Jahmylla Spence, Jaylen Alleyne, Jesse White, Jordan Smith  
Kathleen Connolly, Kenton Hu, Magilan Vasanthakumar, Martin Petrov, Marysia Zaleski-Cox  
Meihua Li, Michaela Connolly, Mike Negasi, Neera (Munira) Hassam, Noah Isacson, Rowan Leach  
Sean Glover, Sophia Hirst Barsoski, Stanimira Aleksieva, Summer Rose Figueroa, Sunny Ou  
Theo van Beusekom, Tobias Hart, Will Reid, Yohannes (Johanny) Ghermai



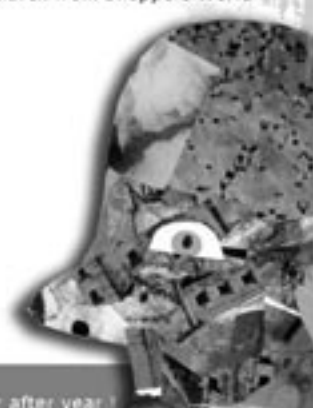
## PEACE IS POSSIBLE PARADE

OVER 200 children from around the city joined in a series of 14 workshops in July to create beautiful banners, songs, and dances for the annual Peace is Possible Parade. Sadly, the rain washed out the parade but not the spirit. Business owners and residents will have to wait eagerly another year for the sounds of children chanting "Peace is Possible" as they march from Shoppers World on the Danforth to the home of the Children's Peace Theatre on Dawes Road.

Thank you to all of the artists to make the workshop possible:  
Merril Mathews (Parade Marshal)  
Sharon Vanderveen (Parade Coordinator and photographer)  
Nisha Ahuja  
Cecilia Salazar  
Rosina Kazi, Nicholes Murray  
Gregory Frank

Thank you to all the Camp Groups who participated:  
Full Circle Educational Recreational Child & Family Care Centre  
Balmy Beach Community Centre  
Fairmount Park Community Centre  
St. Patrick's Catholic Secondary School

Special thanks to  
Merril Mathews & Sharon Vanderveen for being the ongoing heart of Parade year after year!



## YOUTH LEADERS THEATRE PROJECT (YLTP)

Youth Leaders Theatre Project (YLTP) is a FREE theatre training and creation program based on Children's Peace Theatre principles of collaborative creation, community development and youth engagement.

Participants work collaboratively with professional theatre artists and their peers to develop original plays about issues that impact the lives of youth.

Congratulations to the eighteen youth who participated in 2010. This passionate and dedicated group of youth tackled difficult issues that affect young people's lives in Toronto and across the globe, including substance abuse, depression, suicide, homophobia, and gay rights across the world.

### YLTP PARTICIPANTS 2010/11

Raquel Blackwood  
Abby Chrean  
Danae Domianou  
Saeyon Mylvaganam  
Stuart Craddock  
Mohammed Abu Ali  
Kelson Morris  
Olivia Nikolaidis  
Matt Merkur  
Rosie Ziman  
Christie Le  
Stephen Skiffington  
Anisa Molla  
Marie Joy Garcia  
Anthony Markakis  
Anton Mamonov  
Jiro Gole Cruz  
Anne Muniandy



## BLOSSOM FROM YOUTH 2 YOUTH FESTIVAL

In 2010 CPT joined forces with the Neighbourhood Youth Alliance (NYA) to facilitate a youth festival planning committee.

Congratulations to the 14 awesome youth who dedicated weeks of their time planning and implementing the Blossom Youth Festival on June 4th 2010. Kudos to Cameron Hart, Forest Greenwell, Hasina Naseer, Jenny Bui, Kaisar Sheikh, Lillia Quach, Melissa Henry, Meng Qu, Waqar Naseer, Ishtiaque Mahmud, Kelsey Stewart, Matt Merkur, Mohamad Abu Ali, Olivia Nikolaidis.

Blossom Festival was attended by over 120 youth from the community who enjoyed performances and workshops by professional artists, including spoken word artists Belladonna and Truth Is.

Blossom Youth invited neighbourhood youth groups to facilitate workshops, performances, video screenings, an art show and discussions based on creating a society of peace and wellness.

Blossom Youth also reached out to global youth in Japan. They created activities to raise awareness and funds for global youth in Japan. Youth ran bubble tea making workshops, button making to raise money for the fund, and invited guests to facilitate origami crane for the Origami Crane Project for Japan Relief.

"YLTP has given a voice to many youth including me; it introduces us to a peaceful perspective and into a peaceful way of looking at the community. YLTP gives the youth not only the theatre skills but also the courage to stand up and let our voices be heard. YLTP and Children's Peace Theatre have opened the door for me and for all the youth interested in theatre and social justice. I have developed courage, compassion and creativity to bring to a future career in the performing arts.,

" Mohammad, YLTP Participant 2011



## MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!

In 2010 CPT continued to welcome other youth groups to use our unique and inspiring home to do their valuable work. We are happy to provide space and/or mentoring to like-minded youth groups working through various artistic forms to explore the relationship between peace and justice and explore the barriers to peace, such as systemic prejudice, poverty, or intolerance, and support these groups as they develop ways to bring more opportunities to youth in the community.

**Be that Role Model (NYA)** A group of over 20 awesome, ambitious and diverse youth and aspiring actors from the Taylor-Massey community. They meet weekly to collectively create plays rooted in their true life experiences.

**Blossom Youth (NYA)** A group of 14 energetic and creative youth from various cultures who got together to plan and implement last years Youth Festival at CPT

**AMY Project** A free arts education program that aims to nurture the confidence and unique identity of a group of young women in Toronto by increasing their cultural vocabulary and engaging them in activities of healthy, creative self-expression with a drive towards artistic excellence. The project creates a forum for young women with a shared interest in creating theatre to challenge their representation in society and to make their voices heard. At the same time it puts artists in touch with the youth in our city and allows them to effect positive change and create an environment where all parties have the opportunity to create and share ideas. CPT is thrilled to have hosted AMY for the third year in 2010.

We are also proud to have provided nurturing and inspiring space for the following Youth Groups or groups working with youth to hold Retreats and workshops in our home:

Diverse Youth Advisory Council  
Lost lyrics  
Young People's Theatre  
Schools without Borders  
Eva's Phoenix  
Informa Theatre



## CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

In 2010 **Children's Peace Theatre** continued to run Conflict Transformation Workshops and the Peace Leaders Program, their award winning theatre-based workshops for students in grade 3-12.

This year Conflict Transformation workshops were expanded to include an after-school drama club option. The pilot program took place at George Webster Public School, a model school in the priority neighbourhood of Crescent Town.

Over 30 children from grades 3-5 met weekly with two artists and two youth facilitators to explore conflict and peace through theatre and art and create a performance for their community for a Winter Celebration.



## ARTISTS

One of our key strategic objectives is to increase opportunities for artists, particularly culturally diverse artists. We strive to provide meaningful opportunities for creative development and space to showcase art forms. This year we were privileged to have over 20 of Toronto's finest established and emerging artists contribute their compassion and creativity to our vision.

Thank you to each and everyone of you. You are the creative heart of **Children's Peace Theatre!**

Liz Pounsett  
Will O'Hare  
Brownman Ali  
Tanisha Taitt  
Jerry Silverberg  
Coleen MacPherson  
Michaela Washburn  
Marie Beath Badian  
Hope Terry  
Adam Paolozza  
Adam Perry  
Sara Escott  
Naomi Tessler  
nisha ahuja (no caps)  
Benjamin Langer  
Norah Smith  
Molly Sutkaitis  
Merril Mathews  
Sharon Vanderveen  
Cecilia Salazar  
Rosina Kazi  
Nicholas Murray  
Gregory Frank



### Youth artists

Pierre Bimwalla  
Matthew Merkur  
Nigel Edwards  
Nigel Edwards  
Megan Poupore  
Hayley Landry  
Julia Heximer  
Peter Carey  
Elizabeth Laywine



## STAFF BOARD VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all of the individuals who gave their energy, passion, and talents to get all the crucial work done behind the scenes. We appreciate all that you do for Peace.

### Board of Directors 2010/11

Shelley Crawford (Chair 2010-2011)  
Steve Bissell (Chair 2011- )  
Rahul Bhardwaj  
Judy Cantwell De Macz  
Aloysius Deepak  
Jayashree Goswami (Secretary 2011- )  
Matthew Haldoupis  
Jaskaran Kalra  
Mike Leon  
Liuba Mamonova (Treasurer 2011- )  
Mona Patel  
Pav Sanghera (Treasurer 2010-2011)  
Serina Yau

### Staff 2010/11

Artistic Director, Karen Emerson  
General Manager, Susan Ryan  
Administrative Assistant, Abdul Baqi  
House Manager, Melissa Gibson  
Program Coordinator, Erin Socall

### Volunteers

Sharon Vanderveen	Matt Zammit
Jeff Howard	Christine Zsolnay
Merril Matthews	Aastha Visen
Alix Mukonambi	Bianca Rogers
Sarah Cervinka	Julia Heximer
Robert Cocuzzo	Tenzin Shaksur
Toni Emerson	Monica Sagg
Kim Eunjeong	Nafeisha Parhat
Nicole Haldoupis	Nicole Shilson
Kang Hyeonji	Ruth Afforo
Sarah Williams Jackson	Tamara Gell
Kim Jieun	Yasmin De Leon
Nantia Joseph	Laura Lee Galvez
Jung Jungah	Shankari Sreetharan
Veronica Reid	Michelle Toste
Kim Sewoong	Diana Clark
Valerie St. Denis	Robert Cocuzzo
Yeon Cho Rok	Marisa Dalley
Nona Shoaraee	Yumi Ikeura
Elisa Tran	Melissa Klonowsk
Erica Tunstell	Devon Marinac

### Summer Staff 2010

Camp Coordinator Angela Chau  
Summer Workshop & Parade Coordinator Alixa Mukonambi  
Summer Events Coordinator Jessica Sailoum  
Summer Assistant Intern Monica Garfias  
Summer Assistant Intern Jessica Szeto



Sabrina Mercado  
Aida Monteiro  
Jennifer Pinheiro  
Nona shoaraee  
Elisa Trans  
Muneaki Umino

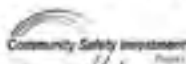
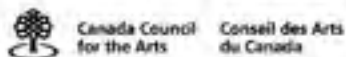
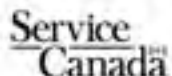
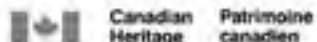


## SUPPORTERS

THANK YOU SO MUCH! YOUR GENEROSITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

### 2010-2011 Major Funders:

Citizenship and Immigration Canada  
Department of Canadian Heritage  
Service Canada  
Canada Council for the Arts  
Ontario Trillium Foundation  
Ontario Arts Council  
City of Toronto Community Safety Investment  
Toronto Arts Council  
Centre for Social Innovation  
DundeeWealth  
Knights of Columbus Council 1388



**torontoarts**council

**DUNDEEWEALTH**

**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**



### 2010-2011 Top Individual Donors:

Children's Peace Theatre Board of Directors  
Founding Artistic Director Robert Morgan  
David Walsh

### 2010-2011 In-kind Donors:

Long & McQuade  
Whole Foods  
Neighbourhood Youth Alliance  
Sage Cafe & Catering  
Sultan of Samosas  
Loblaws  
Soeys  
The Big Carrot  
David's Tea  
University of Toronto  
Cobs Bread  
Bun King  
Dairy Queen  
Grumbles Bakery  
M&M Meats  
Sushi Delight  
Tim Horton's



IF WE ARE TO TEACH REAL PEACE IN THIS WORLD,  
AND IF WE ARE TO CARRY ON A REAL WAR  
AGAINST WAR,  
WE SHALL HAVE TO BEGIN WITH THE CHILDREN.  
MAHATMA GANDHI

