A Year In - Text-only Version
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March 2021

At Nightwood we talk a lot about our values - so much so that we had a jewelry collection designed after them. And within the Zoom walls of our office we've been discussing whether some of our biggest supporters - Nightwood's incredible donors - have been brought into the often provocative conversations we have.

This year, as a live performance company operating entirely remotely, we have worked even harder to
make sure that we are staying connected with our community and that everyone is doing as best as they can under the circumstances. We know that in the absence of live performance/cultural gatherings, our audiences have had to reinvent how they express themselves in their downtime when they aren't on the front lines, or being essential workers, Zooming incessantly or when they have a brief reprieve from caretaking for the day. Throughout this time, we've offered some digital culture that we hope has brought lightness and depth through our digital productions, hosted events, and also through our Social Distancing Care Packages that we send to folks who have signed up for our biweekly newsletter. Each edition is handcrafted with care, and includes writing, reflections, feminist advocacy and artistic content. And in a time where our values can't be explored and proclaimed onstage through our artistic productions, these messages to the world have been vital, especially as we have all been processing, standing up and honouring this monumental time of social change.

So we wanted to send you A YEAR IN to give you a glimpse into the year we've had, which we hope will offer you an even closer connection to Nightwood's heart, or if you've been following us closely all year, will offer a little bit of positive nostalgia in a year that I can't say I love looking back on.

As always, we'd love to hear from you - we gain so much strength from the well wishes you send and so much knowledge from the thoughts you share.

Wishing you all our very best and sending love from Nightwood,

Andrea
with Beth, Sedina, Naz, Vic, Amanda, Taylor, Teiya, DM

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Nightwood's Mission
As Canada's foremost feminist theatre, Nightwood provides an essential home for the creation of extraordinary theatre by women (including, but not limited to, trans, cis, Two-Spirit, non-binary and gender diverse folks).

Vision
To be a world-renowned cultural centre for provocative theatre, bringing audiences, artists, and activists together to elevate women's voices.

Values
Provocation: We use theatre to provoke a deeper conversation about the diversity of our lived experiences.
Empowerment: Theatre empowers audiences and artists alike by giving voice to varying perspectives, and offering opportunities for growth and a space to connect.
Feminism: We promote intersectional feminist values and equity. We believe theatre is a potent vehicle to challenge historical and systemic power imbalances in all aspects of what we do.
Inclusivity: We are committed to produce art that is driven by - and that gives voice to - the diverse society we live in.
Integrity: It is critically important to operate with integrity, be truthful in our interactions and accountable for our actions.

Opportunity: It is our responsibility to create meaningful opportunities for women in our field, prioritizing folks with numerous intersecting identities. This value shapes our hiring practices, and the mentoring and sharing of knowledge with emerging talent in order to seed a new generation of Canadian theatre practitioners.
Respect: All of our relationships, whether with artists, producers, employees, donors or audiences must be conducted with full transparency, open communication and an emotional intelligence that approaches human relationships with fairness and collaboration.

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Highlights from the Social Distancing Care Packages
With love from Nightwood, straight to your inbox

Week 1: A Social Distancing Care Package from Nightwood
The original social distancing care package, sent over a year ago on March 17, 2020. This package includes resources for artists, parents, and general emotional well-being.

Week 5: Creation in Quarantine
Sent one month into social distancing, this care package includes inspiration for your creative practice in quarantine, and musings on how theatre artists "should" be reacting to the move away from live, in-person performance.

Week 13: Revolution
Amidst police brutality and the traumatic targeted attacks on Black lives, this package includes a number of articles and resources to provide care for IBPOC individuals and to aid in the collective fight for the end of systemic racism and oppression.

Week 19: The Power of Explosive Change
In reflecting upon the change that 2020 has brought, this care package shares articles and learnings around anti-racism, as well as a piece by

Nightwood Associate Artist Teiya Kasahara in honour of International Non-Binary People's Day.

Week 23: Healing with a Feminist Future
As we imagine what life will look like post-COVID, this package is filled to the brim with essays, writings, and resources around the theme of "healing with a feminist future." Plus, podcast suggestions and a spotlight on Dandelion Initiative.

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Week 25: For the Love of Learning
As September rolls around, education is on the minds of many. This care package includes free online learning opportunities, resources for caregivers navigating back-to-school during COVID, writing from Donna-Michelle St. Bernard, and more.

Week 40: Gratitude, Gift Ideas, and Happy Holidays from Nightwood
Just in time for the holidays, the Nightwood staff shares some of their favourite local businesses and COVID-friendly gift suggestions. This package also includes the 2019-20 Annual Report and a spotlight on Feed Ontario.

Week 48: Celebrating Black History Month
In celebration of Black History Month, this care package includes a number of works by Black creators, an introduction to Sedina Fiati, Nightwood's inaugural Artist-Activist in Residence, and spotlights Black-Owned Toronto, an online hub for Black business owners.

Week 52: Taking Action on International Women's Day
In honour of International Women's Day 2021, and one full year into social distancing, the Nightwood staff respond to the prompt, "What are you thinking about this IWD and what is an action you plan to take in honour of that thought?"

Want to receive Nightwood care packages?
Click here to sign up for our newsletter!

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What You've Made Possible In 2020/21

Groundswell Festival
November 10-20, 2020
The 2020 Groundswell Festival was Nightwood's first-ever digital festival, offering readings of brand new works from Nightwood's Write From The Hip playwright's unit as well as public conversations and workshops - including discussions with Deaf-led collective SPiLL.PROpagation, an anti-oppression workshop with national arts advocacy collective AD HOC Assembly, and free professional development opportunities for playwrights and artists.

Feminist Unconference
January 29, 2021
Theatre practitioners were invited to listen, lead and unpack all things feminist at our second annual hierarchy-smashing, participant-driven, digital unconference.

Write From the Hip
Now in its 14th year and led by award-winning emcee, poet and playwright Donna-Michelle St. Bernard, our annual emerging playwrights program Write From The Hip has become a key milestone for women playwrights. In it, four to seven writers meet and write over a year, each creating a full-length play that is professionally read at the annual Groundswell Festival.

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Young Innovators Program

The Young Innovators Program accepts a diverse group of approximately 12-15 women theatre artists aged 18-30 into this year-long program. In establishing this program four years ago, the focus has been an intentional blend of artistic and administrative practice: whether a Young Innovator joins us as a born administrator, stage manager, actor or playwright, we can deepen each participant's understanding of each dimension of professional theatre, and open them up to new complementary facets of their practice.

And Much, Much More!
RISING MOON - A free six-week writing program for youth 16-19 which ran February-March 2021, centring the experience of womanhood. With the focus on play rather than final product, Rising Moon encourages brave explorations in creativity by providing weekly prompts and tools for various approaches in writing.
COMMUNITY CHOIR - Led by the incomparable multi-disciplinary artist and soprano Teiya Kasahara 笠原貞野, this year's virtual choir was a very comfortable, come-as-you-are affair.
CREATRYX: A ZOOM OF ONE'S OWN - Coming up from April 23-June 4, 2021! Get your daring, creative energy flowing every Friday afternoon with Nightwood's first ever digital writing room. Creatryx delivers a free, six-week meeting place to harness the power of collective will and accountability by giving writers a space to strengthen their writing practice together.

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Coming Up at Nightwood

Embodying Power and Place
Nightwood Theatre and Native Earth Performing Arts present a Digital Experience curated by New Harlem Productions.
In 2019, the federal commission on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls released their final report, Reclaiming Power and Place. In 2020 over a dozen artists from a wide range of disciplines were

commissioned by New Harlem Productions to read and respond to specific chapters of the report through their artistic medium. This digital iteration of *Embodying Power and Place* offers twelve audio-visual works that seek to honour the missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, Trans, and Two-Spirit people, and strives to create a sacred space in which to reflect, heal, and find renewed hope.

Incorporating text, sound and imagery, *Embodying Power and Place* includes pieces from incredible Indigenous creators: Janet Antone, Reneltta Arluk, Tara Beagan, Yolanda Bonnell, Darla Contois, Deborah Courchene, Aria Evans, Eekwol Lindsay Knight, Jessica Lea Fleming, Falen Johnson, Émilie Monnet, Yvette Nolan, Michelle Olson, Natalie Sappier, jaye simpson and Aqua Nibii Waawaaskone.

Available online now until Sunday, April 11, 2021!
Register for free at embodyingpowerandplace.com.

Lost Together
Nightwood Theatre presents an UnSpun Theatre Production. Created by Shira Leuchter with Michaela Washburn. Performed by Shira Leuchter and Michaela Washburn.

In this digital micro-performance, audience members enter one at a time to share a story about something they've lost. Once shared, Michaela and Shira build and present a small object that encapsulates their guest's story, which is added to an ever-evolving exhibition, reminding us that loss doesn't have to be a solitary reckoning. Coming this spring, this digital experience will be performed live for one audience member at a time.

May 2021 - Stay tuned for more information and ticketing details!